

**Business of  
the Week:  
Crabcake  
in Montrose...  
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# The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER Examiner

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

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Sports**



December 4 - December 10, 2018

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 10, Issue 467

## Legalization of Recreational Marijuana Debated in Forum

By Anna Young

Spirited debate erupted at the Croton Free Library last week during a raucous public forum addressing the possibility that New York State lawmakers will legalize recreational marijuana next year.

With state officials weighing legalization, Assemblywoman Sandy Galef (D-Ossining) hosted a discussion last Thursday evening featuring a panel of experts on both sides of the issue. Galef said she organized the event to gather feedback from constituents before state lawmakers meet in January.

"There's a lot of states that are addressing this issue on recreational marijuana. Next year, I don't know what we're going to do," Galef said. "There have been both successes

and setbacks in terms of marijuana. As we get to the heart of the issues, is it right for New York and what needs to happen in order to make it work?"

Medical marijuana is legal in New York for patients who are certified by health care practitioners as having serious diseases and conditions, including cancer, AIDS, severe chronic pain and other ailments. Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who signed the Compassionate Care Act in 2014 to legalize it for medical use, has said that the benefits of legalizing recreational marijuana outweigh the risks.

Recently, Cuomo concluded a series of listening sessions that offered advice on different legislative and regulatory approaches

*Continued on page 3*



ANNA YOUNG PHOTO

Assemblywoman Sandy Galef introduces a panel last week during a Nov. 29 discussion on the potential for legalization of recreational marijuana in Croton-on-Hudson.

### Yorktown Boy Ushers in Winter Wonderland



Westchester County Executive George Latimer joined with Westchester Parks Foundation (WPF), and the Westchester County Parks Department at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla on November 23 to celebrate the opening of Westchester's Winter Wonderland with the lighting of a 40-foot

Christmas tree. Thanks to the event's presenting sponsor, Westchester Medical Center, Latimer and Westchester Parks Foundation welcomed a special child to help light the tree, seven-year-old Yorktown resident Liam Brady, a former patient at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital- a member of the Westchester Medical Center Health Network. At just 18 months of age, Liam's right kidney was removed. Overworked and operating at a lower capacity, Liam's left kidney started to fail, and a transplant was needed to avoid a lifetime of dialysis or worse. Thankfully, Liam's cousin was a match and she donated her kidney this past August.

## Former Croton Fire Chief Sentenced for Stealing \$300,000 from Dept.

By Rick Pezzullo

A former Croton-on-Hudson Fire Department chief and treasurer was sentenced to prison last Wednesday for stealing more than \$300,000 from the department.

Gerald "Gerry" Munson, 64, who also worked as a Croton police officer in the past, was sentenced to one-and-a-half to four years in state prison for grand larceny in the second degree as a crime of public corruption. He pled guilty to the charges on September 12.

The court also ordered Munson to pay restitution to the Fire Department. At the time of his plea, Munson paid \$124,383 in restitution, in addition to the \$25,000 in restitution that he paid upon his arraign-

ment. At sentencing, the court issued an Order of Restitution for the remaining restitution balance of \$149,383.

As fire department treasurer, Munson was responsible for maintaining the Croton-On-Hudson Fire Department bank account and financial records despite having no prior qualifications or background in accounting or financial matters. The felony complaint alleges that he used his position as treasurer to steal and conceal his theft of approximately \$312,925 from the Fire Department, according to the Westchester District Attorney's Office.

The money he stole included portions of the so-called "2 Percent Money" paid an-

*Continued on page 3*

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### **Q: How can spinal cord stimulation help relieve chronic pain?**

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### **Q: Am I a good candidate for spinal cord stimulation?**

**A:** Do you have structural problems, such as a herniated disc? Or, perhaps you've undergone several spine surgeries. Most patients referred for spinal cord stimulation are managed by a chronic pain specialist. They've probably tried a host of medicines, including narcotics, but over time, their pain has become increasingly resistant to medications. Many have undergone physical therapy treatments, weight reduction programs and a variety of

alternative medicine treatments such as acupuncture. Understandably, these people are desperate. They come to me to see if this will work for them.

### **Q: If I've been approved for the treatment, what's next?**

**A:** Guided by x-ray, an electrode is placed in your spinal canal. You'll be brought into a state of light sedation in order to provide feedback as to placement. Once the electrode is in the area of pain, the patient is sent home to monitor its effect. If pain is reduced by 50 percent or more, you're considered a candidate for permanent placement of a simulator.

### **Q: What are the outcomes of this procedure?**

**A:** The permanent procedure takes about an hour and usually involves an overnight hospital stay. Post-surgery, the stimulator is individually programmed, and over the course of several visits with me, it is increasingly fine-tuned to provide the greatest pain reduction. Patients have different responses, with most people enjoying pain relief. For some, the implant eliminates virtually all pain. In others, pain is reduced by 50 percent. For a minority, the procedure is a failure. The battery life in today's implants remains effective for about ten years.



# Legalization of Recreational Marijuana Debated in Forum

Continued from page 1

to legalization with a goal to draft a bill that lawmakers can consider in the upcoming 2019 session.

Throughout the two-hour forum, panelists with opposing views engaged in debate that riled the standing-room-only audience at times leading to applause, profanities and shouting. Speakers addressed health impacts, safety components, criminal justice reform, lessons learned from other states and how to avoid repeating previous mistakes.

Heather Trela, chief of staff and fellow at the Rockefeller Institute of Government, noted that while states such as Colorado and Massachusetts have seen an increase in marijuana sales benefitting state coffers, that bump in revenue isn't sustainable. She said as additional dispensaries open throughout the states that have approved recreational marijuana, it will no longer be considered a luxury.

"This will eventually level out," Trela said. "In Colorado, young people are smoking less marijuana even though it's legal. It's not rebellious anymore, it's not such a big thing. This may level out supply-wise."

Kevin Sabet, president and CEO of Smart Approaches to Marijuana, agreed that the marijuana industry is out to make money. The profits for states are a "drop in the bucket" for their budgets and doesn't account for the costs, he said.

He also expressed concern that marijuana is being processed with higher levels of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which makes the substance more potent.

"I do think legalization is reckless because

I see it as an equivalent to essentially arming another addictive, powerful industry," Sabet said. "I think we've learned our lessons with that and they haven't been good lessons."

Thomas Lee, past president of the Westchester Medical Society and Westchester Academy of Medicine, said medical professionals are concerned about legalization. States that have legalized marijuana have seen an uptick in emergency room visits and traffic fatalities, he said.

Sabet added that other states that have legalized marijuana failed to have the discussions that New York is currently having.

He suggested state lawmakers move much slower on considering a law they could one day regret.

Cristina Buccola, founder of Cristina Buccola Counsel and former general counsel to High Times magazine, asserted that there is no medical reason for a prohibition on cannabis. Buccola also cited the waste of more than 800,000 arrests made during the past 40 years for low-level marijuana possession.

She advised parents that the most responsible thing they can do for their children is to stress that marijuana use is regulated

and for adults only. Furthermore, cannabis retailers must require customers to present identification.

Buccola also said that minorities are unfairly targeted with low-level marijuana offenses.

"Prohibition didn't start because of a medical reason, it started because of racism and it doesn't work and it costs money," Buccola said. "The safest way forward is legalization, is regulation. This is safer for kids, this is safer for consumers, this is safer for public health because then we can start having real conversations."

## Former Croton Fire Chief Sentenced

Continued from page 1

nually to the Fire Department by New York State in connection with the state's two percent tax on fire insurance. For years, Munson was able to conceal his ongoing theft by altering and manipulating the department's bank records. Those alterations and manipulations included his underreporting of the amount of "2 Percent Money" received by the department in order to balance the books and hide what he stole for himself.

In February 2018, members of the Fire Department's internal Audit Committee discovered that Munson had provided them with false 2017 bank statements. When confronted by the Audit Committee, Munson admitted he had created the false statements on his home computer; that he had stolen money from the department's account for his own personal use; and that he had used the Fire Department's debit card as if it were his own.

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# Police Chief Supports Drivers Licenses for All Residents

By Rick Pezzullo

Village of Ossining Police Chief Kevin Sylvester has expressed support of a legislative initiative to grant limited access drivers licenses at all New York residents, regardless of their immigration status.

In late November, Sylvester penned a letter to Governor Andrew Cuomo focusing on the experiences of his department.

"Annually, more than 10% of all traffic tickets issued within our municipality are for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. An even higher percentage of our reported collisions involve one or more unlicensed drivers," Sylvester stated. "It is time to recognize that our efforts are not accomplishing the objective. We must change our strategy in order to effectively and efficiently make our roads safe."

"Granting access to drivers licenses would ensure that a greater proportion of our motorists have proven basic competency through written and practical examinations," Sylvester continued. "Government-issued identification also has a positive impact on law enforcement interactions. Victims can more confidently report crime and our officers will have an improved ability to identify those with whom they interact."

Sylvester maintained law enforcement should be part of the solution.

"While I support this initiative, like many of my colleagues in the law enforcement community, I recognize certain challenges that must first be addressed," he stated in his letter. "For that reason, I urge you to include our law enforcement leaders in the conversation. Considering the perspective of those tasked with enforcing the law will improve functionality and help ensure that our efforts deliver the desired result of improving public safety and the quality of life of all our neighbors."

Ossining was among the first municipalities to support this effort when the Village Board passed a resolution in December 2016 urging Albany to move

forward legislation similar to what is already in place in a dozen other states.

Ossining Mayor Victoria Gearity, who along with Sylvester, will be among several invited speakers participating a community meeting on the subject this week White Plains, has been outspoken about her support of the legislation.

"We are often frustrated that there is little we can do to influence federal immigration policies coming from the White House. I am pleased to be part of the group of municipal leaders advocating for this tangible improvement to the economic stability of our undocumented residents, and safer roadways for everyone," she said.



Village of Ossining Police Chief  
Kevin Sylvester



PHOTOS BY VISHNU PATEL

## Yorktown Holiday Parade

The annual Yorktown Electric Holiday Parade lit up downtown Yorktown Saturday evening with floats and plenty of festive fun.



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# Private Boarding High School Proposal in Somers Discussed

By Neal Rentz

Somers residents and members of the Town Board, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Architectural Review Board and Open Space Committee packed the Town House on November 29 to discuss a private boarding high school being proposed for the 723-acre site that formerly housed IBM.

The plan is being proposed by Evergreen Ridge LLC for property owned by 294 Route 100 LLC. The academy would be in IBM's five interconnected buildings totaling 1.2 million square feet. The interiors of the existing buildings would be renovated and the proposal calls for the creation of several other facilities, including an arts center, an athletic center, dormitories, a home for the head administrator of the school, several athletic fields, jogging and hiking trails and gardens.

Though the school would be for high school students in grades nine through 12, the school would open in the fall of 2020 with students in grades nine and 10 only. The school would prepare students for such fields as biomedical engineering and physics, artificial intelligence, computer science and information technology, robotics, aerospace and manufacturing technology. The maximum student enrolment would be 1,800.



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Somers Town Director of Planning Syrette Dym at last week's meeting on the proposal for a high school academy that would be located at the site formerly used by IBM.

About 85 percent of the students would live on campus with the rest being day students. The school would provide instruction in the STEAM subjects of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and the arts. There would be an estimated 750 students on campus in 2020 and the number of students would rise every year until hitting the maxi-

mum of 1,800 students in about 2022. There would ultimately be 125 teachers and administrators and a 110-person support staff.

The annual cost for each boarding student would be \$49,000 per school year and \$37,000 for day students.

Mark Weingarten, an attorney representing the developers, said the proposed academy would be "a state-of-the-art institution the town can be proud of."

Town Director of Planning Syrette Dym said many issues would need to be addressed by the applicants during the environmental review process, including land use, noise, lighting and waste water treatment.

Mike Galante, managing principal of Frederick P. Clark Associates, said a traffic study would need to be compiled for the project that would look at many issues, including safety, hours of operation at the campus and how traffic in the area would be affected by after-school activities.

Resident Anthony Singer asked why the Town Board was seeking to become the lead agency for the project review. The Town Board serves as lead agency "for all major developments in the town," Supervisor Rick Morrissey explained, adding the applicant will also need ap-

provals from the Planning Board. Dym said the project would need an amendment to the town's Comprehensive Plan and a zoning change from the Town Board and subdivision and site plan approvals from the Planning Board.

Resident Mike McBride, who said he supported the project, had questions about parking at the proposed school. McBride said the plan is to reduce the number of parking spaces from the current 3,200 to 600 and asked if that would be enough parking, particularly for events when parents and others would drive to the campus.

Planning Board member Vicky Gannon said she was concerned about the development's impact on the water treatment plant currently on the property. "This facility will eat up all of the capacity," she said.

The project did not face any outright opposition at last week's meeting among the speakers. "We're all kind of excited about this," Planning Board member Nancy Gerbino said.

The Town Board voted unanimously to approve resolutions to declare itself lead agency for the environmental review of the project and to authorize Morrissey to execute a traffic consulting service agreement with Galante.

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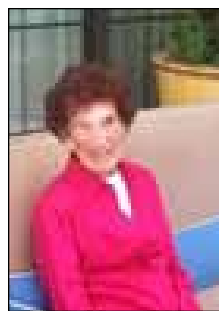
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# Obituaries

## Betty Tripp

Betty Tripp, formally a resident of Tarrytown, Verplanck, and South Windsor, Ct. died November 21 in Glastonbury, CT. She was 95.



Betty Tripp

She was born in Tarrytown on September 11, 1923 to Ambrose Cosgrove and Nora Burke Cosgrove. She graduated from Washington Irving High School in Tarrytown in June 1942. During World War II, she worked for

Gibbs and Cox, a Marine Engineer and Naval Architecture firm, which designed many ships in support of the war effort. Following the war, she attended Cumberland Nursing School and continued her studies at Bellevue Hospital, then attended University of Michigan studying Public Health Nursing. She began her nursing career working for the County of Westchester as a Public Health Nurse and helped in establishing and organizing baby care clinics in Verplanck, Buchanan and Montrose.

She met Walter Tripp in 1949 and they married April 26, 1952. They moved to Verplanck in 1955 and raised three children: Charles Richard Tripp of San Pedro, CA, Bruce Tripp of Rhinebeck, NY and Holly Tripp Wenner of Glastonbury, CT. Mrs. Tripp's children fondly recall growing up in Verplanck and enjoying life with Betty and Walter boating and sailing on the Hudson River and Long Island Sound. Mrs. Tripp was active in the Verplanck community volunteering as a Cub Scout leader and as a teacher in the CCD program at St Patrick's Church where she was very involved in many of the church activities.

She is survived by her children: Charles Richard and Leslie Tripp, Bruce and Linda Tripp, and Holly and Gary Wenner, sister, Marian Cosgrove McCaul and grandchildren Nik and Ami Tripp, Kevin and Rosanna Tripp, Andrew Wenner, Christopher Wenner, Richard Wenner, Jeffrey Wenner, and Paige Tripp.

## Herminia Jimenez

Herminia Jimenez, a resident of Jefferson Village, died November 24 after a long and beautiful life. She was 90.

She was born to the late Herminia Gonzalez Perez and Domingo Gonzalez in Bayamon, Puerto Rico. She was one of 15 children which meant the home was consistently filled with love, laughter and company. There is a certain kind of love that comes from having a big family and Herminia carried that with her throughout



Herminia Jimenez

her life. Her family decided to come to America for different opportunities and it was here she met and married the love of her life, Jesus Jimenez, and together they were blessed with four beloved daughters: Yolanda, Maria, Lydia and Susie.

Although Herminia was petite in stature her personality and heart were larger than life. She was as loving as she was patient and kind. She was a dancing queen and even at 90 would be the last one off the dance floor. Ms. Jimenez loved her Puerto Rican heritage and felt it was important to hold true to her roots, always cooking traditional Spanish foods, listening and dancing away to Spanish music and passing these traditions to her family. Her home was as warm and inviting as she was. Herminia did not go a day without smiling; she had the kind of smile that came from her heart but shined on her face. She was a loving wife, beloved mother and her favorite of all was being a cherished grandmother and great-grandmother.

Ms. Jimenez is survived by her loving children, Yolanda Gonzalez, Maria Nieves, Lydia Morales and Susie Otero. She is also survived by her adoring 10 grandchildren; Erica Walker, Jennifer Kelly, Sara Witmer, Melissa Gonzalez, Jeffrey Nieves, Lisa Hill, Michael Morales, Jason Otero, David Otero and Christine Fine. As well, she is survived by her 12 cherished great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by the love of her life, her husband Jesus Jimenez. Everyone held a special place in her heart and she carries a piece of them with her always.

## Helen Morris

Helen Marie Morris (nee Marks), a resident of Somers, died November 24. She was 87.

Born October 24, 1931 in New York to Bertha (nee Lindenmayer) and Joseph Marks, she lived her early life in the Elmhurst section of Queens. She cherished the memories she made in Smallwood, NY, where she, her sister Grace Marks and her parents enjoyed spending summer weekends.

She graduated from St. Joseph's College in Brooklyn with a degree in Elementary Speech Education. During her career as a speech teacher, she influenced the lives of many children in New York and New Jersey.

Helen met John Morris during her college years, and they were married in 1957. He swept her off her feet and some of her fondest memories were of dancing with him to big band music at Fordham University. They first lived in Elmhurst, Queens

and later moved to Glen Rock, NJ where they raised their three children. John's work brought them to Westchester, where they had many friends. Mrs. Morris thoroughly enjoyed spending time at the Jersey Shore and was an avid baseball card and memorabilia collector. She most enjoyed time spent with her family and encouraging her eight grandchildren in their pursuits.

She is survived by her three children: Patrice Hansen of Glen Rock, NJ (husband William Hansen and granddaughters Blair and Katherine); Jean Henry of Williamsburg, VA (husband James and granddaughters Elizabeth, Taylor Dahmen and Katerina); and Christopher Morris of Pelham, NY (wife Maura Monaghan and grandchildren Flannery, Quinlan and Jack.)

She will be remembered as a wonderful mother, grandmother, teacher, friend and mentor.

## Gloria Galgano

Gloria Galgano, a resident of Ossining, died November 28. She was 91.

She was born May 19, 1927 to Joseph and Concetta (nee D'Orazio) Molinaro in Ossining. She married the love of her life, Lawrence Galgano, who predeceased her in 2008. She loved cooking and was always the life of the party. She worked at the Main Street Gift Shop in Ossining.

She is survived by her loving son Joseph (Ann Marie) Galgano of Ossining, and her two cherished grandchildren Stephen (Ines) Galgano of Brooklyn, NY and Stephanie Galgano of Ossining.

Marilyn Bellettieri

Marilyn Bellettieri, a resident of Peekskill, formerly of the Bronx and Yorktown, died November 19. She was 81.

She was born December 29, 1936, in the Bronx. She was predeceased by her parents, Sylvester and Lena (Oehl) Cooney of the Bronx, and her husband, Nicholas Bellettieri.

She loved baking snickerdoodles and other assorted cookies. She was an avid reader of fiction. A natural detective, she enjoyed asking questions and solving mysteries. She

enjoyed spending time with family, especially her two grandchildren.

Mrs. Bellettieri was retired. She was previously employed as a mortgage administrator at Citibank in Mt. Kisco, and raised her family in Yorktown. Survivors include her daughter, Rori, and two sons, Vincent and Nicholas; grandson, AJ Salvaggio; granddaughter, Isabella Bellettieri; son-in-law Anthony Salvaggio; daughters-in-law Rosetta Modugno and Laura Bellettieri.

## Esther Pearson

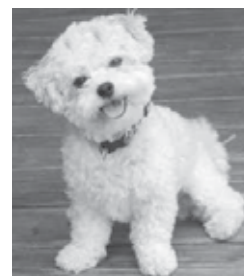
Esther (Mullen) Pearson, a resident of Yorktown, died November 28. She was 88.

Mrs. Pearson was born in Yorktown to Mr. and Mrs. H. Percy Mullen. She graduated from Yorktown High School in 1948 as Valedictorian of her class. Mrs. Pearson promptly began her 15-year career as an Administrative Assistant to the legendary Mildred E. Strang, former superintendent of Yorktown Schools.

In 1961, she married Ralph Pearson and together they had three children. Mrs. Pearson decided to take a 15-year hiatus to raise her family. She then returned to the Mildred E. Strang Middle School as Administrative Assistant in the guidance department for another 15 years, until her retirement at age 72. At that time, she began her most rewarding endeavor, helping to raise her grandchildren. During that same time period, she was a parishioner of Calvary Bible Church where she served as church organist for over 50 years. Mrs. Pearson will be remembered most for her wonderful sense of humor, dignity and grace.

She is survived by her brother, Howard Mullen (wife Joan) of Pennsylvania; brother Paul Mullen (wife Mary) of Oregon; sister Lillian (Mullen) Topping of New Jersey; her three children: Anna-Lisa (Pearson) Tedeschi (husband Frank); R. Eric Pearson (wife Melinda); Krista (Pearson) Bernat (husband Pat Mokry); and her seven grandchildren: Frank, Raymond, Keara, Ricky, Felicia, Selina and Juliet.

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## Letters to the Editor

### New Grassroots Group in Peekskill a Breath of Fresh Air

#### To the Editor:

On Thursday evening I attended a meeting announcing the formation of the Peekskill Community Congress at the WCC building in Peekskill. It was standing room only! What a fresh breath of air offered to those seeking to assist in bringing positive change to all members of our diverse community.

As a committed political advocate, former leadership member of CCoHope Indivisible and new resident of Peekskill, I was truly impressed with the enthusiastic turnout.

This grass roots initiative attracted a diverse and engaged audience of over 100 residents young and old, male and female, including representatives from the NAACP and Hispanic organizations, business leaders, political activists, community organizers, church leaders, school administrators and social and environmental advocates.

Led by experienced facilitators Jason and Jocelyn Angell, the first goal of the PCC as I understood it, will be to elicit community input as to which issues

are of primary concern and interest to the Peekskill community. Once those issues are clearly identified, the facilitators will assist willing advocates in bringing together community volunteers committed to various actions leading to positive change for all interested in a "better Peekskill."

If this seems like a concept you might want to actively participate in or learn more about, pls. email peekskillcommunitycongress@gmail.com, or attend:

1st Public Forum – FREE EVENT

Hear Peekskill community members propose ideas for a stronger Peekskill.

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RSVP requested at [bit.ly/PCCforum](http://bit.ly/PCCforum)

**Jay Forbes**  
**PEEKSKILL**

### Adopt a Puppy Instead of Buying One for the Holidays

#### To the Editor:

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

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

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

We are fortunate in Westchester and Putnam Counties to have terrific animal shelters. One of which is the Putnam Humane Society in Carmel, NY. The most intelligent, friendly, and loving dogs I have ever met were adopted. Shelter pets want nothing more than to

be in a loving home, where they will be a terrific new family member.

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

**STEVE REID**

**Somers**

**Professional Dog Trainer**

## Letters Policy

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

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

## YSBA Announces Justin Veatch Fund Scholarship in Al Capellini's Name

Our November 14, a fundraiser was held at White Hill Vineyard's Tasting Room, located on Wilkens Fruit and Fir Farm, to benefit the Justin Veatch Fund. Three outstanding former Justin Veatch Fund Scholarship winners performed. The Yorktown Small Business Association (YSBA) exceeded its goal to establish a 2019 scholarship in honor of Al Capellini. Mr. Capellini, a former Yorktown supervisor and prominent attorney, died last April at the age of 75. The scholarships are awarded to area high

school seniors who are pursuing education/careers in music. A special thanks to Wilkens Fruit and Fir Farm who hosted the event at their White Hill Vineyards tasting room and to Yorktown Pasta and Pizza for their great sampling of products from their menu.

For information about the Justin Veatch Fund, contact Jeffery Veatch: [jeff@thejustinveatchfund.org](mailto:jeff@thejustinveatchfund.org).

For information about the YSBA, contact Bob Giordano: [Yorktownsba@optonline.net](mailto:Yorktownsba@optonline.net) or 914-874-4347.



(L-R:) YSBA President Bob Giordano, Noah Mattison, Ari Perakis, Alicia McMillan, Supervisor Lanny Gilbert, Highway Superintendent Dave Paganelli, Justin Veatch Fund President Jeffery Veatch.

**The Northern Westchester  
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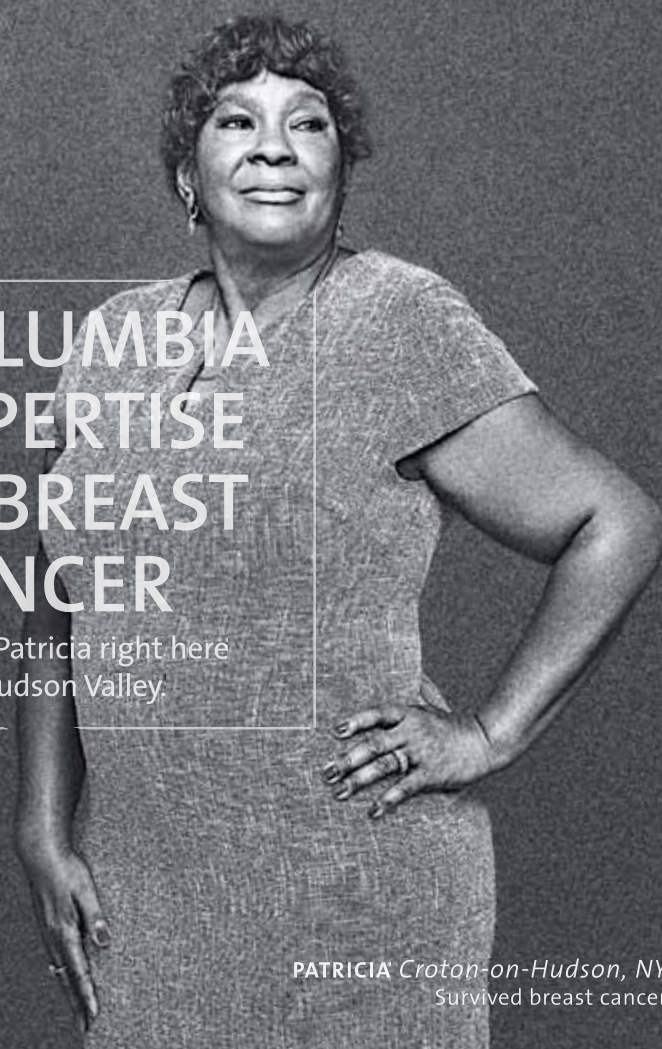
# Peekskill Makes Holidays Merry for Residents



PHOTOS BY KRISTEN MARQUES

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## Business of the Week

# Crabcake Montrose

By Neal Rentz

Montrose resident Ronald Campanaro and his partners have named their new restaurant Crabcake, which is a dish featured on their menu.

Campanaro, who is the chef, and his wife, Alyssa, spent some time traveling in the U.S. about 15 years ago and one of their stops was in Maryland, Campanaro recalled last week.

"There were crab cakes everywhere," he said. At the time he was preparing for his first executive chef job and, "I wanted a killer crab cake on the menu," he said. "We won Best of Westchester that year." He explained that the award was chosen by readers of "Westchester Magazine." "I'm very proud of that," he said.

A crab cake sandwich is featured on the menu at Crabcake, which opened six months ago in Montrose.

Crabcake's menu is divided into four sections. Steam Buckets offer lobster, clams, mussels and Red Russian crab legs, which Campanaro said are imported from Russia and weigh about one-and-a-quarter pounds per leg.

Hand-Held are Crabcake's sandwiches which feature crab cake, butter poached lobster, Pickle Brine Chicken, champagne



PHOTO BY NEAL RENTZ

Montrose resident Ronald Campanaro is one of the owners of Crabcake in Montrose. Also shown are his wife, Alyssa, and their son, Nico.

battered shrimp, or a prime beef burger with Vermont cheddar cheese. The butter poached lobster roll consists of the meat from a whole, one-and-one-quarter pound lobster, Campanaro explained.

There is a children's menu and a series of side dishes including hand cut French fries, fennel apple slaw, cheese covered Mexican corn, avocado and Heirloom

tomato salad and a side salad. Daily specials are also available.

Campanaro has owned portions of four restaurants in the past where he had also served as a chef. He previously served as chef at Taste restaurant in Buchanan. "We had a good following already," he said, adding he and his partners decided to open their new restaurant in neighboring Montrose.

It took about nine months of renovations before Crabcake was ready to open, Campanaro noted.

On its website Crabcake describes itself as "A Gourmet Seafood Kitchen." Customers come to the counter and order and the meal will be brought to the table if they decide to eat in, Campanaro said. The restaurant also offers its patrons the options of take-out and delivery and catering services are available.

Campanaro and his partners are slated to extend their reach next year by operating a food truck that Campanaro plans to bring to various events serving a variety of food.

Campanaro explained how the namesakes of his restaurant, crab cakes, are created. His crab cakes are mostly crab. Campanaro said. "I use two different types of crab," he said. The Colossal Lump crabmeat is folded into the cakes at the end of the process, which begins with the forming of the cakes using Super Lump meat "which has tons of flavor," he said. "You have some good texture going on." The cakes also consist of mayonnaise, Dijon mustard, Old Bay seasoning, salt and pepper, some hot sauce "and a few other little things" that Campanaro wants to keep secret.

"This is the real deal," he said.

Campanaro explained why his new business has been successful. "We're just putting out great quality food and putting smiles on people's faces," he said.

Crabcake is located at 2081 Albany Post Rd. in Montrose. For more information, call 914-219-8822 or visit <https://www.crabcakeny.com>. The restaurant also has a Facebook page.

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**Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays**

As the new year approaches I look forward to serving the people of Yorktown. May the blessings of the holiday season brighten all our lives.

**From Councilman Vishnu Patel**



**Merry Christmas from Anthony and Pat**

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## Tuesday, Dec. 4

**Toy Drive:** Join us in the joy of giving and make this holiday unforgettable for a child. Garrie Pest Control announces its first ever toy drive to benefit children throughout the county through Dec. 7. Toy donations can be dropped off at our office 312 Washington St. Peekskill.

**Opioid Overdose Training:** Community opioid overdose training will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Somers Library. The Westchester County Department of Health, in conjunction with the Somers Police Department, will offer the free training on how to respond to an opioid overdose using Naloxone (Narcan). Space is limited and pre-registration is required; register online for this event at [www.westchestergov.com/health](http://www.westchestergov.com/health) or call the Division of Health Promotion at 914-995-6584. The event is sponsored by Somers Partners in Prevention.

**Ladies Chanukah Party:** Sip a margarita and enjoy delicious latkes while making an exquisite glass mezuzah case for your home with glass fusion artist Brett Slavin of Slavin Studios. Tue event will be held at 7:30 p.m. at Chabad of Yorktown, 2629 Old Yorktown Rd. RSVP necessary. For more information, visit [www.ChabadYorktown.com](http://www.ChabadYorktown.com) or call 914-962-1111.

## Wednesday, Dec. 5

**Somers Library Programs:** Several programs have been scheduled for the coming days at the Somers Library. Web Design for Beginners will be held on Dec. 5 from 6:15 to 7:30pm. This program is for adults. We will be using the public computers for this class, but please let us know if you can bring your own laptop to use in class. Space is limited to 12 and registration is required. December TED Talks will be held on Dec. 7 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. A Holiday Sing-Along with John Fiscella & Friends will be held on Dec. 9 from 2 to 4 p.m. Winter Art Drop-In will be held on Mondays, 12/10 and 17 and 1/7, 14 & 28, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Take a break on Monday mornings and pack your bag with your favorite art supplies: watercolors, acrylic paints, colored pencils, pens, paints and brushes. There is a \$30 fee; checks should be made out to Judika Lieberman. Space is limited. To register for the programs or to receive more information, call 914 232 5717 or visit [somerslibrary.org](http://somerslibrary.org).

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

## Thursday, Dec. 6

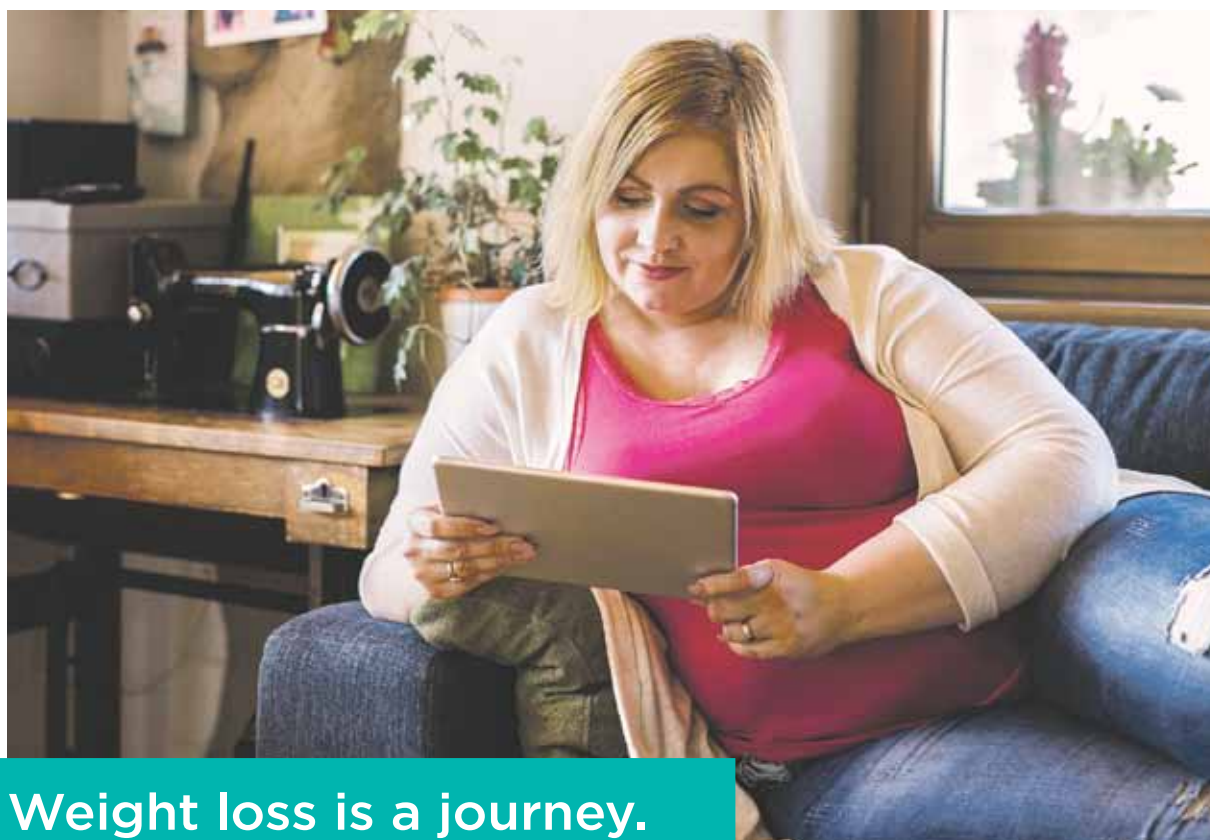
**Art Exhibits:** A series of exhibits are being held at the Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art, 1701 Main St., Peekskill. "Between I & Thou," is on display through Dec. 17. Peter Bynum's "Illumination of the Sacred Forms: Divine Light Mission and Sanctuary" is running through Dec. 17. Info: 914-788-0100, [www.hvcca.org](http://www.hvcca.org) or Facebook.

**Acting Classes:** The Four All Theater Company will be conducting acting classes every Thursday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Field Library, 4 Nelson Ave., Peekskill. Class size is limited. Info: 914-737-1212.

**AIDS Documentary:** This month's offering from the Ossining Documentary and Discussion Series is "How to Survive a Plague," the story of gay men, faced with indifference and government inaction, taking to the streets to break the silence around

the AIDS epidemic. The free screening will take place at the Ossining Public Library. Seating begins at 6:15 p.m. Admission is always free and all are welcome. A panel discussion will follow with expert panelists drawn from nearby communities. Info: [OssiningDocumentaries.org](http://OssiningDocumentaries.org).

**Chanukah At The Mall:** Come join family, friends, and neighbors as the entire Jewish community celebrates Chanukah at the Jefferson Valley Mall at 6 p.m. With



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#### IN-PERSON SEMINAR:

**December 20, 2018 | 4:30-5:30pm**

Call **845.230.4797** to reserve your spot.

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# Happenings

singing, games and more, the different congregations in the area invite the entire community to enjoy the Festival of Lights. We will gather around the Menorah in the mall for songs which will culminate in the lighting of our community Chanukah Menorah. For information, please call 914-962-7500 or e-mail RabbiW@optonline.net

## Friday, Dec. 7

**Women With Cancer Program:** Support Connection announces a free program: "Hooks & Needles: Knitting and Crocheting for Women with Cancer," will be offered from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Yorktown Support Connection office, 40 Triangle Center, Suite 100. It is open to people living with breast, ovarian and gynecological cancers. To learn more or to pre-register, which is required, call Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

**Jewish Center Services:** At the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd., Friday night Sabbath services begin at 6:15 p.m. And Sabbath services on most 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.

**Holiday Boutique:** The Croton Artisans are hosting their popular Holiday Boutique starting today. The boutique will take place at the Stanley H. Keller House Municipal Building, 1 Van Wyck St. in Croton, and is sponsored by Croton Council on the Arts. Admission is free. The opening reception and wine tasting will be held on Dec. 7 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. The boutique will be open on Dec. 8 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Dec. 9 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Saturday, Dec. 8

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

**Church Bazaar:** The Church of the Good Shepherd, Granite Springs Road in Granite Springs, will be holding their Annual Christmas Bazaar from 10 a.m.

until 4 p.m. There will be Christmas ornaments and decorations made by church members, gift items for all ages, delicious baked goods and candy. Also shop our Christmas Boutique for great bargains on holiday treasures. For information, call 914-248-5631.

**Lasdon Holiday Train Display:** The Lasdon Holidays on the Hill is being held every Saturday and Sunday in December from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Lasdon Park, Arboretum and Veterans Memorial on Route 35 in Somers. The event includes a model train show featuring the Polar Express, the Metro-North Harlem line and, new this year, a New York City Subway line. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, 12 and under. The fee includes the trains, the main house and the Conservatory. Tickets will be sold until 3:30 p.m. each day. Santa will make appearances throughout the event to hear the wishes from children, young and old. Bring a camera and take a photo with Santa. Go to [lasdonpark.org](http://lasdonpark.org) for Santa's hours. Go to [parks.westchestergov.com](http://parks.westchestergov.com) or call 914-864-7268 for more information.

**Support Connection Yoga Program:** Support Connection announces a free program, Yoga: A Path toward Wellness, will be offered from noon to 1:30 p.m. every Saturday through the rest of December at Club Fit in Jefferson Valley. Open to women living with breast, ovarian and gynecological cancers. To learn more or to pre-register, which is re-

quired, call Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

**Jazz Masers Series:** Westchester Collaborative Theater, 33 Water St., Ossining, will continue its Jazz Masters series with a special holiday concert showcasing the sounds of the KJ Denhart Trio. Urban folk jazz great Denhart, named one of Jazz.com's top female vocalists and four-time Independent Music Award nominee, will be accompanied by Mamadou Ba on bass, Etienne Stadwijk on keyboard and Ray Levier on drums. The doors open at 7 p.m. and the show will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets, \$25 per set, can be purchased online at: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3743725> (limited seating available; advance purchase is strongly recommended). Refreshments will be available.

## Sunday, Dec. 9

**Christmas Concert:** This Advent celebrate waiting and the arrival of Jesus at Grace Lutheran Church's Christmas concert at 3 p.m. The church is located at 3830 Gomer St., Yorktown. You'll hear stories of Christmases gone right and wrong, poems about angels from the past and present, and of course, plenty of Christmas music. A dessert reception of traditional Christmas dishes will follow and you can do some last minute Christmas shopping at our table of handmade and free trade items. Call the church at 914-245-5737 for more information. The suggested donation is \$10.

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From left: Mahesh, Manager, Owner Nagaraj Rao, George Ondek

**Special Bulletin!** George has a new time!  
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# Memories of Decorating Trees, Real and Artificial

Can you guess what percentage of us decorate real Christmas trees as opposed to artificial trees? At one time in the distant past, I would have guessed it would be about half.

Every holiday season, I always enjoy helping my wife decorate our home but I turn from the happy Elf into the Grinch when things don't work out well. That can happen when the crowning star won't sit straight atop the tree or we happen to choose a real tree one year and the thing won't stand up straight.

Sometimes when I get frustrated over the big and the small stuff as I decorate our home for the holidays, I think that maybe I've reached a stage of life when it's time to celebrate holidays in a more moderated way and decorate the house accordingly. My wife hasn't reached that stage yet, but maybe I have.

Things were different when we first married many years ago in late September. By Thanksgiving we had launched into our first joint home crafts project, making our own ornaments for a tree of the artificial, but rather convincing, variety. Did you know that the first artificial Christmas trees were made by a toilet brush company and actually looked like big, green toilet brushes?

As hopelessly romantic newlyweds, we

dedicated ourselves to creating highly sophisticated, decorative ornaments made from Styrofoam balls. Using straight pins that we purchased from the hat district on Manhattan's West 28th Street, we attached the balls adorned with fine ribbons, metallic threads, beads, semi-precious stones, feathers, pearls and crystals. The project became an addiction that gave us callouses and had us losing sleep, night after night.

A week before Christmas, all the ornaments were completed and the tree was easily assembled in three pieces. We strung it with multi-colored lights and golden tinsel garlands, which we haven't seen sold in the past 30 years, and there it remained in the corner until after Valentine's Day. Or was it Easter?

Seriously!

We liked it so much that we excused its extended stay to visitors as camp art. We just didn't want to let go of that demonstration of our first and maybe our only major artistic project created together.

The ridiculousness of the situation paid off, however, when a national magazine was tipped off (by me) about our beautiful tree and published a photo feature about it that appeared in mid-summer.



By Bill Primavera

I often smile as I spy young families picking out real trees and wreaths, excited to get them home for holiday decoration. At the same time, I realize that I seem to have passed into a different phase, someone who decorates for the holidays but enjoys watching our kids pull out all the stops for their kids, whether it be mounting Santa and his reindeer on the roof or putting out cookies and milk. Good for them, but not necessarily for me anymore.

In my own family, there were a few years when we enjoyed four generations of our family gathering at our highly decorated

home to celebrate the holidays. I'm looking forward to the day when we can expand generationally to that number once again.

In answer to the real versus artificial Christmas tree question, of the 94 million trees sold, 80 percent of them will be artificial.

Bill Primavera, while a publicist and journalist, is also a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and Founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc. ([www.PrimaveraPR.com](http://www.PrimaveraPR.com)). To engage the services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

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Crossword

ACROSS

1. Boat mover
4. Nurse
7. Educ. institution
10. Sergeant or corporal, e.g.
11. Horror writer, Edgar Allan
12. Naughty boy in "Toy Story"
13. Baking need, abbr.
14. Perpetual
16. If you want to "flee" from cigarettes, this Yorktown shop may be for you, Vape \_\_\_\_
18. Post-WWII commerce agreement
20. Zone
24. Photo session
26. Where to go to "tickle the Ivories" in Ossining, Mike \_\_\_\_ Music School
27. Scandalous
29. I.Q. or driver's
30. Vodka cocktail
32. Roleplay
35. Kangaroo pocket, e.g.
38. Command to an attack dog
39. Wander
40. A Manning
41. Arctic sight
42. Sibilant

43. Search engine marketing ingredient, for short

DOWN

1. Neighbor of Minn.
2. Temperature controls, briefly
3. Aid for skiing uphill
4. Blueprint datum, for short
5. Little pieces
6. Leaf \_\_\_\_, in Vermont
7. Nine-digit ID
8. Spy agcy.
9. The good cholesterol
15. Say one's piece
17. Monotonous
18. Prime meridian std.
19. Revelation response
21. Dangerous flies
22. Approves
23. Turn bad
25. Emergency medicine system
28. Workout spots, for some
31. Old Fords
32. Air pressure, abbr.
33. Driver's need, abbr.
34. One or 11, in blackjack
36. Oktoberfest drink
37. IT head

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(Solution to puzzle on page 19)

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## LEGAL NOTICES

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF STAR-**

**DUST ADVISORS, LLC.** Articles of Organization were filed with SSNY on 08/02/2018. Office location is New York County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **70 Pine Street, Apt. 3204, New York, NY 10005. Purpose: Distribution of educational products and services to all NYS schools.**

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF THE ART CLOSET LLC.** Articles of Organization were filed with SSNY on 09/26/2018. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **50 Old Roaring Brook Rd., Mount Kisco, NY 10549. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.**

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CURATED FOR YOU BY KATRI.** Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/25/2018. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, **6 Barron Cir., Chappaqua, NY 10514. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

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**APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY OF SURETY TITLE AGENCY COASTAL REGION, L.L.C.** filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/6/18. Formed in NJ on 10/12/99. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail copy of process to 853 Mill Creek Rd., Manahawkin, NJ 08050. The office address required to be maintained in NJ is **11 Eves Dr., Ste. 150, Marlton, NJ 08053. Cert. of formation filed with State Treas., 33 W. State St., Trenton, NJ 08608. Purpose: Any lawful activity.**

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*continued on next page*

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# Christmas Show Rooted in Singer's Admiration for The Carpenters

By Anna Young

Get in the holiday spirit at The Paramount in Peekskill this Sunday afternoon for a one-of-a-kind Christmas celebration.

Singer Michelle Berting Brett and her seven-piece Nashville band, led by musical director Harry Sharpe, will bring The Carpenters' holiday classics and iconic hits to life in "Merry Christmas Darling: Carpenters' Christmas."

"We try to honor what Karen and Richard (Carpenter) created," Brett said of the brother-sister duo that had a succession of megahits in the early to mid-1970s. "I never get tired of singing these songs. It's just a joy."

Growing up in Canada, Brett listened to legends Donna Summer, Barbra Streisand and Karen Carpenter on her transistor radio hoping one day she could perform on stage. After studying opera and musical theater, Brett put together her own cabaret show in Toronto where she was told she shared a distinct similarity to Karen Carpenter.

"As I was singing the material, people started to tell me I sounded like Karen Carpenter," Brett said. "Inevitably they would ask if I would sing her songs and I added it to my set. People would tell me how much a particular song meant to them and it was always such an emo-



Canadian singer Michelle Berting Brett, backed by a seven-piece band, will perform a holiday tribute show to The Carpenters this Sunday at The Paramount in Peekskill.

tional connection to the music."

While working on a cruise ship in the early 1990s, Brett toyed with the idea of a one-woman show based on The Carpenters' music. It wasn't until she met her producer and husband, Mark Brett, years later and sang him "Merry Christmas, Darling" that her idea became reality.

In 2009, Brett performed her very first tribute show in a small club in Toronto to critical acclaim, and four years later kicked off the "We've Only Just Begun:

Carpenters Remembered" tour in the United States.

"It's been a wonderful adventure," she said. "I've always loved The Carpenters and it's always been a dream of mine to do this. As an artist you want to touch people on an emotional level."

With the festive show featured in venues throughout the country, Brett said her performance will put audiences in the holiday spirit with a decorative production and seasonal tunes that never go out of style. The two-hour show will include holiday classics such as, "Sleigh Ride," "The Christmas Song," "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," "Do You Hear What I Hear," "I'll Be Home for Christmas," "Merry Christmas, Darling" and many others.

"It's a great way to spend a night out with the family," Brett said.

The show's holiday music may be inspired by The Carpenters' "Christmas Portrait" and "An Old-Fashioned Christmas" albums, but Brett said she will also perform some of their greatest hits, including "Close to You" and "We've Only Just Begun."

While her Christmas show and tribute tour has had a dedicated following over the last five years, Brett is deeply

appreciative that her passion for singing and admiration for Karen Carpenter has brought The Carpenters' beautiful music to audiences.

"It's amazing that this little tiny idea that I had based on a love for a beautiful singer has turned into this," Brett said. "It's been such a great gift."

"Merry Christmas Darling: Carpenters' Christmas" will begin at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$29, \$39 and \$49. For tickets and more information, visit [www.paramountthudsonvalley.com](http://www.paramountthudsonvalley.com). The Paramount is located at 1008 Brown St. in Peekskill.

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against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 33 Windmill Rd., Armonk NY 10504. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF BOND RESOLUTION SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Pleasantville, Westchester County, New York (the "Village"), at a meeting held on November 26, 2018 adopted a bond resolution, which is subject to a permissive referendum, that authorizes the issuance of \$225,000 serial bonds of the Village to finance the purchase of machinery and apparatus to be used for constructing, reconstructing, repairing or maintaining Village improvements, including a dump truck to be used by the Department of Public Works (the "Project") the cost of each item of which is \$30,000 or more. The period of probable usefulness is fifteen (15) years and the bonds are payable from amounts to be annually levied on all the taxable real property in the Village. Pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder ("SEQRA"), the Village has determined that the project is a Type II Action requiring no further action under SEQRA. **Noreen Regan, Deputy Village Clerk, Village of Pleasantville, Westchester County, New York**

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SECOND MOUSE CHEESE, LLC.** Articles of Organization were filed with the SSNY on 10/18/2018. Office location is Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **SECOND MOUSE CHEESE, LLC, 351 Manville Road, Pleasantville, NY 10570.** Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

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The Northern Westchester  
**Examiner**  
**Sports**  
*Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports*

# Rise & Shion!

**Peekskill  
Guard Has  
Ups But Put  
Valley  
Gets W**

Peekskill senior G Shion Darby dropped 19 points and blocked this sick shot against Putnam Valley senior G Ryan Soto, who did manage seven clutch points while handling the Red Devils' upbeat pressure in the Class B Tigers' 51-47 opening-night win over the Class A host Red Devils last Friday night... see Boys' Hoops Notebook



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO



# Sports

## Boys' Hoops Notebook

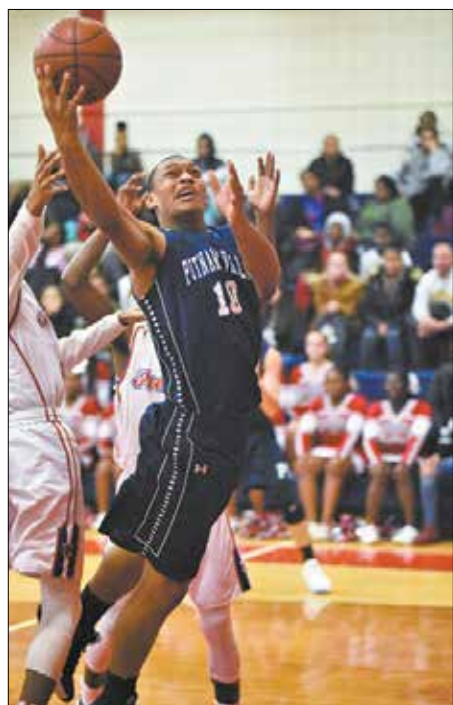
### Put Valley Survives Scare from Peekskill; Brewster 2nd at Lakeland

By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports Editor  
@Directrays

Yes, we're only a week into the season, but the realist in me sees the writing on the wall: This could be a down year for the boys' hoops team in the Northern Westchester/Putnam County region. I know it's early to be raining on the parade, but there's not a ton of Final 4 potential out there among the locals at this point in time, emphasis on "this point in time". That could change as teams improve over the course of the season, and I sure as heck hope I'm wrong about this, but let's just say it won't be easy to reach the



Put Valley G Ryan Soto goes baseline against defense from Peekskill's Antonio Taylor in Tigers' 51-47 win over Red Devs.



Put Valley senior F Darnell Shillingford drops two of his team-high 22 points in 51-47 win over Peekskill.



RAY GALLAGHER/RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS  
Putnam Valley senior TJ Brescia snags a carom in Tigers' 51-47 win over Peekskill.



Lakeland's Mark Cummins is met by Brewster's Harrison Dignan in Hornets' OT loss to Bears last Friday.

County Center – or whatever Final 4 destination they decide on – this coming February.

Coach Mike McDonnell's **PUTNAM VALLEY** Tigers (1-0) appear head and shoulders above the rest as far as the local title contenders go, despite not playing to their capabilities in a 51-47 win at **PEEKSKILL** last Friday night where my man DJ Pistol Pete Peterson was spinning tunes and feeling the love of a local rivalry like nobody in Section 1 does. Truth be told, the world would be a better place with more people like DJ Pete on the planet.

If nothing else, host Peekskill proved it can be a menacing pest this season on the Class A hoops circuit after giving Class

B heavyweight Putnam Valley fits in a 51-47 opening-night setback to the Tigers. Peekskill's two-pronged attack of wing Antonio Taylor (game-high 22 points, four 3's) and senior G Shion Darby (19 points) was not enough to offset PV's balance as four Tigers went for seven or more points, including senior F Darnell Shillingford (21 points), TJ Brescia (12 points, 10 in a pivotal 3rd Q run), Brandon Guerra (9 points) and Ryan Soto (7 points).

"We won't play a better point guard than Shion Darby this year," Coach McDonnell said. "This was a great win on a Friday-night atmosphere in a tough place to win. Our student body was super motivating. Give special credit to Ryan Soto, Charlie Gatewood and Brandon Guerra's ballhandling against intense ball pressure from Peekskill."

Peekskill would not go down quietly,



Lakeland F Joe Vetrano takes on Brewster's Joe Girard (23) and Patrick Nevin in Hornets' OT loss to Bears.



Lakeland's Jack Kruse takes on Brewster's Cameron Hart with Bears Coach Tom Nelligan doing his thing in background of Brewster's OT win Friday.

and the Tigers will need to do more to take advantage of Brescia, who looked to have a significant advantage physically, but (IMO) the Tigers rarely imposed that will, or they might have run off with this win...

**LAKELAND** suffered the toughest blow of the young season in a 69-64 overtime loss to **BREWSTER** in the opening round of the Carolyn Conroy Relay for Life Tournament when junior wing Jack Kruse suffered a broken wrist. This was a kid who Lakeland was going to use as a centerpiece for its offense, a budding star. The thought is that he'll be ready to go sometime in mid-January, so Coach Steve Fallo's Hornets will have to float the boat without him for at least six to eight weeks with any luck.

Byram Hills went on to defeat Brewster in the Lakeland Tourney final, 64-38, behind an MVP performance from Bobcat Ben Leff (17 points, 12 boards). Lakeland went on to take fourth place in the tourney after falling, 74-65, to Class C favorite Tuckahoe. Man, Kruse can't back quick enough. Brewster senior Cameron Hart was named to the All-

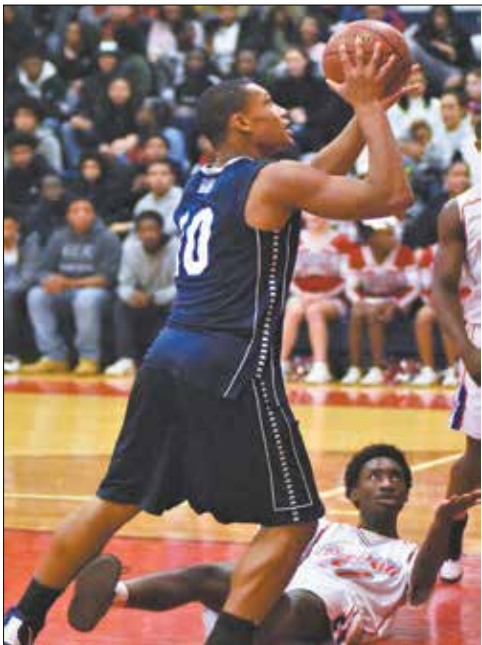
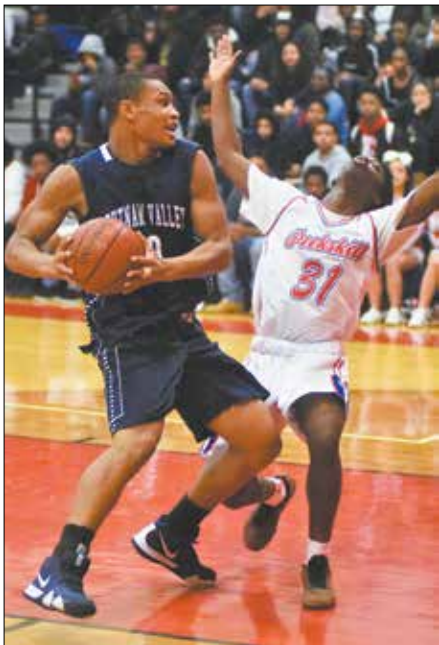
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Sports

Boys' Hoops Notebook

continued from previous page



Peekskill's Rohan Robinson tries in vain to sell a charge call against Put Valley's Darnel Shillingford, and his reaction is classic in Red Devs' 51-47 loss to Tigers.

Tournament team, and his kid brother, sophomore Kobey Hart, had a coming out party with 16 points in the loss to the Bobcats, who pulled away after a tight first half, 27-22.

In **HALDANE's** 63-29 win over host Pawling, Blue Devil G Alex Kubik earned an MVP nod after scoring nine points and playing one of the best two-way tournaments of his career. Matt Champlin and Kyle Sussmeier each had 14 points to secure All-Tournament honors for a Blue Devil team (2-0) that is bucking for a Class C title in late February but has some work to do in order to catch this Tuckahoe team.

**OSSINING** had a last-second win over



Members of the Haldane basketball team hoist the hardware after winning the Pawling Tournament last Saturday.

Sleepy Hollow on Mouhammed Cisse's bucket with 1.4 left in the opening round of the Headless Horsemen tournament, buy Mamaroneck (2-0) beat Ossining 51-34 to win the tournament. Sleepy then knocked off **HEN HUD**, 47-42, in the consy. Connor Gallagher of Hen Hud was named to the All-Tourney team, but the Sailors, who got waxed by Mamo' in the opening round, could be in for a long one...

**SOMERS'** superb guard play should keep the Tuskers in the mix for the league title chase, but it'll come down to C Max Germaine taking his game to the next level that will determine whether or not Coach DiCintio's Tuskers can run with league favorites Greeley and upstart

John Jay. Senior G Lucas Fecci, who was just named as a soccer All-American, and the Tuskers will open the season Wednesday against Saunders in a game that will feature neither head coach, as both Somers Coach Chris DiCintio and Saunders Coach Anthony Nicodemo are both suspended by the Section 1 Athletic Council to start the 2018/19 season from issues stemming from an LBGQT Pride On The Court event last January, hosted by Nicodemo and the athletic department of Division III Sarah Lawrence College. Section 1's leadership allegedly claimed Nicodemo's Athletic Director, Jim Rose, did not submit the proper paperwork to host the event at the college and have it supported by Nike. Nicodemo and



Lakeland G Zach Cohen eyes rim as Brewster G Kobey Hart defends in Hornets' OT loss to Bears Friday.

DiCintio were suspended for failing to provide necessary paperwork to hold an event supporting LGBTQ inclusion.

This may just be the most ridiculous suspension ever handed out in the history of Section 1 sports, but this is Section 1 at its finest.



Peekskill's Antonio Taylor goes up for hoop in Red Devils' 51-47 loss to Put Valley Friday.



# Mahopac's DiSanto Chalks Up 400th Career Win

By Tony Pinciario

Dennis DiSanto recalled a conversation he had with his brother regarding a story on a fellow wrestling coach in New York.

"He sent me an article when Joe Bena, the legendary coach from Niskayuna High School, got his 400 win and said maybe someday you can get to 400," said the veteran MAHOPAC coach. "At the time I thought 'No way' but here I am many years later at 400."

Mahopac presented DiSanto with his 400th career win as the Indians opened up the Columbia Dual-Meet Tournament with a 71-12 victory over Ichabod Crane.

Mahopac went on to finish 6-1 in the tournament, but the highlight was the opening match as DiSanto, in his eighth year at Mahopac after 27 years at Somers, joins legendary retired Fox Lane Coach Joe Amuso, Sr., with 400 career wins.

"When I first started coaching, I just wanted to field a full line-up," DiSanto said. "I never envisioned I would be coaching this long and have reached 400 wins. It's a credit to all the great kids I coached throughout the years and who have bought into my style and philosophy of coaching. It's also a credit to all of my assistants who have helped me, especially Chad Brenneman, who has been with me for over 20 years. Having him by my side for so many years has been special. It's also a credit for my wife who has been supportive of my coaching for 35 years."

DiSanto praised Amuso for his impact on a new wrestling coach.

"I have always looked up to Joe Amuso as a mentor and a coach and joining him at 400 means a lot," DiSanto said. "The way he handled his teams, year in and year out, is something not many coaches could not do."

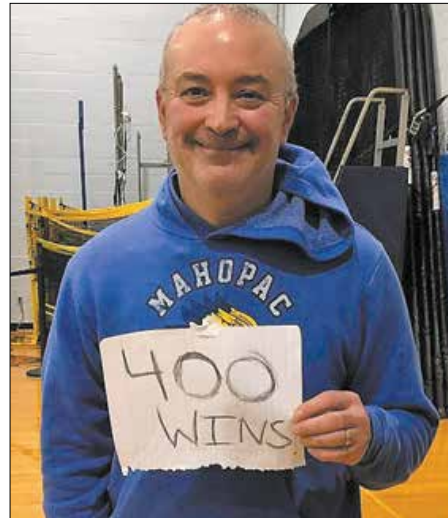
DiSanto said one thing brings him back and has him excited, annually.

"The kids that I coach is what brings me back," DiSanto said. "I get just as much satisfaction as a quiet kid in the back of the room who struggles, but sticks with it and after a few years finds success as I do over a wrestler who dominates. I like to believe that the kids I coach are learning a lot more than how to wrestle and they are developing qualities that will make them better people and more successful in life."

After opening with a win over Ichabod Crane, Mahopac beat Beekmantown, Whitehall/Fort Ann, Columbia, Guilderland and Tamarac. The loss was to Shaker, 42-38.

Angelo Centrone went 7-0 while Mike Rivera, Joe Harney, Charlie Nicosia, Aiden Muldoon and Andi Berisha all were 6-1.

Rivera, who finished third in the section last year, Muldoon, a 2018 divisional champion, Harney, Nicosia and Berisha are all returning starters for DiSanto,



Mahopac wrestling Coach Dennis DiSanto, a member of the NYS Wrestling Hall of Fame, holds impromptu sign after earning his 400th career win last Saturday.

along with Frankie Scauzillo and Tyler Roa. This group accounted for more than 180 wins last year.

The returning starters continue with seniors Nick Sietta, Frank Casagrande, juniors Londrim Hasanramaj, Larry Nardecchia and Steve Guaragna and sophomore Frank Cammarata completing this numerous group.

Centrone, a freshman, made his varsity debut memorable with a perfect seven – wins.

"We should have a strong season, providing we can stay injury-free," DiSanto said. "All the the returning wrestlers are solid. We are returning 14 starters and, with the addition of Centrone at 99 pounds, I think we will have a tough lineup. All told, I am returning 27 wrestlers from last year and I currently have 42 on my roster so the program is doing well and going strong."

DiSanto and his team will host the annual Peter Caruso Memorial Tournament, Saturday, Jan 26.

OSSINING closed out the 2017-18 with a flourish as the Pride finished fourth in the Section 1 Division I Championships.

The Pride were in this position thanks to sectional champ Zachary Bonner, who finished sixth in the state, and the graduated trio of Farouk Capalbo and Diego Orellano, who both placed fourth, and fifth-place finisher Tyrese Marbury.

The good news for 13-year Coach Larry McRae and assistant Tom Larm is that Bonner returns along with classmates Joshua Manning, who finished third in the section, and Izaiah Steen, who placed fifth, as does junior Joseph Nolan.

McRae, who wrestled for Mahopac, is turning to youth and three fresh faces to fill his lower weights in seventh-grader Anthony Lofaro (99 pounds), freshman Jonathan Benitez (106) and eighth-grader

Tristan Robinson-July (113).

"We bring back 10 starters, half of which were section qualifiers," McRae said. "Our question right now is depth in our lineup."

Ossining premiered the season hosting the annual Mike Nardone Tournament.

The Pride went 2-2, beating Brewster (54-36) and Fox Lane 'B' (54-36), but falling to Cossackie-Athens and John Jay-East Fishkill.

Ossining opens the Section 1 Division I Dual-Meet Tournament, Wednesday, at Beacon. The No. 9 Pride wrestle No. 24 Carmel while No. 8 Beacon faces No. 25 Scarsdale. The winners will wrestle with the winner moving on.

McRae will bring Ossining to the two-day Mid-Hudson Tournament at Arlington, Dec. 27-28. January will be busy for Ossining as the Pride will wrestle in the Scarsdale Tournament, Eastern States, Jan. 11-12, Hen Hud Tournament, the Westchester County Championships, July 19, and the Garden City Duals.

PUTNAM VALLEY finds itself in an unfamiliar situation going into the 2018-19 season.

In previous years, the Tigers were seeded either first or second for the Section 1 Division II Dual-Meet Tournament and also considered a favorite to win the Section 1 Division II Championship.

Putnam Valley begins the season with the Section 1 Division II Dual-Meet Tournament, today, with an out-bracket match against visiting Woodlands. The winner will face the victory of the Ardsley-Croton match, also on Tuesday. Whoever emerges from Putnam Valley will wrestle fourth-seeded Edgemont, Thursday, in a quarterfinal.

Last year, the Tigers finished fourth in the section. They had seven finalists, including one champion – Kyle Sams, who is a freshman wrestling for Campbell (N.C.). Sams is not the only impact wrestler who graduated as multiple-time sectional champ Mikey Bruno also received his diploma last June.

Even though veteran Putnam Valley coach Will Carano graduated two of the program's all-time best, he has a strong returning core, led by seniors Owen McDonald and Dean Appell. Carano also has a strong sophomore trio back in Hunter Lundberg, who qualified for the state championships last year, Shane Appell and Will Carano, the coach's son. Young Will Carano has been on varsity since seventh grade.

"This year is a reset year for the program, which means we have many athletes new to the sport and this team," said Carano, who created the program and has been the coach since 1999. "We want guys that are competitive and we think we have that with this team. A wrestling season is

a long process, and our season schedule is designed to expose and give us insight into what those question marks might be. We think we have guys that are willing and eager to "buy in" to what it will take to be competitive come February."

Carano has designed a challenging schedule for his team in order to prepare them for the postseason.

Putnam Valley opened at the Huntington Tournament. Carano will bring his team to The Wrangle in Schenectady (N.Y.), Saturday, Dec. 8. The following Saturday the Tigers go to the Jay Alvarez Tournament at Truman High School.

January is just as difficult with the Ted Murphy/James Guccione Shoreline Classic, Jan. 5, the Eastern States Classic and Hen Hud Tournaments, Jan. 12, and Carano returns to his alma mater, Mahopac, for the annual Peter Caruso Memorial Tournament, Jan. 26. Carano was a sectional champ for Mahopac.

Experience is the buzz word for **BREWSTER** as the Bears begin the 2018-19 season.

Brewster returns six experienced seniors to a lineup that will be without 2018 New York State champion Grant Cuomo, who is a freshman wrestling for Princeton.

Sure, the Bears will miss Cuomo, however, having the senior six back will help compensate for his graduation.

Coach Tom Looby's senior six are Lewis Grana, Jack Muentner, Alex Goldberg, Cody Hamblin, Greg Salavec and Ryan Anfuso. Sophomore Jacob Hamblin is also a top returning wrestler.

"The strength of our lineup will be experience with a senior-heavy lineup," said Looby, in his 16th year. "Losing Grant at 170 is a large hole to fill, but we have a core group of returning starters to add strength to our team, overall."

Looby pointed out that Goldberg is the team's best technician, Muentner is a tremendous athlete and Grana is the toughest competitor.

Even with the super six seniors, Looby said the team has a few goals.

"We want to outwork the competition, push one another, stay positive and improve with every match," said Looby, who enters the season with 195 career wins.

Brewster is seeded 10th in the Section 1 Division I Dual-Meet Tournament. The Bears open against No. 23 Byram Hills, Wednesday, at Fox Lane. The seventh-seeded host wrestles No. 26 Yorktown in the other match that day. The winners meet immediately following.

**SOMERS'** Coach Ron DiSanto, Jr. began his fifth season without 10

*continued on next page*



# Somers Puts Best Foot Forward in Loss to Mighty Ossining

By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports Editor  
@Directrays

For OSSINING, the reigning eight-time Section 1 Class AA champion and 2018 NYS runner-up, it was just another day at the office; a methodical 82-31 opening-day win over visiting Class A foe SOMERS whereby Pride Coach Dan Ricci unveiled yet another championship banner. But for the 2017 Section 1 champion Tuskers it was an opportunity to improve against a state-caliber championship team, to put their best foot forward and begin their quest to get back on top of Class A in 2019.

It took just one day for Somers Coach Mark Hattem to introduce the Tuskers to the best team Somers would face all season, and while the outcome may look bleak on the actual scoreboard, the Tuskers might reap the rewards down the road. One thing's for sure: By saying yes to a non-league crossover game against Ossining, Somers isn't ducking anyone as they embark on what should be a banner campaign after a shocking semifinal loss in last year's Final 4.



RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

Put Valley 8th-grader Eva DeChent drains one of three big 3's she would drill in Tigers' opening-day win over Arlington.



Putnam Valley sophomore G Arianna Stockinger goes up for two in season-opening win over Arlington.



Lakeland's Sarah Carroll eyes baseline in Hornets' 61-40 win over Clarkstown North in Carolyn Conroy Relay for Life tourney.

Ossining senior C Kailah Harris (25 points, 13 rebounds, 3 steals) was unguardable, proving to be too strong in the paint. All-NYS G/F Aubrey Griffin dropped a typical stat line, including 29 point, six boards and four steals. Pride point guard Jaida Strippoli (6 points, 5 dimes), Kacie Scarduzio (5 points), Brooke Weeks (4 points, 5 assists) and Julia Iorio (4 points) were all in on the fun. The bad blow for the Pride came in the form of Scarduzio's ACL tear in the final seconds of the win.

"She is one of our fiercest defenders and was always a spark plug off the bench," Ricci said. "We know she will work hard, and Kacie will come back stronger than ever."

Senior G Hannah Angelini (15 points) led Somers, who trailed 22-1 early on.

Class B PUTNAM VALLEY wasted no time in endorsing the fact that they, despite losing All-League F Dora Rippon (who opted not to play this season), are still a menacing force with just eight girls on the varsity roster.

That fiery Tiger unit wasn't the least bit intimidated in the Class B Tigers' 52-43 season-opening win last Wednesday over Class AA Arlington, who had no answer for fearless sophomore Ariana Stockinger. The feisty guard led PV with 23 points and solid two-way play against the Admirals. Junior wing Kelli Venezia added 15 points while eighth-grader Eva Dechent nailed three big-time 3s to put the hammer down. PV junior G Cyera Daughtry was lights-out on D for the Tigers.

BREWSTER is hoping to make some noise in Class A this season and its 45-18 rout of Beacon was a good start behind G Maggie DePaoli (16 points) and Kristen Stefanick (9 points) last Thursday. The Bears (2-0) followed that up with a 42-27 win over Nanuet. Stefanick (11 points) stepped up again, as did Grace Galgano (9 points).



Putnam Valley G Amanda Orlando gets going in transition in Tigers' win over Arlington.

*Girls' Hoops Coaches are encouraged to drop all stats and comments on beat writer Tony Pinciario at [tfinch23@optonline.net](mailto:tfinch23@optonline.net)*



Lakeland's Alexa Cole makes her move in Hornets' 61-40 win over Clarkstown North in the opening round of the Carolyn Conroy Relay for Life tourney.

*continued from previous page*

graduated seniors and a junior who enabled the Tuskers go 13-7 and later finish ninth in the 2018 Section 1 Division I Championship.

One of the seniors, Frank Celli, is wrestling at Sacred Heart University and junior Matt Kelly, a sectional placefinisher, transferred to Iona Prep.

DiSanto will turn to the junior trio of Matt Russo, fifth in the section at 99 pounds last year, Thomas Gall and Zach Lupinacci to lead the team.

The graduation departures have opened

up starting weight classes in the lineup. DiSanto has a promising group looking to make an impact. They include juniors Bruno Imhof, Peter Kim and Daniel Rios, sophomores A.J. D'Orazio and Michael Rivera and eighth-grader Max Lupinacci.

"This is a very young lineup so there is an unknown, but I see great potential," said DiSanto, in his fifth season. "All of our newcomers are athletic with wrestling experience in either JV, modified or youth. The team focuses and works hard in practice. We will have ups and downs this

season, but we will be an exciting, athletic team, and we will improve quickly."

Somers opened the season with a 42-30 loss to Pawling. Russo, Max Lupinacci, Kim and Rivera pinned.

The Tuskers are seeded 27th in the Section 1 Division Dual-Meet Championship and will wrestle at No. 6 Arlington, Wednesday, in the first round. The other match at Arlington is No. 11 East Ramapo-No. 22 Lakeland/Panas. The winners will wrestle immediately following the opening matches.

Somers has a booked January tournament schedule, beginning with the 40th annual Eric D'Agnese Memorial Somers Tournament, Jan. 5. Somers goes to the Hen Hud Tournament, Jan. 12, the Westchester County

Championship, Jan. 19, and the Peter Caruso Memorial Tournament at Mahopac, Jan. 26.

**Lakeland/Panas, Yorktown & Hen Hud Previews to run next week**





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