Appeal Made to Increase Organ Donors... page 4



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

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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

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Panas, Hen Hud Advance



RICK PEZZULLO PHOTO

Taking a Dip for a Good Cause

About 50 participants plunged into the Hudson River at Louis Engel Park Beach in Ossining Saturday to raise money for Gullotta House, which helps Westchester residents in need, provides local scholarships and donates funds to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. For more photos, see page 9.

Substance Abuse Hospital Plans Continue to Trouble Residents

Bv Rick Pezzullo

Water and traffic concerns continue to trouble neighbors of a proposed luxury substance abuse hospital on Quaker Ridge Road in Cortlandt.

More than 50 residents attended a special meeting of the Cortlandt Planning Board a few weeks ago regarding Hudson Ridge Wellness Center's 92-bed residential treatment center project on 20 acres and came away with more questions than answers.

"There is still a lot of work ahead for the Planning Board and the community to fully understand the scope and impacts of the proposed hospital in our residential community," said Karen Wells, head of the Greater Teatown Defense Alliance (GTDA). "Given the complexity of what we know now, I would expect a project of this magnitude would require a full Environmental Impact Study."

Hudson Ridge purchased the property in 2010 and began restoring the seven buildings. The site was once used as a hospital for people suffering from substance abuse. In July 2015, Hudson Ridge submitted an application for a special use permit with a site plan to establish a high-end specialty hospital. Those plans were then stalled by a nine-month mora-

Continued on page 2

Lawmakers Demand Answers for Unexplained Energy Hikes

By Rick Pezzullo

Recent spikes in the cost of energy for residents in parts of Somers and Putnam County have prompted state Senator Terrence Murphy (R/Yorktown) and state Assemblyman Kevin Byrne (R/Mahopac) seeking answers from New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG).

In a letter to NYSEG, Murphy and Byrne asked for an explanation about the increased rates between the months of December and January, if a payment plan is available to residents and what communication plan does NYSEG have to warn consumers of rising costs.

"Hudson Valley ratepayers are strapped with some of the highest energy costs in the nation. They deserve an explanation and some transparency about why their bills doubled, tripled or quadrupled in just one month," Murphy said. "If this is an issue requiring state action we will surely take action."

"It's crazy that some of our neighbors recently learned that their utility bills have skyrocketed by as much as 400%," Byrne said. "For some people, it could mean the difference between affording food and expensive medications or heating their homes. I will continue to work with our partners in government for greater accountability and transparency."

Rosalie Meli Cicogna, a resident of Heritage Hills in Somers, said she was shocked when she received her enormous bill, especially because she has made her home energy-efficient.

"This is an egregious breach of confidence between NYSEG

Continued on page 2



State Senator Terrence Murphy and State Assemblyman Kevin Byrne.



Substance Abuse Hospital Plans Continue to Trouble Residents

Continued from page 1

torium imposed two months later by the Cortlandt Town Board. Hudson Ridge sought to obtain a variance from the Town Board from the moratorium on the basis of a hardship, but were denied.

Much of the discussion at the special meeting in late January between the Planning Board and various consultants hired by the town, Hudson Ridge and residents centered on wells, water usage and traffic.

Residents in the area feel the radius of the water adequacy test Hudson Ridge will be conducting on the property should be increased.

"At the end of the day, if a corporation wants to come into our community and

use our natural resources, we should make sure the impact on existing homeowners is fully understood," said Joel Greenstein, who has experienced water issues in his 20 years living next to Quaker Ridge Road. "To do this fairly, the town should require testing in a half-mile radius and pumping at peak, not average, water usage. Yes, it will cost the corporation a few extra dollars to execute this broader test, but isn't it only fair to all of the families that already call this our home?"

Another homeowner, Colleen Kirk, said water availability and quality has been a problem for many residents.

"Right now, with no hospital next door, I can use my water during the summer for 45 minutes before my well runs dry," Kirk said. "We have to be incredibly careful of our water resources in this area, especially during periods of drought or summertime. I just don't understand how a massive hospital can move in next door and have that not affect my water."

GTDA and Citizens for Responsible Hudson Institute Site Development (CRHISD) members also questioned the traffic analysis submitted by Hudson Ridge, which estimates vehicles will make 110 trips daily to and from the facility. That estimate is lower than previous counts from the applicant, and lower than estimates made by the town's consultant.

"Our Town Code does not allow for hospitals to be built on residential roadways for a reason," said Stephen Hampton, who lives across the street from the site. "It's not just the character of the community with increased traffic, but a real threat to emergency services on these backroads if they can't get through these single-lane throughways."

Hudson Ridge is seeking a variance from the Town Code not requiring the hospital to be constructed on a state roadway. The town's Zoning Board of Appeals is unable to make a ruling on that request until the Planning Board completes the State Environmental Quality Review Act process.

Robert Davis, an attorney for Hudson Ridge, has said the hospital will provide a lot of benefits to Cortlandt, including providing preferential treatment to town residents.

Lawmakers Demand Answers for Unexplained Energy Hikes

Continued from page 1

and its customers," Cicogna said. "We're led to believe that being energy-conscious will be rewarded. I've gone to great lengths to make my home efficient, only to be punished with a sky-high bill. Thank goodness Senator Murphy and Assemblyman Byrne are once again stand up for us."

Kevin Ortiz, a spokesman for NYSEG, explained the reasons for increases this

winter and noted Murphy's office was supplied information from the utility prior to the letter that was written by Murphy and Byrne.

"NYSEG customers saw an increase in their electric bills due to ongoing low temperatures in December and January that may have increased usage, and increases in the market supply price of electricity," Ortiz stated. "That being said, customer bills are comprised of

two components: supply and delivery. The supply portion of a customer's bill is provided by NYSEG or another energy services company chosen by the customer. If a customer's supply is provided by NYSEG, the company procures supply from the market and the market determines the supply price which will vary."

"This winter, supply and demand have caused the wholesale price of electricity to increase significantly," he continued. "These prices are passed on to customers without markup and NYSEG does not profit from supply charges. Delivery charges cover the costs to distribute electricity from its original source to a customer's home or business. There have been no changes in NYSEG delivery charges. NYSEG also offers assistance to customers with managing energy bills. That information is right on our homepage at NYSEG.com."



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Q: Could I benefit from lung cancer screening?

A: The Low-Dose CT screen for lung cancer is a new form of traditional CT (computed tomography) scan. It uses a very low dose of radiation to provide unique 3-D information about the lungs, detecting ever-smaller lung cancers called nodules. Catching lung cancer early, when it's smallest, has the most impact on prognosis and survival. Proof is that the LDCT Scan is reducing lung cancer deaths by 20 percent.*

If you meet each of these criteria, the screening, which is conducted at Northern Westchester Hospital (NWH), could potentially save your life:

- You are between 55 and 74 years old;
- You have a smoking history of 30 pack years meaning, you smoke (or smoked) one pack daily for 30 years, two packs daily for 15 years, or three packs daily for 10 years;
- You currently smoke or quit within the past 15 years;
- You have no symptoms of lung cancer.

Q: Should I be screened if I feel fine?

A: If you meet the criteria, absolutely. Early-stage lung cancer usually presents no symptoms. Here's why: The lung is a relatively large organ. Now picture a marble (the nodule) floating within a big balloon. For the marble

to have a noticeable impact, it must get bigger. Only when that marble becomes the size of an acorn or an orange, do symptoms develop. That's why screening is vitally important. Remember that most screening results are negative. Only a fractional number of people will need a biopsy, and a tiny percentage of those will have lung cancer. Also keep in mind that a biopsy performed at NWH is done using the most up-to-date, minimally invasive method possible. If lung cancer is diagnosed, NWH offers comprehensive treatment second to none.

Q: Can I afford the advanced LDCT screening?

A: The screening is covered by Medicare and most commercial insurers. If you meet the criteria, and don't have commercial insurance or Medicare, NWH can help – with many payment options and below-average pricing. If you can benefit from the screening, we make sure you get it.

Q: What steps should I take?

A: If you think you meet the criteria, ask your primary care physician about ordering an LDCT. If you don't have a referring doctor, NWH's nurse practitioner will determine your eligibility and possibly order an LDCT. NWH is going the extra mile to make this potentially life-saving screening 100 percent accessible to everyone who needs it.

Superintendent Offers Reassurances Following Shooting

When a tragic event occurs, it tends to have a rippling effect in communities and schools throughout the nation.

Hendrick Hudson Superintendent of Schools Joseph Hochreiter reached out

Westchester-Putnam Council Boy Scouts of America Registers **First Girl Den in** Yorktown

The Westchester-Putnam Council Boy Scouts of America has its first official girl den. Six girls, ages 9 and 10, have been registered and will form a single gender den of "Webelos" as part of Pack 164, Yorktown Heights.

The girls, many of whom have been unofficially participating in Cub Scouting with their families for years, will now be able to officially earn rank advancement. They all had their own reasons for joining. Kelly G. said "It's a brand new opportunity that I am one of the first to

When asked what made her want to join Cub Scouts Keira M. said, "I'm most looking forward to doing the activities and not just helping out." Chloe O. added, "I want to try what the boys do and see how it's different than Girl Scouts."

Elaine Griffiths, the Den Leader for the new girl den, pointed out that three of the six girls are in the Girl Scouts and will continue to do both.

The goal of the Westchester-Putnam Council is to provide a program that the entire family can participate in. "Scouting is about family and our Mission is to help young people become better adults. Including girls into our program allows us to continue and expand our Mission", Rich Stockton, Scout Executive.

Family Scouting, as it's known, is being introduced in response to overwhelming requests from families with daughters interested in the Cub Scout program. Research shows 90 percent of parents are interested in getting their daughters involved in a program like Cub Scouts.

The new den is part of an early adopter program aimed at addressing logistical issues prior to the official launch of the Family Scouting program in the fall.



to district families Wednesday following the school shooting in south Florida that left 17 students and staff dead and at least 15 injured, reinforcing the safety measures currently in place in district schools.

"I want to assure you that the safety of our students is our top priority; our district works continuously to provide a safe and secure school environment for your children," Hochreiter stated. "This includes our ongoing efforts to refine safety and security procedures, protocols, and infrastructure; working closely with first responders from our various communities; and collaborating with safety/security experts to evaluate and improve our safety plans."

Hochreiter pointed out each of the district's five schools maintains a School Emergency Response Team (SERT) which regularly reviews and practices crisis response procedures.

"We all need to work together to address and prevent threats," Hochreiter stressed. "While the slogan, 'If you see something, say something' may be overused, it nevertheless bears repeating, as it represents an essential element in any

school safety plan."

"We would like to remind parents and staff how important it is to maintain open communication with our children---about what they are seeing on television, about how they deal with anger and frustration, and about their relationships with other students," he continued.

He said the National Association of School Psychologists suggests to parents helping children cope with such tragic news by making time to talk, limiting television viewing and maintaining nor-



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Advocates Encourage Residents to Register as Organ Donors

By Rick Pezzullo

New York State has the lowest rate of organ donor registration in the nation, leaving 10,000 people in need of a transplant, such as Burton Greenberg of Cortlandt, in a precarious situation.

Greenberg, 86, is on dialysis for kidney failure. He has been waiting several years for a transplant and realizes his chances of finding a donor are slim. However, he is encouraging everyone who is eligible to sign-up to help younger people facing a health crisis to have a fighting chance.

"You have to think more than yourself," he said during a press conference on Valentine's Day, also recognized as National Organ Donor Day, at the Hendrick Hudson Library in Montrose, spearheaded by state Assemblywoman Sandy Galef. "There are marvelous pieces (in the body) to be reused."

Linda and Charlie Hill of Croton-on-Hudson know first-hand the importance of having a pool of organ donors. Their grandson was born with problems and required surgery at one week old. His liver was failing.

Fortunately, their 42-year-old son, who had just returned from serving in the military in Afghanistan, proved to be a perfect match and a half-pound of his liver was inserted into their grandson. The surgery was a success.



rick pezzullo photo

State Assemblywoman Sandy Galef held a press conference last Wednesday in Montrose in honor of National Organ Donor Day.

"This was a godsend for us for our son to be a perfect match," Charlie Hill said. "We don't know what would have happened to our grandson if our son hadn't been a perfect match. It created an awareness with us that I never really thought about. It can't be taken care of tomorrow. There's a backlog now."

According to LiveOnNY, 92 percent of New Yorkers support organ and tis-

sue donation, but only a small percentage take the important step of signing up for the registry. In February, the law was changed allowing individuals as young as 16 to be able to be donors.

Galef pointed out that one person can save the lives of eight other people, a self-less act that she maintained can only be viewed as heroic.

"Organ donation is the gift of life. It's

the greatest show of generosity and love," Galef said. "I hope to see New York become a leader in the nation for organ donor registration, and share the love by pledging to share their organs."

Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi said she has signed up to be an organ donor and urged others to follow suit.

"It's something you don't want to think about---your own mortality," she said. "We are here to educate the public. The statistics are staggering. They really are. Everyone should really think within themselves."

Suzane Sadofsky, director of the Transplant Support Organization, got involved in the cause after her late husband, Daniel, had two kidney transplants.

"People are generous if they know the story and want to help other people," she said. "We believe that as individuals and as a group we can and do make a difference to help save lives by providing education relating to organ donation and transplantation, promoting organ and tissue donation as an important social responsibility, and giving support to transplant candidates, recipients, their families and donor families."

For more information, contact the New York State Organ and Tissue Donor Registry at 1-866-693-6667 or register online at www.nyhealth.gov/donatelife.





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WWII POW Shares Story at Van Cortlandtville Society

By Sam Barron

Norman Bussel was supposed to be enjoying a weekend in London. Instead, he was flying over Berlin when his B-17 bomber plane was shot down, killing four of his crew members and landing him in a German POW camp.

Bussel, a native of Memphis who now lives in Mohegan Lake, was the guest speaker at the Van Cortlandtville Historical Society's meeting Saturday at the Little Red Schoolhouse. Bussel, the author of "My Private War: Liberated Body, Captive Mind," told a packed room about his time in the POW camp and the wounds of war he carried with him after he was liberated.

The 94-year-old joined the service when he was 19 over the objections of his mother. His father had served in World War I. Bussel was enlisted in the Air Force where he found himself in Rattlesden, England in 1944.

He had earned a pass to visit London for the weekend but decided to go up Saturday instead of Friday. Saturday morning, he was woken up at 4:30 a.m. and told he was flying to Berlin.

"I told them that I had a pass in my pocket to go to London" Bussel said. "They said, 'Well, you should've gone last night. Today, everyone flies."

Bussel said he wasn't afraid but his



PHOTO BY SAM BARRON

WWII veteran Norman Bussel spoke before the Van Cortlandtville Historical Society Saturday.

plane was soon hit after he flew across the English Channel. His plane lost oxygen and he noticed his clothes were on fire

"I noticed this big chocolate bar," Bussel said. "And I was debating whether to take the chocolate bar with me or not."

Able to parachute out of the plane, Bussel ended up in the backyard of a home in Berlin where he was spotted by three women and two men, who began beating him with rakes and hoses.

A rope was tied around his neck and he was about to be hung from a tree, when a man stopped the mob.

"I have to take him," the man said. "You can't hang him."

Bussel was put back on the back of a motorbike and went to an interrogation center in Frankfurt. He was held in solitary confinement for 12 days which he said left him with lifelong claustrophobia. At the POW camp, he lived off sawdust bread, a bowl of potatoes and dehydrated cabbage soup before he was liberated with the ending of World War II.

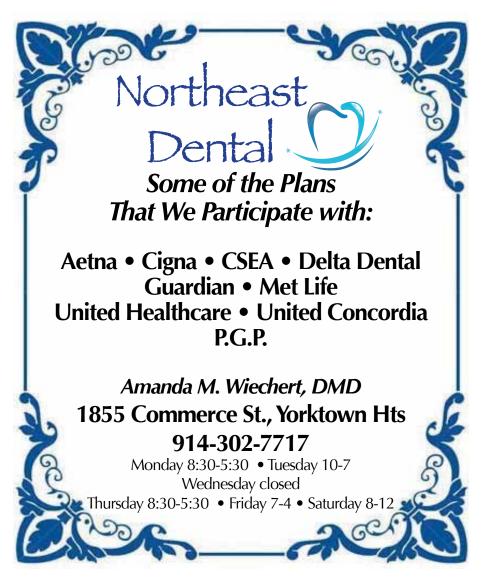
Bussel said after the war he suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder, which he said is still misunderstood by the Veterans Administration and often is undiagnosed.

"My dad had shellshock when he came home from World War I," Bussel said. "After World War II, they called it battle fatigue. After Vietnam, it was post-traumatic stress disorder. It's all one and the same. Everybody who served in combat has PTSD. People are shooting at you."

Many veterans refuse to talk about their service and are unable to live a normal life when they return.

"A lot of them never make it," Bussel said. "It's just painful. We made this situation and we must take care of our veterans.

Bussel and his wife, Melanie, have worked at the VA Hospital in Montrose to assist veterans in filing claims to receive benefits. He has also testified before Congress to advocate for veterans applying for PTSD benefits.





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Obituaries

James Lewis

James A. (Jim) Lewis, a resident of Ossining, died peacefully February 2



James A. Lewis

with his family by his side in Cocoa Beach, Florida. He was 78.

He was born June 27, 1939 in Ossining. He was a graduate of Ossining High School and Clarkson College. He served proudly in the United States Army and the New

York National Guard. Raising their children in Croton, Mr. Lewis was involved in many community activities, later serving as a Trustee on the Village Board. After a long career as a personnel director, most recently with Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, he returned to the Ossining School District as a substitute teacher then as a teacher's assistant. He retired from the Ossining School District in 2017.

He enjoyed attending his grandchildren's sporting events, as well as going golfing and hunting. He was a parishioner at St. Augustine's Church. He was a

member of Knights of Columbus Council #4730, Point Senasqua Rod and Reel Club and the Champlain Valley Sportsmen Club.

Jim and Marianne traveled frequently, especially enjoying European River Cruises. Mr. Lewis had a special fondness for Maine where his parents would take him and his brothers on vacation annually during their childhood.

He is survived by his wife Marianne Hricay, children Marc (Suzanne), James Jr., Deborah (Eric) Probst, John Hricay, James (Lynda) Hricay and grandchildren Devin, Victoria, Morgan, Julia and Grace. He was predeceased by his parents Starks and Clarinda and brother's Richard and Starks Jr.

Laurie Colabatistto

Laurie Colabatistto, a resident of Yorktown, died January 24 in her home, 10 months after suffering a stroke. She was 68.

She was a devoted parishioner of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Shrub Oak. She worked for many years as a licensed practical nurse in hospitals and nursing homes in Westchester County, including Phelps Memorial Hospital in Sleepy Hollow.

She was predeceased by her father Raymond Burton and her mother Laurentine (Spect) Burton, both of Yonkers, and her husband Lou Colabatistto of Yorktown Heights. She will be missed by her many friends. She is survived by cousins Judy (Zirkmann) Lascelles of Ottawa, Canada and Lenna (Zirkmann) Saltzman of Santa Rosa, California and their families. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Thursday, March 1, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Shrub Oak.

Sharon Parchen

Sharon Anne Parchen "Mema," a resident of Cortlandt, died peacefully Febru-

ary 10. She was 70.



Sharon Parchen

She was born January 11, 1948 to John and Margaret Timper in the Bronx. She was an avid sports enthusiast, loved the New York Giants and was proud to be a season ticket holder.

She is survived by her devoted husband of 46 years, Deacon Ray, loving children, Jeanine (Colin) Fleming, Michael (Tracy) Parchen, and Daniel (Nicole) Parchen, five cherished grandchildren: Lola, Drew, Austin, Miles, and Vincenzo, and her sister Linda Reed and her brother Brian. She is also survived by her precious dogs, Roxy and Max. She was predeceased by her brother John.

Frances Stafford

Frances Stafford, a resident of Ossining, died February 12. She was 85.

She was born in Brooklyn, to Earl and Ethel Mason. She was raised in Ossining and graduated from Ossining High School. In 1954, she married her husband Fremont (Pete). She is survived by her husband of 64 years Fremont (Pete), son Peter and daughter, Cheri (James) Dooher. She was predeceased by her daughter Susan Stafford and brother Robert Mason.

Albert Todaro

Albert C. Todaro, a resident of Stamford, CT, formerly of Ossining, died peacefully February 10 from kidney disease. He was 81.

He was born on November 21, 1936 in Bronx, New York to Domenic and Ninfa (Giaimo) Todaro. A graduate of Fordham University and Fordham Law School, he was a Vice President of the Bank of New York and a Commissioner of the New York State Insurance Fund. He served in the United States Army as a Sergeant in Army Intelligence at Fort Bragg. He married his wife, Rosemary (Murtha), in Our Lady Help of Christians Church in Brooklyn. Mr. Todaro was an active volunteer in a number of community organizations including Saint Augustine's Parish in Ossining, and was on the Board of Directors of the Ossining Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

In addition to his beloved wife Rosemary, he leaves behind four children, Christopher Todaro (Jeanne) of Danbury, CT, Peter Todaro (Julie) of Wappingers Falls, NY, Nancy Stevens (Douglas) of Darien, CT, and Terri Richards (Andrew) of Falmouth, MA, as well as four grandchildren, Bradley and Tucker Stevens, Jack Todaro, and Emily Richards, and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS 914-864-0878

Op-Ed

Hypocrisy in Yorktown Town Hall

By Ed Lachterman

There is an air of hypocrisy blowing over Yorktown and it is coming from Town Hall. Over the past couple of weeks I questioned the "temporary" hiring of the Oxman Law Group as legal counsel to Yorktown in a purported "Interim" capacity. I have had comments of support and comments questioning my motivation. Rather than have people guess, I would like to be transparent and put this into an Op-Ed column.

At the onset I would like to address a couple of myths that have been posited by the supervisor regarding the position of Town Attorney. First is that the notion that the position of Town Attorney is a political appointment made within the supervisor's prerogative. The selection of all professionals to service the town has been a decision of the entire Town Board. The current supervisor is the first to make these critical decisions behind closed doors to the exclusion of Councilman Diana and myself. It is complete myth that every new supervisor or board that is elected dumps the then current Attorney for someone of their own choosing. In fact, quite the opposite has always been true at least in Yorktown. One need only look back to the last administration to know this. For four of the six years Supervisor Grace was in office, he retained the Town Attorney from the two prior administrations. It was only upon entering his third term that the Board felt that they wanted to explore other options. Based upon planned legislative initiatives and the formation and financing of sewer infrastructure districts it was decided that additional and more nuanced municipal legal experience may better serve the town. The board began the search process looking for the best qualified attorney. The political beliefs or affiliations of the candidates for Town Attorney were never a consideration in my mind or the minds of any town board



Ed Lachterman

member. The issue was and remained who was the best-suited person for the job. This has been my approach in regard to the procurement of anyone to provide town services. The town eventually hired Attorney McDermott whose municipal law resume speaks for itself. Unfortunately for the new board political cronyism has trumped proficiency. This is obvious, given the current board's majority pick of legal counsel, the only criteria to be considered was the repaying of political debt, a repayment that will be at great expense to the taxpayers of Yorktown in more ways than financial.

The majority of the new board voted to retain the Oxman Law Group for the town's legal services. To those who have been observant of recent history this is an obvious political pay back to Marc Oxman whose last contribution to the town was bringing a frivolous, politically motivated lawsuit against the prior town board. While that lawsuit was pending it has come to light the Oxman had been

having discussions with the incoming board majority. Discussions which are in violation of the Professional Code of Conduct for Attorneys as Oxman was representing a party adverse to the town and three sitting town board members, the latter who as parties to that lawsuit would have to authorize discussions with the adverse party's counsel.

After an initial confrontation regarding the conflict and failure to disclose, Mr. Oxman handed the case off to the Chairman of the Yorktown Democratic Committee, Mr. Ron Stokes in what appears to be a thinly veiled attempt to disperse the air of inappropriateness. Following this the Oxman Law Group designated as 'of counsel" to its firm Richard Abbate yet another local democratic attorney with NO municipal law experience and assigns Mr. Abbate as counsel to the town. In effect Mr. Abbate who prior to this point was unaffiliated with The Oxman Law Group becomes the Town Attorney. As a result under the current retainer with the Oxman Law Group the majority of the board have provided pay back for all their democratic cronies in one fell swoop. The Oxman firm gets the retainer and Abbate the spoils of a subcontract. All of this is happening at the taxpayers' expense. Political patronage has always been frowned upon in Yorktown and should remain so as this is possibly a new low in Cronyism.

My final issue that I will speak about is the total disregard for the systems and the transparency that is the right of the taxpayers. As I have stated before, these decisions and changes have not been discussed with Councilman Diana or me. They were decided and pushed forward by Supervisor Gilbert and councilpersons Alice Roker and Vishnu Patel to our exclusion. These issues should be discussed by the entire board. The hiring of a law firm rather than an in-house attorney required open session discussion.

The hiring of a "Law Group:" to allow the sub-contracting of legal services to a particular attorney is a dramatic change in the manner in which legal services are rendered to the town. Why was the Supervisor actively engaged in private negotiations with the Oxman Law Group? Why was the engagement of a firm as opposed to in-house counsel not vetted in an open meeting? By all appearances, Mr. Gilbert knew that Mr. Abbate would be place as the Town Attorney by the Oxman group way before he was introduced. Why else would there be an engraved nameplate at the board meeting on his second day at town hall? Why would two of the councilmen not find this out until after Mr. Abbate showed up to work unless Mr. Gilbert and his cohorts were trying to hide it? I emailed Supervisor Gilbert to obtain clarification and understanding of how these decisions were made, especially in the absence of input by the entire board and as appropriate by the public. I received no response to my inquiry.

I hereby publish my concerns not to be divisive, but to shed perspective on what I see as an attempt to corrupt our Town's long held tradition of hiring consultants and professionals on the basis of merit. It is my duty to the town I represent to protect it from what will amount to a costly mistake. The Town Attorney provides services essential to the operation of all Yorktown's departments and the only criteria for the engagement for such services was and should remain competency. Finally I make a plea to Mr. Gilbert, Ms. Roker and Mr. Patel to live up to their campaign promise and start working together with Councilman Diana and myself in an open and transparent manner for all the people of Yorktown. As a first substantive decision the hiring of the Oxman Law Group if left to stand shall cause a thick air of hypocrisy to hang



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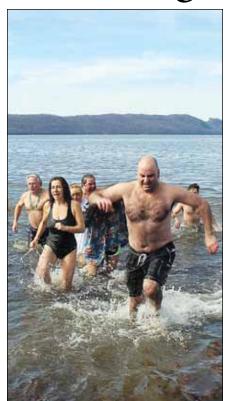
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Duff-Poritzky is affiliated with the Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office in Yorktown Heights located at 366 Underhill Avenue, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598. She can be reached at 914-960-5577.

Gullotta House Holds Polar Plunge Benefit in Ossining





PHOTOS BY RICK PEZZULLO













By Neal Rentz

Xiao Sun, who lives in New Jersey, and her partner, Miya Pao, who resides in upstate New York, had success with one tobacco shop and they decided to try to replicate that accomplishment by opening a store in northern Westchester.

The co-owners opened their second location, Tobacco Shop, in the Beach Shopping Center in Peekskill two months ago. Sun said last week her new business is located in a site that formerly housed a Subway sandwich shop. Sun said she likes the location of the store with the ample parking provided in the shopping center, and with such popular stores as Stop & Shop, GNC and Nonna's.

Tobacco Shop sells a wide variety of items related to various forms of smoking. Some of the items are cartons and individual packages of cigarettes,

Tobacco Shop

Peekskill

products for vaping, including electronic cigarettes, equipment and liquids in variety of flavors, cigars, pipes pipe tobaccos, lighters, tobacco tubes that are used to make cigarettes and cigarette cases. Everything related to tobacco is sold at the store and this why it is called Tobacco Shop, Sun said.

Incense and candles are also available at the new store. Sun said most of her customers reside in Peekskill.

Business at Tobacco Shop "has been picking up," Sun said. "We need more customers to know us." Some new customers have learned about the store from word of mouth and print advertising, she said.

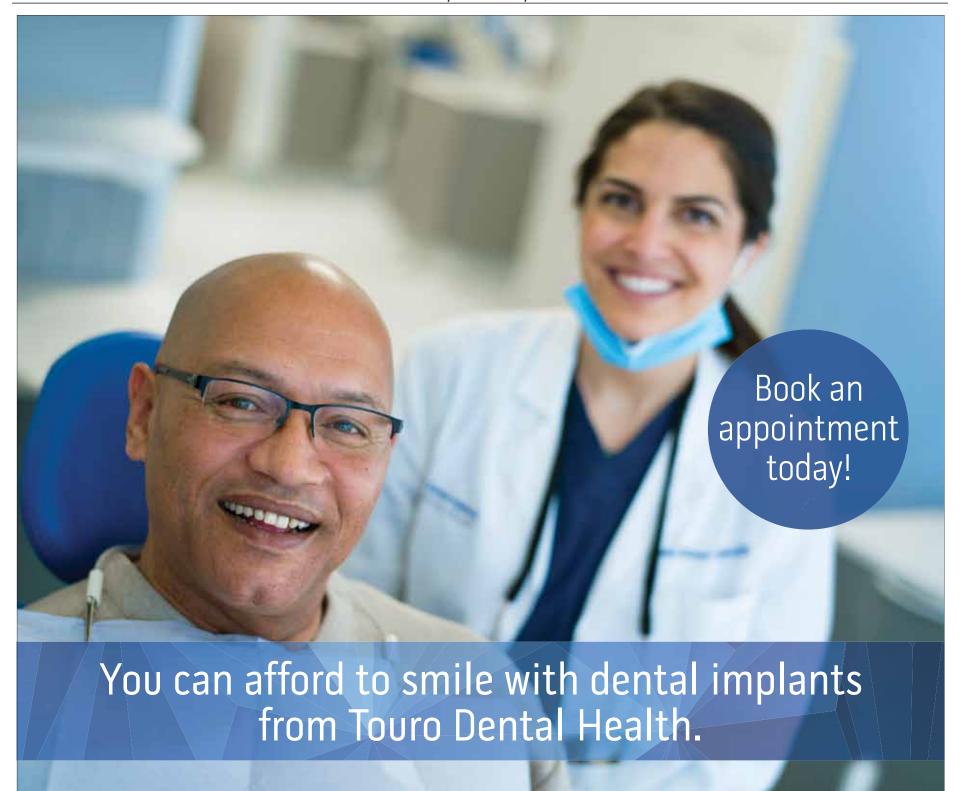
Tobacco Shop is located in the Beach Shopping Center at 1831 Main St. in Peekskill, next to the GNC store. For more information, call 914-930-1103. The store is open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.



PHOTO BY NEAL RENTZ

Tobacco Shop opened two months ago in the Beach Shopping Center in Peekskill.





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Residents Pack Forum in Ossining with Latimer, Borgia

Bv Anna Young

Residents packed the Ossining Community Center's multi-purpose room Saturday morning to share their thoughts with County Executive George Latimer and County Legislator Catherine Borgia (D-Ossining) over coffee and snacks.

Latimer made his third stop on his "Coffee & Conversation" tour throughout the county last weekend making good on his word to meet with residents and their legislative district official in an informal town-hall style meeting to hear concerns and answer questions on county issues.

Latimer said his administration is actively working to set a tone of openness and transparency between county officials, local municipalities and the community.

"Across the party lines, there are differences between Republicans and Democrats and philosophy, but there should be no difference in terms of respect," Latimer said at the Feb. 17 forum. "I'm here to learn and hopefully as an outgrowth of that to work with Catherine to do things that are of the best interest."

With over 75 residents from Ossining, Cortlandt, Croton-on-Hudson, Peekskill, and Briarcliff in attendance, several shared their thoughts and concerns on the school system, affordable housing, park maintenance and commercial development.

Ossining parents Debbie Schneider and Jessica Vecchiarelli shared their thoughts on the lack of state aid the Ossi-



PHOTO BY ANNA YOUNG

County Executive George Latimer and Legislator Catherine Borgia.

ning School District receives. Schneider praised the district for their educators, administrators and programs but said the district is facing significant challenges.

"Ossining schools are the lowest foundation aid funded schools in all of New York State, receiving only 40 percent of our allotment," Schneider said. "It's the lowest and it's unacceptable."

Vecchiarelli said plans for development are putting greater strain on both the Ossining and Briarcliff school districts. She questioned how officials plan to provide affordable housing to residents, stating that there's been an increased number of students living in illegal housing and sub-standard conditions. She said a wrongful death lawsuit due to illegal housing could bankrupt Ossining and distress the county.

Borgia said officials have been fighting

for foundation aid for several years. She said the district is modeled for its success and shouldn't be victimized. Latimer said he would send a letter to the State Assembly urging the district receive more foundation aid.

An Ossining resident suggested officials fully fund parks and nature centers; restore and institute full-time naturalist and curators for all parks, preserves and reservations; increase naturalist programs that highlight the natural environment, plant and animal life; coordinate efforts between curators and park maintenance staff to minimize adverse impacts on the environment and maintain park safety; and reduce parking fees to entice residents to visit the parks.

While Borgia said that it's not economically feasible to reduce parking fees or fully fund the parks system, Latimer noted that he would send a memo to the Parks Department to ensure curators and park maintenance work together.

"You'll get the memo and you'll see that you made immediate impact by your comments today," Latimer said.

Ossining resident Jim Loyer suggested installing a solar field at the Croton Point Landfill, stressing how it could benefit the county. Briarcliff trustee Mark Wilson also requested resurfacing the North County Trailways between Elmsford and the Putnam County line.

Residents also shared concerns with the expansion of the Sunshine Children's Home. One resident stressed that officials should necessitate an environmental impact statement study on any development project, stating how Sunshine wasn't required to have one. She added with hundreds of trees being cut down and the water supply in Ossining affected that it's easier to prevent problems than to fix them after.

Ossining resident David Whitlinger, who spoke on behalf of the Greater Teatown Defense Alliance, a group comprised primarily of members who have opposed Sunshine's expansion project, said that the water supply and community is distressed and under "enormous threat" due to commercial development.

"There are no municipal resources here, no municipal water, no municipal sewer. We like that," he said. "We like the way it is because it avoids and pushes out commercial development."

Latimer said he would organize a joint meeting in March with the Alliance, county officials, town supervisors and other representatives of Ossining, Cortlandt, Croton-on-Hudson, Yorktown, and New Castle to address the organizations concerns.

"We'll put the appropriate people in the room and the purpose of the meeting will be to listen to the issue you want to raise, allow question and answers and out of that will be whatever actions step you take," Latimer said.

Latimer will host his next "Coffee and Conversation" forum with County Legislator Kitley Covill on Saturday, March 3 at 10 a.m. at the Mount Kisco Public Library

Board of Legislators Approve Gun Show Ban at County Center

By Anna Young

The Westchester County Board of Legislators approved a law earlier this month banning gun shows from being held on county-owned property.

Following intense debate last year between county officials, lawmakers voted 12-5 February 5 along strict party lines. The Democrats, who unanimously sup-

ported the measure, maintained that county property shouldn't be used to promote or encourage the sale of guns.

"We believe most people are responsible gun owners, but it's not about that, it's about what we as a county promote," Legislator Catherine Borgia (D-Ossining) said. "You are allowed to buy guns in Westchester County, there are many

ways to do so, but I believe it's not appropriate that the county endorse and sponsor gun shows in our facility. So, I'm very happy that the work of many of my colleagues, former and current, is coming to fruition."

Last month, County Executive George Latimer, who signed the legislation into law on February 12, issued an executive

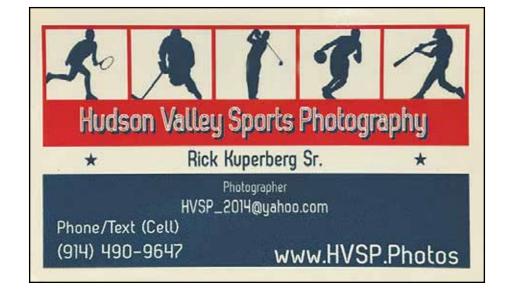
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order banning gun shows from being held on county-owned property urging lawmakers to make his order an official law. He recognized that some may disagree with the decision but strongly believed that many residents support the ban.

Continued on page 20







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CAMPSFirst Time at Camp? Talking with Your Child

By Bob Ditter, L.C.S.W.

Sending your child away to camp for the first time is a major milestone for most families, one that is often marked by excitement, anticipation, and perhaps even some anxiety. Though camp is certainly about making friends and having fun, it is also about being on your own and being a part of a community. One of the most important things you as a parent can do to help prepare your child for both these aspects of camp is to talk with your child about it before he/she goes. In fact, it may be better to have several occasional, shorter talks rather than one long conversation as children often absorb more when there is less to think about at one time. I also find that children do better with this sort of conversation if it is part of a more general conversation and if it is part of a pattern of talking, either at the dinner table or while riding in the car doing errands.

The following are some sample topics for discussion that will help prepare your child emotionally for their big adventure:

FRIENDS

Camp is not anything if it is not about making new friends. If you are shy about

meeting new kids, then learn to get to know others by being a good listener. Remember also that not everyone in your cabin, bunk, or group has to be your friend, and you don't have to be everyone else's friend. As long as you treat others with respect and they do the same with you, then having one or two friends at camp is fine. If you have more, then that's great!

ACTIVITIES

There are many exciting things to do at camp, many of which you may never have tried before. If your child tends to be a bit homesick or worried about being homesick, remind him/her about the excitement of going to camp: Remember, when you first decided to go to camp, what made you so excited? You may not like all the activities, or you may be better at some than others. That's normal. I, however, hope you are willing to try. The more you put into camp, the more you will get out of it!

COOPERATING

You, like every other camper there, will be part of a cabin, bunk, or group.

As your parent, I hope you will cooperate with others and help out. That's part of what makes camp so special — kids helping each other out. Most kids will help you if you are friendly and help them.

Give yourself time. One thing about camp is that almost everything is new—the kids, the activities, the routines, the bed you sleep in, the bathroom. It takes a few days to get adjusted, so be patient with yourself. Most of the time you will be having so much fun you won't mind all the changes, but if you do, remember that you will get so used to things that by the time you come home you will miss all those things!

HELPING OUT

Camp is about fun, but it also requires that you help out. Clean-up is part of camp. You do it every day! As your parent, I hope you will cooperate!

GETTING HELP

Everyone has good days and bad days. If you are having a problem, your counselor is there to help you! You don't have to wait to tell us if you are upset about something. After all, if your counselor

doesn't know what might be troubling you, he/she can't help you. Be honest and ask for what you need. If your counselor doesn't seem to be concerned or doesn't help you, then you can go to the unit director, head counselor, etc. Parents should know who these "back-up persons" are and how their child will recognize them if they need to.

REING POSITIVE

It's a great thing to remind your first-time camper about his or her strong points. I would focus not just on what they do well, but their positive qualities as well, such as what makes them a good friend or the type of person other kids would want to know. Helping children identify their strengths can help them when they are having a setback — one of those inevitable growing pains all children have from time to time.

Talking with your child about these kinds of issues is a great way to show support as your child gets ready to take this important step on the road to being more resilient and self-reliant. For you as a parent, it can give you more peace of

Continued on page 15



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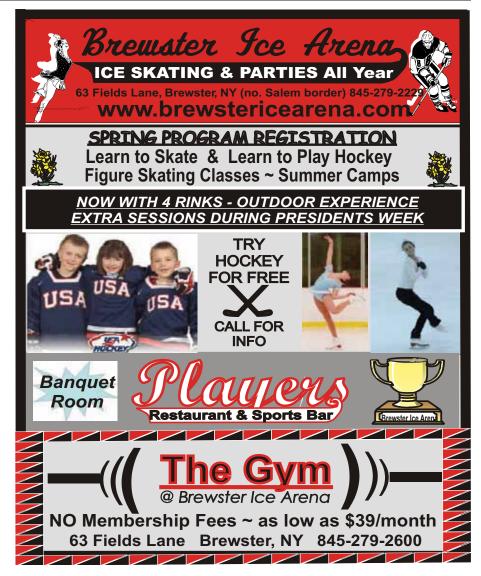
Continued from page 14 mind as you allow your child to participate safely in a broader world.

To learn more about camp and child development, please visit the American Camp Association's Web site: www. ACAcamps.org, or call the toll-free number, 1-800-428-CAMP (2267).

Bob Ditter is a child and family therapist living in Boston who consults extensively with people who work with children. He was special consultant to the Disney Channel for their series "Bug Juice." Ditter has visited over 500 children's camps in the United States, has been quoted in Sports Illustrated, The New York Times, Parent Magazine, and the Ladies Home Journal. He has appeared on "The Today Show" and the "Evening News with Peter Jennings" and is considered one of the nation's leading experts on camp.

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Your Best Defense Against the Flu

The promise of winter brings the promise of flu season. Flu 2018 is no different. It's like an angry storm gathering off the coast and about to strike: We know it's coming, but we don't know just how bad it will be. Here, Dr. Debra Spicehandler, Co-Chief of Infectious Disease at Northern Westchester Hospital, explains how you can take simple precautions to ward off the flu.

Flu season usually lasts from October to April, as the virus thrives in cold dry weather. Influenza spreads from close contact through droplets. It can be transmitted when someone sneezes, coughs, or even talks; or if you touch an object that someone with the virus has just handled—a computer monitor or doorknob, for example.

Why do healthy people get this disease?

The flu is just a virus, like any other virus. It just happens to be a worse virus. Symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffed nose, body aches, headache, fatigue and sometimes nausea and vomiting. If you're a fairly young and healthy person, you get a little bit sicker than you would with, say, a common cold. Generally, healthier people may get a milder version of the virus,



Dr. Debra Spicehandler

but not necessarily. Most people recover in less than two weeks and are contagious for as long as they have symptoms, usually about ten days.

Complications of the flu may include bronchitis, sinus infections, pneumonia and sepsis. You're at risk for complications if you're over 65, pregnant, a child, or if you have a weakened immune system. These groups can get seriously ill to the point of a total body shutdown. It's rare, but fatalities happen when people get sepsis, a bacterial infection in the blood. The flu can also aggravate health problems for those with heart disease, asthma, or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

The best ways to prevent the flu?

Wash your hands! The second best way is to get the seasonal flu vaccine. Washing hands prevents all infections from spreading. But if someone who has the flu sneezes in your face, there's not a lot you can do. That's why the vaccine is important.

Each year, scientists monitor flu activity worldwide to determine which flu strains are likely to cause illness, then concoct a vaccine to match. Some years they get it right; some years, not so right. But even if the vaccine isn't a perfect match, if you do get the flu, you get a milder case.

I recommend getting vaccinated as soon as possible in the fall for everyone except babies under six months old, those with a life-threatening allergy to eggs, or a history of Guillain-Barré syndrome.

Don't get the shot if you're sick.

It can slow your recovery. What's more,

if your immune system is already fighting off your illness, the strains of influenza in the vaccine may not be as effective. Think about working a double shift at work. You've been on your feet all day, and you're on your fifteenth hour. You're not going to be as productive as you were when you first arrived. Similarly, the vaccine may not be as effective when you're immune system is already exhausted.

If you don't get immunized...

Think you have flu symptoms? You can be tested for the virus with a nasal swab. When the flu is detected early enough, your doctor can prescribe the antiviral medication Tamiflu, which shortens the course of illness and lessens the symptoms if given in the first 24 or 48 hours. If you live with someone diagnosed with flu, your doctor can also prescribe Tamiflu for you to keep you from getting sick.

Some people think the vaccine causes the disease because they come down with the flu after getting a flu shot. That's a big misconception. What happened was they didn't take the vaccine in time, and got the flu because they weren't protected yet. It takes about two weeks to have full protection, which lasts through flu season. Remember, it's never too late to get the flu vaccine.



How to Be Health-Smart About Snow Removal

It's been a remarkably easy winter for all those homeowners responsible for snow removal from their walks and driveways. As I write this, we've just experienced our first significant snowfall since the winter began.

When I first moved to upper Westchester from the haunts of New York City, certain aspects of "deep country" living were

daunting to me, from never having operated a gas-powered lawn mower to the suggestion that I should purchase a chain saw to manage my wooded property. I also had a fear of snow removal because of a macabre story my wife and I were told just before we moved.

A friend told us about her father, a widower who lived alone in Dutchess County, who was not heard from for several days during a particularly snowy season. Alarmed, she called the police to investigate, and they found her

father frozen to death in his driveway, the victim of a heart attack while trying to shovel snow. That did it for my wife, who's always been more cautious about my well-being than I. In winter, the news frequently reports heart attacks caused by snow shoveling.

The ferocity of the first snow storm in

our suburban location was a shock to us, with snowdrifts so high against all our doors that we literally could not open them. At the same time, I had wrenched my back and could barely walk, much less try to shovel the snow. My brave wife, whom I've always said is stronger than I am any way, climbed out of a first-floor window, shovel in hand, and in

drifts above her waist, removed the snow blocking egress from the house. She's some gal.

There are guys who get very excited about the prospect of owning a snow blower or thrower to help in the chore of snow removal, but I've always known my limitations with operating heavier equipment. So, early on, I started trying out snow removal services, qualifying them mostly on reliability in showing up when we needed them.

By Bill Primavera needed them.

My only physical chore was to keep any snow residue from turn-

ing to ice where we walk. We did this as the snow fell, keeping the snow away from our ground-level doors with my old straw broom technique and, if it was a really heavy snowfall, with a snow shovel.

Our biggest problem was that the three main entrances to our house all faced north, and ice was more likely to form there. Now I know why some of my homebuyers have insisted that I help them find a property where the driveway faces south, rather than north, especially if it is on an incline or decline.

If ice does form, which is frequently the case when snow melts from the roof onto walkways, then re-freezes, we used salt liberally to melt it. There are different types of salt, some causing less damage to concrete and to the environment. The most common is regular rock salt or sodium chloride, but this becomes ineffective if the temperature drops below 16 degrees F. Also, it releases the highest amount of chloride which pollutes streams, rivers and lakes. The newest salt is magnesium chloride which continues to melt snow well below zero degrees and releases about 40 percent less chlorides into the environment. Further, it is less damaging to surfaces and less toxic to plants. Its only drawback is that it can leave a powder residue when tracked into the home, but that is easily addressed by removing shoes once inside.

Every time it snowed, I would look up at the north side of my roof line where a radiant heating system had performed well for some years and I thought, why didn't I think of that when I installed my walkways and driveway?

All the medical advisories about prop-

erly removing snow seem to offer the same information: try to push, rather than lift the snow, especially if you use a snow shovel with a broader blade. It's better to use a smaller shovel or to push smaller amounts of snow in a regular snow shovel. If it's absolutely necessary to lift snow, you should bend from the knees to protect your back.

Experts in physical training say that snow removal by hand should be approached as a rigorous physical exercise, one for which you warm up first by stretching. But who always listens to experts? I don't think I've ever stretched for any exercise, but I did take the precaution of starting out very slowly to rev up my system and warm my muscles.

Note that my personal experiences are all in the past tense, since I am no longer in a situation where I must care for snow removal, but I'm happy to pass on safety tips for those who still do.

While Bill Primavera performs as a columnist and publicist, he is a Realtor* associated with William Raveis Real Estate and Founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc. (www.PrimaveraPR.com). His real estate site is www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com, and his blog is www.TheHomeGuru.com. To engage the services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call (914) 522-2076.



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Happenin8s

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, Feb. 20

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 pm. 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. On the last Tuesday of the month from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Eating Disorder Support Group, led by a LCSW and clinical nutritionist will be held. Discuss and resolve issues around relationships with food. Info/register: hyinhealth@gmail.com or www.hyinhealth.com.

Hebrew Classes: Hebrew Classes are being held at the First Hebrew Congregation every Tuesday through March 27. First Hebrew offers two classes for adults who want to either converse or read Hebrew faster. The conversational classes run from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The classes are free for members of First Hebrew or \$5 per class for others. The class to read Hebrew faster follows at

7:30 p.m. RSVP fhc@firsthebrew.org or 914-739-0500. First Hebrew is located just west of Beach Center at 1821 Main St., Route 6, Peekskill. Visit www.firsthebrew.org.

Wednesday, Feb. 21

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 Fxt. 5

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

POUND Program: POUNDTM 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.

Jewish Learning Institute: Every Wednesday through Feb. 28 a Jewish Learning Institute course on communications will be held at Chabad of Yorktown, 2629 Old Yorktown Rd., from 7:30 to 9 p.m. We'll explore powerful insights from the Talmud and mystical teachings that shed light on just how deeply meaningful and connecting our everyday interactions with family and friends can be. For more information and to register visit: www.ChabadYorktown.com/JLI

or call 914-962-1111

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

Thursday, Feb. 22

Talmud Class: Talmud and the Ethics of our Sages meets on Thursdays, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, at the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd Feel free to come and bring a friend, even if you cannot com-

mit 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.

IBM Retirees Club: The Tri-State IBM Retirees Club will hold their February meeting in the meeting hall of the United Methodist Church, 1176 E Main St, Shrub Oak. Our guest speaker will be Matthew Goerke who will present "Discovering Your Memory Power." Club 2018 dues of \$20 will be collected. Coffee will be served at 1 p.m. and the meeting begins at 1:30 p.m. Info: Peg Ryan at 914-528-5916.

Support Connection Book Club: Support Connection announces that the next session of their Book Club for Women with Cancer will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. at New York-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital, 1980 Crompond Rd., Cortlandt. 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. The book to be discussed is "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood.

Friday, Feb. 23

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, handson 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.

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

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

Jewish Center Services: At the Yorktown

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

Saturday, Feb. 24

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 at140 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

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.

Yoga Program: Support Connection announces a free weekly program Yoga: A Path toward Wellness will be held on Feb. 17 and 24 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Club Fit in Jefferson Valley. The program is open to people living with breast, ovarian and gynecological cancers. To learn more or to pre-register, which is required, call Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

Sunday, Feb. 25

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

Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. Actor Carrey
- 4. Seattle hrs.
- 7. Monk title
- 10. Officer, abbr.
- 11. "So that's it!"
- 12. Electrocardiograph, abbr.
- 13. Let back in
- 15. Felix
- 16. Hirohito's vegetable patch or Cortlandt Chinese
- restaurant, ____ Garden
- 18. Pan-fries
- 21. "Phantom of the Opera" title character
- 23. 1950s Ford flop
- 24. "You're beautiful" singer James
- 25. Contented sighs
- 26. Intangible qualities
- 27. Fluted flower
- 29. Mid.
- 30. The name says the past, but it's Cortlandt's newest
- gym, Retro ____
- 34. Muumuu go-with
- 35. Spanish bear
- 36. Golfer Michelle
- 37. West or east end
- 38. One in a hundred, abbr.

39. Hot time in Toulon

DOWN

- 1. Younger, abbr.
- 2. "Rocks"
- 3. Flightless bird
- 4. Beat up
- 5. Sends
- 6. Beach bag
- 7. Good form
- 8. Egg-shaped instrument
- 9. Corp. leadership
- 14. Not fancy at all
- 17. Advance again
- 18. Swell
- 19. Electrical gizmo
- 20. Mark the beginning of
- 22. Valuable rock nos.
- 24. Native of London
- 26. Liquor flavoring
- 28. Area 51 conveyances
- 29. Cavaliers and Indians, on scoreboards
- 31. Mrs. sheep
- 32. Rest
- 33. "Comprende?"

| 1 | 2 | 3 | | 4 | 5 | 6 | | 7 | 8 | 9 |
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| 37 | | | | 38 | | | | 39 | | |

(Solution on page 22)



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(Solution to puzzle on page 20)

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Board of Legislators Approve Gun Show Ban at County Center

Continued from page 12

"By voting this act in tonight we emphatically endorse that act and convert it into law and hopefully this will stem the tide of gun usage in the United States and especially in Westchester County," Vice Chair Alfreda Williams (D-Greenburgh) said.

The Board of Legislators passed a similar gun show ban last year by a 9-8 margin - also along party lines - after former county executive Rob Astorino scheduled the Northeast Gun Show at the County Center. But days before the scheduled show, Astorino vetoed legislation without any time for an override vote, stating he was protecting First and Second Amendment rights.

Republic Minority Leader John Testa (R-Peekskill) said that the Democrats are wrong for "taking a discriminatory approach" against law abiding gun owners, sportsmen and businesses from holding a show at the County Center.

"A better approach would have been to require operators to follow the strict guidelines for gun shows that have been established by (state) Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, the same guidelines which are observed for the gun shows that Gov. Cuomo allows in New York State-owned buildings," Testa said. "Pushing gun show operators out of the County Center means that they will now hold their shows in private venues across the county where we will have much less control over how they are operated."

From 1999 to 2010, the county discontinued gun shows on county property. Astorino lifted the ban after taking office and one was held at the County Center in 2012. However, after the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy in Newtown, Conn., a 2013 show was canceled, and there was a handshake agreement among county officials that the venue would no longer host the shows.

A push was also made by members of the Democratic Caucus in October to override Astorino's veto following the mass shooting in Las Vegas that killed 59 people and injured more than 500. The action was denied.





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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF FRANK MARKETING GROUP LLC. ARTS. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 10/10/2017. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served & shall mail process to 109 Robins Road, New Rochelle, NY 10801: Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

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

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF KRK-NY, LLC. Art. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 02/05/2016. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 88 Pietro DR, Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF MAYA-B, LLC. Art. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 02/05/2016. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 88 Pietro DR, Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF GOFF U, LLC Art. of Org. filed with Sec. of State 01/04/2018. Off. loc.in Westchester CO. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 90 Mile Square Road, Yonkers, NY 10701 PURPOSE: Any lawful business.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF APPLE HILL CONSULTING LLC ART. OF ORG. Filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/15/17. Office of Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Dwight McLeod, 60 Labelle Road, Mount Vernon, NY 10552. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CHET-TLE LABS, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on October 17th, 2017. Office in Westchester Country. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 91 Grove St, Mount Kisco, NY 10549. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF OHR NEW YORK LLC. Arts of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/21/17. Ofc. loc.: Westchester Cnty. SSNY design. agt. upon whom process may be served & shall mail copy of process against LLC to: United Corporate Services, Inc 10 Bank St #560, White Plains, NY 10606. Purpose: any lawful act

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A&J PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVIC-ES LLC Arts of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 12/19/17. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 2 Gedney Esplanade, White Plains NY 10605. Purpose: any lawful

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SIM-PLY SPEAKING LEP, LLC. Arts of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 1/10/18. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 611D Larchmont Acres East, Larchmont, NY 10538. Purpose: any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF QUALIFICATION OF CRYPTO CAPITAL MANAGEMENT LLC. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 2/2/18. Office location: Westchester County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 1/5/18. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 14 Kensington Rd, Ardsley, NY 10502. DE address of LLC: 919 North Market Street, Suite 950, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, 401 Federal St, Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF PETE'S MEATS, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on (1/5/2018). Location: (Westchester). SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: (United States Corporation Agents INC 7014 13th Avenue suite 202 Brooklyn NY 11228). Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF OUALIFICATION OF CRYPTO CAPITAL PARTNERS LP. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 2/2/18. Office location: Westchester County. LP formed in Delaware (DE) on 1/5/18. SSNY is designated as agent of LP upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 14 Kensington Rd, Ardsley, NY 10502. DE

continued on next page

continued from previous page

address of LP: 919 North Market Street, Suite 950, Wilmington, DE 19801. List of names and addresses of all general partners available from SSNY. Cert. of Limited Partnership filed with DE Secy of State, 401 Federal St, Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION OF AU-THORITY OF DIVERSITY MAR-KETING AND COMMUNICATIONS LLC, a foreign limited liability company (LLC), Application of Authority led with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 7/1/2008. LLC organized in NJ on 10/12/2006. NY 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: 256 Columbia Turnpike, North Tower, Suite 108A, Florham Park, NJ 07932. Office address in jurisdiction of organization: 256 Columbia Turnpike, North Tower, Suite 108A, Florham Park, NJ 07932. Copy of Articles of Organiza-tion on file with Secretary of State of NJ, 225 West State Street - 2nd Floor Tren- ton, NJ 08625-0307 Purpose of LLC: Any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF ART BOYKOFF, LLC filed with SSNY on 1/25/2018 located in Westchester County. United States Corporation Agents, Inc.

designated as agent of LLC. Process may be served against LLC to above agent located at 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, New York 11228. Purpose: Recreational art instructor

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Pleasantville will hold a Public Hearing on March 5, 2018, 80 Wheeler Avenue, Pleasantville, NY, at 7:00pm to accept comments on the Manville Road Corridor Improvement Project. Information about the project is available on the Village's Website, www.pleasantville-ny.gov.

_Judith Weintraub, Village Clerk, Village of Pleasantville

FORMATION OF BROOKMONT MANAGEMENT, LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/9/18. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Penny Jackson, 45 Winchester Oval, New Rochelle, NY 10805. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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It's a Brave New World in Wine Choices: A Guide to Finding Them

There is so much excellent wine available to consumers today. Modern technology and time-shaped techniques have resulted in the highest quality wines, at reasonable prices, then ever before in modern times.

Another recent phenomenon is the democratization of grape plantings. Never

before have the traditional boundaries of grape composition in wines been stretched and tested.

For centuries, Western European wine regions were highly regulated, Grape plantings in each region were restricted to a limited number of specified varietals. Until the late 20th century, the term Tuscany connoted the Sangiovese grape. Today, a number of winemakers are experimenting with grapes never

before grown in the region. Consumerfriendly wines of high repute are now produced from French-oriented grapes.

Nowhere has this trend been more evident than in the United States. At the turn of this century, several key varietals dominated the market. Chardonnay and Pinot Grigio dominated the white wine market, Cabernet Sauvignon and Pinot

Noir the red wine market.

Today, more high-quality wines are available under \$15. And more previously unavailable wines are being offered in the United States than ever before.

This is no minor feat.

Consider that in the United States, we consume 3.5 billion bottles of wine every

> year, according to The Beverage Information Group. That's a lot of wine for a few dominant varietals. But the trend is improving significantly.

> However, over 80% of wines produced and sold in the United States come from about 20% of the number of producers. By logical inference, there is very little production reaching our tables from the preponderance of wineries.

Which previously obscure grapes are becoming more popular, albeit previously hard to find?

Right behind the dominant white grape varietals - Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio and Sauvignon Blanc - are lesser knowns such as Grüner Veltliner, Albarino, Viognier and Pinot Gris.

Red varietals coming up on the radar screen of wine bars are Tempranillo,

Tannat, Grenache and Barbera.

While predominantly grown in Western Europe, California is quickly offering alternatives of these traditional European indigenous grapes.

How to avail yourself of the plethora of these wines trickling into the market?

Start with experimentation. On the next occasion you visit your local wine bar or restaurant that offers wines by the glass, peruse the list of offerings before you fall into your "safe" choice. Too often, I overhear patrons ordering a "house red or white," a "dry white" or a "mediumbodied red." Invariably, these wines are of mysterious origin and mediocre, at best.

Be inquisitive. "Which red wines are you offering this evening?" Consider the offerings as you would at your local wine shop when seeking a wine to bring home. Ask the server to describe each one - the country of origin, region and the style of wine. "The Spanish Tempranillo sounds appealing. May I sample it?" Feel free to request your server to pour a small taste of a wine you're considering. He or she will be happy to accommodate an opportunity for a potential sale. Your server has been trained to lower the barriers of selection; multiple choices usually lead to multiple glasses. By spending a few

minutes being more selective, you will most likely experience a new wine and expand your knowledge and palate.

Having sought out new wines for several decades now, my mantra has become "Continuous Experimenting Results in Instinctive Behavior." By following my own individual palate and not the mainstream media bombardment of "the newest and greatest" wines to hit the market, I've found that I have a preference for a particular style of wine and that I have a fondness for wines from particular wine regions. It has also helped me avoid spending cash at a wine shop on wines that might otherwise disappoint me.

My advice: never order the house wine. Instead, make the house red the one you'd drink in your house.

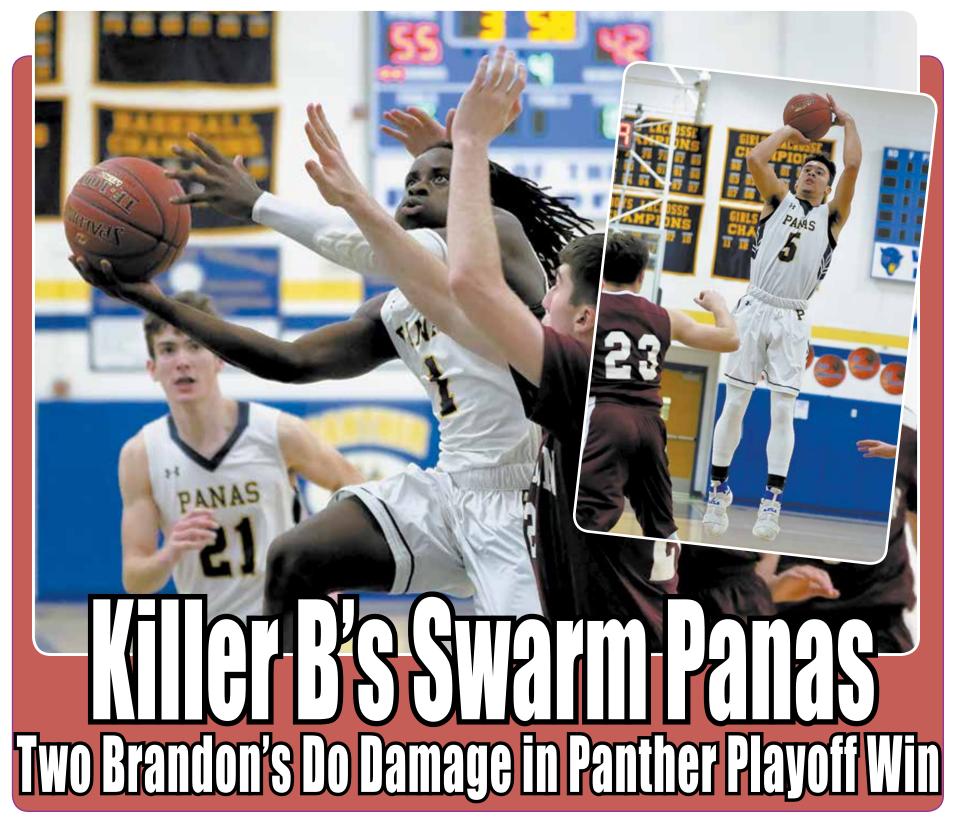
Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 20 years he has conducted numerous wine tastings and lectures. Nick is a member of the Wine Media Guild of wine writers. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick's credo: continuous experimenting results in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



By Nick Antonaccio



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



RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS (PLEASE VISIT WWW.HVSP.PHOTOS FOR MORE)

Panas seniors Brandon Hodge (1), who scored a game-high 24 points, and Brandon Ramos (5) combined for 44 points in the second-seeded host Panthers' 66-52 triumph of No.15 Harrison last Friday in the opening round of the Section 1 Class A playoffs where Panas, winners of 14-straight games against Section 1 foes, advanced to face No.7 Poughkeepsie in Thursday's (5:00 p.m.) quarterfinals... see Boys' Hoops Notebook

bports

No.2 Panas, No.4 Hen Hud Advance to Class A Quarters

Class B No.1 Putnam Valley, Class C No.2 Haldane Also Seeking Final 4 Berths

By Ray Gallagher Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

And then there were four. Only the strong survived, including Class A's Walter Panas and Hen Hud, plus Class B's Putnam Valley and Class C's Haldane. All have a Final 4 Westchester County Center berth on the line this week.

Otherwise, the opening round of the Section 1 boys' basketball tournament was cruel to a slew of the locals, who failed to advance to this week's quarterfinals, including Class A's Somers, Lakeland, Peekskill and Brewster, plus Class B's Croton-Harmon and Class AA's Ossining, Yorktown and Mahopac.

CLASS A

No.2 seed **PANAS** is flat-out ballin' as well as anyone in Class A as it steamrolls into a quarterfinal matchup with No. 7 Poughkeepsie (14-7) at Panas (17-4) after the host Panthers posted a 66-52 triumph of No.15 Harrison last Friday. It was the surging Panthers' 14th win in a row.

Panas G Joe Staino doesn't necessarily get the glory provided to the Killer B's,



Hen Hud F Kyle James led Sailors to Section 1 Class A quarters with another sterling effort in win over Beacon last Friday.



RICK KUPERBERG/BILL KENNEDY PHOTOS

Panas F Kyle Denault snags rebound in Panthers' opening-round Class A playoff win over Harrison last Friday.

Panther seniors Brandon Hodge and Brandon Ramos, but Staino was the difference early on. Staino knocked down three 3's in the first, four by halftime and five for the game while Hodge (24 points) and Ramos (20 points) were doing their usual thing. Hodge was styling and dialing while Ramos was owned the paint and went 6-of-8 from the stripe, but Staino opened things up for all.

"Staino was excellent early on," said Panther Coach Mike Auerbach, the League II-C Coach of the Year. "He made three 3's in the first quarter and opened the second quarter with his fourth 3 to give us a 22-12 lead. From that point on, we lead by 10-15 points most of the way.

"Ramos was really good early also," the coach added. "He hit a few mid-range shots and was able to get inside and finish at the basket as well. Hodge sparked us to start the second half. He hit a couple threes early in the half and got out on the break to get our transition game going."

Transition will likely be the key against

the Pioneers, getting it going offensively and preventing it on defense...

No.4 seed HEN HUD (17-4) will now face fifthseeded nemesis Byram Hills (15-6) for the third time in four years after King James - senior C Kyle James was crowned in the Sailors' 64-44 thrashing of No.13 Beacon last Friday at 'The Donovan'. James, a 6-foot-4 senior, owned the paint, dropping a career-high 29 points. Senior G



Mahopac F Rheal Allen goes for two in Indians' season-ending playoff loss to host Spring Valley Saturday.



Panas G Brandon Hodge goes for two of his game-high 24 points in Class A playoff win over Harrison.

continued on next page

Boy's Hoops Notebook

continued from previous page



Mahopac G Justin Parker goes for two of his game-high 20 points in Indians' season-ending Class AA playoff loss at Spring Valley.



Put Valley F Darnel Shillingford hopes to lead Tigers to a 5th Section 1 Class B Final 4 in six years.

Dylan Fraser added 13 points, including three 3-pointers, as Hen Hud advanced to the quarterfinals back at home.

"I'm so proud of Kyle," Sailor skipper Jordan Hirsch said. "He's humbly worked hard every single day for four-plus years to put himself in a position to showcase his skill on a playoff stage. He's been a great leader, he's been consistent, and he cares about the team outcome more than his individual output. Just a fantastic kid on and off the court.

"I thought our kids fought as a group," Hirsch added. "They all did a job. Kyle and Dylan had a big stat night, but they all did their jobs and played with great energy. It takes all of that to win playoff games. What I've enjoyed about this team is that it could be anybody on any night on the finishing end and all of them are genuinely

happy for each other's success. It's a fun environment to be around."

It could reach new levels with a win over Byram Hills, which would put the Sailors, wo recently ended a 30-year league-title drought, into the Final 4 for the first time since 1991.

"There's definitely some playoff history with Byram; a lopsided loss in 2014 and a really exciting one in 2015," Hirsch said. "They got the best of us. They're a really good program, and I think our kids are excited for the challenge, and obviously we love playing in Donovan any day of the week."

Byram Coach Ted Repa has developed a program that is among the best in Class A year in and year out, and he's finally got the Bobcats at full strength for the first time all year: That is something Hen Hud will have to contend with...



NWE/Putnam Examiner Super 7 Poll

No.1 PANAS – The League II-C champion Panthers have a date with a Poughkeepsie program they once defeated in 1997 for the first Section 1 title in Panas history, and these Panthers are going to need the support of every able-bodied Panther fan available.

No.2 HEN HUD – League II-E champion Sailors get No.5 Byram Hills in the quarters with their first Final 4 berth since 1991 on the line and nobody is more tired of reminding them than this particular pollster.

No.2A PUTNAM VALLEY – After an opening-round bye, League III-E champion Tigers (16-4), the top-seed in Class B, will face No.8 Westlake Wednesday at 7 p.m.; just 20 minutes after the third-seeded Lady Tigers host No.6 Edgemont #BeRowdy #PackthePlace. Tigers are undefeated on their home court in playoffs, so we suspect they advance to reach a 5th Final 4 in 6 years, which is pretty freaking amazing when you boil it down. Tigers have lost at County Center to Lourdes in semis (2013), Woodlands in finals and semis (2014-15) and Briarcliff (2016) in finals #NotaSlouchAmongThem.

No.4 OSSINING – The Pride (11-11), the No.14 seed in Class AA, had another program-building season under Coach Casey, but Ossining came out on the shy end of a 74-55 season-ending loss to No.3 Mamaroneck, who is better than most figured. Jacob Toppin (13 points) led the way and Latrell Goss, Zahir Hernandez, Maurice Walker and Jahmad Thomas all went for eight points. Toppin also went for 19 points, 10 boards and 6 assists in outbracket win over Yorktown.

No.5 MAHOPAC – Indians (10-11), the No.11 seed in Class AA, had No.6 Spring Valley on the ropes (leading 44-41 through 3Qs) but suffered a 64-54 loss despite All-Section G Justin Parker's game-high 21 points and another 19 from Shane Loos (5 three pointers). "We had 'em," said Mahopac Coach Matt Simone, who got the program back on track this

year. "The game plan was to let them shoot, and it worked for 90% of the game. We let them shoot the deep 3s, but they hit them late in the game when it mattered. We held their best players in check, but a few reserves and bench kids hit some big open 3s down the stretch. Justin Parker was phenomenal, by far the best player on the court."

No.6 SOMERS – Tuskers (13-9), the No.9 seed in Class A, took an early lead, went into a game-changing funk, and battled back for a chance to tie but failed to hit the big hoops down the stretch in a season-ending 56-50 loss at No.8 Ardsley. Tusker wing Lorenzo Bicknese (18 points) and F Jack Gilroy (12 points, six rebounds) led the Tuskers back into contention, but two costly turnovers in the waning moments denied Somers a chance to advance. Tuskers closed the season having lost 5 of 8 games since the loss of star G Gio Tradito.

No.7 BREWSTER – Bears (9-12), the No.19 seed in Class A, suffered a seasonending 64-53 out-bracket loss to Magnus.

HM HALDANE – Class C's No.2 Blue Devils (14-6) draw No.3 Tuckahoe in today's semifinal. Wouldn't want it any other way.

HM LAKELAND – Hornets (6-15), the No.21 seed in Class A, suffered a 68-57 season-ending out-bracket loss to No.12 Nyack. Lax, baseball and track and field await.

HM PEEKSKILL – Red Devils (6-15), the No.22 seed in Class A, couldn't hang in a 61-45 season-ending out-bracket loss to No.11 Pelham.

HM YORKTOWN – Huskers (7-14), the No.19 seed in Class AA, failed to reach the field of 16 after falling at Ossining, 65-61.

HM CROTON – Undermanned Tigers (8-13), the No.13 seed in Class B, had their hard-luck season conclude in a 52-33 loss to No.4 Blind Brook. If the Tigers all come back healthy next year, expect a complete turnabout.

Girls' Hoops Notebook

Hen Hud, Somers, Panas, Brewster Advance to Class A Quarters Class AA Ossining, Class B Put Valley a Win Away from Final 4

By Tony Pinciaro

When Hen Hud needs an energy boost or a lift, Coach Ken Sherman turns to Kira Varada. The freshman has made an impact in her first year on varsity, especially on defense.

In Hen Hud's Section 1 Class A Girls' Basketball Championship first-round game, Varada came off the bench to score 12 points, register an incredible 14 steals and hand out six assists in a 66-33 victory

The sixth-seeded Sailors, now 14-7, have won eight consecutive games heading into their quarterfinal game with third-seeded Rye, Thursday.

"Kira is our spark plug off the bench," Sherman said. "She gives us a ton of energy and plays excellent defense. She is always somehow around the ball, even on the boards and she is a guard."

Sherman watched Varada, then an eighth-grader, play varsity lacrosse with his daughter, last spring.

"I saw her play there and knew she had the ability to play varsity this year," Sherman said.

Even though Varada showed tremendous promise, she had not played basketball last year.

"Our head of security and myself had to persuade Kira to play," Sherman said.

Sailor sophomore C Caitlin Weimar went for a game-high 18, and only adds to the speculation that the Sailors are a program on the come.

SOMERS, the 2017 Section 1 Class A champions, began its quest to repeat with a 51-25 victory over Lakeland.

The second-seeded Tuskers host 10thseeded Panas, Thursday, in a quarterfinal. Hannah Angelini led the Tuskers with a game-high 18 points, Dani DiCintio chipped in 11 points and Isabella Rukaj added six.

"Our win over Lakeland was a real eyeopener," senior Jackie Penzo said. "We executed the game plan perfectly and played as a team. This game showed us that if we all work together and play our best basketball we will be very successful."

State-ranked (No.22) omers was successful against Panas with two regularseason victories, 44-39 and 52-49, but the Tuskers realize it means nothing.

"Winning three times against a team is very difficult," Penzo said. "In order to beat them again, we need to stay humble and play to our fullest potential. If we do all of the things that we can control, we will be able to beat Panas a third time this

Penzo and her teammates are aware of what happened to fifth-seeded Tappan Zee. The Dutchies swept Nanuet during the regular season, but were upset in the first round by the Golden Knights.

"The Tappan Zee-Nanuet game was a reminder for all of us that we can't underestimate an opponent because anyone can win on any given day."

PANAS earned a rematch with Somers with 55-39 triumph over No.7 Ardsley. This came on the heels of a 56-33 victory over Beacon in an out-bracket game.

Danielle Merante led the Panthers with 16 points and she added seven rebounds against Ardsley. Kellie Brown and Kristen Cinquina each had 14 points. Brown added eight rebounds and five blocked shots and Cinquina scored 12 of her 14 in the second half. Kristen Scrobola grabbed nine rebounds.

"We went into sectionals knowing we had to play our brand of basketball in order to succeed," Merante said. "We keyed in on their best player and tried limiting her shots. Since we were able to play solid defensively, the offense just flowed having multiple people contribute



RAY GALLAGHER/RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

Panas F Danielle Merante and the No.10 Panthers are moving on to Class A quarters after knocking off No.7 Ardsley.

the entire game."

Merante said the victory over Beacon gave the team confidence going into Ardsley. The victory over Ardsley added to Panas' confidence, however, the Panthers understand Somers is at another level.

"We know how great of a team Somers is, so we are keying in on our past mistakes, watching film and discussing our strengths and weaknesses so we know what to focus on," Merante said. "Who knows, maybe the third time will be the charm for us."

Scrobola finished with a team-high 11 points against Beacon. Merante added 10 points and Cinquina contributed nine

BREWSTER drew perennial Class A power and multiple-time sectional champion Pearl River and came away with

The eighth-seeded Bears travel to topseeded John Jay-Cross River, Thursday, in a quarterfinal game.

'This was a great game from start to finish," Brewster Coach Mike Castaldo said. "I'm so proud of my girls on how they played against Pearl River. They showed great composure and never folded when things got out of hand. They have



Put Valley C Ny'Asia Reeves goes for two of her nine points in Tigers' Thursday.



57-12 Section 1 Class B opening-round win over Rye Neck last Put Valley G Kelli Venezia drives for two in Tigers' Section 1 Class B playoff win over Rye Neck.

Sports



Put Valley G Arianna Stockinger gains the paint in Tigers' 57-12 Section 1 Class B playoff win over Rye Neck.

tremendous heart."

Castaldo said Maggie DePaoli went five of six from the free-throw line in the final two minutes. as the Bears rallied from a late six-point deficit.

"Meagan Beal played tremendous defense on Pearl River's best player, Erin Clinton, holding her to just five points," Castaldo said. "Eighthgrader Grace Galgano forced a very difficult, lastsecond shot, under the rim as Pearl River went for the tying basket with five seconds to go and Beal secured the defensive board for the win."

DePaoli led the Bears with 18 points and Galgano finished with seven points and seven rebounds.

John Jay swept the season set with Brewster, but Castaldo will have his team ready.

"We lost two very close

games," Castaldo said. "One was a great game, from start to finish, and the other we had to come back from 20. They are the one seed for a reason. They are extremely well-coached, a great defensive team and are very athletic."

OSSINING opened its defense of its Class AA title with a 98-31 thumping of Clarkstown North. The top-seeded, stateranked (No.5) Pride host eighth-seeded White Plains, Friday, in a quarterfinal.

The seven-time reigning Section 1 champion Pride, winners of 11 consecutive games, was led by Aubrey Griffin's 22 points. She also had six rebounds and five steals. Kelsey Quain chipped in with 21 points and five assists. Ashley McFadden scored a season-high 15 points, Kailah Harris added 14 points and 10 rebounds

and Iulia Iorio finished with 13 points and six rebounds. Brooke Weeks had a teamhigh seven assists.

Class B PUTNAM VALLEY, the No.3 seed, advanced to the quarters after a 57-12 win over No.14 Rye Neck last Thursday, which also set the program's single season mark for wins (19).

Junior F Dora Rippon led PV with 14 points, six rebounds, three steals and an assist while C Ny'Asia Reeves and G Arianna Stockinger chipped in nine each, helping the youthful, state-ranked (No.18) Tigers (19-1), winners of 16-straight, advanced to Wednesday's quarterfinal against No.7 Edgemont.

LAKELAND opened sectional play with a 40-24 victory over Nyack in an outbracket game as Alexa Cole finished with 11 points. Jess Ascencao added eight points and a game-high 13 rebounds and Sofia Portante contributed seven points.

Claire Felix poured in a game-high 23 points as MAHOPAC won its out-bracket game, 55-42, over Suffern. Siobhan Hynes added 14 points and Zina McInerney added 10

Girls' Hoops Notebook

Mahopac coach Chuck Scozzafava said Suffern evened the score at 34-34 late in the third quarter, but the Indians outscored the Mounties, 21-8, the remainder of the

League-rival R.C. Ketcham eliminated Mahopac, 56-49, in a first-round game. Felix finished with 18 points, Hynes added 12 points and McInerney chipped in with 10 points.

Mahopac trailed at halftime, 26-23. Ketcham extended its lead to 10 points entering the fourth quarter, outscoring Mahopac, 18-11 in the third quarter.

Ray Gallagher contributed to this story



Reality begins to set in on Yorktown's Ashley Zeolla after the Huskers' season-ending Class AA playoff loss to Horace Greeley last week.

Put Valley F Morgan Winogradoff gains lane in Tigers' Section 1 Class B opening round win over Rye Neck last Thursday.

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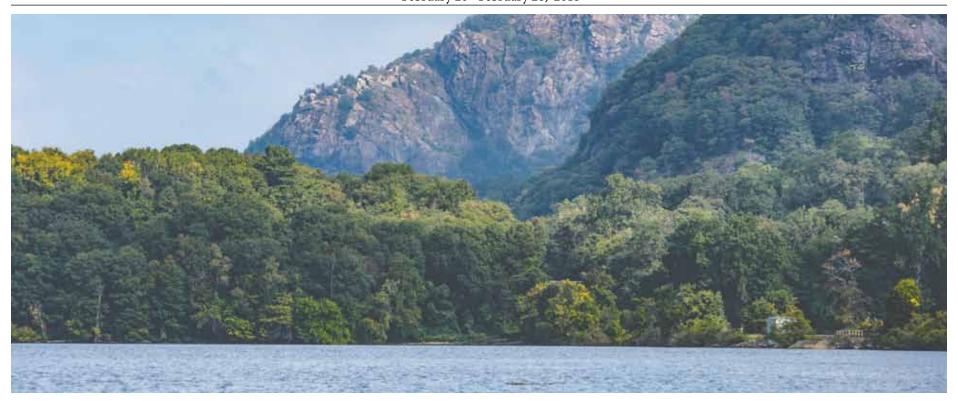
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