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February 6 - February 12, 2018

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 10, Issue 424

Yorktown PD K9 Mourned

The Yorktown Police Department is mourning the loss of its former K9 "Moose." Moose was 14 years old. Moose worked side by side with his K9 Handler, Sergeant Justin Foley, for close to nine years (2006-2014). The police said Moose was instrumental in several arrests, as well as in assisting tracking missing persons. No one could clear a room or area and make it safe for police to do their work better than Moose. "Loyal companion, protector, fierce street dog when needed and a loving dog to my family and anyone else he would meet. The years flew by, but I am grateful for the opportunity and time I had with him. Rest easy partner," Foley stated.



Downtown Peekskill Project for Hotel, Art Museum Embraced

By Rick Pezzullo

City officials last week embraced a proposed project that would utilize a cornerstone building in downtown Peekskill for a boutique hotel and an art museum.

Businessman Louie Lanza, who is currently operating five dining establishments in Peekskill, and Marc and Livia Strauss, founders of the Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art (HVC-CA), appeared before the Peekskill Common Council to explain their plans for the 33,400-square-foot building at the corner of Main Street and North Division Street that has been home over the years to the former Steinbach department store and the New York State Worker's Compensation Board.

Lanza is looking to transform the sec-

ond and third floors of the building into 36 hotel units. The HVCCA, a non-profit arts and education organization dedicated to the development and presentation of exhibitions and interdisciplinary programs that enrich the understanding of contemporary art, its contexts, and its relationship to social issues, would relocate from its current space on Main Street for exhibitions and other uses.

"When Louie proposed this everyone said this is exactly what the city needs," Livia Strauss said.

"I think we have something exciting," Marc Strauss said. "The idea is to rebrand this museum. This city is on the verge of becoming the most important place for art along the Hudson. We hope we get all

Continued on page 2

Youth Vaping, Litter Cameras and Shopping Bags Discussed

By Neal Rentz

At its February 1 work session, the Somers Town Board continued its discussions on potential legislation to limit youth vaping and the use of cameras to capture images of those who litter, as well as beginning to talk on a potential law to limit plastic bag usage.

Supervisor Rick Morrissey said he wanted to seek legislation to limit vaping, which is popular among youths. Morrissey suggested banning vaping shops through the town's Zoning Code to prevent them from opening near

schools. Councilman Richard Clinchy said he did not want students to be able to walk from a school to obtain e-cigarettes and other vaping materials.

Town Attorney Roland Baroni suggested the Town Board consider raising the age for being able to purchase tobacco and vaping products from the state minimum of 18 to 21 as the New Castle Town Board recently did. "That might help," he said. It is difficult for underage youths to look like they are 21, he said. Raising the minimum age would be a better alternative than changing

the zoning code, Councilman Thomas A. Garrity, Jr. said.

Baroni said he would get a copy of the recently passed New Castle law to raise the minimum age to purchase vaping products and would report back to the Town Board. A municipality on Long Island recently raised the minimum age, Morrissey said.

Litter cameras

The Town Board continued to discuss potential legislation that would allow the town to use cameras to photograph

Continued on page 2



PHOTO BY NEAL RENTZ

Somers Supervisor Rick Morrissey at the Feb. 1 Town Board meeting.

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Youth Vaping, Litter Cameras and Shopping Bags Discussed

Continued from page 1

dumping of litter that would be used to prosecute offenders.

Morrissey said Yorktown has a law that images captured on camera can be used to prosecute those who litter. Morrissey said he wants to stop dumping of large amounts of litter and objects. Garity agreed, saying the idea of the legislation should be to prevent large scale dumping.

Baroni asked if cameras owned by

the town should be the ones permitted to take images of those who dump litter rather than allowing residents to take the images and provide them to the town for prosecution. Morrissey said he wanted legislation to apply to municipally-owned cameras

A date for when the discussion of the littering legislation will again be discussed was not set at last week's meeting

Plastic bag legislation

Also at last week's meeting, the Town

Board discussed potential legislation to reduce the distribution of plastic bags by stores to help protect the environment.

Morrissey said he recently spoke with several local business owners who did not object to limiting the use of plastic bags, such as by charging five cents for consumers who do not bring their bags to the store. But the ban must be fairly implemented, the business owners told him, Morrissey said.

Clinchy suggested that Somers should join with neighboring northern Westchester municipalities in limiting the distribution of plastic bags.

Councilman William Faulkner said he opposed legislation to mandate the limiting of plastic bags. "I don't like this idea at all," he said.

Clinchy disagreed with Faulkner, saying "most of them (bags) are thrown away" after they are brought home from a store rather than being reused.

Peekskill Project Embraced

Continued from page 1

the support necessary to achieve this expanded mission."

All of the Peekskill School District's approximately 2,500 students have experienced the HVCCA and the Strauss' anticipate its new location would become a major destination for world class artists, art lovers and tourists.

"It's about quality of life, literacy in arts, beautifying the downtown and Peekskill pride," Marc Strauss said. "This could become the in place to be."

Councilmembers reacted favorably to the concept, with Mayor Andre Rainey

commenting it falls in line with "the vision" the council has for the city.

"This is exactly what we need," said Councilwoman Kathy Talbot. "That building is like the elephant in the middle of the city."

While Lanza stressed "time is a little of the essence" in moving the project forward, City Manager Richard Leins mentioned the council would have to approve an amendment in the city's Zoning Code to permit hotels in the downtown. He also said parking for the building "is going to be a challenge."



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Ask the Doctor

Omar Syed, MD

Director, Spine Radiosurgery Program
Northern Westchester Hospital

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

Q: What is special about Novalis?

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

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Q: Can I easily find hospitals offering Novalis treatment?

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



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Six-Figure Earners Total 15 in Town of Cortlandt Workforce

By Rick Pezzullo

The Cortlandt Town Board recently approved a resolution setting the salaries for the town's workforce this year, and 15 employees exceed the six-figure mark.

At the top of the salary ladder is Jeffrey Coleman, director of the Department of Environmental Services (DES), at \$167,428. Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi, who was elected to her 14th two-year term last November, is the second highest paid employee at \$152,150.

Rounding out the top 10 are Michael Preziosi, director of the Department of Technical Services (DOTS) (\$145,978); longtime Town Attorney Thomas Wood (\$142,069); Comptroller Patricia Robcke (\$137,086); Senior Assistant Planner Michelle Robbins (\$129,732); Arthur D'Angelo, Jr., assistant director of DOTS, and Stephen Ferreira, Deputy DES Water Director, both at \$125,311; Christopher Kehoe, deputy director of DOTS (\$124,752); and Peter McMillan, purchasing and technical director (\$115,143).

Also in the upper echelon of town wage earners are John Palmiotto, director of Recreation and Conservation (\$114,236); Code Enforcement Director Martin Rogers (\$111,621); Town Assessor Thomas Wait-

kins (\$106, 983); Receiver of Taxes Mary Breining (\$105,970); and newly elected Town Clerk Laroue Shatzkin (\$103,684).

Just falling short of six figures are Claudia Vahey, human resources and drug-free/EAP coordinator (\$99, 828); Ken Hoch, assistant director of DOTS (\$97,851); Rosemary Boyle-Lasher, assistant director of DOTS (\$97,234); Ken Sherman, assistant director of Recreation and Conservation (\$92,895); Chris Morabito, Norwest director (\$91,706); and Lesley Popkin, recreation supervisor II (\$90,661).

Meanwhile, the four elected Town Board

members, Frank Farrell, Richard Becker, Debbie Costello and James Creighton, receive stipends of \$23,248, with Farrell earning an additional \$1,290 as deputy supervisor.

Planning Board Chairperson Loretta Taylor receives a stipend of \$6,481, while the five appointed planners receive \$4,869. Zoning Board of Appeals Chairman David Douglas gets a stipend of \$4,659, while the other six ZBA members receive \$3,625 apiece.

The town's two elected judges, Daniel McCarthy and Kimberly Ragazzo, are paid \$46,054 each.



Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi

Burger King Promotion Nets \$700 for Food Pantry

On December 2nd, Yorktown's Burger King restaurant, located at 385 Downing Drive, ran a "Dining to Donate" promotion to benefit Yorktown Community Help Food Pantry, earmarking 20% of all proceeds from that evening's sales to help the local charity dedicated to assisting Yorktown residents in need.

"Yorktown Community Help would like to thank the management of our local Burger King for another successful promotion to benefit the food pantry," David Humphrey, one of the directors of the organization, said. "This is the second year they have offered to run a "Dining to Donate" event on our behalf, and this year was more successful than last year. They collected well over 150 lbs. of canned goods, and the December 2nd event, coupled with a collection box near the registers, resulted in a \$700 cash donation to help fund our efforts."

As a 100% volunteer organization, Yorktown Community Help relies on the generosity of local businesses, churches, organizations, and individuals for both food and monetary donations as well as community service time, and Humphrey thankfully credited both franchise owner Peg Caniff and assistant manager Matthew Fitzgerald for repeating last year's successful event.

"The spirit of giving during the holiday season is always heartwarming, but a program like this can help fund our efforts well into the new year," Humphrey said.

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SPIRITS ON SALE		
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Indoor Sports and Recreation Center Proposed in Somers

By Neal Rentz

The new owner of the Somers Manor Rehabilitation & Nursing Center in Somers is proposing to construct a sports and recreation center.

The proposal from the Riverside Development Group was unveiled to the public at the February 1 Town Board work session.

Ari Schwebel, president of the River-

side Development Group, said the new 100,000-square-foot building would be constructed on a vacant parcel south of Somers Manor, the skilled nursing facility located on Route 100. The roughly 44-acre property is zoned R-80, which is a residential zone and the project would require a zoning text change from the Town Board, Town Attorney Roland Baroni explained. If the text change was

approved, the application would go to the Planning Board if the Town Board determined it would be the lead agency for the environmental review, he said.

The one story, 30-foot-high recreational facility would be divided into two sections. One section would be for an Urban Air Indoor Trampoline & Adventure Park franchise. Schwebel said a variety of activities mainly intended for youths up to the age of 14 are available at the Adventure Parks, including trampoline jumping, a climbing hill, and an obstacle course, he said.

"There's a major need for these facilities," Schwebel told the town board.

The other portion of the building would be for athletic fields and/or basketball courts, Schwebel said. The exact sports uses have not yet been determined by his company, he noted. Whatever the sports, the facility would be for that portion of the building would be leased by teams on a weekly basis.

Councilman Thomas A. Garrity, Jr. said he supported the recreation center concept because the local area needed such a facility.

Supervisor Rick Morrissey asked how much it would cost for youths to use the Adventure Parks portion of the building. Schwebel said there are various prices for



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Ari Schwebel, president of the Riverside Development Group, discussed his company's proposal for an indoor recreational facility that would be located near Somers Manor.

the use of the facility. For example, two hours of trampoline jumping would cost \$20 and the cost would be \$40 to use a sky diving tube, Schwebel said.

No date was set last week for when the applicant will be back before the Town Board.



YSBA Celebrates 4th Anniversary

The Yorktown Small Business Association (YSBA) held its 4th anniversary celebration at Eda's Garden in the Underhill Plaza. A tasting of many of the healthy organic foods and drinks served by Eda's was provided. Newly elected town Supervisor Ilan Gilbert shared his first month's experiences with the crowd. Additional speakers were Geri Schwalb of Yorktown Rotary/Keller Williams, Councilman Ed Lachterman of the Yorktown Lions/The Ultimate Food Service Agency and Katherine Quinn of Support Connection. (L-R: Gilbert, Giordano, Schwalb and Quinn).

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Peekskill Police Chief Participates in Use of Force Forum

By Sam Barron

Peekskill Police Chief Eric Johansen and Yonkers Police Detective Keith Olson admit police do not get enough training.

Johansen and Olson were two of the panelists at Police Use of Force: A Community Conversation hosted by the Westchester Coalition for Police Reform last Thursday at the White Plains Library.

The organization was formed following the fatal shooting of Kenneth Chamberlain, Sr. by White Plains Police in 2011 to enhance the conversation between law enforcement and the community.

Johansen said the guidelines for using force has evolved and success stories are rarely highlighted.

"There are number of situations where officer were more than justified in using deadly physical force and did not," Johansen said. "Police officers should be proud of that. It's a tribute to police officers buying into the philosophy that you are there to serve the public."

The Peekskill police chief said use of force is more restricted in Peekskill than state and federal law allows. Johansen said police departments need to be representative of the communities they serve.

"There needs to be cultural diversity," Johansen said. "When we can under-



(L to R:) Kathy Kaufman, Shannon Wong, Peekskill Police Chief Eric Johansen and Yonkers Police Detective Keith Olson.

stand one another, we will have a much more cohesive society."

Shannon Wong, the chapter director for the Lower Hudson Valley New York Civil Liberties Union and another panelist, said policies should be as transparent as possible.

"Just because you're allowed to do something, doesn't mean you should do it," Wong said.

When it comes to training, law enforcement is lacking, the police officers said. Johansen said Peekskill Police only have 24 hours of training each year, while Olson said Yonkers Police only get four days.

"I would love to have 40 days of training," Olson said. "We can always do better. We've made huge strides. It's important for the public to understand- what

we do is not always pretty even when we get it right."

Olson and Johansen both said police officers could use more training on different cultures and at deescalating situations. Olson said the public also has a role in making sure interactions go smoothly with police.

"It starts with people resisting arrest," Olson said. "You should cooperate as much as possible with the police, even when they're wrong. If they are wrong, there are means to take action."

Wong said police officers need to recognize the power that comes with being an officer and what their gun represents.

"It's important for officers to recognize bias and how racial oppression can influence the way an individual responds," Wong said. "It may not be the fault of the officer, but they need to recognize the fault of history."



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Ossining Senior a Winner of National Neuroscience Award

Ossining Science Research Program student Sarah Hoffman is one of four winners of the 2018 Neuroscience Research Prize, an award that is sponsored by the American Academy of Neurology and the Child Neurology Society.

Each year, the organizations select four high school seniors as winners and award them \$1,000 each. Three of the students, including Sarah, and their teachers receive an all-expenses-paid trip to the American Academy of Neurology's annual meeting, which is being held this April in Los Angeles. One of the winners will present his or her work at the 2018 Child Neurology Society annual meeting.

AAN and the Child Neurology Society created the Neuroscience Research



Sarah Hoffman

Prize to encourage high school students to explore the brain and nervous system through laboratory research, and to

identify students who have the potential to make important contributions to the neuroscience field.

Hoffman, who researched Alzheimer's disease, said she is honored that her work is being recognized. "I committed thousands of hours to my project and to have my work pay off in this way is truly gratifying," she said.

She investigated Alzheimer's disease-related protein expression and immune cell activation in the brains of male and female mice as well as humans. She found that female mice have a more severe Alzheimer's pathology in both brain regions examined. Preliminary findings indicate the reasons could be related to synaptic, hormonal or cerebral blood flow differences between men and women.

Hoffman concluded that Alzheimer's research must consider sex differences. Her findings may improve the way researchers analyze the disease, enhance understanding of how gender affects its development and lead to the creation of novel sex-specific Alzheimer's disease treatments.

While past studies showed that women have a higher risk for developing Alzheimer's than men, there was a limited body of research that explored how the pathologies differ between the genders, according to Hoffman.

Earlier in January, Hoffman was selected as one of 300 Regeneron Science Talent Search Scholars from around the country. The four students from OHS each received \$2,000, with an additional \$2,000 going to the school.

Mike Risko Music Presents Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr.

Schoolhouse Rock Live! JR. is playing at Mike Risko Music on February 9 (7 p.m.), 10 (5 p.m.), and 11 (noon and 2:30 p.m.). This production is part of Risko Music's Musical Theater Program which produces quarterly musicals featuring local kids of all ages.

Based on the Emmy Award-winning Saturday morning animated educational

cartoon series and pop culture phenomenon which aired on ABC-TV from the 1970's -1980's, Schoolhouse Rock Live! JR. follows Tom, a nerve-wracked school teacher who is nervous about his first day of teaching. He tries to relax by watching TV when various characters representing facets of his personality emerge from the set and show him how to win his

students over with imagination and music, through such songs as "Just A Bill," "Three is a Magic Number," and "Conjunction Junction." School House Rock is celebrating its 45th anniversary this year.

The Mike Risko Music cast contains 12 students of all ages from local schools, including Ossining, St Augustines, Chappaqua, Briarcliff and Croton led by

Director Miriam Risko. The crew is run completely by students under the direction of Risko including Ossining High School junior Emily Janush who is the assistant director and 6th graders Melody Risko and Mateo Coburn-Trabout, who designed and run the lighting and Vanessa Tawil who is the stage manager.

"This is a magical show and it has been

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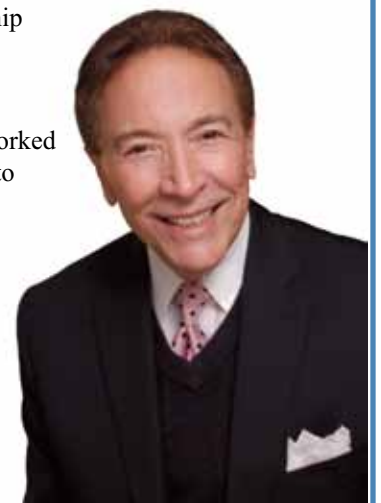
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Obituaries

Leon Bock

Leon Bock, a resident of Southbury, CT, father of former Yorktown Supervisor Aaron Bock and beloved husband for 72 years of the late Belle Bock, died peacefully January 26, 2018. He was 95.

Born in New York City on June 14, 1922, he was the son of the late Solomon and Regina Bock. He graduated from City University of New York and earned Master's (1959) and Doctorate (1971) Degrees in education from Columbia University Teachers College. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, educator and author. He loved history and was a lifelong mandolin player.

Mr. Bock served as a Seaman in the United States Merchant Marine during World War II. He worked as a bartender at the Russian Skazka in New York, and as a summer camp director at Shrub Oak Park Day Camp from 1960-1965. He was Chairman of the History Department at Ramaz High School and taught Social Studies at Benjamin Franklin High School in New York City. He was Assistant Principal of Joseph Pulitzer Intermediate School in New York. In 1972, he became the first principal of Walter Panas High School in Cortlandt. From 1981 to 1988, he was Superintendent of Schools of the Lakeland Central School District, the largest suburban school district in New York State. He led the district through the longest teacher strike in New York State's history, a landmark event retold in the 2011 book, *Struggle For Power*, that he co-authored.

After he retired he continued teaching graduate education, and undergraduate history, courses at various colleges and universities in New York, Connecticut and Florida. His compassion for humanity and deep sense of social justice, were manifest in everything he did. His philosophy inspired his children, grandchildren, and countless students and colleagues to strive for fairness and justice. He is survived by his three children Aaron Bock (Phyllis), Norman Bock (Nancy) and Larry Bock (Helene); six grandchildren Daniel (Rachel), Andrew, Jennifer, Lara, Hannah and Julia; and two great-grandchildren Grace and Cameron.

David Swope

David Swope, a resident of Ossining, a prominent Westchester environmentalist, philanthropist, community leader and business owner, died January 31. He was 76.

Among his many roles he served as Chair of the Board of Trustees of Westchester Community College in Valhalla and the Teatown Lake Reservation Environmental Education Center in Ossining, and as President of the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville. As a co-founder of



David Swope

Club Fit health and fitness centers in Briarcliff Manor and Jefferson Valley, he was a pioneer in the development of full service health and fitness membership clubs. He was also the owner of Tappan Hill in Tarrytown, now Abigail Kirsch catering.

Born in Mount Kisco on September 24, 1941, he was the son of David and Sarah (Sally) Porter Swope. He was the third generation of his family to live in the Ossining area. His grandfather, Gerard Swope Sr., was President of General Electric and owned The Croft, a large equestrian-oriented estate which was donated by the family to form the original part of Teatown Lake Reservation.

David, known as Dee to family and friends, graduated from the Scarborough School in Briarcliff Manor, NY, and the Loomis School in Connecticut. He was a graduate of Harvard University and earned a law degree from Columbia University.

In the early 1960s he answered President Kennedy's call and joined the Peace Corps spending two and a half years in India. This proved to be a life-changing experience and forged his life-long interest and love of India and Indian art and culture. It also inspired him to form a legal aid society in Bombay (Mumbai.) Throughout his life he visited India and maintained an extensive network of Indian friends both at home and abroad.

After returning to the U.S., he worked as an attorney in Manhattan, first with the White & Case, and then the Davis Polk law firms. In the late 1970s his father became ill and David moved back to Ossining to assume his business interests which included the Briarcliff and Jefferson Valley Racquet Clubs and Tappan Hill. With his partner, Beth Beck, they began adding exercise equipment and other facilities to what had been strictly tennis clubs. Over the ensuing decades they continued to expand and modernize the clubs becoming among the first full-service clubs of their kind in the region and continue today.

As he entered his 60s, he gradually shifted away from his business interests and devoted his time to working with not-for-profit organizations. Throughout his adult life he played a major role in the evolution and growth of Teatown, and he also supported numerous other environmental organizations and programs including the Westchester Land Trust and the Pace University Environmental Center. He spent many years on the Westchester Community College Board including overseeing the search for a new president to succeed long-time president Dr. Joseph Hankin. The effort

culminated in the hiring Dr. Belinda Miles, the current President.

He took an early interest in the creation of and growth of the Jacob Burns Film Center and as board president worked to support the major expansion and outreach of its educational programming. He also served on the boards of the Ossining Children's Center and Phelps Memorial Hospital in Sleepy Hollow, and offered generous financial support to numerous other groups and organizations.

In addition to living in Westchester, from childhood David loved both short and long stays at his mother's family's ancestral cottage at Wauwinet on Nantucket where he welcomed guests and friends from back home as well as Nantucket. He supported land preservation efforts on the island and various non-profit organizations.

Mr. Swope traveled extensively having visited every continent and he had friends across the nation and the globe.

He is survived by his sister, Dorothea (Dorrie) Swope, many cousins and by hundreds of friends. Those interested in making contributions in David's memory are asked to consider Teatown Lake Reservation, Westchester Community College, the Jacob Burns Film Center or a worthy organization of their choice.

John Young

John I. "Jack" Young, a longtime Yorktown resident, died January 31. He was 87.

He was a physics teacher and administrator in Yorktown High School for 30 years, retiring in 1985. After retiring, he started Young Electric Co. in Yorktown, which he owned and operated for many years.

He is survived by his wife, Vivian C. Tompkins Young, daughters, Barbara (Michael) Capalbo and Judy (Paul) Young-Symolon, son, David John (Kathleen) Young, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Paul Russo

Paul A. Russo, a resident of Yorktown, died January 30 from complications from lung cancer treatment. He was 73.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Angela (Benedetto) Russo, in 1972 and his father, Paul A. Russo, in 1974. He is survived by his wife of 45 years Adriane (Pitz); sister Phyllis Russo; brother Michael Russo; daughter Lisa Bonura (Stephen); sons Christopher Russo (Ria Calong-Russo) and Paul Russo (Melissa O'Sullivan); grandchildren Joseph, Michael, James, Alex, Nicholas, Kyle, Devon, Jack, Blake and Caleb; and several nieces and extended family. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and friend.

Mr. Russo served in the United States

Army from 1962 to 1965 and worked as a jewelry expert for some of the world's most prestigious auction houses, spending the majority of his career at Sotheby's in New York City. He loved movies, music (Elvis and Motown), the outdoors, the New York Yankees and New York Jets. He went to hundreds of his children's and grandchildren's sporting events, a mainstay in the stands rooting for everyone.

Maria Malaspina

Maria (Mary) Malaspina, a resident of Peekskill, died January 29. She was 86.

A homemaker, Mrs. Malaspina was born on July 26, 1931 in Naples, Italy to Carmine and Cecilia Zinno. On December, 7, 1950, she married Peter Malaspina in Naples, Italy.

A loving and devoted mother, grandmother and great grandmother, she is survived by four children; Anna Maria (Joseph) Smith of Peekskill, Frank (Helene) Malaspina of Cortlandt, Peter Malaspina of Buchanan and Cecilia (Frank) Pugliese of Peekskill and daughter-in-law, Sharon Malaspina, Cortlandt. She leaves behind 15 grandchildren; Christopher (Tara), Dennis (Judy), Andrea, Sarah (Nick), Amanda (Joe), Peter, Alexandra, Marissa, Natalie, Emily, Nicole, Angela, Anthony, Victoria and Maggie. Five great grandchildren; Ava Malaspina, John and Joseph Musacchia, Savannah Malaspina and Michael Musacchia. Also surviving are two sisters; Rosaria Trolli and Ernesta Zinno both of Italy and her sister-in-law, Antoinette Malaspina, as well as many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband Peter Malaspina and their loving son, Robert Malaspina.

Manuel Fonseca

Manuel J. Fonseca, a long-time resident of Ossining, died peacefully January 28. He was 87.

Born February 17, 1930 in Porto de Mos, Portugal, he migrated with his family to the United States in 1968 and proudly became a U.S. citizen in 1980. He worked for Liberty Lines Bus Co., in Yonkers, NY for 25 years before retiring in 1995. He enjoyed his retirement by spending time with his family, tinkering around the house, watching football (soccer), and tending to his beloved garden.

He was predeceased by his wife Maria (nee Beato). He is survived by his children Francisco (Leah) and Cristina (David);

Continued on page 10



Manuel J. Fonseca

Local Student Achievements in College

The following local residents were among 1,608 students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) named to the university's Dean's List for academic excellence for the fall 2017 semester.

Jennifer Whelehan of Cortlandt is a member of the class of 2019 majoring in biomedical engineering.

Benjamin Child of Yorktown is a member of the class of 2019 majoring in physics.

The criteria for the WPI Dean's List differs from most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI defines the Dean's List by the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and projects.

Siena College names students to the President's List for the Fall 2017 semester.

Kelsey Baron of Peekskill; Alexa Trovato of Somers; Jake Weeks of Ossining.

Daniel Kinghan, a resident of Croton-on-Hudson, was among 228 students from Genesee Community College, including all seven campus locations in Batavia, Albion, Arcade, Dansville, Lima, Medina and Warsaw, who were named to the Provost's List for the Fall 2017 semester.

Scott Carney, a resident of Yorktown, has been named to the Emerson College Dean's List for the Fall 2017 semester. Carney is majoring in Media Arts Production. The requirement to make Emerson's Dean's List is a grade point average of 3.7 or higher.

University of Delaware Dean's List for the Fall 2017 semester:

Victoria Brendle of Peekskill; Deanna Scannapieco of Cortlandt; Sydni Pakula of Somers; Gabriella Vingo of Somers; Alexander Buchholz of Yorktown; Rebecca Pascale of Yorktown; Taylor Savastano of Yorktown; Alana Viverito of Yorktown; Danielle Viverito of Yorktown; Kendal Kristiansen of Croton-on-Hudson; Erin Ricciardi of Croton-on-Hudson; Emma Lacour of Ossining; Juliana Gullotta of Ossining; Kiera Schaindlin of Ossining; Kayla Doernberg of Cortlandt;

Brian Kasdan of Cortlandt; Samantha O'Donnell of Cortlandt; Cara Murray of Cortlandt; Paige Faustini of Somers; Andrew Rajic of Yorktown; Anthony Robinson of Yorktown; Kevin Mosca of Yorktown; Dana Weil of Yorktown; Jennifer Nugent of Somers; Samantha Badia of Somers; Sofia Di Pietro of Somers; Teresa Piccolo of Somers; Alexandra Curnyn of Somers; Gina Magliocco of Yorktown; Nicole Posimato of Yorktown; Nicole Pemberton of Yorktown; Carly Rankin of Yorktown; Matthew Boccia of Yorktown; Jade Palancia of Yorktown; Madison Hirsch of Yorktown.

To meet eligibility requirements for the Dean's List, a student must be enrolled full-time and earn a GPA of 3.33 or above (on a 4.0 scale) for the semester.

The following students have been named to the Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire for the fall 2017 semester:

Lauren Catucci of Ossining with High Honors; Sarah Falcone of Cortlandt with High Honors; Christopher Sheehan of Cortlandt with Honors.

Students named to the Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire are students who have earned recognition through their superior scholastic performance during a semester enrolled in a full-time course load (12 or more graded credits). Highest honors are awarded to students who earn a semester grade point average of 3.85 or better out of a possible 4.0. Students with a 3.65 to 3.84 average are awarded high honors and students whose grade point average is 3.5 through 3.64 are awarded honors.

Lasell College in Newton, Mass. announced students named to the fall 2017 Dean's List. Students with this accomplishment are full-time degree candidates who completed 12 or more credits in the fall semester, with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. This semester's Dean's List encompasses students from all class years and over 30 majors, including 157 members of the school's freshman class.

Honorees include: Taylor Powell of Peekskill, Graphic Design, Class of 2018; Abigail Sciarra of Yorktown Heights, Fashion Design and Production, Class of 2020.

Alexander Watson Lamb of Croton-on-Hudson, a senior majoring in innovation and entrepreneurship, was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2017 semester at Clarkson University. Dean's List students must achieve a minimum 3.25 grade-point average and also carry at least 14 credit hours.

Several area student's earning a grade point average of 3.3 to 3.79 appear on SUNY Oswego's fall 2017 Deans' List:

Sarah J. Bonomo of Cortlandt, a senior zoology major; Jillian M. Geoghegan of Cortlandt, a freshman biology major; Celine J. Lee of Cortlandt, a senior graphic design major; Rory O. Parker of Croton-on-Hudson, a freshman broadcasting and mass communication major; Emily E. Costa of Ossining, a freshman public justice major; Conrad P. Hoyt of Ossining, a sophomore journalism major; Christian D. Grossi of Yorktown, a freshman public justice major; Lindsey F. Ubeda of Yorktown, a senior art major.

Oswego students achieving a GPA of 3.8 to 4.0 earn President's List recognition.

Olivia Jez-Belden of Ossining made the University of Dayton fall 2017 dean's list, which honors undergraduate students achieving a minimum 3.5 GPA for the semester.

A total of 12,594 students enrolled during the 2017 fall semester at The University of Alabama were named to the Dean's List with an academic record of 3.5 or above or the President's List with an academic record of 4.0 (all A's). The UA Dean's and President's lists recognize full-time undergraduate students. The lists do not apply to graduate students or undergraduate students who take less than a full course load. Those students include:

Elizabeth Hanrahan of Ossining, President's List; Alyssa Costanzo of Somers,

President's List; Alessandra Pontbriand of Yorktown, Dean's List; Nicole Vanderwerker of Yorktown, Dean's List.

James Madison University is pleased to announce the following students made the dean's list for the fall 2017 semester:

Taylor Marie Amoroso of Yorktown; Meaghan Patrice Doherty of Yorktown; Michael Nicholas Forbes of Yorktown; Kayla Nicole Hom of Yorktown; Katlyn M. Palka of Cortlandt; Gino Vincent Palmieri of Yorktown; Samantha Rose Pfeifer of Yorktown.

Students who earn dean's list honors must carry at least 12 graded credit hours and earn a GPA of between 3.5 and 3.899.

James Madison University is pleased to announce the following students made the president's list for the fall 2017 semester: Andrew Levy of Yorktown; and Emily Viret of Yorktown.

Students who earn president's list honors must carry at least 12 graded credit hours and earn a GPA of 3.900 or above.

The University of Hartford is pleased to announce the following students have been named to the Dean's List for Fall 2017:

Hannah Notrica of Cortlandt; Nicholas Campana of Croton-on-Hudson; Nohemi Arpi of Croton-on-Hudson; Michael Macellaro of Ossining; Daniela Rodrigues of Ossining; Brandon Gomez of Ossining; Maxwell Ship of Somers.

Lizette Boehling of Ossining has been cited for academic achievement for the Fall 2017 semester by achieving the Dean's List at the State University of New York College of Technology at Delhi.

Boehling is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Nursing. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must have an academic average of 3.50 or higher within the semester.

The following students have been named to the Marist College Dean's List for the Fall 2017 semester:

Analise Brown of Yorktown is a member of the Class of 2018 and is majoring in Bi-

Continued on page 10

**The Northern Westchester
Examiner**

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Letters to the Editor

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Obituaries

Continued from page 7

his grandchildren Elizabeth, Alexander, Andrew and Mia; his sisters Isaura and Joaquina, and brother Joaquim.

Joann Cerussi

Joann Cerussi, a longtime Ossining resident, died January 27 after a long illness. She was 71.

Born in Bronx, NY on April 18, 1946, she was the daughter of Jasper and Mary Palazzola Cangelosi. On October 8, 1968, she married Albert Cerussi, Jr. in Immaculate Conception Church on Gun Hill Road. In 1974, the family settled in Tarrytown where they lived until moving

to Ossining in 1982.

She was a parishioner of St. Augustine Church in Ossining and a former parishioner of Transfiguration Church. She was beloved by many and will be remembered as a tireless advocate for people. She enjoyed helping others and was a volunteer with the Midnight Run, The Missionaries of Charity in the South Bronx and she worked with Sr. Laura Fitzgerald in the South Bronx.

She was the beloved wife of Albert Cerussi, Jr. who survives and the devoted mother of Albert (Natalie) Cerussi, III of San Jose, CA and Nicole Cerussi (William Trinkle) of Gardiner, NY. She was the loving grandmother of eight and she is also survived by her loving sister Carolyn Alexander of Newcomb, NY.

Mike Risko Music Presents Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr.

Continued from page 6

so exciting watching it come to life over the past few weeks of rehearsals. This cast is bursting with energy and the show will be so much fun for kids and adults of all ages," said Risko. At the end of all Risko Music shows, the cast signs autographs

and poses for pictures with audience members on the stage.

All tickets for Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr. are free, but reservations are required. To reserve tickets email performances@riskomusic.com or call 914-762-8757.

Local Student Achievements

Continued from page 8

ology; Amanda Brown of Cortlandt Manor is a member of the Class of 2021 and is majoring in Psychology/Special Education; Mary Kathryn DiChiara of Croton-on-Hudson is a member of the Class of 2017 and is majoring in Fashion Merchandising; Christina DiPaterio of Cortlandt is a member of the Class of 2018 and is majoring in Psychology/Special Education; Claire Donaldson of Yorktown is a member of the Class of 2020 and is majoring in Psychology; Elizabeth D'Orio of Yorktown is a member of the Class of 2020 and is majoring in Communication; Olivia Fego of

Somers is a member of the Class of 2020 and is majoring in Applied Mathematics; Lauren Gisolfi of Yorktown is a member of the Class of 2020 and is majoring in Psychology; Fiona King of Yorktown is a member of the Class of 2021 and is majoring in Business Administration; Alessandro Micciari of Yorktown is a member of the Class of 2021 and is majoring in Liberal Arts; Daniella Rutigliano of Yorktown is a member of the Class of 2020 and is majoring in Psychology; Julianna Shalhoub of Yorktown is a member of the Class of 2020 and is majoring in Psychology/Special Education.

State Police Blotter

January 26

State Police from the Cortlandt barracks arrested Susan J. Palacios, 54, of Peekskill, for Grand Larceny in the 2nd degree, a class C felony, and Forgery in the 2nd degree, a class D felony after troopers received a complaint of fraud from Griffin's Landscaping in Peekskill. Investigation determined Palacios stole more than \$79,000 from the company. She was arraigned in Village of Buchanan Court

January 30

State Police from the Cortlandt barracks arrested, Michael Tomasetti, 43, of Yorktown, for Operating a Motor Vehicle while Impaired by Drugs, an unclassified misdemeanor. At approximately 1:45 a.m., troopers stopped a 2002 Toyota Tundra on Crompond Rd in Yorktown for a violation of the vehicle and traffic law. Investigation determined Tomasetti was impaired by drugs and he was subsequently arrested.

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Business of the Week

Westchester Diner Peekskill

By Neal Rentz

Somers resident Phil Deraffele wants to let the public know his Westchester Diner is open for business after it was recently closed for two weeks.

Deraffele said in a recent interview under his new ownership, with most of the employees who worked with the former owner, the diner reopened on January 8. Some local residents mistakenly thought the diner had closed for good, he said.

Changes are in store for the diner, Deraffele said. "We're going to be making a slow process of developing the place and modernizing the menu," he said. Small improvements will also be made to the restaurant, he said.

One of the new wrinkles already made to the menu is the introduction of Candy Milkshakes, which are also offered at the Pleasantville Diner, which he also owns, Deraffele said. "It's a milkshake with a lot of decoration to it," he said. For example, the Campfire Milkshake features graham cracker crumbles, toasted marshmallows and a chocolate bar. The new shakes, which cost up to \$18 elsewhere in the county and New York City, are \$7.99 at the Westchester Diner, he said.



PHOTO BY NEAL RENTZ

Somers resident Phil Deraffele is the new owner of the Westchester Diner in Peekskill.

"Like at Pleasantville, we take diner classics, like things you come to the diner for, you come for eggs and breakfast. You

come for triple deckers. You come for burgers," he said. "I try to make the diner menu a little bit small." For example,

the diner offers two choices of steak and three fish selections. His specialties include breakfast items and burgers.

Deraffele said fresh food is an important part of his restaurant. For example, all of his soups are homemade, he said. The meats offered stay no longer than three days, he noted. "It's almost like a gourmet diner," he said.

The Westchester Diner has 48 tables and 60 parking spaces.

Deraffele, who worked in restaurants as a youth, said he plans to set aside a portion of his diner for a private room for events.

Aside from owning two diners, Deraffele said he has a background in renovating diners. The construction company he owns builds diners, he noted. "I have experience in just seeing what works and what doesn't work in the diners," he said. "I might visit 100 diners in a year and I can see off the bat who's doing really well and why and who's doing not so well and why."

The Westchester Diner is located at 300 Old Albany Post Rd. in Peekskill. For more information, call 914-734-4949 or visit <http://www.westchesterdiner.com>.

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A Valentine's Day themed florist card. The background is a dense pattern of pink and red roses. At the top, a pink banner with white text reads "Don't Forget Valentine's Day February 14th". In the center, a white oval with a red dotted border contains the florist's name "Putnam Valley Florist" in a large, red, cursive font. Below the name, in black text, is the address "15 A Morrissey Drive • Putnam Valley NY", the phone number "845-526-2500 • (800) 657 7006", the website "www.putnamvalleyflorist.com", and "Like us on FB". At the bottom of the oval, it says "Owner- Tara Scozzafava". In the bottom right corner, there is a red heart shape containing the text "FREE DELIVERY TO LOCAL SCHOOLS" in white, all-caps font.

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Examiner Publisher Fulfills Base

By Adam Stone

"Mets fantasy camp," my childhood friend Jeff Ahn texted me out of the blue on a Saturday evening in early September. "What do you think?"

The moment I received the text I knew I had a big decision to make. Since starting The Examiner almost exactly 10 years earlier, I had barely spent seven waking minutes away from work, let alone seven days. As for my family, I'm there for nearly everything, and I quickly realized the camp would conflict with my older daughter's cherished annual talent show, a school event co-chaired by my wife no less.

For those not familiar with fantasy camp, it's a vacation experience where attendees get to live out their sports dreams, in professional uniforms, coached by former professionals, playing on professional fields, officiated by real umpires. I had been familiar enough with the opportunity to know exactly what Jeff was asking about.

As much as I would miss my family, it dawned on me that I was already pondering ways to celebrate my company's 10th anniversary, and what better way than living out the ultimate Mets fan fantasy?

Several days after the original text, having weighed all the factors, I updated Jeff on my decision:

"I'm all in!" I exclaimed.

What eventually followed in late January at the Mets immaculate spring training complex in Port St. Lucie, Florida was a week like no other, a dream come true, a virtual return to childhood.

Beer, Stretch, Laundry

One of the first mind-blowing experiences was walking into the clubhouse, and seeing our personalized uniforms (which staff would launder for us daily) neatly hanging in our personalized lockers. Seeing "Stone" emblazoned on the back of my Mets home and away jerseys was certainly a thrill, and as I walked through the clubhouse I was excited to see all the amenities available to us, from the seemingly endless supply of free beer chilled in the deli-sized fridge to the training room area where the staff would eventually help us stretch out our sore muscles and apply all sorts of magical potions to aid our aching middle-aged bodies. (30 is the minimum camper age.) In fact, as we hit the field for the first time, a camp-wide stretch was led by a staff member from the Mets Fantasy Camp sponsor, Hospital for Special Surgery.

Early Rust

Feeling relatively limber, it was time for the nearly 100 campers (including two brave and awesome women) to be evaluated by the 16 or so former Mets in attendance. We split into groups of about 20, rotating between the facility's various baseball fields to test our skills in all facets of the game. At one station we flagged fly balls in right field, shot from a



Examiner Publisher Adam Stone, who batted .412 for the week with a .583 on base percentage including a league-leading three hit by pitches, jogging to first base.

cannon-like machine at home plate, manned by Mets World Series legend Mookie Wilson, a fabulously nice guy. In left we were fed liners in the outfield by speedster Rodney McCray — famous for running through a wall when in the minor leagues — and had to rifle the ball back to him. (The night prior, at a welcome dinner, when asked if he was still in good shape, McCray lifted his shirt to show us his six-pack abs. Question answered.)

On another field, Brooklyn native Kevin Baez, a former Mets shortstop, took notes as we tried to turn double plays in the middle infield, and scoop balls at first base. (We'd later learn that Baez previously coached at a baseball camp Jeff and I had attended along with other friends back in our teen years.) Nelson Figueroa, a former Met and now a smooth-talking broadcaster with the team's SNY TV station, helped oversee the pitching evaluation. Despite some insightful tips from the effusive Figueroa about arm position, once I sailed a pitch well above the catcher's head and past a fence behind him, I decided to reject Jeff's suggestion that I pitch during the week like I did growing up. I could still throw relatively hard but command was proving elusive, especially as I was still shaking off the rust.

Take That, Turk!

The highlight of the evaluations for me was the hitting station, where I batted against John "Bad Dude" Stearns, a legendary tough guy of his era, still a commanding presence at 66. Good natured chop-busting is central to the culture of the camp, and during fielding drills I struggled with a couple throws, still trying to regain form after decades away from competitive baseball. The evening before my friends and I were hanging out at the hotel bar, and

bantered for much of the time with former Mets pitcher Turk Wendell, a colorful character best known for his many superstitions, including brushing his teeth between innings. So once I stepped into the batter's box, already friendly with Turk, he was eager to talk a little trash from behind the backstop where he was scouting the "talent." Feeling comfortable at the plate, I crushed a few balls to left-center field, earning praise from Stearns. "Good," he said after one hit. Then I whacked another. "Good job," he said again. This time a bomb. "Good job, two more," Stearns barked. And another ball smacked to the outfield. "Somebody mark this guy down," Stearns instructed his fellow former pros scouting the campers.

"He can't throw," Wendell replied tauntingly. Soon after the comment, another pitch from Stearns followed, and I again deposited it to deep left. "Put him at first base," Stearns roared after the final hit, responding to Wendell's jab. "Rotate. Next!"

Band of Brothers

Once the evaluations were complete, the former players went behind closed doors to draft fair teams. Camp organizers do allow requests for friends to be together, and Jeff and I were placed on the same squad, along with two other friends of Jeff, his college buddy Jonathan Meisel, a slick fielding, line-drive hitting shortstop, and Jeff's fellow youth baseball coach for their sons' team, Joel Sunshine, an all-around good player with a pitching leg kick uncannily similar to that of former Met and fantasy camp roving coach Dwight "Doc" Gooden.

One of the greatest parts of the week was bonding with teammates. It was striking to me how baseball served as the common denominator for this group of guys — stran-

gers mostly — coming from such diverse backgrounds. I quickly became close with Joel, a Long Island attorney, and Jon, an Atlanta-based pediatric surgeon. That was more expected, since Jeff connected us all. But within a matter of a day or two our entire team really gelled, like we were high school teammates who had grown up playing ball together. I talked movies and politics with Mike Vrabel, a commercial pilot with U.P.S. and former Air Force captain from Sparta, New Jersey. I discovered that my teammate Sal Alfieri, a soulful restaurateur living in Dallas, was undergoing dialysis but was nevertheless intent on living life to the fullest at fantasy camp. From learning about Colonel Wally Rustmann's military career and Tom Kopin's forthcoming first child, Jonathan Webb's southern roots and Pat Ponath's visit to the Iowa "Field of Dreams," Tod Wooley's golf and ski trips to Dave Merbaum's law practice, we shared our back stories with one another. As unofficial team poet and Springsteen devotee Mike Vrabel put it, we became a "band of brothers," despite coming from vastly different backgrounds and perspectives. Congress could learn a thing or two from the culture of team sports.

Three Ducks on the Pond

Some of the serious conversations aside, the week was dominated by laughter, with new inside jokes being developed seemingly minute-by-minute. It was also a thrill to be back around the sounds of the game. Not just the distinctive and magnificent sound of a wood bat squarely hitting a round ball but also the inane yet delicious chatter that permeates all baseball dugouts. It had been more than 20 years since I had reminded a teammate up at bat that there



Batting against former Cy Young Award runner-up Pete Schourek.

ball Dream at Mets Fantasy Camp

were “three ducks on the pond,” and turned out I missed that kind of ridiculous verbal mishmash more than I realized.

Dugout life also helped reintroduce me to the art of cleanly cracking sunflower seed shells with my teeth. But when I wondered aloud to my wife before departing for the trip whether the week might also include a new tobacco chewing habit, she informed me I should remain in Florida if I started dipping. (I made sure to pack Big League Chew bubble gum instead.)

Each of the eight teams were assigned two coaches from the roster of former pros, and we were managed by Doug Flynn and Bobby Wine, both former Gold Glove winning infielders. At 79, Wine possessed incredible baseball knowledge and intuition from a lifetime around the game. It was best on display when before one pitch he called out to Jeff in centerfield to move in and shift closer towards left field to a spot Wine had in mind for a righty pull hitter, and a moment later the ball was struck to Jeff’s new spot in shallower left-center. Flynn, a gifted storyteller, mesmerized us over lunches and dinners with stories, from what triggered various bench-clearing brawls in his day to insights into the personalities and work habits of some of the era’s all-time greats, from Big Red Machine teammate Pete Rose on down.

Front Row Stone

Despite ultimately beating a catcher’s tag at home-plate during a mid-week game, I probably didn’t endear myself to Flynn when I ran through his stop sign at third base to score a run, but he got me back a day later by helping to propagate my new nickname, “Front Row.” One morning, late for the camp-wide morning stretch, with all the campers already separated in about seven rows of 14, I decided the best thing to do was to position myself in front of the front row, by myself, so I wasn’t cramping anyone’s space by stretching too close to them, with the lines already formed. That was a mistake. One of the leaders of the stretch quickly noticed where I was standing, and dubbed me Front Row. With Flynn leading the way in subsequent days, my teammates rooted me on using my unfortunate new monicker. (“C’Mon, Front Row, you got this!”)

Speaking of bad names, our squad was assigned what I consider the worst team name in baseball history, “Fair & Honest.” Think about it. “Let’s Go Mets!” has a wonderful ring to it. Try cheering on a team named Fair & Honest. Painful. I guess no week can be 100 percent perfect.

Losing But Laughing

The Fair & Honest crew got off to a more than fairly slow start on the field, losing our first three games despite having what we considered a pretty talented team. Speaking of talent, there was a wide range of ability levels at the camp. A couple of the guys had played



From left, childhood friend Jeff Ahn and Stone with camp teammates Joel Sunshine and Jonathan Meisel outside the clubhouse following a game.

“...I was already pondering ways to celebrate my company’s 10th anniversary, and what better way than living out the ultimate Mets fan fantasy?”

— EXAMINER PUBLISHER ADAM STONE

Division 1 college baseball and even some pro ball, while others just loved the game and had barely competed since Little League. Most guys, like me, fell somewhere in the middle. But we all shared a love of the game, and although everyone wanted to win, a spirit of encouragement and support blended seamlessly with everyone’s competitive fire. Even though the Fair & Honest crew didn’t advance to the championship game under the lights at First Data Field (that was won by a team led by a former Rice University pitcher mixing nearly 80 mile per hour heaters with nasty breaking balls), we did win three of our last four games and, as far as I’m concerned, led the league in team chemistry, with barely a minute passing all week without a laugh.

Golden Memories

On the final evening, we gathered for an awards dinner and cocktail party, and I erupted with excitement when Jeff was deservedly named camp-wide Rookie of the Year and, separately, our team’s Most Valuable Player. Having played high school baseball with Jeff down on Long Island, his excellent play came as no surprise but it was still wildly impressive to watch him dominate the competition all week, both at the plate and on the mound. As for me, I did end up batting a healthy .412 with a .583 on base percentage for the week (not that I checked the camp stat book) and despite one comically brutal inning at third base, played solid enough defense in the outfield and at first base.

In the clubhouse one afternoon, as a group of guys were in the hot-tub unwinding, one of the camp veterans from another team mentioned how the week comes down to a series of little moments that marinate over time

and become great, lifelong memories. So true. Here are some of mine:

I remember catching a fly ball in left field with one out and the bases loaded and firing a perfect one-hopper to the catcher to prevent the runner on third from advancing on a tag up.

I remember unloading a perfect relay to the third baseman from left and nearly nailing a runner at home.

I remember the first time making good contact at the plate in a game, and getting robbed by the shortstop.

I remember a joyous sigh of relief after my first hit in a game, after struggling in the first day’s games.

I remember reaching second on a double, then noticing two brothers from the other team speaking to each other in their native Italian tongue, unsuccessfully trying to lure me off the bag and fool me with the hidden ball trick.

I remember batting against former Cy Young Award runner-up Pete Schourek in our game against the pros, hitting a ball “out of the stadium,” but unfortunately out of the stadium behind the backstop, foul, before striking out on a deadly off-speed pitch.

I remember getting all the outfielders (four outfielders, in fact) to shift to right field against former Met lefty hitter Mackey Sasser, with Sasser, on the next pitch, expertly serving a liner to left, making fools of us amateurs.

I remember meeting former Mets manager Terry Collins at a local restaurant/bar, and then bumping into him again a couple nights later, even though he was not affiliated with the fantasy camp.

I remember shooting the breeze with Doc Gooden, a childhood hero, and eventually exchanging text messages with him about possibly attending a friend’s son’s Bar Mitzvah.

I remember posing for a photo with Eric Hillman, a 6’10” former Met pitcher who wasn’t even the tallest guy at camp; that distinction belonged to fellow camper Alan Herbert, a happy-go-lucky resident of Taunton, England who stretched an incredible 7’2” and attended not just our week but also the first week, a rare two-week camper.

I remember former Met Lenny Harris telling me the story of how he was gipped of the single-season pinch hit record.

I remember receiving compliments on my swing from former Mets outfielder Ron Swoboda during an impromptu one-on-one batting practice session between games.

I remember former Met Todd “Tank” Pratt telling us how once you step to the plate, even if it’s your brother pitching, the hitter must embrace the mentality of wanting to destroy and humiliate the man on the mound, because that’s what he’s trying to do to you.

I remember almost being nominated for a “Golden Rope,” the award handed out to the previous day’s best player at the morning meeting, but having one of my “achievements” — getting hit by several pitches — announced as that of one of my gracious teammates.

I remember receiving the first highlight reel of the previous day’s games one morning in my hotel room, and seeing myself multiple times in the two-minute video, hitting and fielding, and in that moment marveling again at the camp’s unbelievable attention to first-class quality and detail.

Was it Heaven?

As the week continues to unfold in my mind like a great dream you don’t want to end, I think back to that text from Jeff five months ago: “Mets fantasy camp. What do you think?”

I think it was the most fun I’ve ever had, beyond description, beyond words.

“Is this Heaven?” Shoeless Joe Jackson famously asks in “Field of Dreams.”

“No,” Ray replies, “it’s Iowa.”

That scene resonates for anyone lucky enough to feel emotionally attached to baseball. But, for me, it rings truer than ever following my weeklong visit to Mets Fantasy Camp, a seven-day dream come true that only enhanced my love for our National Pastime.

Was it Heaven? No, it’s Port St. Lucie.

STATS FOR THE WEEK

.412 Batting Average
.583 On-Base Percentage
7 Hits
17 At Bats
9 Runs
5 RBI
1 Double
4 Walks
3 Hit By Pitches

Angrisani Joins Houlihan Lawrence in Yorktown

Zef Camaj, Houlihan Lawrence Yorktown Brokerage Manager, recently welcomed Pauline Angrisani to the team.

Angrisani is a full-time Real Estate Salesperson specializing in residential properties, both resale and new construction, covering the Westchester,

Marion Walsh of Cortlandt Named Partner in Law Firm

Littman Krooks LLP is pleased to announce that Marion M. Walsh has been named a partner at the firm. "It is with deep appreciation for her contributions that the firm welcomes her as a partner," says Bernard A. Krooks, managing partner. "Under Marion's leadership, our Special Education practice continues to grow and now includes four attorneys and two advocates. Our team is dedicated to ensuring that children with disabilities receive an appropriate education."



Marion M. Walsh

ate education."

Walsh, who resides in Cortlandt, leads the special education team of the firm and has worked in education law for almost 20 years. She has been an advocate for children in many capacities. Few attorneys bring the depth and breadth of her experience to this practice. "I am deeply honored and humbled by this recognition and look forward to continuing to serve families and to improve outcomes for vulnerable youth with disabilities," she said.

She prioritizes a collaborative approach with school districts. Yet, if school districts do not compromise, she will work tenaciously through litigation to achieve the client's aims—whether increased services in public school or tuition reimbursement for a needed private placement. She has enjoyed success in impartial hearings, state review proceedings and federal appeals. To Walsh, the law represents a tool for social justice and change and she prides herself on taking on difficult cases to protect vulnerable youth.

Walsh also serves as an impartial hearing officer for children with disabilities and is certified by the New York State Education Department. She frequently presents on special education and general education law. She is certified in Youth Mental Health First Aid. She received the "Advocate of the Year" Award from Westchester Jewish Community Services in June 2014. In 2017, she completed training as an Ending the Silence Presenter with the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) and has volunteered to present to students and parents.

Putnam and Connecticut markets. She enjoys working with both buyers looking for their dream home and sellers who need assistance with the sale of their property. She is recognized by colleagues and clients alike for her hard work, integrity, honesty, and perseverance. In choosing Pauline to represent you with your real estate transactions, you will truly feel that she is looking out for what is best for you. Pauline is dedicated to her real estate business and making the most out of it, for what she calls her "next 30 years".

"We are very excited to welcome Pauline to the Houlihan Lawrence team. She is a great addition and will help us grow our leading market share in the Mahopac and Carmel markets," said Camaj.

Angrisani was born in the Bronx, grew up in Yonkers and currently resides in Mahopac with her family. Call/Text Pauline for a confidential consultation today at 845-664-4579

Houlihan Lawrence's Yorktown Brokerage serves the towns of Yorktown, Cortlandt, Peekskill, Putnam Valley, Mahopac and Carmel.



Pauline Angrisani



PLAN TODAY FOR TOMORROW

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Want to Organize Your Home? Make Lists!

Many times I've been reminded by bosses, office managers and consultants that the best way to increase business is to better manage my time. It is usually suggested that I make lists of all my responsibilities and long-term and immediate goals, organize them, and set time frames in which they are to be accomplished.

A smile crossed my mind as I thought of my wife Margaret, who is constantly making lists: what she will cook for that holiday party and the groceries needed, how she will re-organize her closet, books she wants to read, the guest list for a fundraiser, and items to purchase on her next shopping trip. I tease her about it.

But when I contemplated all the chores that needed to be done in a well-maintained home, especially in the months preceding its sale, I went to my resident expert and asked her if she could organize a list of the tasks at hand, which seemed overwhelming to me taken as a whole.

This is the checklist she came up with almost immediately, proving that list-making comes easily to her after a lifetime of developing the habit. Feel free to adopt any of it that would help you organize your home, whether you're staging it for

sale or seeking to live a well-maintained home life, relatively free of defects and clutter.

Big Jobs (leave them to the professionals):

Roof – replace.
Plumbing – new faucets, new toilets and sinks.

Electrical – additional outlets for computers; new light switches.

Tree Care – removal of dead trees and limbs, spraying of hemlocks.

Exterior Painting.
Gutter and drain replacement.
Window replacement where needed.

Interior (to do ourselves and with handyman help):

Remove all wallpaper.
Spackle and sand.
Paint walls and ceilings.
Floors – sand, stain and seal wood floors where needed.

Carpets – Clean
Tiles in bathroom – Replace those that are cracked, add new grout.

Kitchen:

Install granite countertops.

Professionally clean cabinets.

Replace appliances, preferably with brushed steel.

If not replaced, scrub out refrigerator, oven, microwave.

Deodorize dishwasher.

Replace old lighting fixture.

Living Room:

Replace draperies with lighter treatments.

Remove some furniture to open up space.

Dining Room:

Refinish hardwood floors.

Remove sideboard.

Bedrooms:

De-clutter.

Update all bedding.

Clean out and organize closets.

Bathrooms:

Replace sinks.

Replace counters.

Replace toilets.

General:

Replace all chandelier light bulbs.

Replace old lampshades.

Clean all windows.

Outside:

Outline and mulch all gardens.

Plant flowering shrubs for spring.

Use non-toxic treatment where weeds normally grow.

Spray Bobbex to keep deer away.

Re-seed bare areas of lawn.

Having listed everything above that was on our checklist before we listed our home, do you see the critical omission? There are no real schedules or timetables indicated. With such an extensive list, it would be easy to avoid doing anything at all if a certain commitment isn't made to scheduling each chore on the calendar.

This can be handled several ways. Let's say that we intend to put the house on the market in about six months, with the hope of selling it within the next nine months. I can re-juggle the list according to what is practical to do in each of those preparatory six months, starting from the logical point of a project. For instance, we had a guest room which had developed a ceiling leak before the roof was replaced. The plaster has bubbled beneath the wallpaper on the side wall, so it made sense that I first had to remove the wallpaper, next sand and patch the plaster, reseal the surface and then paint it. So, I gave the project a two-week time frame and checked off each step along the way as I got to my deadline.

Continued on page 22



By Bill Primavera

Happy Valentine's Day from George "Cupid" Ondek



Tune into a replay of Plaza Beauty Salon's 38th anniversary celebration at the JV Mall, and our current show of the Yorktown Democratic Party's victory celebration at Vittoria's on the Lake (formerly Osceola Manor).

Watch on Cablevision Fridays 9:00 PM on the local Cablevision access channel and local government channels throughout Westchester and now on additional times: Monday at 9pm and Wednesday at 5pm on local cable access channels! or on Youtube anytime by typing in George Ondek and the name of the guest or name of the show.

This week's sponsor: Vittoria's on the Lake in Jefferson Valley

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Happenings

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

Wednesday, Feb. 7

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.

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.

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. 8

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

We always welcome new participants. No knowledge of Hebrew is expected, and no particular depth of Jewish knowledge is assumed. Info: 914-245-2324 or yorktownjewishcenter.org.

Teen Talk: Improving Your Score on the New SAT will be held from 6:15 - 7:45 p.m. The program will be led by SAT and math tutor, Michael Goodman. Space is limited. Register online at www.somerslibrary.org or call 914-232-5717.

Financial Seminar: Join us for a casual conversation about ways to manage your financial and healthcare needs and those of your loved ones at the offices of attorney Salvatore M. Di Costanzo, a leading elder law attorney, and his colleague Joanna C. Feldman. They will answer questions and discuss how they assist clients with wills, trusts, Medicaid, special needs, long-term care planning, guardianships and related areas of interest. The program will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at 2074 Crompond R., Yorktown. Call our office at 914- 925-1010 to reserve a complimentary seat.

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

Friday, Feb. 9

Job Hunting Help: Free drop-in, hands-on assistance with online applications, resume writing, e-mail accounts and more is held on Fridays from 11 a.m.

to 1 p.m. in the second-floor conference room at the Ossining Public Library, 53 Croton Ave. Assistance is offered on a first-come, first-serve basis. This is not a computer class. Info: Cheryl at 941-2416 Ext. 315.

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

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

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

Youth Musical: The musical "Once on This Island Jr." will be performed by the Yorktown Stage's youth program on Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 10 at 1 p.m. at the Yorktown Stage, 1974 Commerce St. in the Yorktown Community and Cultural Center. Ticket prices are between \$14 and \$22. For tickets visit yorktownstage.org or call 914-962-0606.

Saturday, Feb. 10

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

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

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.

Twin Sciences: The Yoga Teachers Association of the Hudson Valley is honored to present "Ayurveda and Yoga: Integrating the Twin Sciences on the Mat and In Our Lives" with Deirdre Breen at Club Fit, 583 N. State Rd., Briarcliff Manor, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$45 for YTA members and \$65 for non-members who register in advance; \$55 and \$75 at the door. Pre-registration is requested at

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Crossword

ACROSS

1. Like many horses
5. Indiana cheerleader's request
8. Indian attire
9. Passenger train
12. Move with a humming sound
13. Mollify
14. Centric beginner
16. Marx brother
19. New steak and restaurant in the JV Mall, ____
Rose
23. Medical insurance portion of Medicare
24. Trey
25. Andean wool provider
26. Big name in printers
27. Ghana capital
29. Flume
32. See 15 down
36. Gait
37. Musical instrument
38. "Mission Impossible" star's first name
39. Zatopek the runner

DOWN

1. Pilothouse abbr.
2. Surprise!
3. " ____ quit!"
4. Marketing channel
5. " ____ is never finished, only abandoned," da Vinci
6. Lazy refusal
7. Turner of "Proud Mary" fame
9. Mountain or prickly
10. Cookie ____
11. Crest or Aim
15. No butts about it, where to buy smokes in Peekskill , goes with 32 across
16. Radar, for one
17. Cinematic computer
18. Rollover subj.
20. Hospital sites, briefly
21. New beginning
22. Twilight time, to a poet
28. Prized mushroom
29. Military rank, abbr.
30. ____ Tzu, Chinese philosopher
31. German city on the Danube
33. Run smoothly
34. Sash
35. Amigo

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36							37			
38							39			

(Solution on page 22)

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LEGAL NOTICES

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

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF FRANK MARKETING GROUP LLC. ARTS. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 10/10/2017. 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 it 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 it 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 La-belle 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 County. 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 Services 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 activity.**

Notice of Application of Authority of Diversity Marketing and Communications LLC, a foreign limited liability company (LLC), Application of Authority filed 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 Organization on file with Secretary of State of NJ, 225 West State Street - 2nd Floor Trenton, NJ 08625-0307 Purpose of LLC: Any lawful purpose.

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(Solution to puzzle on page 20)

1	S	2	H	3	O	4	D				5	A	6	N	7	I
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Want to Organize Your Home? Make Lists!

Continued from page 17
What I ultimately did was to create a “most important” to “least important” evaluation, going from numbers 1 to 10 and hitting the low numbers first, but with a designated deadline for each.
My foray into lists about household chores led me to a number of websites that help you do it. One of these is www.lets-clean-up.com which offers a app that helps remove this burden of listing chores because it remembers everything you tell it. It presents cleaning as a bonding and learning experience for the whole family, each of whom takes responsibility for certain chores and, together, everything is accomplished.
While a publicist and journalist, writing as *The Home Guru*, Bill Primavera is a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate. To engage the services of *The Home Guru* to market your home for sale, call (914) 522-2076.



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Panas Sonic!

Streaking Panthers Hitting High Notes, League Title Looms

Members of the Walter Panas basketball team -- including (L-R) Joe Staino, Brandon Hodge, Peter Andersen, Joe Cavallo and Brandon Ramos -- celebrate the Panthers' 44-39 win over host Somers last Friday night when the Panthers denied the Tuskers their first league title since 1989 and then secured their own share of the crown by knocking off rival Lakeland, 67-57, in Saturday's annual Giglio Games. Panas, winners of 10-straight games, can win the League II-C title outright with a win over host John Jay CR Thursday... see Boys' Hoops Notebook

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Put Valley Snags League III-E Title, 4th in 5 Years

League II-E Hen Hud, II-C Panas Poised to Clinch Crowns

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor
@Directrays

League titles are nothing to sneeze at; just ask Somers High, which, try as it may year after year, hasn't heard the word "gesundheit" since 1989. Within the next few days the League II-C Tuskers, and a slew of other Section 1 hopefuls, will be grinding it out in the hopes of nailing down a league title, including Class B Putnam Valley (League III-E), Class A's Walter Panas (II-C) and Hen Hud (II-E), as well as Class AA's Mahopac (I-A).

As of press time, each and every one of them were still in the mix, and it was all set to come to a head by this Friday, just days before the Section 1 playoff seeds and matchups come out on Tuesday, Feb. 13th.

As we streak toward the home stretch, there were four teams still being bandied about as sectional championship contenders, including current surging No.4 seed Panas (13-4, 6-1), suddenly-slumping No.10 Somers (11-7, 5-2), No.5 Hen Hud (13-5, 5-1) and No.1 Putnam Valley (14-3, 5-0), which swept both North Salem and Haldane this week to win its fourth league title in five years under boss Mike McDonnell.

While the Class A road allegedly runs through second-seeded Saunders (ranked No.16 in NYS), and Class B may go through No.3 Briarcliff (ranked No.24 in NYS) and No.2 Irvington (ranked No.15 in NYS), those four local outfits are still firmly within the Final 4 conversations.

PANAS wouldn't be in the conversation without senior point guard Brandon



RAY GALLAGHER/RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS
Panas swingman Brandon Ramos drops two points in Panthers' 44-39 win over host Somers last Friday.

Hodge, aka @Ball_Out, the whirling dervish, who has orchestrated the Panthers' current 10-game win streak, including Friday's 44-39 win over host **SOMERS**.

The Tuskers suffered to score the ball without injured star G Gio Tradito: Underscoring the importance of a true point guard, and the spellbinding Hodge, who scored 12 points and sliced relentless pressure from Somers, is one of the best in the section.

"Somers is a really tough style for us to play against," first-year Panas Coach Mike Auerbach said. "They make us crazy, they make us chaotic. They force you to make quick decisions with the ball, and it's tough, and we ask Brandon Hodge to do so much for us. It starts with him playing 31 and a half of the 32 minutes of every game. He handles the ball on pretty much every possession and scores quite a bit for us. He's gotta get our shooters involved. He's gotta get our bigs touches. He's gotta defend the best guard on the other team. He's gotta rebound and get us going in

transition, and on top of it all, he's gotta be a senior leader. I can't think of anything else we could possibly ask him to do.

"He's a fantastic kid and he never says this is too much or I need out," the coach added. "The moment is never too big for him and he keeps on coming up big for us."

The leash is off the Panthers who are playing its best ball since Tim McCauley's Panthers won it all in 2014, ending a 17-year title drought. So what's been the difference to this sudden surge in consistency and learning how to win these close games the Panthers often lost since McCauley?

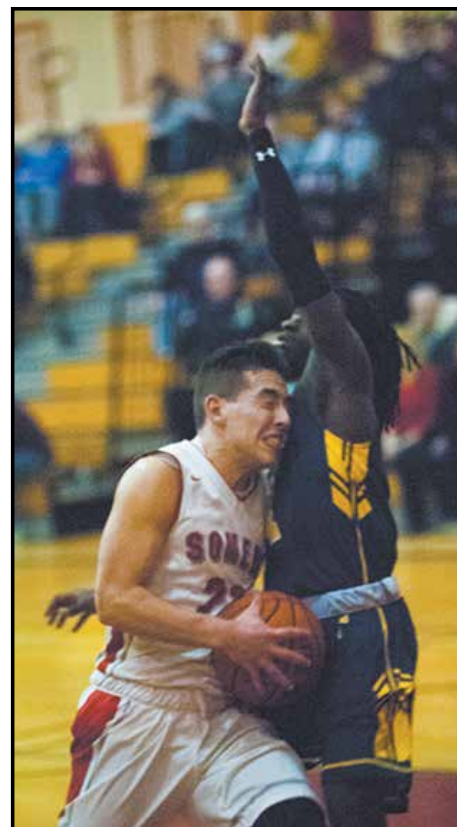
"Coach Auerbach is giving our team life in allowing us to play free and our brand of basketball," said Hodge, the master of mayhem. "Being able to go out there and have fun and not be phased in the moment really allows us to have success

down the stretch."

The stretch is now upon us and the Panthers, who also won at perennial state-ranked (No.28) power Tappan Zee, 45-41, are playing as well as any team in Class A as they run for the roses. Winning in tough gyms like Somers and TZ and doing so against the Dutchmen behind Hodge (23 points), Brandon Ramos (13 points) and Joseph Staino (9 points), proves the Panthers can win on the road...

PUTNAM VALLEY swept visiting North Salem last Thursday, doing so in a 62-49 triumph, and followed that up with Saturday's 46-32 win over Haldane (at Brewster again!) that kept the Tigers firmly entrenched as the No.1 seed for the upcoming playoffs. Junior forwards Darnel Shillingford and T.J. Brescia had 17 points apiece for the Tigers, who won the League III-E title after the Haldane win. Coach Mike McDonnell's Tigers are a cabal in full bloom during its recent six-game win streak.

"This has been the perfect marriage,"



Somers G Chris DiCintio runs into some stiff defense from Panas G Brandon Hodge in Panthers' 44-39 win over host Somers last Friday.



Panas G Joe Staino stuck three big 3's in first quarter of Panthers' 44-39 win over host Somers last Friday.



Panas G Brandon Hodge runs through a block from Somers C Max Germaine in Panthers' 44-39 win over host Somers last Friday.

Sports

Boy's Hoops Notebook

continued from previous page

the coach said of his fruitful time in the Valley.

Let's hope the bad blood between PV and Haldane is a thing of the past and we can go back to being civil again; both parties have suffered enough and paid the necessary consequences, so let's let hope these administrators can let bygones be



Hen Hud's Michael Fasolino gets a step on Beacon's Josiah Turner in Sailors' loss to Bulldogs Friday.



Somers wing Lorenzo Bicknese fires shot over defense of Panas' Peter Andersen in Panthers' 44-39 win over host Somers last Friday.

bygones, so we can put this thing to bed and get back to business as usual next year...

HEN HUD suffered one pretty bad loss to Beacon on Friday, but it will be



Hen Hud G Austin Fraser blows past Beacon's Josiah Turner in Sailors' 47-45 loss to host Bulldogs Friday.

nothing more than an afterthought when compared to a 60-57 League II-E win over Poughkeepsie earlier in the week and the Sailors' 55-49 win over top-seeded Rye on Saturday, the same day the Sailors

combined with their girls' team to raise nearly \$1,000 for mental health awareness.

Against state-ranked (No.22) Rye, Hen Hud F Kyle James (15 points and 10 boards) and swingman Mekhi Gray (16 points, 10 rebounds) were each ubiquitous at both ends, posting a double-double in the bounce-back win. Dylan Fraser added 11 points for the Sailors, who are out to prove they are not a fluke as they hope to reach their first Final 4 since 1991 (tiresome reminder, folks, so please end this).

"It was one hell of a game," Sailor Coach Jordan Hirsch said. "Rye is every bit as good as advertised, but our kids play so hard and are just so much fun to be around. I'll take that any day of the week, win or lose."

Against Poughkeepsie, James (24



MAHOPAC G Justin Parker flushes home rim-rocking jam in win over Carmel last Friday.

points and 10 rebounds) notched another double-double and Gray added 12 points, eight rebounds and three steals.

So, what do these two monster wins say about Hen Hud? Plenty, should they stay grounded and focused on the task at hand.

NWE/Putnam Examiner Super 7 Poll

No.1 PUTNAM VALLEY - Tigers (14-3, 5-0), the current No.1 seed in Class B, might see No.4 Blind Brook in the semis if the playoff began today, thus avoiding No.3 Briarcliff, a very tough matchup for them. Closing that 24-point gap from back in mid-Dec. won't be easy

No.2 PANAS - Panthers (13-4, 6-1), the current No.4 seed in Class A, sewed up at least a share of the league title in Saturday's 67-57 win over rival Lakeland in the annual Giglio Games behind another 20 points from Hodge, including nine in the fateful fourth. Blake Breban came out of nowhere to drop four 3's in the win.

No.3 HEN HUD - Sailors (13-4, 5-1), the current No.5 seed in Class A, will need to take out Poughkeepsie and Peekskill this week to secure the League II-E title; is it in you?

No.4 OSSINING - The Pride (10-7, 3-3), currently No.12 in Class AA, will find out what they are made of this week when they take on Put Valley (last night) and Greeley on Feb. 6, but they looked the part of a solid club when they beat Peekskill, 58-55, behind Jacob Toppin (19 points, 12 rebounds, 4 blocks) and Maurice Walker (14 points, 10

rebounds) despite another terrific game from Red Devil sniper Shion Darby (24 points), who keeps Peekskill in more games than not as the section's leading scorer (30 PPG).

No.5 SOMERS - Tuskers (11-7, 5-2), the current No.7 seed in Class A, are in a heap of trouble minus Tradito, as the Tuskers suffered a third-straight loss without him in a 45-34 loss to Class B Briarcliff Saturday at Hen Hud. Hopes for the Tuskers' first league title since 1989 are fading fast without him.

No.6 MAHOPAC - Indians (8-9, 4-2), the current No.14 in Class AA, strung together a decent week, which helped avoid a 1st-round matchup with Mt. Vernon, including a 60-32 romp of rival Carmel behind Justin Parker (11 points, 1 slam dunk), Rheal Allen (8 points) and Nick Burt (8 points, stellar D). If they can somehow sweep RCK and Arlington, Indians would be League I-A champs; no small accomplishment for a team that was quite sub-par last year #BestFootForward.

No.7 BREWSTER - Bears (7-9, 0-6), the current No.18 seed in Class A, suffered a bad loss in a 56-45 setback to a Carmel (2-17) team apparently that has no quit in them. Bears got 34 points

from Harrison Dignan in previous win over Beacon.

HM HALDANE - Class C No.2 Blue Devils (13-5, 2-3) are on collision course with top-seeded Hamilton for sectional title, and we don't put anything past a Virgadamo-coached outfit.

HM LAKELAND - Hornets (5-12, 1-5), the No.22 seed in Class A, may have lost sophomore F Joey Vetrano (ankle) for the rest of the year, but as long as he can toe the rubber in April as the ace of the staff all is well.

HM PEEKSKILL - If playoffs began today, Red Devils (5-12, 1-5), the No.21 seed in Class A, would draw reigning champion Magnus in a 21 vs. 12 outbracket and then see No.5 Hen Hud in the opening round #OneCanOnlyHope.

HM YORKTOWN - Huskers (6-12, 2-4) are staring at a No.19 seed in Class AA and might see Mount Vernon if they advance in outbracket.

HM CARMEL - Rams (2-17, 0-7) need another W to qualify for Class AA outbracket game.

HM CROTON - Tigers (7-9, 3-5), the current No.13 seed in Class B, are laying groundwork for fruitful 2019 campaign and beyond, and a 1st-round playoff win would be awesome at this point.

Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook

Putnam Valley Beats Mahopac, Win Streak Hits 12

Tigers Look to Join Ossining, Somers as League Champs

By Tony Pinciario

Senior Morgan Winogradoff saw the promise developing promise in the Putnam Valley varsity girls' basketball team last year.

The Lady Tigers, in their first year under former Putnam Valley great, Kristi Dini, registered double digits in wins and won a first-round sectional game. And Putnam Valley accomplished this without any seniors.

The momentum and confidence Putnam Valley gained from a fine 2016-17 season has carried over into the current season. Putnam Valley is a runaway locomotive, accelerating at a high speed, daily, and opponents are having a difficult time contending with it.

Putnam Valley added four more wins last week – over Mahopac (55-32), Poughkeepsie (67-24), North Salem (44-23) and Valhalla. The Tigers are currently 15-1 this season, have clinched a high seed in the sectional tournament and are one win away from a league title.

"The starting five have all been coached by Coach Dini in AAU and travel leagues," said Winogradoff, one of just two seniors on the team. "We know how she wants us to play and how she coaches."

Winogradoff attributes the team's success to the example Dini sets in practice.

"Coach Dini is one of the best coaches I've ever had," Winogradoff said. "She pushes us, every day, at practice because she knows the potential and talent we have as a team and doesn't settle for anything less. All I know is we would not be where



RAY GALLAGHER/RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS
Brewster's Meagan Beal drops a shot on Lakeland's Claire McKenna in Bears' 53-42 win over visiting Hornets last Thursday.



Mahopac G Katrina Klammer is checked by Putnam Valley G Cyera Daughtry in Indians' loss to visiting Tigers.

we are, today, without her."

While Dini, who recently notched her 100th career win, has had a tremendous impact on the program, the girls were determined, during the offseason, to put in the work. From summer league to fall league, Putnam Valley was playing basketball in preparation for this current season. All of the additional work resulted in the team gaining confidence. It also enabled the team to begin practice, in November, more advanced than previous years.

Along with Winogradoff and fellow senior Ny'Asia Reeves, the only other upperclassmen is junior Dora Rippon. Putnam Valley is comprised of sophomores, freshmen and an eighth-grader. Even with their youth, the Tigers are playing like a veteran team.

"They're half of our team, but you can't tell on the court," Winogradoff said. "They're awesome. They're playing like upperclassmen who been on varsity, forever."

Putnam Valley's schedule includes games against numerous Class AA and Class A schools, which adds credence the Tigers' outstanding record. Their lone loss, by single digits, was to perennial Class B power and sectional champion, Irvington.

When opponents step on the court against Putnam Valley, they will face a suffocating defense. Teams have had



Lakeland's Alexa Cole has inside track on Brewster's Taylor Riccardi in Hornets' 53-42 loss to host Bears.

difficulty scoring 30 points against Putnam Valley and rarely do they hit 40 points.

"You always say that defense wins game and when you play for Coach Dini we know defense is her main component," Winogradoff said. "We go over man

defense, perfecting it in practice every day and it sticks in our head. It comes natural to us. We know if our shots are not going in, we will make up for it by playing good, disciplined defense."

HEN HUD had a perfect week – 4-0 – enabling the Sailors to go to 10-7 on the season. The Sailors overwhelmed Keio, 71-29, then a second-half rally lifted Hen Hud to a 40-35 victory over Nyack.

Hen Hud closed out its busy week with consecutive wins over Beacon, 50-22, and top-seeded Ardsley, 52-44.

"On senior night all three healthy seniors – Chloe Stewart, Libby Johnson and Taylor Prokopiak, played outstanding defense, guiding us to victory," said Hen Hud Coach Ken Sherman of the Ardsley game. "We had a great come-from-behind victory over Nyack. We were down 15 points late in the third quarter."

"In the second half of the Nyack game, two things turned it around for us. We turned up the heat, defensively, and we had much more energy on the offensive boards. We pressed Nyack and held them to six points in the fourth quarter. Kira Varada had six steals and was an integral part of our comeback."

Caitlin Weimar led the way against Ardsley with 24 points. Chloe Stewart and Thalia Oliveira each had seven points.

Weimar finished with 15 points and 10

continued on next page



Putnam Valley F Dora Rippon ignores a finger to the eye en route to two points in Class B Tigers' impressive romp to Class AA Mahopac.

Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook

continued from previous page

rebounds against Beacon and Kira Varada added 10 points.

Hen Hud finished off its second-half rally against Nyack by outscoring the Indians, 15-6, in the fourth quarter. Weimar had a game-high 22 points and 13 rebounds. Taylor Prokopiak added six points, five rebounds and four assists and Jackie Kenny had five assists.

Weimar had 29 points and 14 rebounds against Keio. Sophomore Faith Pugh had a season-high 10 points and 12 rebounds. Oliveira also had 10 points, Kenny collected six assists and Varada had four rebounds, three assists and three steals.

OSSINING ran its winning streak to eight consecutive games with victories over Ursuline, 100-75, and Bergtraum, 93-63, in the Showcase Up The River.

Ossining is 15-3 and will close out the regular season with Horace Greeley, Tuesday, and Fox Lane, Thursday.

The Pride raced out to a 23-point lead, 37-14, over Bergtraum, after one quarter. Aubrey Griffin poured in a game-high 35 points and also had 13 rebounds, four assists and four steals.

Kailah Harris added 24 points and a game-high 20 rebounds. Kelsey Quain finished with 11 points and Jaida Strippoli had nine assists, en route to the 500th of her fabulous career.

Harris scored a game-high 34 points and also had 10 rebounds and five assists against Ursuline. It was the first time this season the Pride hit the century mark in points. Griffin added 28 points, Quain contributed 18 points and Strippoli handed out a season-high 15 assists.

SOMERS improved to 11-5 this season with wins over Brewster, 60-45, and Panas, 44-39. The Tuskers can clinch a league

title with victories over Panas and John Jay-Cross River, this week.

"It was a balanced scoring attack against Brewster as three starters had eight points apiece and Taylor Penzo had a career-high seven points," Somers' Coach Marc Hattem said. "We are very high on Taylor, and she has a very bright future, ahead."

Dani DiCintio scored a game-high 21 points and had five steals against Panas and Tina Hebeisen added seven points and four rebounds.

BREWSTER went 1-1 for the week, dropping a 60-45 decision to Somers before bouncing back to overcome Lakeland, 52-43, on senior night.

Brewster Coach Mike Castaldo pointed out that Lakeland rallied from a 15-point halftime deficit to even the score at 36 with four minutes remaining in the game. However, eighth-grader Grace Galgano converted two free throws and Maggie DePaoli hit consecutive 3-pointers, both assisted by Carly Delaney, to give Brewster a seven-point advantage.

"I am so proud of our two seniors, Taylor Riccardi and Mary Becker," Castaldo said. "Taylor has been so big for us all year. She takes chargers, handles the ball, hits the open shot and plays terrific defense. Mary Becker is a kid that every team needs. She always works hard and does her job. When Mary's number is called, she always helps the team."

DePaoli finished with a game-high 27 points, along with four assists and three steals. Meagan Beal chipped in 15 points and eight rebounds.

Castaldo said his team had a difficult time with Somers.

"We could not find an answer to stop Somers," Castaldo said. "When we played zone, they hit from 3. When we switched to man they were able to penetrate and get layups. It was not because of a lack of effort, we played very hard, but Somers played tremendous for 32 minutes. When Somers is clicking on all cylinders they are very hard to beat."

"However, it was great to see Grace Galgano really dominate down low scoring 14 points and grabbing eight rebounds. Grace



Putnam Valley sophomore Kelli Venezia continued to light it up from downtown last week in wins over Mahopac, North Salem and Valhalla.



PV's Cyera Daughtry goes up for two against defense of Mahopac's Claire Felix in Tigers' win over Indians last week.

has really picked it up for us late in the season, this is now back to back games where she has scored 14 points against a tough Panas team and now Somers."

MAHOPAC opened with a 45-39 victory over John Jay-East Fishkill, rallying from a 13-point halftime deficit to break a three-game losing streak. However, Mahopac lost to archrival **CARMEL**, 49-44, and Yorktown, 39-34.

"We got down by 13 at the half but stepped up on the defensive end to hold John Jay to 11 points in the second half," Mahopac Coach Chuck Scozzafava said. "Offensively, we executed better and were more patient in the second half. This was a nice character win after losing three in-a-row."

Claire Felix led Mahopac with a game-high 19 points and Zina McInerney added eight points.

Carmel outscored Mahopac, 16-9, in the fourth quarter to take the game. Carmel's Claire Cody led all scorers with 21 points. Felix had 16 points and Siobhan Hynes added nine points for Mahopac.

"We had a tough fourth quarter trying to score," Scozzafava said. "We had the opportunities, but we just didn't hit shots."

YORKTOWN outscored Mahopac, 25-14, in the second half. Kat Severino paced Yorktown with 15 points. Hynes led Mahopac with 6 points and Felix had seven points.

Scozzafava said Mahopac will play four games in five days, this week.



Brewster's Carly Delaney (L) and Lakeland's Amanda Cole get tangled up in Bears' 53-42 win over visiting Hornets last Thursday.



(COURTESY OF TWITTER)

Kennedy's Alexis Suarez became the first girl from Kennedy Catholic to score 1,000 points in her high school career.

LAKELAND also went 1-2 last week, outlasting Ardsley in overtime, 52-49, but falling to John Jay-Cross River, 44-34, and Brewster, 52-43.

Kelsey Walsh singled the nets for 26 points against Ardsley. Claire McKenna contributed 12 points, Alexa Cole added eight points and 10 rebounds and Jess Ascencao grabbed a game-high 16 rebounds.

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