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March 13 - March 19, 2018

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 10, Issue 429

Officials Blast Con Edison, NYSEG for 'Missing in Action'

By Martin Wilbur

County Executive George Latimer demanded resignations of Con Edison and New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) leadership Friday following the utilities' dreadful response to the two recent storms that plunged thousands into darkness.

Latimer was joined by dozens of angry elected officials in White Plains from across the county and several residents recounting stories of erroneous information from the utilities regarding estimated restoration time. Some residents also were informed by robocalls that their power had been restored when it had not.

Officials called for investigations by the Public Service Commission (PSC)

related to the preparation for the March 2 Nor'easter and March 7 snowstorm. Latimer accused the utilities of having been "missing in action," for failing to arrange for adequate mutual aid from out of state and for inept communication with the public and officials afterward.

"As you remember, changes were made on Long Island after Sandy. Changes can be made again," Latimer declared, referring to Gov. Andrew Cuomo's signing of legislation effectively ousting the Long Island Power Authority. "Do the right thing. Stand up for the decisions you should have made, make changes in senior management, put people in there who understand

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MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

County Executive George Latimer, surrounded by representatives of more than 30 Westchester municipalities Friday in White Plains, called for a massive shakeup at Con Edison and NYSEG following what officials characterized as poor performance following two recent storms.

Westchester County Board Approves Immigrant Protection Act

By Anna Young

The Westchester County Board of Legislators received enough votes Monday night to approve the Immigrant Protection Act, a bill that would restrain Westchester from using its resources for immigration enforcement.

Following bipartisan collaboration between county officials, lawmakers voted 11-3 along mainly party lines. The Democrats, who unanimously supported the measure, maintained that immigrants would be provided the protection to keep them from living in fear of deportation.

"This is a justice for all bill," Legislator Catherine Borgia (D-Ossining) said.

"A lot of the things that are provided in this piece of legislation are just a reaffirmation of the fact that the United States Constitution and particularly the Bill of Rights applies to every human soul on U.S. soil and we know that that is true and we want that affirmed and we want people to know that is true in Westchester County."

Following President Donald Trump's controversial executive order restricting travel by refugees and immigrants from seven predominantly Muslim countries, Borgia introduced the bill last February hoping to reduce fear in Westchester's

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RICK PEZZULLO PHOTO

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Peekskill residents were in an Irish mood Saturday as they celebrated St. Patrick's Day early at the annual parade in downtown. For more photos, see page 13.

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Officials Blast Con Edison, NYSEG for 'Missing in Action'

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they're directly accountable to the people, not customers, people that they serve."

Other officials mentioned that after every major weather event that results in power outages, the utilities promise to make changes but the same problems occur.

Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi urged the state to end Con Edison's and NYSEG's monopolistic hold on their territory. By last Friday morning, 1,900 customers in her town were still without power and 28 roads were closed, many because utility crews had not arrived to address downed wires.

"It needs to be broken up," Puglisi said. "They need to hear us. They haven't yet. In 27 years as town supervisor they have not heard us, but darn it, they're going to hear us this time."

The same day, Con Edison President, CEO and Chairman of the Board John McAvoy held his own press conference explaining the challenges his organization faced and where the problems occurred.

He said the utility was hurt by the severity of the first storm that featured wind gusts upwards of 70 miles per hour, toppling thousands of trees. The fact that nearly the entire Northeast was affected by both events delayed restoration because many of the utilities in the region that Con Edison relies on for mutual aid had to service their

own territory.

"These storms with the tree damage we're seeing is much more extensive," he said. "Large limbs are down, many trees (were) completely uprooted and the result of that is we're not just repairing our systems in many cases, we're actually rebuilding it."

Despite the challenges, McAvoy said Con Edison was successful in restoring power to 90 percent of the roughly 100,000 customers who lost electricity in Westchester by last Tuesday night. Just under 10,000 Con Edison customers in Westchester were reported without power by the time the Mar. 7 snowstorm started.

There were an estimated 50,000 additional outages in the county caused by the snowstorm, he said.

McAvoy acknowledged that the utility suffered "significant problems in our technology systems" that dispensed erroneous information on its outage map and robocalls to individual customers, along with constantly changing estimated restoration times. He said Con Edison has its arms around the problem to make sure the glitches never occur again, although he did not go into detail what caused the problems.

However, McAvoy sidestepped the issue of Westchester officials calling for him and

his senior management team to resign.

"We are laser-focused on the restoration of our customers in as safe and as fast a manner as possible, and my role as CEO is to make sure I lead the organization in a way that accomplishes that," McAvoy said. "That is what I'm focusing all of my attention on."

Con Edison spokesman Alan Drury said the utility had about 2,300 crew members in the field working on restoration. It also recalled about 80 workers from Puerto Rico. Last fall, Con Edison was one of many utilities to send crews to help the hurricane-ravaged island.

Calls made to NYSEG were not returned.

Officials said citizens weren't just inconvenienced by the utilities' inaccurate information, but residents or their relatives with medical issues were put in potentially life-threatening situations because of the utilities' failures.

Anthony Carpentieri of Valhalla said his daughter suffers from Multiple Sclerosis and her medicine must be kept at a certain temperature. Carpentieri said if he knew that he would have been without power for a week rather than being told his power would return by 11 p.m. each night, he could have made other arrangements for his family.

"I think if people know what the story is they can make proper plans," he said. "They can go to a hotel, they can go and stay with family. They can help their children, whatever the case may be. They really need to know the real story and I feel Con Ed wasn't doing that."

Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti (D-Pleasantville) said Con Edison has "forfeited its right to be a public utility" because of its poor performance following the storms. Action must be taken to replace them or break its grip on the area.

"If we can't convince the PSC, then I think we have to put in legislation, I think we have to follow Linda Puglisi's suggestion of breaking up Con Edison," Abinanti said. "I think we need to better regulate and set standards for performance and time and response."

Mount Pleasant Town Clerk Patricia Scova, who was out of power for a full week at her Hawthorne home, also had a suggestion. The utilities' CEOs should forego some of their benefits so residents who were without power can have their energy bills reduced on a prorated basis.

"What I would suggest is the CEO not take his stock option for this year, so they can prorate our bills for the time we're out," Scova said. "That would be a wonderful thing for him to do and it's great PR."



Could You Have A Kidney Stone?

Learn about symptoms, treatment and prevention...

Ask the Doctor

Dr. Warren Bromberg, MD, FACS
Chief, Urology Division
Co-Director, Institute for Robotic and Minimally Invasive Surgery
Northern Westchester Hospital

Learn more about Dr. Bromberg, visit nwhroboticsurgery.org/DrBromberg



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Q: What are the symptoms of a kidney stone?

A: You might feel waves of severe pain in your back or side below the ribs. Pain might spread to your groin and lower abdomen. Nausea, vomiting and blood in the urine are possible. If you experience extreme pain, vomiting, or fever, go to an urgent care facility, or your hospital ER. Otherwise, have your symptoms evaluated by your primary care physician.

Q: What actually is a kidney stone?

A: A stone is rock-like material formed within the kidney. Most stones have a calcium component, and are caused by inadequate fluid intake, an overabundance of calories, and excessive salt intake. Stones with a uric acid component are caused by an excessive meat intake. When a stone passes out of the kidney and enters the ureter, the tube becomes blocked, urine backs up, the kidney swells and pain results.

Q: What are my treatment options?

A: A small stone may "pass" from your body naturally. If necessary, your physician can provide medication for pain and nausea and allow natural passage of the stone. Uric acid stones can sometimes be dissolved

with medication. A large stone blocking a kidney, or a stone associated with an infection, can be life-threatening and must be treated urgently. For stones that cannot pass on their own, a urologist may advise one of three outpatient procedures, depending on the size and location of the stone.

- External shock waves to shatter the stone, turning it to smaller stones that can then pass on their own.
- Inserting a small telescope to laser the stone into tiny fragments.
- If the stone is very large, a telescope is passed directly into the kidney through ones back to fragment and remove the stone.

Q: Can I help prevent kidney stones from forming?

A: Yes, however, once a kidney stone is removed, if a person does not change his or her diet or fluid intake, there's a 70 percent chance another will form. Help prevent calcium stones by remaining well-hydrated. Avoid consuming large amounts of dark leafy vegetables, peanuts, Vitamin C tablets and chocolate. To avoid forming a uric acid-type stone, limit meat, including red meat, chicken or fish.



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Tragedy Anniversary Raises Concerns about Indian Point

By Anna Young

A group of environmentalists gathered in Peekskill Sunday afternoon commemorating the seventh anniversary of the nuclear tragedy in Fukushima, Japan and cautioning if Indian Point could be next.

Throughout the five-hour ceremony, members of the Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition (IPSEC) sang songs, gathered in prayer and raised awareness to the possible effects radiation exposure could have on the more than 20 million people who live within the plant's 50-mile radius in the event of an explosion.

On March 11, 2011, a devastating tsunami and earthquake in Fukushima disabled the power supply and cooling of three reactors causing a nuclear accident that released radioactive materials into the environment.

"When people think about the chance of a nuclear accident it seems very abstract, but when those things happen it's devastating," said Peekskill resident and cancer researcher Courtney Williams. "We have a community here that has seen the worst, and this is our warning call to make sure that we seize this opportunity to address the decommissioning process and make our communities as safe as possible."

Despite the projected 2021 closing of Indian Point, activists stressed that more



Spent fuel rods will remain on Buchanan site for decades after nuclear plant closes.

than 2,700 tons of irradiated fuel rods stored indefinitely on-site is higher than the radioactive waste the was in all the fuel pools at Fukushima when the three nuclear reactors failed.

Williams added that closing Indian Point doesn't eliminate any risk because of the high-pressure transmission gas pipelines underneath the 40-years' worth of irradiated spent fuel at the Buchanan property. She stressed the importance of understanding the potential risks the

pipeline poses adding how Gov. Andrew Cuomo needs to release the risk assessment he ordered on the Enbridge/Spectra AIM pipeline two years ago.

"Shutting down the plant doesn't solve our problem, but it does give us an opportunity to make our community as safe as possible," she said. "But we need the risk assessment so that we can put that stored waste in a safer location so that spent fuel fire doesn't happen."

Hiroko Aihara, a Fukushima native,

explained that more than 50,000 residents continue to evacuate the area due to radiation contamination. She said that Fukushima still hasn't recovered from their "severe" accident and people continue to suffer.

She added how many lost their homes and wildlife died off due to the contamination. And while her health remains intact, some of her friends were diagnosed with cancer because of the meltdown. The government isn't concerned about the radiation, but the local people really want to continue to study their health, she said.

"Radiation we couldn't see and couldn't smell. It's invisible," she said. "I want to ask the Indian Point people to please consider what happened after our nuclear plant accident. Let's prepare for the next disaster or ask them to choose renewable energy."

To ensure public safety, the IPSEC want to establish a Citizens Oversight Board to oversee the Indian Point decommissioning process. If approved and funded by the New York State legislature, the board would include members from IPSEC, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE), and other stakeholders familiar with Indian Point, with access to nuclear experts.

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Questions? Contact the Alliance for Safe Kids at: events@allianceforsafekids.org or (914) 736-1450.

AllianceforSafeKids.org/SaveALife

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a Happy St. Patrick's Day!
Slainte!**

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Westchester County Board Approves Immigrant Protection Act

Continued from page 1
immigrant community.

The Board of Legislators passed the original bill last August by a 10-5 margin – also mainly along party lines – but was later vetoed by former County Executive Rob Astorino. Astorino cited legislation created a sanctuary county that violated federal immigration laws and put the county at risk of losing upwards of \$13 million in federal grants.

A month later, members of the Democratic Caucus pushed to override the veto, but it ultimately failed to gain support missing by one vote. It needed support from 12 of 17 legislators.

“There was a grave misunderstanding about what this legislation did,” Borgia said. “This law does not protect criminals. This law allows for criminal investigations because it’s a public safety measure.”

Republican David Tubiolo (Yonkers), who voted against the bill last year, supported the legislation Monday night.

Lawmakers have been working with law enforcement officials, local organizations and advocates since to draft a new law that would comply with federal guidelines and create clear procedures for law enforcement.

“This bill is a better bill. It provides the kinds of protections that we hope for and need in Westchester County for all of our citizens to feel comfortable and good about their lives and what they can do and how they can raise their children without fear,” Vice Chair Alfreda Williams (D-White Plains) said. “I just want to say how very delighted and very grateful I am that this bill has finally passed.”

While Majority Leader Catherine Parker (D-Rye) stressed the law is not a sanctuary bill, Minority Leader John Testa (R-Peekskill) said federal guidelines stipulate that legislation will classify Westchester as a sanctuary jurisdiction. He said if legislators codified the executive order put in place by former County Executive Andy Spano and Astorino the bill would have received unanimous support.

He added that law enforcement doesn’t work in immigration enforcement and lawsuits could eventually emerge against the county due to the restrictions placed on police officials.

The revised bill would confine the county from sharing information with federal immigration authorities based on race, gender, religion, or national origin and restrict law enforcement officials from asking individuals questions relating to their citizenship or immigration status.

“The Immigration Protection Act is designed specifically to do only two things; protect undocumented criminals sitting in the county jail, and eliminate the distinction between legal and illegal immigration,” Testa said. “Anything that inhibits local law enforcement from

working closely with their federal law enforcement partners like the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security and other agencies is a bad and reckless idea.”

Despite opposition, the several hundred supporters in attendance during the meeting erupted in loud applause and cheers after lawmakers approved legislation. Borgia immediately broke down in tears and rushed to Tubiolo to give him a hug and thank him.

Chairman Ben Boykin (D-White Plains) added that County Executive George Latimer is in support of legisla-

tion and will sign it into law.

“Everyone in this county – do not fear – you can interact with our public safety and our police,” Boykin said. “Have no fear, you are protected.”

Shortly after the vote, Latimer released a statement: “The Westchester County Board of Legislators has completed important work on this legislation. They came together, in a bi-partisan way, to protect the people of Westchester. They listened to law enforcement officials, advocates and residents, and drafted a law that is about safety – and nothing else.

This legislation in no way goes against Federal law, and in no way will allow criminals to be harbored. To say otherwise is simply not true. This legislation goes to the heart of protecting good honest citizens in their home. Westchester County was built on the back of immigrants; we cannot forget the path that our ancestors walked. Pope Francis once said: ‘Migrants are our brothers and sisters in search of a better life, far away from poverty, hunger and war.’ I want us, as a community and the people of this County, to focus on that idea.”

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WEEKLY SPECIALS: MARCH 13 - 19	DOZENS OF OTHER ITEMS ON SALE IN STORE!	WINES ON SALE THRU MARCH!																																																																																																																																																																		
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Bon Jovi Appears Locally for Evening of Music, Fundraising

By Aaron M. Notis

Jon Bon Jovi is a man of his word. When his close friend and former entertainment attorney, Jerry Edelstein, needed a kidney nine years ago, the Flood Sisters Kidney Foundation came to the rescue, securing a life-saving living donor match for Edelstein.

Thankful that his friend received this gift of life, the Grammy Award-winning artist who will be inducted next month in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, performed a concert Mar. 4 to a sold-out Tarrytown Music Hall to benefit the foundation.

"I am deeply grateful to the Flood Sisters Kidney Foundation...With the knowledge they gained during the fight for their father's life, Jennifer, Cynthia and Heather Flood created a life-saving organization to help others. That's the epitome of 'paying it forward,'" said Bon Jovi, who dedicated the concert to Edelstein.

Mesmerizing the crowd last week with acoustic versions of his classics, including "Livin' on a Prayer," "Lost Highway," "Maybe Someday" and "You Give Love a Bad Name," Bon Jovi put on an interactive show, answering questions from the audience and telling short stories in between songs. He told the audience that his musical inspiration included Queen, Aerosmith, Bruce Springsteen and Led Zeppelin.

Audience members also asked him about



MARGARET FOX PHOTO

Grammy Award winner and Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee Jon Bon Jovi performed a Mar. 4 benefit at the Tarrytown Music Hall for the Flood Sisters Kidney Foundation.

his family life. The crowd laughed when Bon Jovi answered that he is in charge of doing the dishes when he is home.

The Flood Sisters Kidney Foundation was started 10 years ago by the three sisters, all of whom were raised in Pleasantville. In 2008, when their father, Daniel, went into kidney failure, his daughters posted an advertisement for a living donor on Craigslist.

A reporter at the news radio station WCBS 880 saw the advertisement and interviewed the family, helping them to reach thousands of people. After interviewing multiple volunteers, they were

able to find a living donor for their father in California.

The experience helped the sisters realize that they could help other families. They started The Flood Sisters Kidney Foundation and have now successfully connected 11 people in need of a kidney with living donors.

Today, kidney disease affects nearly 15 percent of the U.S. population, and the wait for a donor kidney from a deceased donor could take between five and 10 years.

"The gold standard for treatment is a transplant," said Heather Flood. "The

platinum treatment is a living donor transplant. Many die waiting every hour."

Opening for Bon Jovi was the New York City-based band Oak & Ash. Formed in 2014, Oak & Ash was the winner of Newsday's Battle of the Bands contest and Bon Jovi's 2017 "Opening Act Contest," which promoted up-and-coming musicians.

In addition to performing, Bon Jovi donated a signed guitar to the benefit's live auction, which raised \$8,500. A new BMW was also auctioned off and sold for \$46,000.

Roseanne Flood, mother of Cynthia, Heather and Jennifer and the Flood Sisters Kidney Foundation's treasurer, highlighted the importance of the event.

"We are trying to reach the goal of sustainability. It is incredibly beneficial to have the support of a talented musician like John Bon Jovi to help us to reach that goal," she said.

Cynthia Flood agreed. "We are so blessed and grateful to have Jon Bon Jovi involved in this awesome event," she said. "We hope to create more awareness for kidney disease, and more importantly, living donation."

For more information about the Flood Sisters Kidney Foundation, visit <https://floodsisterskidneyfund.org>.

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Residents Call for Stronger Tree Law in Yorktown

Members of Advocates for a Better Yorktown (ABY) met with the Town Board at the February 27th work session to discuss the need to strengthen the 2016 Tree Law. According to Linda Miller, the group's spokesperson, as written, the current law is not effective in protecting the town's endangered trees, woodlands and forests.

The purpose of the work session discussion, Miller explained, was to start the process of revising the law by bringing several key problematical policy issues that form the basis of the law to the Board's attention.

To facilitate the discussion, ABY provided board members with a one-page summary that highlighted eight major policy issues in need of further discussion. The issues ranged from whether trees on town owned land should be covered by the law to whether permit applications to cut down trees should always be referred to the Conservation Board and the Tree Conservation

Advisory Commission for review and recommendations.

Other key policy issues included the need for protections for woodlands and stronger standards and guidelines for mitigation when there is no alternative to cutting down trees. As pointed out by Miller, the focus of the current law is protecting individual trees; there are no provisions for protecting woodlands that are critical for absorbing storm water runoff, preventing erosion, providing wildlife habitat and preserving the town's visual character.

In addition to the "highlights" one pager, ABY provided the board with a redlined version of the current law that provides greater detail on each key policy issue as well as suggested language for strengthening specific provisions of the law.

"Amending the current Tree Law will take time but (the) meeting was the start of a lengthy and careful process," Miller said.

"Additional work sessions will be needed before the Board can come to consensus on the key policy issues. Once that is done, the town attorney can draft appropriate language, and before a public hearing is held, the draft should be referred out to various town departments and advisory boards for review and comment. Residents and property owners should also be able to provide feedback on the initial draft."

Members of ABY began reviewing the 2016 Tree Law in April 2017 and spoke at the June public hearing on a proposed amendment to the law that would have eliminated the exemption for town owned land. (The 2016 law replaced the 2010 Tree Law that covered town owned land.) In their comments, ABY members supported the amendment being proposed by the Town Board but also pointed out the need to strengthen other provisions in the law. The Town Board closed the hearing, took no

action, not even on the amendment it had proposed, and refused to meet with ABY members to discuss other amendments that would have strengthened the Law.

Advocates for a Better Yorktown is a non-partisan group of residents concerned about quality of life and good government issues that affect Yorktown. In addition to its work on the Tree Law, the group is currently looking into the need to update the town's antiquated sign law.

A PhD with a specialization in ecology, Linda Miller is a former environmental consultant to Westchester municipalities and a former member of Yorktown's Conservation Board. She was the co-author of the 2010 Tree Law.

For more information about ABY's efforts to strengthen the current Tree law, email yorktownadvocates@gmail.com.

Meeting on Mohansic Trailway Project March 19

A presentation on the long planned Mohansic Trailway along the town-owned abandoned railroad right-of-way from Route 118 to Baldwin Road will held on Monday, March 19 at 7 p.m. at Yorktown Town Hall. The meeting will be held by the Town of Yorktown Planning Department

and facilitated by Scott Keller, Acting Executive Director of the Hudson River Valley Greenway. There will be an opportunity to ask questions.

The Mohansic Trailway is an unpaved trail and will be accessible to walkers, hikers and mountain bikers, but not motorized

vehicles. It will link the Heights area and the North County Trailway to FDR State Park, providing a safe off-road route to other trails in Town-owned parks via Strang Boulevard.

This project has been planned by the town since the 1990s and completion of the Trailway has been a major goal of the Yorktown

Trailtown Committee since their inception in 2014. The Trailway project is the missing link in Yorktown's extensive network of approximately 60 miles of connected trails. The Hudson River Valley Greenway

Continued on page 18



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Letters to the Editor

Another View on Citizen Safety and Gun Laws

To the Editor:

I read the Letters to the Editor in the February 27, 2018 edition in the Newspaper concerning "Citizen Safety..." and "Gun Laws" with interest. The letter by Ms. Glazer for the most part should be supported. My only concern is that the Extreme Risk Protection Order S5447 does not provide for complete "Due Process" for the Respondent. The bill as presented states that the Judge hearing the case may require sworn testimony before issuing the ERPO. The bill should

mandate, as in other court orders, that testimony be made under oath so that deliberate falsification of testimony could be prosecuted under the perjury statute. As far as expending funds for research, according to the Governor, the state is in a deficit mode with the additional spending. Any funds needed should be appropriated from existing budget revenue without the requirement to seek any local or state funds or funds to be raised within the state.

As for the letter written by Mr. Ondek,

it is replete with inaccuracies and errors. "...lives lost with automatic/semi-automatic weapons..." is wrong. Automatic weapons have not been used nor are they generally available. "After 500 people were shot by semi-automatic weapons which were converted into automatically weapons..." is wrong. These firearms were not converted into automatic weapons, the device that Mr. Ondek is referencing allows for the trigger to be activated more rapidly.

Mr. Ondek also references the 2nd

Amendment as written in the 1770's when rifles or muskets were single shot. If we were to follow his logic we would not have mass printed media, radio, television or the internet, etc., since the 1st Amendment would also have to be adhered to as it was written in the 1770's.

While Ms. Glazer's letter is on point, the Mr. Ondek's letter is inaccurate as in his previous Letter to the Editor in which firearms were discussed.

JAY KOPSTEIN
Yorktown Heights

Safe Storage of Spent Fuel at Indian Point Needs to be Addressed

To the Editor:

In attending Task Force meetings on Indian Point decommissioning, it seems to me that the most important Indian Point decommissioning important issue - SAFETY OF OUR REGION - appears to be on the back burner, whereas planning for make-up of revenue loss is the primary topic of discussion.

Clearly, revenue is very important, but it pales in comparison to the total devastation and inhabitability of this region that would result from a nuclear accident or act of terrorism that caused release of the radiation from the 45 years of highly radioactive spent fuel stored at Indian Point. For that reason, I am calling upon our elected leaders and government agencies to focus maximum attention to safety.

Indian Point is a primary terrorist target due to its proximity to New York City and the density of population in this re-

gion. In addition, the plant is sited next to two earthquake faults and three gas pipelines, the newest being the huge 42 inch diameter AIM pipeline.

That is why we must act NOW to insure that Indian Point has the most secure, state of the art spent fuel storage! State of the art storage is not evident, at this time, in the current planning by the limited liability decommissioning corporations, who stand to profit from money left over in the decommissioning fund.

Currently, after it comes out of the overcrowded fuel pools, Indian Point's spent fuel is stored on-site in thin-walled metal canisters inside of concrete dry cask containers. Unlike the nuclear reactors, these dry casks are not in a secured building, but are placed side by side on a concrete pad in the open air. This is not state of the art storage, especially in these days of terrorism conspiracies.

In contrast, the Calloway Center in Missouri has contracted with Holtec Technology to build an ultra-secure underground configuration with a low profile and zero radiation for its spent fuel storage. This system was also chosen for the spent fuel storage in the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) on the Southern California coast.

An alternative method for safer storage of spent fuel dry casks is Hardened On-Site Storage or HOSS, which utilizes the following safeguards:

- Reinforced concrete and steel structures around each waste canister
- Protection of these structures with mounds of concrete, steel, and gravel
- Spreading out HOSS modules over a larger land area apart from each other, rather than storing dozens of vulnerable dry-casks next to each other.

Another more secure system is the ARE-

VA TN dry shielded canisters and horizontal storage modules being installed for the Limerick Generating Station in Pennsylvania and in use in 30 U.S. plants.

Clearly, in view of our special risk factors, and our dense population, we MUST have a system as secure as or more secure than those in Missouri or Pennsylvania. At this time, we DO NOT. We must hold our elected officials and government agencies to the concept that their primary responsibility is the SAFETY of constituents - the residents of this area. They must act NOW to secure our future.

Lastly, citizens should be given the opportunity to speak at all Task Force meetings, which at this time they are not. This is too important an issue. This is our home and we have the right to speak out to keep it safe!

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Yorktown is Blessed to Have Dedicated Employees

To the Editor:

In spite of a long work day during the recent Nor'Easter, a Yorktown Parks and Recreation snowplow driver whose name is Guido, cleared a path to the road so he could free a stranded motorist. The car was stuck in deep snow in the middle of one of Yorktown's fields. Guido, despite minimum sleep from his snow plowing tasks, not only cleared a path for the car, he respectfully and calmly advised the

motorist on techniques to maneuver the car so traction could be gained. We residents of Yorktown are more than fortunate and blessed to have employees who are as dedicated as Guido working for our town and its citizens!

THANK YOU GUIDO and all others who work to make our town a caring community and safer place to live. Your efforts are deeply appreciated!

LOIS COOK

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Attorney General Unveils Top 10 Scams of 2017

To mark National Consumer Protection Week, Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman released the list of the top 10 consumer fraud complaints received by his office in 2017. Schneiderman also offered a variety of tips for New Yorkers on how to avoid future scams.

"The best weapon against fraud is an informed consumer," said Attorney General Schneiderman. "Fraudsters will always look for new ways to line their pockets at the expense of unsuspecting consumers. I encourage New Yorkers to educate themselves – and to continue reporting scams to my office, so that we can continue to crack down on scammers seeking to take advantage of New York consumers."

The Attorney General's office analyzed the consumer complaints received statewide throughout 2017. For the 12th year in a row, Internet-related complaints topped the list with 5,153 complaints. This category covered a range of issues, including child safety, privacy, civil rights, spyware, spam, consumer fraud, and free speech. Internet-related complaints were followed by 3,188 Automobile complaints, which involved sales, services, financing, rentals, and repairs. Consumer-related services ranked third with 2,463 complaints, which included complaints concerning alarm companies, dry cleaners, furniture repair and refinishers, restaurants, hair and nail salons, movers, watch repairs, and other services for personal household use. Consumer-related services was followed by 1,961 Landlord/Tenant complaints such as rent security deposit issues and allegations of tenant harassment. Rounding out the top five, there were 1,827 Utilities-related complaints, which included reports on cable and satellite companies, energy services and suppliers, and wireless and residential phone carriers.

The following is the 2017 list of the top ten consumer complaints by category:

CATEGORY

NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS

1. Internet 5,153
(internet services & service providers; data privacy & security; child safety; consumer frauds)
2. Automobile 3,188
(buying; leasing; repair; service contracts; rentals)
3. Consumer-Related Services 2,463
(security systems; restaurant/catering services; tech repairs)
4. Landlord/Tenant Disputes 1,961
(security deposit releases; tenant harassment)
5. Utilities 1,827
(wireless and residential phones; energy services & suppliers; cable and satellite)
6. Credit 1,436
(debt collection; credit card billing; debt settlement; credit repair; credit reporting agencies; identity theft)
7. Retail Sales 1,285
(any sale of goods for personal household use: food, clothing; rent-to-own)

8. Home Repair/Construction 982
(home improvement services not delivered or done poorly)

9. Mail Order 850
(purchases made online or from a catalog)

10. Mortgage 799
(mortgage modifications; mortgage and loan broker fraud; foreclosures)

The Attorney General also offered a list of tips all consumers should use to protect themselves and their families:

1. Internet: It's important to ask the right questions when choosing an Internet plan that's appropriate for your needs and to ensure you are getting the Internet speeds you were promised. If you are not receiving the speed you are paying for, call your Internet service provider to find out why. Remember to refrain from conducting any transactions that involve personal, financial, or credit card information while using an open and unsecured Wi-Fi connection – identity thieves often stake out open networks seeking victims. Scammers also use variants of a known company's Internet address to try and lure users into visiting fake websites. Learn more about common online scams here.

2. Automobile: New York's New and Used Car Lemon Laws provide a legal remedy for buyers or lessees of new cars that turn out to be lemons. You may be entitled to a full refund if your car does not conform to the terms of the written warranty and the manufacturer or its authorized dealer is unable to repair the car after a reasonable number of attempts. The law allows consumers to shop around for the best deal when leasing a car, set limits on early termination, and gives the Attorney General's Office jurisdiction to resolve excess wear-and-tear disputes. To file a new or used car "lemon law" complaint, click here and here.

3. Consumer-Related Services: We rely on a range of services in our day-to-day living, from home repair to snow-removal to party planning. Make sure to use a written contract for all services that clearly defines restrictions and obligations of both the consumer and service-provider. Consumers should shop around, get estimates from at least three vendors, and check with the Better Business Bureau and other references to confirm the company is reliable and reputable. File a complaint online here.

4. Landlord/Tenant Disputes: The Attorney General's Tenant Harassment Task Force investigates situations where landlords and management companies are suspected of using construction as a means to harass tenants. Incidents of harassment include: landlords operating without proper permits; construction projects operating in violation of stop work orders; and landlords who openly ignore requirements for tenant protection plans in order to contain the spread of lead and/or asbestos which may be exposed during renovation. Tenants may lodge complaints by completing and sub-

mitting a Tenant Rights Complaint Form or calling 1-800-771-7755. Learn more about housing issues here.

5. Utilities/Wireless and Residential Phone Service: A common complaint with long-term wireless service contracts involves the sometimes hefty price for cancellation. If you are unsure exactly what plan best fits your calling habits – and want to avoid paying a large termination fee – it might be best to avoid an extended contract. Regardless of the length of your contract, remember to carefully read and understand all terms before signing it. File a complaint online here.

6. Credit: Debt collection is the most common type of credit fraud, and consumers must know their rights. Debt collectors may not harass or abuse consumers, nor provide misleading information – for instance, claiming to represent a government agency. Debt collectors cannot sue on debts outside the applicable statute of limitations, the time frame established for the enforcement of legal rights. Consumers have the right to demand verification of the debt. Anyone with credit problems should contact credit counseling agencies licensed by the New York State Department of Financial Services for assistance in managing the situation and avoiding collection scams. Learn more here.

7. Retail Sales: Check return and refund policies. The law requires all merchants to post their refund policies. A store that fails to do so must give consumers 30 days to get a refund in the manner that the purchase was made. Be especially vigilant of "final sales" or "cash-only – final sale" notices, as you will have little or no recourse if the merchandise proves to be defective. Some stores require the original packaging and charge a hefty restocking fee for returned items. Learn more here.

8. Home Repair/Construction: Before entering into a contract, shop around for estimates, check in with the Better Business Bureau, banks, suppliers, and neighbors for references. Insist on a written contract that includes the price and description of the work needed and negotiate a payment schedule tied to the completion of specific stages of the jobs. Never pay the full price up front. You have three days after signing a home improvement contract to cancel it. Learn more here.

9. Mail Order: Whether ordering online or from a catalog, make sure the company has an operating customer service line and lists a real street address. Companies operating on a 'fly-by-night' basis often have no working customer service number and list only a P.O. Box. Learn more here.

10. Mortgage: Mortgage rescue scams prey on homeowners in their greatest time of need. Look out for offers that claim to stop or delay foreclosure payments for an upfront fee or make payments on your behalf. Beware of companies that suggest a government affiliation or claim to be with

the government, or those that work with attorneys but do not provide legal services. The Attorney General's Homeowner Protection Program (HOPP) funds a network of more than 85 trusted partners dedicated to providing homeowners with free, qualified mortgage assistance relief services across New York. To find a nearby HOPP provider, call the Attorney General's hotline at 1-855-HOME-456 or visit www.agscamhelp.com.

Tips for other common scams:

Although not in the top 10, the Attorney General's office continues to receive consumer complaints about two common phone schemes known as the IRS scam and the Grandparent scam.

IRS scams:

In the IRS scam, the caller poses as a U.S. Treasury Department, IRS, or other government official, demanding payment for unpaid taxes and threatening consumers with arrest if they do not pay up. These scammers often use fake government logos in their email and caller ID spoofing so that the victim's caller ID box says "Internal Revenue Service" or displays the phone number of the Internal Revenue Service.

Beware of scammers posing as government officials via phone calls or emails. The IRS will never demand immediate payment or payment information over the phone. Do not engage this type of caller or provide any personal information and report the call to our office by submitting a complaint here or calling our consumer hotline at 1-800-771-7755. Scams should also be reported to the U.S. Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 800-366-4484.

Grandparent scam:

In the Grandparent scam, a grandparent receives a call from someone posing as a grandchild claiming that he or she is traveling and facing an urgent need for money – to make bail, pay a fine, or pay for automobile repairs or medical expenses. The caller begs the grandparent not to tell their parents. The victims are then given instructions to send funds to the scammers. Scam artists are now instructing grandparents to buy certain gift cards and then provide the scammer with the information on the back of the card so they cannot be traced.

Be suspicious of anyone who calls claiming to be your grandchild and asks you to immediately wire money or buy large dollar amounts of gift cards. Grandparents should verify any supposed emergency by calling friends and family before wiring money or buying gift cards. Learn more about common scams targeting senior citizens here.

Student Debt:

Beware of phony student debt relief companies that claim to lower or eliminate student loan debt. Do not pay up-front fees. Scammers often use official sounding names to make it sound like they are a government agency, and, in many cases, fail to provide promised services or merely submit paperwork for a free debt relief program of-

Continued on page 15

Estate and Elder Law Planning Topics That You Shouldn't Neglect

By Salvatore M. Di Costanzo

We have all heard the saying "life is full of regrets". I have compiled a list of the most common regrets that I often hear from clients, but more often, their family members, during my practicing as an elder law and special needs planning attorney. If you have neglected any of these topics, my hope is that you will take proper measures before it is too late.

1. Failing to prepare a proper power of attorney and statutory gifts rider.

I frequently explain to my clients that one of the most important documents I can prepare is a power of attorney ("POA") and statutory gifts rider ("SGR"). Failing to have these documents, necessitates a guardianship proceeding, which is costly and burdensome on family members.

A good illustration of the impact of not having a POA and SGR usually involves a spouse who is incapacitated and requires care. Usually, we are planning to apply for Medicaid to cover the cost of such care and that planning might involve the transfer of assets from the ill spouse to the well spouse. If no POA and SGR exist, we must commence a guardianship proceeding to effectuate the planning. This results in the family having to privately pay not only for legal fees associated with the guardianship proceeding, but for the cost of care until the guardianship is completed.

2. Ignoring the five-year look-back period.

The five-year look-back period is the five-year period preceding the date you enter a nursing home. If you transferred assets during this period, you will be ineligible for Medicaid for a certain period based on the value of the assets transferred.

The five-year look-back period must be contemplated where clients intend to be proactive in preserving their assets. The optimal planning technique is to create a Medicaid Trust, usually for a house, and in some cases other assets. If you create a Medicaid Trust and transfer your assets to the trust, the assets transferred to the trust cannot be counted as available assets for Medicaid planning purposes after five years from the date of the transfer. If you don't have long-term care insurance, it is borderline foolish not to consider this planning technique. Clearly, if you wait too long, the five-year look-back period becomes an issue as you age.

3. Excluding family members or other loved ones from financial and estate planning matters.

Finances can be complicated at any time of life, but an illness or cognitive impairment can cause financial matters to become overwhelming or even unmanageable. Discussing one's finances is commonly considered taboo, even within a family. Keeping one's financial information close to the vest, however, can have unforeseen consequences. Often it falls on family or loved ones to piece together the financial

picture like a jigsaw puzzle, but without an image to follow. A missing piece can have dire implications. Being unaware of certain income and assets could, for example, delay eligibility for a spouse's or parent's Medicaid benefits or result in the denial of an application or affect distribution of a loved one's Estate pursuant to their final wishes.



4. Creating a team of professional advisors and counselors.

Professional advisors and counselors exist in many areas in part because it is nearly impossible to know everything about eve-

rything. One issue we often see are clients who are proficient at preparing their own income tax returns, but don't account for changed circumstances, for instance, their incapacity. When this happens, family members who may not be as experienced, struggle because they now have to form new relationships. I advise clients to form these relationships early in the lives so their family members have someone to turn to.

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

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

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Business of the Week

House of Hair Yorktown

By Neal Rentz

Growing up, Somers resident Jacqueline Arlia had a desire to work in the hair styling industry and sought to train for her desired career at the

Putnam-Northern Westchester BOCES in Yorktown.

Arlia recalled last week how she bowed to her parents' wishes and attended college for a time, but found out it was

not for her and trained in hair styling.

Arlia, who grew up in Yorktown, said she decided last fall to take the plunge and open her first business. She opened House of Hair in Yorktown in October 2017.

Before she opened House of Hair, a full-service salon located on Commerce Street, "I was always working from home," Arlia said. "It was really by chance" that she opened her first business, Arlia noted.

Arlia said the Commerce Street site is "a great location" because it is situated near the North County Trailway. Aside from northern Westchester, Arlia said her clients come from the tri-state area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

House of Hair offers a wide variety of services, including hair cutting, coloring, and blow drying. Her business also provide hair styling updos and make up for wedding parties.

Arlia said she has utilized a variety of methods to promote her new business, including a Web site and social media including Facebook and Instagram. The positive reputation of House of Hair has also been very helpful in the success of her new venture, Arlia said. "We got a ton of referrals," she said.

Arlia had a simple explanation for why



PROVIDED PHOTO

Somers resident Jacqueline Arlia opened House of Hair in Yorktown in October.

she named her business House of Hair. "That's just what came to me," she said.

House of Hair is located at 1803 Commerce St. in Yorktown. It is open Tuesdays through Saturdays. For more information, call 914-352-6073 or visit <https://www.vagaro.com/houseofhairny>. House of Hair is also on Facebook and Instagram.

Interior Design Company Wins Award

Kaja Gam Design of Ossining has been awarded "Best Of Houzz" for Customer Satisfaction by Houzz, the leading platform for home remodeling and design.

"The Houzz community selected a phenomenal group of Best of Houzz 2018 award winners, so this year's recipients should be very proud," said Liza Hausman, vice president of Industry Marketing for Houzz. "Best of Houzz winners represent some of the most talented and customer-focused professionals in our industry, and we are extremely pleased to give them both this recognition and a platform on which to showcase their expertise."

The Best Of Houzz is awarded annually in three categories: Design, Customer Service and Photography. Design award winners' work was the most popular among the more than 40 million monthly

users on Houzz. Customer Service honors are based on several factors, including the number and quality of recent client reviews. Architecture and interior design photographers whose images were most popular are recognized with the Photography award.

"We are delighted to have won this recognition and so proud that this is our 7th consecutive year to do so!" said Kaja Gam. "It's especially meaningful because our relationship with our clients is of paramount importance. This award shows that our clients feel that way too."

Kaja Gam Design is a full-service restoration and interior design company. Founded in 1993, Gam and her crew of artist and artisans have completed work in homes and apartments in Manhattan, New Jersey, the Hamptons and Westchester.

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5th Annual Somers Magic Show

Friday March 23rd Somers High School

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SHOW BEGINS AT 7:30 PM

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International Star Illusionist

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★ Face Painting ★ Popcorn ★ Photo Booth

For questions, please email:
septamagicshow@yahoo.com

Online ticketing available at www.seatyourself.biz/somerssepta

TICKETS:
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PHOTOS BY RICK PEZZULLO



Happenings

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

Tuesday, March 13

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wednesday, March 14

Senior's Fitness Classes: Free fitness classes are being offered to seniors who reside in the City of Peekskill on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10- to 11 a.m. The Class name is "The Workout." For more information, please contact Ray Glashoff at 914-734-4254. Classes are held at the Neighborhood Center (Field Library), 4 Nelson Ave., downstairs from the Library.

Somers Library Programs: A series of programs have been scheduled for the Somers Library. Psychic Medium Robin Mueller will be at the library from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on March 17 Saturday, March 17, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Renowned psychic Robin C. Please bring a pen and paper, and come with an open heart and mind to this free event. No digital or video recording permitted. Registration is required; register online at www.somerslibrary.org or call 914-232-5717. The teen program App Design for Beginners will be held on March 14 from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. Registration is required. Please go to our online calendar at www.somerslibrary.org or call us at 914-232-5717. Teen: Intro to Fashion Design & Illustration Workshop will be held on Wednesdays, 3/14, 3/28, 4/11, 4/25 & 5/9 from 3:15 to 4:30 p.m. Supplies needed: drawing pad or paper, pencil and eraser, markers or colored pencil, craft glue, scissors (sharp enough to cut fabric) and things that inspire your creativity. These will be used for a fashion story/mood board. The following should be collected to bring before the first class: small fabric scraps, trims, bits from nature, decorative buttons, sequins, inspiring photos and magazine clippings. This class is for teens in grades six and up. Registration is required; register online on our calendar at www.somerslibrary.org or call 914-232-5717.

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

POUND Program: POUNDTM Fitness Program, a 45-minute full-body cardio and stress relief jam session, fusing Pilates, cardio, plyometrics isometric movements and poses, is offered at Theatre and Dance Arts 131 Bedford Rd. Katonah. Drop in or weekly discount rates are available. The program is being provided on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. and on Saturdays at 11:45 a.m. Call Peggy for more information at 914 960-4097.

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, March 15

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.

Canasta Club: Support Connection announces the next session of their free monthly program "Canasta, Coffee and Camaraderie." It will take place from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Support Connection office in Yorktown Heights. It is open to people living with breast, ovarian and gynecological cancers. To learn more or to pre-register, which is required, call 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

Ossining Doc Series: The Ossining Documentary and Discussion Series will host a free screening of "The Empowerment Project" at 6 p.m. at the Ossining Public Library. In the film five young female filmmakers embark on a cross country journey to interview inspirational and trailblazing leaders to help empower the next generation of strong women, the screening will be followed by a panel discussion. Info: OssiningDocumentaries.org.

Historical Society Event: The Yorktown Historical Society will present "Many Trails of Stockbridge Munsee Mohicans" by Jeremy Mohawk, a member of Stockbridge Munsee's Tribal Council since 2014 and who is passionate about the Tribe's culture and traditions. The program will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the John C. Hart Memorial Library, 1130 E. Main Street, Shrub Oak. The presentation will include the history of the Tribe from their original homelands along the Mahicannituck, the "waters that are never still" to the many removals which resulted in the tribe ending up in its reservation today in northern Wisconsin. The traditions and current state of his people today will be covered as the Tribe continues to be active in its Eastern homelands. The event is free. Info: Charles Radke, Yorktown Historical Society, 914-962-4370, c.radke@computer.org or www.yorktownhistory.org.

Friday, March 16

Coloring For Adults: It's not just for kids, and it's the latest craze. Join our adult coloring book club at the Somers Library Meetings will be held in the conference room

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

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

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

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

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

Saturday, March 17

Maple Feast Weekend: Hilltop Hanover Farm and White Oak Farm will jointly celebrate "Maple Fest Weekends" on Saturday, March 17; Sunday, March 18; Saturday, March 24; and Sunday, March 25. Invited guests will enjoy a hot breakfast at Hilltop Hanover Farm and then drive to White Oak Farm – only a mile away – to witness a free maple syrup demonstration. Breakfast, which will consist of freshly grilled pancakes, maple syrup (produced at White Oak Farm), bacon, juice, and hot beverages, will be served at 9, 10 and 11 a.m. each morning at Hilltop Hanover Farm (1271 Hanover St. Make your reservation now at www.hilltophanoverfarm.org. After breakfast guests will be directed to White Oak Farm (680 Croton Lake Rd). only a mile away for the free maple syrup demonstration at

Happenings

Westchester's only sugarhouse.

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.

Local Color: Local Color 2018, the exhibition of artworks by members of the Croton Council on the Arts, is continuing at the Unitarian Universal Congregation of the Hudson Valley, 2021 Albany Post Rd, Croton. Show times are March 17 and 18, from noon to 5 p.m. Admission is free and the public is invited. Works in the past have included paintings, collages, sculptures, pottery, jewelry, and fiber and bead art.

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

Concert: Songs of the Heart and Wanderer, will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown, 2880

Crompond Rd. The concert will feature music by Mahler, Vaughan Williams, and Samuel Barber. Info: www.fpcyorktown.org.

Sunday, March 18

Healing Yoga: Yoga classes for women

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

Top 10 Scams of 2017

Continued from page 10

fered by the federal government. Students should contact their loan servicer themselves to see if any relief is available. For federal student loans such as Stafford or PLUS loans, students should ask if they are eligible for an income-based payment plan or if they qualify for deferment or forbearance.

Health Care Fraud: The Attorney General will soon be releasing a separate report about health care fraud complaints that it received in 2017. In 2017, the Health Care Bureau Helpline received 5,565 complaints. Of these complaints, the Helpline investigated and resolved 2,515 individual consumer cases and provided another 3,050 consumers with information or referrals to the agency most appropriate for the inquiry. Along with other consumer relief discussed in the report for 2017, the Helpline secured approximately \$1,936,997 for consumers in restitution and savings resulting from (i) incorrect medical billing; (ii) wrongful rejection of health insurance claims; and (iii) health plans' failures to properly process in-

surance claims.

Schneiderman reminds New Yorkers that in addition to being vigilant consumers, they should also report instances of fraud to his office. Consumers are encouraged to file complaints to the Attorney General's office by submitting a Consumer Bureau Online Complaint Form or calling 1-800-771-7755.

"It is important we remain vigilant and aware of the latest scams so consumers do not fall victim and potentially lose their hard-earned money," said State Senator David Carlucci, Chair of the State Senate Consumer Protection Committee. "As Chair of the Committee on Consumer Protection I look forward to working with Attorney General Schneiderman on the Data Security Act in the wake of the Equifax breach. It is alarming, but not surprising that internet-related complaints topped the list this year. I applaud Attorney General Schneiderman for proposing comprehensive legislation to tighten data security laws and expand protections to keep consumers' personal information and money safe."

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- Silent auction
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Toilet Oddities, Manners and Etiquette

The bathroom. When you think about it, while it may not be the room you spend the most time in, it's probably the room you visit most times during the course of the day and, if you're in my age group, you probably visit it a little more frequently than when you were younger.

My most memorable experience from my first day in my present digs at Trump Park in upper Westchester, three years ago, was my first visit to the bathroom. Mind you, this joint is outrageous in that it is outfitted with the finest materials and fixtures you might imagine: granite, marble and brushed steel everywhere you look. So, when it was time for me to visit the bathroom for the more serious function for which one visits the bathroom, and I started that slow descent, I realized that I wasn't reaching my destination when I usually do. I kept bending lower and lower, convinced that I would be in a full Lotus position before I would finally come to rest. Why I wondered with all this luxury in a place originally built for the 55-plus crowd would the builder, have spec'd such low-rise toilets?

As circumstance would have it, the next day, I had another bathroom experience, this time with a real estate listing

client. When I visited the home to make my presentation and sign a contract, I was greeted at the door by the husband, a big guy with a hearty laugh. His wife had not yet arrived home from some errands, but his two sons were with him, both I would guess in either their late teens or early 20s, both strapping young men, well over six feet tall. When the mother arrived home, I was surprised to see that she was very petite, barely over five feet tall, and I commented how surprised I was by her small stature compared to how big her boys were. I was equally surprised by her response, "Well they weren't that big coming out of me!"

The first thing I do when I go for a listing is ask for a tour of the house, and this one had three full baths. Each time we entered one, the wife would walk in and, seeing that the toilet seat was up, would

immediately walk over, lower the seat and shut the lid. The first time she did it, she lowered them gently. In the second bathroom, she did it with less patience, and by the time we arrived at the third bathroom, she slammed down the lid in frustration, almost in meltdown mode, exclaiming, "Oh these guys, why won't they ever learn to lower the seat and shut the

lid!" I suspect this is her biggest frustration at home every day.

It's important to pay attention to the toilet's seat being down and the lid closed, not only so that women won't fall into the bowl but also for health reasons. According to scientists at Leeds University, when a toilet is flushed with the lid open, bacteria sprays into the air around the toilet. And some of those germs could pass along symptoms of diarrhea or vomiting. Yuck!

But the best reason for closing the lid is that it prevents anything and everything from falling in. Haven't you had the experience of not hearing from friends for several days, only to hear that their cell phones have taken the plunge?

I was quite impressed when, years ago, I first saw a bathroom where the toilet bowl was separated out from the rest of the room and you could do your more private business in, well, private.

And what about something as simple as replacing the toilet paper roll when it's depleted? I am always in such a rush, I'm guilty of just grabbing a new roll and leaving it on top, rather than going to the trouble of actually inserting it on the cylinder. Shame.

For those who do go through the trouble of replacing it, there's the question of positioning the roll for "over" or "under" dispensing. One friend tells me that it must be

"over" so that the last sheet can be "folded" as in a hotel. "You FOLD your last toilet paper sheet?" I asked, astounded. "Yes," she responded, not skipping a beat. "You never know when guests are going to stop by." Oh, my God, where did I go wrong in learning good bathroom etiquette?

One other item I know about toilets. Did you notice that some are round and, in the past couple of decades, they are oblong in shape? Nobody mentions the obvious, but designers finally figured out that the male's front anatomy had to be accommodated. Thanks, guys! I say, for guys, that's the equivalent of going from jockeys to boxers.

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



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Crossword

ACROSS

1. EPA concern
4. CNBC's Cramer
7. Fall back
10. Wide shoe marking
11. Long-eared beast
12. 'Dr.' of rap music
13. Cunning
14. Let go
15. Goal in Mexico
16. Capital of Zambia
18. Conveyed
19. Alliterative Mahopac business to prepare for
- April fifteenth, ____ Tax
21. England's Good Queen ____
23. Silly idea

24. Way back when

26. See 27 across

27. Baldwin Place studio to practice Hindu spiritual

and ascetic disciplines, goes with 26 across

31. The oldest Simpson

32. Car club

33. Brain scan, briefly

34. What Wonder Woman wanted to end

for ever

35. TiVo precursor

36. Shirt part

37. Public TV network

38. Educational certificate, abbr.

39. One calling the kettle black

DOWN

1. Square ____

2. Cuzco's country

3. Arrives at

4. Male donkey

5. Newton or Stern

6. Portal with a butterfly logo

7. Enter cautiously

8. Denver player

9. Safety precaution

17. On the Aegean, e.g.

18. Condescending one

20. Wary

21. Tree with gourdlike fruit

22. Some moths

25. Swiftly

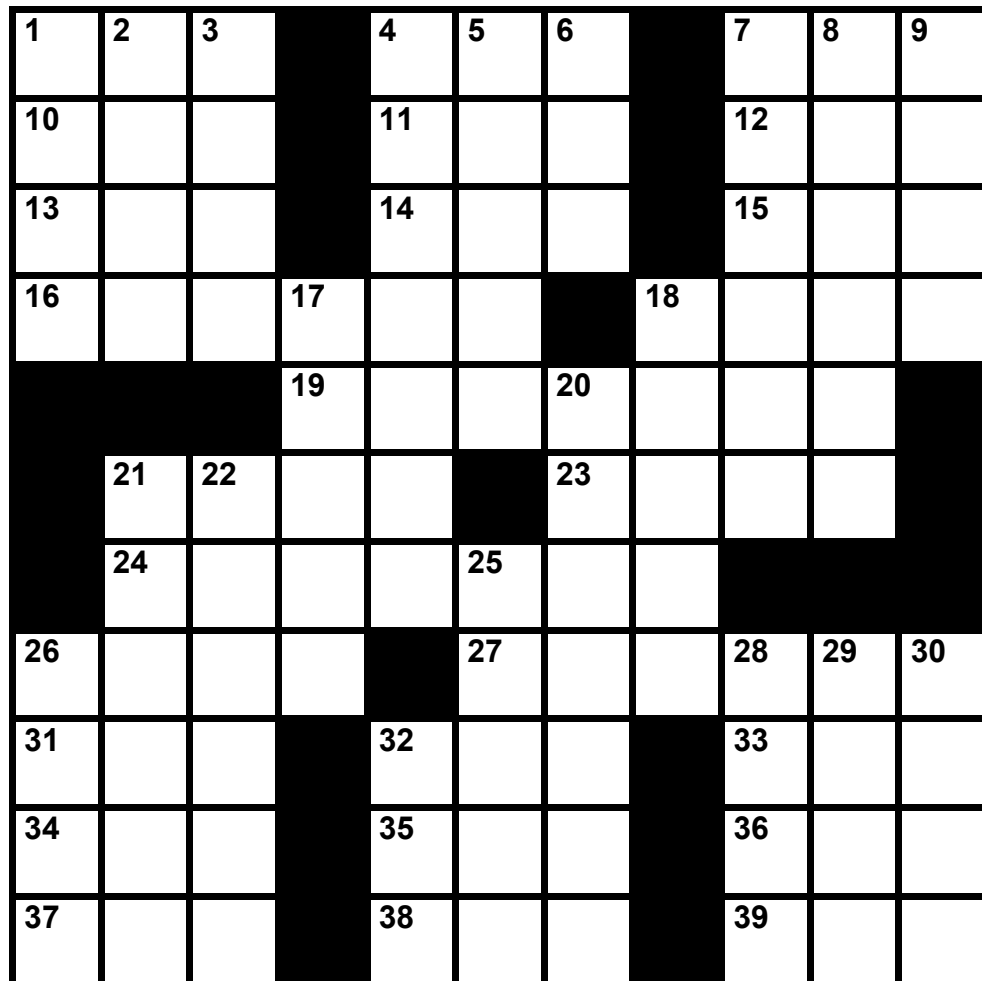
26. Bark

28. Lowest tide

29. Sleek, in auto lingo

30. CEO, CFO, etc.

32. Student's stat.



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EXAMINER

(Solution to puzzle on page 21)

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

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Continued from page 7
awarded two grants totaling \$20,000 for the project: \$7,500 to the town and \$12,500 to the Yorktown Trail Town Committee.
The proposed Trailway is a Town of Yorktown sponsored project administered by the town's Planning Department. Construction of the Trailway will be executed by a combination of town work forces and volunteers. Longtime Yorktown residents and experienced trail builders, Jane and Walt Daniels, will be overseeing the volunteers. Work needed to be done includes clearing the right-of-way, laying down an item 4 surface, and constructing three bridges and a boardwalk. Once completed, the Trailway will be maintained by volunteers from the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, the non-profit group that has an agreement with Yorktown to maintain the Town's trails. Work on the trail is expected to begin in

May. Residents interested in volunteering to help construct the trail should contact the Yorktown Trail Town Committee at yorktowntrailtown@gmail.com.
Established in 1991, the Hudson River Valley Greenway is a state-sponsored program dedicated to the development of a regional strategy for preserving scenic, natural, historic, cultural, and recreational resources while encouraging compatible economic development.
Established in 2014, the Yorktown Trail Town Committee is a volunteer 501c (3) not-for-profit organization made up of local businessmen and residents that seeks to promote economic development by publicizing the town's existing network of foot and bike trails and provide greater recreational, health and social benefits to Yorktown residents and visitors.



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LEGAL NOTICES

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 FORMATION OF SIMPLY SPEAKING LEP, LLC. Arts of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 1/10/18. Office location: Westchester

County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **611D Larchmont Acres East, Larchmont, NY 10538. Purpose: any lawful activity.**

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

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

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

NOTICE OF APPLICATION OF 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.** *continued on next page*



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Continued from previous page

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF ART BOYKOFF, LLC filed with SSNY on 1/25/2018 located in Westchester County. United States Corporation Agents, Inc. designated as agent of LLC. Process may be served against LLC to above agent located at **7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, New York 11228. Purpose: Recreational art instructor**

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

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF NEW LOOK DEVELOPERS, LLC filed with SSNY on 1/17/18. Office loc: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **20 Van Buren Pl., White Plains, NY 10603. Purpose: Buying and renovation of homes.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF DENNIS J. CAMPAGNA, ARBITRATOR, LLC Art. of Org. filed with Sec. of State 01/16/18. Off. loc.in Westchester CO. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to **Dennis J Campagna, 50 Main Street, Suite 1000, White Plains, NY 10606-1900 PURPOSE: Any lawful business.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF THE LAW & MEDIATION OFFICES OF LORI GREENE, PLLC. Arts of Org filed with SSNY 1/5/18. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Law & Mediation Offices of Lori Greene, PLLC, 75 S. Broadway, Suite 400, White

Plains, NY 10601. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CADEAU FRAGRANCE, LLC filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/13/2018. Office location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the principal business address: **11 Patriots Farm Place, Armonk NY 10504. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF MIDLAND AVE DELICATESSEN LLC filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/12/2018. Office location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the principal business address: **24 Cedar Place, Rye, NY 10580. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF BOWIE BROWS, LLC. ART OF ORG. filed with SSNY on 02/07/2018. Office in Westchester County, SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **128 Court Street White Plains, NY 10601. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF HAUS OF FUREY LLC. ARTS. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/22/18. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC at **36 Lee Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF ALM SPEECH THERAPY, PLLC ART. OF ORG. filed with SSNY on February 13, 2018. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served, SSNY shall mail process to: **2810 Springhurst St, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF THE WEST HOLLOW GROUP LLC. Art of organization filed with the SSNY on 1/29/18. Office location is PUTNAM County NY. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **7 West Hollow Rd Brewster NY 10509. PURPOSE: any lawful activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SET IT IN STONES, LLC Art of organization filed with the Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/08/2017. Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to the principal business address: **71 Wheeler Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CG MEDICAL BILLING SERVICES, LLC Art of organization filed with the Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/22/2018. Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to the principal business address: **168 Douglas Ave., Yonkers, NY 10703. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.**

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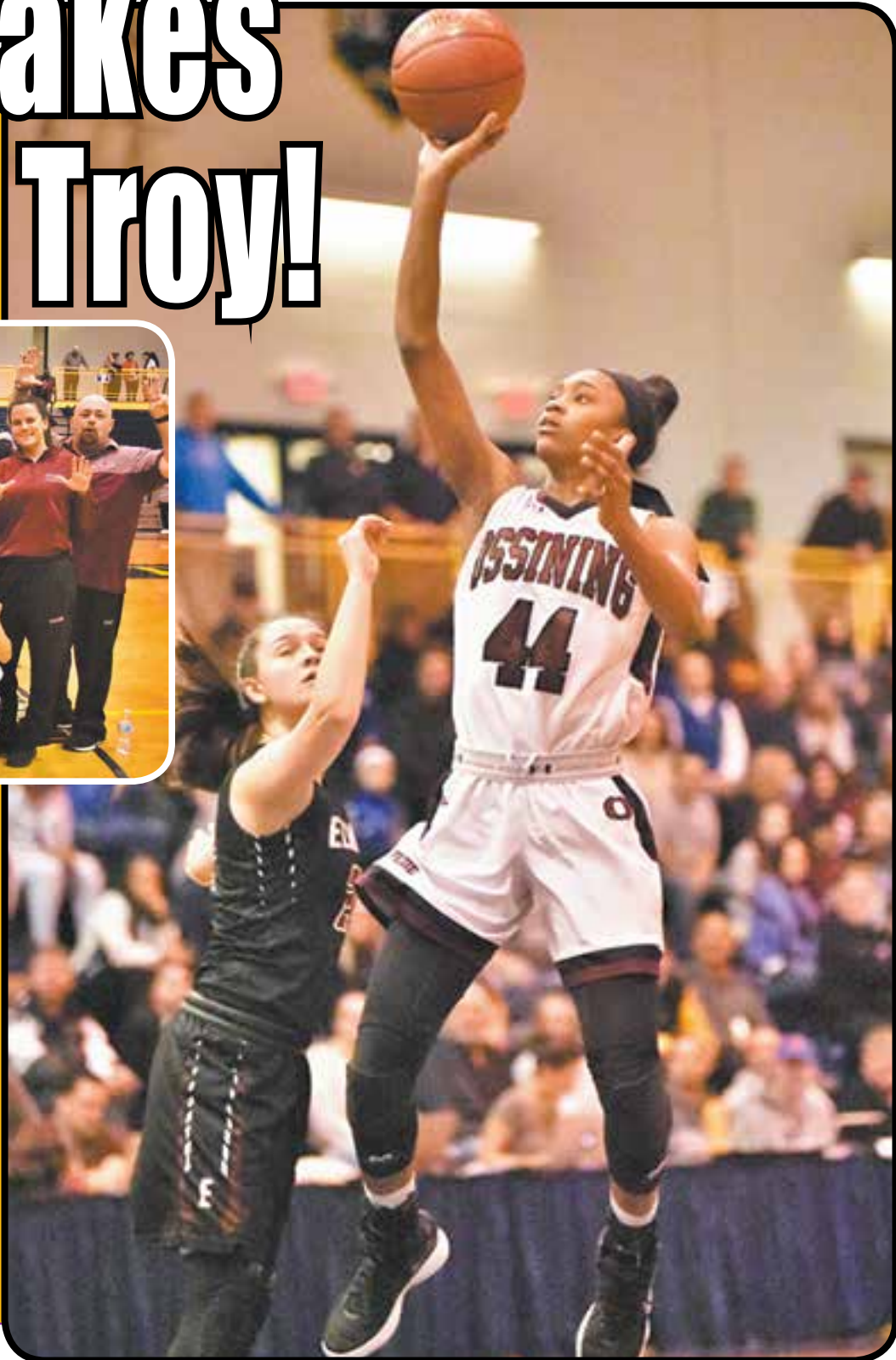
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Ossining Takes Express to Troy!



**Pride Snag NYS
Region 1 Title,
Take Fast Track
to 7th-Straight
NYS Final 4**



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

The state-ranked (No.3) Elmira Express were a rough ride but Ossining junior Aubrey Griffin (44) and the Pride (22-3) rode out a hard-fought 90-78 NYS Region 1 championship win over the Section 4 champions and advanced to their seventh-straight NYSPHSAA Class AA Final 4 this Saturday against Section 3 champion West Genesee (No.10 in NYS). The state-ranked (No.4) Pride (inset) hopefully survived another scare when Griffin, who sticks two of her game-high 36 points above, left the game in the fourth quarter with a left knee injury. Monday's MRI would determine if the D-I prospect was good to go as Ossining seeks its fifth NYS title in six years... see Girls Hoops Notebook

Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook

Ossining Trio Spark Pride to 7th-Straight NYS Final 4

Veterans Griffin, Quain, Harris Explode in Region 1 Title Triumph of Elmira

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor
@Directrays

PLEASANTVILLE – Ossining Coach Dan Ricci has, traditionally, been a bit more euphoric when his Pride teams

have advanced to each of the past six NYSPHSAA Class AA Final 4's, but the seventh-straight advancement last Friday night at Pace University, which is unprecedented in state history, was a bit more subdued; on account of the massive bag of ice attached to junior star Aubrey Griffin's left knee.

The Class AA state regional final against Elmira went down in typical Ossining fashion, the Pride (22-3) hoisting yet another Region 1 championship plaque after the 90-78 win, which was comparable to last year's nip-and-tuck battle with the Express (20-3) in the 2017 regional final, and could play yet out again in 2019 with both teams returning the core of its stars.

Eight-time defending Section 1 champion Ossining, ranked No.4 in NYS, jumped out to an early 8-0 lead before Elmira finally found the nets, but the Pride got sloppy in the second quarter, allowed the state-ranked (No.3) Express back in the game and it was tight from there on out until Ossining senior sniper Kelsey Quain drained



Ossining senior G Kelsey Quain fights for two of her 23 points in Region 1 title win over Elmira.



What 34 (Kailah Harris) and 44 (Aubrey Griffin) bring to the table each game is a lethal combination for Ossining.



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

As much as they double-teamed her, Elmira could do little to stop the force that is Ossining C Kailah Harris.

back-to-back 3's in the waning moments.

"We knew they were a great team and we fully expect to see them again next year," Ricci said of Elmira, the Section 4 Class AA champions. "But Aubrey had another amazing game and put us on her back again down the stretch and Kelsey Quain was outstanding. She hit the two huge 3's to give us some breathing room and Kailah (Harris) was strong throughout."

The All-Section Griffin scored a game-high 36 points to go with 12 rebounds and four pivotal blocks. Griffin, who missed all of last season with an ACL tear in her right knee, left the game in the final minute with the left knee injury.

Harris (14 boards), an All-Section choice, stepped up and was key at the stripe when the Express had to foul, and Quain (7 caroms) found her stroke in the second half. Each finished with 23 points while Ossining trainer, Luis Iglesias, worked on Griffin's knee, hoping to keep her loose and ready to play this Friday when Ossining will face state-ranked (No.10) Section 3 champion West Genny

(20-4) in the New York State Public High School Athletic Final 4 at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy in the state semifinals Saturday (9 a.m.).

"Last year we let down against them and this year we didn't and that really helped us," said Quain, an All-Section guard, captain and four-year member of the program. "I felt really great to be able to come through for my team, especially since I'm a senior now and I won't have a bunch more chances to do this with them. I knew the team needed a leader to come up big and I wanted to be the one."

Ossining led 23-13 after the first, largely due to Griffin, who was a Jordan-like highlight reel with 12 points, five rebounds and two blocks out of the gate.

Elmira sophomore point guard Kiara Fisher (team-high 25 points) and freshman Zaria DeMember-Shazer (23 points, 11 rebounds, 6 blocks) gave the Pride fits. Th Express supplied 2017 NYS runner-up Ossining with a strong test as it readies for a looming showdown with Section 8 champion and reigning state

Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook

continued from previous page



Ossining bench erupts after a Kelsey Quain 3-ball all but clinches Region 1 title.

champ Baldwin (24-1), ranked No.2 in NYS, in the state finals. Ricci knows the

Pride, who already lost pivotal All-Section point guard Jaida Strippoli for the season, would be in trouble without Griffin, too.

"All we can do is hope and pray that we don't lose another special kid," Ricci said. "We hope it's only a little twist. But this is a special group, a great group of kids. It's a family and I love these kids."

The four-time NYS champion Pride will board the bus Friday morning, fully expecting a showdown with the same Baldwin outfit that gave them fits last season, minus Griffin, who was rehabbing her right knee. If the left knee passes the necessary MRI's on Monday, Ricci hopes that Griffin and her teammates are set to find the next level. Quain suspects and intense



Ossining junior F Aubrey Griffin gains advantage in Pride's 90-78 NYS Region 1 title win over Elmira last Friday at Pace University.



Ossining Coach Dan Ricci deals with notion that star Aubrey Griffin might not be at 100% in NYS Final 4 after her injury in Region 1 title win.

week of preparation.

"Each time we go it gets greater," said Quain. "People don't realize how hard it is to do this once, never mind this much. It feels incredible each time we do it, and I'm just so grateful to be part of this program. We're going to push each other really hard this week to get ready for Troy. We need to get ready for the next level of intensity."

Not doing so will surely prevent Ossining from winning a fifth state title in

six years; also unprecedented...

MORE GRIFFINS - Not to be outdone by their sister, the Griffin brothers, Stepinac freshman Adrian Griffin Jr. and senior Alan, were named all-tournament team after the White Plains-based Crusaders beat Brooklyn/Queens champion Christ the King, 74-65, at Fordham University to claim their first CHSAA 'AA' title since 1960. Alan Griffin secured the MVP honors after recording

20 points, eight rebounds and three blocks and sent the crowd into a frenzy when he highlighted a 16-3 third-quarter run with a breakaway dunk. Adrian Jr. dropped 19 points, seven rebounds and five assists and splashed a pair of pivotal treys in the final quarter.

The Griffin family will be logging some serious miles on their cars this weekend with the boys heading to the CHSAA Final 4 at Glens Falls and Aubrey some 50 miles south down I-87 in Troy. Mom has some serious planning to do...

Shout out to my man, Eddie Sanchez, too! The junior wing from Putnam Valley snapped off 10 points for the Crusaders and continues his ascendance on the CHSAA circuit.



Ossining G Julia Iorio sticks big-time 3-ball in Pride win over Elmira.

The Jonathan Clyman Team



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