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FREE

January 15 - January 21, 2019



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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 11, Issue 473

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Cortlandt Family in Need of Two Kidney Donors

By Rick Pezzullo

It's stressful enough for a family to deal with one major medical issue, but to have to face two life changing crises in the same household can be overwhelming to say the least.

That's the situation the Cancro family of Cortlandt finds itself in as two of its five members are in need of kidney transplants.

"Life is on hold, even planning," said Lisa Cancro as she discussed the conditions of her husband, James, 52, and oldest son, James Jr., 20. "I know there has to be people out there, something they always wanted to do—make an impact on people's lives. It's hard because every day that passes you think..."

Cancro explained there is a genetic kidney disease in the family called focal segmental glomerulosclerosis, common-

ly known as FSGS. It's a leading cause of kidney failure in adults. Her father-in-law was diagnosed with FSGS in the early 1980s and had two kidney transplants, receiving one from a daughter, but he died at the age of 52.

James Cancro, a retired Fairview firefighter in the Town of Greenburgh, where he served for more than 26 years, suffered kidney failure about two years ago and had to stop working. He has been on dialysis since, going three days a week for about five hours each session—a routine that saps his energy, but keeps him alive as he awaits a transplant.

"It takes a toll on you. He comes home from it, gets something to eat and sleeps the rest of the day," Lisa Cancro said. "That's just one aspect of it. We're grate-



James Cancro, 52, and his son, James Jr., 20, both need kidney transplants.

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Possible Buchanan Police Merger with County Explored

By Rick Pezzullo

Could Westchester County be looking to consolidate police services with the Village of Buchanan as it has in the past with the towns of Cortlandt and Ossining and the Village of Mount Kisco?

Westchester County Executive George Latimer made reference to that potential partnership during an appearance at a Westchester County Association (WCA) breakfast in Tarrytown last Thursday where he talked about shared services the county has partnered with other communities.

"We're right now engaged in dialogue with the Village of Buchanan in light of what will happen with Indian Point's closure," Latimer said. "Buchanan is the most impacted government in the coun-

ty by far and we're engaged with them to see where we can find shared services that would be helpful to the citizens and the government of Buchanan."

In January 2017, Entergy, which purchased the Indian Point nuclear power plants in Buchanan more than 16 years ago, announced, to the complete surprise of local leaders, its plan for the early and orderly shutdown of Indian Point Energy Center by April 30, 2021 as part of a settlement with New York State and Riverkeeper. In exchange, New York State agreed to drop its legal challenges and support renewal of the operating licenses for the facility.

Since that time, a local Community Unity Task Force has been established and meeting regularly to address the

property tax implications of Indian Point's departure, along with the loss of approximately 1,100 jobs and the future use of the 240-acre site in Buchanan.

The Village of Buchanan stands to lose 46% (\$4 million) of its operating budget, while the Hendrick Hudson School District will lose \$24 million annually (33% of its budget). Others affected are: Cortlandt (\$800,000), Westchester County (\$1 million), Hendrick Hudson Free Library (\$394,110, 28% of its budget) and the Verplanck Fire District (\$372,703, 64% of its budget).

Buchanan Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker said Thursday Latimer and other county officials met with Buchanan de-

Continued on page 2



Theresa Knickerbocker

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Cortlandt Family in Need of Two Kidney Donors

Continued from page 1

ful that there's something to keep him alive, but it's not what you want out of life. It's like sitting and waiting."

The family suffered a rollercoaster of emotions last September when a kidney became available for James and an operation took place at Westchester Medical Center.

"We thought this was the golden ticket. We thought this was it," said Lisa Cancro, a preschool teacher at Tom Thumb in Mohegan Lake. "We were on such a high when we got the call. This was going to change his life and our lives."

However, there were complications and an infection developed and the transplanted kidney had to be removed

after two days.

"It got to the point where I thought I would lose my husband," Lisa said. "He healed relatively well. He's the one going through it physically. I'm going through it emotionally."

Meanwhile, James Jr., a Walter Panas High School graduate, Eagle Scout and aspiring teacher in his second year at SUNY New Paltz, has 23% kidney function and has declined drastically over the last six to eight months, according to his mother.

Once a person's kidney function drops to 20%, they become eligible to be placed on the federally-run United Network Organ Sharing (UNOS) program, which has a wait time in New York State for an

organ match of five to seven years. There is also a nonprofit group called Renewal, which is dedicated to assisting people suffering from various forms of kidney disease. Renewal helped a Buchanan veteran find a kidney last year.

There are more than 150,000 people in the United States living full and active lives with transplanted kidneys

"He will need dialysis. The ultimate goal is to get a transplant before dialysis," Lisa Cancro said of her son. "It's kind of bittersweet. My son could get a transplant quicker than my husband. He feels the world is at his horizon now."

James Jr. has a common A blood type, while his father has rare O negative blood type. Blood type is only one fac-

tor in finding a match. There are several other tests that must be done and criteria that must be met.

Lisa said when her family was tested for the gene that would carry the disease in 2015 she and her other two sons, ages 17 and 12, who are active in local sports leagues, were negative.

Noting she would psychologically be unable to be a donor since "I'm torn between husband and son," Lisa said the recipient's insurance usually covers any costs incurred by the donor.

Anyone interested in possibly donating a kidney to the Cancro family can contact the Westchester Medical Transplant Center at (914) 493-1990 for more information.

Possible Buchanan Police Merger with County Explored

Continued from page 1

cision-makers in December to discuss possible shared services but emphasized no formal negotiations have begun regarding the village's five-member police force, which costs the village \$1.8 million annually.

She also maintained the fate of the Buchanan Police Department was ultimately in the hands of the village's 2,300 residents who would have to approve any

merger with the county through a referendum.

"We can't get rid of the Police Department unless the people want to," Knickerbocker said. "Down the road, could that be an option? Could be. My preference is to keep everything the same. People like the services here. That's what makes us special. But I think the option needs to be given about if we still want a Police Department."

Knickerbocker said the results of a village-wide survey last year indicated residents favored keeping the current services in Buchanan, but she also noted with the potential of villages taxes doubling once revenue from Indian Point ends, all savings measures must be put on the table.

"I don't think people realize the magnitude of what's coming here," Knickerbocker said. "We're facing some chal-

lenges. In dealing with those challenges, we should really look at all options."

-Martin Wilbur contributed to this article

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Your Achilles Tendon is Prone to Injury

Tips to get you back on your feet after a rupture...

Ask the Doctor

Dr. Kurt Voellmicke
Director, Foot and Ankle Surgery
Orthopedic and Spine Institute
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Learn more about
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Q: What is an Achilles tendon rupture and what causes it?

A: When your calf muscles contract, your Achilles tendon tenses, allowing movement. As we age, its mechanical properties degrade and its blood supply diminishes. A sudden movement can result in a painful rupture – a complete tear through the tendon – and an inability to move your heel. Think of your Achilles tendon as silly putty. Pull it slowly and it elongates and stays intact; pull it fast and it may snap.

Q: This sounds painful, is there anything I can do to lower my risk?

A: Absolutely. Warm up before exercising to get your blood circulating; drink plenty of water to hydrate your muscles and tendons; and be aware of the temperature outside – strenuous activities in cooler temperatures put you at a higher risk. Your tendons become less elastic, less malleable and more prone to injury.

Q: What are symptoms of a rupture?

A: If it's a rupture, you'll likely experience one or more of these symptoms: the feeling of having been kicked in the back of the leg or heel; a popping sound when

the injury occurs; possible severe pain, with swelling near the heel; an inability to bend the foot downward or push off the injured leg when walking; an inability to stand on the toes of the injured leg.

Q: What should I do if I have symptoms?

A: If you have any of these symptoms, elevate and ice the leg to minimize swelling. If you're unable to bear weight you should go to the Emergency Room. If you can bear weight, make an appointment with an orthopedic surgeon for a diagnosis. If it's a rupture, I generally recommend surgery. Non-surgical management is associated with a higher risk of re-rupture and decreased strength. The goal of surgical treatment is to pull the frayed tendons together at the right length for optimal long-term function. This results in faster, more efficient tendon healing.

Regardless of the type of treatment, an Achilles tendon rupture requires a year or more to recover with full function. Consistent physical therapy will help strengthen your calf muscles and your Achilles tendon so you're able to resume all the activities you were doing before the rupture, without pain. The reported risk of re-rupture after surgical repair is about five percent.

Fracked Gas Pipeline Project Activists Found Guilty

By Rick Pezzullo

Three activists who crawled into a 42-inch diameter steel pipe set to be pulled under the Hudson River near the Indian Point nuclear power plants in Verplanck in October 2016, halting construction of a fracked gas pipeline for 18 hours, were found guilty of trespassing last week in Cortlandt Town Court.

Cortlandt Town Justice Kimberly Ragazzo rejected a climate necessity defense of Rebecca Berlin, David Publow and Janet Gonzalez that they exhausted all legal remedies before resorting to direct action. However, Ragazzo denied the Assistant District Attorney's sentencing request of a maximum fine and 300 hours of community service, instead granting Berlin, Publow, and González unconditional release, refusing a conditional release on the grounds that it would have a chilling effect on their future activism with no community service and no fines.

In her ruling, Ragazzo highlighted the strict, objective standard of New York's necessity defense and focused her verdict on the narrow grounds that the defendants had not exhausted all legal remedies, specifically citing the defendant's failure to file as "intervenor" with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

According to David Dorfman, the defense lawyer for the three defendants and a professor at Elizabeth Haub Law School at Pace University, "This was certainly not a complete victory, but we were able to fully and completely litigate the necessity defense. The judge appeared to accredit our arguments and expert testimony regarding the harms caused by shale gas, methane emissions, and the dire risk of pipeline explosions, especially near Indian Point. Where we came up short is whether my three clients exhausted legal means to stop the pipeline before resorting to direct action."

"We disagree with the verdict and we will appeal. Perhaps as importantly, especially for my clients, they did not sustain criminal convictions and the sentence of an unconditional discharge is basically no sentence at all. No fines, no court costs, no community service. Nothing. That's a great thing. And the fight continues," Dorfman added.

The Spectra/Enbridge AIM pipeline transports fracked gas from Pennsylvania through New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. The high-pressure pipeline runs within 105 feet of Indian Point.

During the trial, expert witnesses testified that in addition to its dangerous placement near Indian Point, the fracked gas pipeline already substantially contributes to climate change and exposes the local community to harmful pollut-

ants in fracked gas which lead to an array of health issues.

"It's unfortunate that the judge, and most people, still don't understand how the FERC system is designed to take power away from the people or how we are all part of collective action," said Berlin, a Yorktown resident. "We are, however, encouraged by her words and her sentencing, both of which show that she understands the AIM Pipeline's harms and the imminence of those threats."

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Applicant Maintains Traffic No Issue with Luxury Hospital

By Rick Pezzullo

The applicant for a proposed luxury substance abuse hospital on Quaker Ridge Road in Cortlandt stated last week studies have shown the project will have “no adverse traffic impact on neighbors.”

Robert Davis, an attorney for Hudson Ridge, told the Cortlandt Planning Board the proposed 92-bed residential treatment center project on 20 acres would produce less traffic than other uses permitted on the site.

Davis and a traffic consultant for Hudson Ridge, Richard Pierson, said the maximum amount of people at the facility at one time would be 129 (92 patients, 37 employees),

but Davis noted it was estimated to take several years before the hospital would be functioning at capacity.

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

basis of a hardship, but were denied.

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

David Steinmetz, an attorney for the citizen's group Citizens for Responsible Hudson Institute Site Development, Inc., penned a January 3 letter to the Planning Board urging it to issue a positive declaration under SEQRA, stating the applicant was seeking a negative declaration through a “piecemeal

review by tackling one technical issue at a time,” which he stated was “contrary to the requirements and spirit of SEQRA.”

“It is nearly impossible to track the multiple and often voluminous and contradicting submissions made by the applicant, each usually having several cross-references to prior submissions made over the past few years. This is not how SEQRA works,” Steinmetz stated. “In sum, the Citizens Group urges the Planning Board to require an EIS so that the relevant environmental issues can be vetted in an organized manner, with opportunities for public participation at a meaningful time in the review process.”

Paramount Theater Closed, But Only for Renovations

By Rick Pezzullo

The historic Paramount Theater in downtown Peekskill has closed its doors, but only for a few months to do some refurbishing.

Abigail Adams, a spokesperson for Red House Entertainment, which has operated the Paramount since 2013 through a lease with the city, said the theater has been dark in January for the last three years. She said the Paramount will remain closed until late February or early March to do some painting and take care of heating and plumbing issues.

“There’s no intention of closing the theater,” Adams stressed. “The theater is the engine of the city. We’re always taking steps to make sure it’s vibrant.”

City Manager Richard Leins confirmed the relationship between Red House and city officials was sound, saying, “Typical landlord/tenant issues, nothing earth shattering.”

He noted the city was financially responsible for any structural issues at the Paramount but said the Common Council hasn’t been approached yet by Red House to approve any repairs.



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Cortlandt Man Arrested for Attempted Abduction in Mt. Kisco

By Martin Wilbur

Westchester County police arrested a Cortlandt man last week and charged him with the attempted abduction of a woman in Mount Kisco along Route 117.

Kyle Gregg, 23, of Doris Lee Drive in Cortlandt, was charged with three felony counts consisting of second-degree attempted kidnapping, second-degree criminal possession of a weapon and third-degree criminal possession of a weapon with a defaced serial number. He was also charged with third-degree menacing, a misdemeanor.

Gregg was initially booked at county police headquarters in Hawthorne following his January 7 arrest and held overnight pending arraignments the next day in Mount Kisco Justice Court on the attempted kidnapping charge and in Cortlandt Town Justice Court on the weapons charges, said a county police



Kyle Gregg, who was arrested last week for allegedly attempting to kidnap a woman along North Bedford Road in Mount Kisco.

spokesman.

"I commend our detectives for their work in bringing this case to a fast and

successful conclusion," said Police Commissioner Thomas A. Gleason. "I would also like to thank the Putnam County Sheriff's Department for its assistance in locating the suspect."

Police said the 50-year-old victim, who was not identified, was walking southbound on North Bedford Road about 11:35 p.m. on January 5 when a vehicle pulled up alongside her just south of the Bedford town line. The driver offered her a ride and the woman refused.

A short time later a little further south on North Bedford Road, the vehicle, a Nissan Sentra, stopped adjacent to the woman again and this time the driver demanded that she get in the car. When the woman refused, the driver pointed a handgun at her and again demanded she get in the vehicle. The woman ran away from the vehicle and the driver fled from the scene.

County police detectives, working

with the department's Real Time Crime Center, determined that Gregg's vehicle had Maine license plates and was likely a rental car. Through further investigation, detectives were able to identify the driver and looked for him in the Cortlandt area.

On January 7 at about 4:40 p.m., a deputy sheriff from the Putnam County Sheriff's Department observed Gregg's vehicle in the vicinity of Oregon Corners at the Cortlandt-Putnam Valley border and made a traffic stop. Westchester County Police responded and took the suspect into custody.

A loaded .22-caliber handgun was recovered during the arrest.

Following his arraignments, Gregg was remanded to the Westchester County Jail in Valhalla where he was held on \$25,000 cash or \$50,000 on the kidnapping charge and \$10,000 cash or \$25,000 bond on the weapons charges.

Police Blotter

State Police

January 4 - State Police from Cortlandt arrested Judith E. Cartwright, 72, of Peekskill, for DWI. She was traveling on Route 9 in the City of Peekskill when she was stopped for a vehicle and traffic law violation. Investigation revealed

that she was impaired by alcohol and was subsequently arrested.

January 6 - State Police from Cortlandt arrested Brendan M. Mahon, 40, of Peekskill, for DWI. He was traveling on North Division Street in the City of Peekskill when he was stopped for a ve-

hicle and traffic law violation. Investigation revealed that he was impaired by alcohol and was subsequently arrested.

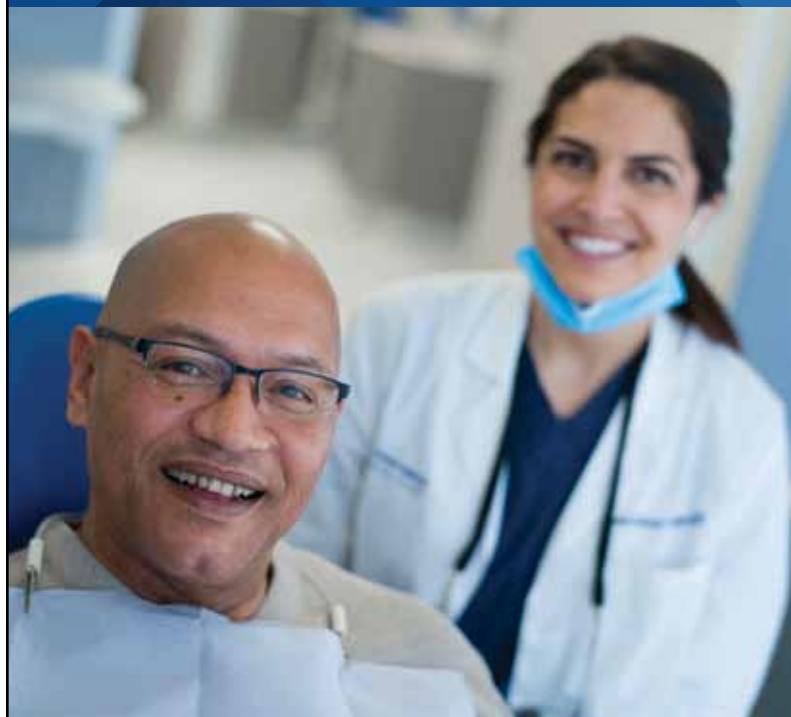
State Police from Cortlandt arrested Jasmin Vega, 38, of Yorktown, for DWI. She was traveling on Route 9 in the Village of Croton-On-Hudson when she

was stopped for a vehicle and traffic law violation. Investigation revealed that she was impaired by alcohol and was subsequently arrested.

January 12 - State Police from Cort-

Continued on page 13

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Talk of WWII Hero at Van Cortlandtville Historical Society

The true and tragic story of an American Navy hero who survived fierce battles of World War II only to meet his fate just after the war ended in a plane crash on Mount Beacon in Dutchess County will be the topic of a talk on Saturday, January 19, at 2 p.m., at the Little Red Schoolhouse, located at 297 Locust Avenue in Cortlandt. Sponsored by the Van Cortlandtville Historical Society, the event is open free to the public.

Author, photographer and historian David Rocco of Yorktown will present a PowerPoint picture program based on his book---The Indestructible Man: The True Story of World War II Hero "Captain Dixie."

"Captain Dixie" was Commodore Dixie Kiefer of Blackfoot, Idaho, a much-decorated pioneering pilot who was seriously wounded in several naval battles in the Pacific, yet carried on to lead and inspire his men. According to Rocco's book, when the Secretary of the Navy, James Forrestal, awarded Kiefer the Medal of Valor, he proclaimed the battle-scarred Commodore to be "The Indestructible Man." Who knew that just five months later, Dixie Kiefer and his five crew mates would tragically encounter Beacon, New York---James Forrestal's hometown!

In his informative and inspiring pro-

gram, Rocco will tell the true tale of how no one could have foreseen the end to Captain Dixie's heroic story on that foggy morning of November 11, 1945---at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, on 1,100-foot Mount Beacon---as his aircraft slammed into the northwestern slope of the landmark mountain overlooking the Hudson River. He will also point out what the public can see at the crash site today.

After his talk, Rocco's book, which he co-authored with award-winning writer Don Keith, will be available for sale and signing.

As a photographer of the scenic Hudson Valley and beyond, Rocco has photographed some of the most important and historic restoration projects in the Hudson Valley Region. He is currently known for his stunning pictorial essay documenting the construction and completion of the new Tappan Zee Bridge. These photos have been exhibited recently at the Shrub Oak Library, the Warner Library in Tarrytown, and street festivals in Sleepy Hollow and Nyack.

A number of his photos that were published in 2016 were considered for a Pulitzer Prize in Photography. Over the years, his photo work has been published in a wide variety of noted publications,

and his photo images on the "Damage and Destruction of Hurricane Sandy" have been exhibited at the Arts Westchester Gallery in White Plains and The Museum of the City of New York. Some of these have been entered into the New York City permanent records.

Rocco has been a longtime volunteer and organizer of many charitable, cultural, historical and environmental initiatives in the local and regional area. He played a seminal role in the successful development and highly popular Walkway Over The Hudson project, the restoration of the historic Mt. Beacon Fire Tower, and the creation of the Yorktown Community Dog Park. He has successfully completed the "Fellows" program at the Hudson Valley Patterns for Progress.

He is one of the founding members of the Friends of the Mount Beacon Eight organization whose goal is to bring public awareness to the fact that eight U.S. Navy veterans---including Commodore Dixie Kiefer in 1945---were killed in two separate plane crashes on Mount Beacon. The first crash occurred on September 14, 1935, taking the lives of two crewmen, including Katonah native Clinton Hart, an Aviation Machinist Mate 2nd Class.

A native of Yonkers, Mr. Rocco has

resided in Yorktown with his wife, Ruby, since 1995. They have three grown children and four grandchildren.

The Little Red Schoolhouse is located at the north end of Locust Avenue, next to Old Saint Peter's Church and Cemetery on the hill just south of Oregon Road in the Town of Cortlandt. For more information, and in case of inclement weather, call (914) 736-7868, or visit: www.vancort.net.

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Bill Volz Westchester



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The Intersection of IRAs and Long-Term Care

By Salvatore M. Di Costanzo

Second to the house, an individual retirement account ("IRA") is usually the largest asset when looking into someone's financial portfolio. The tax and Medicaid rules dealing with IRAs are very different yet related, quite complex and often misinterpreted or misapplied. It is important to have a general understanding of these rules in order to avoid paying unnecessary taxes or worse; spending down the value of the IRA towards the cost of your long-term care needs.

Medicaid rules and regulations afford IRAs special protection. The general Medicaid rule is that an IRA will be considered an exempt resource if you are taking your required minimum distribution ("RMD"). An RMD is the minimum amount that you must withdraw from your IRA according to the Internal Revenue Code ("Code"). The RMD is an amount calculated by applying the IRS life expectancy tables published by the IRS, to the



prior December 31 balance of your IRA. The Code provides that you must begin taking RMDs no later than April 1 of the calendar year following the year you turn 70 1/2. From a tax perspective, the concept is simple – the IRS wants their tax revenue on your deferred IRA that has been accumulating tax-free your whole life.

Thus, if you are taking your RMD, the entire principal balance of your IRA will be protected if you need to apply for Medicaid. Be mindful, I didn't say the RMD was protected. While the principal balance of the IRA is protected, the RMD is not. The RMD is treated as income and added to the rest of your income. As you may know, New York requires that you contribute your income to the cost of your care.

I regularly meet with individuals who have been told to spend down their IRA in order to become eligible for Medicaid. Unfortunately, this article is going to sound familiar to many who read it,

some may be the persons who have consulted and worked with me. Nursing homes, professionals other than attorneys and non-elder law attorneys and are often the biggest culprits in providing this erroneous information. I once worked with a family who cashed out an IRA having more than a \$300,000 balance because they were told to do so by a nursing home.

The Medicaid rules are very stringent. Not only must the applicant be receiving her RMD, but the RMD also must be taken on a monthly basis. One of the first things we usually do with clients is have them contact their financial advisors to change their RMD distribution from annually to monthly, if they have not already taken the RMD.

Another stringent and relatively unknown rule is that an IRA will lose its exempt status if the applicant takes out more than the RMD. This is usually an issue in homecare situations. For instance, an applicant may be at home in need of Medicaid to cover the cost of caregivers. Her only asset is a small checking account and an IRA. Unfortunately, in our geographic area, the process of applying for Medicaid to cover the cost of homecare services can take a few months. If the applicant depletes

her checking account, she cannot take a distribution from her IRA as it will expose the entire balance and render her ineligible for Medicaid until further planning is done. This is a rule that families have a difficult time digesting. Often, other family members pitch in to cover the cost of care until Medicaid is approved.

As you can see, these rules have many subtleties and illustrates the importance of working with an elder law attorney. Medicaid planning and tax planning is not a "do-it-yourself" project.

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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Op-Ed

Weyant Project in Yorktown: Poor Decisions, Poor Results

By Bob Giordano

The Weyant decision does not meet the needs of the larger community (seniors, local workforce, municipal employees and millennials)!

Yorktown's elected officials got it right when they established the Yorktown Economic Business and Revitalization Committee last year. They correctly concluded that Yorktown needs to improve its efforts in many areas related to economic revitalization, including affordable rental housing for our residents, and we concur. The priority of attracting developers and investors to our town has increased significantly. Congratulations are in order to the town board for their bipartisan efforts in this area. For too long our town has taken a passive approach to development, creating an undesirable environment for developers and investors to the detriment of our economic vitality. Neighboring communities such as Cortlandt and Peekskill have taken a proactive approach

resulting in significant growth, a steady uptick in their commercial ratable tax base and reputations that attract developers and investors. They have done this by doing their homework, listening to sound advice, deciding what type of development they want, where it should be while being very flexible and hospitable to developers and investors.

Yorktown's problems are many but not insurmountable; however, time is not on our side. Empty spaces brought on by the spiraling decline of brick and mortar retail (Sears, Macy's, K-Mart, Toys R Us, Radio Shack, Payless Shoes, etc.) will need to be thought of differently. Big Box, National and Regional chain growth has slowed and is expected to continue to decline. Online sales are skyrocketing, and technological advances are taking place at breath taking speeds, making it difficult to predict what's next.

The town board's decision related to the Weyant project was a poor one and

did not consider the needs of the larger community. Housing for our seniors, local workforce, municipal employees and millennials seeking to rent rather than buy is in high demand. Many want to stay in the community that they raised their families in and/or grew up in. Being able to work and play in the community you live in has become a priority. In fact, many of our current and former elected officials as well as advisory boards have been advocating and supporting the need for this kind of affordable rental housing to meet the needs of this segment of the population.

The two building, 36-unit plan is a far superior plan, meeting the needs of our community now, by providing rental studio and one-bedroom units all of which would be handicapped accessible providing the needed housing identified by many residents, organizations and elected officials. This plan is also likely to bring fewer cars and school age children.

The 23-unit plan may in fact result in

more adults who drive, creating more traffic and the potential for many more school age children. There is also the possibility that the developer could choose to sell instead of rent, at a time when many are in agreement that rental housing is needed and desirable to meet the current and future needs of our residents.

I urge the Yorktown Town Board in the future to listen to the sound advice from your constituents, various departments heads, advisory boards including the planning board, senior advisory board and the housing board, many who made the case for the 36-unit plan. The 36-unit plan could have laid the foundation for our towns future housing developments in meeting the diverse needs of our community.

Bob Giordano is a member of the Yorktown Economic Business and Revitalization Committee, former member of the Yorktown Industrial Commercial Incentive Board, and Founder/President of the Yorktown Small Business Association

Letters to the Editor

Democrats Cost Yorktown Granite Knolls Improvements

To The Editor:

Recently in your Letters to the Editor section there were letters written regarding the costs and source of funds for the development of the Granite Knolls sports complex on Stoney Street. What is conveniently forgotten is that in 2014 the town had brokered a deal with then Spectra Energy to utilize the site for a staging yard for the first leg of the Algonquin Pipe line. That deal would have netted the town the entire project for the leasing of the site for a one-year period. The lease required a temporary alienation of the property to be okayed by the State legislature. It was then Councilman Bianco and current

Councilman Patel who changed their votes in the eleventh hour that thwarted the deal. And why? Not the contrived public safety issues they stated as their actions to sour the deal did not produce any changes in the project. Bianco and Patel objected to make political points in the Murphy Senate race and their disdain for Supervisor Michael Grace. Patel and Bianco took a page out of the Democratic play book and sacrificed a major public improvement for personal and party politics. In order to malign their fellow board members the local Democrats cost the town the Granite Knolls ball field improvements in the first instance. Although the deal was later resurrected during the

second leg of the pipeline project and the town went forward with millions of dollars for additional infrastructure improvements that could have been negotiated in lieu of resurrecting the ball field project. Perhaps next time Ms. Siegel preaches about the money used to build Granite Knolls she will

include these inconvenient facts. The local Democratic Party not unlike the National Democratic Party care less about what is the right thing to do for the taxpayers when there are political points are to be made.

KEVIN MURPHY
Yorktown Heights

Former Senator Murphy Failed to Bring Tax Benefit to Yorktown

To the Editor:

In 2016, George Latimer submitted a bill (S 8211) to have New York State pay taxes on State parkland located within Westchester County.

Yorktown has thousands of acres of NYS parkland, including FDR and Trump parks. According to a 10/30/16 LoHud article, Putnam County towns receive at least \$4 million a year in property taxes from the state for such land.

On 2/24/17, Lohud reported Murphy saying that the Senate Committee on Investigations & Government Operations, which he chairs, "will get to the bottom of exactly (what) the policy is and what remedy can be sought..."

After Latimer was elected Westchester County Executive, Murphy became the sponsor of Senate bill (S05481) to do a study. But once again -- even after Councilman Patel submitted a resolution

asking Murphy to seek tax payments for State land -- Murphy did not come through for Yorktown.

In fact, there already had been a study called the "Compensating Local Governments for Loss of Tax Base Due to State Ownership of Land." This study concluded "all local governments would be compensated at a fixed annual payment per acre for all eligible state lands."

Requesting the State pay Yorktown for state land, just as it does in other towns, is a no-brainer. These are funds that could be used to fix roads, meet the needs of seniors, etc.

It looks like Murphy delayed the process with a redundant study.

I understand Supervisor Gilbert spoke to newly elected Senator Harckham on Yorktown's behalf and Senator Harckham will support the effort to get the money.

Kind Regards,

MARK A. LIEBERMAN

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Guest Commentary

Legislative Agenda Puts Opportunity Ahead of Fear

**By Westchester County Legislator
Catherine Parker (D), Majority Leader**

Back in 1938, Congress passed the Fair Labor Standards Act. The law created a minimum wage and overtime pay, and established standards against “oppressive child labor.” 80 years later, the idea of such provisions hardly seem radical, in fact, together with earlier laws that established things like the 40-hour work week and later laws establishing workplace safety rules, they’re part of the fabric of American life.

But if you were listening to Georgia Congressman Edward Cox back then, you might have believed that the law would “destroy small industry,” and that such protections were “a step in the direction of communism, bolshevism, fascism, and Nazism,” that were “the product of those whose thinking is rooted in an alien philosophy and who are bent upon the destruction of our whole constitutional system.”

Of course, 80 years later, capitalism and democracy are still going strong in America, despite the fact that children are no longer legally sent to work in sweatshops, and despite the fact that hard working families have guarantees of minimum pay and standard working hours.

In Westchester today we’re hearing similar language to describe laws we’ve passed at the Board of Legislators -- many of which passed on a bi-partisan and even unanimous basis -- laws that protect Westchester’s working families, level the playing field for honest home

improvement contractors, and support people trying to turn their lives around.

There are forces that want you to see this legislation through a lens of fear. Like Rep. Cox back in 1938, they paint a picture of an imagined legislation-fueled crisis for small businesses.

But no one at the Board understands small businesses more than I do.

For 22 years I was a small business owner in Westchester. I also worked with business leaders in Rye, reinstating the Rye Chamber of Commerce in 1998 and serving for nearly 15 years as a member of its board, including four years as president.

Successful businessmen and women don’t see life as a series of threats, they see life as a series of opportunities. They don’t let fear turn them away from those opportunities. They know that giving in to fear keeps people and companies from reaching their full potential. So, let’s replace some of the fear with facts.

With regard to the Fair Chance to Work law, passed by the Board on December 3: The law does not prohibit questions about a job seeker’s past criminal record. The law does not tell businesses whom they can and cannot hire. The law does not create new rights for job seekers.

What the law does is move questions about an applicant’s past run-ins with the legal system from the initial application to the interview process.

The Fair Chance to Work law gives people who have made a mistake and are working to turn their lives around, a chance to tell their stories, not be pre-

emptively shut out by a check-box on a form even if they’re otherwise qualified for a job. There’s an enormous difference between looking someone in the eye, and hearing their story of the worst mistake they ever made in their lives -- and what they’ve done to change -- versus looking at a check box on a form.

An applicant may or may not get the job, but if the person is qualified, hopefully he or she will be more likely to get an interview now than before. And if the law makes it easier for people who have made mistakes to get work, it will make us all safer, since having a job is one of the major factors in avoiding recidivism.

The law also won’t prove costly to businesses. Consider that a 2018 survey of hiring personnel conducted by the Society for Human Resource Management and the Charles Koch Institute found that 82% of managers and 67% of HR professionals feel that the “quality of hire” for workers with criminal records is as high as or higher than that for workers without records. The same survey found that 74% of both managers and HR believe the cost of hiring individuals with criminal records is the same as or lower than that of hiring individuals without criminal records.

At the Board, we’re proud of the Fair Chance to Work law and all the laws we’ve passed.

We’re proud we protected Westchester’s working families by ensuring that workers can earn time off on their jobs to be used when they’re sick or to care for a

sick family member.

We’re proud we passed a law -- unanimously, with support from all the members of the minority caucus -- eliminating questions about past salaries in hiring. This law will combat wage gaps that hurt women and people of color, and it will help workers returning to the job market after a hiatus, as well as older employees making a career change.

We’re proud we passed a law -- again on a unanimous basis -- to protect employees in the home contracting business from exploitation by unscrupulous bosses. Yes, we also raised licensing fees -- an increase supported by all the members of the minority caucus -- but even after increases, the costs in Westchester will be at or below the cost in neighboring counties like Nassau. Furthermore, the increased fees will pay for more enforcement against unlicensed businesses, creating a more level playing field for honest businesspeople.

Small businesses have nothing to fear from these laws, which in many cases just codify and extend the already-existing practices of the majority of employers in Westchester. But fear is a powerful emotion. An imagination filled with fear shrinks from opportunity, repeats the mistakes of the past because they are familiar, and closes doors instead of opening them. I hope everyone will reject fear, so that we can continue to open doors and create opportunity for both working families and businesses in Westchester.

Letters to the Editor

Women’s Marches Set to Roll in New York, D.C. Saturday

To The Editor:

On Saturday, Jan. 19, the third annual Women’s March will take place in Washington, D.C. and many other cities across the country, including New York.

The first march in 2017 was in reaction to the election of Donald Trump to the presidency. As women, we feared the worst as Trump vowed to “make America great again.” While he has never actually articulated what that means (when was America at her greatest and when did she stop being great?), it has become clear from his words and actions that perhaps Mr. Trump would like us to return to the Gilded Age: robber barons, machine politics and corruption, extreme economic inequality and a country full of women who did not have the right to vote.

So we will march again this year to protest this vision of “greatness.” We march to convey the message

that we cannot and will not accept the proliferation of racism, sexism, victimization of immigrants, the eroding of rights for minorities including the LGBTQ community, the systematic dismantling of the Affordable Care Act, voter suppression, attacks on reproductive rights, the lies and misinformation that emanate from the White House on a daily basis and the willful ignorance of the very real and imminent dangers facing our planet. I urge you to show up and join in with your mothers, daughters, granddaughters and the supportive men and boys in your life.

As a side note, the press has reported some controversy regarding two of the organizers of the Women’s March in Washington, citing anti-Semitic and other prejudicial comments. The march in New York, however, has been organized by a different and unrelated

group, The Women’s March Alliance (womensmarchalliance.org).

**CELESTE THEIS
Croton-On-Hudson**

Status Quo with Commercial Development in Yorktown Not Working

To the Editor:

Subj: Commercial property development in Yorktown

Very often I hear the comment “why are we allowing the development of new commercial space in Yorktown when we have so many vacant spaces in our current building/shopping strips?”

I would put forth a number of arguments to suggest that this is exactly the type of development that town government should encourage.

First, the Yorktown consumer works hard for their discretionary income

and deserves a contemporary shopping landscape to spend their hard-earned dollars in.

Secondly, I think we’d all agree that the condition of the buildings/strips that currently house our downtown businesses in many cases are very outdated and are in bad need of a facelift. Local government cannot force the owners of these buildings to invest in improvements, however we can encourage new development which would provide the business incentive

Continued on page 13

Obituaries

Jean Johnson

Jean E. Johnson, a lifelong resident of Ossining, died January 9. She was 94.

She was born in Ossining on June 27, 1924 to C. Gilbert and Catherine M. (Head) Anderson, Sr. She was a graduate of Ossining High School class of 1942. She was a parishioner of St. Ann's Church, where she married John F. Johnson, Sr. on February 28, 1943. She was a former member of the Ossining Golden Agers Group # 1 and the Ossining Senior Citizens.

Mrs. Johnson is survived by her three children, John (Mary) Johnson Jr., Kathryn (Fred) Maus, and Jeanne (Paul) Stymiloski; seven grandchildren, Patrice (Daniel) Monaghan, Kristin (Angelo) Manicchio, Christopher (Jasmine) Maus, Laurie Maus, Robert M. (Dawn) Perry, Michael R. (Elizabeth) Perry, Dawn (Jose) Perez; and 14 great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband John F. Johnson, Sr. and her grandson Peter John Johnson.

Joseph Longo

Joseph Bartolo Longo, a resident of Somers, died peacefully January 8 in his home. He was 91.

He was born on December 24, 1927 to Evelyn (née Barattini) and Joseph Longo in the Bronx on December 24, 1927. On August 22, 1953, he and Kathryn Longo (née Sirico) married at the Church of Immaculate Conception in the Bronx, and enjoyed 65 years of marriage.

Mr. Longo graduated with honors from Christopher Columbus High School and then joined the U.S. Navy, in which he served on the Franklin D. Roosevelt in World War II from 1944 to 1948. Following his service, he worked for the New York Transit Authority while pursuing education as an engineer at Westchester Community College. He then worked as an engineer and manager at New York Telecom, later named Verizon, for 37 years.

Joe and Kathryn moved from the Bronx to Thornwood in 1972, and then lived in Heritage Hills for 31 years where Joe was formerly the president of Condo 8. He was an avid golfer and tennis player, enjoyed fishing and hunting into his 60s, and had a long, happy retirement surrounded by his family and many friends.

He is survived by his wife, Kathryn; son and daughter-in-law Larry and Rita Longo; daughter and son-in-law Barbara and James Ilardi; sons Joseph and Christopher Longo; sister Claire Farneti; brother-in-law Joseph Sirico; brother-

and sister-in-law Frank and Maria Sirico; grandchildren Michael and Stephen Ilardi, and Nicole Longo; and many loving nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sisters Madeline, Marie, and Elvira, and brother Lawrence.

Ernest Meder

Ernest (Ernie) Meder, a longtime resident of Heritage Hills in Somers, died December 21, 2018. He was 95.

He was born on July 4, 1923 to Theresa (née Hofmann) and Ernst Meder, of Queens (Maspeth), NY, the oldest of two sons. Theresa and Ernst were post-WW I immigrants from small towns northwest of Frankfurt, Germany.

Mr. Meder was raised in a German-speaking family and prized his German heritage, especially bratwurst and beer. During the Great Depression, a junior high school teacher spotted the talents of this hard-working, ambitious young boy and urged him to apply to Brooklyn Technical High School (Brooklyn Tech), from which he graduated in 1942 with honors as a member of Arista.

He often commented how this single opportunity -- to attend BTHS -- changed the trajectory of his life. After high school, he entered Cooper Union on a full scholarship, pursuing a degree

in civil engineering. World War II interrupted his studies; he joined the Army Air Force as an airplane and engine mechanic and served in Okinawa in 1945-46. Upon his return to civilian life, he entered the work force to help support his family (his father died in 1945; his mother in 1989). While working full-time, Mr. Meder later earned a B.S. in Physics from Hofstra College (now University) in 1960 and subsequently also pursued an M.S. in Materials Science at New York University.

While working at Sperry Gyroscope Company on Long Island in the late 1940s, he met the love of his life, Ann Pellicano, who hailed from the Bronx. They married in 1950 and raised two daughters (Joanne and Marilyn), first in Syosset, NY. Upon joining IBM in 1962 (working at its famed Thomas J. Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights, and later in East Fishkill, NY on thin-film silicon chip development), Mr. Meder and his family moved to Mamaroneck and then White Plains (Greenburgh), NY. In 1975, Ernie and Ann moved to the Heritage Hills community in Somers.

They were among its very first residents and continued to reside there for the rest of their lives. Mr. Meder retired

Continued on page 18

Under New Ownership and Direction by Joseph A. Giordano Jr.



Growing up in my family's funeral home in the Bronx, I learned the business through the teachings of my great-grandfather, grandfather, uncle, and father. I am a very proud 4th generation funeral director, with over 17 years of experience. I look forward to serving our community and your families with the utmost respect, gratitude, and honor. Thank you for letting me be a part of this amazing community.



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Three Ossining Students Semifinalists in Science Competition

Three Ossining High School students are semifinalists in the 2019 Regeneron Science Talent Search, the Society for Science & the Public announced Wednesday.

Seniors Emma Montgomery, Elliot Ocheltree and John Sukumar are among 300 students nationwide who were selected as scholars in the Science Talent Search, the nation's oldest and most prestigious science and math competition for high school seniors. Each of the 300 scholars and their schools will receive \$2,000.

Regeneron and the Society for Science & the Public chose the scholars based on their exceptional research skills, commitment to academics, and innovative thinking and promise as students. Nearly

2,000 students submitted applications.

Numerous OHS students have been semifinalists and finalists in the Science Talent Search over the years. "To place in STS is always a thrill and an honor," said Angelo Piccirillo, who co-teaches the Science Research Program with Valerie Holmes. "The work of our amazing seniors makes our entire Ossining community proud."

Montgomery worked on a bioengineering project to advance existing gene editing tools. Her research significantly improved the efficiency of gene editing. This is an important area of research because errors in gene editing are the main obstacles that restrict our ability to move this technology into the clinical realm and directly help patients with devastat-

ing point mutation disorders. Some examples of point mutation disorders are cystic fibrosis and sickle cell anemia.

Ocheltree conducted an engineering study using computational fluid modeling software to advance design approaches for aerodynamics in the transportation industry that mimic the natural process of erosion. He used computational fluid dynamics, pressure difference minimization and erosive techniques in his research.

Sukumar was selected for his research on adolescents with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder who have the ability to hyperfocus on a topic or activity without getting distracted. It is more common for people with ADHD to have trouble focusing for extended periods of

time. His research sought to shed light on the poorly understood and often underrepresented characteristic of ADHD.

"These amazing young people have demonstrated an exceptional degree of hard work and passion for discovery," Maya Ajmera, president and CEO of the Society for Science & the Public, said in a statement. "We are inspired by their brilliant thinking and look forward to continue supporting them in their scientific endeavors."

On January 23, Regeneron will announce the 40 finalists in the competition. Finalists will present their work in Washington, D.C., in March and compete for more than \$1.8 million in awards and scholarships. Winners will be announced on March 12.

Ossining Student Coca-Cola Scholar Semifinalist

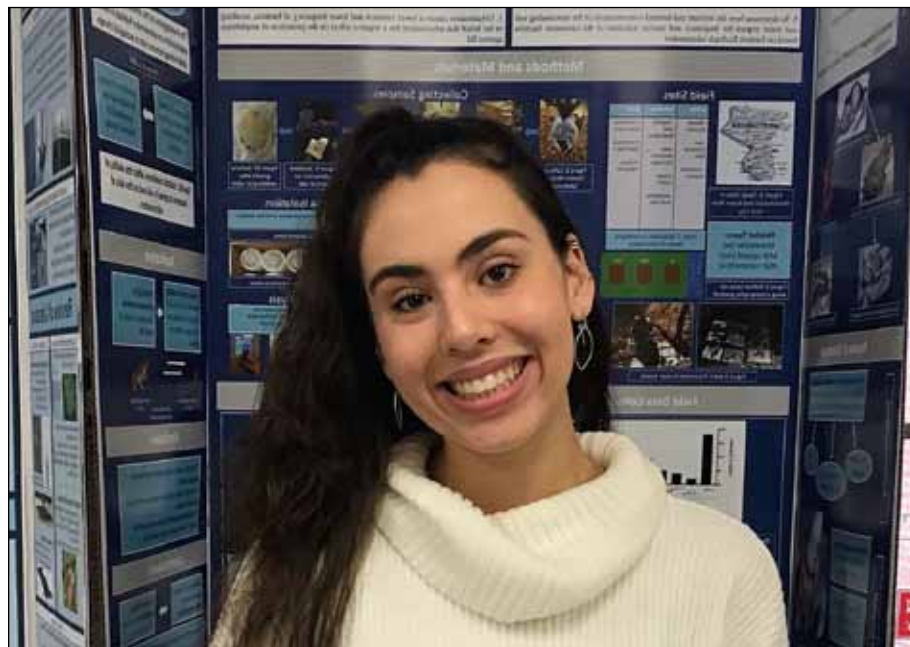
Ossining High School senior Julia Piccirillo-Stosser was recently named a 2019 Coca-Cola Scholar semifinalist.

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation chose the 1,896 semifinalists from more than 95,000 applications submitted by students across the country. Piccirillo-Stosser and the other semifinalists submitted additional information to the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation for the next round of the competition. The group will select 250 regional finalists by the end of January and 150 winners in March. Each winner will receive a \$20,000 scholarship.

"We believe that identifying these young leaders throughout the country and encouraging their passion for serving others not only empowers the students, but also lifts up those around them," said Jane Hale Hopkins, president-elect of the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation.

When the 2019 winners are announced, the foundation will have awarded more than \$69 million to more than 6,150 scholars in 31 years.

Applicants are evaluated on their



Julia Piccirillo-Stosser

leadership, academics and service to the community. Piccirillo-Stosser is president of the OHS Student Council and secretary of the Class of 2019. She is vice president of the Drama Club and per-

forms in school musicals. She is also a member of the Human Rights Club, and she is a peer tutor and peer mentor.

Piccirillo-Stosser has participated in three varsity sports throughout high

school: soccer, and indoor and outdoor track and field.

She has completed two projects in the Science Research Program. The first was with her twin sister, Sabrina, and classmate Kiara Taveras. They researched the presence of anti-fungal bacteria on the skin of the eastern redback salamander in relation to habitat. The team placed third in animal science at the 2018 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair and first at the Genius Olympiad for their work.

For her individual project, she designed, produced and tested two transgenic wheat proteins that can be used to prevent the immune activation associated with celiac disease. Celiac disease is the most common genetic-based food intolerance and is characterized by the immune system's response to wheat-gluten proteins. Transgenic refers to an organism with genes from another organism placed in its genome.

Piccirillo-Stosser has applied to a number of colleges and is waiting to hear about acceptances. She plans to study international business and marketing.

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Happenings

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

Tuesday, Jan. 15

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.

Wednesday, Jan. 16

Senior Benefits Information: A Senior Benefits Information Center is available every Wednesday, except for Nov. 27, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Somers

Library. If you can't visit the library in person, you can leave a message on the SBIC helpline at 914-231-3260 or e-mail us at SBIC@wlsmail.org with your name, number, a time to call between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. and whether your interest is in Medicare services or other benefits. A counselor will return your call within two business days. SBIC will not meet on days the Somers schools are closed due to snow. Collages and photographs by Jane Hogan are on display through Feb. 1 during library hours.

Seniors' Fitness Classes: Free fitness classes are being offered to seniors who reside in Peekskill. The schedule is: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday – The Workout – 10 to 11 a.m. Friday – Zumba Gold – 11 a.m. to noon. Call 914-734-4250 Ext. 1 for more information. Classes are conducted at 4 Nelson Ave., downstairs from the library.

Senior Exercise: Workout M-W from 10-11 a.m. and Zumba Gold on Friday 11 a.m. to noon. The programs are free to all seniors in Peekskill. Call Terri Dean to register at 914-734-4250 Ext. 5.

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

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

Teen Tech: Teen Tech: What is Hack-ing will be held from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. The snow date is Jan. 23. Registration is required; space is limited to 15. Info: <https://www.somerslibrary.org> or 914-232-5717.

Thursday, Jan. 17

Yorktown Jewish Center Courses: A wide variety of courses are being offered at the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. Family Tensions in the Bible, led by Rabbi Stanley Urbas, is held on the first and third Mondays of the month at 11 a.m. Rosh Chodesh Studies for Women--led by Marsha Sternstein, is held at 7:30 p.m. on one Tuesday evening per month. Talmud and Contemporary

Issues-- led by Wendy Segal --is held on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Beginners Hebrew--led by Cantor Isabel Kopstein--is held every Monday at 1:30 p.m.; contact the office for details. Advanced Hebrew--led by Cantor Isabel Kopstein-- is held on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Ten Minutes of Torah--led by Rabbi Sternstein--- is held on Shabbat mornings at approximately 10:30 a.m. Mishneh Torah (Maimonidean thought)--led by Rabbi Sternstein- is held on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. Info: 914-245-2324 or yorktown-jewishcenter.org.

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

Ossining Documentary Series: This month's offering from the Ossining Documentary and Discussion Series is "Heal," a scientific and spiritual journey where we discover that our thoughts, beliefs, and emotions can have a huge impact on our health and ability to heal. The free screening will take place at the Ossining Public Library. Seating begins at 6:15 p.m. Admission is free and all are welcome. A panel discussion will follow with expert panelists drawn from nearby communities. The public is invited to visit OssiningDocumentaries.org to learn about upcoming films on a wide variety of topics.

Yorktown GOP Meeting: The Yorktown GOP Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. in Room 16 of the Yorktown Community and Cultural Center, 1974 Commerce St.

Friday, Jan. 18

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 914-2416 Ext. 315.

Community Shabbat Dinner: A Community Shabbat Dinner will be held at 6 p.m. at Chabad of Yorktown, 2629 Old Yorktown Rd. The meal will feature an Israeli wine tasting and the

seven special fruits of Israel in honor of Tu B'Shvat. The cost is \$20 for adults and \$15 for children; the maximum cost per family is \$45. For more information and to RSVP visit www.ChabadYorktown.com, or call 914-962-1111.

Temple Beth Am Shabbat: Temple Beth Am will "opens its doors to all who enter" for Shabbat on most Fridays at 7 p.m. However, tonight at 8 p.m. a MLK Shabbat and Shabbat Shirah will be held. We will celebrate the Shabbat as well as take note of the importance of social justice through song. During this particular service, with prayers and music, we will reflect on the values taught by Dr. King. Our modern Sabbath service has a spiritually engaging and warm feeling while following traditional modes. All are welcome to our friendly sacred space. For more information, please call our Rabbi at 914-962-7500 or e-mail him at rabbiw@optonline.net.

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

Saturday, Jan. 19

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.

Bagels and Bible: All are invited to study Torah with our engaging Rabbi Robbie Weiner at 9 a.m. at Temple Beth Am. Bagels and coffee are provided for all wishing to explore how this week's Torah portion is a mirror into our lives. No previous knowledge is required, and all backgrounds are welcome. Temple Beth Am is located at 203 Church Pl., Yorktown. For information, please call our Rabbi at 914-962-7500 or e-mail him at RabbiW@optonline.net.

Happenings

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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.

Historical Society Program: The true and tragic story of an American Navy hero who survived fierce battles of World War II only to meet his fate just after the war ended in a plane crash on Mount Beacon in Dutchess County will be the topic of a talk at 2 p.m., at the Little Red Schoolhouse, 297 Locust Ave., Cortlandt. Sponsored by the Van Cortlandtville Historical Society, the event is free and open to the public. Author, photographer and historian David Rocco of Yorktown will present a PowerPoint

picture program based on his book "The Indestructible Man: The True Story of World War II Hero 'Captain Dixie.'" For more information, and in case of inclement weather, call 914-736-7868 or visit www.vancort.net.

Sunday, Jan. 20

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.

Bingo Cancelled: All bingo games at the

Yorktown Jewish Center have been cancelled for the immediate future. Info: 914-245-2324 or yorktownjewishcenter.org.

Monday, Jan. 21

Musical Munchkins: The Yorktown Musical Munchkins meet on Mondays from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. at the Yorktown Stage Theater in room 12. The program is for older babies up to the 1's. Free trial classes are offered. Info: 914-771-7000 or www.musicalmunchkins.com.

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

Ossining Documentary and Discussion Series to Host Screening

This month's offering from The Ossining Documentary and Discussion Series (ODDS) is *Heal*, a scientific and spiritual journey where we discover that our thoughts, beliefs, and emotions can have a huge impact on our health and ability to heal. The free screening will take place on Thursday, January 17, at the Ossining Public Library. Seating begins at 6:15 p.m., admission is always free and all are welcome. A panel discussion will follow with expert panelists drawn from nearby communities.

HEAL taps into the brilliant minds of leading scientists and spiritual teachers while following three people in their actual high stakes healing journeys. Healing can be extremely complex and deeply personal, but it can also happen spontaneously in a moment. Through these inspiring and emotional stories we find out what works, what doesn't, and why.

The film features Dr. Deepak Chopra, Anita Moorjani, Marianne Williamson, Dr. Michael Beckwith, Dr. Bruce Lip-ton, Dr. Joe Dispenza, Anthony William 'Medical Medium', Dr. Bernie Siegel, Gregg Braden, Dr. Joan Borysenko, Dr. David Hamilton, Dr. Kelly Brogan, Rob Wergin, Dr. Kelly Turner, Peter Chrone, Dr. Darren Weissman, and Dr. Jeffrey Thompson.

ODDS volunteer Paul Stark said, "With every new year the need for healing, and a different approach to preserving and regaining our health, becomes more urgent. It's a great thing to begin this year with *Heal*'s message of new hope and unexpected possibilities."

As Mira Sorvino put it, "Seeing 'Heal' was a transformative experience. It gave me a new appreciation for the incredible power of the mind and our own ability to change our health. I was very inspired

to look at my own life and body in a new way – from passivity to transcendent empowerment."

As always, the screening will be followed by a panel discussion. Every month panelists with expertise in the film's subject matter generously volunteer to help shed light on the issues raised. Audience members are encouraged to respond honestly and ask their questions. The panel for this film consists of: Laurie Gershgorin, Chef and Owner of Good Choice Kitchen; Alan Levin, Psychotherapist and Owner of Sacred River Healing; and Leah Sasha Schwartz, National Certified and NYS Licensed Acupuncturist, Doctoral Candidate, and Owner at Lifted Heart Healing Arts.

The Ossining Documentary and Discussion Series is organized by a committee of volunteers committed to bringing their "community together one film

at a time." This will be the group's 63rd screening since its founding in 2013 by Victoria Gearity, Mayor of the Village of Ossining, and Suzie Ross, Chair of Green Ossining. The public is invited to visit OssiningDocumentaries.org to learn about more upcoming films on a wide variety of topics. Screenings are always free and all are welcome.

The Series is supported by an Arts Alive grant from ArtsWestchester and by its Grand Sponsors, Ossining's SBS Printing and Shipping, Matthew and Cinthia Gullotta, and Down to Earth Markets, which manages many regional Farmers' Markets, including Ossining's. Friends of the Series and Screening Sponsors are acknowledged at the screenings and on the ODDS website. Partners and affiliates include Green Ossining, the Ossining Public Library, the Ossining Arts Council, Our Better Future, and Energize NY.

Police Blotter

Continued from page 5

landt barracks arrested Anthony W. Perez, 31, of Yonkers, for Criminal Mischief in the 3rd degree, a class E felony, Menacing in the 2nd degree, and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 4th degree, both class A misdemeanors. Troopers responded to Dogwood Road in Cortlandt for a reported neighbor dispute. Investigation by troopers discovered the suspect, Perez, arrived at the residence, engaged in a domestic dispute with the current resident, and engaged in a dispute with separate victim outside. During the dispute Perez menaced the male victim outside with a baseball bat and broke several of his vehicle windows. Perez was arraigned in Town of Cortlandt Court and remanded to Westchester County Jail in lieu of \$1,500.00 cash bail or \$5,000.00 bond.

Putnam Sheriff's Office

The Putnam County Sheriff's Department is investigating cases where skimming devices have been used to obtain credit card information from gas pumps in the Town of Philipstown and the Town of Southeast. Police remind everyone to always be alert for skimming devices when using a credit card or debit card at any device such as a gas pump or ATM. Look for signs of damage and pull and twist on the card reader itself as the actual readers are very tough and the skimmer will pull loose in most cases. One should always monitor their Credit/Debit cards for any suspicious activity and report unauthorized use to the authorities.

Letters to the Editor

Status Quo with Commercial Development in Yorktown Not Working

Continued from page 9

for the owners of the older properties to compete for tenants. If we do not encourage new development, we create the unintended consequence that shields the current property owners from competition and allows the status quo to remain in place.

Yorktown needs to create a vibrancy to its business community that convinces potential entrepreneurs that we are serious about being a modern business district which is fervently supported by its local consumers in and around Yorktown.

The status quo ain't getting it done.

If we want to be a "destination" town let's make sure it's for the right reasons, a place where consumers can find good value and products in a thriving up to date shopping community.

Failing that we will become a destination city much like Rome, a place where people come to see old buildings.....but can we compete with Rome?

Sincerely,

MICHAEL SAMMARCO
Yorktown

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS - 914-864-0878

Selecting Housing for the Eventuality of Retirement

A while back, I was invited to speak before a meeting of the Retired Municipal Employees Association. As I planned my remarks, I thought about how I was close to an age when some people think about retiring and living differently than they do now.

As for me, I intend never to retire from the enjoyable work I do in the real estate business. I just love matching buyers with their dream homes and helping sellers get the best deal on their major investment.

Nevertheless, my living preferences have changed significantly in the past few years, just as if I were retiring.

When I was still in my twenties and my wife and I moved to a historic home in need of repair, I was eager and ready to restore and maintain it. I was known as the "young guy" on the block who always answered the door with a hammer or paintbrush in hand.

After more than 40 years living there, I found myself wanting to do something other than hammering and painting, so we moved to the no-maintenance convenience of Trump Park Residences in York-

town. In terms of planning for the future, we consider that the smartest housing decision we ever made for ourselves.

The housing issues facing retired and elderly people can be quite simple, such as finding living space on one level with no steps and being conveniently located to shopping and medical services.

Many older people are still in the homes in which they raised their children, married them off and then retired as empty-nesters. These homes may have become too big to rattle around in or maintain, and the tax bill that paid primarily for the education of their children no longer has the same payback.

But they may still want to remain in those homes, no matter how impractical. Surveys by AARP have found that about 80 percent of older persons say that they want to stay in their own homes. This phenomenon has been called the preference to "age in place."

It's understandable. After a long period of living in one place, our homes become an extension of who we are and how we express ourselves. Longtime residence is

also a connection to the community where people know their neighbors and merchants as well as their houses of worship, libraries and community service.

For a long stretch, our homes have been our principal financial asset, and today, the high demand for homes has made this a good time to cash in on our investments if we want to move.

Others who have paid off their mortgages and have equity can take reverse mortgages to stay put and live more comfortably through their golden years.

Those who decide to downsize must think carefully about the percentage of income they should be paying for housing and still manage to afford other necessities of later life besides food and clothing.

Affordability depends on their individual situations and whether they live with a spouse, alone or with relatives. Today, about 54 percent of older persons live with their spouses, 31 percent live alone, 13 percent live with relatives other than their spouse and 2 percent live with non-relatives.

If the decision is to move later in life, people seem to know what they want. A survey done by the National Association of Realtors in concert with MetLife found that retired and older citizens want easy, comfortable homes with single-story floor plans or homes that offer a first-floor mas-

ter bedroom. They also like home maintenance and repair as part of their next home purchase, preferably with no necessary outside chores and low maintenance inside, including washers and dryers, storage space, easy-to-open windows and easy-to-use climate controls.

As for my wife and me, we made the decision to downsize, yet upgrade, when we purchased a unit at Trump Park Residences. It affords us all the benefits I've listed above. Let the younger folks do as I did in my youth, answering their doors with hammers or paintbrushes in hand.

Interestingly, my daughter recently informed me that she and my son-in-law have discussed the eventuality of my wife and I living with them when the time comes. I was greatly touched, even though I'm sure we would rather remain independent as long as we can and to seek at-home care should we need it. And while the sentiment expressed by my daughter is lovely, I do wish she had waited another 15 or 20 years before discussing the matter with me.

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

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By Bill Primavera

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Crossword

- ACROSS
1. Strawberry ____ or Peekskill auto repair shop

4. ____ Pack

7. Real estate ad abbr.

10. Plant served like potato

11. Org. quoted on toothpaste tubes

12. French for water

13. Geller, the spoonbender

14. TV company

15. Compete

16. Dependable quality

19. Low mark

20. Hoorah!

21. Astronaut Armstrong

23. Nickname for New Zealander or Carmel Country Day Camp

24. Days gone by

25. TV journalist Curry

26. Firstborn's privileges

31. Microbrewery output

32. Dictionary abbr.

33. ____ rule

34. Guitar virtuoso Paul

35. Fully ripe egg
36. Veer suddenly

37. Norton and Koch

38. Hems and haws

39. Calendar spans, abbr.
- DOWN
1. Soup de ____

2. Ground

3. Knight clothes

4. Baseball's Palmeiro

5. Mud-baked brick

6. Uber

7. Arts-section feature

8. Cocktail

9. Chop ____

17. Dostoyevsky novel, with "The"

18. Telling untruths

21. Completed

22. Door to the street

23. Cutting equipment

25. Passion

26. Cotton bundle

27. Aesopian racer

28. Unclear

29. Peter, for one

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9
10				11				12		
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(Solution to puzzle on page 15)

1	J	2	A	3	M		4	R	5	A	6	T		7	R	8	M	9	S
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37	E	D	S		38	E	R	S		39	Y	R	S						

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Chamber Hosts Annual Home, Lifestyle & Family Show


The Yorktown Chamber of Commerce, Jilco Window Corporation, and the JV Mall bring the residents of Westchester the Annual Home, Lifestyle & Family Show on Saturday, February 9, from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Jefferson Valley Mall located at 650 Lee Boulevard in Yorktown Heights.

This year we are happy to announce once again our partnership with Habitat for Humanity, a not-for-profit organization devoted to build quality, affordable, and green housing for lower income families and individuals in our community. The continued transformation and improvements of the Jefferson Valley Mall makes the Home, Lifestyle & Family Show a perfect fit. This year's Home, Lifestyle & Family Show expects more than 1,000 people throughout the day and provides Westchester businesses

an opportunity to participate while offering huge opportunities to build relationships, generate leads, and create awareness for your brand.

The 2019 Annual Home, Lifestyle & Family Show will feature top companies of the area in the home industry field such as renovations, remodeling, painting, roofing, plumbing, heating, electrical, flooring, and more. Throughout the day there will be demonstrations at various vendor tables, where they will be featuring and highlighting their products and services to attendees. Entertainment will be featured live up in the food court all day!

The Yorktown Chamber of Commerce hosts six to 10 events annually, such as the popular Yorktown Festival & Street Fair, Auto Show, the Yorktown New Year's Eve Ball Drop, and SpringFest!



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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF KABATCHNICK ENTERPRISE HOLDINGS LLC Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/7/2018. Office location is Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **18 Belmont St., White Plains, NY 10605. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF ROMANOFF ELEMENTS, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/25/2018. Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to **Carol Romanoff 55 Byram Ridge Road, Armonk NY 10504 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

Articles of Organization (DOM-PROF. LLC). Erica O'Connor PT PLLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) 11/6/18. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of DOM-PROF.LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail copy of process to c/o Schecter, 153 W. Main St., Mount Kisco, NY 10549. **Purpose: The practice of Physical Therapy.**

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The name of the LLC is Goodbear Holdings LLC. The Articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the NY Secretary of State on December 20, 2018. The purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful act or activity. The office of the LLC is to be located in Westchester County. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against the LLC may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is **c/o 25 Bank St. Apt 214K, White Plains, New York 10606.**

The name of the LLC is Goodbear Property LLC. The Articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the NY Secretary of State on December 20, 2018. The purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful act or activity. The office of the LLC is to be located in Westchester County. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against the LLC may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is **c/o 25 Bank St. Apt 214K, White Plains, New York 10606.**

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TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY TOWN BOARD MEETING AGENDA
January 16, 2019 6 PM

1.Pledge of Allegiance 2. Departmental Reports 3. Proclamation – Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra **4. Supervisor's Comments 5. Vincent Tamagna** discussion about State/County-provided shuttle

continued on next page



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Obituaries

Continued from page 10

in 1987 and in the years that followed, he and Ann traveled the world (train travel was a favorite of his) and pursued a variety of shared interests. An avid tennis player, he played doubles into his mid-80s, was an accomplished woodworker (among the founding members of the Heritage Hills Woodcraft Club), active in the Heritage Hills community (first president of the Condo 2 Board of Managers), and devoted volunteer at the stroke support organizations OPUS and St. Andrews Day Program in Hartsdale, NY. During his retirement, he also made time to tutor high school students in Somers as well as young people incarcerated in the Florida state prison system when he and Ann spent some time on the Gulf Coast during the winter months. Throughout his life, Mr. Meder also derived enormous pleasure from and took great pride in the accomplishments of his wife, daughters, son-in-law and grandsons.

Mr. Meder was known for his love of life, his kindness and the interest he showed in others, his self-deprecating and fun sense of humor, and resolute, disciplined nature. Many a mealtime conversation over the years also featured one of Ernie's "bonus" physics lessons. His family and friends will always cherish memories

of Ernie as a warm, caring and generous son, husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and loyal friend.

Ernie and Ann were married for almost 63 years (she predeceased him in 2013). He is survived by daughters Joanne and Marilyn (Scott), grandsons Kyle and Cameron, and many nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends. A private cremation is planned per Ernie's wishes. A private memorial celebration of his life will be held on January 20.

Charles Azzara

Charles Azzara, a resident of Croton-on-Hudson, died December 21. He was 81.

He was born in Syracuse on September 3, 1937, the only child of Anthony and Sally (nee Colletti) Azzara. He graduated from Bushwick High School in Bushwick, NY and worked as a banker until his retirement in 1992.

He is survived by his wife Helen of 54 years, daughters Laura Severo, Lisa Azzara and Patricia Streng, son-in-laws Richard Severo and Kevin Streng and grandchildren Giovanna Severo, Gabriela Severo and Benjamin Santoli. He was a loving father, husband, and grandfather and friend to all.

Mr. Azzara enjoyed fishing and spent many of his years on the water. His fishing poles and rods were one of his most prized possessions. A Memorial Mass will be held at St. Augustine Church in Ossining on January 19 at 11:30 a.m.

Joseph Consula

Joseph G. Consula, a resident of Croton-on-Hudson, died unexpectedly January 9. He was 62.

Born in North Tarrytown on November 18, 1956, he was the son of Joseph Consula and Patsy Hughes Consula. He

was a graduate of Sleepy Hollow High School.

Mr. Consula was a member of the Croton Yacht Club where he was currently serving as Rear Commodore.

He is survived by his mother Patsy (Raymond) Tourigney, his sons Joseph and Derek Consula, and his sisters Barbara DePaolo, Amy Anderson and Regina Jones. He is also survived by his nieces and nephews Billy McGuire, Reamon McGuire, Chucky DePaolo, Allie DePaolo, Noah Jones, Ryan Jones, Logan Jones, Lindsay Anderson and Andrew Anderson. He was predece.



One school bus was destroyed, while two other busses sustained damage, along with the garage section of the structure, following a fire January 9 at a bus garage on Front Street in Yorktown. No injuries were reported. Yorktown and Croton firefighters put out the blaze. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

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continued from previous page

service 6. **Legislative Report** 7. School report 8. **Approval** of minutes for December 19, 2018, and January 2 and January 9, 2019. 9. **Rescind** Resolution #R-26 Pump Station Custodian 10. **Appoint** Douglas Montaruli Pump Station Custodian for the year 2019 at a salary of \$5,100. 11. **Appoint** Planning Board ad hoc member. 12. **Possible** appointment of Zoning Board Member 13. **Waive** Building Department fees for Tompkins Corners Cultural Center drainage project. 14. **Waive** Building Department Operating Permit Fee for Tompkins Corners Cultural Center 15. **Appoint** Lake Peekskill Egg Addler 16. **Appoint** Roaring Brook

Lake Egg Addler 17. **Appoint** Barger Pond Egg Addler. 18. **Budget Transfers** 19. **Public Comment** 20. **Audit** of monthly bills

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Sports
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Rising from the Ashes!
Yorktown Falls in Peekskill Tourney Final,
but Improves to 7-2

Yorktown junior F Ashley Zeolla (24) takes a run at the rim in the vastly improved Huskers' 48-42 loss to Class AA White Plains last Saturday in the finals of the Peekskill Tournament where the Class A Huskers (7-2) upended the host Red Devils in Friday's opening round. Huskers Kat Severino and Jesse Barer were named to the All-Tournament team, and were joined by Haldane's Sophia Viggiano and Peekskill's Sandra Murphy... see Girls' Hoops Notebook

Sports

Boys' Hoops Notebook

Mahopac Rallies for Win at Carmel; Somers off to Historic Start

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor
@Directrays

At first glance, it looked as though Mahopac Coach Matt Simone had his Indians (7-4) playing over their heads through smoke and mirrors; that this superb five-game win streak was simply an allusion based on the fact that nobody saw this athletic group of football/lacrosse players taking their basketball skills to the next-level. The prevailing wisdom around Section 1 was that Mahopac would eventually come crashing back down to earth, but here we are at or beyond the halfway point of the 2018-19 season and the Indians are holding firm on what would be the current No.8 seed in the upcoming Class AA tournament should it start tomorrow, not to mention control of the League I-A title chase after defeating rival Carmel, 42-38, last Saturday and Arlington in overtime earlier in the week.

Last week was a big one for the Indians, who saw senior C Rheel Allen emerge with a few offensive explosions, including a career-high 42 points and 16 rebounds in the Indians' 82-80 overtime triumph of host Arlington last Wednesday; this on the heels of a 32-point game against Panas.

"Reahl has been using his athleticism to his extreme advantage," Simone said



RAY GALLAGHER/BILL KENNEDY/BOB CASTNER PHOTOS

Lakeland's Augie Karaqi has emerged as a potent score in Jack Kruse's absence.

of his 6'5" big. "Physically and athletically, there are not many kids in the section that can hang with him. Additionally, we have a very unselfish group of players, and everyone realizes when Reahl has a mismatch, and they do a great job of getting him the ball in the right spots for him to be successful."

Trailing by 18 at the half, Mahopac mustered every ounce of resilience it had and rallied from what would become a 14-point fourth-quarter deficit to win its fourth straight behind Allen and senior G Mike Argila, who added 13 points for the Indians, including a pair of huge 3's down the stretch.

Allen, an All-Section football player, and Argila, the lax goalie with All-Section skill sets, fueled the comeback, and form just a portion of a unit that is short on overall basketball talent but long on heart and athleticism. Mahopac senior guards

Tim Cegielski and Drew Riolo, yet another pair of football players, plus Matt McMahon – maybe the only true baller among the starting five – have the Indians playing their best ball since 2013.

The win over **CARMEL** wasn't pretty by any means, but a 13-3 fourth-quarter run sealed the deal when junior Matt McMahon drilled the game-winning 3 late in the fourth.

"I've never played in an atmosphere like this before," McMahon said. "But we battled and that was a war right there. In the end we grounded it out and we're happy to go home with a win. It feels great to hit the

shot, but I feel better for these seniors. I may have put us ahead but they did all the work. Our biggest attribute is that we worked hard every day and I love just going to practice with them."

It hasn't always been that way for stretches during the last five years as Mahopac hit the skids by its standards, but the Indians are hoping to grind out a playoff win and put themselves in a position to reach the Final 4 for the first time since the winter of 2014...

CLASS A

SOMERS may have won the war, but **PANAS** provided quite a battle in the Tuskers' 61-56 win over the visiting Panthers last Thursday. Panas had little answer for Somers big man Max Germaine, who netted 20 points. Drew Lasher added 10 points while Joe Grippo and Lucas Fecci chipped in nine points apiece for the Tuskers, who also defeated John Jay, 67-66, behind a game-high 26 from Germaine and 17 from Nick Maestri. Panas was led by Lorenzo Santucci, who dropped 18 after a sluggish start, down 16-5.

"We started awful," Panas Coach Mike Auerbach said of the Somers loss. "Then we were down two (48-46) with three minutes left and it slipped away on us. We're finally close to full strength. We have gotten a couple injured or ineligible guys back, which really helps."

After reaching the Final 4 a year ago, Panas just can't get over the hump against the second tier teams in Section 1 (see Somers, Mahopac).

"We haven't had the easiest of schedules either," Auerbach said. "It doesn't get any easier. Hopefully, we can be one of those teams that is battle tested and surprises someone in sectionals..."

LAKELAND, which has remained relevant despite loss of injured sniper Jack Kruse, beat host Brewster last Thursday, 46-41, behind 23 points from swingman Augie Karaqi and 10 more from F Joe Vetrano. The good news for Lakeland, which is beyond good news, really, is Kruse is set to return to practice next week and is shooting to play in the Greeley game on Jan. 22.

"I am very proud of how our team has played without Jack," Lakeland Coach Steve Fallo said. "I think that experience will help us down the stretch. Jack obviously is going to make us better. Hopefully, he quickly gets back to where he was on opening night. Teams will now have to key on him, which will open things up for other players. Jack is not only an offensive threat but will make us better defensively also. We still have half the season left plus the tournament and

continued on next page



Carmel's Peyton Cayea and John Franklin (24) battle Mahopac's Mike Argila for rebound in Rams' 42-38 loss to Indians Saturday.

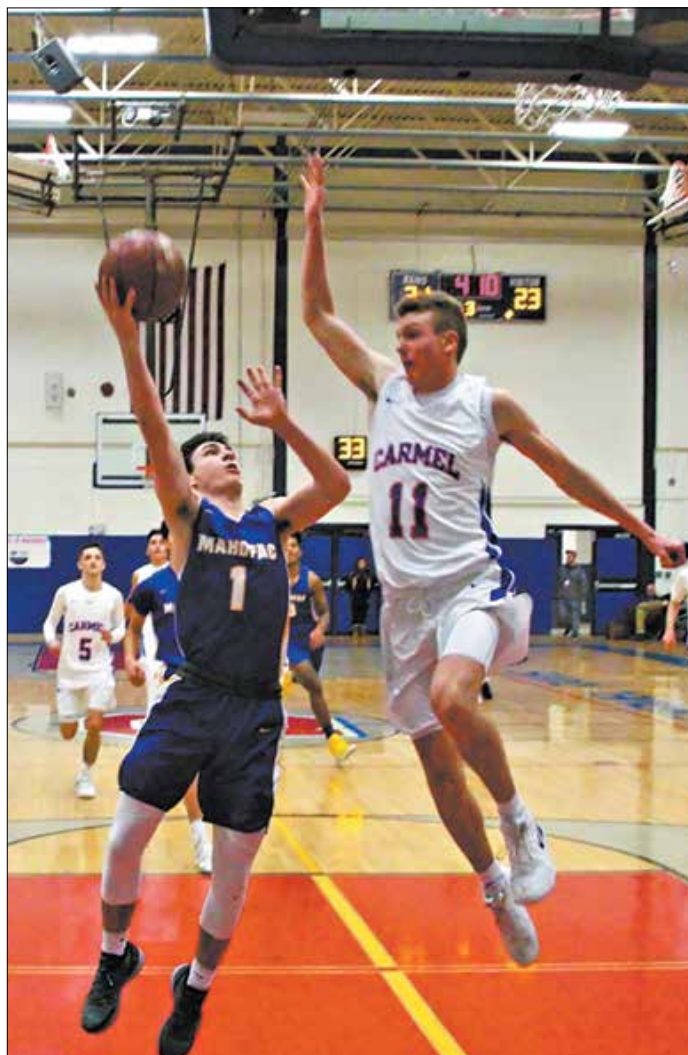


Panas G Lorenzo Santucci goes for two of his team-high 16 points in the Panthers' 60-45 loss to Dobbs Ferry Saturday.

Sports

continued from previous page

Boys' Hoops Notebook



Mahopac G Drew Riolo goes strong to hoop against defense from Carmel's Shane McNerney in Indians' 42-38 win over host Rams Saturday.



Mahopac C Rheal Allen goes up for two points in Indians' 42-38 win over Peyton Cayea and the host Carmel Rams Saturday night.

are looking forward to playing those games with Jack on the court.”...

CLASS B

In **CROTON-HARMON's** 53-24 pasting of Port Chester, Sean Reynolds led the Tigers with 10 points as they rebounded from Monday's tough overtime setback to Briarcliff. Still, the Tigers have had a terrific run thus far and Class B remains a mystery to most, including Croton boss Ben Martucci.

“Bill Parcels' saying, ‘You are what your record says you are,’ doesn't apply right now to Class B,” Martucci said. “I think Class B is wide open. There are teams hovering around .500 in Class B currently that could easily beat teams at the top of the rankings. We'll get a better idea of where

we truly stand as our schedule becomes more challenging; especially as we go through our league a second time, and we also face Class A Nyack, Class AA Ossining, and Class A Hen Hud. We love the current chemistry and attitude of our squad. It's not how you start, it's how you finish, and we're hoping our best basketball is yet to come.”

NWE/Putnam County Super 7 Hoops Poll

No.1 PUTNAM VALLEY – Coach McDonnell's Class B state-ranked (No.9) Tigers (10-2) should see senior F Darnel Shillingford become just the 2nd player in program history to score 1,000 career points against North Salem today, joining Ryan Basso (circa 2015). Tigers will put themselves to the test against much bigger schools next two weeks, including Class AA Carmel, Class A's Pelham and Lincoln and AA Ossining to close out the month.

No.2 SOMERS

– Coach DiCintio's Class A Tuskers (9-1) are off to the best start in school history, with wins over John Jay and Panas. State-ranked (No.25) Greeley will be some barometer this week. If Germaine continues to play at this accelerated level, Somers can be one tough out in the playoffs.

No.3 MAHOPAC – Coach Simone's Class AA Indians (7-4) can crawl to No.2 or better with a win over Somers this Saturday.

No.4 LAKELAND

– Coach Fallo's Class A Hornets (6-4) get Eastchester, John Jay CR and Greeley in what will be a very telling tale.

No.5 CROTON

– Coach Martucci's Class B Tigers (8-3) gave up 69 points to Class A Nyack, a four-win club

#Unacceptable.

No.6 CARMEL

– Coach Brennan's Class AA Rams (4-6) just can't seem to get healthy all at once, but they had Mahopac on the ropes (up by as many as 11) and failed to deliver the kill shot. Rams can make serious headway in this poll by upsetting Put Valley Saturday.

No.7 BREWSTER

– Coach Nelligan's Bears (3-5) make you work for a win and they have some rough stretch forthcoming vs. John Jay CR, Greeley and Somers.

HM YORKTOWN

– G Tommy Weaver had 14 points to lead Coach Pavella's Huskers (3-7) in a 61-51 loss to John Jay.

HMPANAS – Coach Auerbach's Panthers (3-6) are better than their record would indicate.



Mahopac's Mike Argila and Carmel's Peyton Cayea exchange pleasantries in Indians' 42-38 win over Rams Saturday.



Mahopac G Tim Cegielski looks to shut down Carmel swingman Shane McNerney in Indians' 42-38 win over Rams Saturday.

Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook

Yorktown Stays Hot, Panas Remains Unbeaten

By Tony Pinciario

Nine games into the season and **YORKTOWN** has established itself as a team on the rise. Yorktown won two of three games, improving to 7-2 on the season. The Cornhuskers ran away from Horace Greeley with a strong surge, 62-47. In the opening game of the Peekskill Tournament, Yorktown handled the host, 64-34. White Plains surprised Yorktown in the final, 48-42.

The Cornhuskers (7-2) trailed Greeley, 43-41, in the fourth quarter, but closed the game with a 21-4 run. Ashley Zeola had a game-best 23 points, including 12 in the fourth quarter, and eight rebounds. Kat Severino added 20 points, six rebounds, four steals and three blocked shots and Melissa Severino collected five assists and five steals.

"We started getting the ball inside and converting a lot more, where we kind of got stagnant and didn't move enough on offense in the third quarter," said Yorktown Coach Brian Mundy of the Greeley game. "We got into a situation with fouls in the third quarter and we had to change some personnel, but they were able to hold it together. The girls really stepped up and were able to get some turnovers with the press, which allowed us to get back on track."

The victory over Greeley came in a league game which also pleased Mundy.

"Any league wins we can get are a huge boost for our team," Mundy said. "The teams in our league are all so close in talent level and all the games are so tight, that any time you gain a little momentum you try to build on that and hope it helps carry you through."

Severino scored a season-high 31 points and Jesse Barer added 21 points as Yorktown held a 25-point lead over



RAY GALLAGHER/BOB CASTNER/RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

Yorktown senior F Kat Severino soars for two in Huskers' loss to White Plains in Peekskill tourney final Saturday.

Peekskill at halftime.

"We went in knowing that if we could limit Peekskill in the paint, we would put ourselves in a good position to win," Mundy said. "And the girls did that without zone. We were also able to outscore them on points off turnovers and



Brewster G Maggie DePaoli inches closer to 1,000 career points against defense of Lakeland's Brianna Monte in Bears' win over Hornets.

get out to a solid first-half lead."

Severino led Yorktown with 19 points in the loss to White Plains. Barer finished with 10 points and Zeolla added nine points.

PANAS continued rolling, adding two more victories, 44-34 over **BREWSTER** and 44-42 over **SOMERS**, improving to 10-0 this season.

The Panthers used a staunch defensive effort against Brewster, limiting the Bears (7-5) to 10 points in the second half. Panas also utilized pinpoint accuracy from the free-throw line, going 6 for 6 down the stretch to cement the win.

Cailean Nolan and Kristen Cinquina each had 13 points and Emma Anderson added seven points.

Panas battled back from an early 13-point deficit in the first quarter

against Somers (7-3), which played without injured All-Section G Hannah Angelini.

"In games where we start to get ourselves into trouble it tends to be our coaches that keep us in it," said senior Julia Araujo. "In the Somers' game, specifically, we had a slow start and we relied on each other to keep our spirits up. We knew once we started to get going offensively that we'd be fine and that's what we told each other. Overall, we just make sure to keep positive attitudes and we turn out fine."

Panas Coach Matt Evangelista said the score was tied with three minutes remaining in the game when Panas stepped to the foul line and converted seven of 10, including five by Araujo.

"Our game against Somers came down to free throws at

the end, but thankfully that is something we practice daily," Araujo said. "We start every practice with form shooting and free-throw drills which definitely come in handy in a game like the Somers' one. When I'm at the free-throw line, even if it's an intense game with high stakes or a noisy crowd, I really don't get nervous. I'm a pretty good free-throw shooter, so I just take a deep breath, dribble the ball three times and shoot it."

Kristen Scrobola scored 10 of her team-best 15 points in the second half. Cinquina finished with 12 points and Nolan added 10 points. Nolan had five in the fourth quarter, including a 'dagger' 3-pointer, according to Evangelista.

HEN HUD extended its winning streak to three in-a-row with victories over Beacon, 41-34, and Poughkeepsie, 53-36. The Sailors (6-5) trailed Beacon, 18-13, at halftime, but took control in the fourth quarter.

Caitlin Weimar finished with 18 points and 13 rebounds, Thalia Oliveira added 10 points and five rebounds Grace Moretti contributed eight points and 11 rebounds.

"We played an awful first half," said Hen Hud coach Ken Sherman of the Beacon game. "We played better in the second half. We did a better job of limiting our turnovers and got some easy baskets off of our press."

Moretti finished with a season-high 18 points, five steals and four assists and Weimar added 16 points and 15 rebounds. It was the first game that Weimar did not lead the team in scoring.

continued on next page



Brewster's Grace Galgano takes a run at Lakeland's Sofia Portante in Bears' win over Hornets last Thursday.



Yorktown junior G Jesse Barer drives for two in Huskers' loss to White Plains in Peekskill tourney final Saturday.

Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook

continued from previous page



Mahopac sophomore G Mia Klammer takes run at Carmel junior F Stephanie Ogbemor in Indians' 53-40 win over host Rams Saturday.

"We kind of fed off the energy from the second half of the Beacon game," Sherman said. "We got off to a good start and never



Carmel's Hailey Cassimassina harasses Mahopac's Zina McInerney in Rams' 53-40 loss to visiting Indians Saturday.

looked back.

"Grace, once again, had a complete game which, as I have said, makes our team better."

LAKELAND won two of three games. The Hornets sandwiched wins over Peekskill, 50-42, and Beacon, 55-29, around a setback to Brewster, 54-46.

Alexa Cole turned in a huge game against Peekskill with 27 points and 12 rebounds and Sarah Carroll finished with 10 points.

Cole had a double-double, 21 points and 10 boards, against Brewster. Tyler Hormazabal had nine points and five assists and Bri Monte added eight points and three blocked shots.

Cole closed out the week with her third consecutive 20-plus-point game, hitting for 25 in the triumph of Beacon. Point guard Amanda Cole collected a team-high 10 rebounds and Hormazabal scored eight points.

BREWSTER dropped a 44-34 verdict to Panas, but rebounded to overcome Lakeland, 54-46.

"We were only down 27-24 at the half, but went ice cold in the third and fourth quarters," said Brewster Coach Mike Castaldo of the Panas game. "Our defense was solid but we just couldn't score."

Maggie DePaoli finished with 17 points.

"Grace Galgano had a huge and-1 that sealed the deal for us," Castaldo said.

DePaoli led a balanced Brewster scoring with 13 points, Kristen Stefanick and Megan Beal each had 12 points and Galgano scored 10 points.

PUTNAM VALLEY suffered its first loss of the season, 42-34, by defending sectional champion Irvington. The Tigers shook off any ill effects of that loss with a dominant 58-28 victory over Ardsley as Cyera Daughtry had a team-high 19 points and Kelli Venezia added 15 points.

"We worked hard, however, our defense was not the same and Irvington took advantage of that, and our shots were not falling," sophomore Arianna Stockinger said. "To bounce back against Ardsley was awesome. We had to get back in our groove and that was a



Carmel senior G Clair Cody and Mahopac sophomore April Heady get after 50-50 ball in Rams' 53-40 loss to Indians Saturday.

great game to build everyone's confidence as a team and individuals, as well. Cyera had an amazing game and really stepped up, leading to our success."

OSSINING was upset by Our Lady of Lourdes, 55-41, sending the undermanned Pride (8-4) to its second consecutive loss. It was the second straight game Ossining was without Jaida Strippoli. And the Pride are still without Aubrey Griffin. Kailah Harris led the Pride with 21 points and 13 rebounds and Ashley McFadden added nine points.

Ossining will play Central (Ma.), Friday, 9 p.m. in the Hall of Fame Classic at Springfield College.

"We are close to being healthy and once we get our kids back on the court, I expect things to turn around," Ossining coach Dan Ricci said.

MAHOPAC Coach Chuck Scozzafava said his team played really well in both games, but came away with a split – a 66-61 loss to Arlington, then a 53-40 victory over arch-rival Carmel Saturday.

"Arlington was a back-and-forth game with numerous lead changes," Scozzafava said. "Unfortunately, we are having trouble finishing games. Carmel was a nice win for us after losing a couple of close games."

Caitlyn O'Boyle poured in a game-high 24 points against Arlington. Mia Klammer led a balanced scoring effort with 11 points against Carmel. Claire



Carmel G Hailey Cassimassina gains lane in Rams' 53-40 loss to visiting Mahopac Saturday.

Cody finished with a game-leading 17 points for Carmel and is close to 900 points for her splendid career.

SOMERS had an uncharacteristic 0-2 for the week – 41-30 to John Jay-Cross River and 44-42 to Panas.

Jordan May finished with 10 points and 10 rebounds against John Jay and Dani DiCintio had a team-leading 15 points against Panas.



Putnam Valley 8th-grader Eva DeChent and the Tigers are one of several Class B title contenders.



Cole Fired!

Lakeland Duo Ablaze in Loss to Brewster

RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS (PLEASE VISIT WWW.HVSPHOTOS.COM FOR MORE)

Lakeland High's Cole sisters, Amanda (12) and Alexa (11), did all they could but the host Hornets came up on the shy side of a 54-46 League II-C setback to visiting Brewster last Thursday in a game that was much closer than the final score would indicate against Bears Kristen Stefanick (22) and Meagan Beal (12). Alexa really cranked it up last week for the Hornets, going for 27 points and 12 rebounds against Peekskill, followed by another monster double-double vs. Brewster (21 points and 19 rebounds) before capping off the week with a 25-point effort against Beacon on Friday... see Girls Hoops Notebook



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