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Sports**

December 17 - December 23, 2019

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 11, Issue 521

Riverkeeper Opposes Company Chosen to Decommission Indian Pt.

BY RICK PEZZULLO

The environmental advocacy group that was involved in the negotiations that led to the decision to close the Indian Point nuclear power plants is publicly opposing the company selected to decommission the facility in Buchanan.

Riverkeeper has launched a petition urging Entergy Corporation, owners of the plants, and Governor Andrew Cuomo to put the brakes on the transfer of Indian Point to Holtec International. Last month, Entergy Corporation and Holtec International, through their affiliates, announced they had jointly filed a License Transfer Application with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, requesting approval for the transfer of the NRC licenses for Indian Point to Holtec after the last unit permanently shuts down by April 30, 2021.

Holtec plans to initiate decommissioning at Indian Point, following regulatory approvals and transaction close, as much as

40 years sooner than if Entergy continued to own the units.

"Holtec has never decommissioned a nuclear facility before, and its entire nuclear 'fleet' was acquired less than a year ago. Decommissioning is far more complex than just spent fuel management, especially at Indian Point, a site with known radioactive groundwater contamination," Riverkeeper stated. "Even in its area of 'expertise' Holtec's spent fuel management system at San Onofre nuclear power plant is proven to have serious design flaws, and Holtec has a history of risk-taking with spent nuclear fuel canisters, brought to light by whistleblower actions."

"Riverkeeper is fully vested in a quick and safe decommissioning of Indian Point once it closes. We demand that decommissioning happen in a prompt, safe manner by a company with a long track-record of experience, something that Holtec does not have," Riverkeeper continued. "We're only

Continued on page 2



PHOTO BY LISA MONTALTO

A Special Visit from the North Pole

Mr. and Mrs. Claus spread some Christmas cheer to youngsters, parents and staff at Once Upon a Time Preschool & Daycare in Putnam Valley Monday morning.

Yorktown Passes Stronger Tree Preservation Law

BY RICK PEZZULLO

The Yorktown Town Board unanimously voted last week to enact a new and more restrictive Tree and Woodlands Preservation Law.

The highly applauded action came after 18 months of review that spanned 17 Town Board meetings.

"This law has a lot more pro-

tections than any other law that we've had," said John Tegeder, Yorktown's Planning Director.

Yorktown's first tree law was put on the books in 2010. That law was revised in 2016. The new measure protects 4,000 acres of town-owned land and limits the number of trees that can be cleared in a calendar year.

"The new law is an important step forward in natural resource

protection because in addition to protecting individual trees, it also recognizes woodlands as valuable, functioning ecosystems, crucial in this time of diminishing wildlife habitat and climate change," said Linda Miller, a member of Advocates for a Better Yorktown, a group of residents that was in the forefront of making changes to the former law.

"This law is the result of input

from citizen advocacy and environmental groups, town departments, committees, commissions and advisory boards, neighborhood associations, and individual Yorktown residents," continued Miller, who helped craft the 2010 law. "Above all, thanks is due to Supervisor Gilbert and the Yorktown Town Board for bringing all this input together into a strong, balanced law."

Resident Paul Moskowitz said another important component of the new law was the mitigation stipulations it contained.

"I think we need this new law," he said.

The law also mandates that a town permit be obtained for any tree clearing above six percent of what exists on a property. The

Continued on page 2

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Riverkeeper Opposes Company to Decommission Indian Pt.

Continued from page 1

asking that Entergy select a qualified company to take on this arduous tasks of decommissioning, site cleanup and management of spent radioactive fuel, while keeping 20 million New Yorkers safe."

In January 2017, Entergy, which purchased the Indian Point plants more than 16 years ago, announced, to the complete surprise of local leaders, its plan for the early and orderly shutdown of Indian Point by April 30, 2021 as part of a settlement with New York State and Riverkeeper.

"This agreement provides what we've been fighting for, for decades: a definite early closing date for Indian Point—our biggest

existential threat in the region," Riverkeeper President Paul Galley said when the announcement was made in 2017. "It's a win for the safety of our communities, a win for the Hudson River and all the rich variety of life within it, and a win for a clean, sustainable energy future."

Holtec officials have stated its plan for decommissioning will result in the release for re-use of portions of the site in the 2030s, with the exception of the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation – the area where spent nuclear fuel is safely stored in dry casks until the U.S. Department of Energy transfers the spent fuel offsite. As part of its plan, Holtec

expects to move all of the Indian Point spent nuclear fuel into dry casks within about three years following facility shutdown in 2021.

Holtec has a pending application with the NRC for a Consolidated Interim Storage Facility in New Mexico, which could eventually store spent nuclear fuel from Indian Point and other U.S. nuclear power plants.

Jerry Nappi, a spokesman for Entergy, issued a statement on behalf of Entergy and Holtec when asked to comment on Riverkeeper's opposition.

"Holtec's technical expertise and experience means that they can perform decommissioning more cost-effectively, and thus

can complete the work as much as 40 years sooner than Entergy," Nappi stated. "Riverkeeper has no experience operating a nuclear plant nor any accountability for taking one apart for decommissioning. The organization that insisted for decades that the facility shut down now opposes the plant's decommissioning by one of the world's leading experts. Holtec and its affiliates have previously been approved by the NRC to decommission other U.S. plants, demonstrating that they have the technical and financial qualifications to perform the work safely and efficiently."

Riverkeeper stated more than

1,300 individuals have already signed on to support their stance and stressed it is prepared to challenge the license transfer to Holtec in both state and federal proceedings.

"We're pushing for the establishment of community advisory boards on both the state and federal level to give community members a voice regarding site cleanup, use of the decommissioning fund, and the eventual site reuse," Riverkeeper stated. "We urge state and federal regulators that any such board must be independent from industry and have real power to ensure that the license holder is completing the process correctly."

Yorktown Passes Stronger Tree Preservation Law

Continued from page 1

former law allowed 30 percent clearing before a permit was required.

Real estate agent and town resident John Kincart, a member of the town's Plan-

ning Board, said he didn't feel the new law was fair to large property owners.

"Clearly you're never going to make everyone happy," said Mohegan Lake resident Ken Belfer, who encouraged the board to "err on stronger protection of the environ-

ment."

Supervisor Ilan Gilbert agreed, saying "You want to pass a law that will pass the muster and make it bullet proof so it will stand up to appeal. We are protecting woodlands that were never protected be-

fore."

Councilman Tom Diana, a former police officer, noted as with any law that is passed, the Tree and Woodlands Preservation Law will be as effective as the enforcement of it can be.



How does Obesity put Women's Health at Risk?

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Dr. Mitchell S. Roslin

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Q: Why do people become obese?

A: Obesity is now recognized as an energy storage disease that's hormonally based. It can develop when we eat large quantities of simple carbohydrates that break down fast to sugar, such as bread, pasta and white rice. In response, your body produces excess insulin to keep the right level of glucose in the blood – a condition called insulin resistance.

Excess insulin production is a serious problem because insulin prevents fat breakdown, so more food converts to fat, promoting fat storage. High insulin also reduces the efficiency of the brain hormone, leptin that tells your brain you should eat less. In women, there's an extensive, complex interaction between the hormonally based reproductive cycles and insulin system, so subtle hormonal changes have a greater effect on women.

Q: Are obese women at risk for certain health problems?

A: Absolutely. Most problems revolve around excessive production of insulin. Obese women have more difficulty conceiving due to problems ovulating, and are more likely to have abnormalities during pregnancy,

such as high blood pressure. Obesity is the number one cause of female infertility in the U.S.

Obesity also increases the risk of irregular or painful periods, high-birth-weight babies, gestational diabetes, and miscarriages. There's a greater risk of breast cancer, especially post-menopause. Sixty percent of cancers of the uterine lining are caused by obesity, as are a significant number of uterine fibroids. Obese women with cancer have a higher rate of mortality and recurrence because treatments, typically tested on non-obese people, may not be as effective.

Q: What are the best remedies for obesity?

A: Weight-loss (bariatric) surgery can work because it helps establish a new weight set point, which is the weight range your body is genetically programmed for and that it tries to maintain. However, you must also eat more protein and vegetables – foods that break down more slowly. FDA-approved medications help some people lose weight. We now know that the best treatment for obesity is multi-pronged. Beside surgery, I use medications, behavioral therapy, and special exercise machines that make it possible for anyone to run. Exercise greatly improves insulin resistance.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS 914-864-0878

Police Blotter

STATE POLICE

December 7-

State Police from Wappinger arrested Angel A. Onofre Quezada, 21, of Peekskill, for DWI with a prior conviction within 10

Peekskill, Yorktown to Celebrate New Year with Ball Drops

BY RICK PEZZULLO

The New Year's Eve celebration tradition will continue in the City of Peekskill and the Town of Yorktown.

For the sixth consecutive year, Peekskill is inviting all residents to the intersection of Division and Park streets, starting at 10 p.m., for a free community party to usher in a new decade. Performing on stage this year is the band Milo Z.

A fireworks' display off the James Street Garage will light up the skies at the stroke of midnight. Many restaurants and bars in walking distance will be open.

The following streets in the city will be closed from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.: South Division Street between South Street and Park Street; North Division Street between Park Street and Main Street; Park Street between Division Street and Bank Street; and Central Avenue between Division Street and Nelson Avenue.

A safety zone for the fireworks show will require the following streets to be closed from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m.: Park Street between Bank Street and Crossroads Shopping Center; James Street between Brown Street and Main Street; parking lot adjacent to James Street ramp at Main Street; and parking lot across from Park Street Mall.

Meanwhile, in neighboring Yorktown, the fifth annual New Year's Eve Ball Drop, hosted by the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce, will kick off at 10 p.m. at the intersection of Veterans Road and Commerce Street.

Running to 12:30 a.m., the event will also include musical entertainment, fire pits to stay warm and a pyrotechnic display at midnight.

years, a class E felony. He was traveling on Dayton Lane in Peekskill when he was stopped for a violation of the vehicle and traffic law. Investigation revealed he was under the influence of alcohol and was subsequently arrested.

State Police from Cortlandt arrested Jhoney Arias Roldan, 43, of Cortlandt, for DWI. He was traveling on Route 9 in Cortlandt when he was stopped for a violation of the vehicle and traffic law. Investigation revealed he was under the influence of alcohol and was subsequently arrested.

December 8 -

State Police from Cortlandt arrested Wilson P. Moroch Criollo, 32, of Ossining,

for DWI. He was traveling on Route 9 in Cortlandt when he was stopped for a violation of the vehicle and traffic law. Investigation revealed he was under the influence of alcohol and was subsequently arrested.

State Police from Hawthorne arrested Emily S. Vallario, 37, of Yorktown, for Aggravated DWI Leandra's Law, a class E felony. She was traveling on the Taconic State Parkway in Yorktown when she was observed losing control of her vehicle and exiting the roadway before reentering. Investigation revealed she was under the influence of alcohol with a child under 16 years old in the vehicle, and was subsequently arrested.

YORKTOWN POLICE

December 11-

Jeremy Vogt, 43, of Lake Peekskill, was charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance and five traffic violations following a two-car accident about 11:56 a.m. on East Main Street. An investigation revealed Vogt's registration was suspended for having five parking tickets in a 12-month period. It was also alleged by police that Vogt was following another vehicle too closely, his vehicle was uninsured and he had a broken windshield and an unsafe tire.

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Photo Exhibit Showcasing Peekskill's Slices of Life Opens

BY RICK PEZZULLO

An exhibition featuring 100 photos from individuals who live or work in Peekskill was unveiled in the lobby of the Central Firehouse Thursday morning.

Take a Peek: Peekskill Printlife Photo Exhibition is the first exhibit for FUJIFILM North America in Westchester County. FUJIFILM worked closely with Co-Communications, the Peekskill Business Improvement District and city officials on the initiative.

The majority of 106 submissions from photographers of all skill levels and backgrounds was on display. The exhibit will later be moved to City Hall, where it will be

available for viewing Monday to Friday through the end of January.

"We're just so excited this was so successful," said City Manager Richard Leins, who also serves as executive director of the Peekskill Industrial Development Association.

"These photos are great," Mayor Andre Rainey remarked. "We all realize photos last a lifetime. They also tell a story. Today will forever be remembered because someone will take a photo of what's happening today."

Stacey Cohen of Co-Communications said the exhibit was part of a larger "Take A Peek" campaign to highlight the many positive aspects of Peekskill.

"The real purpose is to highlight what makes Peekskill a place to work, live and play," she said. "As the photos started coming in, we saw the beauty of Peekskill through the lens of people closest to it. (The exhibit) showcases a community and shows their unique perspective."

Twenty photographers were randomly selected as winners of a FUJIFILM camera.

The exhibit comes on the heels of FUJIFILM's second successful global initiative to remind people of the joys of printing personal photos – the Fujifilm Printlife Photo Exhibition in Grand Central Terminal, where thousands of photographs were shown.



PHOTO BY RICK PEZZULLO

Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Deb Milone enjoys some of the photographs on display at the Central Firehouse.



Sports Complex Completed

Yorktown officials, employees and residents Saturday celebrated the official completion of the Granite Knolls Sports Complex on Stony Street in Shrub Oak.

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Kaplowitz Appointed to New Post to Help Study Sewers

BY MARTIN WILBUR

It turns out that longtime County Legislator Michael Kaplowitz won't be leaving county government after all.

Kaplowitz, who has represented portions of Yorktown and Somers and the Town of New Castle on the Board of Legislators since 1998, was named deputy commissioner of the Department of Environmental Facilities last Wednesday by County Executive George Latimer. It is a new position to help county officials assess the sewer situation and move public policy on the issue, he said.

Kaplowitz's role will be to evaluate the finances and governance related to the county's sewer districts and the costs and benefits of consolidation. A lawyer who has worked primarily in financial services along with government service, he brings impressive credentials to the job, Latimer said.

Also, Legislative District 4, which Kaplowitz represented on the Board of Legislators, has had longstanding sewer issues, particularly Yorktown's troubled Hallock's Mills Sewer District and in more recent years the challenges in the New Castle communities of Random Farms, Riverwoods and Yeshiva.

"There is not a finer person to take on this responsibility than Mike Kaplowitz," Latimer said last week. "His intellect, his public commitment, his knowledge of the county as a whole, county government as well, we're very fortunate that he's agreed



Former county legislator Michael Kaplowitz, at podium, was introduced last week as the deputy commissioner of the Department of Environmental Facilities. He was joined at the announcement by, pictured from left county Director of Operations Joan McDonald, County Executive George Latimer and Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins.

to come on and take this."

Latimer said he anticipates that it will take Kaplowitz about a year to research details, lay out specific proposals and develop a plan. If state legislation is needed, the timeline could be elongated, he said.

The county currently has seven sewage treatment plants, 13 sewer districts and a DEF budget of more than \$125 million.

Kaplowitz, who announced last winter that he would not seek a 12th term on the

Board of Legislators, said he was "very, very excited" to take on the new challenge but that it would be different than his advocacy for sewers on behalf of his constituents.

"As far as I see it and given the charge from the county executive and the director of operations, pretty much everything is on the table relative to finding cost savings, efficiencies and at the end of the day it's all the same taxpayer, we all live in Westches-

ter County and they all need this very critical service," he said.

Among the questions that need to be answered, Kaplowitz said, is whether the county consolidates to one sewer district, maintains disparate districts or creates mini districts and what are the legal and financial ramifications of those different scenarios.

Effective Sunday, Kaplowitz resigned from his seat, just over two weeks before the end of his term and will be working out of DEF headquarters in New Rochelle. He started the job on Monday and will be paid \$107,690, which represents 70 percent of the salary grade, according to the county executive's office.

Director of Operations Joan McDonald said each sewer district has its own unique operating and fiscal issues.

"Mike is going to be looking at these issues, looking at the current statute, at our sewer districts to look at ways where we can improve the operations, what that we can improve the financial viability of these districts, of making the capital improvements that may be needed to bring our system to best in class," McDonald said.

"With the development that's going on in our county, whether New Rochelle, Yonkers, Peekskill, we want to make sure we are looking at those issues very holistically and making the right decisions as we move forward for the users of these services," she added.

GET ON DECK

(And Deck the Halls) With George Ondek as we introduce Hunan House in Mohegan Lake

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays



From George "Santa" Ondek

Join me and owner Anna Li as we celebrated the Grand Opening on Dec. 1st of Hunan House, located at 1950 Rt 6 Mohegan Lake (across from the firehouse), is Yorktown's newest Chinese Restaurant and all you can eat



Owner Anna Li, Yorktown Supervisor Lanny Gilbert and George cut the ribbon on December 1st

Hunan House Grand Opening \$2 Off Special:

with Purchase of \$20 or More. With this ad. Lunch not included - Buffet/Pickup only. Cannot be combined w/any other offer. Expires 12/31/19.



George poses with Owner Anna Li and enjoys his meal!



The George Ondek Show can be seen on YouTube by typing in "George Ondek" and the name of the guest, and on Altice/Cablevision Thursdays at 9pm and Saturdays at 10pm, on your local public access channel.

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Prayers Being Answered

Alexandra Figueroa, a sophomore at Hendrick Hudson High School who was diagnosed in April with metastatic Ewing's Sarcoma, posted on December 13 that she appears to be cancer-free. Students and faculty in the district and friends formed Alex's Army after her diagnosis to give her support and encouragement to fight the disease.

Hendrick Hudson Senior Spearheads Project for Gold Award

Hendrick Hudson High School senior Gaby Quist is currently completing her Gold Award for Girl Scouts, and her efforts include creating and donating hundreds of diaper/travel bags for local mothers in need. Last month, students at Frank G. Lindsey, Buchanan-Verplanck and Furnace Woods elementary schools joined in to create many of the bags.

Quist collected gently used t-shirts at the three elementary schools, the high school, the local library, Dance Expression and her church. She then led hands-on workshops at each of the elementary schools, showing students how to transform the t-shirts into bags. The project ultimately yielded 300 bags, significantly more than her initial goal of 250. The bags were donated to a local organization supporting mothers in need; excess bags will be sent to support mothers in need living in Ghana.

"The children enjoyed this project, and knowing that they were going to women in need, made it that much more special, especially right before Thanksgiv-



Hendrick Hudson High School senior Gaby Quist works with students at Frank G. Lindsey Elementary School to create bags for mothers in need as part of her Gold Award for Girl Scouts.

ing," said Frank G. Lindsey teacher Dana Duffy, whose students were among those who made bags for Quist's project.

In addition to showing students how to turn a t-shirt into a

bag, Quist discussed the importance of helping those most in need. She also collected diapers, wipes, and other baby products, which were included in a number of the donated bags.

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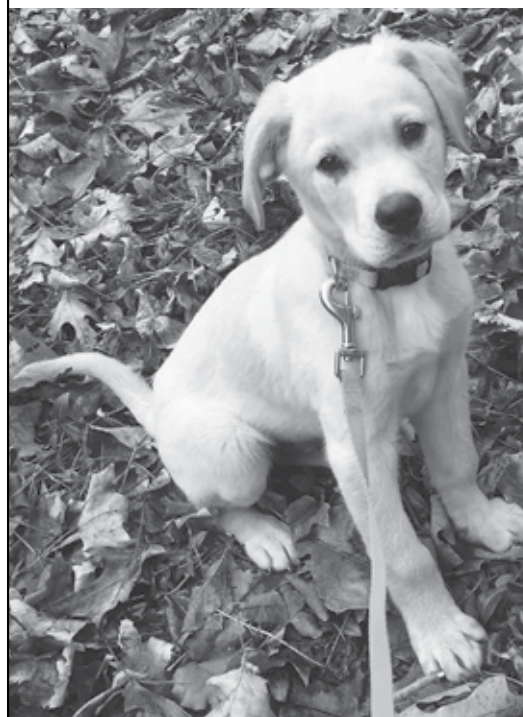
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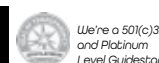
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Guest Commentary

My Santa's Elf's Love for Christmas

BY PAULETTE GAMBACORTA

Soon after meeting my husband, he declared his love. No, not for me; for Christmas. I would subsequently learn that was a gross understatement.

Dan's obsession with Christmas didn't fully reveal itself that first year. We had planned to take his two boys to Disney World the day after Christmas, so decorations were minimal. All I saw was an overabundance of gifts. But after that, all hell broke loose. It was how I'd always imagined the work schedule at the North Pole: Santa takes a short winter's nap, then begins planning for the next season before spring's first crocus peeks through the snow. I had no clue how much thought and preparation went into lighted lawn displays. Old favorites were rearranged to make way for the newest additions. Lights were tested, with any necessary rewiring taking place before deployment. Setting up the decorations revolved around the weather forecasts so items could be secured and staked before the ground froze. Electrical connections were wrapped in plastic and sealed with electrical tape to prevent water and snow from shorting them out. The official lighting date was Thanksgiving weekend. It didn't quite rise to the level of Clark Griswold excess, but it was quite impressive, nonetheless. We'd only need to direct holiday visitors to our street, then instruct them to look for the brightest house. Our NYSEG bills for those three months were always the highest of the year. I assumed the outdoor light show would end once the kids were grown, but not so. Even after they'd moved away, he continued the tradition until we sold the house.

Now that we live in a condo and he's retired, Dan can devote all his time and attention to indoor decorations. The centerpiece of our Christmas home decor is the mantle-top Christmas village. He actually has three different sets of buildings and figures that he alternates: a '50's themed scene, a traditional Dickens-era set-up, and a more contemporary village. Every summer he starts to scour the internet for enhancements. Last year's '50's village got an "asphalt" roadway in the foreground with period-appropriate vehicles. He was also determined to find people whose scale and clothing were accurate. When he found a tiny fire hydrant for the curb, he searched till he found a dog lifting his leg to place beside it. The level of detail and depth in this scenario was spectacular, complete with streetlamps, a town square Christmas tree, a lady pushing a baby carriage, policemen patrolling the street and children playing. All the buildings have bright LED lighting and business signs. The windows are actually clear, with miniature scenes that can be viewed as though you're peering into that world. I would stand in front of the fireplace and be drawn into this frozen slice-of-life moment, whose bowling alley, diner and movie theater marquis were reminiscent of my own Buffalo childhood.

This year will be the old-fashioned Dickens village. Again, online searches for upgrades began during the summer. He's frustrated because it's been hard to find figures that are in perfect scale to these particular town structures. But the vinyl "brick" roadway will be laid onto the display board, with people, animals and vendor carts depicting life of that era. I'm not exactly sure what he has in store, but I know it will be amazing.

Of course, no self-respecting Christmas enthusiast is worth his salt without a showstopping tree. Ours has been replaced periodically over the years. Pre-lit is the only way to go, and our current model has state-of-the-art LED lights with over 20 programmed remote-controlled settings offering various colors and lighting effects. Dan switches it daily. Our ornament collection is one of my most prized possessions. We've been accumulating them since we met, starting with that first Disney trip in 1990. Whenever we travel, we make it a point to seek out a Christmas shop for a tree-hung keepsake commemorating the trip. We have ornaments celebrating kids, grandkids, beloved pets, other family members and special life events. I probably don't need to mention that shopping for new additions is a year-round activity for Dan. At this point, most of what we put on the tree is sparkling blown glass with light-reflecting metallic finishes. Certainly, we have the usual suspects of traditional Christmas-themed shapes: assorted santas, snowmen, nutcrackers, bells, wrapped presents and the symbolic pinecones. But by far the majority of our active ornament collection (retired ones live in the garage) consists of food-themed shapes. At last inventory, the count was more than 200 pieces, though I know we've purchased more since then. If you think food items can't make for festive Christmas tree ornaments, then you haven't seen a shimmering glass bundle of asparagus gathered up with a red glass bow! Our love for Italian food is depicted with interpretations of salami, provolone, parm, a loaf of crusty ciabatta, spaghetti and meatballs, pizza and even a tiny bulb of garlic. Want something to drink? Our tree has Chianti, Pinot Noir and a bottle of bubbly. You can also have a foaming mug of beer, a soda, a cappuccino or grab a bottle of Dan's favorite Jack Daniels. For our carnivorous side, there's a glittery steak, pork chop, a golden brown turkey and a fried chicken leg. Don't forget bacon and eggs or a breakfast sandwich to start your day. We're not food snobs, so fast food gets a nod with a blown glass burger, fries, hot dog, dill pickle, a taco, a Chinese take-out container and a fortune cookie thrown in. Every fruit and veggie from your produce aisle can be found hanging on our branches, including an eggplant, tomato, mushroom, broccoli, peas in a pod and corn-on-the-cob. For dessert we have gleaming cannoli, a cupcake, cheesecake, pie, a slice of cake, a cream puff, chocolate éclair, and a chocolate chip cookie. So why wouldn't we have ornaments representing the preparation of all that food? There's a frying pan,

colander, food processor, fridge, stove, and even a barbecue grill!

Dan is meticulous about placement of the ornaments. I used to assist, unwrapping and handing them off to him as I "ooh"-ed and "aww"-ed at the rediscovery of each little gem. Now that he's retired, he tackles it on his own while I'm at work. It takes him almost a week to complete the task. The entire collection is carefully stored according to size, so he starts at the top with the smallest ones and works his way down to the bottom. Christmas carols must be playing during the process, with a glass of eggnog at the ready. Once the storage bins have been emptied, he sits to contemplate his work, followed by the inevitable tweaking of the arrangement till it's just right.

Dan is in full Santa's Elf mode. The battery-operated candles are in the windows and his grandmother's oversized nativity figures have already been set up on a table in the corner of the living room. Some of his new decorative acquisitions have been put in place, such as vintage lighted flickering candlesticks and a bubble light display. While I was at work, he told me he had a surprise for me. I returned home to find the Christmas tree had been erected and was lit. No ornaments yet, but the real surprise was that my favorite tree-topper was in place. It's a Minnie Mouse angel with a gossamer iridescent gown and gold lame' wings. Her arms and wings swoop slowly and gracefully. I love her, but we haven't been able to use her in quite a while because her attachment tube wasn't compatible with the tops of our most recent trees. Dan's tried a number of fixes, and he's been searching the internet for years. He finally found a universal adaptor (thank you, Amazon) that he hoped would work. It still required some MacGyver-style Gerry-rigging on his part, but when I entered the house and saw the Archangel Minnie gracing our tree, I gasped. I knew that was an act of love.

The last remaining piece of the puzzle is the room décor. Dan and I do this together. There's my collection of needlepoint Christmas pillows, all gifts from my mother, that get strewn everywhere. Twenty-six years ago, my sister made me 18 small cross-stitched ornaments that I place around the house so they can be more readily admired. A huge point of pride is our snow globe collection. I had already started accumulating them before I met Dan, but I only owned a handful. Naturally those numbers have exploded over the past 29 years, many of them with Disney themes. Dan saved his precious plastic snow domes dating back to his childhood and those are added to the mix. Right now, the curio cabinet displays the non-seasonal globes, but those will be switched out for the Christmas varieties.

Once the house has been transformed, my mood is immediately elevated. Most days I return from work feeling exhausted and somewhat defeated. But all is right with the world when the house is decked out for the holidays. I don't get a chance to

Continued on page 18

Letters to the Editor

Slater is Committed to Giving Yorktown a Fresh Start

To the Editor:

With 2020 quickly approaching Yorktown residents should be getting very excited about the new leadership coming to the Town Hall. I am proud to serve as co-chair of Matt Slater's bipartisan community transition team and have already witnessed his dedication to the future success of Yorktown. For the first time

in recent memory Matt has brought together a diverse group of individuals to assist him as he prepares to implement his plan and vision as Yorktown Supervisor. The continued skepticism voiced in a recent letter to the editor could not be further from the truth. Matt Slater is committed to giving Yorktown a fresh start. Under Matt's direction our team has been

focused on recommendations that will further professionalize the town's services, enhance the town's technological capabilities, and foster an environment that encourages smart growth. Matt's leadership style and capabilities have made this experience, which is my first involvement in local government, incredibly positive and I am very encouraged about what is in

store for Town Hall. Serving on this team has been a great experience based on the premise that we all want our community to succeed. Matt's unprecedented approach and ability to bring nearly two dozen community leaders together is already proof that January 1, 2020 will be a new day for Yorktown.

PETER LANZA

Safety Suggestions for Senior Complexes

To the Editor:

Thank God no seniors were living in a senior building that burned down in Peekskill. That could have been a great loss of life. I believe most senior apartment buildings in Westchester are built of bricks and cement.

I'm going to make four suggestions to make sure seniors are protected in the future in their homes: All senior apartments should be built of brick with cement floors. Sprinkler systems should be installed as soon as the building is completed. Smoke

detectors should be mandatory. A building under construction should have an alarm system connected to the police and fire departments of the town.

Once again, thank God no one was living in the building and there was no loss of life. I feel if these measures are adopted by the towns and cities of Westchester or Westchester County tragedies like this could be avoided.

Sincerely yours,

GEORGE ONDEK

Yorktown Shouldn't Subject Residents to Fluoride

To the Editor:

Collection of back taxes add to more paving. That certainly is good news is it not? It is but here is the bad news. Some want to use this money to start poisoning us again. They want to start adding fluoride to our "drinking water." If you think you need to treat your teeth with fluoride, do so yourself. There are fluoride tooth pastes and fluoride additives. Drinking fluoridated water is certainly not one of the effective ways to do it. Doing so, studies have shown long term effects such as dementia and other ailments.

Remember the days when you went to the dentist for a fluoride treatment? The

dentist would swab your teeth with a fluoride solution and tell you NOT to swallow. Have you ever wondered why he would say that? Nowhere in Europe is the drinking water fluoridated. Again maybe they knew something we don't?

You may have missed this statement, "Prescriptions of fluoride supplements can help offset some of the lost fluoride in the water, but that is only 50% effective," according to Dr. Tectmeier (TK). So what the doctor is in fact saying, the supplements are only 50% effective but drinking the fluoridated water is better. Just think, wouldn't you think that applying the fluoride directly

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Obituaries

Lawrence DeNoia

Lawrence J. DeNoia, a resident of Moughan Lake, died December 9. He was 65.

He was born in New York City on March 24, 1954 to Anthony and Carmela DeNoia. On June 27, 1981, he married Barbara Juliano at the Holy Rosary Church in the Bronx.

He is survived by his wife Barbara, daughters Lauren and Jessica DeNoia, son Michael DeNoia, mother Carmela DeNoia, brother Joseph DeNoia, and sister Patricia

(Charles) Fiumefreddo. Predeceased by his father Anthony DeNoia.

Mr. DeNoia received a bachelor's degree from Lehman College and a Master's Degree in Finance from St. John's University. He founded his business, Investments, Tax and Insurance (ITI) Strategies, in Peekskill, in 1993. He co-wrote the book, Financial Planning for Physicians and Health Care Professionals, frequently lectured to professional societies, and served on numerous community Boards of Directors, the Westchester Rockland International Association of Financial Planners, the Hope For Youth Foundation, The Lincoln Society, the Paramount Theater, Hudson Valley

Hospital Center, Make a Wish Foundation and the Hudson Valley Chamber of Commerce, among many others. He was proud to be a member and former President of the Peekskill Rotary Club.

He was just as active in his faith community as he was in the Peekskill community. He was a lector and usher at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, and a member of the Holy Name Society. His generous heart led him to support those in need, through many charities and foundations.

Mr. DeNoia was an avid golfer, a landscaping perfectionist, and a lover of family vacations, especially Pine Lake Manor and Disney. He was well known for his sense of humor, his calm demeanor and his love of snacks (especially a la mode). He will be greatly missed by his clients, friends, family and all who were lucky enough to have been touched by his generosity and kindness.

Thomas Reynolds

Thomas M. Reynolds, a 55-year resident of Yorktown, died November 17. He was 92.

He served in the U.S. Navy during both WWII and the Korean War, working in communications. After his service, he worked for the Railroad and Telephone companies. He was an avid bowler in Westchester County and served as secretary of many leagues. An outdoorsman, he enjoyed hunting and fishing. He was involved in both

the Cub Scouts, Troop 138 and Boy Scouts, Troop 38.

He was the son of the late Thomas and Anna (Casey) Reynolds of New Haven, Connecticut. The eldest of 10, he is survived by six siblings, all residing in Connecticut. He was preceded in death by his wife of 46 years, Ethel A. Reynolds.

He is survived by his daughter Joan (Ken) Denton and sons Thomas (Barbara) and James (Michael) Reynolds, as well as five grandchildren, Jennifer, Nikki, Kristina, Christopher and Rachael (Zach-fiancé).

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Saturday, December 21, at 10 a.m., at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Shrub Oak.

Theresa Ryan

Theresa Ryan, a resident of Cortlandt, died peacefully December 8 at home surrounded by her loved ones. She was 86.

She was born on July 11, 1933 to Louis and Marie Catano. She raised five loving children. She went on to work for many years as an office manager at the New York Power Authority at Indian Point.

She was predeceased by her adoring husband Richard Ryan, Sr., brothers John

and Frank Catano, and her sister Ann (Catano) Hourican.

She is survived by her children: Theresa Medina, Deborah Washington, Maribeth Zatet, Richard Ryan, Jr. and Kathleen Ryan, 10 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, one great-great grandchild, and one brother Louis P. Catano.

Phyllis Corcoran

Phyllis "Marie" Corcoran, a resident of Cortlandt, died December 6 at the Bethel Nursing Home in Ossining after a long illness. She was 96.

She is survived by her children; Michael Goldberg of Fort Worth, TX, Les Goldberg of Annapolis, MD, Richard Goldberg of Herndon, VA, Patrick Corcoran of Cortlandt, NY, Leonard Corcoran of Brewster, NY and her 12 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Marie, as she preferred to be called, was born September 20, 1923 in Somerset, NY to William and Charlotte Terry. She was preceded in death by her brother Thexton and sister Agnes.

While seeking a change outside of the farm life in upstate New York, she moved to Chicago in the early 1940's. While in Chicago, she befriended her "foster" parents Mae and Roy Treadwell and moved to Houston, Texas. It was in Houston where she met and married Max Goldberg. She was

Continued on page 20

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Business of the Week

BY NEAL RENTZ

Furci's owner, Deneen Furci, said recently that the Furci family has always been regulars in preparing and serving food, as well as entertaining guests and hosting gatherings. Throughout the years, they became known for bringing people together and breaking bread.

When the family opened Furci's in December 2015, the public was just as much excited to dine as the Furcis were to begin their next journey. The Furci family came together to build a dining experience providing quality, homemade, traditional meals, while also giving our community a comfortable and warm place they know they can count on.

Dining in the restaurant is much more than your ordinary meal out. Upon entering, you will notice the "This is Us" wall. Representing owners, staff, and customers as part of the family, and part of the restaurant. There is always an owner present to enhance each visit. Furci recalled, "This is our home – that's why there's always



This is Us.

an owner present. We want every customer to feel at home too. Our family, staff, and customers are all a part of 'us,' it takes all of 'us' to be successful."

Some of the restaurant's recipes date back to about 100 years

ago from the Furci family. "Many of the recipes on the menu date back to my in-laws' great-grandparents. Sharing these special recipes is a major part of why we opened a restaurant in the first place," Furci said. Although there

Furci's Yorktown

are many traditional dishes, you can be sure to find something on the menu to suit the whole family's taste.

Weekly specials are typically a step outside the traditional Italian fare - including short ribs, Osso Bucco, specialty rice balls and specialty egg rolls; with Italian egg rolls of broccoli rabe and sausage always on the menu to specials of duck, seafood, buffalo chicken and chicken scarpariello egg rolls. Furci's is not limited to Italian-style food.

Other highlight features of this hidden gem include outdoor seating on a private patio, live music inside or outside, and a new addition: Furci's UPstairs for private parties as well as extended dining space. During the summer, there is also an operational gelato cart on the patio.

Events and specials can be found on the restaurant website, or delivered right to your inbox so you never miss out on the fun. Be sure to write your email during next visit or add it on our website.

Other specials of the restaurant include happy hour from 4

to 7 p.m. in the bar on Monday-Thursday, and 3 to 6 p.m. on Fridays and a fixed price three-course dinner is available with plenty of options in the dining room. Furci's is open seven days a week and serves lunch in addition to its nighttime feast.

On Christmas Eve, the restaurant will offer a four-course Feast of the Seven Fishes meal upstairs with live music. Downstairs will serve a similar four-course menu, along with a paired down regular menu.

Furci said the restaurant has an outstanding staff and the family seeks to make its customers comfortable and eager to share the Furci's experience. The restaurant has the tagline: "Let Furci's be your place."

Furci's is located at 334 Underhill Ave. in Yorktown. For more information, call 914-302-7900 or visit <http://www.furcisrestaurant.com/>. The restaurant is also on Facebook and Instagram.

(This story is being reprinted due to some errors in the Dec. 10 edition. The Northern Westchester Examiner regrets the errors.)

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Safety Tips to Avoid Carbon Monoxide Exposure

NYSEG and RG&E, subsidiaries of AVANGRID, Inc., are reminding customers to take the proper precautions to protect themselves and their family from dangerous carbon monoxide (CO) fumes.

A colorless and odorless gas, carbon monoxide is found in combustion byproducts such as those produced by small gasoline engines, generators, or by burning charcoal, coal, oil, wood, propane or natural gas. Carbon monoxide from these sources can build up in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces. Carbon monoxide poisoning can occur within a matter of minutes. Customers who suspect a CO problem should immediately exit the premises and call the utility or 911. Symptoms of carbon monoxide exposure include: flu-like symptoms, headaches, dizziness, weakness, nausea and loss of muscle control.

The easiest way to prevent becoming a victim of carbon monoxide is early detection – installing CO detectors in your home. State law requires that all New York State residences have CO detectors installed. The companies also urge customers to check and replace the battery on a regular schedule and to also have their home heating, water heater and any other coal, oil, wood, propane and natural gas burning appliance inspected and maintained annually by a professional. They offered the following additional tips:

Report Emergencies

Call NYSEG at 1-800-572-1121 or RG&E at 1-800-743-1702 to report gas leaks, odors or emergencies. If you suspect a leak, get up and get out, leave the building and call from a safe place. If there's an immediate danger, call 911.

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors should be located on every level of your home, including outside all sleeping areas. Test them monthly and replace the batteries at least twice a year, when you change the clocks for Daylight Saving Time.

Appliances

Never use your stove or oven to stay warm. Only space heaters intended for indoor use should be operated indoors or in enclosed spaces, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Home Generators

When operated improperly, portable generators can also cause carbon monoxide problems. Those looking to operate portable generators should operate them outdoors in a clean, dry, well-ventilated area, and never indoors or in a garage. They should also make sure exhaust gases are safely vented away from the house, windows or other enclosed areas. Generators that plug into a home's electrical system should be installed by a licensed electrician via a transfer switch.

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2012	NISSAN	SENTRA	64656	19-535A	7,995.00
2004	SUBARU	FORSTER LTD	94100	P8121A	7,995.00
2012	HONDA	CIVIC LX	106598	P8262	8,995.00
2010	MAZDA	M6	97795	P8232	8,995.00
2010	SUBARU	LEGACY 5-SPD	104310	P8021B	8,995.00
2008	ACURA	RL	43782	19-424A	9,995.00
2013	FORD	EDGE	102721	P8084	10,995.00
2016	FORD	FIESTA SE	18069	P8095	11,995.00
2015	VW	PASSAT SE	70703	19VW-129A	11,995.00
2014	FORD	EDGE SEL	110070	F280-19A	11,995.00
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2017	VW	JETTA SEL	70249	12VW-167A	12,995.00
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11:00pm Candlelight Service

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carol singing, homily, special music



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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.

TUESDAY, DEC. 17

Lattes Chanukah Party: 7 p.m. at Chabad of Yorktown, 2629 Old Yorktown Rd. Make a beautiful piece of jewelry for somebody special, or for yourself. Bring a wrapped gift for our fabulous gift exchange. RSVP is necessary. For more information, visit: www.ChabadYorktown.com or call 914-962-1111.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18

New York -Presbyterian Programs: Several programs have been scheduled for the coming days at New York-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital, 1980 Crompond Rd. Ask the Doctor: Lunch and Learn Lecture: Surgical Innovations for Hip Replacement will be held on Dec. 18 from noon to 1 p.m. Registration: call 914-734-3576 or e-mail CommunityAffairs2@nyp.org. Bariatric Supportive Holiday Cooking will be held on Dec. 18 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Registration: call 914-734-3780 or e-mail hvh-teachingkitchen@nyp.org. A Simple Italian Supper will be held on Dec. 19 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Cost: \$15. Registration: call 914-734-3780 or e-mail hvh-teachingkitchen@nyp.org. The Food Brain Connection will be held on Dec. 20 from noon to 1:30 p.m. Cost: \$15. Registra-

tion: call 914-734-3780 or e-mail hvh-teachingkitchen@nyp.org. The Yorktown Seniors Advisory Group: Heart Health Challenges for Women will meet on Dec. 20 from 1 to 2 p.m. Location: Yorktown Town Hall, 363 Underhill Ave. For more information: call 914-734-3576

Spanish Book Group: Guillermo Rodriguez will be leading a discussion of La Lampara de Aladino by Luis Sepulveda at 7 p.m. at the Ossining Public Library, 53 Croton Ave., Copies of the book can be found behind the Information Desk. Free. Info: mmarinaro@wlsmail.org or 914-941-2416.

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.

Live Performances: Live ticketed performances are being held at The Winery at St. George, 1715 E. Main St., Mohegan Lake. Tribute, theatrical, cabaret, independent and famous acts perform. Info: 914-455-4272.

THURSDAY, DEC. 19

Yorktown Jewish Center Courses: Several courses have been scheduled for the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. The Talmud class meets on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Rabbi Sternstein's class meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 11 a.m. Rabbi Urbas's class meets on the first and third Monday of each month, at 11 a.m. The Rosh Chodesh Class (for ladies only) meets on one Tuesday a month at 2 p.m. The next meeting will be in January. This class is for discussion and learning, and no knowledge of Hebrew is required. Info: 914-245-2324 or www.yorktownjewishcenter.org.

Acting Classes: 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,

FRIDAY, DEC. 20

Toys for Tots: The Marine Corps Reserve's Putnam/Northern Westchester Counties Toys for Tots is getting underway. For more information, call coordinator Bill Lewis at 845-528-7987 or send an e-mail to MAHOPACT4T@YAHOO.COM. For drop-off locations visit www.toysfortots.org and

click on drop off sites. On weekends only, unwrapped toys are being accepted at the Jefferson Valley Mall. Checks, made payable to the Toys for Tots Foundation, are also being accepted. Mail checks to 44 Somerset La., Putnam Valley, NY. 10579.

Reform Temple Hanukkah Festival: All are invited to join in the celebration of Hanukkah at Reform Temple of Putnam Valley, 362 Church Rd. There will be a Shabbat Service at 6:30 p.m. followed by holiday festivities at 7:15 p.m. The event will feature a Menorah contest, a Latke Cook-off, children's games, activities for teens, traditional Hanukkah music and a pizza dinner. Admission is \$5 per person but no more than \$20 per family. For more information, call 845-528-4774 or visit www.rtpv.org. RSVP to RT-PVinfo@gmail.com.

Judaism Discussion: "What Judaism and Buddhism have in common:" is the topic at First Hebrew's Third Friday Speaker Series & Services. First Hebrew welcomes Rev. Paul Silverman, the first westerner to be named the head of a Zen Temple in Japan. He will discuss the similarities between Buddhism after Shabbat evening services which begin 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend free of charge. For more details, visit www.firsthebrew.org. First Hebrew is located at 1821 Main St., Route 6, on the



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Thursday, January 16th

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12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Presentation

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Happenings

Cortlandt/Peekskill border. Feel free to call 914-739-0500 or e-mail fhc@firstthebrew.org.

SATURDAY, DEC. 21

Holiday Bake & Gift Sale: The event will be held at the Ossining United Methodist Church, 1 Emwilton Pl. from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Baking will be done by Peter Cassidy.

Bagels and Bible: Temple Beth Am will host the program at 9 a.m. All are invited to study the Bible with our engaging Rabbi Robbie Weiner. Bagels and coffee are provided for all wishing to explore how the Bible 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.

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.

Lasdon Holidays: Holidays on the Hill is being held on weekends at Lasdon Park on Route 35 in Somers. The event is continuing on Saturdays and Sundays through Dec.

29 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets will be sold until 3:30 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and free for ages 2 and under. The main house will feature Santa's workshop and office where he will be hearing wishes from the children. You'll be able to take a photo of your family with Santa during his scheduled appearances. The event also includes a model train exhibit. Visit <https://lasdonpark.org> or call 914-864-7268 for more information.

Hart Library Exhibits: Photography by David Rocco - construction of the new Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge and demolition of the old Tappan Zee Bridge will be held in December at the John C. Hart Memorial Library, 1130 E. Main St. Shrub Oak.

Somers Library Exhibit: Paintings by Mike Russ are on display in December at the library. Info: 914-232-5717 or www.somerslibrary.org.

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

First Presbyterian Holiday Services: First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown, 2880 Crompond Rd. has scheduled the fol-

lowing holiday services. On Dec. 21 at 7:30 p.m. there will be a Longest Night Service, a candle-lit worship service which offers hope, support, prayer and quiet reflection to those for whom the Advent season may also bring sadness, grief, and worry. On Dec. 24 there will be Christmas Eve services. A family service and children's pageant will be held at 3 p.m.; candlelight services will be held at 7:30 p.m. and 11 p.m., Info: www.fpcyorktown.org.

SUNDAY, DEC. 22

Holiday Services: St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 2405 Crompond Rd, Yorktown, invites you to temper the hectic pace and busyness of the holidays by attending a series of special Sunday Advent sermons by Pastor Dave Dockweiler. The sermons are entitled Slowing Down for Hope; Slowing Down for Peace; Slowing Down for Joy; and Slowing Down for Love. This Advent sermon series continues today. Services are at 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. Christmas Eve services will be conducted at 4 and 9 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please also visit us on the Web at www.standrewsyorktown.com.

Yorktown Public Menorah Lighting: Chabad of Yorktown invites the community to join the Yorktown annual public Menorah lighting and amazing Gelt Drop. The ceremony will take place at 4 p.m. at the Jack DeVito Field on Veterans Road in Yorktown Heights. Free Donuts, Chocolate gelt, and light up menorah necklaces will be provided, as well as free hot coffee donated by Starbucks Info: www.ChabadYorktown.com

or 914-962-1111.

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.

MONDAY, DEC. 23

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.musical-munchkins.com.

TUESDAY DEC. 24

Grace Lutheran Christmas Eve: Join us at Grace Lutheran Church, 3830 Gomer St., Yorktown on Christmas Eve. At 2:30 p.m. our worship is centered around the telling of the Christmas story to the younger generations and in a more casual setting. If a more traditional Christmas with carols, choir and communion is what interests you, come at 7:30 p.m. However, if you can do a late night, the Christmas Vigil (a time of waiting and watching) at 11 p.m. is a very festive, intimate and enriching collection of eclectic carols.

Amawalk Friends Program: Silent worship, caroling and refreshments are slated for 4:43:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Amawalk Friends Meeting House, 2467 Quaker Church Rd., Yorktown. Bring a flashlight and friends & family to gather around wood stoves.

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Why the Holidays Can Be the Best Time to Be a Homeowner

As a homeowner, that magic time between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day is my favorite time of year, each and every year.

Others may prefer spring when the garden is awakening and we may spend most of our time outside, or mid- or late summer when the flower and vegetable gardens are in full bloom, or perhaps the fall when the rich colors of nature can take our breath away.

But for me, I'm most grateful for my home and the pleasures it affords in the dead of winter. That is the time when, finally, that stubborn grout weed that plagued my former property of some 40 years is in remission for the season, the leaves have been raked and composted and my time suddenly expands exponentially for other duties inside the house.

Those duties could include anything as big as finally summoning help to refinish that horrible guest room floor that has been hidden by a rug for decades or tiny chores like gluing on the knob to that antique chest that fell off 10 or 12 years ago or disguising all those furniture scratches with Old English Scratch Cover.

When my wife and I had an antiques

shop as a part-time avocation, Old English was the single most important defense mechanism in our bag of tricks – short of refinishing – to make our furniture inventory look twice as good as when we bought it at auction.

The holiday season is also the time when our homes never looked cleaner or better with decorations, ready to receive guests.

As with every Christmas, my wife Margaret and I put up and decorate a tree, centered in front of a gorgeous Palladian-style window on the fifth floor of our building where passers-by can see it, like a beacon that we're there, welcoming in the holiday season.

For some years, I have written about my journey as the owner of an antique house planning to sell my home and all the preparations that went into it. It gave me a lot of material to write about. Now, I enjoy the maintenance-free habitat of Trump Park Residences,

where all I have to do is enjoy our beautiful surroundings and have someone else do the grunt work outside. (And they do it so beautifully.)

The nicest thing I enjoy about my current living arrangement is being able to

stay within the same community where basically I grew up (grew old, actually) and having friends I've known for decades.

Especially this season, which become more precious as I get older, I'm looking forward to using my extra holiday time to toast in the new year, once again singing Auld Lang Syne and trying to remember what the heck those words mean. It's much like trying to remember where I've placed the remote control for the building's garage door opener.

Bill Primavera, a Realtor® who writes, or a writer who sells real estate, is associated with William Raveis Real Estate and founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc., the longest-running public relations agency in Westchester (www.PrimaveraPR.com), specializing in lifestyles, real estate and development. To engage the services of The Home Guru and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.



By Bill Primavera

My Santa's Elf's Love for Christmas

Continued from page 8

savor it much during the rush leading up to Christmas, but after all the hullabaloo has died down, I love to just sit quietly in the room and soak it all in. When winter winds blow and the days are short and gloomy, the glow inside the house warms my heart. Call me crazy (and many people have), but this is the reason the tree and all the decorations remain in place till March. That is

not an exaggeration. Until I feel that winter is almost over and I'm itching for spring, I want to be surrounded by the comfort of my winter wonderland.

When I gaze around the room and take stock of Dan's handiwork, I feel his soul represented there. As I watch him in action as Santa's Elf, I'm reminded of all that made me fall in love with him in the first place. Merry Christmas!

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Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. Engine type
- 6. One who questions
- 11. Surrealist painter Max
- 12. Loops
- 13. Judge's gowns
- 14. Pirate's treasure box
- 15. Laid up
- 16. Hendrix song, "Bold as ___"
- 17. Eastern snowbird's destination
- 21. "One day at a time" handyman or Mahopac financial and accounting group
- 25. Big name in pizza
- 27. Marc Antony's love
- 30. Mt. Kisco wood fired pizza and beer truck, Ash and ___
- 31. Single-celled organism
- 32. "No more!"
- 34. "Black ___" 1987 detective thriller with Dennis Hopper
- 35. Truck part
- 36. Industrial city in Dusseldorf district

dorf district

37. Clubs, abbr.

DOWN

- 1. Printing flourish
- 2. Lord of the Rings bad guys
- 3. All together
- 4. Enzyme suffix
- 5. Whitney and others, abbr.
- 6. Approve
- 7. Part of London or Manhattan
- 8. Ukraine city
- 9. "When all ___ fails . . ."
- 10. Q followers
- 18. Atomic number
- 19. Introspective
- 20. ___ gratias
- 22. English princess
- 23. Passes
- 24. Deodorant type
- 26. Wise men
- 27. French friends
- 28. Pills from docs
- 29. Woodwind
- 31. Wonder or admiration
- 32. "Pulp Fiction" star, Thurman
- 33. Rejections

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13						14				
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Obituaries

Continued from page 10

an active leader in the Houston community and was President of Women's America ORT, a Jewish Philanthropy organization for five years. After she divorced Max in 1958, she moved to Yonkers. In New York, she married Patrick Corcoran in 1960, settling in Peekskill. He died in July 2005.

Mrs. Corcoran balanced her time raising five boys, supporting charity work at Freedom Gardens in Mohegan Lake, while working in high-end retail stores. She also had a great love for Great Dane dogs and spent 10 years breeding and showing them, winning numerous awards. She settled in her final residence with Patrick and Enza Corcoran in Cortlandt.

She will be forever known as a loving and caring person with a dynamic personality who would go to the ends of the earth for her sons. She valued family most of all and displayed a very positive attitude towards life.

Barbara Carano

Barbara Carano, a resident of Montrose, died December 9. She was 86.

She was born January 12, 1933 in Newburyport, MA to Robert and Nellie (Brown) Ronan.

She is survived by her beloved husband Crocifisso Ramon Carano; devoted children, Michael Carano and his wife Lynn, Linda Westlake and her husband Warren, Susan Mitchell and Gary Carano; caring sister Bonnie Despres and her cherished

grandchildren, Elizabeth, Lindsey, Adam, Michelle and Emily. She is also survived by her adoring great grandchildren, Michael, Joseph, Timothy, Cameron, Nikki, Emma and Andy. Barbara was predeceased by her loving son, David Carano, grandson, Josh Westlake, her brother, Robert Ronan and son-in-law, Bruce Mitchell.

Gilbert Longin

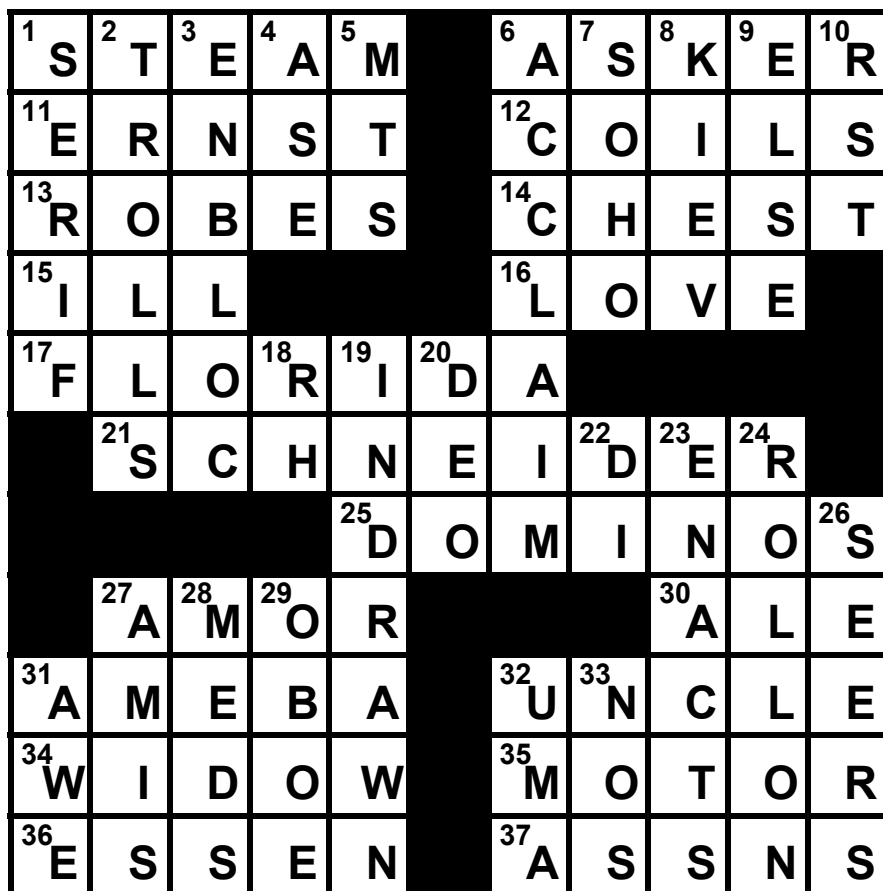
Gilbert Alphonse Joseph Longin, a resident of Crompond, died December 7. He was 82.

He was born in Stamford, NY to Jean and Germaine Longin on August 17, 1937. He was an editor and award-winning writer at ABC Radio News. He won a Writers Guild of America award repeatedly for his skillful work on those programs. Before joining ABC Radio News, he worked at WVIP in Mt. Kisco, and before that at WNLA in Peekskill. He graduated from Fordham and did radio there too.

Mr. Longin contracted polio at 15, and navigated on crutches for many years, later in a wheelchair, and finally, after shoulder surgery several years ago, in a motorized wheelchair. But his physical limitations were never a disability as he lived life to the fullest with family, friends and colleagues.

He is survived by Lois, his devoted wife of 54 years, his loving children: Pam (Anthony), Greg (Claudia) and Ed (Kara); and nine much-loved grandchildren: Mikey, Allison, Dominic and Jared; Walter, Jordan and Daniel; and Kiley and Jayci.

(Solution for puzzle on page 19)



SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Yorktown Shouldn't Subject Residents to Fluoride

Continued from page 9

to the teeth would be more effective? The fluoride goes directly to the teeth, not all over the body, especially the brain.

In closing, "The link between fluoride levels and Alzheimer disease." The journal Pathophysiology published the findings of another study, which found that drinking water containing recommended levels of fluoride in drinking water resulted in brain neurotoxicity, by causing severe neuronal histomorphological changes and impairing the AChE activity in the brain. As with Chlorpyrifos, co-exposer

to fluoride and aluminium was found to result in synergistic toxicity. Fluoride also affects arteries, causing bruise-like skin lesions called "Chizzola maculae." showing inflammatory areas around capillary blood vessels. Because fluoride attracts calcium, it contributes to their hardening. Fluoride affects the brain and entire central nervous system.

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LEGALS

Town of Putnam Valley Town Board Meeting December 18, 2019 6 PM Pledge of Allegiance 1. Departmental

Reports. 2. Supervisor's Comments. 3. Legislative Report. 4. School Report 5. Vote on Ban of Ice Retardant Devices on Lake Oscawana 6. Authorize the Supervisor to accept the Town Board minutes from November 6, November 13th, November 20th and December 4th. 7. Authorize the expenditure of \$200. for Town Board member-elect Ralph Smith to attend the Newly Elected Officials 2020 Training School sponsored by the Association of Towns, and authorize the reimbursement of associated travel and lodging expenses. Building Department 8. Daily Fee Report Parks & Recreation 9. Refunds Building Department 10. Daily Fee Report Districts 11. Mill Pond Water District Year End Revenue Report Finance Department 12. Budget Transfers 13. Public Comment 14. Audit of Monthly Bills

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continued from previous page

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Panas Topples Peekskill, Beacon for Tourney Title; Panther G Nolan Scoops up MVP Honors



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

Panas G Cailean Nolan (3) knocked down a game-high 22 points to lead the Panthers to a 75-25 triumph of visiting Peekskill and talented seventh-grader Bethany Overby in the finals of the Walter Panas Holiday Tournament last Saturday when Nolan took home MVP honors and the Panthers improved to 3-1... see Girls Hoops Notebook

Sports

Grapplin' Notebook

Put Valley's Carano Headlines List of Local Grapplers

By Tony Pinciario

The last two years veteran **PUTNAM VALLEY** wrestling Coach Will Carano has graduated core groups of excellent wrestlers.

Despite the graduation of Section 1 Division II (small school) champs – Rolando Lopez (285), Dustin Koskinen-Falls (195) and Dean Appell (152), Carano and his wrestlers will still be among the Section 1 elite.

Putnam Valley will be led by the returning trio of Will Carano (2019 Section 1 Division II 145-pound champion), Hunter Lundberg (second in the section) and Shane Appell (fourth in the section). They were instrumental in leading Putnam Valley to a third-place finish in the Section 1 Division II team championships.

Carano joined his father as a Section 1 champion. Coach Carano was a sectional champion for Mahopac.

Coach Carano said he will be welcoming numerous new wrestlers to the team.

"The returners comprise the core of a team that is roughly three-quarters coming from either modified or new to the sport," said Carano, who created the program and is in his 21st year. "We have no egos, and overall this could be one of the most tight-knit groups we have had in years that is buying in and recognizing the importance of the process and long-term outlook. So, our goal as always is this will be a very different team come February than we have now."

Carano is referring to having his team wrestling at its best for sectionals and the New York State Championships.

MAHOPAC welcomes new Coach Steven Tornambe as veteran leader Dennis DiSanto retired following the 2018-19 season.

DiSanto surpassed 400 career wins last year and guided Mahopac to a fourth-place finish in the Section 1 Division I (large school) Championships and the Indians were the Section 1 Division Dual-Meet Tournament runners-up to Fox Lane.

Tornambe comes to Mahopac after a successful tenure as Bob Bernarducci's assistant coach at Pleasantville. Tornambe is also a two-time Section 1 champion, for Ossining, and finished fifth in the state his senior year.

Tornambe inherits a team that graduated 12 starters. Even with the large graduating class, Mahopac does have a deep returning nucleus.

Senior Tyler Roa (third-place sectional finisher) and sophomore Angelo Centrone (sectional runner-up and fourth-place at states) highlight this group. Tornambe has named both captains.

The veteran core also includes seniors Xander Smith, Dylan Smith, A.J. Watts, Larry Nardecchia and Londrim Hasanramaj as well as juniors Aiden Muldoon, Ryan Kick and James Russo.

"Our team goals will always be the same as long as I am head coach," Tornambe said. "We will be working towards a section championship, along with league champs and getting as many wrestlers to the sections, as possible."

Mahopac will host the annual Peter Caruso Memorial Tournament, Saturday, Jan. 25.



Putnam Valley wrestler Will Carano Jr. (L) and Coach Will Carano hope to continue the winning culture the Tigers have built last two decades.

Sixth-year **YORKTOWN** Coach Eric Fama has quietly re-established Yorktown as a high-quality wrestling program.

Fama, a Section 1 wrestling champion for retired New Rochelle Coach Jim Guccione, inherited a program that graduated an outstanding senior class, including two sectional champions/state place-finishers and other sectional placefinishers.

Fama, along with assistant coaches and former Roy C. Ketcham standouts, Andrew and Frank Cabibbo, return a nucleus that includes four Section 1 Division I placefinishers.

Ben Robinson was the 220-pound runner-up, last year. He is joined by Andrew Finateri, who placed fifth last year, and Dean Patierno and Christian Sinagra, both sixth-place finishers.

Fama adds a familiar name to the lineup in eighth-grader Joseph Tornambe, the son of former Yorktown coach and Ossining wrestler, John Tornambe and nephew of Mahopac coach and two-time sectional champion, Steve Tornambe. The second generation Tornambe finished third, at 99 pounds, last year in the Middle School Youth States Championship.

Fama is looking forward to having Tornambe in the lineup as well as having a full order.

"This is the first year in the six years that I have been here that we have depth in multiple weight classes," Fama said. "We usually do not fill out a full lineup. We are looking to finish inside the top five at sectionals this year."

Fama will be taking Yorktown to the Eastern States along with the Westchester County Championships, Peter Caruso Memorial Tournament and a return to his alma mater for the Ted Murphy Shoreline Classic.

Yorktown hosted its annual dual-meet tournament, Saturday, and finished fourth.

Finateri went 5-0 for the tournament and

was named the most valuable wrestler. **LAKELAND/PANAS'** Nick DeSantis also was 5-0 and was selected for the sportsmanship award.

BREWSTER continued its strong run last year under Coach Tom Looby. The Bears finished with an 11-8 record, including Looby's 200th career win in his 16th year.

Five starters graduated, but Looby has seven experienced returnees – four seniors and three juniors.

The seniors are Brendan Lennon, Passang Sherpa, Owen Downey and Jackson Mahoney, and the junior trio is Jacob Hamblin, Matt Henry and Austin Mantra.

"We have a good mix of experience and a tough group of underclassmen," Looby said. "This group has had an excellent preseason and are ready to compete."

One newcomer is freshman Massimo Parrello. His father, Joe, was an All-Section wrestler for Harrison.

Fourth-year **HEN HUD** Coach Shane Turrone and his team have every reason to be optimistic about the 2019-20 season.

The Sailors return nine starters, led by seniors Michael Tosi and Beckett Herman. Both finished fourth in the section (large school) at their respective weight classes. Classmates Ethan Romero, Alex Garcia and Paul Williams are also back.

Nick Cepeda and Sean McIntyre, both sectional qualifier last years, along with Kerann Belvu and Cameron Curley comprise the junior group.

Turrone has some young talent ready to step into starting roles. Freshmen Ryan Clark and Connor Harbolic and eighth-graders Ismael Andrade and Shane Merchant, are among the promising wrestlers.

"My four captains really help motivate the team and we are looking to have one of our better seasons, this year," Turrone said. "Everyone is very focused and determined to give everything they have on the mats. Our goal, for the season, is to get as many kids through to sectionals as possible and have multiple wrestlers place this season."

Turrone will look to Tosi and Herman for leadership.

"Michael and Beckett have been leading the team since sophomore year and they continue to impress on a daily basis," Turrone said.

Hen Hud will host its annual tournament, Saturday, Jan. 11. The tournament has an average field of 24 teams.

Hen Hud wrestled in the Michael Tarulli (Irvington) Tournament, Saturday, and finished third as all 11 wrestlers placed in the top six.

Belvu was a champion while Tosi, Herman and Curley were runners-up. McIntyre, Cepeda and Garcia all finished third.

Herman surpassed Turrone on Hen Hud's career-wins' list. The senior co-captain now owns 111 varsity wins, moving ahead of Turrone's 108.

"I am happy for Beckett," Turrone said. "He works incredibly hard. I had to injury default him in the finals because he had fluid on his knee. He was not happy."

In Coach Dave Bergen's first two years,

LAKELAND/PANAS has taken progressive steps forward. Last year, the Rebels finished with an 11-10 record, including 3-3 in the league.

A veteran returning nucleus has Bergen feeling good about what the season holds.

Senior Nick DeSantis and juniors, Gio Russo and Austin Bergen, were all-league selections. DeSantis recently went 5-0 for the Rebels in the Yorktown Dual-Meet Tournament and earned the sportsmanship award. Seniors Declan Fullerton and Pat Hickey, along with junior Shane Coster and sophomore Connor McGannon complete the returning core. There is a host of newcomers to varsity, which should enable the Rebels to fill all 15 weight classes.

The newcomers include juniors Tyler Carter, Charlie Dubrawski and Niko Rezaj. The numerous sophomores are Spencer Maja, Hunter Dagnino, Ryan Deitrick, Steven Santalisa and Chris Ciraco.

"I like the athleticism and work ethic that or team has," said Bergen, who coached the White Plains' varsity team before coming to Lakeland/Panas. "We have a lot of natural athletes that work hard every day. As they gain experience they will improve quickly."

Our goal as always is to do better than last season. We will look to improve on that. Winning the league would be great, but we will have to beat some tough teams."

OSSINING has a new, but familiar coach in Tom Larm. The Brewster graduate and former All-Section wrestler was former Coach Larry McRae's assistant for seven years.

The Pride do return three sectional qualifiers, led by senior Joe Nolan, the Section 1 285-pound runner-up and Westchester County champion. Sophomore Jonathan Benitez and Tristan Robinson-July will complete the threesome.

Starting spots are open and Larm is hoping that his new wrestlers accept the challenge.

"Our team has a lot of newcomers so we're excited for some of them to step up and establish themselves in the starting lineup," Larm said. "Sophomores Kwabena Boateng and Amaury Castro are not new to the sport, but are looking for breakout seasons. Overall, we're looking to grow each week, as a team and as individuals. If we can do this we will achieve our team goals and individual goals along the way."

SOMERS was ahead of schedule before the 2019-20 preseason began.

The Tuskers did not graduate any wrestlers, so sixth-year Coach Ron DiSanto, Jr., came into preseason with an experienced returning core and numerous underclassmen.

His three returning seniors are Zach Lupinacci, Peter Kim and Thomas Gall, all 2019 sectional qualifiers. Juniors A.J. D'Orazio, a sectional qualifier, and Michael Rivera are also back.

DiSanto, who wrestled for Somers and his uncle, Dennis DiSanto, has 15 freshmen and two eighth-graders competing for varsity positions.

"From 99 to 145, we have either freshmen or eighth-graders," DiSanto said. "They are

continued on page 27

Sports

Boys' Hoops Notebook

Heart & Soul Required to Make up for Scoring Death

Mahopac Takes Somers Tourney, Panas Finds its Point Guard

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor@Directrays

Somebody has to tell it like it is in this neck of the woods, and for the better part of three decades, that task has fallen right in the lap of this scribe when it comes to local athletics.

So, what I'm about to say shouldn't be taken personally, it's just like they said in Hollyweird's version of "The Irishman": It is what it is.

The fortunes of boys' basketball fanatics in and about the Northern Westchester/Putnam County region may rely on something other than talent this season. There may be a shortage of pure scorers, which is often cyclical, so it appears as though heart and soul will be the determining factors this winter, so the team that brings the most of those two intangibles will likely be the unit that makes the most noise.

Heart and soul: The utmost of one's energy, enthusiasm and determination could decide the League II-C title; where teams like Panas, Yorktown, Brewster and Somers will take a run at Lakeland. With senior swingman Jack Kruse leading the way, Coach Steve Fallo's Hornets could be one of the few teams in these parts to average more than 55-60 points per game this winter while many of the others, including Class AA clubs like Ossining, Mahopac and Carmel, plus Class B's Putnam Valley, may struggle to hit 50 on occasion.

The early indicators tell us that points will



RAY GALLAGHER/RICK KUPERBERG/BOB CASTNER PHOTOS

Mahopac junior MVP Luke Syku pulls up for jumper in Indians' win over Kennedy in Somers tourney Thursday.



Mahopac junior Vin Bastone gains lane in Indians win over Kennedy and Gaels Jaden Wilson and Connor O'Reilly in Somers tourney.

be at a premium this season, so you best be ready to defend the rim, get after every loose ball and drain clutch shots down the stretch...

The 24th annual Michael DePaoli/Somers Basketball Tournament was a perfect example of heart and soul on full display. With host **SOMERS** (2-4) and **MAHOPAC** (2-2) battling it out for tourney bragging rights on Saturday, neither could score the ball consistently, but it was Coach Tom McMahon's Indians who gutted out the 42-39 double overtime victory. Mahopac swingman Luke Syku (11 points) secured tournament MVP honors and the McMahon boys delivered the points; with Matthew McMahon (11 points) and All-Tournament selection Patrick McMahon (10 points) leading the way. Pat McMahon's baseline trey with :11 left in the second OT was a difference-making shot.

That said, the teams combined for just 81 points, including the two ex-



Panas G Alex Tavarez opened eyes against Nic Picca and Byram Hills in Panthers' tourney loss to Bobcats.

tra sessions, so it wasn't pretty, but the Indians gutted out a close one.

"I was very happy with the mental toughness our guys showed," Coach McMahon said.

Mahopac reached the finals after knocking off Kennedy Catholic, 56-45, in the opening round behind 14 points from Syku, including a big 3.

Tuskers Dylan Berliner and Henry Gilroy were named to the All-Tournament team for Somers, which knocked off **YORKTOWN** 47-30 in the opening round Friday.

Kennedy knocked off Yorktown (1-5) in the consy, 72-58, despite 17 points from Eddie Brucaj.

LAKELAND (2-2) has won its last two, including an 82-68 win over Bronxville be-



Panas' Lukas Velez and Byram Hills' Benji Hammond give 110% for loose ball in Panthers' tourney final loss to Bobcats Saturday.

hind Augie Karaqi's career-high 28 points. Kruse added 13 points and 15 boards. Michael Arcure chipped in 12 points for the Hornets while Aidan Welcome and Rob Nardelli each dropped a dime. Lakeland's problem isn't scoring points, it's stopping the opposition. The height-challenged Hornets can run-and-gun, but finding a defensive scheme that works for them will be the challenge.

"That's our challenge, to get better defensively," Kruse admitted. "All we've been focusing on is defense and rebounding."

Byram Hills handled **PANAS**, 88-38 to win the Panthers' holiday title, outscoring Panas by 51 points over the final three quarters. Lorenzo Santucci paced the Panthers (4-1) with 16 points, including four pulls

continued on page 27

Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook

Panas, Brewster, Croton Win Tournament Titles

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor@Directrays

The 2020 season is shaping up nicely in the early stages for several of the local clubs.

WALTER PANAS is going through a prime period in its history, having reached the County Center in two of the last three seasons, and, seemingly, having more than enough to get back there in 2020 should the Panthers cash in their chips in late February.

Panas (3-1) won its holiday tournament in convincing fashion Saturday, taking out Peekskill, 75-25, behind 22 points and an MVP effort from G Cailan Nolan. Panther G Kristen Cinquina provided a solid second scoring option and went for 18 points and was named to the all-tournament team.

"Both of them were excellent last year, but both have added new dimensions to their games," Panas Coach Matt Evangelista said. "They both worked very hard in the offseason to improve their strengths like shooting, but also added things like driving floaters and pull-up jumpers to make them even more dangerous offensively. Both have really committed to their defense as well; each is averaging four steals per game."

The Red Devils placed seventh-grader Bethany Overby (8 points) and Takyla Cowan-Hongach (6) on the All-Tourney team. Overby is legit #EyesOn.

In the opening round of the Panas tournament, Peekskill (1-4) beat Keio 42-36 when Cowan-Hongach dropped 18 points, dished five assists and notched five steals. Overby had nine points.

Panas took care of business with a 51-29 win over Beacon when Cinquina (13 points) nailed three 3's in the third quarter. Nolan finished with a game-high 15. Panas played suffocating defense throughout the tournament...

Down 17-2 in the opening round of the Somers tournament, **KENNEDY** Coach Len Yearwood kept the Gaels focused on the big picture; four quarters of basketball.



Mahopac freshman G Lauren Beberman is checked by Kennedy junior G Taylor Brenneman in Indians' 59-55 loss to Gaels.



RAY GALLAGHER/RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

Mahopac freshman G Kristina Rush is chased by Kennedy junior G Julia Apap in Indians' 59-55 loss to Gaels in Somers tourney last Thursday.



Mahopac junior F Caitlyn O'Boyle runs through Kennedy junior G Taylor Brenneman in Indians' 59-55 loss to Gaels last Thursday.



Mahopac sophomore G Melanie DeMaio goes up for two in Indians' loss to Julia Apap and Kennedy Gaels. (2)

After one of their worst quarters of the young season, Kennedy rode the efforts of Taylor Brenneman (24 points, 6 rebounds) and Erin Brann (16 points, 12 boards) to a 59-55 come-from-behind win over Section 1 Class AA **MAHOPAC** last Thursday.

"We just stayed focused on the things we knew we could control," Yearwood said. "We knew we started with no energy. I just kept telling them to flip that switch and give yourselves a chance, and they did. They showed great heart!" Kennedy did not sustain that momentum in the finals, losing to Horace Mann...

Mahopac (2-1) managed to bounce back in the consy round against SOMERS, defeating the Tuskers 51-46. Indian sophomore Melanie DeMeo (6 points) ran the point and was named to the All-Tourney team

while F Caitlin O'Boyle (14 points), Kristina Rush (9 points) and Lauren Beberman (9), who drained a 3 with 6:39 to play and gave the Indians a 42-29 lead, balanced the score sheet.

Somers senior G Dani DiCintio made things very dicey when she hit from behind the arc, made a steal and converted the layup to bring the Tuskers (0-4) within a point (47-46) with under a minute left. DeMeo, Rush and Beberman combined to go 5 for 8 from the stripe down the stretch to seal the deal.

DiCintio, the lone holdover from the Somers team that reached the state Final 4 back in 2017, hit five bombs from distance and scored 11 points in the fourth, 25 overall, to make the All-Tournament team...

In Class C **HALDANE's** 55-54 win over Class AA **CARMEL** in the opening round of Croton's Mayclim Tournament, Blue Devil Bela Monteleone knocked down a career-high 28 points, collared seven rebounds and grabbed four steals to propel the Blue Devils (2-2) to the championship game. Olivia McDermott (nine points, five steals and two assists) and Molly Siegel (eight points and four rebounds) each stepped up. Daniella Bello put up 14 points while Caroline McIntyre added 12 points for the Rams (2-3), who erased an 11-point halftime deficit and were up by one heading into the fourth quarter.

Haldane could not keep the good time roll-

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Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook

Panas, Brewster, Croton Win Tournament Titles

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ing in the finals of the Mayclim Tournament where the Blue Devils lost to the host Tigers, 69-32.

As she is on many nights, **CROTON's** Anna Eng, the tourney MVP, was the best player on the court, going for a game-high 25 points. Tigers Erin Reynolds (14 points, All-Tourney) and Tamera Taylor-Moore (13 points) led a vastly improved Croton (5-1) club...

Marist-bound Caitlin Weimar led the Sailors with 28 points in **HEN HUD's** 61-56 loss to Harrison, but the Sailors (4-1) will look to rebound this weekend when they host a doozy of a local tournament. Mahopac opens against Panas on Tuesday, Dec. 17th at 4:30 p.m. while the host Sailors take on Class C heavyweight Haldane (6:30 p.m.). The consy and finals will be played on the 18th at 4:30 and 6:30 p.m., respectively...

Apparently, Byram Hills is going to be a factor in Class A this season after its 62-55 win over **LAKELAND**. Hornet Hannah Devane scored 25 points, hauled in eight caroms and continues to be a solid contributor for Lakeland (2-3), which held a 28-22 lead at the half. Taylor Hormazabal added 12 points while S. Pinkowski went for eight...

YORKTOWN was impressive in several ways during its 54-18 win over host Roos-evelt.

While Melissa Severino had 11 points and five rebounds for the Huskers (3-1), who opened with a 22-2 run, Alyssa Perrino added eight points and six rebounds. All 11 Huskers scored, including Alyssa Giannasca (7 points) and Lindsey Townes (6 points). Yorktown 30-5 at the half and showed some class.

"We were complimented by many people at Roosevelt on our good sportsmanship," Husker boss Brian Mundy said. "That means a lot to me..."

In the opening round of the **BREWSTER** Tournament the Bears defeated Nanuet, 60-57, behind a pair of dynamic double-doubles from Alexis Mark (13 points and 10 re-



Panas' Alexis Turner takes run at Peekskill's Afua Yeboar in Panthers' 75-25 rout of Red Devils Saturday.

bounds) and Grace Galgano (12 points, 13 rebounds and six blocks). Carly DeLanoy and Madison Dakin added 11 points apiece for the youthful Bears (5-0), who are well ahead of schedule.

In the finals, the dynamic duo of Mark and Galgano were back at it as the Bears trimmed Pelham, 33-28, to claim the championship. Mark, the tourney MVP, had another double-double (13 points and 12 rebounds) while Galgano was named all-tournament with nine points and 14 rebounds...

PUTNAM VALLEY is off to a hot start at 5-1, but getting over the hump is never easy. If it were, there wouldn't be a saying about it. Getting over the hump requires grind, the kind of grind that isn't in everyone. Reigning Class B NYS and Federation champion Irvington is more than just a hump for Section 1 basketball foes. The Bulldogs – winners of five NYS Federation titles and 18 Section 1 crowns -- are the monkey on your back, the team you circle on the schedule, and every other cliché in sports... for good reason.

Putnam Valley was as close as it's ever been to getting over that hump until Bulldog Grace Thybulle reminded everyone why Irvington is usually the team to beat in Class B.

On the game's final possession, the Irvington center used her height, which is Putnam valley's kryptonite, to seal a 47-45 win over the visiting Tigers. Thybulle denied a baseline drive with a clean steal, preventing PV's last-ditch attempt at getting over the hump.

Putnam Valley G Kelli Venezia stroked four 3's and scored 14 points to lead the Tigers, along with promising freshman Eva



Peekskill's Sage North tries to gain baseline on Panas' Kristen Cinquina in Red Devils' 75-25 loss to Panthers in Panas tourney final.

Heart & Soul Required to Make up for Scoring Death

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from downtown.

Panas point guard Alex Tavarez burst onto the scene in the Panthers' 57-31 opening-round win over Woodlands, going for three and-one finishes in the second quarter alone and scoring a career-high 17 points. The freshman showed major handles, the ability to create his own shot and finish. Panas Coach Mike Auerbach might have been easing him in, but the cat is out of the bag on this kid.

"He's a very good ball handler and can get to the basket," Auerbach said. "He's got a good mid-range game, floaters, and he finds a way to get a good shot off in traffic. His outside shot has improved a ton too since last year. He's good enough from 3 to keep teams honest. He's very lanky for a ninth grader. He can be disruptive defensively with his length. He anticipates well, too. He can get you two or three steals a game guy right now."

Caleb Evans (12) and Arturo Macchia (10) were also in double figures.

You know what oughta be a lot of fun this winter? Each time Lakeland and Panas square off...

CARMEL (3-3) knocked off host **BREWSTER** (0-3) Saturday, 51-48, behind some clutch shots down the stretch. Drew Fiore went for a career-high 18 points while Jared Garcia added 14, including the go-ahead hoop...

PEEKSKILL (2-3) finished a disappointing fourth place in the Fox Lane tournament, losing to both Fox Lane and John Jay. Anto-

Dechent (14 points). Tiger Arriana Stockinger finished with 11. Putnam Valley shot poorly from the field (8 for 29) in the first half and played without the services of veteran Cyera Daughtry (head trauma); two keys they hope to improve upon should the Tigers and Bulldogs meet again.

The undermanned Tigers finished the game with nine 3-pointers, which kept them afloat.

PV posted a 40-30 bounce-back win over Harrison. DeChent led the Tigers with 12 points. Venezia (9 points) and Amanda Orlando (8 points) were big contributors.

In Putnam Valley's 48-18 trouncing of Westlake, DeChent led all scorers with 20 while Venezia, who is inching close to 1,000 career points, added 13 for the Tigers.



Put Valley's Carano Headlines List of Local Grapplers

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all unproven, but have a lot of potential. We will get them some JV experience and we need to have some wrestle-offs before we know who will make the varsity lineup."

DiSanto will rely on his returning wrestlers to provide leadership and guidance to their younger teammates.

"I expect our experienced middle to upper weights to provide a solid core and set the tone," DiSanto said. "I expect some growing pains from our younger, light to middleweights but I believe that many of our young guys are ready to make an impact on varsity and I cannot wait to see who steps up and how much they improve throughout the season."

Somers will host its annual Eric D'Agnese Memorial Somers Tournament (41st year), Saturday, January 4th.

nio Taylor finished with 20 points against both Jay and the Foxes, who held the Red Devils to just 45 points...

OSSINING lost to Ramapo, 61-56, and fell to 2-3. The Pride saw Khy'Leil Hawkins play a well-rounded game with 23 points, four rebounds and four assist while Jaden Carr added 16 points and dished five assists.



Somers G Matt Lipski pulls down rebound in Tuskers' opening-round tourney win over Yorktown.

Benefits of Brann!



Kennedy Senior Provides Essential Elements in Tourney Win over Mahopac



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Kennedy Catholic C Erin Brann, a 6'1" senior who hails from Brewster, denies -- then hammers (inset) -- Mahopac junior F Shannon Becker in the Gaels' 59-55 come-from-behind triumph of the Indians last Thursday in the opening round of the 24th annual Michael DePaoli Tournament at Somers High School. Brann's double-double (16 points, 12 boards) helped the Gaels advance to Saturday's title tilt against Horace Mann who defeated the Gaels 65-51 in Saturday's title tilt despite another solid effort from Brann (10 points, 9 boards)... see Girls' Hoops Notebook