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

FREE

February 26 - March 4, 2019

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 11, Issue 479

Vesce Enters Race for Mayor in Peekskill with Bi-Partisan Slate



Vincent "Boo" Vesce

By Rick Pezzullo

Former Peekskill City Councilman Vincent "Boo" Vesce is looking to return to City Hall, this time as mayor.

Vesce, 47, a Republican who served on the council from 2014 to 2017, was unanimously endorsed Sunday night by the Peekskill GOP Committee to challenge first-term Democratic Mayor Andre Rainey in November.

Vesce, who did not seek reelection in 2017 for professional and family reasons, is the son of former Mayor Vincent C. Vesce and grandson of former longtime Peekskill physician, the late Dr. John Vesce.

"I'm proud to try to serve in his footsteps," Vesce said of his father. "I'm a product of watching him and the amount

of community service he has given over the years. I can only be my own person. I am honored to have received this endorsement for mayor and excited about running with such a well-rounded and highly qualified group of City Council candidates."

Running on the ticket with Vesce for council is Lauren Brady, a registered Republican who works as Events Manager at the Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce and is co-founder of the non-profit "This is Me Foundation," and registered Democrats Luis Segarra, co-owner and CFO of The Crescent Companies who ran unsuccessfully in 2017, and Marlon Mahon, an IT and corporate management consultant.

"Lauren, Marlon, Luis and I all be-

lieve that partisan politics has gotten in the way of what Peekskill was once all about. That is an inclusive community where all citizens are stakeholders in our future regardless of political affiliation or ethnicity," Vesce said. "As I grew up in Peekskill, it was never about 'us versus them.' Rather, it was always about 'we...we as one community,' focusing on what was best for all of Peekskill was what mattered most. Unfortunately, that feeling no longer exists. Peekskill is not being served well because of the current one-party rule where political favoritism is what matters most."

"Our team will end the political cro-

nyism that exists in Peekskill by govern-

Continued on page 2

Slater to Challenge Gilbert for Supervisor in Yorktown

By Rick Pezzullo

Vowing to get Yorktown "moving again," former Yorktown Republican Committee Chairman Matt Slater officially kicked off his campaign for town supervisor Friday at Railroad Park in downtown Yorktown.

Surrounded by a crowd of about 50 supporters, Slater, 33, a 2004 Yorktown High School graduate and chief of staff to former State Senator Terrence Murphy, said the town has been stagnant under the guidance of Supervisor Ilan Gilbert.

"Backward policies are costing us millions as taxpayers and generating nothing in return. There is a choice to be made here. We

could sit back and watch more of nothing, or we can take action, and that's why I am running for supervisor," Slater said, with his wife, Kellie, and three-year-old son, Charles, by his side.

"We need smarter, more efficient delivery of services. We can modernize our town facilities, streamline our permitting processes and provide real transparency through an open data," he said. "The rest of the world is doing these things and we simply cannot expect a dormant town government to be able to keep up. We need real leadership to get Yorktown moving again."

Slater, whose family moved to Yorktown when he was nine,

received his undergraduate degree in political science from St. Anselm College and a Master's in public administration from Marist College. He is currently employed as a top aide to Westchester County Board of Elections Commissioner Douglas Colety, who was on hand Friday to endorse Slater.

"People that have lived here all their lives and people that just moved in say the same thing: Yorktown is just too expensive," Slater said. "Decades of poor planning and bureaucratic hurdles have created a system where expenses continue to outpace revenues, and nothing is done to ease

Continued on page 4



PHOTO BY RICK PEZZULLO

Matt Slater announced his bid for supervisor at Railroad Park.

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Vesce Enters Race for Mayor in Peekskill with Bi-Partisan Slate

Continued from page 1

professional manner,” Vesce continued. “We will serve everyone in Peekskill with equal passion regardless of whether they live in public housing, a condominium complex, one of our many neighborhoods or are a member of the business community.”

A business consultant for the airport services industry and a former executive at the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, Vesce, a married father of two college-age children and one who attends Hillcrest Elementary School, said he was “hopeful” Rainey would do a good job as mayor, but he hasn’t been pleased with the results so far.

“I have a lot of respect for everyone on the City Council. I just think he’s (Rainey) a little bit over his head,” Vesce said. “I think he was used by the political machine behind the scenes. I’m here to deal with the real issues. I’m better equipped to handle those issues. I kind of take a middle of the road approach to things. The reality is I feel I have a lot more to offer and I really want to see things go back to the progress that we started to make.”

Vesce said he was dismayed that the city’s fund balance has been diminished, doesn’t feel the current administration has been transparent as promised and



Mayor Andre Rainey with Deputy Mayor Kathleen Talbot and Councilwoman Vivian McKenzie.

is against the Jan Peek House Shelter relocating from North Water Street to 851 Washington Street, remarking, “It’s a no-brainer that it doesn’t belong. This is a money grab.”

He also said the Paramount Theater, which the city is seeking a new operator to run, would benefit from a public/private partnership.

“That’s a very tricky subject. We were very vocal about the deal they got

originally (with Red House Entertainment),” Vesce said. “The city has to do everything it can to subsidize that theater. It’s one of the biggest economic engines for the downtown. It’s very hard to keep that building afloat.”

Vesce views the race as an “uphill battle” with voter registration in Peekskill being almost four-to-one Democrats, but Brady is taking a positive approach.

“My primary objective in running for City Council is to be a positive voice for every citizen at City Hall,” Brady stated. “Negativity and pitting one group against another will not allow us to flourish as a community. When elected, our team promises a City Hall that will be open and responsive to all.”

Rainey was endorsed for a second term by the Peekskill Democratic Committee last week. He will be running with

incumbent councilwomen Kathleen Talbot (deputy mayor), Vivian McKenzie and Patricia Riley.

“I have the utmost respect for Mr. Vesce. He’s a nice person, but he is part of an era of politics that we in Peekskill have moved beyond,” Rainey said Monday. “We have moved beyond the days when a small group of Republican Party officials and their friends and family ran Peekskill. When they did the city was only a shell of what it is today, crime was rampant, there were few businesses left in the downtown and there were a lot of empty storefronts.”

“I welcome him to the race, because I think it will present a strong contrast between the Republican legacy, when political patronage, huge taxes increases, and a crippling reputation stagnated Peekskill and my forward-looking vision of Peekskill, where taxes are kept low, new businesses and residents continue to flock here and we continue to overcome decades of stagnancy that were the hallmark of the old-school Republican patronage machine,” Rainey continued. “It isn’t about party lines for me, as I’ve shown as a councilman and now as a proud mayor. It has been, and always will be, about the betterment of Peekskill.”

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Gina’s miracle wasn’t beating colon cancer. It was having a baby at the same time.

Ex-Peekskill Mayor Gets GOP Nod for County Seat

By Rick Pezzullo

Former Peekskill Mayor Frank Catalina was chosen by the Westchester Republican County Committee Saturday to run for the District 1 seat on the Board of Legislators being vacated by John Testa.

Catalina, 61, who served four years as mayor before being ousted by Andre Rainey in 2017, defeated Yorktown Councilman Tom Diana for the GOP nomination and will square off against Peekskill Councilman Colin Smith, the Democratic candidate, in November.

"John Testa did a very respectable job representing the district and I want to carry on that tradition," Catalina said. "County issues really affect a lot of people, sometimes more so than local issues."

Catalina, an attorney, has been very vocal at times on Facebook regarding the way the all-Democratic Peekskill Common Council has been functioning for the last 14 months since he left office, but he said he never gave serious thought to launching another campaign for mayor.

"My ego wanted to, but not my heart or mind," he said, noting when he got remarried "a big hole that was in my life I filled."

As for county issues, Catalina stressed he was "100 percent against" the proposed relocation of the Jan Peek House Shelter, the only year-round, 24-hour shelter for homeless adults in northern Westchester, from North Water Street to 851 Washington Street.

"I can do everything I can to oppose the county granting funds to CHHOP (Caring for the Hungry and Homeless of Peekskill, Inc.," Catalina said of the organization that runs the shelter.

However, Catalina acknowledged with Republicans currently only holding three of 17 seats on the Board of Legislators it would be an uphill battle for him to convince his colleagues to think his way, but he noted he was successful as a minority mayor in making positive changes.

In sizing up his opponent, Catalina said Smith was "a nice guy," but "doesn't contribute at all" on the council, other than voting in lockstep with his fellow Democrats. He also mentioned Smith was not a homeowner, thus he doesn't pay property taxes.

When he announced his candidacy, Smith, who is currently serving the second year of a four-year term, said his style of leadership and experience was "right for our community."

"I'm running for county legislator to make sure that our local leaders have a partner in county government who can get things done for Northern Westchester," Smith said. "It's a new day in Westchester, and that new day calls for

new leadership for the working families of Peekskill, Cortlandt and Yorktown. This is a critical moment for our community. We need leaders who are focused on the future and focused on results. We need leaders who will bridge the gap that has sometimes existed between this corner of the county and elected officials in White Plains."

Frank Catalina is vying for a seat on the county Board of Legislators.



PHOTO BY RICK PEZZULLO

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Slater to Challenge Gilbert for Supervisor in Yorktown

Continued from page 1

our residential tax burden. Together, we can do so much better."

Murphy, who toyed with running for supervisor himself but decided late last week he wanted to spend more time with his family following a grueling campaign with Senator Peter Harckham, said Slater has been itching to throw his hat in the ring after being involved behind the scenes in local elections for the last 10 years.

"His credentials are bar none. There are a lot of unsung heroes in public service and to have Matt step up from behind the scenes will be a huge win for the people of Yorktown," Murphy said. "I know he will use common sense. It's not about a D or an R with this guy. It's about doing

the right thing."

Others backing Slater were State Assemblyman Kevin Byrne, Westchester County Legislator John Testa and Yorktown councilmen Tom Diana and Ed Lachterman, who will be running for reelection in November with Slater.

"Sometimes you find experience in youth. I cannot think of a better person to run for Yorktown supervisor at this time," Lachterman said.

Gilbert, who was endorsed by the Yorktown Democratic Committee last week to run for a second two-year term, said it will be "an interesting campaign" and refuted criticism that nothing has been done under his administration.

"I believe there is nothing further from

the truth," Gilbert said Friday while on a hiking trip in California. "I feel we are accomplishing a great deal. It's been a struggle dealing with all of the tax cap issues."

Gilbert said he has addressed many under the radar issues in town that had been neglected by previous administrations, such as repairing roofs on town facilities and installing a generator, and touted the creation of a Business Revitalization Committee that he expects to get some "fresh ideas" from.

"I am business friendly, but I am also constituent friendly," Gilbert said. "Some of the things prior administrations started exposed the town to potential liability."

Running with Gilbert on the Demo-

cratic line for two available Town Board seats are Sheralyn Goodman, deputy commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Probation and a former longtime attorney with the Legal Aid Society of Westchester, and Patricia Sullivan-Rothberg, who currently works with a documentary film company.

Diana Quast is seeking reelection as town clerk and will face a challenge from Republican Mary Capoccia, former confidential secretary to Supervisor Michael Grace, who is considering running for the District 4 seat on the county Board of Legislators being vacated by Michael Kaplowitz.

The Yorktown GOP Committee was slated to hold its official nominating caucus Monday night.

Peekskill Seeks New Operators for Paramount Theater

By Rick Pezzullo

The City of Peekskill announced Thursday that it is seeking a new operations team to run the historic, city-owned Paramount Theater.

With the current theater management team, Red House Entertainment, relocating out-of-state, the Common Council plans to authorize the issuance of a Request for Proposal (RFP) at its meeting on Monday, February 25 to en-

sure the continued success of the theater, which has been closed since January for so-called renovations.

The Paramount has been operated since 2013 by Red House, which approached the city to advise of its interest in bringing in additional partners to assist in augmenting programming and the theater's community engagement.


"The last five years have been amazing as we watched the Paramount grow

in both the quality of acts and audience attendance," said Kurt Heitmann, CEO of Red House Entertainment. "It's a beautiful theater vital to Peekskill and the Hudson Valley. With the relocation of some key players on our team, it's time to attract key partners to help continue the growth and success of the theater. The resident non-profit Paramount Hudson Valley Arts will oversee the amazing roster of shows and community events

that we have in place and are committed to a seamless transition as new partnerships are explored. We encourage everyone to continue to support this amazing theater."

City Manager Richard Leins said Peekskill has already received interest in the theater and anticipates a positive response to its RFP. The Paramount Theater

Continued on page 5



Save A Life

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Demonstrators in Yorktown Support Reproductive Health Act

By Carol Lefkowitz

Approximately 60 residents from Yorktown and other communities held signs and demonstrated in front of Yorktown Town Hall last Tuesday evening in support of New York State's Reproductive Health Act (RHA). The Reproductive Health Act recently signed into law by Governor Andrew Cuomo codifies Roe vs Wade and brings New York law into line with the ROE standard.

Standing in icy cold weather, the demonstrators denounced former Yorktown Supervisor Michael Grace's comments about the RHA during courtesy of the floor on February 5, and in his recent letter to local newspapers, and voiced opposition to any proposed resolution by the Yorktown Town Board condemning the new law.

Yorktown resident Jim McKean talked about the process and how things are done in Yorktown. "Courtesy of the floor is there to provide us an opportunity to offer our views and opinions on issues that are truly town business," said McKean. "Lanny (Yorktown Supervisor Ilan Gilbert) has done everything he can to bring people together." McKean also said Grace continues to seek ways to drive a wedge between friends and neighbors. "If this person sincerely wants to address these issues, he should do what the rest of us do. He should contact his state or federal representatives. They're the ones we



PHOTO BY CAROL LEFKOWITZ

Jim McKean speaks at rally outside Yorktown Town Hall.

elected to deal with these things."

Marking the 46th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in Roe vs. Wade, the New York State's Reproductive Health Act permits abortion to be performed by a licensed, certified or authorized practitioner within 24 weeks from the commencement of pregnancy, or if there is an absence of fetal viability, or at any time when necessary to protect a woman's life or health. It also decriminalizes abortion by regulating it under the public health law and not the penal law.

Last Tuesday's demonstration gained urgency after an outpouring of misinformation about the Reproductive Health Act from local community members and President Trump. "What this law does, is first all, takes abortion out of the criminal code," said Catherine Lederer-Plaskett, President of Choice Matters from White Plains.

"We were one of seven states that regulated self-induced abortion as murder. That's no longer the case. If a fetus is viable, it will be kept alive if a pregnancy is terminated. That is ROE and I cannot stress enough that the Reproductive Health Act is just ROE. Not more, not less."

Rebuking Grace for requesting the Yorktown Town Board to pass a resolution against the new law was Sherri Hughes, a 20-year resident of Yorktown. "Last week at the town board meeting," said Hughes, "many

of us were dismayed at Michael Grace's highjacking of the floor during public comment. Mixed in with his call for divisiveness and politics at its worse, he asked the Town Board to adopt a resolution opposing the recently enacted Reproductive Health Act."

Also opposed to the new law was longtime Yorktown resident Ed Ciffone. "I'm not for this new law passed by the governor," said Ciffone. "Any law should be passed by the people, not by the government."

Peekskill Seeks New Operators for Paramount Theater

Continued from page 4


RFP will be widely circulated to elicit the maximum interest in the operation of the venue. Responses will be due 45 days after issuance. The RFP will be available on the City of Peekskill's website and through the City Planning Office.

"The city is deeply committed to the continuing success of the Paramount Theater and will seek the most qualified management team to ensure the theater's bright future," said Leins. "While successor management is being identified, system upgrades and modernization in the theater will continue, further assuring its

viability moving forward."

"We are grateful to Red House Entertainment for its commitment to the theater, and anticipate a smooth transition so shows and community events may continue uninterrupted. Our top priority is to ensure the theater remain open and continue to thrive during the entire process," said Peekskill Mayor Andre Rainey.

Originally built as a 1,500-seat movie palace in 1930, the Paramount has been designated a Westchester County Landmark and is on the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places.



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COLUMBIA

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Entergy Working to Sell Indian Point Nuclear Power Plants

By Rick Pezzullo

Entergy, which has owned the Indian Point nuclear power plants in the Village of Buchanan for the last 17 years, is planning to sell the facility once it ceases operations of Unit 3 in April 2021.

Entergy CEO Leo Denault said during an earning conference call last week the company is "actively working toward a post shutdown sale of Indian Point," which was reiterated by Entergy spokesman Jerry Nappi.

"Entergy is actively working on a post-shutdown transaction for Indian Point that we could announce any time between now and the end of the year," Nappi said. "This is consistent with our previous statements that we expected to pursue a transaction at Indian Point similar to what we've announced at the Vermont Yankee, Pilgrim, and Palisades nuclear power plants. The transaction would not close until after the plants shut down."

An agreement to shut down the plants was worked out between Entergy, several New York State offices and agencies and Riverkeeper and revealed to local officials in January 2017. Under the pact, Indian Point Unit 2 will cease operations as early as April 2020 and Unit 3 in April 2021. However, an emergency provision is included that could give Entergy an additional four years of service in the



Indian Point nuclear power plants

event of war, a sudden increase in electrical demand or a sudden shortage of electric energy.

The agreement calls on Entergy to annually move a set number of spent fuel rods from its storage pools to dry cast storage on site and have annual inspections by state designated representatives through 2021. Entergy will also establish a \$15 million fund for river restoration and remediation, as well as projects providing public benefits to the community.

At the time of the announcement, which caught all area elected officials off guard, Entergy had been seeking a 20-year license renewal from the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission since 2007 to continue operating the facility.

The Indian Point nuclear power plants have been a fixture in Buchanan for more

than 50 years and help provide electricity to several million homes and businesses in Westchester and the five boroughs of New York City.

"Key considerations in our decision to shut down Indian Point ahead of schedule include sustained low current and projected wholesale energy prices that have reduced revenues, as well as increased operating costs," Bill Mohl, president of Entergy Wholesale Commodities, said in January 2017. "In addition, we foresee continuing costs for license renewal beyond the more than \$200 million and 10 years we have already invested."

Westchester County Executive George Latimer reacted to last week's latest news from Entergy.

"As anticipated, Entergy announced that it will be selling Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant sometime in 2019 with the deal anticipated to close in 2021. The new entity will be charged with decommissioning the Plant, similar to what Entergy did with the Vermont Yankee Plant," Latimer said. "I am concerned that selling the Plant for the decom-

missioning process will impact labor at the plant, and I want to ensure that the cleanup be done abiding by the highest environmental standards."

"The decommissioning process is a delicate one. I urge Entergy to require that the new decommissioning company brought in be required to keep the current labor at the plant and keep them at the pay level they currently are," Latimer added. "Additionally, I am asking that the environment not come second to speed and cost. We must remember that Indian Point is on the banks of our cherished Hudson River, and in the heart of our treasured County. We must protect these riches at all costs."

Communities continue to plan for ways to replace \$32 million in collective revenue that will be lost annually when Indian Point stops operating.

Buchanan is set to lose \$4 million, or 46% of its operating funds, while the Hendrick Hudson School District will be suffering a \$24 million hit, or 33% of its budget. Cortlandt will lose \$800,000 annually, which represents two percent of its budget. In addition, the Verplanck Fire Department will lose 64% of its budget and the Hendrick Hudson Free Library will be shortchanged 28%.

Bill Volz Westchester



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Letters to the Editor

Say No to the County's Sales Tax Increase

To the Editor,

As a service to the community we serve, the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce believes it is important to bring to the public's attention the adverse impact on consumers and businesses of the sales tax increase proposed by Westchester County. This would affect not only Yorktown and its five hamlets, but towns throughout the lower Hudson Valley.

As residents of one of the highest taxed counties in the country, the last thing we need is more taxes. Yet, incredibly, that is what the County is prepared to do.

The current sales tax rate in most of Westchester is 7.375%. That includes

a 4% rate levied by the State and 3% levied by the County (plus an MTA rate of .375%). The proposed increase would make the County tax 4% for a total sales tax of 8.375%, the same as New York City.

If a single percentage point doesn't sound like a lot, consider that it is approximately 13.5% higher than the current sales tax.

We have several concerns with this proposed tax hike...

- On large purchases, it can drive local residents to shop in neighboring states, counties (New York City has a 4% exemption on many popular clothing items under \$110.00) or, as is more and

more common, do their shopping online.

- It will increase the cost of almost every purchase, from your dry cleaning to your vehicle purchases.

- It will raise the cost of living for everyone, but especially create a greater pain point for lower- to middle-income families.

- The financial windfall predicted by this increase will be offset by the loss in sales revenue to Yorktown and other Westchester municipalities.

The fast-growing competition for local merchants from internet sales, exacerbated by the ease with which sales tax laws are circumvented online, is

exerting dangerous pressure on all our bricks-and-mortar business owners.

Making it more costly to patronize these local businesses with an ill-advised 13.5% sales tax increase will help accelerate the number of empty storefronts in Yorktown and elsewhere in the County.

I urge our County and State elected officials to oppose this sales tax increase which promises to hinder and burden local business communities that, more than ever, need our unified support and patronage.

Shop Local, Buy Local

SERGIO ESPOSITO
President, Yorktown Chamber of Commerce

RHA is Not Being Portrayed Accurately

To the Editor,

I feel I must respond to Kevin Murphy's letter to the editor in your publication. In the letter he identifies me as an advocate for people with disabilities. My presence at the Yorktown Town Board meeting on February 5, 2019 was as a resident of Yorktown and as an advocate for affordable housing in our town. My comments at courtesy of the floor did

not address the Reproductive Health Act. I simply applauded a speaker, Ms. Rothberg, who I agreed with.

I strongly support a woman's right to make decisions about this very personal matter. While I don't want to debate this complicated, emotional and divisive issue in this letter, I will say that I don't believe this is an appropriate issue to put before the Town Board. I do not believe

the RHA is being portrayed accurately. The RHA simply puts existing Federal Law into State Law, and I don't agree with any other interpretation. We all have different values and beliefs and I simply do not agree that any group has the right to impose their beliefs on others.

In closing, I reassert that I strongly support everybody's right to make their own decisions and control

their own destinies; that includes both people with disabilities and women.

Sincerely,

MELVYN R. TANZMAN
Mohegan Lake



The banner features a photograph of a large, white, multi-story school building with a sign in front that reads "SOUNDVIEW PREPARATORY SCHOOL". To the right of the photo is a circular logo with "SPS" in the center, "SOUNDVIEW PREPARATORY" around the top, and "30TH ANNIVERSARY" at the bottom. To the right of the logo, the text "Soundview Preparatory School" is written in a large, white, serif font.

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www.soundviewprep.org

Letters to the Editor

Having a Town Referendum on RHA Would Only Divide

To the Editor,

In reviewing the minutes of the 2/19/2019 Town Board Meeting, I read that Councilman Lachterman suggested that a referendum be held on a resolution presented condemning the RHA. Holding a town referendum to repudiate legally passed NYS law serves no purpose other than to continue the divisiveness instigated by Michael Grace. If the citizens of Yorktown are to vote on referendums, let them be ones the Board has purview over. My first suggestion would be one is one that speaks to town ethics. We should be given the opportunity to vote on a resolution that would prohibit former Board members, for a period of two years from their last date of service, from representing clients who have business

before the town. This would eliminate any possible concerns about impropriety. Past referendums could have included The Granite Knowles Sports Complex or how the money received from Spectra Energy should have been spent. Many of us would have like to have seen it used for road and other infrastructure repairs. But, I must admit, holding referendums on local issues would be like opening Pandora's Box. Having a town referendum to repudiate a valid NYS Law serves no purpose than to divide the community.

Citizens of Yorktown who are opposed to the RHA would be better served by contacting their State representatives. I for one have written to them expressing my support for the law. The law takes into account the diverse needs and views of all

New Yorkers. Pro Birth supporters have the same rights as Pro Choice ones. It leaves the decision in the hands of the people it impacts, not in the hands of others who wish to control them.

Abortion, as we have all seen, is a complicated issue. Those who are pro birth view it as the lose of a life /soul no matter when it occurs in a pregnancy. They want the government to become involved in the most personal of decisions. Those who are pro choice believe it is a personal decision, whenever in the pregnancy it must be made. They leave it those involved to make a decision that is right for them. It appears that the pro birth group have a view of abortion that is rooted in deep religious convictions and want laws passed that prioritize their view

and exclude those of others. I surmise they also hold the belief that we will all face G-d on Judgement Day. At that time G-d will balance the good and bad in our lives and determine where we will be sent. Therefore I ask you, why not let G-d do the job that should be his alone? Why are you working so hard to do His work? Is it possible that you have sinned so much in this life and are trying to curry favor by championing this issue? Is it possible that you do not trust him to make the "correct" decision? When I face my G-d, she will know all the decisions I have made and will understand, for She was with me, helping me make the correct choices for my life, not yours. I can only hope that She did the same for you.

ROSALIND KLIBIN WEIS

"A Day of Shopping in Cortlandt"

To the Editor,

Last weekend I spent one day doing errands and shopping in the Town of Cortlandt. I was remarking to myself how nice it is to be able to have a very good variety of stores to go to and to choose from.

My day included a stop at the post office, dry cleaners, Barnes and Noble

and a grocery store. I stopped into Pier One and to Bed, Bath and Beyond. I topped the day off with a tea at Starbucks!

Everyone at the shops was so pleasant and helpful. These stores provide many jobs for our community. Also, I saw many of our Cortlandt residents and their families. It was a lot of fun talking

to them. Some I hadn't seen in a while so we were able to catch up on what our children and grandchildren are doing.

I was going to go to the movies, too, but it was getting late and to be honest, I needed to go home, make dinner and relax! Maybe I'll go next weekend to our theater at the Cortlandt Town Center.

I wanted to share with you my great day "out and about" in our lovely and friendly Cortlandt community! Please remember to SHOP, DINE and DO BUSINESS in CORTLANDT!

Enjoy!

LINDA PUGLISI
Cortlandt Supervisor

We Can't Afford 'New Green Deal'

To the Editor,

Rep Nita Lowey is wrong in so many ways with her letter to the editor. I only have space to point out a few of her errors. What does she base her assumptions on that mankind is effecting the temperature of the earth? The so-called climate change or whatever they are calling it now, is not being caused by humans. The climate has been changing for thousands of years and way before mankind inhabited the planet. The new green deal, as it is called, is a bad deal as far as our country is concerned. It

does nothing about climate change, as I have pointed out previously. Many experts now say that the whole climate change theory caused by man, was wrong. The facts were manipulated by some and was a fraud from the start. I just love this gibberish she writes. "Economic crisis, income equality, socioeconomic immobility, and wage stagnation." It sounds like something professor Irwin Cory would say. Has nothing to do with climate change. It has much to do with socialism though.

The new green deal is a disaster in the

making for our country. Nita Lowey has been a congresswomen for over 30 years now and has a net worth of over 30 million dollars. [https://www.celebritynetworth.com/richest-politicians/democrats/nita-lowey-net-worth/] This new deal does not

and will not effect her. It will effect those that have voted for her. Tell Nita Lowey we can't afford this "new green deal"!!!

Respectfully,

FRANCIS T. MCVETTY,
Yorktown

Slater Has Great Ideas for Yorktown

To the Editor,

I attended the campaign kickoff for our next Supervisor Matt Slater. He said it perfectly: Yorktown is just too expensive and we need to find new ways to help young families like mine be able to afford to stay here. Matt's not just saying that but he's living it. Like me, he's raising a young family here too. He knows we need to find new ways to attract businesses to Yorktown, and not just chain stores, but job producers to attract and support a viable workforce. He has great ideas for this town and his positive attitude is simply refreshing. Matt sees the potential in Yorktown and has a plan to unlock it which will benefit everyone: millennials, young professionals, families and our seniors. People want to live here, work here, raise their families here and retire here. With Matt Slater leading our town I know we can finally make Yorktown an affordable and prosperous place for everyone to succeed.

I know Election Day is months away but Matt Slater has already opened my eyes to the type of administration he will bring to Town Hall. I can't wait to vote for him!

Sincerely,

KERRY FARRELL

Letters Policy

We invite readers to share their thoughts by sending letters to the editor. Please limit comments to 250 words. We will do our best to print all letters, but are limited by space constraints. Letters are subject to editing and may be withheld from publication on the discretion of the editor. Please refrain from personal attacks. Email letters to Northern Westchester Examiner Editor-in-Chief Rick Pezzullo at rpezzullo@theexaminernews.com.

The Northern Westchester Examiner requires that all letter writers provide their name, address and contact information.

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Obituaries

Patricia Ann McIlvenny

Patricia Ann McIlvenny, a resident of Yorktown, died February 22, surrounded by her family. She was 79.

She was born March 17, 1939, in Manhattan. She was a graduate of The Academy of the Sacred Heart of Mary. She was employed by the New York Telephone Company, Somers Manor Nursing Home, and Yorktown BOCES. She met the love of her, Charles T. McIlvenny in Inwood, NY. They were married on November 22, 1958. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and Aunt.

She was an active member of The Knights of Columbus as a Columbi-ette, the Irish American Social Club, St. Patrick's Senior Citizens Club and the Jefferson Valley Bowling League. She was a devoted parishioner of St. Patrick's Church in Yorktown.

She is survived by her five daughters, Anne Biordi, and her husband James, Karen Schlick, and her husband John, Patricia Moore, and her husband Donald, Jean Cesario, and her husband Michael, and Charleen Koval. She is also survived by her beloved grandchildren: Cathryn, Allyson, Amanda, Michael, Sean, Kiera, Liam, as well as many nieces, nephews and cherished friends.

Arthur Weeks

Arthur Douglas (Doug) Weeks (Doug), a 60-year resident of Putnam Valley and former owner of Arthur Weeks and Son Jewelers in Peekskill, died peacefully at home on February 21, surrounded by his loving family. He was 85.

Born January 5, 1934, in Peekskill, he

was the son of the late Arthur and Edna (Depew) Weeks. On October 16, 1955, he married the love of his life, Nancy (nee Horton), who survives at home. Mr. Weeks was a veteran who honorably served his Country in Korea and was the third generation, and proud owner, of Arthur Weeks and Son Jewelers in Peekskill. He retired in 2000.

Mr. Weeks served his community well. He was a member, past President and Paul Harris Fellow of the Peekskill Rotary Club; a lifetime member of the Putnam Valley Fire Department, Cortlandt Hook and Ladder Company, and the Peekskill Yacht Club. He was a former member of the Board of Directors of the Peekskill/Cortlandt Chamber of Commerce and served on the Peekskill High School Scholarship Committee. He was an avid outdoorsman. He enjoyed golf, skiing, hunting and fishing and boating. He especially enjoyed camping on the islands of Lake George with his family.

In addition to his wife, Nancy, he is survived by his children: Jeff (Mary) Weeks, John (Debbie) Weeks, Karen (Robert) Visconti, and Arthur Douglas (Michelle) Weeks, Jr.; eight grandchildren: Kristen Weeks, Kaitlyn Weeks, William Hurley, Shannon Hurley, Brittany (Matthew) Ellsworth, Robert (Carla) Weeks, Nathan Weeks and Kate Weeks; his brother, Robert, of Hudson, WI, and several nephews. He was predeceased by his brother, David.

Charlotte Avallone

Charlotte P. Avallone died peacefully February 15 in Lake Peekskill at home with her husband The Rev. Dn. David Morris and her son Christopher and her side.

She was a graduate of Keene State University. She was a member of Holy Communion in Mahopac and a strong supporter of The Church of Our Savior in Killington, Vermont. During her battle against cancer she inspired others by her faith and telling people how blessed she

was by saying, "God knows my name."

She is survived by an older sister Terry Chesbro of San Antonio, Texas and Brother Robert Lewis of Naples, Florida as well as many nieces and nephews.

She will be remembered as a warm and compassionate person who loved her home and the beauty of nature. She cared deeply for the spiritual development of children. She taught Sunday School while a member of Trinity Church in Ossining and St. Peter's in Peekskill. She also participated in many church outreach ministries. As a skilled accountant and bookkeeper, she applied her skills to support many Episcopal churches and small businesses throughout Westchester and Putnam counties.

Emil Bandriwsky

Emil Bandriwsky, a resident of Ossining, died February 18. He was 62.

He was born in Sleepy Hollow, on January 19, 1957 to Stefan and Centa (Obersteiner) Bandriwsky. He was a graduate of Ossining High School and the New York Institute of Technology. He was an architect in the Ossining and Westchester area. He was also a member of the Eagles Club in the Crotonville area of Ossining.

Mr. Bandriwsky is survived by his brother Stefan (Emilia); his niece Amy and his nephew Paul.

Verna Kwiatkowski

Verna Kwiatkowski, a resident of Croton-on-Hudson, went to be with the Lord she loved and served faithfully on February 17. She was 85.

Born in Annville, PA on April 18, 1933, she was the daughter of the late William and Florence (Hicks) Ziegler. She graduated from Millersville State Teachers College in 1955. On June 15, 1957, she married Leo J. Kwiatkowski of Taylor, PA. A common faith in God through Jesus Christ drew them together; that same faith sustained them through more than

60 years of marriage.

Her work almost always involved some form of teaching, all of which she enjoyed. It began with two years as Miss Ziegler in public elementary schools. She taught accordion and piano lessons at the Carrozza Music Center in Yorktown; led Bible studies, including her Bible Basics seminars; was a religious educator at Pleasantville Cottage School; and was pastor of the Community Church of Yorktown, retiring in 2000.

Shortly after her retirement she began to notice signs of a neurological disorder diagnosed as Primary Lateral Sclerosis (PLS). For the past 13 years she resided at Sky View Health Care Center in Croton-on-Hudson. The family is grateful for the excellent care given to Verna by the staff at Sky View, and for all who joined her in her journey and encouraged her along the way.

She always enjoyed writing, and has left behind a large volume of writings as her legacy (vernakwiatkowski.com). Her more recent writings were focused on the topics of aging, dying, and Heaven, where "the best is yet to be!" Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her brother Harold.

She is survived by her husband Leo J. of Peekskill; her children, George (Janet) of Yorktown, David (Dana) of Clemmons, NC, MaryBeth (Charles) Dyer of Hamilton, MA, Marty (Ed) Ford of Indian Lake, NY and Paul (Brandi) of Arvada, CO; 11 grandchildren (Eric, Evan, Andrew, Paul, John, Amy, John, Graham, Sophia, Andi, and Robert), and two great-grandchildren; brother Bob (Esther) Ziegler of Frederick, MD, and sister-in-law Anita Ziegler of Palmyra, PA; several cousins, nieces and nephews; and an immense group of dear (some lifelong) friends.

A celebration of Verna's life will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 30 at the United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak, 1176 E Main St., Shrub Oak, NY 10588, with a reception to follow.

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Business of the Week

By Neal Rentz

It is not difficult to understand one of the reasons Orangetheory Fitness has its name.

Mount Kisco resident Fior Delacruz, assistant studio manager at the Orangetheory facility in the Jefferson Valley Mall, said last week that the studios all use orange light. "It's just to have the ambiance," she said.

Delacruz began her career with Orangetheory Fitness at the national chain's Mount Kisco location when it opened two years ago, working at the front desk. She was promoted and moved to the new Jefferson Valley Mall location, which opened on December 28.

"My job responsibilities are to manage the club. To make sure everything is going smoothly, marketing and always having fun too," Delacruz said last week. "I'm here to make sure everyone is inspired. I'm here to change people's lives. But I'm also here to create a fun atmosphere as well."

The Mount Kisco location was Orangetheory's first in Westchester County, Delacruz noted. Orangetheory is a group of privately owned franchises with more than 1,000 studios in 47 states and in 19 countries, Delacruz said.

Orangetheory Fitness Jefferson Valley



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Mount Kisco resident Fior Delacruz, assistant studio manager at Orangetheory Fitness at the Jefferson Valley Mall, is joined in front of the national chain's logo by Brewster resident Christina Tassi, studio manager and marketing director.

Workouts are one-hour, full body sessions, Delacruz said. All customers wear heart rate monitors, she said. "We focus on heart rate base interval training," she said. "There's five different heart rates that we focus on. Orange is 84 percent of our maximum heart rate. It's proven that if you're in the orange zone for at least 12 minutes in that hour you get the after burn effect of the workout. So that's where the orange and the theory came in. You'll be burning calories post-

workout."

Every class is overseen by a certified coach, Delacruz said. The coaches "motivate you, push you, make sure you're okay and prevent you from over or under training," she said.

There are various apparatuses used in the Orangetheory workouts, including Freemotion brand treadmills, which Delacruz said have shock absorbent that do not hurt people who use them. Orangetheory patrons can power walk,

jog or run on the treadmills, she said.

Training sessions also include water rower machines in which people row with actually water, Delacruz said. "It's smoother on your body," she said. "It's less of an impact."

Weights and other equipment are also used in the workouts. "The workouts are different every day," Delacruz said.

Customers typically do the one-hour workouts three times a week. The Jefferson Valley studio has an eclectic mix of clients, Delacruz said. "I've seen everything," she said. "I've seen from 14-year-olds to 72-year-olds. I've seen people who have pacemakers."

"Everyone's working at their own pace. That's the beautiful thing about Orangetheory because you are wearing that heartbeat monitor and that's what sets you apart from every single person in this room," Delacruz said.

Orangetheory Fitness is located in the Jefferson Valley Mall (near Sears) at 650 Lee Blvd. in Yorktown. For more information, call 914-359-5515 or send an e-mail to masm0993@orangetheoryfitness.com. The national Orangetheory Fitness Web site is <https://www.orangetheoryfitness.com/>.

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- THE EXAMINER

Noise at Home: What You Can and Can't Do About It

As a realtor in upper Westchester, I have frequently been asked by buyer clients to show them homes either "in a quiet neighborhood" or homes that are far off from a busy road that has double lines down the middle.

People often say that the most important thing they seek in their home life is peace and quiet. And while some people can live happily with the most extraordinary noise surrounding them, such as those living near an airport, others seem to be more sensitive to lesser extraneous sounds, such as passing cars.

And if you live in an apartment or condo, there are the sounds that come through ceilings and walls that can be an issue to the more sensitive ear. Some noise you can do something about, some you may feel that you have to grin and bear it, and some you just get used to.

My first apartment in New York was in a new building that was not well sound proofed and the single mother living above me had a young child who would run back and forth above with no carpeting to help insulate the sound. I complained to her bitterly every time it got out of hand. That neighbor, whose name I still recall clearly, got so sick of my complaints that she sent her tough boyfriend down to threaten me.

The only real solution to the problem was to walk out on my lease and find an apartment with no one above.

And, when I fell in love with and bought my first home in Brooklyn Heights, I found that it sat directly over the A Train subway line. Visiting dinner guests would sometimes have a look of mild panic when the rumbling train barreled through below us. We loved the house and learned to accept the noise. In fact, when the transit workers went on strike for a week, we missed the sound that lulled and vibrated us to sleep at night.

When I moved to the country years ago, it was in late summer, and I couldn't fall asleep the first night because of noise that one would never find in the city: the drone of all the katydids. By my second season here, I was welcoming the sound like a lullaby.

Those of us who live in a single-family home expect to be spared the kind of noise pollution that one might face in an apartment, co-op or condo with common walls. But we have all of the outdoors to carry annoying sound waves: lawn mowers, leaf blowers, cars and trucks.

If the whoosh of cars annoys you, it can be abated by installing a solid fence along the street. The regular four-foot fence will do a

good job of deflecting a percentage of the sound. Also, thick evergreen bushes help. Another device is outdoor water, either in a fountain or a waterfall incorporated into a swimming pool.

Another effective technique to lessen noise from a busy road, often used in apartment and condo developments, is the creation of a high dirt berm with plantings.

It is estimated that as much as 90 percent of outdoor noise comes inside via windows and doors. Good insulated windows are the best defense to prevent outdoor noise from becoming indoor noise. As much as 75 to 95 percent of extreme outdoor noise, such as living next to a major traffic artery, can be eliminated through the use of soundproof windows that are added as an extra layer inside of a regular window.

The noise outside that had always annoyed me most was the barking of dogs that goes on and on. I always wonder whether the owners of those dogs just don't care that something seems amiss with their pets, or is it that something is amiss with their level of courtesy to their neighbors? If you live in a neighborhood long enough this annoyance can come in waves, depending on the dogs that come into and out of the lives of nearby neighbors.

My town, Yorktown, has a code that invites us to complain to the code enforcement officer if barking lasts more than 15 minutes.

I have taken advantage of that code, rather than having a face to face confrontation.

Then there were occasional outdoor parties during the summer where there was a boom box or an even louder sound system that the hosts shared with their neighbors for some distance. Rather than calling the police, I would just shut all my doors and windows and play Bach or Mozart very loudly.

If you happen to live in an apartment, co-op or condo, the concern is more about how protective the ceiling and floor insulation is. There is a reason why many units for sale are promoted with such phrases as "no one above or below" or "end unit with only one shared wall." But if you find that you're sharing too much of your neighbors' personal lives, there are companies that sell soundproofing wallboard to add as a second skin for more privacy.

Another option for quieting your space and mind is to create white noise or more pleasant distracting noise to take the edge off the irritating noise. I have a sound effects device that I would take with me on road trips when I had to stay in hotels or motels on busy highways. It creates the sound of ocean waves, waterfalls, rain and a variety of other sounds that soothe my environment.

Instead of covering your ears and living other people's lives, you can make your own privacy by addressing sound pollution creatively.

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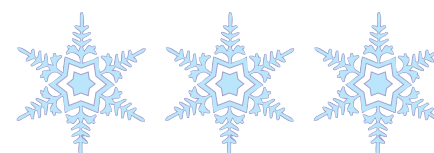
Has Raised so far \$11,310



Photo by Jim Drohan Jr.

**Donations are still being accepted at www.gullottahouse.org.
Your donations at work are listed below:**

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| 1) January- fire in Ossining helped w/food family | fuel Delivry- partnered w/Palisades Fuel | Tarrytown Community Opportunity Center.11-B | 16) February - \$250 spot light Dance Scholarship in Yorktown to help young women excel. |
| 2) January- 3rd Thursday Free dinner for seniors - residents in need @Tarrytown Sleepy Hollow at Community Opportunity Center all are welcome fed 53 residents on going. | 9) February -Presented 3 New Rochelle families facing Hardships \$2,100 \$700 each check. Partnered with Iona college and athletics Department from our Lift-O-Ween event. Thank you again Steve Furman | Donation \$600 to Sleepy Hollow Recreation youth Scholarship fund. | 17) February 20th taking Approx 120 Children for free with food vouchers to Westchester Knicks basketball game at County Center with Fan experiences and give-a-ways. |
| 3) January-Tarrytown senior new car Battery | 10) February-Yonkers family who was burnt out of there apartment in December Gullotta House arranged and paid for transportation and lunch and a gift card to Iona college so the mom and 8 year could spend an afternoon with the athletes. Thank you Steve Furman.10-B Gullotta House Served an supplied food 1 night for 15 Homeless residents at St. Ann's. | 12) February- \$2,850 emergency support for Westchester family facing severe Hardship. | 18) In May we will present scholarships for at least \$2,000 to Ossining High School students who have volunteered in the community and with Gullotta House and are going on to college. |
| 4) January-Sleepy Hollow resident Hardship 4 new car tires. Partnered w/ Corsi Tire | | 13) February- \$1,700 to Traveling homeless emergency shelter in Ossining, Briarcliff, Croton, Mt. Kisco. | |
| 5) Croton family medical Hardship emergency oil delivery. | | 14) February- \$500 To Young family in honor of Mr. Fred Young very unexpected passing great Volunteer in community. Family gave Check to St. Ann's Church. Fred's wishes R.I.P Fred. | |
| 6) January - young man's electronics stolen out of gym locker at school, Gullotta House replaced it. | | 15) February- Presented check to Mr. John Crawford for \$250 to Baker Collyer Cheer. Holiday food Baskets for needy. | |
| 7) January-Ossining man's tragic death \$250 go fund me donation. R.I.P. Greg | 11)White Plains resident facing Hardship, provided food and Gift card and compassion, partnered with | | This is only possible from your generosity and support.
<i>Please donate today at www.gullotta house.org</i> |
| 8)February- Disabled Ossining resident Emergency | | | |





Gullotta House Escape from Sing Sing Charity Plunge Photos



Happenings

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

Wednesday, Feb. 27

Senior Benefits Information: A Senior Benefits Information Center is available every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Somers Library. If you can't visit the library in person, you can leave a message on the SBIC helpline at 914-231-3260 or e-mail us at SBIC@wlsmail.org with your name, number, a time to call between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. and whether your interest is in Medicare services or other benefits. A counselor will return your call within two business days. SBIC will not meet on days the Somers schools are closed due to snow.

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

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

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

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

Thursday, Feb. 28

Heart Health Fair: In recognition of February being American Heart Month, Bethel Springvale Inn is presenting a Heart Health Fair from 9 to 11 a.m. at 2042 Albany Post Rd. The morning will include free blood pressure screenings, discussions on nutrition and healthy food choices, managing stress, American Heart Association Information and creating a realistic exercise plan. Giveaways and refreshments will be featured as well. To RSVP, please call 914-739-4404 Ext. 2204.

Yorktown Jewish Center Courses: A

wide variety of courses are being offered at the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. Family Tensions in the Bible, led by Rabbi Stanley Urbas, is held on the first and third Mondays of the month at 11 a.m. Rosh Chodesh Studies for Women--led by Marsha Sternstein, is held at 7:30 p.m. on one Tuesday evening per month. Talmud and Contemporary Issues-- led by Wendy Segal --is held on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Beginners Hebrew--led by Cantor Isabel Kopstein--is held every Monday at 1:30 p.m.; contact the office for details. Advanced Hebrew--led by Cantor Isabel Kopstein-- is held on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Ten Minutes of Torah--led by Rabbi Sternstein--- is held on Shabbat mornings at approximately at 10:30 a.m. Mishneh Torah (Maimonidean thought)-led by Rabbi Sternstein- is held on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. Info: 914-245-2324 or yorktown-jewishcenter.org.

IBM Retirees Club: The Tri-State IBM Retirees will meet at the United Methodist Church Hall, 1176 E Main St, Shrub Oak. Bob McNamara, an AARP tax advisor, will discuss the changes in the tax law for 2018 filing. Set up at 12:30 p.m.; coffee and light refreshments at 1 p.m. and the meeting begins at 1:30 p.m. Info: Peg Ryan at 914-528-5916.

Support Connection Group: Support Connection announces the next session of their Book Club for Women with Cancer will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. at New York-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt. It is open to people living with breast, ovarian and gynecological cancers. To learn more or to pre-register, which is required, call Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

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

REB Talks: REB Talks: Jewish Ideas Worth Sharing will be held at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Am, 203 Church Place, Yorktown. For more information, please call our Rabbi at 914-962-7500 or e-mail him at RabbiW@optonline.net.

Friday, March 1

Coloring For Adults: It's not just for kids, and it's the latest craze. Join our adult coloring book club at the Somers Library Meetings will be held in the conference room every Friday from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Relax, color, and socialize for free. Materials are provided or you may bring your own color pencils and coloring books. Registration is not required. Info: 914 232 5717.

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

Online Health Information: Essentials of Online Health Information for Older Adults will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Somers Library. The snow date is March 15. Registration is required – visit www.somerslibrary.org or call 914-232-5717.

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

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

Saturday, March 2

Putnam Valley Shabbat Service: Looking for a modern Shabbat service steeped in Jewish tradition? Come to Temple Israel of Putnam Valley, a Conservative Egalitarian Synagogue situated on beautiful Lake Peekskill. Our inclu-

sive, community-lead services start at 9:30 a.m. on Saturdays and are held in Hebrew and English. Enjoy a comfortable atmosphere where participation is appreciated and afterwards stay for our delicious Kiddush lunch. Services are free; Family Memberships are \$250 per year and include High Holiday Services. The synagogue is located at 140 Lake Drive in Lake Peekskill. For more information, call 845-528-2305.


Bagels and Bible: The program will be held at 9 a.m. at Temple Beth Am, 203 Church Place, Yorktown. 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. 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

Ossining Farmers Market: The Ossining Down to Earth Farmers Market is now being held outdoors on Spring and Market Streets. Customers old and new will find delicious produce, pasture-raised meat, poultry, and eggs, breads, baked goods, and much more. For a full list of our markets and vendors, visit DowntoEarthMarkets.com.

ACT Practice Exam: An ACT practice exam with the Princeton Review from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Somers Library. Registration is required. Please go to our

Continued on page 16



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Crossword

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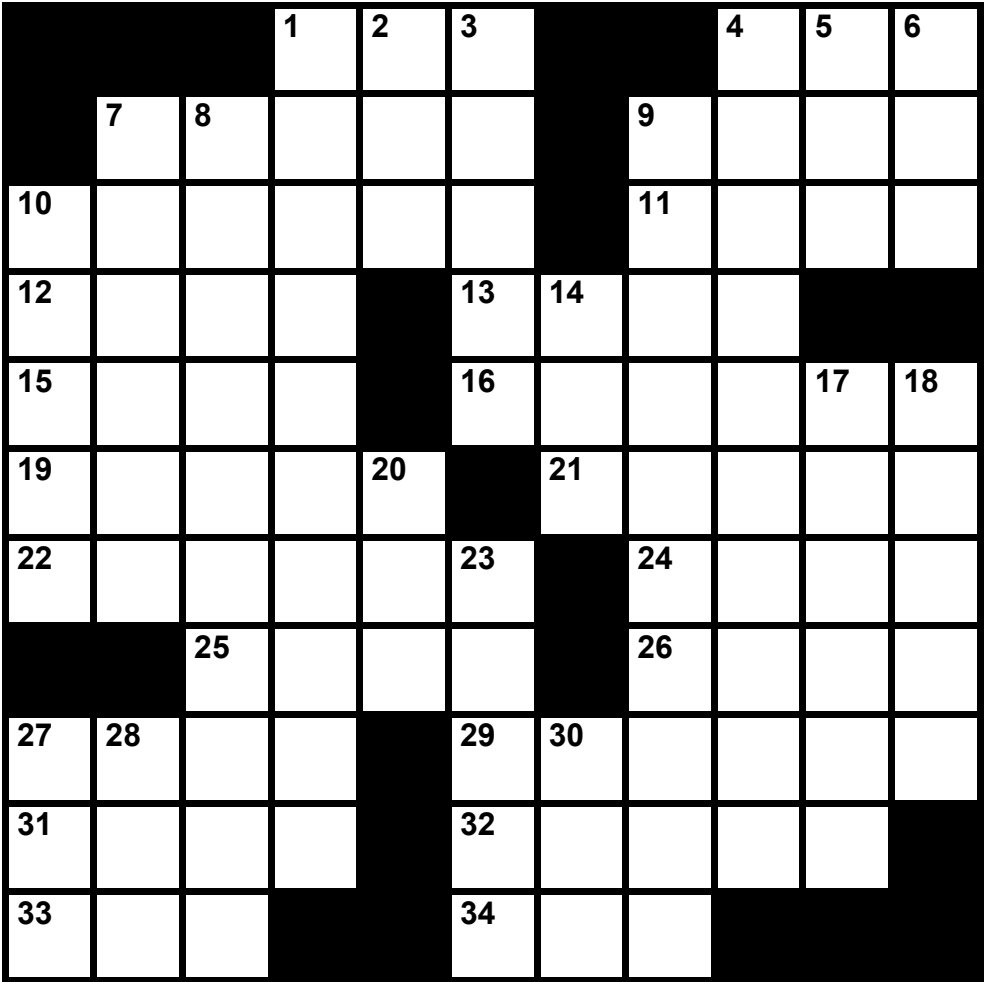
- 1. Univ. URL ender
- 4. Middle grade
- 7. Jordan capital
- 9. Wander
- 10. Mahopac confectioner, Lynne's Sweet _____
- 11. Millinery supply
- 12. Middle-eastern kingdom
- 13. Writer Kingsley
- 15. Paula Creamer's org.
- 16. Gossips at shul
- 19. Be stationary, at sea
- 21. One kind of elephant
- 22. Narrow ridges
- 24. Transitional time
- 25. Hall-of-Fame college swimming coach _____ Thornton
- 26. Right on the map
- 27. Definitely!
- 29. Legendary Ontario Premier
- 31. Low pitch

32. Sap

- 33. Superman's emblem
- 34. CD predecessors

DOWN

- 1. Issuances
- 2. "Gimme ___ thing!"
- 3. Take back, in a way
- 4. Maritime police
- 5. "Mangia!"
- 6. North Sea feeder
- 7. Deodorant's target
- 8. Leanness
- 9. One with a thick skin
- 10. Tributes
- 14. French sea
- 17. Bondi bloke
- 18. Back to school mos.
- 20. Paddle
- 23. Jazz singer Waters
- 27. Civil War prez
- 28. More (Sp.)
- 30. French artist Jean



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(Solution to puzzle on page 15)

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

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Happenings

Continued from page 14

online calendar at www.somerslibrary.org or call us at 914-232-5717.

College Construction: Every Saturday in March, from 1 to 4 p.m. Drop In and Create: Collage Constructions will be held at Hudson Valley MOCA, 1701 Main St., Peekskill. Free with admission. Info: 914-788-0100 or hudsonvalleymo-ca.org.

Jazz Masters Series: At 7:30 p.m., the Jazz Masters Series of Westchester Collaborative Theater will feature vocalist/trombonist Todd Londagin and his TL5 at WCT's performance space at 23 Water St., Ossining. Doors open at 7 pm. Tickets are \$20 and a cash bar and refreshments will be available. Purchase tickets online at <https://jmslt5wct19.brownpapertickets.com/>.

Sunday, March 3

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: Elisha Simpson at 914-319-4010.

Tuesday, March 5

Autism Educational Needs: "What Every Child with Autism Needs from Their Educational Program" is the topic of a discussion that will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at, Shrub Oak International School, 3151 Stoney St., Mohegan Lake. Dr. Dianne Zager, internationally-recognized expert in autism education, will lead a panel discussion of the best programs and practices for students diagnosed with ASD. RSVP to events@shruboak.org.



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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CASA CORDOVA, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/16/19. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 1251 Wilson Road, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF NEWCASTLE BUILDING INSPECTORS, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/7/2019. Office Location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC at: P.O. Box 99 Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF THUMBS UP! ENTERPRISES, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the SSNY on 1/24/19. Office location is Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to principal business address: 420 South Riverside Ave, Croton on Hudson, NY 10520. Purpose: Youtube Channel.

FORMATION OF ETNA CAPITAL ADVISORS LLC FILED WITH THE SECY. OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) ON 1/25/19. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Richard Imprescia, 1821 Casey Ct., Mohegan Lake, NY 10547. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF DISTINGUISHED DESTINATIONS LLC Filed with SSNY on 9/12/2018, Office: Westchester County, SSNY Designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Elli Travel Group, 1967 Palmer Avenue, Larchmont, NY 10538. Purpose: any lawful purpose. *continued on next page*



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Do You Have a Powerless Power of Attorney?

By Salvatore M. Di Costanzo

The Power of Attorney ("POA") and Statutory Gifts Rider ("SGR") are two of the most important documents drafted by an elder law attorney. Deficiencies in these documents increases the likelihood of the need to commence a costly guardianship proceeding to be able to implement many common elder law planning techniques necessary to preserve assets. While New York law provides for a statutory short form POA, the powers included in the statutory form are, unfortunately, insufficient when it comes to common elder law and estate planning techniques. Even where the POA is prepared by an attorney, if that attorney is not an elder law or estate planning attorney, it likely that the form has not been properly drafted to include powers necessary to allow for the implementation of proper estate and Medicaid planning techniques.

The Purpose of the POA and SGR

In 2009 and again in 2010, the New York State legislature entirely revamped the statute that governs the POA. While the revisions are too numerous to discuss in this article, the most recognizable changes were the appearance of the POA

form and the addition of the SGR.

The purpose of a POA is to give another person (an "agent") the authority to handle your financial and property affairs.



The POA is effective immediately upon signing. The agent does not have to wait until you become incapacitated to act; rather, their authority and ability to act is immediate. The powers found in a POA are largely administrative powers (i.e., the power to pay your bills and the power to open a bank account).

The purpose of the SGR is to authorize your agent to enter into transactions that are considered "changes in beneficial interest" (i.e., the power to make gifts in excess of \$500, the power to transfer assets to trusts, and the power to change beneficiary designations.) An SGR is a completely separate document that needs to be signed at the same time as the POA. Many people are unaware that an SGR exists, and some erroneously have executed an SGR years after executing the POA, rendering the SGR ineffective.

Modifications to the POA

New York State law permits modify-

ing the POA and SGR, and the key to a properly drafted and protective POA and SGR lies in the modifications added by an elder law or estate planning attorney.

A POA should be modified. The primary modification is adding the power to create, amend, revoke, or terminate revocable or irrevocable trusts. This power becomes imperative where an elder law attorney seeks to protect the value of a client's home and other assets when planning for Medicaid. There are many other modifications that an elder law attorney will use.

Modifications to the SGR

It is important to reiterate that the single most common oversight is the failure to prepare an SGR. With that being said, the most common oversights in preparing an SGR is the failure to add modifications allowing the agent to (i) transfer assets in unlimited amounts and (ii) transfer assets to himself.

Both of the above modifications enable the elder law attorney to implement many techniques that create Medicaid eligibility. If you lose your capacity and the SGR does not allow the agent to transfer your assets, the SGR is relatively useless. Moreover, since your agent is usually the person that would be the recipient of the transfer

(i.e., a spouse or child), not permitting the agent to make transfers to himself might necessitate using another family member or non-relative to receive your assets.

Conclusion

The failure to recognize the necessity of a POA and SGR is common. Once you commit yourself to an estate plan, however, having a deficient POA and SGR is unacceptable. If you do not have a POA and SGR or have documents that do not include the modifications discussed herein, please contact us.

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LEGAL NOTICE: NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: The name of the Limited Liability Company is Palmyra Holdings LLC. The Articles of Organization were filed with the New York Secretary of State on February 19, 2019. The office of the Company is located in the County of Westchester,

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, the Putnam Valley Town Board will conduct a public hearing on Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 6:00 pm. to hear comments on a proposed local law to adopt the Natural Resources Inventory thereby enabling management

and use of natural resources for present and future residents. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING the Putnam Valley Town Board will be conducting the regular work session Town Board Meeting. **BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD** Sherry Howard Town Clerk Dated: 02-14-2019

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

Somers Serves 'Max'imum Offense!

Tuskers Denied Entry to Quarters in Opening- Round Loss to Beacon



Somers senior C Max Germaine (L) hits a symbolic roadblock in last Thursday's 75-70 Section 1 Class A opening-round loss to visiting Beacon, who solved the 6th-seeded Tuskers' lock-down defense to post a season-high 75 points against the Tuskers while eliminating Somers well before it had hoped... see Boys' Hoops Notebook

RICK KUPERBERG PHOTO (PLEASE VISIT WWW.HVSRPHOTOS FOR MORE)



Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook

Somers vs. Panas Class A Final 4; Ossining Cruises to AA Semis

By Tony Pinciario

The last two years, **SOMERS** has won the Section 1 Class A Girls' Basketball title in 2017 and advanced to the Final 4 last year.

The Tuskers, who battled health issues all year, had a solid 2018-19 regular season, but it only translated into a sixth seed for Somers in this year's playoffs. Not that Somers needed any more motivation, but the Tuskers, once again, have raised their level of play for sectionals as they begin to regain full health. Somers handled No.11 **HEN HUD**, 48-34, in the first round, then eliminated third-seeded Byram Hills, 55-38.

As a result, Somers will play second-seeded **WALTER PANAS** in a semifinal, today, 3 p.m., at the Westchester County Center. The winner advances to meet the victor of the No.5 Pearl River/No.1 Tappan Zee semifinal in Saturday's title game. Somers and Panas are playing for a third time; Panas prevailing twice in tight games."

Hen Hud was good preparation for the Tuskers.

"Somers played very good defense and forced 20 turnovers, which was a key to the game," Hen Hud Coach Ken Sherman said.

Despite the loss, Hen Hud finished over .500 and won its first league title in quite some time.

"I am very pleased to win the Sailors' first league championship in 40 years, but we have a lot of work to do if we want to get to the County Center next year."

Hen Hud junior Caitlin Weimar finished with 20 points and 13 rebounds. On the season, Weimar averaged 21 points, 16 rebounds and 6.5 blocked shots a game; the kinds of overall numbers that have never been posted at Hen hud. Sophomore Kira Varada added six points



RAY GALLAGHER/RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

Panas players and coaches celebrate their Section 1 Class A quarterfinal playoff win over Pelham & 2nd Final 4 appearance in 3 years last Saturday.

and five rebounds against Somers.

Somers senior G Hannah Angelini, who helped guide the Tuskers to the NYS Final 4 in 2017 as a game-changing sophomore, feels the sixth seed is deceiving because the Tuskers played a tough schedule and were plagued by injuries this season. Despite this, Somers has persevered and is on task.

"A lot of us have experience in these sectional games as well as all the new girls really buying in and focusing on the task at hand," Angelini said. "We've been down this road before and it's familiar to a lot of us, the physicality, the need for execution in offense and the need for everyone to be mentally engaged. We know what it takes to win and so does our coach, so by just working together and doing all the little things we're able to keep it rolling in sectional play."

Angelini pointed out both Panas games were two-point losses for Somers.

"Both games against Panas were dog fights," Angelini said. "The first game I

was unable to play in due to my concussion and the second game I would argue was one of our worst offensive games as a team. I give a lot of credit to the Panas girls, though. They always play hard and they hit some incredible shots. They're a great team. This game is going to be another dog fight, and as long as we can match their intensity and come out on a good note, I

think we will be alright."

Panas earned the second seed in the Section 1 Class A tournament and opened with a 73-48 win over Nanuet, then fended off an upset-driven and 10th-seeded Pelham, 42-35, in a quarterfinal game.

"Pelham put up a good fight, but in the end it was the little things that pushed us over the top," Panas senior Julia Araujo said. "Playing Pelham definitely helped us to get back into the swing of things. After a week off, we opened sectionals with a big win over Nanuet and playing a tight game against Pelham helped us to refocus and prepare for the tough game that lays ahead of us."

Kristen Cinquina led a balanced

scoring effort with 12 points, followed by 11 points from Kristen Scrobola and 10 points from Araujo.

Panas and Somers know each other well so the semifinal should be another excellent game.

"Somers possesses extreme intensity and determination year-round," Araujo said. "They are an excellent team that gives everything they have during every game they play."

Araujo said the team is 'beyond stoked' to play at the County Center this year, the second time in three years for a surging Panas program under Coach Matt Evangelista.

"The County Center is a special place and there truly is no other place like it," she said. "Every basketball player, boy or girl, strives to reach the county center annually and we are extremely proud to have been able to accomplish that this year."

If anyone knows how special the County Center is, it's **OSSINING**. The eight-time reigning champion Pride, seeded second, opened with the Section 1 Class AA Girls' Basketball Championship with a 102-41 victory over New Rochelle, then handled No.7 Arlington, 97-61, in a quarterfinal game.

Ossining played third-seeded Albertus Magnus, Monday in a semifinal at the Westchester County Center. The winner will face the No.1 Ursuline/No.4 Our Lady of Lourdes victor in the championship game at Pace University this Saturday.

In the New Rochelle game, Seton Hall-bound Kailah Harris continued her outstanding senior year by becoming the program's career-rebounding leader.

continued on next page



Panas junior F Kristen Scrobola kicked things up a notch for playoffs, including huge quarterfinal win over Pelham last Saturday.



Ossining's Aubrey Griffin, her mom and Coach Dan Ricci pose with Griffin's McDonald's All-American jersey before Class AA quarterfinal win.



Panas G Cailan Nolan makes strong run at rack in Panthers' Class A quarterfinal playoff win over Pelham Saturday.



Panas senior Julia Araujo goes up for two points in Panthers' Class A quarterfinal playoff win over Pelham Saturday.

Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook



Hen Hud's Kira Varada takes the brunt of Somers' G Emily Arena's tough defensive play in Sailors' Class A playoff loss to Tuskers last Thursday.



Put Valley 8th-grader Eva DeChent soars for two points in Tigers' Section 1 Class B quarterfinal loss to Woodlands.



Putnam Valley sophomore G Arianna Stockinger drives for two points in Tigers' Section 1 Class B quarterfinal loss to Woodlands.

Harris, who grabbed nine rebounds, surpassed Jalay Knowles (her mentor), who amassed 1,078.

"Kailah is a hard worker and she idolized Jalay, so it was very special for her," Ossining Coach Dan Ricci said.

Aubrey Griffin led Ossining with 22 points and also had nine rebounds against New Rochelle. Julia Iorio was deadly from distance added 21 points, Harris contributed 13 points as well as five assists and six steals. Ashley McFadden added 10 points and six rebounds.

Harris and Griffin each had 25 points against Arlington. Harris also had a game-high 15 boards. Griffin added six

rebounds, eight assists and six steals. Iorio scored 21 points for a second consecutive game and Jaida Strippoli finished with 10 points and 10 assists.

PUTNAM VALLEY finished the regular season with an 18-1 record, a league title and the third seed in the Section 1 Class B Championship.

After opening with a decisive victory over Bronxville in which Arianna Stockinger and Eva DeChent each had 11 points and Amanda Orlando had 10 points, the Tigers were shocked by sixth-seeded Woodlands last Thursday night.

Teisha Hyman, who will be playing basketball at Syracuse next year, scored a game-high 44 points in a 60-59 upset of the Tigers, who had visions of the Final 4 dancing in their heads.

The 60 points is the most points allowed by Putnam Valley this season, but Hyman was a one-woman show all nights, stepping back for space like Kobe, following missed shots like Rodman and stroking daggers like Jordan. When PV sophomore and key defensive player Arianna Stockinger fouled out early in the second half, Hyman had her way, but Coach Kristi Dini's Tigers should return at full strength next year with every key player returning with another year of experience under the belts. 2020 is looking good.

BREWSTER faced a tough game going in to No. 5 Pearl River, but the 12th-seeded Bears suffered a major blow when Meagan Beal -- four minutes into the game -- sustained a sprained ankle.

The result was a 50-33 defeat.

"On the road against Pearl River is always a challenge whether they are the five seed or 20 seed," Brewster Coach Mike Castaldo said. "Nobody scouts and prepares their team better than Chris (Woolgar). We've played for over a month

without Grace Galgano, our starting center, and the girls did a great job adjusting without her on the floor. However, when Meagan went down we knew it was going to be a tough battle. Nobody works harder than Meagan Beal. She does everything for us. We really could have felt sorry for ourselves and let Pearl River run away with the game. We were down, 7-8 points, the whole game and the girls off the bench really stepped up. I couldn't be prouder of Nicole Olszewski, Sadie Fischer-Diotte and Lauren Becker. Those three gave us tremendous minutes off the bench in a really tough environment."

Kristen Stefanick led Brewster with 13 points and Maggie DePaoli added 10 points. Castaldo is now planning for the 2019-20 season without seniors -- DePaoli, Beal and Stefanick.

"These three girls have been with the program a very long time," Castaldo said. "Anytime the season comes to an end it's extremely difficult, but graduating those three will be a major loss. I can't express how much our seniors have done for our program. They will be greatly missed."

YORKTOWN had an excellent first season under rookie Coach Brian Mundy, registering 13 wins and earning the seventh seed in the Section 1 Class A Championship. However, the Cornhuskers were upset by No.10 Pelham, 44-35 as the Pelicans led 21-5 at halftime.

"How many teams win games making one shot in the first half," Mundy said. "That was the story of the game. Yes, we made a few runs and got the game to within five points twice in the second half, but it was just so difficult to recover. I will say despite the struggles, the girls did continue to fight, and we outscored them, 30-23, in the second half, but it just wasn't enough. Pelham played well and did what they had to do to advance. My hat goes off to them."

Husker senior Kat Severino concluded her sterling career with 12 points, eight rebound and three steals, and Melissa Severino, who bears the torch, had 10 points. Kat Severino, who will attend Michigan State in September, did score her 1,000th varsity point earlier this month.

"Coming into the season, I really didn't know what to expect and I didn't want to put any unrealistic goals on the girls, so we just played every day for the next game on the schedule," Mundy said. "Even though I have known these girls for a long time, I was pleasantly surprised how we were able to get as a team with a new coach. I told them after the last game that I couldn't be more pleased with the way things played out this season in terms of their effort, their willingness to compete at a high level every night and their attitude of never being out of a game. This was such a fun group of kids to be around every day."

"There is a lot of talent coming up through the system, all the way down to

the middle school level," he added, "and there are a lot of good people coaching these kids that are going to prepare them well as they advance."

LAKELAND won its sectional opener against Saunders, but No.3 Byram Hills eliminated the 14th-seeded Hornets with a 67-34 victory.

"It was not the outcome we were hoping for, but overall, we had a good season with a lot of exciting moments and milestones for our program," Lakeland Coach Miranda Lustig said.

Alexa Cole finished with a team-leading 14 points and Amanda Cole added seven points. One milestone Lustig was referring to was Alexa Cole surpassing 1,000 varsity points.

MAHOPAC had the unfortunate circumstance of playing third-seeded Albertus Magnus in the first round and the Falcons prevailed, 70-56, ending a season, in which the Indians were never an easy out.

"The girls played very well in the second half and got to within four points in the fourth quarter, but we had a couple of turnovers and we got down by 10," Mahopac Coach Chuck Scozzafava said. "We fouled at the end and they made their



Somers' Emily Arena (L) and Hannah Angelini put up a wall around Hen Hud's Caitlin Weimar in Tuskers' opening-round playoff win over Sailors last Thursday.

foul shots."

Senior G Zina McNerney led Mahopac with 18 points and she, along with fellow seniors Katie McDonough, Katrina Klammer and Nat Scanlon held their heads high while leaving the budding program in a good place, loaded with budding multi-sport underclassmen who expect to commit to an off-season regiment where possible.

Ray Gallagher contributed to this story

And Then There Were None. Playoffs Cruel to Locals

By RAY GALLAGHER
Examiner Sports Editor
@Directrays

And Then There Were None. English writer Agatha Christie said her best-selling novel was the most difficult of her books to write, and this season-ending boys' hoops piece is always challenging for this particular scribe when there are no gold balls at the end of the rainbow. Such was the case last week when five of the six local contenders were eliminated by mid-week, and the sixth and final program dropped out Saturday.

Realistic hopes were always highest at **PUTNAM VALLEY** where Coach Mike McDonnell's top-seeded Tigers (18-4) expected to reach their sixth Final 4 in seven seasons and challenge for the first Section 1 title in school history, but a 46-41 Class B quarterfinal setback at the hands of visiting eighth-seeded Woodlands – a quantifiable post-season beast – quashed those expectations in sudden, stunning fashion last Thursday.

"We knew when we saw the brackets come out that it wasn't going to be easy," McDonnell said of the path to a title, including Woodlands, Dobbs Ferry and the Blind Brook Valhalla winner (on the other side of the bracket), "and to be honest I thought Woodlands was the



RAY GALLAGHER/RICK KUPERBERG/BILL KENNEDY PHOTOS

Put Valley's Darnel Shillingford, Charlie Gatewood and Anthony Williams try to shake off 46-41 season-ending loss to Woodlands last Thursday.



Mahopac F Zach Puckhaber drives for two points in Indians' 79-69 Class AA playoff win over Spring Valley last Thursday.



Mahopac senior G Drew Riolo goes for two points in Indians' 79-69 Class AA playoff win over Spring Valley last Thursday.



Somers G Lucas Fecci is met by pair of Bulldogs in Tuskers' 75-70 opening-round Class A playoff loss to Beacon last Thursday.

toughest draw of all. I thought if we could get past them, I liked our chances to win it all, but we didn't match up well with them and we didn't get enough from our guys on the offensive side of the ball."

They did match up for three-plus quarters before the balanced Falcons (14-

8) went ahead with just under 6:00 to play for the first time since the early going. The Tigers came unglued down the stretch: A combination of open looks that were passed over, some sub-par foul shooting and several untimely turnovers were their undoing.

"We didn't execute down the stretch," McDonnell admitted. "We gave the ball away on a couple of key possessions."

McDonnell also admitted that he has truly enjoyed his tenure at PV and hoped to return next season, despite speculation to the contrary...

Class A **SOMERS**, the No.6 seed, also met its match sooner than expected when Coach Chris DiCintio's Tuskers (16-5) fell to visiting No.11 Beacon, 75-70, last Thursday, allowing Dayion Thompson to torch them for 32 points. Tuskers Lucas

Fecci and Declan Talleur paced Somers with 19 points apiece, but the Bulldogs broke down what was supposed to be the Somers' strong point; defense. The 75 points allowed was the most the Tuskers allowed all season, after holding teams to 52 PPG this year.

Word on the street is that Somers was handcuffed by some questionable officiating in this one, which led to Fecci – among the best on-ball defenders in the section – being in foul trouble throughout the game.

"One official (from Dutchess County) called three fouls on Fecci in the first quarter," DiCintio said. "I sat him the whole second quarter. I started him in the third quarter and on the first possession of the half, the official called him for his fourth foul, so not only was he delegated

to the bench for most of the first half, but we couldn't press the same way and play our style of ball."

That style is a rugged, in-your-grill fashion, which officials weren't having that day. Without allowing for it, Somers was just ordinary on this day.

No.15 **LAKELAND**, when you get right down to it, deserves high praise for its effort against No.2 Tappan Zee (ranked No.4 in NYS), perhaps the toughest place to play in Section 1. Coach Steve Fallo's Hornets (11-11) lost and 80-70 decision last Thursday when five Dutchmen starters reached double digits. Hornet hotshot Jack Kruse led all scorers with 26 points while Augie Karaqi added 11. Certainly, Fallo has something to build on here with these two juniors, plus F Joe Vetrano, and several other solid contributors, returning next season.

Class AA No.8 **MAHOPAC** made itself relevant for the first time since 2014 after winning a share of the League I-A title and taking a 79-69 opening-round win over visiting No.9 Spring Valley last Thursday.

Mahopac (13-9) saw senior C Reahl Allen post a prolific double-double with 25 points and 12 boards. Senior Mike Argila had 16 points, five steals and an alley-oop slam-dunk dish to Allen that brought the house down. Indian F Zack Puckhaber added 14 points and a massive third double-digit scoring option.

The run came to an end against second-seeded, state-ranked (No.17) Suffern in Saturday's 54-39 setback despite another quality double-double from Allen (20 points, 13 boards).

"This year was my most successful season as a coach here at Mahopac," Coach Matt Simone said. With nine seniors, and three of them three-year varsity players, it was the experience and toughness we brought that helped us have the success we did. Having a ton of multi-sport athletes was a huge reason for our ability to compete on a daily basis with any team we played. This group was always ready to play, and never shied away from a challenge. They brought back the toughness and old-school style of Mahopac basketball that had much success in past years."

Class A No.14 **PEEKSKILL** (10-12) simply didn't play enough defense in its 87-60 loss to No.3 Horace Greeley, ranked No.12 in NYS. The Quakers' "biggs" were uncontrollable. Peekskill senior G Shion Darby tallied 31 points in a losing effort and did his best to bring back the respect Peekskill had been so accustomed to, dating back to 2010.

Class AA **CARMEL** (6-15), seeded No.15, was simply no match for Suffern in a 74-36 season-ending setback.

continued on next page

Sports

Ice Hockey Notebook

Mahopac's Best Effort Comes up Short vs. Suffern

By Alex Wendling

Mahopac High fell to the top-seeded Suffern, 3-1, in the Section 1 Division 1 semifinals last Thursday night at Sport-O-Rama, ending Mahopac's unyielding championship hopes. Mahopac's season was, nonetheless, historical and amazing, as the Indians ended the season with 15 wins and got all the way to the semifinals for the second time in three years. A big reason for Mahopac's success this year was its senior leadership.

When asked about how vital the seniors have been throughout the season, Mahopac Coach Tim Donaghy said: "This group of seniors was a great group of players along with individually being great young men. TJ McKee and Brian O'Shea both broke the career scoring record for Mahopac. Nick Bricker, Mike Sottile, John Dundon and Nico DeCola all scored more points this season than they had in their career. Logan MacDougall (35 saves) was the goalie most of this season and won 14 games. I couldn't be any prouder of them."

Eventual Section 1 champion Suffern High, considered to be one of the best hockey programs in New York State the last 20 years, was in a game from the get-go when Mahopac pulled up with two bus-loads of Mahopac Maniacs in full throat. These

continued from previous page



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Mahopac Captains Brian O'Shea and TJ McKee were primary reasons why the Indians reached first Final 4 in several seasons.

Mahopac students, who enthusiastically cheered on their hockey team till nearly 10 p.m. -- and got home shortly before midnight -- were fully appreciated by the players and coaches alike.

Danny Schum scored Mahopac's lone goal at the foot of the crease to make it a 2-1 game, sending the crowd into a frenzy and fueling some hope, but the Indians had a tough time maintaining possession throughout. Suffern ran three effective lines at the Indians, who had a tough time generating transition and scoring opportunities.

"The Maniacs were incredible all season," the coach said. "The support we received from the student body gave us so much energy in sectionals. The team and I were very thankful for all the support we received from the Mahopac Maniacs, the teachers and the administration this season."

While Suffern made 10 consecutive title game appearances, they haven't celebrated a championship since 2013, but a 4-1 win over Mamaroneck last Sunday ended the Mounties' drought.

Coach Donaghy added that despite the loss of these key seniors he is looking forward to next season with a positive mindset. He thanked his seniors for paving the way.

Ray Gallagher contributed to this story



Putnam Valley senior Brandon Guerra is consoled by Woodlands coaches after suffering difficult quarterfinal playoff loss.



Lucas Fecci and the Tuskus were clearly frustrated in season-ending Class A playoff loss to Beacon last Thursday.

NWE/Putnam County Super 7 Hoops Poll

No.1A SOMERS – Coach DiCintio's sixth-seeded Class A Tuskus (16-5) took care of Mahopac twice and won the tournament that had No.1-2-3 in the field, and that's all we got to go one when it comes to No.1. Still, the goal was quarters or bust soooooo...

No.2 MAHOPAC – Coach Simone's Class AA Indians (13-9) defeated Put Valley head-to-head and that's all we've got to go on when it comes to No.2, and reaching the quarterfinals was pretty much what we pundits had hoped for and expected.

No.3 PUTNAM VALLEY – Coach McDonnell's Tigers (18-4) did not live up

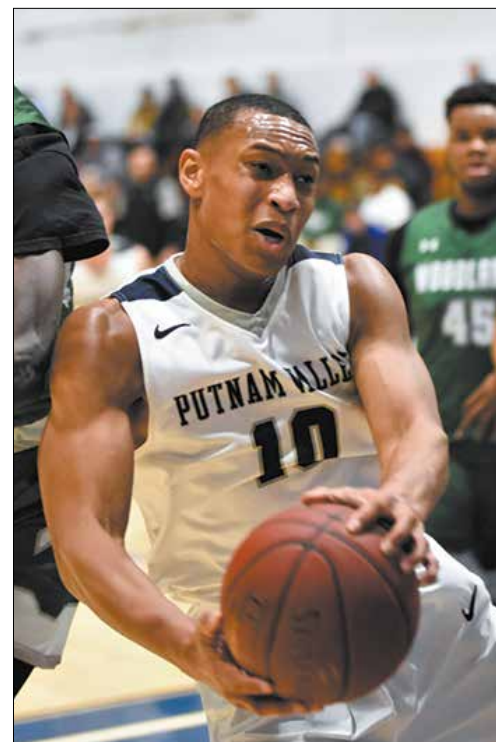
to the hype and could not survive one of the toughest draws I can recall for a top seed. That said, it could be a couple of years before we see the sustained success the community has gotten used to the last 6-7 years.

No.4 PEEKSKILL – Coach Turner's Red Devils (10-12) made some major gains in a second half that saved a ton of face. Still, I've been spoiled by the likes of athletes like Elton Brand, Hilton Armstrong, Todd Scott and Derek 'Bonecrusher' Dennis, so we expect a lot more from the riverside hardwood heroes.

No.5 LAKELAND – Coach Fallo's Class A Hornets (11-11) have legit chance to make a quantum Final 4-type leap next season should they really get after it this off-season #That'sMYGoalForYouGuys

No.6 PANAS – Coach Auerbach's Class A Panthers (5-16) beat Lakeland once, split with Yorktown and swept Brewster, so they get the No.6 spot based on the quality W over Lakeland, which Yorktown did not have. Still, 5 wins is tough for any longtime Panther fan to swallow.

No.7 YORKTOWN – Coach Pavella's Huskers (7-14) were the best of the rest of the 12 teams we attempt to cover in this space, including Brewster, Carmel, Ossining, Haldane and Croton. As



Put Valley senior F Darnel Shillingford gave his all but it wasn't enough in 46-41 season-ending loss to Woodlands.

noted back in early December: 2019 wasn't going to be a banner campaign for the vast majority of the region, and sometimes we hate when we're right, right? #CantWaitTillNextYear #DoWork! #OnToLaxBaseballSeason.



Girls, Girls, Girls!





RICK KUPERBERG/WENDY YANCEY PHOTOS



**Mötley Crüe –
Ossining, Somers,
Panas – Reppin’
at Final 4**

After posting sterling opening-round and quarterfinal-round triumphs over their respective foes, Class AA No.2 Ossining (led by high-flying Aubrey Griffin), and Class A's No.6 Somers (led by hard-charging Hannah Angelini) and No.2 Panas (led by hugging teammates Kristen Scrobola and Julia Araujo) will head to the Westchester County Center this week as part of the Section 1 Final 4 basketball tournament. Eight-time defending Section 1 champion Ossining -- a mainstay at the County Center the last decade, was set to take on No.3 Magnus last night while the Somers vs. Panas showdown was set for today, with the winners advancing to the sectional finals at Pace University on March 2nd. Somers is making its 3rd-straight trek to the County Center while Panas is going for just the third time since 2003, second since 2017... see Girls' Hoops Notebook



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