



The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER Examiner

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

Special Milestone Birthday Celebrated

Michael Ruff, a resident of Croton-on-Hudson who was born with cerebral palsy and has other physical challenges, celebrated his 30th birthday Saturday with family, including his mother Maria Chadeayne and stepfather Tom Chadeayne, and friends at Cortlandt Colonial Restaurant.



Public Hearing Held on Pot Sale Ban Legislation in Somers

By Neal Rentz

Legislation that would bar the sale of marijuana in the Town of Somers was the subject of a public hearing March 7 with all but one of the speakers supporting the proposal.

The Town Board came up with the legislation in response to Governor Andrew Cuomo's proposal to legalize the recreational use of marijuana.

Following last week's public hearing, the Town Board decided not to vote on the legislation, instead agreeing to hold off until it was determined what would happen with the state legalization legislation.

The town legislation would mandate fines of between \$500 and \$1,000 for each infraction. Marijuana sales would be banned in any building, structure or premises in Somers.

Somers Partners in Prevention Chair Kathy Cucchiarella said she supported the town legislation. She asked the town board to tell state legislators to "stop, slow down and let's learn from other states that have already legalized marijuana" before taking action on the governor's proposals. Many organizations and others, including law enforcement, educators and health professionals, oppose

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Former Peekskill Chief Johansen Joins Buchanan Force

By Rick Pezzullo

One year after resigning as chief of the Peekskill Police Department, Eric Johansen was appointed as part-time chief of the Buchanan Police Department last week.

Johansen, 48, who wore a police badge for 24 years in Peekskill, five as chief, fills a vacancy created last year by the retirement of longtime Buchanan chief Brian Tubbs.

"Eric comes to us with a lot of experience, impressive resume and ties in the community and will be a good fit," said Buchanan Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker. "He has the right personality and experience for community policing and to

lead our Department. The village is very fortunate to have Eric."

Knickerbocker said the Buchanan Village Board received approval from civil service to have a part-time police chief for a five-person Police Department, which includes three full-time officers, one sergeant and one detective.

By switching to a part-time chief, Knickerbocker said the village will be saving more than \$140,000 annually.

"We must look ahead to the changes that our coming to our village with the closure of Entergy," Knickerbocker said, referring to the Indian Point nuclear power plants closing up shop in 2021, re-

Continued on page 17



Eric Johansen was sworn-in as police chief in Buchanan by Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker last week.

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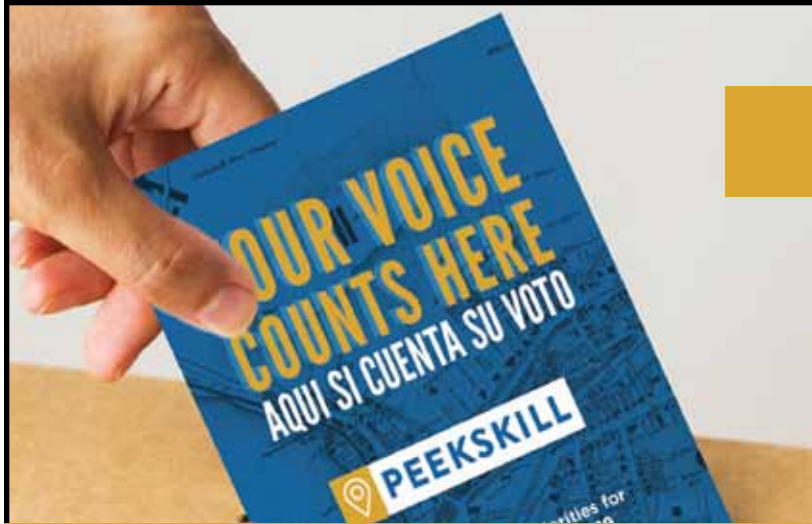
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how to vote.




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All Peekskill residents 13 years and older are eligible to vote.




Your Achilles Tendon is Prone to Injury

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

Ask the Doctor

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

Q: This sounds painful, is there anything I can do to lower my risk?
A: Absolutely. Warm up before exercising to get your blood circulating; drink plenty of water to hydrate your muscles and tendons; and be aware of the temperature outside – strenuous activities in cooler temperatures put you at a higher risk. Your tendons become less elastic, less malleable and more prone to injury.

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

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

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

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

Police Blotter

State Police

State Police continue to investigate a 10-year-old homicide in the Town of Cortlandt.

On March 27, 2009, the remains of 39-year-old, Sabrina Rasa, were found on Albany Post Road behind the Veteran Affairs Hospital in the Town of Cortlandt. Rasa was the victim of a homicide. Rasa was a lifelong resident of Peekskill and often frequented



Sabrina Rasa

the VA hospital in Montrose. She was last seen alive on March 25, 2009, and was found deceased on March 27, 2009.

The State Police have followed hundreds of leads throughout this investigation on both the VA campus and the surrounding area. Investigators will continue to tirelessly pursue any evidence in order to find justice and peace for Sabrina Rasa.

Anyone with information regarding this homicide is asked to please contact Investigator Jonathan Sanchez of SP Cortlandt at (914) 769-2600.

Grand Larceny

State Police from the Cortlandt barracks are investigating a grand larceny from the Mohegan Lake Home Depot that occurred on February 22.

Three individuals are suspected of stealing merchandise from the Home Depot, and then leaving the area in a white Dodge Caravan minivan.

Anyone with information regarding the possible identity or location of the individuals is asked to please contact Investigator Buhler of the New York State Police at (914) 769-2600. Please reference SJS# 8766665.

<https://www.facebook.com/nyspolice/posts/1760275400740863>.

Westchester District Attorney

Westchester County District Attorney

Anthony A. Scarpino, Jr. announced Antonio Pinheiro, of Westtown, NY, in Orange County, pleaded guilty March 4 to stealing thousands of dollars' worth of stamps from the U.S. Post Office in Peekskill where he was an employee.



Antonio Pinheiro

Pinheiro appeared in Peekskill City Court where he pleaded guilty to petit larceny, a mis-

demeanor. He provided full up-front restitution of \$6,860.00 and was sentenced to a one-year conditional discharge.

The felony complaint alleged Pinheiro stole approximately 14,000 stamps from the U.S. Postal Service while he was employed at the Peekskill Post Office. The stamps were taken during the time period of July to October 2017. The value of the stolen stamps was over \$6,000. Pinheiro was selling the stamps via an online marketplace.

His arrest Dec. 4, 2018, followed a

joint investigation by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the District Attorney's Investigation Division. Assistant District Attorney Berit Huseby of the Public Integrity Bureau prosecuted the case.

Yorktown Police

March 7 - Arthur Tullberg, 59, of Yorktown, was charged with driving while intoxicated following a one-car accident on Granite Springs Road, in the area of Quaker Church Road, at about 2:04 p.m.

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Grace Files Lawsuit vs Gov. Cuomo over RHA

By Rick Pezzullo

Former Yorktown Supervisor Michael Grace has filed a lawsuit against Governor Andrew Cuomo and the State of New York over the passage of the Reproductive Health Act (RHA) in January.

Grace, an attorney who is running for a seat on the Westchester County Board of Legislators, filed a Petition for Declaratory Judgment in Westchester County Supreme Court February 28 that the RHA law signed by Cuomo on January 23 is unconstitutional under the New York State Constitution.

The petition alleges that the RHA offends the equal protection clause of the New York State Constitution which provides that, "No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws of the state." The lawsuit also states that prior to the passage of the law an unborn child with which a woman has been pregnant for more than 24 weeks was considered a person to whom equal protection of the laws of New York applied.

"Historically the State held that the in utero infant at 24 weeks and the newborn survivor of an abortion process after 24 weeks were protected persons under the New York State Constitution therefore the legislation is powerless to remove that designation of personhood without a constitutional amendment which on



Michael Grace

its terms would fail," Grace stated in the lawsuit. "This lawsuit seeks to reinstate personhood and the protections that existed under New York State law as of January 2019."

Grace has come under criticism for his public opposition to RHA at meetings and in the press. A rally was even held outside Yorktown Town Hall a few weeks ago that was directed at Grace's stance on the issue.

In a written release, Grace stated while the lawsuit, which was brought in the name of John and Jane Doe representative infants, may be viewed as an anti-

abortion rights lawsuit, it does not impact the right to access abortion services prior to the unborn child reaching the age of viability.

"There can be little issue that these

cited provisions of the RHA offend the New York State Constitution," Grace stated. "This bill has gone too far and is repugnant to the rule of law in New York State."



PAUL CARDI PHOTO

Marshall Alarm Systems New Location

Marshall and Michele Marinace, along with their son Marshall Jr, held an open house and ribbon cutting at their new location at 1767 Front Street in Yorktown on March 7. Marshall Alarm Systems Inc provides electronic security for commercial and residential clients. They have been located in Yorktown for nearly 40 years

The Tom Thumb Campus

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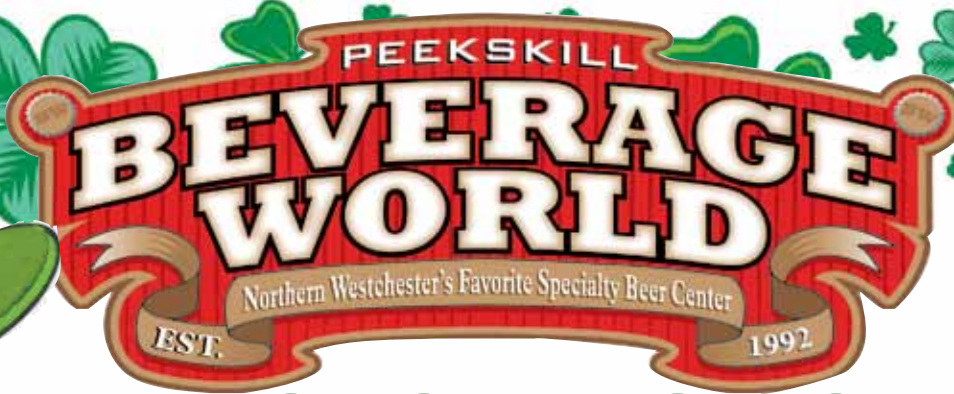
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Lowe's Slated to Open New Store in Yorktown on Saturday

By Rick Pezzullo

The new Lowe's Home Improvement store on Route 202 in Yorktown is scheduled to officially open to the public on Saturday, March 16.

Breslin Realty Development Corporation, owners of the 25-acre site located directly off the Taconic State Parkway, last week announced the store's first week of events, stating Lowe's would have a "soft opening" on Thursday, March 14

and an opening for contractors only on Friday, March 15, before opening its doors to everyone.

Besides the 124,000-square-foot Lowe's, and its 25,448-square-foot garden center, three other retail buildings are planned to be constructed on the property: one 9,000 square feet, one 6,300 square feet and one 2,100 square feet with a drive-thru feature. Breslin representatives told the Yorktown Plan-

ning Board last month an agreement with a tenant for one of the buildings was close.

Costco was originally projected for the location, but Breslin Realty stepped in after that project fell through. Wilbur Breslin, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board for Breslin, said at a ground-breaking ceremony in October 2017 getting Lowe's off the ground required a lot of patience with several de-

lays at the state level.

It will be only the second Lowe's Home Improvement store in Westchester County.

Lowe's recently held a two-day hiring event in Yorktown, at which more than 100 potential employees were interviewed for positions in the store, including supervisors, customer service representatives, cashiers and stockers.

Yorktown Economic, Business Revitalization Committee Issues Report

By Rick Pezzullo

Having a hotel and holding additional events to make the town a destination for visitors were identified as two of Yorktown's biggest needs by a town advisory committee charged with studying economic growth possibilities.

On February 26, the Economic and Business Revitalization Committee (EBRC), which was proposed by Supervisor Ilan Gilbert and formed in July 2018 with Town Board backing, presented its initial report to the Town Board at a work session.

The committee's report highlighted Yorktown's strengths, including a well-educated and diverse population, highly rated schools, good transportation, suc-

cessful sports programs, trails and parks, and a low crime rate, among other positive attributes.

The objective of the committee, which Gilbert said will "think outside the box" for the good of the town, is to strengthen and enhance the business environment leading to the creation of jobs. To carry out some of its proposals, the EBRC has recommended the town retain an economic development expert which would seek out grants.

The EBRC is comprised of Chair George Souls, former IBM sales executive; Andrew Drews, president of Drews Design & Development Company; Kyle DeVito, VP of A. DeVito and Son General Contractor; Katherine Quinn, presi-

dent Support Connection; Renee Fogarty, leadership development consultant; Greg Brown, farmer and director Hilltop Hanover Farm; William Beck, President

Club Fit; Robert Giordano, president Yorktown Small Business Association; and Sergio Esposito, president Yorktown Chamber of Commerce.

**Wishing all my viewers
a Happy St. Patrick's Day!**
Slainte! -George Ondek

*May your neighbors respect you,
trouble neglect you, The angels
protect you, and heaven accept you.*

The following shows can be seen on Youtube by typing in "George Ondek" and the name of the guest or show theme.

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2. Music of the Fifties with singer Vinnie Coniglio
3. "Galentine" Sip 'N Shop at the JV Mall
4. Know more about Insurance with the Gamboa Insurance Agency

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Obituaries

Geoffrey Humphreys

Geoffrey Rath Humphreys, a resident of Somers, died February 26. He was 31.

Born in Nairobi, Kenya, he had an innate love of nature, animals, and exotic locales. These were interests he maintained throughout his life; his goal was to be a wildlife biologist.



Geoffrey Rath
Humphreys

As a person, Mr. Humphreys was compassionate, generous, intelligent, and sensitive; he was a loyal and forgiving friend, and a man fiercely devoted to his family. Military history fascinated him; he read extensively of World Wars I and II and the Civil War, and spoke with the knowledge of a college professor. His favorite places were the Bronx Zoo and Museum of Natural History, where he strove to expand his understanding of science and animal life.

He had many interests, including hiking, cooking, and driving his VW R32, but fishing was by far his favorite pastime—with childhood friends Tom and Perry on Lake Lincolndale; on Pyramid Lake in the Adirondacks with his buddy Dylan; with Dave on the Salmon River. He was lucky enough to fish in locations all over the world: from casting off on the mile-long bridges of the Florida Keys, to thrilling challenges on charters in Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, and Hawaii. His proudest moment was reeling in a one-hundred-pound yellowfin tuna with Myles in Fajardo.

Mr. Humphreys was blessed with a love of adventure, which led to some of his most treasured memories: camping in Yellowstone and the Tetons with Jesse and Brooke; swimming in underground cenotes in Mexico, white-water rafting on the Pacuare River, climbing to the top of Coba Pyramid. In Costa Rica he watched giant sea turtles come ashore at night to lay their eggs, surfed at Tamarin-do Beach, and zip-lined above tropical birds in a jungle canopy. He never forgot the breathtaking experience of kayaking by moonlight in the waters of Bioluminescent Bay in Puerto Rico, swimming the crystal pools of El Yunque's waterfalls, and walking through mist in the otherworldly cloud rain forest. He was awed by the transcendent beauty of Hawaii as the sun rose above the clouds on Mauna Kea; he hiked the lava fields at Volcanoes National Park and watched primeval streams of molten lava flow around him as a full moon rose. A day at Pearl Harbor exploring its battleship, submarine and aircraft brought his passion for history to life. Most magical of all was swimming in the ocean as giant

manta rays barreled in graceful arcs beneath him; for one unbelievable moment he was brushed by the wingtip of one of those beautiful creatures. At the time of his death, he was planning a trip with family to Transylvania, followed by a year on the Great Loop boat trip up the Intracoastal Waterway, across the Great Lakes and down the Mississippi with his Uncle and Aunt. He then planned to live in Florida with his best friend Alexandra.

He will truly and deeply be missed by all who knew him and were a part of his life. Though he struggled like so many others with substance abuse, it did not make him any less an extraordinary person—a beloved grandson, son, brother, uncle, nephew, cousin and friend. His death is a great loss, not just to his family, but to society as a whole. He had so much potential and so very much to give. While Geoffrey lost his battle with addiction, for far too many among us, that war is still being waged.

He is survived by his loving mother Judy Rath and father Michael Humphreys, his beloved twin sister Marissa Humphreys and brother-in-law Myles Hewette, his brothers Andrew Humphreys-Elvis and Nigel Humphreys of England, his grandfather Harold Rath, his uncles Donald and Bruce Rath, his aunts Lorraine and Leigh Rath, and many cherished cousins and nieces.

Nancy Augustowski

Nancy Louise (Sutyak) Augustowski, a resident of Cortlandt, died peacefully March 2. She was 71.



Nancy Louise
Augustowski

She was born on July 21, 1939 in Beacon to Michael and Nancy (Pruitt) Sutyak. She attended Assumption School and graduated Ladycliff Academy in 1957, then Ladycliff College in 1961. She met her future husband in 1954 while serving in Civil Air Patrol and they were married October 29, 1961. She was a longtime and passionate archivist at the Yorktown Museum for more than 40 years. She was a charter member and past president of the Sleepy Hollow Doll Club, member of the Taconic Post Card Club and a long time member holding several positions in the Westchester County Genealogy Society.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Lorman A. "Augie" Augustowski of Merit Printing; loving children, Sherri Young (Kevin), Brian Augustowski and Sandra Soriano; adoring grandchildren, Christopher Young and Samantha Soriano and her cherished cat Lucky.

Edward R. Wohlrab

Edward R. Wohlrab, a resident of Yorktown, died March 3. He was 93.

He was born April 21, 1925 in Queens to Gustav and Louise Wohlrab. He served honorably in the United States Navy during WWII. On Oct. 4, 1947, he married Anna Helene Doig. He worked for many years as a Service Manager in the Automotive Industry. He moved his family to Yorktown in 1955 and was an early member of the Yorktown Democratic Committee and, after he retired, the Yorktown Ambulance Corp.



Edward R.
Wohlrab

He is survived by his son Stewart (William) and daughter Leslie Troise, and two grandchildren, Dana Lindsey (Layn) and Jonathan Troise (Melissa). He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife Anna Helene, a brother Gustav Wohlrab and son-in-law Robert Troise.

There will be a Celebration of Life on April 6, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the family home located at 599 Croton Heights Road, Yorktown Hts., NY. Donations to the Yorktown Ambulance Corps in Edward's name can be sent to YVAC, P. O. Box 104, Yorktown Hts., NY 10598.

Victor Consorte

Victor John Consorte, a longtime resident of Ossining, died March 4. He was 94.

He was born February 16, 1925 to Joseph and Brigida (DeGrazia) Consorte in Tuckahoe. He worked as a Department Head for A&P Supemarket in Millwood for many years. He is survived by his loving wife Vena Consorte, two daughters, Janet Magaletti and Brenda Magaletti, four grandchildren, Jill Ulanowicz, Scott Magaletti, Philip Magaletti, III, Craig Magaletti; eight great-grandchildren, Jack Magaletti, Emily Magaletti, Alaina Ulanowicz, Kaitlin Ulanowicz, Victor Magaletti, Ava Magaletti, Michael Magaletti, and Anthony Magaletti. He was predeceased by his parents and a sister Diana Aurisy.

Robert Iepariello

Robert Iepariello, a resident of Shrub Oak, died March 3. He was 89.

He was born in Avellino, Italy on November 23, 1929 to Albert and Maria Iepariello. He came, with his family, to the United States in 1934 at the age of five. He served honorably in the United States

Army. On April 30, 1955, he married Dorothy Ruggiano. He was a letter carrier with the United States Postal Service. He was also a union shop steward branch 36 National Association of Letter Carriers retiring in 1984.

He is survived by his wife Dorothy, sons James and his wife Yvonne, Stephen and his wife Lisa, four grandchildren: Robert, Tracee, Stephen and Frank, and two great-grandchildren, Thomas and Sara.

Victoria Sfetsas

Victoria Ann Sfetsas (nee forte), a resident of Croton-on-Hudson and formerly of Ossining, died March 5. She was 84.

She was born in Ossining on January 13, 1935 to Angelo and Christina (Cerrone) Forte. She was a retired employee of Westchester County in Valhalla. She worked in Labs & Research and later in Forensics.

Mrs. Sfetsas is survived by her husband of 50 years, Konstantinos (Kosta), three children, Renee McGovern, Cheryl Davis and Athena Cuomo; nine grandchildren: Charlene, Crystal, Thomas, Maxwell, Tiffany, Alex, Peter, Anthony, and Dylan; and three great-grandchildren, Naja, Lamar and Jhonny. She was predeceased by her daughter Lorinne Cyr, brother Anthony, and stepdaughter Maria.

Rose Marie Chianese

Rose Marie Chianese, a resident of Somers, died March 7. She was 78.

She was born May 26, 1940 to Vincent and Lillian (LaValle) Gruppuso. She loved to knit and crochet, and took pride in keeping her home neat and clean. Throughout her life she worked as a secretary in the Somers School District as well as the family business, Mt. Kisco Bus Lines.

She was a devoted and loving mother of four daughters, Lorraine Stetson (Alan), Maria Tiso (Marco), Desiree Remling (Robert), and Stephanie Ross (Christopher). She is also survived by eight granddaughters, one grandson, five great-grandchildren, and her siblings Vincent Gruppuso and Nora Ryan. She was predeceased by her husband of 56 years, John Chianese, in 2015.

Evelyn Pfeifer

Evelyn Anna Pfeifer, a resident of Cortlandt, died March 7. She was 96.

She was born October 25, 1922 to William Bier and Augusta Wengert in Brooklyn. She was predeceased by her two siblings: her brother William and her sister Ellen. Her younger sister, Patricia Schmitt, survives her.

Continued on page 20

Letters to the Editor

Gilbert Administration Has Fallen Short in Yorktown

To the Editor,

What happens when you take over a town government with no plan? For quite some time I warned the residents of this town that the Gilbert Administration had no plan walking into office 14 months ago, and yet again the inactivity of town hall was on display at the town board meeting on March 5th. Councilwoman Roker announced that a working group with our department heads is being formed to identify infrastructure needs. This is great news, but frankly, 14

months too late. It should have been a cornerstone of any new administration to put together a working group of all department heads to get everybody on the same page as quickly as possible. A coxswain, like a local government, can't move a boat forward if all crew members aren't rowing in the same direction. It appears this administration forget the oars on land because we haven't gotten anything done but float in place.

We have heard Supervisor Gilbert tout his focus on infrastructure, but if

that were the case, why wait 14 months to put this group of experts together? If infrastructure were such a focus then why isn't Supervisor Gilbert heading up this group? Under the Gilbert Administration, Yorktown already lost out on a \$300,000 state grant which would have paid for lights for Granite Knolls. At the work session meeting on February 26th, questions regarding three Restore NY grants, totaling more than \$500,000, were quickly swept under the rug. Highway Garage? Gone. Jefferson Valley Mall "ring

road" and new building? Scrapped. It all adds up to more money in state grants that the Gilbert Administration has not acted on – and more taxpayer dollars needed to complete previously funded infrastructure projects.

We can't afford more time and money wasted at our expense. If the Supervisor is going to "talk to the talk" he better be prepared to back it up with real results, and so far his administration has fallen sorely short.

ROBERT PUFF

Former Supervisor's Nazi Comparison was Disgraceful

To the Editor,

A few weeks ago right before the Town Board meeting I participated in a rally. (I am actually in a photo in one of our local papers.) The purpose of the rally was to reiterate that the recent passage of the Reproductive Health Act in Albany was NOT a local issue, rather a state & federal one.

Our former Supervisor knows this, yet he has decided to engage in what he does best: political theater and division, through letters to the editor and statements before the Town Board.

Many people commented at that night's courtesy of the floor. The amount

of misinformation is scary. But one thing I would like to address, since I am all about words: one speaker seemed to think that socialism (the latest bugaboo) and Nazism are the same. In fact, Socialism and Fascism are polar opposites. The Soviet Union fought the Nazis in WWII.

Now to Michael Grace. Several years ago when the Board was discussing changing the wetlands law he called environmentalists "Brown Shirts," an obvious Nazi reference. I took exception and after some back and forth I managed to elicit a grudging apology from him. Michael Grace seems to think that his

mother's WWII experiences give him a pass to blithely throw around Nazi references. They do not. I wonder what his mother's family members think of him.

My personal history is this: my father came to this country from a shtetl in Poland, along with two of his sisters, brought here by my grandfather. Any remaining family members were murdered: his older sister and her family, his older brother and his family, cousins. That shtetl no longer exists. Still raw, my mother in law passed away in January. She was a survivor of several camps, including Auschwitz. Dr. Mengele

performed experiments on her. So there is absolutely NO comparison between what the Nazis did in WWII: murdering 6 million Jews & 6 million "others," "undesirables" like homosexuals, Gypsies, people with mental and physical disabilities, etc. and what is contained in the recently passed law. To anyone who easily throws around this comparison, I find it repugnant. Reprehensible. Disgusting. Disgraceful. Deplorable. Despicable. Contemptible. Vile. Shame on you!

SHEILA SCHRAIER
Yorktown

Take Advantage of Drug Take Back Program

To the Editor,

As many of us are given medication to stay healthy or to get better, we must be aware that old prescriptions that were not used and are not needed should be properly disposed of. Currently, we face the issue of young adults turning to unused opioids prescribed by a doctor to get high. In an effort

to curb opioid misuse, I would like to

draw your attention to a new statewide program known as the "Drug Take Back Act," which ensures that all pharmacies offer on-site collection or pre-paid envelopes for New Yorkers to dispose of unused medication.

Opioid addiction often begins with the misuse of prescription painkillers legitimately obtained from a doctor, or by using someone else's prescription.

The Drug Take Back program creates a way for people to easily cut the supply of opioids in their home after they are no longer medically necessary.

The rate of opioid overdose deaths doubled in New York State between 2010 and 2015. These are not just grim statistics - they represent real lives being lost and families torn apart. One of the most effective ways we

can combat this devastating crisis is to stop addiction before it even starts, and that's what this drug take back program will help do. I encourage you all to take advantage of this critical program now in effect throughout New York State.

Sincerely,

SANDY GALEF
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Moving Homeless Shelter in Peekskill is the Right Move

To the Editor,

I am very proud to say that I have been cooking with four other women for the Jan Peek Homeless Shelter once a month for almost 20 years. I know of other groups who do the same on other days. The residents there are very grateful for whatever we have provided. They are most courteous in helping us bring the food upstairs. We have found all the men and women courteous and humbled by being there. I strongly agree with Cynthia Knox and Ruth Wells that

moving the facility to the Washington Street address will be most beneficial to the homeless and to the community. It not only will be a physically more appealing building, but the location is located very near a bus stop and the Department of Social Services, enabling them to seek employment and thus be citizens who can give back to the community.

Sincerely,

TINA MCDERMOTT
Yorktown

Op-Ed

Yorktown Needs New Leadership to Achieve Smart Growth

By Matt Slater

Yorktown is a place for families. I'm proud of growing up here and my wife and I are raising our family here too.

For Yorktown to be a place where young families grow and seniors can retire, we must have both a plan and a commitment to achieve smart growth.

As I've begun knocking on doors in my campaign for Town Supervisor, I've heard one overarching theme: Yorktown is just too expensive.

For starters, Yorktown's commercial tax base continues to be the lowest in Westchester County. So when the town needs money, it looks squarely at our homeowners. Yorktown has fallen behind our neighbors who are welcoming new employers and new jobs. Traveling down Route 6, you see transformative projects underway expanding the commercial tax base in nearby towns and alleviating the pressure placed on their residential taxpayers.

Unlike Cortlandt, which quickly zoned, cited and approved a new ShopRite, the Yorktown Lowe's took nearly a decade and an estimated \$20 million to open for business. And while the rest of Yorktown



Matt Slater and family

lays dormant, there are exciting projects underway in Somers, Mahopac and Chappaqua.

Yorktown has earned a reputation as hostile to new opportunity—and it's crushing our homeowners. Look no further than the cancelled expansion of the Jefferson Valley Mall, which is one of Yorktown's largest taxpayers. Beyond new jobs, the additional tax revenue could have helped alleviate the Town's property tax burden, improve services for our seniors and enhance our schools.

I have a plan to get Yorktown moving again and the experience needed to deliver real results. We need walkable downtowns in each of our hamlets and

complete streets that improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. We need smarter, more efficient delivery of services. It's time for our local government to be a leader in innovation and, considering the taxes we pay, it already should be!

I have the experience needed to reform Town government and I'll work hard every day to get Yorktown headed in the right direction. I believe in public service and, for the past four years, I was privileged to serve our community as State Senator Terrence Murphy's chief-of-staff. Together, we wrote and passed 50 new state laws benefitting local residents and delivered over \$4 million in new state funding for Yorktown. We tackled a wide range of state and local issues, ranging from the heroin epidemic to the installation of a new traffic light at the intersection of Route 118 and Route 129.

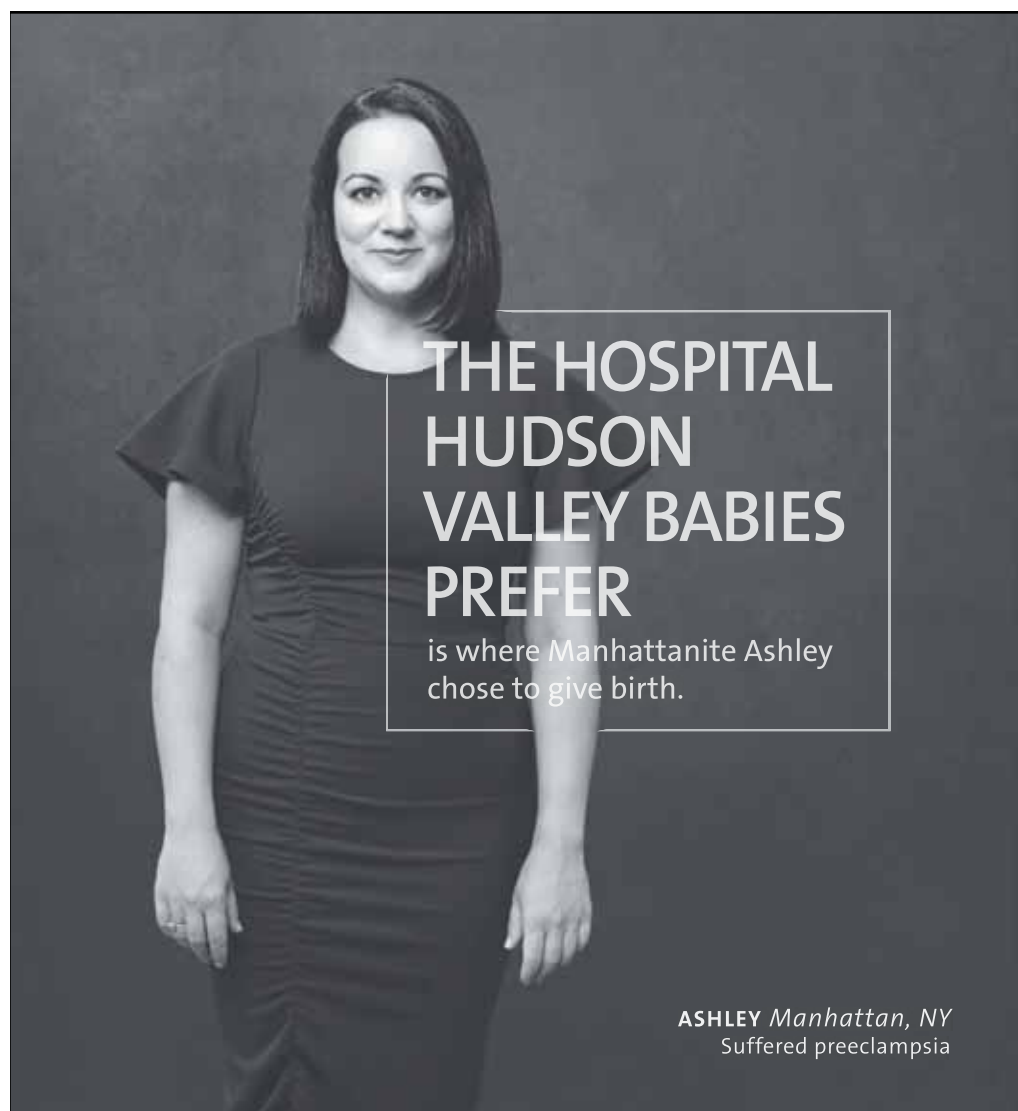
Working with Senator Murphy, we partnered with local officials and members of our community to enact important reforms, including new state laws requiring insurance companies to cover treatment for opioid addiction and ending the long-term prescriptions that helped flood our

communities with Oxycontin and other dangerous narcotics. We also invested in Yorktown's quality-of-life by delivering \$1.9 million to rehabilitate local roads and millions more for our fire departments, school districts, libraries and vital community organizations that provide important services for local residents.

One such grant provided \$700,000 to modernize town facilities. Yorktown has the best employees in Westchester, but we must continue working to ensure they have the resources and technology needed to move our community forward. Specifically, we must create an online system to streamline the permitting process and use Open Data to improve government transparency. The rest of the world is already doing these things and Yorktown's dormant town government is not keeping up.

It's time for new leadership for Yorktown. As Town Supervisor, I will bring my passion and experience to the job. Let's make Yorktown a place that everyone can afford to call home.

Matt Slater is the Republican candidate running for Yorktown Supervisor this year.




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Hidden Cove on the Hudson Project Approved in Ossining

EPN Real Estate Services, Inc., as developer representing owner Plateau Associates, LLC, has announced that Hidden Cove on the Hudson in Ossining has received site plan approval.

The more than five-acre site is located on the Hudson River waterfront. Hidden Cove was conceived to address the village's long-held vision to transform its gritty, industrial waterfront into a vibrant retail, commercial and residential district, unlocking the beauty of the village's greatest asset.

Hidden Cove, offering 137 one- and two-bedroom units in a six-story structure over a single level parking garage, with unobstructed views of the Hudson, and Rockland State Park on the western shore, will demonstrate its embrace of ESG principles through the following elements:

- Designed to achieve LEED-Gold certification
- Transit oriented development with seven-minute walk to Metro North railroad station
- Renewable energy from roof-mounted solar panels, and potentially wind power from shore-front and/or roof-top micro-turbines
- Energy efficient ENERGY STAR and WaterSense appliances and fixtures
- Xeriscaping to further reduce water usage
- Cove Cars; electric vehicles available for residents' use
- EV charging stations
- 14 affordable apartment units
- Dedication of 1.25-acre conservation easement on that portion of the site which has never been developed
- Creating new trails between the conservation easement and the adjacent 26-acre Crawbuckie Nature Preserve to expand public access to green areas
- Building an open air pavilion to celebrate the industrial heritage of the Hudson Valley; this pavilion will offer historical and educational information curated by the Ossining Historical Society, and will incorporate salvaged elements from the previously existing structures on the site
- Introduce code-compliant pedestrian sidewalks, and enhanced vehicular access with curbs and lane markings, which also provides safer access to Crawbuckie Nature Preserve, and enables first responder access during major storm events
- Bridge a ¼ mile gap in Ossining's portion of the Hudson Valley's River-Walk network
- Repair or replace municipal sanitary sewer infrastructure, including an existing pumping station
- Introduce modern storm water management infrastructure to protect the Hudson River
- Each residence will come with direct

control of individual HVAC systems, allowing for personal comfort and incentivizing energy efficiency

- Geothermal HVAC system, for improved energy efficiency, for all common areas
- Natural light and unobstructed vistas of river and/or surrounding forested area from every apartment

Work has started to complete all of the planning and preparations to commence construction of Hidden Cove. The plan is to complete construction and open for occupancy by 2021.





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New York EARN Celebrates 30th Anniversary at St. Pat's Church

By Tim Bradbury

Losing a job is often an extremely difficult experience for many people. The New York Employment Assistance & Resource Network (EARN) helps to motivate those discouraged by unemployment to get back up on their feet.

The EARN group met at St. Patrick's Church in Yorktown Thursday evening to celebrate 30 years of sharing skills and boosting the self-confidence of those in need of support during times of hardship and uncertainty as they search for employment.

EARN was founded by Ed McEneney, Sal Pizzurro, and Don Campbell in 1989. When McEneney was asked how the group goes about getting jobs for people he said, "We don't get people jobs. We help people figure out how to get their own job."

McEneney made clear that EARN is not a place for people who are unemployed to attend and submit a resume for a new job. It is a place for people who are feeling discouraged in their job search to learn useful skills and receive encouragement from knowledgeable speakers and others in the same situation to find success while hunting for work after unemployment.

Aside from celebrating a successful 30 years of EARN, Thursday's meeting was focused on the topic of interviewing.



(L-R:) Don Campbell, Monsignor Joseph R. Giandurco of St. Patrick's Church, Ed McEneney, and Sal Pizzurro

Janelle Razzino, President and CEO of boutique firm and premier search organization Razzino Associates, Inc. spoke with enthusiasm about simple skills to remember for success while interviewing.

"Why should I hire you? What makes you different?" Razzino asked the group. This is a question where many freeze up upon being asked in an interview. Razzino asked the attendees to think hard about what makes each one of them special. She stressed the importance of being able to talk about the "real you," the unique version of yourself which sets you apart from other people interviewing for the same job. "You're all successful, tell people how successful you really are," Razzino reminded the group.

Although EARN is based in St. Patrick's Parish in Yorktown, many of those who attend their meetings are from parishes in other towns. Two of those in attendance, Gary Lam and Chris Memmesheimer, had found the group through their communities in Carmel and Peekskill. Thursday's meeting had been a reunion for the pair since they had last seen each other in 2015. "Thirty years ago, corporations gave you a life. Now you're just a resource," Memmesheimer said of modern day employment.

According to EARN, people in the modern day change employment about seven times on average. Companies are not invested in keeping their employees for as long as they used to. This rate of

turnover can be devastating to people and their families, and EARN seeks to assist those experiencing this feeling with positivity.

For many, including Lam and Memmesheimer, EARN is more than a supportive group, it is a family. "It's more meaningful than LinkedIn," Memmesheimer added. Many of those involved in the group feel that the personal connection of talking with others sharing the same struggles face to face is one of the most rewarding aspects of attending EARN meetings.

While EARN is always supportive of new faces attending their meetings, many of those in attendance have been involved in the group for years. Attendee Christine Guido had said she first came to the group in 2001. She praised the wonderful support EARN has provided for her over the years when she has been unemployed, and said that EARN is "great for people searching for work, as well as people who are employed to come for support." EARN is for anyone in need of support to attend.

New York EARN meets on the first Thursday of every month in the St. Patrick's Church Parish Center below the new church on the corner of Moseman Road and Hanover Street in Yorktown at 7 p.m.

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Business of the Week

Golf on 6 Mahopac

By David Propper

Everyone is welcomed at Golf on 6 Indoor Golf Center.

There are people that come in just to have some fun with friends and more serious players that want to sharpen their techniques. With three golf stimulators and a friendly atmosphere, the Route 6 location has quickly made a name for itself among golfing circles.

"You see all different types of players," co-owner Dino Odoardi said.

The store opened February 1, though for the first 10 days people from the community were welcomed to come in and try the virtual courses free of charge. On February 11, the first official day for business, customers kept flocking in to get some swings in while the weather is still too frigid and snowy to play outside. Odoardi, Jerry Delbene and Joe Vittoria, three buddies that play golf together, own the business.

The trio decided to open up the golf center when they had trouble leasing the space out after a dollar store decided to close down. With Delbene and Vittoria owning the gas station next door, the three business partners decided to take the plunge and turn the space into a



DAVIS PROPPER PHOTO

(L-R:) Dino Odoardi, Joe Vittoria, and Jerry Delbene all own Golf on 6 together in Mahopac.

high-tech man cave/she-shed.

Delbene, a Yorktown resident, described it as a spur of the moment decision to open up a type of place that's nowhere else in Putnam. It took about six months to get everything completed, including getting three golf stimulators in. The indoor golf center will be adding a clubhouse where customers can grab a beer or some food in the coming weeks.

The three men, all graduates of Manhattan College, have known each other for decades, with Vittoria and Delbene first cousins and Odoardi and Vittoria brother-in-laws. The three have bonded over golf, playing on local courses for 20 years.

"We're hackers," said Vittoria, also a Yorktown resident. "We just go out and have fun."

The center is filling a void that was left empty in the region when an outdoor driving range on the Somers/Mahopac border was closed a couple years ago to make room for a housing and commercial development.

"For the area it was something that was missing," Delbene said.

While this is the busy season for indoor golf because of the weather, once it gets warmer, Vittoria said they hope to

attract people that work during the day and can't get to a course before sunset. Vittoria also wants to get people that watch golf but have never really tried playing it and are intimidated to go out on a real course.

"We're hoping to be that niche where they come, relax, hit a ball, no one is going to judge them," Vittoria said. "So that's another group we're going to try to reach out to."

Odoardi, a North Salem resident, said the center is also trying to attract younger golfers by reaching out to local school systems to have their golf teams try out the stimulators.

Private lessons are also offered with the tutelage of a golf pro.

And despite the general complications that come with owning a business, the three have a solid relationship. Even when asked who the best golfer of the three men was, there was no hesitation it was Odoardi.

"We all get along, which is the key thing," Vittoria said.

Golf on 6 is located at 250 Route 6 in Mahopac and its phone number is (845) 533-5335.

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PHOTOS BY RICK PEZZULLO



Speakers Split on Marijuana Legalization at Harckham Forum

By Neal Rentz

Debate on the controversial issue of legalizing marijuana for sale and recreational use has surged in recent weeks and there was no shortage of opinions during a forum hosted by State Senator Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro) last Friday night in Mahopac.

Harckham, chairman of the Senate Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, was joined by Assemblyman Kevin Byrne (R-Mahopac) as opinions were nearly evenly split regarding legalization from about 50 people who spoke at the event.

Roger Green, executive director of the Hudson Valley chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), defending his position, saying there has been no increase in drug use among youths in the states that have legalized recreational use of marijuana.

Legalizing marijuana would also help regulate what is contained in the substance, Green said. Meanwhile, synthetic marijuana has posed dangers to users and could be barred if marijuana was regulated, he said.

Opponent Stephanie Marquesano, founder and president of the Harris Project, said she lost her 19-year-old son Harris as a result of co-occurring disorders in 2013. Co-occurring disorders is the combination of one or more mental health challenges and substance abuse and/or addiction, according to her organization.

Marquesano said the human brain develops until a person is 25 years old and the use of marijuana potentially poses a danger to a developing brain.

"This is a single request – slow down," she said.

Another legalization opponent was former Carmel supervisor Frank Del



NEAL RENTZ PHOTOS

Roger Green, executive director of the Hudson Valley chapter of National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, spoke in favor of state legislation to legalize the recreational use of marijuana during a forum hosted by state Sen. Peter Harckham last week in Mahopac, above. Stephanie Marquesano, founder and president of the Harris Project, spoke out against legalizing marijuana during a Mar. 8 forum scheduled by state Sen. Peter Harckham at Mahopac High School, below,

Campo. Gov. Andrew Cuomo has cited estimates of the state receiving an additional \$300 million in tax revenue if recreational marijuana use was legalized, but Del Campo said the governor has failed to factor in the added healthcare costs for those who may abuse.

Del Campo, a longtime educator, said youths who use marijuana will move on to "more and more dangerous drugs."

However, if New York State fails to legalize marijuana, people would still have access, said Lewisboro Supervisor Peter Parson. Residents could opt to buy it in surrounding states such as Rhode Island and Massachusetts and potentially New Jersey, which is also considering legalization, Parsons said.

Pleasantville resident John Mueller,

who chairs the drug prevention coalition Pleasantville STRONG, said his village passed legislation to ban the sale of marijuana in his village about two weeks ago. He said large corporations would get into the marijuana business if the substance is legalized.

"It's not going to be mom and pop shops," he said.

Mount Pleasant Police Chief Paul Oliva said his colleagues across Westchester County recently opposed legalization based on public safety concerns. He said marijuana is far more dangerous than in past generations.

"It's a lot more potent than it used to be," Oliva said.



Public Hearing Held on Pot Sale Ban Legislation in Somers

Continued from page 1

legalization, she said. Cucchiarella said the states that have legalized the recreational use of marijuana have experienced negative impacts.

Another supporter of the local marijuana sale ban last week was Dr. Russell Kamer. Members of the Medical Society of New York were in Albany the day before the Town Board meeting to "absolutely, positively oppose recreational marijuana in the State of New York," he said. The Town Board agreed to the request from Kamer to include in the town legislation a ban not only of the sale of marijuana, but the barring of the production and growth of it.

Friends who live in Colorado have said the state has declined since it legalized recreational marijuana use, Kamer

said. "It used to be a nice place," Kamer said, now his friends call Pueblo, CO "the Napa Valley of cannabis."

Resident Ann Cornick said she did not oppose the use of medical marijuana, but opposed its use for recreation. "Once you get into it, there's no taking it back," she said.

The only resident to oppose the town legislation last week was Michael Blum. The cost of the criminal justice system for enforcing laws against the use of marijuana has been huge, he said. "A lot of that cost will go away" if recreational marijuana use was legal, he said.

The state marijuana legislation would continue to ban the use of the substance for those under 21, Blum said.

Blum said marijuana was not addictive and was not a gateway drug that makes

users seek harder drugs. "If you have an addictive personality," a person could be addicted to any drug, he said.

The states that have legalized marijuana have seen a reduction of vehicular deaths due to opioids, Blum said, noting there are people who use marijuana to relieve pain, including his wife.

Supervisor Rick Morrissey said he disagreed with the state legalization effort. The board agreed with Morrissey's call to table the legislation until the state acted or did not act on the legislation. The town would be "on solid ground" if the Town Board eventually banned marijuana sales.

Councilman Anthony Ciriaco said the state Legislature is still considering marijuana legalization. If legalization was approved, the town could ask Westchester

County to opt out of having it legal.

Ciriaco said he did not want marijuana use to be commercialized.

Though he opposed legalization of marijuana use for recreational purposes, Ciriaco said he did not oppose the use of the substance for medical uses and was in favor of decriminalization for those who use it.

Councilman Richard Clinchy said he also did not oppose the use of marijuana for medical purposes.

Clinchy, who has been an educator for 35 years, recalled teaching a student who had a substance abuse problem who eventually entered into recovery. Clinchy said he did not want to see drug use encouraged.

"I can't get out of my head the one girl," Clinchy said, with his voice cracking.

School District Creates Mentorship Program

When it comes to school district staff, custodians are often the unsung heroes, quietly keeping district facilities running smoothly. In Yorktown Central School District, however, custodial staff including cleaners and custodians are getting some well-deserved attention with the creation of a new Mentorship Program.

"We have mentorship programs for teachers and administrators in the district so it made perfect sense to provide mentoring to custodial staff as well, especially given the recent turnover we have had due to retirements," said Superintendent Dr. Ronald Hattar. "I am so proud of the work that these staff members do. It is really an honor to be able to support them."

Under the program, which was launched this week, two veteran custodian supervisors, Rocky Serrechia, and Jimmy Seaboldt, will provide ongoing guidance and support to cleaners and custodians, especially those who recently have been hired.

"My whole crew is new," said Serrechia, who has been with the district for 23 years. "I meet with them every day to go over how we take care of the buildings but we don't just talk about the buildings. I have helped some of them with questions they have had for the administra-



Mentorship program for custodians was recently launched in Yorktown School District.

tion. It is important that they have someone to go to."

Seaboldt, who has been with the district for 29 years, oversees staff in multiple locations. "This puts everyone on the same page. We are all always learning how to do the job and how to do it better," said Seaboldt. "It is very important to properly clean the classrooms so they are disinfected, and it is important to

know how to use the chemicals. Everything we use in district is green."

The two mentors said they also want to encourage less experienced employees to expand their skill set by learning how to do different types of repairs, so they can be promoted from cleaners to custodians. Seaboldt said staff members are more likely to ask questions and seek help now that the program exists.

Former Peekskill Chief Johansen Joins Buchanan Force

Continued from page 1

sulting in a loss of \$4 million, or 46% of Buchanan's annual budget.

When Johansen resigned from Peekskill on March 2, 2018, he said he was offered a career opportunity in law enforcement that he couldn't refuse, but declined to reveal the position.

Johansen resides in Cortlandt and was educated in Peekskill city schools. His entire police career prior to joining Buchanan was with the Peekskill Police Department.

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Happenings

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

Tuesday, March 12

Cortlandt Beautification Committee: The Town of Cortlandt government is currently seeking to fill a volunteer committee to assist with various beautification projects throughout the town. Committee is seeking five to six Cortlandt residents to be appointed to this committee. This is a one-year appointment. Interested candidates should have a background in landscape design or landscape architecture. Any interested residents should send a resume and letter of interest to Supervisor Linda D. Puglisi, Town Hall, 1 Heady St., Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567 or e-mail to claudiav@townofcortlandt.com. The closing date for interested applicants is March 29.

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

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

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

www.hyinhealth.com.

Wednesday, March 13

Senior Benefits Information: A Senior Benefits Information Center is available every Wednesday, except for Nov. 27, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Somers Library. If you can't visit the library in person, you can leave a message on the SBIC helpline at 914-231-3260 or e-mail us at SBIC@wlsmail.org with your name, number, a time to call between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. and whether your interest is in Medicare services or other benefits. A counselor will return your call within two business days. SBIC will not meet on days the Somers schools are closed due to snow. Collages and photographs by Jane Hogan are on display through Feb. 1 during library hours.

POUND Program: POUND TM 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.

Meal and Worship: St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2405 Crompond Rd., Yorktown, would like to invite you to a simple meal and worship every Wednesday in lent (through April 10). Dinner begins at 6 p.m. and worship follows at 7 p.m. Pastor Dave Dockweiler will lead a series giving us a new look into the Lord's Prayer.

Media in Politics: The League of Women Voters of Westchester's Education Foundation will hold Fact or Fake, Exploring the Role of Media in Politics, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Field Library, 4 Nelson Ave., Peekskill. Info: 914-737-1212 or peekskill.org.

Thursday, March 14

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.

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.

Care Options: Long-Term Care Options will be discussed at the Somers Library from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This program will help those concerned about how to financially manage extended care for yourself or loved ones. Info: somerslibrary.org.

Pre-Purim Hamentash Bake Off: The Chabad Women's Circle is excited to host a pre-Purim Hamentash Bake Off at 7:30 p.m. at Chabad of Yorktown, 2629 Old Yorktown Rd. To RSVP or for more details visit www.ChabadYorktown.com or call 914-962-1111.

Winery Events: A series of events have been scheduled for the coming days at The Winery at St. George, 1715 E. Main St., Mohegan Lake. Joni Mitchell w/Tess Lobell & Nic Dugan will perform at 8 p.m. The Winery will be open at 6 p.m. for dinner. Tickets can be bought online or at the door for \$15 for bar and table seating and \$10 for lounge seating at thewinerystgeorge.com. A free wine tasting will be held on March 14. Call to register. Studio 54 – dinner and dancing – will be held on March 15. Admission is free. Info: 914-455-4272.

Friday, March 15

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.

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 rabbiiw@optonline.net.

Shabbat 101: When do I sit? Why do we bow at certain times? What is the meaning of the Kaddish anyway? Rabbi Robbie will be conducting two learning Shabbat services to help us understand the prayers, their deeper meanings and the powerful nuances within their poetry. at 8 p.m. at Temple Beth Am. Info: 914-962-7500.

Jewish Center Services: At the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd., Friday night Sabbath services begin at 8 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.

Classic Film Screening: "Penny Serenade" will be the March film in the 2018-2019 International Film Festival sponsored by the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers. It will be shown at 7:30 p.m. at Maryknoll, 55 Ryder Rd., Ossining. Everyone is welcome, and admission is free. For more information, visit <https://maryknollsociety.org/filmfest> or call 914-941-7590.

David Mamet's "Oleanna": "The play will be performed through March 17 at Westchester Collaborative Theatre is at 23 Water St., Ossining. Tickets can be purchased online at GoJoClanOleanna.BrownPaperTickets.com, or through GoJoClanProductions.com/shows.

Saturday, March 16

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 situat-

Happenings

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

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

Lunch & Learn: The Hebrew Congregation of Somers will hold a Shabbat service followed by Lunch & Learn, a discussion of this week's Torah portion of the service, with a Kiddush luncheon to follow very Saturday through

the remainder of March, beginning at 9:30 a.m. First-year membership is free and includes High Holiday tickets. Email info@hebrewcongregationofsomers.org or call 914-248-9532 for more information.

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

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

Historical Society Program: "Shadow Patriots: Lady Spies of War" will be the topic of a program presented by Daughters of Liberty's Legacy (DOLL) about patriotic women in America's wars. Sponsored by the Van Cortland-

ville Historical Society, the free event will be held at 2 p.m. at the Little Red Schoolhouse, 297 Locust Ave., Cortlandt Manor. For more information, and in case of inclement weather, visit: www.vancort.net or call 914-736-7868.

Sunday, March 17

Kids Pre-Purim Hamentash Bake: Chabad of Yorktown, 2629 Old Yorktown Rd., will host a free pre-Purim Hamentash Bake for kids at 10:30 a.m. Get creative with fun fillings: sprinkles, marshmallows, chocolate and more. RSVP necessary: www.ChabadYorktown.com, or 914-962-1111.

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

Monday, March 18

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

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

455-4272.


Tuesday, March 19

Medicare Meetings: CareMount Medical will be hosting free, educational Medicare meetings throughout the Hudson Valley through May 23. Each seminar will discuss the basics of Medicare and your coverage options. The program will be held today at the Elks Lodge, 590 Waverly Rd., Yorktown. Call 1-800-894-6422 or e-mail medicare101@medrg.com 24/7 to reserve your seat. Please include your name, phone number, date and location of your meeting request.

Schools Open Houses: Our Montessori School welcomes parents who want to learn about its uniquely personalized approach to early childhood education at its open houses, from 7 to 8 p.m. Teachers and other officials from Montessori will be available to answer questions about its flexible hours and tuition policy, and rolling admissions, at the following locations, grouped by children's ages: six weeks to six years, 4 Glenna Drive, Carmel.; 10 months-three years --Yorktown United Methodist Church (use side entrance), 2300 Crompond Rd., Yorktown and three to 12 years: 3 years-12 years, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 2405 Crompond Rd., Yorktown. For more information, call 914-962-9466,

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My Lifelong Attempt to Ban Foam Rubber from My Life

Perhaps you've never thought much about foam rubber as a stuffing for furnishings but I for one have never cared for it. In fact, I've always had a kind of inborn aversion to it.

My last experience with foam rubber was a few years ago when the wingback chair in my office literally fell apart, I ordered a replacement from Macy's from a newspaper ad. I didn't think about the materials used when I ordered it, but it seemed to have an appealing shape, considering that it was a lounge in disguise. When it arrived, however, I was disappointed to find that its arms, seat and back were upholstered in foam rubber.

Well, I thought, it is not as though I bought the throne from King Tut's tomb. It was relatively inexpensive and I'd just live with it until I found a replacement with better materials before banishing this rubbery edition to a guest room, or Good Will. In the meantime, every time I sat to watch TV, I never felt quite settled in place, but rather suspended by those little air pocket tucked within the foam. This was not a new issue with me.

I still remember the joy and excitement when my mother came home one

day with several tremendous paper bags filled with new pillows for the whole family. "And they're foam rubber!" she exclaimed, as though modern science had finally reached our home. I was only seven years old and had little to say about what things surrounded me in our home, but one thing was certain: when I lay my head on foam rubber, I couldn't sleep. I simply tossed the pillow aside and lay flat on the mattress.

Mother insisted that I try to get used to it, but after a week of tossing my new pillow aside, feisty fellow that I was, she finally relented and bought me a feather down pillow. My older brother and sister knew from that point that I was the "different" sibling in the family, and I rather liked the distinction.

The only time I delighted in the use of foam rubber is when I ordered it as the matt beneath the wall to wall carpeting in the central hallway of my former home, the result of a somewhat arbitrary decision. The red carpeting already had a deep rich pile and, combined with the mat, visitors literally sank into it as they walked across it, all but losing their balance in the process, especially women in

heels.

I couldn't swear to it because I'm not the testing lab of Consumer Reports, but I suspect that its use extended the life of that carpeting by many years.

Where did this foamy substance come from, I wondered, and how long had it been around? From Google, I learned that the pioneering work was done by a certain Otto Bayer in 1937 in Germany, and I'm sure that many people who enjoy bouncing around on it are grateful for his work ever since.

But as for me, I'm an old-fashioned kind of guy who likes sofa pillows filled with goose feathers and goose down that have to be plumped up again after I sit on them. I remember the time when an exceptionally large fellow came to our home and sat on our camelback loveseat and all but squashed its all-down pillow to a flat pancake. When he rose to leave the room, unconsciously I went to the chair to fluff up the pillow again. While he made a joke of it, saying that I might at least have waited until he left the room to rebuild the furniture, I'm sure he was hurt by it. I was never so embarrassed.

While down pillows are the highest quality filling that can be purchased, they are also the most expensive. They must have down proof ticking under the upholstery fabric to prevent feathers from

poking through and, still, sometimes they do. Also, there is the constant re-fluffing required. However, down used with other materials, such as polyester fiber, is a good option.

To be fair, there are foams labeled "high resilient" or HR that are more comfortable and reduce that droopy, saggy feel that can come over time. It even comes with an "indentation force deflection" number ranging between six and 45 that will tell you in advance how soft or firm the upholstered piece you purchase will have.

The foam stuffing in that wingback chair, unfortunately, must have been on the lower end of the scale. When I replaced the chair, I bought one with a pillow that needed to be plumped up after each seating; one that, when I plopped down on it, stayed plopped. To me, this represents those little things in life that don't cost much but make you feel that you're living in luxury, those little things that don't bounce back at you.

Bill Primavera is a Residential and Commercial Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate, as well as a publicist and journalist who writes regularly as The Home Guru. For questions about home maintenance or to engage him to help you buy or sell a home, call him directly at 914-522-2076.



By Bill Primavera

Obituaries

Continued from page 7

After WW2, she married her childhood sweetheart, Frank Pfeifer, on September 15, 1946. For the next 67 years they remained happily married until his death on May 3, 2013. In 1953 they moved to Cortlandt, where Evelyn worked in the Lakeland School District, first as a cafeteria aide, next as an assistant librarian, and finally retiring as secretary to the vice principal in Copper Beech Middle School. She enjoyed quilting, needlework, and remained an avid bowler until her death. She attended St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Putnam Valley, and

was a faithful member of The Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer in Peekskill until her death.

She is survived by her two children Richard Pfeifer and Cheryl Southern and their respective spouses, Carol and Thomas. She has five grandchildren: Brian Pfeifer and his wife Bonnie, Sandra Daubman and her husband Paul Daubman Jr., Jessica Paulwell and her husband Maurice Paulwell, Kevin Southern, and Kyle Southern and his fiancé Kelsey Towle. Her five great-grandchildren include: Paul Daubman III, Hailey Daubman and Jacob, Andrew, and Shannon Pfeifer.

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Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. Indian language
- 6. Baking need, abbr.
- 9. High up in an oak, for example
- 12. Soul singer Corinne Bailey __
- 13. Westchester parkway or Mt. Kisco health club
- 14. BBC rival
- 15. Outdid
- 17. Cry on the set
- 19. Shoulder scarves
- 20. Beauty products provider
- 22. Start the betting
- 23. Without commitment to buy
- 25. 116 is one
- 26. Intellectuals
- 28. Coolness
- 29. Abolitionist Stowe or Pleasantville funeral home, ____ Flocks
- 33. Dictionary abbr.
- 34. Commentator
- 35. Two-time U.S. Open

champ

36. Tent made of animal skins

DOWN

- 1. City map abbr.
- 2. Retirement plan
- 3. Unprecedented
- 4. Garage band recording
- 5. "Put ____ writing"
- 6. The Three Amigos, e.g.
- 7. Cotton fabrics that feel like satin
- 8. Dangles
- 10. Arena shouts
- 11. Disney dog
- 16. Ice cream treat
- 17. Like an ice-cream holder
- 18. Overcoats
- 21. ____ buena, evergreen plant
- 23. Pizza ingredient
- 24. Battle of Normandy city
- 27. Suckling spot
- 30. Triangle part, abbr.
- 31. Ending for Japan
- 32. Numbered hwy.

1	2	3	4	5				6	7	8
9					10	11		12		
13								14		
			15				16			
	17	18			19					
	20			21		22				
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26						27				
28				29				30	31	32
33				34						
35						36				

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(Solution to puzzle on page 19)

1	H	2	I	3	N	4	D	5	I			6	T	7	S	8	P
9	T	R	E	E	T	10	O	11	P			12	R	A	E		
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35	E	L	S						36	T	E	P	E	E			

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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.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF REID & LEIVA MULTISERVICES LLC Filed with SSNY on 01/14/2019, Office Westchester, SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **506 Van Cortlandt Park Ave, Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: any lawful purpose.**

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, State of New York. The New York Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the Company upon whom process in any action or proceeding against it may be served, and the address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of process in any action or proceeding against the Company served upon him or her is **110 Marquand Avenue, Bronxville, New York 10708. The purpose of the business is any lawful business.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, pending for beer, wine and cider has been applied for by the undersigned to sell beer, wine and cider at retail in a restaurant under the Alcohol Beverage Control Law at **30 Wheeler Ave., Pleasantville, NY in Westchester County for on premises consumption. Potayto Potayto LLC DBA FALAFEL TACO**

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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF E&L BY DESIGN, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with NYS Dept. of State on 1/9/2019. Office location is Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, **2020 Maple Hill Street, Suite # 902, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF UPSTATE STUMP GRINDING, LLC. Arts. *continued on next page*

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Navigating the Corkage Fee Policy of Restaurants

Restaurant wine lists, crafted by today's wine-focused chefs and highly-educated sommeliers, can be the epitome of the overall experience at a restaurant. Many restaurants painstakingly pair food and wine offerings and invest significantly in well-stocked wine cellars.

However, when celebrating a special occasion or trying to impress a potential business client, a diner may prefer to bring his or her personal bottle(s) of wine to a restaurant. Once looked upon with disdain by restaurant owners, many now offer this accommodation – typically at a charge.

This "corkage fee" is not necessarily an arbitrary policy to discourage diners inclined to enjoy a personal bottle of wine. Rather there is an underlying business logic. Restaurants typically work on tight profit margins. The food portion of a meal yields a thin margin. It is common knowledge that overall profitability lies in the beverage menu. Few are willing to forego the profit in marking up wines to double or triple their cost.

Many restaurants have adopted cork-

age fee policies in recognition of exceptional dining occasions. In most instances, the fee is designed to cover the cost of the service required to present and serve a consumer's personal bottle of wine. Some peg their fee to the cost of a lower-priced bottle on their wine list.

Here are several guidelines to follow if you have been saving a special bottle of wine to celebrate with a restaurant meal:

1. Always call ahead to inquire of the restaurant's corkage policy. Rather than simply show up with that special bottle, calling is always preferable in order to avoid a potentially uncomfortable situation.

2. If you plan to order additional bottles from the wine list during the meal, let the restaurant know this when inquiring. This will partially compensate the restaurant for the loss of a sale; many will waive their corkage fee.

3. Don't embarrass yourself by showing up with a wine that's already on the wine list. Check the on-line list ahead of your visit, or call ahead to double-check.



By Nick Antonaccio



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continued from previous page
of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/10/2019. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC: **19 Terrace Ave., Ossining, NY 10562. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF PRO-TO DOG SERVICES, LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/13/2010. Office loc: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to the principal business address: **1707 EAGLE BAY DR OSSINING, NY 10562. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF DSG HOME RENOVATIONS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/08/2018. Office location is Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **6 East Sidney Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10550. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.**

TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY WORK SESSION MARCH 13, 2019 6 PM Pledge of Allegiance Public Hearing Acceptance of NRI Maps and Comments

1.Leprechaun resolution 2.**Appoint** Anthony Cotone and Gregory Kroohs as temporary Groundskeeper/Recreation Assistants. 3.**Award** open-top container bid. 4.**Request** by Peter Belefant to attend the NY Planning Federation Conference on April 28, 2019. 5.**Request** by Tom Carano to attend the NY Planning Federation Conference on April 28t, 2019. 6.**Authorize** Supervisor to sign Badey & Watson contract agreement. 7.**Discussion** LP Pump Station *Audit of monthly bills*

NOTICE TO BIDDERS Notice is hereby given that the Town of Putnam Valley will receive requests for proposals and publicly open sealed bids for the contract: **2019 GRASS CUTTING** at the Town Clerk's Office located at the Town Hall, 265 Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley, New York 10579 at the following date and time: **Date: April 1, 2019 Time: 2:00 PM** The contract Specifications will be available at the Town Clerk's Office at the Town Hall. Contractors must carry statutory Disability and Worker's Compensation Insurance and Liability Insurance of not less than \$300,000 naming the Town of Putnam Valley as additionally insured. Insurance policies are to be filed with the Town Clerk. Contractors must carry a performance bond if their Bid is \$25,000. or more. Contractors are to provide all supplies and equipment. Bids must be submitted in the form attached within a sealed envelope showing the Bidder's

4. Don't further embarrass yourself by showing up with a wine of less value than wines at the low end of the wine list. A restaurant is accommodating you on the premise that this is a special occasion or a special bottle. That \$12 bottle you had with pizza last Friday is an insult to the wine director who has meticulously crafted a wine list that represents the chef's carefully prepared and paired menu.

5. Share your good fortune. Offer the sommelier and waiter a taste of that special wine. It will usually guarantee the same stellar service you would receive if you were ordering an expensive bottle from the list. These folks work on the generosity of customers' tips. A shared taste of a memorable wine helps assuage their monetary loss.

6. Speaking of tipping, remember that wine service is the same regardless of the source of the wine. I usually tip based on the average price of a wine that I would otherwise have ordered from the wine list if it were not a special occasion.

While most restaurants have a corkage fee policy, in New York City at least 50 restaurants have blanket or one-night corkage fee waivers. Certain restaurants charge no fee but limit the number of bottles allowed. Others

charge minimal fees between \$10 and \$25.

Still others charge according to their stature. If you're intent on bringing your own bottle to the highly acclaimed Eleven Madison Park, be prepared to pay \$65. Per Se charges a whopping \$150 per bottle for the privilege of not ordering wines from one of the most expensive wine lists in Manhattan (not to mention their \$355 per person Tasting Menus).

Several Westchester restaurants have reasonable corkage fee policies, although they are rarely publicized or in print. Call ahead. On certain nights, corkage fee policies may be waived. Mediterraneo in Pleasantville waives its fee every Tuesday night.

In 2019, there is no reason to compromise on a wine to accompany your meal. Avail yourself of knowledgeable sommeliers' wine lists - or simply BYOB.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 20 years he has conducted numerous wine tastings and lectures. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick's credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine

name and clearly marked with the project name "2019 Grass Cutting Bid." Each Bidder must furnish with the Bid a properly executed non-collusion affidavit. The Town of Putnam Valley reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informalities therein, or to award the Contract to any Bidder if deemed in the best interest of the Town to do so.

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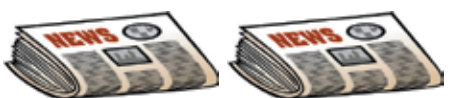
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PHOTO SUBMITTED

**Ossining Seniors Deliver
Region 1 Title, Pride
Advance to 8th-Straight
NYS Class AA Final 4**



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Ossining All-American Aubrey Griffin, who led NYS Final 4-bound Pride to regional wins over Elmira and Monroe-Woodbury, goes up for two of her of her game-high 37 points in last Tuesday's win 98-58 over Elmira, which led to Saturday's 67-34 dismissal of Monroe-Woodbury and the eighth-straight Region 1 championship for the Pride (inset), who saw fellow seniors Kailah Harris and Jaida Strippoli kick it up a notch. The state-ranked (No.6) Pride advanced to the NYS Final 4 to face Section 11 champion Longwood Saturday at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy... see Girls' Hoops Notebook

Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook

Ossining Wins 8th-Straight NYS Region 1 Hoops Title

Troy-Bound Pride Head North in Search of 5th State Title

By Tony Pinciario & Ray Gallagher

As a seventh-grader in Ossining's Anne M. Dorner Middle School, Kailah Harris was a fan on her initial trip to the New York State Girls Basketball Championship Final Four in Troy, NY.

"Jaida and I went up with her parents to watch her older sister, Madison, play," recalled Harris. "The atmosphere there made us think what would it be like to play there and make a name for ourselves when we were older."

Little did Harris know that going to Troy (Hudson Valley Community College) would become an annual mid-March trip for her, her family, her teammates and the better part of Ossining Nation.

Harris and Strippoli were promoted to varsity as eighth-graders and made the first of what has become five consecutive state final fours for the senior class and eight straight for the program.

Ossining earned a berth following a 67-34 victory over Section 9 titlist Monroe-Woodbury in a Class AA state regional final, Saturday.

Pride All-American Aubrey Griffin scored a game-high 37 points and added 10 rebounds and Harris finished with 20

points and 11 boards. Strippoli had seven steals to get them going in transition.

The state-ranked (No.6) Pride (20-6) will play No.13 Longwood (Section 11), Saturday, March 16, 12:30 p.m. at Hudson Valley Community College. Longwood dethroned two-time defending state champion Baldwin in the Long Island Class AA final. The other semifinal is No.9 West Genesee (Section 3) vs. No.4 Bishop Kearney (Section 5), 2:15 p.m. The semifinal winners play for the title, Sunday, 11:45 a.m.

Prior to defeating Monroe-Woodbury, Ossining opened state play with a 98-58 derailment of the Elmira Express (Section 4) in the seniors' last home game. Since a three-game losing streak in January, Ossining has won 12 of its last 13 and six in a row.

During this final-four run, Ossining has won four state titles (2013-16) and a federation championship (2016). The Pride have been runners-up the past two years. Overall, the Pride are 11-3 in the final four.

"We went from being a fan the previous year to playing in the state final four in eighth grade and to experience that, being on the court and having our families watch us, made us want it even more," said the Seton Hall-bound Harris.

Even though Ossining is making its eighth consecutive state final four, the Pride don't take it for granted.

"It says a lot about everyone involved

in the program that puts in the effort and the pride we have in our program," Harris said. "This is what Coach Ricci and his staff have built. It's been amazing, but people forget how hard it is to get there every year. It's not something we take lightly."

Ossining had the good fortune of beginning state play with a home game and Griffin and Harris made it memorable. Griffin rang up 37 points and added 10 rebounds, six steals and four assists. Harris registered 30 points and grabbed five rebounds. Fellow senior Strippoli had a career-high 17 assists.

"It was amazing, playing our last home game on our court," Harris said.

"Everyone was able to contribute and we had a great all-around game."

One day later, Strippoli joined Harris and Griffin as a Con-Ed Scholar-Athlete recipient. Harris noted the trio had motivation to earn the award.

"This is something we've always talked about," Harris said. "The Con-Ed winners have plaques in front of gym and we pass them every day. We're all best friends and to all win it in one year makes us all proud. People forget that we are students first and athletes second. We pride ourselves on excelling in the classroom, first. Coach Ricci wouldn't take anything less."

Even with the program's success, Ricci is prouder of his players' academic success, having produced 12 Con Ed winners over the years, including a veritable who's who of Ossining hoops, including Whitney McDonald, Alex Venuto, Saniya Chong, Danielle Gervacio, Jalay Knowles, Stefanie Svoboda, Abby Squirell, Shadeen Samuels, Andra Espinoza-Hunter, Harris, Griffin and Strippoli.



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Ossining senior Captain Aubrey Griffin makes her patented step-back move for two of her game-high 37 in win over Elmira.



Ossining junior wing Julia Iorio spots up for three of her 12 points in Pride's 98-58 NYS Class AA playoff win over Elmira.



Ossining senior Captain G Jaida Strippoli led the charge with 17 assists in NYS Class AA playoff win over Elmira.



Ossining senior Captain Kailah Harris goes up for two of her 30 points in Pride's 98-58 NYS Class AA playoff win over Elmira.

continued on next page

Sports

Oops, Ossining Did It Again, Pride Reach NYS Final 4



By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports
Editor

Oops, they did it again (credit Brittany Spears, yo!).

The surreal situation surrounding the Ossining High girls' basketball program continues to escalate, perpetuate and exacerbate after Coach Dan Ricci's Pride advanced to their eighth-straight NYSPHSAA Class AA Final 4 after

last Saturday's 68-34 win over Section 9 champion Monroe-Woodbury and last Tuesday's 98-58 trouncing of Section 4 champ Elmira.

The state-ranked (No.6) Pride (20-6) are not some cut-and-paste version of the former seven Ossining teams to advance to Troy, the stomping grounds of the state tournament at Hudson

Valley Community College, yet they are cut from the same mold and now head back to the Final 4 in Troy, where they will look to reach their seventh-straight state final and the fifth state title in school history. Ossining will play state-ranked (No.13) Longwood, of Section 11, which upset reigning two-time state champion Baldwin, in the Class AA state semifinals Saturday at 12:30 p.m. at HVCC. Section 4's West Genny (No.9) will face Section 5's Bishop Kearney (No.4) in the other semifinal. The finals are Sunday, March 17th at 11:45 a.m.

From the black knee pads, to the tenacious up-tempo style, to the

continued from previous page

rambunctious coach on the sideline, very little – other than the names on the jersey's – has changed at Ossining since Coach Ricci orchestrated the first championship in 2004. Since then, eight other teams have marched to Troy in similar fashion; each outfit has mirrored the previous team. There are always stars – like current mainstays Aubrey Griffin, Jaida Strippoli and all-time rebounding leader Kailah Harris – yet the role players remain an integral part of the program – see Julia Iorio, Alexandra Forman and the rest of this current bunch.

It's pretty sick the way these kids buy into Ricci's steadfast assurance that Ossining basketball will forever change their lives, yet you can ask any one of them since the turn of the century and you'll find the same response – from Saniya Ching to Whitney

McDonald and Melissa Awerdick – and all points in between. It's a tough-love, life-changing experience that prepares players on and off the court and most are better for having done so.

"Of course we are so old and have arthritis and have had surgeries but it was all so worth it to be on that court and to play for a program that was beyond incredible," said Awerdick, who scored the game-winning points at the foul line (literally on one leg) for Ossining's first title back in 2004. "This program changed my life in such a way that, Coach Ricci will laugh, but it still carries on in my life to this day: If I'm not 15 minutes early to anything, then I'm late! That's something

"Having three Con-Ed winners in one season is amazing," Ricci said. "All three girls are great players, but also very good students and better people. We're strong students as well as great ballers. It's pretty impressive."

Harris and her classmates are looking to prolong the season. A state championship would lead to the federation tournament the following weekend, March 22-24.

"We want to make the season go as long as possible," Harris said. "Alumni always talk about Ossining girls' basketball and playing with your friends. We want to continue spending as much time as we can playing with best friends."

Longwood won't be easy, considering its size and the fact that it just took down Baldwin, but the Pride play at another pace and Coach Ricci plans on using tempo to his advantage.

that will stick with me forever. This has carried over into my work life, my relationship and with my son: We are all together in "the game of life" and we have to work together."

Awerdick had a message for the current members of this defining program.

"Play your heart out, give it your all, shoot your shot, learn about each other on and off the court and let coach's words echo: 'Don't cheat the program!' That one last sprint, that one last rep, will make you, faster, better and stronger. Good luck to you all!"

Section 1 boys' basketball hasn't fared as well as the ladies have this season. With just Class A Poughkeepsie reaching the NYS Final 4, and Mount Vernon getting blown out in the regional finals, we can safely say that this was down year for the boys of Section 1...

Just gonna throw this out there: What my man Stephen McNamara of Somers High fame is doing out at Crossfit Somers X is nothing short of admirable. At 54 Miller Rd. in Baldwin Place, 'Big Mac' has turned adaptive fitness into something really special. No child, regardless of limitations, should go unfit, and the goal at Crossfit Somers X is to ensure that children of all abilities have an environment to discover health and fitness. With adaptive certified trainers in the house, Crossfit is taking no prisoners when it comes to revising health and fitness for all...

We got your boys' lacrosse previews coming within the next couple of weeks,



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO
Trio of Aubrey Griffin, Jaida Strippoli and Kailah Harris will seek a 2nd NYS title as a unit this weekend in Troy, what would be the 5th such title in Pride history.

and for the first time since 1979 we don't have a reigning sectional in our midst; our midst being Yorktown, Lakeland/Panas, Mahopac, Somers and Putnam Valley. Was this an aberration or something we need to get used to in this neck of the woods? Because, truth be told, 2019 is looking equally difficult according the prospects I see...

This #AOC gal should be dubbed #TOC; as in #TotallyOuttaControl. There, I said it. Despite the fact she's a local, homegrown product, I simply can't get on board with her. I want to save the world, too, but I'd like a tangible plan that doesn't tax me to death, ban hamburgers and alter transportation as we know it. Yeah, I know I'm just a dimwit sportswriter, who should probably stick to sports most days, but this radical gal was pulling stick behind bar a few short years ago, and now I'm supposed to go all in on socialism and her pie-in-the sky ideology because she grew up locally #NoThanks #LetCowsBeCows. #IBartendedToo



Ossining senior Captain Alexandra Forman sets up for shot in Pride's NYS Class AA playoff win over Elmira.

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