

**Business of  
the Week:  
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Tavern, Cortlandt  
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# The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER Examiner

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

**FREE**

March 5 - March 11, 2019

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 11, Issue 480



## Scout's Honor

Daniel Marrero of BSA Troop 165 was recently recognized for his achievement of completing all the requirements to become an Eagle Scout. Shown with his parents and older brother, Gabriel, also an Eagle Scout, Marrero was honored by Cortlandt Councilman James Creighton (left) and Yorktown Councilman Vishnu Patel (right). He also received congratulatory certificates from State Senator Peter Harcham and Westchester County Executive George Latimer. Marrero's Eagle Scout project involved building benches on the front porch at John C. Hart Library in Shrub Oak.

## ETPA Repealed in Village of Ossining Amid Allegations

By Rick Pezzullo

Allegations of behind the scenes dealings clouded a split vote taken by the Village of Ossining Board of Trustees last week to repeal the Emergency Tenant Protection Act (ETPA).

Trustees Omar Herrera and Quantel Bazemore chastised Mayor Victoria Gearity and trustees Rika Levin and Manuel Quezada for eliminating ETPA after determining the regulation of rents for certain classes of housing accommodations within the village did not serve to abate the previously declared housing emergency.

"It is not a compromise but deception," Herrera charged. "This is disturbing to me. It's creating a class warfare in the community."

Herrera, who noted Ossining was the 20th municipality in Westchester County to adopt ETPA last September, maintained Stuart Kahan, the Village's Corporation Counsel, never informed the entire board that a request was made to him from Gearity, behind closed doors, to write a replacement policy for how ETPA will function in the village, and a

draft was never made available for anyone's review.

"We are in a strategic time where the county and especially state government (Assembly, Senate and Executive branches) are set to address our housing crisis and consider making ETPA better by revising, expanding and strengthening rent-stabilization; this is not done by stripping away current rights and protections and refusing to work with your partners in government," Herrera said. "I am saddened to say Ossining has become the leader against such efforts and that the real estate lobby has purchased our local leaders. This last-minute repeal hurts more residents, removes protections, creates a local bureaucratic process, places much administrative burdens on village resources and property owners and doesn't actually explain how it will work, but it goes into effect immediately?"

Bazemore was equally critical of three fellow board members for removing ETPA when he said it was clear a hous-

*Continued on page 20*

## Resident Seeks Ethics Probe of Homeless Shelter Representatives

By Rick Pezzullo

A vocal opponent of the relocation of the Jan Peek House homeless shelter in Peekskill has requested the city's Board of Ethics review the roles of two appointed city officials with the controversial \$1.5 million project.

Lindsey Fitzgerald, who is spearheading the community established group

Peekskill Safe and Strong, asked the Board of Ethics in a February 14 letter to determine whether Planning Commission Vice Chair Ruth Wells and Cynthia Knox, executive director of Caring for the Hungry and Homeless of Peekskill (CHHOP, the non-profit organization that runs the shelter), who also is a mem-

ber of the Board of Ethics and Peekskill Housing Authority, violated the city's Code of Ethics and Standard of Conduct.

Fitzgerald stated in her correspondence, in an August 8 submission to the city's Building Department for the project at 851 Washington Street, where the only shelter in northern Westchester

is proposed to move from North Water Street, Wells signed the documents as owner of the building, and Knox notarized them. In fact, Fitzgerald stated, city tax rolls show the building at 851 Washington Street is owned by Lorraine J. Portman.

*Continued on page 2*

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# Resident Seeks Ethics Probe of Homeless Shelter Representatives

*Continued from page 1*

"Ms. Wells and Ms. Knox are both city officials in their appointed roles, and Ms. Wells is also representing someone other than herself in these documents," Fitzgerald stated. "Her influential role on the Planning Commission also may give this preference or give the appearance of preference. The Planning Commission is integral in the Building Department process and will have to take official action on this agreement."

According to the Code of Ethics, "A City official or employee shall not, with or without compensation, represent, directly or indirectly, any person in connection with any transaction or contract before any City body or court."

On January 18, CHHOP officially filed for a zoning text amendment with Peekskill to relocate the Jan Peek House Shelter. If a special use permit is approved by the Common Council, the zoning law change would apply to all districts in the city, thus allowing shelters in any C-3 zones. Separate approvals would be needed from the city's planning and zoning boards.

The Jan Peek Shelter, the only year-round, 24-hour shelter for homeless adults in northern Westchester, has been open on the banks of the Hudson River since 1988. In September, Knox said her



Lindsey Fitzgerald

organization did an extensive search and settled on 851 Washington Street since it can be renovated to serve its needs and is close to a bus stop. The building on Washington Street was purchased by CHHOP for about \$900,000 and is in dire need of expensive repairs.

Knox and Fitzgerald have been sparring on Facebook, with Knox recently addressing last week's Common Council meeting.

"To the Peekskill Community: As many of you may be aware, the level of divisive and uncivil discourse about the relocation of the Jan Peek House has reached an unparalleled level of vitriol and personal attacks. At Monday's Com-

mon Council meeting, numerous personal attacks, including spurious allegations of ethics violations against CHHOP Board member Ruth Wells, and me, were made by Lindsey Fitzgerald to a cheering crowd of relocation opponents. It saddens me deeply that some opponents of the relocation appear to thrive on attacks and vitriol," Knox stated.

"We know that not everyone who has concerns or opposes the relocation is motivated by animus. We thank the members of the community, supporters, opponents, Republicans, Democrats, Independents, and Socialists, who are sincerely interested in helping us ensure the safety and security of all residents, including those who are hungry and without homes," Knox added.

Fitzgerald stated she has tried to meet with Knox and other CHHOP members since last September without success.

"At the City Council meeting yesterday, it seems clear that the City of Peekskill is not interested in collaborating and the history of responses I have from CHHOP show the same pattern," Fitzgerald stated on Facebook. "It seems the only way the City will help is if there is an official vote. Even with that, I am still suggesting that it would be a good idea to work together. Members of the

community, including myself, continue to be frustrated with the lack of openness and collaboration would help with those frustrations. Should you change your mind, you have my contact information. I look forward to hearing from you."

Knox responded, "From the outset, you have made it abundantly clear that you are unable or unwilling to engage in genuine dialogue and collaboration. Any successful collaboration or negotiation rests upon a foundation of trust and mutual respect. Through your actions, you have repeatedly demonstrated a complete lack of respect for me, the CHHOP Board, and, most importantly, those whom we serve. Many of your most egregious misrepresentations have been made on social media, put forth at Peekskill Common Council Meetings, and parroted by your followers."

More than 200 people showed up at a fundraiser last Thursday in Peekskill to benefit Peekskill Safe and Strong. Fitzgerald said the funds would be used to retain legal counsel.

"It's a tell-tale sign that it's the city's biggest and most important issue for people from all of Peekskill," she said of the turnout at the fundraiser. "We don't know what's going to happen. So far it feels like it's been a done deal."

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# Ossining Teen Indicted for Murder in Fatal Stabbing

By Rick Pezzullo

An Ossining teenager was indicted by a Westchester County Grand Jury last week on charges related to the stabbing death of a 21-year-old village resident in January.

## Police Blotter

### State Police

**February 15** - State Police from Cortlandt arrested William Kelly, 29, of Cortlandt, for DWAI Drugs with a prior conviction, a class E felony. He was traveling on Henning Drive in the Town of Cortlandt and was the subject of a welfare check for a male slumped over his steering wheel in the roadway. Investigation revealed that he was impaired by drugs and was subsequently arrested.

**February 16** - State Police from Cortlandt arrested Garrett S. Worden, 30, of Ossining, for DWI. He was traveling on Route 9 in the Village of Croton-On-Hudson when he was stopped for a vehicle and traffic law violation. Investigation revealed that he was impaired by alcohol and was subsequently arrested.

**February 17** - State Police from Cortlandt arrested Ivonnie M. Criado Rodriguez, 28, of Peekskill, for Aggravated DWI. She was traveling on Oregon Road in the Town of Cortlandt when she was stopped for a vehicle and traffic law violation. Investigation revealed that she was impaired by alcohol and was subsequently arrested.

State Police from Cortlandt arrested Joseph S. Schrade, 32, of Putnam Valley, for DWI. He was traveling on Oscawana Road in the Town of Putnam Valley when he was stopped for a vehicle and traffic law violation. Investigation revealed that he was impaired by alcohol and was subsequently arrested.

**February 23** - State Police from Cortlandt arrested Antonio S. Vida, 60, of Yorktown, for DWI. He was traveling on Gallows Hill Road in the Town of Cortlandt when he was found disabled in the wrong lane of travel. Investigation revealed that he was impaired by alcohol and was subsequently arrested.

**February 24** - State Police from Somers arrested Andrew Tancredi, 66, of Yorktown, for DWI. He was traveling on Route 6 in the Town of Yorktown when he was stopped for a vehicle and traffic law violation. Investigation revealed that he was impaired by alcohol and was subsequently arrested.

Andrew Knight, 19, is accused of stabbing Gregory Jackson, Jr., 21, with a kitchen knife following an argument on James Street January 28 after 4 p.m. It is alleged the two men had a prior dispute over an article of clothing.

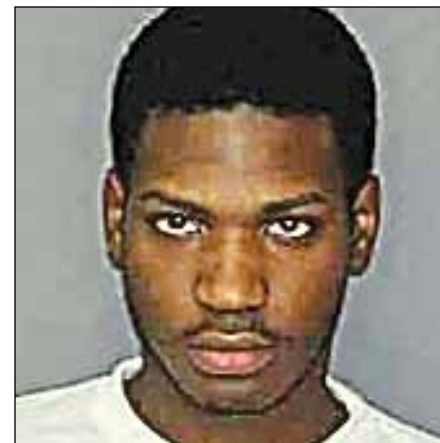
Jackson was taken by an ambulance to a local hospital. He died February 1 from his wounds. Village of Ossining Police arrested Knight February 7 in the Bronx.

Knight was charged with murder in the second degree, a Class A violent felony, manslaughter in the first degree,

a Class B violent felony, and criminal possession of a weapon in the fourth degree, a misdemeanor.

He is due back in court March 12. The crime was investigated by Ossining Police, the Westchester County District Attorney's Office, the FBI's Westchester County Safe Streets Task Force, Westchester County Police, New York State Police and New York City Police.

Andrew Knight



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# Mayor Rainey Leads Peekskill Dem Slate of Incumbents

By Rick Pezzullo

The Peekskill Democratic Party officially unveiled its 2019 slate last week, led by Mayor Andre Rainey, who will be seeking a second two-year term.

"Every day residents of Peekskill approach me and tell me they are happy with the direction of the city, the new collaboration and civil approach in City Hall. All around, they see a more forward-looking vision for all of our residents," Rainey said.

Running with Rainey for three available seats on the Common Council is a trio of incumbents: Deputy Mayor Kathleen Talbot, and Councilwomen Vivian McKenzie and Patricia Riley.

The Democrats, who currently occupy all seven seats on the council, launched their campaign at the same time Moody's announced an upgrade in Peekskill's credit rating to Aa3 based on "a healthy and improved financial position."

Moody's stated that the City of Peekskill "benefits from a healthy and improved financial position driven by solid management and conservative budgeting," adding, "Peekskill's \$1.8 billion tax base will continue to expand given a stabilizing regional housing market and significant redevelopment projects underway."

Rainey, who is being challenged by

former Councilman Vincent "Boo" Vesce, said Peekskill is benefiting from policies in his administration.

"The Moody's announcement further demonstrates the progress that we've made, highlighting not only that we have a friendlier, more collaborative city hall, but a fiscally prudent one as well," Rainey said. "What residents don't want is to take a step back to the times when the city was stagnant, and a small group of conservative Republicans ran the city like a friends and family club. As I see it, our City Hall team is 'Progress Forward.'"

Talbot, who owned and operated a corporate communications business for many years and is a licensed clinical social worker, pointed to the significant redevelopment projects underway in Peekskill. Projects mentioned by the Democrats include Bre Pettis' Bantham Tools project at the waterfront, The Lofts on Main Street, the Fort Hill development and the upcoming completion of its spa, and restaurant/catering facility. In addition, another residential development, the Balter Project, is working its way through planning, and businesses, like Thompson's Cider Mill, are looking to relocate in Peekskill.

"I couldn't be more optimistic about

the current state of Peekskill and its future," said Talbot. "It's all coming together: from Main Street developments to exciting new businesses and growing industry bringing high tech jobs and growing our tax base. And there's more to come."

McKenzie, who owns Kathleen's Tea Room in downtown Peekskill, was employed for 25 years an insurance industry territory sales manager responsible for a \$20+ million territory that included Long Island, the five boroughs, New Jersey, and New York to Albany. She has worked aggressively to revamp city processes so that economic development projects can make their way through City Hall more efficiently.

"All one has to do is look at the shovels in the ground, the new residential development occurring, and the buzz around new entrepreneurs setting up shop in Peekskill to know we are on the right path," said McKenzie. "I have made it a priority to work with city staff to streamline the planning process and make it easier for investors and business leaders to cut through the red tape and set up shop in Peekskill."

Riley, who was chosen by the council to fill the seat left vacant when Rainey ousted Mayor Frank Catalina and then

won an uncontested election to complete the rest of his term, worked as an educator in the public schools for 32 years and was a union representative for the Lakeland Federation of Teachers for 29 of those years, making sure that educators were well-represented and treated fairly. She has significant experience in contract negotiations and served on the Lakeland Executive council. She said her priority is fiscal responsibility for taxpayers.

"As a retiree on a fixed income, I understand the importance of keeping our taxes low and being fiscally responsible to the citizens of Peekskill. The work this council has done to both expand services and increase the city's fiscal health demonstrates that you can have your cake and eat it too," Riley said.

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

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# Save a Life Forum Helps Young People Make Smart Decisions

By Tim Bradbury

The Alliance for Safe Kids brought the community together Sunday for the 9th Annual Save a Life Forum at Yorktown High School.

The event gathered families of the community together for a day of strength, positivity, and self-empowerment while informing young people on to how make safe decisions for both themselves and those around them.

The forum began with keynote speaker John Morello performing his one-man show "Dirt." Morello miraculously performed using different outfits and personas to expose the various types of problems young people face every day in the real world such as drug addiction, racial stereotyping, low self-confidence, and bullying. These issues cause distress for the youth community across all of America, and can be extremely difficult to overcome.

Morello's show provided an abundance of acknowledgement and support for the difficulties young people face while using compassion and humor. Before leaving the stage, he left the audience with a simple reminder to "love yourself as much as you do others around you."

After the show, the audience was invited to attend a variety of programs set up in classrooms for both teens and adults to further discuss issues young people



TIM BRADBURY PHOTO

John Morello was the keynote speaker at the 9th Annual Save a Life Forum at Yorktown High School.

are faced with and ways to prevent or deal with them in a safe manner.

One of the programs, titled "RESPECT: Yourself & Others," worked to remind the youth of what it means to have care and compassion for oneself. Young people gathered together in groups to discuss what the idea of respect means to them and come together to share their thoughts in a safe space.

Another program, "Vaping & E-Cigs: Get the Facts," covered the controversial topic of vaping. In recent years, vaping has become an increasing public concern due to its unknown long-term ef-

fects on health as well as the appeal and ease of access to minors. The long-term effects of using vape products are currently unclear due to their recent invention, and recent studies have shown that vaping may not be as safe an alternative to cigarettes as originally thought. The program informed teens of the risks and the dangers of nicotine addiction in order to help them steer clear of nicotine all together.

Meanwhile, the Yorktown Police Department hosted the program "It's Just a House Party—Q&A with YPD," a forum for teens to learn of the consequences of

mistakes made while out partying, and ask the Yorktown Police directly any questions they had about the law and making safe choices.

The youth attendees in the program were also made aware of the consequences of their actions on social media. Police showed several photos of house parties with underage drinking that they found posted online by the people attending where they had to step in to enforce the law. In a world where the Internet and social media has become almost a necessity for people to be a part of, it is important for young people to remember that posts on the internet do not go away. A person's mark on the internet can follow them throughout their whole life in ways they may never have intended or expected it to. The program was an excellent step in raising youth awareness of online consequences.

Those in attendance of the 9th annual Save a Life Forum left the event on Sunday with a greater sense of knowledge, awareness, and consideration for their own life and the lives of those in their community. Events such as these bring the community a little closer together in the pursuit of keeping people safe and informed, and are crucial for encouraging our community's youth to make intelligent, positive decisions.

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## Obituaries

### Donna Apostolico

Donna L. Apostolico, a lifelong resident of Ossining, died February 25. She was 78.

She was born in Ossining on April 10, 1940 to Lewis and Madeline (Butler) Perry. She was a participant in Habitat For Humanity and assisted in the building of two homes (Lafayette Ave. and Hunter St.) in Ossining. She was also formerly active with the PTA and the Girl Scouts at Washington School.

Mrs. Apostolico is survived by her husband of 59 years, Donald (Dinky); three children, Meg, Thomas (Sherry) and Karen (Tim) Ryan; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

### Angela Allen

Angela V. Allen, a long-time resident of Yorktown, died February 24. She was 89.

Mrs. Allen worked as a payroll specialist for Caldor, Inc. in Peekskill, before retiring in 1999. Mrs. Allen was born in 1929 in White Plains to Joseph and Mathilda Volpe. In 1946, she married Frederick Allen, who predeceased her in 2001, after being married for 55 years.

Mrs. Allen will be remembered for her

cooking skills, and being frugal, but most of all, for her love of family. She is survived by her children, Alma Doty, Frederick Jr. (Rick) and David. She is also survived by her sister Lucia Astone, 10 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. Mrs. Allen was predeceased by her daughter, Robbin Mallozzi, in 2011.

### Andrea Anfiteatro

Andrea D. Anfiteatro of Columbia, NJ, formerly of Croton-on-Hudson, died peacefully February 23 after a long battle with inflammatory breast cancer. She was 51.

She was born October 21, 1967 to Dominick and Patricia (Scanlon) Anfiteatro in Sleepy Hollow. She was a 1985 graduate of Hendrick Hudson High School, a 1989 graduate of Juniata College and received her Master's degree at John Jay University in Forensic Psychology.

She was an amazing, strong, outgoing woman who was cherished by her family and friends. She loved fishing, being outside and being with those she loved.

She is survived by her beloved parents, Dominick and Patricia Anfiteatro; loving sons, Jake and Jared Friedman; caring brothers and sister, Jim Anfiteatro, David Anfiteatro, Adam Anfiteatro and Doreen

DiMilia; and her devoted fiancée, Jody Carroll. She is also survived by many nephews, cousins and friends.

### Gerald Baker

Gerald J. Baker, a resident of Somers, died February 26 with his family by his side. He was 79.

He was born February 15, 1940 to Evelyn and Donald Baker in Ossining. He

married Sharon (Kelly) on June 15, 1963. He proudly served with the U.S. Navy from 1957-1961, with an elite Underwater Demolition Team; UDT 21.

He is survived by his wife Sharon of over 55 years, four children; Kelly and her fiancé Paul Metzger, John and his fiancé Carly DeGasperis, Robert and Denise Baker and Richard and Mary Baker and 14 grandchildren. He is predeceased by his son, Timothy J. Baker, USN.

## Clearwater Festival Tickets on Sale, Initial Lineup Announced

The Great Hudson River Revival, also known as the Clearwater Festival, returns on June 15 and 16 and will include The Wailers, Ani DiFranco, Railroad Earth, The Mammals, Tom Paxton and the DonJuans, Joel Rafael and Tom Chapin.

Clearwater also looks forward to welcoming the powerful all-female folk trio Antigone Rising; New York City's favorite family-friendly singer Joanie Leeds; the Connecticut State Troubadour Kristen Graves; Flamenco artists Los Cintron; folk punk rocker Matt Pless; Gregg Allman's former lead guitarist and band leader Scott Sharrard; folk rock artist Roger Street Friedman; folk singer Thom

Chacon and many more. More artists will be announced soon.

The Clearwater Festival, which takes place at Croton Point Park in Croton-on-Hudson, known for its family-friendly entertainment and educational activities. Kids under 11 years old are admitted free, there is a discounted youth ticket for 12- to 17-year-olds as well as discounts for seniors, the disabled, members of the military and veterans.

A membership with Clearwater offers festivalgoers an additional 20 percent off ticket prices. Clearwater members also

*Continued on page 17*

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# Trump Supporters Won't Remove Flag With Obscenity

By Martin Wilbur

A Pleasantville couple has refused a request to remove a flag supportive of President Donald Trump that contains a vulgarity from the front of their house even though it's directly across the street from Bedford Road School.

Academy Street residents Gina and Mike Casarella rebuffed an appeal earlier last week from Pleasantville Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter, who spoke with them individually in hopes of convincing them to take down the flag with the obscenity. There had been complaints lodged by parents to the district and on social media, stating that it was inappropriate for it to be so close to the K-4 school.

The flag reads "Donald Trump 2020 Stop the Bull—."

"We always had a Trump flag," Gina Casarella said last Thursday afternoon while outside the house with her husband. "We just happened to find this one on Amazon because there's a lot of bull— going on. We have four kids altogether. So for anyone to imply that we're bad parents or anything, we've been in the school system for years."

She said they displayed the flag starting a week ago Sunday.

Mike Casarella said he found it hard to believe that anyone would be offended by



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

The flag flying outside the home of Gina and Mike Casarella that caused a stir earlier last week in Pleasantville.

the word in question. He said he suspects parents decided to complain because it's a pro-Trump flag.

"These kids know worse words than that. Come on," he said. "YouTube, the internet. They hand condoms out in the school. You know what I'm saying?"

Fox-Alter said she appealed to the

Casarellas because their new flag is in full view of the elementary school, not because of their political beliefs. The family has had a Trump flag flying outside their house for more than two years and it hasn't been an issue until now, Fox-Alter said.

She said she reached out to the family

"in the spirit of being a good neighbor, in the spirit of community, in the spirit of being a partner and in the spirit of helping to educate young children."

"Because that's against the kids' code of conduct, it's inappropriate language, it's vulgar language and we want our kids to model good behavior, and as adults you could help us by taking down the flag with the vulgarity," Fox-Alter recalled telling the Casarellas.

Pleasantville Mayor Peter Scherer said he agreed with Fox-Alter and found it regrettable that someone would display profanity so close to the elementary school. He said he would also speak to the couple in hopes of getting them to reconsider as village officials research if they have any recourse.

The Casarellas contended that the matter has been overblown. Following Trump's election, Gina Casarella said she heard comments that were far worse, including some from Pleasantville students directed at their 13-year-old daughter.

"It's really a common word now," she said. "I don't find it offensive. It's less offensive than other signs I see around town. No one's going around checking out those signs because they're not in front of a school."

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# Open Letter to Cynthia Knox, Executive Director of CHOP, Inc. and the Board of Directors of CHOP

The closing for 851 Washington St. is in a few weeks. The time has come for you to make a major decision. Your fiduciary responsibility is also to the taxpayers in that you spend their money smartly and wisely.

Are you wasting taxpayer dollars for this tiny piece of property that does not have the space for your grandiose plans? Continuing with this multi-million-dollar project will have dire and irreversible results for so many families, children and businesses.

Are you being irresponsible to all the taxpayers, residents and businesses by proposing this absurd zoning change

right next to homeowners along all the C-3 corridors?

Are you being inconsiderate of your own clients' needs for public safety, drug and alcohol rehabilitation and mental healthcare when the location you've selected is four times the distance further than where they presently are?

Are you being insensitive to the community when you reject individuals and leave them in our streets? Will you pay for the damages caused by your clients – because homeowners' insurance won't pay? Will you pay for the loss in business revenue?

In your own words -- will you be a

"good neighbor" to our community? Your actions so far prove you will not be a good neighbor.

We have repeatedly said your venture is a detriment to the health, safety and welfare of the neighborhood AND your clients. You have ignored us.

You and your supporters have twisted and manipulated any sympathy by not speaking to our neighbors and businesses. Should we expect this silence to continue? Is this being a good neighbor?

A homeless shelter is totally unacceptable and inappropriate for a residential neighborhood. All other

towns and cities recognize this – why don't you?

We implore that you to speak with Ike Reighard, CEO of MUST Ministries in Georgia. He knows firsthand that your location is wrong and will result in failure. It should never ever be so close to homes and businesses.

Please use common sense – don't waste the taxpayer dollars pursuing this location. Please take your heads out of the sand and look at reality and the destruction you will cause.

**PEEKSKILL SAFE AND STRONG  
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## Holocaust Comparisons are Inappropriate

To the Editor,

Inappropriate and inflammatory Holocaust analogies have become a "weapon of choice" in discussions of controversial issues. Everyone should be aware these types of overused, manipulative and offensive Holocaust analogies only serve to "trivialize the Holocaust". They are insensitive and disrespectful to the memory of the twelve million innocent people who perished at the hands of the Nazis and their collaborators, not to mention those

Americans who fought bravely against the Nazis in World War II.

A dangerous precedent was set in Feb. 2015 when slanderous Nazi analogies were voiced by then Supervisor Grace against a Town Councilperson during Town board meetings. These disgusting Nazi comparisons were then repeated by a local columnist and printed in the local papers. Let us not forget.

At the Feb 5, 2019 Board meeting, our Former Supervisor, once again, made inappropriate Holocaust comparisons

with the Reproductive Health Act. These inaccurate and provocative Nazi analogies were printed, once again, in the local newspapers. Supervisor Grace is a repeat offender who has proven his shameful willingness to drag the Nazi Genocide of the Jewish people into divisive issues in order to advance his political arguments!

The Holocaust had nothing to do with the passage of the Reproductive Health Act or the feud between Board members in 2015! These analogies are shameful.

The Town Board, the Public and the Press need to take a stand against the use of false and inappropriate Holocaust analogies. Nobel Laureate and Auschwitz survivor Elie Wiesel, said, "I don't compare anything to the Holocaust." We should all heed his words.

Stop the use of inappropriate Holocaust comparisons.

Stop disrespecting the Holocaust!

Thank you,

**MIRIAM D. MESSING CURTIN  
Yorktown**

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## Latimer Has Been Raising Taxes Since Elected

To the Editor,

When you elected George Latimer, a Democrat, over our former county exec., the first thing he did after he was sworn in, was to quietly pass a .02% property tax increase, and, when the new budget was approved by the county legislators, it contained another .02% property tax increase. Now he wants to take more money from your hard earned wages by tacking another tax on sales; But, you have no complaints because the people of this county elected a man from a party

which has been dubbed, "The Tax and Spend Party."

Want to bet, next year, he will tack on another .05% property tax increase, just as his Democratic predecessor did.

**J.W. PETTIT  
Yorktown**

## Letters Policy

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

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

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# Dennehys to Lead 30th Annual Peekskill St. Patrick's Parade

The 30th Annual Peekskill St. Patrick's Parade will be held on Saturday, March 9, at 3 p.m. in downtown Peekskill. This year's Co-Grand Marshal are Dan and Siobhan Dennehy. The 2019 Aides are Sunny Cover, Owner, Peekskill Coffee House; Capt. Mary Pat Driscoll, Owner, Trinity Cruises and operator of the Evening Star; Tim Warn, Captain of the Peekskill Volunteer Ambulance Corps; Jim Witt, Hope for Youth Foundation.

This is only the second time in parade history that two Grand Marshals have led the parade in Peekskill. Piper Joe Brady and wife, Ann, led the parade in 2000.

"This is a milestone year for the parade and we are all looking forward to rolling out the green carpet to welcome visitors, residents and marchers to Downtown Peekskill. We are proud to display our Irish heritage, music and culture," said Bill Powers, Chairman of the St. Patrick's Committee.

The parade is held rain or shine. The parade steps off near Assumption Church, makes its way down Union Avenue, then right on South Street, left on Division Street, right on Main Street and right on James Street. The reviewing stand is on the corner of James and Park Streets.

The parade is preceded by a Mass at As-



Pipe Major Joe Brady, above. Below, Dan and Siobhan Dennehy.

sumption Church at 1:30 p.m., which is open to all, and brunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Elks Lodge at 1038 Brown Street, Peekskill. The brunch will include a full buffet breakfast. Admission for adults: \$12, children 5-12 years old is \$5; children under five years old are free. All are welcome and attendees can pay at the door.

The Dennehys are being honored for the collective work in promoting immigration reform and promoting Irish culture. Dan is the founding Chairman of

the Hudson Valley Irish Fest and serves as National Director and Immigration Chairman of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America and AOH New York State Board Immigration Chair. Siobhan is the Executive Director of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center.

The parade will also honor Jack Murphy, the longest serving Chairman of the Peekskill St. Patrick's Committee who passed away after a long illness last week.

A Grand Marshal's pub tour of local

establishments is planned for Friday, March 8, from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. The Grand Marshals and Aides are piped into each establishment by Pipe Major Joe Brady, who happens to lead both the New York City and Peekskill parades. Please check the parade's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/peekskillst-patrickscommittee](http://www.facebook.com/peekskillst-patrickscommittee) for exact schedule.

The parade is presented by an all-volunteer committee with the support and cooperation of the City of Peekskill, and is completely self-funded through the generosity of businesses and committee members, donations from kindhearted community members and all-year-round fund raising efforts.



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# Exercising Outside in Cold Weather, What You Need to Know

By Sonia Rappaport

It should come as a surprise to no one that exercise boosts metabolism and mood. But did you know that exercising outdoors, particularly in the winter, can increase those benefits?

Believe it. According to a study published by the National Center for Biotechnology Information, exercising in cold weather increased participants' metabolism and their muscles' capacity to use oxygen. Meanwhile, a 2017 study found that climbing outdoors, compared to exercising indoors on a treadmill and remaining sedentary, vastly improved feelings of enjoyment and reduced fatigue, supporting the notion that exercise is a viable stress recovery solution.

This is especially good news for people in today's "sandwich generation," whose busy lives may include caring for older parents and their own children. While your 70-year-old mom might not be a candidate for competitive rock climbing, she just might want to join you for a walk in the park, giving you both an enjoyable fitness boost and time to catch up.

As a physical therapist and rehabilitation instructor with the nonprofit Visiting Nurse Service of New York and its affiliate Partners in Care, I work with people of all ages and fitness capabilities – from 25-year-olds to 95-year-olds, from those

recovering from surgery to homebound seniors with limited mobility.

To help make cold weather exercise safe and enjoyable, here are a few important tips and precautions that I share with patients who get "cabin fever" or are looking for safe ways to stay fit and get outside during the winter.

## Protect Your Heart

If you have a history of high blood pressure, high cholesterol, heart disease, diabetes or smoking, consult your doctor before exercising in the cold. These are all significant risk factors for a heart attack. Start by exercising regularly indoors, and if you get the okay from your doctor, feel free to venture outside. Start slowly and chart your course with a simple walk around your neighborhood or a stroll through the park. For added safety and enjoyment, ask a friend or neighbor to join you.

## Your Skin, Feet, Hands and Ears

A little cold will bite if you don't prepare. When it's cold, blood flow concentrates in the body's core, leaving your feet, hands and ears susceptible to frostbite. A thin pair of glove liners made of wicking material under a pair of heavier gloves or mittens, a headband to cover your ears and extra thick socks should do the trick to protect those areas.

Remember, your skin needs protection in cold weather. About 80 percent of UV rays still penetrate through the clouds, so the sun doesn't have to be out for your skin to be in danger. Moisturizing before you leave the house or apartment will also help you avoid dried out and irritated skin that can result from strong winds.

## Watch Out for Ice!

Here's a three-word solution for slipping on ice and snow: take it slow. The most frequent winter injuries are slips and falls, but they can be avoided by a few careful steps, like wearing boots with soles that won't skid, making sure all paths you walk on are well-lit and walking as flat-footed as possible in areas that may be icy.

## Dress the Part

Bundling up like the abominable snowman or dressing down in anticipation of a sweat-a-thon are both rookie mistakes. It's true that exercise generates a lot of heat – maybe enough to make you forget that it's winter. The evaporation of sweat pulls heat from your body, and as a result, can make you feel chilled. My solution is to dress in layers. A thin layer of synthetic material draws sweat away from your body and an extra layer of fleece adds insulation – and can be removed and put back on as needed.

## Hydrate

Even though you can expect to sweat less than you might in the summer, dehydration is still a major risk factor. Seniors in particular are susceptible to fluid and electrolyte imbalances because of the body's declining ability to conserve water with age. Be sure to drink water before, during and after exercising.

## How Low Can You Go?

Older adults are more susceptible to hypothermia, a medical emergency in which your body loses heat faster than it can produce. People can reduce their chances of developing health complications resulting from hypothermia if they prepare and are made aware of the symptoms – cold hands and feet, fatigue, confusion, trouble walking, slow breathing and a low heart rate.

It's advisable to consult with a doctor or healthcare provider before embarking on any new kind of exercise, fitness or wellness routine – especially when that routine involves a winter wonderland!

Sonia Rappaport is a physical therapist and rehabilitation instructor with the Visiting Nurse Service of New York and its private pay affiliate Partners in Care. For more information, call 212-609-7700 or visit [www.PartnersinCareNY.org](http://www.PartnersinCareNY.org) or [www.VNSNY.org](http://www.VNSNY.org).



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# Westchester Broadway Theatre Presents Menopause The Musical

By Evelyn J. Mocbeichel

On the surface one would think a subject about a woman's exasperating physical experience would not be a source for entertainment, however, a popular stage production provides a unique take about the topic. The current show at the Westchester Broadway Theatre (WBT) highlights all these women's experiences in an absolutely comical way, in song, dance and dialog! The National Tour of Menopause the Musical by GFour Productions, winner of 44 Tony Awards and 54 Drama Desk Awards, is on a limited run at the WBT through Sunday, March 24.

Perfect for a ladies' night out, I invited a friend to join me instead of my spouse. However, there were plenty of men there and totally enjoying the humor in it all, too. Not knowing what to expect the play to be about, we were thoroughly entertained from the start to its fantastic conclusion of this 90-minute production. Of all the wonderful shows we have seen at the WBT, this one had the most audience laughter on a non-stop bases both from women and men in attendance.

Menopause The Musical® is a groundbreaking celebration of women who are on the brink of, in the middle of, or have survived "The Change." Now celebrating 17 years of female empowerment through hilarious musical comedy, Menopause



The Musical® has evolved as a "grassroots" movement of women who deal with life adjustments after 40 by embracing each other and the road ahead. Set in an upscale department store, four women meet while shopping for lingerie on sale. After noticing unmistakable similarities among one another, the cast jokes about their woeful hot flashes, mood swings, wrinkles, weight gain and much more. These women form a sisterhood and unique bond with the entire audience as they rejoice in celebrating that menopause is no longer "The Silent Passage."

The four women depicted are from various backgrounds with one being a business executive, one a soap opera star soon to be replaced by a younger actress, one a Midwest housewife in New York

City with her husband who is attending a convention and the last an aging, mellow flower child. Each cast member, Megan Cavanagh (Earth Mother), Donna J. Huntley (Professional Woman), Debby Rosenthal (Soap Star) and Roberta B. Wall (Iowa housewife) were spot on in their character portrayals. Continually the WBT casting is superb and each role was fantastically executed by the

actors on stage. A shout out to the powerful vocals of Huntley, the comedic timing and expressions of Cavanagh, the sassy portrayal by Rosenthal and the enthusiastic motions and physical comedy of Wall. As an ensemble they were extraordinary in singing, choreography and chemistry!

Stage design is once again creative with the backdrop of "Bloomies" department store and each floor the women visited provided a chance for costume and set changes and songs and dance numbers to perform. Speaking of songs, the music is absolutely upbeat and hysterically funny as favorites from the 1950's through the 1970's were sung with the same melody, only the words were changed to reflect the women's life experience going through

menopause in a singing parody. With more than 20 songs of classic hits like Stayin' Alive, I'm Sorry, The Great Pretender, My Guy, I Got You Babe, Only You and many more, it was impossible not to tap your feet along with each number!

Don't miss this production if you like to laugh, enjoy great music and watch four fabulously talented actors on stage turning an often-whispered subject into a fantastic night of entertainment. Enjoy a delicious dinner or lunch at either an evening or afternoon matinee production. Tickets are on sale now and available at the Westchester Broadway Theatre Box Office, online at [broadwaytheatre.com](http://broadwaytheatre.com), or by calling (914) 592-2222. Greater discounts for groups of 15+ available by calling (914) 592-2225. The WBT is located in Elmsford and parking is free.

## Upcoming Productions:

Newsies March 28 – May 26  
On Your Feet –  
The Story of Emilio & Gloria  
Estefan – May 30 – August 4  
Mambo Italiano – Pre Broadway  
New Musical  
August 8 – September 29  
An American in Paris  
Oct 3 – Nov 24 and Dec 27, 2019  
through January 26, 2020

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## Blue Mountain Tavern Cortlandt

By Neal Rentz

Located near the Blue Mountain Middle School in Cortlandt, Blue Mountain Tavern was opened in February by Scarsdale resident Brian Panessa, Cortlandt resident Hugh Macfayden and Scarsdale resident Edward Alarcon.

Panessa explained last week why he and his partners wanted to open the establishment. "We've been friends for years and the opportunity on this property came to be and with the dynamics in this area we figured why not take a shot at it?" he said. "I particularly like this building. It's a building by itself. It has a nice sized parking lot which gives us more latitude from a business perspective."

Blue Mountain Tavern's menu features several appetizers. "Our business model is tavern with a spin," Panessa said. "We made sure to have all of the tavern-like items, but sort of putting a spin on them in terms of the ingredients that we use to enhance them."

The appetizer menu "includes a twist on calamari" with Thai flavoring, he said. "It's made from scratch," he said.

Some of the other popular appetizers are crab cakes, shrimp cocktail and



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

The bar at Blue Mountain Tavern, which opened in Cortlandt on February 5.

nachos, Panessa said.

There are many burgers offered at the new restaurant. "Burgers are a big part of the business," Panessa said. Aside from traditional beef burgers, a turkey burger, a pork kimchi burger and a sweet potato, black bean and quinoa burger are on the menu.

"We're trying to not necessarily to be everything to everybody, but we wanted a variety in the burger category," he said.

A large selection of sandwiches is available. "The sandwiches are hardy to say the least," Panessa said. The diverse sandwiches include a Cubano, a triple decker chicken sandwich and a traditional hanger steak sandwich, he said. The Ruben sandwich includes pastrami that has brined in house for seven days. "It melts in your mouth. It's quite the good sandwich," Panessa said.

The owner of the previous restaurant

(Julianna's) that was in the building, Montrose resident Derek Palmisano, is working as the chef at the new eatery.

Business at the new establishment has "exceeded our expectations," Panessa said. There will be outdoor seasonal seating, he said. Most of the customers come from northern Westchester, Panessa said.

The restaurant offers dinner every night except Monday, when it is closed. Lunch is provided on Saturdays and Sundays. The owners plan to add Sunday brunch in the near future, Panessa said.

The partners also plan on having live music performed at their restaurant, Panessa said.

"We do have pretty lofty goals," Panessa said. "Mainly our goal is to create an institution here; an institution where generations will come and a place where people can enjoy a good meal, quality food at a fair price."

"We'll always be evolving," Panessa said. "We will be adding to the business in various ways as time goes on."

Blue Mountain Tavern is located at 276 Watch Hill Rd. in Cortlandt. For more information, call 914-607-2111 or visit <https://bluemountaintavern.com/>.

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# Rev. Phillips of HRH-Care in Peekskill Honored in Albany

Reverend Jeannette J. Phillips, one of Hudson River Health Care's Founding Mothers, was honored by the New York Legislature last week in the State Capital in Albany. Assemblymember Sandra Galef (D/Ossining) sponsored a resolution in the Assembly and Senators Jen Metzger and Peter Harckham (D) sponsored a proclamation in the Senate to recognize Rev. Phillips' achievements in improving access to quality health care services in underserved communities across the Hudson Valley. The legislators also spoke on the floors of their respective houses to honor Reverend Phillips' life's work.

In 1975, Reverend Jeannette J. Phillips launched Hudson River Health Care's (HRH-Care) flagship health center in Peekskill to fulfill the unmet needs of that city, particularly in the African American community. In so doing, she was instrumental in growing community support for the center -- then known as the Peekskill Area Ambulatory Health Care Center -- and served as its first outreach director and board chair. Forty-four years later, that single location in Peekskill has grown into Hudson River Health Care, the largest network of community health centers in New York State providing services to more than 225,000 people annually in the Hudson Valley, Long Island and all five boroughs.

Today, Reverend Phillips is an icon of the Peekskill community. In addition to serving as the Executive Vice President of Community Development at HRH-Care, she is an Associate Minister at Park Street African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and is deeply involved in local community-based organizations that focus on youth development and education in Peekskill. She has been honored for her accomplishments on numerous occasions including by the Hudson Gateway Chamber of Commerce and the Hudson Valley Women's Association and Friends. In 2015, the health center in Peekskill which she founded was re-named in her honor to the Jeanette J. Phillips Health Center.

"We are extraordinarily thankful to New York State Assemblymember Sandra Galef and Senator Jen Metzger for honoring one of our Founding Mothers, Reverend Jeannette J. Phillips," said Anne Kaufman Nolon, CEO of Hudson River Healthcare. "Reverend Phillips' dedication to service has had a lasting impact on the healthcare landscape in New York State. Her pioneering work over the last four decades has allowed Hudson River Health Care to now provide quality services to over 225,000 people in the downstate region. She truly embodies the values and mission of Hudson River Health Care in everything she does, and we are proud that the New York State Legislature took this opportunity to recognize her."

"It was my great honor to introduce Reverend Jeannette J. Phillips and recognize her significant and groundbreaking accomplishments as a pioneer in securing

access to health care for the underserved and as one of the founding mothers of Hudson River Healthcare. It is fitting that as we celebrate Black History Month, we recognize this extraordinary woman who contributed so much to overcoming racial and economic barriers to access to quality healthcare in ways that continue to shape and inform healthcare delivery in the state of New York," said Senator Jen Metzger, 42nd Senate District.

"Reverend Phillips is an inspiration to all those who work to provide quality health care to underserved populations in New

York," said Harckham, 40th Senate District. "Without her leadership and determination, Hudson River Health Care would not exist today. We owe her a debt of gratitude for her four decades of work in improving the lives of thousands of New Yorkers."

"It was a pleasure to honor Reverend Jeannette Phillips today on the Assembly floor, and acknowledge her lifelong commitment to providing high-quality, affordable healthcare in our community," said Galef. "Reverend Phillips has proven herself to be an accomplished leader, overseeing the expansion of Hudson River Health

Care over the last four decades. What is particularly impressive about Reverend Phillips' leadership, however, is that is clear she has never lost sight of the organization's founding goal—providing critical care to those in need. Her commitment to civic involvement is further exemplified by her work as Associate Minister of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, as well as her work in many community-based organizations. I am continually grateful to the work of this exemplary woman for the residents of Peekskill and communities throughout the state."



## 30th ANNUAL PEEKSKILL ST. PATRICK'S PARADE SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2019, 3PM

*Downtown Peekskill, NY*

(Route: South Street/N. Division Street/Main Street/James Street)  
Free Saturday Parking @ Meters & Garages

**Grand Marshals Dan & Siobhan Dennehy**  
and aides **Sunny Cover, Mary Pat Driscoll,**  
**Tim Warn and Jim Witt**

**Special Mass at Assumption Church @ 1:30PM**  
**Brunch at Historic Elks Lodge @ 11AM**



## GRAND MARSHALS' PUB TOUR FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2019 5:30PM – 10PM

*Piped into each location by Pipe Major Joe Brady*

- 5:30PM - Historic Peekskill Elks Lodge**
  - 6:15PM - The Hudson Room**
  - 6:45PM - Gleason's**
  - 7:20PM - NY Firehouse Grille**
  - 8:00PM - Kyle's Pub**
  - 8:30PM - Birdsall House**
  - 9:00PM - Division Street Grill**
  - 9:30PM - Ruben's Mexican Cafe**
  - 10:00PM - The Quiet Man Public House:**
- Unveiling of the Grand Marshal's Plaque**

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# Happenings

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

## Tuesday, March 5

**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. We are 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/>.

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

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

**Hygeia Programs:** Two ongoing programs are being held on Tuesdays at Hygeia Integrated Health LLC, 3505 Hill Blvd., Suite K, Yorktown. Community

Acupuncture is being held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$30. Come experience the beneficial effects of acupuncture in a group setting. Register: hyinhealth@gmail.com. On the last Tuesday of the month from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Eating Disorder Support Group, led by a LCSW and clinical nutritionist will be held. Discuss and resolve issues around relationships with food. Info/register: hyinhealth@gmail.com or [www.hyinhealth.com](http://www.hyinhealth.com).

## Wednesday, March 6

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

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

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

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

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

**St. Andrew's Ash Wednesday:** St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2405 Crompond Rd., Yorktown, invites you to attend Ash Wednesday service

at 7 p.m. Pastor Dave Dockweiler will provide the imposition of ashes during the service. On succeeding Wednesdays, please join us for a simple meal at 6 p.m. followed by a Lenten message at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

**First Presbyterian Ash Wednesday:** At noon and 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday services will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown, 2880 Crompond Rd., Info: [www.fpcyorktown.org](http://www.fpcyorktown.org).

**Perfect College:** "Finding the Perfect Fit: College, Funding and You" will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Somers Library. The program is intended for parents and students in grades six and up. Info: [www.somerslibrary.org](http://www.somerslibrary.org).

## Thursday, March 7

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

**Ted Talks:** The program will be held today from 1 to 3 p.m. and on April 4, May 2, and June 6 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Somers Library. Speakers for this date are John McWhorter: "Four Reasons to Learn a New Language" and Lydia Machová: "The Secrets of Learning a New Language" Each talk will be followed by light refreshment. Info: [www.somerslibrary.org](http://www.somerslibrary.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.

**Women's Movement Program:** This month's offering from The Ossining Documentary and Discussion Series (ODDS) is "She's Beautiful when She's Angry," an exploration of the modern women's movement. The free screening will take place at the Ossining Public Library. Seating begins at 6:15 p.m. Admis-

sion is always free and all are welcome. A panel discussion will follow with expert panelists drawn from nearby communities. Info: [OssiningDocumentaries.org](http://OssiningDocumentaries.org).

## Friday, March 8

**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 [rabi-biw@optonline.net](mailto:rabi-biw@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 on March 8 and 15 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 6:15 p.m. And Sabbath services on most Saturdays will be held at 9:15 a.m. on most Saturdays. After the services Rabbi Sternstein conducts a learning session based on the Torah portion of the week. Light refreshments are served and everyone is invited to join us as we share in the warmth, knowledge and friendship within our congregation. Info: 914-245-2324 or [yorktownjewishcenter.org](http://yorktownjewishcenter.org).

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

## Saturday, March 9



# Happenings

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**Putnam Valley Shabbat Service:** Looking for a modern Shabbat service steeped in Jewish tradition? Come to Temple Israel of Putnam Valley, a Conservative Egalitarian Synagogue situated on beautiful Lake Peekskill. Our inclusive, community-lead services start at 9:30 a.m. on Saturdays and are held in Hebrew and English. Enjoy a comfortable atmosphere where participation is appreciated and afterwards stay for our delicious Kiddush lunch. Services are free; Family Memberships are \$250 per year and include High Holiday Services. The synagogue is located at 140 Lake Drive in Lake Peekskill. For more information, call 845-528-2305.

**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.

**Cancer Society Fundraiser:** The fourth annual "Rock Around The Clock" event will be held at the Mohansic Grill, 1500 Baldwin Rd., Yorktown. Local musicians from the Bronx and Westchester will provide 12 hours of continuous music that begins at 11 a.m. and concludes at 11 p.m. A variety of music genres are reflected in the schedule. For a complete listing, please visit the Team

Open Mic Facebook page. Attendees will offer a contribution of their choosing at the door and the proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society. Contributions may also be made online at crowdise.com/rock-around-the-clock.

## Sunday, March 10

**Jkids:** Get to know other Jewish and interfaith families as you and your preschool child enjoy creative and social activities including games, crafts and songs with Jewish holiday themes. Jkids, for ages 2-5 with their grown-ups, meets one Sunday morning each month at First Hebrew through June, from 10 to 11:15 a.m. Refreshments will be served. There is no charge other than a nominal supply fee. RSVP, which is required, call 914-739-0500 or e-mail fhc@firsthebrew.org. First Hebrew is located on the border of Cortlandt and Peekskill at 1821 Main St., Route 6. Future dates: April 7, May 5 and June 2.

**Healing Yoga:** Yoga classes for women with breast cancer are held at 5 p.m. on Sundays at Hudson Yoga, 5 Old Post Rd. South, Croton-on-Hudson. Weekly classes are being conducted by rotating

instructors. The suggestion is \$15. Info: Elisha Simpson at 914-319-4010.

## Monday, March 11

**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.



9th Annual

# Somers MAGIC SHOW

Friday, March 22 • Somers High School

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**Featuring: The Extreme Magic of Eric Wilzig**

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For questions, please email: [somerssepta@gmail.com](mailto:somerssepta@gmail.com)

• Pizza, Drinks, Ice cream, & Souvenirs for Sale

• 50/50 Raffle

All proceeds to benefit Somers Special Education PTA

Ticket includes 50 Minute Magic/Illusion Show, Face Painting, \*Game Room, \*Ga-Ga Court

\*Provided by:

## Clearwater Festival Tickets on Sale, Initial Lineup Announced

Continued from page 6

enjoy a range of perks throughout the year, including discounted sailing tickets, discounts on Clearwater merchandise, an opportunity to volunteer on the sloop and at Revival as well as vote on policies and board leadership and more.

This year brings two milestone anniversary dates for Clearwater – 50 years since the launch of the sloop Clearwater (May 17), which sails the Hudson

River as America's environmental flagship. Building a replica of a Hudson River sloop was inspired by Clearwater founder and folk legend Pete Seeger, who would be turning 100 on May 3.

Revival is the country's oldest and largest music and environmental festival, bringing together major musical acts and Clearwater's own brand of green activism for a unique weekend every June.

For tickets and more information, visit [www.Clearwaterfestival.org](http://www.Clearwaterfestival.org).

Pleasantville Community Television  
914.747.4411  
[www.pctv76.org](http://www.pctv76.org)

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We at PCTV appreciate the long-standing support of the many communities we serve.

Please consider a tax-deductible donation during our Annual Appeal drive currently underway. Visit our website at [PCTV76.org](http://PCTV76.org) or mail your check to PCTV, 2 Jackson Street, Pleasantville, NY 10570.



# All Sorts of Things Can Hang from the Ceiling – But Carefully

As a realtor, I always make special note of lighting fixtures and other objects hanging from the ceiling when showing homes. I have a couple of good stories to explain why.

The essence of the first incident may get lost in translation when cleaned up, but I am assured first hand that it's true. A woman who owned a condo locally was in bed for the very first time with a new boyfriend when suddenly the ceiling fan/light fixture disengaged from its mooring and plunged down, hitting the poor fellow squarely in the backside at a critical moment. He literally screamed out, and the woman, who said she was in her own world at the moment, initially thought that it was in ecstasy, rather than agony.

Within that same year, the couple, then married, were having dinner one evening when suddenly the chandelier in the dining room plummeted to the center of the table, again hitting the woman's husband, this time grazing the side of his head.

What are the chances? In the case of the bedroom ceiling fan, the action of the fan had loosened the screws that held it to its box. With the dining room chande-

lier, it seems that the holding box itself was defective.

By this time, the couple decided it was time to buy a single-family house – and the one they selected didn't offer a single chandelier.

My wife Margaret and I have had our own little experience with falling missiles from the ceiling when her parents had their 50th wedding anniversary. It affected us for the rest of our lives. We were in the ballroom of a famous hotel in Cape Cod and Margaret was seated on a raised dais with the family. Without warning, a large, recessed high hat almost directly above her head plunged down and landed on the table between her and her uncle with a horrible, ear-splitting crash. It certainly put a damper on the evening.

Ever since then, wherever we go together, we look above and see if we would be sitting under any kind of fixture. If we are, we either move if we can or make a little mental notation just in case we have to make a dash for it. It's neurotic, I know. Or is it?

For the less threatening creative things that we can hang from our ceilings at home, make sure that you're securing

them correctly.

To hang things properly, here are the basic rules.

The first rule of thumb is to always check your walls and ceiling for electrical wires or pipes that can be damaged by drilling and cost you thousands in repairs.

There are two basic types of mechanisms to secure objects safely to a ceiling or wall. One is a plaster anchor, which is an insert designed for hanging objects from walls, either plaster or drywall, by using pressure to keep the screw in place. To install, you simply drill a hole into the wall, based on the size of the anchor, and push the anchor into the hole. Next, you take a screw and drill it into the hole in the anchor, allowing it to protrude slightly to hang your desired object. Plastic anchors are effective because they expand once inside the wall and hold everything in place with pressure.

A toggle/snap bolt is used to hang objects from plaster/drywall safely using pressure. The bolt works by having two spring-loaded arms that go onto the screw. After drilling a hole where you want the bolt to go, you slide it in. Once inside, the arms will spring open and allow you to pull on the screw. You then take a screwdriver or drill gun and tighten the bolt until it locks in place.

Once you have a secure anchor, the sky's the limit in how creatively you can approach hanging art. Typically we go for lighting fixtures or plants, tapestries, mobiles or stables. Another idea is to take panels of stained glass and hang them in front of windows. Or how about a statuary, perhaps supported by more than one wire?

One of the most creative minds I've ever encountered planned an entire restaurant dining room – tables and chairs – that hung from the ceiling because of a very uneven brick floor.

Ever since I read the story of the famous architect Stanford White who installed a red velvet swing from his ceiling for the amusement of his mistress Evelyn Nesbit Thaw, I harbored the thought of designing a room interior with a red velvet swing as its central theme. That's where my wife has put her foot down – and not particularly delicately.

Bill Primavera, while a publicist and journalist, is a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and Founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc. ([www.PrimaveraPR.com](http://www.PrimaveraPR.com)). To take advantage of these dual areas of expertise, you can engage the services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale. Just call 914-522-2076.

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# Crossword

## ACROSS

1. Homes with domes
7. A piece of a three-piece
11. Vitality
12. Obsessively absorbed in
13. Mixture of many spices
14. Oktoberfest draft
15. Dreary sound
17. Basic training for recruits or new Yorktown fitness center, Fit Body \_\_\_\_
20. Reindeer herder
21. Seventh letters of the Greek alphabet
22. Mahopac trattoria
24. "Holy smokes!"
25. Birth certificate item
26. Giving out
32. Rate \_\_\_\_ (be perfect)
33. Marries in haste
34. Rant and rave
35. Start up the computer again

## DOWN

1. Credo
2. Student score
3. Sue Grafton's "\_\_\_\_" for Lawless" (2 words)
4. Torino time period
5. Refined or crude
6. Köln or Nürnberg
7. Pulsating effect, in music
8. Puzzling occurrences
9. Prepares, as a morning pot
10. Small hill
16. Topped with frosting
17. Sign of trouble
18. Wealthy
19. White gemstone
20. Emissary
23. Golfing cup
25. Part of U.S.N.A., abbr.
27. "Bravo!"
28. High ball in tennis
29. Company going public
30. Conservative beginning
31. Prime meridian std.

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11							12			
13							14			
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		17	18	19						
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	22				23					
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32					33					
34					35					

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(Solution to puzzle on page 19)

1	I	2	G	3	L	4	O	5	O	6	S		7	V	8	E	9	S	10	T
11	S	P	I	R	I	T							12	I	N	T	O			
13	M	A	S	A	L	A							14	B	I	E	R			
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		20	L	A	P	P				21	E	T	A	S						
		22	E	D	U	A	23	R	D	O	S									
		24	G	O	L	L	Y													
25	N	A	M	E					26	D	27	O	28	L	29	I	30	N	31	G
32	A	T	E	N					33	E	L	O	P	E	S					
34	V	E	N	T					35	R	E	B	O	O	T					

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# ETPA Repealed in Village of Ossining Amid Allegations

Continued from page 1

ing emergency exists in Ossining.

"This is not a compromise. This is trash," Bazemore remarked. "You're doing something just to say you did something. You cooked this up in the middle of the night. This doesn't make any sense. It's bad. It's not right. Clearly if you're poor you don't matter in this town. If you don't donate to someone's campaign, you don't matter."

Herrera, Bazemore and former Trustee John Codman took steps last year to enact ETPA after a housing study revealed that Ossining had a 3.06 percent vacancy rate, putting it within the bounds of eligibility to adopt the initiative.

Under the act, the village was mandated to enforce a rent stabilization policy for all buildings constructed before 1974 with six or more units. ETPA also ensured that tenants were offered one or two-year leases and that apartments received proper maintenance. It also protected tenants from being evicted except on grounds allowed by law, illegal rent increases, landlord harassment, and a rent freeze for certain senior citizens and people with disabilities.

In Ossining, more than 1,200 apartments were eligible for rent stabilization, making it the largest expansion of rent stabilized housing in the state in two decades.

The new policy adopted last week stipulates that ETPA does not apply to the following classes of housing accommodations in Ossining completed prior to January 1, 1974: all buildings with 20 or fewer units; and buildings where building owners have entered into binding agreements with the village providing 20% set aside for affordable units, and rent to account for no more than 30% of

tenant's income, among other requirements.

Gearity emphasized more than 1,000 apartments in Ossining will still be included in the ETPA program.

"I'm very troubled by some of the comments that have been made this evening by my colleagues," Gearity said, noting there was no resolution on the September 5 agenda when ETPA was adopted. "Most tenants in Ossining are rent burdened. We need to do a better job with code enforcement."

Levin, who said she would not address Herrera and Bazemore's claims, called ETPA "an antiquated dinosaur law."

"ETPA is not the appropriate rule of law for a village of our size and where we are at," Levin said. "It is about the right thing to do for our community at this time. It doesn't take into account the whole community."

Quezada said he could sympathize with residents who implored the board not to repeal ETPA.

"I do know the sacrifice. I know what people feel. The compromise that we came out with...I feel comfortable that it will work," he said. "If you look at the law we are creating affordable units. This is something ETPA does not."

Westchester County Executive George Latimer, in a letter sent to the Village Board on January 25, requested trustees temporarily suspend any action on ETPA since the county is preparing to undertake a study on the provisions and impacts of ETPA across Westchester.

"We are engaged in an effort to expand affordable housing options across the many municipalities across the county, as we seek to satisfy the requirements of the fair housing lawsuit," Latimer wrote.

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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.**

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# Understanding That Off-putting Aroma or Taste in Wine

Remember the old quip about a customer in a restaurant? "Waiter, there's a fly in my soup." "That's all right. We won't charge you for it."

The modern version of this seemingly trite joke could easily take place in the surroundings of a wine bar or high-end restaurant. "Waiter, there's black gunk in my glass of wine." "That's all right. It's our house special."

We've all experienced some form of adulteration in a glass of wine in our adult lifetimes. While at times off-putting and unsavory, often these anomalies in the expected purity and clarity of such a revered product are harmless.

Wine is an agricultural product and, as such, is a living, breathing organism with a sometimes-volatile life cycle. After fermenting in vats, wine is transferred in bulk into bottles. During this process, vestiges of sediment, yeast, bacteria and other microbes may be transferred into the bottle, which may influence our sensory perception of the wine. At times, this may result in off-putting tastes, aromas or appearances – or a combination of all three.

Many winemakers make painstaking

efforts to eliminate these particles and natural compounds from the wine before bottling. Others endeavor to produce the most natural wines possible, just as they feel nature intended them. If there is any residue, it is a sign of the natural order, in which imperfection can be viewed as an indication of perfection, the perfect balance between a winemaker as alchemist and conduit of nature.

Here are several examples, in two categories that, on the surface, might be considered reasons for rejecting a glass of wine that is served to you. In most instances, they are not cause for concern.

No need to be concerned, it's just the natural order:

1. Black gunk. What is more pleasurable than anticipating the last drop of particularly enjoyable red wine? What is more disconcerting than ingesting a mouthful of black, tart-tasting sediment instead? While disconcerting and a palate-killer, this sediment is generally harmless. Sediment is a natural byproduct in the production of wine. Many winemakers will filter out this sediment using elaborate mechanical technology before bottling. Others prefer

to produce the most natural product possible, proudly labeling their wines as "unfined and unfiltered."

2. Barnyard smell. Phew - no fine wine should emit aromas of a steamy pigsty. Yet I've experienced this phenomenon several times. The cause? Brettanomyces, or Brett, a yeast that may linger in a bottle of wine in spite of a winemaker's efforts to eliminate it. While totally harmless and often fading after exposed to air, many consumers find it quite off-putting – unless you're a fan of the barnyard.

3. Partly cloudy or partly sunny? Particles of the byproducts of fermentation may remain in suspension when wine is bottled. This may result in a cloudy or hazy hue in a bottle of white wine. While naturally occurring and not harmful, it may be off-putting to certain wine drinkers. Many winemakers will filter out these elements before final bottling. It is rarely a reason to reject a wine being served.

4. Crystal treasure. If kept below forty degrees for a prolonged period, what appear to be tiny precious stones or shards of glass may appear at the bottom of a bottle of white wine. Neither valuable nor harmful, these tartrate crystals are tasteless and do not detract from the taste of the wine.

Cause for concern; there's nothing

natural about these:

1. Cork taint. The chemicals used to clean corks may infiltrate a bottle of wine. If your wine smells like your dog just in from a rainstorm or a wet newspaper left in your driveway, be concerned. Your waiter will replace it.

2. Residual sulfur. To prevent wine from early oxidization, sulfur compounds are added by law. Too much will result in odors of rotten eggs or just-struck matches. If overpowering and long lasting, reject the glass or bottle.

Wine is an evolving product of nature. As such, it is imperfect and highly variable. Winemakers may attempt to control its evolution and influence the outcome. Nature doesn't always cooperate.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 25 years he has conducted numerous wine tastings and lectures. Nick is a member of the Wine Media Guild of wine writers. 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](mailto:nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com) or on Twitter @sharingwine.



By Nick Antonaccio



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continued from previous page

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

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RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Before a capacity crowd at Pace University's Goldstein Center, Ossining seniors Aubrey Griffin, Jaida Strippoli and Kailah Harris were all smiles after the four-year veterans led the second-seeded Pride to a ninth-straight Section 1 Class AA championship in a 78-67 win over top-seeded, state-ranked (No.6) Ursuline last Saturday when the Pride posed with the 10th gold ball in program history (inset). State-ranked (No.8) Ossining will host Section 4 champion Elmira (No.20 in NYS) today (5 p.m.) in the opening round of the state tournament with the winner advancing to Saturday's 12:00 p.m. Region 1 championship at SUNY New Paltz against Section 9 champion (TBD Wednesday between Warwick vs. Monroe-Woodbury)... see Girls Hoops Notebook



## Sports

## Girls' Hoops Notebook

# Ossining Wins 9th-Straight Title; Somers Denied in Final Seconds

By Tony Pinciario

One month into the 2018-19 season, **OSSINING** High faced serious adversity.

The Pride first lost senior All-American Aubrey Griffin to an injury, then classmate Jaida Strippoli was sidelined. Not many teams can lose two Division 1 players to injuries, but Seton Hall-bound senior C Kailah Harris asserted herself and this enabled to Pride to continue winning.

However, an uncharacteristic three-game losing streak in January made the eight-time reigning champion Pride appear vulnerable. That would all change once Griffin and Strippoli returned to the lineup.

The defending Section 1 Class AA champions closed the season with a surge only to be derailed by Ursuline in the regular-season finale. This resulted in a second seed for the Pride in the Section 1 Class AA tournament.

Ossining ripped through its first three sectional games and it led to another

matchup with No.1 seed Ursuline in the final. This time, though, Ossining would have the final word.

Griffin scored a game-high 35 points and grabbed 16 rebounds as the Pride defeated Ursuline, 78-67, at Pace University's Goldstein Center. It was Ossining's ninth consecutive sectional title.

Ossining, now 18-6 this season, will host the Section 4 champion in a regional semifinal, Tuesday, 5 p.m. The winner advances to play the Section 9 representative in a regional final, Saturday, noon, at SUNY-New Paltz, for a berth in the New York State Final 4, Saturday-Sunday, March 16-17, at Hudson Valley Community College.

The Class AA semifinals are scheduled for Saturday, March 16, at 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. The championship game is slated for Sunday, March 17, at 11:45 a.m.

"Every year is special," said Harris of winning another gold ball. "The injuries to Aubrey and Jaida made us dig a little deeper this year. Basketball is a team sport so we were able to pick each other up, come together as a team, even more so, and everyone stepped up."

Once the seeds were released for the Section 1 Class AA Championship, Ossining was hoping for another game with Ursuline. In the loss to close out the regular season, the Pride were in foul trouble and felt it did not play to its capability.

"Losing and playing as bad as we did, we were 1-1 with them so we wanted to get a chance to redeem ourselves," said Harris, who finished with 14 points and nine rebounds.

Ossining seized command of the title game, immediately and built a 37-17 lead. However, Ursuline came charging back and drew within three points, 54-51, entering the fourth quarter. Even with the momentum change, Ossining remained composed.

"When they made their run, we kind of lost our composure," Harris said. "We didn't panic because we have been in these situations like



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Ossining players hoist the hardware after posting 78-67 Section 1 Class AA title win over Ursuline Saturday at Pace Univ.

this before. We had to get back to what we were doing in the beginning of the game and we had to keep the younger girls in the same mindset as us. Once the fourth quarter started, we listened to our coaches and everyone's confidence rose back up."

As a result of the win, Ossining received a bonus and will host the regionals semifinal. Harris and her fellow seniors are excited about one last home game.

"For the seniors this means everything because you don't usually host a regional game at your gym," Harris said. "We're fortunate that we will step on our court in front of our fans."

**HALDANE**, which beat Keio for the Section 1 Class C title, begins its quest for

a state title, Tuesday.

The Blue Devils play Section 9 champion and nemesis Millbrook in a regional semifinal, 5 p.m., at Mount St. Mary's College in Newburgh. The winner will play the Section 4 victor, Saturday, at a time and site to be determined.

"It all came together when it had to," Haldane Coach Tyrone Searight said. "The next step has been our biggest obstacle in recent years, but we're ready to get over that hurdle."

**SOMERS** has had an outstanding three-year run, beginning with the Section 1 Class A title in 2017. Last year, Somers returned to the Final 4, only to be upset in

*continued on next page*



Ossining Coach Dan Ricci works refs during Pride's 78-67 Section 1 Class AA title triumph, Ricci's 9th in a row and 10th overall.



Ossining senior Aubrey Griffin scored 35 points and earned an MVP nod in Pride's 87-76 Section 1 Class AA title triumph of Ursuline.



Ossining Pride players bask in glow of their 78-67 Section 1 Class AA title win over Ursuline Saturday at Pace Univ.



# Sports

## Girls' Hoops Notebook



Somers junior G Dani DiCintio drives lane for two of her team-high 22 points in Tuskers' 45-44 Class A title loss to Tappan Zee Saturday at Pace Univ.

a semifinal on a last-second shot by Rye. Somers made it three consecutive final fours and a second title-game appearance in three years as the sixth-seeded Tuskers advanced to face top-seeded Tappan Zee after a semifinal triumph of No.2 Panas at the Westchester County Center.

In a memorable game, the T'Z Dutchies overcame the Tuskers, 45-44, to win their first sectional title ever. Somers, which was hampered by injuries all season, finished with a 17-7 record. Tappan Zee



An energetic Somers bench reacts to a big moment in Tuskers' 45-44 Class A title loss to Tappan Zee Saturday at Pace Univ.

forced a controversial shot-clock violation with 20.1 seconds left and the game tied at 44-44. Kaleigh Bierne drew a foul that led to the game-winning free throw on the ensuing Dutchies possession, ending Somers' late-season run for glory.

"The girls played their hearts out," said third-year Somers' Coach Marc Hattem. "The game was what we thought it would be, a game that came down to the wire. It was an awesome game to be part of. I'm proud of my girls."

Somers earned a berth in the final with a 39-27 win over second-seeded Panas in a semifinal. The victory avenged two regular-season losses to the Panthers.

"The two teams were so evenly matched," Hattem said. "I think at the end of the day we just made a few more shots than them.

Panas is going to be a force next year."

Somers will be among the elite, once again, next year as the Tuskers graduate two players – Hannah Angelini and Isabella Rukaj. Angelini, who scored 17 points, was named to the Section 1 Class A All-tournament team, along with Dani DiCintio, who dropped 22.

"Hannah is the most complete, smartest player I have ever coached," Hattem said. "Her graduating will have a major impact on what we do and how we do it.

"Isabella played varsity basketball for three years and was a wonderful teammate who started every game of her senior year and did so much for us. The two of them are so well respected by their teammates, teachers and other coaches, which speak volumes about their character."

Hattem is excited about the 2019-20 season, but it's too soon to look ahead even after this successful season, which ended on a 16-7 fourth-quarter dry spell.

"I expect to compete next year, though the challenge will be great," he said. "We will be a different team, focusing more on our ability to



Dejected Panas players leave court after Panthers' 39-27 Class A semifinal loss to Somers at County Center last Wednesday.



Panas junior Kristen Scrobola splits Somers defense in Panthers' 39-27 Class A semifinal loss to Tuskers at County Center last Wednesday.

score in the paint. I'm going to take some time to digest the past few months and move forward to next year."

PANAS had a memorable season and came within a victory of playing for the Section 1 Class A title.

The Panthers came into sectional play seeded second and appeared on course to play top-seeded Tappan Zee in the final, but Somers did not allow it. The sixth-seeded Tuskers, who lost twice to the Panthers in the regular season, shocked the second seed, 39-27, in a semifinal.

Panas, which was making its second final-four trip in three years, finished with a 19-4 record.

"Somers changed the way they defended by blitzing our point guard, Kristen Cinquina, with two defenders every time

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Somers' Taylor Penzo and Dani DiCintio celebrate Tuskers' 39-27 Class A semifinal win over Panas' Emma Andersen and Kristen Scrobola at County Center.



Panas' Cailean Nolan (L) tries to catch up with Somers G Taylor Penzo in Panthers' 39-27 Class A semifinal loss to Tuskers at County Center last Wednesday.

she got the ball," Panas Coach Matt Evangelista said. "She did a good job of getting the ball out of the trap, but we could not capitalize on the momentary advantage that we had on the rest of the floor. Also, we missed shots that we had consistently made throughout the season."

The Panthers will be a major contender next year as only one player graduates. However, Panas will miss senior Julia Araujo, who was selected to the Section 1 Class A All-Tournament team.

"Julia has personified what you would want out of a senior captain," Evangelista said. "Julia set the tone in terms of work



An engaged bench was also key to Ossining's 78-67 Section 1 Class AA title win over Ursuline.

ethic during games and practice. She was constantly communicating while on the court with the other players. Julia led the team in rebounds, assists and charges this year. She made many free throws down the stretch of games to ice victories for us. The girls all respected her and she deserved it. Julia was also one of the team's best defenders and usually guarded girls who were much bigger than her. It will take contributions from many players to make up for all of the things that Julia did for us this year."

Evangelista credited his team with its work ethic and determination during the offseason in preparation for this season.

"I began to be excited about this group when I saw how they moved the ball and worked together in the summer and fall leagues we participated in," Evangelista said. "I thought we were doing well in the preseason and then our scrimmages came we played terribly. I honestly did not know what to expect when the first game started. We began the season 10-0, but I think when we beat Brewster by a wide margin, and I saw how the girls were locked in and focused, that was when I knew that we could really have a great year."

Expect to see the Panthers back here next year.



There was much respect show by Coach Matt Evangelista's Panas squad and Mark Hattem's Somers club in Isabella Rukaj's Tuskers' Final 4 win over Julia Araujo's Panthers.



## Sports

# With Their Legacy on the Line, Ossining Trio, Coach Delivers



By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner  
Sports Editor  
@Directrays

**PLEASANTVILLE** -- After two-plus decades along the Ossining girls' basketball sidelines, Coach Dan Ricci has, at the very least, contemplated retirement, though he shows no signs of slowing down. If and when he does eventually call it quits, he's sure to go down as a Section 1 coaching giant, perhaps the greatest coach in Ossining sports history.

IMO, It's not even debatable after Ricci led the second-seeded, state-ranked (No.8) Pride to its ninth consecutive Section 1 Class AA title, a 78-67 triumph of top-seeded, state-ranked (No.6) Ursuline last Saturday at the Goldstein Center on the campus of Pace University.

Having developed most ridiculous

dry at the conclusion of the 2019 season with the UConn-bound Griffin, who is neck-and-neck with WNBA professional Chong, Seton Hall-bound Harris and West Point-bound Strippoli set to graduate this spring. Ossining's biggest tests this season will come within the next two weeks with, potentially, the likes of two-time defending state champion and nemesis Baldwin (Section 8) in the semis and state-ranked (No.4) Bishop Kearney (Section 5) in the finals, but the ultimate test for this program will come next year when the bulls-eye remains on the back of the former four-time NYS champion (2013-16) Pride and the bulk of the unit is gone.

Ricci ran the "Legacy" speech up the

zone to man-to-man, which we didn't expect and it threw us off. It got them back in the game, but our kids persevered in the end. I put in on them, I said 'What's your legacy gonna be? Are you going to be four-time section champs or are you going to be the ones that let go of the ropes.' It's their time and they showed us what they got. All three of them – Aubrey, Kailah and Jaida – all played hurt.

They played through injuries and they suck it up. This was supposed to be the easiest gold ball ever, but it was the hardest because of their injuries, and it's going to be harder after this, that's for sure."

There's not much time to heal up, but there's a legacy out there in a cement mixer waiting to take form...

Well, I'm kind of glad Somers senior Hannah Angelini is graduating this spring because I'm not sure I could bear another sectional championship setback in her life. It's torturous for me to see kids I root for lose, and I've rooted for Angelini and junior teammate Dani DiCintio since they first burst on to the Section 1 circuit four years ago, full of vim and vigor. Both were named to the All-Tournament team after Somers suffered a gut-wrenching 45-44 setback to Tappan Zee in last Saturday's Section 1 Class A championship at Pace, but pain

## Direct Rays



Ossining's Aubrey Griffin and Kailah Harris share a hug after winning their 4th Section 1 Class AA title together last Saturday at Pace Univ.



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Somers' Dani DiCintio, Isabella Rukaj and the Tuskers converge on Hannah Angelini after a big 3 in Tuskers' 45-44 Class A title loss to Tappan Zee.

herd of Division I talent – Saniya Chong, Jaylay Knowles, Shadeen Samuels, Andra Espinoza-Hunter, Jaida Strippoli, Kailah Harris and Aubrey Griffin – over the last nine years, Ricci has compiled a ludicrous 204-33 overall mark, the kind of winning percentage that may never be replicated by a large public school in the NYSPHSAA hoops system. The guy has actually gone 166-12 vs. NYSPHSAA opponents and

134-6 vs. Section 1 foes the last nine year years, and what makes that all the more remarkable is that just about every large school in the state has a basketball program. Basketball is a different breed when it comes to competition because everybody plays.

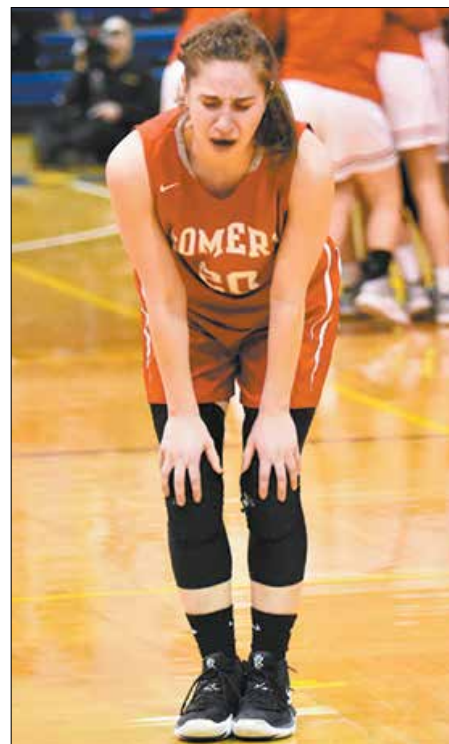
That well of distinction is due to run

flagpole last Saturday and it sunk in pretty good with the veterans, but Ossining hasn't been about sectional championships since they turned that corner back in 2011.

"It never gets old," said Griffin, the game's MVP after dropping 35 points. "It's our senior year and each time we come out here we want to end on a win. Everyone's mindset is win or go home, and none of us want to go home."

The legacy of Griffin, Harris and Strippoli will always be about the Section 1 and Region 1 titles they procured, but the second state jewel -- under their command -- would cement it.

"Kailah played hurt and was crying half the game due to the pain," Ricci said. "Ursuline, give them credit, went from



Very few people in the history of Somers basketball have meant more to the program than Tusker senior G Hannah Angelini.

in their eyes should only be measured against the greatness of their careers for actual perspective. This dynamic duo, which produced a sectional title and state Final 4 run in 2017, a sectional Final 4 in 2018 and a runner-up status in 2019, will likely go down in Somers history as its finest backcourt tandem, and that's saying something given the history of former recent guards like Gabby Rosenzweig and Liv Lipski, among others.

"They're hurting right now, upset and bummed out, but when I get the chance to sit down with them they only thing I can tell them is thank you and love you and give them a hug," Somers Coach Marc Hattem said after the toughest loss of his coaching career, which included a very controversial shot-clock/jump ball violation that went against the Tuskers in the waning seconds. "I hope those words will mean a lot. It was a tough call in the end, and we're not supposed to complain about the officials, so we won't do it."

It left one to wonder if the better team actually won after Somers squandered and eight-point, fourth-quarter lead without several players at full health.

"I think you're right," Hattem said. "It's tough. We made a couple of mistakes at the end and they beat us up on the boards a little bit and I feel like things just unraveled on us at the end; not having Taylor (injured in the first half) and Dani going down in the fourth really hurt our chances."

Little more than five years ago, Somers didn't have a prayer, much less a chance. Angelini will pass the torch to DiCintio now, but their chances are cut in half without her. Here's to a great career...

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