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FREE

August 27 - September 2, 2019

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 11, Issue 505

Owner Vows to Rebuild Landmark Diner After Fire

BY RICK PEZZULLO

The owner of one of Ossining's most noticeable and frequented landmarks that was destroyed by a raging fire last Thursday is vowing to rebuild.

Aristidis Thanos, who has owned The Landmark Diner on Route 9 in Ossining for the past 17 years, thanked first responders for their efforts and the community for their support following the blaze that reduced the eatery across the street from

the Arcadian Shopping Center to a charred pile of rubble.

"Today has been a difficult day for the Landmark Diner team and the entire Thanos Restaurant Group family," Thanos posted in a Facebook message. "We will rally through this tragedy and come out on the other side stronger than before. The show must go on, and so, we will rebuild our much-loved diner into a true 'Landmark' again."

The blaze started shortly after 9 a.m. August 22 in the

kitchen and quickly spread throughout the structure as flames poured through the roof and blew out windows.

Patrons eating in the diner and employees fled the building when the fire broke out. No injuries were reported. However, four firefighters were transported to Phelps Hospital in Sleepy Hollow, suffering from heat and smoke-related issues. Approximately 75 firefighters from Ossining, Briarcliff, Croton,

Continued on page 2



PHOTO COURTESY OSSINING POLICE DEPARTMENT

Flames ripped through the roof of The Landmark Diner in Ossining last Thursday.

Crowning Moments

Jefferson Valley resident Nicole Sibiski enjoyed a successful summer being crowned Supreme 2019 Ms. Patriotic Model of the Year East Coast National Queen by scoring the highest among 381 contestants, and being named Ms. Culture Galaxy 2020 at a separate pageant earlier this month.



Local Leaders Gather to Denounce Hate Stickers

BY RICK PEZZULLO

Local leaders from Peekskill, Ossining and Croton-on-Hudson gathered Sunday morning outside Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church in Peekskill to denounce hate stickers found last week in two different locations in the city.

The message of the stickers, the first of which was spotted by a transgender individual, was anti-immigrant white supremacy with a website that touts a white nationalist, white supremacist point of view, according to State Senator Peter Harkham (D/40th Senate District).

"Today we are here to simply say no to hate. No way, no how," Harkham said to a crowd of about 50 local residents. "Not in Westchester, not in the Hudson Valley. It's disgusting, it's abhorrent, it's cowardly. It's against everything we stand for. Diversity is our strength."

One of the stickers, reported Friday, was deliberately pasted over a Pride

sticker at The Rift, a gaming store in Peekskill. Another sticker was seen earlier in the week on a pole next to 1 Park in Place. The Peekskill Police Department is currently conducting an investigation, according to Mayor Andre Rainey, who appeared at the press conference with the majority of the Common Council, including Councilwoman Vanessa Agudelo, who wore a tee-shirt that read "Always Anti-Fascist."

"What good is a diverse city if we can't appreciate diversity?" Rainey remarked. "We stand together as a united people in this city. With the great accomplishments we've made, we must send a message for the entire world to see - we will not tolerate hate in our community. Everyone is welcomed here, and I will continue to stand and fight for the rights of all, through love and unity."

Displays of hate have also found their way into Ossining and Croton. A few

Continued on page 2

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Local Leaders Gather to Denounce Hate Stickers

Continued from page 1

weeks ago in Ossining, a noose was found in a waterfront park.

"This just can't be tolerated," said Ossining Town Supervisor Dana Levenberg. "We must come together to disavow these propagations of hate and stand strong in our beliefs that the goodness in our innate common humanity can and shall overcome."

"We can't let people do the things they are doing. We live in the greatest country ever. It was founded for its diversity," said State Assemblywoman Sandy Galef (D/Ossining). "That's what makes our country great. That what makes Peekskill so great."

Besides elected officials, also represented at the event were the NAACP, Black Diamonds,

Loft of Westchester, Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church and the Peekskill Hispanic Coalition.

"We stand up today to say we won't tolerate it. We will stand up against it," said Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church Pastor Rev. Gary Colter. "The love of God is stronger than anything in this world. There will be no hate in Peekskill. We in Peekskill will show the world how to love."



State Assemblywoman Sandy Galef showcases youngsters holding signs at rally.



PHOTOS BY RICK PEZZULLO

State Senator Peter Harkham and other local leaders stand outside Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church in Peekskill Sunday.

Diner Owner Vows to Rebuild

Continued from page 1

Chappaqua and Pleasantville battled the fire for several hours and were still on site after dark.

"My heart goes out to the owners of Landmark Diner," Ossining Mayor Victoria Gearity posted on Facebook. "Thank you for providing a space for so many meals shared with family, friends, colleagues, teammates, prospective hires, and even political rivals. Best wishes with the difficult journey ahead. Thank you to our first responders."

As always, we hope for your safety."

Thanos stated Landmark staff will have the opportunity to work at one of the other Thanos Restaurant Group locations, which are The Stamford in Stamford, CT and The Mirage Restaurant & Café in New Rochelle.

The Gullotta House, a non-profit organization that provides aid to residents of Westchester County who face hardships, is accepting donations that will go to the Landmark employees.

"The community will rally

for Landmark Diner employees and their families," said Matthew Gullotta, founder and President of the Gullotta House charity. "Ari Thanos and his staff have very generously given to all of us for years. It's time for us to band together and help this family in need! All donations received will go to the employees who are now without work or an income."

Donations for Landmark employees can be made at the Gullotta House website <https://gullottahouse.org/>.



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Do you Have a Child Starting College?

Know the signs of a mental health crisis – and best ways to help...

Q: Why do many college students develop mental health problems?

A: Students are more vulnerable to serious mental illness for many reasons. It's the added stress of a new environment and new expectations, right when they've left behind their support system. They're freer now – but less structure can be daunting. Socially and sexually, they're still figuring out who they are. And substance use is prevalent on campuses, which can trigger mental illness in someone with a predisposition.

Today, the pressures on young people are intense. Getting into college is more stressful. Social media ramps up the stress. Everyone's projecting their best self on the Internet, creating an unrealistic standard to live up to. In many teens, that badly damages self-esteem.

Q: What signs should I look for?

A: Look for changes. Has your child has been texting you every few days, then for a week... silence? Do they sound less open? Have they gained or lost a lot of weight? Stopped grooming themselves? After doing well initially, are they failing classes?

Q: What can I do to help?

A: Your relationship with your child in college will echo the one you had with them in high school. So work on that before your kid goes away. Have frank chats about your worries, even if you're doing all the talking.

Establish an understanding before they leave home. For example, agree to text every three or four days. Once they're at school, it helps to communicate with their friends, but never behind your child's back. That erodes trust – and trust is vital as you monitor how they're doing. Your gut tells you something's wrong? Be transparent with your child. Say, "You don't sound like yourself. What's going on?" If they insist they're fine and tell you not to visit, assert yourself as the parent: "I'm sorry. I'm paying for this. I'm coming up."

If you think there could be a real danger, call the campus health services and safety services. And immediately visit. The worst thing is to not be proactive.

NRC Meeting on Indian Pt to be Held in Oct

BY RICK PEZZULLO

The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will be holding a public meeting on the decommissioning of the Indian Point nuclear power plants in October in Cortlandt.

Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-NY17/Rockland-Westchester) announced last week NRC officials notified her office that the meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 2 at the Muriel Morabito Community Center on Westbrook Drive from 6 to 9 p.m.

"As Indian Point is decommissioned, it is essential that federal partners do everything possible to protect the safety of the surrounding community and help mitigate the economic impact of the plants' closure," Lowey said. "This meeting will ensure that local stakeholders – from elected officials to concerned residents and neighbors – can voice their concerns and make requests for necessary assistance directly to NRC."

Earlier this year, the NRC, which oversees the operations of the nuclear facility in the Village of Buchanan, solicited public comments on potential locations for public meetings to discuss best practices for community engagement panels near nuclear power plants facing decommissioning. These meetings will be part of the NRC's process to meeting a reporting requirement to Congress which was included in the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act, passed in December 2018 and signed into law in January 2019.

According to NRC, it will develop a report on best practices for community engagement panels in areas surrounding nuclear power plants that have ceased operations and begun decommissioning in consultation with states, surrounding communities, and local advisory boards.

Lowey, Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi and Buchanan Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker all requested that NRC hold one of the meetings in Cortlandt based on the impact on their communities, which face the closure of the Indian Point facility in the coming years and the loss of millions of tax revenue.

"I am pleased that the NRC heard us all and that the meeting will be in the

community where the plant is located," Knickerbocker said. "I encourage residents to come out and participate in the meeting. This is your community."

"I hope everyone who has concerns about the closure of Indian Point – whether they're about safety, jobs, or redevelopment – will come tell NRC directly about what would be most helpful to our community in the coming years as Indian Point closes," Lowey added. "With input from the public, we can put pressure on NRC to provide what we and other communities facing nuclear plant closures need to ensure our ongoing physical and economic security."

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

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Peekskill Has Big Plans for \$10M to Spruce Up City

BY RICK PEZZULLO

Now that the City of Peekskill has secured \$10 million from New York State as the Mid-Hudson winner of a Downtown Revitalization Initiative, Mayor Andre Rainey and City Manager Richard Leins are euphoric about the improvements being envisioned for the city in the near future.

Rainey, accompanied by Leins, conducted a media tour last week in the downtown to highlight where the funding may be utilized.

One of the priorities for city officials is to link the downtown

area with the waterfront, and Rainey sees Central Avenue as a key component in accomplishing that goal, saying "This would be like our Las Vegas strip."

Other than adding signage, Rainey and Leins were short on details. Peekskill officials will now begin developing a Strategic Investment Plan with up to \$300,000 from the grant. A local planning committee comprised of municipal representatives, community leaders and other stakeholders will lead the effort, with the assistance of a team of private sector experts and state planners.

The Strategic Investment Plan

will look at local assets and opportunities and identify economic development, transportation, housing and community projects that align with the city's vision for downtown revitalization. The process is expected to begin in September.

Leins said more than 100 municipalities applied for the grant in the Mid-Hudson region and attributed Peekskill's success this year, its fourth attempt at the funding, simply to "we had a very good presentation."

Rainey said he learned that Peekskill was chosen the second week of July but was sworn to secrecy by state officials. Governor Andrew Cuomo officially announced the good news August 13 at The Hudson Room in Peekskill.

"We are very thankful for it," Rainey said. "The governor has shown an interest in Peekskill, visiting here several times."

Even though the city was awarded the money, the state still must approve the projects. "They want to make sure we are spending it on what we said we would," Rainey said. "They have to oversee it."

One of the city-owned buildings that will receive attention is



PHOTO BY RICK PEZZULLO

Peekskill Mayor Andre Rainey led a media tour of the downtown last week.

the historic Paramount Theatre on Brown Street. According to Leins, some improvements may be made to the marquee, seating and beverage area.

"It's vital to our city, one of the valuable parts of our downtown," Rainey said. "Updating this theater would be one of the greatest things we can do."

Upgrading the parking garage across from C-Town is also on the city's radar, with painting, lighting

and signage all on the table for discussion.

"Improving the quality of life, making Peekskill a walkable city," Rainey said. "There is parking, you just have to know where to find it."

Rainey said community input would play a key role in how the \$10 million is ultimately spent.

"We have to see how each one (project) costs and what the community wants," Rainey said.



Paramount Theater is slated to receive several upgrades.

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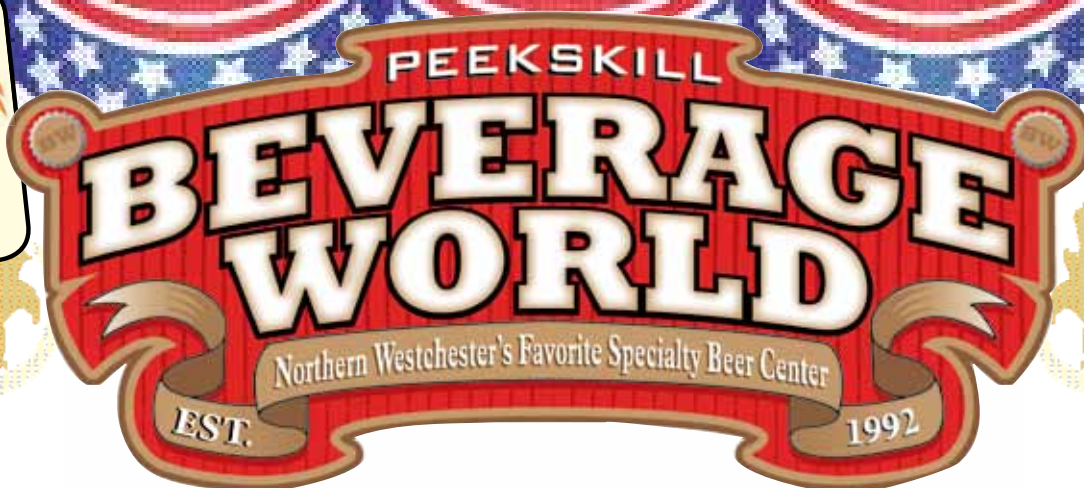


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Residents Reminded to Take Precautions Against Mosquitoes

Westchester County Executive George Latimer is urging residents to follow the Health Department's West Nile Virus prevention advice to avoid mosquito bites by removing standing water after it rains and using repellents.

"Mosquitoes are mostly a nuisance, but they can carry diseases, including West Nile Virus," Latimer said. "To keep mosquitoes from breeding and biting us in our own backyards, once the rain stops, pour out standing water and remove or turn over items such as kiddie pools, wheelbarrows and watering cans. To keep you and your family safer when spending time outdoors, it's also a good idea to wear repellents."

Although there have been no cases of West Nile Virus in New York State as of August 22, the Westchester County Department of Health is highlighting these prevention recommendations now because Rockland, Nassau and Suffolk counties and New York City have identified mosquitoes with West Nile Virus, in a combined 218

batches of mosquitoes. While no mosquitoes in Westchester County have yet tested positive for the virus, out of the 181 batches of mosquitoes tested since June 13, the Health Department expects to find them here soon.

"Given the fact that our neighbors have reported positive mosquitoes, it is safe to assume that mosquitoes carrying West Nile virus are also here in Westchester County," said Sherlita Amler, MD, Commissioner of Health. "Rain provides optimal breeding conditions for mosquitoes that can carry the virus. Mosquitoes bite close to where they breed, which is why it's so important to remove standing water around your home and to use repellents, especially from dawn to dusk, when mosquitoes are most active."

West Nile Virus infection most often causes a mild or moderate flu-like illness, but can be more serious particularly for people 60 and older, and those with other health complications.

To reduce the chances for mosquitoes to breed and bite around your home, watch this brief video on the Department of Health website at <http://health.westchestergov.com/west-nile-virus> and follow these tips:

- Avoid the outdoors in the late afternoon and early evening when mosquitoes are active and feeding, and use insect repellents when outdoors during these times. Be sure to follow the instructions on the label.
- Adults can apply insect repellents with up to 30 percent DEET on infants over two months of age by applying the product to their own hands and then rubbing their hands on their children. Products containing DEET are not recommended for use on children under two months of age.
- Wear protective clothing, such as long pants, long-sleeved shirts and socks, when outdoors, especially in areas where mosquitoes are active and feeding.
- Check around your property for tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots or similar water-holding containers that

should be discarded or turned over to prevent collecting water.

- Check and remove standing water from children's toys and play houses left outside.
- Remove discarded tires.
- Drill holes in the bottoms of all recycling containers that are left outdoors.
- Turn over plastic wading pools, buckets and wheelbarrows when not in use.
- Change the water in birdbaths at least twice weekly.
- Keep storm drains and gutters clear of leaves and debris.
- Even with the swimming season over, continue to chlorinate swimming pools, outdoor spas and hot tubs until properly winterized or drained for the season. Also, if not chlorinated, drain any water that collects on their covers.

Residents who notice large areas of standing water on public property should report them to the Westchester County Department of Health at (914) 813-5000.

MTA Inspector General Releases Report Regarding Theft

MTA Inspector General Carolyn Pokorny last week released an investigative report regarding allegations that a Metro-North Railroad (MNR) employee stole various items from a storeroom at Croton-Harmon Yard. The investigation, which came about from an anonymous complaint

to the OIG's tip line and was done in conjunction with the MTA Police Department (MTAPD), included testimony that it was "common knowledge in the storeroom, and a running joke" that the employee was stealing MNR property, such as multiple rolls of toilet paper, batteries, paint brushes

and trays for use at the employee's rental properties, and tools. The investigation additionally found that the employee's supervisor failed to report the theft as required and did not adequately supervise the employee.

"When someone steals from the MTA

they are also stealing from riders and taxpayers," MTA Inspector General Carolyn Pokorny said. "While I believe the vast majority of MTA employees are hardworking and honest, individual instances of misconduct such as this violate the public trust

Continued on page 7

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Obituaries

Doratheia Allen

Doratheia Allen, a longtime resident of Yorktown, died August 19. She was 83.

She was born August 25, 1935 in Hackensack NJ to Rev. Dr. Edward and Wilomena Miller. She married Edgar Allen on June 22, 1958. She is survived by her husband, sons Paul Allen (Carrienne), Jon Allen (Evelyn) and daughter Laurie Allen and a sister Grace Hallahan. Also survived by three grandchildren, Jessica Ritter, Michael Allen and Katherine Allen, and one great-grandson Lucas Ritter.

Richard Sullivan

Richard R. Sullivan, a resident of Somers, died August 19. He was 88.

He was born in Bronxville March 21, 1931 to David and Alice Sullivan. He was a U.S. Army veteran. Mr. Sullivan was a lithographer for the Amalgamated Lithographers Union in New York City for many years until his retirement.

He was a devoted Giants fan; he could build and fix anything. He loved reading, traditional Irish music, softball, golf and his family.

He is survived by his wife: Martha M. (Buckley) Sullivan; children David, Patrick,

Eileen, Richard and Martha; and grandchildren Fenton and Cormac Lio.

Agatha Campbell

Agatha (Tina) Campbell, a resident of Montrose, died peacefully August 21 at her home surrounded by her loved ones. She was 93.

She was born July 25, 1926 in the Bronx, to Santa and Gaetano Distefano. She was a 65-year resident of Montrose and a longtime parishioner at St. Patrick's Church in Verplanck. She was devoted to making a happy and loving home for her husband and children. Her family and friends adored her and she delighted them with contagious laughter and a sense of humor often salted with choice Sicilian expressions. Her smile brought instant warmth to any room.

She was predeceased by her loving husband of 69 years, James Campbell. She is survived by her four children and their spouses, Mark (Barbara) Campbell, Ellen Campbell, James (Elizabeth Mackey) Campbell and Elizabeth (Eric) Kelly. "Booma" was cherished by six grandchildren, Elizabeth (Greg) Doell, Caitlin (Jason) Scheir, Alexander (Ella) Campbell, Heather Kelly, Matthew Kelly and Kristen Kelly and eight great-grandchildren, Caley, Emlyn and Avery Doell, Rowan, Sienna

and Nathan Scheir, and Penelope and Matilda Campbell. She is also survived by her brother John Distefano of Dobbs Ferry.

Marie Haritos

Marie (Enzor) Haritos, a resident of Yorktown, died peacefully August 20 at home surrounded by her family. She was 89.

Born on September 26, 1929 in Brooklyn, to Rush and Angelina (Piccininni) Enzor, she married the love of her life, Anthony Haritos on May 28, 1950, and they shared an unbreakable bond until his death on January 13, 2019.

An ageless beauty, she was a much-loved matriarch to her extended family—a wife, mother, grandmother, sister, beloved aunt and friend to all. She selflessly lived her life with love, elegance, grace and dignity, which was reflected in everything she did.

She is survived by her three children, Stephanie, Nina and Michael; devoted daughter-in-law, Sheryl; cherished granddaughter, Talia; sister, Sara Xifo and numerous well-loved nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Tony; parents; sisters, Charlotte and ToniAnn; brother, Robert; son-in-law,

Dennis Janis (Nina); brother-in-law, Tony Xifo and nephew, Gary Xifo.

George Puella

George Enrique Puella, a resident of Croton-on-Hudson, died August 21. He was 73.

Born June 11, 1946., Mr. Puella was best known for his work at Westchester Broadway Theatre in Elmsford where he served as Artistic Director for more than 25 years. He also worked extensively in theater throughout Westchester County, New York State and New Jersey. He loved teaching theater as much as he loved directing, choreographing and designing sets. He taught many who enjoyed Broadway stardom, and was most proud of creating the Westchester Dreamcoats singers, which included children of varying ages and backgrounds. He was the composer of numerous musical plays, including Cleopatra and Parusia.

Mr. Puella is survived by his sister Oneida, brothers Jose and Cesar, nieces Arianna, Zunie and Millicent and nephew Gaar. He was predeceased by his partner Joseph Panko. The family would like to thank the friends, students, performers and associates who knew George and shared in his love of life and theater.

Club Fit Donates Windscreens to Yorktown Pickleball Courts

Club Fit recently donated protective windscreens to put the finishing touch on the new pickleball courts at the Granite Knolls Sports & Recreation Complex in Yorktown.

The Town of Yorktown recently unveiled brand new outdoor pickleball courts at the Granite Knolls Sports & Recreation Complex. Pickleball is the fastest-growing sport in the U.S. This fun, social game blends elements of tennis, racquetball, and ping-pong. The local pickleball community was excited to have this new space, but outdoor play can present challenges, one of which is wind.

Having managed outdoor tennis courts for over 45 years, Club Fit has plenty of experience handling wind and weather issues. Club Fit founding partner and avid pickleball enthusiast Beth Beck had the solution — windscreens. At Beth's sug-

gestion, Club Fit offered to donate these for the town courts. Beck enjoys being active and is always looking for new and fun ways to stay healthy. "Club Fit has offered indoor pickleball to our members at both locations for several years. These local outdoor courts are a great addition to our community resources, and I'm glad we can be a part of that," Beck said.

Club Fit's vice president Ellen Koelsch was instrumental in coordinating the project. "Club Fit is happy to donate these windscreens to Yorktown's pickleball courts. We believe that including regular exercise in your life will give you more quality time with friends and loved ones," Koelsch said.

Visit yorktownny.org to learn more about the town's recreation facilities. Visit clubfit.com/pickleball for more information on pickleball programs at Club Fit.



[L-R] Pickleball enthusiasts Ralph Masca, Ellen Withers, Alice Ahearn, Lorraine Murrau, Helena Rodriguez, John Rice, and John Doherty pose after a game in front of the new windscreen donated by Club Fit.

MTA Releases Report

Continued from page 6

and distract from the MTA's purpose of providing a safe, reliable, affordable, and accessible transit system. I thank the MTA Police Department for their assistance on this matter, and applaud the anonymous complainant for coming forward and helping us put an end to this unacceptable behavior. We will continue to investigate allegations of wrongdoing to send a message that misconduct will not be tolerated."

Based on the investigation, the employee was charged with two misdemeanors which were resolved with an adjournment in contemplation of dismissal and MNR brought a series of disciplinary charges against the employee. Although the employee resigned during the investigation, the OIG recommended to MNR to place the report in the employee's file and in addition, recommended that the employee's supervisor receive appropriate discipline.

Michael Irving Buchwald, Christian Xavier Gummerson and Joseph Richard Volpato of Boy Scout Troop 165 (shown with Yorktown Councilman Vishnu Patel) recently celebrated their Eagle Scout Court of Honor. For their projects, Buchwald built a six-sided Peace Pole in front of Temple Beth Am in Yorktown; Gummerson created a maker's space for John C. Hart Memorial Library; and Volpato built and installed four little free libraries.



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



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Letters to the Editor

It's a Shutout for Gilbert in Yorktown

To the Editor:

Someone recently wrote a letter to the editor using a baseball metaphor on behalf of their candidate for Yorktown Town Supervisor. It's a good metaphor because it can easily represent who's winning and who's losing. And Supervisor Gilbert is the clear winner and here's the play by play.

The challenger is Mr. Slater who claims to have been the driving force behind former Senator Murphy. Let's look at the stats:

- Mr. Slater was out when he claimed the town should have pursued a grant that it didn't even qualify for. And if it were as he claimed then as the former State Senator's 'go to' person he should have pursued it instead of waiting to pass blame;
- He was out when he claimed the town should notify residents when it uses pesticides on public property. But he clearly didn't know the score because the town

hasn't used pesticides since 2009;

- He was out again when he claimed he would create a veteran's council in 2020. But he clearly didn't know the score because Senator Harkham had already started a more comprehensive Veterans Council with input from Supervisor Gilbert;
- He's also been called out for stating that Yorktown needs to automate. But he clearly didn't know that the Town Clerk Diana Quast has digitized over 1 million documents and that dog licensing and water bill payment are now online. If successful, it most likely others will follow;
- But even more important the Mobile Clerks office was established for those people that can't easily visit Town Hall and aren't computer savvy.

In the meantime, Supervisor Gilbert continues to score runs because he's working for all of us. Some of the runs he's scored include:

- Increasing money for road paving;
- Creating an effective Economic Development and Revitalization Committee and following through on its recommendations;
- Adding school resource officers for safety;
- Rehabilitating ignored tennis courts;
- Negotiating a pilot tree cutting programs with Con Ed;
- Replacing leaking roofs at town hall, police headquarters and the town courthouse;
- Getting NYSEG to hold a rate increase hearing in Yorktown;
- Submitted grant applications for Mohegan lake, new recreation facilities and sewers;
- Successfully negotiated an additional money from Enbridge for infrastructure;
- Rehabilitation of sewer pump stations and upgrades at other sewer facilities;

And Supervisor has not only won, he's won by being a good sport and returning civility and transparency to town affairs.

ROBERT KEARNEY

Working Women Need Apply in Yorktown

To the Editor:

We thank the Lindholms for their recent letter in the Examiner, which questioned our skills, experience and commitment to Yorktown and asserts that because we are first time candidates, we are less qualified than the well-worn incumbents.

The letter suggests that service on the PTA and in scouting do not qualify as "important service clubs." We couldn't disagree more. Good schools mean higher property values. Parent volunteers serve as the watchdogs, advocates and glue that bond communities together— invaluable service by every measure.

This effort to dismiss our service as merely being a "good parent" is not only condescending, but is out of step with our community's values and an insult to all volunteers.

They suggest that our lack of prior political experience disqualifies us. We disagree. We have decades of professional experience and problem solving skills in addition to a fresh perspective, new ideas and true bipartisanship.

They instruct us to do our "homework." They should do theirs. Trish Sullivan-Rothberg is a documentary film distributor who navigates a demanding business world

every day. Sheralyn Goodman is an experienced lawyer and administrator in law enforcement.

Curiously, they endorsed the Republican challenger for Supervisor, citing no professional experience, accomplishments or community service, referring to him as a "good family man". Why the double standard? Yorktowners can see this double standard for what it is and will make their decision accordingly, on November 5th.

**PATRICIA SULLIVAN-ROTHBERG
AND SHERALYN GOODMAN
Proud First Time Candidates for
Yorktown Town Board**

Putting Trust in Proven Peekskill Team

To the Editor:

Thanks for the great front page coverage of the well-deserved \$10M grant the Peekskill Community received from the State as the winner of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative. As Mayor Rainey stated, we now have an opportunity to build on what we've accomplished and forge a great new future for our community.

But to underscore that point, that win against stiff competition from nine other municipalities was not accidental. As the governor made clear in his presentation "Peekskill proposed a brilliant plan that builds on their natural resourcesa

magnet that draws people and businesses to the area....they demonstrated the have the secret ingredient: the capacity to get it done."

That pretty accurately summarizes the submission that was the work of a team comprised of our Administration, Mayor, Deputy Mayor Council persons, city manager and staffers, working in concert to submit a winning proposal.....a pragmatic plan that was economically sound and environmentally sensitive, with realistic initiatives and imaginative in its scope.

In the wake of that ceremony, among the multitude of cheering attendees, the only disappointing note sounded was the

dire and politically motivated commentary voiced by Mayoral candidate Vesce. He disingenuously suggested that the same Democrat team that initiated this proposal and brought home the \$10M win could not be trusted it be "spent effectively and efficiently" and that he and his team were best equipped to "optimize" the funding.

The next time I personally receive a windfall, I'll be sure to give Peekskill Together a call....or not. I think my confidence will remain with a proven entity—a team that brought us to the dance.

Respectfully,

**JAY FORBES
Peekskill**

Showing a United Front Against Bigotry

To the Editor:

Sen. Peter Harkham and Peekskill Mayor Andre Rainey invited me and other local leaders to the Mount Lebanon Church on Sunday to respond to a white supremacist sticker and other signs of hate that have shown up in the area in re-

cent months.

The sticker was found last week on a store in Peekskill, plastered on top of the store's pride sign.

Hatred anywhere is a threat to tolerance everywhere. Thank you to Mayor Andre Rainey, Senator Peter Harkham,

and the Mount Lebanon congregation for organizing such a strong united front against bigotry.

The troubled individual behind this act of vandalism should know that they have failed. In trying to divide our communi-

Continued on page 10



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Letters to the Editor

Monitoring Incident of 'Noose' Found in Ossining Park

To the Editor:

The Ossining NAACP Branch was notified on Wednesday evening, July 31, 2019, of a rope hanging from a tree in the form of a noose at Louis Engel Waterfront Park. The incident was immediately reported to News Channel 12, who notified the Ossining Police Department. Two detectives and the Chief of Police responded and met with officers of the Ossining NAACP. It was stressed that the police take this type of incident seriously

and that it be thoroughly investigated.

Historically, the sight of a noose, whether it is a large or small rope (or a string as it was referred to by the letter from the Ossining Mayor and Town Supervisor), is a sign of racial divide and has the same symbolic representation in the Black community as the sight of a swastika in a Jewish community. Therefore, it is imperative that this image be addressed in the same manner as any other racially charged symbol.

Members of the NAACP and Ossining clergy met with Police Chief Kevin Sylvester on Thursday, August 1, 2019, to stress the importance of handling this investigation as he would any other high profile incident. On August 2, letters from the Village and Town of Ossining and from clergy and leaders of the Ossining community were issued to insure the community that racial divide will not be tolerated in our community. The Ossining NAACP has added its

voice to this claim. We want all members of our community to feel that they live in a safe, loving community that honors their contributions.

The Ossining NAACP will continue to monitor the progress of the Police Department's investigation and will keep you, the community, informed.

Sincerely,

Ossining NAACP Branch Executive Committee

Thanks for the Coverage

To the Editor:

I would like to thank you for your article on the race for Westchester County's 9th district legislative race. As you and your readers well know there are many important issues facing the 9th district and Westchester County as a whole. I think that the democratic process can only benefit from a well-educated electorate; I agree with Catherine that there should be a healthy debate of the issues

that concern the district and the county. I would like to suggest that the Northern Westchester Examiner host a Candidates' Forum. Let me know if that is something the paper could do. Thanks again for your coverage and interest in this race.

ROBERT J. OUTHOUSE
Candidate---Westchester County
Legislator District 9

Showing a United Front Against Bigotry

Continued from page 8

ties, they have only succeeded in uniting us. We've learned the lessons of history: appeasement only emboldens extremists. We will not turn a blind eye towards prejudice and allow it to grow and spread.

In recent years, an embittered minority has lashed out in dramatic and

sometimes deadly ways. However, this small-minded bigot's attempts to stir up hate will ultimately be useless in the face of a unified majority committed to equal rights and social justice.

Sincerely,

BRIAN PUGH
Croton Mayor

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REVISED SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE
FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 2 - 6
NO COLLECTIONS ON SEPTEMBER 2ND
LABOR DAY

<div style="background-color: #ff0000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> RECYCLING </div> <p>MONDAY collection will be on Tuesday, Sept. 3</p> <p>TUESDAY collection will be on Wednesday, Sept. 4</p> <p>No changes for regular Thursday & Friday collections</p>	<div style="background-color: #0000ff; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Kitchen Refuse <u>Monday & Thursday</u> </div> <p>collection will be on: Tuesday, Sept. 3 & Thursday, Sept. 5</p> <div style="background-color: #0000ff; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <u>Tuesday & Friday</u> </div> <p>collection will be on: Wednesday, Sept. 4 & Friday, Sept. 6</p>
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NOTE: Recyclables in Plastic Bags will not be collected!

*** FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH • 7:30 – 2:30 ***

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TV, laptop, monitor, VCR,
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Inside Featuring:

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Sticky Nonsense
ft. Matt Crossett, Tori Ciarcia, and Tim Stout
Mark McIntyre Syndicate

Sunday, September 1st

Business of the Week

BY NEAL RENTZ

Buchanan residents Michael and Jenn Saladino explained why they named their new business Old Skool Pizza.

"In the Urban Dictionary the definition of Old Skool is old but cool when you spell it with a k," Ms. Saladino said last week, adding, "It's like a nice twist on his pizza recipe which is based on a nostalgia that he has."

"I use a starter or mother dough. So, I actually have a starter that is six or seven years old," Mr. Saladino said. "It's mainly risen from a natural starter. So, it's got a bit of a sourdough flavor to it. So, the crust has its own flavor, its own texture."

"This is the original way that pizza dough was made versus now. People sort of make it in one day. It doesn't have time to rise," Ms. Saladino said. "Because he uses the natural starter the crust itself gets a lot more flavor because he lets it rise for at least two days."

"The longer the dough gets to rise the more texture the dough gets, the more flavor it gets from the fermentation," Mr. Saladino said.

The Old Skool pizza dough becomes "light and airy with a nice crisp edge," Ms. Saladino said. Many customers have told the Saladinos that they serve the pizza "like



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Old Skool Pizza opened in the Cortlandt Town Center about a month ago. Shown above are the co-owners Buchanan residents Michael and Jenn Saladino. Also shown above is their daughter, Mikayla.

I used to get," she said.

Old Skool Pizza, which opened about a month ago in the Cortlandt Town Center, is the first business the Saladinos have owned. "I've been a pizza nerd for years and years and have always wanted to do it," Mr. Saladino said. "I worked in the entertainment industry. I worked as a video editor in television. I did a lot of work for The His-

tory Channel and A&E." He was an Emmy Award-winning editor, his wife noted.

While working in the television industry for many years at home, Mr. Saladino used to make pizzas, he said. "I spent years and years in our kitchen at home" coming up with his own sauces and doughs, Mr. Saladino said.

With the backing of his wife, Mr. Saladi-

no decided to open his own pizzeria. "I believed in the product," Ms. Saladino said.

Family members cook in and run the new eatery, Mr. Saladino said. Mr. Saladino said among the most popular pizzas are the white pies. The white pizza features ricotta, mozzarella and Pecorino cheeses as well as caramelized onions, Ms. Saladino said, "It's not a traditional white pizza," she said.

Mr. Saladino said Sicilian is another popular pizza. "It's a very light, airy Sicilian. It's not super dense," he said, adding the pie is cooked three times to allow more moisture to leave the dough.

Mr. Saladino said his favorite slice is the traditional, which can be topped with fresh basil.

Aside from pizza some of the other food options include chicken wings, wedges and calzones.

"We're trying to stay away from too many dishes because we want to stay as fresh as we can,"

Mr. Saladino said. "We don't consider ourselves an Italian restaurant. We're more of a pizzeria. It's pizza first and foremost."

Old Skool Pizza is located in the Cortlandt Town Center at 3121 E. Main St. (Route 6) in Cortlandt. For more information call 914-743-1811 or visit <https://www.oldschoolpizza.com/menu-old-skool-pizza>. The business is also on Facebook and Instagram.



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How Two Sisters from Ecuador Who were Helped by Westchester's Open Door Medical Center Came to Work There

It's more than simply a feeling of compassion that Andrea Ruggiero and Grace Battaglia share for the young immigrant children they see filling the waiting rooms at Open Door Medical Centers in Westchester and Putnam.

It's a sense of déjà vu.

Open Door Family Medical Centers provides primary care, dental care, integrated behavioral health services, clinical nutrition, wellness programs and chronic disease management every year to nearly 57,000 children and adults who might not otherwise have access to health care. Many of these families are Spanish speaking from Central and South America.

Flash back to the early 1990s. This is when eight-year Andrea and five-year-old Grace Beltran, pretty dark-eyed sisters who recently arrived with their parents from Ecuador, were first introduced to Open Door in Ossining for their checkups and sick visits. Speaking little English, they lived with their parents and assorted relatives in a tiny walkup apartment above a bicycle shop in Chappaqua. Their parents had chosen this affluent town because they wanted to give their girls the best chance at a quality education and a better life.

"They really made it a priority that we lived in a town with one of the best school districts, even though there were challenges because the rent may have been higher and the family had to share a bedroom," said Battaglia, who today is Director of Marketing at Open Door.

"I think it was challenging in that our friends had more, but we were never really made to feel that we were different," said Ruggiero, now Vice President, Community Health for Open Door. "We always felt included. The community was always kind to us."

They were the only Spanish-speaking children in their school, taking ESL classes with one other student, a Japanese boy. It was at this time that their parents started a housecleaning service. During the summers and after school the girls would occasionally help out – Battaglia remembers helping her parents clean the spacious home of a classmate. Their parents bartered cleaning services for their own English lessons with the school's ESL teacher, bringing home children's workbooks that their daughters would pour over with them. In the summers, with their friends at summer camp and their parents at work, the girls spent most days at the library where they read books and took advantage of the air conditioning.

"You can't allow these things to define you," said Battaglia. "You are defined by how you handle those circumstances rather than the circumstances themselves. We knew that one day we would have the opportunities that everyone else had. We were always of that mindset."

Open Door became a constant in their lives, even when they moved several years later to a bigger apartment in Armonk. They grew attached to their Open Door pediatrician Dr. Romulo Guzman, who



Andrea Ruggiero and Grace Battaglia

worked in the Ossining site. Later, as teenagers, when their father started to show signs of a form of muscular dystrophy that would eventually leave him unable to work, the girls served as his interpreters when he visited his Open Door physicians.

"Grace and I always had each other for support, we always had each other at the end of the day," said Ruggiero, who is a little more reserved than her ebullient sister. "We never really felt alone. I don't know what we would have done without the other."

After graduating high school, Ruggiero attended Manhattanville College in Purchase, commuting from home as "Our dad never really wanted us to go far away. We were not allowed to sleep out of the house." She always had a strong sense of giving something back to others. Graduating with a degree in psychology, she got her first full-time job in a place that was familiar to her – at Open Door, working as an HIV case manager.

"This was 2004, and I absolutely fell in love with that program and the work that was being done at Open Door," she said. "A lot of the work I did was around care coordination. It was about providing wrap around services to patients who needed the extra support. Whether it was through patient advocacy or case management, it was about making sure patients had everything they needed to have a better chance at success with in their health care needs"

This meant exploring her patients' housing issues. Helping them afford their copays. Looking at food insecurity. In short, she was responsible for putting in place the support systems that would allow patients to focus on their health.

Not everyone in her family was happy with her career choice. "My father was fur-

ious with my degree; he had always wanted me to be a lawyer," she recalled. "He said, 'What are you doing to do with that degree? You are never going to make any money.'"

This did not seem to be an issue with her sister. After choosing not to attend NYU at the 11th hour – and leaving school weighed down with student debt – Battaglia too received a scholarship to enter Manhattanville College. She majored in finance, graduating with a near perfect GPA, and a lucrative job offer from a financial lender to work in marketing.

"The job required a lot of traveling – it was very isolating and I found finance to be very dry," she said. "It just wasn't fulfilling to me. I needed more."

Several months later at Ruggiero's wedding she met Lindsay Farrell, Open Door's president and CEO.

"Obviously I knew about Open Door. I told her what I was doing and that I needed a change," said Battaglia. "Lindsay said, 'You need to be at Open Door.' I was 21, and I figured if there was ever a time to make a change it was now."

Shortly thereafter, she accepted a job as a paid intern for four months at Open Door – taking a significant pay cut. In this role, she was responsible for conducting community outreach. She recalls the first program she ran, which involved educating new mothers on caring for their babies.

"It was then that I realized how happy I was working with vulnerable families; it added a whole new meaning to my life," she says. "I absolutely loved doing this and it made so much sense to make this into a career."

Ruggiero was not surprised that her sister joined her, believing it was only a matter of time. "I knew how happy I was working here and how unhappy she was working in

the for-profit sector," she said. "It felt very natural and it was obviously great to have my sister in the same environment as I was working in. We never missed a beat."

The Beltran sisters are not the only Open Door employees to first experience the organization as young immigrants. Dr. Carmen Tamayo, now the medical director of Open Door's Mount Kisco facility, was eight when she and her younger sister, Margarita, an outreach coordinator, became patients when their family first migrated from Colombia, fleeing civil war, chaos and corruption. Years later, while studying for her medical boards and applying to residency programs – she would eventually complete a family medicine residency in a program partnered by Open Door and Phelps Hospital – she credits Open Door for helping her mother find the proper treatment and manage the expenses in her successful fight against non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

A Different Organization Today

The Beltran sisters realize the Open Door they work in today is very different from the one they saw as little girls coming in for physicals and sick visits. "Our patients get comprehensive care," said Ruggiero. "They might come in for sick visit, but leave with appointments to WIC (the state's Women, Infants Children program), or optometry, or our licensed clinical social workers. People sometimes think it's just a place to go get a flu shot or a physical. The number of services provided in these buildings is unbelievable."

Founded as a free clinic in 1972, Open Door's mission of building healthier communities through accessible, equitable, culturally competent health care has led to site and service expansions. Today, the organization operates centers in Brewster, Mamaroneck, Mount Kisco, Ossining, Port Chester, and Sleepy Hollow, in addition to seven school-based health centers in the Port Chester and Ossining school districts, a mobile dental van in Mount Kisco, and a new dental practice in Saugerties.

Ruggiero, now 36, and Battaglia, 33, who have been with Open Door for 15 and 13 years, respectively, are married – Andrea to an attorney, Grace to an executive in a family real estate company – and each is the mother of two young children. Interestingly enough, the sisters who once lived in small apartments with their parents in Chappaqua and Armonk, live with their families in homes they own in these two towns.

"Those who work at Open Door are all dedicated to helping educate and empower our patients to take care of their health, assuring a more equitable healthcare system for all of us," said Farrell, who has been president/CEO of Open Door since 1998. "Having experienced Open Door as both young immigrants who were patients and now as senior executives who help develop our programs and policies, Andrea and Grace, like Dr. Tamayo and Margarita, have the added perspective of witnessing the value of our work from both sides of the equation."

Mambo Italiano at Westchester Broadway Theatre

Starting August 8 - September 29, "The big family musical where no one comes out hungry!" Follow the dominating but lovable matriarch, Maria Barbieri, as she and her devoted husband Gino struggle to keep the family restaurant afloat while adjusting to the newly found independence of their New Jersey-born adult grandchildren who they have raised since birth. The show is family friendly and laugh-out-loud funny with clever humor and universal themes of adjusting and adapting and what it takes to keep a family together.

This Pre-Broadway New Musical, based on the play and screenplay by Steve Galluccio & Emile Gaudreault, features a book by Jean Cheever and Tom Polum, lyrics by Omri Schein and music by James Olmstead.

Between side-splitting funny and genuinely heartbreaking, the story will resonate with everyone who has ever been challenged by family loyalty, loss, and a desire to be understood. "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" meets "Fiddler on the Roof" in this hilarious new musical served with love. Just like mama used to make!

Starring: Joy Hermelyn as the Matriarch, Maria Barbieri, Bill Nolte as Gino Barbieri. The grand-



kids are played by Alex Drost (Angelo Barbieri), and Alexandra Amadeo Frost (Anna Barbieri), Diana DiMarzio (as Lina Paventi), Natalie Gallo (as Donna Lunetti), Zach Schanne (as Nino Paventi). With: Alexandra Adinah, Aaron Patrick Craven, A.J. Hunsucker, Stuart Marland, Corey Masklee, Laura Stracko, Mackenzie Rogers, Halle Mastroberardino.

Directed and Choreographed

by Tom Polum, The Associate Director/Musical staging is Jill Gorrie, Technical Direction by Steve Loftus, Lighting Design by Andrew Gmoser, Sound Design by Mark Zuckerman. Costume Design by Keith Nielsen. Wig design by Gerard Kelly, The Production Stage Manager is Victor Lukas, and Lisa Tiso is the Associate Producer.

Tom Polum (Director) was co-

lead producer of the multi award winning The Toxic Avenger Off-Broadway. As a Director at WBT he has directed Oklahoma, Funny Girl, Carousel, Grease, Hello Dolly, Phantom (three times now!) and was in the original production in '92. He also served as associate for musical staging and helped restage the Broadway Production of Cyrano The Musical, at the Carre Theatre in Amsterdam. Other shows Tom has created are Abelard and Heloise, Finding Frida Kahlo and The Toxic Avenger - Christmas Chaos. He is the former Chairman of Theater Resources Unlimited and creator of MusicalMeApps.com. Many thanks to Bill, Bob and Lisa for the opportunity to bring Mambo to life!

Reservations: Call (914) 592-2222. Visit: www.BroadwayTheatre.com

Group Reservations: Discounts for Groups of 20 or More: Call (914) 592-2225.

Luxury Boxes: Call (914) 592-8730. For private parties of six to 22. Enjoy dining and theatre in an elegant private box. Additional

features include an expanded dinner menu, hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, private powder room, and Luxury Box reserved parking.

Show Times:

Wednesday & Thursday & some Friday Matinees: Lunch: 11:30 a.m. &

Show 1 p.m.

Thursday, Friday, & Saturday Evenings: Dinner: 6:30 p.m. & Show: 8 p.m.

Sunday Matinees: Lunch: 12 p.m. & Show: 1:30 p.m.

Sunday Evenings: Dinner: 5:30 p.m. & Show: 7 p.m.

Ticket Prices: Dinner & Show range between \$61 to \$91 PLUS TAX depending on the performance chosen. Beverage Service & Gratuities are not included in the ticket price. Discounts are available for children, students, and senior citizens at selected performances. Also check the website for on-going Special Offers!

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It Happened One Christmas Eve - November 27th - December 23rd

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Back 2 School

Gymnastics City Celebrates 40 Years of Flipping

Longtime residents of Yorktown and now, Cortlandt, Vinny and Anita Savastano, started the Gymnastics City Program in Cortlandt in August 1980. Vinny was a physical education teacher in the Yorktown School District for 34 years, while Anita raised their three children in Yorktown and was a pre-school teacher. She was also a New York State Gymnastics Official. Vinny was a five-time gymnastics "Coach of the Year" during his tenure at Yorktown.

During the spring of 1980, Vinny was approached by the owner of Hudson Valley Gymnastics to inquire if they wanted to buy his program, which was located in Buchanan. This was a very big decision for Vinny since he started the men's gym-

nastics program at Yorktown High school eight years prior and had produced many Con Ed Award winners and New York State Champions. He also started the Yorktown High School Gymnastics Invitational, which became one of the premier high school gymnastic events in the East. He would have to leave "his kids." He was able to get a great coach to replace him at Yorktown High School. It would also be a lifestyle change for their family with Vinny still teaching physical education full-time, and also coaching girls gymnastics all year long at Gymnastics City. The plan was to hire an excellent, qualified staff of gymnastics professionals who loved kids. Anita would manage the business and also worked the

front office.

They started the fall program and about midway through the year found out they did not have a lease on the building, they would have to find another facility by the beginning of the next school year. That first year they built the school up from 75 gymnasts to over 300 gymnasts. Some parents baked us a cake that said; "We'll follow you wherever you go"! That's how Gymnastics City was born! "You'll Flip Over Gymnastics City".

They then found an old facility formerly a boy's private school on Jacobs Hill in

Peekskill. They were only allowed to stay in that facility for four years because the new owners took the property over to build a health club for the owners of the new condominium complex.

The next adventure took the Savastanos to Mohegan Lake where the landlord built a building for them to rent and it was their permanent home for 10 years! Then when that lease was up in 1995, it was another

Continued on page 15



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Back 2 School

Gym City Celebrates 40

Continued from page 14

move to their permanent Gymnastics City location on Route 202 in Cortlandt, where they have been there for the last 24 years. Their daughter Elena joined the team and added her expertise and new blood with new ideas to improve on an already great program. They have had a remarkable track record for maintaining a "State-of-the-Art" facility, with a very qualified staff through those years.

It's been a long journey over those years for the Savastanos. The best was getting to know the many thousands of gymnasts and their families that grew up in this area and came to learn the basics and beyond of the wonderful sport of gymnastics. The students improve their strength, flexibility, speed, balance, coordination, power and discipline. Whether the child is involved in our Baby Stars 6-18 months, Gym Stars ages 3-5 or our Recreational Gymnastics programs ages 5 - 18, they help benefit a child's overall development.

Gymnastics City also has an awesome competitive team. They compete in the U.S.A.I.G.C., (United States Association of Gymnastics Clubs), and the I.A.I.G.C. (International Association of Independent Gymnastic Clubs). Many of their gymnasts have won numerous Local, State and Regional competitions.

This year the Gymnastics City Teams

had more than 23 New York State Champions and 20 of them qualified to attend the U.S.A.I.G.C. Worlds competition in Nashville, Tennessee, competing against gymnasts from all over the United States and also gymnasts from six countries: Canada, England, Germany, Wales, France, and South Africa. Gymnastics City brought home 101 Medals and six 1st place World Champions! The coaches were ecstatic over the performance of our gymnasts. In addition, it was a great experience for all the gymnasts and coaches meeting people and competing with gymnasts from all over the USA and those other countries.

It's been a lot hard work, commitment, dedication, perseverance and a true Labor of Love for this family who love the sport of gymnastics and the wonderful kids and their families they have known over the years. They have had thousands of gymnasts attend Gymnastics City throughout the 40 years. They now even have the children of some of the mom's that they have taught through the years!

The Savastanos have seven grandchildren ages 11 -22, Tiffany, Nicolette, Gianna, Nicholas, Dominic, Vinny III, and Christian. They are fortunate they all live nearby and get to see each other often. The Savastanos want to thank the community for all their support through the 40 years.

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Saturday August 24th - 1:00-3:00
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 Tuesday August 27th - 3:30-5:30
 Thursday August 29th - 5:30- 7:00



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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, AUG. 27

Book Bingo: Book Bingo for adults is being this summer at the Somers Library: Have fun, try something different, and join with children and teens in summer reading. Who knows...you might be a lucky winner. All game cards must be returned no later than Aug. 28. Info: 914 232 5717 or www.somerslibrary.org.

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 28

Cortlandt ZBA Openings: The Town of Cortlandt government will be interviewing interested residents for the Zoning Board

of Appeals. The board conducts public hearings for area and use variances, Interpretations and special permit applications and renders decisions. Members are required to attend work sessions and meetings once a month and perform site inspections as required. There is a required New York State four hour per year training program. Interested residents should send a resume and letter of interest to Supervisor Linda D. Puglisi, Town Hall, 1 Heady Street, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567 or e-mail to claudiav@townofcortlandt.com. The deadline to apply is Friday, August 30.

A Roof For A Veteran: Attention all veterans. Miracle Home Improvements and Gas Roofing are partnering to replace the roof of one lucky winner. Send us a letter with a brief summary as why you need a new roof. You must live in Westchester or Putnam. The winner will be chosen on Sept. 3. Submit a photo and summary by e-mail (miraclehome1@verizon.net) or through the regular mail at Miracle Home Improvements, 2010 Albany Post R., Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520.

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.

POUND Program: POUNDTM 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.

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

New York Presbyterian Programs: Several programs have been scheduled for the coming days at New York-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital, 1980 Crompond Rd., Cortlandt Seasonal Five Ingredient Dinners will be held on Aug. 28 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The cost is \$15. Registration: call 914-734-3780 or e-mail hvh-teachingkitchen@nyp.org.

Beautiful, Healthy Buffets will be held on Aug. 30 from noon to 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$15. Registration: call 914-734-3780 or e-mail hvh-teachingkitchen@nyp.org.

THURSDAY, AUG. 29

Internships: Assemblywoman Sandy Galef's office has announced upcoming internship openings for the 2019-2020 school year. These unpaid internship opportunities are open to high school and college students who are looking to gain workplace experience, obtain knowledge on how government works and develop skills that will help them in their future. If you are interested in applying for an internship or wish to receive more information contact Jennifer Fields-Tawil at fieldstawilj@assembly.state.ny.us or call the office at 914-941-1111. An application is also available online at www.assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Sandy-Galef/story/46712.

Art Exhibit: Fiber Arts North East will have an exhibit during regular library hours at the Somers Library throughout the month of August. Info: somerslibrary.org.

Yorktown Jewish Center Courses: The Yorktown Jewish Center offers a wide selection of courses during the year. However, all classes have ceased for the summer. Most will continue in the fall, so keep posted. Info: 914-245-2324 or yorktownjewishcenter.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.

FRIDAY, AUG. 30

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 Summer: The Summer is a time for us to relax and kick back Every Friday evening over the summer, Temple Beth Am will create a relaxed atmosphere that is engaging and enjoyable with services at 7 p.m. Temple Beth Am is located at 203 Church Pl. Yorktown. For more information please call our Rabbi at 914-962-7500 or e-mail him at rabbiiw@op-tonline.net.

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

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

SATURDAY, AUG. 31

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.

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.

Library Art Exhibit: Paintings by Michele Squibb are on display in August at the John C. Hart Memorial Library, 1130 E. Main St, Shrub Oak. An artist reception is being held today from 2 to 4 p.m. Also the library's display cases are featuring quilts by Grace Zipprich.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 1

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

MONDAY, SEPT. 2

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

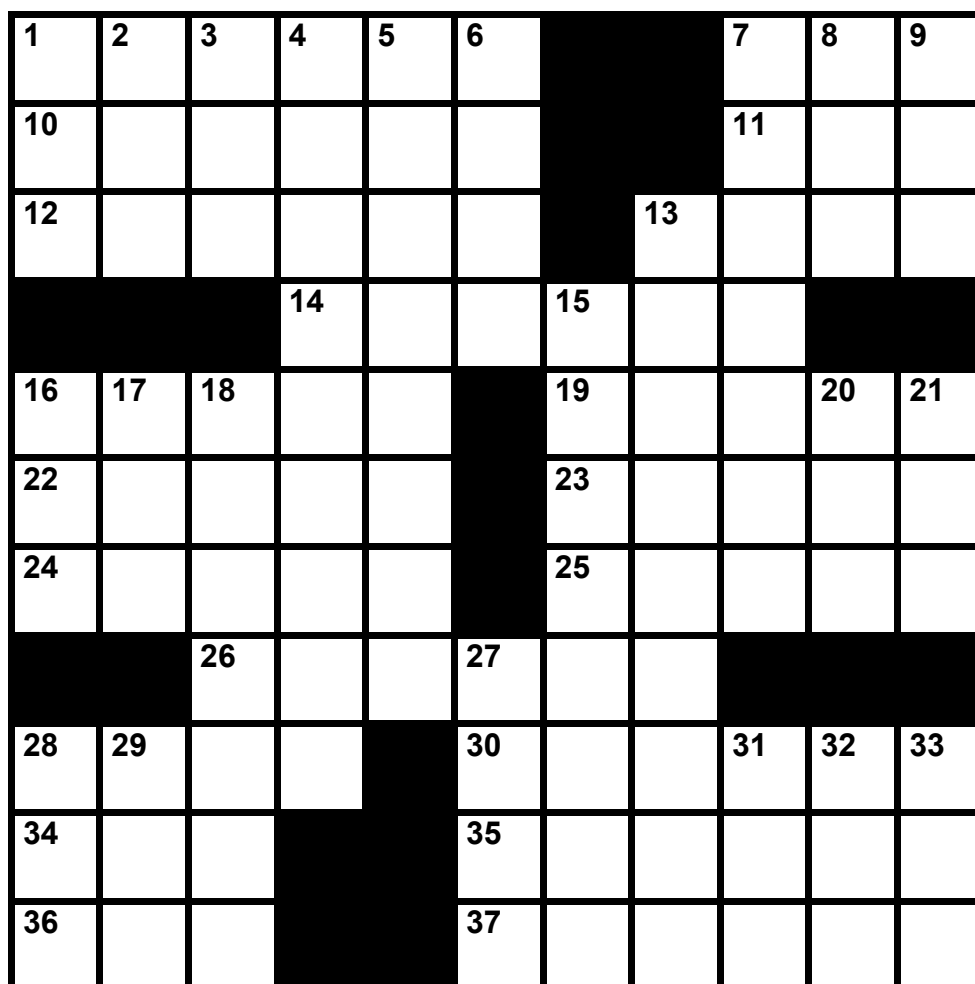
Crossword

ACROSS

1. Yorktown would never "farm out" this annual event, ____ Fair
7. Car co. bought by Chrysler
10. Wear
11. Director Jean-____ Godard
12. Sort of
13. Annoys, slangily
14. Go this way and that
16. "The Sound of Music" family name
19. End of an iffy statement
22. Asian gambling mecca
23. A rocky mountain state
24. Stairs
25. Overflows
26. Restraint
28. Juicy fruit
30. Belonging to "Granny Clampett" actress Ryan or Pleasantville hair salon
34. Receive
35. Salt
36. Welsh rabbit ingredient
37. Absentee

DOWN

1. Phone trio
2. Fled quickly
3. "Barefoot Contessa" marquee name
4. Where many columns are found
5. Football structure
6. Celtic singer
7. Old students
8. Prison shot
9. Syringe amts.
13. Memorandum of documents
15. Laggard
16. Trademarks, abbr.
17. ____ race
18. Film material
20. Lawmaker re electrical resistance
21. Lean-____ (sheds)
27. School subj.
28. Tour org.
29. Unagi, at a sushi bar
31. Confidentiality agreement, for short
32. Many, many years
33. Military rank, abbr.



(Solution to this puzzle on page 16)

Victory Cup Coming This Weekend

The annual Victory Cup national polo tournament event will take place in Patterson on Fri. Aug. 30 and Sat. Aug. 31.

In addition to polo, there will also be live music, hot air balloons, food and drinks, as well as high fashion on display.

Organizers describe the two-day affair as a "networking and social destination drawing thousands for each event."

Celebrating its 15th year, the event features dozens of vendors and boasted more than 75,000 attendees last year.

The hot air balloons are particularly weather contingent and could be cancelled due to safety concerns so organizers stress

that attendees should come prepared to enjoy all elements of the event in case Mother Nature interferes.

"Kid and pet friendly, bring the entire family," the event's website declares. "Come on out and enjoy a gorgeous day of green grass, new friends, majestic horses, heart pounding polo, dozens of food and alcohol partners, and (weather permitting) beautiful hot air balloons."

The event address is 683 Route 311 in Patterson.

For more information visit victorycup.org.

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(Solution for puzzle on page 17)

1	G	2	R	3	A	4	N	5	G	6	E			7	A	8	M	9	C
10	H	A	V	E	O	N								11	L	U	C		
12	I	N	A	W	A	Y								13	B	U	G	S	
				14	S	L	A	15	L	O	M								
16	T	17	R	18	A	P	P			19	O	R	N	20	O	21	T		
22	M	A	C	A	O					23	I	D	A	H	O				
24	S	T	E	P	S					25	T	E	E	M	S				
			26	T	E	T	27	H	E	R									
28	P	29	E	A	R					30	I	R	E	31	N	32	E	33	S
34	G	E	T							35	S	E	A	D	O	G			
36	A	L	E							37	T	R	U	A	N	T			

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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Observations and Musings Courtesy of The Home Guru

From time to time, *The Home Guru* picks out snippets from my columns that readers tell me they enjoyed. Here is a sampling from past *Home Guru* articles.

Bathroom Reading

I've never understood the practice of placing reading material next to the bathroom toilet. I've always thought that if the process took long enough to scan a newspaper or take in an article from a magazine, a visit to a gastroenterologist was in order.

How I First Learned About Sex

With the pending demise of the home phone, it's sad that our children will never know the history and idiosyncrasies of the pre-cordless era. When was the last time, for instance, that you heard the term "party line?" For me, it took on meaning when my family moved to Virginia during a time of limited telephone lines, and most people had to share a line with one or more other families. At 11 years old, my neighborhood buddy, Tommy, and I would listen in secretly to that anonymous woman who was quite verbal with her boyfriend, with

whom she was having an extramarital affair. It was a party line, all right. We didn't need sexting.

A Mattress for Everyone

When I was a single young man, living as a carefree bachelor in the city, I preferred firmer mattresses that allowed greater movement. But once I got married, I preferred softer versions where one tends to sink into a spot and pretty much stay there.

St. Joseph to the Rescue

There are so many stories about St. Joseph being petitioned successfully to help sell a house, but there are also warnings about the best way to bury his statue in the yard. Usually we are told to bury the statue upside down, facing the house. One real estate blogger shared the story of how his client made a directional error in the way the statue faced, and his neighbor's home across

the street sold. And, it wasn't even on the market!

The Days Before Child Safety Devices

I get so frustrated when I am showing a house and I encounter one of those child safety devices that I cannot figure out, such as those on doorknobs. Too bad they didn't exist when I was two years old. I opened the door to the basement and fell down a flight of steps, landing on my head on a concrete floor. I survived, but as I grew older and starting acting up as a teenager, my mother would say something like, "It must be from the time you fell on your head as a baby."

I soon learned to turn the tables on her and used it as an excuse many times. When she'd say, "You forgot to take out the garbage again," I would respond, "Gee, Mom, I guess it's from the time I fell on my head."

The Attic Reveals Our Past

Functionally, the attic is the hat and umbrella of a house, but it is also the repository for the remnants of our past, and anyone who might have looked at the attic in my last home would think, wow, this guy has quite a past.

When it came time to move, I had to clean our attic out for the first time in 25 years. To save steps, we opened the attic window and threw down old clothes, books and office records directly to the lawn to sort out there. Any passerby would have thought that someone had gone berserk inside the house. After a number of subsequent attempts to perform the ultimate job of adequate attic cleaning and

organization, I have only one tip: Get help!

Fear of Heights

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You just can't make this stuff up.

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



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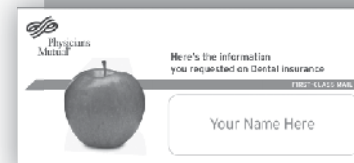
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Wine in Heat. Think About the Consequences

I'm away this week, squeezing in a bit of end-of-summer time with family. Below is a reprise of a "Grapevine" column from August 2011.

Here we are in the midst of the August doldrums. It may be great if you're baking yourself at the beach, but for the rest of us, each day is another opportunity to bake under blistering temperatures, without any relief of a refreshing dip in an ocean, bay or lake. As each day progresses – from the morning commuter train with the malfunctioning air conditioner, to sitting in traffic with the late day sun penetrating our brains – we feel our bodies wilting, blood boiling and skin glistening from sweat. Thank goodness, at the end of the day we can readily find relief in a glass of cold Provençal rosé or a slightly chilled Spanish garnacha.

Take a step back. Consider the environmental issues that other living organisms must endure during the heat of summer – including wine. That glass of wine you are about to pour into your wine glass may have suffered a torturous journey similar to yours before it so lustily satiated your thirst.

Did it fare better than you did? Assuming that modern transportation and storage technology, coupled with the advanced science of temperature control, has dealt your wine a better fate than you have persevered

through, you eagerly bring the wine to your lips, expecting instant relief from the travails of the day.

Aargh. The wine smells and tastes as if it was cooked for a prolonged period in a microwave. It has the aromas and flavors of stewed fruits or burnt caramel; it doesn't taste of fresh grapes. What's going on? The proper oenological term for this phenomenon is "cooked" wine. In essence, your summertime bottle of wine was not stored and/or transported under ideal temperature controls as it traversed the land and/or ocean from winery to consumer.

Wine is a living organism and is susceptible to changes in its environment. If ambient temperatures rise or drop gradually (generally within a ten degree range), it can adapt – just as you and I do. If temperatures rise or drop dramatically, for extended periods, the molecular structure of a wine is altered. The wine may expand, increasing the air pressure inside the bottle and pushing the (natural) cork upward; this allows air into the bottle, causing oxidation. Your wine has been cooked.

Most, if not all, of the storage facilities that wine travels through on its way to your table have modern-day temperature control installations. However, one weak link in the chain will destroy wine. Refrigerated trucks, cargo ships, warehouses, retail shops and homes assure us of proper envi-

ronments for wine. But consider this: if the truck that transports wine from a French winery to a freight dock hours away on a hot summer Provençal day is not air-conditioned, the cases of rosé may cook. If a distributor's warehouse loses power for an extended period, the stored Spanish garnacha wines may cook. If UPS is delivering wine to your home on a 99 degree day, and you are the last stop, your wine is at risk (more ominous: you're not home and the process is repeated again).

If you're drinking a wine for the first time, it may be difficult to discern if the wine has gone bad or is simply a bad wine. The safest course of action is to return the wine and ask your trusted wine merchant to make that determination.

Is there a way for consumers to detect

cooked wine prior to opening a bottle? Unfortunately, no. My advice: find a reputable distributor or importer that protects its wines; be wary of retailers who receive large land-freight orders in the hot summer months; and never order wines for shipping directly to your home during beach weather. It's bad enough if you're cooked; it's worse if your wine shares the same fate.

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 or on Twitter @sharingwine.



By Nick Antonaccio



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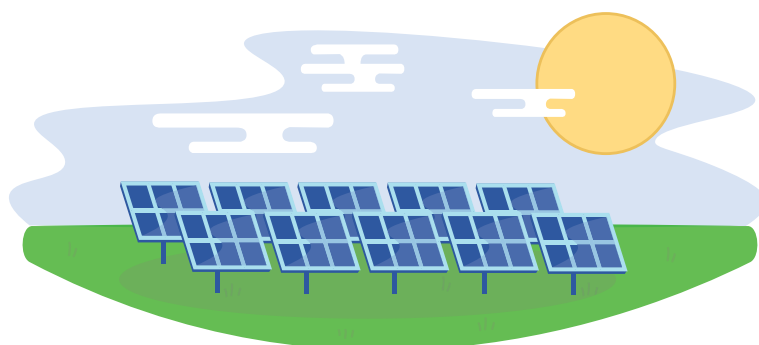
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Got a Hold on You!



Lakeland Seeking 11th Straight Section 1 Field Hockey Title

RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

Lakeland senior Emma Halderman will be one of many returning starters for the 2018 NYS Class B runner-up Hornets on field hockey greens across the state this season as Lakeland seeks its 11th consecutive sectional title and the 10th state crown in 11 years beginning this Friday against Yorktown. Meanwhile, soccer fans from Yorktown (inset) and Somers can only hope for the Huskers and Tuskers to meet up in the finals of the Yorktown tournament next week as they embark upon their respective Class A championship runs... see Field Hockey & Soccer Notebooks

Sports

Soccer Notebook

Somers, Yorktown Prepping for League, Sectional Prowess

By Ray Gallagher,
Examiner Sports Editor@Directrays

Section 1 Class A soccer is like the proverbial 'war zone' this season. To begin with, there are 29 teams in Class A this season, and only the top 20 teams qualify for the post season tournament. Most coaches believe there are as many as six or seven teams that can win the section title and advance to the state tournament, as NYS runner-up Somers did last season, for the second time in three years.

When the pre-season state rankings come out in mid-September, this is the potential thought process for state pollsters representing Section 1: No.1 Somers (defending champ and state finalists); No.2 Rye (lost in semifinals last year in a PK shootout and return 8 starters, and also returned two players from academy for their senior year); No.3 Pearl River (lost to Somers in section finals last year); No.4 Yorktown (if Yorktown beats Somers last year in the quarters, the Huskers might win Class A, Tim O'Callaghan is top 10 offensive threat in the entire section); No.5 Keio (disciplined unit that beat Somers 4-1 in the last game of the regular season last year); No.6 Byram Hills (best team in Section 1 Class A for over a decade).

"Without a doubt, Section 1 Class A is the deepest section in the state," Lakeland Coach Tim Hourahan said. "Somers was the No.6 seed last year and went to the state finals, so once again expect fireworks



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

NYS Class A runner-up Somers hopes to reload and relive moments like these in the fall of 2019



Yorktown senior Tim O'Callaghan will be among the top scoring threats in Section 1 this season.

come October."

Those fireworks shall commence at places like Lakeland High School on November 2nd, home of the Section 1 finals, and at Middletown High School on November 17th, home of the state finals, where the locals hope to be representing. Outbracket games will kick on October 23rd at the higher seed.

SOMERS

With the graduation of All-American striker Lucas Fecci and All-NYS M Jon Riina, the heart and soul are gone but the goals remain the same; to win a sectional title. Somers (19-4) has copped two of the last three Class A crowns under third-year Coach Brian Lanzetta, not to mention a 2016 state title and 2018 state runner-up status.

As far as title contenders go, Somers, the cream of the crop in recent seasons, isn't going away. Senior M Andrew Lasher is as talented as any player in Class A, if not Section 1. A combination of speed, smarts and skill, Lasher is the go-to guy in most Tusker set pieces and transitional tries.

The senior class is looking solid, according to Lanzetta, who expects big things from Lasher, Evan Mazzola, Ethan Cukaj and Jose Giron on the attack.

"These are four seniors we've known as playmaking juniors," the coach said. "We need more of the same from them, and then some."

Somers has lost a lot on defense and are looking to strengthen it behind senior Joe Grippo and returning center back Sean Dickson.

"We call them the bash brothers,"

Lanzetta said.

They best bring the bash because Somers needs a strong back line in front of whatever goalie they decide upon.

Upcoming Derek Marques will be a new name people can expect big doings from, and Bennett Leitner, Daniel Dippolito and Michael Micceri provide a strong sophomore group.

League II-B is loaded with contenders but it has boiled down to Somers and Yorktown in recent seasons, and the two are favored to battle for bragging rights once again. Lakeland, Brewster, John Jay and Panas round out the challengers in what is usually a very competitive foray for the flag.

YORKTOWN

The Huskers (11-5) are returning a good core this year under veteran Coach Ed Polchinski and assistant Justin Huff, including captains and top playmakers are Zackary Stanik and Timmy O'Callaghan, in addition to being one of the top finishers in the section, is also a four-year player and third-year ear starter. Other seniors that will be contributing good minute are James Calidonna, Ciaran Donohoe and Mikey O'Connor, a senior striker with great size and speed. Chris Judge is a player to watch as well.

"We did lose two players to the academy system, and another sophomore who was injured during lacrosse season," Huff admitted. "We have about seven juniors who will be playing big minutes for us and a

continued on next page

Sports

Soccer Notebook

continued from previous page



Lakeland D Ryan Brannigan is part of a solid back line that provides the Hornets' best shot to win games this fall.

great competition right now for the starting goalie."

Yorktown is looking to make it back to a section final for the fourth time in six years under Polchinski. The Huskers were eliminated last year by Somers, the state runner-up, and two will tangle again this fall for league bragging rights.

"We know how many great teams there are in Class A like Rye, Somers, Pearl River, Keio and Byram, so we are just looking to get better each day and perfect our style of play," Huff said. "Our entire backline is all underclassmen, but will be a strength of our team. If we can find the back of the net we will be very dangerous."

Local soccer fans expect nothing less.

LAKELAND

Hourahan will have a young team this year, maybe the youngest Lakeland (4-12) has ever had on the varsity level, with only five seniors returning from last season, but the incoming freshman class is said to be sound.

"The freshman class is as strong as any that I may have had at Lakeland in my 15 years and the junior class is very strong as well," said Hourahan, who will rely upon legit assistance from Assistant Coach Nick Jerussi, "and with the promise of bringing our two academy kids back we are building again the Malan, Jerussi days and the Prando, Reiche days of Lakeland soccer

being section title contenders again."

Lakeland will hope to be stingy this season, fielding a solid back line that will determine its success.

"I am really excited about our defense as we return only four starters, but all of them play in the back," Hourahan said. "We will have some really strong two- and three-sport athletes playing back there, and we are definitely way ahead on that side of the ball."

According to Hourahan, senior captains Nick Bassani (G), Ryan Brannigan (D) and Nicolas Desantis (D) will be leading this team by example in practices and games.

"We will really lean on them all season," the coach said.

Junior center back Reed Thompson, who led the team in minutes played last year, adds a strong two-way presence.

"Offensively, we will be working hard to find consistency in our game and we have a set of juniors who will be looking to lead the way, including Austin Bergen, Jason San Lucas and Steban Minchalo. All of them are more of the playmaking-style players, but we are asking them to be more aggressive in their approach and have a bit of a killer instinct."

Lakeland will keep three freshman on the team this fall, and Bryan Jamramillo (winger) was among the most impressive this summer.

"He will be a name to remember for

the next four years," Hourahan said.

Sonny Karaqi and Jack Flannery are two other freshmen that make impacts this season.

"We are really excited for all three of them," the coach said. "We have a lot of work to do, but I have been really impressed throughout the spring club ball season and summer league and camp series, so we will be working hard to make it real difficult on all the big boys in Class A."

HEN HUD

The Sailors (10-6) were solid last season under veteran Coach Chris Cassidy but they graduated 14 players and will look to rebuild with the nucleus of senior G Justin Cohen, senior D Jay Luis, junior M Jeremy Rench and junior striker Matt Torres.

League II-E features returning champion Beacon, which went 8-0 in league games last season, before falling to Somers in the sectional semis. However, the Sailors finished second at 5-3 and look to improve upon that mark with Beacon, Peekskill, Lourdes and Poughkeepsie challenging.

"We lost a lot of great players," Cassidy said. "We always want to challenge for the league title. We have a skillful team. We will have to see how it comes together with new dynamics."

BREWSTER

The Bears (9-7) have been main source of Putnam County soccer the past two years, but a coaching change and a new regime of players could stymie the progress in 2019. That's not to say the new coach can't or won't continue along the path of recent success. It's directed at the number of solid players the Bears have graduated. Brewster was hit hard by graduation and the Bears are competing in a league with Somers, Yorktown, Lakeland, John Jay CR and Panas, so wins won't be easy to come by.

Similarly, victories won't be easy in Class AA for **CARMEL** and **MAHOPAC**, as they operate out of League I-A, among the toughest in the state.

Mahopac has hired a new coach again, its third in three years. The lack of stability leads one to believe that nobody has a clue about the Indians this season, but what we do



Somers senior M Andrew Lasher will attempt to lead the Tuskers to a 3rd sectional title in 4 years.

know is that their league will be the toughest test any team in the state can expect to face on a day-in, day-out basis. What doesn't kill you makes you stronger and the likes of Dutchess powers John Jay EF, Arlington and RCK will surely put Mahopac and Carmel to the test.

Carmel's Nick Fernandes is beyond skillful and should provide the Rams with some legit scoring punch, but the rest of the unit is unproven at this level. With keeper Joe Gaeleano between the pipes, the Rams have a chance to hang tough.

OSSINING reached the Class AA finals last season during one of its most impressive campaigns in history, but the Pride lost a ton to graduation, so sustaining that level will be difficult.

Soccer coaches are encouraged to email results, either weekly (by Sunday) or game-by-game, to raygallaghersports@gmail.com or @Directtrays for inclusion to our weekly soccer notebook.



Sports

Field Hockey Notebook

Lakeland Will Seek an 11th-Straight Section 1 Title

By Tony Pinciario

From 2009-2017, **LAKELAND** dominated the New York State field hockey championships, winning an unprecedented nine consecutive titles.

The Hornets were on their way to a 10th straight state title in 2018, only to be upset by Garden City, 1-0, in the Class B state final. Lakeland put everything into perspective, following the loss, and began focusing on 2019.

"It's awesome to be part of two state championships and to be a state finalist, again, is unreal," said senior and captain Jenna McCrudden. "We started working out, right away, by going to the turf and getting our stick skills better or working on our conditioning."

McCrudden (forward), along with fellow captains Erin Daly (defense), Emma Halderman (midfield) and Lauren Salazar (defense) lead a determined Lakeland team primed to repeat as sectional champs and regain the state championship.

The captains were all-league selections in 2018. Halderman and Daly were all-elite and Daly was named all-state. They're also committed to college – McCrudden (Kent State), Salazar (Bates), Halderman (New Hampshire) and Daly (UConn).

Also comprising the senior class is Sam Graap (defense), Frankie Fava (midfield) and Raquel Nieves (forward/mid). Fava committed to Pace and will play field hockey and Nieves has committed to LaSalle for lacrosse.

The Hornets also have the junior trio of Kristen O'Shea,

Emily McGovern and Keirra Ettere returning.

Veteran Lakeland Coach Sharon Sarsen welcomes a talented and young group. Four juniors -- Emma Fon (forward), Emma Ryan (forward), Nancy Pagliaroli (forward) and Daniella Hart (defense) -- headline the new varsity players.

Sophomores Mia Smith (midfield), Katie Lemma (defense), Jaden Ray (midfield/



RICK KUPERBERG/RAY GALLAGHER/ JAMES VANDELDELDE PHOTOS

Lakeland field hockey Coach Sharon Sarsen hopes to see Hornets hoist their 11th straight sectional title plaque this fall.

defense) and Gabby Alfinito (midfield/defense) and freshman Celeste Pagliaroli (goalie) complete the new varsity players.

"The first week of practice we've had a lot of the young players fitting in right away," McCrudden said. "They've been working in the offseason to be in shape and be at their best skill-wise. On the first day, everyone was enthusiastic and was excited to be there. Our team chemistry is awesome."

Sarsen is equally impressed with what she has seen through week one.

"We have a solid senior class, hard-working underclassmen and a commitment

to the sport," said Sarsen, who is 639-72-39 after 37 years. "We are excited about our opportunity this fall. We are working hard and look forward to a successful season."

McCrudden said Lakeland will travel to New Jersey to scrimmage one of the state's best. The Hornets will also play in a Pennsylvania invitational tournament against a team from Michigan and Maine.

Lakeland opens the season at Yorktown, Friday, Aug. 30. The Hornets will play at John Jay-Cross River, Sept. 24. Lakeland beat John Jay for the 2018 Section 1 Class B title.

A first-round upset of second-seeded Albertus Magnus in the 2018 Section 1 Class C Field Hockey Championships set the tone of the offseason for **PUTNAM VALLEY**.

The Tigers, who lost to eventual champion Pawling in the quarterfinal round, enter the 2019 season with a veteran team preparing to build off a solid 2018 finish.

Even though starters Danielle Cunningham and Ciara McGinty graduated, fifth-year Coach Courtney Hyndman has nine returning seniors.

The senior nucleus is led by captains -- Sydney Goldberg, Colleen Cassidy, Cyera Daughtry, all midfielders and Angelica Ordonez (defense). Ordonez will be joined on defense by classmates Lauren Seiler and Brianna Gambichler. Seniors Katie McLean, Jessica Marro and Antonia DiBullo are on the forward line.

Sophomores Shayla Lussier and Sara Lussier, both forwards, are two of the promising newcomers to varsity.

"I have already seen a massive improvement in skill and endurance since last year," Hyndman said. "They have been working hard during our first of preseason

and know that they have a competitive road ahead, but they definitely have their eyes on the postseason. I am excited to see what the girls can do this season."

Putnam Valley opens the season hosting Yorktown, Tuesday, Sept. 3.

YORKTOWN Coach Bernadette Gannon begins her fifth year with the Cornhuskers in an enviable situation.

"I have a lot of returning players with experience and the drive to improve upon last year," said Gannon, in her 26th year, overall. "I know that they were upset by not making it into playoffs last year, so that is a big goal of theirs this season. That drive will carry them through the season!"

The core returning group is highlighted by seniors Maddy Marr (defense), Kelsey McDonnell (forward) and Ellie O'Donnell (forward) and junior Addy Araneo (goalie).

Making the step up from Junior Varsity will be Natalie Muscolino (defense), Lily Taormina (defense) and Nicole Peters (goalie).

Yorktown did not catch a break from the schedule-makers as it hosts 10-time Section 1 Class B champion Lakeland, Friday, Aug. 30.

"This should be a great year for Yorktown field hockey, if the girls continue to build upon their experience on the field," said Gannon, who registered her 200th win last year. "They have a strong will to win this year, so it should be fun to see how this plays out. They have been working hard all summer and during preseason, so I can't wait to see what the games bring on!"

Yorktown will host its annual tournament, Tuesday and Thursday, Sept. 5 and 7.

continued on next page



Lakeland senior Jenna McCrudden (R) is one of many strong returnees for the Hornets this season.

Sports

Field Hockey Notebook

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Carmel's Caitlin Tully and Mahopac's April Heady will look to lead their respective teams this season.

Albertus Magnus, Sleepy Hollow and Putnam Valley comprise the field.

Optimism is the buzz word for **HEN HUD** as he Sailors prepare for the 2019 season.

Hen Hud concluded the season with a

berth in the Section 1 Class B Field Hockey Championships. Even though the Sailors lost, third-year Coach Melissa Locatelli was happy.

"Sectionals was a huge achievement for



Putnam Valley's Cyera Daughtry figures to be strong on the attack for Tigers this fall.

our program so we were all very proud," Locatelli said.

Hen Hud graduated one starter – Kiely Beltran – so nine seniors and sophomore Taeghan Dapson highlight the returning core. Dapson was an all-league selection and captain last year.

Locatelli's seniors are forwards Isabel Begun, Katie Doorley, Olivia Freitas and Joyce Guevara, midfielder Jillian Attinelly, goalie Olivia Doorley and defense – Abigail Lustyik, Marcella Maselli and Nyssa Notrica.

"We have a great group of girls who work well with each other and got a feel for sectionals last year," Locatelli said. "They are hungry for more and the talent keeps getting better. There is a drive to do well and a sense a teamwork that going to work in their favor."

Hen Hud will open the season, Tuesday, 9/3, against 10-time defending Section 1 Class B champion Lakeland. The Sailors then travel to Briarcliff for the Bears' tournament, Sept. 5 and 7.

SOMERS welcomed Meredith Armstrong as its new coach in 2018 and she guided the Tuskers to a 10-4-2 record, including a first-round sectional win.

The Tuskers will turn to seniors Erin Clark and Haley Dineen, both three-year starters, and junior Isabella Del Vecchio to lead the team. Clark was all-league and all-section last year and Dineen and Del Vecchio were all-league.

Somers will open the season with its tournament, Sept. 4-5.

The Tuskers have a difficult schedule with games against section champion Lakeland (9/26), sectional finalists North Salem (9/21), Horace Greeley (10/10) and John Jay-Cross River (10/18).

CARMEL showed great improvement last year and figures to be even better with the return of Caitlin Tully, a legit scoring threat for the Rams. **MAHOPAC** is looking to reestablish its strong Class A hockey roots after a subpar 2018 season. Senior April Heady, the unit's top two-way player, will lead the way.



Putnam Valley senior D Lauren Seiler (L) and senior M Colleen Cassidy will be relied upon heavily by the Tigers this fall.



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