



The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER Examiner

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

January 28 - February 3, 2020

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 12, Issue 527

Deadline Extended for Peekskill Downtown Funding

by Abby Luby

A bustling crowd filled the meeting room at Peekskill's Central Fire Station last Thursday for the second formal workshop of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI). Last fall, the City of Peekskill was awarded \$10 million by New York State's DRI program.

A call for applications and proposals vying for a portion of the grant money was put out to downtown businesses and the general community in October but concerns surfaced that small and minority-owned businesses were left out of the information loop. At Thursday's meeting, BFJ Planning, consultants managing the initial part of the DRI program, announced the deadline to submit applications for DRI funds was extended to February 14. The original deadline was the first week in February.

Attending the workshop was 10-year Peekskill resident Sandra Bennett-Pagan, who commented, "This is a unique opportunity for Peekskill, and we want everyone to succeed. But we do want to insure inclusiveness for everybody in the process."



PHOTO BY ABBY LUBY

Peekskill Mayor Andre Rainey at Thursday's Public Workshop for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative

Bennett-Pagan said she felt there was insufficient outreach to many business owners and shared her concern with city officials. Subsequently a special public DRI

workshop was held in Spanish on January 9 at the Assumption Church in Peekskill. At that meeting, Bennett-Pagan was surprised to see only 12 people had showed up.

Also attending that January 9 meeting was Wilfredo Morel, Director of Hispanic Services at HRHCare in Peekskill. "We need to be mindful of community mapping," said Morel at Thursday's workshop. "There is a call for a stronger effort to include a community of color."

According to Peekskill City Councilman Ramon Fernandez, at least 50% of Peekskill businesses are owned by minorities. "That's a conservative estimate," said Fernandez. "I also believe there are about 30 women business owners in Peekskill."

The DRI website offers some information in Spanish.

Bennett-Pagan and Morel met with Peekskill City Planning Director Jean Friedman to discuss more effective ways to communicate to Peekskill business owners. (The Northern Westchester Examiner reached out to Friedman for a comment, but the call was not returned). Ultimately BFJ officially extended the deadline for proposals to February 14.

BFJ Associate Principal Simon Kates,

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Yorktown Veterans Advocacy Group Honored Nationally

By Rick Pezzullo

My Brother Vinny, a not-for-profit veterans advocacy group based in Yorktown, was recently recognized at the fifth annual Academy of United States Veterans awards ceremony in Washington D.C.

Paula Miritello, who founded the organization in 2013 in memory of her brother, Vincent, who had

Cerebral Palsy and died in 2000 at the age of 20, was given a Vetto for My Brother Vinny's work with homeless veterans.

Miritello and her group were also honored at last week's Yorktown Town Board meeting, where proclamations were given by the Town of Yorktown, New York State Senator Peter Harckham, New York State Assemblyman Kevin Byrne and Westchester County

Legislator Vedat Gashi.

"This has been such a humbling experience. We love the Town of Yorktown. My brother Vinny, who the organization is named after, was born in Yorktown. Yorktown has been so good to us," Miritello said. "It is our town and everyone has helped us so much."

Yorktown Supervisor Matt

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Deadline Extended for Peekskill Downtown Funding

Continued from page 1

who co-presented Thursday's meeting, said the new extended deadline would soon be posted on the DRI website <https://www.peakskilldri.com/>.

Along with Kates, addressing Peekskill residents and business owners was BFJ Planning Principal Susan Favate. Favate later said BFJ was aware the initial communication wasn't getting out to everybody after the open call for projects in October.

"We put out information to the community via social media and left hard copies of the same information at city hall," she said, adding a direct mailing wasn't possible because they were on a strict timeline.

BFJ Planning is a New York City based consulting firm hired by the state to head up the DRI's Strategic Investment Plan. Of Peekskill's \$10 million state grant, \$300,000 is being paid to BFJ to develop and strategize an initial plan and to hire state planners, private sector firms of architects, civil engineers, landscape designers and marketing experts, among others.

A major consideration in selecting plans for state funding is

choosing plans that best favor economic growth and opportunities that would benefit businesses, the community and downtown Peekskill.

Favate's and Kates' Thursday presentation outlined the process and scope of the entire DRI planning phase. "The emphasis for the DRI is on capital projects like buildings and streetscapes," said Favate. "We want to fund projects that will ensure future sources of funding."

For the most part, the presentation was in English. A Spanish printout of the power point was available, only some of what Favate and Kates said was verbally translated into Spanish by BFJ Planner Christina Jimenez.

At the workshop people huddled around large detailed maps on tables outlining downtown Peekskill to the waterfront, the focus area of the project. Colorful sharpies and post-its were plentiful for those writing comments directly on the large pads or maps. Professionally produced placards on easels placed around the room showed building designs and structures as possible future downtown projects.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity," said Peekskill Mayor

Andre Rainey, who was checking out the visual content in the room. Rainey is on the 21-person Local Planning Committee (LPC) made up of Peekskill business owners, environmental groups, arts organizations, school and youth boards, among other community stakeholders. The LPC has met once a month since October. The agendas and presentations on the DRI website are in English.

But some Peekskill business owners who were either uninformed of the application process or unaware a planning committee was formed were troubled that committee members are allowed to submit their own proposals that could be to their benefit.

"The state vetted all the members of the committee," Rainey said assuredly. "They also have to recuse themselves from voting on their plan to be accepted."

BFJ's Kates explained that planning members can't advocate for their project, "but they can provide factual information." Kates said at the very first October meeting with the LPC all members were required to sign a Code of Conduct form that address conflict of interest issues should they arise.

"Conflict of interest wasn't an

issue for the three former planning committee members in the past," said Kates of the three previous DRI's managed by BFJ for New York State.

The new deadline will allow BFJ time to review new ideas and proposals before the LPC meets on February 19. The committee is expected to meet one final time on March 18 when they will decide which projects to recommend to the state for funding. All LPC meetings are held at the Neighborhood Center, 4 Nelson Avenue in Peekskill.

To date, about 45 proposals have been submitted to the planning committee, according to Kates. Detailed descriptions of those projects and their projected costs were presented at the fourth Local Planning Committee Meeting on January 15. The information is on the DRI website: https://035ed3f3-ca36-489a-a8dd-22835e564770.filesusr.com/ugd/774911_fc37178df-b284bfea2aba1385c966647.pdf

One of the main goals for the city is to link the downtown area with the waterfront. Among the proposals is to bring high-speed broadband to Downtown Peekskill and Public Wi-Fi and Internet Service to Bohlman Towers, Barham Senior Houses and Lep-

ore and Pugsley Parks. Another proposal is to renovate Kiley Youth Center and partner with the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester with a new, upgraded facility including full structural improvements required by state and federal regulations, cafeteria, teen center, gymnasium, computer lab, art room, and other activity spaces.

Other plans include creating a marketing and branding strategy for Downtown Peekskill, installing Solar Power Generation on North Water Street, improve several Downtown Streetscapes, expanding the GO Peekskill pilot trolley service, upgrading and renovating the exterior and interior at the Paramount Theater, renovating the former industrial building at 120 North James Street into an art center with performing arts, exhibition, and educational spaces.

Information for applicants can be found at this website: https://035ed3f3-ca36-489a-a8dd-22835e564770.filesusr.com/ugd/774911_70d49c091dde4ea8b2a75b25d158f61c.pdf.

Applicants can also contact Friedman, AICP, Director of Planning via email, jfriedman@cityofpeekskill.com. Project submissions should be emailed to PeakskillDRI@gmail.com.



The Most Common Sexually Transmitted Disease: HPV

What you need to know about keeping yourself and your children safe

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Dr. Adina Keller
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Q: What is the human papilloma virus (HPV)?

A: HPV is a sexually transmitted virus. There are approximately 150 strains of the virus and nearly 40 affect the genital area. Most HPV infections are asymptomatic, which means that you may never know you were exposed. The majority of HPV strains do not cause any issues and will eventually go away on their own. Some strains, however, can cause genital warts, cervical cancer, anal cancer and other cancers, including head and neck cancers.

Q: Who is at risk?

A: Studies have shown that almost everyone gets exposed to HPV at some point in their lives. Some studies have shown that up to 90% of college-aged men women have been exposed to HPV. If you're dating someone and they say they've been "tested," please know that men cannot be tested for HPV. The virus hides from our immune systems, so it will not show up on a blood test. Women can be tested for HPV by getting a pap smear, but there's no test for men.

Q: What's the best defense against HPV?

A: Condoms are the best defense against HPV, but even with condom use, the virus can still be transmitted to others. There is no cure for HPV, only prevention.

That's why it's so important for both boys and girls to get vaccinated. Vaccines against HPV have sharply reduced infections in men and women and will likely cause major drops in HPV-related cancers. Parents should discuss the optimal time for the vaccine with their pediatrician. Some may decide to delay the vaccine until the middle teen years.

Men and women, up to age 45, can get the HPV vaccine.

The CDC recommendation now includes men and women up to age 45 – especially if they are dating, widowed or have a new partner. If you're interested in a vaccine, speak with your doctor.

Q: Does my child really need this?

A: The answer is yes. You're providing your children with something that will prevent cancer down the road. So, if anybody has any concerns that they're not doing right by their child, think again. We have to assume that our children will become sexually active as they get older, therefore they need to be vaccinated. The HPV vaccine has already been shown to markedly reduce the incidence of HPV infections in young adults.

Yorktown Veterans Advocacy Group Honored Nationally

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Slater praised Miritello and her organization saying, "When I think about the values of our community, I believe you and your organization are the epitome of that. I have seen the impact Paula has had on the lives of veterans and I was so excited to hear that her work received this well-deserved honor. She is literally saving lives, and this is something so special for our community to be a part of."

To date My Brother Vinny has assisted more than 975 veterans. The organization supports veterans across the Hudson Valley and in the five boroughs of New York City.

Following Vincent's death, Miritello stated on the organization's website that she had a strong desire to spend time and support individuals with intellectual disabilities and those that lived with mental health issues.

"Vincent truly was an Angel and losing him left a deep void in my life, in our lives," she stated. "He was filled with so much love, pure of heart and taught me the true meaning of compassion and love. He never spoke to me in this life with words, but spoke to my heart where words were not needed. He was special to so many and still spoken of fondly by his wonderful teachers that loved him at Pinesbridge School in Yorktown. To this day, when you visit the school you will see a garden dedicated to his memory. This beautiful soul was my brother and he spread joy wherever he went!"

"Throughout, the process of helping others and honoring Vincent and his memory. I knew that I wanted to give him a Legacy," she stated. "In 2011, I was in a car accident that left me unable to walk for over four months confined to a wheelchair with years of physical therapy to recover. It was due to my accident that I was finally able to put all the years of charity work in motion and form My Brother Vinny. My brother lived his en-

tire life in a wheelchair, I felt even closer to him and got a deeper understanding during the time I unable to walk myself. I clearly saw even deeper the strength those that live with special needs, physical limitations overcome daily. The dependence on those that love them and the public support needed to go through daily living. The deep love that I had in my heart to help others; slowly day by day turned into My Brother Vinny the 501c3."

"I have never felt so much joy as I do now helping others and keeping Vinny's memory alive," she added.

My Brother Vinny's annual walk fundraiser will take place on April 26 at FDR Park in Yorktown.



Paula Miritello (center), founder of My Brother Vinny, was honored at last week's Yorktown Town Board meeting.

PV Resident Charged with Attempted Murder in Slashing of Officer

By Holly Crocco

The suspect who slashed a Putnam County sheriff's deputy responding to a domestic incident last week has been identified as Timothy Redmond, 25, of 52 Peekskill Hollow Road in Putnam Valley. He has been charged with attempted murder, attempted assault, and assault and aggravated assault of a police officer.

According to Putnam County Sheriff Robert Langley Jr., at about 10 a.m. January 20, two deputies responded to a call for a domestic dispute at the Redmond residence. They found that Timothy Redmond had stabbed his father, and was still brandishing with a knife. One of the deputies attempted to subdue the man with a Taser, and during a struggle, the officer was slashed across the arm and suffered extreme blood loss.

The subject was taken into custody, and the officer – identified as a seven-year veteran of the department – was rushed to

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AG Airs Concerns Over Indian Pt. Decommissioning Choice

By Rick Pezzullo

New York Attorney General Letitia James is expressing concerns about the company that has been chosen to decommission the Indian Point nuclear power plants in Buchanan after the facility shuts down next year.

James released a statement last week after the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) announced it had accepted an application from Entergy Nu-

clear Operations to transfer the licenses of Indian Point Units 1, 2 and 3, and the independent spent fuel storage installation, to Holtec Decommissioning International.

"It is essential that the decommissioning of Indian Point be rapid, complete, and safe. In that light, I have multiple, grave concerns about the application now before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that would hand off the responsibility for Indian Point's decommissioning

to a company with absolutely no experience in such an enormous, complex, and consequential undertaking," James stated.

"I am committed to ensuring – through legal action if necessary – that the State of New York is granted full participation in this application proceeding and all other decision-making related to Indian Point's decommissioning. The health, safety, and well-being of New Yorkers deserve nothing less," she added.

Entergy submitted the application on November 21 and Holtec turned in a Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report for the 200-acre site on December 19. The NRC has published in the Federal Register a notice of opportunity to request an adjudicatory hearing regarding the application. Hearing requests may be filed by February 12 by anyone whose interests may be affected by the proposed transfer.

James joins a growing chorus of officials and groups that have publicly raised reservations about Holtec's qualifications.

Riverkeeper, the environmental advocacy group that was involved in the negotiations that led to the decision to close the Indian Point nuclear power plants, has

launched a petition urging Entergy and Governor Andrew Cuomo to put the brakes on the proposed transfer.

"Holtec has never decommissioned a nuclear facility before, and its entire nuclear 'fleet' was acquired less than a year ago. Decommissioning is far more complex than just spent fuel management, especially at Indian Point, a site with known radioactive groundwater contamination," Riverkeeper stated recently.

Joe Delmar, senior director of Government Affairs and Communications at Holtec International, appeared at a meeting of the Indian Point Nuclear Decommissioning Citizen Advisory Panel in Buchanan two weeks ago and received an earful of complaints and criticism.

"I just don't have a trust factor with you yet," State Assemblywoman Sandy Galef (D/Osining) asserted at the meeting. "You have a lot of convincing of this community that you are a good company and should be welcomed here. There has been a lot of negatives about Holtec."

Holtec plans to initiate decommissioning at Indian Point, following regulatory approvals and transaction close, as much as 40

years sooner than if Entergy continued to own the units.

"You have Holtec's commitment that we will be a good neighbor during the decommissioning process," Delmar said, noting there is currently \$2.1 billion in a trust fund dedicated to completing decommissioning activities, which are estimated to cost \$2.3 billion.

A New York State Task Force meeting on Indian Point is scheduled for Thursday, January 30 at 7 p.m. at Cortlandt Town Hall.

Attorney General James noted she led a coalition of 12 states in supporting Massachusetts's challenge to the NRC's approval for the transfer of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station's license to Holtec without affording the Commonwealth a hearing to address its significant concerns about Holtec's ability to successfully oversee the facility's decommissioning.

The coalition's amicus brief, filed in the US Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit, argued that the NRC's failure to hear from Massachusetts before approving the license transfer violates Nuclear Regulatory Commission rules, and the federal Atomic Energy and Administrative Procedure Acts.



Sendoff for City Manager

Retiring Peekskill City Manager Richard Leins (right) was honored last week by city staff and current and former elected officials during a reception.



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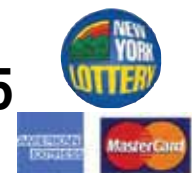
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Ossining Business Alliance Announces Tee Shirt Design Competition

The Ossining Business Alliance (OBA) was formed by a core group of village brick and mortar businesses with a shared vision to cultivate a supportive business community by providing a forum for open communication and formalized collaboration.

The OBA is introducing themselves to the community with an invitation to submit artwork for a tee shirt design competition. Are you able to craft an image that exemplifies Ossining? The winning design will be integrated into a logo that showcases Ossining as the premier destination it has become. Initially the design will be displayed on tee shirts available for purchase at all OBA businesses, and ultimately form a line of promotional items that help brand Ossining.

On the heels of the inaugural Big-OSS BBQ, several of the participating vendors came together to explore how to achieve greater success by sharing experiences and actively supporting each other. It could be as simple as navigating the nuances of County event permits, or finding an effective



Ossining Business Alliance members.

means of communicating with local leaders to affect change that better supports local business initiatives.

Elmer Oliveros, of Brothers Fish & Chips commented, "We work hard to find creative ways to bring people into our restaurant. Cross-promotions with OBA members can attract new customers, and support another local business."

Peter Murdock of Cravin' Jamaican said, "Learning from each other, and helping each other succeed is how we can all grow and make Ossining a better place to own a business."

The OBA will be hosting a meet and greet at Sing Sing Kill Brewery on April 28, to invite fellow Ossining business owners interested in considering becoming mem-

bers. The design competition winner will be announced at this event.

Are you an artist or graphic designer who loves Ossining? Do you know someone who fits that description? Get to work on your ideas! The winner will be awarded a prize package with a first printing of the Ossining tee shirt, plus offerings from all of the OBA businesses.

Instructions for Submissions:

- Submit original designs to: <https://forms.gle/Z8Q1iAmS13aduuRn7>
- Due Date March 31.

Any questions can be directed to ossiningbusinessalliance@gmail.com.

The OBA founding members are:

Aji Limo Peruvian Cuisine
Brothers Fish & Chips
Cravin' Jamaican Cuisine
First Village Coffee
Good Choice Kitchen Vegan Café & Culinary Center
Melike Turkish Cuisine
Sing Sing Kill Brewery

Yorktown Launches Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest

The Yorktown Town Board last week established an annual essay contest in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Children in the fourth and fifth grade can submit essays focused on Dr. King's legacy and what

dreams they have for the Yorktown community. The Town Board will review and score all essays with the chosen winners receiving an invitation to read their essays at a Town Board meeting and having it displayed on the Town's website,

in Town Hall as well as at the John C. Hart Library.

"Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. provided a moral compass for our nation during a tumultuous time in our history. We have a responsibility to continue his legacy

and I can think of no better way than engaging the youth of our community to help us continue to share Dr. King's vision for our great country," said Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater.

The deadline for submissions

is Tuesday, February 11 and can be emailed to Supervisor@yorktownny.org with the subject "MLK Essay Contest." All participants will receive a certificate for their participation. Essays should be limited to 250 words.



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Harckham Announces Support for Marijuana Legislation

By Rick Pezzullo

New York State Senator Pete Harckham (D/Lewisboro) last week announced his support for marijuana legalization that includes investments in substance abuse disorder treatment, mental health programs and education efforts aimed at highlighting the risks of marijuana use.

In addition, Harckham, serving his first term, wants revenue from taxed dispensary sales following legalization to pay for increased enforcement of DUI laws.

Harckham outlined his conditional support for marijuana legalization at a press conference held at the New York State Capitol alongside State Senator Liz Krueger, chair of the Senate Finance Committee, who sponsored the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (S.1527B). The legislation, which was not passed during the 2019 legislative session, now includes the provisions regarding investing a portion of the revenue—25%—toward treatment, education and prevention. Additional resources would be dedicated to local law enforcement to enhance DUI enforcement.

"The bottom line is this: I'm for the legalization of marijuana in the State of New York," said Harckham, chair of the Senate Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse. "But it must be legalization specifically with improvements that guarantee the safety and well-being of our residents in regard to added spending on community policing of DUI and comprehensive education and communication efforts that point to the risks of marijuana use; and 25% of revenue,



New York State Senator Peter Harckham

and not a dollar less, going toward treatment and safety net programs, including Substance Use Disorder and community mental health programs."

Legalization of marijuana concerns many residents, according to Harckham, because of unresolved issues related to the operation of motor vehicles while under the influence of the drug, use by high school students and the documented effect of the drug on developing young brains, and legalization-related problems experienced in other states, like Colorado and California. There is also a broad feeling that marijuana leads to other riskier behaviors.

But Harckham said that his discussions with educators and law enforcement officials pointed to vaping and binge drinking as the biggest concerns regarding young people, and that in states with legalization there was not a sizable spike in marijuana use among teens and young adults.

"The key point here is Senator Krueger listened to the concerns of my constituents and others around the state, and amended her legislation as a result," said Harckham.

The amended marijuana legislation adds more money for police to ensure that DUI is kept in check, and for schools to educate young people on the risks associated with marijuana. The legislation now allows individual school districts to make their own plans for educating their students; municipalities to opt out; and municipalities to carefully establish zoning for marijuana retailers and growers.

The legislation also ensures that the sales tax on marijuana creates revenues that can be invested in communities around the state, 25% of which will specially earmarked for education, treatment and prevention.

vention.

"It is obvious we are in a crisis, which we are failing to meet through disinvestment in Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Community Mental Health Programs," Harckham said, "What I learned from dozens of hearings and meetings with stakeholders is this: the safety net for substance use disorders is in tatters, and we need to invest right now to start turning things around. Senator Krueger's legislation, the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act, will ensure that 25% of the total state revenue from marijuana sales will go toward Substance Use Disorder treatment programs and education. This will be the lifeline for our communities, our mental health programs and our residents."

State Legislators Call on Cuomo to Support \$35B for Road Repairs

By Martin Wilbur

A contingent of Westchester's state representatives are calling on Gov. Andrew Cuomo and fellow lawmakers to support a \$35 billion road and bridge repair bond to fix New York's crumbling transportation infrastructure.

Legislators urged that an infrastructure bond act be presented to voters this November that would make the money available for repairs on state roads throughout New York over a five-year period.

Funding from the current \$29.2 billion capital improvement plan that was approved about five years ago is set to expire on March 31.

Investing in roads would also help the economy by creating solid, good-paying jobs for workers, said state Senator Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro), contending that it is vital for the competitiveness and the economic development of the Hudson Valley.

The senator also said that since the state has lagged on its repairs it is unlikely that \$35 billion over the next five years will enable it to catch up on all the work that's

needed.

"So, \$35 billion, it sounds like a lot of money; it's not a lot of money," Harckham said. "It's a drop in the bucket, but that's where we've got to start and it's essential we get this done."

Officials also argued that the infrastructure issue has wide bipartisan support. Legislator Assemblyman Kevin Byrne (R-Mahopac) was also on hand to speak about its importance.

"This is something we have a tremendous need for," Byrne said. "I'm proud to stand here with my colleagues to call for this significant increase in investment in the upcoming capital plan and we've got to get to work."

Cuomo had also advocated in his January 8 State of the State address for a \$3 billion environmental bond on the November ballot.

Harckham said the state has to be able to turn its attention to multiple key projects simultaneously while Assemblyman Tom Abinanti (D-Pleasantville) said government's most important responsibility is the safety of its residents.



Byrne Joins Rally Against Bail Reform

Assemblyman Kevin Byrne (R,C,Ref-Mahopac) joined Assembly Minority Leader Will Barclay (R,C,I,Ref-Pulaski), Assembly colleagues, law enforcement officials and the families affected by the newly-implemented bail reform law on January 15 at the state Capitol. Speakers at the conference included Sheila Harris, who lost her cousin, Maria "Rosie" Osai, a mother of three, who was struck down and killed by an unlicensed hit-and-run driver on Christmas Eve. Jennifer Payne, whose daughter, Sarah Tombs, was shot and killed by her boyfriend last April with her 4-year-old daughter in the next room, also spoke about how her daughter's accused killer walked free due to bail reform. "The number of victims harmed by criminals who have benefited from these dangerous so-called reforms continues to grow every day," said Byrne. "This is yet another example of how rushed-through legislation passed in the wee hours of the morning has real-life consequences on every day New Yorkers."

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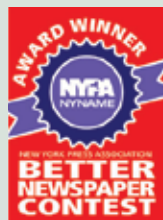
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Letters to the Editor

Funds Committed for Croton Point Avenue Upgrades

To the Editor:

The NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) has committed to an additional \$750,000 in state funding for the Village of Croton's Croton Point Avenue Improvement Project for a total of \$1M in state funding for the project. Thank you to Governor Andrew Cuomo, NYSDOT Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez, NYSDOT Regional Director Lance MacMillan, and NYSDOT Regional Local Projects Manager Orietta Trocard for their commitment to investing in local public infrastructure. Thank you also to Senator Peter Harckham for his advocacy for this project.

Croton Point Avenue is the connection between two major regional transportation networks—Route 9 and the Croton-Harmon Train Station—the latter is the busiest station on Metro-North's Hudson Line.

The Croton Point Avenue Improvement Project includes many traffic-easing improvements meant to provide a better, safer commute for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.

The project would widen the Route 9 South ramp to provide an exclusive right turn lane, add traffic signals, and widen the entrance to the train station parking lot at Veterans Plaza. It would also add bicycle lanes to both sides of the road and a side-

walk to the south side.

In addition to the new state funding, our Village staff have identified crucial areas for cost savings by completing more of the work using the Village's own workforce rather than outside contractors.

It is my hope that with the additional funding, the creativity & talent of our staff, and the commitment of our Board of Trustees, we will be able to move forward on this long-awaited project to enhance safety and manage traffic on one of Croton's busiest roads.

Sincerely,

MAYOR BRIAN PUGH

OMG! A Crazy World of Real Estate Shorthand from AO to ZB

This week's Home Guru is an updated column from several years ago.

You don't have to be a realtor, as am I, to appreciate – or be perplexed by – a whole world of activities and terms in real estate that can be abbreviated to a few letters.

We've all grown up with abbreviations and acronyms that probably originated at sea, such as SOS (save our ship) to POSH (port out, starboard home) and many others for everyday living that nearly everyone is familiar with. There's VIP, RSVP and ASAP, and the important one I learned attending college in a dry state, BYOL (bring your own liquor).

Not all of us studied Gregg or Pitman, but a new shorthand developed, then exploded, with the invention of the personal computer, then the Internet. Who ever heard of LOL (laughing out loud), IMHO (in my humble opinion) and the ubiquitous OMG! (oh, my God!) before we logged on? And now that we've learned to text, much of what we send and receive makes it look as though we're all secret agents.

But in RE (real estate), the world of abbreviations and acronyms frequently draws questions about meanings among realtors and blank looks from buyers and sellers as we start to automatically reference letters from the alphabet, from AO (acceptable offer) to ZB (zoning board), CMA (comparative market analysis) and CO (certificate of occupancy).

Keeping up with these abbreviations is a continuing learning process that can lead to misunderstanding, double interpretations and silly sounds. My favorite is FISBO, for sale by owner, which when I first heard it sounded to me like a digestive remedy.

This subject came to mind recently

when I was having a rather uncomfortable conversation with a service provider. This provider, who installed tiling, refused to give me a solid estimate of what it would cost to have some tiles repaired and replaced at the water line of my pool.

When I shared with him that I was hoping it might be about \$500, he retorted, "No way! It's going to be a lot more than that!" When I asked how much more, he said, "I won't know until I actually do the work and then it will all be 'TM.'"

The only TM I knew was transcendental meditation, which I thought I would surely need when our conversation was over. When I summoned my courage to ask what TM was, he was happy to educate me: time and materials. I added this abbreviation to my shorthand list to be ITK (in the know).

Why everything in the real estate business must be abbreviated, I can't say for sure, but I suspect it originated as a way to save space in listings and ads.

Read any ad about a house and it seems there are more abbreviations than complete words. Some of the abbreviations are more difficult to guess than others. Consider this house description: EF (entry foyer); LR (living room); DR (dining room); EIK (eat-in kitchen); FR (family room); BD or BR (bedroom); BA (bath); SGD (sliding glass doors); WIC (walk-in closet); WDSTV (wood burning stove); BSMT (basement); GAR (garage); and DK (deck). The ad might also state that it needs TLC (tender loving care) and offer the possibility of a M/D (mother/daughter).

Styles of homes also have their own codes: COL (colonial), CONT (contemporary), RR (raised ranch), SL (split level) and CC (Cape Cod).

Not to be overlooked for confusion are those abbreviations with double meanings such as AC (air conditioning, but it can also mean acre) and FHA, which can mean either Federal Housing Authority or forced hot air.

Some sound either funny or crude, such as PUD (planned unit development), HOA (homeowners association), HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development) and NOO (nonowner occupied).

Then there are all the financial terms to keep straight, such as APR (annual percentage rate) and ARM (adjustable rate mortgage).

Those that definitely need explanation the first time around may be DVAC (central vacuum), HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning), and the one I'll never remember if I live to be 100 years old, GFI or GFCI (ground-fault circuit interrupter), a special electrical receptacle that protects us from electrocution in high-risk areas such as bathrooms and kitchens.

Before I'm ready to draw a conclusion, I'll relate an incident in which I was convinced that abbreviations, while convenient, may be taken too far.

I was in a back-and-forth e-mail conversation with a seller's agent concerning an offer I was trying to make on behalf of my buyer client. She said she would be sure to "follow up" with the response of the seller by e-mail. Granted, it was a somewhat low-ball offer, but I was initially startled when the return e-mail's subject line said simply, "FU."

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



By Bill Primavera

Business of the Week

Cages on 6 Mohegan Lake

By Neal Rentz

With ice and snow on the ground, winter would not seem to be an appropriate time for young baseball and softball players to work on their swings.

But with the opening of Cages on 6 in the Cortlandt Town Center on Route 6 in late December, the youth of the northern Westchester and Putnam areas can have access to batting cages year-round.

Cortlandt resident Edwin Feliciano is the owner of the new family business. He said last week the facility offers a 70-foot batting cage and a 60-foot batting cage. The cages can accommodate Little League, high school and recreational league players, he said.

"We're here to serve the community," he said. "I see a big need in the community for kids to have a place to go and hone their craft."

"We partnered with our landlord and our community really to make this happen," Feliciano said. "Our landlord, to his credit, had really stepped up to the plate. He gave us an opportunity to secure a space in a convenient location for



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Cortlandt resident Edwin Feliciano is the owner of Cages on 6, which opened in the Cortlandt Town Center in late December.

families to bring their kids. From a space perspective it is really, really conveniently. It's centrally located. And more importantly, it's a family-friendly atmosphere."

"This is a business in the community for the community," Feliciano added. "If someone wants to hit and needs a place to hone their craft and can't (pay), we wel-

come them with open arms at no charge."

Many of the youths who use the Cages on 6 facilities live in Cortlandt and Mahopac and some attend Lakeland School District schools, Feliciano said.

Though Feliciano said he is willing to rent his facility to teams, "this is more about families and individuals working on their own craft. You will hear almost any coach say we can teach you a little bit while you're at team practice but what really makes a difference is what you do when you're on your own. This is a location to take advantage of that."

Feliciano said there are gyms in the local area where you can lift weights and hire a coach work with you. "What you don't find a lot of is spaces where you can come and work on your own craft by yourself or with you friends and have a good time while honing a skill that you love," he said.

Batters can hit off a tee or use pitching machines at Cages on 6, Feliciano said. "We prefer to have kids hit off a tee and just work on mechanics," he said. "Working on

those in a controlled environment gives you the best outcome."

Cages on 6 is intended for boys and girls from age seven to college ages, Feliciano said.

Feliciano laid out his goals for his new business. "My goal is to have the community take advantage of the space," Feliciano said. "The idea here is really about creating an environment that's safe and controlled for people to come and work on the sports of baseball and softball."

"But my biggest goal for the business is to do a drive for Pitch in for Baseball, which is about collecting gently used equipment that we will then donate," Feliciano said. "They take this gently used equipment and donate it to underprivileged communities throughout North America and Latin America."

Cages on 6 is located at 3081 E. Main St. (Route 6) in the Cortlandt Town Center shopping center in Mohegan Lake, next to Panera. For more information, call 914-847-6905 or send an e-mail to cageson6@gmail.com.



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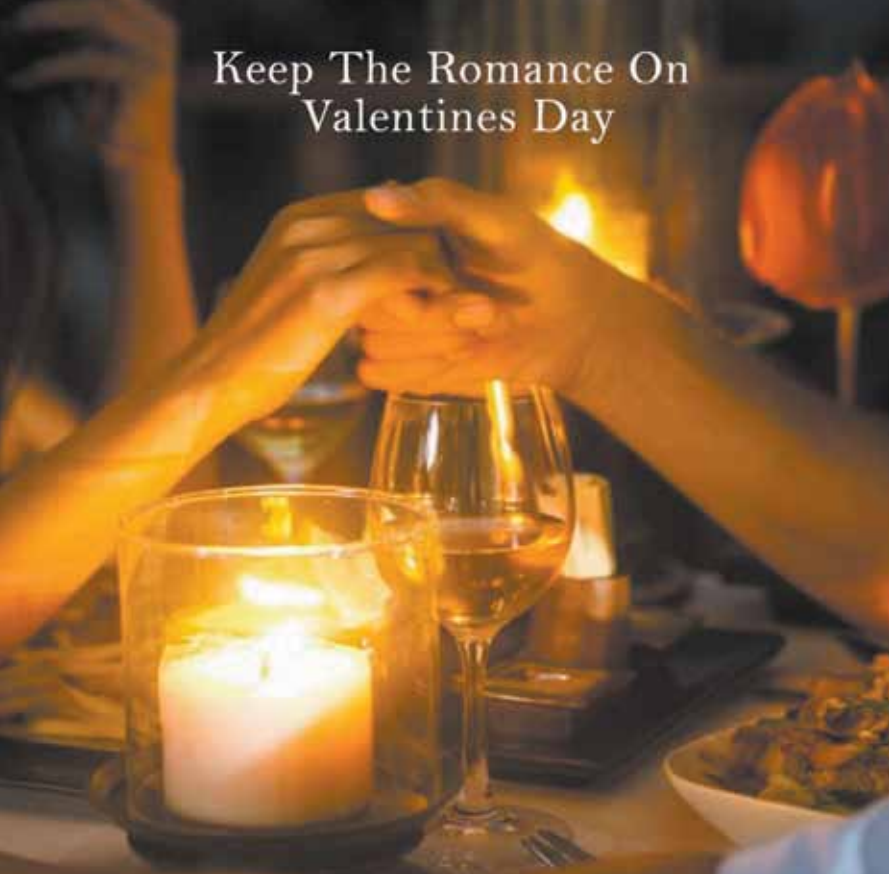
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Obituaries

Mary Ann Mattiola

Mary Ann Lane Mattiola, a 48-year Cortlandt resident, died peacefully December 26, 2019 at Hudson Valley Hospital surrounded by her husband and three daughters, having lived and loved for 82 wonderful years.

She was born October 31, 1937 in New York City to John Fraher and Margaret Creehan Fraher. She grew up in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan where she attended Mother Cabrini School and St. Elizabeth's Roman Catholic Church. At Mother Cabrini, she met many of the women who would remain her lifelong friends.

She lost her father when she was just five years old, and she and her brothers, Jack and Gene, were raised by their widowed mother and by their grandmother, who was very involved in their lives. As a young woman, she met William Lane and they were married when she was 20 and he was 21. A year later, they had their first child, Ellen, and Jeannine and Laura followed shortly thereafter.

During her lifetime, she endured numerous hardships but never bowed. Her tremendous faith in Jesus Christ and her devotion to the Blessed Mother were the bedrock of her existence. She also was blessed with great joy and a family that mattered more to her than anything else on this Earth.

For her 75th birthday, friends and family were asked to describe her in three words. Loving, faithful, generous, giving, strong, independent, determined, smart and funny were the words most often used.

One of the great joys of her life was marrying her lifelong friend, Francis Mattiola, and sharing the last two decades with him. Together, Frank and Mary Ann had many adventures, traveling to Alaska and visiting family and friends across the country. They enjoyed dancing, traveling, going to the races and spending time with family. They were always present at Little League games, music recitals, art shows, plays and graduations for their grandchildren. Until her health faltered, she attended daily mass with Frank at St. Columbanus. Frank was the love of her life.

At the New York Athletic Club, where she worked for her entire adult life, she rose from a switchboard operator using an old-fashioned board with plugs to the chief operator who researched computerized communication systems and chose the vendor for the club. Making the transition to computerized communications required her to attend a school where she was the only woman, and the only person without a college degree, to master the complexities of the system.

She is survived by her loving husband, Francis Mattiola; her daughters Ellen Lane and her husband, Kieran O'Leary, Jeannine Lane and her husband, James Kane and Laura Monaghan and her husband, Michael; her grandchildren, Juliann Kane, Jacqueline Kane and her partner, Arthur Zegers, Conor, Liam and Meghan O'Leary and Michael and Stephanie Monaghan; her great-grandson, Arthur Zegers; her sister-in-law, Michaelleen Fraher; her

niece, Bridgid Sozzi and her husband, Michael; and her nephew, Thomas Fraher and his wife, Donna. She was predeceased by her first husband, William; her brothers, Jack and Eugene Fraher; and by her sister-in-law, Julia Lane.

George Cherubino, Sr.

George Cherubino, Sr., a resident of Yorktown, formerly of Yonkers, died January 19. He was 97.

He was a member of Teamsters Local 456 in Elmsford. Mr. Cherubino was born in 1922 in White Plains to Joseph and Marion Cherubino. He served in the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1946, attaining the rank of Private First Class. He married his wife Sabiana (Libby) in 1946, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in White Plains.

Mr. Cherubino is survived by his daughter Maryann Crisci and his son George Cherubino, Jr. He is also survived by four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife in 2008.

Elaine Armonaitis

Elaine Armonaitis, a resident of Mohegan Lake, died January 20. She was 58.

She was born in 1961 in Manhattan to Gerard and Elaine Canavan. She later graduated from Mercy College with a Master's degree in education, going on to work as an Occupational Therapist. She was an active member of the Faith Bible Church in Mohegan Lake and will be remembered for her devotion to her family, in particular her husband and her granddaughter Kwynn.

She is survived by her husband Michael, daughter and son-in-law Eryka and Kris Lowe and their daughter Kwynn, her siblings Gerard, William and Patricia and their spouses as well as her large extended family of aunts, uncles and cousins.

Robert Merando, Sr.

Robert James Merando, Sr., a resident of Cortlandt, died peacefully January 24. He was 66.

He is survived by his adoring wife Mary Jean, children; Robert, Jr., Mary, Michelle, Nicholas, and Jonathan, five siblings, ten grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents John, Sr., and Mary Merando.

Visitation will be held at the Joseph F. Nardone Funeral Home on Tuesday, January 28, from 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at the Church of the Holy Spirit on Wednesday, January 29, at 11:15 a.m.

Vera Scozzafava

Vera "Tootsie" Scozzafava, a resident of Ossining, died January 21. She was 80.

She was born November 26, 1939 to Pasquale and Carmela (Demarico) Pulcini. Among her many interests she truly enjoyed playing cards with her friends and was very "comfortable" at the casinos.

She is survived by her loving son, Patrick Scozzafava; beloved brother

Patrick Pulcini and her caring aunt Mary Mazzalone. She is also survived by many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends. She was predeceased by her loving son Anthony and beloved husband Angelo Scozzafava.

Michael Scaramellino

Michael G. Scaramellino "Pop" of Kinderhook NY, formerly of Granite Springs, died January 20 after a short illness. He was 87.

With his family he co-owned and operated Sorrento Restaurant at the Riverfront in Peekskill for many years. He was born October 6, 1932 in Brooklyn to Agnello & Raffaella Scaramellino. On June 10, 1956, he married Marie Babey at the Assumption Church in Peekskill.

He is survived by his wife Marie of 63 years, his daughter Michele and John Haley of Ghent NY, his son Michael and Karen Scaramellino of Dover Plains NY, his grandson Michael James and Olivia Scaramellino, and granddaughter Angela and Daniel Tompkins. Great Pop-Pop to Adalynn, Brelynn and Chelsea.

"Mikey" was a bartender, at Sorrento Restaurant for many years, where he loved making drinks and customers laugh and smile. Pop also enjoyed working at the Somers Town Hall. He took pride in taking care of his property, floating in his pool, and having a cold Budweiser on his patio. When they moved to Kinderhook, "Pop" again made new friends with his quick wit and sense of humor, loved meeting new people and making them smile with his simple but crazy one-liners.

"Pop" loved his many nephews and nieces. He is survived by his sister Helen Christian of Granite Springs, and brother Salvatore Scaramellino of Cortlandt. He was predeceased by his parents, his sister Louise Emery, Francis Scaramellino and brother Anthony Scaramellino who was killed in action during WWII (Battle of Iwo Jima).

He was a one-of-a-kind guy, husband, father, friend and family member. His euphemisms, mischievous and witty expressions would make you laugh till you cried, but he also had a soft gentle kind of way about

him with his thoughtful ways and personality. Head toward the light "Pop" and we'll all look forward to seeing you again on the other side. May reading this bring a smile to your face as you remember your own encounters with our precious father and loving husband Mikey.

Marie Hodgkinson

Marie Emmilene Lann Hodgkinson, a resident of Cortlandt, died January 18. She was 97.

The youngest of six children, she was born in Axtell, Kansas on March 23, 1922 to Frank and Hilma (Olson) Lann. She grew up on the family farm, and much of her young life was lived during the Great Depression. She attended Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas and transferred to the University of Minnesota to pursue a degree in nursing, which she received in 1945. She worked for 10 years as a public health nurse in Kansas and Poughkeepsie, New York before marrying Leonard C. Hodgkinson, a teacher at Hendrick Hudson High School, in Coeymans, New York on July 23, 1955. She resided for many years in Buchanan, where she and Len raised four children. In their later years they wintered in Jensen Beach, Florida, which Marie continued to enjoy after Len's passing in 1990. In 2001, Marie moved to Jefferson Village in Yorktown Heights, and spent her final years in Yorktown Assisted Living Residence, formerly the Seabury, in Cortlandt.

Always a person of faith, she grew up attending Salem Lutheran Church in Axtell, Kansas. She joined Trinity-Boscobel United Methodist Church in 1955 and was active as a member well into her 90s. She lived her life seeing the good in other people, and her greatest joy was the time she spent with her immediate and extended family. She is survived by her children, Leonard C. Hodgkinson, Jr. (Judith), Frank W. Hodgkinson (Kathryn), Martha Hodgkinson Swift (David) and Lois Hodgkinson Hines (David), and her grandchildren Brian (Megan), Peter and Kristin Hodgkinson, Michael Swift, and Madeleine, Leah and Rebecca Marie Hines. She was predeceased by her husband, parents and siblings.

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INVEST. INSPIRE. IGNITE.

New Westchester County Tourism Program Launched

Not just a place to go for a hike, a meal or a concert, Westchester is a place to become immersed in memorable activities, culture and surroundings. It's an ideal getaway, a departure from the everyday. It's beyond expectations.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said: "Westchester County is the heart of the Hudson Valley and is a destination that generates billions of dollars in tourism revenue for the region. Today's launch of our new tourism campaign – "Beyond" – showcases the County to attract new visitors for a getaway – a departure from the everyday."

In 2019, Westchester County Department of Film & Tourism's marketing firm Mower conducted qualitative and quantitative research with leisure travelers, and meeting and event planners to gain insight on how those outside Westchester viewed the County's strengths and appeal. This data helped the firm evolve Tourism's creative approach into a new campaign aimed at differentiating Westchester by showing the true range of unique experiences available here to all types of potential visitors – both business and leisure.

The focus groups included leisure travelers from Stamford, CT, NYC and Marlton, NJ and Meeting and Event Planners within the County and beyond. The data from these focus groups showed that the interest is there – with nearly 70% of survey takers said that they are likely to visit Westchester County in the future.

Mower Senior Vice President & Managing Director Mary Gendron said: "Mower is committed to our partnership with Westchester County Tourism & Film. Getting to this "Beyond" campaign creative has been collaborative and rewarding. That we were able to develop it based on solid, current market research has given it a strong foundation. We look forward to deploying the campaign with the goal of stimulating additional tourism, and tourism dollars, for the county."

Westchester County selected Mower in late 2018 based on a formalized search. Mower is one of the nation's top independent marketing, advertising and public relations firm and a specialist in travel and tourism marketing.

The new marketing campaign, entitled "BEYOND," showcases striking photogra-

phy – done by local Westchester County Photographer Rob D'Angelo – of destinations that delight visitors and exceed travel expectations. Advertising is anchored in the tagline "Beyond expectations."

According to New York: Economic Impact of Tourism, Hudson Valley/Westchester report, Tourism Economics and supplied by NYSED; hotel statistics: Smith Travel Research:

- Visitor spending in Westchester supported 24,360 jobs directly and indirectly in 2018 – 5% of all jobs in Westchester County. Westchester comprises 39% of all Hudson valley Region Visitor Supported Jobs

- In total, visitor spending grew 5% in 2018, representing 45% of all visitor spending in the Hudson Valley region. This ranks Westchester County third in visitor spending in New York State - behind only New York City and Long Island.
- Tourism activity benefits many industry sectors in Westchester County with all visitor spending categories growing in 2018 to make up that nearly \$2B record. Spending on lodging jumped 8%, followed by food & beverage and retail & service stations, up 5%. Recreation, transportation and spending on second homes also rose 4% each.

- Travel and tourism continues to be a significant driver of the County's economy, providing revenue to support vital County services that residents rely on. Local taxes and state taxes generated \$233M in 2018 from the travel and tourism industry alone.

Westchester County Office of Film & Tourism Director Natasha Caputo said: "This new tourism campaign is a commitment to make the industry stronger and boost tourism in Westchester County. Travelers have many getaway options and see lots of messages, Beyond inspires and breaks through the noise – it's true to what we have to offer as a destination."



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CAMPS

New Program Empowers Parents to Boost Early Learning

Science has consistently shown that the first three years of life are vital to a child's developing brain, and new research confirms that families play an important role in language development and educational readiness.

"We've seen first-hand in our research what a positive impact parents can have in the process," said Dr. Dana Suskind, professor of surgery and co-director of the TMW Center for Early Learning + Public Health at the University of Chicago.

Preliminary results from a five-year study, supported through a \$3 million grant by the PNC Foundation and conducted by the TMW Center, reveal that parents improved their toddler's language environments by increasing conversational turns almost four times more than parents in the control group. These findings are particularly meaningful because they mirror new and emerging research that points to the importance of conversational turn-taking in building a child's language and cognitive skills.

These results are generating attention and investment in



programs like "Any Time is 3Ts Time," a campaign launched by the TMW Center that's designed to empower parents with the knowledge and skills needed to make the most of everyday interactions with their young children.

The campaign, which is supported by an additional \$3.3 mil-

lion grant from the PNC Foundation, is built on the "3Ts" – Tune In, Talk More and Take Turns – and includes the distribution of online and print materials to parents through a network of community partners, particularly in underserved neighborhoods. The free, easy-to-use resources at

the3Ts.org will become available in both English and Spanish in early 2020 and eventually include access to an interactive web-based app.

The grant, which is supported through PNC Grow Up Great, a bilingual \$500 million, multi-year initiative helping prepare children

from birth to age 5 for success in school and life, also will support the TMW Center's "Let's Talk!" parent group program, which is designed for deeper 3Ts engagement and includes real-time coaching and in-person sessions. The group program will debut in Chicago and later extend to early education programs in other U.S. cities.

"We recognized an opportunity to develop high-quality, early educational resources for families with children under age three. Now, with proven research from the TMW Center, we are able to support their effort to make new resources accessible to millions of parents and caregivers across the country," said Sally McCrady, chair and president at the PNC Foundation.

Access to high-quality early education and resources is critical for a child's success in school and life. Thanks to new programs based on scientific research, more children are going to start school ready to thrive and learn.

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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, Jan. 28

Taconic Postcard Club: The group will meet tonight and club members Val Carano and Lori Sheehy will present Peekskill in Postcards/Then & Now at the Yorktown Community and Cultural Center, top floor. At 6:30 p.m. there will be a meet and greet and postcard trading. The presentation begins at 7 p.m. The free program is open to the public. Info: 914 962 2970.

Wednesday, Jan. 29

Hart Library Exhibits: Trans.form. art.ive - Art by Bowman Keath will be exhibited in January at the John C Hart Memorial Library, 1130 E Main St, Shrub Oak. Also, see artwork from Lakeland/Panas High Schools in the showcases inside the library this month.

New York -Presbyterian Programs: Several programs have been scheduled for the coming days at New York-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital, 1980 Crompond Rd. Beyond Sushi: Japanese Cuisine will be held on Jan. 29 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Cost: \$15. Registration: call 914-734-3780 or e-mail hvh-teachingkitchen@nyp.org. Physician in the Kitchen: Nutrition for Respiratory Health will be held on Jan. 31 from noon to 1:30 p.m. Registration: call 914-734-3780 or e-mail hvh-teachingkitchen@nyp.org.

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, and a time to call between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. and whether your interest is in Medicare services or other benefits. A counselor will return your call within two business days. SBIC will not meet on days the Somers schools are closed due to snow.

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.

Judaism's Gifts To The World: Chabad of Yorktown, 2629 Old Yorktown Rd., invites you to join our new six-week course from the Jewish Learning Institute. The course begins today from 7:30-9 p.m. Try the first class free of charge. For more information on the course, and to register, visit www.ChabadYorktown.com.

Thursday, Jan. 30

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

Tri-State IBM Retirees Club: The group will meet at the United Methodist Church Hall on E. Main Street, Shrub Oak. Susan Atwell will discuss decorating your home to sell or dwell. Social and coffee will be held at 1 p.m. and the meeting begins at 1:30 p.m. Club dues will be collected. Info: Peg Ryan at 914-528-5916.

Friday, Jan. 31

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.

Jewish Center Services: At the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. Friday night Sabbath services begin at 6:15

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

Temple Beth Am Services: A Friday night Shabbat service will be held at 8 p.m. at Temple Beth Am. Temple Beth Am is located at 203 Church Pl. Yorktown. For information, please call our Rabbi at 962-7500 or e-mail him at rabbiiw@optonline.net.

Saturday, Feb. 1

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.

Somers Library Exhibit: Photographs by Christy Hicks are being exhibit throughout the month of February at the Somers Library. Info: 914-232-5717 or www.somerslibrary.org.

Yoga Program: Support Connection announces a free program: "Yoga: A Path Toward Wellness" will be offered every Saturday in February at Club Fit in Jefferson Valley from noon to 1:30 p.m. It is open to people who have or have had breast, ovarian and gynecological cancers. To learn more or to pre-register, which is required to participate, call Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

Sunday, Feb. 2

Hart Library February Exhibits: Lakeland and Walter Panas High Schools art departments - Mixed Media Show is being presented this month at the John C. Hart Memorial Library. The opening reception is slated for Feb. 6 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Also see artwork from Yorktown art students in the showcases inside the library this month. The library is located at 1130 E. Main St., Shrub Oak.

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, Feb. 3

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

Tuesday, Feb. 4

Hatha Yoga Class With Marta Gil: The free classes are held on Tuesdays from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. in the Jefferson Valley Mall near Bear Mountain Coffee Roasters Cafe. The mall is located at 650 Lee Blvd. A certain amount of yoga mats will be provided, but it's always better to have your own. No registration is necessary.

Creative Writing Class: The class is being held every Tuesday through May 5 at the Somers Library from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Class size is limited to 12, so please call the Library at 914-232-5717 to sign up.

Memory Marathon Fundraiser at Mall to Benefit the Alzheimer's Association

Lulu Stvan, a junior and honors student from Staples High School in Westport, CT with a passion for journalism, has created a fundraising event at the Jefferson Valley Mall in Yorktown that she has named "Memory Marathon" to benefit the Hudson Valley Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

The event will be held on Saturday, February 8 from noon to

4 p.m. There will be memory-related games set up on the second-floor level of the mall where children and adults are invited to participate in exchange for donations to the Alzheimer's Association.

Stvan's fundraiser coincides with her community service project entitled, "Remember When," which will open to the public that day. She collected

quotes from local residents and photographs recalling memories that showcase the history of the Mall and how it has been such an important part of the Northern Westchester and Putnam County area. Her project highlights the importance of maintaining memories as a community and as individuals, and also provides the opportunity to retell and share

these memories with the community and encourages others to think about what the Mall has meant to them.

"As a journalist, I love hearing people's stories and capturing the essence of special communities through writing and photography," Stvan said. "The Jefferson Valley Mall and surrounding communities have so many great stories for me to share. This project

highlights the importance of maintaining memories as a community and as individuals. I hope this exhibit inspires visitors to support the work of the Alzheimer's Association."

There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 3 p.m. on February 8 at the North Main Entrance, across from Kay Jewelers as Stvan's exhibition officially opens to the public.

The Unlikely Culinary Competitions for Super Bowl Sunday

Once again, we're in the middle of that period of football wasteland, especially with no home team to root for in the post season. Nevertheless, here comes the spectacle of Super Bowl LIV.

Regardless of the long gridiron tradition, it is as anticipated for its off-field festivities as it is for its on-field combat. The season has come down to a single game and the glory and esteem it will bestow on the San Francisco 49ers or the Kansas City Chiefs.

Super Bowl Sunday brings together friends and family to indulge in the biggest junk food day of the year. Once a year we indulge guilt-free in those waist-widening, artery-clogging foods we try to avoid fastidiously all year. And what better way to wash down those calories and fat than with your favorite beverage.

But what will we be enjoying this Sunday?

Here are several food facts for Super Bowl Sunday from the National Restaurant Association:

There will be 48 million Americans who will order takeout food. What will we be eating? For 69 percent of us, we will be noshing on salsa, chips and dips and 63 percent will be inhaling chicken wings. In fact, according to the National Chicken Council, 1.25 billion chicken wings will be devoured. They calculate that is enough to put 572

wings on every seat in all 32 NFL stadiums.

With culinary highlights and lowlights in mind, here is my premise for this week's column: a Super Bowl Challenge for the best food, wine and beer produced in the two rival football regions.



By Nick Antonaccio



FOOD

After New York City, San Francisco is the dining capital of the United States. From the eclectic and bountiful waters of the bay, to the culinary heights of haute cuisine in the downtown area, to the ultimate Italian comfort food in North Beach, diners continually find "one of my favorite meals" in San Francisco. And don't forget the Irish coffee at the Buena Vista Café.

Kansas City has cultivated a cult following for its pork and beef for over two centuries. Barbecue restaurants tempt locals and tourists with the wafting

aromas of smoldering smoked ribs, chops and brisket. World-acclaimed steakhouses ply high-quality offerings from prized local ranches and butcher houses. Jess & Jim's, Rye and Plaza III are standouts.

In this category the edge goes to San Francisco. Like the 49ers, it consistently delivers on what it promises, at a level far surpassing the norm.

WINE

This is an easy category. Just 45 minutes

north of San Francisco lie two of the most famous and highly revered wine regions in the world, Napa and Sonoma counties.

But don't sell Kansas City short. The foundation of the American wine industry must pay tribute to the Norton grape variety, first cultivated in Missouri in the early 19th century. In one year, 1880, production reached two million gallons, the highest in the United States.

Raise your glasses of Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon as you salute the underdog 49ers, facing the powerhouse offense of a Chiefs team akin to the powerful history of the Norton grape.

BEER

Craft beers are growing in popularity, a testament to the new generation of talented brew masters. Both Jimmy Garoppolo and Patrick Mahomes are stars this season.

San Francisco craft beermakers like Anchor, 21st Amendment, Barrel Head and Cellarmaker have been rising in esteem since the last century.

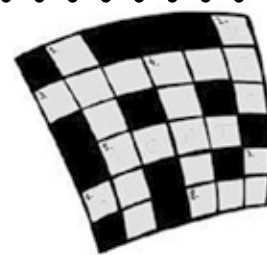
But don't count out Kansas City. Its high-powered football team is a reflection of the influence and might of the state's beer success. Yes, I know, Anheuser Busch is a juggernaut, but is it the posterchild for the shifting state of the beer industry to craft beer? Kansas City has its share of popular craft brewers, including Boulevard Brewing, Bier Station and Torn Label.

However, San Francisco easily overpowers Kansas City in this category, even if more Bud and Bud Light will be consumed

this Sunday than any other beer.

Super (Snack) Bowl Sunday is nirvana for football enthusiasts and junk food aficionados alike. Whichever camp you fall into, just kick back and enjoy the game and the camaraderie.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 25 years he has conducted 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.



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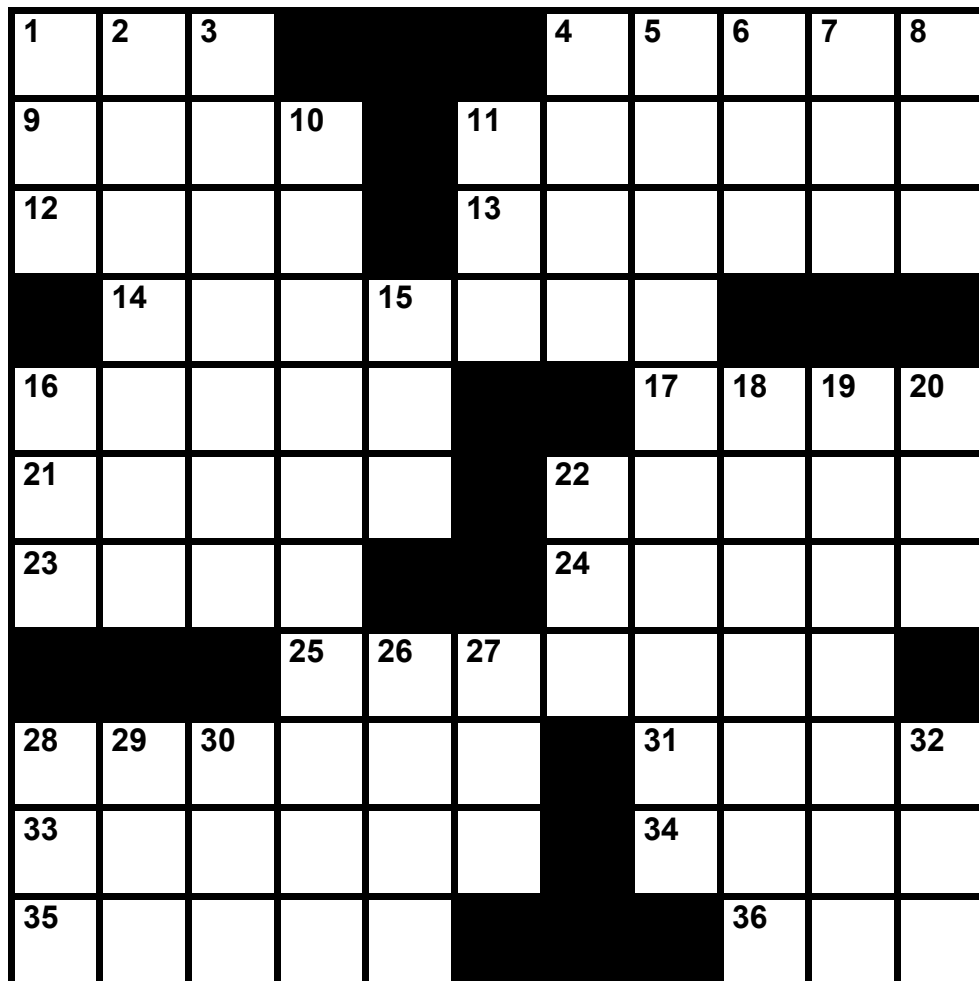
ACROSS

1. Dr. Frankenstein's workplace
4. Primate native to Madagascar or Somers insurance agency _____
9. Stretches
11. Dwarf tree
12. Relinquish legally
13. Smoothed
14. Formal withdrawer
16. Enjoy something to the fullest, or new Mahopac restaurant
17. Vamooses
21. Winery process
22. Memory parts
23. Klondike strike
24. Bothered
25. Closet assortment
28. Senescence
31. Sounds of relief
33. Oil source
34. "Quit it!"
35. A Spanish n has it sometimes
36. Environmental watch-

dogs, for short

DOWN

1. Resinous deposit
2. Way back when
3. Plague
4. Hendrix song, "Bold as _____"
5. Drinks to bring more stamina perhaps
6. Bill Gates' portal
7. Emirates, for short
8. Free from, with "of"
10. Used
11. Greenhouse plot
15. Work unit, in physics
16. Lose resilience
18. Go over again
19. Place to get a cuppa
20. Concorde or Tupolev, abbr.
22. Tool holder
26. Fit of fever
27. What a goalie guards
28. Be decisive
29. Bouquet in Hawaii
30. The Cowboys, on scoreboards



(Solution for puzzle on page 15)

1	L	2	A	3	B					4	L	5	E	6	M	7	U	8	R
9	A	G	E	10	S					11	B	O	N	S	A	I			
12	C	E	D	E						13	E	V	E	N	E	D			
		14	S	E	C	15	E	D	E	R									
16	S	A	V	O	R						17	G	I	18	T	19	S		
21	A	G	I	N	G						22	B	Y	T	E	S			
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33	P	E	A	N	U	T					34	S	T	O	P				
35	T	I	L	D	E							36	E	P	A				

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PV Resident Charged with Attempted Murder in Slashing of Officer

Continued from page 3

Hudson Valley Hospital Center in Cortlandt by a fellow deputy after attempts to stop the bleeding with a tourniquet were unsuccessful.

According to Joe Torres with ABC7NY/Eyewitness News, this is the first time in the department's history that a member has sustained a life-threatening injury.

"His injuries they weren't able to stabilize, so he immediately had to be brought into surgery to repair the damage that was done," the sheriff told Torres. "They were able to repair the artery and stop the bleeding."

Langley also told ABC7/Eyewitness News that the deputies could have used

deadly physical force to control the situation.

"But with all the training we provide our officers, they used what means they had necessary," said Langley. "Unfortunately, due to the proximity of the suspect with the knife and the Taser not working, it became a physical struggle."

He also thanked the New York State Police, Town of Carmel Police, Westchester County Police and the City of Peekskill Police for their assistance and support.

"We would also like to thank the Hudson Valley Hospital Center for all their support during this time," said Langley. "And thank you to everyone who has sent good wishes his way. It worked."

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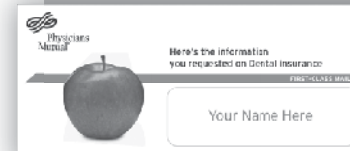
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RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Ossining senior G Brooke Weeks looks to dish a pass off coverage from Somers freshman G Ava Giudice in the nine-time defending Section 1 Class AA champion Pride's 59-49 win over the 2019 Class A finalists Tuskers last Thursday when Weeks went for 12 points, four rebounds, two assists and a steal on the road... see Girls' Hoops Notebook

Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook

Ossining Rounding into Form, Knocks of Somers, 59-49

Put Valley, Hen Hud Post Big Wins, Remain High Seeds for Playoffs

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor@Directrays

The nine-time defending Section 1 Class AA champion **OSSINING** Pride and the 2019 Class A runner-up **SOMERS** Tuskers met up last Thursday in a clash between two of Section 1's premier programs in Somers where the Pride outlasted the Tuskers, 59-49.

The 2020 campaign has not been what either of the two perennial powers are used to, as both clubs are currently at or below .500, but both the Pride and Tuskers have faced a tough slate of games and sit atop their respective leagues.

The Pride (6-7, 3-0 in I-D) were led by senior G Adrianna McFadden's 16 points, 10 rebounds, three assists and five steals while Somers (6-6, 3-0 in II-C) saw a breakout game from F Jordan May, who scored 19 points. The game was a good test for two clubs with league title aspirations and legitimate County Center Final 4 hopes despite anyone counting them out.

The Pride had nine different scorers, including senior G Brooke Weeks, who was all over the place (12 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists), while Katie Marx added nine boards and five points.

Senior co-captain Pooja Rao hit three 3's en route to an impressive double-double (13 points, 10 rebounds).

"The Ossining game was a bizarre one," Somers Coach Marc Hattem said. "We had eight points one half and 41 in another. I think we were nervous early. They are quick and physical team, and I tried to prepare them and probably ended up giving them too much. I was really happy with a few things; how we were able to make adjustments at



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Somers G Dani DiCintio looks to evade Ossining defender Tamia Dimmie in Tuskers' 59-49 loss to Pride Wednesday.



Ossining captain Adriana McFadden takes run at Somers G Ava Giudice in Pride's 59-49 win over host Tuskers Wednesday.



Somers F Poojah Rao gets up to defend Ossining G Adrianna McFadden in Tuskers' 59-49 loss to Pride Wednesday.

the half and the defensive performance. We rebounded and defended very well, especially on the perimeter. That's a real good Ossining team that's deep and we didn't stop till the end."

Somers senior G Dani DiCintio had 20 points and 4 steals in Friday's 61-36 win over Nanuet. Freshman Lauren McCartin added a career-high six points.

The Tuskers finished out a stretch of three games in three days Saturday morning at **YORKTOWN** (6-6, 1-2 II-C) where Somers posted a 55-54 nail-biting win in overtime. Husker Ashley Zeolla dropped 20 of her 26 points in the second half, including a go-ahead layup with 15 seconds left in OT for a 54-53 lead. However, as has been the case throughout her sterling four-year career, DiCintio hit the last of her 18 points with 2.8 seconds left to seal the deal. DiCintio is now two points shy of

1,000 for her career. Her first bucket against Lakeland this Wednesday will be a milestone hoop.

May scored a team-high 21 points to pace the Tuskers.

"Jordan May playing at a high level," Hattem said. "Having her takes so much pressure off Dani. She is really making a difference in the post. Pooja Rao also has started to make shots, hitting 11 3s in her last five games, which is big for us. This was a great game on the part of both teams. I'm still catching my breath."

Husker Melissa Severino added a dozen pints, including three-straight free throws with 2.3 seconds left in regulation to force OT.

"It's tough to be too down for too long when the girls give an effort like that," Yorktown Coach Brian Mundy said.

CLASS A

It's anyone's guess when it comes to the Class A lady's circuit in 2020. There are 14 teams with a current winning record and nearly all within the top 10 seeds looks like a potential Final 4 team should they reach their capabilities in the playoffs.

HEN HUD is looking more and more like a team that might make its first Final 4 appearance since 2006 behind the trio of Alysha Fanning, Jess Harris and Jen Catano. The 2020 Sailors (11-1, 2-0 in II-E) have star-power in Marist-bound F Caitlin Weimar, who had a monster double-double (24 points, 17 rebounds, 5 blocks) in their 57-41 win over Lakeland last Thursday.

Grace Moretti added 16 for the Sailors while teammates Mylene Smith and Kira Varada were, "simply awesome on the defensive end," according to Hen Hud Coach Ken Sherman. "Lakeland did not play like their record," he added. "I tried to warn our girls of that, but Lakeland came out of the gates tough. We are battling thru some sicknesses right now, so hopefully we can rest up before we play a tough Ketcham team."

Lakeland was led by Tyler Hormazabal (18 points), Amanda Cole (9 rebounds) and Bri Monte (4 blocks).

On the heels of a sub-par performance against host Somers a week prior, **WALTER PANAS** may have put its best foot forward in last Tuesday's 67-62 non-league win over Tappan Zee, ranked No.8 in NYS. Cailean Nolan had 19 points and six rebounds and

continued on next page

Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook

continued from previous page

the Panthers (9-5, 3-1 II-C) erased a 23-point halftime deficit to upend the reigning Section 1 Class A champion Dutchmen (10-3) in a game that featured two teams with County Center dreams. Panas G Kristen Cinquina chipped in with 17 points, five boards and five assists for Panas, which has won six of the last eight and is starting to look more and more like the team that reached the Final 4 a year ago. So, we asked Panas boss Matt Evangelista how does his team go from the team that scored just five points in the first quarter against Somers last week, to a team that erased a 23-point deficit to beat an above-average TZ team? And will the real Panthers please stand up... in time for the Class A sectionals?

"I have no idea," the coach said. "I told the girls they are the most wildly inconsistent team I have coached in 20 years of coaching basketball, but when we are playing hard and rolling this is the best team I've had at Panas."

Panas started out slow against Tappan Zee, just like they did against runner-up Somers. Panas was down 23 with 1:05 left in the second quarter but then scored the last

seven points of the quarter to get a little momentum. Panas then put up 26 points in the third quarter to cut the TZ lead to six. Panas then ratcheted up the defense holding TZ to four points (zero field goals) in the fourth quarter. Panas finally took the lead with 3:30 left in the fourth, then executed and made free throws down the stretch to hang on for the victory.

Erijona Rraci scored 11 points. Kristen Scrobola contributed eight points and eight rebounds. Kat Reynoso played her typical great defense and chipped in six points. Alex Sudol had five steals and six rebounds as well as knocked down important free throws down the stretch. Faith Cesarini, Emma Anderson, and Kelsey Cregan battled on defense and on the boards off the bench.

Panas lost to host Pearl River Friday night, 57-50. After a strong start Panas went cold in the third quarter despite Cinquina's 22 points, including 6 3's. Scrobola added 13 points and Rraci added six.

BREWSTER suffered a -sub par effort in a 39-38 loss to Class B Edgemont where the Bears (10-4, 2-2 II-C) had a three-game win streak snapped last Thursday. After big



Ossining F Lily Barossi takes aim at hoop as Somers F Pooja Rao defends in Pride's 59-49 win over host Tuskers Wednesday.



Ossining C Katie Marx tries to snag rebound from Somers F Pooja Rao in Pride's 59-49 win over host Tuskers Wednesday.

wins over Lakeland and John Jay CR, a loss to Edgemont (6-8) was unexpected.

CLASS AA

In **MAHOPAC's** 65-40 win over host **YORKTOWN**, Indian sophomore Melanie DeMeo continued her emergence with a game-high 19 points. Mahopac (9-4, 3-2 I-A) cruised to a 33-16 halftime lead and never looked back. Indian sophomore Julie DeBrocky added 11 points while Yorktown was led by Zeolla (eight points). The Indians are currently holding the No.7 seed in Class AA, and have a very tough week ahead with No.5 New Rochelle and No.6 Arlington on the docket.

CLASS B

PUTNAM VALLEY had a foundation-building triumph in a complete team win over Class AA host Arlington, 57-44, last Thursday. With their sights set on winning the first sectional title in program history in early March, the Tigers' road win over the Admirals was sure to fuel the fire. PV, ranked No.15 in NYS, was led by junior F Arianna Stockinger's 18 points and in-your-face defense. Tiger freshman swingman Eva DeChent (15 points) and senior G Kelli Venezia

(14 points) were key contributors on both ends of the court as the Lady Tigers improved to 11-2 before today's monster test with Class AA state-ranked (No.4) Ursuline. PV is currently the No.2 seed in Class B, behind state-ranked (No.1) Briarcliff.

CROTON-HARMON is not going to go quietly this winter, so long as the Tigers (10-4) continue to get 75 points like they did in a 22-point win over Bronxville Saturday's annual Hoops for Heroes event where All-Section junior Anna Eng led the Tigers with 33 points and Grace Reyer added 23. The Tigers are the current No.5 seed in Class B.

HALDANE gave Briarcliff (13-0) a run for its money in a 55-39 loss. The six-time reigning Section 1 champion Blue Devils (7-7) remain the team to beat in Class C. Haldane will visit Putnam Valley Thursday for the first of two key League III-E tip-offs against the reigning league champs.



Sports

Grappling Notebook

Put Valley, Mahopac, Carmel Shine at Caruso Memorial

By Tony Pinciario

Hunter Lundberg had the Peter Caruso Memorial Mahopac Wrestling Tournament circled on his 2019-20 season. The **PUTNAM VALLEY** standout did not place in the tournament last year and took third his freshman year.

"Because of my results in previous years it really motivated me to train harder and perform this year," Lundberg said.

Lundberg performed at the highest level, registering four pins to win the 126-pound weight class. Teammates Will Carano (160) and Shane Appell (145) won their weight classes, leading Putnam Valley to a fifth-place finish. The Tigers accomplished this despite not bringing a full lineup.

The Tigers had four other top-six placefinishers – Dave Maloney (fourth-220 pounds), Michael Yurcho (106) and Jacob Cassidy (195) were both fifth and Esuar Ordonez (113) finished sixth.

The only other area champion was **CARMEL** seventh-grader P.J. Duke, who rang up three pins to win the 99-pound title and improve to 34-0 this season.

The **MAHOPAC 'A'** squad finished fourth and had seven placefinishers, highlighted by runners-up Larry Nardecchia (145) and Tyler Roa (152).

Carmel had six other top-six finishers and were sixth. **SOMERS** finished 11th on the strength of five placefinishers.

Lundberg was seeded first, but he didn't allow it to affect him. He had two pins in under one minute. His finisher in the semifinal

round came 33 seconds into the second period. Only Smithtown East's Connor Malley lasted until the third period, but Lundberg closed it out with one minute and 11 seconds remaining in the match.

"I was proud of the way I wrestled," Lundberg said. "The momentum and adrenaline leading up to the finals definitely helped."

Appell pinned his first two opponents, had a major decision in the semis and decisioned Nardecchia, 7-4 in the final. Nardecchia beat top-seeded Dylan Burgos (Pine Bush), 9-7 in a semi.

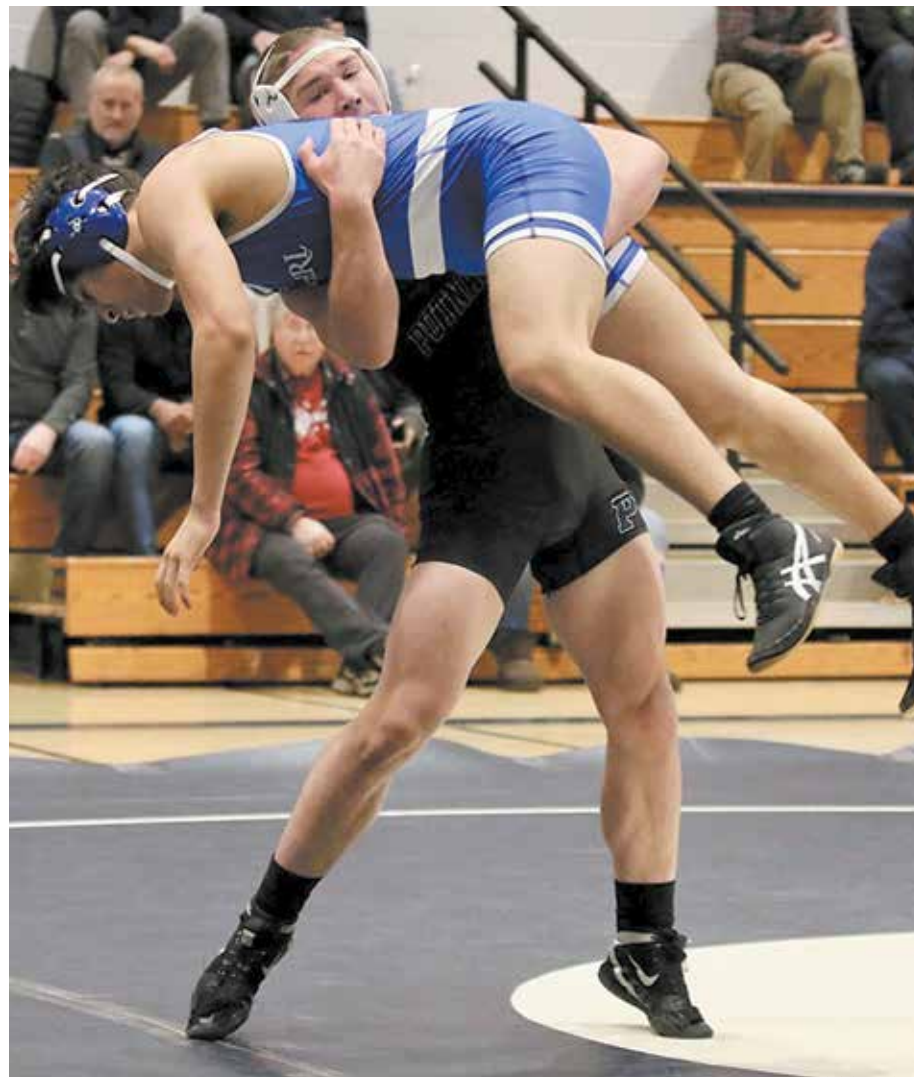
Carano won his second consecutive Caruso title with two pins and a technical fall.

"Winning with Shane and Will felt really good, knowing how much we grind at practice with both the school and at Empire Wrestling Academy," Lundberg said. "Placing fifth is pretty big and we didn't even have the full line up so I think this proves that Putnam Valley shouldn't be slept on at sectionals. We had a lot of momentum that brought us here and placing first, along with my teammates, felt so good."

The tournament is named in honor of Peter Caruso, a former Mahopac wrestler, who lost his life in a tragic car accident. Putnam Valley is an annual participant as Coach Will Carano is a Mahopac graduate and Section 1 wrestling champion (senior year).

"Coach Carano went to high school at Mahopac so I feel like I have to show up and win," Lundberg said. "It's a true testament to how he developed me as an athlete, leading up to that tournament."

Carano was proud of his team especially



ROCK OGO PHOTO

Putnam Valley's Will Carano was crowned 160-pound champion at Mahopac's Peter Caruso Memorial Tournament Saturday.

Carmel Girls, Boys to Represent at New Balance Nationals



HAROLD TURK PHOTOS

At Saturday's Dr. Sander Invitational Columbia Challenge in NYC, the Carmel girls' 4x800 relay team of Erin Lee, Emily Alps, Rebecca Monge and Katie Turk ran a time of 9:31.668 while the boys' 4x800 team of Ryan Doherty, Zach Martin, Josh Goldberg and Braeden Voyticky clocked in at 7:59.696, both qualifying both for New Balance Nationals Indoor Championships in March 13-15 at the NYC Armory. Both races were massive improvements over the previous season's best (14 seconds for the girls and 12 seconds for the boys). Neither team really expected to hit the standards for nationals going into the race. In addition, the boys were extended an invitation to compete in the 4x800m Relay at the Millrose Games (Feb.8), since they broke eight minutes. The girls are on the bubble and will find out shortly if they qualify.

his three champs.

"That's the performance we want and need from those three, and it certainly generated the team points we needed to sneak into the top five," Carano said.

Duke continued his outstanding debut varsity season. Duke also won the prestigious Eastern States 99-pound title earlier this month.

"As a seventh-grader, P.J. has the focus and ability level that like his accomplishments this season is beyond his age," said Carmel Coach Seth Harrison, a Section 1 wrestling champion for the Rams. "He instantly raises the level of any room in which he trains or competes, and Carmel is proud to call him one of our own."

"What makes his 34-0 record so significant is the caliber of competition within those wins. He actively looks for the toughest opponents. In addition to being the youngest wrestler in New York and Section 1 to win an Eastern States, he's beaten section champs, state-ranked wrestlers and nationally-recruited kids along the way."

Harrison feels his team is peaking at the right time with divisionals and sectionals in a few weeks.

"With the end of the season approaching, it's great to have a tournament, basically in our back yard, but also provides varied com-

petition from programs and wrestlers outside our area that we don't get a chance to see," Harrison said.

Mahopac's Xander Smith (106) and Londrim Hasanramaj (220) each finished third, Aidan Muldoon (120) and James Russo (132) were fourth and Brock Fitzpatrick (160) was fifth.

Carmel's Leo (113) and Joel Venables (195) each finished third, Joe Clement (138) and Jay Boscia (152) were fourth and Noah Orser (126) and Jackson Reyes (132) sixth.

Somers' coach Ron DiSanto, Jr., had his five wrestlers place – Thomas Gall (second-220), Peter Kim (160) and Dominic Barrella (99) were fourth and Zachary Lupinacci (145) and Michael Rivera (220) placed fifth.

"It's a very competitive tournament so it was a nice accomplishment for all five of our wrestlers that entered to finish as top-six placefinishers," DiSanto said. "Many of our losses were competitive so that's a good sign, too. It was a good learning experience for them all as we reach the home stretch to divisionals."

"Thomas wrestled really tough and smart. He managed his matches well and is confident in his technique."

Yorktown's Robert Cermele (195) and Peekskill's Kendall Cousins (285) each placed sixth.

Sports

Boys' Hoops Notebook

Lakeland, Somers Vie for League II-A Title; Haldane Seeks III-E

By Ray Gallagher

Examiner Sports Editor@Directrays

In an otherwise light week of action due to midterms, the week finished strong on Friday and Saturday at places like **CROTON-HARMON** where the Tigers hosted their annual Hoops for Heroes event, which annually pays homage to local veterans... something we should never get enough of.

HALDANE kicked off the day with a 51-39 win over Bronxville Matt Champlin (14 points), Mame Diba (13), Darrin Santos (8) and Matteo Cervone (7) paced the attack. The host Tigers followed up with a 55-42 win over Westlake when Braden Burke went off with an impressive double-double (20 points, 10 rebounds). Jack Connolley and Owen Marcus both added 10 points for the Tigers (7-8, 4-3 III-A).

There are league titles on the line this week, so we'll take a deep dive below, but not before we salute Lakers legend Kobe Bryant for a polarizing, transcendent, top 10 all-time NBA career. His philanthropy and promotion of the WNBA was equally impressive, #RIP...

NWE/PUTNAM HIGH FIVE HOOPS POLL

No.1 LAKELAND -- Coach Fallo's Class A Hornets (10-3, 4-0 II-C) remain the team to beat in League II-C and three rough-and-



Mahopac F Luke Syku drives lane in Indians' 60-51 loss to Harrison Friday.



Mahopac swingman Vin Bastone (11 points, 4 boards, 4 assists) did a little bit of everything in 60-51 loss to Harrison Friday.



RAY GALLAGHER/BOB CASTNER PHOTOS

Panas F Caleb Evans goes for two points in Panthers' win over Fox Lane.

tumble games before Feb.4th with Somers, Panas and John Jay will determine local bragging rights. A sweep would be sweet, but we'll settle for 2 out of 3... nah, who we kidding: Go get 'em all, run the table and secure a top 3-4 seed in playoffs.

No.2 SOMERS -- Coach DiCintio's Class A Tuskers (5-7, 3-1 II-C) are 3-1 since the call-up of freshman Matt Fitzsimmons, who has been a shot in the arm with 40 points in four games. With six league games left, will Somers be challengers or play spoilers? Dylan Berliner had 22 points in 60-44 win over Brewster.

No.3 PANAS -- Coach Auerbach's Class A Panthers (8-6, 2-2 II-C) got a big boost with the return of senior sparkplug Lorenzo Santucci, who went for 19 points in a 59-45 win over Fox Lane. Panas F Caleb Evans added 12. "To say the least, we miss Lorenzo's scoring," the coach said. Santucci continued his seamless return to the lineup with 25 points, including 7 3's, in Saturday's 65-43 win over Hen Hud. Stay with us, bro, you're a difference maker!

No.4 MAHOPAC -- Coach McMahon's Class AA Indians (5-6, 2-2 I-A) wilted down stretch of Friday's 60-51 home loss to Class A Harrison, allowing 11 3's (overall) and squandering a 41-39 lead. Ryan Reilly (12

points), Vin Bastone (11 points, 4 rebs., 4 asst.), Patrick McMahon (10 points, 7 rebs.) and Luke Syku (8 points, 13 rebounds) put up some nice numbers in the loss.

No.5 HALDANE -- Coach Virgadamo's Class C Blue Devils (10-3, 2-0 III-E) host Put Valley on Jan. 30th as they take yet another step toward the League III-E crown. Haldane bum-rushed Yonkers Montessori, 72-47 when Champlin went off for 24 points and Cervone added 16.

HM PEEKSKILL -- Coach Turner's Class A Red Devs (8-5, 3-0 II-E) saw Antonio Taylor go off for 26 points and Jayson Tinsley for another 16 in the 62-40 win over Class B Putnam Valley 40, but with non-league foe Pearl River, and league heavyweights Poughkeepsie and Lourdes on deck, we're about to find out if the Red Devs are contenders or pretenders in the II-E title chase.

HM OSSINING -- Coach Casey's Class AA Pride (5-8, 1-2 I-D) got back to work in a 53-47 win over Hen Hud when Khy'Leil Hawkins (17 points, 5 assists) and Griffin Dahle (11 points, game-high 12 rebounds) were a formidable 1-2 punch.

HM YORKTOWN -- Coach Pavella's Class A Huskers (5-8, 1-3 II-C) saw senior G Roni Brucaj ring up 18 points and do his usual yeoman's work in 69-57 win over Class C

Tuckahoe. Huskers are 4-2 in the last six, but they don't have many easy games left with the league slate heating up in earnest. We'll see what they're made of for sure.

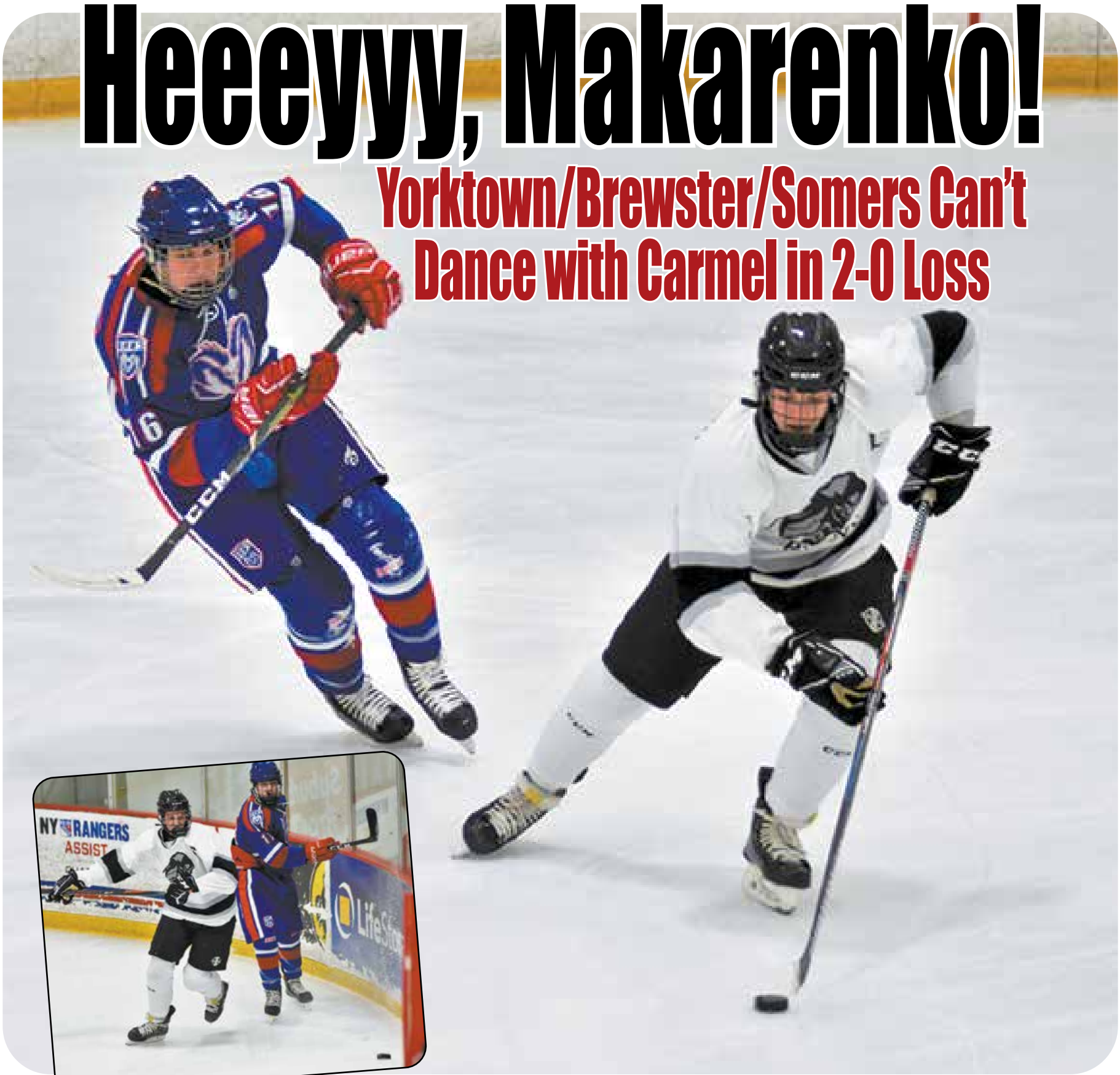
HM HEN HUD -- Coach Hirsch's Class A Sailors (3-10, 0-4 II-E) have dropped six in a row, four by double digits. Nick Hiltzley (18 points) and Jack Kapfer (10) went for double figures in loss to Panas.

HM CARMEL -- Coach Ross' Class AA Rams (7-8, 1-4 I-D) are impressed with sophomores Nick DiLeo and Andrew Fiore, who paced the Rams in a 79-57 loss to RCK with 17 and 16 points, respectively. Senior G Jarid Garcia had 16 points in an 84-59 loss to John Jay-EF.

HM PUTNAM VALLEY -- Coach Morales' Class B Tigers (2-10, 1-1 III-E) had a highlight-reel slam dunk from F Anthony Williams off a Matt Aviles alley-oop feed in 83-41 over Hawthorne, but it's been tough sledding for the former Class B power.

HM BREWSTER -- Coach Nelligan's Bears (2-9, 0-4 II-C) ended a three-game skid in a 61-50 win over Riverside, who had no answers for Kobey Hart (25 points) and big Nick Girard (15).





RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Yorktown sophomore D Sava Makarenko makes a strong move up ice against Carmel F Chris Cieciora and then again vs. Luke Galisano (No.11, inset) in the Sabres' -- aka The Herd -- hard-fought 2-0 loss to Carmel at the Brewster Ice Arena last Thursday. The Sabres fell to 4-11 overall

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