

Valentine's Day Deals...
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FREE



Clerk Ousted in Parks and Rec Commission Shakeup

By Rick Pezzullo

The longtime chairperson of the Yorktown Parks and Recreation Commission was ousted last week by the Town Board in a vote that overturned a decision made in the final weeks of former Supervisor Ilan Gilbert's administration.

Town Clerk Diana Quast, who was appointed to a new six-year term on the commission on December 17 in a 3-1 Democratic partisan vote, was subsequently removed February 4 in a 3-1 Republican parti-

san vote after the December 17 reappointment was ruled invalid.

According to the resolution, since Quast's previous term expired on December 31, and the vacancy on the commission didn't occur until January 1, the deciding vote cast by Gilbert, whose two-year term also ended December 31, to reappoint Quast couldn't stand.

"We appointed someone to a position that wasn't open," explained Councilman Ed Lachterman, who was not in attendance at the December 17 meeting but has spearheaded

an effort to ensure no elected officials or department heads serve on any town volunteer committees. "I've been very vocal on this. I've been very consistent on this."

Lachterman, who made the motion to replace Quast on the Parks and Recreation Commission with Richard Romanski, president of the Yorktown Soccer Club who has served as an alternate on the commission, was supported by

Supervisor Matt Slater and Councilman Tom Diana.

With Councilwoman Alice Roker absent due to illness, Councilman Vishnu Patel was unsuccessful in trying to convince his GOP colleagues to delay the vote for two weeks until Roker could weigh-in. Quast served as deputy clerk for most of Roker's quarter century of time as town clerk in Yorktown and has been town clerk since 2017

after Roker retired.

"What is so urgent?" Patel argued. "Nothing has stopped. Conflict of interest is what bothers me. They can't have any other interests or personal gain."

Marcia Stone, resident of Shrub Oak, questioned Romanski being appointed to the commission since he owns a for-profit business called Kiids Sports, Inc., which offers soccer programs for youths ages three through 19 and adult soccer and basketball programming. The busi-

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Putting the Brakes on Speedsters

Yorktown Elks Lodge #2324, via an Elks Gratitude Grant, purchased a speed tracking device for the Yorktown Police Department. The device was initially placed near the Lakeland Copper Beech Middle School, but will be moved around to other locations as needed. During the morning of February 5, Yorktown Elks members joined town officials for the unveiling and installation of the device. (L-R:) Steve Foley, Justice Sal Lagonia, Bob Kramer, Town Supervisor Matt Slater, Rich DeSilva, Mary DeSilva, Yorktown Police Officer Robert Rohr, Steve Brawitsch, Police Chief Robert Noble and Brian Wolfson.

Somers Considering Replacement of Historic Old Bet Statue

By Neal Rentz

The Old Bet statue is a landmark in the Town of Somers, overlooking the Elephant Hotel in Bailey Park.

However, the statue is showing signs of its age and the town is in the early stages of seeking to replace it.

Town Historian Doris Jane Smith and some Somers Historical Society members attended the February 6 Town Board work session to discuss Old Bet.

As stated on the Historical Society Web site, "Somers claim to fame as the 'Cradle of the American Circus' goes back to around 1805 when it is assumed that Hachaliah Bailey acquired an Asian elephant, named her Old Bet, and took her on tour along the eastern seaboard of the new nation. It is speculated that Hachaliah had planned to use the elephant for labor. He soon added

other exotic animals to this menagerie. His neighbors and relatives joined him in this enterprise, sometimes as partners, sometimes as competitors. The fever spread to North Salem, Carmel, Brewster and other adjoining towns. In 1835 the Zoological Institute was incorporated at the Elephant Hotel."

In 2013, the television series "Monumental; Mysteries" featured Old Bet in one of its episodes.

The original statue had to be replaced because of its decaying condition. The trunk of the original statue is in the collections of Somers Historical Society.

Supervisor Rick Morrissey said last week the current Old Bet statue was originally created in about 1935.

Smith told the Town Board one of the

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Clerk Ousted in Parks and Rec Commission Shakeup

Continued from page 1

ness also operates summer camps in conjunction with the Yorktown Parks and Recreation Department.

Stone said anyone on the commission should "not have a financial interest in that position and instead represents the town taxpayers in general."

Resident Mark Lieberman also wondered why the board would not reappoint Quast, saying, "Why would you not reappoint an MVP to the winning team?"

Lachterman, Diana and Slater all maintained the decision was not driven by personalities or politics but a change in policy.

"It has nothing to do with if you're a Republican or a Democrat or Marvin Martian," Diana remarked. "We're just trying to correct a wrong. I have no ill feelings towards anyone. Everyone knew this was coming. This was going to happen at one point or another. I don't think this should have been a surprise."

"It's a very sensitive situation because at the end of the day we still have to act professionally," Slater said. "We're doing our best to ensure that happens."

Quast could not be reached for comment.

At the same December 17 meeting, Town Comptroller Patricia Caporale was reappointed to the Parks Commission for a term set to expire December 31, 2025. However, after the actions taken by the board last Tuesday night, Slater said Caporale resigned from the commission Wednesday morning.

Meanwhile, Highway Superintendent Dave Paganelli, who was appointed on December 17 to the commission to fill the unexpired term of James Martorano, Jr. after Martorano became Parks and Recreation Superintendent, remains on the commission as the only elected official or department head.

That has been somewhat of a sore subject when it has been brought up at Town Board meetings with Paganelli not taking too kindly too remarks made mostly by Lachterman.

"It doesn't matter who the official is. There's just a problem with the blurring of lines," Lachterman said at last week's meeting.

Slater said he met with the Parks and Rec-

reation Commission last Thursday night and talked about the need for a "clear delineation of responsibilities" of the commission.

"I think it's a professionalism of how we operate," Slater said.

At that meeting, Al Avitabile was named chairman of the commission and Patrick Cumiskey was named vice chairman.

Somers Considering Replacement of Bet Statue

Continued from page 1

problems with the statue is there are cracks in the four legs of Old Bet. She has been discussing a potential replacement with the Parks and Recreation Board because Old Bet is located in Bailey Park. She has also had some preliminary talks with a town resident, whom she declined to name, to create a replacement statue, Smith said.

Despite the discussions about a replacement for the statue, Smith stressed, "There is no plan." Smith said it would cost \$20,000 "to begin the process" of seeking a replacement for the statue. There currently is no money for the project, she noted.

"We have to figure out what the cost is" to obtain a replacement Old Bet, Deputy Supervisor Thomas Garrity Jr. said. "It's a symbol of the town."

Morrissey suggested that a committee be eventually created to raise funds for the project similar to the one that was formed for the town's bicentennial.



A photograph of the Old Bet statue overlooking the Somers Town House.

PHOTO BY NEAL RENTZ



Ask the Doctor

John Abrahams, MD, FAANS
Chief, Neurosurgery
Co-Director, Spine Surgery,
Orthopedic & Spine Institute
Northern Westchester Hospital

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Pain Shooting Down One Leg? What you need to know about symptoms and treatment of sciatica...

Q: Do I have sciatica?

A: You probably do if you feel a sudden and severe pain, along with numbness and weakness, radiating from the buttocks down the back of one leg to the foot. The pain can be crippling. It is usually intense when you walk, diminishing when you lie down.

Q: What causes sciatica?

A: The *sciatic nerve* branches from the spine in the lower back through the hips and buttocks and runs down the back of each leg to the foot. Sciatica occurs when this nerve is pinched in the lower back by spinal disc herniation – protruding disc material – or by a larger fragment of disc material. Disc herniation usually occurs during normal activities, such as rising from bed.

Q: Am I at risk for sciatica?

A: Sciatica is common. More than three million Americans are diagnosed with the condition annually.* Apart from the fact that 10 to 15 percent of patients have a family history of back problems, there are no risk factors. No behavior predisposes you to it.

Q: What are my treatment options?

A: If you have sciatica and it is not severe, you will typically receive oral steroids (anti-inflammatories) for seven days. Once you're more mobile, you will engage in physical therapy for a period of time and then be re-evaluated. If your symptoms persist, you may receive an injection of steroids at the nerve root to reduce pain. If this regimen fails, physicians will offer surgery. However, if a patient comes in unable to stand – basically bed-bound – we advise surgery sooner. It is important to know that 80 to 90 percent of patients get better without surgery.

Q: What can I expect from surgery for sciatica?

A: This minimally invasive procedure takes under an hour, and consists of removing the disc material pressing on the nerve. Most patients are pain-free following surgery. We have seen patients who arrived unable to stand or walk for more than a few minutes, walk out the same day after surgery, completely asymptomatic. Sciatica recurs in ten percent of people, who may suffer recurrent bouts of the condition throughout their life.

* <http://umm.edu/health/medical/reports/articles/back-pain-and-sciatica>

ICE: Photographer Had Been Ordered to Be Deported in 2006

By Rick Pezzullo

A spokesperson with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) stated last week the photographer with ties to Peekskill who was deported last week had been ordered to return to his hometown of Yemen in 2006.

Responding to questions posed by Examiner Media, Rachael Yong Yow, a Public Affairs Officer, ICE New York, stated Hazaea Mohammed Senan Alomaisi, 42, better known locally as Anwar, entered the United States as a visitor in 1998 but failed to leave the country later that year in accordance with his visa requirements.

In February 2005, Alomaisi was ordered removed by a federal immigration judge. He filed an appeal with the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), and on May 31, 2006, the BIA, dismissed the appeal and affirmed the decision of the immigration judge. Alomaisi was released on an Order of Supervision (OSUP) in July 2011, and on January 21, 2020, the OSUP was revoked and he was taken into ICE custody. He was removed from the country January 28.

It remains unclear why Alomaisi, who reportedly attended regular meetings with ICE, was allowed to live in the United States without incident from July 2011 to last week. He was married in the United States in 2001 and had his work permit when he was deported.

Alomaisi's case caught the attention of Democratic presidential candidate U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, who addressed it on Facebook over the weekend, stating, in part, "The Trump administration deported him, without a chance to see his attorney or say goodbye to his family, to war-torn Yemen, where he fears for his life. We must end this cruelty."

Alomaisi last lived in New York City, according to his Facebook account, but he spent a lot of time in Elmsford and Peekskill, especially near the Hudson River waterfront capturing the beauty of nature and the environment. He studied photography at Westchester Community College and often photographed events and celebrations for Yemeni and other Arab individuals. He has no criminal record.

In a brief Facebook chat last Thursday, Alomaisi said, "I'm upset and heartbroken."

He also posted a message on Facebook to his friends, stating, "Good morning everyone: I look forward to every new day, to wake and grab my camera to go out and see my friends. I love the American Bald Eagle and all wildlife in general. My love extends to people, to all of you reading this. I pray for the day I may return, to see all of my friends, The Eagles, and all of you. Thank you for all your love and support. The outpouring of love and support makes

my heart hopeful that I will be able to come home - to the place that love, to the people I love. Your prayers fill my heart and my soul. Thank you. Because of all of you I have hope. Please keep sending the love."

A GoFundMe account set up by Kevin Winterfield in an effort to help Alomaisi appeal his deportation has raised nearly \$14,000 from 272 individuals as of Monday. The goal of the fundraiser was \$11,000. Anyone interested in making a contribution can visit: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/lets-bring-anwar-back>.

A tribute to Anwar Alomaisi was displayed on a building in downtown Peekskill last week.



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Lawmakers Call on NRC to Hold Hearing on Indian Point Transfer

By Rick Pezzullo

Federal and Westchester County elected officials are calling on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to hold a public hearing on the proposed license transfer for the Indian Point nuclear power plants.

Last week, U.S. Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-NY), U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), and U.S. Representatives Nita Lowey (D-NY-17), Eliot Engel (D-NY-16), and Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY-18) sent a letter to NRC Chairman Kristine Svinicki requesting a hearing take place before taking any action is taken to approve transferring the NRC license for Indian Point in Buchanan from Entergy to

Holtec Decommissioning International.

Entergy and Holtec submitted a license transfer application to the NRC on November 21, 2019. This would facilitate a change in ownership of the plant from Entergy to Holtec, once Indian Point is completely shut down in 2021. Holtec would then carry out all of the activities to decommission the plant, store the spent nuclear fuel, and restore the site to its original condition.

"The proposed license transfer and decommissioning of Indian Point will have a significant impact on the State of New York and the communities near Indian Point," the lawmakers stated in the letter. "The state and other relevant interveners must be given an opportunity to present their

views on the license transfer to the NRC before the Commission decides whether to approve the application. Shutting the representatives of the state and local communities and other stakeholders out of the process would not be in the public interest."

The federal lawmakers have vowed to provide strong Congressional oversight over the shutdown and decommissioning of Indian Point to make sure that local concerns are addressed upfront. This includes ensuring that state and local officials, and the public, have the opportunity to have their voices heard every step of the way.

Meanwhile, on Friday, all 17 county legislators penned a letter to Svinicki voicing their concerns about whether Holtec has

sufficient resources to safely complete the decommissioning, Holtec's plans for safety measures during the decommissioning, whether or not money in the Decommissioning Trust Fund is adequate to support the cost of decommissioning, and issues regarding the long-term health, safety and environmental monitoring on the site.

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

Lowey Maintains Trump is Unfit to Serve as President

By Rick Pezzullo

U.S. Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-NY17/Rockland, Westchester) reacted to President Trump being acquitted by the Senate last week, maintaining he "is not fit to serve."

"This is a very sad day for the United States of America and our democracy. Make no mistake, while the Senate Majority has voted to acquit the President in a political display masquerading as a trial, he will

forever be impeached by the House of Representatives," Lowey stated. "History will remember that Senate Republicans turned a blind eye to the fact that the president sought foreign assistance to influence the 2020 presidential election and went to great lengths to obstruct Congress during the investigations."

Lowey, chair of the House Appropriations Committee, added, "President Trump remains a threat to our national security and the constitution. He is not fit to

serve, and I'm deeply disappointed in my Senate colleagues who prioritized political party over truth."

Meanwhile, Lowey, who is retiring at the end of this year, commented on Trump's State of the Union address, contending it "was disconnected from reality and once again demonstrated his loose relationship with the truth."

"His claims about an American comeback fly in the face of the challenges too many working families

face: rising health care costs, stagnant wages, crumbling infrastructure, and the existential threat of the climate crisis," she stated. "The Trump administration's dangerous, divisive, and often illegal methods have dragged our country backward. The President's abuse of power and obstruction of Congress caused his impeachment and, given how often he has thumbed his nose at the separation of powers, I'm surprised President Trump even delivered his remarks

in the House Chamber."

"The American people deserve better, which is why House Democrats have passed more than 275 bipartisan bills that would strengthen our democracy, lower health care costs, prevent gun violence, raise wages, enforce equal pay for women, reform our immigration system, and protect our environment. It is disgraceful that President Trump and Senator McConnell have blocked every single one of them," she added.

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Peekskill Business Community Meets New City Manager

By Abby Luby

The Peekskill business community last week heard first-hand about the city's new vision for economic development.

At the Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce's February Business Breakfast February 7, Peekskill's new City Manager Andy Stewart and Economic Development Specialist Matthew Rudikoff spoke to a filled Dramatic Hall about how the city is poised to stimulate growth for all types of businesses.

"We want to make sure that local government opens the door to people that work hard and have passion for the place they love," Stewart said. "We have to do that all the time. If the city does its job really well, it makes everybody's lives, work and businesses that much more successful."

On the job only 17 days, Stewart noted that Peekskill has more potential to attract new businesses and keep current ones than it ever had in the past and added a big part of maintaining that status is the perception of the city's regulatory review process by perspective investors.

"The one thing we really are responsible for is having a new project review process which is predictable, transparent and isn't perceived as hazardous or unfair," he said. "What we need to strive for is a sense of trust. The city is a partner who will do its best to give fair consideration to all stakeholders."

Stewart said he was honored to be work-



PHOTO BY ABBY LUBY

Economic Development Specialist Matthew Rudikoff at Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce's February Business Breakfast last week.

ing with officials in city hall. "They are very impressive in their skill sets and there is a real dedication in city hall to foster positive momentum," he said. He also made a plea for the upcoming 2020 Census and how important it was for all Peekskill residents

to be counted. "There's always an undercount. For each resident in Peekskill who doesn't get counted it cost about \$2,500 in loss of federal funding that can be for infrastructure, parks and several programs. Try to spread the word."

Census 2020 officially starts April 1.

Rudikoff said he has been canvassing the business landscape and familiarizing himself with Peekskill citizens' and cultural groups and local alliances. "The new project ideas are going to come from the stakeholders that are already here. They're the ones where the most sustainable ideas come from," he remarked.

Rudikoff said he is looking for new economic stimulus in 'Opportunity Zones,' businesses that can offer students preliminary opportunities for apprenticeships and internships along with GED (General Education Development) programs.

"The best [business] incubators offer business related skills connected to entrepreneurship where one can learn about budgeting, marketing, acquiring certifications and licenses," he said. "This can increase the prospect of starting their own businesses."

For a business to have access to an Opportunity Zone is financially attractive, Rudikoff explained. "If a business has funds to invest in a project, they are exempt from capital gains, an incentive for investors who want to create new ventures."

The breakfast ended with a brief talk by Lauren Molella, Miss New York 2019. She spoke about how special it was to be crowned on June 8, 2019 at Peekskill's Paramount Theatre. She competed for the title of Miss America 2020 in December 2019.

Happy Valentine's Day from George Ondek to all my loyal readers and viewers. I wish you Peace, Love & Happiness!



GET ON DECK

With George Ondek:

On this week's show: Peekskill artist Sharon Rubinstein

Sharon Rubinstein has been drawing and painting since she could hold a pencil. (Photography is a newer interest.) She specializes in portraiture, and has studied with eminent artists including Daniel Greene and Robert Liberace. She completed a series of portraits for the Jefferson Valley Mall in 2019, now hanging there as part of a rotating exhibit.



Watch my recent shows on Youtube:

1. Catania restaurant one year anniversary in Mohegan Lake
2. The grand opening of Hunan House in Mohegan Lake
3. Assemblywoman Sandy Galef discusses proposed changes to the STAR rebate program

The George Ondek Show can be seen on YouTube by typing in "George Ondek" and the name of the guest, and on Altice/Cablevision Thursdays at 8:30pm and Saturdays at 8:30pm, on your local public access channel.

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Obituaries

John Wallour

John S. Wallour, a former resident of Mohegan Lake, died February 2. He was 95.

He was born in Springfield, MA on September 30, 1924, to Charles and Frances (Chapin) Wallour. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during WWII. He earned his Master's degree in architecture from Harvard University and worked as an architect at Faragher & Macomber in Rochester.

Mr. Wallour loved solving complex math problems and had a keen interest in astronomy. He also enjoyed listening to classical music.

John and his wife, Jeanette, lived for many years in suburban Denver, CO before moving to Westchester County in 2003; settling in Croton-on-Hudson for a year before moving to Mohegan Lake. For the past six years, he resided at the NY State Veterans Home at Montrose.

On February 13, 1954, he married Jeanette Spagnolia at Holy Cross Church in Rochester. She died August 14, 2013. He is survived by his daughters, Janine (David) Thwaite, Catherine Wallour and Mary Frances Wallour, his son, John (Jana) Wallour, seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Andrew Young

Andrew I. Young, a long-time resident of

Ossining, died February 3, surrounded by his family after battling a life-threatening illness. He was 92.

He was born in 1927 in Cape Breton Nova Scotia (NS) Canada and attended high school at Church Point Military Prep School in Digby, NS. Mr. Young worked and retired as a NYS Department of Transportation employee out of Millwood.

His parents, Andrew and Bertha (Boone) Young, and sisters Jeanette (Joe) MacDonald, Margaret (Les) Mabbott, and Geraldine (Bill) Smith predeceased him. He is survived by his wife, M. Shirley Young of 65 years; children Karen (Peter) Corsello, Bertha (Norman) Weil, and Andrew (Kelley) Young; grandchildren Brian Bechtold, Vincent Corsello, Racheal Shuldman, Erica Barber, Taylor Weil, and Andrew, Alexander, and Alayna Young, and Allison Rubbo; great-grandchildren Sofia and McKenzie Bechtold, Victoria and Scarlett Barber, and Harper Shuldman; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins throughout Canada and the United States.

Mr. Young was a 30-year Eucharistic Minister at St. Ann's Parish in Ossining, a Moose Lodge Member, and enjoyed working at the St. Ann's holiday festivals. As a young man, he loved playing hockey and baseball, hunting with his brothers-in-law, fishing and spending time at his campsite with family and friends. His greatest pleasure was spending time with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Lula Carr

Lula "Maxine" Carr, a longtime resident of Ossining, died February 4 in Beacon. She was 92.

She was born in Alderson, W. Virginia on April 5, 1927, to Walter and Bertha (Webb) Smith. Mrs. Carr was a former seamstress at John Charles dress factory and a former Mail Clerk at Sing Sing. She was a member of the St. Matthews United Methodist Church and enjoyed sewing and caring for her family.

She is survived by her two children, Catherine Shaw and Michael; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband Francis; three children, Barbara Hinson, Francis, Jr., and Jeffrey; granddaughter Leslyn; and siblings Clara Jane, Roslyn Smith, Frances, Howard, Demar, Richard, and Walker.

Marguerite Norgren

Marguerite J. Norgren, a former lifelong resident of Ossining, died February 5. She was 92.

She was born in Ossining on December 19, 1927, to Henry (Harry) and Grace (Donovan) Norgren. Miss Norgren was an administrative assistant with Philips Labs in Briarcliff and retired after 51 years. She was a parishioner of St. Augustine's Church, a member of the Golden Eagles and a former Eucharistic Minister.

She is survived by her sister-in-law Georgiana Norgren and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brothers Henry, Richard, Tim, and David Norgren.

Eslyn Brown

Eslyn Maud Brown, an area resident, died peacefully February 3 at New York Presbyterian Hospital in New York. She was 70.

She was born October 20, 1949 in Orange Valley, St Ann. Jamaica to Agnes Hodges and Barrington Green. She was a graduate of Liberty Hill All Age School. She got married June 1988 in Jamaica.

She migrated to USA and worked for nine years as a home health aide and 17 years as a Certified Nursing Assistant at Northern Westchester Restorative Therapy. She was a dedicated and devoted employee who served her patients with passion and love.

She lived her life to ensure her family and everyone around her was happy. She had an exceptional ability to bring the people together.

She is survived by her four children, son Andrew Blissett, and daughters Sandra Moulton-Downes, Alethea Brown and Shantell Brown, partner James Goulding, 10 grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends. She was predeceased by her mother, father and five brothers.



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Letters to the Editor

Modernizing of Yorktown's Government is Underway

To the Editor:

For nearly a year, I have talked about the need to modernize Yorktown's government and enable town residents and businesses to interact with the town online. In 2020, a user-friendly website and the ability to conduct business through an online portal are essential to good customer service. In the first month of our new administration, we have taken important strides to make this a reality. Last week, the Town Board unanimously voted to redesign our website. This is the website's first facelift in seven years and the site will be dramatically expanded

to include a community calendar and, by working with our Department heads, allow residents to register for a variety of services such as the programs offered by our Recreation Department. I strongly believe in the importance of communication. As part of our modernization program, we have reestablished and expanded the Town's social media footprint to include Instagram, YouTube, and active Twitter and Facebook accounts. This will help Town government proactively share information with the public. In addition, I have established a town email (ideasforyorktown@yorktownny.org) that allows residents to share ideas to improve our Town. Finally, we are evaluating various options to ensure that Town departments efficiently and effectively respond to requests from Yorktown residents. It is simply unacceptable for any constituent concern to fall through the cracks. Yorktown's future is right in front of us. In just six short weeks we have already made considerable improvements to critical aspects of local government and there is plenty more to come.

MATT SLATER
Yorktown Town Supervisor

Politics, Not Law, was Behind Quast's Ouster from Rec Commission

To the Editor:

Diana Quast has served on the Yorktown Recreation Commission for 14 years. During her time on the Commission, Quast worked to help many wonderful projects come to fruition, including the Patriot Skate Park, the Yorktown Paw Park, the new playgrounds at Jack DeVito Veteran's Memorial Field and Track, and Ivy Knolls Park. All of that work was done as a volunteer.

And let's not forget her work on the Granite Knolls Sports Complex! This enormous project has turned out to be the talk of the county. This project alone earned Quast kudos for a job very well done. Quast brought this project in on time and within budget. No one has questioned her abilities. No one has questioned her dedication.

Yet Matt Slater, and the other Republicans on the Yorktown Town Board, have removed Quast from the Commission and

replaced her with Rick Romanski. Not one of those three Town Board members has stated a single reason why Rick Romanski is a better choice for the Recreation Commission than Diana Quast.

Diana Quast deserves nothing but praise for her dedicated service on the Recreation Commission, all at no cost to the Town. But instead of offering praise, Councilman Lachterman gave her the boot. And the newly elected "nonpartisan" Supervisor asked his newly appointed lawyer to find a legal reason to justify her removal.

It is my understanding, from other knowledgeable attorneys, that NYS law* has no prohibition for elected town officials to serve on volunteer boards, and there is no per se conflict, as long as the elected official has no supervision over the activities of the board. Diana Quast is the Yorktown Town Clerk and has NO supervisory re-

sponsibilities over the Parks & Recreation Department.

At the request of Councilman Lachterman, Supervisor Slater has manufactured a reason to remove a stellar performer because of partisan politics, not law.

Former Supervisor Gilbert appointed Republicans, Democrats, and Independents to various volunteer boards and commissions. Within five weeks of his inauguration, Supervisor Slater has gone back on his promise to be nonpartisan!

* Case Law: Ryan v. Green 58 NY 295 (1874) and Attorney General Opinion 1988 NY Op Atty Gen (Inf.) 77 (NYAG), Caracilo v. Village of Seneca Falls 582 F. Supp2d 390 (WDNY 2008)

Kind Regards,

MARK A. LIEBERMAN
Yorktown

Catholic Priest Had No Business Leading Protest at PV Library

To the Editor:

(Re: Drag Queen Story Hour Protest at Putnam Valley Library).

How ironic that the protest was instigated and led by a Catholic priest. Before getting on his high horse, he should have taken a searching look at his brother priests.

When was the last time a drag queen was accused of molesting children? How many claims against pedophile priests have been filed by victims in the last month alone? Currently, there are two New York dioceses

(Rochester and Buffalo) that, because of the number of claims of abuse against their priests, have filed for bankruptcy law protection. They are not seeking bankruptcy because of drag queen misconduct but because of priestly misconduct. The dioceses either do not believe that they have sufficient funds to pay off all the claims, or they are unwilling to pay any of those claims.

Catholic Church centuries ago has anointed itself as the arbiter of everybody's morality. It has been very quick to criticize, condemn and castigate any perceived

transgression not only by their own faithful but by anybody else in the world. However, for at least 1500 years, it has been a case of "Do as we say, not as we do." Had any of the Catholic faithful done what the priests have been doing, the faithful would have been excommunicated, if not burned at the stake.

All things considered, I would much sooner trust my children and their morals to a drag queen than to a Catholic priest.

CHRISTOPHER MALEK
Putnam Valley

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Guest Commentary

Have an Attitude of Gratitude after the Kobe Bryant Tragedy

By Andrew Frishman DMV

It is human nature to try and structure one's life with a sense of purpose and structure. We insulate ourselves from the chaos and fragility of life. On the news there are stories of loss of life, locally, and from around the globe.

Living in the suburbs we so often put "lipstick" on life's celebrations, and tragic events. We like to think that we deserve everything that life has to offer. Tragic events that happen in the inner city are explained away as something that could never affect you, or a loved one.

When a household name such as Kobe

Bryant dies in the prime of his life, the news rattles our very sense of order and well-being in our world. It breaks all of the windows in our glass house.

As a veterinarian I am confronted with the fragility of life on a daily basis. I can recall several cases in the recent past the illustrate life's transience. An energetic sweet puppy was recently brought for a first puppy visit. Later that week we found out he ingested a toxic house plant and died at an emergency clinic.

Pregnant female dogs sometimes have labored pregnancy that result in stillbirths and the mother also dies in labor.

Every veterinarian has treated a dog

that has been hit by a car or had a life-threatening emergency stomach torsion.

Every day I am asked about my medical opinion or protocol for prevention or treatment of a disease.

The purpose of this article is not to make you afraid or depress you.

Below are some actionable ideas you can make in your life:

1) Have an Attitude of Gratitude. - appreciate everything from the air you breathe, the food you eat, and the people in your life. Start your day off writing in a "Gratitude Journal."

2) I base my medical decisions on scientific studies and 20 years of experience

seeing the successes, and failures, of different medications and vaccines. My decisions directly affect the life of my patient. I don't take my medical responsibilities lightly. When I recommend a Lyme vaccine to prevent life threatening irreversible kidney damage from an infected tick, my only concern to help the animal. Quite different then an ice cream store owner picking the "flavor of the month."

Adopt an attitude of gratitude, savor every moment, understand life's fragility and trust your veterinarian.

Andrew Frishman DVM works at Progressive Animal Hospital in Somers

Yorktown Resident Named Grand Marshal of St. Pat's Day Parade

On February 7, the Northern Westchester Putnam St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee held their Grand Marshal Installation Dinner where they inducted Yorktown resident Elizabeth "Liz" Flannery to be the Grand Marshal for the 44th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Flannery has a love of, and passion for, Irish history, music and traditions. She is an active mem-

ber of the Irish American Social Club and has marched with the Club in countless St. Patrick's Day parades in Mahopac, New York City and Mt. Kisco. She has marched in these parades with not only her own children, but with her grandchildren as well.

She is looking forward to marching down Route 6 with her family on parade day.

Please come out and cel-

ebate Irish heritage and being an American at the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 8 (Rain or Shine) in Mahopac. For more information and to register to march in the parade visit our website at www.saintpatricksdaysparade.net. The registration deadline to march in the parade is Friday, February 28.

Elizabeth "Liz" Flannery



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Police Blotter

Yorktown Police

January 27- 1:14 p.m. – Carl Woodward, 65, of Yorktown, was charged with menacing in the second degree, a Class A misdemeanor, following a report of a past domestic incident that took place at a Yorktown residence. An investigation revealed on January 25 at about 2 a.m. Woodward allegedly pointed a rifle at the head of a victim and threatened to shoot. A temporary order of protection was issued on behalf of the victim by Judge Sal Lagonia. Woodward was released and is scheduled to return to Yorktown Town Court February 11.

January 28 - 4:58 p.m. – Karen Sokolik, 25, of Yorktown, was charged with driving while intoxicated after police

responded to a report of a person allegedly passed out while stopped at a red light on Bound Brook Lane. She is due in Yorktown Town Court February 11. **January 30 - 4:05 p.m.** – Nathaniel Dain, 38, of Peekskill, was charged with grand larceny in the third degree, a Class D felony, for allegedly stealing property totaling \$4,146 from Lowe's while working there between October 3 and October 29, 2019. He is due in Yorktown Town Court February 18.

February 1 - 2 a.m. – Kwadwo Yeboah, 31, of the Bronx, was charged with aggravated unlicensed operation after police conducted a traffic stop on the Taconic State Parkway for a vehicle moving unsafely from the center lane to the right lane.

February 4 - 4:42 p.m. – Christian Maldonado, 42, of Yonkers, was charged with identity theft, attempted grand larceny in the third degree and two counts of criminal possession of a forged instrument, all felonies, after police responded to Key Bank on Lee Boulevard for an attempted larceny complaint. An investigation revealed Maldonado allegedly assumed the identity of a victim by obtaining his personal information and possessing a forged driver's license and credit card while attempting to withdraw \$8,800 from his checking account. Maldonado was remanded by Judge Sal Lagonia to Westchester County Department of Corrections and is due in Yorktown Town Court February 11.

February 5 -1:45 a.m. – Marco Hejazi, 54, of Watertown, MA, was charged with criminal contempt and criminal mischief for violating a Westchester Family Court temporary order of protection. An investigation revealed Hejazi showed up at a female's residence and when she tried to call 911 for police assistance, he took her cell phone from her. He was released and his due in Yorktown Town Court February 27. **(Post publication note: the case was later dismissed).**

5:30 p.m. – Joseph Colaizzi, 34, of Yorktown, was charged with petit larceny in connection with the alleged theft of a power tool, valued at \$99, from Lowe's on January 17. He is due on Yorktown

State Grant Awarded for Security in Hen Hud School District

State Senator Pete Harckham (D/Mt. Kisco) announced that \$50,000 in state grant funding has been awarded to the Hendrick Hudson School District for the purchase of state-of-the-art security equipment for its schools.

The awarded grant funding, which Harckham secured within the State and Municipal Facilities Program (SAM), will reimburse the Hendrick Hudson School District for total costs associated with the purchase and installation of five security cameras, new door locks and hardware, and the replacement of an exterior double door. Some of the grant funding will go toward a district-wide emergency reporting and alert system as well.

agency reporting and alert system as well.

"Maintaining and upgrading security systems at schools is a vital part of ensuring the safety of our young residents," said Harckham. "I'm pleased to have been able to secure the grant funding for the Hendrick Hudson School District so that important security and infrastructure modifications could be made at several schools throughout the district right away."

The Hendrick Hudson School District serves approximately 2,300 K-12 students. The district has five school buildings—three elementary schools, a middle school

and a high school. Updating security systems at the district's schools was noted as a priority in its required five-year facilities plan, the Building Condition Survey, which was completed in 2016.

"We're very thankful to Senator Harckham for his leadership, advocacy and support in moving our application forward to receive \$50,000 in grant funds to improve our facilities," said Joseph Hochreiter, superintendent of the Hendrick Hudson School District. "Specifically, these funds will be used to further improve our security infrastructure with additional security cameras, initiating a

district-wide emergency reporting system, as well as establishing an emergency command center. These funds allow us to continue to build our safety systems without using property tax dollars to do so. We thank the senator for his consistent advocacy."

In the past year, Harckham has secured \$3.8 million in SAM funding for numerous community projects and municipal initiatives in Westchester County, including upgrades at the Veteran's Pavilion in the Village of Buchanan, new trails at Fort Hill Park in City of Peekskill and safety improvements in Cortlandt's Town Hall.

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The Smithereens Ready to Rock for Their Fans in Peekskill

By Martin Wilbur

Just over two years ago, veteran rock band The Smithereens wasted no time in getting back on stage after they were dealt a shocking blow.

In December 2017, the close-knit New Jersey-based group's lead singer Pat DiNizio unexpectedly died at 62 years old.

Despite The Smithereens having been together since 1980, with the band's three other founding members – guitarist Jim Babjak, bassist Mike Mesaros and drummer Dennis Diken – old high school classmates, it was far from a certainty whether they would continue.

Diken recalled less than a month after DiNizio passed, they had a previously scheduled show at the Count Basie Theater in Red Bank, N.J. Bruce Springsteen's guitarist Steven Van Zandt urged them to keep the date and find a guest vocalist for the evening. Guitarist Marshall Crenshaw, who performed on The Smithereens' first album, came to help them out that night.

Now, Crenshaw, along with Gin Blossoms lead singer Robin Wilson, both of whom have been longtime fans of the band, alternate as the group's main vocalist depending on their schedules.

"They're both really wonderful to work with and they bring a lot to our shows," Diken said. "It's different but it's still essential Smithereens and the best is, the three of us, Jim, Mike and myself, grew up together, learned how to play together and



The lineup for The Smithereens that fans will see when they came to the Paramount Hudson Valley for the Feb. 22 show. Pictured, from left, guitarist Jim Babjak, singer Robin Wilson, drummer Dennis Diken and bassist Mike Mesaros.

really the essence of the band is very much intact."

On Saturday, February 22, The Smithereens return to Westchester for a concert at the Paramount Hudson Valley in Peekskill, a venue that Diken loved when he filled in as the drummer for The Kinks at a concert there. Wilson is scheduled to be the lead singer that night.

Diken said their fans will hear the

band's bands favorites, including "Blood and Roses," "A Girl Like You," "Only a Memory" and "Behind the Wall of Sleep."

"People want to see us so we want to give them a good show for their money and we want to have fun, too," he said.

Now, 2020 promises to be an important year for The Smithereens. First, they'll be celebrating their 40th anniversary next month. Then, later in the year, Diken said

their fans can anticipate the group finishing its first album in nine years.

Having gone nearly a decade without recording, there is a large catalogue of material that they've written, which could probably fill several albums, Diken said. He said that fans won't be disappointed because it "sounds like classic Smithereens."

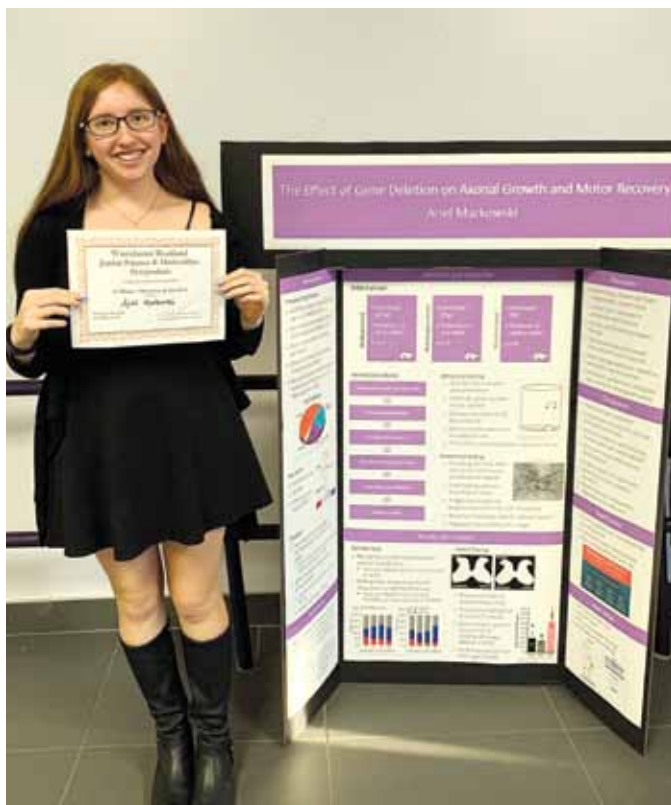
"Again, I've got to say (it's) the sound of The Smithereens in its rawest, stripped down form, similar to when just Jimmy and I played together in September 1971 when we were both in high school," Diken said.

With the volume of unrecorded material the band has in its possession, don't be surprised if there are more albums to follow, he said.

For Diken, it's been a long way from their days at Carteret High School more than four decades ago, but playing, writing and performing is really all that he's wanted to do – and the group's fans make that possible.

"We do appreciate anybody who takes the time to see us," Diken said. "I want to make the point; we really appreciate our fans' loyalty and support. If they keep coming out, we'll keep coming out and making music. It seems like our music really has meaning to them."

Tickets for The Smithereens for the February 22 show are \$29 to \$59 each and can be purchased at www.paramounthudsonvalley.com. Showtime is 8 p.m. The Paramount is located at 1008 Brown St. in Peekskill.



AND THE WINNER IS...

Somers High School Senior Ariel Markowski, 17, won first place in the Medicine and Health category at the Westchester Rockland Junior Science & Humanities Symposium held at John Jay High School on February 8. Markowski, as part of her science research work, has been studying the effect of gene deletion on axonal growth and motor recovery.

Lakeland Third Grade Teacher Honored

Michelle Cooke, a third-grade teacher at George Washington Elementary School, was named the February 2020 recipient of the Lakeland Central School District's Mission Essential Recognition Award.

Board President Michael Daly and Superintendent Dr. George Stone presented Cooke with the award in a surprise ceremony held February 5 at George Washington ES. Recipients are given a specially developed pin and a certificate. All winners are then recognized at the year-end Board of Education meeting in June 2020.

"I honestly cannot say enough positive things about Mrs. Cooke. I am sure she goes to work each day and fully knows that many people rely on her to do her best. This is effortless for her," said Christine Goh in her nomination. "Teaching, her school, and her students are 100% in her heart... She turns her classroom into a family. She fosters a positive environment in which eight-year-olds support each other," she continued.

"Mrs. Cooke takes her responsibility as a teacher very seriously. She knows that children and parents rely on her to be fully present each day," explained Goh.



Michelle Cooke is congratulated by Superintendent of Schools Dr. George Stone.

"Mrs. Cooke fosters a very inclusive classroom environment...She encourages all of her students to do their best, and reiterates that they can do anything if they try and never give up. She fully accepts her role and responsibilities to our school community and executes them to the highest standards."

The goal of the Mission Essential Recognition Program, which began in January 2019, is to identify and recognize employees who, in their contributions and service to the District, exemplify the district's Mission, Core Beliefs, and Vision. These individuals are Mission Essential."

SPCA Gets \$50K Matching Gift to Help Rebuild Animal Care Campus

The SPCA of Westchester has announced that a generous supporter has agreed to match all donations, up to \$50,000 made in the month of February to support their Capital Campaign to build a brand-new animal care campus. The SPCA revealed its plan to build a larger, modernized care campus late last year.

The current shelter, which hasn't been updated since the 1960's, is cracked and crumbling and many of the dog kennels are not fully protected from the elements. To date, more than \$8.2 million dollars has been raised towards their goal of \$9.1 million.

"We are incredibly grateful to

our supporter, Rock & a Soft Place Studio, who has offered this generous matching gift," said Shannon Laukhuf, Executive Director. "We hope this wonderful opportunity will motivate and inspire the community to donate towards this crucial project and get us one step closer to our goal."

The new 27,000-square-foot building will feature many upgrades including:

- Indoor dog habitats for increased comfort, and outdoor day pens for dog's enrichment & exercise.

- Luxury four-story condos and multiple cage-free cattery areas to replicate home-like envi-

ronments for cats and kittens.

- A state-of-the-art veterinary hospital.

- A large indoor space to serve as a training and enrichment center for dogs.

- A classroom for humane education presentations to local school children, youth groups and the popular Camp Critter day camp.

To take a virtual tour and learn more about the SPCA's Capital Campaign and how you can help, please visit SPCA914.ORG. To discuss gift and naming opportunities email Shannon@spca914.org or call (914) 941-2896 ext. 12.



Rendering of new SPCA of Westchester facility.

Guiding Eyes for the Blind Names Cawley New Director of Training

Ben Cawley last week was promoted to Director of Training, reporting to the Vice President of Training Programs at Guiding Eyes for the Blind. He will be responsible for the management of the training area with a key focus on dog supply and growth, working with the organization's talented Strategic Teams.

Prior to joining the Guiding Eyes team, Cawley started his career at Guide Dogs for the Blind in California in 1998, beginning in their Training Center Kennels as an Instructor Assistant. There, he learned

to train guide dogs as an Apprentice Guide Dog Mobility Instructor, ultimately serving as a GDMI with a specialty in Apprentice GDMI instruction.

Cawley brings a breadth of experience to the Director of Training role from his prior roles at Guiding Eyes as well as from Guide Dogs for the Blind. Cawley has worked in the guide dog industry for more than 20 years. He joined Guiding Eyes for the Blind's Training Department as a Class Supervisor in 2012, and was promoted to Director of Admissions Department in

2015. His most recent role was Director of Admissions and Graduate Relations.

In these roles, Cawley has led several key initiatives that have had an organization and industry-wide impact, including the development of a new guide dog harness and technologies that have the potential to help guide dog users navigate overhead obstacles. Most recently, Cawley has taken on the management of the marketing and communications role, and has led workshops and plenary sessions at the International Guide Dog Federation confer-

ences in Croatia and Australia.

The nonprofit is thrilled to have Cawley on board in this new role. "The Director of Training is essential in providing highly-skilled guide dogs to graduates of Guiding Eyes," said Thomas Panek, President and CEO of Guiding Eyes for the Blind. "We are proud to have Ben Cawley in this new role, and look forward to putting his fresh perspective to use."

About Guiding Eyes for the Blind

Continued on page 17



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WBT Pays Tribute to Black History Month with Five Guys Named Moe

In celebration of Black History Month, Westchester Broadway Theatre pays tribute to Louis Jordan, the 1940s rhythm-and-blues singer, songwriter, and bandleader, whose new approach to jazz paved the way for rock and roll in the 1950s, in *Five Guys Named Moe*, running until March 1.

Five Guys Named Moe opens with our hero, Nomax, who is single, broke and drinking his sorrows away while listening to the radio at five in the morning. Five guys named Moe - Big Moe, Little Moe, Eat Moe, Know Moe and Four-Eyed Moe - emerge from his radio to help him straighten out, ease his broken heart, and sing and dance his way to love!

This joyful, jazzy show is the winner of London's coveted Lawrence Olivier award and was originally produced by Cameron Mackintosh, (Phantom of The Opera, Les Misérables, Miss Saigon, Cats). Set to Jordan's iconic rhythm and blues/jazz score, including, "Is You Is Or Is You Ain't My Baby", "Choo Choo Ch'Boogie" and, "Saturday Night Fish Fry."

Starring: Napoleon M. Douglas as NoMax, Quentin Avery Brown as Eat Moe, Tyler Johnson-Campion as No Moe, Douglas Lyons



PHOTO BY JOHN VECCHIOLLA

Cast of *Five Guys Named Moe*.

as four-eyed Moe, Tony Perry as Big Moe, Isaiah Reynolds as Little Moe. With: John E. Lucas and Marcus Blair.

Directed and choreographed by Richard Stafford, the associate choreographer is Kristyn Pope, Set Design by Steve Loftus, Lighting Design by Andrew Gmoser, Sound Design by Mark Zuckerman, Costumes by Allison Kirstukas, Victor Lukas is the PSM. Lisa

Tiso is the Producer.

Richard Stafford (Director/Choreographer) returns to WBT, having directed/choreographed recent productions of *An American In Paris*, *Anything Goes*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Saturday Night Fever*, *Show Boat*, *Mary Poppins*, *Guys & Dolls*, *Fiddler On The Roof*, and many more. On Broadway, choreographer for *In My Life* (Music Box Theatre), asso-

ciate choreographer for *Aspects Of Love* (Broadhurst Theatre), dance supervisor for *Cats* (Winter Garden Theatre). Off-Broadway credits include choreography for *A Tree Grows In Brooklyn* (St. Clements). Regional: *Dreamgirls*, *Miss Saigon* (North Carolina Theatre); *Curtains*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Beauty And The Beast*, *Cats* (Walnut Street Theatre), *Oliver!*, *Joseph...Dreamcoat*, *Cats* (Pittsburgh CLO), *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Oliver!*, *Joseph...Dreamcoat*, *Cats* (Sacramento Music Circus), *The King & I*, *Singin' In The Rain*, *Crazy For You*, *Fame*, *Swing*, *Cats* (North Shore Music Theatre), *Beauty And The Beast*, *The Best Little Whorehouse In Texas* starring Sally Struthers (Ogunquit Playhouse), *The Sound Of Music*, *Annie Get Your Gun* (North Carolina Theatre), *Evita* (Casa Mañana).

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

Show Times: Wednesday & Thursday & some Friday Matinees: Lunch: 11:30 a.m. & Show 1 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

Luxury Boxes: Call 592-8730, for private parties of six to 22. Enjoy dining and theatre in an elegant private box. Additional features include an expanded dinner menu, hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, private powder room, and Luxury Box reserved parking. Additional cost, call for details.

WBT Mainstage:

All Shook Up - March 5th - May 3rd

*Cinderella - May 7th - July 5th
9 To 5 - July 9th - September 9th*

Kinky Boots - September 24th - November 29th

A Christmas Carol - December 3rd - December 27th

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Business News

Coldwell Banker Announces Strategic Formation of Lower Hudson Valley Regional Office

Described as a “win-win” by agents, select Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage real estate offices serving Westchester, Putnam, Rockland, Orange and Dutchess counties will be merged as the Lower Hudson Valley Regional Office. Signage and marketing collateral will bear the new name going forward. The office and approximately 90 affiliated agents will be based at 366 Underhill Avenue in Yorktown.

The newly christened Lower Hudson Valley Regional Office’s managing broker Donna Riniti said, “The Lower Hudson Valley is a unique and special part of the greater New York City metropolitan area, a lifestyle destination rich in history, arts and outdoor adventure. We are confident that this strategy will provide a major advantage to our seller clients and accurately define our market for buyer clients. This decision reflects the love agents have for the communities they serve, and it will give them greater control over how they choose to market themselves and their business.”

In addition, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Connecticut and Westchester County, New York has announced the continuation of a 2019 initiative to open satellite/co-workspaces for teams and agents throughout the company, including a new Tarrytown location, opening in the first quarter of 2020. These streamlined, efficient spaces will be mobile-friendly and provide refined, comfortable, and secure work areas, exclusively for Coldwell Banker agents and their clients. Agents will be able to host meetings and closings, showcase their inventory and be a visible part of their communities. Remote access will also be available for all Coldwell Banker agents, regardless of regional affiliation.

This initiative follows a 2019 nationwide Coldwell Banker re-branding strategy, to be implemented throughout 2020, and includes “The CB North Star” logo redesign as part of a broader identification approach focused on regions, rather than municipalities. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage has already implemented regional name changes in lower Westchester County, N.Y. and Connecticut, including the newly rechristened Sound Shore Regional Office, White Plains Regional Sales Center, Katonah-Bedford Regional Office, and Somers, North Salem, Putnam Regional Office. Agents affiliated with the Yorktown Heights and Croton-on-Hudson offices will be licensed with the Lower Hudson Valley Regional Office. The move also addresses another industry trend, the mobile and cloud-based nature of today’s top agents, and the impact on the traditional

office model.

“Coldwell Banker and the Lower Hudson Valley Regional Office are leaning into the new decade with a best-in-class technology suite, empowering agents to provide better service and smoother transactions for our clients from open house to closing table,” said Riniti.

For more information about affiliating

with Coldwell Banker, a growing company, as a real estate professional, contact Riniti at (914) 245-3400 or donna.riniti@cbmoves.com.

About Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Connecticut and Westchester County, New York is a leading residential real estate

brokerage company with approximately 45 offices and 2,660 affiliated agents. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage is owned by a subsidiary of Realogy Holdings Corp. (NYSE: RLG), the largest full-service residential real estate services company in the United States. Visit ColdwellBankerHomes.com.



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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, Feb. 11

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

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

Wednesday, Feb. 12

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.

Thursday, Feb. 13

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.yorktown-jewishcenter.org.

Poetry Workshop for Adults: The program is being held on Thursdays through June 25 at the Somers Library from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Info: 914-232-5717 or www.somerslibrary.org.

Friday, Feb. 14

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

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

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. Tonight, a Tot Shabbat will be held at 5:30 p.m. Filled with movement, music, and ruach (spirit), Rabbi Robbie and Rebbetzin Ellen help bring in the Shabbat with that special "Shabbat Spirit" followed by a Shabbat dinner. Our theme for the evening will be Tu B'shvat – the Jewish celebration of the birthday of the trees. The only cost of the dinner is a Shabbat Shalom smile. To RSVP or for more information please e-mail Rebbetzin Ellen at RebbetzinEllen@gmail.com.

Saturday, Feb. 15

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.

Hebrew Congregation of Somers Shabbat Services: Please join us for a Shabbat service at 9:30 a.m. on Feb. 15, 22 and 29. The services will be led by Rabbi Leis and Cantor Ruth Ossher, followed by Lunch & Learn, a discussion of the week's Torah portion led by Rabbi Shoshana Leis. Kiddush luncheon will be served. E-mail questions@hebrewcongregationofsomers.org or call 914-248-9532 for more information.

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.somers-library.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.

History Program: A little-known history of 250 years ago called a Rebellion in The Manor of Cortlandt will be revealed in a talk with pictures by local historian Frank Goderre as he presents an historical perspective on the sporadic armed conflicts that erupted over land rights starting in 1766 in the Dutch settlements of old Peekskill and The Manor of Cortlandt. Sponsored by the Van Cortlandtville Historical Society, the 2 p.m. program is open free to the public at The Little Red Schoolhouse, 297 Locust Ave., Cortlandt. For more information, or in case of inclement weather, visit: www.vancort.net or facebook.com/vancortlandtvillehistoricalsociety or, call 914-736-7868.

Love Songs: Let Me Call You Sweetheart: Love Songs from Ragtime and Tin Pan Alley will be held at 7 p.m. at the Life Energy Art Gallery, 11-13 Main St., Mount

Kisco. Info: 914-218-3350 or <https://lifeenergyarts.gallery/let-me-call-you-sweetheart/>.

Sunday, Feb. 16

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. 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. 17

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. 18

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.

Tuesday Creative Writing Class: The course is being held on consecutive Tuesdays until May 5 at the Somers Library. Class size is limited to 12, so please call the library at 914-232-5717 to sign up now.

Mediation Classes: Free Mindfulness Meditation classes for beginners will be held on Feb. 18, March 17, April 21, May 19, and June 16 from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Community Room (upstairs near the food court/office) of the Jefferson Valley Mall, 650 Lee Blvd. Info: 914 844 7802 or www.martagilyoga.com.

Guiding Eyes for the Blind Names New Director

Continued from page 13

Guiding Eyes for the Blind is dedicated to creating and supporting life-changing connections between people and dogs. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides superbly bred and trained dogs to people who are blind or visually impaired. Our dogs are known for their exceptional temperaments and success at helping people gain independence and to expand their horizons of opportunity.

Pros and Cons of Staying in the Same Town, Same Home

While most people move an average of five to seven years, there are those who remain in the same home for the long term.

Some might consider this situation dull and uneventful, but as someone who has lived most of his adult life in the same town and in only one house for 43 years, then in a condo for the last five years just three miles away, I can attest to it having some very satisfying benefits.

Within the year, I've been involved in two home sales involving young families relocating to another state, and both couples, under 45 with young children, appeared very excited about moving on to a new living experience. I wished them Godspeed.

As for my wife and me, we've passed up several opportunities through the years to relocate, perhaps influenced by our early married life which, for a number of reasons, involved five moves in less than five years. When we moved into our Westchester home after this peripatetic existence, which we found most disruptive and unpleasant, we adopted the oft-repeated phrase that the only way we were leaving this house would be in a pine box.

Morbid as that may sound, we were serious and our longevity in the house would attest to it. But, alas, all things do change eventually if one waits long enough. As empty-nesters living in a home with six

bedrooms, we decided to downsize to a new condo, but in the same town.

As I look back on the benefits of staying the course as town residents, I've learned that owning a home is so much more than the square footage of one's living space. The experience extends beyond the footprint to the property line, street, neighborhood, community, and most of all, to the people with whom we relate over a long period of time.



By Bill Primavera

When we first moved to this area, my wife and I were the "kids" on the block and the majority of other residents were seniors, many of whom had bought their properties when they were unheated summer cottages. By the time we arrived, the homes had been converted to year-round residences and slowly they began

to change hands to younger couples.

Then, we watched as those small houses developed larger footprints and, in some cases, were demolished to make room for new construction.

Many neighbors had come and gone, but we remained constant, and eventually became the most long-term citizens on our street.

We have become human time machines to the passing world, observing both subtle and seismic changes from the same perspective, relating to all of our neighbors and service providers as real people and

friends, rather than the more anonymous existence we experienced in New York City.

The very first person we met in town was George, our mailman, and we missed him when he retired. We became friends with Jimmy from UPS who tended to our needs in our home business for more than 20 years until he too retired, but we still keep up with him when my wife meets him in the supermarket.

In town I go to the same pharmacy, that until recently, had been owned by the same family since the early 1940s. I say hello to the new owner after relating to the former owner for almost 30 years. My wife and I frequently tell the story of the time our baby got sick when I was away on business and that pharmacist personally delivered the needed medication to our home.

As long-term homeowners, my wife and I developed strong ties to our community and enjoy participating with other residents in the governmental process, joining the Chamber of Commerce and pulling together for common causes from preserving open space to smart-growth development and joining forces to clean the roads on Earth Day.

Our daughter benefitted by being educated in just one school system, remaining friends to this day with children she met in kindergarten.

And, I became friends with service providers who made our lives easier. Martino the landscaper, Mike the pool man, Franco the carpenter, Butch the electrician and

Ron at my car repair shop who knows every need and quirk of my car, among many others.

When I'm walking down a main street in town and someone honks, waves and calls me by name, I feel embraced by my lifestyle choice.

Is it these endearing things that have kept my wife and me in the same place for so long, or is it that we've not encountered the situations that most frequently have people move?

Those reasons include a home becomes too small; a desire to upgrade; determining that you have made a mistake in the home you purchased; a job transfer; personal relationships (marriage, divorce); neighborhood changes; to see one's family more often – or less often; retirement; health problems; preferring to move, rather than fixing up; desiring a lifestyle change; and becoming an empty-nester.

Yes, finally, it was the last two items on the list that convinced us to move to a new home. But the town? We decided to stay put, thank you.

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The Cultural and Generational Dichotomy Over Alcohol Consumption

In a December column I suggested that readers accept the Dry January challenge – 30 days of alcohol-free existence. A number of you took the challenge – including yours truly – and not only met the challenge, but felt it had an impact on their health and wallet.

As for myself, I succeeded in avoiding all alcohol, in spite of numerous wine events and tastings I attended (my mantra: sip and spit, no swallowing). However, for myself, abstinence does make the heart grow fonder. I have resumed my decades-old habit of consuming a glass of wine with dinner, with not a tinge of guilt.

As I immersed myself in the ritual of Dry January, I delved deeper into the drinking habits of American generations. Much scrutiny is focused on the millennials. They are the “health-conscious” generation. They will not repeat the bad habits of previous generations. Plant protein is now the favored alternative to animal protein. Soft drinks are the beverage of choice. Low-alcohol hard seltzer is the acceptable choice for alcohol consumption.

In my opinion, the lifestyle of many millennials receives more attention than is warranted. This health-conscious generation, in certain respects, is the antithesis of the free-spirited, excessive-smoking (legal and illegal), alcohol-consuming baby boomer generation. Their lifestyle considers the

body a temple, to be revered and respected in all daily decisions.

What is not considered is that baby boomers have decades of life experiences and discretionary income (and far less education debt) to enjoy the finer things in life.

But which generation has the better life focus? The free-spirited 56- to 74-year-old boomers or the more conservative-rooted 20- to 38-year-old millennials?

If it's not clear, I'm of the pre-alphabet, baby boomer generation, or if we must all have alphabetical labels, Generation W. With that as a point of context, allow me to analyze the habits of Generation Y and the generation being influenced by them, Generation Z.

I recently read a press release from a web-based consumer-tracking company, Criteo, that “Gen-Z and Millennials are constantly seeking products that not only fit into social trends, but also elevate life experiences.”

Hmm, like the Keto diet? “I’m limiting my carbs and increasing my high-protein intake (typically from fatty foods) to lose weight and improve my overall health” is the mantra of these proponents. And it is the most popular diet in the United States – right now.

With these trends evolving, what are the younger generations consuming as their beverages of choice? Many have become “sober curious,” evaluating their alcohol decisions and choices as they interface

with their peers in social settings.

According to polling company Nielsen CGA, consumption of low-alcohol and no-alcohol products is expected to grow 32 percent by 2022 from current levels. The beverages of choice?

First, soft drinks. Counterintuitively, retail sales grew 2.9 percent in the past year. Many drinks in this category are high in caffeine and artificially sweetened, concocted in laboratories and mass-produced in factories. Alcohol-free, certainly, but healthier than red wine?

Second, hard seltzers. This category is booming over the past year. Moderate consumption seems to trump other sources of alcohol consumption. Low alcohol, certainly, but healthier than red wine?

Let’s compare low-alcohol alternatives, such as White Claw hard seltzer, to wine.

The nutrition profiles of a single serving:

Hard seltzers: 100 calories, three carbohydrates, 5 percent (White Claw) to 14 percent (Four Loko) alcohol by volume.

Red wine: 110 calories, four carbohydrates, 6 percent (many Moscatos, Rieslings) to 14 percent (a number of Cabernet Sauvignons and Zinfandels) alcohol by volume.

And did I mention that wine fits the profile of millennial preferences: a plant-based product that is gluten-free and low in carbohydrates?

The alcohol in wine is without question a negative component of this favored beverage. Yet, as in all things, moderation and

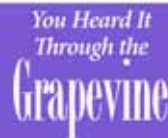
drinking responsibly are key to its craftsmanship, complexity and sophistication over factory-produced alternatives.

You be the judge as you consider your choices.

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.



By Nick Antonaccio



Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. Sleeping place
- 4. Not cool any more
- 9. Crew member
- 10. Sublet
- 11. Vein contents
- 12. His first restaurant in Yorktown was so nice, he did it twice, now open in Somers, ____ II
- 13. Free ____ (1850s abolitionist)
- 15. Cover anew, as a plot
- 17. Evasive
- 21. Tool for a duel
- 22. Cancel
- 23. Ziti, e.g.
- 25. “Little dancer of fourteen years” painter
- 26. Leader’s cry
- 28. More rotten, as timber
- 30. Beach Boys’ “Barbara ____”
- 33. New hair salon in Yorktown that is anything but “ordinary, “Lala’s ____ Cuts”

DOWN

- 34. Derisive cry
- 35. Per annum
- 36. Cardinal’s insignia
- 1. Ghost’s cry
- 2. Lend it or bend it
- 3. Dons clothes
- 4. Nuisance
- 5. Rainbow-like
- 6. Pirate
- 7. Elder
- 8. Dolls of the 80s
- 10. Away, as a game
- 14. Fighting directly
- 15. Agent (abbr.)
- 16. Mileage rating org.
- 18. Summer time
- 19. Model Carangi
- 20. Gridiron gains, abbr.
- 24. Soulful Baker
- 25. Ste. Jeanne ____
- 27. Dam
- 28. Narc’s org.
- 29. Opioid in slang
- 31. King Cole musician
- 32. Ice hockey org.

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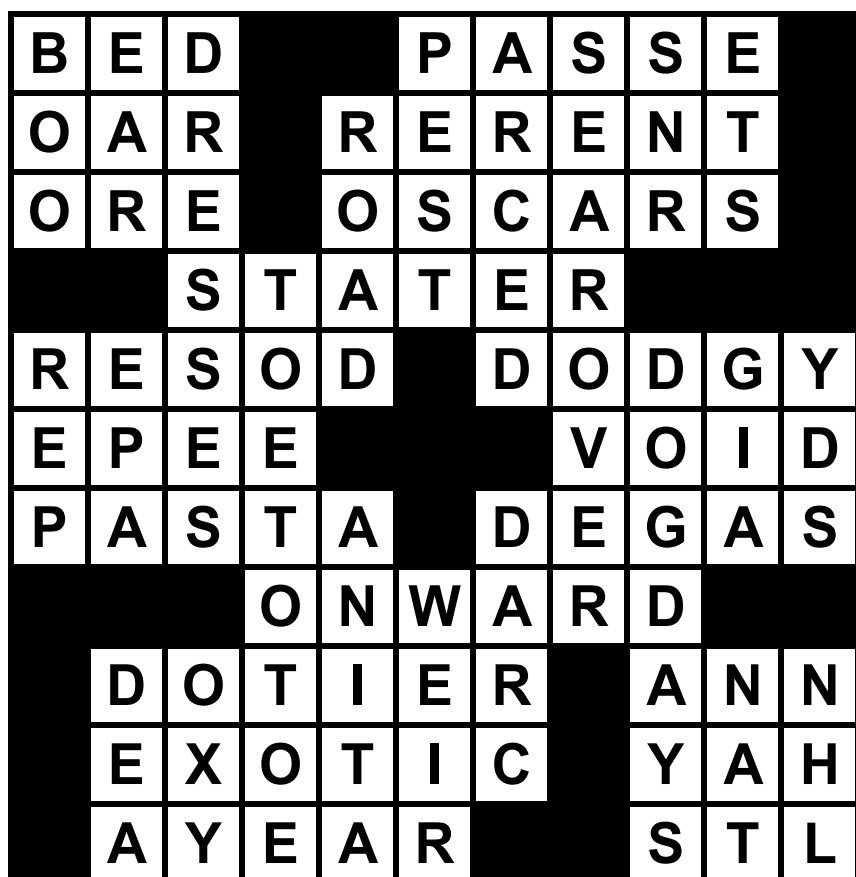
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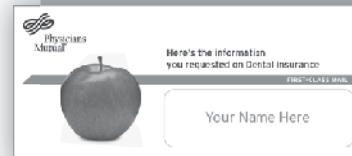
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**Somers Overcomes
Rough 2019 Start,
Clamps Down on
League II-C Title
in Win vs. Yorktown**



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Hard-charging Somers senior G Dani DiCintio (R) and her Tuskers began the 2019-20 season as Section 1 Class A runner-ups, but a rough-and-tumble 1-5 start had some wondering if the elephants were just a memory. However, victories in 11 of the last 12 games has reignited the notion that Somers (12-6 overall, 8-0 II-C), the current No.5 seed in Class A, is in it to win it. Somers, which locked up a share of the League II-C title after a 47-33 win over Jesse Barer (5) and visiting Yorktown last Thursday, can snag sole possession of the league with a win over either Panas or Lakeland this week. DiCintio dropped a dozen on Yorktown and finished with 24 points and six assists in Saturday's 60-48 win over Scarsdale... see Girls' Hoops Notebook

Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook

Mahopac Topples Lourdes; PV, Somers, Hen Hud Clinch Leagues

By Tony Pinciario

MAHOPAC graduated four seniors, including two starters, from its 2018-19 team, but the Indians came into preseason with a positive approach

"We knew we had some rising talent coming up," senior Mia Klammer said. "I watched a few CYO games and knew they were going to be good. We also had some good returning freshmen."

Combine this with Mahopac's veteran upperclassmen core and it has led to the Indians' excellent season.

Mahopac continued its outstanding play with victories over R.C. Ketcham (59-39) and nemesis Our Lady of Lourdes (64-57). Class AA Mahopac improved to 13-6 this season and is 6-3 in its competitive league.

A successful December made the Indians realize how good they were becoming and also provided a confidence boost.

"When we started beating good teams, we knew we had the talent to do some things and possibly get far this year," Klammer said.

The momentum carried through January and into the first week of February, culminating with the victory over Lourdes, ranked No.10 in NYS. Even though the Warriors beat Mahopac in the first league matchup, the Indians came away confident for their second game.

"We all worked really hard to win and it was such a great game and we felt if we did the same thing, again, we would have a chance to win," said Klammer of Mahopac's first game with Lourdes.

Lourdes did throw a scare into Mahopac in the fourth quarter, but Klammer said the team kept its composure.

Caitlyn O'Boyle led Mahopac with 14 points, Klammer had 13 points and Kristina Rush added 12 points.

In the victory over Ketcham, Klammer



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Mahopac junior F Caitlin O'Boyle has been a steady force down low the last couple seasons.



RICK KUPERBERG PHOTO

Hen Hud senior Caitlin Weimar posted one of the most impressive stat lines of season when she had 40 points, 19 boards, 5 blocks in 71-43 win over Sleepy.



A perfect blend of youth – like feisty freshmen Kristina Rush and Lauren Beberman -- and experience has led Mahopac toward a potential big finish in Class AA.

had a game-high 20 points and Melanie De-Meo and O'Boyle had 11 points apiece.

Having three players in double-figures scoring is nothing new for Mahopac. The well-balanced scoring attack has been a constant all season and makes it difficult for opponents to focus on shutting down one player.

"We feel our whole team is a threat because everyone is so good at doing their own thing, so if one person is not having a good day, we have other people who can pick them up," Klammer said.

HEN HUD continued its record-setting season with four more victories – Sleepy Hollow Clarkstown South, Poughkeepsie and Croton, extending the program-record winning streak to 14 games. The state-ranked (No.20) Sailors are now 18-1 this season and seeded No.1 in Class A.

In the Croton game, senior Caitlin Weimar scored her 1,500th varsity point among her team-leading 23. She also grabbed 24 rebounds.

"It felt amazing to reach 1,500 points," said Weimar, who will attend Marist and play basketball next year. "It was another positive to add on to this great season that our team is having."

"I love sharing these moments with my teammates because they are so supportive and caring."

Mylene Smith added a career-high 16 points and six rebounds Kira Varada had 10 points, five rebounds and five steals.

Hen Hud went to Clarkstown South and held off a furious fourth-quarter Vikings' charge for a 51-49 win. Weimar scored 19 points and Smith and Varada each had 11 points.

"That was a big step for our team because we learned a lot from that game," Weimar said of the two-time reigning League II-E champions. "We came out very strong with a big lead in the first quarter. Continuing it for the rest of the time and winning the game with a tough fourth quarter helps us gain experience in close games at the end."

"It's always exciting beating a strong team and it's been great going on such a big winning streak. Each game is so different and we learn from every one of them."

Weimar scored a career-high 40 points against Sleepy Hollow. She also had 19 rebounds.

OSSINING has found its groove, running its winning streak to a lucky seven consecu-

continued on next page

Sports

continued from previous page

tive after victories over Scarsdale (68-55), Kennedy Catholic of Somers (80-55) and North Rockland (80-54) in the Pauline Ricci Classic. The five-game day is in honor of Ossining Coach Dan Ricci's late mother.

Class AA Ossining, the nine-time defending Section 1 champs, is now 11-7 this season.

"This run has been amazing, but it took a lot of hard work and time to get back to Ossining basketball," senior Julia Iorio said. "We have been breaking down our films and correcting the little things, such as boxing out, and relearning the basics of defense."

Ede Walker and Iorio led the way against North Rockland, each scoring 20 points. Walker also grabbed 10 rebound for the Pride, as it outscored the Red Raiders by 10 points in the third quarter, lengthening the lead to 17 after three.

Lily Barossi finished with 14 points and Ashley McFadden had 11 points, six rebounds five assists and five steals.

"I asked Coach Ricci if he thought the tournament was perfect and he told me, 'Not until we win,'" Iorio said. "I think us winning just ended the day on a perfect note and made coach really happy."

McFadden poured in a game-high 22 points against Kennedy Catholic. She also had five steals. Kacie Scarduzio added 11 points, Kylee Taxiera finished with 10 points and Tamia Dimmie collected eight assists and six rebounds.

Ossining trailed Scarsdale, 51-47, entering the fourth quarter. The Pride blitzed the Raiders, outscoring them 21-4 in the final stanza.

"The fourth quarter of our Scarsdale game showed the team what we can do when we

put our minds to it," Iorio said. "The team felt we were giving little effort the first three quarters and in the fourth, we came out with a burst of energy and a different mentality."

Barossi and Scarduzio had 14 points apiece, McFadden added 11 points and 13 rebounds and Michelle Mercado contributed nine points and seven rebounds.

SOMERS, which lost five of its first six games of the season, beat Brewster (62-38), Yorktown (47-32) and Scarsdale (60-48), making it 10 victories in its last 11 games.

Somers' Coach Marc Hattem cited the play of senior Jordan May, who averaged 19.7 points and 10 rebounds in the three wins. Senior Dani DiCintio averaged 6.3 assists in the victories, which allowed the Tuskers to grab a share of the League II-C title.

The Tuskers are now 11-6 overall and 8-0 in the league. Somers played Panas, Monday, and faces Lakeland, today.

"The Brewster win was a great team win," Hattem said. "We really played well in the first half, scoring 40 points. Jordan (May) went up against a great post player in Grace Galgano and scored a career-high 26 points."

"The Yorktown game was a classic battle with a lot of fouls and tough defense. I was proud of the team for matching the physicality of a very good team. Scarsdale was a tricky opponent. We got some great defensive performances from Amy Lasher, Ava Guidice and Juliana Clement."

BREWSTER split two games, a 64-38 loss to a surging Somers, and rallied to a 52-51 victory over Lakeland.

Brewster Coach Mike Castaldo credited Somers with outplaying his team.

"They beat us in every aspect of the game," Castaldo said. "We were in foul trouble, could not shoot and turned the ball over a ton. Somers is playing very well. They are going to be a very tough out in the playoffs."

Madison Dakin led Brewster with 15 points and Alexis Mark contributed 14 points.

"We managed to escape after blowing a double-digit third-quarter lead," said Castaldo of the Lakeland game. "Lakeland took the lead going into the fourth and was up four with 1:27 to play."

"Madison (Dakin) got a steal off the press and got an and-one to cut the lead to one. On our next possession, Alexis got a huge offensive rebound, was fouled and made both free throws, giving us the lead with under a minute to go."

Mark had 21 points and eight rebounds, Dakin scored 14 points and Grace Galgano chipped in 11 points, 10 rebounds and five blocked shots.

PANAS opened the week with a 53-36 win over Yorktown, but the Panthers were shocked by John Jay-Cross River, 63-58.

"The whole team played excellent defense," said Pa-



Somers girls whoop it up on senior night during 47-33 win over visiting Yorktown.

nas Coach Matt Evangelista of the Yorktown game. "The game was very close until we went on a 19-0 run to start the fourth quarter."

Kristen Cinquina had a team-high 18 points and Caileen Nolan added 16 points.

Nolan would lead Panas with 14 points against John Jay, Kristen Scrobola had 12 points and Cinquina finished with 10 points.

"John Jay got off to a great start, but we fought back and took the lead," Evangelista said. "John Jay made a series of big plays down the stretch to grab the victory."

Following a loss to Somers, **YORKTOWN** evened its record at 9-9 with a 51-32

win over Lakeland.

Ashley Zeolla had a team-best 15 points and freshman Olivia Lucas had 10 points, including three 3-pointers, in her varsity debut.

"We did a good job forcing some early turnovers with our press," Yorktown Coach Brian Mundy said. "Our defense was a big part of our offense."

Mundy was impressed with Lucas' first varsity game.

"The girls were incredible with the way they welcomed Olivia to the team," Mundy said. "I think when you have kids like this, it makes the younger players so much more

comfortable and takes some of the nerves out of a debut.

"I wanted to get Olivia into the game early so she could get a feel for the increased speed and physicality of the game. I gave her the green light to play her game and to just be herself. I was just as impressed with her defensive instincts and ability to anticipate passes, as I was with her offense."

Class B PUTNAM VALLEY, ranked No.14 in NYS, closed out the regular season with a 16-3 record, after it crushed Mount Vernon (75-29) and North Salem (62-32).

Senior Kelli Venezia scored a career-high 30 points against Mount Vernon and freshman Eva DeChent added 18 points.

Venezia also led the way against North Salem, scoring 24 points. Junior Arianna Stockinger and Amanda Orlando had 12 points apiece for the League III-E champion Tigers, the current No.2 seed.



Yorktown sophomore G Melissa Severino takes on coverage from Somers senior G Julianna Clement in Huskers' 47-33 loss to host Tuskers last Thursday.



Yorktown freshman G Emily Ward (10) tries to gain lane on Somers freshman G Ava Giudice in Huskers' 47-33 loss to host Tuskers last Thursday.

Sports

Boys' Hoops Notebook

Gold Balls Will be Tough to Come by in 2020

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor@Directrays

Ranking the contenders for the coveted gold balls won't be easy in Section 1 this season, and what makes it even tougher is the fact that three-time defending sectional champion Mount Vernon is NOT the Class AA favorites for the first time since 2013 (when New Rochelle won). Even back in 2016, when Fox Lane one its second sectional title since 2004, Mount Vernon was still the favorites to hoist the hardware that season. That is not the case in 2020 with state-ranked (No.20) Horace Greeley emerging as the team to beat in an apparently wide-open Class AA field, which also features a scary Suffern club that few people, including state pollsters, are talking about, New Ro' and the Knights of MV.

Defending Class A champion Poughkeepsie, winners of six in a row, will also have to fend off a bevy of challengers, including state-ranked (No.22) Tappan Zee and (No.27) Byram Hills, plus unranked Lakeland and Rye, among several other legit challengers, including under-the-radar Rockland clubs like Magnus and Pearl River.

Class B features state-ranked (No.7) Hastings and suddenly-vulnerable No.12 Valhalla, which suffered a shocking 60-57 loss to Croton-Harmon last week. And don't discount defending Class B champion Dobbs Ferry. So, Classes AA, A and B could be a wild ride come early March.

Most folks would have you believe Class C will be the only Section 1 tournament without a true challenger to state-ranked (No.1) Hamilton; just don't tell that to anyone from Haldane, which suffered a tough

67-54 loss to Class B North Salem, which looked dead in the water in early January before winning 11 in a row.

So, there's some kind of gold ball on the line in the weeks ahead at some place called the Westchester County Center, and we've got some long droughts that may or may not end this winter... see the poll below for some perspective and local history on the elusive gold ball...

NWE/PUTNAM HIGH FIVE HOOPS POLL

No.1 LAKELAND -- Coach Fallo's Class A Hornets (15-3, 8-0 II-C), winners of nine straight, are the league champs with two games still to be played; that's how dominant they have been. Hornets had four double-digit scorers in 71-39 win over Brewster and All-Section hotshot Jack Kruse wasn't one of them, so the Hornets have a ton of capable scorers (All-Section G Augie Karqi went for 18, Jeff Owusu 15, Michael Arcure 11, Brian Cummins 10). Man, As a potential No.3 seed, we would love to see this team with a big man in the tournament because they get up and down the floor as well as anyone in Class A and a 'big' would go a long way toward obtaining the first gold ball in school history (dating back to the peach-basket era).

No.2 PANAS -- Coach Auerbach's Class A Panthers (11-7, 5-3 II-C) are sure to pose some legit problems in the postseason if coach can get his entire unit on the floor at the same time. With Section 1 titles in 1997 and 2014, the Panthers are no strangers to the big stage, and this is one club, which, as a potential 11-seed, could pose some serious first-round problems; though getting out of No.6 Poughkeepsie's path is vital to the cause. Panas has to improve that seed by defeating Somers and Brewster down stretch. In Auerbach's 100th career victory, a 71-60 OT win over John Jay, Panas saw five Panthers hit double digits, including freakish freshman Alex Tavarez (14), Robert Ennis (13), Tom Palmaffy (13), Arturo Macchia (11) and Caleb Evans (10).

No.3 MAHOPAC -- Coach McMahon's Class AA Indians (9-8, 3-4 I-A) are another club

continued on next page



Mahopac senior Tommy O'Brien launches shot in Indians' 50-37 win over visiting Brewster Friday.



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Mahopac senior Adam Mitchell goes strong to rack in Indians' 50-37 win over visiting Brewster's Shane McLaglin and Steve Switzer Friday night.



Lakeland's postseason success boils down to 5 guard-like players - including Augie Karaqi & Jack Kruse-- defending, crashing boards & scoring in transition.

Sports

Boys' Hoops Notebook

continued from previous page



Panas freshman G Alex Tavaréz continued his rapid ascent on Section 1 circuit with 14 points in Panthers' 70-61 win over John Jay CR.



Panas senior swingman Robert Ennis goes strong for two points in Panthers' 70-61 OT triumph of John Jay CR last week.

still seeking the first gold-ball moment in school history, but the Indians, who were serious challengers from 2010-14, were in celebratory mode last Friday when they were inducting new members into the Mahopac Hall of Fame during a 50-37 win over Brewster. Gotta take a hit in the poll, though, for loss to RCK.

No.4 HALDANE -- Coach Virgadamo's Class C Blue Devils (14-5, 4-1 III-E) must recoup from the 67-54 loss to North Salem last week, which probably derailed their shot at sole possession of the league title and threw some shade on their chances of winning a sixth sectional title since 1980, including a three-peat to conclude the golden era in 2016. The road to a sixth gold ball runs through No.3 Tuckahoe and top-seeded Hamilton, so it's sure to get bumpy.

No.5 CROTON -- Coach Boykin's Class B Tigers (11-9, 5-3 III-A) had the win of the week over state-ranked (No.12) Valhalla, 60-57, behind junior G Ryan Windrum's 19 points and six rebounds, as well as Jack Connelly's 16 points and eight boards. Braden Burke (12 points, 6 assist) and Owen Marcus (10 points, 5 rebounds) were also big-

time contributors in the Tigers' best win of the season, by far. But the 50-48 loss to Hen Hud is a head-scratcher, indeed. So, for all its basketball tradition under former Coach Bill Thom one would have to go back to 1945 to find the Tigers' last Section 1 championship, its fourth between 1933-'45, when gold balls weren't even molds yet.

No.5A YORKTOWN -- Coach Pavella's Class A Huskers (9-9, 4-4 II-C) have seen senior Roni Brucaj take more than 40 charges this season, and while that won't produce Yorktown's 2nd gold ball since 1971, it might be the most impressive stat on the team and sets a sacrificial tone that every underclassmen in the program needs to follow. Yorktown, winners in 5 of the last 6, may never challenge for a gold ball on pure talent alone, so Brucaj's All-Conference example is one to follow should they intend to seriously challenge in the future.

HM PEEKSKILL -- Coach Turner's Class A Red Devs (9-9, 3-3 II-E), who once owned whatever classification it competed in from 1993 to 2009 with 10 sectional titles and five state titles, will, as the potential No.16 seed, have to wait at least one more

year before this burgeoning junior varsity squad hits the circuit next year. Dutchess County powers Poughkeepsie, Beacon and Lourdes were too much for All-Section G Antonio Taylor and Red Devs to handle last week and those losses cost Peeky a shot at the League II-E title and somewhat dampened enthusiasm for what would be the 18th sectional title in school history.

HM SOMERS -- Coach DiCintio's Class A Tuskers (7-11, 4-4 II-C) have averaged just 47 points per game this season -- but have allowed just 50 PPG -- and that likely won't produce the second Section 1 title in school history (1992); though it could make them a tough out while building toward a brighter 2021 campaign and possibly the first league title in 30 years.

HM OSSINING -- Coach Casey's Class AA Pride (6-12, 1-4 I-D) snapped four-game losing streak in 66-65 win over Carmel but it's been since 1962 when Ossining sailed the blue of the mighty Hudson to its lone Section 1 title.

HM HEN HUD -- Coach Hirsch's Class A Sailors (5-14, 0-7 II-E) ended a 4-game skid in win over Croton-Harmon Saturday

behind 21 points from All-Conference junior Nick Hiltzley, but the elusive gold ball, which the Sailors haven't hoisted since 1944, will have to wait another year.

HM CARMEL -- Coach Ross' Class AA Rams (8-11, 1-6 I-D) snapped six-game skid with a 55-36 win over Yonkers, and we don't mean to lump the Rams with the rest of Putnam County, but they are part of an ignoble distinction; in that the next Putnam County large school -- including Carmel, Mahopac, Brewster and Putnam Valley -- to win a Section 1 hoops championship will be the first to ever do so #SadFact!

HM PUTNAM VALLEY -- Coach Morales' Class B Tigers (2-15, 1-4 III-E) are on the brink of being eliminated from playoff contention after losses to North Salem and Pawling (yes, that Pawling) last week, and it could be a couple of years before the Tigers are contenders again for the first gold ball in school history.

HM BREWSTER -- Coach Nelligan's Bears (4-14, 0-8 II-C) have dropped 5 of 6 but played much better defensively the last few games. Baseball is on the horizon, my dudes #SeeYouOnTheDiamond!



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