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Juniors  
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**FREE**

February 25 - March 2, 2020

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

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# The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER Examiner

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

**Local Hoopers Move on  
to Quarters...**



## Warnings Issued for Scams as U.S. Census Push Intensifies

By Rick Pezzullo

A Yorktown resident recently received a questionnaire in the mail that appeared to be from the U.S. Census, but instead was a fundraising letter from the Republican National Committee.

The confusing mailer, which reportedly has been circulated in at least four other states, was sent out about a month before the legitimate 2020 Census is slated to hit mailboxes and contains similar questions that will be posed to households.

In conjunction with the Westchester County Department of Public Safety, the county's Consumer Protection Department is gearing up to prevent potential scams targeting Westchester residents during the completion of Census 2020.

Some examples of telltale signs of a scam, according to 2020Census.gov, are

centered on questions that will not be asked by the Census Bureau. During the 2020 Census, the bureau will never ask for Social Security numbers, money or donations, anything on behalf of a political party or bank or credit card account numbers.

The questionnaire mailed to the Yorktown homeowner, who is a registered Republican, contained a solicitation to donate to the Republican National Committee.

If someone claiming to be from the Census Bureau contacts a resident via e-mail or phone and asks for one of these things, it's a scam and the individual should not cooperate.

"We see evidence each day that scammers are everywhere and look to take advantage of any opportunity to steal your hard-earned money or identity," said Con-

*Continued on page 2*



## A Distinguished Career

Current and former members of the Yorktown Police Department and local officials earlier this month celebrated the 39-year career of Lieutenant Thomas Gentner, a Lakeland graduate, who retired from the force.

## Residents Quarantined as Part of Coronavirus Precaution

By Martin Wilbur

Westchester County officials reported last week that 26 people had been quarantined within the county for possible exposure to the novel coronavirus, but they are not sick and pose no threat to public safety.

A February 18 briefing in White Plains by Health Commissioner Dr. Sherlita Amler and county Executive George Latimer and other county officials provided an update on the precautions being taken in Westchester.

By Monday, there were only eight people who remained under quarantine, the county Health Department reported. The others

who were released from quarantine is not a risk.

"We currently have travelers that have come back into the county from areas of the world where COVID-19 cases have occurred," Amler explained. "These people are not ill, but we still have to monitor them."

There have been no cases of the novel coronavirus, referred to in healthcare circles as COVID-19, in New York State. As of February 24, 35 Americans have been infected, according to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control website ([www.ecdc.europa.eu](http://www.ecdc.europa.eu)).

Amler explained that a quarantine is for individuals who may

have been exposed to the virus while isolation is reserved for those who are sick.

The original 26 individuals, whose identities and locations were withheld for privacy reasons, had voluntarily agreed to be quarantined at home until the 14-day incubation period for the virus is over, Amler said. They have shown no symptoms and will not be tested unless symptoms appear, she said.

Arrangements were made to have food, medication and other basic items brought to the residents for the remainder of their quarantine.

*Continued on page 2*



PHOTO BY MARTIN WILBUR

Westchester County Health Commissioner Dr. Sherlita Amler, at podium, speaks about the precautionary steps being taken by the county to address the specter of the coronavirus.

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# Residents Quarantined as Part of Coronavirus Precaution

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Symptoms for COVID-19 are virtually identical to the more typical strains of influenza – coughing, sneezing, a sore throat or fever, Amler said. It is most commonly spread through coughing or sneezing but doesn't travel very far, typically no more than six feet, she said.

There's no way to tell the difference between COVID-19 and other strains of virus.

"But what you want to ask, have you traveled to China or have you traveled to any region of the world where there are evolving cases of this novel coronavirus and have you been exposed to anyone who's been diagnosed or to anyone who came from those areas that was ill?" Amler said. "The travel history is very, very important, and particularly for individuals who've traveled in that area for the last 14 days and developed symptoms."

As of Monday, 77,169 of the 79,360 cases

of COVID-19 have been in China, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control reported. Most of the other cases identified are in South Korea (763) and Japan (144), along with other countries in that region.

There have been 2,618 deaths from the virus, with all but 26 confined to China. Last weekend, two deaths were reported in Italy and one in France.

Anyone with a travel history in the last 14 days to one of the countries with a high concentration of cases, would be put in contact with their local health departments upon return, which is how the county learned of the 26 people in Westchester, Amler said.

Precautions include frequent hand-washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or with a hand sanitizer, she said. Coughing or sneezing should be done into the arm and not the hands.

If anyone hasn't gotten their flu shot for the season, they should be vaccinated, Amler said. Vaccines are still available, including at the county health clinics in White Plains and Yonkers through the end of this week, she said.

Latimer said he and his administration did not want to alarm the public but felt it was important to provide accurate information rather than run the risk of having "the spread of the virus of fear and unnecessary panic."

"This is a time for sober realities, where speculation, where projections of things that aren't backed up necessarily by fact, where going on the internet and I heard this and I saw this is not only unhelpful but it can be negative," Latimer said. "It can create a climate of fear that is unwarranted."

For more information on the novel coronavirus visit the Centers for Disease Control at <https://www.cdc.gov/> or the county Health Department at <https://health.westchestergov.com/>

## Warnings Issued for Scams as U.S. Census Push Intensifies

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sumer Protection Director Jim Maisano. "That is why, with our county police, our department is diligently watching for any Census 2020-related scams. If you see anything that may be of concern, contact us; we are here to protect you."

Regular updates about any Census scams will be provided on the county's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts.

Additional things to know to protect yourself and items that will never be requested by the Census Bureau: taxpayer identification numbers, gift cards, identification and passwords. Census Bureau

workers will also never enter someone's home.

"Westchester County police have shared information with all our municipal police partners about potential scams related to the 2020 Census," said Department of Public Safety Commissioner Thomas Gleason. "The county's law enforcement community will work together to identify and investigate any fraudulent activity that might occur."

If you have you seen or heard something about the 2020 Census that is confusing, let the county Consumer Protection Department know by calling 914-995-2155. You can also let the Census Bureau know by contacting [rumors@census.gov](mailto:rumors@census.gov).

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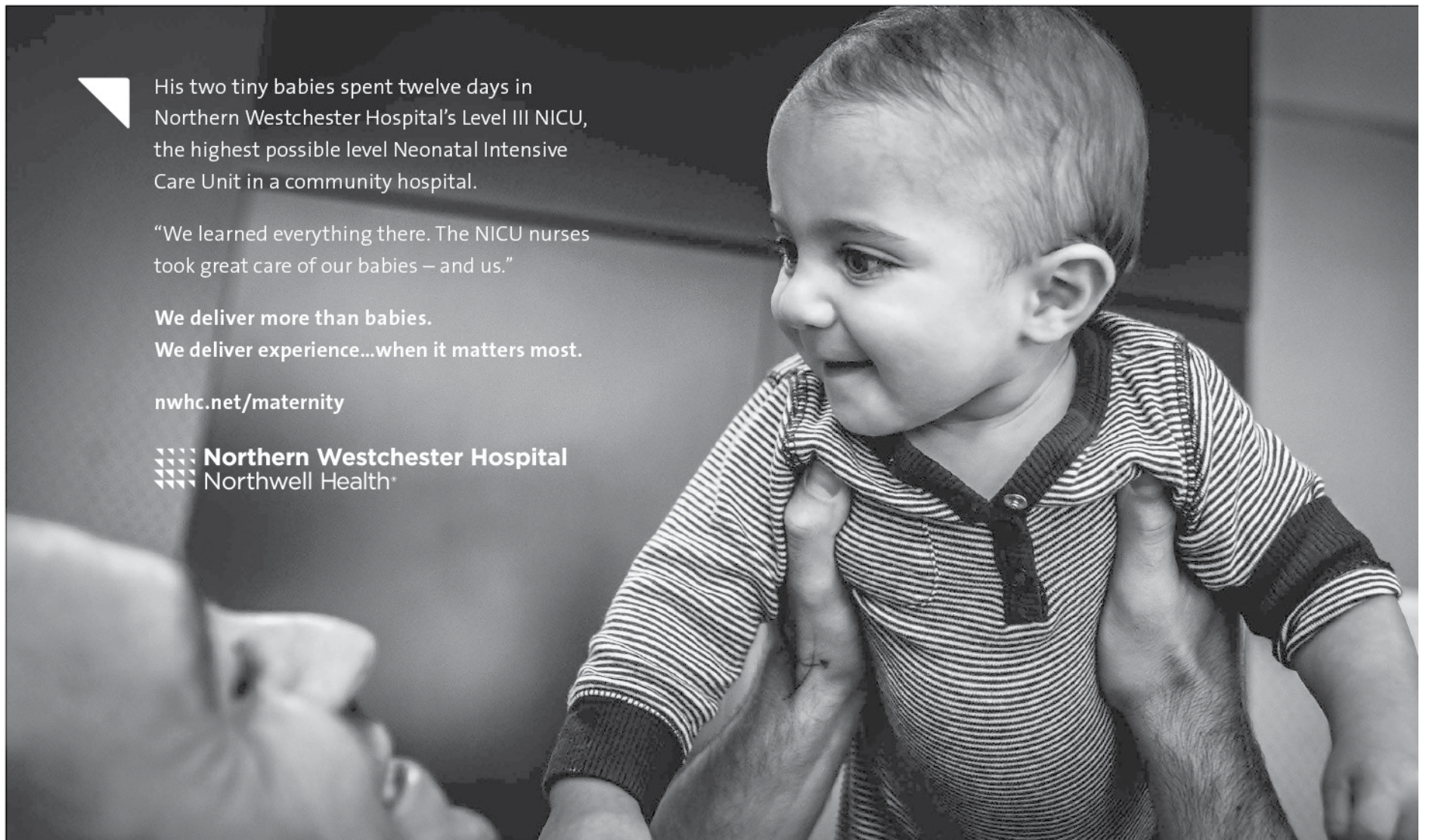
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# Mayor Chastises City Officer Charged with Sexual Abuse

By Rick Pezzullo

Peekskill Mayor Andre Rainey publicly chastised a city police officer who was charged with sexually abusing and burglarizing a woman while on duty.

Michael Agovino, 33, pled not guilty before Judge Reginald Johnson in City Court February 18 and was released after posting a \$100,000 bond. He has been placed on administrative leave and is due back in court March 12.

"After reading the headlines, articles and links from the officer in Peekskill, it's an embarrassment to our police department and our entire city as a whole. This behavior makes me sick and is intolerable. It was completely inappropriate and clearly unprofessional. There is no situation where this type of behavior is acceptable," Rainey stated on Facebook. "We read and hear stories of police officers all over the world and we pray it never comes this close to our city and our community. This is a terrifying situation, beyond upsetting, especially with all the great news coming out of our city lately. In Peekskill, we expect our employees, in law enforcement especially, to maintain their professionalism and proper training at all times. We expect them to protect and respect, not take advantage of and intimidate."

Agovino, a resident of Palisades in Rockland County, is facing felony charges of first-degree sexual abuse, first-degree stalking as a sexually motivated felony, and second-degree burglary as a sexually motivated felony. A four-page complaint has been filed by the Westchester County District Attorney's office.

According to the complaint, Agovino allegedly first met his victim in July 2019 to investigate a larceny. He met the woman, who reportedly has a learning disability, that day, accused her of stealing money and demanded she take him to her apartment. Agovino allegedly then entered his victim's home and sexually assaulted her. He went back to her apartment several times over the summer, using the threat of an arrest to continually sexually abuse her. He also allegedly refused to allow her to take medication.

Westchester County District Attorney Anthony Scarpino, Jr.'s office stated that during the investigation, an audio recording was captured in January when Agovino allegedly returned to his victim's apartment and subjected her to "unwanted sexual contact."

Agovino, who has been employed by the Peekskill Police Department since 2010, had been held at the Westchester County jail in Valhalla since his arrest on Saturday.

Rainey stated a community meeting will

be held in the near future with Police Chief Donald Halmy to address the case.

"As unfortunate as this is, I'm very optimistic this isn't a reflection of our police department, however, we will not tolerate this behavior at all," Rainey stated. "We've come too far, and we will continue moving forward and deal with this situation accordingly if these allegations are true. This is a severe blow that will be resolved, justice will be given, and we will overcome."

Halmy made a statement about the incident at last week's Common Council work session, saying, "The entire City of Peekskill organization, including the Common Council, are saddened to learn about the

arrest of Police Officer Michael Agovino and the charges alleged against him. The Police Department continues to work diligently to earn the respect and trust of the community. Allegations such as these have the tendency to destroy such respect and trust of our officers in blue. Please understand that we are investigating this matter to our fullest ability. We are also cooperating with the District Attorney's Office on the criminal investigation. We know that we are held to a higher standard, and we will continue to work toward restoring the public's trust."

MICHAEL AGOVINO



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# Hendrick Hudson Students Making History Raising Funds

By Rick Pezzullo

A trio of juniors is in the process of making history in the Hendrick Hudson School District.

Katelyn Hartigan, Maria Porokhina and Delia Schmitt are the first team from Hendrick Hudson to participate in the Students of the Year program, a seven-week initiative in which high school students nationwide participate in a fundraising competition to benefit The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

The three classmates said they got involved in the program after a team of friends from The Ursuline School in New Rochelle won the campaign last year. They were also inspired by a local elementary school student in that was diagnosed with leukemia in the fall.

"They told us about what a great experience it was, and we decided that we wanted to get involved," the trio, whose fundraising page carries the name Team In It For The Cure, jointly stated. "So far it has been very rewarding experience to connect with our community through the means of coming together to fundraise and try to find a cure."

Leukemia is the most common form of cancer in children and teens. Since the early 1960s, five-year survival rates for many

blood cancer patients have doubled, tripled or even quadrupled. And many LLS supported therapies not only help blood cancer patients but are helping patients with other cancers and serious diseases. In fact, drugs first approved for blood cancers are now approved to treat patients with stomach cancers, skin cancers, and autoimmune diseases like rheumatoid arthritis.

The teens fundraising goal by March 12 is \$15,000. To date, they have raised almost \$13,000 with help from friends, family, and community members.

"We know that this is a big goal, but we are hoping that we will be able to reach it with hard work," they stated. "We really are changing the face of blood cancer! All donations are greatly appreciated and are tax deductible. They'll not only support LLS-funded research but will help provide critical information and support for patients, and support advocacy for laws to ensure patients can access the care and treatments they need."

To make a donation or learn more about Team In It For The Cure, visit the link to their page at <https://events.lls.org/ctwhv/CTWHVSOY20/tforthecure>.

(L-R:) Katelyn Hartigan, Delia Schmitt, and Maria Porokhina.



# Two JFK Seniors Named Finalists in National Merit Scholarship

John F. Kennedy Catholic High School seniors Taran Agnihotri and Lina Ciamei were named National Merit Scholarship finalists.

According to the organization's website, the National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships established in 1955. Approximately 1.6 million high school students enter every year and 50,000 students with the highest PSAT/NMSQT scores qualify for recognition in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

In September of 2019, Agnihotri and Ciamei were notified that they were two of the 16,000 students to qualify as Semifinalists. They were obligated to meet the high academic standards and other requirements in accordance to the regulations provided to them in order to advance. In February 2020, Agnihotri and Ciamei received Certificates of Merit commending them as Finalists.

The winners of the Merit Scholarship are chosen "based on their abilities, skills, and accomplishments" – which includes academic record, information about their school, the PSAT/NMSQT Selection Index score, a recommendation from their school, information about the students' activities and leadership, and a written statement from the Finalist.

There are a number of Merit



Congratulations to National Merit Scholarship finalists, seniors Taran Agnihotri and Lina Ciamei (pictured with President/Principal Fr. Mark Valliancourt)! Their outstanding performance on the PSAT and consistent academic rigor have kept them in the running to receive a National Merit Award.

Scholarship Awards. Every finalist competes for the National Merit \$2500 Scholarship, a single payment scholarship awarded on a state-representational ba-

sis. Corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards are awards designated by corporate sponsors for children of their employees, residents of a community where

a company has operations, or for Finalists with relevant career aspirations. College-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards are those in which officials of each sponsor

college select winners from Finalists who have been accepted for admission and have chosen that sponsor college or university as their first choice.

In addition to these awards given to Finalists, there are approximately 1,100 National Merit Program participants who are awarded Special Scholarships provided by corporations and business organizations. More information can be found at the National Merit Program website.

In response to receiving his Certificate of Merit, Agnihotri reported feeling honored. "This competition started with something like 50,000 students and narrowed down to 15 [thousand]," she said. "It feels good to know that out of all of those people, we're still in it."

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# Trustee Jackson in Crowded Dem Field to Replace Lowey

By Rick Pezzullo

The field of Democratic candidates vying to replace longtime Congresswoman Nita Lowey in the 17th District is in double digits with no clear front-runner.

Among those hopefuls is Buchanan Trustee Duane Jackson, who ran for Congress in 2012 and has thrown his hat in the ring once again.

"I like my chances. I'm in it to win it," Jackson said during a recent interview. "There's a lot of work to be done until June 23 (Democratic primary). I feel great about it."

Jackson, a Vietnam War veteran and a New York City street vendor, is serving his fourth term on the Buchanan Village Board. He made national headlines on May 1, 2010 when he helped thwart a terrorist scare by alerting police of a suspicious car that had been strapped with explosives in Times Square. Jackson was called a hero and received widespread praise for his actions, including from President Barack Obama.

"I want to get back in the hunt and be part of the conversation," Jackson said. "It's a crowded race. I see that there is no dominant player. It's almost like a once in a



*"I like my chances. I'm in it to win it."*  
— Duane Jackson

lifetime opportunity."

Affordable housing is one of the "kitchen table" issue that Jackson feels is not being given enough attention.

"I think we're on a very fast downhill slope. For many people one missed paycheck and you're out on the street," he said. "Peo-

ple are paying 30 to 40 percent of living expenses for housing. That's just not sustainable."

Jackson plans to be an advocate for veterans, make climate change a priority, find a solution to student loan debt and tackle health care.

"I'm in this race to make sure

these issues are being heard," he said. "There needs to be change in the type of people we send to Washington."

Another local lawmaker, Westchester County Legislator Catherine Borgia, announced Monday she was dropping out of the congressional race.

"Although it is a difficult decision, especially as I have wanted to be in Congress since I watched the Watergate hearings with my parents when I was in second grade, I believe it is time for responsible leaders to put aside personal ambition for the greater good. It was a privilege and honor to run to continue the great legacy of service of our outgoing Congresswoman Nita Lowey. I thank the many friends and supporters who have supported and encouraged me during this journey," Borgia stated.

"In today's fraught political landscape, it is very important that we nominate a strong Democrat. One who will lead valiantly with her or his core values. One who will have the courage to stand up for the needs of this district. One who will value the rights and significance of all residents, including the underserved, the poor, the marginalized," she continued.

"A representative on whom we can count to stand firmly for our Democratic values - protecting the rights of all; defending the environment; creating effective solutions for the emergency of climate change; seeking practical, real solutions to address the widespread economic and social justice issues that hamper the lives and opportunities of so many people who live in CD17. We need someone who will stand with Democrats when it is uncomfortable and even when it is unpopular."

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# The Westchester Women's Chorus Sing Their Hearts Out

by Abby Luby

Some kind of magic happens when you sing. Whether it's soulful humming in the shower, belting it out in the car or crooning at karaoke, singing is our own personal instrument that never fails to lift our spirits.

So, it wasn't surprising when Carol Arrucci, co-owner of the Cortlandt School of Performing Arts with her husband Ray, was approached by several women to start a local women's chorus.

"I kept hearing over and over again from friends and women I knew how much they really wanted to sing," said Arrucci. "There's been a rapid decline in groups to perform in Westchester and fewer opportunities for women to sing around here."

Arrucci is a certified music teacher with an award-winning background in vocal music. Her conducting talent and love of musical theater led her to work briefly on Broadway. She has conducted and directed more than 200 shows at Westchester middle schools, high schools, colleges, community theater and Regional Theater. For more than 23 years Arrucci taught chorus and musical theater at Blue Mountain Middle School in the Hendrick Hudson School District and taught students at various Westchester-based performing arts organizations.

In 2012, she and Ray opened The Cortlandt School of Performing Arts in Croton at 24 Old Post Road as a year-round, after-school program where she teaches piano and voice. In 2016, they opened a satellite school at 1950 East Main Street in Mohegan Lake.

Last October, Arrucci decided to organize The Westchester Women's Chorus. She posted announcements on social media in-



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WESTCHESTER WOMEN'S CHORUS

The Westchester Women's Chorus with Director Carol Arrucci far right, end of second row. The Westchester Women's Chorus will be performing "The Magic of Broadway," on March 27 at the First Presbyterian Church of Ossining.

cluding many 'mom's' sites and town pages in the area.

"It happened very quickly," Arrucci recalled. "I put out announcements one week and held auditions the next week. We had 28 women initially. Now we have 35 in the chorus."

By December, after about six rehearsals, the group found itself performing holiday songs in nursing homes, veteran facilities and retirement homes.

"We also sang for a fundraiser event for the Gullotta House at the Ossining Library, an event that I put together to help them raise money," Arrucci said. "We sang a full program with a band. It was really wonderful to support that charity organization who help people in need."

Around the same time, 10 women from the chorus all donned red scarves and toured Peekskill restaurants one night to serenade patrons. "It was all pre-arranged. We would file into the restaurant, told everyone who we were, sang two songs and then left. It was fun and very crazy," said Arrucci.

Just recently a dedicated website went up for the chorus: <https://www.westchesterwomenschorus.org/>.

Choral member Annette Vaccaro, a retired music teacher from the Lakeland School District, has known Arrucci for more than 40 years and currently teaches piano and voice at the Cortlandt Performing Arts Center. "The chorus is great," she said. "There are women from all walks of

life and the ages range from young girls in their 20s to women who are retired."

The chorus meets for two hours every Thursday night at the Croton Performing Arts Center. Arrucci encourages the women to learn the music before rehearsals. Arrucci makes practicing easy — she posts soundtracks of songs on the chorus website to sing along with, she also offers free sight-reading classes for those who don't know how to read music. Sopranos and altos make up the four-part chorus.

"I find that there is great comradery in our group," Arrucci noted. "We are making new friends, having a good time and enjoying each other's company. I get texts from the younger women every day telling me how much fun they are having. Some have families and they are getting away one night a week and doing something for themselves. It's really something special."

A committee of women in the chorus are working to fill ads in their program for the upcoming March 27 performance. "We are still looking for sponsors to help us pay for musicians and other expenses," said Arrucci.

Vaccaro said she was thrilled to see one of her former high school students joining the chorus. "The whole idea of the power of music and women coming together to make music is so positive. When you hear us, it grabs you, it's electric. I find so much joy in that," she said.

The Westchester Women's Chorus will be performing "The Magic of Broadway," on March 27 at the First Presbyterian Church of Ossining, at 34 South Highland Avenue at 7 pm. Tickets can be purchased online, at the door or from chorus members.

## Lee-Hyatt House Joins Homes of Historic Distinction in Yorktown

In August of 1853, Edmund Hyatt, grandson of Mary Lee Hyatt, and great-grandson of Revolutionary War soldier Elijah Lee, deeded the Yorktown family homestead to his two aunts, Clarissa and Elizabeth Hyatt, "in consideration of the long and arduous services rendered to their mother". That Revolutionary War-Era homestead, remarkably unchanged over 300 years, still stands at the corner of Route 132 and Crompond Road, one of the oldest extant homes in Yorktown. And now, the structure has been recognized as one of Yorktown's Homes of Historic Distinction.

During the Revolutionary War, the home commanded a strategic position on the King's Highway (now Rte. 202) just across the street from the landmarked First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown, a hamlet then known as Crompond Corners. A previous owner of the home described a collapsed underground tunnel, connecting the house with the



Lee-Hyatt House on corner of Route 132 and Crompond Road.

church - an arms depot during the war - and providing an escape route on what was the southern defense perimeter for Colonial troops during the war.

The lower level of this house

was believed to be a tavern and cook room. Over the years, remnants of clay "tavern pipes" have been unearthed on the grounds: long 18-inch pipes that were broken off piece by piece for a clean

smoking stem by habitués of the tavern.

The Lees and the Hyatts were among the founding families of what we now call Yorktown. Lee family patriarch Joseph Lee (1713-1790), who reportedly died in the house, had ten children, among them the Honorable Elijah Lee, Revolutionary War veteran and one-time Yorktown supervisor. Elijah Lee, who married four times, had eleven children. His oldest surviving daughter, Mary (born 1782), united the two founding families by marrying Nathaniel Hyatt. The couple had five children and, upon Nathaniel's death in 1816, Mary continued to live in the home. In fact, according to the US Census, she was still residing there with her grandson and two of her daughters in 1860.

All of these historic details attracted the current homeowners, Katie and Michael Feder, who, undeterred by its location at a busy intersection, fell in love with the quirky home with its solid, center hall layout, its fascinating history

(especially the legendary "tunnel to the church"), and its classic English garden, created by past owner Judy Chessa.

The Lee Hyatt house, so named for its earliest inhabitants, has been around for a long time — and is estimated to have been built around 1740. Its slightly curving roof overhang reflects the Dutch vernacular style of the Hudson valley. Dated as early as 1730, it remains very much as built, with porches front and rear. In 1902, however, the roof was raised and dormers were added. The property also once contained a carriage house, outhouse and two other buildings.

Upon purchasing the home, Katie Feder, who is the Director of the Garrison Art Center, and her husband Michael, an educator, added stone floors to the "tavern room" and concrete floors where dirt had held sway since the 18th century. Working with fellow Yorktown historic home-

*Continued on page 10*



# Resident Launches Campaign in 94th Assembly District

Stephanie Keegan, a former educator, mother, veteran's advocate, and resident of Somers, has launched a campaign to unseat Republican incumbent Kevin Byrne in the 94th Assembly District.

In a video explaining her reasons for running, Keegan explained that she was spurred to activism after her son died four years ago due to an infection from IV drug use. Her son, Daniel, had served two tours in Iraq over 26 months. When he returned home, he was suffering from PTSD and was unable to get the treatment he needed from the VA Hospital. Daniel passed away before receiving his first appointment.

"For the last three years, I have fought for people like Daniel, for families like mine. I have been to Washington, I have spoken to lawmakers and advocated for the changes our families need. But we can't wait for Washington. We need to invest in healthcare right here in New York — in mental health, in addiction treatment," Keegan stated. "We need to fight for our public health. We need to protect our natural resources. And we need to invest in our communities, because families who are struggling deserve access to the support they need."

Through her advocacy, Keegan has worked on three bills that have passed the United States House of Representatives with bipartisan support to benefit veterans. She plans on taking this track record of success to Albany in order to enrich the lives of families in the 94th District and around New York.

At her announcement event, Keegan was endorsed by local Democrats. Westchester County Legislator Vedat Gashi of New Castle, Somers, and Yorktown said, "As soon as I met Stephanie and heard her story, I knew she had the vision and passion to make a difference for our communities. I know firsthand the difficulties of running in this district, but I plan on helping her in whatever way I can — and together, we will win."

Westchester County Legislator County Legislator Colin Smith said, "Stephanie has a compelling story and an honorable history of activism. We need people like her in the legislature — people who will fight for what is right in our communities. I'm proud to support her."

Putnam County Democratic Chair Scott Reing added, "We are excited and honored to support Stephanie Keegan for Assembly in the 94th. I know Stephanie and I know the work she has done to make lives better for our vet-

erans — I look forward to her continuing that work on our behalf in Albany."

Yorktown Councilman Vishnu Patel said, "Stephanie is a fighter and a proud Democrat. I am happy to support her candidacy and I look forward to working with her on real policy that will help our communities."

Byrne, a Mahopac resident, was elected to serve the 94th Assembly District in 2016. He serves as the ranking Minority member on the Aging Committee. He also serves on the Health, Labor, Banks, and Governmental Operations Committees.

Stephanie Keegan with county legislators Vedat Gashi and Colin Smith





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We invite readers to share their thoughts by sending letters to the editor. Please limit comments to 250 words. We will do our best to print all letters, but are limited by space constraints. Letters are subject to editing and may be withheld from publication on the discretion of the editor. Please refrain from personal attacks. Email letters to [rpezzullo@theexaminernews.com](mailto:rpezzullo@theexaminernews.com). The Northern Westchester Examiner requires that all letter writers provide their name, address and contact information.



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## Letters to the Editor

### *Holtec Should Not Be Prejudged on Ability to Decommission Indian Point*

#### To the Editor:

Last year, Entergy announced that it would transfer Indian Point after it shuts down, along with a \$2 billion trust fund, to a company that specializes in decommissioning.

The company, Holtec International, has decades of experience handling high-level nuclear waste. Holtec formed a partnership with another company that has special expertise dismantling nuclear power plants. The combined technical and financial capabilities would enable this joint venture team to decommission Indian Point in only 12-15 years, about 40 years sooner than Entergy.

A safe and prompt decommissioning is enormously beneficial to the community. It will afford hundreds of workers to maintain good paying jobs as they complete decom-

missioning. Should this transfer be delayed or prevented, the site would likely sit dormant for 50 years (as law allows) until the trust fund grows to the level necessary for to begin decommissioning. Decommissioning of the plant is not Entergy's specialty.

The sooner the plant can be decommissioned, the greater the potential for the site to be repurposed for industrial or other uses, resulting in new jobs and new tax revenue for the school district, village and town.

Rightfully so, the public and elected officials have questions about decommissioning. Most questions have been raised in a constructive manner.

Recently, however, anti-nuclear groups and some politicians, have opposed Holtec performing the decommissioning of Indian

Point. In an ironic twist, some of those who fought furiously for 20 years or more to shut Indian Point are now leading the charge against the Indian Point decommissioning plan.

As concerned citizens, it is our obligation to ask questions and participate in the process so we can be assured that decommissioning will be done safely and securely. At the same time, Holtec must be given an opportunity to share information and respond to questions. To do otherwise could be a decision we regret for the next 60 years.

**DEB MILONE**  
**President**

**Hudson Valley Gateway**  
**Chamber of Commerce**

### *Delay Funding for New Voting Machines Until Problems Are Resolved*

#### To the Editor:

The Westchester Board of Elections (BOE) plans to replace its current voting machines because of maintenance and repair issues. Sounds good, right?

Well, maybe not. The Dominion ICE machines that the BOE plans to buy have a number of significant problems:

- \* They don't provide a reliable paper trail should a recount be necessary;
- \* They are connected to the internet, making them vulnerable to hacking;
- \* Experts have documented security problems with the Dominion ICE ma-

chines, including the potential for adding fake votes to ballots.

Last November, the BOE spent \$6 million to purchase 30 of the Dominion ICE voting machines for early voting sites. They wanted new machines in order to avoid the potential for problems with older machinery in New York's first experience with early voting.

The BOE now proposes to purchase hundreds more of these Dominion ICE machines for the 2020 elections and place them at all polls. This will be a huge expenditure of public money for equipment

with questionable security.

The Westchester Board of Elections should hear from the county taxpayers. Our tax money should only be spent on machines which are fully secure. The Westchester Board of Legislators should delay funding for any purchase of voting machines until these security issues can be resolved.

The number for the Westchester Board of Elections is 914-995-5700. Contact the Westchester Board of Legislators at 914-995-2800.

**APRIL CHAU**  
**Ossining**

### *Change at Parks and Rec Commission in Yorktown was Needed*

#### To the Editor:

At the last town board meeting, I was shocked to hear other town residents rise to defend the performance of Town Clerk Diana Quast in her former role as chair of the Yorktown Parks and Recreation Commission. It was obvious to me that they did not know what was going on in the department.

If last year's mass exodus of parks and

recreation employees wasn't enough to demonstrate the problems in that department, it's shameful that Diana Quast failed to address the terrible condition of our parks until News 12 highlighted their poor condition last summer.

And now, the failure of Diana Quast and the Parks and Recreation Commission to apply for the necessary permits caused the state to shut down construction on

the town's new par 3 golf course that was scheduled to open this year.

After the town board meeting, I heard someone refer to Diana Quast as the Commission's MVP. In truth, it's a very good thing for Yorktown residents that she's been sent down to the minor leagues.

**FRANCIS MCVETTY**

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## Obituaries

### Andrew Citrone

Andrew Citrone, a resident of Putnam Valley, died February 16 after a hard-fought battle with cancer. He was 61.

He was born February 19, 1958 in NYC, to Saul and Billee Dawn (Anderson) Citrone. On April 17, 1988, he married Lorraine Castellano in Dobbs Ferry.

Mr. Citrone started his professional career in chiropractic medicine for which he had a true passion. Ever the driving spirit, he decided to move into the information technology industry and joined IBM in Armonk, where he continued working throughout his illness. Local community service included becoming an Eagle Scout, volunteer fireman in Larchmont where he grew up, and President of Society Hill Condominium Board in Mahopac for nine years. His commitment to the environment, the protection of animals and his love of music, cooking and wine, and irrepressible sense of humor were admired by all who knew him.

He is survived by his loving wife Lorraine, his sister Robin Citrone, brother Neil and his wife Lori, and three nieces Sydney, Haley, and Marley.

### Barbara Giaquinto

Barbara Giaquinto, a resident of Peekskill, died peacefully February 21 after a heroic two-year battle with cancer. She was

74.

She was surrounded and guided by her three beloved daughters, Barbara Ann, Kim and Lisa, as well as her very special niece, Danielle Pascale and very special friend Christine Kern

In her final moments, they whispered their love and devotion as Barbara walked through Heaven's gate, into the loving arms of her husband, Vincent Giaquinto and the long awaited arms of her deeply missed mother, Ruth and her father, Edward.



BARBARA  
GIAQUINTO

She was born in the Bronx on June 8, 1945. She was raised and survived by her sisters, Judith, and MaryAnn. They lived in the same

two-family home that their father, Edward (AKA POP-POP) was raised in. After she and Vincent (AKA Big Vin) were married and had their first daughter, Barbara Ann, they returned to live in her childhood home. They raised their three daughters in the two-family home—along with Barbara's parents, two sisters, and niece. Her life always encircled her family.

She is survived by her wonderful son-in-laws, Frank Triassi and John Caroppoli, as well as her niece, Danielle's husband, Trevor Saccente, and their child, her great nephew, Eddie.

The lights of her life were her seven grandchildren: Genine, Frankie, Kimberly, Alyssa, Nicole, Deanna and John. Her grandchildren brought a complete and utter happiness to her life. She loved every minute with them and she was not only an extremely loving "Gram," she was funny! She would try anything with them, and was an incredibly great sport, as they would love to joke with her.

### Mabel Womacsko

Mabel Iola Womacsko, a longtime Cortlandt resident, died February 20. She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Frank R. Womacsko, two sons Robert F. (Theresa) and John G. Womacsko, six grandchildren, brother John Hodgins, sister Sandra Rehel and many nieces and nephews in both America and Canada. She was predeceased by her seven siblings.

### Joseph Mangano

Joseph John Mangano, a resident of Croton-on-Hudson, died February 15. He was 65.

He was born to Rosario and Doris (Abrahams) Mangano on December 27, 1954 in New York, NY. He married his beloved wife Linda (Soll) Mangano in 1978 and they were married for 41 years. Mr. Mangano worked for Con Edison for 40 years before his retirement in 2014. He loved the beach and time spent with family down at Sunset Beach in North Carolina.

He is survived by his wife, cherished son Douglas Mangano, and his brother Louis Mangano and his wife Lana.

### Mary O'Malley

Mary O'Malley, a resident of Amawalk,

died February 18. She was 87.

She was born in 1932 in Yonkers to Jeremiah and Margaret McCarthy. She is survived by her sister Catherine Shay, brother Jerry McCarthy, children Terrence, James and Mary O'Malley and Sheila Sullivan, as well as her grandchildren Bridget, Patrick, Erin and Shannon O'Malley and Lindsey, Christian and Ryan Sullivan. James, her husband of over 60 years, died in September 2018.

She was extremely devoted to her family, staying home to take care of her four children. She was completely enamored by her seven grandchildren and spent as much time as possible with them over the years. She was a big influence in all of their lives and will be remembered fondly by them. It was always an exciting and special time when Gaga came over to see them. It brought her such joy to be able to help out and be an integral part of their lives. She made it her mission to help others, bringing her much joy in the process.

While she didn't have the opportunity to go to college as a young woman, she went back to school in her 40's after her children were grown, and earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Master's degrees in both Education and Counseling. She later worked as an extremely dedicated guidance counselor for young children in the south Bronx.

Mrs. O'Malley was sick for many years but she took on the challenge like a prize fighter! She never gave up and will be a constant reminder to all those that knew her that we always have a little more fight in us. To say that she was a strong woman would be an immense understatement. Mary and her family were fortunate to have so much support and loving care throughout her illness. We all appreciate the unending kindness and care that was given to our mother in her time of need.

## IN MEMORY OF PHILLIP E. LEAHY III

Phil, a 20 year resident of Mohegan Lake died suddenly on February 19. He was 56.

He was born on July 7, 1963 to Ellen (Grady) Leahy and the late Dr. Phillip E. Leahy of Somers, NY. He leaves two cousins, Daniel Leahy and James Leahy of Washingtonville, NY. Born in Manhattan, and raised in Eastchester and Newburgh, he graduated from Iona Grammar School in New Rochelle, Fordham Prep in the Bronx, and received a Bachelor's degree in business from SUNY New Paltz.

Shortly after graduation, he went to work for several years at J.P. Morgan. Phil recently retired from Southern Westchester BOCES as an associate network specialist. He was proudest of acquiring his Irish citizenship through his late Great Grandmother, Mary Ryan Leahy of Tipperary.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel at Gate of Heaven Cemetery on Wednesday, February 26 at 11:00 AM. For family and friends a memorial luncheon will follow at Sergio's Restaurant in Valhalla. In lieu of flowers a donation may be made to Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Yorktown Heights, NY.



### Remembering Honest Abe

The Lincoln Society in Peekskill held its 2020 Annual Lincoln Remembrance Day Event on February 22. As part of the festivities, members commemorated the 159th Anniversary of Lincoln's historic speech and stop in Peekskill.



# DEC Releases Final Regs to Reduce Plastic Bag Waste

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos recently announced the release of final regulations to implement the New York State Plastic Bag Waste Reduction Act, which goes into effect on March 1.

After a thorough review of the approximately 2,500 comments received from stakeholders and communities during the 60-day public comment period and hearing, these final regulations will be published in the State Register on February 26. Prior to finalizing the regulations, which were released on November 27, 2019, DEC updated the proposal based on the comments received to include minor refinements in keeping with the overriding objective of the Act to reduce plastic bag waste.

DEC will continue to focus its outreach and education efforts to ensure a smooth transition for consumers and affected retailers, with enforcement to follow in the months ahead. Governor Andrew M.

Cuomo signed legislation to ban the sale of single-use plastic bags in New York State on Earth Day, April 23, 2019.

Commissioner Seggos said, "New York continues to be a national leader on environmental issues, and the plastic bag ban is the latest in a series of actions Governor Cuomo has directed to preserve our air, land, and waters for future generations. DEC is proud to be at the forefront of these efforts and will continue to work to develop solutions to combat climate change and protect the environment and we continue to encourage New Yorkers to BYOBAGNY and bring their own reusable bags wherever and whenever they shop."

DEC is undertaking a statewide public awareness campaign-BYOBAGNY-to educate consumers and affected businesses about the law. As part of this effort, DEC is distributing more than 270,000 reusable bags with a focus on low- and moderate-income communities. DEC's BYOBAGNY campaign includes TV

and radio placements, ads on YouTube targeting New Yorkers, boosted social media placements, a Google ad campaign, video promotions at Thruway rest stops, and more that will continue over the next few months. In addition, DEC regularly communicates with key stakeholders and industry associations; presented an overview of the ban and fee to the New York State Association of Counties; provided regional offices with BYOBAGNY educational materials for use as outreach at public events; and is working with Department of Taxation and Finance to coordinate cross-agency efforts related to clear communication of the law entities required to collect state sales tax. DEC is currently distributing hundreds of thousands of reusable bags across the state with the help of partner state agencies and Feeding New York State, the statewide food bank organization.

New Yorkers use an estimated 23 billion plastic bags annually—each for about

12 minutes—and approximately 85 percent of this staggering total ends up in landfills, recycling machines, waterways, and streets. In March 2017, Governor Cuomo created the New York State Plastic Bag Task Force, chaired by DEC Commissioner Seggos. The task force met several times to develop a uniform, comprehensive and equitable solution to the challenge of plastic bag waste. The final report analyzed the impacts of single-use plastic bags and provided options for legislation that could help develop a statewide solution. In addition, following passage of the New York State Plastic Bag Waste Reduction Act, DEC held a series of meetings with industry stakeholders across the state to invite input from the public and guide the agency's development of rules and regulations to implement the law.

For more information about the plastic bag ban, visit <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/50034.html>, email [plasticbags@dec.ny.gov](mailto:plasticbags@dec.ny.gov), or call (518) 402-8706.

## Health Dept. Confirms Employee with Hepatitis A Worked at Event in Peekskill

The Westchester County Health Department has learned that an employee with Hepatitis A worked at a private event at the event space at Factoria in Peekskill while infectious. Anyone who was there on Saturday, February 15 may have been exposed. In an abundance of caution, because Fin & Brew shares an ice machine with the event space, patrons who ate at the restaurant on Sunday, February 16 or Wednesday, February 19 also could have been exposed. The Health Department has been contacting patrons to alert them to their potential exposure. Patrons at the other restaurants in the complex are not at risk because they have separate facilities.

The Westchester County Department of Health is offering free preventive treatment to anyone who ate or drank at The Space at Factoria or at Fin & Brew during the exposure period. Preventive treatment is only effective if given within two weeks of the last day of exposure. Therefore, those who dined on February 15 must receive preventive treatment by February 29. Those who dined on February 16 must receive treatment by March 1 and those who dined there on February 19 must receive treatment by March 4.

No one with a prior history of

Hepatitis A vaccination or Hepatitis A infection needs to be treated.

The health department will offer preventive treatment at the Health Department Clinic, 134 Court Street, White Plains, on the following dates and times. Although walk-ins are welcome, advance registration is highly recommended:

- Tuesday, February 25, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 26, 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, February 27, 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- For other times by appointment during clinic hours, call 914-995-7499

To register, go to [www.health.ny.gov/gotoclinic/60](http://www.health.ny.gov/gotoclinic/60). To provide consent, a parent/guardian must accompany anyone under 18 years of age. Restaurant patrons who were exposed also can seek preventive treatment from their own health care provider.

Factoria is cooperating with the Health Department and conducted a thorough cleaning on Thursday. Staff were vaccinated last week and the restaurant was re-inspected by the Westchester County Department of Health.

Hepatitis A is transmitted by consuming food or drinks or by

using utensils that have been handled by an infected person. It may also be spread from person to person by ingesting something that has been contaminated with the stool of a person with Hepatitis A. Casual contact, such as sitting together, does not spread the virus.

Hepatitis A is generally a mild illness whose symptoms include fatigue, fever, poor appetite, abdominal pain, diarrhea, dark urine, light colored stool and jaundice, which is the yellowing of the skin and whites of the eyes. Not everyone infected with Hepatitis A will have all of its symptoms. Symptoms commonly appear within 28 days of exposure, with a range of 15 to 50 days. Preventive treatment is only effective within two weeks of exposure to the virus, but symptoms typically do not appear until a person has had the virus for a few weeks. The illness is rarely fatal and most people recover in a few weeks without any complications.

Sherlita Amler, MD, Commissioner of Health, said: "I urge anyone who is eligible for treatment to get a Hepatitis A vaccine. There are no special medications used to treat a person once symptoms appear, but Hepatitis A transmission to others can be prevented through proper handwashing."

## Lee-Hyatt House Joins Homes of Historic Distinction in Yorktown

*Continued from page 6*

owner Sam Ward (owner of the Daniel Strang House), they have renovated the nineteenth century barn behind the property, weatherizing and adding wide plank floors. The old two-seater out-house has become a garden tool shed. They even have the original wooden "E L Hyatt Grocer" sign, discovered in the attic by a previous owner. Upcoming plans include restoring the front and back porches and repairing siding and window frames.

When asked what they appreciate in their home, Katie Feder mentioned that the family loves how antiques and artworks from varying time periods all seem to fit and "get along quite nicely forming a comfortable, very livable home". On the downside, father and son – both six footers – are constantly ducking to get in the lower pre-revolutionary doorways, and the gaps in the lovely wide floor boards easily harbor popcorn kernels and the stray bit of dog kibble. Nonetheless, the entire family seems to embrace the quirks of this remarkable house, and, in Katie's words, "I try to embrace the wabi sabi (ac-

ceptance of transience and foible) of our home – its imperfections make it so beautiful!"

The Yorktown Landmarks Preservation Commission (YLPC) is always seeking applicants for traditional Landmarking or the Homes of Historic Distinction Program. To qualify, homes must have historical significance based on age, architectural style, past ownership, or association with a person or event important to Yorktown's history. Through the program, plaques designating the basic facts about each house's history are fabricated and installed on or around the home. YLPC will work with each homeowner on appropriate wording for the plaque and will assist in research. The cost for the application and the plaque is \$100. Applications are available online at [www.yorktownny.org/planning](http://www.yorktownny.org/planning) or by emailing [nmilanese@yorktownny.org](mailto:nmilanese@yorktownny.org).

The Yorktown Landmarks Preservation Commission would like to acknowledge the valuable assistance of Tim Beachak and Esteban Baquero of Signs Ink of Yorktown in the design, preparation and production of Homes of Historic Distinction signage.





## Sharon Rubinstein & RubiSparksCommunications.com Peekskill

By Neal Rentz

Peekskill resident Sharon Rubinstein described herself last week as an artist who has had “different day jobs.”

“I am the daughter of an artist and I’ve been drawing and painting ever since I was a little girl,” Rubinstein said. “I’ve always identified as either a practicing artist or an artist on hiatus. But the idea of relating to the world with that kind of lens is part of who I think I am.”

Her productivity as an artist has not always been continuous since childhood but it has been significant, Rubinstein said. “I’ve never dropped it entirely,” she said. “I was a hobbyist when I wasn’t a day-to-day artist.”

A few years ago, she joined the Peekskill Arts Alliance, Rubinstein said. In 2018, the Jefferson Valley Mall was seeking donations of a painting by their creators. Rubinstein donated one of her paintings, a collage of the exterior and interior of the mall. That experience led to an agreement in which she paid rent for 2,100



square feet to the mall where she sold her works, Rubinstein noted.

The owners of the mall wanted to promote it as a destination and Rubinstein decided to do portrait paintings of those who visited the facility or had significance for the mall. Rubinstein did 14 paintings for the mall over a period of about 10 months. “They gave me some

people they wanted captured and I suggested some other people,” Rubinstein said. She left the mall in February 2019.

Rubinstein specialized in creating portraits. “There’s definitely an interaction between artist and subject,” she said. “That to me is meaningful.”

Rubinstein has exhibited her



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Peekskill resident Sharon Rubinstein, above. : “Mario” is an oil painting created by Peekskill resident Sharon Rubinstein, at left.

works in a variety of venues, including a one-woman show in Annapolis, Maryland, which featured nearly 60 of her creations.

Her late mother, Helen, was a strong influence in her life, Rubinstein said. Her parents were survivors of the Nazi Holocaust. “My mom was a joyous and very talented human being, who inspired

in me this love of art,” Rubinstein said. “Her work was all about beauty”

“My mother had depth,” Rubinstein said. “Her paintings really loved manifestations of her quite a beautiful spirit.” Rubinstein said her mother was a prize-winning artist and she showcased some of her mother’s work.

Rubinstein was a communications director in Maryland for the non-profit Advocates for Children and Youth for about a decade. The former journalist is co-owner of RubiSparksCommunications.com. Her partner in the business is Leonard Sparks of Peekskill.

Even though she has had various jobs, Rubinstein has kept her passion for creating art. “It is a special experience producing art,” she said. “It’s not even how fantastic your work is. The process itself is a self-rewarding kind of thing. It’s a wonderful encounter with your own talents.”

For more information about Rubinstein’s artworks, visit <https://yourcornerartist.com/>. For more information about RubiSparksCommunications.com, visit its web site.

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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. 25

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

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

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

**Hygeia Programs:** Two ongoing programs are being held on Tuesdays at Hygeia Integrated Health LLC, 3505 Hill Blvd., Suite K, Yorktown. Community Acupuncture is being held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$30. Come experience the beneficial effects of acupuncture in a group setting. Register: [hyinhealth@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:hyinhealth@gmail.com) or [www.hyinhealth.com](http://www.hyinhealth.com).

**Taconic Postcard Club:** Hosted by the Yorktown Museum, the club will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Yorktown Museum, 1974 Commerce St. (Yorktown Community and Cultural Center). Bob Stonehill will present postcards and "The History and Surprises about New York City's Hotel New Yorker." The presentation is free and open to the public. Come early if you have questions about postcards or a collection. For program information contact the museum at 914 962 2970.

## Wednesday, Feb. 26

**United Methodist Church Ash Wednesday Services:** At United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak, 1176 E. Main St., at 10 a.m. Distribution of Ashes and at 7 p.m. an Ash Wednesday service will be held with Holy Communion.

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

**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](mailto:SBIC@wlsmail.org) with your name, number, and a time to call between 9a.m. and 5p.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.

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

**Estate Planning:** Your Estate: Planning for the Unexpected will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Somers Library. Info: 914-232-5717 or [Somerslibrary.org](http://Somerslibrary.org).

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

**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. 27

**Yorktown Jewish Center Courses:** Several courses have been scheduled for the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. The Talmud class meets on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Rabbi Sternstein's class meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 11 a.m. Rabbi Urbas's class meets on the first and third Monday of each month, at 11 a.m. The Rosh Chodesh Class (for ladies only) meets on one Tuesday a month at 2 p.m. This class is for discussion and learning,

and no knowledge of Hebrew is required. Beginning in February, Rabbi Urbas's class will meet on the first and third Monday of each month, at 11 a.m. Info: 914-245-2324 or [www.yorktownjewishcenter.org](http://www.yorktownjewishcenter.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](http://www.somerslibrary.org).

**IBM Retirees:** The Tri-State IBM Retirees will meet at the United Methodist Church Hall, E Main Street, Shrub Oak. Tama Goodstein, NYP/Hudson Valley Hospital physical therapist, will speak on Fall Prevention: How to Increase Strength & Tips for Exercise. Social and coffee at 1 p.m. and the meeting begins at 1:30 pm. Club 2020 dues will be collected. Info: Peg Ryan 914- 528-5916.

**Knitting Circle:** Support Connection will hold the next session of its monthly program "Marge's Knitting Circle" from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at their office in Yorktown. The program 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 attend, call Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

**Peekskill Black History Month Fashion Show:** Join the City of Peekskill's Youth Bureau as they celebrate Black History Month with a community fashion show. Featuring local youth and adults as models, the show includes fashion segments Wakanda Forever, Sunday's Best, Dapper Daze, Soul Train and Street Smart. Singing, dancing and spoken word that celebrates Black history will be included between each segment. Refreshments will be served. Admission is free for the event, which is slated for 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Youth Bureau, 840 Main St. For more information call 914-734-4149 or visit [www.cityofpeekskill.com](http://www.cityofpeekskill.com).

**Book Club:** Support Connection announces the next session of its "Book Club for Women with Cancer" will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. at New York-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital, 1980 Crompond Road, Cortlandt. It is open to people who have or have had breast, ovarian or gynecological cancer. To learn more or to pre-register, which is required to attend, call Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

## Friday, Feb. 28

**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. Tonight's service will be led by seventh graders. For information, please call our Rabbi at 962-7500 or e-mail him at [rabbiw@optonline.net/](mailto:rabbiw@optonline.net/).

## Saturday, Feb. 29

**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](http://www.ChabadYorktown.com).

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

**Somers Library Exhibit:** Photographs by Christy Hicks are being exhibit throughout the month of February at the Somers Library. Info: 914-232-5717 or [www.somerslibrary.org](http://www.somerslibrary.org).

**Hebrew Congregation of Somers Shabbat Services:** Please join us for a Shabbat service at 9:30 a.m. The service will be led by Rabbi Leis and Cantor Ruth



# Elder Law and Estate Planning: A Series of Defined Terms

By Salvatore M. Di Costanzo

As an elder law attorney, I am frequently asked questions, the answers of which have been taken for granted during the ordinary course of business. The common denominator among these questions surfaces from a misunderstanding of words and phrases used daily. I thought it would be a good idea to write a piece explaining some of the words and terms we use that generate questions, ultimately assisting you in moving forward with your estate planning, or perhaps, reviewing the plan you have already put in place.

## Agent

The person you name to act on your behalf under the terms of your power of attorney or health care proxy is your agent. Your agent generally must act in your best interests.

## Basis

Your basis is what you paid for an asset. Basis is the value that is used to determine gain or loss for income tax purposes.

## Distributee

A distributee is a person entitled to take or share in the property of a decedent under the statutes governing descent and distribution. For instance, you may draft a Last Will and Testament ("Will") leaving everything to your spouse. Under New

York State law, however, your spouse and children are your distributees, because they would all inherit your property if you had no Will.

## Executor

An Executor is a person you nominate in a Will, later approved by the Court, to carry out the terms of the Will and to administer your estate.

## Fiduciary

A fiduciary is a person or entity, usually an Executor or Trustee, designated to manage money or property for beneficiaries, and required to exercise the standard of care set forth in the governing document under which the fiduciary acts.

## Guardianship

A guardianship is a court-controlled program for persons who are unable to manage their own affairs due to mental or physical incapacity.

## Issue

Issue includes an individual's children, grandchildren, and more remote persons who are related by blood or because of legal adoption. An individual's spouse, stepchildren, parents, grandparents, brothers, or sisters are not included. The term "descendants" and "issue" have the same meaning and includes posthumously born children.

## Operation of Law

In this context, the phrase "by operation of law" means the way some assets will pass at death, based on state law or the ownership of the asset, rather than under the terms of a Will or trust.

## Pour Over Will

A Will used in conjunction with a Revocable Trust is called a "Pour Over Will" and passes title at your death to property not transferred to the Revocable Trust during lifetime.

## Power of Attorney

A Power of Attorney is a document that authorizes one or more individuals to act in your place as agent (see above) with respect to some or all legal and financial matters. The scope of authority granted is specified in the document. It is important to take the time necessary to work with an elder law/estate planning attorney to modify the terms of your power of attorney.

## Probate

Probate is the Court's supervised process of proving the validity of a Will.

## Revocable Trust

A Revocable Trust is a trust created during one's lifetime over which the creator reserves the right to terminate, revoke, modify, or amend the trust. Revocable Trusts are becoming increasingly popular.

## Special Needs Trust

A Special Needs Trust is a trust established for the benefit of a disabled individual that is designed to allow him or her to be eligible for government financial aid

(usually Medicaid) by limiting the use of trust assets.

## Stepped-Up Basis

Assets are given a new basis when transferred by inheritance (through a will or trust) and are re-valued as of the date of the owner's death. If an asset has appreciated above its basis (what the owner paid for it), the new basis is called a Stepped-Up Basis.

## Transfer on Death

Transfer on Death is a beneficiary designation for a financial account that automatically passes title to the assets at death to a named individual without probate. Frequently referred to as a TOD (transfer on death) or POD (payable on death) designation.

## Trust

A Trust is a legal entity created by a creator (generally, you), for the benefit of designated beneficiaries under the laws of a state. The trustee holds a fiduciary responsibility to manage the trust property for the economic benefit of all the beneficiaries. A trust can be irrevocable or revocable.

## Trustee

A Trustee is the individual or bank or trust company designated to hold and administer trust property (also generally referred to as a "fiduciary"). A trustee has the duty to act in the best interests of the trust and its beneficiaries and in accordance with the terms of the trust instrument.

Please contact me at 914-245-2440 or by e-mail at [smd@mfd-law.com](mailto:smd@mfd-law.com) if you would like to discuss your estate planning.



# 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](mailto:nrentz@theexaminernews.com).*

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@hebrew-congregationofsomers.org](mailto:questions@hebrew-congregationofsomers.org) or call 914-248-9532 for more information.

**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 1noon to 1:30 p.m. It is open to people who have or have had breast, ovarian and gynecological cancers. To learn more or to pre-register, which is required to participate, call Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

**Sunday, March 1**

**Concert:** Fiddle Concert with Brian Conway & Friends will be held from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Ossining Public Library, Info: 914-941-2416 Ext. 327 or [trapasso@wlsmail.org](mailto:trapasso@wlsmail.org).

**Charity Concert:** The Hudson Valley Symphonic Wind Ensemble will perform "Music for the World," a concert benefiting the Maryknoll Sisters mission work with the poor around the world at 3 p.m. at the Maryknoll Sisters Center, 10 Pinesbridge Rd., Ossining. All proceeds raised from the ticket price--\$30 per person--will benefit the Sisters global mission work to help those in need. Info: [clopez@mk-sisters.org](mailto:clopez@mk-sisters.org), or 914-941-7575.

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

**Monday, March 2**

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

**Tuesday, March 3**

**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.

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# Getting Ready for Early Spring Garden Chores

As a realtor who frequently has sold to first-time home buyers, I always try to remember to advise them about the responsibilities of maintaining the property's outdoor landscape. When I first moved to "the country" from New York City, I had no clue and not so much as a rake or a hand spade to help me.

But after the shock of that first year's garden chores, I grew to love digging in the dirt and watching things grow.

After a while, I would experience the feeling of near euphoria as I anticipated my first days in the garden, but since moving to Trump Park in Yorktown, where all the gardening is done for me, all I can do now is reminisce about how special this welcome chore was.

Whenever I got down on my knees for the first time to accomplish some garden task, I would be thinking about the growth and color I'd enjoy in just a short time. But invariably I also would think of my mother.

Frequently my mother gave me advice without telling me any good reason for complying. One of those advisories was to avoid kneeling, instead of bending over, for garden chores that required closer proximity to the ground. Why, I don't know. I do know that my mother

was very pleased with her agility into later life and wanted to demonstrate that ability. Or maybe she had heard of "gardener's knee."

As I grew older, I became aware that my back seemed to go awry more often than my knees. So, with no small amount of guilt, I did kneel to plant those first seedlings that I would buy from my local supplier. But I protected myself with either a garden kneeler or knee pads, which I don't remember being around when I was a child.

Of course, squatting is a good in-between measure, but I find that more taxing than either bending or kneeling.

Because I didn't have the time I used to when I was younger to plan and plant my garden, every step I took was orchestrated to reduce labor and maximize enjoyment of color and greenery from early spring to late fall.

For instance, while I envy those people who can build outdoor frames for planting seeds early or do it inside, I rely on one of the garden centers for my annual seedlings that are all ready for popping in the ground. Vicariously I can enjoy the planting from seed activity by watching my young grandson proudly nurture his own vegetable garden.

This was my earliest spring garden routine:

I would first clean up all that nasty debris that I left the preceding fall that kept the ground from heaving and, at the same time, feed the birds, but would then lie in a state of rot in my annual and perennial beds.

Then, if I was quick about it, I would still prune my apple and cherry trees before they develop buds.

After my first year, I quickly got out of vegetable gardening (too much work for harvesting too little product), but if you still are, you can put lettuce seeds in the ground early in March. Then, every couple of weeks, start a new row to get results throughout the summer. If you're into planting onions and other hardy vegetables, now is the time to do it.

I would redefine my beds with a slight new edging around all of them.

Light thinning can be done in April to any shrub or tree except lilacs. Lilacs should have been done after blooming last year; if you do it now, there will be no bloom this year.

Prepare your flower beds by adding compost or fertilizer right now. I kept a natural compost pile that I had cultivated for a long time, and each year, I would rob this black gold to enrich the soil, depleted from last year's growth.

Mulch now for a weed-resistant summer. Each spring, I would ask my trusty

tree man to drop off a load of finely chopped chips. One load served my entire property for a season.

As you are preparing for planting your annual and perennial beds, the earliest spring bulbs will be blooming. Afterwards, be sure to deadhead them (remove the remains of the blossoms) but don't remove the leaves. Let them die back naturally so that they can feed the bulbs for next year.

Also, remember to schedule the time needed to trim spring-flowering shrubs, everything from forsythia to azalea, right after blooming for thicker growth and more blooms next year.

And, for anyone who gardens like I did kneeling rather than bending, remember to protect your knees with those knee pads or kneelers. Sorry, Mom.

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



By Bill Primavera

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# The Lofty Role the Lowly Natural Cork Plays in Your Wine

The otherwise mundane natural cork stopper has gained greater respect over the last year than at any time this century.

Natural cork fell out of favor with the advancement of alternative bottle stoppers. Synthetic, glass, agglomerated corks (particles of natural cork glued together) and metal screwcaps gained popularity.

Today, the consensus favors natural cork and screwcaps, although the growth of screwcapped bottles seems to be waning. Consumer opinion rides high for the screwcap, not only for its convenience but also for the soiled reputation of natural cork that had significant levels of cork taint for a number of years.

However, many winemakers favored natural cork for its ability to interact with, enhance and preserve wine as a living, breathing organism.

As alternative stoppers grew in popularity, natural cork producers responded to their threat. The Portuguese cork industry, which dominates the market, undertook to remove the causes of cork taint and was successful in the near eradication of this perennial problem.

In the process of researching, and improving, the quality of cork, Portuguese scientists discovered its previously unknown qualities. Cork not only performs as a stopper; it affects the quality of the contents of the bottle it secures. And it

depends how it is deployed after bottling.

Perhaps the cork is much more than a functional closure. Perhaps it has inherent qualities that affect the quality and characteristics of the bottled wine. And perhaps lying horizontally may not be its best use.

Let's explore these two concepts of functionality and preservation.

**Functionality:** The Drinks Business, a trade publication, reported on a research paper in the Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry concerning the impact of certain compounds in natural cork on the aging and quality of wine. The Drinks Business interviewed Dr. Miguel Cabral, director of research and development for Amorim Group, the largest producer of natural corks in the world.

Cabral: "Amorim was attempting to put the science behind the belief that wine matures 'differently and better under cork.' When we put wine in a barrel there is an extraction of phenolic compounds from a barrel into the wine, and it's the same when we put wine in a bottled seal with a cork."

These compounds include tannins, phenols and polyphenols. Cabral has identified 40 different extractable compounds in a natural cork that may be beneficial to the aging of wine.

**Preservation:** The common belief is

that storing a bottle on its side will keep the cork moist and swollen, thus preventing it from becoming dry, shrinking and permitting external oxygen from permeating the contents.

According to Cabral, storing a wine bottle on its side makes no difference to the moistness of the cork. If anything, it may hasten its deterioration. This startling assertion is based on Amorim's research results. "(H)umidity in the headspace of the bottle, at almost 100%, was high enough for phenolics to migrate from the cork stopper into the wine when the bottle was stored upright," Cabral stated.

Further, "when you put a cork stopper in a bottle, the cork is squeezed and the air in it will compress as much as it can and then try to escape, and some of it goes up and some goes down, and so the oxygen comes from the interior of the cork, and comes in [to the bottle] up to 6-8 months." He added, "the network inside a cork is complicated, with millions of cells, so the air escapes slowly and then less and less."

Startling to say the least. The symbiotic relationship of a cork and the bottle contents with which it interacts is highly complex and seemingly contradictory. Is it likely that modern science trumps centuries-old trial and error?

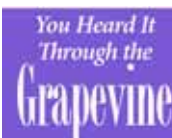
There are additional factors affecting the ageability and quality of wines. In future columns I'll delve into two of these: humidity levels and temperature of the

bottle's storage environment, each key to the ability of cork to impart its unique characteristics.

*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



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## Crossword

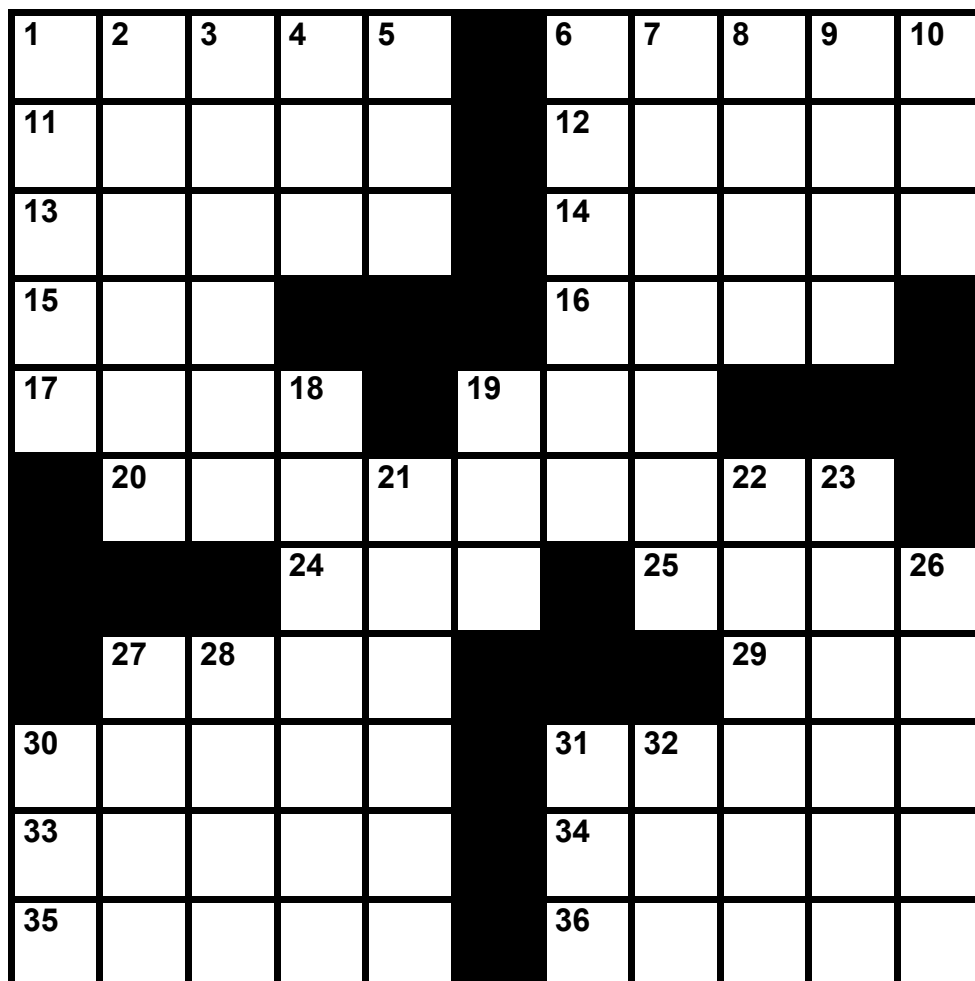
### ACROSS

1. Tops
6. You won't need a dromedary to find this  
Yorktown video transfer service \_\_\_\_\_
11. Flat Indian breads
12. Hemp plant
13. City on the Ruhr
14. Letter-shaped opening
15. Basketball org.
16. Drudgery
17. Painter of limp watches
19. Camera type, briefly
20. Steering bar of a bicycle, or new men's  
barbering establishment in White Plains - \_\_\_\_\_
24. Lock opener
25. Takes down a tree
27. Trumpet sound
29. Ludacris music
30. Let go
31. Cultural, in combinations
33. Practice handling something
34. Gulf War ally
35. Displaying rosy color

### 36. Rope fiber

### DOWN

1. Put \_\_\_\_ to
2. "Rock the \_\_\_\_" (hit song for The Clash)
3. Mixture of many spices
4. Chemical suffix
5. Common ID
6. Very numerous in Nebraska
7. Takes in
8. French Sudan, today
9. Earth Day subj.
10. Directional abbreviation
18. Old-school desk feature
19. Sharp
21. Kind of sins
22. Port city of Denmark
23. African nation
26. Pamper
27. "Bird on a \_\_\_\_" Goldie Hawn movie
28. Like the Gobi Desert
30. New Deal pres.
31. Symbol on Superman's chest
32. Skater Babilonia





(Solution for puzzle on page 19)

A	C	M	E	S		C	A	M	E	L
N	A	A	N	S		A	B	A	C	A
E	S	S	E	N		T	S	L	O	T
N	B	A				T	O	I	L	
D	A	L	I		S	L	R			
	H	A	N	D	L	E	B	A	R	
			K	E	Y		S	A	W	S
	W	A	W	A				R	A	P
F	I	R	E	D		E	T	H	N	O
D	R	I	L	L		S	A	U	D	I
R	E	D	L	Y		S	I	S	A	L

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# Heaven Can Wait!

**Pearly Gates Shut  
on No.15 Peekskill,  
No.2 Byram Hills  
Denies Entry, 69-58**

Peekskill junior standout Brennan Heaven (2) soars for rebound against second-seeded Byram Hills last Friday when the Bobcats ended the vastly-improved 15th-seeded Red Devils' season in a 69-58 opening-round setback despite a solid 16-point effort from the high-flying Heaven and a team-high 26 from All-Section senior Antonio Taylor. Heaven had 23 points to lead four Red Devils in double figures during their 69-64 Class A outbracket win over No.18 Eastchester on Feb. 15... see Boys' Hoops Notebook



ANDY JACOBS PHOTO



# Sports

## Boys' Hoops Notebook

# Class A Lakeland Lone Local to Advance to Quarters

*Panas Falls in 2OT, Peekskill Ousted at Byram; Class AA Mahopac Nipped at Mt. Vernon*

By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports Editor@Directrays

We mentioned way back in our hoops preview section in early December that the 2020 basketball campaign -- much like 2019 -- would be a rough one for the local clubs in and about Northern Westchester/Putnam County, and sometimes it's just awful when you're right about something you truly wish you were wrong about.

Well, the opening round of the Section 1 tournament came and went last weekend, and Class A **LAKELAND** was the lone boys' team from this region to advance to the quarterfinals last Friday in a 59-41 win over visiting No.12 Clarkstown South. The fifth-seeded, height-challenged Hornets (17-4) committed to defense and crashed the boards on one end while senior guards Augie Karaqi (18 points), Jeff Owusu (10) and Jack Kruse (10) each went for double digits on the other.

"Our defense wasn't too good early in the year, but we committed to it in practice and we've emphasized defense more and it showed tonight," said Lakeland senior G Rob Nardelli, who added nine points, including two big treys in key spots. "We've got playmakers, not just one or two, more like six-seven of them, and we all trust each other."

As he always is, Owusu was a royal pain, collaring 10 rebounds, dishing three as-



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Lakeland F Aidan Welcome gets easy two in Hornets' 59-41 Class A playoff win over Clarkstown South Friday.



Lakeland senior G Augie Karaqi goes for two of 18 points in Hornets' 59-41 Class A playoff win over Clarkstown South Friday.



Lakeland G Rob Nardelli drops two of his nine points in Hornets' 59-41 Class A playoff win over Clarkstown North.

sists and adding four steals for the Hornets, who won an opening-round game for the first time since 2009 under former Coach Henry Weltman and advanced to face No.4 Poughkeepsie, the reigning state champs, Wednesday.

"Coach talked about it all year, if we can play defense, this team can be the best in the section, no doubt," said Karaqi, the All-Section senior. "Poughkeepsie will be a tough team to beat, but if we play the way we did today we get the 'dub'."

If Lakeland can display that type of two-way commitment against the Pioneers (15-6) with a Final 4 berth on the line, the Hornets could be back at the County Center for the first time since 2009. Lakeland went to the sectional finals in 2006-07 (the infamous shot clock game vs Peekskill) and then again in 2008-09 (during the Ralph Watts-to-Peekskill transfer season) but has never won the section. Previously, the 2002 Hornets reached the Final 4 but were defeated

by Nyack in the semis.

Kruse is looking to end the County Center drought at Lakeland.

"We know we can score," the All-Section swingman said. "We're ready for Poughkeepsie. It's what we want. We're ready."

Lakeland Coach Steve Fallo knows what's at stake and likes what he saw against the Vikings, who were run out of the gym in the second quarter.

"We went from giving up 66 points per game to 56, and that's just a credit to them," Fallo said. "They know they can put up points with anyone but in playoff basketball that doesn't matter. You have to play defense and they made that commitment. We're ready to go. They'll play anybody right now. They think they can go up there and score with anybody, but now we have that other side of the ball working defensively. We think we can shut people down."

Poughkeepsie, the League II-E champion, features two solid players in All-Section Ja-

vel Cherry and All-Conference Shaun Johnson and has won 13 of its last 14, including nine in a row. Clearly, shutting them down won't be easy...

**PANAS** turned around a sub-par 2019 season and deserves props for doing so, not to mention the effort given by Coach Mike Auerbach's ninth-seeded Panthers (13-8) in their 70-67 double-OT loss to No.8 host Harrison last Friday.

Panas senior Tom Palmaffy, a workhorse all season, finished with 18 points and six rebounds while senior Robert Ennis, a two-sport star at Panas, added 16 points, including a game-tying hoop to send the game to the second overtime session. His last-ditch attempt from distance to force a third OT came up short.

"Certainly, a tough way to end the season, to say the least," Coach Auerbach said. "I'm really proud of the way our guys competed and battled until the end. "We jumped out

*continued on next page*



# Sports

# Boys' Hoops Notebook

continued from previous page



Lakeland G Mike Arcure sinks two in Hornets' 59-41 Class A playoff win over Clarkstown South Friday.

on them early then had some trouble scoring in the second. We played one of our best quarters of the season in the third to take a five-point lead into the fourth. We were up a few late and just couldn't do enough to close them out. Both overtimes were very competitive, and we had our chances. Tom Palmaffy was great before fouling out with about a minute and half remaining in regulation. Robert Ennis was very good, as he's been all year. Josh Nnadiri hit some big shots as did Caleb Evans. Lorenzo Santucci was really good off the bench. He provided a big spark for us offensively.

"All in all, we're really pleased with how the season went," he added. "Obviously, we would have loved the opportunity to move on and take a run at Tappan Zee but with all the ups and downs we had, different guys in and out of the lineup all year, we really feel our kids did a terrific job piecing it together to give us a good chance to win each night."

More than that, Panas, which seems to always have a puncher's chance to compete, stayed relevant...

No.15 **PEEKSKILL** gave No.2 Byram Hills fits, making a valiant run in the fourth quarter of the Red Devils' (11-11) 69-58 season-ending loss to state-ranked (No.23) Bobcats. Peekskill senior Antonio Taylor dropped 26 points to conclude a solid All-

Section campaign while junior G Brennan Heaven added 16 for the vastly improving Red Devils, who are hopeful for a return to past greatness in the near future.

"We have seven returning juniors, which is a great start," Peekskill Coach Tim Turner said. "In addition, we have some JV and freshman players who can contribute at the varsity level next season."

Imagine Section 1 basketball with a competitive Peekskill, the 17-time Section 1 champs, back in contention again...

**YORKTOWN'S** Brucaj brothers did all they could (Roni Brucaj had 14 points and Eddie Brucaj added 11 points and 10 rebounds) in the 16th-seeded Huskers' 60-35 loss to top-seeded, state-ranked (No.19) host Tappan Zee last Friday, but the 2019 Class A runner-up Dutchmen were too much to handle in their Red Sea environment. Yorktown (11-11) had won seven of its last nine going into the field of 16, thus turning its season around while becoming relevant and building hope for the future under Coach Mark Pavella...

## CLASS AA

**MAHOPAC** truly built upon its future in a 57-44 loss to host Mount Vernon last Saturday. Not only did the 13th-seeded Indians (10-11) give the three-time defending Section 1 champions fits, trailing by one at the half, and they were in it to win it for three-plus quarters until the fourth-seeded Knights finished with a typical fury. Seniors Matthew McMahon (13 points) and John Cosentino (11) led the Indians while sophomore G Patrick McMahon added nine points. Ryan Reilly and Vin Bastone provided great effort, according to Coach Tom McMahon.

"Mount Vernon was the culmination of a season of hard work and building a culture," the first-year coach said. We showed up and played extremely hard and competed for 32 minutes. As a coach, that's all you can ask for. We are a young team, so it is definitely something to build on for the juniors and sophomores coming back. We will miss the leadership of our senior class and will need new leaders to emerge this off-season to continue what they started."

No.15 **OSSINING** received an incredible individual effort from sophomore G Jaeden Carr in an 80-64 opening-round loss at No. Horace Greeley. Carr, who is worth building the program around, went for 29 points while dishing four assists and snagging five caroms. He missed nine games this season due to injury, but showed significant ability when in the lineup.

"Jaeden is a very special player," Pride Coach Mike Casey said. "He's one of the top point guards in the section... born and raised in the O."



ANDY JACOBS PHOTO

Ossining sophomore Jaeden Carr went for 29 points in Class AA playoff loss to Greeley but will be among finest point guards in Section 1 next year.



DOM DEMATTEO PHOTO

The McMahon brothers, soph Patrick and senior Matt (R) share one last moment on court while dad-coach, Tom, does his thing in 57-44 Class AA playoff loss to Mount Vernon Saturday.

Senior Mark DeAngelis (14 points) and junior Khy'Leil Hawkins (9 points, 5 assists) were solid contributors, but Coach Matt Simone's state-ranked (No.15) Quakers -- the team to beat, many believe --- were simply too much for the Pride to handle, having lost to them for the third time this season.

## CLASS B

No.9 **CROTON-HARMON** picked a bad time for a rough start when No. 8 Bronxville held the Tigers (11-10) without a field goal in the first quarter while assuming a 14-1 lead that Croton would never overcome in a season-ending 60-38 opening-round setback.

## Mount(ain) Do!

### Carmel Senior Propels Rams to 2nd Playoff Win in 20 Years



ROB DIANTONIO PHOTO

Carmel senior F Steven Mount (17) leads a charge of Rams, including Gavin Golisano (L) and Graham Ludwig (2), toward a raucous dogpile at the Brewster Ice Arena last Saturday night when the fourth-seeded celebratory Rams won their 2nd playoff game in 20 years in epic fashion, a 7-6 overtime triumph of No.13 White Plains on one of two goals by Mount. Rams Chris Cieciora (2G, 2A), Ludwig (1G), Golisano (1G), Luke Golisano (1G, 2A), Brendan Murphy (5A), Noah Richardson (2A), Jack Lagan (2A), Rob Paradiso (1A) and goalie Breandan Richardson (29 saves on 35 shots) all filled the stat sheet on a historic night for the program. Carmel (14-6-1) hosts the Rivertowns Legends today at 8:15 pm at the BIA.



# Sports

## Girls' Hoops Notebook

# Panas vs. Hen Hud: One Goes Home, One to County Center

## Class AA Mahopac, Ossining, Class B Put Valley, Class A Somers Advance to Quarters

By Tony Pinciario

Panas, along with Somers, Lakeland, Brewster, John Jay-Cross River and Yorktown, form one of the deepest, toughest leagues. Every League II-C game is like playing a sectional game.

As a result of this difficult, grueling league schedule the teams knock off each other and it leads to lower seeds.

Panas persevered and earned a seventh seed, while Somers was an eighth seed, John Jay the 12th seed and Brewster and Yorktown had play-in games.

"We played a pretty tough schedule this season," Panas senior Kristen Scrobola said. "There weren't really any games we walked into saying we will beat this team, no problem. We had five of the seven other teams still playing on our schedule. We knew every game we would have to give it our all. I think playing as many good teams as we did helped us prepare for sectionals."

Panas opened the Section 1 Class A Girls' Basketball Tournament with a 50-48 victory Clarkstown South on a Kristen Cinquina basket with 10 seconds remaining.

Panas (16-5) will now play at No. 2 Hen Hud, in a quarterfinal, 5p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 26. The winner of this game will face the No. 3 Tappan Zee-No. 6 Pearl River victor in a semifinal, Thursday, March 5, at the Westchester County Center.

Cailean Nolan led Panas with 18 points and also had eight rebounds and five assists. Cinquina added 16 points and five assists, freshman Kelsey Cregan grabbed 10 rebounds and Erijona Rraci contributed eight points and six rebounds. Panas Coach Matt Evangelista credited Kat Reynoso with playing excellent defense.

Scrobola is very familiar with Hen Hud's dominant player, Caitlin Weimar.

"Caitlin is a very good player," Scrobola said. "I had the pleasure of playing with her

for a few years, as well as a few of the other girls on the team. Although we will be putting a lot of focus on Caitlin, we are aware of some of the things the other girls can do, and will do our best to be prepared."

One thing Weimar excels at is controlling the boards, so Panas knows they will have to be relentless rebounding.

"Rebounding is a huge part of this game, as well as every game," Scrobola said. "The best way is to put it is all five of us need to put a body on someone, and pursue the ball. Rebounding can make or break this game for us. Hen Hud has a little bit of a size advantage, but I can promise you we will do everything we can to get as many rebounds as possible."

Panas, like the remaining seven teams, has one goal in mind – the gold ball.

"Every year we are determined to get to the county center, but who isn't?" Scrobola said. "This year we want more than just the county center. We want a gold ball and we are determined to get it."

### CLASS A

**HEN HUD**, seeded second, received a scare from No. 15 Yorktown, before rallying to a 45-42 victory in a Section 1 Class A Girls' Basketball Championship first-round game.

Yorktown led, 37-34, entering the fourth quarter. Hen Hud (20-1) will host No. 7 Panas, Wednesday, in a quarterfinal. The winner faces the No. 3 Tappan Zee-No. 6 Pearl River victor in a semifinal, Thursday, March 5, at the Westchester County Center.

"It was a very intense game," Hen Hud senior Weimar said. "They came out hitting lots of 3s, which we didn't expect, but we had to adjust and step up on defense. We played together and it was a great team win."

Weimar finished with 18 points and 19 rebounds. Mylene Smith added 13 points and Grace Moretti chipped in 12 points, six steals and four rebounds. Weimar cited Hen Hud's victory, in a close game with Clarkstown South, as beneficial.

"That helped us because we didn't have a lot of games this year that were close in the fourth quarter," Weimar said. "Having that game helped prepare us and gave us some experience on what to do, how to play and how to keep our composure."

**SOMERS** drew the eighth seed in the Section 1 Class A Girls' Basketball Championship and began with a 63-33 win over No.



Hen Hud's Colleen Ryan cuts off Yorktown's Melissa Severino in Sailors' 45-42 opening-round Class A win over Huskers Friday.

RAY GALLAGHER/BOB CASTNER PHOTOS

9 Yonkers. The Tuskers (14-7) reward is to play at No. 1 Rye (18-3) in a quarterfinal, 5 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 26.

Somers' Coach Marc Hattem noted that his team opened the 2019-20 season with a 54-35 loss to Rye.

"We are excited to play them again," Hattem said. "They are really good. They are the best team in Class A, in my opinion."



Mahopac junior G Mia Klammer gets up for two points in Indians' 57-35 Class AA playoff win over visiting RCK Saturday.



Mahopac sophomore G Julie DeBrocky fires trey for two of her 13 points in Indians' 57-35 Class AA playoff win over visiting RCK Saturday.

They are big and skilled. When we saw them the first time we weren't healthy, so we look forward to battling them with a full squad."

Dani DiCintio scored a game-high 24 points and Pooja Rao added 17 points against Yonkers.

**BREWSTER** drew the 14th seed, but was forced to play an out-bracket game against No. 19 Eastchester. The Bears rallied from a 15-point deficit in the third quarter and go overtime for a 55-47 win. Brewster then faced No. 3 Tappan Zee and dropped a 55-30 verdict, finishing the season with a 12-10 record.

In the Eastchester game, Adrianna Calicchia was 4 for 4 from the free-throw line in overtime and finished with nine points. Alexis Mark had a team-high 20 points and also grabbed 10 rebounds. Grace Galgano had 18 points, 14 rebounds and nine blocked shots.

Brewster was within five points of Tappan Zee, 26-21, with four minutes remaining in the third quarter. Brewster Coach Mike Castaldo said Tappan Zee closed the third with an 11-1 run. Galgano led the Bears with 10 points, 14 rebounds and seven blocks.

"I couldn't be prouder of how the girls played," Castaldo said. "I told them they needed to rebound, sprint back on defense and contest every three-point shot to be in the game, and to win it, we needed to make shots. Unfortunately we just didn't make shots."

**YORKTOWN**, like Brewster, had to play its way into the tournament and did so with a victory over No. 18 Nanuet. The youthful Cornhuskers (they started 2 freshmen, 1 soph, 1 junior, 1 senior), seeded 15th, had No. 2 Hen Hud on the ropes after three quarters, holding a three-point lead. However,

*continued on next page*



Hen Hud's Caitlin Weimar (R) and Yorktown's Ashley Zeolla get after rebound in Sailors' 45-42 Class A playoff win over Huskers Friday.



# Sports

continued from previous page



Mahopac G Julia Paolicelli coolly gains lane for shot in Indians' 57-35 Class AA playoff win over visiting RCK Saturday.

Hen Hud limited Yorktown (10-12) to five points in the fourth quarter of a 45-42 win. Sophomore Melissa Severino had 16 points.

"I think Melissa (Severino) was helped by the fact that we had three other kids hit two 3s each and that kind of opened it up a little," Yorktown Coach Brian Mundy said. "They couldn't just key on her on the perimeter with other kids shooting well. She did a good job moving without the ball and was able to hit four threes. 'We knew we were going to have to live with giving up some open looks outside in order to protect the paint. Unfortunately, they ended up hitting the one more



Putnam Valley senior G Cyera Daughtry goes for two points in Tigers' 66-27 Section 1 Class B playoff win over Valhalla Thursday.



Mahopac sophomore G Melanie DeMeo drops two of her 15 points in Indians' 57-35 Class AA playoff win over visiting RCK Saturday.



Putnam Valley freshman Eva DeChent skies for two of her 18 points in Tigers' 66-27 Section 1 Class B playoff win over Valhalla Thursday.

outside shot they needed. From where we were the first week of the season to where we ended up, I actually think we outperformed, a little."

## CLASS AA

**MAHOPAC** was even with R.C. Ketcham at halftime, but dominated the second half in a 57-35 first-round win in the Section 1 Class AA tourney.

The fifth-seeded Indians (15-6) play No. 4 Albertus Magnus in a quarterfinal, Friday, Feb. 28. The winner moves on to face the victory of No. 8 White Plains-No. 1 Ursuline in a semifinal, Thursday, March 5, at the Westchester County Center.

Mahopac limited Ketcham to just 12 points in the second half behind stifling full-court pressure.

"Mia Klammer was instrumental in the win with six steals and she did a great job defensively," Mahopac coach Chuck Scozzafava said. "She caused havoc all over the floor."

Caitlin O'Boyle led Mahopac with 18 points and 20 rebounds. Melanie DeMeo added 15 points and Julie DeBrocky finished with 13 points.

"As for Magnus, it's going to be challenging, but like they say 'On any given day,'" Coach Scozzafava said.

**OSSINING**, seeded sixth, beat No. 11 Fox Lane, 77-49 in the first round. The Pride (13-8) will play at No. 3 Our Lady of Lourdes (16-5), Friday, 5 p.m., in a quarterfinal-round game. Lourdes defeated Ossining, 83-50, Dec. 13, but that was a Pride team still learning about itself.

"The difference between our team then and now is tremendous," senior Julia Iorio said. "We have come a very long way and took a turn for the best. We have been working very hard to become the team the public us used to seeing."

The winner of this game will face the No. 2 Arlington-No. 10 John Jay-East Fishkill winner in a semifinal, Thursday, March 5, at the Westchester County Center.

It's ironic that Ossining and Lourdes are playing in the quarters when these teams have played in the Section 1 Class AA championship game numerous times.

During Iorio's career, Ossining has never been anything but a No. 1 seed so the sixth seed is something new.

"We understand that we are usually the top dogs and now we aren't, but it actually takes a lot of pressure off us and now puts it on the top seeds," Iorio said. "We just have to go out there and play with maximum effort because we now don't have to worry about satisfying the section."

Iorio and her teammates were prepared for the postseason, and the victory over Fox Lane proved it.

"Our team was ready for sectionals," Iorio said. "We have all been putting 100 percent into this sports. We have worked

# Girls' Hoops Notebook



Mahopac freshman G Lauren Beberman is hounded by RCK defender in Indians' 57-35 Class AA playoff win over visiting RCK Saturday.

hard every day over break and are ready for whatever comes our way."

## CLASS B

Putnam Valley are the second seed in the Section 1 tournament and opened with a convincing 66-27 win over No. 15 Valhalla. Kelli Venezia poured in a game-high 24 points and Eva DeChent added 18 points.

Putnam Valley (17-3) hosted No. 10 Dobbs Ferry (10-11), in a quarterfinal, Monday. A victory would send the Tigers to the semifinals, Tuesday, March 3, at the Westchester County Center to face the winner of No. 3 Hastings-No. 6 Pleasantville.



Putnam Valley senior G Kelli Venezia goes for two of her game-high 24 points in Tigers' 66-27 Section 1 Class B playoff win over Valhalla Thursday.



# Hornets in Kruse's Control!

**No.5 Lakeland Speeds Past  
No.12 Clarkstown South,  
Eases into Quarters;  
No.4 Poughkeepsie,  
Reigning NYS  
Champs, Next**

All-Section Lakeland senior swingman Jack Kruse gets up for two of his 10 points in the fifth-seeded Hornets' 59-41 Section 1 Class A opening-round playoff win over No.12 Clarkstown South last Friday night at 'The Hive' where the Hornets advanced to the quarterfinals for the first time since 2009 and will visit No.4 Poughkeepsie, the reigning state champs, Wednesday afternoon... see Boys' Hoops Notebook



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO



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