

**Yorktown  
High to Stage  
Grease...  
page 17**



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# The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER Examiner

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

**Hen Hud Wins 1st Section 1  
Hoops Title...**



**FREE**

March 10 - March 16, 2020

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 12, Issue 533



PHOTOS BY HOLLY CROCCO

## Early Celebration

Hundreds celebrated St. Patrick's Day early at a parade in Mahopac Saturday. Peekskill will celebrate the Irish holiday next this Saturday (March 14) downtown with its annual parade, while the Village of Buchanan will also hit the streets on Sunday. For more photos, **see page 14.**

## Virus Spreads as NY Declares Emergency

By Martin Wilbur and Rick Pezzullo

The number of cases of the coronavirus in New York State reached 142 cases on Monday, with Westchester accounting for 98 of those, Governor Andrew Cuomo revealed in his daily briefing.

The statewide number is the most of any state in the nation, one more than Washington state. However, New York has had no fatalities and only eight people have been hospitalized. The remainder of the individuals are or have been quarantined at home, Cuomo said.

Elsewhere in the state, as of Monday, there are 19 cases in New York City, 17 in Nassau County, four in Rockland, two in Saratoga County and one each in Ulster and Suffolk counties, he said.

Virtually all of the Westchester cases can be traced to the 50-year-old New Rochelle attorney who was the first positive case of the coronavirus, COVID-19, in New York State last Tuesday. There were a few large gatherings late last month at Temple Young Israel of New Rochelle, which has

been linked to the spread.

"Westchester is our problem as you see from the numbers," Cuomo said. "That is a relatively small community in New Rochelle; 98 cases (is) more than the City of New York and that makes the point about gatherings."

Cuomo, who declared a State of Emergency on Saturday, said that one of the goals for officials is to avoid large-density gatherings, particularly in the areas where the virus has been prevalent and for vulnerable populations – the elderly or those with compromised immune systems or other underlying health issues.

State Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker said on direction from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), state officials will press the New Rochelle public school system to close. All of the private and religious schools in that community have been shuttered.

"You need to look at this as a community and there are other public schools in that community," Zucker said. "We'll be

*Continued on page 2*

## Major Changes Announced for Proposed Somers Sewer District

By Neal Rentz

Two major changes in the controversial proposal to create Special Sewer District #2 for residents of the Lake Lincolndale and Lake Shenorock sections of Somers were announced at the March 5 Town Board meeting.

After comments from residents during previous meetings conducted earlier this year, the engineering firm Woodard & Cur-

ran submitted a Revised Map, Plan and Report town, which is posted on the town's website.

The plan is to provide sewers to 989 homes in the R-10 residential zoning district. The original plan was to complete the project in three phases.

The first phase, which would have included 65 properties in Shenorock and Lincolndale, would have cost between \$10 and \$13 million. The second phase,

which would have included parcels in Shenorock, would have cost between \$28.1 and \$30.1 million. The third phase, which would have included properties in Lincolndale, would have cost between \$21.1 and \$22.1 million.

The cost for the average home in the new district was originally thought to be \$1,200, on average, annually at full buildout with the



PHOTO BY NEAL RENTZ

*Continued on page 3*

Somers Linda Luciano addressed the Town Board at last week's meeting.



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# Virus Expands in Westchester as NY Declares Emergency

*Continued from page 1*

meeting with them to keep all the schools closed."

Cuomo said the state Department of Health and the state Department of Education were expected to craft a joint letter Monday afternoon stating that if a public school student tests positive that school will be closed for 24 hours to assess the facts and circumstances and to determine the steps forward.

Regarding the religious schools that have closed, Cuomo said "we could be talking about weeks" before they are reopened.

Late last week the Mount Vernon and Hastings school districts closed. The Somers School District announced its schools would be closed Monday after a parent of a Primrose Elementary student tested positive for coronavirus, a letter from Superintendent Dr. Raymond H. Blanch to the school community stated Friday night.

Other members of the family, including the Somers student, have tested negative for the coronavirus and are currently under quarantine, the letter also noted. The parent who tested positive has not visited the school in recent weeks, Blanch said. The

district made the decisions after consulting with the Westchester County Department of Health (WDOH) and, according to the superintendent, "out of an abundance of caution."

On Sunday, Scarsdale school officials announced the district would be closed on Monday, then extended the closure for 10 days after a faculty member tested positive for the coronavirus.

Meanwhile, in the Town of Cortlandt, court business was cancelled last Thursday after town officials were notified that an individual who is now under self-quarantine for COVID-19 had recently appeared in the town's Justice Court.

Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi stated the individual had not been diagnosed with the coronavirus, but town officials opted to err on the side of caution. The town fully sanitized its Court Room and Town Hall last Wednesday. That thorough cleaning was previously scheduled for March 7 but was moved to March 4.

The court was already slated to be closed on Friday, March 6 and Monday, March 9 due to previously scheduled construction and refurbishment of the Justice Court's office.

In addition, all programs scheduled at the Muriel H. Morabito Community Center on Westbrook Drive were cancelled effective March 9 to March 20. This includes all of the senior clubs and programs.

The only activities that will be available are congregate meals and home delivered programs.

On Sunday, Scarsdale school officials announced the district would be closed on Monday, then extended the closure for 10 days after a faculty member tested positive for the coronavirus.

Despite the rising number of positive test results, Cuomo said that unless a resident is part of a vulnerable population, people should remain calm and remain at home if they don't feel well.

"Most people (who) get the virus, get sick, you stay home," he said. "Most people have mild symptoms. Most people don't get hospitalized. The dangerous aspect, again, is people in that vulnerable population."

Cuomo asked that employers, to whatever extent possible, should allow people to take time off from work if they are not feeling well. The legislature plans to propose a paid sick leave bill to encourage people to work or stay

at home.

Effective last April, most employees in Westchester County became entitled to earned sick leave, under a law passed by the Board of Legislators in October 2018.

Zucker said people who are prioritized for testing include those who have returned from countries of concern, anyone who has been close to someone who tested positive or anyone in the hospital where there is no other cause for why they may have symptoms.

Cuomo said Monday that he spoke with Vice President Mike Pence who is working with the state to allow for private laboratory testing. After a delay, the states received permission to have state laboratories do testing, but the demand is more than can be handled, he said.

Laboratories such as Northwell Health, can complete 1,000 tests a day with automated testing as opposed to about 80 a day with manual testing, Cuomo said.

"I want to find the positives. We want to put them in isolation so that it's not spreading," the governor said. "The more positive people we find, the better. The more tests we run, the better. The more tests we run, the more posi-

tive people we will find, the better. Then we can do the containment."

Those that are not part of the vulnerable populations are unlikely to have serious issues even if they do get the virus, Cuomo said.

"There's a level of fear here that is not connected to the facts," he said. "There's more fear, more anxiety than the facts would justify."

For more information about COVID-19, including precautions, visit <https://health.westchester.gov/2019-novel-coronavirus> or the state Department of Health at <https://www.health.ny.gov/>

People can also call the state Department of Health COVID-19 Hotline at 888-364-3065 or the Westchester County COVID-19 Information hotline 211.

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**SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS**



## Your Achilles Tendon is Prone to Injury

Tips to get you back on your feet after a rupture...

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#### Q: What is an Achilles tendon rupture and what causes it?

**A:** When your calf muscles contract, your Achilles tendon tenses, allowing movement. As we age, its mechanical properties degrade and its blood supply diminishes. A sudden movement can result in a painful rupture – a complete tear through the tendon – and an inability to move your heel. Think of your Achilles tendon as silly putty. Pull it slowly and it elongates and stays intact; pull it fast and it may snap.

#### Q: This sounds painful, is there anything I can do to lower my risk?

**A:** Absolutely. Warm up before exercising to get your blood circulating; drink plenty of water to hydrate your muscles and tendons; and be aware of the temperature outside – strenuous activities in cooler temperatures put you at a higher risk. Your tendons become less elastic, less malleable and more prone to injury.

#### Q: What are symptoms of a rupture?

**A:** If it's a rupture, you'll likely experience one or more of these symptoms: the feeling of having been kicked in the back of the leg or heel; a popping sound when

the injury occurs; possible severe pain, with swelling near the heel; an inability to bend the foot downward or push off the injured leg when walking; an inability to stand on the toes of the injured leg.

#### Q: What should I do if I have symptoms?

**A:** If you have any of these symptoms, elevate and ice the leg to minimize swelling. If you're unable to bear weight you should go to the Emergency Room. If you can bear weight, make an appointment with an orthopedic surgeon for a diagnosis. If it's a rupture, I generally recommend surgery. Non-surgical management is associated with a higher risk of re-rupture and decreased strength. The goal of surgical treatment is to pull the frayed tendons together at the right length for optimal long-term function. This results in faster, more efficient tendon healing.

Regardless of the type of treatment, an Achilles tendon rupture requires a year or more to recover with full function. Consistent physical therapy will help strengthen your calf muscles and your Achilles tendon so you're able to resume all the activities you were doing before the rupture, without pain. The reported risk of re-rupture after surgical repair is about five percent.



# Changes Announced for Proposed Sewer District

Continued from page 1

fee varied by assessment of each property in the new sewer district.

But at last week's meeting, representatives from Woodard & Curran said the revised plan now calls for significant changes.

The total cost of the project is expected to be \$62 million, with \$36 coming from grants and other outside funding, including the \$10 million from the DEP, Steven Robbins, project manager for the engineering firm Woodard & Curran, told the Town Board.

The new plan is to have two phases for installing the sewers, Robbins said. The first phases would provide sewers for 103 homes and the construction would be paid through the DEP grant. The remainder of the homes in the proposed district would get sewers in the final phase.

For those who receive sewers in the first phase they would be charged \$591 annually, Robbins said. After all homes receive sewers, all residents of the district would pay \$1,187 annually. Unlike the original proposal, all property owners in the proposed district would pay the same annual fee.

"That's a major change," Supervisor Rick Morrissey said.

Another significant change from the original plan was an agreement from Westchester County that would allow residents of the proposed district to not pay buy-in fees to the county until after they are hooked up to sewers.

The Town Board voted unanimously last week to acknowledge the receipt of the Map, Plan and Report; declare its intent to be lead agency in the environmental review of the project and schedule a public hearing

on the project for April 2 at 7 p.m.

Morrissey announced a public forum on the project would be held on March 25 in Shenorock. The Town Board did not set a date for the referendum vote at last week's meeting.

There was criticism of the sewer district before the Wood & Curran presentation from residents during the public comment period of the meeting. Linda Luciano said the town should seek less costly alternatives to the sewer district plan. She maintained the town should follow the lead of Nassau County, which recently entered into a plan with New York State for new sewage treatment plants, rather than sew-

ers, to remove such harmful elements from water as forms of bacteria.

Another resident, Jerry Colello, said he had several concerns about the proposal, including potential damage to the land in area of the proposed sewer district. There would be "no easy way to tie in" sewer lines, he said.

If residents okay the new district via a referendum, the Town Board would need approval from the Westchester County Board of Legislators to expand the county sewer treatment plant in Peekskill and the proposed sewer district plan would also need to be okayed by the office of state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli.

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# More Swastikas Discovered at Somers High School

By Examiner Media

There were two more instances last week of swastikas being found at Somers High School, a letter sent Friday by the building principal to parents revealed.

Last year, in January, a swastika was discovered written on a chair in the school library. Also, two Somers High School students were arrested in 2016 for causing more than \$29,000 in damage to more than 40 school buses. Fire extinguishers were used to spray graffiti, including a swastika and profanity, on the pavement, police stated at the time.

After the evidence of last week's incidents was documented, custodians removed the symbol, the letter to the school community stated. The swastikas were dis-

covered in school bathrooms.

The administration, in conjunction with the School Resource Officer, have launched an investigation into the incidents.

"We are painfully aware of the well-documented rise of anti-Semitic acts across our country and are deeply saddened that a symbol associated with such pain and violence has been found in our own community," Principal Mark E. Bayer stated in the Friday letter.

F.B.I. statistics show hate crimes rising in recent years. In 2018, there were 7,120 documented cases, compared to 5,850 in 2015.

"We are both concerned and disappointed that any of our students would vandalize school property with such a despicable symbol of hatred and intolerance," Bayer said. "As a school and district, we do not

tolerate such behavior..."

Bayer noted that the school seeks to educate students around human rights issues through academic classes and school activities.

"In the last year, we have also partnered with the Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center of White Plains to further educate students about the history of anti-Semitism and the meaning, purpose, and effect of hate symbols," he said. "In addition, each year we work to achieve recognition as a No Place For Hate through the Anti-Defamation League. While we do not believe that incidents like this are representative of our larger student body, we know we must continue to find ways to engage our students in important conversations so that they are empowered to stand

up against such expressions of hatred."

The principal also called on parents to talk to their children about "the values we share as an inclusive community."

He said parents should remind their children "that each of us has a responsibility to contribute to a culture of understanding and respect."

Bayer asked anyone who has information that might be helpful to the investigation to contact an administrator or the School Resource Officer, Matthew Hickey.

"We will keep your name and information confidential," Bayer said. "If you would be more comfortable sharing information anonymously, we remind parents and students of our Anonymous Alert system which can be accessed via our school website."

# Peekskill Little League Cancels Season Over Lack of Interest

By Rick Pezzullo

For the first time in its 56-year history, the Peekskill Lapolla Little League (PLLL) will not field any teams this year due to a lack of interest among players and parents.

The PLLL Board of Directors made the difficult decision last week after only 22 of the minimum 60 players required registered, along with an insufficient number of adult volunteers needed to run the teams.

"What makes this announcement most

difficult is that, for whatever reason, many of last season's players eligible to return did not register. Furthermore, there were not enough adults willing to volunteer as managers and coaches for the teams," the board stated.

League organizers were planning to have at least three AA Minor (ages 6-8) and four T-Ball (ages 4 and 5) teams based on the number of players last season who were eligible to return.

The PLLL had decided earlier to partner

with the Cortlandt National Little League to have its 17 nine to 12-year-old players be placed in neighboring Cortlandt.

The board stated it had actively tried to recruit players for the last six weeks in the city's Parks and Recreation brochure, emails, Facebook and more than 1,000 flyers that were distributed in schools.

"There is belief and hope that Peekskill Lapolla Little League can come back after the loss of this season, but it is up to Peekskill to make it happen," the board stated.

"There must be a desire, a sense of urgency from the community to have a youth baseball program and, more importantly, the commitment to organize and run one. There will be a need for not just players, but adult volunteers – as managers, coaches, concession stand help, team parents, and most importantly, committee and board members."

The 22 players that signed up for PLLL can play in the Cortlandt National Little League, or receive a refund.

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# 24 Hour Fitness to Open Facility at Jefferson Valley Mall

24 Hour Fitness is set to open its doors for the first time in Yorktown at the Jefferson Valley Mall in the former space occupied by Sears.

A grand opening event is scheduled for Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The community is invited to the free celebration, which includes club tours, prize drawings, group training demonstrations, innovative GX24® studio classes and more.

The nationally recognized fitness brand is known for its tailored approach to health and fitness, and transforming each member's lives through fitness both inside and outside of the club. The new Yorktown club will offer challenging group fitness

classes, world-class amenities, and a talented array of trained fitness professionals who are excited to help residents embark on their fitness journeys.

Each member will receive a complimentary 24 Hour Fitness® Fit Plan including a fitness assessment with a trained professional to determine their interests and unique fitness abilities. The 24 Hour Fitness personalized fitness app, 24GO®, ensures that each member stays on track with their fitness goals, whether they're in the club or on the go. The app offers hundreds of digital workouts, which features clear "how to" guidance to execute a workout whether you're in the club or

on the move. The app also offers access to each club's group exercise schedule, making it easier to schedule your own calendar with reminders about your daily fitness commitments.

"Our clubs have been very successful in Westchester County, and we're looking forward to opening our doors to the Yorktown Heights community," said Alphonso Zimbaldi, General Manager. "Our club is conveniently located at Jefferson Valley Mall in the heart of Yorktown Heights, in close proximity to local businesses, restaurants, and shopping. Residents are excited about staying active and our new club is the ideal place to grab a workout before or after the daily commute."

The modern new 37,958 square foot club features quality amenities, including:

- GX24® and cycle studios
- Popular classes such as BodyPump®, BodyCombat®, and Zumba® included with membership
- Personal and small group training programs, designed to elevate performance and motivation\*
- Basketball court
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# New CVS on 202 Approved; Starbuck's Construction Begins

By Rick Pezzullo

The Yorktown Planning Board recently approved the construction of a new CVS drugstore at 3320 Crompond Road (Route 202), across from the BJ's shopping center.

On February 24, the Planning Board voted in favor of the 13,100-square-foot store that includes a 1,700-square-foot mezzanine and a pharmacy with a drive-through window.

The application was first proposed to the town in August 2014.

CVS is the nation's leading retail pharmacy with more than 9,900 locations, including several in Yorktown. The Lauro Group is the applicant for the project. The Islandia, N.Y. company's regional developments include supermarkets, shopping centers and medical facilities.

Meanwhile, up the road in the Lowe's shopping center, construction has begun



(L-R:) Yorktown Chamber of Commerce President Sergio Esposito, Supervisor Matt Slater and Councilman Ed Lachterman stand outside construction of Starbucks in the Lowe's shopping center.

on a new Starbuck's café and a AAA travel store. The Planning Board approved the stores' site plans last year and they are expected to open by the fall.

"The imminent arrival of a Starbuck's underscores the desirability of retail locations in Yorktown. We're hoping that more national brands will take a cue from Lowe's and Starbuck's and give the Yorktown market a closer look," said Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater.

The 124,000-square-foot Lowe's opened

last year. Breslin Realty Development Corporation is developing the 25-acre property.

"The advent of a CVS and Starbucks will not only increase the favorability of Yorktown as a destination for business and commerce, but will also continue to revitalize the Route 202 corridor by enticing smaller eateries and entrepreneurs to capitalize on the increased commerce these businesses will invite," said Yorktown Chamber of Commerce President Sergio Esposito.

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# Obituaries

## Rudolph Grexa

Rudolph John Grexa, an Army veteran who had several positions with the Town of Cortlandt over the years, died February 28 in Alpharetta, Georgia with his children by his side. He was 89.

He was born March 1, 1930 to Joseph and Caroline Grexa in the Bronx. He was the brother of Joseph Jr., Edward, William and George Grexa. He graduated from Manhattan School of Aviation in 1948 and was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in Korea with the 82nd AAA/AW Battalion. During his time with in the 2nd infantry division he received three Bronze Campaign Stars, during action at Pork Chop Hill and Baldy. He rotated

back to the States at the end of March 1953 and was honorably discharged in April of 1953.

On May 30, 1953, he married his childhood sweetheart Jacqueline Furey. Rudy and Jackie moved to Cortlandt to raise their children and be part of the community. They were blessed with four lovely children, Ellen, Carriann, John, and Mitchell. Ellen married Christopher Sandoval, Carriann married Paul Allen, John mar-

ried Donna Dolan and Mitchell married Beth McQuillkin. Mr. Grexa also has four wonderful grandchildren: Jessica Ritter, Michael Allen, Jaqueline Emerman and Danielle Grexa, and one great-grandchild Lucas John Ritter.

After his military service, Mr. Grexa worked in the banking industry as a Branch Manager and then for the Town of Cortlandt. He worked as the Deputy Comptroller before becoming the Purchasing Director. When he retired, he continued to work with the Town of Cortlandt Auxiliary Police and Code Enforcement departments. During his life he was a volunteer member of many organizations where he held a variety of offices. His memberships included the Peekskill/Cortlandt Rotary, Mohegan Fire Department, the Free-Masons, American Legion, Veteran of Foreign Wars and Van Cortlandtville Historical Society. He was an elder and Board of Trustee at the Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer and later became a member of St Luke's Lutheran Church in Putnam Valley. Rudy also was a citizen Volunteer on the Lakeland School Budget committee. He found time for the Town of Cortlandt Zoning and Planning Boards as well.

Mr. Grexa was recognized often, as a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow and received the New York Conspicuous Gallantry Medal and Korean Service Medal. He was inducted into the Veterans Hall of Fame for New York for his work with Senator Greg Ball on

behalf of veterans.

Mr. Grexa was one of the good ones who changed or mentored people and was also a gentleman. He was best known for being a loving, kind and proud husband, dad, granddad and great-granddad.

## Evelyn Hollberg

Evelyn M Hollberg, a lifelong Peekskill resident, died March 1. She was 97.

She was predeceased by her husband Richard, her son Richard, her daughter Judith and her grandson Timothy, as well as four brothers and one sister. She is survived by her son Jack of Peekskill, Sister Ruth Dale (William), Gary, Louise, grandchildren Patty (Tony), Lisa (Joe), Eric, Chrissy, Mark (Becky), Jen; great-grandchildren Tony Dominique, Jenna(Chris), Alyson, Paige, Amanda, Alyssa and Matt; and many nieces and nephews.

She was born April 19, 1922 to Cyrus and Caroline Booth. Raised by Florence Booth. She worked as a housekeeper at Westledge Nursing Home where she retired and enjoyed her days with her family, vacationing on the beach and at her sister's lake house. She enjoyed cocktail hour, dressing in costumes for holidays, and playing bingo. She will be dearly missed by all.

## Paolina Conte

Paolina Conte, a longtime resident of Ossining, died March 3. She was 91.

She was born January 25, 1929 to Virgilio and Angelina (Cusano) Palombo. Mrs. Conte is survived by her husband Mario; two sons Antonio (Nicolina) and Nicholas; and four grandsons, Mario, Nicholas Jr., Anthony and Aldo. She was predeceased by her siblings Michelina Picucci and Michelangelo Palombo.

## Richard Dunne

Richard Francis Dunne, a resident of Mohegan Lake, died March 1. He was 27.

He was born in White Plains February 17, 1993 to James and Grace Dunne. He was survived by his loving mother Grace, his sister Sarah and his brother James. He is also survived by his grandfather Frank, his Aunt Joyce (John) and cousins: Roisin,

Megan and Sophie. He was predeceased by his father James Sr., both grandmothers Evelyn McCue and Helen Dunne, and his Uncle Richard.

## Hugh Ward

Hugh Rhatigan Ward of Peekskill, formerly of Ossining, died March 3. He was 69.

He was the son of F. William and Mary McGowan Ward. He is survived by his niece Carolyn Eney Miller, nephews Robert Ward Eney, James Eversole Ward, and Bill Ward and great-nieces Annabelle McGowan and Sloane McKee Miller. Mr. Ward was predeceased by his parents, sister Maura Ward Eney and brother Frances William Ward.

## Vicente Muniz

Vicente Muniz, a resident of Yorktown, died March 3 in his home surrounded by family after a prolonged illness. He was 84.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Catalina; brother Carlos Juan; sisters Edelmira and Ramona; daughters Yolanda, Diana, Iliana, and Shirley; grandchildren Scott, Brittany, Christina, Brianna, Louisa, and Dylan; and many nephews and nieces including Lenny, Magna, and Raphael.

Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Mr. Muniz moved to the Bronx in 1962. In 1963 he became a radiologic technologist. He and his family moved to Yorktown Heights in 1975. He worked for more than 30 years in the medical field as a radiologic technologist focusing on special procedures and magnetic resonance imaging.

Always a hard worker and good provider for his family, he enjoyed hunting and Latin music, and he loved to dance. He lived life with gusto and was always the life of the party.

## Catherine Praino

Catherine (Kay) Praino, a resident of Mahopac, died March 4. She was 83.

She was born in the Bronx in April 1936 to Santo and Anna Duci. She married Anthony (Tony) J. Praino (deceased October 4, 2012) on June 18, 1955 at St.

*Continued on page 10*

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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

### A Different Perspective on President Trump

#### To the Editor:

Frank Del Campo's letter regarding how hatred has polluted the political process caught my eye because I know and respect Mr. Del Campo, and because I have a very different perspective on current politics.

First Mr. Del Campo's letter insinuates that the origin of our current divisiveness is from Democrats and Republican never-Trumpers. On the contrary, Trump has tried to enflame divisions long before he announced his candidacy dramatically with a statement that undocumented aliens are primarily murderers and rapists. His campaign to dispute President Obama's citizenry was popular due to lies and the unreasonable hatred in some sectors of our nation who would never accept an African American as our Commander in Chief. His rallying cry of "Lock her (Hillary Clinton) up"; His clear disrespect for women leaders; his mocking of a reporter with a disability; his attack on a judge hearing a civil complaint against

Trump "University" because of his Latino roots; his encouraging his base to violently respond to protesters; and his insistence that there were good people in the mob of White Supremacists in Virginia, one of whom murdered a young woman.

Forgive me for what for some may call a hyperbolic comparison: Wasn't Adolf Hitler a right wing populist? How different is his chant Deutschland Uber Alles (Germany Above all others) from "Make America Great Again"? Hitler's attacks on Jews, labor activists, and others who did not represent the Germanic ideal had disastrous outcomes. There is a difference between hating a world view and an individual who represents that perspective. Come on Frank, Trump has endeavored to be in the spotlight, good or bad, as his administration quietly dismantles programs and regulations intended to protect the average American.

Some factual differences: The evidence

of Russian collusion has not been discredited by investigators. The fact is that many Trump advisors are now serving prison terms for their Russian deals. President Trump has been impeached but he wasn't convicted by a Senate dominated by Republicans who would not even allow a trial with witnesses and evidence.

Yes, partisanism has increased under Donald Trump and he likes it that way. Even if we respect an electoral process which is not based on one person one vote, one cannot deny that Clinton had more individual votes than Mr. Trump. I will proudly accept that I am a "hater" of Mr. Trump, his policies, and his world view. My children and future grandchildren deserve a better future than the Autocracy and oligarchy being advanced by President Trump. It is my moral obligation to fight against everything Trump

MELVYN R. TANZMAN  
Mohegan Lake

### Rezoning Municipal Gateway in Croton Will Help Connect Village

#### To the Editor:

Fifteen years ago, my wife and I moved to Croton, lured by its beauty and small-town vibe. And while we love our homey village, Croton has a problem that has concerned many for years. We are a hodgepodge of disconnected zones—upper village, lower village, N. Riverside—a layout far friendlier to cars than to pedestrians. One way to link the village is through a concept called walkable communities. The idea behind walkable communities is that we don't just make it easier to walk through

our towns and villages, we make it so that you want to walk. You want to get out of your car. You want to stroll or jog or walk your dog from one end of town to the next. You want to visit parks and shops. You want to stop and greet a fellow walker or parent pushing a stroller. Among the ways we accomplish this is by traffic calming measures, adding and fixing sidewalks, making the jaunt more attractive and interesting by introducing trees and artwork, and by building housing near the center of town so people aren't driving through the village

spewing pollution, they're already there.

The Katz property fits all the criteria because it is ideally situated near markets, drug stores, shops, and restaurants. And it's in easy walking distance to the upper village. It will also have a small park for people to congregate. Our village is a chopped-up—albeit beautiful—mess. Rezoning the Municipal Gateway is one part of knitting it back together.

ANDY SIMMONS  
Croton Village Trustee

### Hen Hud School Board Doesn't Get It

#### To the Editor:

When Indian Point plant fully closes and the Pilot money is gone the school district will have to raise taxes over 70% to maintain the level of spending that they are projecting. And that seems to be just fine with Superintendent Joe Hochreiter. They spent the last three years avoiding the inevita-

ble. Hiring consultants to do studies is just a stall tactic. Ultimately, at the end of this they will be going with the "Status Quo" option. And taxpayers in The Hen Hud School district are going to get POUNDED.

Please pay attention to what they are planning to do to us. Alternative options are being proposed by grass roots efforts

in our community.

They will be being presented in the coming weeks. Get informed.

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# Croton100 Launches Plan to Cut Carbon Emissions to Net-Zero

A multi-generational audience of 200 people were treated to an enthusiastic launch celebration of Croton100 at Croton-Harmon High School Auditorium on February 29. This was a historic launch of Croton's visionary climate stability organization whose goal is to systematically reduce greenhouse emissions in zip code 10520 by 5% a year for the next 20 years in keeping with United Nations decarbonization goals.

The average Croton household emits 52.6 tons of greenhouse gases annually. As was explained in a keynote by Dr. Chandu Visweswariah, the "heavy hitters" are transportation, heating and electricity. However, day-to-day choices we make for food, waste, and goods and services add to our total carbon footprint. A "zip code overhead" for public services and spaces rounds out our total carbon impact. Dr. Visweswariah stressed that decarbonization is vital and explained how a "step down" process in each of these themes can be deployed systematically to reduce our carbon footprints. Each step down the carbon ladder will save money, improve health, and reduce emissions.

At the launch, a software application called "Carbon Tracker" was announced which will help everyone in Croton who wants to quantify their baseline carbon footprint and track progress towards net-zero by 2040. Croton100 invites all residents to use the carbon tracker on our website to determine their own household contributions to Croton's carbon emissions.

A dozen Croton residents were



PHOTO BY ANDREW COURTNEY

About 200 people gathered at Croton Harmon High School to mark the launch of Croton 100.

honored for being "decarbonizers," collectively saving or pledging to save 100 tons of greenhouse gases annually. Varied actions include improved insulation, solar panels, installation of heat pumps, purchase of a more efficient vehicle, diet changes or offsets of airline flights. These residents were the first to meet and greet a green "Decarbonizer Bunny," the official mascot of Croton100 that was unveiled at the event.

Guest speakers included May-

or Brian Pugh, County Executive George Latimer, Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, and Donovan Gordon, Director of Sustainable Heating and Cooling at NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority) and local youth speakers. "We have to do more," said Latimer.

Gordon stressed that environmental progress can only be successful with engagement at the community level and expressed a desire to replicate the success

of Croton100 statewide. Several "Friends" and "Partners" of Croton100 attended the event, including representation from other towns and villages.

Attendees also engaged with experts from Sustainable Westchester about specific decarbonizing steps they can take and learned about some cost-effective programs in home heating, transportation, waste management, and renewable sourced electricity. They were also treated to re-

usable bag giveaways and plastic reduction guidance by Croton resident owned business, Eco-Bags Products, and had an opportunity to see electric vehicles on display and chat with their owners. Attendees left with a renewed sense of purpose to decarbonize their lives with the help of awareness, knowledge, and a carbon tracking app from Croton100, all of which are available from the website croton100.org.

## Yorktown's First Recycling Event of 2020 a Success

The Town of Yorktown's first recycling event of the year successfully diverted more than 300 electronic devices into safer disposal channels.

On February 28, the Yorktown Refuse & Recycling Department collected e-waste, bags of textiles and clothing and car tires. The event attracted 108 residents, who mostly brought electronics. The breakdown of the recycled materials was:

- 69 Bags of Textiles
- 62 Televisions
- 30 Computer towers
- 22 Computer monitors
- 207 various electronic devices

"In just under seven hours, our recycling staffers collected e-waste that could foul our environment for years if not properly disposed," said Yorktown Supervi-

sor Matt Slater. "As the days grow longer and the weather gets warmer, many of our neighbors will begin spring cleaning their homes, basements and garages. I urge all our neighbors to responsibly recycle their old electronics."

The presence of hazardous materials such as lead, nickel and mercury in some electronics make safe disposal particularly important. These metals could pose risks to human health or the environment if improperly handled.

The next e-waste recycling event will occur on Saturday, April 18 from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at 2279 Crompond Road (Route 2020), behind the Police Station. The disposal event is for Yorktown residents only. Bring proper identification to establish residency.

## Obituaries

*Continued from page 7*

Mary's Church in the Bronx. They had two children, Anthony and Ann Marie, and in 1964 they moved to the suburbs. She didn't drive, but soon realized that in order to get anywhere near her new home, she needed a driver's license. Tony taught her, and although it was a slow process, she eventually got her license and never looked backed. Kay was a numbers person and had an affinity for accounting. She ventured back into the workforce, when her daughter was young, as a part-time bookkeeper for a local bar and grill. Once her daughter entered high school, Kay worked full time as an accounting clerk at E for M - later PPG - in Pleasantville. However, the job she spoke the most about, was her position as an Administrative Assistant at IBM Research in Yorktown. She made many friends at IBM and frequently shared stories about her time there.

Kay and Tony were fortunate enough to enjoy many vacations and adventures

together. Her dream had been to visit Sicily, the birthplace of her father, and explore her ancestry, which she did. One of her most memorable trips was a cruise to the Caribbean with her children and grandchildren, which was given as a gift for her 50th wedding anniversary.

Once Tony passed, Kay became an active member in the Widow and Widowers group which meets at St. Patrick's in Yorktown. She made friends, went on trips and eventually became the treasurer for the group.

Mrs. Praino was extremely proud of her four grandchildren, Nicholas, Kim, Joseph and Kayla and kept up with each of them via text messages and phone calls. She played a very important part in each of their lives and they all miss her dearly.

She is survived by her son Anthony P. Praino, his wife Kathy, daughter Ann Marie Mozdierz, her husband Joe, her brother Albert and four grandchildren, Nicholas and Joseph Mozdierz, Kimberly and Kayla Praino.





# Stone Home Inspections, LLC Yorktown

By Neal Rentz

Yorktown resident Joshua Stone has spent decades seeking to protect the public in various ways. For nearly 20 years, he was a York City police officer before retiring from the force earlier this month.

About five years ago, while he was still a police officer, Stone began to assist the public in another way, creating Stone Home Inspections LLC. The company now serves as his full-time profession. He started Stone Home Inspections with his wife, Lisa.

Stone Home inspects the homes of potential buyers. His clients live in Westchester, Dutchess, Putnam, and Rockland counties, as well as Long Island and Connecticut, Stone said.

Stone, who has had an interest in real estate since he was a youth, explained why he became a home inspector. "I had a bad experience with my home inspector," he recalled, recounting how he inspector he hired was not thorough and missed several large items that cost him a significant amount of money to repair. He does not want that to happen to people who hire him.

"What I enjoy most about being a home inspector is helping home buyers and homeowners make educated decisions about their potential new home," Stone said. "The safety of our clients is our number one

priority and we make sure every part of a potential home is safe for families to enjoy and love for years to come."

Stone said he has trained inspectors and has partnered with several real estate agents who have referred clients based on his reputation of being thorough and detail-oriented.

Stone took the required courses to become a certified professional inspector at the New York Home Inspector School and he took additional courses after obtaining his initial license. Stone is also certified in wood destroying organisms and mold assessor. He was recently appointed as a board member of NAHREP Putnam County, a non-profit group that educates and empowers the real estate professionals who serve the Hispanic community.

Stone said he does an in-depth inspection of the home and takes his time to explain each of his findings with his clients, he said. He points out maintenance items and what will be necessary to keep the home in good shape.

"We're always here to help," he said.

*For more information about Stone Home Improvement LLC, visit [www.stonehomeinspections.net](http://www.stonehomeinspections.net) or call 914-642-5277.*



PROVIDED PHOTO  
Yorktown resident Joshua Stone is the owner of Stone Home Inspections LLC, which he created with his wife, Lisa.



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A lecture moderated by Mike Bennett of 100.7 WHUD

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# No Bones About It: Dog Treat Program at Hen Hud a Hit

It's official. The SAILOR (Social Academic Independent Living Occupation Recreation) program at Hendrick Hudson High School has gone to the dogs.

For the second year in a row, students enrolled in the district's program for students with special needs have operated a homemade dog treat business. Since its launch in the fall of 2018, SAILOR students have baked, packaged, sold and distributed thousands of treats to school district staff.

According to SAILOR teacher Christina Feal, sales have doubled each year and show no sign of slowing down.

The original idea for the business was simple enough. The students planned to sell their homemade, seasonally- and holiday-themed treats to district staff four times per school year. But running an actual business is not simple at all, demanding a wide range of skills, both social and academic. The SAILOR students have proven they've got what it takes.

The students named the business "Dogs Can Just Enjoy," and they handle every aspect of operations, from researching recipes, purchasing ingredients and baking the treats to processing orders, managing inventory and coordinating deliveries.

The treats have a simple ingredient list: pumpkin, eggs, flour, peanut butter, cinnamon and salt, and, so far, feedback has been extremely positive. High school science teacher Alan Zollner said his Bichon/Lhasa Apso mix Peppy "just loves the SAILOR treats." Communications Specialist Karen Hoffman said her Bassett mix Bruno "literally inhaled his first bag." And Administrative Assistant Diane Tandy's Australian Shepherd Maggie and Pit Bull Tuck "absolutely love them. Whenever I come into the house with these treats, they automatically sit down and put up their paws!"

Feal said her dog Ramona, who works alongside her as the



A special needs classroom at Hendrick Hudson High School that has created a successful dog treat business.



program's therapy dog, couldn't agree more. Ramona provided the inspiration for the business, and she continues to serve as the students' most enthusiastic taste tester.

"When we first started discussing the idea of creating a business, the class considered what they could manage that wouldn't interfere with school," said Feal. "The goal was to come up with something that was sustainable and expandable."

For now, the treats are offered around Halloween, the winter holidays, Valentine's Day and in the spring. The students advertise up-

coming sales via email and flyers and process orders using Google Forms. Revenue goes back into the business for inventory and also funds community-based experiences for the students.

Everyone in the SAILOR program is involved in the enterprise in some manner. Jolie said that her favorite part of the process is making and baking the treats, as well as bagging and delivering them. Her classmate Emma said she liked rolling out the dough and cutting it into shapes, such as bones and pumpkins for Halloween.

Feal believes that the business

is helping her students make important strides, both inside and outside of the classroom. "Tasks such as counting out treats for each package help with math skills, and interacting with customers strengthens social skills," she explained. "The business gives them a sense of pride and independence, as well as a meaningful way to give back to their school community."

It seems clear that when they came up with their idea for a sustainable business with growth potential, Hendrick Hudson's SAILOR students were barking up the right tree.

## Putnam SPAC Seeks Info on Emaciated Dogs Found in PV

The Putnam County SPCA is seeking information on three pit bulls found at-large last week in the Town of Putnam Valley.

At approximately 9:45 a.m. on Monday, March 2, a Good Samaritan found three pit bulls running at large on Tinker Hill Road in Putnam Valley. The dogs were caught and taken to the Putnam Valley Shelter. Due to their condition, the three dogs were taken by DCO Mary Madsen to the Carmel Animal Hospital where they were rated at 1 out of 9 on the Body Condition Score (1 being severely emaciated, 5 being normal, 9 being obese). All three dogs were found to be extremely emaciated.

The Putnam County SPCA is investigating this as possible Animal Cruelty / Neglect which are Class A Misdemeanors and

possible Abandonment, which are Unclassified Misdemeanors under the NYS Agriculture & Markets Law.

The Putnam County SPCA asks if anyone has any information regarding these three dogs to contact its Cruelty Hotline: 845-520-6915.

The Putnam County SPCA is a 501(c)3 not for profit corporation which receives no funding from the ASPCA, New York State, or the federal government. Its mission is to prevent cruelty to all animals by enforcing the NYS cruelty statutes by its countywide humane law enforcement department, providing medical care and shelter to abused animals and providing Humane Education to schools and other interested groups.



One of the emaciated pit bulls discovered in Putnam Valley.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PUTNAM SPCA



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# Northern Westchester Putnam Saint Patrick's Day Parade



PHOTOS BY HOLLY CROCCO



# County Offering Affordable Homes in Northern Westchester

Westchester County is offering a unique opportunity – several single-family homes and a senior condominium for sale – at prices ranging from \$164,000 for a condo to \$265,000 for a four-bedroom single family home. Potential home buyers must qualify, and homes will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

Located in the Village of Buchanan and served by the Hendrick Hudson School District, the single-family homes offer three or

four bedrooms, two baths, decks or patios, and finished or unfinished basements in a neighborhood setting. The home in Cortlandt offers community membership in the Croton Park Colony, complete with a community swimming pool.

The two-bedroom condominium in Jefferson Village in Yorktown has two bedrooms and two baths, a kitchen with an island, storage, laundry and garage parking. Jefferson Village is a 55+ community which boasts a wide range of amenities including a clubhouse, fitness center, outdoor swimming pool and picnic area.

With a 5% down payment for the condo, a buyer's monthly housing expenses

(mortgage, real estate taxes and common charges) will be approximately \$1,600. For the single-family properties, monthly housing expenses range from \$1,800 to \$2,045. Maximum household income guidelines apply: two-person household, \$77,000 three persons, \$86,600 four persons, \$96,250 and \$103,950 for a five-person household.

County Executive George Latimer is encouraging all interested families to apply. "Our below market homeownership program enables families of modest means to purchase housing in our high-priced market," he said. "For some, purchase will lower their monthly housing expenses. Why rent when you can own?"

Executive Director of Housing Action Council Rose Noonan said, "The scarcity of affordable homes in Westchester is a daunting challenge faced by those trying to buy. The county has stepped up, purchased existing homes at market rate, and then offered them at below market prices. I urge people not to miss this limited opportunity."

For information and applications, go to <https://homes.westchestergov.com/homeseeker-housing> or contact Housing Action Council, a non-profit organization responsible for qualifying applicants and assisting them through the home buying process, at (914) 332-4144, [hac@affordablehomes.org](mailto:hac@affordablehomes.org).

## Pace to Host G.O.O.D. for Girls Career Fair & Expo Saturday

G.O.O.D. for Girls, Inc. (GfG), the leading community nonprofit that mentors young girls into confident young women, will kick off its 10th anniversary celebration with the second annual Career Fair & Expo for Girls: Visionary Women – Learning, Leading, Lifting! this Saturday, Mar. 14.

The event will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Kessel Student Center at Pace University's Pleasantville campus in partnership with Pace University's Women in Cybersecurity.

Girls and young women from throughout the region will learn about career options and how to plan their future from an array of successful female role models including the keynote speaker, distinguished panelists and senior-level executives, entrepreneurs and professionals from a wide range of sectors.

"One of the biggest takeaways from this event is that these remarkable women will share their insights and personal experiences including how they overcame obstacles to pursue and live their dreams," said Lori Stephens, founder and president of GfG.

The program will also offer a choice of workshops focused on topics to arm girls and young women with helpful tips and guidance to find a career that is right for them including successful interview skills, finding a perfect career, mindfulness, yoga

*Continued on page 20*



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# Happenings

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

## Tuesday, March 10

**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).

## Wednesday, March 11

**New York-Presbyterian Events:** The following events are presented by New York-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital, 1980 Crompond Rd., Cortlandt: A Bariatric Support Group will meet on March 11 from 6 to 7 p.m. Registration: call 914-734-3966. A Breastfeeding Support Group will meet on March 13 and 27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration: call 914-734-3257. Physician in the Kitchen: Understanding the Microbi-

ome will be held on March 13 from noon to 1:30 p.m. Registration: call 914-734-3780 or e-mail [hvh-teachingkitchen@nyp.org](mailto:hvh-teachingkitchen@nyp.org). Car Seat Safety and Proper Installation Techniques will be held on March 14 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: 914-734-3557. A Breast Cancer Support Group will meet on March 16 from 7 to 9 p.m. Registration: call 914-962-6402. Plant-Based Foods: St. Patrick's Day Edition will be held on March 17 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Cost: \$15. Registration: call 914-734-3780 or e-mail [hvh-teachingkitchen@nyp.org](mailto:hvh-teachingkitchen@nyp.org).

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

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

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

**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.

**Baseball Lecture by Evan Weiner:** The program will be held at 7 pm. at the Ossining Public Library. Free. Info: 914-941-2416 Ext. 358, [mmarinaro@wlsmail.org](mailto:mmarinaro@wlsmail.org) or [www.ossininglibrary.org](http://www.ossininglibrary.org).

**Lenten Cluster Service:** The service is slated for 7:30 p.m. at United Methodist Church, Peekskill, 1040 Main St, Peekskill.

## Thursday, March 12

**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 Chode-

sh Class (for ladies only) meets on one Tuesday a month at 2 p.m. This class is for discussion and learning, and no knowledge of Hebrew is required. Beginning in February, Rabbi Urbas's class will meet on the first and third Monday of each month, at 11 a.m. Info: 914-245-2324 or [www.yorktown-jewishcenter.org](http://www.yorktown-jewishcenter.org).

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

**Create Beaded Earrings:** The program will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Somers Library. Registration is required; register online at [www.somerslibrary.org](http://www.somerslibrary.org) or call 914-232-5717.

## Friday, March 13

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

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

**Jewish Center Services:** At the Yorktown Jewish center, 2966 Crompond Rd. Friday night Sabbath services begin at 6:15 p.m. And Sabbath services on most Saturdays will be held at 9:15 a.m. on most Saturdays. After the services Rabbi Sternstein conducts a learning session based on the Torah portion of the week. Light refreshments are served and everyone is invited to join us as we share in the warmth, knowledge and friendship within our congregation. Info: 914-245-2324.

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

## Saturday, March 14

**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.

**Hebrew Congregation of Somers Shabbat Services:** The services will be held at 9:30 every Saturday for the remainder of March, followed by Lunch & Learn, a lively discussion of the week's Torah portion led by Rabbi Shoshana Leis. Kiddush luncheon will be served. The service will be led by Rabbi Leis and Cantor Ruth Osher. First-year membership is free and includes High Holiday tickets. E-mail questions@hebrewcongregationofsomers.org or call 914-248-9532 for more information.

**Yorktown Shabbat Morning Services:** Chabad of Yorktown, 2926 Old Yorktown Rd., holds services on Saturday mornings. They are easy-to-follow services with Hebrew/English prayer books, a friendly environment and no affiliation is necessary. Kiddush luncheon follows the services. Services begin at 10 a.m. For more information visit [www.ChabadYorktown.com](http://www.ChabadYorktown.com).

**Ceramic Workshop:** Layers of Decoration II: Ceramic Workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Railyard Arts Studio, 621 Route 22, Croton Falls. More information is available on Facebook.

**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).

**Ossining Library Exhibits:** In the Main Gallery at the Ossining Library "Ossining 3," a photography exhibit featuring the work of Arnold Breisblatt, Ron Carran, and Jane Castorina Gordon is being held this month. In the Hallway Gallery, the Ossining Girl Scouts Annual Art Show is also being held this month.

**Support Connection Yoga:** Support Connection announces a free program "Yoga: A Path Toward Wellness" will be offered from 12-1:30 p.m. at Club Fit in Jefferson Valley on every Saturday in March. 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.

**Peekskill St. Patrick's Day:** The Peekskill St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held at 3 p.m. The parade steps off near Assumption Church, makes its way down Union Avenue, then right on South Street, left on Division Street, right on Main Street and right on James Street. Info: [www.cityof-peekskill.com/parks-and-recreation](http://www.cityof-peekskill.com/parks-and-recreation).

**Bingo Fundraiser:** The monthly Bingo Fundraiser for Paws For Love, a local non-profit cat rescue organization will be held at St. Christopher Church, 3094 Albany Post Rd., Buchanan. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and bingo begins at 6:30 p.m. Cash prizes, Raffles, 50-50 and food and drink available for purchase. Admission is \$7 and is payable at door. Donations of cat food and litter ap-



# Happenings

preciated.

## Sunday, March 15

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

are being conducted by rotating instructors. The suggestion is \$15. Info: Elisha Simpson at 914-319-4010.

**Taconic Opera:** "Esther," an original oratorio composed by the company's director, Dan Montez, will be performed at 3 p.m. at Congregation Sons of Israel, 1666 Pleasantville Rd, Briarcliff Manor. Advance

sale can be purchased online at [www.taconicopera.org](http://www.taconicopera.org), or by calling Taconic Opera's toll-free number at 855-886-7372.

## Monday, March 16

**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 17

**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.

**Field Library Celebration:** Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at 4 p.m. at the Field Library, 4 Nelson Ave., Peekskill. Info: <https://www.peakskill.org/>.

## Grease is the Word March 13-14 at Yorktown High School

Yorktown High School students involved in the upcoming spring musical production of *Grease* were treated to a special visit that was sure to get them into the spirit of the show.

Carole Demas, the original "Sandy" from the Broadway production of *Grease*, stopped by Yorktown High School on February 27 to meet the students, answer questions, and get them excited for their school production happening March 13 - 14. Demas, who originated the role of "Sandy Dumbrowski" when *Grease* hit Broadway in 1971, sat among the students and shared her experiences as part of the original cast of *Grease*. The Yorktown High School cast was extremely excited for the unique experience and one-on-one character development, as well as a few back-stage tidbits from a successful Broadway actor's perspective.

"It was an amazing experi-



Yorktown High School students with Carole Demas (center), the original "Sandy" from *Grease* when it debuted on Broadway in 1971.

ence to get all her insight about the characters and the show," said student Giovanna Phipps, who will play "Sandy" in the high school production. "It was very,

very helpful. She gave us a lot of character direction and told us stories from the play even before it went to Broadway."

Faith Pyle, who plays sassy

Pink Lady "Marty" said she relished the feedback that Demas gave to them and was excited that she even took some of the students aside to give them advice on their character. "She told us how we needed to portray the characters but how we also needed to make them our own."

Alice Tinari, who will play "Jan," said that Demas made them look at the show in a different way. "It made us think of the show as fun, not something to stress about," Tinari said. She was especially interested to hear Ms. Demas talk of the nightly changes the original cast members endured and how they were able to overcome the stress with humor and fun. "It was really cool to hear about the beginnings of this show and how it grew into something so iconic in our society."

YHS Musical Director Andrea Stock said Demas, who lives locally, heard that YHS was putting on

*Grease* and offered to come in and give the students some advice. Stock said the experience was extremely helpful to her students and she knows it's not something most high school theater students get.

"It gave such realism to the show for the kids," Stock said. "Such an insight that normally they would not have had. She gave valuable advice that they should be each other's support group and reminded the kids that the high schoolers in *Grease* the show were not like them. She gave the kids such incredible insight into the play itself and about their characters."

Yorktown High School will perform *Grease* on March 13 - 14. Tickets are \$12 and are on sale now at OnThe Stage. They can be purchased at the door. Shows are at 7 p.m. March 13 and 14 at The Dr. Ralph Napolitano Auditorium at Yorktown High School.

## A Lens on the State of Choice in the American Wine Market

I'm often asked about the price-to-quality factor in wine purchases. Readers want to know if standard brands are good values and if artisanal wines produced by small wineries are worth the extra investment.

By now most of you can anticipate my response: If you like a particular wine then it's a good wine for your palate, whether it's \$7 by-the-bottle or by-the-box or \$25.

There are relative merits and detriments of enjoying wines at differing price points. Most of my discussions evolve around production methods and marketing campaigns.

Many consumers believe the process for making wine is similar for all bottles. Further, the supposition is that all grapes are gently hand-picked at the epitome of ripeness, carefully sorted for rotten grapes, leaves and insects and then lovingly crushed, fermented, aged and bottled, all under the watchful eye of a master winemaker.

Although this process does occur in many wineries, it is a far cry from the vast quantity of wines sold in the United States. For the most part, winemaking is big busi-

ness. Over 80 percent of wines produced and sold in the United States come from about 2 percent of the number of producers.

At these mega wine factories, massive quantities of grapes are harvested by industrial-size machines. Rotten grapes, leaves, twigs and unlucky insects may adulterate the wine juice until they are filtered out. Engineers are responsible for blending grape juices to create consistent wines each year.

Add to this mix the countless virtual wineries in the United States – wineries that have no direct hand in the production of wine. These companies contract with wholesale producers who may have grown the grapes or may have simply purchased the grapes (or juice). The wholesalers then produce the wine and bottle it according to the specifications of the virtual winery.

Of the top 30 brands in the United States, only a handful of wineries are involved from start to finish. Very few grow their own grapes and produce or bottle the wine. This works well to meet consumer

demand. Last year American wineries produced more than 800 million gallons of wine (84 percent in California). That's over 1.1 billion bottles, of which nearly 900 million cases were produced by 2 percent (less than 100) of domestic wine companies.

All of this is done in an effort to present consumers with inexpensive wine with a consistent flavor profile. You know the wines: the mass-produced bargain wines priced at \$5 to \$6 a bottle. You've experienced the wines at restaurants, weddings, charity dinners, pool parties.

Pleasing wines at great prices, what's wrong with that? In an absolute world – nothing. But many smaller producers have leveraged their wines to capitalize on consumer expectations. Across the winemaking world, value wines are being handcrafted with hands-on expertise. From small producers (5,000 cases or less) in the United States to family-owned wineries in Spain, Portugal, Chile, Argentina, South Africa and even France and Italy, excellent wines are now available for \$8 to \$15.

Most of these wines are head and shoulders above their mass-produced counterparts. They have a soul, a unique flavor profile that is attained from close oversight of growing and production techniques that

modern technology provides.

The wine giants can be extremely creative in developing label designs and brand names. A number of wine labels sport artwork of bucolic vineyards and workers lovingly tending vines. They are perfect images to entice consumers. In fact, mass-producers rarely visit, let alone tend, the massive vineyards from which they grow or purchase grapes. Is this inventive marketing or deceptive advertising?

As occurs frequently with the discerning palate, individual judgments are key in wine-buying decisions. The competition for shelf space and for sales volume can be confusing, even misleading. Discerning consumers seek advice from reputable wine shop merchants to consider their numerous choices regarding price and quality.

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](mailto:nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com) or on Twitter @sharingwine.



By Nick Antonaccio





# Brick by Brick: Building a Patio from Scratch

Long before I became a realtor, I was first and foremost a homeowner, beset with all the challenges of upgrading an old, historic home. Most of the projects I tackled as a young man gave me the gristle for many of the home improvement articles I write here.

One of my first projects was to convert an amorphously-shaped gravel patio area in the back of the house, actually our main entrance through a mudroom, into a bona fide patio of brick.

I lined the driveway with gravel and built up low flower beds on either side from stone. The sloping walkway leading to the door was replaced by brick steps bordered by large slabs of bluestone, which ruined the shocks of my car when transporting them in the trunk of my car from a source an hour away.

For those of us who live in regions where temperatures fall below freezing during the winter, a brick patio laid on sand can be an excellent choice for an outdoor living space. The small gaps between the bricks and the grains of sand allow for slight movement when any moisture in the ground expands or contracts with the change in temperature, unlike a more rigid surface which may crack. In addition, bricks give a warm, natural texture to traditional country landscapes, which was the look we wanted to achieve.

While many people recommend having friends help with the laying of a patio, I opted to go for it alone. In my earlier home-owning days, I found the laying of bricks and stones therapeutic, and in the years to come I would create many steps and walkways wherever I could.

The first step was to cut away the old lawn and dig a level space into the ground, deep enough to hit the soil's clay-like layer. The step I didn't take, but perhaps should have, was to rent a compactor to make this base truly level. Indeed, my patio would always have a mild undulation because of it, but to my eyes this was part of its hand-hewn charm.

Next came my deliveries of gravel (most of which went toward paving the driveway), sand and the required number of bricks for the patio, all of which went into separate mounds behind our garage. I used my big red wheelbarrow to make hundreds of trips between the garage and the patio site, first laying down gravel and then sand.

At this point I leveled and tamped down the surface carefully. Had plastic edging been available to me back then, I would certainly have installed it in a well-camouflaged fashion, but I settled instead for using slate and four-inch by four-inch wood beams to support the brick pattern.

When the bricks were ready to be laid, I opted for a standard running bond pattern where the edges of two bricks meet under the center of the brick above them. Had I wished, I could have opted for many other varieties of patterns instead, such as herringbone, basketweave or radial designs. With a little ingenuity, a homeowner could even incorporate different sizes or colors of bricks to create a unique design.

As for me, the contrast between the red of the brick and the gray of the slate was intriguing enough, so I chose a simpler pattern to complement those colors. At the end I swept a fine layer of sand in between the bricks and I was done. (Today I would have finished by using a rented compactor a second time.)

For the most part, the patio was perfect. The only flaw in the design is that the patio was on the north side of the house, so

we always had to shovel snow away cleanly from one end to the other as the sun would not melt it for us.

It took a summer's worth of work for me to build the patio, but the end result was worth it. We had many years of outdoor dining and relaxation under the shade of a large sugar maple close to the house. When the maple eventually succumbed to disease and had to be cut down, the patio still looked well-designed and front door-worthy under the direct light of the sun.

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



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Crossword

- ACROSS
1. However, in verse

4. Vegas or Palmas

7. Liveliness

10. Ad \_\_\_ committee

11. Burning result

12. Put away

13. G.I. entertainers

14. \_\_\_ Falls (honeymoon destination)

16. Whitney or Rushmore (abbr.)

17. Monopoly, e.g.

18. "Welcome" in Italian or new Mohegan lake restaurant

21. Gin flavoring

22. Some nest eggs, abbr.

25. Give a new coat to

29. Red Sox great David Ortiz would eat at this

"Big" White Plains restaurant

30. Colombian cheer

31. Father or brother

34. Bouquet on some islands

35. Compass heading

36. IBM products
37. Electric swimmer

38. "I'm so glad!"

39. Visit

40. Resort with mineral springs
- DOWN
1. Hitches, as a ride

2. Lodge

3. Former Supreme Court lady, Sandra

4. "Blue Sky" Oscar winner

5. Eastern

6. Whale show

7. Green legume

8. Cereal spike

9. Educ. group

15. Arrive at an airport

19. Number-two execs

20. Baltimore's birds

23. Out for the night

24. Aussie lass

26. Improvises musically

27. Fast

28. Salon activity

31. Ignition insert

32. Tempest-teapot link

33. Napoleonic marshal

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9
10				11				12		
13				14			15			
16				17						
18			19					20		
21							22		23	24
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35				36				37		
38				39				40		

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(Solution for puzzle on page 19)

1	T	2	H	3	O		4	L	5	A	6	S		7	P	8	E	9	P
10	H	O	C				11	A	S	H				12	E	A	T		
13	U	S	O				14	N	I	A	15	G		A	R	A			
16	M	T	N				17	G	A	M	E								
18	B	E	N	19	V	E	N	U	T	20	O								
21	S	L	O	E						22	I	R	23	A	24	S			
			25	R	E	26	V	27	A	28	R	N	I	S	H				
				29	P	A	P	I				30	O	L	E				
31	K	32	I	33	N	S	M	A	N			34	L	E	I				
35	E	N	E				36	P	C	S		37	E	E	L				
38	Y	A	Y				39	S	E	E		40	S	P	A				

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### Pace to Host G.O.O.D. for Girls Career Fair & Expo Saturday

*Continued from page 15*

and paying for college, among others.

Participating in the expo will be engineers from New York Power Authority, executives and entrepreneurs from the building trades, technology, law enforcement, real estate, marketing, government and more.

“These women are a true testament to learning, leading and lifting up our young people as they help them navigate their own career paths,” Stephens said.

Space is limited for the event, which will also include a tour of the Pace University campus. The cost is \$5 for girls and \$15 for women and includes a continental breakfast and hot lunch. For more information and to register, visit [www.GoodforGirlsInc.org](http://www.GoodforGirlsInc.org).

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# My, Oh, Mylene!

## Hen Hud Senior Sinks Game-Winning And-One, Sailors Hoist 1st Gold Ball Ever

RAY GALLAGHER/JOSUE ACEVEDO PHOTOS

On the strength of Hen Hud senior G Mylene Smith's heroic, old-school three-point play, the second-seeded Sailors hoisted the first gold ball in school history when Smith (inset #2 with Colleen Ryan and Caitlin Weimar) hit a hard-charging lay-up, got fouled and hit the go-ahead point from the stripe with 12.1 seconds left in a 46-45 Section 1 Class A championship triumph over No.4 Harrison at the Westchester County Center last Sunday. The Sailors, who also celebrated their semifinal win over Pearl River last Thursday, will challenge the Section 4/Section 9 winner Friday at SUNY Purchase (5 p.m.) in the NYSPHSAA regional final... see Girls' Hoops Notebook



# Sports

## Girls' Hoops Notebook

# Hen Hud, Putnam Valley, Haldane Hoist Gold Balls

By Tony Pinciario & Ray Gallagher

They made basketball history at places like Hen Hud and Putnam Valley over the weekend, where both the Class A Sailors and Class B Tigers, respectively, were crowned queens of the Section 1 scene. And Haldane did what Haldane does in just about every Class C tournament; just win, baby!

**HEN HUD** opponents' follow the same defensive approach, which is to limit the offensive impact six-foot-four Caitlin Weimar has and force her teammates to beat you.

Fourth-seeded Harrison carried this out to near perfection in the Section 1 Class A Girls' Basketball championship game against second-seeded Hen Hud Sunday night.

Weimar was held to a season-low 11 points, well below her 23.7 points-per-game average. In fact, Weimar, the tournament most valuable player, didn't register her first field goal until 2:16 remained in the third quarter. Add in the absence of second-leading scorer Grace Moretti, who sustained a knee injury in the second quarter and never returned, and it would be easy to understand a Harrison victory.

However, Hen Hud has proved this season it is a complete team. Mylene Smith led the

charge and registered the eventual winning basket as Hen Hud rallied to a 46-45 victory at the Westchester County Center.

Hen Hud made history winning its first Section 1 title. The team celebrated the gold ball, given to the respective Section 1 championship teams, with its fans.

Hen Hud, which avenged its only loss of the season, to Harrison, has a bye into the regional final, Friday, at SUNY-Purchase. The second-seeded Sailors (23-1), riding a 19-game winning streak, will play the winner of Maine-Endwell (Section 4)-Section 9 champion.

"If you told me before the game that Caitlin would only score 11 points and we don't have Grace for two-plus quarters, I would have said we would lose by 20 points," Hen Hud Coach Ken Sherman said with a laugh. "But the girls showed so much grit."

It started with Smith, who had a team-leading 12 points. None more important than her three-point play — a driving layup and free throw —

with 12.1 seconds remaining, giving Hen Hud a 46-45 lead. It was a set play out of a timeout.

"On the play, Harrison doubled Caitlin and Mylene takes it to the basket," Sherman said. "Mylene was confident on that play. We have to be more than just Caitlin and tonight we showed this."

Along with Smith's excellent play, Heather Reifenhauer came off the bench to score seven points and play excellent defense. Kira Varada, who was named to the all-tournament team, finished with six points and was the key, defensively, to the rally. Jacky Kenny added five points and Colleen Ryan



RAY GALLAGHER/JOSUE ACEVEDO PHOTOS

Hen Hud G Kira Varada uncoils shot in Sailors' 50-45 Class A semifinal win over Pearl River Thursday.

connected on her first 3-pointer of the season.

"Watching my teammates pick up the slack and make baskets just makes the game more enjoyable and exciting," Weimar said. "It takes more than one players. We are a team and everyone is important to winning and we showed that."

Hen Hud, which only led, 3-0, in the first quarter was constantly playing catch-up to Harrison. No.4 Harrison led by as many as seven points in the second half before a fourth-quarter surge. A Varada steal and layup gave Hen Hud a 40-38 lead with two minutes remaining.

"Kira is a spark plug off the bench," Sherman said. "Kira is a ball hawk, but sometimes she fouls. I sometimes limit her minutes, early on, before we unleash her. Kira



Sailors Mylene Smith, Colleen Ryan, Jacky Kenny and Caitlin Weimar revel in the glory of Hen Hud's 46-45 Section 1 title win over Harrison Sunday.

only has one speed and that's 100 mph."

The final two minutes of the game was a rollercoaster of emotions. A Kenny driving layup gave state-ranked (No.17) Hen Hud a 43-40 lead with 40 seconds remaining, but Gabby Marraccini answered with a rare four-point play. She swished a 3-pointer, was fouled, and then swished the free throw, giving Harrison a 44-43 lead with 25 seconds remaining.

A Hen Hud turnover on the subsequent possession and Harrison making one of two free throws set up Smith's winning play.

Even though Weimar had only three points and Hen Hud was a meager 10 of 22 from the free-throw line in the first half, Harrison only led by four at halftime.

"We spoke at halftime and we were only down four points, but if we just jeep plugging away and playing good defense our offense would come," Sherman said.

Sherman enjoyed watching his team celebrate the gold ball with their fans. So did the team, which got a hero's welcome upon arrival in Montrose.

"I can't even describe how exciting it was to win the gold ball and making it 10 times better because it was the first in program

*continued on next page*



Haldane's Abigail Platt fires J in Blue Devils' 49-22 win over Tuckahoe for 7th-straight Section 1 Class C crown Saturday.



Hen Hud players bask in glory of their first Section 1 Class A semifinal win in program history last Thursday after knocking off Pearl River.



Hen Hud players react to their historic Section 1 Class A semifinal win over Pearl River, the 1st in program history.



Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook

continued from previous page



PV players cut loose after knocking off reigning NYS champ Irvington for 1st Section 1 Class B title in girls' hoops history Saturday at County Center.



Put Valley players pose with 1st gold ball in school history after dethroning five-time defending Section 1 champ Irvington Saturday at County Center.



Putnam Valley's Kelli Venezia and Arianna Stockinger rejoice as teammate Amanda Orlando looks on after semifinal win over Hastings.



Put Valley's Kelli Venezia and Arianna Stockinger embrace as teammates celebrate 52-49 win over Irvington in Section 1 Class B title game Saturday.



Put Valley's Kelli Venezia and Eva DeChent kiss 1st gold ball in school after 52-49 win over Irvington in Section 1 Class B title game Saturday.



Haldane players pose with seventh-straight Section 1 Class C gold ball after defeating Tuckahoe 49-22 Saturday at County Center.

continued on next page



# Sports

## Girls' Hoops Notebook

continued from previous page

history," said Weimar, who won a Section 1 Class A volleyball title last fall. "My teammates and I were saying we don't even know how to act because we were so happy, but we worked so hard to make it to this point so we never gave up throughout the game. This is a feeling I will never forget, and to share it with such a great team is amazing."

**PUTNAM VALLEY** did something no other Section 1 Class B opponent had been able to do against Irvington – beat the Panthers in the sectional championship game – in the last five tries.

The second-seeded Tigers dethroned the fourth-seeded and five-time defending Class B champion Panthers, 52-49, in the

title game.

State-ranked (No.8) Putnam Valley, now 20-3 this season, will play Section 9 champion Marlboro in a state regional semifinal, Wednesday (5 p.m.), at Horace Greeley. The winner advances to the regional final, Sunday, March 15, against the Section 8-Section 11 victor.

Senior MVP Kelli Venezia finished with a team-leading 20 points, including two free throws in the last 10 seconds to seal the win. This, on the heels of a 23-point effort in the 69-46 semifinal triumph of Hastings, who had no way of stopping her seven first-half treys.

"I was able to come in confident in the finals because I shot pretty well in the semis, so I was still feeling pretty good," Venezia said. "Good but humble. You can't get too high off the one performance. This is just an amazing feeling right now, I can't even describe it."

PV freshman Eva DeChent added 17 points and junior F Arianna Stockinger contributed 10 points, including the game-sealing three in the game's waning moments. Stockinger's triple with just over one minute remaining in the game,



Jubilant Tigers rejoice after defeating Hastings to reach first Section 1 title tilt since 2007 last Tuesday.



Haldane senior G Bela Monteleone strikes pose after Blue Devils won 7th-straight Section 1 Class C crown Saturday.

giving Putnam Valley a five-point cushion.

"This is crazy," she said. "I'm emotional, happy... everything, such a surreal moment. We deserve this so much. We wanted this so much. Coach Dini is one hell of a coach, she prepares us for this. And this."

DeChent showed the poise of a senior down the stretch and should be the next big deal in Class B next season.

"You can't really think about the crowd or anything here," DeChent said. "You just have to play like it's another game, but you have to go as hard as possible and stay humble."

There's been adversity to overcome this season, but the Tigers have been the little engine that could all year.

"This group worked so hard for this," PV Coach Kristi Dini said. "We did all kinds of things to compensate for our lack of size. Everyone defends and everyone contributes in some way. I'm literally shaking in disbelief right now. I just have to thank my team, my family, the school district and the community for coming out for us."

It took a village to knock off Irvington, the 19-time Section 1 champs, which PV had never beaten before.

**HALDANE** made it lucky number seven as the second-seeded Blue Devils won their seventh consecutive Section

1 Class C championship with a 49-22 triumph of top-seeded Tuckahoe. First-year Coach Jessica Perrone stabilized a program that had to undergo a transformative period due to the release of Coach Tyrone Searight last November. Haldane, now 12-10 this season, played Section 9 titlist Millbrook, Tuesday, in a state regional semifinal.

Bela Monteleone (16 points, four boards) was selected the tournament most valuable player. Liv Monteleone and Shianne Twoguns were named to the all-tournament team. Liv Monteleone had 11 points and three rebounds. Twoguns and Madison Chiera added nine apiece while Abigail Platt finished with seven boards.

## Carmel's P.J. Duke ATHLETE OF THE SEASON Winter 2020

This week marks the debut presentation of our new award, Athlete of the Season, sponsored by Club Fit. Our first winner secures the prize in a landslide, despite the many incredible performances by area student athletes this season.

Our winter winner is 13-year-old Carmel wrestler P.J. Duke.

Amazingly just a seventh-grader, Duke's regular and postseason wrestling record was an eye-popping 49-0. In fact, he did not allow a single point scored against him in the Section 1 and NYSPHSAA tournaments.

"In the 30-plus years I'm covering local sports in Northern Westchester and Putnam County, I can't ever recall a more dominating performance by a varsity wrestler, much less a seventh-grader," Sports Editor Ray Gallagher said. "P.J. Duke's run to the 99-pound NYSPHSAA wrestling championship was among the

most impressive deals I've seen by any varsity athlete in any prep sport, and I've seen my share of all-time greats."

Club Fit will be hosting P.J.'s team for a free Parisi Speed School training session. In addition, P.J. will also be receiving a private, one-on-one Parisi Coaching session.

"Congratulations to our inaugural Athlete of the Season Winner, P.J. Duke, on his record-setting title win — an amazing accomplishment," Club Fit President Bill Beck said. "Club Fit is happy to support young athletes in our community. It's never too early to start healthy habits. Studies show active kids become active adults, and are more likely to be healthy in adulthood as well."

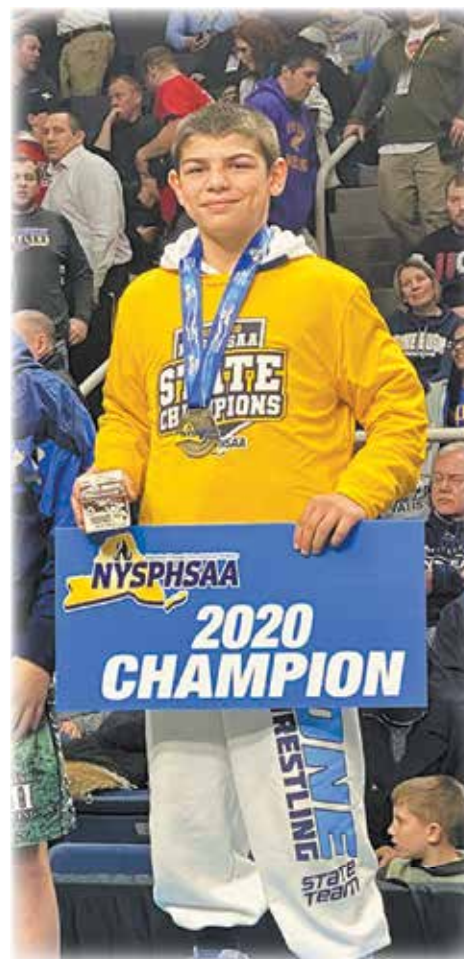
Seth Harrison, Carmel's wrestling coach, said he predicted big things from Duke this winter. But the seventh-grader surpassed

even his ambitious forecast.

"Our coaching staff and wrestling community knew the potential that the season held for P.J.," Harrison reflected. "But he didn't just exceed those expectations, he snapped them in half. Many wrestlers have come out of New York as state champions and furthered that success in winning NCAA championships and international accolades. Yet P.J. is the first seventh-grader and the youngest wrestler to ever win a state championship. His accomplishments this season was more than dominance, I believe it was a glimpse of greatness. Our wrestling program, community, Section 1 wrestling and New York are proud of his accomplishments."

Carmel's Director of Health, Physical Education & Athletics Susan E. Dullea cited all the work Duke has put in as a central reason for the young grappler's success.

"P.J. is a special student athlete," she said. "His work ethic, focus and sincere love for the sport are exceptional. This accomplishment is not by luck, it's based on hard work over time. Whatever P.J. sets out to do, he will be successful. He has an extremely supportive family, as well as a community of coaches, athletes and trainers who truly love him. Carmel is so very proud of him."





## Sports

# Historical Happenings for Putnam Valley, Hendrick Hudson



By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports  
Editor @Directrays

Win or lose last weekend, Class A Hen Hud and Class B Putnam Valley would always have that Westchester County Center experience to tell their children -- and their children's children -- about, until their dying days.

And since both made history over the weekend, the stories will only get better over time.

The parallels between Hen Hud and Putnam Valley are as surreal as the County Center experience; the quaint, high-energy experience was almost dreamlike, as both the Sailors and Tigers, respectively, hoisted the first gold ball in girls' hoops history. In fact, Putnam Valley's gold ball was the first in school history -- boys' or girls' hoops -- while Hen Hud won a basketball sectional title for the first time since 1944 when the Sailor boys were crowned and FDR was our president.

It doesn't end there, though. Both Hen Hud Coach Ken Sherman and PV Coach Kristi Dini are alumni of their respective programs, both carving out a niche as players before returning as coaches.

The County Center forces players to bring out their best, and that's exactly what we got last Saturday -- when second-seeded Putnam Valley staged a 52-49 upset of 19-time Section 1 champion Irvington, the No.4 seed -- and again on Sunday --- when second-seeded Hen Hud reached deep for a thrilling 46-45 come-from-behind win over No.4 Harrison. So, both schools were seed-

ed second and beat the No.4 for the title... more parallels.

For PV Coach Dini, a 2004 Tiger alum, winning a gold ball has been a process nearly two decades in the making. After losing in the 2004 sectional semifinals while battling a 103-degree fever, Dini went on to Boston University where she set a national record for three-point shooting. She then played pro ball on the European circuit before returning to Section 1 as a coach at Briarcliff and Somers before settling in at her alma mater where she scored over 1,000 points in three years.

"Nothing compares to this," Dini said. "It's by far my finest basketball moment. I wouldn't trade helping these girls win a gold ball for anything in the world. These girls are my extended family. People don't see what goes on, on and off the court with these girls. We just beat Gina Maher's team, and she's the best, like family to me, too.

This group had to work hard to beat her team... I'm literally shaking right now."

There were many members of the community shaking, too, when sophomore G Amanda Orlando went down after a mean collision with Irvington senior C Grace Thy-

bulle, twice her size and then some. When the feisty Orlando went down in agony, the Tigers rallied around their family member and decided to dedicate the game to her.

"We all said in the huddle we're doing this for Amanda," Dini said. "I held her hand and told her 'We're going to win this for you'. Alex Waters comes in and defends and doubles and did exactly what we needed her to do."

The players -- a blend of experience and youth -- were stirred but undeterred.

"We definitely were nervous, we thought

it might affect us a bit," said junior All-Tournament selection Arianna Stockinger, who drained the game-sealing three from the right wing with 1:21 to play. "We did this for Amanda by stepping up our game on both ends of the floor. We deserved this with all the work we put in for it. Coach Dini is one hell of a coach, she prepared us for everything. It's crazy to share this with her and my dad (assistant coach Charlie Stockinger)."

PV senior Kelli Venezia maintained the poise you expect from a senior while delivering the post-season performance of a lifetime.

"It was scary when Amanda went down," said Venezia, the tournament and team MVP. "That was the lowest of the low, we could only go up from there. She's a key player for us and that win was definitely for her. To bring this gold ball when we go see her now is just going to be amazing."

Which is what happened when they finally caught up with Orlando, who came away from the spill without a serious injury and just might suit up in Wednesday's opening round of the state tournament.

For Hen Hud, the Sailors, too, had to win



RAY GALLAGHER/JOSUE ACEVEDO PHOTOS

Hen Hud Coach Ken Sherman congratulates players Kira Varada and Colleen Ryan after winning 1st Section 1 title in girls' hoops history Sunday at County Center.

without a key player in the lineup as junior G Grace Moretti went down with a knee injury that kept her sidelined for the entire second half. However, classmate Mylene Smith made the biggest shot in Hen Hud history when she banked home a lefty scoop-and-one at the line for the final margin with 12 seconds left.

What she might not have realized is just how much that shot meant to Coach Sherman, perhaps the most Hen Hud guy in existence. Beloved throughout the community, 'Sherm' bleeds the blue and white. So, just like Dini, his loyalty to his alma mater is unquestioned. You can tell by his relationship with his players that he's the father of several girls. He knows what buttons to push and when to peel back, and his blue-collar kids will run through walls for him, according to Sailor G Colleen Ryan.

"Coach Sherm makes this experience 100 times better with his locker room talks and his energy that fires everyone else up," the feisty, fun-loving sophomore said. "I am so glad I will get to play with him all four years of my high school career. He truly is an amazing coach!"

In conclusion, the buzz at the Westchester County Center was back last week as 13 gold balls went out during 26 title tilts, and Section 1 hoops was back where it belongs after a one-year hiatus. All the usual suspects were out in force: from my man 'County Center Keith', to JR the Mailman, to DJ Diz, to Booby and Frank from Mahopac, to the Voice of Section 1 Rich Leaf, to all my boys in the media... to many to mention. But if you hang out at the County Center each and every March (or Pace University depending upon circumstances), you know they'll be there and you love seeing them in their element, rooting on student athletes they'll never see again in most cases. It's Section 1 basketball at its finest, an event unlike anything else.



Put Valley senior Kelli Venezia sets up a hug with Coach Kristi Dini that was 15 years in the making after Tigers reached finals Tuesday.



PV senior Kelli Venezia and Coach Kristi Dini unleash emotions after Tigers reached first Section 1 title game since 2007 last Tuesday.



# Pretty Gritty!

Hendrick  
Hudson Grinds  
out 1st Section 1  
Class A Title;  
Sailors  
#Legacized as  
Champs



JOSUE ACEVEDO PHOTOS

It took the perfect blend of senior grit and youthful exuberance for the 2020 Hendrick Hudson Sailors to cement their legacy as the only team in program history to hoist the illustrious gold ball after Coach Ken Sherman's second-seeded erased a fourth-quarter deficit and knocked off fourth-seeded Harrison, 46-45, to snag the Section 1 Class A girls' basketball championship at the Westchester County Center last Sunday when sophomore Colleen Ryan and junior Kira Varada kicked off the post-game festivities before the emotional Sailors posed with the gold ball... see Girls Hoops Notebook



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