



The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER Examiner

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



FREE

March 17 - March 23, 2020

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 12, Issue 534

Closures, Precautionary Measures Abound Local Municipalities, Schools React to Virus Pandemic

By Rick Pezzullo

Local municipalities, school districts and community leaders are taking strong steps to combat the potential spread of the coronavirus.

On Friday, the Yorktown Town Board passed a resolution declaring a State of Emergency in the town from March 13 to April 12 after it was revealed a Yorktown resident was diagnosed with COVID-19. Cortlandt also declared a State of Emergency Friday. Westchester

County made the same declaration Monday.

It was reported that a 90-year-old woman living at the Bethel Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Cortlandt tested positive for COVID-19. She's currently quarantined at New York Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital.

The Lakeland, Peekskill and Somers school districts each reported having either a student, parent or other individual that came in contact with someone with COVID-19.

As of Monday afternoon, 950 people have tested positive for COVID-19 in New York State—220 of whom are from Westchester.

All school districts were ordered by the state to close schools for at least the next two weeks. Area libraries and senior citizen centers and facilities have also shut their doors. Restaurants have been forced to only operate through take-out orders, while some business owners, such as Louie Lanza in



Empty shelves in supermarkets have become a common sight since the coronavirus crisis has struck.

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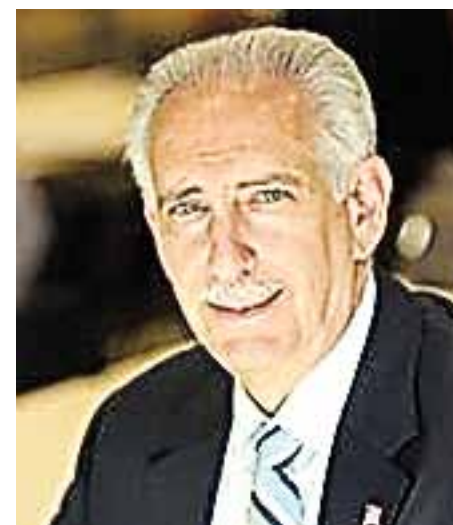
DA Warns Public to Beware Coronavirus Scammers

By Martin Wilbur

Westchester County District Attorney Anthony Scarpino warned residents to be wary of various scams targeting growing fears surrounding coronavirus.

Scarpino also was investigating last week at least two e-mails that were directed at a member of the Jewish community in New Rochelle, the epicenter for COVID-19 in the metropolitan area, that included wording that could be considered anti-Semitic.

"There are scams out there dealing with vaccines for the virus, masks, gloves, all the items, hand sanitizers, that we're having trouble getting, and they'll make deliveries to you if you provide them with the money and, of course, they're not providing



Anthony Scarpino

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St. Patrick's Day Cheers

The Village of Buchanan was able to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a parade on March 8 before the coronavirus wiped out all other local parades. **For more photos, see page 13.**



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Local Municipalities, Schools React to Virus Pandemic

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Peekskill, have opted to close their establishments.

"We are clearly dealing with an unprecedented situation," said Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater.

"Our society faces a challenge ahead of us that can only be compared to what was faced when wartime provisions were enacted in our Nation. Like then, we will overcome this. It may not be overnight – but it will be together," said Westchester County Executive George Latimer. "We must ensure we are doing all we can do to protect all who live in this great county."

Last Thursday at a press conference at Yorktown Town Hall, Slater was joined by Lakeland School Superintendent Dr. George Stone and Yorktown School Superintendent Dr. Ron Hattar and other town officials. Spelled out were procedures already in place aimed at curtailing all meetings in town facilities, practicing daily disinfecting programs and postponing regional sports activities.

On Monday, Slater issued emergency executive orders closing all town playground, ball fields and swimming pools. In addition, all supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience stores and warehouse clubs were ordered to establish meaningful daily shopping times of no less than 30 minutes that are reserved for senior citizens and individuals with respiratory ailments or compromised immunity. The

We are clearly dealing with an unprecedented situation.'

—Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater

notice of the special shopping times must be conspicuously posted by the affected businesses on their premises.

"Just as our state and national leaders are taking aggressive measures to stop the spread of the novel coronavirus, we must do the same locally," Slater said. "We are committed to working with our local businesses to protect the welfare of our most vulnerable residents."

Peekskill Mayor Andre Rainey stated the National Guard visited the city Friday.

"I encourage families to stay home if you're sick, continue to sanitize and wash your hands and avoid traveling if possible," Rainey stated. "Parades and shows at the Paramount Theater will be postponed until further notice. The Youth Bureau, the Kiley Youth Center and the Public library will also be closed until April 14, depending on the spread of the virus. Large gatherings are now prohibited so we ask everyone to be mindful of events you may attend that are not cancelled."

In the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, all senior programs and recreation classes have been cancelled until further notice.

In addition, the Recreation Department and Town Hall is closed to public access. The staff is available to help via telephone or email. The Village of Ossining took similar actions.

Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi announced all Town Board, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals meetings, as well as council and committee meetings, would be cancelled until the end of March.

Chief of the Yorktown Police Robert Noble said last week his department has been getting calls from people concerned with the spread of the virus. "We're not

getting an overabundance of calls and we don't have a hard count. But the public should know we're open 24/7, he said, adding daily information was on town and police department Facebook pages and other social media," he said.

Stone said all schools and buses in the district were being thoroughly disinfected on a daily basis. He said arrangements are being worked out with district food services to get meals to children who receive free or reduced lunches.

Hattar said the district started taking proactive steps early January as an influenza precaution. "As COVID-19 came to the forefront, we started daily disinfection of all schools – classrooms, office space and communal spaces," Hattar said.

Sergio Esposito, President of the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce, encouraged Yorktown residents to patronize local businesses. "We are also monitoring the tax relief incentives that congress will be implementing," Esposito said.



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DrChaterji



Q: What stage is my cancer?

A: Breast cancer stages are represented on a scale of 0 to 4, with 4 being the most serious. Stage 0, also called ductal carcinoma in situ, means that your cancer is contained in a milk duct and has a low risk of spreading. Stage 4 breast cancer means the cancer has spread to other parts of your body. If your cancer is stage 4, seeking treatment immediately may improve your outcome and ultimate quality of life.

Q: How do I decide whether a lumpectomy or mastectomy is the best option?

A: More often than not, you will choose the type of surgery you feel most comfortable with. The survival data of lumpectomy with radiation is equivalent to that of a mastectomy, so we've learned that more surgery is not necessarily better.

Q: How soon does surgery need to be done?

A: Typically, we try to operate within a month of a diagnosis – you don't have to decide immediately. You can learn about breast cancer, understand your options, and then make a decision you're comfortable with. A woman's gut feeling is most important. My patients often ask me, "What would you do?" But it's not about me – it's what the woman wants and what makes sense for her, her family, and her life.

Q: How do I choose a surgeon?

A: Seek a fellowship-trained breast surgeon. These are surgeons who, after their residency, do a fellowship specific to oncologic breast surgery. At Northern Westchester Hospital, we work as a team to care for you through surgery, medical oncology, radiation oncology, genetics and plastic surgery.

Q: How can I find support during this difficult time?

A: Northern Westchester Hospital's Bruce and Andrea Yablon Cancer Health and Wellness Program provides supportive care and holistic treatments that complement medical treatment. You can choose free integrative medicine services, including reiki, acupuncture, massage, nutrition planning, fitness and exercise plans, mindful wellness and emotional support, and a survivorship program.

We also partner with Support Connection, a group that offers free emotional, social and educational support services to women and their families and friends affected by breast and ovarian cancer. I encourage my patients to take part in these programs. The support enables women to help each other and empowers them to become their own health care advocates.

Westchester DA Warns Public of Scammers

Continued from page 1

them," Scarpino said.

While it may seem far-fetched that anyone might fall for the rip-off, often sent to people via e-mail, the district attorney said all the scam artists need is a one percent success rate and their efforts prove profitable.

Although there have been no reports of scams as of late last week in Westchester, Scarpino said because the county has been in the national news as a result of the cluster of COVID-19 cases in New Rochelle, he expects swindlers to descend on the county and play on people's anxieties.

He cautioned residents not to open e-mails if they don't know the person or entity that is sending them and never to send money or provide credit card, bank account numbers and personal information to anyone you don't know.

"You have to be careful because this is a priority for the scammers to move in, and this is their job," Scarpino said. "This is what they do every day."

People are urged to call their local police department or the district attorney's office if they are a victim of a scam or learn of any operations.

Hate Investigations

Scarpino said his office's Hate Crimes Unit is working with local law enforcement to find out the person or group responsible for targeting a person who tested positive for COVID-19 in New Rochelle.

Since the initial reports of the virus in Westchester stemmed from people affiliated with a synagogue in that community, investigators are being vigilant that this could continue, he said.

Scarpino said the threats are not widespread, but he wanted to highlight the concern to the general public in case there are additional cases that come to light.

"There are people in all communities that are struggling with all sorts of personal issues, all sorts of demons, all sorts of mental health issues and the internet, they believe, provides some kind of anonymity, but it doesn't always," he said. "We're trying to track down where that's coming from."

Criminal Justice System to Operate

While there may be various accommodations made to protect the public and personnel, Scarpino said in his briefing to the media last Thursday that essential court proceedings will continue. Ultimately, all decisions regarding the operation of the courts statewide will be made by the Office

of Court Administration.

"We have to handle the emergency when a person is arrested, that has to be handled almost immediately," Scarpino said.

He didn't rule out other measures such as changes of venue to areas of the state that could be less impacted by coronavirus or postponements of less serious crimes.

"I want the people to know that the district attorney's office is up and its operational, law enforcement is up and operational, it's not having any impact in regards to our investigations and our prosecutions and we are concerned about the health and welfare of our own workers and the community at large," Scarpino said.



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Modell's Sporting Goods Stores to Close after Bankruptcy

By Rick Pezzullo

The two Modell's Sporting Goods stores in northern Westchester will be closing after the nation's oldest family-owned and operated retailer of sporting goods, athletic footwear, active apparel and fan gear announced last week it had voluntarily filed for bankruptcy.

All Modell's stores, including one in the Cortlandt Town Center and one in Mount Kisco, will initiate store closing liquidation sales of sporting goods equipment,

footwear, team apparel and active apparel to sports fans and will continue its online sales during the bankruptcy process.

"Over the past year, we evaluated several options to restructure our business to allow us to maintain our current operations. While we achieved some success, in partnership with our landlords and vendors, it was not enough to avoid a bankruptcy filing amid an extremely challenging environment for retailers," Modell's Chief Executive Officer, Mitchell Modell, said.

"We are extremely appreciative of the

support that our lenders (JP Morgan Chase and Wells Fargo), vendors and landlords provided during this difficult period, engaging in extensive renegotiation efforts and allowing us to pursue every possible avenue to preserve the jobs of our loyal associates," Modell continued. "I want to thank each and every one of our associates for their support over the years and our

customers for their historic support of Modell's. This is certainly not the outcome I wanted, and it is one of the most difficult days of my life. But I believe liquidation

provides the greatest recovery for our creditors."

Modell's has been engaged in discussions with its financial creditors and has been exploring a recapitalization of the business through a potential sale of some or all of its assets or an equity investment.

Modell's is the third large retailer in recent months in the Cortlandt Town Center to depart, following Dress Barn and Pier I Imports, both of whom also filed for bankruptcy.



24 Hour Fitness Opens

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held Saturday for a new 24 Hour Fitness center in the space formerly occupied by Sears at the Jefferson Valley Mall. Unfortunately, it was forced to close Monday, as were all area fitness facilities, due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Yorktown Funeral Home Addresses Coronavirus

Yorktown Funeral Home, located in Shrub Oak, has announced accommodation for its clients and friends which addresses current Coronavirus concerns.

In a letter to clients and friends, Anthony Guarino, Funeral Director, said: "From the very outset of our offering funeral services to the Upper Westchester and Putnam communities, our slogan has been, 'Where the Difference Is in the Caring,' and never has that message been more significant than today.

"At Yorktown Funeral Home, we take the comfort, welfare and health of our families and guests

very seriously," he continued. "With the onset of COVID-19 (Coronavirus), we are closely monitoring CDC guidelines as they are refreshed, adhering to the strictest of guidelines that ensure the health and safety of all our visitors. In this challenging time, we are doing our part to go above and beyond in order keep our facilities safe."

As an example, Mr. Guarino stated that his facility has increased the frequency of sanitizing all surfaces, as well as handles and doorknobs. Also, for those who are at risk and prefer not to be in a public setting, Yorktown

Funeral Home is offering private live streaming of wakes and funerals for family and friends to view from home.

"We are hopeful that this situation will be short lived and that we can all feel comfortable once again about on-site attendance in the near future," Mr. Guarino continued. "In the meantime, we commit to serving our community's funeral needs in the safest way possible."

For more information, Mr. Guarino invites members of the community to contact Yorktown Funeral Home directly at: 914-962-0700.

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Somers Town Board Condemns Recent Anti-Semitic Incidents

By Neal Rentz

In reaction to the recent incidents of swastikas being found at Somers High School and other acts of hate, the Somers Town Board voted unanimously March 12 to support a resolution condemning anti-Semitic hate crimes.

Prior to the early March swastikas being found, in January 2019 a swastika was discovered written on a chair in the school library. 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.

"These acts are unacceptable," Supervisor Rick Morrissey said of the recent anti-Semitic acts locally and elsewhere in the state.

The resolution stated, in part, the United States was founded on the principals of religious freedom and the right for all citizens to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Contrary to those principals, there has been a significant increase in anti-Semitic incidents throughout the United States, but particularly in the Hudson Valley region of the



PHOTO BY NEAL RENTZ

The Somers Town Board at its March 12 meeting

state, the resolution stated.

"The Town of Somers takes pride in its democracy, enriched by people of differing religions, races, sexual orientations, gender identities, abilities, ages, places of birth and origin," the resolution stated.

"The Town Board considers it our moral obligation and obligation as the elected representa-

tives of the community to work with other community leaders to condemn acts of hate against the Jewish community and all who are targeted for their differences," the resolution stated.

The town is committed to upholding and the civil and human rights of all, the resolution stated. The town condemns the acts of anti-Semitism "and im-

plores public officials to confront the realities of anti-Semitism and speak out against it, that never again will a large-scale movement be taken against Jewish people or any group because of their differences," the resolution stated.

"There is no place for hate in the Town of Somers," the resolution stated.

Councilman Anthony Ciriaco

said "it boggles my mind" that individuals continue to commit acts of hate.

Councilman Richard Clinchy said "people come from all over the world" seeking to become Americans. Acts of hate are "not what this country stands for," he said, noting it is important that the Town Board expresses its outrage about acts of hate.

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Ossining School District Thanks Harckham for Playground

More than 100 fifth grade students, joined by Dr. Ray Sanchez, superintendent of the Ossining Union Free School District, and Michelle Grier, principal of the Roosevelt Elementary School, showed their gratitude to State Senator Pete Harckham at a special ceremony last week for his work in securing a \$160,000 state grant to build a new playground behind the school.

A big banner the students created and all signed was presented to Harckham as part of their thank you for his help.

"For young students needing to let off some steam and enjoy part of the school day outside of the classroom, nothing beats a good playground," said Harckham. "Plus, maintaining a healthy diet and being physically active are good habits to get into while young, so that's what makes a new playground a smart investment, and I'm happy to partner with Ossining schools to see it through."

Added Harckham, "What makes this even more special is that the students chose the structure by vote of the student council from two designs. I applaud their leadership."

Currently, there are no physi-



PHOTO BY CATHERINE FERRIS

State Senator Peter Harckham with Ossining students and educators at Roosevelt Elementary School

cal structures for students to use at the playground behind the school, other than a basketball court. The new playground equipment will be age-appropriate, and the project as a whole will include painting and asphaltting. It is expected the area will be used for physical education classes as well.

"We thank Senator Harckham for the funds he secured for our new playground at Roosevelt School," said Sanchez. "This space will continue to support our efforts to address the well-being of our children."

The ceremony took place inside the cafeteria at the Roosevelt

school, where Harckham first met with members of the school's student leadership council and answered questions about government service and his career. The students are in the midst of prepping for a debate, and Harckham also was asked for some "tips" about how to frame—and win—an argument.

Grier remarked, "During a recent school-wide student survey, many students expressed that they would like to have more options for play at recess. So, thank you to Senator Harckham for securing the funds needed to provide more options for students.

While our current cohort will be off to middle school before our new playground is installed, the students are happy to have played such a significant role in advocating for and selecting the new playground design that will benefit future students for many years to come."

Last year, Harckham was able to obtain \$400 million in educational aid for the 40th Senate District, an increase of almost \$10.5 million from the previous year's educational aid. More importantly, he was able to step and gain \$10 million for Ossining to meet the gap in its Foundation Aid. He

later introduced legislation to get the state Department of Education to review how foundation aid calculations end up as shortfalls in some Westchester schools, like Ossining.

Although Harckham does not represent the Town of Ossining, there are a number of school-age residents in the Town of Yorktown and Town of New Castle, which are part of the 40th Senate District, who have the opportunity to attend the Ossining public schools.

Harckham promised to return for the new playground's ribbon-cutting ceremony.

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It's Time for All of Us to Do Our Part to Fight the Coronavirus

By Dr. Laura Korin

As a physician, I'm not an alarmist. Most physicians aren't. By our training, we learn to check ourselves and remain calm in the face of a crisis.

But I'm here to sound the alarm, or rather, to join in with other physicians sounding the alarm about the coronavirus (COVID-19). First from Wuhan, then Italy, and more recently the U.S.

I am a primary care physician, the person you trust to guide you to better health and help you recover from illness, the shoulder to cry on, someone who cheers you on in your efforts to improve your life. I hope you will heed my words.

I am in contact with thousands of physicians across the country and the world. Our message is simple: stay home! We are not asking you to panic. We are asking you to take our warnings and instructions seriously and help us save your life and the life of others.

We are scared. We have learned how bad the situation can get from physicians in other countries, as well as heartbreaking accounts from my colleagues in the Seattle area, who are forced to make painful decisions.

In the United States, health professionals have little to no access to protective equipment and are beginning to fall ill. Physicians, other healthcare providers, first responders, janitorial staff, are literally risking their own lives while battling for yours and doing so without proper equipment. Stay home!



Also, I can't believe I have to write this, but please stop stealing masks, hand sanitizers, gloves from your doctors' offices or hospitals. I get it, you're scared, but our supplies are severely limited and they won't help you as much as they will us. Don't you want us around to help you or your loved one if one of you is ill?

Also, don't lie about your symptoms to get through the screening process because you want to be tested but your symptoms are mild and you were recommended to stay home. Now you've exposed everyone in your path, including the clinical staff trying to care for the critically ill, and you might not get tested anyway. There is a limited supply of test kits, and not everyone qualifies for testing.

Despite what you may have heard, not everyone can get the test, even if the doctor wants to test you. Hopefully, this will change soon. I'd love to test everyone, then we'd really get a sense of the impact here, but we can't yet.

If you are sick, definitely stay home and contact a medical professional first to see if you need to be seen. Only go to the emergency room if you are having an emergency. Look at your local health department website for links and information about what to do if you get sick and how to prepare your home.

Other than that, please stop traveling, meeting up with friends, having parties or playdates, going to the gym, going to bars. I understand that your children may be frustrated by the realities of social distancing and interruptions of their normal activi-

ties. But the school closures will accomplish nothing if you continue with gatherings, small or large.

The symptoms of coronavirus take days to manifest themselves. Someone who comes over looking well can transmit the virus. It's okay to take go outside for walks, runs, biking (and you should, it's a great stress reliever), but maintain distance, ideally six feet between people outside your family.

Call your friends and check in with your older neighbors to see if they need something while you are (sparingly) going to the grocery store or pharmacy. Take care of each other, just don't hang out with each other. Continue to cover your cough and wash your hands, but that alone is not enough. Stay home!

Early and aggressive social distancing can flatten the curve, not overwhelm our healthcare system and eventually may reduce the length and need for longer periods of extreme social distancing later, which is what has occurred in Italy and Wuhan. We all need to do our part during these times, no matter the difficulties. I hope one day you can tell us we overreacted, then that means we all did our part.

Many people are literally risking their own lives while fighting for yours. Please stay home. It is the absolute least you can do.

Laura Korin, MD, MPH, is a family physician and preventive medicine/public health physician who trained at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. She practices at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx. She was raised in Pleasantville and continues to have close ties to the village.

Letters to the Editor

Virus Forces Us to Face Our Own Vulnerability

Dear Friends,

The recent global outbreak of COVID-19 has created much uncertainty, anxiety, and fear in the international community.

Firstly, we would like to send blessings of health to anybody who has been affected by the virus. May they experience a smooth and complete recovery!

Many are grappling with the loss of a sense of certainty that has now become part of our lives. Plans are up in the air, businesses are struggling, and so much of our daily routines have been disrupted.

This can be a powerful teachable moment for our children as they observe how we react. They can see our resilience and how we are making the best of the situation. They can see that despite our fears, we are strengthening our trust and faith in G-d that He will protect us and our families. They can see us remaining positive and optimistic in

the face of difficulty and challenge.

For ourselves, it can be a moment to consider the fact that while we feel that we have lost our sense of certainty, in truth we never had it to begin with. What we have lost is our illusion of certainty. While we are apt to think that we are in control of our futures, in truth it is only G-d who is ultimately in control. World events such as these force us to face our own vulnerability.

While this can feel very anxiety provoking, it can also be very liberating. We were in G-d's hands all along, and continue to be. Let us keep the faith that all that happens is according to His plan. There is meaning, purpose and design to every event. Let us embrace the fact that while we can control some things, like taking proper health precautions and following CDC guidelines, we cannot control everything. After we finish doing our part, we can rest calmly with

absolute faith that whatever happens is exactly what is supposed to happen.

The Torah teaches us that whenever confronted with a challenging situation, our acts of goodness and kindness can generate positive energy from Above to combat the negativity. Consider performing an additional good deed in the merit of world health and stability. Reach out to a friend or neighbor in need of support. Check in on any elderly people you may know and make sure they have what they need. Recite Psalms daily (recommended chapters: 20, 23, 121, 130). Set aside a box for charity and place some coins into it daily.

As a community, we will get through this!

With prayers for protection, healing and good news for all,

RABBI YEHUDA HEBER
Chabad of Yorktown

Aviation Unit Rescues Man Stuck in Marsh off Croton Park

The Westchester County Police Aviation Unit last week rescued a hiker who became stuck in thigh-high mud and tall grass today in a marshy area off Croton Point Park.

The man, who was not visible from shore and could not be removed on land, was pulled out of the mud by Aviation Unit personnel and brought aboard Air 3, one of the Aviation Unit's helicopters. The helicopter then landed in a parking area and turned the man over to waiting EMS personnel, where he was treated for exposure and a laceration to his hand.

The incident began when Parks Department staff advised that a man was stuck in the marsh, where tall grasses and reeds towered above his head. A Parks Department worker could hear the man calling for help and was able to get close to him, but the marshy terrain was too unstable for rescuers to safely extricate him and carry him out.

The 41-year-old man had apparently been hiking along the Hudson River shoreline when the tide started to come in. He sank in the mud when he tried to cut through the marsh to stay on dry land.

Patrol and Emergency Services officers from the Westchester County Police, along

with firefighters from the Croton-on-Hudson fire department, initially responded to attempt a rescue. The Westchester County Police Aviation and Marine Units also responded. Officers aboard the Marine Unit patrol boat were also unable to see the man or get close enough to rescue him.

Aviation located the man and the helicopter's pilot lowered the aircraft into the marsh, navigating through the reeds and hovering only a few feet above the muddy terrain. As the helicopter hovered, officers were able to pull the man out of the mud and bring him aboard.

"Our Aviation Unit did a tremendous job today under challenging circumstances. I commend Police Officer-Pilot Richard Pucillo, Officer Sean Lonergan and Detective Israel Lopez for the proficiency and skill they demonstrated in making this rescue," Commissioner Thomas A. Gleason said.

The commissioner thanked all agencies that assisted at the scene, including the Westchester County parks department, Croton-on-Hudson Police Department, Croton-on-Hudson Fire Department, Croton EMS and Ossining Volunteer Ambulance Corps.



Families Displaced by Fire

Five families were displaced last week after a fire broke out at 1214 Main Street in Peekskill, across from the Peekskill Central Fire Station. When firefighters arrived, flames were visible out of the second-floor windows of the two-story, multi-family dwelling. Children home on the second floor were able to exit the home safely. The fire took about an hour to bring under control. Because of the intensity of the fire, four firefighters were transported to the hospital with minor injuries and smoke inhalation.

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Obituaries

Louise Murphy

Louise Murphy, a resident of Yorktown, died March 11, 2020. She was 87.

Mrs. Murphy was born in 1932 in the Bronx to her parents, Dominick and Frances, and grew up in City Island. She married John C. Murphy in 1955 and remained happily married for 35 years until her husband's passing in 1989. She worked for several years as the tax librarian for General Foods in White Plains. She then pursued her love for children working in the Ardsley and Yorktown school districts. The most important thing in the world to Louise was her family and the love she felt for them.

She is survived by five children: Steven Murphy (PJ), Jeanne Quagliano (Steven), Donna Fridholm (Christian), Karen O'Connor (Donald), and Paul Murphy. She adored her 10 grandchildren and their spouses, Kevin O'Connor (Maria), Ryan O'Connor (Anna), Michael Quagliano (Jane), Brian Fridholm (Laura), Matthew Murphy, Kelly Fridholm (Mike), Kathryn Bombard (Chris), Kasey O'Connor, Shea Murphy and McKenna Murphy. In recent years she was blessed with six great grandchildren, Mia, Caroline,

Liv, Jack, George and Emmie.

Robert McArthur

Robert J. "Bob" McArthur, a resident of Cortlandt, died March 7. He was 71.

He was born in Yonkers on August 30, 1948 to Donald and Mary Virginia McArthur. He graduated from Archbishop Stepinac High School in 1966 and married JoAnn Milano on November 26, 1977.

Mr. McArthur had a lifelong love for cars that led him to the sport of drag racing and restoring classic cars. He had a keen eye for art and design which was evident in the cars he restored and the home he renovated. His passion for cars started in Yonkers where he worked and owned an auto body shop followed by a 25-year career with the NYPD as an auto mechanic for police cars, motorcycles, and scooters. He was promoted to Supervisor of Auto Mechanics, a position he held until his retirement. He loved the comradery of the men he worked with and was proud of his time on the job.

He was a devoted and loving husband, father, and grandfather. When something needed repair, he fixed it (usually immediately), even if it was your heart. He was ever encouraging and often the person people thought of first when they needed advice. He loved life, lived every moment to its fullest, and loved to laugh—a bellowing and joyful laugh that filled every room.

Mr. McArthur was a founding and long-

time member of the Grateful support group, known to those among him as "Big Book Bob." He is survived by his wife JoAnn, daughters Allyson Ramsey (Matthew), Amanda Gawron (Marc), Nancy Jean Harrison, son Robert A. McArthur, brother Donald F. McArthur, sister Mary Nancy DiLeo, and three grandchildren, Sarah, Julia and Milana.

Margaret Kelleher

Margaret "Edie" Kelleher, a resident of Yorktown, died March 6. She was 87.

She was born July 25, 1932 in Galway, Ireland to Bernard and Sarah Kelly. She came to America when she was 18 years old and married James Kelleher on October 19, 1957. Edie loved the little things in life, especially spending time with her family. She enjoyed volunteering for her church, spending time gardening and baking, and making anyone who crossed her path happy. She was a devoted and loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She always had something freshly baked to send home with one of her kids or grandchildren. She was so proud of her family and her Irish heritage. She will be so missed.

She is survived by her devoted husband James, and loving children: Brian (Geraldine), Patricia, James (Christine), Laura (Greg). She was predeceased by her son Stephen and her brothers Liam and Mikey. She is also survived by her cherished 10 grandchildren: Kerri (Davide), Sean, Stephen, Timothy, Sarah (Mark), Andrew, Stephen, Christina, Gregory and William, two beloved great grandchildren: Ronan and Declan and her siblings, Maureen Martin and Nula Brain.

Gertrude Schwartz

Gertrude Schwartz, a resident of Somers, died peacefully March 11 at home. She was 88.

She was born in Albany on April 17, 1931 to George and Gertrude Lynch. She was an

attorney in private practice in Family Law in Mt. Kisco.

She is survived by her husband: Dr. Robert Schwartz, MD; her son: Stephen and his wife Kathryn and grandsons: Clancy and Liam.

Patricia James

Patricia Mary James, a resident of Verplanck, died March 10. She was 85.

She was born April 21, 1934 to Louis H. and Patricia Mary (Palmer) Conklin in Peekskill. She was married to her beloved husband George F. James for 65 years. He passed away on March 8, 2019. Mrs. James loved the Peanuts characters, especially, Charlie Brown, Snoopy and Woodstock.

She is survived by her loving son, Joseph P. James of Wappingers Falls; and caring sisters, MaryLou Caccetta of Nelsonville, NY and Joan Clauss of Cold Spring.

Antoinette Bousquet

Antoinette Victoria Bousquet, formerly of Ossining, died March 13. She was 92.

She was born in North Tarrytown on November 26, 1927, to Anthony and Libera Ricciardella. After raising her family and working as a secretary for many years, she went back to school to become a nurse. She had been a private duty LPN for many years until she retired.

She is survived by her children: Diane (Frank) O'Connor of Chesapeake City, MD; Frederick (Lorraine) Bohlig, Jr. of Valrico, FL and Libera (Michael) Bierce of Brewster. She was also the loving grandmother of 10 and great-grandmother of 14. Also surviving are her sisters Lucy DiMuro of Tarrytown and Rose Santucci of Ossining as well as many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her first husband Frederick Bohlig and her second husband John Bousquet. She was also predeceased by her siblings Gloria Frasca, Mary Candala, Angelina Pagnozzi, Josephine Ryder and Michael Ricciardella.

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Business of the Week

By Neal Rentz

Cortlandt resident Edward Pittman was a New York City police officer for 20 years, but felt he was not making enough money.

Pittman recalled last week that he decided to add to his regular income. "I started selling blinds as a side gig," he said. "It just snowballed from there."

Pittman's latest business venture is Homescape Kitchen & Bath, which held its grand opening on November 1.

A wide variety of items are sold at Homescape including kitchen and bath cabinetry, tile, stone, countertops and window treatments, Pittman said.

The items purchased at Homescape are installed by contractors, Pittman said.

Pittman said while most of his customers live in northern Westchester County and Putnam County, "We do have clients in lower Westchester and New York City."

Pittman said he chose to locate his new business on Route 6 in Mohegan Lake because it is "a good



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Cortlandt resident Edward Pittman is the owner of Homescape Kitchen & Bath in Mohegan Lake, which had its grand opening on Nov. 1.

traffic area."

Pittman is active in the community. He is a member of the Peekskill-Cortlandt Chamber of Commerce and the Peekskill Rotary Club. "When you move up in success you just want to give back to the community," he said.

Pittman explained why his businesses have been successful.

"Just had work and honesty" have been keys, he said. "If you're good to the customer they're good to you. The word of mouth is great."

Pittman said he enjoys his line of work. He said he likes to "see the satisfaction in the customer's face when they see the beauty of the products once they're installed."

Homescape Kitchen & Bath Mohegan Lake

Homescape Kitchen & Bath is located at 1759 E. Main St. (Route 6) in Mohegan Lake. For more information, call 914-526-4000. Homescape is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays

and Fridays; on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The store is closed on Sundays and Wednesdays.



100 Years Young

Mohegan Lake resident Josephine Castaldo celebrated her 100th birthday on March 8. Born in Brusciano, Italy, she immigrated to the United States in 1954. She worked as a seamstress on 34th Street in NYC for 30 years. The mother of three and grandmother of five, she lives with her son Carmine, daughter-in-law Teresa and granddaughter Elizabeth. She is pictured with her great-grandson Cameron Castaldo.

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WHAT THE SHUTDOWN AND DECOMMISSIONING OF INDIAN POINT ENERGY CENTER WILL MEAN FOR OUR AREA.

The nuclear power plants at Indian Point have powered New York City and Westchester County for nearly 60 years. Now, due to challenging economic conditions and an agreement with the state of New York, Indian Point will stop generating electricity and permanently shut down by April 2021.

After shutdown Indian Point will transition to decommissioning, a federally-regulated process that will ultimately return the land to a new productive use. Entergy has taken the first step by selecting a leading decommissioning company as our partner, Holtec International.

Here are a few things New Yorkers should know about the Holtec plan:

Decades Sooner — With Holtec, decommissioning will begin immediately, allowing the site to be repurposed as much as 40 years sooner than if Entergy were to remain the owner of Indian Point. Holtec's plan calls for completion of major decommissioning activities by the 2030s, decades sooner than it would take Entergy to complete decommissioning.

Decommissioning Expertise — Holtec and its expert team have decades of experience managing large decommissioning projects around the world.

Employee Retention — Holtec will begin the decommissioning process promptly upon taking ownership and will provide job opportunities for more than 300 of our current employees who want to remain in the region and continue to work at the site.

Spent Fuel Management — Holtec is the global leader in spent nuclear fuel storage technology and transport. Holtec will transfer all of Indian Point's spent nuclear fuel to secure canisters designed to withstand natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, and other events within about three years of shutdown.

As we work toward an orderly shutdown, safety remains our top priority. Indian Point is ranked in the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's top column for safety and we fully intend to continue our strong safety record over our final months of operation.

The NRC will regulate decommissioning at Indian Point and a citizen's advisory board is already in place. As of today, more than 34 U.S. nuclear plants have safely completed decommissioning or are in the process of doing so. To learn more about Holtec's plan for prompt decommissioning, visit:

www.indianpointdecommissioning.com
www.holtecinternational.com
www.hdi-decom.com

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Fun Activities for Children When Stuck at Home

On rainy days, it can be tempting to hand children devices and let them fall down a YouTube rabbit hole. After all, there can be a lot of hours to fill when you're stuck at home without any plans.

There are better ways to spend those days. With a little creativity, there are opportunities for fun and educational play.

Consider these great ideas from The Genius of Play, an initiative with a mission of raising awareness about the importance of play in order to help parents make it a critical part of raising kids.

- Get messy. Just because you're indoors, doesn't mean there isn't an opportunity for children to satisfy their primal urge to get their hands dirty. Not only do kids love playing with sensory textures such as paints, slime, sand, play dirt and foam, doing so helps improve fine motor skills. The good news? Many such items are now designed to reduce messiness, stickiness and clean up hassles.

- Play games. Break out some classic board games like checkers and dominoes or grab a deck of cards for a round of crazy eights. Such games teach the importance of taking turns and good sportsmanship and can even help children learn to strategize and plan ahead.

- Get dramatic. For an afternoon of open-ended playtime, encourage children to develop their emotional, creative and

communication skills by developing their own skit or play. With so many dress-up kits available, it's easy to maintain a well-stocked costume trunk that kids can use to get inspired. You can also gather up some of their favorite toys to use as props and help bring stories to life.

- Build together. Whether your child prefers following step-by-step instructions or using their imagination, designing, creating and playing with construction toys can build problem-solving, spatial and fine motor skills.

- Design an obstacle course. Children have energy to burn. Building a safe obstacle course for kids to complete is a fun way for them to stay active indoors while building core muscles and developing balance. Pick three to five exercises, like pretending to jump like a frog, army crawling under the table or log rolling from one side of the living room to another and then doing five sit-ups. Practice it for five to 10 minutes, then get to work designing a new one.

- Create a mini lab. Play with Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) toys and games. Use a science kit to erupt a volcano or code a robot to guard the bedroom. These important educational experiences can be fun supplements to classroom learning that help set your child up for future success.

- Make cleanup fun. It may not sound

like "play" at first glance, but clean up can be fun with the right attitude. Crank up favorite tunes and have kids dance as they dust, straighten, put toys away, make the bed and help with chores. Or, make a game of it, racing each other to complete tasks.

For more play tips and inspiration, visit www.thegeniusofplay.org.

Be sure days home from school include playtime, which offers many developmental benefits for children to learn key communication, creative, cognitive, social, emotional and physical skills.

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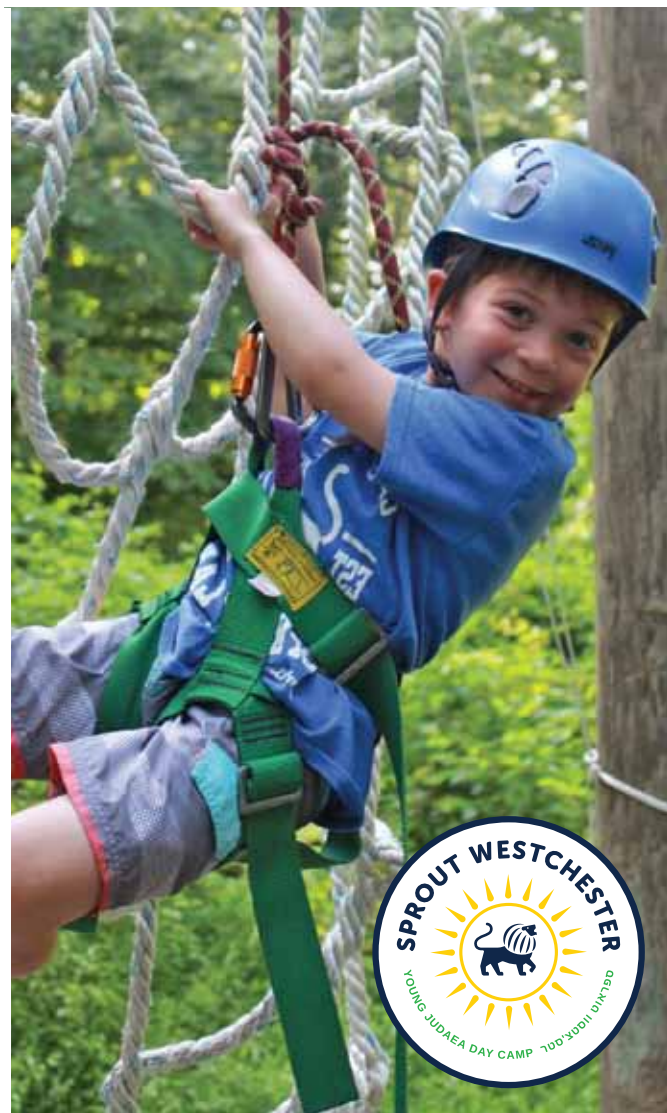
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Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. Crooner, Smith
- 4. Bern's river
- 8. Swindler
- 11. Brad, e.g.
- 12. Meet, as expectations
- 13. Summer colors
- 14. It's found in banks
- 15. "It takes a ____" or Armonk specialty food store, _____ Prime Meats
- 17. Healthy
- 19. Seafood
- 20. Send the troops home
- 22. Dentist's advice
- 26. Elbow's site
- 28. Fix
- 29. You don't have to be a "melophile" to attend this Brewster school, but it helps, Music _____
- 33. Female pronoun
- 34. Boring triplet
- 35. Robin Hood's girl
- 37. St Patrick's place
- 38. Toyota pickup
- 39. It can be less traveled

- 40. Perplexed, at ____
- Down
- 1. Bash
- 2. Saint and a founder of scholasticism
- 3. Madame, for short
- 4. Deer's headgear
- 5. Battery for laser pointers
- 6. Halo
- 7. Otherwise
- 8. Three, they say
- 9. Off-road goer, for short
- 10. Like some roulette numbers
- 16. Chuck
- 18. Abhorred
- 21. Half a bikini
- 23. Positive aspect
- 24. Desert bordering the Red Sea
- 25. African carnivore
- 27. People in charge, abbr.
- 29. "Good buddy"
- 30. Spiced stew
- 31. Rink star Lipinski
- 32. French "water"
- 36. Some midwives, abbr.

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Coronavirus Concerns Visit the Real Estate Industry

A while back, I wrote a column about doorknobs that I thought was comical. It included one of my wife's famous Lithuanian sayings, "I visited my friends only to kiss the doorknob, which translates simply that they were not home. Lithuanians have quaint expressions for nearly everything they do.

But can you imagine anybody kissing a doorknob today, considering that the typical doorknob probably harbors more germs than any other fixture in our homes?

As a realtor, I and my colleagues have been advised this week by the National Association of Realtors (NAR) that the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has been changing the way we should operate in and around homes we are listing for sale or viewing with buyer clients.

According to a new survey just conducted by the association, nearly one in four home sellers nationwide are changing how their home is viewed while that home remains on the market, due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The changes include eliminating open houses from their marketing plans, requiring potential buyers to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer, asking buyers to remove shoes or wear footies and other changes.

The percentage of sellers adopting

these and other changes climbs to 44 percent in Washington state and 34 percent in California, two of the states hardest hit by coronavirus.

The NAR's Economic Pulse Flash Survey, conducted on Mar. 9 and 10, asked questions about how the coronavirus outbreak, including the significant declines in stock market values and mortgage interest rates, has impacted home buyer and seller interest and behavior. Several highlights of the member survey include:

-Thirty-seven percent said lower mortgage rates excited home buyers much more than the stock market correction.

-Almost eight out of 10 (78 percent) said there has been no change in buyer interest due to the coronavirus.

-Sixteen percent said buyer interest has decreased due to coronavirus, with members in California and Washington state citing larger decreases in buyer interest - 21 percent and 19 percent, respectively.

-Nearly nine out of 10 members (87 percent) said coronavirus has not affected the number of homes on the market.

In Washington state and California, 5 percent and 4 percent of members, respectively, reported homes were removed from the market. That figure is 3 percent for members nationwide.

The Home Guru



By Bill Primavera

To me and my real estate colleagues, all relevant news is local, and in checking with my office at William Raveis in Yorktown, I learned that two weeks ago, the number of showings scheduled on Saturday were 34. As I write this on Saturday this week, I've called my office to learn that that number of scheduled showings had dropped dramatically to nine showings and, before the end of the afternoon, four of those had been canceled.

So, hold on to your hats, home sellers and fellow realtors, and let's all hope that the number of coronavirus cases starts declining soon. If not, all we can do is be patient and, most of all, be safe.

Bill Primavera is a realtor associated with William Raveis Real Estate and founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc. (www.PrimaveraPR.com). His real estate site is www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com. To engage the services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

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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(Solution for puzzle on page 19)

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Burgundy: The Impact of History on Today's Prestigious Wines

The wines of France's Burgundy region are famous for their unique aroma and flavor profiles – and their relative scarcity compared to worldwide demand. This imbalance has driven prices of the most famous wines into the collectors-only stratosphere.

To a certain extent, this obsession has obscured the underlying turbulence of the region's roots.

One cannot fully appreciate the wines of Burgundy without an insight into the local culture, passion, geopolitics and, perhaps most of all, its history.

While Burgundy vineyards comprise only one-eighth the land coverage of California vineyards, they are owned or managed by a similar number of growers – approximately 3,000. Do the math: Burgundy vineyards are generally miniscule in size compared to California. But this wasn't always the case. The history of Burgundy is a tale of the ebb and flow of land control over millennia.

For this column, I've condensed the 2,000-year history of this region into four distinct periods. Each has enhanced the quality and appreciation of the fine wines produced in this ancient region.

1. The Romans. Roman troops swept through this area in the fifth century and occupied the land for several centuries,

experimenting with various grapes, eventually concentrating on Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. At the end of the eighth century, King Charlemagne brought the influence of the Roman Catholic Church to much of France, including Burgundy.

As its ruler, he fancied the local red wines and acquired a parcel of land. However, legend tells us that the king had a habit of staining his beard at mealtimes, embarrassing his wife. She preferred that he drink white wine as a kingly alternative. To this day, this parcel of land, Corton-Charlemagne, is an island of Chardonnay in a sea of Pinot Noir.

2. The Dukes of Burgundy. In the 14th century, this warring family conquered and occupied Burgundy with a stranglehold on the local economy for the next 200 years. And Burgundy flourished. However, as the Roman Catholic Church gained influence in France in the 16th century, the House of Burgundy felt the need for the eternal salvation promised by the church. They were convinced that the way to salvation was through spiritual, not financial, wealth. They gradually transferred ownership of much of their Burgundian lands – and vineyards – to their winemakers, the church's emissaries: Benedictine and Cistercian monks.

3. The Monks. It is during this era (the 16th through 18th centuries) that the repu-

tation of Burgundy as a fine winemaking region flourished. The monks were fastidious recordkeepers, diligent laborers and insightful winemakers. They catalogued each inch of land for its natural qualities – soil composition, exposure to the sun, elevation of vineyards – and planted vines accordingly. They perfected ages-old winemaking techniques. They even sold a portion of these sacramental wines to the aristocrats. And then came...

4. The French Revolution. After Louis XVI was dethroned and beheaded, the revolutionaries distributed much of the wealth of the aristocracy and the church to the commoners. With their new and reclaimed holdings, the newly enfranchised winemakers embraced the land and gained worldwide popularity for their wines.

Upon Napoleon's accession to emperor in 1804, his Napoleonic Code further distributed the land of Burgundy to the heirs of its citizens. Generation after generation, the vineyards were continually subdivided amongst the heirs of each succeeding generation, resulting in the hodgepodge of small vineyards that exists today. A number of today's winemakers produce just a few

hundred cases of wine from vineyards only a few rows wide.

What we taste today is the evolution of Burgundy and the culmination of thousands of years of influence and refinement. This is the pure essence of Burgundy. Not solely the grapes or the land, but the echo of ancient footsteps in the vineyards.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 25 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. Nick is a member of the Wine Media Guild of wine writers. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick's credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.

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What we taste today is the evolution of Burgundy and the culmination of thousands of years of influence and refinement.'



By Nick Antonaccio

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RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Putnam Valley freshman Eva DeChent (21) set a school record with 39 points, but due to the Covid-19 scare and the subsequent fan ban next to nobody saw the young phenom lead the state-ranked (No.4) Tigers to a 66-49 NYSPHSAA Class B regional win over visiting Marlboro last Wednesday. Word trickled out early Friday that Sunday's scheduled regional championship game against Section 8's Carle Place and the rest of the NYS tournament, including Hen Hud's Class A regional against Section 4 champion Maine-Endwell, was put on indefinite hold... see Girls' Hoops Notebook

Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook

Putnam Valley Snags 1st Regional Victory, 66-49, over Marlboro

Freshman DeChents Drops 39, Sets New School Record; NYSPHSAA to Determine Course of Action Regarding #COVID-19

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor@Directrays

Eva DeChent isn't supposed to be able to set varsity school records at the age of 14. In fact, freshman school records are rare feats, usually reserved for seasoned veterans of the hardwood.

Yet, DeChent went out and scored 39 points in host Putnam Valley's 66-49 NYSPHSAA Class B regional triumph of Section 9 champion Marlboro last Wednesday night, breaking Coach Kristi Dini's mark of 38 set back in 2004.

With fans banned from state playoff games due to concern over the possible spread of Covid-19, DeChent posted an impressive



Putnam Valley freshman Eva DeChent goes baseline for two of her school record 39 points in 66-49 win over Marlboro.



Tigers Kelli Venezia, Eva DeChent, Alex Waters and Cyera Daughtry walk the walk after knocking off Marlboro in Wednesday's regional win.

double-double, grabbing 12 rebounds, adding four steals and dishing the assist that led to junior Arianna Stickinger's 1,000th career point.

In the school's first regional game ever, DeChent sliced and diced the Marlboro defense, leading the Tigers to their first regional championship game, which was scheduled against Section 8 champion Carle Place last Sunday.

However, with the better part of NYS having declared a state of emergency over the Covid-19 scare, the NYSPHSAA tournament was indefinitely postponed. Administrators are hoping to resume the tournament after the scare dies down, but the prospects of that happening did not appear strong as of press time with Friday's mandate that Putnam County schools close for the week of March 16-20, to be reassessed at week's end.

So, if indeed this was state-ranked (No.4 overall in Class B, No.3 among NYSPHSAA schools) Putnam Valley's final game of the season, the Tigers went out with a bang during a history-making campaign that included the program's first sectional title, a school record 21 wins and DeChent's new single-game scoring mark.

"People don't know it yet, but Eva's a big-time division one basketball



Putnam Valley senior Alex Waters fires J in Tigers' 66-49 regional win over Marlboro Wednesday.



Put Valley junior Arianna Stockinger goes for two of her 15 in Tigers' 66-49 NYS regional win over Section 9 champ Marlboro.

player," Coach Dini said of DeChent, the League III-E MVP. "She's a top-20 scorer in Section 1 as a freshman, and today's she's more upset about a missed free throw and not getting 40 than she is with scoring 39.

"Yeah, she's a stud on both ends of the floor," Dini added. "She's long and can defend and she can score the ball in every way... from the right, from the left, on the perimeter. She's the real deal, a big-time scholarship player, a 2,000-point scorer, and she's stuck with me."

Putnam Valley never trailed Marlboro, which had won back-to-back Section 9 titles, but had no answers on defense. DeChent finished the first half with 21 points, 15 of them coming in the second quarter as Putnam Valley went into the break with a 35-24 lead. Stockinger added 15 points and became the fourth Lady Tiger to score 1,000 points (joining Dini, Christine

continued on next page



Put Valley team poses with Arianna Stockinger to recognize her 1,000th point in regional win over Marlboro last Wednesday.

Sports

#FlattenTheCurve is our New Mantra NYS Hoops Games Postponed for Put Valley, Hen Hud Girls



By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports
Editor @Directrays

Update: Moments before the Examiner was due to go to press Monday, the Section 1 Executive Committee postponed practices, scrimmages and games until March 30th. They will reassess the status of spring sports on that date. Any hope for the resumption of the NYSPHSAA winter championships appears lost at this

point, though it remains a fluid situation.

When the winter preps athletic season began back in November of 2019, nobody's wildest nightmare could have conceived the unfitting outcome to the 2020 sports campaign. Last week, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the incremental worldwide panic, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association suspended its state championships across the board, including basketball, ice hockey and bowling.

Closest to home, the historical girls' basketball seasons of state-ranked (No.4) Class B Putnam Valley and state-ranked (No.15) Class A Hendrick Hudson came to a screeching halt amid howls of disingenuous dissent and disbelief. Heck, nobody wanted this out-

come, but most understood it was inevitable, and we're starting to get the feeling that spring sports may never get past last week's tryout stages.

According to sources, there is a slim chance that NYSPHSAA resumes these winter championships the final week of March when the NYS Federation basketball tournament was scheduled to be played. The association sent an email to the brass at PV and Hen Hud Friday telling them that they are "cautiously optimistic" they can resume, but doomsayers assume this is forlorn hope.

Within a span of 24 hours, the NHL, NBA and MLB had suspended action, and the NCAA cancelled its men's basketball tournament, which generates the most postseason

revenue (roughly \$1.134 billion) this side of the NFL playoffs and Super Bowl (\$1.233 billion). So, nobody should be surprised that NYSPHSAA chose the route it did; doing so in an effort to help minimize the spread of the Coronavirus. Containment means no large

gatherings, no personal contact, etc., etc. It had to be done, much as it sucks.

Necessary steps were taken, beginning with fan bans and then postponement. Heck, I never thought I'd see the day when I said 'I missed the parents' like I did last Wednesday when Put Valley banned fans from attending its Class B regional win over Section 9 champion Marlboro. Things just snowballed from there and the championships were put on

Direct Rays

Putnam Valley Snags 1st Regional Victory, 66-49, over Marlboro *continued from previous page*



Hen Hud senior Caitlin Weimar and the Sailors are hoping their historic season hasn't been cut short by Covid-19 disease.

Kemp, senior teammate Kelli Venezia). Senior Venezia added eight points for the Tigers (21-3), who let Marlboro hang around longer than they should have.

"The first quarter we didn't start off too good, so I knew I had to help my team because we weren't going out of here with a loss today," DeChent said. "I want to win states, so I just pushed as hard as I could to get the win. I just started feeling it. It was weird with nobody here in the gym today, so I knew I had to bring my own energy. It was difficult to play with no fans. I know it killed my dad to have to miss this."

HEN HUD was scheduled to face Section 4 champion Maine-Endwell in the Class A Sailors' first regional game in program history, but, like Putnam Valley, the state-ranked (No.15) Sailors (23-1) remain in a holding pattern.



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Hen Hud Coach Ken Sherman said he couldn't be prouder of the way his players have dealt with the Corona calamity that put season on hold.



Put Valley senior Cyera Daughtry doing what she does best #Grinding in Tigers' Class B regional win over Marlboro.

hold just two days after we celebrated the PV win at Momma Brazee's house (Coach Kristi Dini's mom).

Try explaining that to a group of young ladies like Hen Hud Coach Ken Sherman did with his Sailors, or like Dini did with senior captain Cyera 'Cee' Daughtry, who dealt with multiple concussions, and ankle reconstruction surgery less than a year ago, which involved extensive periods of rehab and physical therapy to prolong her high school career.

These kids are learning first hand that life is anything but fair. Hardships and struggles are part of the journey, which ultimately determine the fate of our youngsters later in life. Dealing with unexpected tribulation is reality, but teenagers should never have to go through an experience like this. They are coping, as best as possible, according to Sherman.

"It has kind of been surreal," Coach Sherman said after guiding the Sailors to a school record 23- win season and the only sectional title in program history. "The wording of

everything to date has been tough. Originally, it was "postponed indefinitely" and now they are "cautiously optimistic", which has probably given our girls some false hope. We are in a holding pattern right now because there is no school Monday or Tuesday, so no practice, and we will just wait and see. It's disappointing for sure, but all things considered the girls are happy they have good health and are very pleased they have made some history at Hen Hud no matter how this season ends."

The Lady Sailors were scheduled to play the first regional game in school history last Friday against Section 4 champion Maine-Endwell, but word got out late Thursday that the game had been postponed.

"As you know, information changes by the hour," Hen Hud A.D. Tom Baker said. "We are hoping we have a little more info by the middle of next week. It's pure madness right now."

Putnam Valley was scheduled to face Section 8 champion Carle Place on East Rockaway on Sunday, but the Tigers are in the same holding pattern as the Sailors. Neither team can practice until Wednesday at the earliest, but even that seemed far-fetched as of press time Monday.

Empathy is only part of what we feel for our kids. I had planned to spend the week-end of March 20-22 on the road with them, including a Final 4 weekend awash in the excitement of their postseason journeys; just as their parents, grandparents and friends did.

Instead, every bracket in the country has been busted by a disease far more ripped than when No.16 UMBC upset No.1 Virginia in March of 2018.

We'll get past this, and when we do watch the "bleep" out, because now that it's been taken away from us, our lust for sports and competition will be far greater this spring/summer. Stay vigilant, my friends! #FlattenTheCurve.



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