



December 28, 2021 - January 3, 2022

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 13, Issue 666

Putnam County Expands Local Access to COVID-19 Testing

By Rick Pezzullo

Putnam County is offering free rapid COVID-19 testing for residents as of Dec. 27.

The tests will be offered to the public on a walk-in basis at the Paladin Center at 39 Seminary Hill Rd. in Carmel seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Starting Monday, Jan. 3, testing will also be offered on a walk-in basis at the Philipstown Recreation Center seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Also starting Jan. 3, both sites will be open exclusively to school children from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. on weekdays only. The children must attend schools in Putnam County.

The testing plan is the result of a public-private collaboration. Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell said since time is of the essence when it comes to COVID

testing and the state is not offering a testing site anywhere in the region, Putnam officials had to be proactive.

"Putnam County healthcare providers are overwhelmed with the current demand for testing," Odell said. "Residents are waiting days to access tests and, in some cases, are traveling far distances to receive basic healthcare. The county's expanded partnership with Ambulnz allows us to set up rapid test sites on both sides of the county."

Meanwhile, the Putnam County Department of Health announced in the new year, local school districts will have the opportunity to implement Test to Stay (TTS), a serial testing strategy that enables close contacts to avoid school quarantines. Local implementation plans and policies must align with the guidance from the state Health Department and are still being developed.

Putnam County Department of Health plans are being finalized with the understanding that the state Health Department is currently reviewing the Test to Stay studies shared by the CDC and will be releasing updated guidance in the coming days.

"Putnam County understands the strain on residents and healthcare providers alike, due to this current surge in cases," Putnam Commissioner of Health, Michael J. Nesheiwat, MD, said. "Expanded access to testing, both through TTS and rapid testing sites on both sides of the county will alleviate some stress and help keep our communities healthy."

Individuals eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine, including booster doses, are encouraged to make vaccination appointments in advance and speak directly to their healthcare provider if they have any

questions, Dr. Nesheiwat said.

PCDOH will continue to focus on vaccination clinics in Carmel and Philipstown to ensure all residents choosing to get vaccinated will have access to an appointment. Getting vaccinated, staying home when you are sick, wearing a mask when in public spaces, and maintaining good hand hygiene—these actions continue to be the best ways to stay safe this holiday season.

"We will continue to step up and meet the needs of our residents by continued partnerships with businesses to ramp up testing-- and our local health department will remain focused on vaccination clinics as long as there is local demand," Odell said.

Residents can register for a vaccination appointment at: <https://www.putnamcountynyny.com/health/covid19/#vaxinfo>.

Putnam Sheriff, Officers and Good Samaritan Honored



New York State Senator Pete Harcham recently honored three members of the Putnam County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Robert L. Langley, Jr., retired Lieutenant Sheila Hanley and Deputy William Verrastro, plus Anthony Catalanotto, a Good Samaritan, at a special ceremony at the Putnam County Sheriff's Office and Correctional Facility. Both Verrastro and Catalanotto were presented with Senate Proclamations and Commendation Awards for their heroic actions following a car accident in August 2021. Verrastro was traveling south on Route 9D in the Town of Philipstown when he observed a vehicle behind him suddenly veer off the road, collide with a tree and catch on fire. With the assistance of Catalanotto, a Putnam County resident also driving along Route 9D, they were able to gain access to the vehicle and free the unconscious woman, carrying her to safety before the vehicle was consumed by flames.

Byrne Seeks to Reject State Funding Ties to DEI Policies

By Rick Pezzullo

State Assemblyman Kevin Byrne (R, C/ Mahopac) held a press conference last week to call on the state Department of Education to scrap any effort to tie financial assistance for school districts to the controversial "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Framework and Policy Statement."

Last week, Byrne and Assemblyman Colin Schmitt joined with their colleague, ranking member of the Assembly Education Committee, Doug Smith, in writing a letter to Education Department Commissioner Dr. Betty A. Rosa stressing the importance of respecting local control and their opposition to state mandates or incentives tied to the implementation of DEI.

In the list of Budget and Legislative Priorities for the 2022-23 School Year, the Board of Regents included a new \$1 million funding request to subsidize schools that adopt Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives and the Culturally Responsive-Sustaining framework.



Assemblyman Kevin Byrne (center) stands with concerned parents and residents of Putnam County.

"We should trust in our families, respect parents, and honor local control. Our educators should continue to teach history,

continued on page 2

Examiner+

HUDSON VALLEY'S DIGITAL NEWSMAGAZINE

Help Us Keep Shining
Our Light On Local News

#GivingSeason

Just \$39
Annually
(Normally \$49)

SUBSCRIBE NOW TO LOCK IN HOLIDAY
RATE! OFFER EXPIRES AT MONTH'S END
www.Examiner-Plus.com

Mahopac High School Life Teaches Freshmen to Navigate High School

Jason Zides stood in front of a class of ninth graders and pointed to a white board as Google Earth zoomed around the world and landed at the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

"Your social studies teachers would be seriously impressed if they got a presentation with this in it," said Zides, the secondary educational technology specialist for the Mahopac Central School District. "Social studies teachers love this because you can travel around the earth without leaving the classroom."

Zides was the guest speaker in a Mahopac High School Life class that all freshmen are required to take. He was speaking to Global History teacher Kerry Price's class about Multimedia Technology Options, including all the Google tools available to the students to use on their district-issued Chromebooks.

He ran through tools for making slide presentations, templates to make interesting layouts, audio recording sites and links to copyright-free photos that the students can use to augment their projects.

The skills can help students, whose work is often presented via the Chromebooks, to use technology to be highly creative.

"On a scale of one to useful, where are we at?" Zides asked the class. The students, busy zooming around the earth on their own, said the lesson was very useful.

The MHS Life class promotes a positive school culture, while boosting the social, emotional and executive functioning skills that support academic development in high school. The class aims to help students develop self-awareness and self-management

skills while building relationships and learning to resolve conflicts, said April Ljunic, the MHS assistant principal who oversees the program.

Zides' gave his technology demonstration to each section of MHS Life class. His was just one session of the MHS Life curriculum, which includes a variety of guest speakers throughout the year.

Over in Amy Mahoney's MHS Life class, students were learning to question their own preconceptions. Mahoney, a 12th grade English teacher, gave her class a new phrase to think about – a "paradigm shift."

"It's good to question your own mindset," Mahoney said. "The objective here is to analyze negative paradigms high school students might have and adjust them to reflect positivity."

Mahoney gave her class three scenarios and asked them to recast them in a positive way.

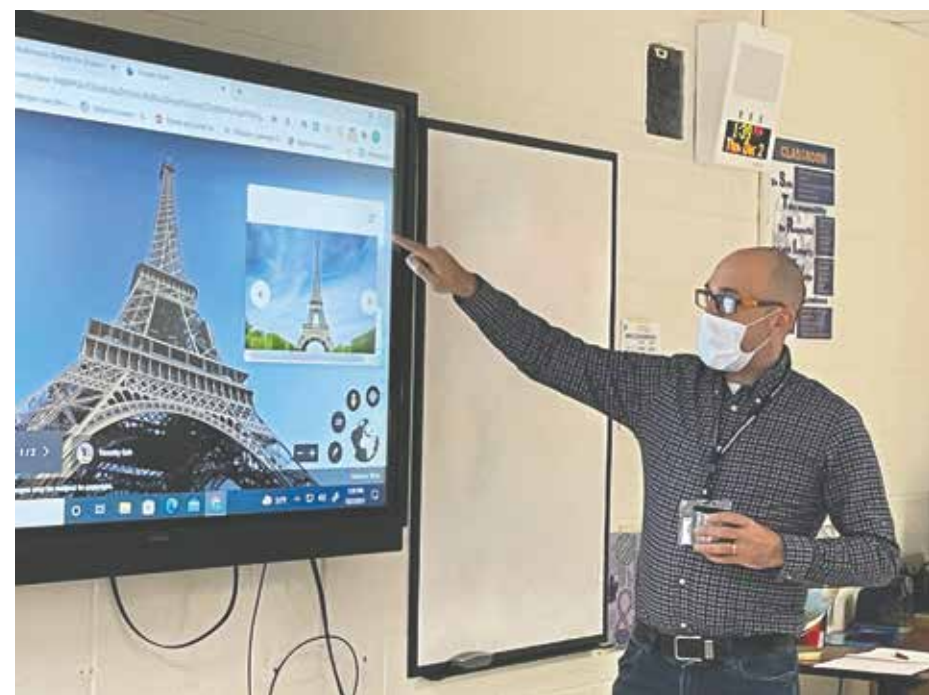
Ninth graders Kelsi Thimm and Giovanna Angrisani took the example of feeling ignored by a friend who was too busy with sports and other activities to hang out. Instead of looking at it in a negative way, they celebrated the girl's achievements.

"I really admire my friend Cameron," they wrote, of the fictitious friend. "She helps her mom with her siblings ... works really hard in school ... is dedicated to her sport ... and babysits. I hope I can balance my life like she does."

From technology to empathy, the skills MHS Life teaches will last a lifetime.



Students and teachers in Amy Mahoney's Mahopac High School Life class discuss a paradigm shift.



Jason Zides, the secondary educational technology specialist for the Mahopac Central School District, gives a Google Earth demonstration.

Byrne Seeks to Reject State Funding Ties to DEI Policies

continued from page 1

the good and the bad, but not rewrite it," Byrne said. "We firmly reject any attempt to tie state funding of schools to the implementation of DEI or CRS in our schools. Our elected school board members and local officials often talk about the costly mandates forced on them from Albany, and with good reason because they come at a price. If you tie highly controversial and divisive policy to state aid, it will be perceived by many as a new mandate. We ask the rest of our state elected leaders to honor local control and respect parents who seek to advocate for their children at a local level."

"The State Education Department is attempting to use the state budget process to trample local control of our schools and implement CRT and its underlying principles. This is wrong, and it once again demonstrates the Albany bureaucrats' disrespect for parents and elected school boards," Schmitt stated.

Representatives of Moms for Liberty, which has more than 160 chapters in 33 states with more than 70,000 members, were on hand backing the cause, while John Curzio, a Carmel Board of Education trustee, also submitted a statement in support.

"The idea that Albany would tie critical school funding to the implementation of the controversial, and so called 'Diversity, Equity and Inclusion framework' is absurd," Curzio stated, noting he was not speaking for the entire board. "This framework seeks to divide us at a critical time when we need

to unite as a community, as a state, and as a nation. We should not be planting the idea amongst our children that they are defined by their race, which this framework endorses."

State Sen. Shelley Mayer (D-Yonkers), who chairs the Senate's Education Committee, dismissed Byrne's fears of there being a tie-in between implementing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts and a district's Foundation Aid.

Mayer said Rosa sent out her letter encouraging all districts throughout the state to integrate aspects of DEI into their curriculum but there is no threat of losing aid.

"I, with all due respect, have no understanding of what he is concerned about or is pushing back against," Mayer said. "Yes, it's expected that every district will engage in this activity. That is what the commissioner of education said, but the obligation to pay foundation aid is not contingent or related to DEI."

Mayer acknowledged that her committee has received 35 to 40 bills dealing with curriculum, including some that go far beyond the current DEI recommendations. However, she said Byrne and others are looking to politicize the issue while she is supportive of the commissioner's "very thoughtful" guidelines.

"School districts throughout the state, regardless of where they're located, will benefit by these principles being included in the context of their school and school community," Mayer said.

Visit **TheExaminerNews.com**
to subscribe to our
FREE
e-mail newsletter
You'll receive the latest local news
delivered straight to your inbox

The
Examiner
news.com



**Happy
New Year**

**Closed New
Year's Day**

**SUBURBAN
WINES & SPIRITS**

Now you can take us with you wherever
you go! Download our Mobile App!

Available on the iPhone
App Store

WESTCHESTER'S FINE WINE & SPIRITS DESTINATION

WINE OF THE YEAR

2020 Anne Pichon Grenache Noir



Take what you think you know about Grenache and throw it out the window. As this wine opens, initial dark berry flavors meld into a true jam flavor with floral notes and bitter cranberry. It has such a divine, full mouthfeel that tricks you into not initially noticing that it's more 'dry' than not. While there a lot of wines that showcase the best flavors of their region, Anne Pichon Grenache Noir did it best this year. Cheers!

\$14⁹⁷

GREY GOOSE

Premium Vodka

\$39⁹⁷ 1.75 L
Reg. \$66.99

**EVERYDAY
LOW PRICE**

EXPRESS CURBSIDE PICK-UP & FREE LOCAL DELIVERY

Dan's Wine of the Year

2014 Casa Santos Lima Reserva



The nose on this wine bursts through the seems with dark fruit notes earthy spice-tinged berries that remind you the wine is old school. The palate brings Very complex on the palate with coconut, blackberry, jam and dried fruit, prune and fig. The addition of the Syrah in this blend is what separates this wine from anything ordinary.

\$11⁹⁷

Jason's Wine of the Year

2019 Oak Farm Tievoli Cabernet Sauvignon



Deep garnet in color, this Cabernet Sauvignon is composed of complex aromas of black currant, blueberry, cedar, and floral characteristics. The wine is full bodied with echoing aromas on the palate. The finish is abundant in textured tannins, yet smooth and velvety.

\$14⁹⁷

Suburban's Sparkling Wine of the Year

NV Isotta Manzoni Prosecco Rose



Subtle and fresh aromas with hints of small red berries, rose, and pomegranate. On the palate it is silky and full with elegant flavors of strawberry and crushed violets, finishing with well-balanced minerality. You will have no problem finishing the bottle once it's opened. This is crushable!

\$13⁹⁷

Tom's Wine of the Year

2018 Laurent Combier Crozes Hermitage



Mesmerizing deep dark ruby with dark pink shimmers along the rim of the wine. This Syrah emits a nose of black cherry jam, figs, black currants, and subtle notes of bacon fat, cured meat, and violets. The palate is rich with bright and juicy blackberries, blueberries, and cranberries. Black peppercorns, dried thyme, and subtle notes of river rocks breakthrough the berry medley. A lingering finish of dried blueberries and cacao finalize this wine.

\$19⁹⁷

Woodbridge Cab or Chard. 1.5L.....\$9.97	Jim Beam Bourbon 1.75.....\$28.97
Barefoot Chardonnay & PG 1.5L....\$9.97	Stolichnaya Vodka 1.75L.....\$29.97
Hess Select Chardonnay.....\$9.97	Ketel One Vodka 1.75L.....\$37.97
Mondavi Bourbon Barrel Cabernet.....\$11.97	Bombay Sapphire Gin 1.75L.....\$38.97
Bread and Butter Chardonnay.....\$11.97	Aberfeldy 12yr Single Malt Scotch.....\$32.97
Louis Jadot Macon Villages.....\$11.97	Talisker 10yr Single Malt Scotch...\$59.97

— EVERYDAY LOW PRICES —



**Jack
Daniels**

750 ml

\$47.97



**Cavit
Pinot Grigio**

1.5 L

\$11.97



**Meiomi Pinot
Noir**

750 ml

\$17.97



**Smirnoff
Vodka**

1.75 L

\$18.97



**Tito's
Vodka**

750 ml

\$31.97



**Dewars
Scotch**

750 ml

\$32.97



**Hess Select
Cabernet**

750 ml

\$13.97



**Josh Cellars
Cabernet**

750 ml

\$11.97



**Kendall
Jackson
Chardonnay**

750 ml

\$11.97



**Santa
Margherita
Pinot Grigio**

750 ml

\$21.97



**Ruffino Tan
Label Chianti**

750 ml

\$19.97



Mon-Thurs 9am-8pm • Fri-Sat 9am-9pm • Sun 12pm-5pm • December 28th through January 4th
379 Downing Drive • Yorktown Heights, NY • 914-962-3100 • WWW.SUBURBANWINES.COM
WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS - WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES - SALE PRICES ARE FOR STORE STOCK ONLY

All prices
750ml unless
otherwise
noted

Mt. Pleasant Schools to Convene Public Forum as COVID-19 Fears Persist

By Martin Wilbur

Mount Pleasant school officials are arranging a community forum with elected officials at every level of government after several parents recently expressed concern that COVID-19 vaccines might be mandated for children to attend school.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Peter Giarizzo said the district, possibly in partnership with the Valhalla School District, is hoping to hold a public session sometime in January on education-related matters.

Invitees are Congressman Mondaire Jones, state senators Peter Harckham and Shelley Mayer, who chairs the Senate's Education Committee, Assemblyman Tom Abinanti, County Executive George Latimer, County Legislator Margaret Cunzio and Mount Pleasant Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi.

"Vaccines are certainly one issue that we can talk about but it's not the only issue we face as a school system, so we would want that session to be about lots of different things," Giarizzo said.

One parent pointed to legislation introduced

in October by Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (D-Bronx), whose bill would require every student to be immunized against COVID-19, adding it to the list of other vaccines mandated by the state for children to attend school, and vowed to fight any mandate.

Two parents who spoke on the issue during the Mount Pleasant Board of Education's last meeting on Dec. 15 said they were looking for the government to continue to allow them to make the choice for what is best for their children and family.

"If we can get them here as soon as possible and we can get all of their support and no matter which way you choose, but that's what we're looking for, a choice," said resident Carlo Valente. "That's all we're asking for."

Giarizzo said Mount Pleasant will steer clear of any vaccine mandate for the school community.

"There is no mandate and we do not intend to impose one for either our staff or our students," he said. "We will not. As (Board of Education) President Horan has stated, parents can make these informed decisions with their pediatricians and health care professionals."

Another parent, Lauren Stanco, said she fears that with the recent surge in COVID-19 cases, the situation could result in a switch



Mount Pleasant Superintendent of Schools Dr. Peter Giarizzo

back to remote learning, which has occurred in several districts before the holiday break in the region.

"It's such a concern for these kids. They've lived through this," Stanco said. "I feel like it's March again, two years ago. How much of this can we avoid shutting down again?"

One step that the district has taken is its "test to stay" program, which started the week of Dec. 13 and has saved 647 student school days across the district, Giarizzo said. The program provides a rapid test before the start of the school

day to unvaccinated students who have been exposed to COVID-19.

Each exposed student must be tested for a seven-day period. If they test negative, they can stay in school, if not they are sent home. Parents must fill out a consent form in advance to allow their children to be tested, which is found on the district's website.

The purpose of program is to keep schools open, the superintendent said, and with the cooperation of parents and the hard work of staff, it's been going well.

"My job is to keep kids in school," Giarizzo said. "Our principals and administrators and the board (are) very committed to make sure that happens. We have not discussed any kind of extended closure. Honestly, that is like the last resort for me."

Harckham Calls for COVID-19 Testing Site at FDR Park in Yorktown

State Sen. Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro) has sent a letter to Gov. Kathy Hochul calling on the state to open a mobile testing site at Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park in Yorktown Heights to help fight the latest spike in COVID-19 cases.

Harckham's letter comes after Hochul announced that the state plans to open more state-run testing sites to combat the surge. However, as of Sunday there were still no state-run testing sites in the lower Hudson Valley.

"As we continue to fight this pandemic, we need to utilize all of the resources and tools available to us, and we know

that testing is a crucial component in stopping the spread," Harckham said. "I urge the governor to promptly open a site in the Hudson Valley region and recommend utilizing FDR State Park as a testing site. It's large enough to easily accommodate a drive-thru testing site, and it's easily accessible off the Taconic State Parkway and Route 202."

Last week Westchester County Executive George Latimer announced that he planned to request the state use the County Center in White Plains and Glen Island Park in New Rochelle as possible sites.

ATTENTION JOURNALISM STUDENTS



Opportunity is Knockin'!

ARE YOU A COLLEGE STUDENT?
DO YOU KNOW A COLLEGE STUDENT WHO WANTS TO EARN \$2,600 THIS SUMMER?
Paid Summer Internship Positions Available

The New York Press Association Foundation is sponsoring a paid summer internship at this newspaper for a qualified journalism student.

Any student currently enrolled in a recognized journalism program is eligible to compete for an internship with a net \$2,600 stipend provided by NYPA. Applicants must attend college during the 2022-2023 academic year.

Don't delay! Application deadline is **March 1, 2022.**



Apply by contacting Publisher Adam Stone at astone@theexaminernews.com

Merry Christmas **SCLAFANI ENERGY** Happy New Year

Fuel Oil • HVAC • Service • Propane • Diesel

We Make Warm and Now "Cool" Friends Too!
www.SclafaniEnergy.com • 1 (845) 628-1330

Get Ready For Winter!

Call now for Low Heating Oil Prices
Heating & Cooling System Tune-up, & Installation

Budget accounts, Automatic or call us for
next day delivery at C.O.D.pricing! Place an Order online
www.SclafaniEnergy.com

Serving Northern Westchester, Southern Dutchess & Putnam Counties!



Full Service, 24 HR
Emergency
Heating Assistance!
Installs, repairs
and upgrades!
Over 30 years, licensed,
insured and bonded!
We are #1 because our
customers come first!
Senior Discounts!

Westchester Increases Testing as COVID-19 Cases Explode

By Martin Wilbur

As active COVID-19 cases soar to pandemic highs, Westchester County is increasing its testing for residents who show symptoms or have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for the virus.

County Executive George Latimer said Monday that Westchester is partnering with Quadrant Biosciences to make free PCR tests available at the County Center in White Plains for those who most urgently need to learn whether they are positive. Testing will begin this Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and continue on Thursday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Testing will then resume on weekdays starting next Monday, Jan. 3 from 12 to 4 p.m. then continue from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each weekday through at least Jan. 11.

Appointments are mandatory and can be made up to three days in advance at www.westchestergov.com/health.

"The demand for testing will exceed the amount of tests that we have available, but the tests that we're given we'll give them to everybody that we can up to the satisfaction of the amount that we have available," Latimer said.

The county could not immediately provide how many tests may be available

each day.

Over the past couple of weeks there have been long lines outside testing sites, with some residents unable to get the PCR test or forced to wait days for an appointment.

Latimer stressed that what the County Center will offer is meant to help those who are in the most need of a test – only those who have symptoms or were exposed to a person who is a confirmed positive.

"What we are witnessing is a nationwide explosion in the incidents of active cases as well as a nationwide explosion...in demand for testing," he said. "No matter what system you're looking at the demand has far exceeded the supply of tests nationwide."

The announcement came after Latimer, who along with Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins returned to work after their own bouts with COVID-19, presented the explosive rate at which the virus is spreading. As of Sunday, Westchester had 16,819 active cases, easily eclipsing the high of more than 12,000 in the early stages of the pandemic in spring 2020. Last winter's surge, which peaked on Jan. 18, saw more than 11,500 active cases.

On Nov. 26, there were 2,078 cases. On that same day, the infection rate was 2 percent; on Sunday it reached 13.7 percent in Westchester while New York State saw a 16 percent positivity rate. Within the

last week infections in the county more than doubled.

While hospitalizations and fatalities are not rising at the same rate as active cases, they have still quadrupled during the past month. On Nov. 24, the day before Thanksgiving, there were 50 COVID-19-related hospitalizations, while on Christmas Eve that number stood at 214.

There were seven deaths from COVID-19 in the month ending with Thanksgiving. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas there were 30 fatalities in the county.

Latimer did not have the latest statistics on how many unvaccinated people accounted for the latest deaths and hospitalizations, but up until the latest surge about two-thirds of those totals consisted of the unvaccinated, he said. Some of the vaccinated in those situations also have had other health issues or may not have received at least two shots.

"What we do seem to see is that those people that have been vaccinated properly, either at the two-(shot) level or at the booster level, still may get the disease but don't suffer seriously, do not wind up being hospitalized because of the disease,"



Latimer said. "So to that extent we're somewhat encouraged, but to go up from 50 hospitalizations to 214, that number has been rising each day this week. That is of

great concern to us."

In the early weeks of the pandemic, there were about 600 hospitalizations. Last winter that number rose to more than 500.

There have been 94 percent of adults 18 years old and up in Westchester who have received at least one dose. The rate of those with two doses is at 84 percent. The county did not have the numbers on the percentage of residents who received boosters or pediatric vaccinations.

Latimer urged residents to remain vigilant, wear masks in indoor public spaces and get vaccinated or boosted.

"We have the opportunity, if we show proper discipline, if we show proper perseverance to get through this," Latimer said. "We can have our kids in class and get the proper learning. We can continue to function without shutting down the government, without shutting down the business community, which has happened."

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

BE READY FOR ANYTHING



WE'RE READY TO SEE YOU. RIGHT NOW.

We know being sick takes a toll on your body, your finances, and your life—so the next time a cold or flu visits you, visit us. We keep our center clean and sanitized to ensure your safety.

We're open every day with extended hours to fit your schedule. No appointments needed.

3379 Crompond Rd (in the BJs Plaza), Yorktown Heights NY
914.930.5550 | M-F 8AM-8PM, S-S 8AM-5PM
afurgentcare.com/yorktown-heights



OPEN NEW YEAR'S DAY

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Artuso & Sons Pastry & Cafe

Italian American Baking
Struffoli • Pastiere
Cookies and Cookie Trays • Pastries •
Assorted Pies including:
Pumpkin • Coconut • Apple

Rosehill Shopping Center
640 Columbus Avenue
Thornwood, NY 10594

Robert Artuso
(914) 741-2251

A HAPPY & HEALTHY
new year
2022

Thornwood Jewelers

A Perfect Piece for Every Occasion

968 Broadway Thornwood (ShopRite/CVS Shopping Center) • 914 741 1920

Rivera Toyota Approved to Upgrade Dealership, Build New Service Shop

By Martin Wilbur

Approvals were granted earlier this month to Rivera Toyota to renovate the existing dealership and build a new service and repair shop at the site of a former burger restaurant in Mount Kisco.

The village's Planning Board voted in favor of site plan approval and to issue a special use permit to upgrade the existing dealership building at 325 N. Bedford Rd. to allow continued car sales and create 12

vehicle service bays, customer service accommodations and employee and administrative space.

Customer sales and display will be in the front of the building while the service area will occur at the rear entrance.

At the same meeting on Dec. 14, the board also approved the site plan and a special use permit along with a steep slopes permit to allow the auto group, which is owned by former Yankees great Mariano Rivera, to build a 12,672-square-



The existing Rivera Toyota dealership at 325 N. Bedford Rd. in Mount Kisco.

Hilb Group Adds Charles Newman Co., Builds on New York Metro Presence

The Hilb Group announced recently that it has welcomed Charles Newman Co. Insurance and Employee Benefits to its portfolio, adding to the company's growing presence in the New York metropolitan area. The transaction became effective Dec. 1.

Based in Peekskill, Charles Newman Co. is a licensed full-service broker providing clients with a broad array of products and offerings including group health as well as ancillary and voluntary employee benefits coverage. Charles Newman, Ilana Arbeit, David Arbeit and their team of insurance professionals will join the Hilb Group's tristate regional operations.

"We are extremely excited to join the Hilb Group," said Newman, the agency's leader. "This partnership marks a tremendous step in not only allowing us to maintain the strength of our local connections, but also to further enhance the resources and offerings we can deliver to our customers, now and for the future."

The Hilb Group is a leading property and casualty and employee benefits insurance brokerage and advisory firm headquartered in Richmond, Va. It is a portfolio company of The Carlyle Group, a global investment firm. The company has completed more than 120 acquisitions and now has over 100 offices in 22 states.

foot, two-story service and repair shop at 353 N. Bedford Rd. It will house eight service bays, a customer drop-off area, customer service areas, and interior parts storage and will be for more routine service and repairs.

Representatives for Rivera Toyota have stated that if any patrons' vehicles need to be taken to the repair and service location at 325 N. Bedford Rd. it will be done by employees to avoid worsening an often-congested roadway. There will also be

appointment times when car owners will need to report to the site so there isn't overflow at the site.

The current structure, which housed the Westchester Burger Co. before it went out of business on about a .8-acre parcel, will be demolished.

The approvals at the two sites will enable the auto group to relinquish its current service operations at 255 Kisco Ave. when the lease ends sometime in 2023.

Local Delivery and Curbside Pickup Available

Pizza Pies & Gourmet Brick Oven Pizza
Appetizers • Soups Salads
Sandwiches • Pasta
Poultry • Veal & Eggplant
Seafood • Dessert

HOLIDAY SPECIALS!

\$30⁰⁰ (+ TAX)
1 Large Plain Pie
1 Penne Alla Vodka
1 Order Mozzarella Sticks
2 Liter Soda

Please mention coupon when ordering.
Not valid with other coupons or discounts.
Expires 12/31/21 Nonna's Pizzeria

**Order Any 2 Large Pies
Get 1 Plain Pie FREE!**

Please mention coupon when ordering.
Not valid with other coupons or discounts.
Expires 12/31/21 Nonna's Pizzeria

\$20⁰⁰ (+ TAX)
1 Large Plain Pie
1 Chicken Wedge Or Eggplant Parmesan Wedge
2 Liter soda

Please mention coupon when ordering.
Not valid with other coupons or discounts.
Expires 12/31/21 Nonna's Pizzeria

**With Any 2 Entrees
Get 1 Order of Mozzarella Sticks FREE!**

Please mention coupon when ordering.
Not valid with other coupons or discounts.
Expires 12/31/21 Nonna's Pizzeria

367 Downing Dr, Yorktown • Btwn Taco Bell and Suburban Liquors
914-962-0300 • Hrs: 11AM-9PM

CALL US TODAY AND SAVE!
914.737.7769

The Consumer's Choice for Discount Heating Oil!

SAVE WITH OUR LOW C.O.D. PRICES!

- No Contracts or Commitments
- Oil Burner Service/Tune-ups
- Quality Heating Oil
- Senior Citizen & Volume Discounts
- Expert Burner Service
- A/C Tune-ups
- Price Matching (Restrictions apply)

Order online at: www.codoil.com

Repair Work
Gift Wrapping

Our 53rd Year

We Buy Gold, Silver & Platinum

Mt. Kisco's Oldest Jewelry Store

Limited Unlimited

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

MAY IT SPARKLE!

Always Unique

8A South Moger Avenue, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549 • (914) 241-2232
Open Tuesday through Saturday 10AM- 5:30 PM

Shimsky to Challenge Fellow Democrat Abinanti for Assembly Seat

By Martin Wilbur

Five-term Westchester County Legislator MaryJane Shimsky plans to challenge veteran Assemblyman Tom Abinanti in a Democratic primary next year after announcing her candidacy last Tuesday for the 92nd Assembly District seat.

Shimsky, the Board of Legislators' current majority leader, said she enjoys being a legislator and hopes to carry that to the state level. The Dobbs Ferry resident was unopposed for a sixth two-year term last month but cannot serve beyond that because of Westchester's law that limits county legislators to 12 years in office.

"Obviously, I have two years to find new employment, but I think being a legislator is far and away the most rewarding thing I've ever done," Shimsky said. "You get to help people as individuals who call your office, you get to affect policy by doing legislative oversight on the executive branch and, as needed, you get to pass laws that improve your jurisdiction, whether it's your county or your state."

Her candidacy sets up a primary in June against Abinanti. The district has been a Democratic stronghold for decades. Before Abinanti took over in 2011, Richard Brodsky represented the area for nearly three decades.

Prior to her Board of Legislators service, Shimsky worked as community relations director for Brodsky. A Yale graduate, she

went to NYU School of Law and worked as an assistant district attorney in Manhattan before teaching history at Marymount College.

Shimsky said she was motivated to run, in part, because Abinanti has "sat on the sidelines" on pandemic-related issues and has failed to help Westchester obtain critical state resources to mitigate serious flooding over the past decade. The shortcomings were once again apparent after Hurricane Ida struck the region on Sept. 1, she said.

"I feel that members of the Assembly need to take a more active role in making sure that everything is as it should be and getting out and being proactive with information to help the community know where the resources are to make the right decisions," said Shimsky, who followed Abinanti in the same Board of Legislators seat, which serves Greenburgh and Mount Pleasant.

She criticized Abinanti's opposition to extend the eviction moratorium, which helped thousands of workers, many of them immigrants, who were laid off from their jobs in restaurants and other industries that were shut down or curtailed because of the pandemic.

Abinanti countered that he was the county legislator who drafted Westchester Master Plan to address flooding issues, which was approved in his final days in office in 2010 before leaving for the Assembly. He said former county executive



County Legislator MaryJane Shimsky announced last week she would run for the state Assembly, challenging Tom Abinanti for his seat in a Democratic primary.

Rob Astorino opted for what was called the Reconnaissance Plan a few years later, which has since become outdated.

Meanwhile, she and other county lawmakers never followed up with a plan to deal with stormwater, Abinanti said.

"I would be happy to fight on behalf of Greenburgh to get money to fix that problem, but somebody's got to do the plan," Abinanti said. "She's attempting to

fabricate issues, which just don't exist. I did what needed to be done on that and it's now a county issue."

The assemblyman, who has been a leading advocate for providing special education resources in public schools and for the disabled population, said he supported the rent moratorium twice, but by the second extension it was hurting small landlords who weren't receiving help from the state. The small landlord owns most rentals in Mount Pleasant and Greenburgh, he said.

"I could not tell our one-, two- and three-family landlords that they had to continue supporting tenants and never see the possibility of state money," Abinanti said.

He also chided Shimsky for announcing her candidacy for a district that may be altered significantly once redistricting is complete.

"We don't even know what the districts are," said Abinanti, a Pleasantville resident. "She's running for a district that hasn't even been designed yet."

Petitioning is scheduled to begin around Mar. 1.

Neither candidate has heard yet of other potential hopefuls from either major party who might consider a run.

For Abinanti, this would be the second consecutive election cycle where he would have to fend off a challenge within his own party. In 2020, he outlasted little-known Jennifer Williams in the Democratic primary before winning a fifth Assembly term in November without opposition.

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER



@ExaminerMedia



Find us on
Facebook

FACEBOOK.COM/
EXAMINERMEDIA

Follow ExaminerMedia on social media to monitor the latest breaking news and local reporting tidbits

Aardvark Pet Supplies, Inc.



Not your AAverage pet store

For all your pet needs
Aardvark Pet Supplies
has moved!

1016 Broadway
Thornwood, NY 10549

(914) 747-4848

E-mail: aardvarkpet@verizon.net

Glass Onion
ORIGINALS

Specializing in Fine
American Craft

Fine Art • Sculpture
• Unique Gifts • Furniture
Home Accessories • Antiques
• Exquisite Jewelry • & more...

4 Washington Avenue,
Pleasantville 914-741-6294
Open 7 Days —
Friday and Saturday until 8pm

**BUYING
COMIC BOOK
COLLECTIONS!**

★ **Top Prices Paid!** ★

30+ Years Experience!
Reliable & Local (W'chester/Putnam)

Call/Text: 917-699-2496
email: smileLP@aol.com

B.F.

BEECHER FLOOKS FUNERAL HOME, INC.

"The place to turn in your time of need!"

Personally Owned and Supervised By

William F Flooks, Jr. & William J Flooks
Proprietor Licensed Funeral Director

Caring for our community since 1928
Personal and Complete Funeral Service

418 Bedford Road...Pleasantville, NY 10570...769-0001

www.beecherflooksfh.com

Police Blotter

County Police/Mount Kisco

Dec. 22: A man arrived at the Green Street precinct at 6:23 p.m. to report that he had found a dog running in the middle of Lexington Avenue. The man coaxed the dog into his truck and wanted to turn it over to police. As officers prepared to take the dog inside, another man drove up to report that his dog had gotten loose and was missing. The dog and owner were reunited on the spot.

Dec. 23: Police responded to Terrace Place at 12:09 p.m. on a report of a domestic dispute outside a residence. A man reported that a relative was blocking his driveway and refusing to move his car. The matter was resolved and officers left the scene.

Dec. 23: Report of a malfunctioning traffic light at the intersection of Preston Way and North Bedford Road at 12:36 p.m. An electrical contractor was notified and officers directed traffic until the necessary repair was completed several hours later.

Croton-on-Hudson Police Department

Dec. 16: A civilian arrived at police headquarters at 4:36 p.m. reporting that his cell phone was stolen from his vehicle. The reporting party stated he parked his vehicle, which was unlocked, at about 11 a.m. in the rear parking lot of the Grand Street firehouse. The phone was left on the

passenger seat when he went inside. He returned to the vehicle and drove off and later realized the phone was missing. The cell phone was a black Apple iPhone 12 with a case.

Dec. 18: Staff at Croton Colonial Restaurant & Diner on South Riverside Avenue reported at 5:46 p.m. that an unknown party stole used cooking oil from the restaurant's tank. Patrols conducted a preliminary investigation and filed a case report.

North Castle Police Department

Dec. 17: Report of a past larceny at 10:43 a.m. from a complainant's mailbox on Route 120 involving personal checks. The responding officers reported that information was gathered as a matter of record only at this time as per request of the complainant. A report to follow.

Dec. 19: A Wrights Mill Road resident reported at 7:55 a.m. that a large bobcat just walked thorough her backyard and into her neighbor's yard. The responding officer reported that the bobcat was gone upon his arrival.

Dec. 20: A caller reported a minor dispute with the Gulf station clerk on North Broadway at 3:47 p.m. He stated that he gave the clerk four \$20 dollar bills, then went out to pump his gas. He pumped \$49 in gas and went inside to retrieve his change and was only given back \$11 instead of \$31. The responding officer spoke with

all parties involved, including the owner, and reported that the owner agreed to check the register totals at midnight when the shift ends and parties will make contact tomorrow to discuss the findings. Matter adjusted at this time.

Pleasantville Police Department

Dec. 22: A security video showing a vehicle being looted by a group of youngsters was reported to police from a Hobby Street resident. The vehicle, a 2013 Toyota, was unlocked. The larceny is under investigation.

Dec. 23: A complainant arrived at police headquarters to report that fraudulent checks were being deposited in their name. The case is under investigation.

Dec. 23: A village resident reported receiving new credit cards in the mail from Citi Bank. The resident reported they had no accounts with the bank. The matter is under investigation.

State Police/Cortlandt

Dec. 21: Police are seeking the public's assistance with an identity theft and grand larceny investigation. Earlier this month a victim reported having lost a

wallet in Walmart on East Main Street in Mohegan Lake, and shortly afterward received several fraudulent credit card charges. Investigators were able to obtain security images of a subject believed to have used the victim's identity to make fraudulent purchases at stores in Cortlandt and Ossining. Anyone with information regarding the possible identity or location of the individual is asked to contact state police at 914-769-2600.

Yorktown Police Department

Dec. 20: Alexander Cardenas, 53, of Ossining, was charged with driving with a suspended license and without insurance at 4:45 p.m. following a two-car accident on Route 100 near Seven Bridges Road.

Dec. 22: Shaina Quinones, 34, of Yorktown, was charged with unsafe passing and aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle at 9:28 a.m. following a crash on Route 6. A routine driver's license check revealed she was driving with a suspended license.

Dec. 22: A 16-year-old male was charged with juvenile delinquency at 10:13 a.m. after allegedly entering a Crompond Road residence without approval.

Stepinac Alum Donates \$1M to Alma Mater; Largest Gift Ever for School

Daniel P. Mahoney, a distinguished 1967 graduate and longtime supporter of Stepinac High School, recently returned with his wife, Susan, to donate to his alma mater that he credits for shaping his success as well as many other students.

This time, his commitment to Stepinac came as a \$1 million gift, the single largest donation in the 73-year history of the renowned all-boys Catholic high school.

In recognition of the significance that the contribution will make in supporting the school's mission to provide students with the skills they'll need to be globally competitive, the groundbreaking Honors Academy will be renamed the Susan and Daniel P. Mahoney Honors Academy.

Launched four years ago, the Honors Academy, which Mahoney praised for its curriculum innovation, is a small learning program for academically top performing students that provides college-level studies focused on real-world applications in four disciplines – engineering, finance, health sciences and law – leading to potential careers.

The Mahoneys, who now live in Jupiter, Fla., were longtime Rye residents where they became pillars of that community. Susan Mahoney served on the Board of Trustees of Rye Country Day School for 14



Susan and Dan Mahoney and Stepinac Honors Academy students, from left, Calvin Lindo, Nathaniel Alvarez and Lachlan McIntyre.

years and was responsible for leading three major fundraising campaigns.

"On behalf of our truly grateful Stepinac family, especially the students, I extend deep appreciation for your very generous gift," said Stepinac President Fr. Thomas Collins while recently accepting the couple's gift. "It truly reflects your abiding faith in the school's tradition of shaping tomorrow's leaders. Thanks to your investment, you will help assure that Stepinac remains strong as a preeminent leader in secondary education."

After graduating in 1971 from Boston College where he majored in finance, Dan Mahoney pursued a successful career spanning more than 30 years on Wall Street as a New York Stock Exchange specialist. He served as a senior partner at CMJ Partners, a leading New York Stock Exchange member firm.



Trumbull

PRINTING

Newspapers • Publications • Shoppers • Catalogs • Magazines
Directories • Coupon Books • College Course Catalogs
Business and Financial Periodicals
Free Standing Inserts • Advertising Supplements

205 Spring Hill Road, Trumbull, CT 06611 • 203.261.2548
www.trumbullprinting.com



Locally Owned & Operated
Serving all Faiths




Hawthorne Funeral Home

**21 West Stevens Ave.
Hawthorne, NY 10532**

Ernest J. Carpentieri ~ Douglas A. Daniels

**Tel: 914-769-4404
Fax: 914-769-5306**

www.hawthornefuneralhome.com
Serving all faiths ~ Independently owned
Conveniently located on the Taconic State Parkway

THORNWOOD WINES & SPIRITS

Store Hours:
Mon-Sat 9:30am -9:00pm
Sunday: 12-5pm

GREY GOOSE
VODKA
1.75 L

\$39⁹⁹

BELVEDERE
VODKA
1.75 L

\$46⁹⁹

KETEL ONE
VODKA
1.75 L

\$39⁹⁹

CHOPIN
VODKA
1.75 L

\$41⁹⁹

MAKER'S MARK
BOURBON
1.75 L

\$51⁹⁹

JACK DANIEL'S
BOURBON
1.75 L

\$47⁹⁹

*Open New Year's Eve
9:30am - 9:00pm
Open New Year's Day
Happy New Year!*

Shoprite/CVS Center • 1004 Broadway Thornwood • 914-747-8071

SINGLE MALT SCOTCH SALE 750 ML

SINGLETON 12YR \$33.99

GLENMORANGIE 10YR \$39.99

THE DALMORE 12YR \$59.99

TALISKER 10YR \$59.99

DALWHINNIE 15YR \$64.99

GLENLIVET 15YR \$69.99

JOHNNIE WALKER BLACK

1.75 L

\$69⁹⁹

BASIL HAYDEN'S BOURBON

750 ML

\$39⁹⁹

WIDOW JANE BOURBON

750 ML

\$59⁹⁹

DEWAR'S
SCOTCH
1.75 L

\$32⁹⁹

JOHNNIE
WALKER RED
1.75 L

\$33⁹⁹

ABSOLUT
VODKA
1.75 L

\$29⁹⁹

SMIRNOFF
VODKA
1.75 L

\$20⁹⁹

SVEDKA
VODKA
1.75 L

\$20⁹⁹

JAMESON
IRISH
WHISKEY
1.75 L

\$51⁹⁹

WESTERN
SON VODKA
1.75 L

\$21⁹⁹

SOBIESKI
VODKA
1.75 L

\$19⁹⁹

JIM BEAM
BOURBON
1.75 L

\$29⁹⁹

MIONETTO
PROSECCO
750 ML

\$11⁹⁹

CAKEBREAD
CABERNET
NAPA VALLEY
750 ML

\$74⁹⁹

SILVER OAK
ALEXANDER
VALLEY CAB.
750 ML

\$69⁹⁹

CAYMUS
NAPA
CAB
750 ML

\$79⁹⁹

SMITH &
HOOK
CAB
750 ML

\$16⁹⁹

E. GUIGAL
COTES
DU RHONE
750 ML

\$13⁹⁹

SEBASTIANI
CABERNET
750 ML

\$14⁹⁹

HENNESSEY
COGNAC
750 ML

\$39⁹⁹

JOEL GOTT/J. LOHR
CAB. CAB.

\$15⁹⁹

MEZZA
CORONA
PINOT GRIGIO 1.5L

\$11⁹⁹

BOGLE
MERLOT

\$7⁹⁹

BOGLE
CHARDONNAY

\$8⁹⁹

SIMI
CABERNET

\$18⁹⁹

WOODFORD
RESERVE
BOURBON
1.75 L

\$61⁹⁹

STAGS LEAP
ARTEMIS
CABERNET

\$59⁹⁹

RUFFINO
CHIANTI
TAN

\$20⁹⁹

KIM
CRAWFORD
SAUV. BLANC

\$13⁹⁹

KENDALL
JACKSON
CHARDONNAY

\$12⁹⁹

STAG LEAP
WINERY
NAPA CAB. 750 ML

\$39⁹⁹

20% OFF
A CASE OF WINE
MIX & MATCH.
SALE ITEMS EXCLUDED



LOCAL DELIVERY!
CALL FOR DETAILS



Prices good through Jan. 8, 2022
Must present ad for sale prices

CLASE AZUL
REPOSADO
TEQUILA
750 ML

\$135⁹⁹

BOMBAY
SAPPHIRE GIN 1.75L
OR TANQUERAY GIN
1.75L

\$39⁹⁹

DON JULIO
1942 TEQUILA
750 ML

\$149⁹⁹

CAVIT
PINOT
GRIGIO
1.5L

\$12⁹⁹

CELEBRATE WITH CHAMPAGNE!

ALL 750 ML

VEUVE CLICQUOT \$49.99

TAITTINGER \$45.99

POL ROGER \$42.99

PIPER HEIDSIECK \$39.99

G.H. MUMM \$39.99

MOET & CHANDON \$39.99

ROEDERER ESTATE BRUT \$22.99

DEUTZ \$44.99

LOUIS ROEDERER \$49.99

MARTINI & ROSSI \$12.99

7% OFF
**ANY SINGLE
BOTTLE
SPIRIT PURCHASE**

Not valid on sale items.
May not be combined
with other offers.
with coupon only.
Expires 1/8/22

**EVERYDAY
SPECIALS
ALL TYPES**
BLACK BOX 3L
\$19.99
WOODBRIIDGE 1.5L
\$11.99
YELLOWTAIL 1.5L
\$11.99
BAREFOOT 1.5L
\$11.99
LINDEMAN'S 1.5L
\$9.99

Editorial

Time to Polish the Crystal Ball and See What’s in Store for 2022

It’s hard to believe that it’s time to turn the page on another year. After the upheaval of 2020, it’s likely most of us were looking for a better outlook in 2021. There were some hopeful signs, but it was still a difficult year for so many.

We look forward to 2022 and hope that if just some of these wishes come true, we’ll be in a better place a year from now.

That Americans learn to talk to each other amicably again even when we strongly disagree.

For nonprofit and charitable organizations to receive the necessary support so they may continue to bring the irreplaceable assistance and services that so many rely upon.

To fill the empty storefronts in downtown business districts everywhere.

For residents to shop local as much as possible to help all downtowns thrive.

For everyone to once again feel comfortable going to whatever store, restaurant or venue you choose to visit.

That all those who continue to stubbornly refuse to get vaccinated against the deadly COVID-19 virus come to their senses.

For health care professionals, whose mission is to help others, receive the thanks they deserve.

That teachers and school personnel are recognized for their dedication in educating children in the midst of some of

the most challenging times.

A wonderful retirement for Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi after 34 years of impeccable public service, including the last 30 as supervisor.

That Yorktown Councilman Vishnu Patel, a selfless public servant, continues to find a way to make his community better.

For Putnam Valley Supervisor Sam Oliverio, Carmel Supervisor Ken Schmitt, Somers Supervisor Rick Morrissey, Kent Supervisor Maureen Fleming, Peekskill Mayor Andre Rainey and all others leaving office, nothing but success in the next chapter of their lives. Thank you to all of you for your public service.

For those who will continue to serve, much success and wisdom.

Great memories for all youth and high school athletes. May you all experience the joy of victories.

That all first-responders are told how much they are appreciated. Let them know whenever you get a chance.

A salute to all our readers and advertisers who have supported Examiner Media and our quest to continue delivering quality local journalism.

And a happy, healthy and prosperous 2022 for everyone.

Letters to the Editor

Fighting Mask Mandate is Divisive and Helps No One

I read with interest your article last week “Gubernatorial Hopeful Slams Mask Mandate But Reaction is Varied.” It would be nice for the politicians to get on the same page regarding COVID-19, a benefit to us all.

The governor’s directive to businesses requiring proof of vaccination OR wearing a mask is not unreasonable in this recent spike of COVID-19 cases. Maybe you should speak with the Emergency Department nurses who have been dealing with COVID-19 every day for the past two years as I have. These health professionals are stressed out and worry daily about the consequences of bringing COVID-19 home to their families. Their wishes are simply wearing a mask to protect yourself and others and get vaccinated. Not really a big deal.

Shopping at BJ’s, Acme and Lowe’s in Yorktown a few times this past week, it does not appear that the long lines of mask-wearing shoppers are leaving these stores

to shop in Putnam. In fact, BJ’s shares the same shopping plaza as All Seasons Wine & Spirits mentioned in your article. I am sure the same mask-wearing shoppers at BJ’s are patronizing nearby All Seasons Wine & Spirits without incident.

People are scared of the new COVID-19

variant. We can all get through this COVID-19 together, including our local businesses. The statement by Mr. Zeldin “...that there are people who are going to be taking their business to Putnam” is divisive and serves no one.

Personally, as a senior citizen, I am going

to be even more cautious when I have to go out, double mask and continue to shop in Yorktown.

Steve Epstein
Yorktown Heights

Odell’s Refusal to Enforce Mask Mandate is Political Grandstanding

The NFL, NBA and NHL players have been hit with COVID-19, causing them to postpone or cancel games because they don’t have enough players. Cornell University moved all final exams online and canceled university events due to the rapid spread of COVID. And here, in our own county, the Carmel Central School District decided to close the high school and go to remote learning for the rest of 2021. COVID figures are rising in all states.

MaryEllen Odell, our county executive,

has chosen this time to announce that Putnam County will not enforce the mask mandate that Gov. Hochul recently put in place. Not that it matters that much that Odell and the county legislature passed the resolution. Everywhere I go people are masked up. They don’t want to take a chance they will get COVID-19. Odell announced that the Health Department is arranging a private-public partnership to create a COVID testing site in Carmel that will be open six days a week.

They understand the gravity of the

situation. Why, then, pass a resolution that opposes their own state government, does not help county residents deal with this deadly crisis and will obviously be ignored? The legislature argues that the government does not have the right to order people to wear masks. This is empty political grandstanding. This does not save lives!

Phyllis Hoenig
Mahopac

To advertise in The Examiner, call 914-864-0878 or e-mail advertising@theexaminernews.com

The Examiner

The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER
Examiner

The PUTNAM
Examiner

The WHITE PLAINS
Examiner

THE
Examiner
NEWS
www.theexaminernews.com

Examiner+
www.examiner-plus.com

Letters Policy

Business Team:

Adam Stone
Publisher
astone@theexaminernews.com

Laura Markowski
Associate Publisher
lmarkowski@theexaminernews.com

Peter Stone
C.F.O.
pstone@theexaminernews.com

To inquire about paid subscriptions, email
subscriptions@theexaminernews.com
for pricing and other details

PO Box 611
Mount Kisco, NY 10549
914-864-0878
www.TheExaminerNews.com

Print Team:

Martin Wilbur
Editor-in-Chief
mwilbur@theexaminernews.com

Rick Pezzullo
Editor
rpezzullo@theexaminernews.com

Ray Gallagher
Sports Editor
rgallagher@theexaminernews.com

Andy Jacobs
Sports Editor
ajacobs@theexaminernews.com

Annette Van Ommeren
Designer

Paul Cardi
Senior Account Executive
pcardi@theexaminernews.com

Jeff Ohlbaum
Senior Account Executive
johlbaum@theexaminernews.com

Ken Gulmi
Senior Account Executive
kgulmi@theexaminernews.com

Nick Antonaccio
Wine columnist

Bill Primavera
Real estate columnist

Morris Gut
Food Writer

David Devine
Distribution

Gus Amador
Distribution

Digital Team:

Robert Schork
Digital Editorial Director
rschork@theexaminernews.com

Bailey Hosfelt
Reporter
bhosfelt@theexaminernews.com

Dean Pacchiana
Webmaster
dpacchiana@theexaminernews.com

NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION
NYPA



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 mwilbur@theexaminernews.com. The Examiner requires that all letter writers provide their name, address and contact information.

Puglisi Looks Back on 34 Years in Cortlandt Government

By Rick Pezzullo

As she sauntered into the conference room at Cortlandt Town Hall, a building that played a pivotal role in the beginning of her historic 30-year run as town supervisor, Linda Puglisi described the personal touches she made on decorating the space, along with the many scenic locations in town, some that were on display in photographs on the wall.

It was two weeks before Puglisi, 72, would be exiting Town Hall as the longest serving chief executive in Cortlandt history and only the second woman to lead the town after deciding a year ago to retire after 15 terms.

"I would love to be supervisor the rest of my life. In my mind it's my identity. It's who I am," Puglisi said during a frank, wide-ranging and sentimental interview. "I wanted to go out on my own terms. I have been blessed and fortunate to have had the trust of residents all these years. It makes me feel satisfied that I made a difference. That was my goal from the beginning."

Born in Canton, Ohio, Puglisi moved with her family to Rockland County when she was two years old. Her father, Ralph C. Braden, was a World War II veteran who would later serve 25 years as town historian in Orangetown. He knew John F. Kennedy; someone Puglisi would grow up to admire.

She and her ex-husband, who she met as a freshman at Pearl River High School, bought a house in the Crompond section of Cortlandt to be closer to his job. Their twin children, Ali and Jeff, who grew up to be an attorney and a doctor, respectively.

Puglisi first became involved with issues in the Lakeland School District, was president of the Mohegan Colony Homeowners Association and director of the Mohegan Colony Nursery School.

Puglisi also joined Cortlandt Watch, a homeowners' group that promoted environmental protection and controlled development. That caught the eye of veteran town official Jack Gaffney, who was running for supervisor in 1987. Gaffney lost to his longtime nemesis, Charles DiGiacomo, but Puglisi and Thomas Carulli, his two running mates, defeated two prominent Republican candidates for Town Board seats.

"It was the right time for me to run for town council," Puglisi said. "The community was going in a different direction. They wanted less development. I thought the whole team would win. Tom and I came out of that grassroots community."

Two years later, Gaffney ousted DiGiacomo. Puglisi had toyed with running a Democratic primary against Gaffney, but decided to back off. But in 1991, she secured the Democratic line and prevailed in a four-way race by 83 votes, outlasting DiGiacomo, Gaffney and Alfred Donahue to



Linda Puglisi on Election Night in 1987, when she was elected as a Cortlandt councilwoman, launching a 34-year career on the Town Board.

win her first two-year term as supervisor.

"From Day One I wanted to be in charge. I didn't like some of the decisions that were made. I felt I could do a better job," Puglisi said. "I knew it was an uphill battle."

During the campaign, Gaffney openly questioned Puglisi's credentials, remarking, "Linda Puglisi is a nice lady who can serve milk and cookies and sing nursery rhymes, but she can't run a business."

"I think it backfired," Puglisi said of Gaffney's comments, which were echoed by others. "Sure, that was an outrageous thing to say. I wanted an opportunity. I went and marketed myself. I was pleased that people got my message, believed in me and supported me."

Puglisi also benefitted from a backlash against Gaffney from Croton-on-Hudson residents, who were bitter that Cortlandt was moving its offices from the Croton Municipal Building, where the town paid about \$100,000 annually in rent, to the former Van Cortlandtville Elementary School Building, which the town purchased for \$1.1 million in 1991 following a referendum. Ironically, it was Puglisi's idea to pursue the building and she was part of a negotiating team that secured it.

The town spent another \$500,000 to make necessary improvements that Puglisi played an integral role in redesigning.

"In the long run it would be beneficial to the village," Puglisi said. "I always knew that this former elementary school recycled into a Town Hall would serve our community well and it has done just that for 29 years."

Other economic-led decisions Puglisi spearheaded were eliminating the town



RICK PEZZULLO PHOTOS

Outgoing Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi, right, was honored earlier this month by the Westchester County police at Town Hall.

police department in 1999, consolidating town operating departments and other shared services.

Of course, the hallmark of her career has been the town's average annual tax increase of 1 percent. During the same time, Cortlandt has completed more than \$160 million in major improvements and capital projects, while only utilizing 1.2 percent of its bonding capacity.

"It's a record that we are very proud of which has benefited our community, residents and local businesses during this administration," Puglisi said.

Puglisi also led the charge to retain veterans' services at the Montrose VA and helped add 3,000 acres of open space that have been used for recreational purposes or environmental preservation.

"Politics can be difficult, but I had a plan. I had a mission," she said. "All the innovative ideas were what were best for the community. I don't regret anything."

Along the way, Puglisi faced many challenges, from hurricanes and tornados to the sudden announcement that the Indian Point nuclear power plants, the largest employer in the town, would be closing. She said Indian Point "kind of took over my life from the beginning."

However, she emphasized that nothing compared to the obstacles created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Fortunately, none of the town's 200 employees have died from the virus.

Puglisi suffered a personal misstep in 2006 when she stepped in a pothole wearing high heels on her way to a function at Colonial Terrace where she was scheduled to introduce President Bill Clinton. She wound up getting five plates

with screws in her ankle and has had to use a cane ever since.

"It changed my life. It was a stupid accident," she said. "I've always been a very athletic person."

Puglisi said she has extreme confidence that supervisor-elect Dr. Richard Becker will lead Cortlandt in the right direction.

"I know Richard will do a good job and carry forward a lot of our projects. I wanted to make sure someone would carry on the legacy," Puglisi said. "I have confidence in Richard and the team that they will do the right thing."

Puglisi said she has no plans to leave Cortlandt and hopes to catch up on some reading and do some traveling. She is fond of New England and enjoys being at the ocean. And, of course, she will spend more time with her children and two grandsons, Oliver and Jeremy.

"They are amazing and the light of my life," Puglisi said. "I'm also just so proud of my kids. They've achieved a great deal. The most important thing is they are such good people."

Don't expect to see her speaking out at meetings, though. After leading more than 1,700 of them during her tenure, she's been there, done that.

"I've had my turn. I've had my time," Puglisi said. "I've worked to the best of my ability. It's been exciting. It's been interesting. Where can you have a profession where every day is different? I've met so many people that I wouldn't have met before. Cortlandt has a bright future."

Enjoy our newspaper journalism? Then subscribe to our Examiner+ digital newsmagazine! Our magazine delivers in-depth news and local lifestyle coverage straight to your inbox Monday through Saturday. Visit www.examiner-plus.com to join our community of members.



YORKTOWN
Rehabilitation & Nursing Center

WE'RE HIRING

**HIRING EVENT ALL DAY
EVERY WEDNESDAY**

**In-Person and Virtual Job Interviews
with On-The-Spot Hiring Offers!**

For More Information Call:

914-739-2244

or Email Careers@YorktownRNC.com

**Join our Fun, Family-Like, Dedicated and
Supportive Quality Care Team Today!**

**Employee
Transportation
Provided
To and From
Local Bus Stops
and Metro North
Stations**

**LUCRATIVE
SIGN ON
BONUSES FOR
ALL NURSING
POSITIONS**

**RNS, LPNS CNAS
RESIDENT ASSISTANTS**

NO CERTIFICATION NEEDED,
GET PAID TO TRAIN AS A
NURSING ASSISTANT!

**HOUSEKEEPING &
DIETARY ASSISTANTS**

FULL-TIME, PART-TIME AND PER
DIEM POSITIONS AVAILABLE!

- **Competitive Pay**
- **Generous Benefits Flexible Hours!**
- **Staff Recognition Programs!**

- **Certification at NO Cost!**
- **Child Care Center On Site**
- **Employee Discounts Provided!**



2300 Catherine Street, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567
www.YorktownRNC.com

Art, Music is the Heart and Soul of 'Joshua2'

By Abby Luby

Maybe it's how he soulfully sings the blues or deftly paints his large canvases or molds his uniquely shaped vessels.

Each creation by artist and musician Joshua Brittingham seems to emanate directly from his soul, from an inner space informing him of a plethora of emotions unfolding from social inequities and worldwide painful discrimination to a transformative place of where negative vibes become positive. Brittingham's art and music stays with you.

A tall, bespectacled man with a hearty laugh, Brittingham, 60, professionally goes by the name Joshua2, a name he gave himself after a traumatic, life-threatening experience prompted him to forgive his parents for naming him after his father.

Brittingham and his wife, Holly, have two adult children. The couple moved to Somers five years ago after living in Harlem because he "needed to get closer to nature."

As a youngster, Brittingham grew up steeped in the Pentecostal faith, singing gospel.

"We were hard working Black people who worked in factories in what I call one step above the Great Migration from the south in the 1930s, '40s and '50s," Brittingham recalled. "We knew this country was not good for us, was not going to help us, but we held on to Jesus Christ. It was incredible to take on the religion of your persecutors. I see this now."

Many of Brittingham's paintings have bold

gestural strokes, jaunty angles, thick lines, vibrant cubist shapes and deep, rich colors that reverberate the anguish of wrongful enslavement. The undeniable message in much of his work is about the Black diaspora from the Jim Crow South where racial segregation was legal.

His mother was from Alabama and his father from Mississippi. He was one of eight children, and the family settled in Delaware where Brittingham's grandfather served as a pastor.

Brittingham's original paintings sell from \$12,000 to \$18,000 and giclée prints are priced at \$750 to \$4,500. Among his use of rich symbolism are thick encumbered nooses and wide-eyed crowned figures of Jesus and crosses. Many surfaces on the canvas are layered with pages of scripture.

"It's my way of denouncing the scriptures," Brittingham explained. "If people really read the Bible, well, it's not a happy book. My use of scripture pages means to warn people to really study and understand Christianity."

Brittingham sees religion as a movement taking advantage of disparity.

"You see big stone cathedrals all over the world in poor places, like in South Africa, a church that offers sanctuary to the poor," he said. "But that big church is what keeps people poor."

Not limiting his creativity to just two dimensions, Brittingham creates large, organically-shaped vessels, delicately leaning vases or lotus bowls, which all radiate a living presence, especially when you stand



ABBY LUBY PHOTO

Joshua Brittingham in his Somers studio with his original vessels and paintings.

next to or hold one. Using recycled and repurposed glass bottles, he recreates the shape using reconstituted, hand-made paper made into a thick, textured pulp applied to the bottle, layered and painted.

As an accomplished performing musician Brittingham regularly sings with his band. They have performed in Harlem, Delaware and abroad in New Zealand, Germany and Amsterdam. Locally, he performs outside his Somers studio twice a year. His last concert in September welcomed visitors into his gallery.

Brittingham's rock 'n' roll and blues songs may sound familiar but he often rewrites the lyrics to "tell the history of our people and credit those who actually wrote the words and composed the blues but died penniless in a little shack while others took credit and became famous."

Brittingham has his own version of the song "Strange Fruit," composed by Abel Meeropol and recorded by Billie Holiday in 1939 about lynchings. The song compares victims to fruit hanging from trees.

Whatever mode of expression Brittingham chooses, each is a commentary on religion, the current state of racial inequality and healing. As a leader of the Black student union while attending the University of Delaware, he recalled countless protests, being arrested, beaten and going to jail repeatedly. His take on the current Black Lives Matter movement is that it doesn't go far enough.

"I appreciate what BLM is trying to do but it's on the surface," he said. "I want to change the laws still on the books that say discrimination is legal. There are still Jim Crow laws that say if you are 15 percent Black, then you are a Black person. We also need to change the laws that legally allow a person from lynching Black people," he said, referring to the killing of Ahmaud Arbery, a Black man murdered by two white men in Georgia last year.

Currently Brittingham is embracing Taoism, incorporating symbols of the Eastern philosophy in his visual work.

"The Tao tells us about peace and love, and that's what is missing in the scriptures," he said. "My family were all healers and I create from the heart."

To learn more about Joshua Brittingham and his art and music, visit <https://joshua2studios.com>.



5 Questions Women Should Ask About Breast Cancer Surgery

Ask the Doctor

Ranjana Chaterji, DO

Breast Surgeon

Northwell Health Breast Care Center

Northwell Westchester Hospital

The care and safety of our community during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is our top priority. We have put maximum safety measures in place to prevent exposure to the coronavirus by anyone who comes to the Hospital for emergency or scheduled care. Don't delay care. Please continue to wash your hands, wear a mask, and practice social distancing.



**Northwell Westchester
Hospital**
Northwell Health®

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, which are currently virtual. The support enables women to help each other and empowers them to become their own health care advocates.

Learn more about Dr. Chaterji, visit
nwh.northwell.edu/Chaterji



From Westchester to Stockbridge: My Rockwellian Weekend Journey

Mamaroneck's famous son changed American identity.



By Adam Stone

You are reading this week's print edition excerpt of Examiner+, a digital newsmagazine serving Westchester, Putnam, and the surrounding Hudson Valley. Need to subscribe — or upgrade your Examiner+ subscription to enjoy full access to all of our premium digital content? Visit www.examiner-plus.com

For every million Joe Schmo creators, for every dreamer whose art vanishes unheralded in the ceaseless passing of time, there's one whose work captures the world's attention and maintains that grip across a broad span of history. Their contributions endure in our minds, in our collective consciousness, burning a flame in our imaginations while art of equal or superior (and lesser) technical quality or artistic ambition evaporates into ash. It isn't preordained, the select few who win the rare place. It is the byproduct of not just hard work and talent but also coincidence and serendipity. Timing and chance. Artists who possess greater ability descend into anonymity. But there's that rarity, the one who bends history with the strum of a

guitar, or the turn of a phrase, or the stroke of a paintbrush. They might have elite skill but it's their penchant and passion for storytelling, in the right historic moment, with the right megaphone, that sets them apart and elevates their legend, mixed with elements of luck and happenstance — right person, right place, right time. In 20th century American writing, think Hemingway. In music, think early Dylan.

In modern American life, no painter/illustrator fits that description better than Norman Rockwell, a Mamaroneck High School dropout who delivered America, especially suburban, middle-class America, a new national identity. And examining Rockwell's influence over our identity has never been more relevant than it is today.

Just think, heading into last year's presidential election, a whopping 80 percent of voters on both the Republican and Democratic sides proclaimed that contrasts with the opposing party are about core American values. But what are those values? And who helped shape them? No

Visit examiner-plus.com and join our digital newsmagazine community as a member to read the full version of this article and others like it!



NORMAN ROCKWELL'S "THE FOUR FREEDOMS" SERIES OF PAINTINGS (FACEBOOK/NORMAN ROCKWELL MUSEUM)

figure of the 20th century did more than Rockwell to create a visual vocabulary for us around those values, creating both American myths and real aspirations.

Roadtrip

All sober ruminating aside, and with just a fun getaway in mind, my wife Alyson and I recently visited the Berkshires for a weekend and included a pitstop at the Norman Rockwell Museum in his adopted adult life hometown of Stockbridge,

Massachusetts. But I came away from the experience inspired by Rockwell's legacy, with a wider understanding of the impact he had on how we look at ourselves as Americans ...

To read the rest of this article, and others like it, visit examiner-plus.com and click subscribe. We hope you've enjoyed this week's excerpt from Examiner+. We love honest feedback. Tell us what you think: examinerplus@theexaminernews.com

Caring for someone with Alzheimer's isn't easy.

Reaching us is.



If you care for someone with Alzheimer's disease, memory loss or dementia, you are not alone. We're here day or night — whenever you need us — offering reliable information and support.

Free 24/7 Helpline: **800.272.3900**
Caregiver Center: **alz.org/care**

alzheimer's  association®

This advertisement is supported in part by a grant from the New York State Department of Health.

Yorktown Fitness Center Partners With Nonprofit to Bring Holiday Joy

By Martin Wilbur

For most, the day before Christmas is a time to fetch any last-minute gifts or bring home food items from the store and prepare for the holiday.

Last Friday, Robert Tomasulo and Junior Susca were hard at work completing hundreds of “burpees,” a strenuous exercise that combines a jump, squat and pushup.

The nearly herculean efforts of Tomasulo, the owner of Level Up Strength & Conditioning in Yorktown Heights, and Susca, one of his coaches, helped raise more than \$1,400 for Love Holds Life Children’s Cancer Foundation, a lower Hudson Valley-based nonprofit organization.

“It was definitely challenging but doing it for the kids kind of helps you mentally to keep pushing through, and then the community that we have here at the gym helps us even more,” said Tomasulo, who completed 600 burpees while Susca did 520. “So to have support of my gym and all the coaches and everything makes it that much easier.”

After their grueling hour-long activity, two of the families that Love Holds Life helped this holiday season arrived at the gym as part of a brief presentation. Amanda Dumont, who recently moved from Cortlandt to Newburgh and whose nine-year-old daughter Zoe is recovering from cancer, was presented with a \$1,000 check.

Then Jaya Karnani of Edgewater, N.J. came with her seven-year-old daughter Kiah and older son Zehn and received \$2,500 and a gift



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTOS

Robert Tomasulo powers his way through 600 burpees within an hour last Friday. His fitness center raised about \$1,400 to fight childhood cancer.

for each child. For more than a year, Kiah has battled a rare bone cancer in her jaw, which has required doctors at Sloan Kettering’s pediatric unit to take bone from her leg. Her treatments can take up to 12 hours per visit.

“All this means the world to us, first getting to see Santa,” Karnani said. “She’s almost lost her childhood. I would wake her up at seven in the morning and I’ll say, ‘Kiah, do you want to wake up and see Santa?’ She’ll say yes because she doesn’t know what tomorrow will be. She knows that maybe tomorrow she’ll be stuck in the hospital.”



Level Up Fitness owner Robert Tomasulo, kneeling right, with Richard Senato, founder of Love Holds Life Children’s Cancer Foundation, kneeling left, with two of the families affected by cancer diagnoses that were helped this holiday season.

Richard Senato, who founded Love Holds Life nearly 10 years ago, said there was a third family that was helped this Christmas but they were unable to come because their son was completing treatment.

Aside from bringing joy during the holidays, Love Holds Life helps families throughout Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, northern New Jersey and Tampa, Fla. the rest of the year, he said.

“It’s all monetary assistance that we provide families during their time of treatment, and each family we’ll help for two years,” Senato said.

Dumont, a single mother, was overcome with emotion when she learned that she would be a holiday recipient. Someone on Cortlandt Manor Moms had contacted Love Holds Life to let them know of the challenges faced by Dumont and her daughter.

After the pandemic and Zoe’s battle, it was important to have an enjoyable Christmas this year.

“They got a hold of me,” Dumont said. “I was thinking this can’t be real.”

For Tomasulo and Susca, they had agreed to do one burpee for every dollar raised at the fitness center from members who would put donations in their stockings. Then Tomasulo’s father, Joe, matched those donations through his company Madison Environmental & Tank Services in Somers.

That required Susca to do 520 burpees and 584 for Tomasulo, who decided to round it up to 600. It was tough but they each hit their number. A third coach raised additional money but wasn’t there to participate.

“I’ve never gone over 160 before,” Susca said. “At the end of the day, I kept reminding myself what I’m doing it for, for a good cause, especially when I saw these young ladies. I said, alright, I’ve got to keep going.”

To learn more about Love Holds Life Children’s Cancer Foundation, visit www.loveholdslife.org.

A large graphic for the New Year. The year "2022" is written in large, gold, 3D-style numbers. The background is dark with many small, white and gold confetti-like specks. Below the year, the words "HAPPY NEW YEAR" are written in a gold, serif font, separated by dots. At the bottom, there are two lines of text: "Please Don't Drink & Drive, Celebrate Alive" on the left and "Patterson Auto Body" on the right, both in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

The Home Library to Impress – or is it More Décor?

My favorite comedian has always been the late and delightfully crude Joan Rivers whom I first encountered in a rundown comedy club in Greenwich Village when I first moved to New York City. That was before she appeared on “The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson” and became an instant hit.

I remember many of her jokes, and one of my favorites was her contention that men preferred dumb women and, if they were exploring under their clothing, they weren’t looking for their library card.

Even though my basic skill has always been writing, ironically, I was not an avid reader of great literature or even popular novels, preferring celebrity biographies and sometimes maybe historical texts. As an editor, then public relations practitioner, I always spent so much time reading newspapers and magazines, then blogs, that I didn’t have much time left over for anything else.

Shallow as it might seem, I have always liked the looks of books. From my earliest days, while still in college, I started a collection of books that looked good on my shelves. I admit that I didn’t always read them. Only a person who’s old enough



By Bill Primavera

not to care what other people might think could disclose such information, right?

When I moved from my small college town to the big city, most of my moving boxes contained those books, many unread, even before I owned any bookcases.

Through the years, I have learned that man is not so much what he eats but rather what he reads, and we all tend to partly judge other people on that. Consider that when anyone is interviewed on television in front of a bookcase, many of us have the tendency to look for the book titles to learn more about the interview subject.

If anyone were judging me by the books on my shelves, I received a tremendous boost in reputation when my wife’s aunt, an avid bibliophile, passed away and left us, among other things, a library that included 50 years’ worth of belonging to the Book of the Month Club. Suddenly we had to create a dedicated room in our home as “the library” in which there were books wall to wall as the only décor.

When we were planning our move to our new condo, we first engaged a master craftsman to design and build bookcases in our living room whose finish matched the mahogany of our kitchen cabinets. If I say



The Home Guru’s living room where books play a major role in its décor.

so myself, they are beautiful. Interspersed with the books are various objets d’art and, overall, the effect is highly effective.

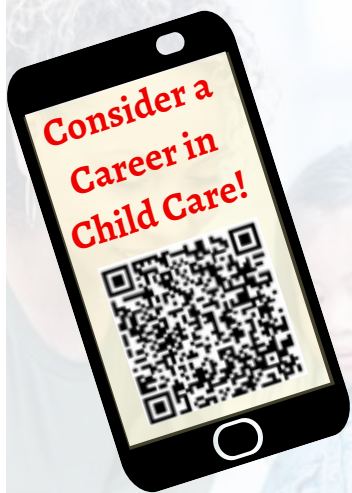
It makes me feel wealthy, with easy access to the world’s great minds.

Bill Primavera is a realtor associated with William Raveis Real Estate and

founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc., the longest running public relations agency in Westchester (www.PrimaveraPR.com). To engage the services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Love Kids?



Ensure children are safe and learning while their parents work, and prepare them for success in school and life. There’s no career more important or rewarding!

There are a variety of child care jobs available in Westchester. Some have experience/education requirements, others do not. And, you may qualify for free training through your employer or the Child Care Council of Westchester.

To see open jobs or upload your resume/profile, scan the QR code.

www.childcarewestchester.org



From Everyone at

MIRACLE HOME IMPROVEMENTS
NO \$ DOWN ON JOBS UNDER \$20,000

(914) 271-9119

FINANCING OPTIONS FROM **GreenSky™**

WC. Lic. #10415H99
P.C. Lic. #1817
YNK 307 • H-12519-07-23-00

**ROOFING • WINDOWS • SIDING • DOORS • DECKS
SEAMLESS GUTTERS • LEADERS**

Robert & Mary Sniffen, Owners
**2010 Albany Post Road,
Croton-on-Hudson, NY**

www.miraclehomeimprovements.com

Is Wine By the Glass Worthwhile When You're Away From Home?



By Nick Antonaccio

"May I offer you a drink?"

"Yes, I'd like a glass of (white, red, sparkling) wine."

This seemingly innocuous interchange with a waiter or bartender can be fraught with indecision, or worse, a hurried choice that

has a mediocre result.

Today's COVID-induced dining environment seems to change seasonally, sometimes monthly, even weekly. In this column, my focus is on those occasions when you are feeling relatively safe to enter an establishment for a meal or a drink.

Recently, many of us have gravitated to watching our wallets as much as our waistlines (they seem to be heading in opposite directions). Restaurants, bars and wine bars understand this inflation awareness. Offerings of wines by the glass at reasonable prices have increased multifold into broader and deeper selections of wines from around the world. But, "I'll have the house wine" is still the typical response when ordering a glass.

Let's change that behavior pattern. Be adventurous. Order wine by the glass with the goal of finding a "new favorite" wine.

Better yet, why order a bottle when you can pick and choose multiple wines from the by-the-glass list?

As with most adventures, caution is paramount. Be aware of the pitfalls that lurk as you navigate through this process. Here are my guidelines for how and when to order a glass of wine, whether seated at your restaurant table or waiting to be seated while at the restaurant's bar; whether meeting friends at your local watering hole or social-distancing at a wine bar.

First, the benefits.

1. When dining with the special person in our life, we tend to order one bottle for the evening, trying to find a middle ground to satisfy differing food preferences as well as the competing flavors of our first and second courses. We rarely succeed. This situation cries out for a glass or glasses of wine perfectly paired with individual dishes.

2. When socializing with friends at a local bar, it's too easy to order generically. Be inquisitive. "Which red (white) wines are you offering this evening?" Ask the server to describe the country of origin and the style of wine. "The Chilean Cabernet sounds appealing. May I sample it?" Your server has been trained to lower the barriers of selection; multiple choices usually lead to multiple glasses.

3. If you're like me, you have a life-list of

**You Heard It
Through the
Grapevine**



wines to enjoy before you kick the (ice) bucket. Today many restaurants and wine bars offer high-end wines by the glass. Are they expensive? Yes. Would you otherwise have the opportunity to check them off your life list? Probably not. Besides, \$25 for one glass is an extravagance I can better psychologically rationalize than \$200 for a bottle.

Now, the pitfalls.

1. Financially, wines by the glass yield a low return on investment for you and an extraordinarily high return for restaurants and bars. Here's the math: the typical restaurant or bar pour is four to five ounces, which equates to five to six glasses per bottle. The average

price to you for a glass of wine has been climbing to a current level of \$10 to \$13. The average cost of that bottle, at wholesale, is \$17 to \$26. The math: the restaurant or bar may need to sell just one glass to recover all or most of their cost of the bottle (not including overhead). The remaining pours from the bottle are nearly all profit.

2. "I'll have a glass of the house wine." My advice: Never order the house wine. It may be convenient to do so in the midst of conversation, but by spending a few minutes being more selective, you will most likely experience a new wine and expand your knowledge and palate – for only \$2 to \$3 more than the house wine.

3. Be sure the wine being poured into your glass is the wine you ordered. Reputable establishments will always present the bottle as they are pouring. This helps you prevent any bait-and-switch tactic.

By the glass or buy the bottle?

Do the simple math. Follow your personal logic. Find the right balance and you've created a win-win experience.

Nick Antonaccio is a 45-year Pleasantville resident. For over 25 years, he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. Nick is a member and program director of the Wine Media Guild of wine journalists. 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.

ARE YOU A SAFE DRIVER? A RESPONSIBLE HOMEOWNER?

Let our agency tell you about the **AARP® Auto & Homeowners Insurance Program from The Hartford**. As your local Hartford independent agency, we can show you all the advantages, including:

- Average savings of \$404* for drivers who switch.
- "Bundling" discounts for insuring your home and cars.
- Friendly service from our local office.

Get your FREE no-obligation quote today!



845-278-7070

FEEHAN BROTHERS INS AGENCY, LLC
2350 ROUTE 6
BREWSTER, NY 10509

Matthew Feehan

Owner

MattF@FeehanInsurance.com

www.FeehanInsurance.com



AARP®

**Auto & Home Insurance
Program from**



*Savings amounts are based on information from The Hartford's AARP Auto Insurance Auto Insurance Program customer who became new auto insurance policyholders between 7/1/13 and 6/30/14 through the traditional AARP Auto Insurance Program and provided data regarding their savings. Authorized agents can also provide coverage under this Program. Your savings may vary.

The AARP Automobile & Homeowners Insurance Program from The Hartford is underwritten by Hartford Fire Insurance Company and its affiliates, One Hartford Plaza, Hartford CT 06155. CA license number 5152. In Washington, the Auto Program is underwritten by Trumbull Insurance Company. The Home Program is underwritten by Hartford Underwriters Insurance Company. AARP does not employ or endorse agents or brokers. AARP and its affiliates are not insurers. Paid endorsement. The Hartford pays royalty fees to AARP for the use of its intellectual property. These fees are used for the general purposes of AARP. AARP membership is required for Program eligibility in most states. Applicants are individually underwritten and some may not qualify. Specific features, credits, and discounts may vary and may not be available in all states in accordance with state filings and applicable law. You have the option of purchasing a policy directly from The Hartford. Your price, however, could vary, and you will not have the advice, counsel or services of your independent agent.

Examiner+

WESTCHESTER'S DIGITAL NEWSMAGAZINE

Help Us Keep Shining Our Light On Local News *#GivingSeason*

Examiner+, a new digital newsmagazine delivering high-quality reporting on news, issues, and lifestyle topics relevant to life in and around Westchester, Putnam and the broader Hudson Valley.

Examiner+ offers in-depth, long-form reporting and insightful commentary on critical newsworthy subjects, along with engaging lifestyle articles and valuable service pieces.

- Reported and published with the style and sensibilities of a glossy, feature-based magazine
- Published on the cutting-edge Substack platform
- Delivered in sections directly to your email inbox several times a week and on Saturdays with a special weekend edition

*Just \$39
Annually
(Normally \$49)*

**SUBSCRIBE NOW TO LOCK IN HOLIDAY RATE!
OFFER EXPIRES AT MONTH'S END
www.Examiner-Plus.com**

Six Movies Worth Checking Out This Holiday Season

As we hit the holidays and head into Oscars season, here are some takes on a few movies that you might have missed or have been meaning to check out.

Shang-Chi and The Legend of the Ten Rings

In one of Marvel's best films since "Avengers: Endgame," "Shang-Chi and The Legend of the Ten Rings," brings the first Asian superhero to the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU).

The story revolves around Shaun whose complicated family history involves a traumatizing childhood under the supervision of his father, Xu Wenwu. Wenwu is the leader of a powerful, merciless organization known as the Ten Rings and rules using the mystical power of the artifacts with the same name. Shaun, his sister, Xialing, and his friend, Katy, fight to stop Wenwu from destroying a mystical village, known as Ta Lo.

Simu Liu and Awkwafina have undeniable chemistry and make the film a fun and action-packed adventure. The movie has some visually stunning scenes and the choreography of the fight scenes are some of the best Marvel has ever produced. The story is compelling, original and not overly complicated and does its best to honor Chinese culture without going over the top.

Rating: 9.25/10

Where to watch: Disney+

The Last Duel

This historical drama, directed by Ridley Scott, stars Jodie Comer, Matt Damon and Adam Driver and tells the story of a broken friendship amidst accusations of a heinous crime.

Set in 14th century France, the film highlights the primitive nature of this time as unresolved conflicts in the courts are resolved in a duel to the death. The film is sequenced in three different parts, the truth according to Jean de Carrouge (Damon), followed by the truth according to Jacque Le Gris (Driver) and the truth according to Lady Marguerite (Comer).

The film showcases how women were viewed more as prizes rather than equals during that time and how people can trick themselves into believing they are someone they're not. A lack of self-awareness and ignorance is evident from both male leads, even though they have different personalities and characteristics.

The movie is certainly intriguing, but does feel very slow at times. The acting is top-notch as one would expect and Comer certainly steals the show. I would expect her to get significant Oscar consideration.

If you can last through the 2 hours and 32 minutes, "The Last Duel" is certainly worth the watch and is a compelling drama that creates important discussions that are pertinent today.



By Rick M. Pezzullo

Rating: 8/10

Where to watch: Amazon Prime Video, Youtube, Apple TV, Google Play (All for a fee).

The Eternals

Another installment to the MCU falls short of lofty expectations despite a star-studded cast featuring Gemma Chan, Richard Madden and Salma Hayek.

The story involves 10 superpowered beings who were created by the Celestial Arishem to exterminate all

Deviants that had infiltrated Earth. The Eternals, as they are called, are immortal and live amongst humans without interfering with their natural development in society. As they witness war, conflict and tragedy for thousands of years, some begin to wonder about their true purpose and responsibilities should be. After finding out devastating secrets about their existence, conflict emerges among the group and creates a rift.

Directed by Oscar winner Chloe Zhao, "The Eternals" wasn't nearly as poor as reviews might suggest, but it was slow and the dialogue and storyline left much to be desired. Madden, a "Game of Thrones" favorite, as at times too stoic and robotic, but Chan delivers a solid performance as Sersi. Kumail Najiani injects some much-needed humor, while Kit Harrington and Angelina Jolie do well in their ensemble roles.

"The Eternals" isn't a groundbreaking film but is worth a watch for any superhero aficionado.

Rating: 7/10

Where to Watch: In theaters and coming soon to Disney+

Dune

Based on the iconic 1965 novel written by Frank Herbert, "Dune" is a science fiction film that centers around Paul Atreides who is in line to become Duke. House Atreides is in constant conflict with House Harkonnen and is sent to rule over the desert planet of Arrakis.

Devoid of abundant water supply, Arrakis is vital to the galaxy's economy due to its abundance of "spice," which provide heightened awareness and consciousness, but also makes the inhabitants dependent on its use. It is also valuable for navigation and interstellar travel.

Complex political intricacies become apparent, and House Atreides tries to broker a diplomatic relationship with the indigenous people, known as the Fremen. Atreides (Timothée Chalamet) discovers he has heightened abilities along with his mother, Lady Jessica (Rebecca Ferguson).

Keep in mind that this movie covers half of the novel and is only Part 1. That said, it's long but visually stunning. Much of the film is laying the foundation and character development in preparation for the epic



Part 2.

The cast does well, but there are moments of subpar writing. Chalamet and Ferguson are certainly the standouts as well as Oscar Isaac and Jason Momoa, who seem to fit nicely in whatever film they're involved in. As someone who read the novel, I enjoyed the film, but I wasn't blown away. For science fiction fans, it is a film worth investing the time, but don't expect a significant climax.

Rating: 7.5/10

Where to watch: Coming soon to HBO Max (included) and Amazon Prime Video, Youtube, Apple TV and Google Play (All for a fee).

King Richard

Based on the Venus and Serena Williams' father, "King Richard" is a triumph of a sports drama. Richard Williams, played by Will Smith, defied all the odds by raising two of tennis' greatest stars while overcoming financial hurdles, societal stigma and the streets of crime-ridden Compton.

Smith, in what might be the best performance of his career, perfectly encapsulates Richard's mannerisms, determination and character flaws. Aunjanue Ellis is exceptional in her own right as Richard's wife, Brandy. She perfectly portrays an example of a parent who sacrificed her own happiness for the betterment of her children. Saniyya Sydney and Demi Singleton put in solid performances as well in their roles as young Venus and Serena.

The film is compelling and suspenseful despite everyone knowing the end and will certainly be an Oscar candidate. Expect Smith to be the early frontrunner for Best Actor at the Oscars.

Even if you are not a tennis fan, "King Richard" is a must-see and is a true representation of the American Dream.

Rating: 9.5/10

Where to watch: In theaters and coming to HBO Max after theatrical release.

Spiderman: No Way Home

The most anticipated Marvel film in years certainly lived up to the hype. "Spiderman: No Way Home" follows the continued storyline of Peter Parker as he comes to grips with the reality that everyone now knows he is Spiderman thanks to doctored video footage from Mysterio. Parker asks for help from fellow

Avenger, Doctor Strange, to conjure a spell that makes everyone forget his secret identity. During the spell, Parker disrupts Doctor Strange's concentration, which causes breaches in the fabric of the multiverse, which allows for villains from other universes to enter

Peter's and creates chaos for Queens' favorite superhero.

Tom Holland was outstanding and continues to show why he is the best to play the role of the web-slinger to date. Holland and Zendaya have undeniable chemistry, which makes for a thrilling and emotional roller coaster ride in all the right ways.

This film had everything a superhero fan could ask for – action, suspense, tragedy and a few twists to boot. It was everything I've ever wanted in a Spiderman film and I could not have enjoyed myself more. A must-see and will certainly be the talk of the town this holiday season.

Rating: 10/10

Where to watch: In theaters



Enjoy our newspaper journalism? Then subscribe to our Examiner+ digital newsmagazine! Our magazine delivers in-depth news and local lifestyle coverage straight to your inbox Monday through Saturday. Visit www.examiner-plus.com to join our community of members.

To Place a Classified Ad
Call 914-864-0878 or e-mail
classifieds@theexaminernews.com

EXAMINER MEDIA Classifieds

122821

Classified Ad Deadline
is Thursdays at 5pm for the
next week's publication

ANTIQUES & ART/COLLECTIBLES

MOST CASH PAID FOR paintings, antiques, furniture, silver, sculpture, jewelry books, cameras, records, instruments, coins, watches, gold, comics, sports cards, etc. **PLEASE CALL AARON AT 914-235-0302**

****COMIC BOOKS WANTED!**
TOP PRICES PAID!** 30 years experience. Reliable and honest!
Call or Text: 917-699-2496, or e-mail: smileLP@aol.com.

ATTORNEY

DIVORCE \$389 - Uncontested divorce papers prepared. Only one signature required. Poor person Application included if applicable.

Separation agreements. Custody and support petitions. **518-274-0380**

AUTO DONATIONS

Drive Out Breast Cancer: Donate a car today! The benefits of donating your car or boat: Fast Free Pickup - 24hr Response Tax Deduction - Easy To Do! **Call 24/7: 855-905-4755**

BUYING/SELLING

Buying diamonds, gold, silver, all fine jewelry and watches, coins, paintings, better furs, complete estates. We simply pay more! **Call Barry 914-260-8783 or e-mail Americabuying@aol.com**

EDUCATION / CAREER TRAINING

COMPUTER & IT TRAINING PROGRAM! Train ONLINE to get the skills to become a Computer & Help Desk Professional now! Grants and Scholarships available for certain programs for qualified applicants. **Call CTI for details! (844) 947-0192 (M-F 8am-6pm ET)**

TRAIN AT HOME TO DO MEDICAL BILLING! Become a Medical Office Professional online at CTI! Get Trained, Certified & ready to work in months! **Call 855-543-6440. (M-F 8am-6pm ET)**

GOLD / SILVER WANTED

HIGHEST PRICES PAID - Visit Westchester's Top Buyer for Gold, Silver, Diamonds, Coins & Currency, Watches, Jewelry. Licensed, Professional, **No Appointment Necessary. Tuesdays-Saturdays 10am-6pm, Mt. Kisco Gold & Silver, 139E Main Street. 914-244-9500**

HEALTH

VIAGRA & CIALIS! 60 pills for \$99. 100 pills for \$150. **FREE shipping. Money back guaranteed! 1-855-579-8907**

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a **FREE** LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off and 0% financing for those who qualify. **PLUS Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-763-2379**

Never Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again! Complete Care Home Warranty **COVERS ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. 30 DAY RISK FREE. \$200.00 OFF + 2 FREE Months! 866-440-6501**

The Generac PWRcell, a solar plus battery storage system. **SAVE** money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 Down Financing Option. Request a **FREE**, no obligation, quote today. **Call 888-871-0194**

MISCELLANEOUS

BEST SATELLITE TV with 2 Year Price Guarantee! \$59.99/mo with 190 channels and 3 months free premium movie channels! Free next day installation! **Call 888-508-5313**

\$200 OFF the purchase of any stairlift

Regain Your Independence!

The ALBANY Lift Company
Stairlifts * Elevators * Wheelchair Lifts * Ramps
747 Pierce Road, Clifton Park NY 12065
(518) 393-2274 * (888) 558-LIFT
www.thealbanyliftcompany.com
Locally Owned & Operated
New and Reconditioned Lifts
• Sales • Rentals • Service • Buybacks
★ Same Day Installation
Visit Our Display Center at 747 Pierce Road, Clifton Park, NY, 12065

The Delightful Gift

- 4 Butcher's Cut Top Sirloins (5 oz.)
- 4 Filet Mignon Burgers (5.3 oz.)
- 4 Boneless Chicken Breasts (1 lb. pkg.)
- 4 Gourmet Jumbo Franks (3 oz.)
- 4 Individual Scalloped Potatoes (3.8 oz.)
- 4 Caramel Apple Tarts (4 oz.)
- 1 jar Signature Seasoning (3.1 oz. jar)
- 8 **FREE** Filet Mignon Burgers (5.3 oz.)

65658PTN separately \$229.99
SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE \$99.99

GET 8 FREE FILET MIGNON BURGERS

Order Now! **1.844.615.2744** ask for 65658PTN
OmahaSteaks.com/TheGift1246

*Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. Standard S&H applies. ©2021 Omaha Steaks, Inc. Exp. 12/31/21

Wheels For Wishes

benefiting
Make-A-Wish®
Northeast New York
Your Car Donations Matter NOW More Than Ever!

- Free Vehicle Pick Up ANYWHERE
- 100% Tax Deductible
- We Accept Most Vehicles Running or Not
- Minimal To No Human Contact

Call: (877) 798-9474 **WheelsForWishes.org**

* Car Donation Foundation d/b/a Wheels For Wishes. To learn more about our programs or financial information, call (212) 945-2000 or visit www.wheelsforwishes.org.

DENTAL Insurance

from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company

Call to get your FREE Information Kit
1-855-225-1434
Dental50Plus.com/nypress

Product not available in all states. Includes the Participating (in GA: Designated) Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, NY; call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C2500); Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P150OK; TN: P150TN). Rider kinds: B438, B439 (GA: B439B). 6208-0721

Saving a Life EVERY 11 MINUTES

I'm never alone
Life Alert® is always here for me.

One touch of a button sends help fast, 24/7.

Help at Home **Help On-the-Go**

Life Alert® Batteries Never Need Charging.

For a FREE brochure call:
1-800-404-9776

Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
877-516-1160

FREE
7-Year Extended Warranty*
A \$695 Value!

Limited Time Offer - Call for Details

Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

TV INTERNET PHONE

DISH TV \$64.99 For 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Promo Expires 1/21/22. **1-888-609-9405**

Get DIRECTV! ONLY \$69.99/month! 155 Channels & 1000s of Shows/Movies On Demand (w/ SELECT All Included Package.) PLUS Stream on Up to FIVE Screens Simultaneously at No Additional Cost. Call **DIRECTV 1-888-534-6918**

continued on page 22



AWARD WINNER

NYFA NYNAME

NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION
BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Catch the Planets in Nighttime Sky Before They Leave the Stage

If you've had a few minutes and looked to the southwest over the last few months, maybe you've noticed and stared at the long line of bright planets that have stretched across that part of the sky since the summer and fall.

There's some uncertainty, but it's thought that our word planet came to us from the Greek word *planētes*, a reference to how these few objects appeared to wander among the other stars. Other than their strange movement, the ancients had no way of knowing that these wanderers were anything different than the other lights in the night, let alone other nearby worlds orbiting the sun.

As with most things, these wandering planets come and go. After all these months with us, it's time for our neighbors to leave the night sky. This gives us another chance to see them the way the ancients did. It's tough to be together these days, but we can still enjoy the nights and draw a line back through time all the way to when the first people looked up and wondered.

So, let's head out after sundown. As this year turns into next, we can watch the bright planets sink lower into the dusk than the night before. This is both because our view on them is changing, but also because our daylight hours are starting to stretch out, little by little, now that we're past the winter solstice.

First leaving the stage is Venus. As the year starts, our solar system's second planet will move too close to the sun and be tough to spot. On Jan. 9, it crosses into the morning sky, where it will join Mars, which has been waiting there for the last few months. Venus won't be back into the evenings until next December.

Speedy Mercury rises higher into the night for a few days at the start of the year. Mercury is always a fun challenge

Clear Skies



New Moon
January 2



First Quarter
January 9



Full Moon
January 17



Last Quarter
January 25

The phases of the moon chart for January.

because it moves fast and never gets very far from the sun in our sky. It'll be alongside Saturn, which will look dusty and stubborn through the twilight. While we're here, let's try to catch the beautiful sight of a young crescent moon as it sweeps through from Jan. 4-6.

Mercury drops from the evenings until April on the 23rd. Saturn follows behind it and slips out of the nights around the 31st.

By the end of the month, Jupiter is the only planet left in our nights. It follows the others and leaves the evenings by mid-February. With a snap, we're without any planets in the



By Scott Levine

night sky until the warm months return, other than Mercury's brief April visit.

It's always a bit sad when the planets leave the night, but it's amazing to see them parade away. These times let us watch the solar system do its thing, just like people have for millennia, and hopefully will for millennia more. If there's one thing we can be sure about, it's that the planets will be back soon.

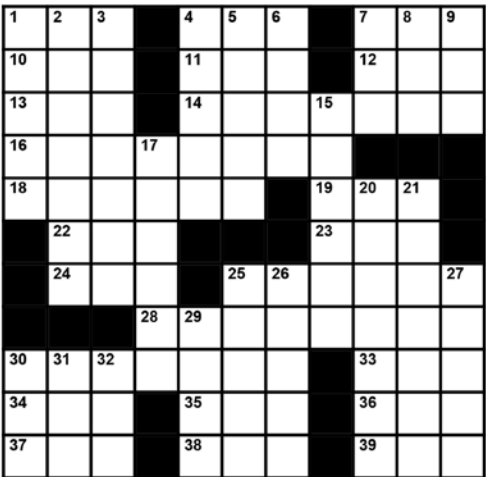
Thanks for reading this year, and thanks to my friend Bob Kelly for his help with the dates in this article. Be safe, be well and happy new year!

Scott Levine (astroscott@yahoo.com) is an astronomy writer and speaker from Croton-on-Hudson. He is also a member of the Westchester Amateur Astronomers, who are dedicated to astronomy outreach in our area. For information about the club including membership, newsletters, upcoming meetings and lectures at Pace University and star parties at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, visit westchesterastronomers.org.

Advertise in The Examiner • 914-864-0878
advertising@theexaminernews.com

Crossword

- Across
- 1. Internet laughter symbol
 - 4. Striped insect
 - 7. Racket
 - 10. Nurses' org.
 - 11. ___ Miss
 - 12. Corp. exec., abbr.
 - 13. Ripe loganberry's hue
 - 14. Belonging to "Sopranos" character or Thornwood restaurant - ____
 - 16. Masterminds
 - 18. Sprinkle on
 - 19. Cup, plate, and fork
 - 22. News outlet
 - 23. Gone by
 - 24. Laugh sound
 - 25. Useless
 - 28. Cordial liquor
 - 30. Flipper
 - 33. Believer suffix
 - 34. Interstate sign
 - 35. Ph.D., e.g.
 - 36. Knight title
 - 37. Lao-__
 - 38. Ship's course
 - 39. Golfing location
- Down
- 1. Newly hatched insect
 - 2. Mark on a ruler
 - 3. Southwestern bandit
 - 4. A ship's officer
 - 5. "Four Quartets" poet



- 6. Sushi choices
- 7. 601, in Rome
- 8. "How was ___ know?"
- 9. Figures, abbr.
- 15. Looks
- 17. Soldier's helmet, slangily
- 20. Selfish person
- 21. Honeybunch
- 25. This Mohegan Lake floor & tile shop will give you miles of smiles- ____
- 26. ___ orange
- 27. Raison ____
- 29. Popular lingerie color
- 30. The Beatles' ___ Pepper
- 31. La ___, Bolivia
- 32. Tempe inst.

Answers on page 27



SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

To Place a Classified Ad
Call 914-864-0878 or e-mail
classifieds@theexaminernews.com

EXAMINER MEDIA Classifieds

Classified Ad Deadline
is Thursdays at 5pm for the
next week's publication

continued from page 20

Find us on Facebook **Search for EXAMINER MEDIA**

COMPUTER PROBLEMS?

Friendly Certified Computer Repair Experts

Simply mention coupon code **42513** and get **\$20 OFF** any service you need!

Geeks on Site

Call Now for a **FREE** Diagnosis
1-866-848-0045

Give Something that Means Something®



American Red Cross



NOTICE TO NEW YORK RESIDENTS

Homeowner Funding enables families to make necessary energy efficient home repairs who:

- **ARE UNABLE TO PAY CASH FOR NECESSARY HOME REPAIRS.**
- **CANNOT AFFORD HIGH OR ADDITIONAL MONTHLY PAYMENTS.**
- **HAVE BEEN TURNED DOWN FOR FREE STATE OR GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS.**

REPAIRS INCLUDE:
ROOFING • SIDING • WINDOWS • DOORS & MORE...

up to **\$25,000**

NO Money Down **NO Equity Required**

QUALIFY TODAY: (800) 736-9629
or visit **NYImprovementFund.com**

Approved applications will have the work completed by a quality repair crew provided by: HOMEOWNER FUNDING

WE SPECIALIZE IN STAINLESS STEEL LINING SYSTEMS

Always Affordable Chimney Inc.

Much more than sweeping chimneys!
— 24 Hour Emergency Service —

- Stainless Steel Chimney Relining/Caps
- Expert Masonry Repairs
- Level I, II and III Chimney Inspections
- Chimney Caps Supplied and Installed
- Violations Corrected



BOILER FLUE CLEANING

Starting at **\$99** for residential;
call for commercial quotes

FIREPLACE CLEANING

Starting at **\$299**

855-244-6880 • 516-830-0166
www.alwaysaffordablechimney.com

Fully Licensed & Insured

Leaf & Filter GUTTER PROTECTION

BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE

EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!

15% OFF & **10% OFF**

5% OFF TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS ONLY!

FINANCING THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET!
Promo Code: 285

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE **1-855-478-9473**

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. **Offer valid at time of estimate only. *The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16 month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the "#1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America." CSLB# 1035795, DOPL# 1078558-5501, License# 7656, License# 59145, License# 41354, License# 99338, License# 128344, License# 218244, WAUB# 603 233 977, License# 2102212586, License# 2102212586, License# 27051321534, License# LEAFPROTECT, License# WV056912, License# MC20995-H17, Nassau HC License# H01067000, Registration# 176447, Registration# HIC.064905, Registration# C127229, Registration# C127230, Registration# 366920918, Registration# PC6475, Registration# IR231804, Registration# 13VH09053900, Registration# PA069383, Suffolk HIC License# 52229-H, License# 2705169445, License# 262000022, License# 262000403, License# 0086990, Registration# H-19114.

To Place a
Classified Ad
Call
914-864-0878
or e-mail
classifieds@theexaminernews.com

Prepare for Power Outages & Save Money

PWRcell, Generac's fully-integrated solar + battery storage system, stores solar energy that can power your whole home during utility power outages and save you money on your electric bill.

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!

ACT NOW TO RECEIVE A \$300 SPECIAL OFFER!*

| (888) 871-0194

\$0 DOWN FINANCING OPTIONS!*

*Offer value when purchased at retail.
**Financing available through authorized Generac partners.
Solar panels sold separately.

GENERAC
PWRCELL
SOLAR + BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEM



Upgrade Your Home with a

NEW METAL ROOF

Guaranteed to Last a Lifetime!

LIMITED TIME OFFER

60% off
YOUR INSTALLATION

+ TAKE AN ADDITIONAL 10% off

Install for Military, Health Workers and First Responders

ERIE Metal Roofs
Warranty: Limited Lifetime. Transferred to subsequent owner from original purchaser. Terms and conditions apply. Not valid on roofs with hail up to 2.5". Appearance of the surface coating beyond normal wear and tear. Expires 12.31.21

STRONG AS STEEL WITH THE ATTRACTIVE LOOK OF VARIOUS ROOF STYLES

From Dimensional Shingles to classic styles reminiscent of Cedar Shake and Spanish Tile, an architectural roofing system by Erie Metal Roofs can enhance the beauty of your home while protecting your family and property for a lifetime.

Call today to schedule your

FREE ESTIMATE 1-855-492-6084

ERIE Metal Roofs

Made in the USA



New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. Offer expires December 31st 2021. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on homeservicescompliance.com. All rights reserved.

Follow us on
twitter
twitter.com/ExaminerMedia

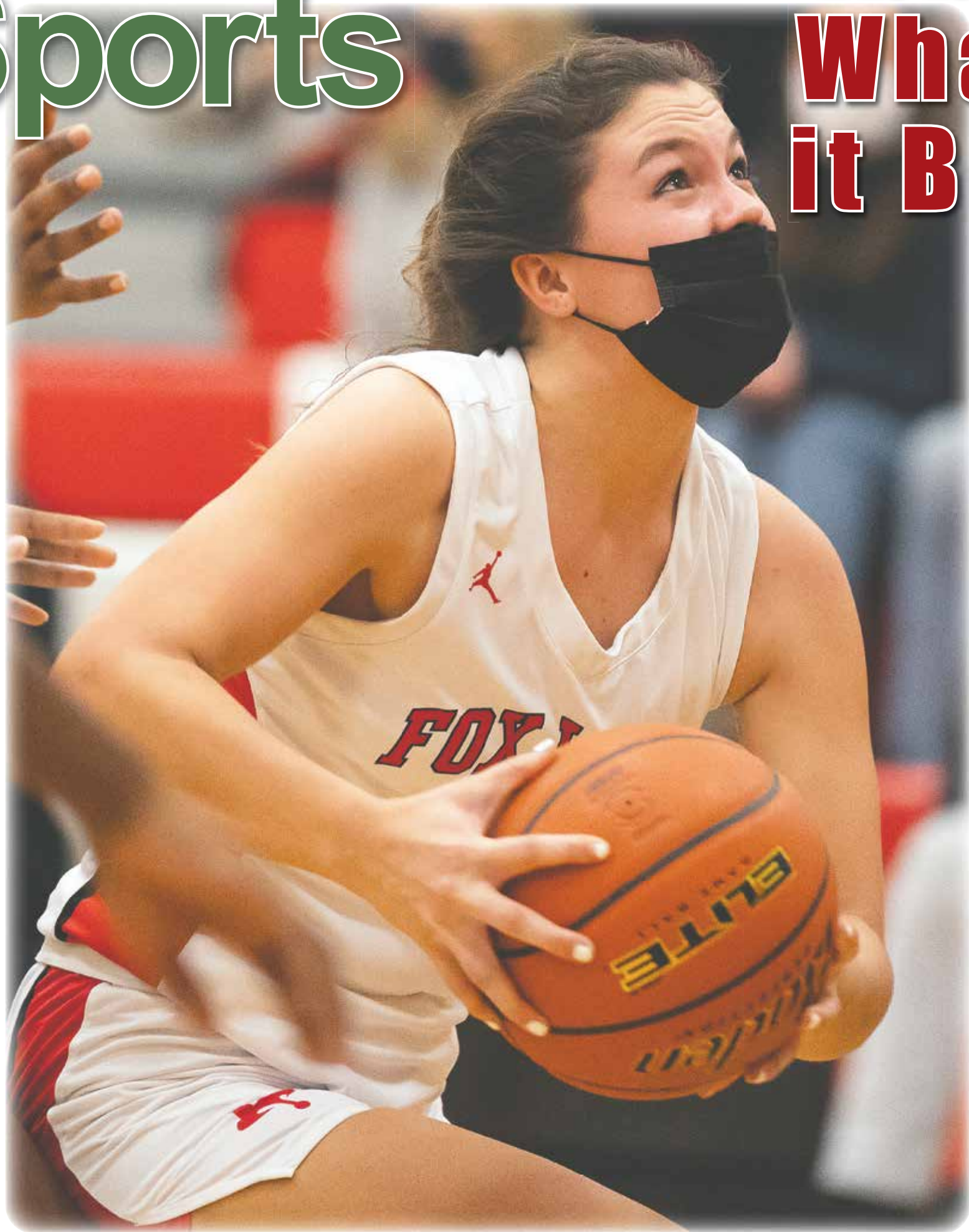
Visit
TheExaminerNews.com
to subscribe to our
FREE
e-mail newsletter
You'll receive the latest local news delivered straight to your inbox

The Examiner
news.com



Examiner Sports

Ibby What it Be!



ART NELSON PHOTO

Moccia, Fox Lane Crush Mount Vernon, 61-33

Fox Lane senior G Ibby Moccia takes a strong run at the rim in the Foxes' 61-33 win over visiting Mount Vernon last Wednesday when Fox Lane chalked up its first win of the season... see Girls Hoops Notebook

Sports

Fox Lane Girls' Basketball Team Earns Its First Victory



Fox Lane senior Ibby Moccia sets her sights on the rim in the second half of the Foxes' home victory last Wednesday afternoon.

Christmas arrived a few days early for the Fox Lane girls' basketball team.

Desperately in search of a win after starting the 2021-22 season with five consecutive losses, the Foxes got a visit last Wednesday afternoon from Mount Vernon, a team struggling even more and that had lost each of its first six games by at least 25 points.

With freshman guard Cara Drapala pouring in 21 points and senior Quoya Schnell adding 16, the Foxes added to the Knights' woes with a lopsided 61-33 home victory. Scoring the game's first nine points, a streak that began with a 3-point shot by Schnell and ended with a 3-pointer from Drapala two minutes after the opening jump, Fox Lane never trailed and built a lead as large as 32 points midway through the final quarter.

Drapala, who also finished with six rebounds, five assists and four steals, connected on her second 3-pointer of the game with just under three minutes to

go in the first quarter, giving the Foxes a 12-3 lead. In the last minute of the period, Drapala drove into the lane for a one-hander that rolled in and Schnell dribbled left for a 12-foot jumper just outside the lane that enabled Fox Lane to build its advantage to 16-5.

Mount Vernon misfired on its first five shots from the field in the first quarter and began the second with four straight misses. Just 20 seconds into the quarter, Fox sophomore Lauren Antolino tossed in a shot after dribbling to the right baseline. The Foxes' lead grew to 21-5 when Ibby Moccia drained a lefty 3-point shot near the top of the key. A pair of free throws from Antolino with 4:50 left in the half capped the extended 12-0 Fox run and left the Knights behind by 19 points.

Moccia drove the left baseline for a bucket with 2:24 remaining and Schnell, who also recorded seven rebounds and seven steals,



Fox Lane freshman Cara Drapala dribbles across midcourt in last Wednesday's lopsided win over visiting Mount Vernon.

ART NELSON PHOTOS



Nicole Picinich dribbles up the court in Fox Lane's win over Mount Vernon.



The Foxes' Lauren Antolino tries to work her way to the basket during last week's 61-33 rout of the visiting Mount Vernon Knights.

followed with a trey from the right elbow 45 seconds later, stretching the Fox lead to 21 points. A basket by Antolino with 11 seconds on the clock sent the Foxes to the locker room with a 33-12 halftime cushion.

The second half began with Drapala driving into the lane for an easy layup and after that Mount Vernon never got any closer than 21 points. A couple of free throws by Moccia with exactly a minute left in the third quarter extended the Foxes' lead to 49-20 and they took a 27-point advantage into the fourth quarter.

Just as she did to start the third quarter, Drapala opened the fourth with another drive through the lane for a layup. When she swished a 3-point shot from the right elbow with 5:56 left in the game, Fox Lane's lead grew to 30 points. Two consecutive baskets by sophomore Lily Moore, the first one a short pop in the lane and the second a toss

high off glass on a drive, gave the Foxes their largest lead of the afternoon, 60-28.

For the Foxes, Moccia wound up with seven points and eight rebounds. Nicole Picinich, one of Fox Lane's senior captains, added five points, eight rebounds and six steals. Senior Susannah Kimsal grabbed 11 rebounds, while eighth-grader Morgan Clinton chipped in with seven boards.

-Andy Jacobs



Fox Lane's Susannah Kimsal defends against Mount Vernon center Rakayla Ramcharran in last Wednesday's Fox win over the visiting Knights.



Fox Lane senior Quoya Schnell leads a fast break during the second half of the Foxes' 61-33 win over Mount Vernon last Wednesday afternoon.

The Foxes' Nell Silverman gets set to pass the ball to a teammate during Wednesday's home win.

Sports

Class C Haldane Stomps Class A Peekskill, Lakeland Drops Brewster

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

It was a light week of action, what with the holidays and the recent upticks in COVID-related issues around the NWE/Putnam region.

Get on this **HALDANE** bandwagon before it fills up and there's no room left. Blue Devil Coach Joe Virgadamo has seen his club race out to a vibrant 5-1 start, brimming with bounce, balance and effort. Haldane, the early-season Class C favorites, stepped it up a notch and hosted Class A **PEEKSKILL** last Tuesday before the COVID scare saw a ton of cancellations across the region. The Blue Devils prevailed, 73-59, behind a troika of double-digit scorers, including Ryan Irwin (20 points), Robert Viggiano (18) and Matteo Cervone (16). Peekskill's Travis Brown (23) led all scorers.

LAKELAND is looking like a formidable Class A foe this winter after Coach Steve Fallo's Hornets (6-2) extended their winning streak to four games in a 69-59 victory over host **BREWSTER**. The Bears (3-4) have now lost four straight. Lakeland

has shown a tremendous amount of balance and a willingness to do whatever it takes.

"This year we have a young but tough, gritty and hardworking group of guys," junior F Andrew Mendel said after scoring nine second-half points to go with a team-high eight boards. "During the off-season we committed to both the weight room and court, and that's been a huge reason for our success so far. Coach Fallo and the coaching staff preach family and trust. We all believe in each other to score the ball or make a play. All of our guys are willing to put their body on the line to get a rebound. We know what it's going to take to compete in our league, and we believe we can compete at a high level in Class A."

Hornets David Mula (5 assists) and Logan Shiland (5 rebounds) each went for 16 points while Logan Crilly (6 boards) and Grady Leonard each hit for nine.

YORKTOWN has had its fair share of ups and downs to open the season, and down the Huskers (4-2) went in a shocking 55-34 loss to Class B Hastings. Justin Price led the Huskers with 14 points and Eddie Brucaj added nine.

N.West./Putnam Fab Five Hoops Poll

No.1 PANAS – Oh, man, praying that the COVID ghouls are silent as we come out of the break with this Panas vs. Lakeland tilt set for a league tip off on Jan. 4. Eight days later, Coach Auerbach's Class A Panthers (5-2) welcome Poughkeepsie (5-2) for what should be another League II-D doozy.

No.2 LAKELAND – Coach Fallo's Class A Hornets have a little something-something cooking over there in Shrub Oak, despite the puzzling season-opening loss to John Jay CR, and they'll have that first crack at Panas on their home court out of the break #HiveWillBeBuzzing.

No.3 YORKTOWN – There is a mild level of concern about Coach Pavella's Huskers given the two blowout losses to Panas and Hastings and the 44.3 points per game scored over the last three games. John Jay CR, Somers and Mahopac out of the break, so getting back on course won't be easy with these three league foes on tap, so the Huskers best bring it out of the break.

No.4 HALDANE – Coach V's Blue Devils take on Croton, North Salem and Put Valley out of the break and we smell a sweep and a never-to-be-relinquished grip on the League III-D title.

No.4A OSSINING – 80-71 double overtime loss to a quality Clarkstown South club sets up what is a rough stretch for Coach Casey's Pride (4-2) with Fox Lane (4-1), White Plains (2-6 but better than that) and Scarsdale (6-2) after the New Year. Jaeden Carr (26 points) and Dominique Bautista (18) pulled up strong vs. South, the highest scoring team in the section to date.

HM MAHOPAC – Indians are just 2-3 but the three losses were nip-and-tuck affairs with Lakeland, Byram Hills and Poughkeepsie (a combined 15-5), so we suspect this athletic unit poses additional problems out of the break.

Fox Lane Grapplers Picking Up Where They Left Off

By Tony Pinciario

Following a year in which **FOX LANE** did not have a 2020-21 season, because of Covid, the Foxes faced another daunting task. Fox Lane graduated 10 seniors in June, and would open the 2021-22 season without senior captain Jaime Jarquin Duarte. Duarte, a two-time all-section wrestler, tore his anterior cruciate ligament during football season.

How would Fox Lane respond to the graduation departures and not having Duarte? Easy, the Foxes simply continued their winning tradition and excellence.

Fox Lane opened the season by sweeping to the Michael Nardone (Ossining) Tournament title. The Foxes did one better, winning their fourth consecutive Section 1 Division I (large school) Dual-Meet Championship by beating R.C. Ketcham (semifinal) and Arlington (final).

"It felt really good to win it for the fourth consecutive year," Duarte said. "We felt we had a big target on our back because we graduated a lot of seniors and teams used that to their advantage that we might not be that good."

One major reason for Fox Lane's success, according to Fox Lane Coach Anthony Rodrigues, is Duarte's leadership. Rodrigues calls Duarte one of the greatest leaders he has ever coached.

Duarte said he and his teammates stick to the basics, including the newcomers who have stepped right in.

"The key to our success is leadership and the hard work on and off the mat," said Duarte, who will attend Alfred State next fall where he will major in Electrical Construction and Maintenance, and also wrestle. "We push the guys to get to clubs and also do extra workout. We do that every

single year and it leads to success. The news guys have impressed me. A lot either did not wrestle or were in middle school wrestling last year. They have stepped onto varsity and won their matches which is helping our team a lot."

Even though Duarte credits his teammates for their hard work, he has set the example despite his injury by coming to practice every day and serving as an unofficial assistant coach. This has also helped him with his mental approach as he looks ahead to a possible return for sectionals.

"The injury took a toll on me, but going to every single practice and participating has kept me going," Duarte said. "Being there has made me happy because I still feel like part of the team."

"When coach made me a captain, I knew I had to be a leader even though I was not physically wrestling. I still had to give 100 percent effort in anything and everything I do and help out. I help supervise drills along with coach. When it comes to some easy things to do and not include legs, I do that."

Fox Lane plans on carrying this momentum into the new calendar year while building on it.

"With the success we had just in the first month, I'm pumped to see how we can do in the state dual-meet tournament and how much the guys can do at the sectional and state level," Duarte said.

Once again, **PLEASANTVILLE** has established itself as a Section 1 Division II (small school) powerhouse. The Panthers, under the guidance of veteran/legendary Coach Bob Bernarducci, are currently 8-1 going into January.

Pleasantville swept its way to the Yorktown Tournament title with victories over Yorktown, Glen Cove (L.I.), Rye and Lakeland/Panas.

"I really didn't know what to expect with this team, but they have been a pleasant surprise," said Bernarducci, who recently became a grandfather for the second time Dec. 19th. "Eighth-graders Ciaran Egan and Jesse Straus have been a pleasant surprise at 102 and 112, respectively. Luke LaMagna has been grinding out wins at 126 and sophomore Asa Numberg has improved every time he steps on the mat."

"We have big matches with Putnam Valley and Edgemont, coming up, which will determine the league championship. Our overall goal is to be in contention for a sectional championship in February."

Christian Perlleshi, Nick Paternostro and Carl Herzner have pinned all of their respective opponents. Perlleshi, LaMagna and Egan are all 8-0 this season.

OSSINING and Coach Tom Larm had a good December with an 8-4 record and top-six places in two dual-meet tournaments. The Pride hosted its annual Michael Nardone Tournament and went 2-3 to finish fifth. The victories were against Hen Hu (42-27) and Yorktown (42-33).

Ossining rebounded to finish second at the Michael Tarulli (Irvington) Tournament with a 4-1 record. After beating Hen Hud, Yonkers, Sayville 'B' and Hastings, the Pride dropped a 39-28 verdict to Port Jefferson (L.I.), 39-28.

"I'm proud of our team for our 8-4 start," Larm said. "We did not have a full season last year so coming in and getting off to a hot start has encouraged everyone. Each day our kids are coming in and actively working to improve. It shows each match as each wrestler has improved daily. I'm excited to watch them continue to improve and peak for the postseason."

Larm cited senior Kwabena Boatang, juniors Tristan Robinson-July and Devin

Almodovar, and eighth-grader Colin Libertz with establishing themselves as among the top wrestlers in their respective weight classes.

Former **YORKTOWN** All-Section and Springfield College All-American wrestler Jimmy Kaishian has the Cornhuskers improving daily on their way to becoming a sectional contender.

"Our guys did great at our tournament and showed great strides from the Ossining tournament which made our wrestlers feel good," said Kaishian, who recently received his doctorate in Teaching and Administration. "You can feel the momentum in our room. Wrestlers have bought in and there's a whole new enthusiasm for wrestling in Yorktown. I'm excited to see what this team can do by year's end."

Yorktown is 6-5 overall, but 3-0 in dual matches. Luca Stanford was the highlight at the Yorktown Tournament, with three pins which earned him the most outstanding wrestler award.

"Luca winning Most Outstanding Wrestler was huge for him," Kaishian said. "Luca is having 3-1 and 4-0 days. He's stepping up and buying in a big way."

Sophomore Joe Tornambe, son of former Yorktown Coach John Tornambe, is currently undefeated and ranked No. 2 in the state at 110 pounds. John Tornambe was Kaishian's coach. Senior Dillon Carter is 10-1, with his only loss to Mahopac's Angelo Centrone and Jason Glicksman is 8-2.

SOMERS' coach Ron DiSanto, Jr., has been building for the future and he is beginning to reap the benefits. Even though the young Tuskers are without a senior, they are 8-8 and showing tremendous potential, including a second-place finish at the Conklin (Nanuet) Tournament.

continued on page 27

Sports

NWE/Putnam Girls Hoops Notebook

Brewster Senior Galgano Leads Surging Bears by Example *Lakeland Remains Unbeaten, Hormazabal Taking Game to Next Level*

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays

It's one thing to be a skilled, gifted player on the court. It's another thing to be an even better person off the court, the best student athlete one can be; both on and off the court. That means delivering in the clutch, when your teammates need you most, but more than anything, it's about good grades and showing out in the classroom. Brewster senior Grace Galgano has mastered the craft of student athlete, delivering the goods on the hardwood for Coach Mike Castaldo since he called her up to varsity as an eighth-grader while maintaining spectacular academic standards.

"Grace has all the accolades; All-Section, team MVP, but nobody sees how hard she works on and off the court, how much she cares for this program and what a great teammate she is," Castaldo said of the Roberts Wesleyan-bound Galgano, who secured a full scholarship behind a 99.4 overall GPA and nearly 1,000 career points and rebounds.

Galgano, who, God willing, will reach those career milestones before the 2022 season concludes, has been the backbone of the Brewster program since 2019 and her recent Con Ed Award nod only amplifies her scholastic prowess.

"Grace is the most dominant player we've had on the court in my 10 years here, and she's the most complete student athlete I've ever coached," Castaldo admitted. "Emily Tapia (2010) was an unbelievable player for Brewster and went on to have a great career at Fordham. Grace is right behind her in my opinion as the second best girls' basketball player in school history. It has been an

absolute privilege to coach her and we're lucky to have her."

WALTER PANAS wasn't quite as lucky last Tuesday when Galgano in-bounded a perfect dime to junior teammate Madison Dakin, who took Galgano's drop-dead pass for the game-winning bucket with 1.7 seconds left in the Bears' 44-42 win over the previously undefeated host Panthers (8-1). Galgano was hard on the youthful Panthers, scoring 16 points, snaring 16 boards and swatting eight shots while senior teammate Sophia Alzugaray made it rain behind the arc, hitting five treys and finishing with 17 points. To date, Galgano, who hit the game-tying shot with 15 seconds left, has led the Bears (6-1) by averaging 22 PPG, 12 RPG and 4.5 BPG.

Freshman G Cadence Nicholas had a game-high 26 points for the Panthers and continued to show out like few freshmen in the region have in recent memory.

The run of excellent student athletes does not end at Brewster, though.

LAKELAND senior G/F Tyler Hormazabal is another in the form of quintessential. After defeating host Pleasantville, 55-32, last Tuesday, the senior G/F Hormazabal has taken her game to the next level while serving notice that Lakeland is a strong postseason challenger this year. Hormazabal's double-double (23 points, 11 rebounds) was just short of a triple-double (8 steals) for the Hornets (8-0), who are currently setting the pace in Class A.

"Tyler is truly the hardest working player

continued on next page



Brewster F Margo Cunningham pulls up for shot on Panas F Kelsey Cregan in Bears' 44-42 non-league win over host Panthers Tuesday.



Mahopac G Kristina Rush dropped a game-high 13 points in Indians' 49-23 win over Briarcliff.



Brewster G Sophia Alzugaray splits Panas defenders Julia Gallinger (L) and Katie Hoffman (R) in Bears' 44-42 non-league win over host Panthers Tuesday.



Brewster senior F Grace Galgano (2) is chased by Panas' Lizzie Bergamini (10) and Sophia Tavares (13) in Bears' 44-42 non-league win over host Panthers Tuesday.

Sports

NWE/Putnam Girls Hoops Notebook



Panas freshman G Cadence Nicholas led all scorers with career-high 26 points in Panthers' 44-42 non-league loss to visiting Brewster Tuesday.

continued from previous page

I have ever coached and she is extremely determined and coachable," Lakeland Coach Miranda Mangan said. "She understands the game, has a tremendous work ethic and has not reached her full potential as a player. My favorite attribute of Tyler's is that she makes everyone else around her better. She is an incredible student athlete and role model. The dedication and contributions she has made for this program will continue to serve

as an inspiration for all of the future Hornet basketball players to come."

Ava Lugo added 12 points and three steals for the Hornets while Megan Raefski led P'Ville with 14 points and Gianna Doto added 11.

MAHOPAC G Kristina Rush led the Indians (3-3) with 13 points in their 49-23 win over Briarcliff. The Indians, who need to identify as a better defensive team if things are going to pan out as hoped in Class A, held the Bears (4-2) to a season-low. Nine points and solid defense from junior F Lauren Beberman aided the Indians' cause. Slow starts and sub-par defense (by their standards) have been a bit of an issue for Mahopac, which, given what the Indians have lost to graduation (defensive stalwarts Mia Klammer, Caitlyn O'Boyle), was predictable.

"We have had a rough offensive start but we've definitely been stepping up on defense," said Beberman, who leads the team in boards and blocks. "We are constantly training and working to gel and will continue to take our best shots. We think 2022 will bring a lot for Mahopac. We definitely have it in us to be a really good defensive team, I know it. This is what we are working toward."

Kayla McCarthy led **HEN HUD** (2-5)



Brewster's Madison Dakin scored game-winning bucket just before time expired in Bears' 44-42 win over previously unbeaten host Panas last Tuesday.

with 17 points in the Sailors' 80-25 opening-round win over Yonkers in the Hen Hud tourney last Tuesday. Kaitlyn Raguso added 12 points and while Alex Figueroa (11) and Hailey Pearson (11) all reached double digits. Unfortunately, the finals were cancelled due to COVID-related issues.

PEEKSKILL improved to 3-1 after its 47-39 win over a feisty Class C **HALDANE** club, who had no answer for Red Devils F Bethany Overby (19 points, 11 boards, 5 steals). Takyla Cowan-Hongosh (14 points) and Kiki Mercado (9 points) also contributed for first-year Red Dev Coach Tyrone Searight. Haldane was led by Madison Chiera's 10 points.

CLASS AA

OSSINING will head into the break at 5-1 after the Pride's 64-55 win over visiting Kennedy Wednesday. Pride G Ella Schneckner had a career-high 25 points and tacked on five boards. Point guard Michelle Mercado orchestrated the flow with 20 points and 10 assists to go with four steals. Karen Perriott (10 points, 15 rebounds) notched a double-double while Isabella Florez (3 points, 10 rebounds) and Angela Rios (2 points, 5 boards) also contributed.

Fox Lane Grapplers...

continued from page 25

"We have a young lineup, but, as a whole, the team is adjusting to high school wrestling and gradually improving," DiSanto said. "The team is coming together and taking pride in the team aspect. The team's energy multiplies when they feed off each individual success. When they see someone wrestle tough and come from behind, it builds confidence and makes them believe they can do it, too."

DiSanto credits his captains, juniors, Anthony Tucci and Luca D'Orazio, for leading the team by example and with their work ethic.

Sophomore Dalton Balloy leads the team with a 13-3 record. Sophomores Liam Dwyer, Justin Daniyan and Ethan Burns each have 10 wins and eighth-grader Ryan Ball (102 pounds) is 10-0.

Crossword Answers

1	L	O	L	4	B	E	E	7	D	I	N
10	A	N	A	11	O	L	E	12	C	T	O
13	R	E	D	14	S	I	L	V	I	O	S
16	V	I	R	17	T	U	O	S			
18	A	N	O	I	N	T		19	S	E	T
22	C	N	N					23	A	G	O
24	H	E	H	25	N	O		26	G	O	O
28	A	N	I	29	S	E	T				
30	S	P	A	31	T	U	L	32	A		
34	G	A	S	35	D	E	G	36	S	I	R
37	T	Z	U	38	E	S	E	39	T	E	E

Examiner Sports

State of Grace!



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Galgano, Brewster Nip Panas, 44-42

Brewster senior F Grace Galgano, a recent Con Ed Award winner for scholastic/athletic excellence, has averaged 22 points, 12 boards and 4.5 blocks through seven games while leading Coach Mike Castaldo's Bears to a 6-1 start, which included last Tuesday's 44-42 win over Katie Hoffman (23), Julia Gallinger (22) and previously undefeated host Walter Panas. Galgano went for 16 points, 16 rebounds and eight blocks while serving up the biggest assist of the game, which led to Madison Dakin's game-winning hoop with 1.7 seconds left... see Girls' Hoops Notebook