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December 30, 2014 - January 5, 2015

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 6, Issue 263

## Bakery Owner Turning in Her Apron after 44 years

# Second Generation to Run Homestyle Desserts in Peekskill

By Rick Pezzullo

When a job becomes a chore, it's time to throw in the towel. In Rose Sanca's case, she's throwing in an apron.

After 44 years in the bakery business, and more than 30 years on South Water Street in Peekskill, Sanca has decided to turn over the keys to popular Homestyle Desserts to her son and daughter and enjoy the fruits of her labor.

"I love what I do and when you love what you do it's not work, but this past year was the first time in my life I didn't want to be here," Sanca said amidst a throng of customers picking up cakes, cookies and other delicacies for the holidays. "When you own a business you put in your blood, sweat and tears. This consumes me. I want

to enjoy the next chapter in my life while I'm still in good health."

Sanca, 60, stressed she was not ill and just felt it was time to have her children, who have worked with her since they were teenagers, run the show.

"You need new energy, new blood to keep up and bring it to a new level," she said. "I want to give them an opportunity."

Before acquiring the former printing building near the railroad tracks in Peekskill, Sanca had a bakery in the Village of Buchanan for 17 years. Prior to opening Homestyle, she ran Blue Ribbon Donuts in downtown Peekskill but she said a lack of parking torpedoed that venture.

"The day I arrived in Peekskill was life

*continued on page 6*



PHOTO BY RICK PEZZULLO

Homestyle Desserts owner Rose Sanca is retiring and leaving her popular bakery to her children.

## Bond Approved for Central Fire Station in Peekskill

By Rick Pezzullo

The Peekskill Common Council unanimously approved an \$11 million bond last week to construct a long discussed Central Fire Station at the intersection of Main and Broad streets.

Earlier this year, the square footage of the new firehouse, which will replace six existing city fire stations, was decreased from 36,000 square feet to 30,000 square feet and the total acreage to house it was reduced from 1.72 acres to 1.19 acres. The cost was also sliced from an original estimate of more than \$18 million.

"The idea of a central firehouse, consolidating the six separate firehouses and fire companies scattered throughout

the city, has been talked about, studied, drawn, debated and studied some more, for over seven years. This project has been plagued with a trifecta of difficulties," said Mayor Frank Catalina. "In my opinion, somewhere along the way the people driving that plan, lost sight of the city's actual needs and what the taxpayers had the ability to pay for."

"Although there was a need for the central firehouse, the newly elected Council would only support a project that emphasized the functional needs of the Fire Department and would consequently greatly reduced the project in both size and cost," he continued. "I am pleased

*continued on page 6*



## Getting Close to Nature

Lakeland Copper Beech Middle School seventh graders recently got a taste of local farming practices when they traveled to Glynwood Farm in nearby Cold Spring. During the visit, students from Christina Connors' Family and Consumer Science classes and Karen Bloom's Health classes learned about everything from farm animals and their care to making cream and butter.

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# Peekskill Resident Charged in Armed Robbery of Gas Station

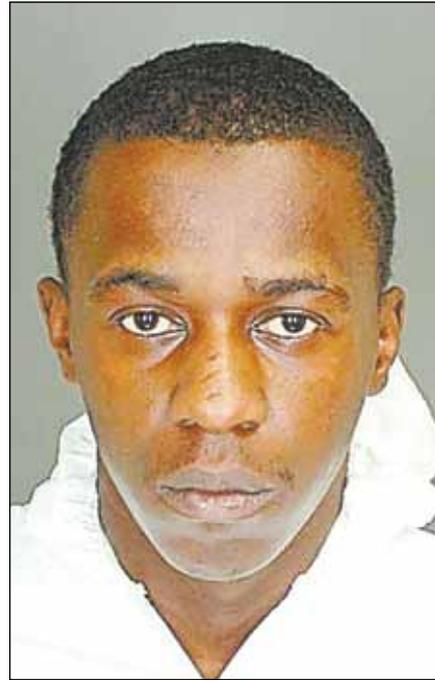
By Rick Pezzullo

Peekskill police charged a 19-year-old city male with robbing a gas station on North Division Street in the early morning hours of December 23.

According to police, Officer Steve Zappolo was on patrol at approximately 3:45 a.m. when he observed a suspicious male on a bicycle ride into the parking lot of the Shell station. As he turned into the parking lot he saw the male, later identified as Isiah McNeill, 19, of Paulding Street, run from the counter area, jump on his bicycle and flee south on North Division Street.

After noticing Zappolo in his police car, the clerk at the station frantically pointed towards the fleeing teen prompting the officer to give chase. Zappolo caught up with McNeill on Harrison Avenue, took him into custody and recovered a realistic looking BB gun from the suspect's waistband. Backup officers who arrived to assist interviewed the clerk and learned he had been robbed at gun-point. Undisclosed proceeds from the robbery were recovered from McNeill.

McNeill was charged with robbery in the first degree, a Class B felony. "Thanks to his instinct and actions,



Isiah McNeill

Officer Zappolo was able to interrupt a crime in progress and apprehend a violent criminal, ultimately making the Peekskill community a safer place," said Police Chief Eric Johansen.

## Police Blotter

### Yorktown Police

**December 19 - 7:30 p.m.** - Stephen Croston, 25, of Shrub Oak, was charged with assault in the third degree, a Class A misdemeanor, after police were sent to the area of Barger Street and East Main Street for a possible domestic dispute. It's alleged Croston had an argument with a female and assaulted her. Croston was unable to post \$2,500 bail and was turned over to Westchester County Corrections.

**December 22 - 1:40 a.m.** - Officer Michael Caprio was on routine patrol on Old Crompond Road when he observed a motor vehicle make an unsafe turn. When Caprio lit his emergency lights to stop the vehicle, Lawrence Harris, 24, of Mohegan Lake, fled by attempting to run after stopping. An investigation revealed the vehicle was unregistered and had no insurance. Harris was released after posting \$300 bail and is scheduled to return to Yorktown Justice Court on January 22.

**December 24 - 3:43 a.m.** - Brian Cicola, 19, of Yorktown, was charged with driving while intoxicated and speeding following a motor vehicle accident on Route 35. He is set to appear in Yorktown Justice Court on January 22.

**December 28 - 3:29 p.m.** - Michael Finan, 26, of Mahopac, was charged with driving with a suspended driver's license after being stopped on Route 6 for operating a vehicle without an attached front plate. He was released after posting \$200 bail and is due in court on January 29.

**7:42 p.m.** - Police received a call from a male resident of Saw Mill River Road reporting a past domestic dispute. Officers Timothy Kolkmann and Matthew Iacona and Sergeant Michael Zaicek responded to the residence, at which time a female identified as Jeannette Hill, 48, of Yorktown, allegedly shouted obscenities and shoved one of the officers. As she was placed under arrest she resisted being placed in handcuffs. Further investigation revealed Hill allegedly threatened the male resident with a metal letter opener. She was charged with menacing, resisting arrest and obstructing governmental administration. She is due in court on January 8.



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# Food Pantry at St. Mary's in Mohegan a Godsend for Community

By Rick Pezzullo

It was 9:15 a.m. on Saturday, two days after Christmas, and about 20 people of various ages were lined up outside a small building attached to St. Mary's church in Mohegan Lake waiting patiently for the Community Food Pantry to open.

Within an hour, more than 70 families had walked through the doors into a welcoming environment staffed with dedicated volunteers who refer to anyone that comes in seeking emergency and supplemental food as "guests."

"I think we're more than a food pantry. We try to really know people," said Terry Berardi, a former teacher and one of five facilitators at the pantry. "You have to walk through that door. That's not an easy thing to do. Any of us could be at the other end of that table at any time."

Berardi has been volunteering at the food pantry for about half of the more than 30 years it has been in existence. It was started by Frank and Iris Doyle to serve a handful of people who were in need and has expanded to the point where more than 100 families from primarily the Mohegan Lake, Yorktown and Cortlandt area receive three meals for three days every Saturday.

"We started with like 10 families with canned goods and paper products," recalled Frank Doyle, who noted for many



RICK PEZZULLO PHOTO

Community Food Pantry volunteers John D'Amato and Pat Galvin.

years there was a perception that no homeless individuals were in northern Westchester. "People who were in need heard about it and they came."

Berardi said the pantry, where guests can choose what they would like to take home, including frozen meats, poultry and/or fish, has seen a three percent increase in visitors this year over last year.

During Thanksgiving, 294 families were served by the pantry and 265 during Christmas. In addition, 453 children received toys.

The cost of the turkeys and hams that were given out at the pantry, which relies on individual contributions and donations from such area businesses as Walmart, BJ's Wholesale Club and DeCic-

cio's, was nearly \$5,000.

"We have such a generous community," Berardi said. "Our goal is to try to provide the best nutrition we can to the people we serve. People come here from all walks of life. We don't turn anybody away. We try the best we can to make it unscary and treat people with dignity."

Parishioners from other churches, including St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Andrew's and Grace Lutheran, lend a helping hand to the pantry, which Berardi said has a core group of about 12 volunteers. One of those volunteers is John D'Amato, a Metro-North train conductor who has been volunteering for the last four years.

"I just came to love it. It's been like a family to me," D'Amato said. "It's fulfilling. I feel good to come here."

"I feel I'm getting more than I'm giving," added another volunteer, John McMullen, who was handing out food with his wife. "They're all very gratified. Two people gave us Christmas cards."

The Community Food Pantry is open every Saturday year-round from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Pre-packed emergency bags are also available Tuesday through Friday at St. Mary's from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. For further information, call (914) 528-3972.

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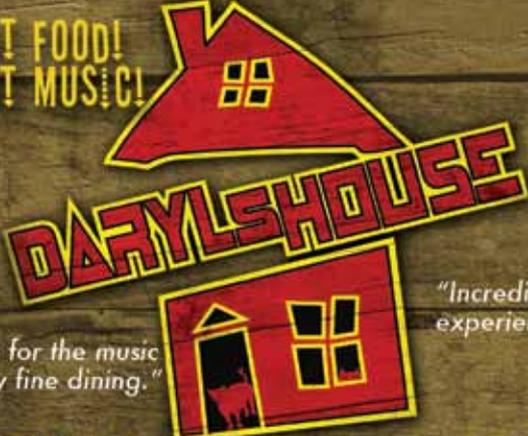
If you've been "sitting on the fence" about a move, read "The Home Guru's Predictions on Housing and Trends for 2015" this week, then give me a call! This may be your year to move ahead!

William "Bill" Primavera is a NYS Licensed Real Estate Salesperson with William Raveis Real Estate, 1820 Commerce Street., Yorktown Heights, NY, Office: 914-245-0460. Visit: [www.raveis.com](http://www.raveis.com).



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# Hanauer Proud of Accomplishments as Ossining Mayor

By Rick Pezzullo

Two weeks ago, the Ossining Board of Trustees surprised Mayor William Hanauer with a proclamation naming December 18 in his honor in the village. It was a tribute Hanauer had bestowed on many others during his eight years leading the village.

With just a few precious days remaining on his fourth and last term as mayor, Hanauer reflected fondly Monday on the things he was able to accomplish and how he feels he has positively positioned Ossining for a brighter future.

"A lot was done in my time in office," said Hanauer, who was defeated by Trustee Victoria Gearity in November running only on the Working Families line after losing in a crucial Democratic primary. "I am certainly proud of what I accomplished."

Hanauer, who was president of the Westchester Municipal Officials Association and founding member of the Northern Westchester Energy Action Consortium, had a 40-year career in the entertainment industry, including producing the New York Emmy Awards for five years, prior to entering politics in Ossining in 2005 as a trustee. Six years before that he served as president of the Sparta Association neighborhood group.

During his tenure, Hanauer maintained he was able to spearhead significant eco-



Outgoing Mayor William Hanauer (left) received a proclamation from his colleagues declaring December 18 "William Hanauer Day" in the village.

nomie development in the village with 13,000 square feet of new commercial space which has revitalized the downtown and spurred a surge in residential housing units with the 168-unit Avalon rental apartments completed and 376 more units on the way elsewhere.

"The best way to keep the tax rate reasonable is to expand the tax base and that's exactly what's happening," he said. "In the past people did not like to go to the downtown, now that is happening. Ossining is a great place to develop. It costs less here to develop than Larchmont or Scarsdale or many other places

in Westchester."

Hanauer is looking forward to Sing Sing Museum, which he played an integral role in crafting as chairman of a committee, opening in three to five years, but is concerned about other projects remaining on the shelf.

"I think to reach that critical mass of people we need to build in those parking lots in downtown. Until we do that and have businesses on both sides of Main Street and Spring Street we'll never reach the critical mass we need," he said. "I'm concerned the board will take another year to study it and interest rates will go

up and interest will go down."

Hanauer said he was also proud of the recent agreement signed between the village and town where the Village Police Department will patrol the unincorporated sections of the town. "It's a great sharing of services in a way that is quite meaningful," he said.

He conceded his resistance to certain demands by some members of the Democratic Party, including the call by some to dissolve the village, likely cost him the recent election, which he maintained bordered on character assassination instead of focusing on the issues.

"It certainly appeared the way to defeat me was to damage me," he said. "I don't believe that has any place in a civil society. One of my goals was to bring civility back into the public discord and I succeeded until this year."

Hanauer said he is starting a new short-term job in New York City that may lead to full-time employment, which he declined to reveal, and will be serving on the board of the Ossining Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

As for any future political runs, he remarked, "I will do what seems appropriate to continue serving the people of Ossining. If that means getting involved in politics...never say never."

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# Yorktown Resident Takes to 'The Little Mermaid' Stage

By Neal Rentz

For many years, Yorktown resident Phil Cutrone has been a driving force behind the theater productions at Westlake High School in Mount Pleasant by serving as director.

Cutrone is taking advantage of a different chance to be in the spotlight in his role as Grimsby, Prince Eric's manservant, in the production of "The Little Mermaid" at the White Plains Performing Arts Center. The musical, based on the hit Disney animated film, continues through Sunday, Jan. 4.

When Cutrone, 55, a library media specialist at the high school and Westlake Middle School, is not in the classroom or directing one of the student theater productions, he's been performing in community theater and at off-Broadway venues. His list of credits over the years include roles with local companies such as M&M Productions in Amawalk, YCP TheatreWorks in Shrub Oak and the Armonk Players, along with Center Stage playhouse in the Bronx, the Ridgely Barn and two previous shows at the



Yorktown resident Phil Cutrone, a veteran director of plays at Westlake High School, is portraying Grimsby, Prince Eric's manservant, in the New York regional premiere of "The Little Mermaid." The musical is being presented at the White Plains Performing Arts Center through Jan. 4.

White Plains Performing Arts Center.

Cutrone, a Westlake High School alumnus who has worked in Mount Pleasant his entire 31-year career, said

during his college years as a communications major at Fordham, he had considered becoming a professional actor. But a talk with a friend who is a few years older than him and who was struggling to make ends meet helped solidify his decision against pursuing the uncertainty of a full-time acting career.

"Her life was so disjointed. I wanted a wife and a house and a family," said Cutrone, who went to graduate school at Manhattanville and Long Island University.

Despite his career choice, his passion for the theater has never waned. He began performing again about 14 years ago in Yorktown after his sons, Sam and Alex, had grown up. He moved on to off Broadway, with one of his most prominent roles as Dal the landlord in "Apartment 3A," written by Jeff Daniels and staged in 2008. One of his proudest moments came when he was mentioned in The New York Times review of "Apartment 3A." written by critic Charles Isherwood.

"Philip J. Cutrone is charming in a comic supporting role as the foul-mouthed super who, rather incongru-

ously, confesses an addiction to the Disney Channel," Isherwood wrote.

Cutrone said the theater companies he has worked with have allowed him to rehearse and perform around his school schedule. His sons and wife, Lori, have also backed his passion for performing.

Cutrone praised the cast and crew of "The Little Mermaid." One of the lead performers is John Treacy Egan, who was in the cast of the original Broadway production of the show and plays Ursula the sea witch.

"He is a talented, very gracious professional," Cutrone said.

Cutrone said once he retires from the school district, probably within four or five years, he would like to act professionally full time. It's a luxury that wasn't available to him when he graduated from college.

"(Now) I don't have to worry about paying my rent," he said.

For more information about the production of "The Little Mermaid" at the White Plains Performing Arts Center, visit [www.wppac.com](http://www.wppac.com).

# BOCES' Langlois Named State's Super of the Year

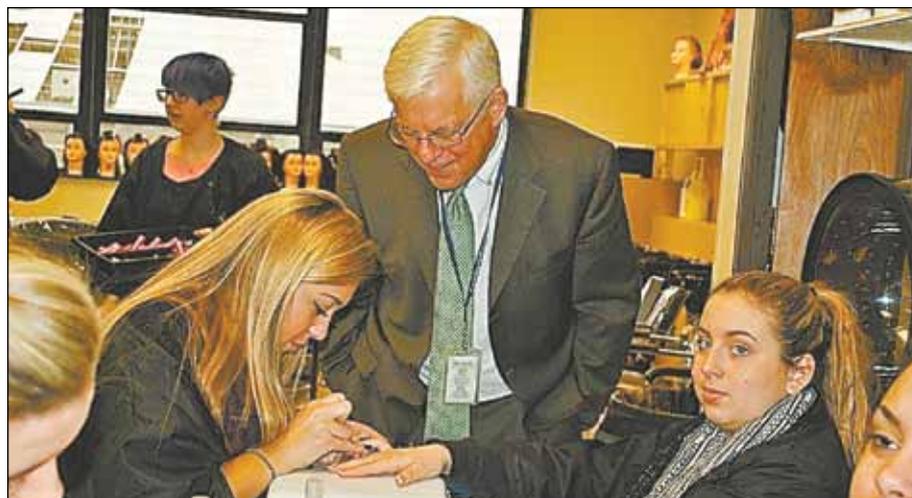
The New York State Council of School Superintendents announced last week that Dr. James Langlois, superintendent of Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES, has been named the 2015 New York State School Superintendent of the Year.

Langlois leads a responsive, innovative and collaborative agency that serves some of the highest rated and most respected school districts in the nation. "We Can Do That," the BOCES motto, exemplifies the agency's commitment to helping school districts meet the rapidly changing challenges of education reform and tight budgets with flexible, cutting-edge, high-quality and cost-effective programs.

"To the extent that the award calls attention to the challenges faced by public education and its long history of successes in the face of those challenges, I am honored to receive this recognition," Langlois said. "It is an honor that I am proud to share with every superintendent who leads public schools."

Langlois has led Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES for the past 10 years. Previously, he served eight years as superintendent in Goshen and was an assistant superintendent on Long Island. He worked in various leadership positions in New York City public schools in Manhattan and the Bronx. He began his career 50 years ago as a high school English teacher in Connecticut.

"Jim Langlois is admired by his colleagues in this state and beyond," said Council Executive Director Dr. Robert Reidy. "They have called on him to serve in many leadership roles. He is also a respected independent



Dr. James Langlois speaks with students in a cosmetology class at Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES' tech center in Yorktown.

voice and effective local leader among the superintendents and school boards of the Lower Hudson Valley."

Langlois served for seven years on the national governing board of the American Association of School Administrators (AASA), the council's national affiliate, and for several years on the national Association of Educational Service Agencies' (AESA) Executive Committee.

"He has creatively and with great persistence developed a positive, collaborative and responsive culture that has successfully steered our BOCES through major internal transitions and multiple external challenges," said BOCES Board President Richard Kreps. "As a result of his leadership, our BOCES is often looked upon as a model of effective prac-

tices in an educational service agency."

Some of the Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES accomplishments that have been achieved under his leadership include:

- Creating a Center for Educational Leadership that provides innovative graduate degree and certification programs for educators in partnership with several colleges and universities;
- Developing widely used, groundbreaking science, social studies, sustainability and blended online curricula;
- Transforming BOCES' career and technical education with new offerings in high-tech, medical and other 21st century career areas, and expanding offerings to middle school students and to multiple school-based sites;

- Opening up new areas of special education services while systematically raising academic standards and accountability;
- Supporting an influx of new immigrants to the region with a wide and flexible range of academic, career and technical and support services;
- Expanding BOCES' online application system to more than 300 school districts in New York State;
- Providing a wide and constantly changing range of cutting edge professional development, training and consulting to schools and districts in administration, academics and support services.
- Establishing an extensive system of networks of educators - from superintendents to teachers to support staff - who collaborate with BOCES in identifying the changing needs and wants of their school districts, and in developing effective responses to meet those needs and wants.

Under his leadership, Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES has received regional and national recognition as a model of excellence in such areas as developing independence in students with multiple handicaps and incorporating entrepreneurship into career and technical education.

Langlois becomes New York's candidate for national superintendent of the year, to be awarded at AASA's National Conference on Education in San Diego, Calif. in February.

Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES is a collaborative that provides educational opportunities and support services to 18 school districts, including Byram Hills.

# Obituaries

## Dominic DiRubbo

Dominic Joseph DiRubbo, a resident of Yorktown Heights, died on December 22. He was 85.

He was born in 1929 in Peekskill, to Joseph and Nina DiRubbo. He graduated from Peekskill High in 1949, then served in the U.S. Army from 1951-1953, attaining the rank of Corporal and earning the Bronze Star in the Korean War. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business at Iona College in 1957 and a teaching certificate at SUNY New Paltz in 1961. In 1962, he married Catherine Nardiello in Capua, Italy. He taught for 33 years in the Lakeland School District before retiring in 1991.

He is survived by his brother Gabriel (spouse, Elisa) of Cortlandt, and his three sons, Joseph (wife, Annette) of Carmel; Mario (wife, Linda, and children Julia and Sarah) of Somers; and Philip of White Plains. He was predeceased by his wife Catherine in 2007.

## Melissa Mero

Melissa (Missi) Mero (née Roepken), a resident of Garrison, died on December 21. She was 46.

Born in Garden City, Long Island, NY to Bud and Pat Roepken, she received a B.A. in Anthropology from SUNY Pur-



Melissa Mero

chase in 1990 and a Master's Degree in Elementary Ed. from Manhattanville College 1998. After graduation, she dedicated herself to the children of George Washington Elementary School in the Lakeland Central School District. She also worked with the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts of America, Troop 165, Yorktown Heights. In 2000 she authored "The Inexorable Gravity of Home: A Guide To Hypothetical Happiness." She is also the subject of such works as "Dreaming of Meteors", "The Girl Who Was Vitamin C" and "Laughing at Disaster" by Lázlo

Church.

She leaves behind her son Logan Anarchy and her husband Erick. She is also survived by both parents, her brothers Wesley, Gregory, Daniel, and Timothy, her sister Stasi, and all their spouses and children.

## John Auer

John R. Auer, a longtime Peekskill resident, died on December 21. He was 86.

Mr. Auer was a longtime parishioner and for many years the faithful sexton at Assumption Church in Peekskill. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Barbara, his daughters Christine (Shawn), Loraine, son John (Diana), four grandchildren Erin, Rebecca, Jakob, Alison, and his sister, Maria Stelzhammer.

## Jean Sherman

Jean Sherman, a resident of Garrison, succumbed to cancer on December 23. She was 63.

She was born in Bronx, NY to Arthur and Edna (Tindall) Capaccio, where she was raised and educated in parochial schools. She was a faithful parishioner of St. Columbanus Church in Cortlandt, where she was a member of the Legion of Mary, served on the Parish Council, and generously contributed her time to

instructing Religious Education (CCD). She was also a member of St. John's Prayer Group at Graymoor.

She was the beloved wife of Stephen, loving mother of Barbara Gallo (Vincent, dec.), Suzanne Del Pozzo (Mark), adored Nana of James and Angela, and dear sister of Anne Lask (Garry), and brother William.

## Kenneth Ferguson

Kenneth Paul Ferguson, who graduated from Ossining High School in 1976, went home to be with the Lord December 21, at Martin Memorial Hospital North in Florida. He was 56.

He was born in Yonkers on June 30, 1958 to Kenneth and Stefanie Ferguson. He is predeceased by his father Kenneth Ferguson. He graduated from Buffalo State College with an engineering degree in aeronautics. Mr. Ferguson worked at General Dynamics, Northrop Grumman, Boeing, Espirit de Corp. and also worked on the stealth bomber. He was an avid Yankees fan and Jets fan. He was a loving son to his surviving mother Stefanie Ferguson, loving brother to his surviving sisters Stacey Laoutaris and Lisa Cava, and loving uncle to his niece Stefanie and nephew Michael. He is also survived by his brother-in-laws, George Laoutaris and Mike Cava, and lots of cousins.

# Bond Approved for Central Fire Station in Peekskill

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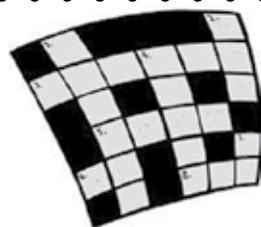
that through the efforts of all concerned, our Chiefs, dedicated volunteers, our longtime and long line of former chiefs, our professional firefighters, City Manager, architect Robert Mitchell, those criteria laid out back in February have been met. This structure will be standing over 100 years from now and will be a testament to the dedicated efforts of everyone here tonight to insure our brave firefighters have the tools necessary to protect lives and property."

The only building in neighboring Crossroads Plaza that would still need to be removed to make room for the fire station is Panio Wines and Liquors, which the city is negotiating to acquire for about \$500,000. The city has already purchased properties at 1137 and 1141 Main Street for about \$1.4 million.

The station will have eight bays to house fire apparatus, along with an exercise gym, recreation area, large meeting room, kitchen, living space for career and volunteer firefighters and an extensive training area in the mezzanine.

The firehouse on Washington Street will serve as a substation. Five other sites were considered for the Central Fire Station when the project first surfaced about eight years ago. There's a possibility the Peekskill Volunteer Ambulance Corps could move into the new fire station in the future as well.

"I think it's great that the firehouse is finally getting moving," said Deputy Mayor Drew Claxton.



Visit [TheExaminerNews.com](http://TheExaminerNews.com) and click on Puzzles at the top of the homepage to play today's crossword!

# Second Generation to Run Homestyle Desserts in Peekskill

*continued from page 1*

changing," she said. "It gave me more exposure."

Earlier this month, Sanca appeared before the Peekskill Common Council to complain about the construction of a new visitor's center and public plaza being in front of the Lincoln Depot Museum that had fenced her in with only one parking space in front of the main entrance.

That same day a gas leak caused by a construction mishap on the site led to the evacuation of her business, with 350 pies in the oven, and other businesses in the area. No injuries were reported, but Sanca feared it was just a matter of time before someone gets hurt.

A few years ago, Sanca obtained 5,562 signatures on petitions opposing the city's plans for a then multi-story visitor's center that would have taken away at least a dozen spaces where the front door to the bakery is located and forced her to "flip" the entrance to the other side where a city-owned, metered municipal lot exists.

"I feel I'm blessed that the bakery is still here and no one got hurt. It's as if an angel was looking over me," said Sanca, who maintained the parking problems did not

play into her decision to retire. "I don't fight with the city. I don't fight with my neighbors. It's not fair for the community. If you don't have parking you don't have anything."

Sanca had requested a 10-foot easement between the visitor's center and her store to allow customers the ability to turn around, but she was denied by the council. Peekskill Mayor Frank Catalina suggested the council simply approve an amendment to the original plans for the plaza that would restore the parking spaces customers of Homestyles Desserts had utilized.

"We brought more people to the area. People come from all over. It's like a destination," Sanca said.

Sanca said she is looking forward to have time to do simple things, such as going to the gym and shopping, and thanked her faithful customers and loyal employees, especially her "right-hand" for more than 30 years, Julie Sanca, for their support over the years.

"I got to meet so many wonderful people. My customers were the best," she said. "I had a wonderful team. Nothing gets done without a team and my customers. The best thing for me was being able to serve the people here in Peekskill."



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## Editorial

# A Bundle of Boos and Bravos for 2014

**Bravo** to Rose Sanca for a well-earned retirement after years of providing the Peekskill community with goodies of sugar and spice and everything nice at Homestyle Desserts, which will still be in business under the guidance of her son and daughter.

**Bravo** to the St. Mary's Food Pantry in Mohegan Lake which has quietly served those in need for the last 30 years.

**Bravo** to the customer service desk at ShopRite in Cortlandt for always giving topnotch customer service.

**Bravo** to Cortlandt Councilman Frank Farrell for championing the Cortlandt Community Rowing Association.

**Bravo** to Yorktown Highway Superintendent Dave Paganelli for his smooth transition into the job.

**Boo** to Lakeland School District officials and every other school district that continue to lie to parents and students about class rankings by claiming there are no such lists when, in fact, there are; it's just that they stubbornly choose to keep it a secret.

**Boo** to the City of Peekskill for increasing parking meter fees to \$1 per hour.

**Bravo** to Red House Entertainment for bringing the Paramount Hudson Valley back to life with a variety of entertainment.

**Bravo** to Ossining Mayor William Hanauer for eight years of strong leadership that brought much needed housing and business investment to the village.

**Boo** to those, including Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino, who oppose the state Common Core standards which are simply designed to arm today's students with the tools and knowledge they will need to compete and succeed in the future.

**Bravo** to the Cortlandt and Wilkens' Farm Markets for their cider donuts.

**Bravo** to Katonah Nursery for their traditional end of season cookie and coffee spread.

**Boo** to politicians and organizations who expect local newspapers to join in lockstep with them.

**Boo** to self-absorbed columnists who would like to censor and silence local media by advocating the elimination of political endorsements.

**Bravo** to Support Connection of

Yorktown for its 20th anniversary Support-A-Walk and year-round support for women and families suffering from breast and ovarian cancer.

**Bravo** to Yorktown Councilman Vishnu Patel for his support of local scouts and sharing his vast knowledge of science and technology with students in the Yorktown and Lakeland school districts.

**Boo** to Yorktown Supervisor Michael Grace for trying to bully his board colleagues into approving a special permit for the sober home on Underhill Avenue.

**Bravo** to the Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce as it prepares to celebrate its 100th anniversary.

**Bravo** to Peekskill Mayor Frank Catalina for his good natured approach to running government.

**Bravo** to Yorktown Pizza and Pasta for its generously-sized bowls of soup at a very affordable price.

**Bravo** to the advertisers of Examiner Media who help make it possible for us to provide fair and balanced community news in the region at a price that can't be beat.

## Beware the Russian Bear as it Flexes Its Diminishing Might

There are many facets of wine, primarily self-contained within the expansive wine industry. From the agricultural component, to the technological, biological and marketing components, the wine industry, at least in the United States, tends not to cross the line into socio-political matters or governmental intervention and influence - not to any major extent (Federal distribution regulations notwithstanding). However, this is not always the case in other wine-producing nations.

Social trends and political intervention are exerting increasing influence in certain countries. For example, in Russia, the demise of the Soviet state and the recent international sanctions over the annexation of Crimea have altered Rus-

sian drinking trends and consumption. These changes in Russia have affected the fortunes of the neighboring wine regions that flourished during Communism. The reign of Vladimir Putin has also introduced new tensions in the area's wine industries.

As I've been following the domestic and international political state of affairs in Russia, I'm noticing a number of political influences on wine sales. Here, from the perspective of Russian wine consumers, are recent developments in the Russian wine market.

Good news: Wines from Georgia, highly popular in Russia before and after Georgian independence, were banned in 2008 as the result of a war with Russia. Last year, trade relations resumed and Georgian

red and white wines from the Black Sea area are once again available and increasing in popularity.

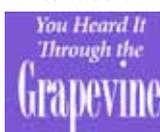
Bad news: Wine exports from Moldova to Russia flourished during the post-Soviet era, accounting for 90% of production of these highly regarded wines. Then in 2006 Russia banned all Moldovan wine imports. Trade resumed a few years later, but last year a new ban was imposed. Moldovan winemakers began exporting their wines to Western Europe; a few trickle to the United States. I attended a Wines of Moldova event this summer and enjoyed several excellent wines.

Bad news: Sanctions and embargoes by Western nations. Begun soon after the Crimean annexation, wine imports were not widely affected by these measures. However, anticipating an ever-growing

*continued on page 10*



By Nick  
Antonaccio



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**Businesses  
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## Children of America Educational Childcare & Academy Cortlandt

By Neal Rentz

Donna Gioio grew up in a large family in Ossining and certainly knows about dealing with children.

"I'm the oldest of 12," Gioio said "I'm a mom, a grandmother."

Beginning in early 2015 Gioio will be leading the Children of America Educational Childcare & Academy when it opens in the Cortlandt Town Center through her role as the facility's director.

Children of America is a national chain of child care facilities, Gioio explained recently. "We're the first one to come to Westchester," she said. "We offer child care that will serve infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school-age for families in the Westchester County area."

"We are committed to providing a safe, developmentally appropriate environment for infants through elementary school (students)," Gioio said. "Our emphasis is to provide a stimulating and educational experience that provokes every child's social, emotional, physical and cognitive development. We deliver educational programs that foster self-



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Ossining resident Donna Gioio, director of Children of America Educational Childcare & Academy, which is scheduled to open in the Cortlandt Town Center in early 2015.

esteem, encourage curiosity and inspire children to desire to be lifelong learners."

"We have to build that safe, secure environment where people feel comfortable and trust. It's the most important job that anyone can have," Gioio added.

There will be several physical activities offered at the new child care facility. "We have indoor and outdoor facilities. We

have an infant/toddler play area," Gioio said. "We also are going to have a little water park."

The indoor arena features a soccer field, a basketball court, a volleyball facility and a batting cage, she noted. "It's a beautiful facility," she said. "We do embrace a lot of nutrition and fitness for all the age groups and we encourage that."

Academics will also be an important part of services offered by the new day care facility, Gioio said. "The curriculum is based on the children's experiences and what they want to learn. It's hands-on."

A free grand opening event for families is scheduled for Jan. 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. "We will have a photo booth, arts and crafts, a bounce house, different vendors to show different activities, such as martial arts (and) gymnastics, (and) live music." Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi is expected to participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony during the event, Gioio said.

Gioio said she has 31 years of experience in child care. "I've worked with every age group and I've directed in the Westchester area," she said. "It's just a passion for me. And I enjoy watching children thrive in a safe, nurturing, loving environment."

Children of America Educational Childcare & Academy is located in the Cortlandt Town Center at 3093 E. Main St. in Mohegan Lake. For more information, visit [childrenofamerica.com](http://childrenofamerica.com) or call 914-930-6084.

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## Predictions on the Real Estate Market and Trends for 2015

Each New Year's I gaze into my crystal ball (I really have one, but let's be real here) to predict what will happen in terms of real estate market conditions and trends for the year ahead.

I do it quite jauntily for two reasons. For one thing, I cheat and look at the crib sheets of what various housing industry experts have to say; then, at the end of the year if I'm found to be way off in my predictions, I can blame them. Also, I figure, you'll probably forget what I say a full year from now. Even I can't remember what I said this time last year.

Actually, many times I take a different position from what the experts say anyway, mainly because they speak globally and I speak locally, especially in terms of buying and selling forecasts. The New York metropolitan region is a different animal from, let's say, the Midwest and the West Coast, and certainly New York City is as different from our glorious Hudson Valley as it can be as well.

And then, there are two totally unscientific factors I add to the mix: my gut feeling and my cell phone. Does my gut tell me things will be better or worse? And, is my

cell phone ringing with people calling to ask me to come and list their homes in greater number? Let me tell you, what I've heard ringing just before and after Christmas are not sleigh bells!

Mix all these factors together as we gather to sing "Auld Lang Syne," and here's what to expect in the year ahead.

The value of your home will continue to increase. The experts say ever so slowly, like this year, but did they fail to consider the news announced last week that in the last quarter our overall economy grew at its fastest rate in over a decade? I believe that augurs well for what we can expect for the 2015 housing market. Especially in the metropolitan area, I believe we'll see a gain of at least 5 to 6 percent in the value of our homes. Maybe that isn't the rapid

appreciation we rhapsodized about in 2013 as a kickback from the Great Recession, but it's pretty good as we move out of the rapid recovery phase to the "new normal" of the housing market.

Finally, credit will loosen a bit, making it easier for first-time buyers to enter the market. As more homes come on the market,

buyers will have more choices, sellers will face more competitive pressure and that will create a more balanced market for everyone. Oh, yes, and mortgage rates will rise, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association, to 5 percent, by the end of 2015.

Those who observe national trends say that builders will shift to building less expensive homes, concentrating in such states as Texas, Georgia and Florida where there is still a lot of buildable land. However, in our area, with land as scarce as it is, I predict that the price of new homes will continue to escalate and more people will continue to upgrade older homes. As the year progresses, foreclosures basically will go away.

Let's now consider what will be trending in home improvement jobs in 2015. The various sites that track the home improvement business seem to disagree about which jobs are most important to homeowners and which pull the most interest. But let's face it. When homeowners invest in home improvement, they do it not only for pride of ownership, but also because they hope someday they'll get payback when it comes time to sell. So I suspect that they'll be investing in those things that give the biggest bang for the buck in terms of recouping expenditure.

Top on the list is a new front door, which

recoups 96.6 percent of its cost. In descending order, we'll be investing in new decks or patios (recoups 87 percent of the cost); adding space or converting attics into living space (an 84 percent recoup); replacing windows (79 percent); replacing siding (78 percent); basement remodeling (78 percent) or redoing the bathroom (some sources say it recoups as much as 100 percent of the cost); and a major kitchen remodel (over 90 percent). Of course landscaping will be very big in 2015 with over 100 percent recouped because curb appeal becomes very important as we run faster to keep up with the Joneses.

Happy New Year, all, and take heart about the year ahead. Keep your eye on this column for encouraging news about your home's value and market conditions as 2015 unfolds.

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



By Bill Primavera

## Beware the Russian Bear as it Flexes Its Diminishing Might

*continued from page 8*

list of goods banned by the West, President Putin's office recently purchased over one million bottles of wines from the European Union. At least the politicians will be able to weather the Western measures for a while.

More bad news: The dramatic drop in oil prices, coupled with the devaluation of the ruble. Those imports still crossing the Russian borders are becoming more expensive by the day. Russians enjoy French and Italian wines. Escalating prices will certainly affect the purchasing power of middle class Russians.

Even the wealthy oligarchs are af-

fect. Government-created Russian oil billionaires are increasingly subject to personal and corporate sanctions; purchasing fine French and Italian wines is increasingly difficult. Although the fortunes of a number of these oligarchs can be tenuous in today's political climate: enjoying fine wine with President Putin in St. Petersburg's top restaurants one day, drinking tap water with fellow exiles in a Siberian cafeteria the next.

Good news: Wine consumption has been increasing steadily – albeit rather slowly. However, one reason for the increase in wine consumption is encouragement from Moscow. Alcoholism is

rampant in Russia; to discourage vodka consumption, the government has embarked on a campaign to encourage citizens to drink wine. Steering citizens from 80 proof spirits to 14% alcohol would be considered a triumph in reducing alcoholism. We'll have to wait and see if this campaign proves effective.

Bad news: Retaliation to the sanctions. The Russian parliament is considering a ban on all French wines. Ironically, this could be devastating to Russian consumers, who favor French wines; nearly 20% of Russia's worldwide wine imports are from France. At least consumers wouldn't need to be concerned about the

rising cost of these wines.

Is the Sleeping Bear of post-World War II now a Bear-gone-wild, intent on flexing its muscles in a world torn by turmoil? Perhaps, but at least the threat of Bear-drunkenness is not rampant, not with wine consumption in check.

*Nick Antonaccio is a 35-year Pleasantville resident. For over 15 years he has conducted numerous wine tastings and lectures. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick's credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine*

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# Crossword

## ACROSS

1. Monies owed
5. Dallas Mavericks owner Mark
10. Fountain nymph
12. Saudi Arabian's neighbor
13. Make a case
14. A British doctorate
15. Castle protection
17. Dudley Moore movie plus 52 in a year, or Peekskill jeweler (goes with 26 across)
21. Ultimatum ender
25. Heritage
26. See 17 across
27. Orchestra woodwind
28. One-armed \_\_\_\_\_
29. Wanton look
31. Disconnect
34. Belonging to actor William H. or J.V. Mall dept. store
39. Finnish coin
40. Cooking measure
41. Bucks
42. "I left my heart in San Francisco" singer (first name)

## DOWN

1. CSI stuff
2. Attention
3. Tom Hanks film
4. Greek T
5. Closing section of a musical composition
6. Large, unspecified number
7. "What nonsense!"
8. "Wheel of Fortune" request
9. Big zero
11. Oppose
16. Alternative maker
17. Bustle
18. Steal from
19. Deuce in poker
20. Obeying a dog school command
22. Took the initiative
23. Descend quickly
24. N.Y. time
26. Follows a recipe direction
28. "Let it \_\_\_": Beatles advice
30. Protection
31. Alternative to FedEx
32. Court divider
33. Molecular biology topic
35. Play part
36. How doves cry
37. Way out there, old-style
38. Bug someone, e.g.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	
10				11		12				
13						14				
				15	16					
17	18	19	20				21	22	23	24
25						26				
27					28					
			29	30						
31	32	33				34	35	36	37	38
39						40				
41							42			

See solution on page 12

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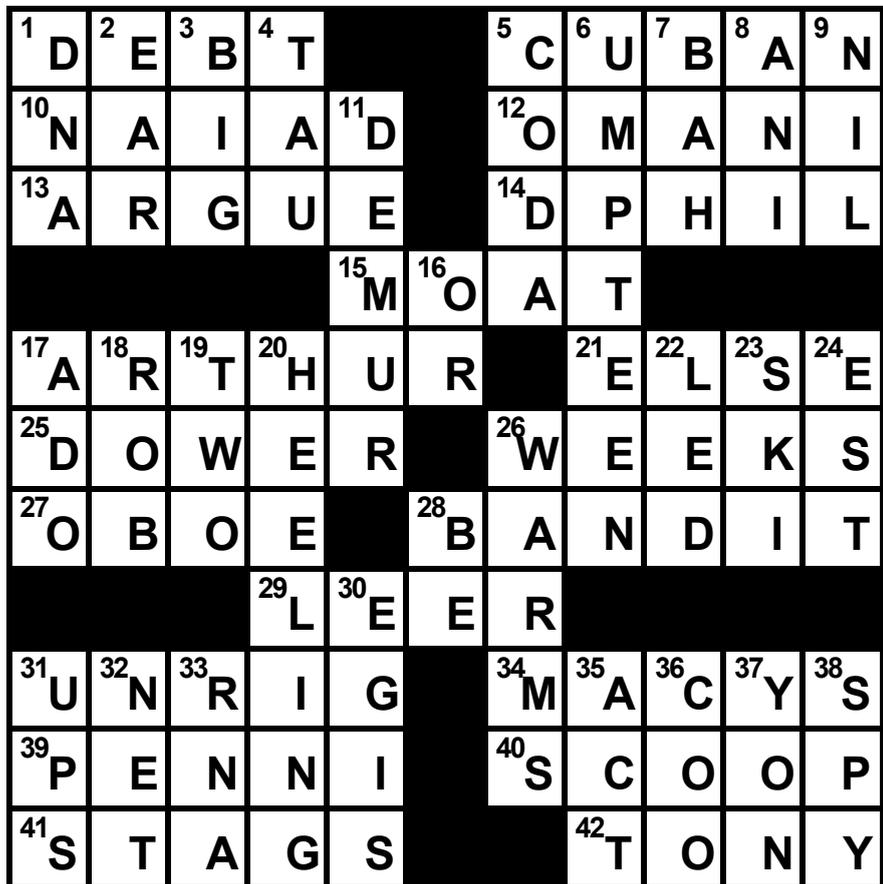
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# SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

# Happenings

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

## Tuesday, Dec. 30

**Blood Drive:** The Church of the Holy Spirit, 1969 Crompond Road, Cortlandt, will hold its winter blood drive from 3 to 9 p.m. in the Parish Activity Center. Walk-ins are welcome. For additional information, please call 914-737-2316.

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

**Farmers' Market:** The Putnam Valley Grange Farmers' Market is held every Tuesday from 3 to 7 p.m. at the corner of Mill Street and Peekskill Hollow Road (Adams Corners).

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

**Checkmate:** A chess program is held every Tuesday at 4 p.m. at the Ossining Public Library, 53 Croton Ave. It is held in the second floor conference room. Info: 914-941-2416 Ext. 336.

## Wednesday, Dec. 31

**Paramount New Year's Eve:** New Year's Eve Dance the Night Away will be presented at the Paramount Hudson Valley, 1008 Brown St., Peekskill. The night will kick off at 9 p.m. with Peekskill's Best of the Valley Battle of the Bands Winners: Phineas and the Lonely Leaves. There will be performances by Sponge Worthy and headlining musician Ali Isabella. Come dance the night away on stage at our special after-hours party hosted by SG Sounds. All-access

tickets are \$65 (+tax/fees) and include a wristband and unlimited beer & wine pass. Ring in the New Year at a midnight champagne toast and watch the ball drop on South Street. Tickets can be purchased in-person at the box office, over the phone at 914-738-0039, or on-line at [boxoffice@paramounthudsonvalley.com](mailto:boxoffice@paramounthudsonvalley.com)

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

## Thursday, Jan. 1

**Local Color:** Local Color: A Field Gallery Retrospective, featuring works by 15 artists, is being held through Feb. 8 at the gallery, 4 Nelson Ave., Peekskill. Info: 914-737-1212 or [peekskill.org](http://peekskill.org).

## Friday, Jan. 2

**Free Play Dates:** A free play date program is being held every Friday from 11 a.m. to noon at the Rosenthal JCC Early Childhood Center at the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. The program is intended for children between the ages of 16 and 36 months and their parents or caregivers. Children can play, do art and socialize all under the direction of an experienced early childhood teacher. Pre-registration is suggested. Contact Jennifer at 914-962-8430 or e-mail her at [Jennifer@rosenthaljcc.org](mailto:Jennifer@rosenthaljcc.org).

**Jewish Center Services:** During the winter months Sabbath services begin at 6:15 p.m. on Friday evenings and at 9:15 a.m. on Saturday mornings at the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. On most Saturdays after services, Rabbi Sternstein conducts a learning session based on the Torah portion of the week. Light refreshments are served and everyone is invited and welcome to join us as we share in the warmth, knowledge and friendship within our congregation. Info: 914-245-2324 or [www.info@yorktownjewishcenter.org](http://www.info@yorktownjewishcenter.org).

**Temple Beth Am Shabbat:** Temple Beth Am welcomes all for Shabbat every Friday evening at 8 p.m. Our modern Sabbath service has a spiritual and engaging feel while following traditional modes. Temple Beth Am is located at 203 Church Pl. Yorktown. For information, please call our Rabbi at 962-7500 or e-mail him at [rabbiiw@optonline.net](mailto:rabbiiw@optonline.net).

**Job Hunting Help:** Free drop-in, hands-on assistance with online

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

## Saturday, Jan. 3

**Muscot Farm Programs:** Two programs are scheduled for this weekend at Muscot Farm, which is located on Route 100 in Somers. The Environmental Learning Center will be open on Jan. 3 and 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Stop by at the new center and visit with the curator and see various natural exhibits. On Jan. 4, Butter and Bread will be presented from 1 to 3 p.m. Learn how to churn butter and bake bread, then enjoy the fruits of your labors. The fee is \$10; and pre-registration required, call 914-864-7286. For more information about the farm visit [westchestergov.com/parks](http://westchestergov.com/parks).

**Feeder Watch:** Project Feeder Watch will be held, a times to be announced, at the Croton Point Nature Center in Croton Point Park. Join members of the Saw Mill River Audubon to identify and count birds at the feeders. Go to [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org) for times. Info: 914-862-5297.

**Torah Study:** All are invited to study the Torah with Rabbi Robbie Weiner at 9 a.m. at Temple Beth Am, located at 203 Church Pl. Yorktown Bagels and coffee will be provided. No previous knowledge is required and people from all backgrounds are welcome. For information, please call our Rabbi at 962-7500 or e-mail him at [rabbiiw@optonline.net](mailto:rabbiiw@optonline.net).

**Confronting Cancer:** Confronting Cancer Through Art, My Journey, featuring works by Corinne Lapin-Cohen, will be presented from Jan 3 through 31 at the Katonah Village Library, 26 Bedford Rd. An artist reception is scheduled for Jan. 17 from 2 to 4 p.m. Info: [confrontingcancerthroughart.com](http://confrontingcancerthroughart.com).

**Ossining Farmers Market:** The Ossining Down to Earth Farmers Market is held year-round on Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the corner of Main and Spring Streets. Info: 914-923-4837 Ext. 202.

**Overeaters Anonymous:** Worried about the way you eat? If food rules your life, Overeaters Anonymous may have the answer for you. There is no weight-ins, dues or fees. The group meets on Saturdays from 8:30 to 9:30 am at the fourth floor conference at the Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, 1350 Route 9, Garrison. Info: call/text Lisa at 917-716-

2488.

## Sunday, Jan. 4

**Jewish Education:** Adult education will be held at 10:30 a.m. at the Hebrew Congregation of Somers, located at Cypress Lane and Mervin Drive. Info: 914-248-9532.

**Sunday Concert:** Sunday Concerts at the John C. Hart Memorial Library, 1130 E. Main St., Shrub Oak, will continue at 2 p.m. with the program- Salvatore Chiarelli - From Italy with Love with the award winning tenor who will sing popular, traditional & classical Italian/Neapolitan songs, Italian opera, musical theater pieces, Italian/American love ballades & more in English & Italian. No registration is required Doors will open at 1:45 p.m. For more information contact the reference desk or call 914-245-5262, Ext. 227.

**Healing Yoga:** Yoga classes for women with breast cancer are held at 5 p.m. on Sundays at Hudson Yoga, 5 Old Post Rd. South, Croton-on-Hudson. Weekly classes are being conducted by rotating instructors. The suggestion is \$15. Info: Elisha Simpson at 914-319-4010 or send an e-mail to [info@laughingheartsyoga.com](mailto:info@laughingheartsyoga.com).

## Monday, Jan. 5

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

**Free Jazz Sessions:** Free Jazz Jam Sessions are being held every Monday at The Winery at St. George, 1715 E. Main St., Mohegan Lake. Info: 914-455-4272.

## Tuesday, Jan. 6

**Helping Homeless Veterans:** The Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 21 and My Brother Vinny need your help in assisting homeless veterans. Once a homeless veteran is approved by the government for apartment living, the veteran needs all the furnishings, linens, towels, cooking, eating utensils to set up his new apartment. One item that is desperately needed is window air conditioners. Anyone who wishes to donate an air conditioner, bed linens or towels may drop them off at St. Luke's Church's basement, Route 100, Somers NY. Hours of drop-off are Monday and Wednesday from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and from 2 to 4:30 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please leave your name and address so we may thank you. Info: 914-277-4822.

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**LEGAL NOTICE**

**SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF NASSAU,**

**Index No.: 2014-202317:** GAETANA GAZZARA, Plaintiff, against MANUEL MARTINEZ, Defendant, in an ACTION FOR A DIVORCE. To the above named Defendant: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to file an Answer in writing to the attached Verified Complaint with the clerk of the above entitled Court, at 240 Old Country Road, Mineola, New York, 11501, and to serve upon or mail C. William Gaylor, III, attorney for Plaintiff, 7 Atlantic Avenue, Lynbrook, N.Y. 11563, a copy of said Answer within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you; If you fail so to do, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in said VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR DIVORCE, which has been filed with the Clerk of said Court and a copy of which has been mailed to your last known address. The nature of this action is to dissolve the marriage between the parties, on the grounds: DRL § 170 (2) – Abandonment and/or DRL § 170 (7) - the relationship between the parties has broken down irretrievably for a period of at least six months. The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Nassau, dated 11/25/14, and filed in the office of the clerk of the County of Nassau at 240 Old Country Road, Mineola, New York. The object of this action is to obtain judgment against the Defendant MANUEL MARTINEZ, last known address 100 Diplomat Drive, Mount Kisco, NY10549, for an absolute divorce, that the bonds of matrimony between the Plaintiff, GAETANA GAZZARA and the Defendant, MANUEL MARTINEZ be forever dissolved and such other, further and different relief as may be just and proper.

**Dated, 12/8/14, /s/ C. William Gaylor, III, attorney for Plaintiff, 7 Atlantic Avenue, Lynbrook, N.Y. 11563.**

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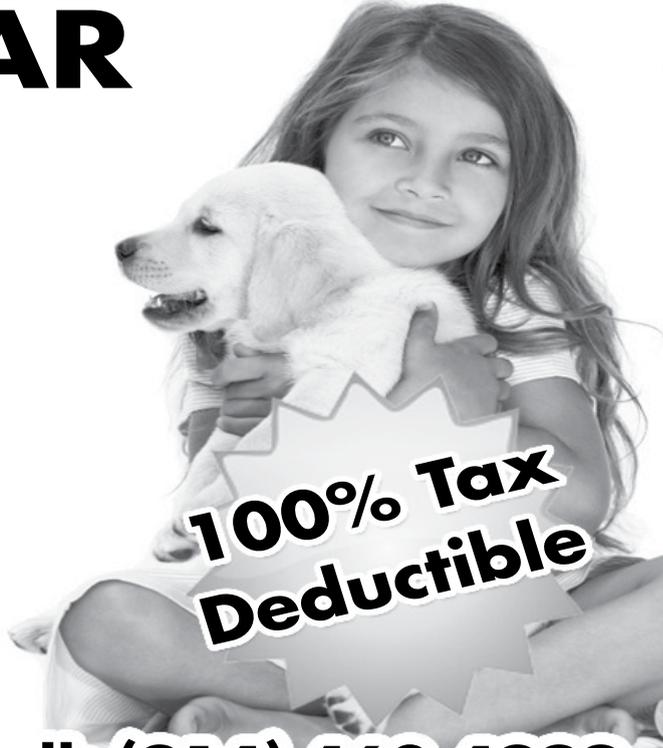
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 Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports

December 30 - January 5, 2015

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

SPORTS SECTION

**Nick  
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RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

**Somers/North Salem No Match for Carmel**

Somers/North Salem F Nick Caleri, who had a goal and an assist in the Sabers' 6-3 loss to Carmel last Friday night, is chased by Ram F Tyler Spiridigliozza at the Brewster Ice Arena where the undermanned Sabers hung tough for two periods before Tyler Alfonzetti (5G, 1A) burned them... see Hockey Notebook

## Sports

## Boys Hoops Notebook

# Put Valley Steamrolls Ossining, 68-49, Basso Drops 23

## Haldane Falls in Hastings Tourney Final

By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports Editor

Nobody advocates fighting in high school basketball, but now that it's come to pass, the little dust-up between host Putnam Valley and Ossining at the conclusion of the Tigers' 68-49 victory last Tuesday, might be just what the doctor ordered for an inconsistent Putnam Valley (4-4) club. The flare-up between the Tigers and Pride was brief but it told the chemistry-seeking Tigers a little something-something about each other: I got your back, is what it said.

Coach Mike McDonnell's 2014 Class B finalists Tigers, coming off back-to-back Final 4 appearances at the County Center, are one of handful of Class B team capable of finding their way back to White Plains this March, but they won't do so unless they find a way to mesh internally. The deal with Ossining may have fortified their internal resolve and the belief that



PV's Joe Spinola finds seam in Ossining defense.



RAY GALLAGHER/RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

Putnam Valley's Zack Nolan fires J against the Pride and played one of his best games this season in 68-49 rout of Ossining last Tuesday.

Put Valley also saw juniors guards Harrison Deegan (10 points) and Anders Spittal (9 points) contribute while Ossining was led by A.J. Stockeley, who scored a team-high 14 points.

The anticipated battle between Haldane and PV will feature Basso and Blue Devil swingman Peter Hoffmann, who will pose incredible matchup issues for the Tigers if lengthy Joe Spinola and Nolan can't stay out of foul trouble. Teams like Nanuet, who defeated Haldane, 49-45, in the finals of the Hastings tourney, have held the defending Section 1 Class C champion Blue Devils under 50, so it can be done, but the Tigers will have to bring the pressure to snag this particular league title, which would give them at least a share for three-straight years.

"at least we have each other" when they take the court.

PV seniors Ryan Basso (23 points) and Zack Nolan (12 points) carried the bulk of the burden, Nolan playing one of his better all-around games this season. If Nolan can lift his game to the level consistently, the Tigers might find themselves in the hunt for the League I-C title, though Haldane (5-2) will have a lot to say about that on Jan. 24th and again on Feb. 6th when the league title should be decided at PV High (expectations will be high for @PVVBSuperfans that day).

Greeley a season finale visit in what figures to be a raucous environment.

**No.2 YORKTOWN** – Coach Downes Class A Huskers (4-1) are not to be taken lightly as the New Year unfolds and they will find out quickly where they stand in this League I-D title chase, which seems destined to go to the wire. F Mason Dyslin is an X-factor you best be set to deal with or you'll be on the shy side of the count. Remember where you heard it first back in Week 1: Anyone sleeping on the Huskers is in for a nightmare.

**No.3 MAHOPAC** – Coach Harter Class AA Indians (3-3) are far more athletic and bruising that most teams below them, so we kinda think that in a down year in this neck of the woods, the Indians would prevail over most.

**No.4 HALDANE** – Coach Virgadamo's defending Section 1 Class C champion Blue Devils (5-2) are about to make believers out of the doubters; just as they did in a 71-47 rout of Hastings when Peter Hoffmann (15 points), Will Zuvic (15 points), 11 boards) did the bulk of the damage. Expected more from the Devils in Sunday's 49-45 loss to Nanuet in finals



Put Valley's Anders Spittal drops two off the opening two in win over Ossining.

Haldane has proven options besides Hoffman, including Will Zuvic, Edmund Fitzgerald and Garrett Quigley, among others, so this should be a couple of wars we'll all be looking forward to.

After a very light week of action, here's a look at the latest meaningless Fab 5 Poll.

### Putnam/NWE Fab Five Hoops Poll

**No.1 SOMERS** – Coach DiCintio's Class A Tuskers (5-0) appear to be as deep as any club in this poll, with more potent scoring than anyone in this poll, and a commitment to defense they've come up short on in recent seasons. This League I-D title chase figures to come down to one of four teams: the Tuskers, Huskers, Quakers and Foxes, all of whom are legit. Something tells me Feb.6th will be a telling date, what with the Tuskers paying

of Hastings tourney: Hoffman led with 12 points, Fitzgerald had 11 points and 12 rebounds and Garrett Quigley added 10 points.

**No.5 PUTNAM VALLEY** – Coach McDonnell's Class B Tigers (4-4) appear to be turning the corner in a nick of time,

# Sports

## Boys Hoops Notebook



Yorktown's Glen O'Loughlin has done the yeoman's work for the Huskers.

and this game against Peekskill in the Putnam Challenge on Jan. 3rd could make or break the psyche of this outfit.

**HM PANAS** - Coach Sully's reigning Section 1 Class A champion Panthers (3-4) are gonna need some dudes besides Mike Evans and Brandon Collins to step up as we approach what appears to be a wide open League I-B title chase. Seriously, who want this? Every team in

the league, besides Hen Hud (a soft 4-1) has a losing record as we head into the fray.

**HM LAKELAND** - Coach Weltman's Class A Hornets (3-5) would seem to be the team that might have enough athleticism to cop the top spot in League I-B, so if we were forced to pick a team to do so, it would be the Hornets, which would be a nice way to send Coach Weltman off into the sunset at the conclusion of his final season.

**HM CROTON** - Coach Thom's Class B Tigers (4-2) were probably hoping for a better showing than the one they gave in their Slam Dunk Tournament challenge loss to Harrison, where a surging Huskies team took control early on while making a statement to the rest of Class A with a 63-46 win over the Tigers. Croton senior center Chris McVeety (14 points and eight rebounds) and sophomore guard Lucas Curran (9 points off the bench) were the lone bright spots.

**HM PEEKSKILL** - Coach Turner's Class A Red Devils (1-5) are one of five teams in League I-B with a losing record as we venture into league play after the break. If they fall to Class B Putnam Valley in the Putnam Challenge this Saturday (2:00 p.m.), I can't imagine the Red Devils will compete for top honors in the league, but there really isn't a clear frontrunner



Peekskill's Jalen Toukes hopes the Red Devs can turn it on while Yorktown's Nick Del Bene looks to keep on keepin' on.

among the lot of them (Lakeland, Panas, Hen Hud, Beacon, Ossining and Hen Hud).

**HM CARMEL** - Coach Venditto's Class AA Rams (2-4) are just two weeks away from potentially erasing seven painful years of going 2-12 against Mahopac. I ask two questions: Is it in you to do so, or are you happy under Mahopac's thumb? I think the former, rather than the latter.

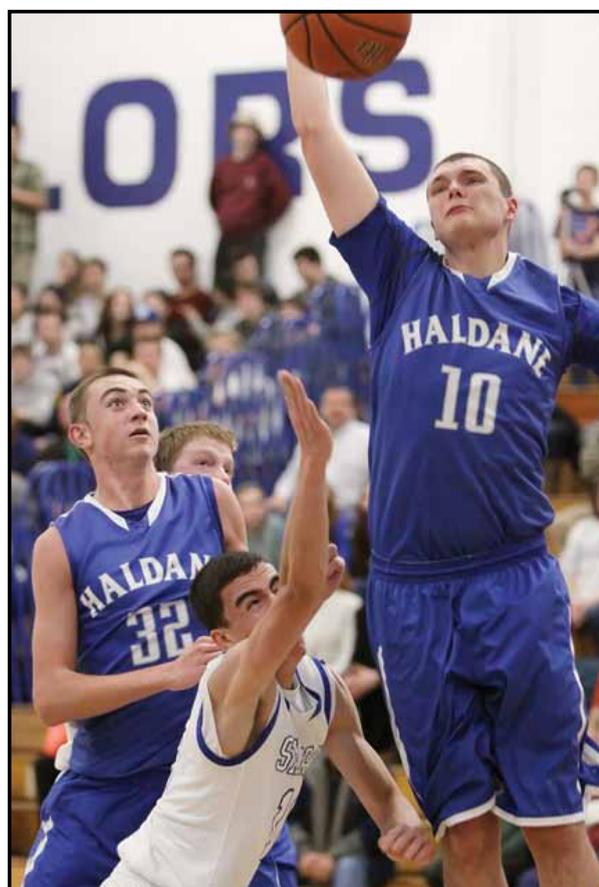
**HM HEN HUD** - I'm hoping like heck Coach Hirsch's Class A Sailors (4-

1) are every bit as good as the early start indicates, and we'll find out in a hurry after the break when they visit Panas on the 9th of Jan. In a league where there is no dynamic threat to win it all, the Sailors have to be thinking "Why Not Us!?"

**HM BREWSTER** - Coach Nelly's Class A Bears (2-4) will be in a dogfight each and every night from here on out, including their 8:00 p.m. tipoff against host Carmel this Saturday in the Putnam Challenge.



Yorktown's Mason Dyslin has the Huskers sitting pretty as we enter the New Year.



Haldane's Garret Quigley and Hen Hud's Jesse Breeding have their teams in good position as they head into their respective league games.



Somers G Nick Lombardo and the undefeated Tuskers are poised for league title run.

## Sports

## Hockey Notebook

# Surging Yorktown, Gavigan End Carmel's Streak

## Gamby, Alfonzetti a Lethal Combination for Carmel in Win over

By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports Editor

The undermanned Somers-North Salem defense was no match for Carmel center Tyler Alfonzetti last Friday night at the Brewster Ice Arena. Both crafty and shifty, Alfonzetti had his way with the Sabers, weaving in and out of traffic to score a season-high five goals and an assists in the Rams' 6-3 triumph.

With the victory, Carmel (5-2-1) was taking a lot of momentum in to Sunday night's drop-off with Yorktown, but the surging Huskers – winners in six of the last seven -- had some of their own mojo going and they put an end to Carmel's four-game win streak when the Huskers (7-3) recorded a 6-4 win at the BIA, avenging an 8-3 opening-night loss back on Nov.28th.



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Somers forward RJ LaSpina puts a nifty move on Carmel G Willow Barnes to score one of two he would net in 6-3 loss to Rams.



Carmel's Mike Gamby (10) and G Lankafel protect the house from Somers-NS F Luigi Olinto in 6-3 Ram win.

Carmel's defense fell apart in the third and the Huskers scored three unanswered goals to snap a 3-3 tie. Husker Frank Gavigan (6G, 6A on the year) gave the

Huskers a 4-3 lead and added a 5-on-3 shorty for an insurance goal as the Huskers improved to 6-2. Gavigan finished with two goals and two assists. Anuj Gupta, Cian Keohane, Liam Donnelly (7G, 4A) and Shaun Benson (3G, 8A) also scored for the Huskers. Mike Gamby scored twice for the Rams.

Against Somers/NS (2-6), Alfonzetti upped his section-best goal total to 16 and added an assist, his 10th of the year. He added one more goal and an assist against Yorktown and has 17G for the season. With 28 points to his credit,



Somers' Michael Garrity attempts check of Carmel's Tyler Alfonzetti in 6-3 Ram win.

‘Fonzie’ is tied with Scarsdale’s James Nicholas for the most points in the section. “I guess some games it just clicks,” the modest 5’7” 135-pound Alfonzetti said. “This is my senior year and this season really means a lot to me, so I’m just putting it all out there.”

It didn’t go unnoticed by Somers senior Luigi Olinto, who has been on the varsity circuit for four years.

“The kid was unreal,” Olinto said of Alfonzetti. “He doesn’t look like he can do that until he releases the puck. He’s a sniper.”

Carmel’s success this season has manifested itself in the form of a deep-rooted internal belief that the Rams are in position to make a solid run at the league title before turning their attention to a deep playoff run. Boss man Mike Chiacchia, in his first year with the Rams, plus assistants Marc Glaviano and John Loira, have gotten the attention of their team, which turned in a subpar 8-11-1 mark a year ago.

“I think our success this year comes from the coaching staff,” said senior Gamby, who has 13 goals and 13 assists on the year. “Our coaches really believe we can make a deep playoff run and that mentality is rubbing off on the team. Personally, I’m just finding time and space in high scoring areas and burying my chances. Hopefully that continues for the rest of the season.”

As he works side-by-side with Alfonzetti, the two have developed an on-ice relationship that is akin to their off-ice lifestyle. Friday night, when Alfonzetti was lighting the lamp at warp speed,

Gamby was in synch the whole way.

“I was thinking I was gonna pass to him every time I got the puck,” Gamby admitted after setting up three of Alf’s five marks. “We are great friends off the ice, so I know where he likes to work from in the offensive zone.”

As much as the coaching staff deserves credit for the raging start, the dynamic duo have been the impetus for Carmel’s success. Gamby has been the stoic, versatile and steady force while Alfonzetti’s zeal is evident; his motor always in high gear.

“Me and Gamby have played together for a long time, so we work well together on the ice,” Alfonzetti said. I’m a hyper active player, especially in the defensive zone.”

Now, if the defense can shore itself up, things can begin to happen for the



Carmel D Paul Murphy transitions in Rams' 6-3 win over Somers last Friday night at the BIA.

Rams. But blue-liners Paul Murphy, Rob McQuade and Ryan Langkafel and the rest of the defense has to tighten up in front of goalies Thomas Langkafel and Willow Barnes better than they did in the first period against Somers-North Salem.

Somers center RJ LaSpina (2G, 1A) had a hand in every goal for the Sabers, adding to a special season that ranks him third in the section in points scored (14 G, 6 A).

**FAST BREAKS** – Rob Buckley (2G, 1A) led Mahopac to a 7-1 win over Lakeland/Panas, getting the Indians (3-4) back on track after a devastating 6-5 loss to Greeley... Yorktown defeated Hen Hud 1-0 on a goal by Cian Keohane in support of Madison Drezek’s shutout. She also had a huge point-blank save in the win over Carmel, so score “two” for the pony-tail platoon... Brewster’s Kyle Dineen’s hat trick, combined with Aaron Treiling (2G) and Seamus Carey (1G, 2A) was more than enough for the Bears (6-1-1) in an 8-3 win over JFK, but the 10-0 loss to Hen Hud was deep head-scratcher as Sailor F Tyler Schunk putting up five goals.

## Sports

# Thank Heaven for Our Little Safe Haven



By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports  
Editor

On a national level, history may show that 2014 was a year to forget on account of the disrespect some segments of our society have hurled in the direction of the men in blue since the non-indictments against police officers in Ferguson, MO., and Staten Island.

Whether you agree or disagree with the picture painted by some of the liberal factions and activists of our country, try living a day without your local police department. Try walking the streets of Manhattan, the Bronx or any of the five boroughs without the NYPD in OUR corner. Try leaving your car doors unlocked in Putnam County without the constant Sherriff's patrols. Try going to a game at a local high school gym without local law enforcement there to keep us in line. Try living in the land of the free and home of the brave without the brave to protect us.

Here's the ironic thing about "Hands Up, Don't Shoot": Had he practiced what those in the streets are preaching, Michael Brown would still be alive.

I'm not saying the system is perfect, including the non-indictment by the NY grand jury in Staten Island. Any charge

would have been better than no charge, but the charges were manslaughter or criminally negligent homicide as they heard evidence, and that just wasn't the case with Eric Garner. The Staten Island District Attorney did not ask the Garner grand jury to consider reckless endangerment-type charges against NYPD officer Daniel Pantaleo, whose intent was not to kill. Excessive force, possibly. Homicide, no way!

The system has been flawed since we shipped in mass from England for the New World centuries ago. It may not be a perfect system, but it's better than the eye-for-an-eye conviction we see in the Middle East; though these recent rallies in the streets of NYC and Ferguson are bordering on anarchy with a side order of disgrace. I'm ashamed of the group of protesters in the Murray Hill section of Manhattan, who called for dead police on the streets of NYC. I'm ashamed that some of my friends in the NYPD are increasingly in harm's way now, as if they weren't already in peril each and every shift they work while striving for OUR safety.

Nowadays, they can't, and won't, trust a soul; black, white or yellow. I don't blame law enforcement one bit, which is why I

thank God for the safe haven of Putnam County. (According to the annual DCJS report entitled "County Index Crime Counts and Rates Per 100,000 Population" for 2013, Putnam County had the lowest total crime index rate among all counties in New York State for the fourth year in a row.)

For now, Putnam County remains one of the safest places in the state... distinctly removed from the tomfoolery of these over-the-top protesters in NYC, who think it's cool to kill cops or lob garbage cans at them and get up in their grills in protest. The composure these maliciously maligned cops have shown in the face of these dingbats is something to behold. I salute them for doing so.

I salute the kids I cover each and every week since 1989, for these student bodies - and their parents -- are generally canny enough to express their emotions in a sound, respectful manner on most nights. I thank God that I'm far enough away from hell-bent activists but close enough to Ossining High so I can follow the exploits of Coach Dan Ricci's two-time reigning NYS Class AA girls' basketball champions. I thank God I'm far enough away from the civilly disobedient rabble near Time's Square, but right next door to Coach Sharon Sarsen's six-time defending

NYS Class B champion field hockey team. I salute them and every other underpaid local high school coach who stands up to those incendiary issues that defy the greater good of our student athletes.

In my opinion, Eric Garner in New York and Michael Brown in Ferguson, were not victims of racially-charged incidents (IMO) as the rhetorical whizzes suggest. They would likely be dead if they were black, white or orange, because an officer in peril does not see color. They simply see someone who is resisting arrest and needs to be taken off the streets for the safety of the law-abiding. I was taught at a young age that resisting arrest is a recipe for disaster (even for selling loose cigarettes), and I will put a foot in my kid's rear-end if ever they do resist. Had either of these men complied with law enforcement, they might have been with their families on Christmas.

Sadly, they did not and these two awful deaths triggered the senseless killing of two of New York's finest shortly thereafter. And that, my friends, is the real tragedy; a calamity that far too few have appealed or hit the streets to protest.

We ALL need reform and respect for each other, particularly those in law enforcement. Here's to getting along in 2015, and here's to a better world for my children, and yours. It can't get much worse. Happy New Year, gang!



## Sports

## Girls' Basketball Notebook

# Healthy Cunningham Sparks Kennedy; Pride Ready to Rumble

By Tony Pinciario

The John F. Kennedy girls' varsity basketball team received a Christmas present with the return of impact player Grace Cunningham.

The senior guard and three-year varsity player was sidelined six games with a bad case of bronchitis. Kennedy coach Lance DeMarzo said the bronchitis, "wiped Grace out."

Cunningham showed that bronchitis was not going to get the best of her and returned to the lineup in time for the inaugural Jingle Bell Basketball Classic at Kennedy. Cunningham displayed what her impact is on the team as she led the Lady Gaels to the title with a 56-48 victory over St. John Villa in the final. This came on the heels of a 58-33 triumph over Cathedral in a first-round game.

Cunningham scored 12 points and had six assists against Cathedral and followed it up with an 18-point, 11-rebound performance. As a result of her play,

Cunningham walked away with Most Valuable Trophy. Teammates Megan Weidenhamer added 13 points and 12 rebounds in the final and Tara Heslin-Scott netted 11 points. Both girls were named to the all-tournament team.

"I'm surprised how quick Grace bounced back and Grace's return has rejuvenated us," DeMarzo said. "We are playing with more confidence."

Along with being a pivotal player, Cunningham is also a team captain. Not only did the bronchitis knock her out, it kept Cunningham from attending practice.

"It was a big loss psychologically, because her ball-handling and shooting were really missed," said DeMarzo. "As one of the captains, Grace's leadership on and off the court is the glue that holds us together."

Cunningham's return also adds another all-around player to a well-balanced Kennedy team. Cunningham joins

Weidenhamer and Heslin-Scott, giving Kennedy its own high-scoring trio.

"A healthy Grace makes teams pick their poison," DeMarzo said. "If you concentrate defensively on Grace, Megan and Tara will make you regret it. If you concentrate on Megan and Tara, which teams have in been doing Grace's absence, Grace will break your heart with her shooting."

"Now that we are getting back to full strength, Megan is a big, long guard that goes to the basket, shoots and rebounds, Tara also shoots and rebounds and along with Grace, will make us better. We will start winning ball games again."

Kennedy will enjoy the remainder of the Christmas break before returning to action in January.

OSSINING was the only other team in action during the Christmas break. The Pride played in the annual Slam-Dunk Tournament at the Westchester County Center.

The Pride were grouped with Jamesville-DeWitt, Albany High School and Bishop Loughlin. Ossining opened with a 71-32 victory over Jamesville-DeWitt behind 27 points and seven rebounds from Jalay Knowles. The Pride's Shadeen Samuels finished with 15 points, five rebounds and three steals while teammate Madison Strippoli posted 11 points, seven rebounds and three steals. Abby Squirrell chalked up seven points, five rebounds and four steals and senior point guard Stefanie Svoboda had four points, seven assists, three rebounds and two steals.

"We saw the old Ossining Pride today," Ricci remarked. "We played hard, we played together and we played our roles."

Ossining met Bishop Loughlin in the championship game, Monday.

*Editor's Note: Coaches looking for coverage for the girls in their respective programs should return phone calls from Tony Pinciario or email him at [tfinch23@optonline.net](mailto:tfinch23@optonline.net). Takes five minutes.*

# Stock Options!

## Ossining's Assets Limited During 1-4 Start



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Ossining junior swingman A.J. Stockeley (23) scored a team-high 14 points and went all out defensively with teammate AJ Otero (12) in an effort to stop Putnam Valley G Zack Nolan, but it wasn't nearly enough as Nolan's Tigers worked a convincing 68-49 victory last Tuesday night when the Pride fell to 1-4 and PV improved to 4-4... see Boys' Hoops Notebook

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