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December 15 - December 21, 2015

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 7, Issue 313

Accused Yorktown Teacher Killed in Hiking Mishap

By Rick Pezullo

A longtime band teacher at Crompond Elementary School in the Yorktown School District was killed Saturday in an apparent hiking accident in Ulster County.

According to published reports, Jeffrey Whalen, 45, of Yorktown, who has been on administrative leave since being charged in October by the Westchester District Attorney's Office with possessing an obscene sexual performance by a

child and promoting an obscene sexual performance by a child in late August at his home, was pronounced dead at about 3 p.m. Saturday at the bottom of a cliff in Mohonk Preserve.

Reportedly, Whalen, who was hiking alone, was taking photographs when he fell off a 200-foot cliff. Two other hikers in the area called 911 after hearing a loud noise. Police are currently investigating Whalen's death as an accident.

Yorktown Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Ralph Napolitano acknowledged Whalen's death in an email to district parents Sunday and said a crisis team would be made available to students if needed.

"It is with sadness and a heavy heart that I notify you of the news of the accidental passing of Mr. Jeffrey Whalen which occurred yesterday after a tragic fall while hiking," Napolitano stated in his email. "Please keep the Whalen family in your thoughts and prayer."

Several former students of Whalen, who taught in Yorktown for 20 years and



Jeffrey Whalen

continued on page 5

Cortlandt Man Jailed for Shooting Wife

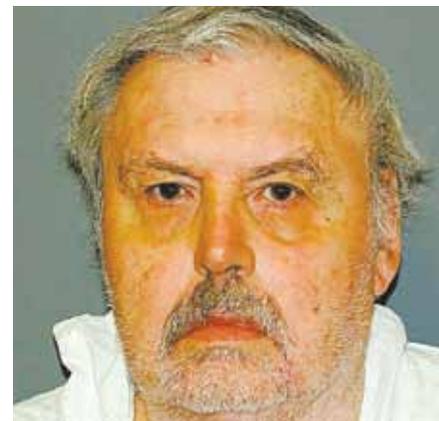
By Rick Pezullo

A 78-year-old Cortlandt man was sentenced last week to three-and-a-half years in state prison for shooting his 77-year-old wife with a shotgun two years ago in their Udell Court home.

Mario Vallorosi pled guilty in August to one count of attempted assault in the first degree, a Class C violent felony, for shooting his unidentified wife at close range on June 15 at about 4 a.m.

State Police in Cortlandt were notified of the shooting by a 911 call from an adult male who stated his father had just shot his mother. After responding to a noise he had heard he found his mother lying on a sofa in an upstairs computer room at 10 Udell Court.

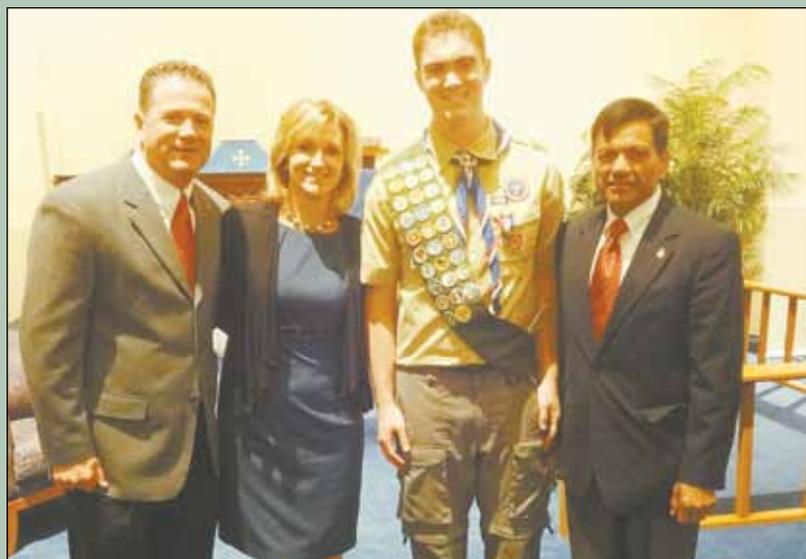
Responding troopers forcefully entered the residence, took Vallorosi into custody and located the woman with a shotgun wound to her abdomen and chest. She was taken to Westchester



Mario Vallorosi

Medical Center, where she underwent emergency surgery.

An investigation by police revealed the couple had been involved in an argument the night before. Along with being sent to prison, Vallorosi was sentenced to five years of post-release supervision.



Scout's Honor

Eagle Scout Matthew James Scully of Troop 174 BSA, joined by his parents, received a certificate of achievement on behalf of the Yorktown Town Board from Councilman Vishnu Patel at Walter Panas High School. Scully completed his Eagle project at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Cortlandt, where he restored a dilapidated storage shed on the property and installed drainage to prevent water infiltration. The landscape surrounding the shed was also rehabilitated. Councilman Tom Diana was also on hand for the ceremony.

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Ask the Doctor

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Director, Institute for Robotic & Minimally Invasive Surgery

Director, Colorectal Cancer Program
Northern Westchester Hospital

nwroboticsurgery.org/DrWishner

Q: Am I at risk for colorectal cancer?

A: An estimated 90 percent of all colorectal cancers (cancer of the colon or rectum) occur in people age 50 and older. So, in a sense, everyone is at risk simply by reaching that milestone birthday. Besides age, risk factors include prior colon cancer, a family history of colon cancer or other cancers, colonic diseases or GI problems. Now consider, if everyone 50 and older had a regular screening test, 80 percent of deaths from colon cancer could be prevented.

Q: What can I do to help prevent colon cancer?

A: Get a colonoscopy. It's just that simple. A colonoscopy is considered the gold standard for colorectal cancer screening and surveillance. During the screening, we look for cancer and remove any potentially pre-cancerous growths called polyps. For people with no risk factors, current guidelines call for screening every 10 years starting at age 50. If polyps are found, you will be given a personalized screening regimen. Most cancers take six to eight years to develop from the time a polyp begins to grow. Theoretically, as long as you follow the customized regimen prescribed, you should never get colon cancer. The death rate from colorectal cancer has been declining for more than 20 years, largely due to the effectiveness of screening.

Q: Is a colonoscopy uncomfortable?

A: Not at all. During the procedure, which typically takes 20 to 30 minutes, you are placed in a state of conscious sedation under the management of an anesthesiologist. You go gently to sleep and have no pain or awareness of the procedure. There are also ways to make the day-before prep less of a trial. Talk with your doctor about such options as flavor packets for the liquid, and replacing the liquid with pills. Try refrigerating the liquid and drinking it chilled over ice, which many of my patients find easier.

Q: Can colorectal cancer be cured?

A: Thanks to colonoscopy screenings, we are finding this cancer at an earlier stage, and that is greatly improving survival. In addition, technological advances in the treatment of colorectal cancer are resulting in significantly better outcomes.



*Colon Cancer Alliance

Watch Dr. Wishner describe treating colorectal cancer with the da Vinci Robot at www.nwroboticsurgery.org/DrWishner.



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Yorktown Budget Approved with 1.79% Tax Increase

By Rick Pezullo

The Yorktown Town Board last week approved a \$57.08 million budget for 2016 that raises taxes 1.79% for the second straight year.

Yorktown Supervisor Michael Grace said virtually no changes were made to his tentative budget that he released just prior to his reelection victory. Some of the factors Grace cited in his proposed spending plan were increases in medical benefits (\$377,000) and workers compensation (\$87,000) costs, and decreases in town debt (\$543,000) and equipment (\$62,000).

Spending is down \$565,000 from this year's budget. The budget also includes \$1.5 million that the town received from the expansion of the gas pipeline.

"Budgeting is a little bit of crystal balling," Grace said. "The more efficient we are the more we can do with less. I think this budget, in terms of expenditures, is cut to the bone."

Prior to the board passing the budget 3-2, with Democrats Vishnu Patel and Susan Siegel voting against it, there was a spirited discussion among board members regarding balancing the budget by relying on fund balance, an issue raised by Don Roberts, a 49-year town resident and member of the

United Taxpayers of Yorktown (UTY).

Roberts pointed out the steady increase in utilizing fund balance from the general fund in recent years. This year, \$900,000 was allocated. Next year, \$925,000 was budgeted. Overall, \$4.035 million from all fund balances is assigned, down from \$4,721,500 that was designated this year.

He also said the fund balance designated from the general fund wasn't used, noting "that means we were overtaxed year after year."

"If you go to a store and you buy something and you don't get it, I think you want your money back. I know I do," said Roberts, who maintained the town should have an official fund balance policy on the books. "I don't think the town knows today what the fund balance is. It's like watching a game without knowing what the rules are."

Grace said he receives criticism whether he uses too little or too much fund balance. He said the Town Board has a policy of trying to have a fund balance that's 15% of the budget.

"The fund balance in this budget is at an appropriate level," Grace said. "The policies to date have left us pretty stable."

Siegel, who said he didn't suggest any changes to the budget because she knew she would be outvoted by the three Republicans, contended there was "a certain amount of padding" in the budget.

"Sometimes the padding is hidden, sometimes it's obvious," she said. "I think we have to be careful not to use the fund balance just to lower the tax rate. If you keep using your fund balance, especially in the special districts, you get hooked. You're like an addict."

Councilman Greg Bernard main-

tained the budget was "solid," but agreed it would be beneficial for Yorktown not to have to fall back so much on fund balance.

"The best scenario would be to wean yourself off using so much of it," he said.

Patel said he had some issues with the budget, namely that needed improvements throughout the town have been delayed and the assessed value of properties has remained stagnant.

"All that glistens is not gold," he said. "The levy is not without the Chevy."

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Accused Yorktown Teacher Killed in Hiking Mishap

continued from page 1

was honored by the Foundation for Excellence in Yorktown in April, paid tribute to their former teacher on Facebook after hearing of his death.

“From a young age I knew I loved music but I didn’t know I’d be able to harness it and make it mine. Mr. Whalen gave me the tools to bring music into my life,” Jacob Shapiro wrote. “Band was a major part of my experience in school and I couldn’t imagine it starting any other way than with the best band teacher I’ve ever had. I know you’re playing some sick licks somewhere. Rest in peace.”

David S Li, who now attends Stony Brook University, stated Whalen inspired him to be a passionate trumpet player and said, “Yorktown has lost a legend in you that has influenced so positively so many lives.”

“Music has been and will always be an integral part of my life. Today I write this post in honor of Mr. Jeffrey Whalen, the man who started it all in me,” Li stated. “His friendliness and such positive attitude towards music was and will be one of the biggest sources of inspiration that I could ever get from a musician. He was one of the biggest, if not the biggest, highlights of my career as a student musician in the Yorktown Central School District.”

Thom Iannicari, who is involved in operating The Justin Veatch Fund, said Whalen was a big supporter of the organization.

“Jeff was a mentor to many of our graduates. Future generation of young musicians will miss his pass for teaching music to the young,” he stated.

In October, the District Attorney’s Office alleged Whalen shared a sexually explicit video of child between the age of eight and 10 on a file-sharing computer network.

Whalen is survived by his wife and two young children.

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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
21 Sections 1 & 7 RECYCLING Monday's KITCHEN REFUSE	22 Section 6 RECYCLING Tuesday's KITCHEN REFUSE	23 Sections 2 & 3 RECYCLING "Thursday's" KITCHEN REFUSE	24 Sections 4 & 5 RECYCLING "Friday's" KITCHEN REFUSE	25 Christmas Day • No Collections
28 Sections 1 & 7 RECYCLING Monday's KITCHEN REFUSE	29 Section 6 RECYCLING Tuesday's KITCHEN REFUSE	30 Sections 2 & 3 RECYCLING "Thursday's" KITCHEN REFUSE	31 Sections 4 & 5 RECYCLING "Friday's" KITCHEN REFUSE	1 New Year's Day • No Collections

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Obituaries

Lucy Jimenez

Lucy Jimenez, a resident of Cortlandt, died December 10. She was 49.

She was born on June 30, 1966, to Raffaele and Angelina (nee Pagano) Dente in the Bronx. She was a pension consultant with Trans America in Mamaroneck. She loved animals and also loved to dance.

Besides her parents of Cortlandt, she is survived by her devoted husband, Marcelo Jimenez, of Cortlandt and her two loving sisters, Carmela (Dominick) Esposito of Mohegan Lake and Anna (Lenny) Scaperrotta of White Plains. She was also the godmother to Dommie, Lele, Ryan and Michael; aunt to Arianna, Alexa and Robert; daughter-in-law to Gustavo and Maria Barahona of Yonkers; sister-in-law to Maria (Bobby) Tissier of Mahopac and German (Maria) Jimenez of Valhalla. She also loved her dog Basil.

Elaine Valente

Elaine M. Valente, a resident of Croton-on-Hudson, died December 9. She was 87.

A homemaker, Mrs. Valente was born in Peekskill, on December 20, 1927 to James and Mary Trainor Fitzpatrick. On September 18, 1948, she married Louis V. Valente at the Assumption Church in Peekskill.

She was the loving mother of seven children; Claire (Vincent) Albano, Margaret (Joseph) Muccia, Louis Valente, Anne (John Procyk) Valente, Robert (Michele) Valente, Joan (Michael) Parthemore and Patrick (Charlotte) Valente. Also survived by 11 grandchildren, one great-grandchild and a sister, Marie Schwartz. Predeceased by her beloved husband, Louis V. Valente, and her sister, Arlene Fitzpatrick.

Mary Capua

Mary Frances (Fluffy) Capua, a resident of Somers, died November 24. She was 85.

She was born Mary Frances Vinci on March 3, 1930 in Logan, West Virginia to Frank and Mary (Trapasso) Vinci. Along with her two sisters and brother, she spent her childhood among large extended family that included grandparents, many aunts, uncles, and cousins in the closely-knit, small town of Logan. Her father immigrated from Catanzaro Italy and supported the family by running a series of small restaurants in and around Logan to service the local coal mining trade. It was during her depression-era childhood that her genuine spirit of caring and generosity was first forged. Her father often fed those who were hungry, and offered shelter and refuge to those in need as the country crawled out of the Great Depression.

At age 15, Mrs. Cappua and her older sister Clara traveled north to Westchester

County where she lived with extended family for a few summers. Eventually the Vinci family relocated to White Plains and she attended Berkeley Secretarial School. Upon graduation she worked at the American Can Company in New York City.

In 1959, she married Giulio J. Capua (deceased in 1997) of Ossining. A number of years later she gave birth to their only child, Giulio Frank, and settled into life as a loyal wife, mother, and energetic tour de force whose true love was to be of service to immediate and extended family and friends. In the early 1980's she returned to the corporate world, and enjoyed long and successful careers at AMF Incorporated and NYNEX Properties in White Plains.

In 2005, Mrs. Capua relocated to Heritage Hills in Somers where she continued to live an independent life and established numerous strong friendships with her neighbors and the local town merchants. In addition to her family, she loved to travel, enjoyed nature, and was strongly connected to culture, the arts, and epicurean endeavors. She was a voracious reader who was intellectually curious and always interested in expanding her knowledge.

Her greatest gift was one of complete selflessness. She felt most at ease when she was helping others, whether that meant caring for an elderly relative, cooking

special treats for her grandchild or grandnieces/nephews, or supplying a shoulder upon which a friend could lean. Until the time of her sudden death she lived independently and on her own terms.

She is survived by her son Giulio Capua, daughter-in-law Elizabeth (Castarato) Capua, grandson Peter James Capua, sister Clara Vinci Swee, brother-in-law Helge Swee, and numerous cousins, nieces/nephews and grandnieces/grandnephews.

Mary Rocha

Mary E. Rocha, a lifelong Ossining resident, died November 27 with her family at her side. She was 84.

She was born in Ossining, to Charles and Virginia Anderson on January 6, 1931. She was a lifelong Ossining resident, currently residing in Virginia. She is survived by her husband of 65 years August P. Rocha, daughters Diane Erber, Joyce Fortini, son John C. Rocha, sister Catherine Riley and extended family. She was predeceased by two sons, Paul and David Rocha, grandson Al Erber, son-in-law Mike Fortini, and brothers Bob, Charlie, and Louie.

Mrs. Rocha was affectionately known as "Grams" to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was loved by many and will be deeply missed by all.

Police Blotter

State Police

December 3 - A Mohegan Lake man and a Cortlandt woman were arrested in connection with a physical domestic disturbance on November 11 in Mohegan Lake. On November 11, troopers responded to a report from a victim that her ex-boyfriend, Alfred Doughty, Jr., 35, had entered a residence where she was visiting. He then struck her and choked her while in the presence of children. Doughty then took the victim's cell phone and fled the area. An investigation found that Doughty was previously served a court order of protection prohibiting him from having contact with the victim. A warrant was then issued for his arrest. Doughty turned himself over to police on December 3 and he was charged with criminal contempt, endangering the welfare of a child, petit larceny and criminal obstruction of breathing. He was remanded to Westchester County Jail in lieu of \$25,000 bail. Toni Ann Renda, 29, was also charged on December 3 with hindering prosecution after it was discovered she deliberately hid Doughty knowing State Police had a warrant for his arrest.

December 5 - Warren Schiele, 50, of Putnam Valley, was charged with driving

while intoxicated after being stopped on Sprout Brook Road for failing to stop at a stop sign and having an inadequate tail light. He is scheduled to appear in Cortlandt Town Court December 21.

December 6 - Ana Cochancela, 35, of Ossining, was charged with petit larceny after Loss Prevention personnel at Kohl's alleged she concealed jewelry in her pocket without paying. She was released after posting \$300 bail and is scheduled to appear in Cortlandt Town Court December 21.

Yorktown Police

December 4 - 1:17 a.m. - John Stevenson, 35, of Shrub Oak, was charged with criminal contempt after police responded to a report of a domestic dispute on Buckhorn Street between Stevenson and his girlfriend. An investigation revealed Stevenson violated an order of protection issued by Yonkers City Court by living with, kicking and punching his girlfriend. Stevenson was charged after being located walking in the area of East Main Street. He was released on \$200 bail.

Peekskill Police

The City of Peekskill Police Depart-

ment has experienced a number of incidents where wheels and tires have been stolen from motor vehicles, in the previous six months. These incidents occurred during the hours of darkness, and the target vehicles appear to be Honda's. Vehicles are found supported by rocks, with wheels and lug nuts missing. Although arrests have been made these incidents continue. A red, two-door Acura RSX, operated by a black male in his 20's,

has been associated with these crimes in the past. The City of Peekskill Police Department is requesting the public's assistance by paying extra attention to any and all suspicious activities in your respective neighborhoods. If any suspicious activity is observed or anyone has any information regarding these or any other crimes, please contact the City of Peekskill Police Department (914)737-8000. All calls will be kept confidential.



State Senator Terrence Murphy (R/Yorktown), flanked by Yorktown Heights Fire District Commissioner Martin McGannon and Yorktown Supervisor Michael Grace, announced last week the fire district had received a \$68,618 grant from the state Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services for the enhancement of technical rescue capabilities, specifically a swiftwater rescue program.

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Letters

Yorktown Ethics Policy Should Be Strengthened

To the Editor,

Supervisor Michael Grace is all for building a better mouse trap as long as it leaves him enough wiggle room to avoid personal responsibility and still allows him to grab a piece of cheese when he leaves office.

The 11/24/2015 Yorktown Board Meeting heard from an attorney reviewing Yorktown's Ethics Policy.

The attorney questioned whether Yorktown's Ethics Policy needs to be clearer, and have more teeth. He suggested that the Ethics Board should be totally independent with the ability to make its

findings public. It needed a more robust 1 year prohibition against Yorktown employees using a "revolving door system" to peddle their influence to the highest bidder after the leave office.

Supervisor Grace stated that he wants to be able to disregard and keep private the findings of the Ethics Board. Grace stated any limitations on former employees peddling influence was too punitive. Seems like Supervisor Grace's sole purpose for entering public service may have been to cash out when he leaves office. Supervisor Grace has displayed

poor ethics in the past like not paying his town taxes and hiring his wife for a cushy Town Hall job. Why would you think that things would change in the future?

Will Supervisor Grace, when he leaves office, be hired to lobby Town Board on behalf of the corporations developing the Highway Building/Depot Park project? A definite conflict of interest.

Yorktown Ethics Policy needs to be strong and elected officials like Supervisor Grace needs to be held accountable.

S. ALEJANDRA SANTANA
Yorktown Taxpayer

Thank You Councilwoman Siegel

Dear Susan,

I would like to take this opportunity to "Thank You" for your many years of service to our Town while you were Supervisor, Councilwoman and a concerned citizen.

I have admired your tenacity, excellent research skills and your dedication to the residents of Yorktown.

I do not remember any one person

who has given hours of their personal time in attending the various department board meetings than you.

You were the voice of many residents who were too timid, to come before the various boards, to express their disagreement with issues that affected our Town and its residents.

It would be selfish to ask you to continue your attendance at these

meetings. However, I hope you will show up occasionally to state your concerns.

It is now time for the residents of Yorktown to step up to the podium, write a letter, email or phone call our various board members to question, disagree and challenge their decisions they make on our behalf.

GRACE SICILIANO

Global Warming Hits the Hudson Valley Region

To the Editor:

Climate warming of our world is now the focus of the Paris meeting where over 150 nations are gathered to formulate possible solutions to limit the increase of carbon dioxide, the greenhouse warming gas that is now at its greatest amount in thousands of years.

Has this warming affected our local

Hudson Valley region? Data from a number of long term weather stations shows as follows.

The US COOP weather station at Carmel/Yorktown dating back to 1888 gives its five warmest years as 1991, 1998, 2006, 2012, 2014 with 2015 shaping up to be the hottest. This year has seen May as its third warmest, September and No-

vember their second warmest. Other stations such as Mohonk Lake and Central Park have had their warmest September and November.

Our area is not immune to the global warming.

JEROME THALER
Hudson Valley Climate Historian

An Unethical Charge in Putnam Valley

To the Editor:

Three members of the Putnam Valley Board of Ethics recently submitted a letter to the editor in which they expressed their opinion about how voters should respond to a referendum. Their letter implied that the district was not trustworthy as the board had demonstrated an allegiance to the administration rather than to the tax payer. Their letter stated that board members are "...

rewarded when their term of office is up with a plum of a job in the school system..."

I found the letter submitted by the Putnam Valley Board of Ethics offensive. Ethics implies a level of honesty and intentionally disseminating misleading information seems to go against that very principle. In truth, since the opening of the Putnam Valley High School TWO previous board members have

been hired by the school district to do jobs they were both qualified to do. In each case the hiring took place at least 10 years after either of them had served on the board. To imply that board members are regularly rewarded for supporting the administration to the detriment of the tax payer is disingenuous and UN-ethical.

LISA SPITTAL

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS - 914-864-0878

Letters

Voting No for Budget was Right Thing for Yorktown Taxpayers

To the Editor,

Sometimes, voting NO is the right thing to do. Right for the taxpayers of Yorktown.

On December 8th, I voted no on the resolution to adopt the 2016 Preliminary Budget. Here are some of my reasons.

- Overall expenses are increasing faster than non-property tax revenues. The town is living beyond its means. Instead of reducing expenses, it is using its rainy day funds, aka its fund balance, to cover deficit operating budgets.

- Instead of reducing the expenses, the 2016 budget ADDS four new full time positions. And since elected officials are loath to lay off staff, the cost of these four new positions will become permanent increases in future budgets. (Staff expenses account for more than 75% of the budget. Since 2012, nine additional staff positions have been added to the budget.)

- The expense for two major budget line items, medical benefits and insurance premiums were based on estimates dating back to October. When I requested updated information in mid-November I was told they weren't

available yet. When I asked again a day before the budget hearing, they still weren't available – even though the new insurance policies have to be approved by the board by the end of December. As the budget didn't have to be adopted until December 20th, I suggested the board wait to adopt the budget until these costs were firmed up. There was no response from Supervisor Grace.

- My request, repeated three times, for a spreadsheet documenting why \$110,000 was needed to pay taxes on town owned property also went unanswered. I questioned the amount because as of November 18, 2015, only \$57,603 had been spent in this line item for this year. So why was twice that amount needed for 2016?

- With an estimated \$5 million available in the fund balance to cover "unanticipated" expenses, I didn't think a \$100,000 expense for "contingences" was needed.

- The budget includes an estimated 2% salary increase for town employees – even though there are no contract agreements with the town's two unions

for 2016. I'm not against raises for our employees, but raises should be part of the give and take of collective bargaining negotiation that should also include some benefits for the town. Why let the other side know what you're ready to give them even before negotiations start?

When the budget hearing was closed, Supervisor Grace asked if I wanted to make any changes to the budget. I replied, "No." I said no because after spending two days in November reviewing the

budget with my fellow board members, I knew that Councilmen Bernard and Diana were satisfied with the supervisor's budget and were not interested in making any changes. So I told the supervisor it didn't make sense to waste the board's time making motions for changes when I knew they would be defeated 3-2.

It's time Yorktown's elected officials stopped kicking the proverbial can down the road.

SUSAN SIEGEL
Councilwoman

Feds Take Over Mahopac Fire Dept Embezzlement Probe

By David Propper

As skepticism of the alleged embezzlement from the Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department grows, federal authorities are now in charge of the investigation.

According to multiple reports, U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara has taken over the probe that's looking into a possible \$5 million missing from the department that apparently occurred for more than a decade. Originally, the Putnam County District Attorney's Office was involved in the investigation, along with the New York State Police and state Comptroller Office.

According to a published report, Mahopac Fire Department Vice-Chairman Ed Scott said the U.S. Attorney's Office took over the investigation in late November. The DA's office had no comment on the matter,

but generally, the feds will either take the probe from the DA's office or the DA's office will hand it over.

The investigation became public last October and since then, high scrutiny has fallen on the department, one of three that serve the Town of Carmel. One particular name from the department that has been at the forefront is Michael Klein, the former treasurer of the department.

Klein resigned from the department in late September. One indication of the cloud surrounding Klein is correspondence between the department and Carmel officials. In a letter to the town board from the Mahopac department in October, it stated, "Due to the circumstances surrounding his (Klein) resignation, at this time, we ask he NOT be sent the customary letter from Carmel Town Hall thanking him for his service."

MKMG is proud to welcome Ophthalmologist Dr. Theodore Curtis, MD

Dr. Curtis received his MD from Pennsylvania State College of Medicine. He completed his Internship at Good Samaritan Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio and his Residency at the University of Colorado. Dr. Curtis completed a Fellowship in Pediatric Ophthalmology & Adult Strabismus at the Casey Eye Institute, Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, Oregon, and is Board Certified in Ophthalmology.

Dr. Curtis will be seeing patients in the Mount Kisco and Carmel Ophthalmology Departments.

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Somers Holds Public Hearing on Comprehensive Plan

By Neal Rentz

The process of implementing a revised Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Somers moved forward on December 10 when a public hearing on the draft document was conducted during the town board meeting.

The plan, formerly known as the Master Plan, was last updated in 1994.

Frank Fish, a consultant hired by the town, is working with Town Planner Syrette Dym to update the document. Fish is using much of the information compiled by the former Master Plan Committee, which volunteered its efforts from 2003 to 2008.

A Comprehensive Plan is "a vision for the overall town" for a period of about the next decade, Fish explained. The town board will listen to comments during the public hearing and take them into consideration when it makes revisions to the document, possibly as early as January, he said.

"It's really a guide to the future," Fish

said.

The major concern raised by several residents during last week's public hearing was they did not agree with a recommendation in the draft to make changes to the West Somers Park. Resident Maureen Devine said the roughly four-acre park was donated to the town by the Boniello family in 1978 for passive recreation use. Devine said the draft plan's proposal to put a basketball court and parking in the park was not what the Boniello family intended for the park.

Another resident, Frank Mazzotta, agreed with Devine, saying the park features a pond that should be used for fishing and ice skating and the property should not be used for active recreation.

Supervisor Rick Morrissey said the town had no intention to change the park from a passive recreation facility. Any mention of changing the character of the park would be taken out of the final version of the Comprehensive Plan, he said. Morrissey also said the town



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Frank Fish, a consultant working with the Town of Somers to revise its Comprehensive Plan, addressed the town board during the Dec. 10 public hearing on the draft document.



A chart of chapters in the draft revised Somers Comprehensive.

TOWN OF SOMERS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE 2015

1. Introduction and Vision
2. Goals and Objectives
3. Land Use and Zoning
4. Population
5. Residential Development
6. Business Development
7. Transportation
8. Environment and Sustainability
9. Open Space, Recreation and Cultural Resources
10. Public Facilities, Services and Infrastructure
11. Future Land Use Plan
12. Implementation and Action Agenda

would seek grants to pay for improvements to the pond.

Somers resident Lori Ensinger, president of the Westchester Land Trust, asked the town to make as a priority in the Comprehensive Plan the preservation of Stuart's Fruit Farm on Granite Springs Road. The Land Trust is working with other entities to purchase the development rights that would assure the current owner would maintain the property as a farm. Stuart's is "the oldest working farm in Westchester County," she said.

Later in the meeting the town board agreed with the request from Ensinger to continue the process of working to purchase the farm's development rights. The board voted unanimously to write a letter of support for the Westchester Land Trust's application to the state. Morrissey said the town would be working with the

state, the Land Trust and Westchester County to preserve the farm.

Mazzotta said he was concerned about the changes that have taken place over the decades he has lived in town. "Somers is no longer the town I moved to 32 years ago," he said. "There is no affordable housing in Somers."

Devine noted that previously planning boards adopted Comprehensive Plans. In the 1990's state law was changed to mandate that Comprehensive Plans be approved by town boards rather than planning boards, Fish replied.

The town board voted unanimously to close the public hearing and the town is accepting written comments for 10 days following last week's meeting. The draft Comprehensive Plan can be viewed on the town web site at www.somersny.com.

Somers Town Board Okays 2016 Budget with 2.7% Tax Hike

By Neal Rentz

The Somers Town Board voted unanimously last week to approve an \$8.76 million 2016 general fund budget that includes no major program cuts or additions and meets the state-mandated property tax cap.

Through there were some slight changes among categories of his originally proposed spending plan, Supervisor Rick Morrissey said, there was "zero change to the bottom line."

The proposed tax rate increase is 2.7 percent and the tax levy hike is 2.48 per-

cent. "We're still under the tax cap," Morrissey said at last week's meeting.

District clerk retirement

The meeting on December 10 also marked the last regularly scheduled town board meeting for Somers Town Clerk Kathleen Pacella, who declined to seek reelection this fall. Pacella, who is completing her 13th year as town clerk, has been a town employee for 31 years.

Pacella was praised by Morrissey at the meeting "for her years of service to the town."

As the newest member of the town

board, Councilman William Faulkner said Pacella was very helpful in assisting him with learning about town government.

Pacella noted she has served with four town supervisors. "I'm going to miss the work," she said, but, she quipped, she would not miss getting up early in the morning to get ready for her job.

: Somers Town Clerk Kathleen Pacella at her last regularly scheduled town board meeting on Dec. 10. Pacella, who is in her 13th year as town clerk, declined to seek reelection this fall.



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

County Budget Adopted Despite Concerns Among Legislators

By Arthur Cusano

The 2016 Westchester County budget was adopted by the Board of Legislators Monday afternoon, but the split vote showed concern over the county's fiscal health, even among some who voted in favor of it.

The budget was adopted by a vote of 10-7, with Board Chairman and Democrat Michael Kaplowitz (Somers) and Republican minority leader John Testa (Peekskill) voting for the budget, while Democratic majority leader Catherine Borgia (Ossining) voted against it.

Also voting in favor of the budget were legislators Francis Corcoran (R-District 2), Michael Smith (R-District 3), Sheila Marcotte (R-District 10), James Maisano (R-District 11), David Gelfarb (R-District 6), Bernice Spreckman (R-District 14), Gordon Burrows (R-District 15) and Virginia Perez (D-District 17).

Voting against the budget were legislators Benjamin Boykin (D-District 5), Catherine Parker (D-District 7), Alfreda Williams (D-District 8), Maryjane Shimsky (D-District 12), Lydon Williams (D-District 13) and Ken Jenkins (D-District 16).

The budget vote follows a deal reached Friday between eight Republican legislators and Democrats Kaplowitz and Perez. Kaplowitz said the original proposed budget put forth by Westchester County Executive Robert Astorino was wrong, and that changes made to the budget since then including restored funding to the planning department, public safety and county parks as well as various non-profits helped.

Highlights from the coalition budget include a tax levy of \$548 million, no increase from 2015; spending at \$1.8 billion, flat to 2015; Safety Net costs of \$595 million, no decrease from 2015; Unrestricted Reserves (Rainy Day Fund) at \$140 million, no decrease from 2015; and a County employee headcount at 4,160 total general fund position count with four layoffs and 64 vacancy eliminations.

"When the county executive turned that screw one too many times, when you have hundreds and hundreds of individuals giving tens of hours testifying, we all learned to a person that there were needs not being met. When you have your planning department see the evisceration from 56 to 19 individuals, and the board of elections and public safety (staffing reduced), it's fair to say we turned that screw a little too tight."

However, Kaplowitz echoed concerns of other legislators that the county may not be in a good fiscal position going forward, and that assumptions such as the sales tax estimate put into the budget may not all pan out.



Catherine Borgia



John Testa

"This is not a budget that any of us should feel has complete integrity," Kaplowitz said. "It has expenses put back in, investments and efficiencies, that's the good thing. We've reduced our borrowing, that's the good thing about it. But we do not have sustainable revenues going forward. If our prognosis is correct, we're going to be down 35 percent in our fund balance in the next 24 months. Next year's budget could be far worse than this year's budget."

Borgia was among several Demo-

cratic legislators who said she was concerned the budget was "structurally unbalanced" and said she too was worried about the county fund balance.

"It's the end of a long road of imbalances. I believe the revenues embedded in this budget are shaky at best, and I believe the 4 percent tax (sales) increase is a dangerous assumption to make. I wouldn't do it as a town supervisor if I was putting together a budget."

Borgia said that the legislature would have to work together in a bipartisan

fashion going forward to keep a close eye on the county's finances in the coming year.

"There's no margin for error, so I hope nothing unexpected happens in the 2016 year," she said.

Testa said while he wanted a zero percent tax increase, he also wanted to make sure things were added back in before voting in favor of the budget, such as the planning department, public safety and parks staff.

"Some of the services the non-profits bring are very critical to our county and our residents, whether its domestic violence, elder abuse or legal services for residents who can't afford their own," Testa said.

Testa said the board did not put the planned sale of the Austin Avenue building in Yonkers as a planned revenue, despite the wishes of some legislators.

"Some would have put \$12 million in this budget and say, have a nice day, everything is balanced," Testa said. "Then on the other hand (they'll) say this has a very shaky outlook with other revenues, which may be true to a degree but you can't have it both ways."



PHOTO BY DANIEL LEFKOWITZ

Yorktown Small Business Association founder Bob Giordano (second from right), along with United Taxpayers of Yorktown President Ed Ciffone (left) and Peekskill community activist and cable show host George Ondek, congratulated Ray Mussa during a ribbon cutting ceremony Saturday for his new business Auto Images, located on Route 202 in Crompond. Auto Images specializes in automobile detailing and electronics. For more information, call 743-1447 or visit www.autoimagesny.com.



2016 New Year's Eve Dining Guide



By Jerry Eimbinder

Restaurants open past midnight on Thursday, Dec. 31, 2015 to celebrate the arrival of the new year appear in this directory. If a band or DJ is mentioned, dancing is usually offered. Prices shown do not include tax or gratuity unless otherwise indicated.

Armonk - Moderne Barn. Dinner choices include filet mignon, grilled salmon, seafood risotto, chicken, pork chop — all gluten-free. Midnight champagne toast. \$98 per person. Seating time from 8:30 to 11 p.m.

Beacon - Roundhouse. Four-course dinner. Appetizers: squash soup, lobster salad, duck rilletes. Entrées: Butternut squash gnocchi, salmon a la planchi, balsamic-honey glazed chicken confit, prime beef short ribs. Midnight champagne. \$95 per person. Seating at 9 p.m.

Bedford - La Crémaillère. Canapés (potato fritter, sour cream, caviar), egg Concette, foie gras terrine, sautéed Atlantic salmon. Entrée choices include poached Dover sole with artichoke hearts or roasted Scottish pheasant or roasted veal chop. Dessert, café, tea, petits fours. \$135 per person.

Briarcliff Manor - Orfino's. Surf and turf, twin lobster tails, osso bucco, pasta, veal, chicken. Midnight champagne toast, hats, noisemakers. TV ball dropping. A la carte menu — \$20 to \$45 price range.

Chappaqua - Atrium Room at Kittle House. Venetian Carnival Masquerade (house supplied masks). Buffet: Northern Italian dishes, chilled seafood bar. Party favors, midnight champagne. TV ball drop from Times Square. DJ and comedian Goumba Johnny. \$155 per person.

Chappaqua - Kittle House. Chef's tasting menu. Open bar, midnight champagne toast. Party favors. Ball drop at Times Square. Drew Bordeaux and Friends band. \$165 per person.

Cold Spring - Hudson House River Inn. Appetizers: lobster bisque, Maryland crab cakes, more. Entrées: Lump crabmeat crusted salmon, Chateaubriand, bacon wrapped loin of pork, roast duck breast, rack of lamb, surf and turf. Champagne toast, hats, noisemakers. Live jazz. \$75 per person. Seatings at 8:30 and 9 p.m.

Cortlandt Manor - Cortlandt Colonial Manor. Hors d'oeuvres. Dinner choices include sliced filet mignon, lobster tail. Viennese table. Open bar, midnight champagne toast. Party favors. Buffet breakfast. DJ: Ricardo Music. \$100 per person all-inclusive cost.

7 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

Elmsford - Westchester Broadway Theatre. Hors d'oeuvres and dinner. Chilled lobster, shrimp, clams casino, "Pigs in Blankets," antipasto, empanadas, fresh fruit. Beef, chicken or fish. Open bar. Show Boat on stage. Champagne toast. Tuxedo Parc Orchestra. All-inclusive cost: \$370 per couple. 6 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Elmsford - Rini's. Dinner choices include roasted duck, lamb shank. Appetizers: stuffed mushrooms, shrimp bisque soup. Coffee, champagne toast. Party favors. "Music of the Decades Show" at 9 p.m. Singing DJ Bobby James. \$42.95 per person. 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Harrison - 273 Kitchen. Shucked oysters, yellowfin tuna, Sizzling Spanish octopus. Main courses: sirloin of beef, grilled branzino, organic hen, baby goat, more. Midnight champagne, noisemakers. \$65 per person. Add \$20 for wine pairing. Seating time: 9:30 p.m.

Hastings on Hudson - Chutney Masala at Riverview. Buffet. Open bar. Champagne toast, party favors, DJ, belly dancer, raffle, kid's crafts. \$75 per person, \$140 per couple, \$200 per family of four. Prices include tax and gratuity. From 8 p.m.

Hastings on Hudson - Riverview's Palisade Room. Adults only. Cocktail hour reception. Open bar, dessert table, ice cream sundae bar. \$100 per person all-inclusive cost. 7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Hastings on Hudson - Harvest-on-Hudson. Cocktail reception from 8:45 to 9:30 p.m. Four-course dinner. Open bar, Champagne toast. Party favors. Ball drop from Times Square. The Nines band. 500 balloons drop. Continental breakfast to go. \$195 per person. 8:45 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Irvington - MP Taverna. Regular a la carte dinner menu plus specials. Midnight toast, noisemakers, hats. Televised ball dropping. Last seating is at 10 p.m.

Jefferson Valley - Sinapi's Ceola Manor. Cocktail hour from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Hot and cold stations. Surf and turf dinner. Open bar. Champagne toast, party favors. DJ from Pozzitiv Music Productions. \$120 per person. 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Larchmont - Plates. Canapés and dinner. Midnight champagne toast, party favors. TV ball drop. Dinner at bar at 9:30 p.m. beginning at \$30. New Year's Eve dinner at bar or take-home at half-price. Last seating: 9:30 p.m. \$100 per person.

Mahopac - Arturo's Tavern. Chick-
en a la brie, crabmeat-stuffed salmon,

seafood combination with sole, shrimp, scallops and baked clams, and surf and turf—filet mignon and lobster tail. Champagne toast, party favors. DJ. No cover charge. Last seating at midnight.

Mahopac - Putnam County Golf Course. Cocktail hour. Lobster tail, filet mignon or rosemary chicken breast. Viennese hour. Champagne toast. Party favors. TV Times Square ball drop. Sugar Rush band. Vocalist Lina Valenti. \$99 per person plus service charge and tax. 7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Mohegan Lake - The Winery at Saint George. Passed hors d'oeuvres and tapas. Open bar, midnight champagne toast. Party favors. Music: Over the Top band. Bagel breakfast. \$135 per person, tax included. 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Mount Kisco - 251 LEX. Shucked oysters, yellowfin tuna, Sizzling Spanish octopus. Main courses: sirloin of beef, grilled branzino, organic hen, baby goat, more. Midnight champagne, noisemakers. \$65 per person. Add \$20 for wine pairing. Seating time: 9:30 p.m.

Mount Kisco - Winston. Oysters, crab cakes, corn and butternut soup. Options: (1) sliced kobe steak and pan-seared halibut with lobster hash, (2) sliced kobe steak with lobster hash, (3) pan-seared halibut with lobster hash. Alternate: mushroom pasta. Champagne toast. "Dirty Winston" bar, live band, vocalist. \$110 per person. Seating at 9 p.m.

New Rochelle - Alvin & Friends. Southern and caribbean food. Appetizers, carving station. Open bar. Midnight toast, noisemakers, hats. Live music by Jazmyn. James Farley on keyboard, Inez Wilson, vocalist. \$150 per person. 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

New Rochelle - Dubrovnik. Five-course dinner. Appetizers include calamari shrimp and smoked salmon with caviar. Entrées include osso bucco. Party favors, champagne toast, live music. \$200 per person. Starts at 8 p.m.

New Rochelle - NoMa Social. \$95 per person. Passed tapas (9 to 11 p.m.) including shrimp and lobster salad. Stations: filet mignon, seafood including mussels, clams, calamari and shrimp, antipasto. Party favors, open bar. Music. 3 a.m. breakfast. Begins at 9 p.m.

Ossining - Travelers Rest. Hors d'oeuvres. Cocktail hour. Four-course dinner. Open bar. Midnight champagne toast, party favors. DJ Wilson. TV ball drop from Times Square. \$110 per person. 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Peekskill - 12 Grapes. Three-course dinner. R&B band with Julius Dilligard, Jr. lead vocalist. Three hours of

live music. Hats, noisemakers, midnight Prosecco toast. \$110 per person. (Music only: \$35) Band plays from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Seating at 8:30 p.m.

Port Chester - Appetit Bistro. Dinner choices include lobster ravioli and seared striped bass with lobster emulsion. Champagne toast at beginning of dinner.

Port Chester - Sonora. Champagne toast. DJ. \$78 per person. Seating time: 8:30 to 11 p.m.

Pound Ridge - The Inn at Pound Ridge by Jean-Georges. Tuna tartare or foie gras brûlée; Black sea bass or Maine lobster; beef tenderloin or prosciutto wrapped pork loin. Champagne toast. \$248 per person.

Rye - La Panetière. Beet/crayfish salad, foie gras, scallops, filet of beef with Perigold black truffles, dessert, petis fours, coffee/tea. Midnight champagne toast. Ezio Pellitteri's band strolls at 9 p.m. Plays dance music at 11 p.m. \$160 per person (\$195 with wine). Seating at 9 p.m.

Tarrytown - Jazz Forum Arts. Buffet catered by Tarry Tavern. Unlimited beer, wine, soft drinks, coffee, tea, No cocktails. Party favors. Music by Jazz Forum All-Stars. Vocalist Kate Baker. Admission by \$150, \$250 or \$500 tax-deductible donation per person. 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

White Plains - Coliseum Night Club. Host: Tia Maria Montemurro. Tapas, desserts, cash bar. "Glitter & Gold Extravaganza." Dancin' Machine 11-piece band. DJ David Michael. Noisemakers, midnight champagne toast, showgirl dancers. \$40. 8 p.m.

White Plains - Sofrito. Masquerade ball. Open bar, 9 a.m. to midnight. DJ Ninto and DJ Blay. Live ball drop, fireworks. \$75 per person.

White Plains - The Melting Pot. Sirloin crostini, cheese fondue, lobster, filet mignon, chocolate fondue. Midnight champagne, hats, noisemakers. White Plains ball drop televised. \$89.95 per person. Seating at 8:30 p.m. or later.

Yonkers. Empire Terrace's Good Time Room. Dinner buffet. Music by Bobby Lynch Orchestra. Midnight champagne toast. \$150 per person. Begins at 9 p.m.

Yonkers - Zuppa. Raw bar, passed antipasto. Four-course dinner. Open bar. DJ. \$140 per person. Begins at 8 p.m.

Yorktown Heights - Don Tommaso's Bistro Italiano. Three-course dinner. DJ and dancing to 2 a.m. \$79 per person. Seating begins at 9 p.m.

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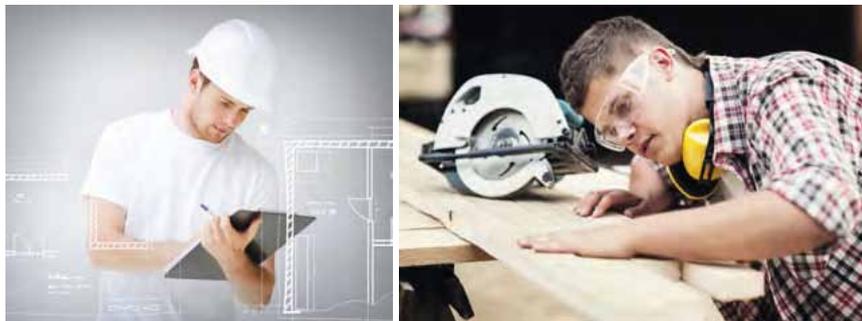


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**Businesses
of the Week**

Kelly-Oster School of Irish Dance, Baldwin Place

By Neal Rentz

Irish Line Dancing has been an important part of the life of Brewster resident Karyn Oster since childhood.

"I could dance before I could walk," Oster said, adding many family members were avid Irish dancers and some even won world championships.

She translated her passion for Irish dance into a long career. The Kelly-Oster School of Dance was started nearly 35 years ago by Kerry Kelly-Oster, Oster's mother.

"I knew I always wanted to teach dance," Oster said.

Oster described what Irish Step Dancing is. "We only use our feet. We don't use our arms," she said. "That comes from the history of being in protest to the English king." Back in the famine times of Ireland in the 19th century, "The Irish were pretty much slaves in their own country," she said. "They were actually banned from dancing." If they were dancing from the waist down it was not considered dancing, she noted

"It's very intricate footwork," Oster said. "We do both soft shoe and hard shoe, like ballet and tap."

The school has trained several



COURTESY OF KELLY-OSTER SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE

Brewster's Kerry Kelly-Oster is the founder of the Kelly-Oster School of Irish Dance. Olivia Hoyt, a seven-year old-dancer, lives in Mahopac, and recently placed 17th at the Mid-Atlantic Oireachtas last weekend in the Girls Under eight solo competition. Karyn Oster, director of the Kelly-Oster School of Irish Dance, lives in Brewster.

champion Irish dancers. Competitions are judged on such elements as timing of dancing to music, footwork and body positioning, Oster said.

Over the Thanksgiving weekend students from the dance school participated in the regional Mid-Atlantic Oireachtas (the Irish word for competition) in Philadelphia, which

featured dancers from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. The school took home first and second place in the team dance drama competition, qualifying the participants for next year's North American competition in Orlando, FL in July and the world championships in Scotland in March. "In six minutes we have to tell a traditional

Irish story all through Irish dancing," Oster said. However, though the two teams qualified for the world championships, their spots will be transferred to 2017 because Oster and her mother are judging the 2016 world championships. "It's an amazing opportunity for my mom and me," Oster said,

The Kelly-Oster students have practiced for years, Oster said. For example, the youngest competitor in a solo category in the November competition is seven and has been dancing since she was four, Oster said. The Kelly-Oster students compete and perform at various venues throughout the year and can take classes all year round, except for a brief Christmas season break of about two weeks. The students took part in over 100 performances during this year's St. Patrick's Day season, Oster said.

Teachers from a dance school in England have been coming to the Baldwin Place school every year for the past decade to share their expertise with students.

While the school specializes in Irish Line Dancing, it also offers ballet and tap dances, which are often used as

continued on page 22



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Local Online Sensation Signs Major Label Recording Deal

By Arthur Cusano

Hailey Knox may not yet be a household name, but the Putnam County teen has already made a name for herself online, where her performances have been viewed by tens of thousands of people.

The 17-year-old Carmel resident has accumulated over 7,600 subscribers to her YouTube channel, where she has posted covers of songs by Adele, the Weeknd and even Justin Bieber. Some of the videos have been viewed over 50,000 times.

The aspiring pop star will soon have a chance to expand that fan base exponentially. Knox just signed a recording deal with S-Curve, a recording label best known for being the home of top 40 charting artists Joss Stone and Andy Grammer, as well as a former home of iconic artists Tom Jones and Duran Duran.

For the past week Knox has been in a Chelsea recording studio with her mother Jamie recording songs for a planned EP with producers Michael Mangini, who worked with Joss Stone, and Peter Zizzo, who has worked with Avril Lavigne.

"I'm going to be playing the guitar for the album, they're not hiring someone else, Knox said. "So I really need to get these songs down as precisely as possible," Knox said during a break from recording."

The long hours have forced her to leave her classmates at Carmel High School, where she was a senior.

"I've been missing too much school going to the city, so I decided to switch over to doing online school," Knox said. "So I had to say goodbye to all my friends this past Wednesday."

Knox started playing guitar at eight years old under the tutelage of her father, and said that Dave Matthews Band and Ingrid Michaelson were early influences. Knox made her debut at the third grade talent show at Matthew Patterson Elementary School, where staff waived entrance requirements to allow her to perform after hearing her play.

"I remember my second grade teacher, Mr. (Michael) Donovan, pushed me to do the talent show because I was really nervous," she said.

Knox also credited former MPES kindergarten teacher Barbara Demetriou with encouraging her talents, as well as Carmel High School choir teacher Bryan Lynch.

Knox later started performing at area venues, including weekly shows at the Town Crier Café in Pawling, and still occasionally performs at the Crier at its new location in Beacon.

"That really helped me with my stage presence, performing live there," Knox recalled.

Knox's mother Jamie started posting videos on Facebook as a duo with her

younger sister Samantha, who played drums.

"I would play my guitar and we would sing and harmonize, it was cool," she said.

Knox said she found her sound when she started using a loop pedal, something used to great effect by British singer/songwriter Ed Sheeran. The use of a loop pedals also helped get the attention of producers, who she has worked with for several years developing her sound.

"It allows you to import your mic and guitar into the pedal, and create a track

continued on page 22



Hailey Knox

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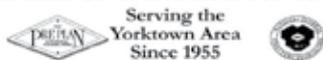
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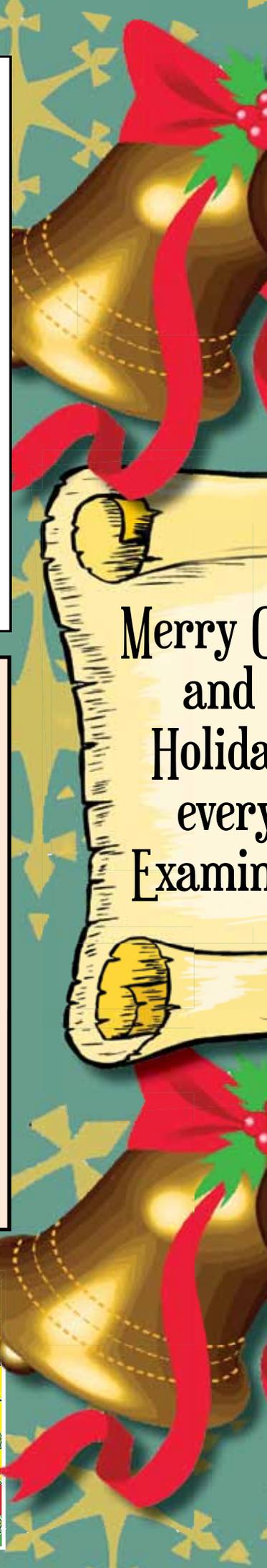
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Local Online Sensation Signs Major Label Recording Deal

continued from page 16

just by hitting the pedal," Knox said. "It loops over and you're harmonizing with yourself. You're a one-man band, in a way. I can loop my vocals to make it sound like I have backup singers"

Knox has also enjoyed performing on YouNow, a live broadcasting website that allows her to perform in front of a global crowd.

"I can go on wherever, whenever and anyone around the world can watch me, which is amazing. I've built up a 46,000 fans on there," she said. "People comment and request songs and I can play a song for them. Especially now that I'm

performing my original stuff, it's cool to see that people really like it. I got huge applause the other night when I did original songs."

Knox recently spoke on a panel with other online live broadcasters on the TV of Tomorrow Show, and was also featured on VH1's The 20, a show that highlights both major label talent and up and coming online performers. Two weeks ago she played a show at Rockwood Music Hall in New York, where she performed in front of head of S-Curve studios Steve Greenberg for the first time.

"He had never seen me perform in front of a large audience. He signed me before he saw me up on an actual stage, which is kind of crazy. It was kind of nerve wracking but exciting at the same time."

Knox said hasn't been playing shows lately due to recording, but said she hoped to line up a series of monthly shows soon.

When asked what her original songs sound like, Knox said she and her producers are going for a soul-pop vibe with modern feel.

"I have kind of a soulful voice, so we're gonna' try to incorporate that in there," she said.

In addition to Ed Sheeran, Knox said former Youtube sensation Tori Kelly was an inspiration, as well as country legends Bobbie Gentry and Donny Hathaway.

When asked who she's like to work with, she had two names on the top of her list.

"Ed Sheeran would be incredible, and of course Bieber," she said.

Kelly-Oster School of Irish Dance

continued from page 15

secondary techniques for the Irish dancing participants, Oster said. There are introduction to dance classes for children as young as two and classes are offered for both youths and adults, though the line dancing competitions are limited to those up to the age of 21, Oster said.

Most of the school's students come from Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess, Oster said. The family also holds classes in Hopewell Junction.

The school was originally opened by Oster's mother in Carmel and has been in various locations before moving to its current spot last year, Oster said.

Aside from learning to dance, students learn to get up in front of a crowd and be able to be a good public speaker through their competition experience, Oster said. "They're usually more outgoing," she said.

Oster said she wants her students to receive life lessons. "Hard work pays off. They have to go home and practice," she said. "They have to follow through, if they dedicate themselves and they really work hard they will win that trophy."

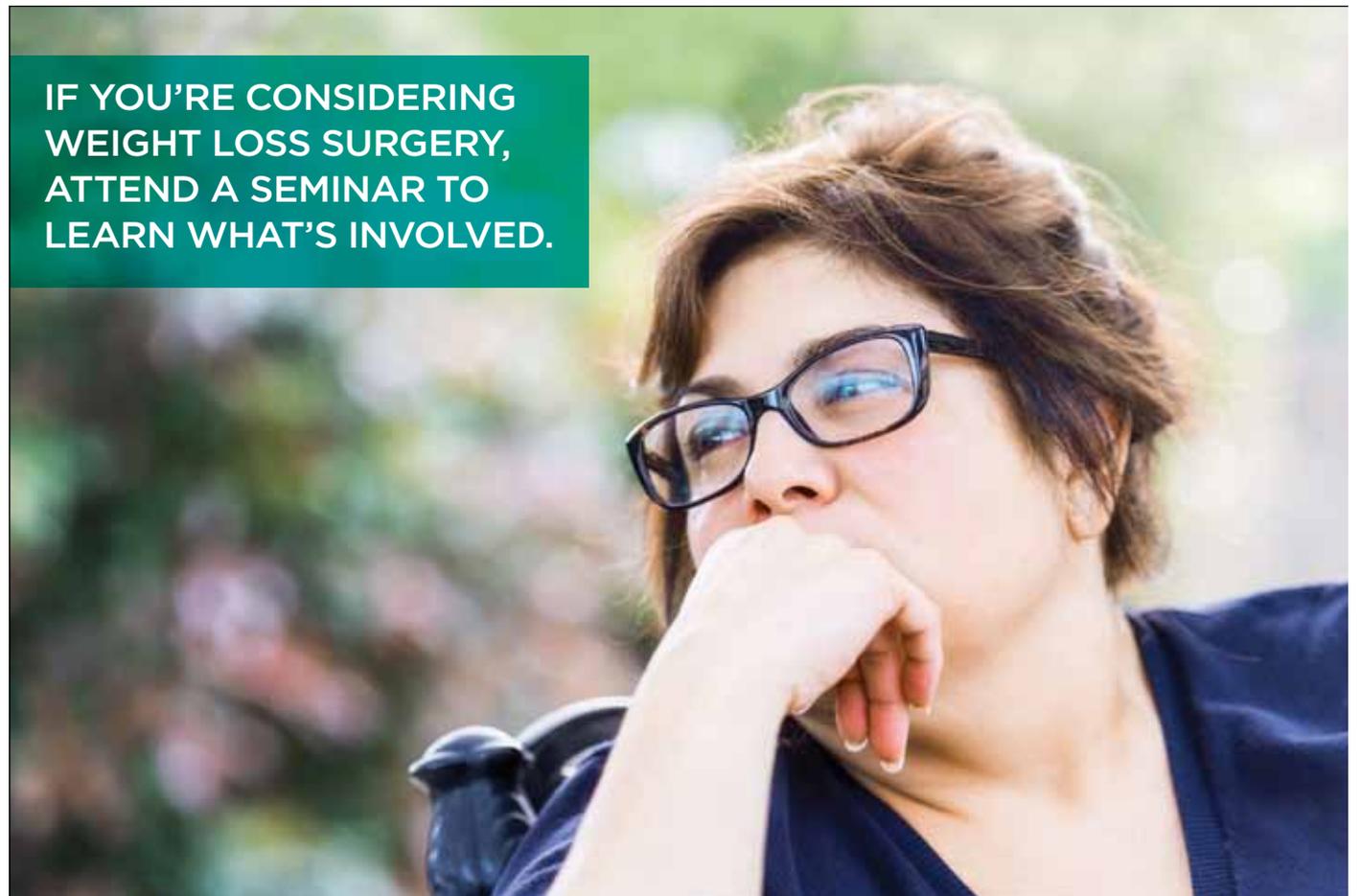
But hard work alone may not guarantee victory and students also need to deal with defeat. "That doesn't make you any less of a person," she said. "It doesn't degrade your hard work."

"My goal is to make it extremely family orientated," Oster said. Throughout the year the school works with students and parents to raise funds to pay for some of the expenses involved with taking part in competitions, she said.

"I think the key to success is actually just treating the kids and the parents as people," Oster said. "We make it a family event. We try to invite everybody in."

The Kelly-Oster School of Irish Dance is located at 267 Tomahawk St. in Baldwin Place. For more information call 845-598-3094 or visit <http://www.kellyoster.com>.

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Accessibility/TTY: (800) 421-1220

PCSB Bank Expands to New Headquarters in Yorktown

PCSB Bank, which changed its name from Putnam County Savings Bank, recently announced its move into new corporate headquarters in Northern Westchester Executive Park at 2651 Strang Boulevard in Yorktown.

The move into the 25,000-square-foot facility follows the bank's recent acquisition of CMS Bancorp, which served as a platform for PCSB's deeper expansion into the Westchester market. PCSB Bank now operates 15 banking centers, with eight branches in Westchester and others located in Putnam, Dutchess and Rockland counties.

"The new headquarters marks the next evolutionary step in PCSB Bank's strate-

gic expansion plans," said Joseph Roberto, chairman, president and chief executive officer of PCSB Bank. "It is located in the center of our expanded footprint, reflecting our commitment to remaining a community-focused, customer-driven bank as we grow."

The Yorktown headquarters will house all non-branch personnel. The Brewster office will continue to serve as PCSB Bank's main office.

Tickets for Royal Hanneford Circus on Sale

The Royal Hanneford Circus returns to the Westchester County Center Feb. 13-15, 2016 with a new look and new acts for 2016.

Tickets are on sale now for the 41st Annual Royal Hanneford Circus appearance in White Plains. A lot has changed in 41 years but, The Royal Hanneford Circus remain a crowd pleaser for all generations and is one of only a few traditional three-ring circuses still performing.

Each year over 15,000 people attend one of the nine shows during President's Day Weekend. Many of the old favorite acts will be returning along with a number of new and exciting acts from around the globe! Included in this two and a half hour extravaganza are Thrill riders, Acrobats, Aerial stars, the Magical costume change, White Tigers, Elephants, Rare White Camels, High Flyers and much more. The Stars of 2016 Royal Hanneford Circus include Cuzin Grumpy's Pork Chop Revue, Grandma The Clown and The latest of The Royal Hanneford Family of Performers, Catherine Hanneford, displaying incomparable aerial excellence.

Tickets are on sale now at The Westchester County Center Box Office, Ticketmaster and Ticketmaster.com. Ticket prices are \$32 for Premium Seats, \$25 for Regular Reserved Seats. Groups and Organizations of 20 or more receive a discounted price of \$21 for Regular Reserved tickets to the 10 a.m. or 6 p.m. shows.

To charge by phone, call Ticketmaster (additional fees apply) 800-745-3000 or ticketmaster.com.

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The Front Door Front and Center

As I observe holiday wreaths dotting the front doors of homes, I am reminded that I've written about how important the condition of the front door is when it comes to the sale of a home. I thought about that recently when I opened a couple of doors for showings where the owners might have benefited from the points I considered.

Basically my reasoning has been that the front door can be the key to a home's personality, either reflecting the condition of the space within . . . or contradicting it. A beautiful, sturdy door with quality hardware greets the visitor with a confident hello; a weathered door, perhaps out of alignment, with old or poorly functioning hardware, conveys something quite different, something unappealing.

I suspect that some homeowners are just not as aware of a front door becoming compromised because most people drive into their attached garage and walk directly into the mud room or kitchen. However, visitors normally come only to the front door.

While the functional purposes of a front door are to withstand the elements, help toward energy efficiency, and provide protection for the home, visitors

view it as an aesthetic statement, even a psychological one. If the door is attractive and in good shape, that perception extends to the entire household.

Look at your front door and determine whether it needs a simple sprucing up or a total replacement. Some door problems can be repaired and others cannot. If the door is improperly hung, has trouble closing or latching, is only slightly warped or is just sticking, these problems are worth fixing. But if it has rot or is outrageously outdated in style, consider the options for replacement.

Whether you use a contractor or a handyman for door replacement, you'll get different opinions about which kind of new door to choose. Some would suggest that the top quality material is still considered to be wood. Steel or aluminum may be recommended as the most sturdy and secure, but according to most remodeling contractors, the best choice today is the new and high quality fiberglass door. The insulation quality of the latter is better than that of a wooden door, and it will not warp or crack.

The feature I like best about a quality fiberglass door is that the manufactur-

ers have managed to develop an incredibly realistic grain that matches real wood. Also there is a virtually unlimited number of door styles and beveled glass options available. Fiberglass can be stained or painted, and fancy hardware can be applied to them, just as you would a wood door.

And that brings us to the subject of the door hardware which, in aesthetic terms, can make a door "pop," but if it's worn, that pop can be a dull thud. The polished look is one factor, but a lock and handle's functionality is the primary thing to consider. Basically locksets fall into two different categories, mortise or cylindrical. While I don't fully understand the mechanical workings of these two types of locks, my trusted locksmith tells me that mortise locksets, which are installed into a rectangular dugout in the door, offer the ultimate in security, design, and ruggedness.

Highly polished solid brass knobs, backplates, thumbatches are desirable but, fair warning, they can be quite expensive.

When it comes to selecting a color for the front door, it is a situation of relating to, or contrasting with, one of the other tones found in the house or the landscape that surrounds it. But there is one cardinal rule: a front door should never

be stark white. The theory here is that the door should relate to the landscape in some way and pure white is rarely found in nature.

For those of you with a bent toward feng shui, you know that the front door is the main source of a house's energy. But practically and simply put for both curb appeal and resale value, spruce up the front door, and in a sense, you have a new home.

As a footnote, I once wrote an article based on a feng shui point of view advising that the very best color to paint a front door to energize a house is red and even recommended a personal preference for red: Benjamin Moore Burgundy.

After that article appeared, so many friends told they had taken that step, and it seems to me that I do see many more red doors lately. Or is that just my imagination?

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). His real estate site is www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com, and his blog is www.TheHomeGuru.com. To engage the services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call (914) 522-2076.

The
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By Bill Primavera

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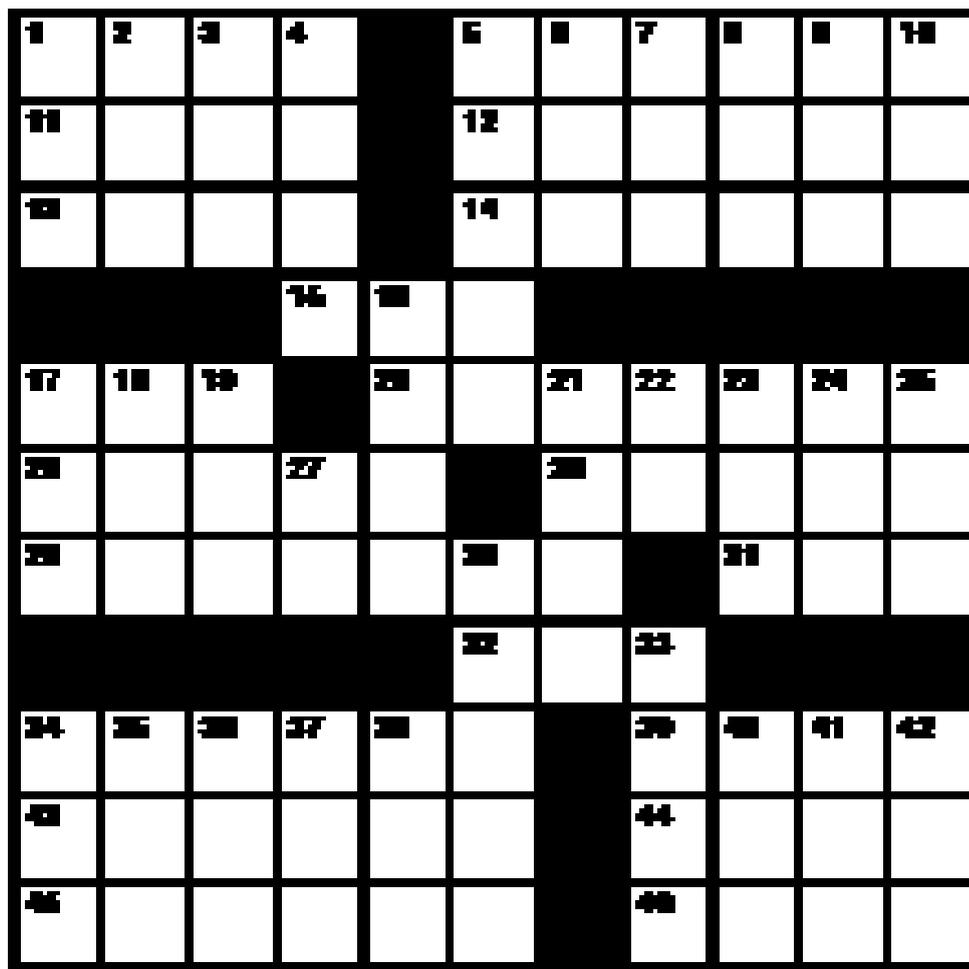
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Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Refined sound, in its day
 5 A "royal" flower or Mahopac salon, goes with 20 across
 11 Creamy middled cookie
 12 Egyptian immortal
 13 Cardholder's woe
 14 Most wise
 15 It may be high or low in blackjack
 17 Goes with humbug
 20 See 5 across
 26 Accused's need
 28 Macho guys, 2 words
 29 Branch off
 31 Group for children's welfare
 32 Field female
 34 Go fast
 39 A company that makes everything, or new supermarket chain in Westchester & Putnam
 43 Word after can or season
 44 Drink of alcohol, small
 45 Kindly
 46 Finger food at a fiesta
- Down
 1 Mason's burden
 2 Tick off

- 3 Month abbr.
 4 Infinitesimal amount
 5 Toughie
 6 Made in the ____
 7 Predetermine the outcome
 8 Grand ____, Evangeline's home
 9 Sue Grafton's "____ for Lawless," 2 words
 10 NY time, for short
 16 Doormat fiber
 17 Spoiled
 18 "Fly like a butterfly" boxer
 19 Subject of "Philadelphia" movie
 21 Ruminant
 22 Yon bloke
 23 Electric guitar hookup
 24 Done working, briefly
 25 Evidence in a paternity suit
 27 Exist
 30 Artistic style
 33 Part of SSE
 34 Swine
 35 Imitate
 36 Washington VIP
 37 Atlanta-based station
 38 Food fish
 40 When repeated, a Latin dance
 41 Clean
 42 J.F.K. info



Solution on page 26

Science Studies the Influence of Our Senses of Taste and Smell

In recent columns, I've focused on the marvels of the human senses and their influence on our perception of wine.

It seems science has undertaken numerous studies to codify and standardize how we interface with wine. Of our five senses, recent scientific efforts have been focusing primarily on our sense of taste and smell. These studies attempt to explain in objective, finite terms how our physiology and, in certain instances, our psychology, play a role in enhancing our innate enjoyment of wines.

There have been studies of our sense of taste, isolating subregions of our cerebral cortex that imprint and therefore define the sensations of our taste buds. The taste senses of bitter, sweet, sour, salty and umami occupy specific regions of the olfactory sensors on our tongues and the membrane lining in our mouths. For example, science has isolated the sense of sweetness to the tip of our tongue and bitterness to the rear. Understanding this process enables wine tasters to enhance their appreciation of wine.

Science has further proven that our

sense of smell dominates our overall experience in wine appreciation, far outweighing the influence of taste. A recent study has shattered the long-held belief that the smell receptors in our mouths and noses are able to identify 10,000 aromas, a rather overwhelming number to manage each time we sniff a glass of wine.

The study has concluded that our sense of smell is capable of detecting over one million scents and aromas. However, therein lies the rub. There are insufficient descriptive terms to specifically identify and describe each of these aromas.

Here's an experiment you can try at home to better understand the dominance of smell over taste. We all have tried one or more flavors of those gourmet jellybeans, the ones with laboratory-developed flavors such as buttered popcorn, pina colada and chili mango. The tastes are amazingly accurate. But are we experiencing taste or smell? Hold your nose and then pop a jellybean in your mouth. What happens? Your sense of taste detects sweetness in your mouth, but no flavor. Release the grip on your nose. Bam, the vibrant es-

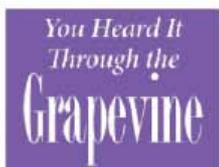
sence of the jellybean flavor floods your brain's olfactory sensors. So it is with wine. Taste provides the broad backdrop for your palate; aromas determine the core impressions in your perception of the wine. The science of the role of taste and smell is most evident when we engage in the most basic of dining rituals – pairing food and wine. The combination of compatible tastes and aromas is critical to the enjoyment of a meal. There is certainly an art, or at least a learned trait, in creating a new sensory state when we are at the table. The ritual begins with a sip of the wine to be paired with a food. Our sensory receptors trigger specific elements of the wine in our mouth. The second level is tasting the food. A new set of tastes and aromas now coats our tongues and mouth and penetrates our olfactory receptors. Our brain now has memorized two sets of distinct profiles. After the bite of food, we sip the wine again. In the test laboratory of our mouth, we now create a third, unique taste and aroma profile. Here is where the greatest dining pleasure blossoms. A new experience is created on our palates, with a set of variables that may never be duplicated again. Life is a series of experiments and out-

comes. From each of them we learn and build the foundation of our interactive lives. With food and wine experiments, we bring to the table hundreds, perhaps thousands, of individual sensory experiences each time we drink and dine. Our learned sensory instincts hopefully guide us to an enjoyable outcome; science increasingly explains how we got there.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 20 years he has conducted 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.



By Nick Antonaccio



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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

WBT to Host Eight-Hour Party on New Year's Eve

By Jerry Eimbinder

Eight hours of celebration are planned for New Year's Eve by the Westchester Broadway Theatre in Elmsford and with 500 seats available that should keep Executive Chef Alexandra Sampaio very busy.

A performance of the Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein II's classic musical Show Boat is part of the evening's entertainment.

The all-inclusive cost is \$370 per couple (dinner, show, beverages, party favors, tax and gratuity included).

The evening's festivities begin at 6 p.m. in the lobby with the buffet-style serving of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and an open bar. A revival of Show Boat follows on stage at 7 p.m.

The first dinner course (a fresh greens salad) is served during the play's intermission; the second and third courses arrive after Show Boat ends.

Following the play's conclusion at about 10 p.m., the stage is transformed into a dance floor and The Tuxedo Parc Orchestra entertains. A champagne toast ushers in the new year at midnight. The party ends at 2 a.m.

Chef Sampaio said, "The hors d'oeuvres include chilled lobster, shrimp cocktails, Clams Casino, Pigs in Blankets, antipasto, empanadas and fresh



Alexandra Sampaio, Executive Chef at Westchester Broadway Theatre.

fruit."

"We will offer a choice of three dishes — beef, chicken or fish — as an entree," she said, "and our signature Peach Melba will be served as dessert." A basket of dinner rolls includes fresh baked

corn bread.

The open-bar policy applies all night with beverage service including cocktails, wine, coffee, tea and soft drinks provided by the wait staff.

Show Boat recalls a time in history

(the year as the play opens is 1890) when the Mississippi River showboat was a remarkable early American entertainment venue. The first act deals initially with racism as the showboat's female star, accused of being black though appearing to be white and married to a white man, is banished from her role in the riverboat show.

The play is noted for its departure from comedy to drama in a musical on the early Broadway stage. The score is incredible and includes Ol' Man River, Can't Help Lovin' That Man, Life Upon the Wicked Stage, Bill, Why Do I Love You, Goodbye My Lady Love, You Are Love, and Finale.

A beautiful duet (Only Make Believe) is sung early in the first act by soprano Bonnie Fraser (who plays Magnolia, the daughter of the riverboat captain) and John Preator (Ravenal, a gambler and her first and only love). The touching After the Ball is sung in the second act in a beautiful rendition by Fraser and other cast members.

Show Boat is an adaptation of Edna Ferber's novel of the same name.

Sampaio joined the Westchester Broadway Theatre as Executive Chef on March 1, 2012.

continued on page 29

**BROADWAY'S
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Happenings

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

Tuesday, Dec. 15

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.

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

Cancer Support Groups: Two cancer support groups will meet this week at the Yorktown offices of Support Connection, 40 Triangle Center, Suite 100. A breast cancer support group will meet on Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. A support group for women living with advanced stage cancer for women living with recurrence of breast or ovarian cancer, with advanced stage and/or metastasis will meet on Dec. 18 at

12:30 p.m. Support Connection will also conduct a breast cancer support group on Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. at New York-Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortland Manor. Pre-registration is required for all groups. To register or learn more, call Peer Counselors at 914-962-6402 or toll-free 800-532-4290.

Wednesday, Dec. 16

Seniors' Fitness Classes: Free fitness classes are being offered to seniors who reside in Peekskill. The schedule is: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday – The WorkOut – 10 to 11 a.m. Thursday – Fall Prevention Class – 10 to 11 a.m. Friday – Zumba Gold – 11 a.m. to noon. Call Terri Dean at 914-734-4250 Ext.1 for more information. Classes are conducted at 4 Nelson Ave., downstairs from the library.

Torah Studies Class: Chabad of Yorktown, 2629 Old Yorktown Rd., is proud to announce season one of the Torah Studies course that runs through Dec. 20. The program brings a series of stimulating text and discussion based classes that take place on a weekly basis. Our lessons will engage you in a multidimensional way by challenging you intellectually, spiritually and emotionally. They explore contemporary issues through a Torah perspective as well as tackling timeless questions in the Jewish tradition. The classes are open to all, whatever your level of learning may be. The fee for the full season (11 classes): is \$36, and includes the textbook. Each class is independent. For more information, to view the topics of the classes, or to register visit: www.ChabadYorktown.com, call 914-962-1111, or email info@ChabadYorktown.com.

Field Library Exhibit: The Field Library, 4 Nelson Ave., Peekskill, and the Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art are presenting Sabrina Occhipinti: Doorways at the library through Dec. 31. Info: 914-737-1212, peekskill.org or visit the library's Facebook page.

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

Bingo Wednesdays: Come to First Hebrew for \$2,000 in total guaranteed bingo prizes, plus an average of \$1,000 awarded in specialty games. Doors open 5 p.m. and games begin 7:15 p.m. every Wednesday (except holidays – check

First Hebrew's website calendar). First Hebrew is just west of the Beach Shopping Center at 1821 Main St., Peekskill. Info: 914 -739-0500 or www.firsthebrew.org.

Thursday, Dec. 17

Taste Of Talmud: Every Thursday morning from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd., Wendy Segal conducts a class: titled "A Taste of Talmud" She discusses "How Jewish Thinking by our Sages Informs Our Lives Today." Come join our lively weekly class (in its sixth year!) which discusses contemporary ethical issues in light of the wisdom of the Talmud and our sages. No prior Jewish knowledge or Hebrew reading is necessary. Everyone is welcome. Info: 914-245-2324 or yorktownjewishcenter.org.

Schoolhouse Theater Programs: The Schoolhouse Theater and Gallery, 3 Owens Rd., Croton Falls, is offering theatergoers and art enthusiasts with the opportunity to view the works of Peekskill sculptor Lisa Breznak through Jan. 10. The exhibit, "Jewelry for the Mind," will be on display in conjunction with the stage production of, "The Gift of the Magi," written by O. Henry and adapted and directed by Bram Lewis. Admission to the exhibit is free. The Gift is running through Dec 20. The Gift of the Magi is being performed on Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., with Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. Individual tickets are \$38 for adults, \$35 for seniors and \$15 for students. For gallery hours or to purchase theater tickets, go to www.schoolhousetheater.org or call 914-277-8477.

Friday, Dec. 18

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 914-2416 Ext. 315.

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.

Anime Nights: Anime Nights will be held today and on Jan. 29, Feb. 26, March 18, April 9, May 6 and June 3 at the Somers Library from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Join us in the Somers Library Program Room for a chance to watch anime from Crunchyroll on our big screen TV. This program is for teens in seventh grade and up. Info: 914 232-5717/

A Christmas Carol: Jonathan Kruk will perform in "A Christmas Carol" with Jim Keyes at 7 p.m. at Tompkins Corners, 729 Peekskill Hollow Rd., Putnam Valley. Tickets are available at Brown Paper Tickets or call to reserve seats at 845 528-7280.

Jewish Center Services: At the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. Friday night Sabbath services in the spring will begin at 8 p.m. and Sabbath services on Saturdays will be held at 9:15 a.m. On most Saturdays, after the services Rabbi Sternstein conducts a learning session based on the Torah portion of the week. Light refreshments are served and everyone is invited to join us as we share in the warmth, knowledge and friendship within our congregation. Info: 914-245-2324 or yorktownjewishcenter.org.

Temple Beth Am Services: Every Friday evening at 8 p.m. Temple Beth Am, 203 Church Pl., Yorktown, "opens its doors to all who enter" for Shabbat. Our modern Sabbath service has a spiritual and engaging feel while following traditional modes. For information, please call our Rabbi at 914-962-7500 or e-mail him at rabbiv@optonline.net.

Saturday, Dec. 19

Lunch & Learn: A Shabbat service followed by Lunch & Learn will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the Hebrew Congregation of Somers, located at Cypress Lane and Mervin Drive. Info: 914-248-9532.

Somers Library Teen Events: Two events for teens will be held today at the Somers Library. A practice exam on the revised version of the SAT will be held from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Why take a free Kaplan practice test? A practice test is one of the best ways to get ready for the real thing. Space is limited and registration is required. Call the library to register at 914 232-5717 or register online at www.somerslibrary.org. "Maze Runner 2: The Scorch Trials" will be screened from 2 to 4:15 p.m. Transported to a remote fortified outpost, Thomas and his fellow teenage Gladers find themselves in trouble after uncovering a diabolical plot from the mysterious and powerful organization WCKD. The film is rated PG-13 and the run time 2 hours and 12 minutes. The program has been funded

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Happenings

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

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by the Friends of the Somers Library. Info: 914 232-5717.

Holiday Train Display: The Holidays on the Hill train display will continue on Dec. 19 and 20 from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Lasdon Park, Arboretum and Veterans Memorial, Route 35, Katonah. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children and no charge for children two and younger. Info: lasdonpark.org or 914-864-7263.

Yoga Program: Support Connection, which provides free programs and services for people affected by breast and ovarian cancer, announces a free program: "Yoga-A Path toward Wellness." It is offered every Saturday from noon to 1:30 p.m., at Club Fit, 600 Bank Rd., Jefferson Valley. The program is open to women with breast, ovarian and gynecological cancer. To learn more or to pre-register, which is required, call Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

Ossining Farmers Market: Down to Earth Markets is holding the Ossining Farmers Market outside at the corner of Spring and Main Streets. The market

runs every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Visit DowntoEarthMarkets.com for vendor details, events, and other updates at Ossining's Down to Earth Winter Farmers Market.

Overeaters Anonymous: Worried about the way you eat? If food rules your life, Overeaters Anonymous may have the answer for you. There is no weigh-ins, dues or fees. The group meets on Saturdays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the fourth floor conference at the Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, 1350 Route 9, Garrison. Info: call/text Lisa at 917-716-2488

Dance For Joy Nutcracker: Dance for Joy will celebrate the holiday season with performances of the Nutcracker for Kids! at 2:30 and 5 p.m. at the Yorktown Stage, 1976 Commerce St. This is the seventh year that Dance for Joy will be performing the production and the second year the show will be at the Yorktown Stage. Nutcracker for Kids! is a shorter version of the Nutcracker that is designed for children from 3 to 103. Tickets are \$20. For more information visit www.danceforjoy.net or call the studio at 914-526-4486.

Yorktown Elks Present Christmas Concert Saturday, December 12, 2015

7:30 - 9:00PM

Tickets: \$10.00

Children 12 & under \$5.00

Includes cafe-style seating, snacks during the performance, cookies and punch reception. Limited seating; advanced ticket purchase recommended. As always, beverages available from the cash bar to enjoy before, during and after the performance or Contact Jody Cole at jodycole616@gmail.com

Sunday, Dec. 20

Somers Library Art Exhibit: Susan Haas will be the featured artist at the Somers Library during the month of December. Susan's work reflects an intimate insight and intense love of nature. Her photography captures the beauty throughout the northeast and Nova Scotia. The Somers Library Art Gallery is open during normal library hours. Please call the library for additional viewing times in the program room at 914-232-5717.

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

Monday, Dec. 21

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.

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.

Longest Night Service: First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown, 2880 Crompond Rd., will hold a Longest Night Service at 7:30 p.m. The service is preparation for the Light coming into the world on Christmas morning. Sometimes known as "Blue Christmas" and traditionally held on the longest night of the year, this beautiful candle-lit worship service offers hope, support, prayer and quiet reflection to those for whom the Advent season may also bring sadness, grief, and worry.

WBT to Host Eight-Hour Party on New Year's Eve

continued from page 27

At 16, she worked as a busgirl at the theater when her uncle Tony Dinis was the Executive Chef. Little did she suspect that one day she would take the same job her uncle had held for more than 30 years.

She was always been fond of fishing and even before entering her teens, she would go eel fishing and chumming and fishing for bluefish with her father Jack.

She was born and raised in Tarrytown and attended high school at Our Lady Of Victory Academy in Dobbs Ferry. While a student at Westchester Community College, Sampaio signed up for adult-education BOCES courses in cooking and baking.

"After only a few classes, I began thinking seriously about a career in the food industry or in pastry baking," she said.

"I wasn't that interested in cooking when I started working as a busgirl although I did like to bake," she recalled. "My father, in fact, would have preferred for me to choose almost any other profession for a career."

"But when he and my uncle Tony realized that food was the highlight of my life, they became my mentors and influenced me tremendously."

She enrolled at the New York Restaurant School in TriBeCa (now the Art Institute of New York) in 2003 and after graduation joined the Greens at Greenwich, an upscale assisted-living facility in Greenwich, CT, as sous chef. Two-and-one-half years later, she opened B4, a 40-seat bistro in Valhalla where she ran the kitchen and her partner handled the front of the house.

She was the Head District Chef for The Bedford School District before joining the theater. Her duties include hiring, training and managing the kitchen crew and food wait service staff (about 50 employees for sold-out performances); she also determines the dishes that appear on the menu.

The theater accommodates about 500 people including up to 80 in the luxury boxes. Luxury box seating at \$470 per couple (at least four couples required) is offered on New Year's Eve.

Westchester Broadway Theatre, 1 Broadway Plaza (175 Clearbrook Road), Elmsford. Box office: (914) 592-2222.

Community Choice Energy Program Moving Forward

By Neal Rentz

A program that seeks to hold down the cost of electricity to consumers is moving forward in Westchester County, the Somers Town Board was told at its Dec. 3 work session.

Leo Wiegman, the executive director of the non-profit Sustainable Westchester, discussed the Community Choice Aggregation energy program.

The purpose of the program is for municipalities to join together to get a better price from an energy supplier that would provide power to all the communities.

Wiegman, who is the mayor of Croton, said six other states have implemented the Community Choice program.

Utilities would continue to control the transmission of power, which in the case of Somers is the New York State Electric and Gas Corporation, Wiegman said. Town residents would continue to receive their electricity bill from NYSEG once the program is implemented, Wiegman said. The cost savings would come from lower prices from the supplier that would be providing energy to the utilities which

would continue to transmit electricity.

The program seeks to freeze the cost of electric bills for a period of about three years, Wiegman explained, adding the state has encouraged Westchester to begin the program.

Councilman Anthony Ciriaco asked Wiegman how residents could "opt out" of the program. Consumers would automatically be placed with the Community Choice energy supplier unless they chose to opt out of the program within 20 days after they receive a letter about the program, Wiegman said. Letters are slated to be sent to residents in early February, he said. Consumers would also have opportunities to leave the Community Choice supplier even after the program is implemented, he noted.

Sustainable Westchester is scheduled to seek bids from energy suppliers in the beginning of January, Wiegman said.

Supervisor Rick Morrissey said the town board would need to schedule a special meeting for later this month to approve the language of the bid proposal that would be sent to energy suppliers.

EXAMINER MEDIA Classifieds

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LEGALS

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF WHOLESOME GROWTH LLC d/b/a Kumon of White Plains. Arts of Org filed with Scy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/27/2015. Office location: WESTCHESTER county. SSNY designated agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to: **476 SHELTON RD TRUMBULL, CT, 06611. Principal business address: 600 N BROADWAY WHITE PLAINS, NY 10603. Purpose: any lawful act.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SORENSEN HC ADVISORS LLC. Articles of Incorporation filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 7/7/14. Office location:

Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **15 Petersville Road, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549. Purpose: General.**

Notice of Formation of Frawley Coaching, LLC. Arts of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 9/4/15. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. **Purpose: any lawful activity.**

Notice of Formation of Dovetail DB LLC Arts of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY(SSNY) on 9/15/2015. Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC. SSNY shall mail process to: 55 East 76th St., 1D, NY, NY 10021. **Purpose: any lawful activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF TTL Photography, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secy. Of State of N.Y.(SSNY) on 09/16/2015. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated agent whom process may be served and shall copy of process against LLC to principle business address: 1304 Midland Avenue, Ste. B-60, Yonkers, N.Y. 10704. **Purpose: any lawful act.**

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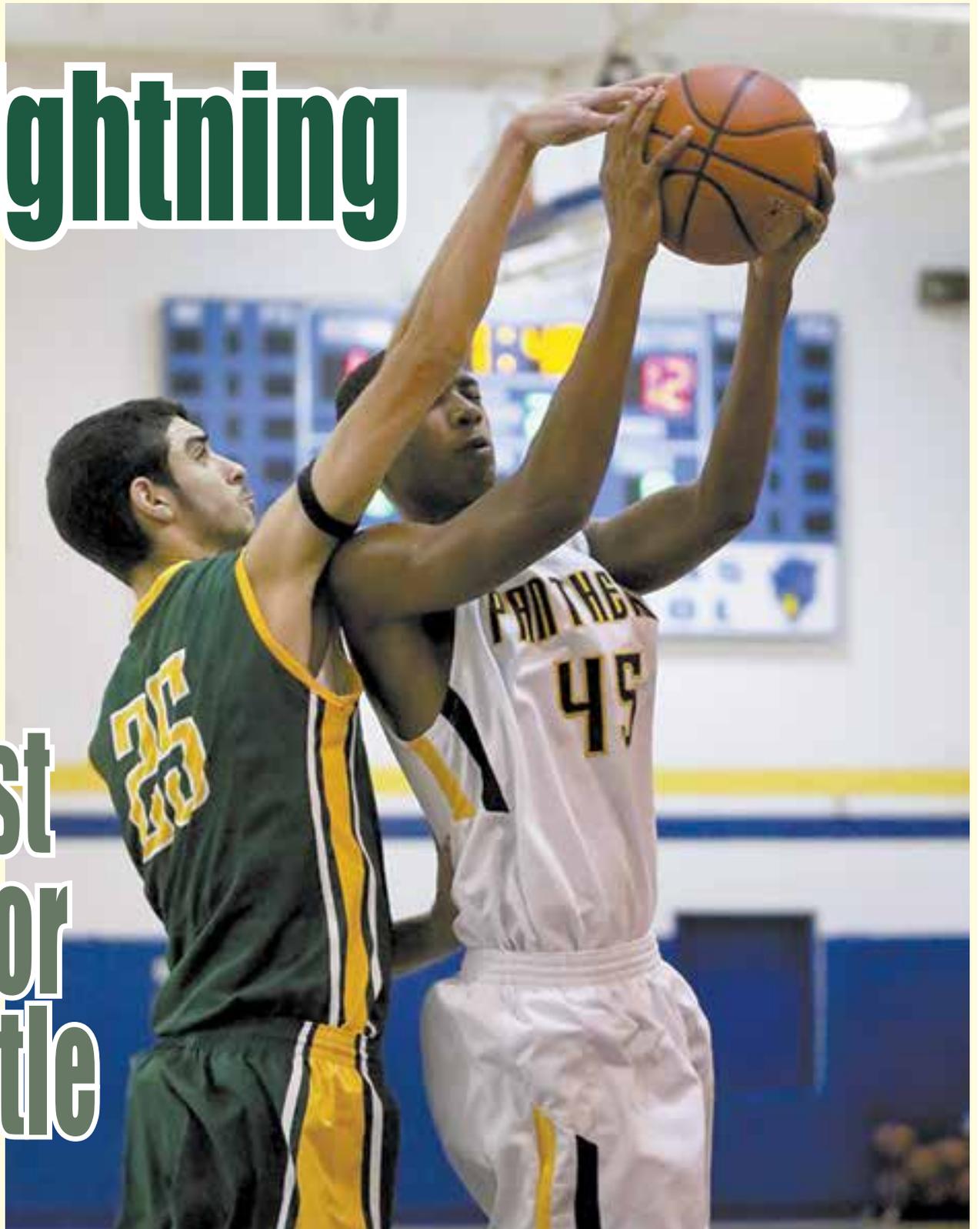
December 15 - December 21, 2015

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

SPORTS SECTION

White Lightning Strikes!

Panas Surges Past Lakeland for Tourney Title



RICK KUPERBERG PHOTO (PLEASE VISIT WWW.HVSPHOTOS FOR MORE ACTION)

Panas F Shakiem White (R) goes up for two of his 10 points against the defense of Lakeland C Nick Fazio in the Panthers' 48-41 triumph of the rival Hornets last Saturday night in the finals of the Panas Holiday Tournament where White added 10 rebounds for the double-double and was named MVP... see Boys' Hoops Notebook

Sports

Boys' Hoops Notebook

Undefeated Putnam Valley Knocks off Panas, Mahopac

Panthers Rebound to Take Panas Tourney Title over Lakeland

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor
@Directrays

If there's a Class B team in Section 1 as accomplished as undefeated Putnam Valley (4-0) at this early juncture of the season, please show yourself. With victories over three Class AA teams – Horace Greeley, Carmel and Mahopac – plus one Class A program – Water Panas – the Tigers (4-0) have stormed out of the gates, and the scary part is Coach Mike McDonnell's cub has yet to play its A-game.

The Tigers were at it again last Thursday, knocking off host Mahopac in the first-ever meeting between the two programs, dipping in to the skill sets of senior F Harrison Deegan for a game-high 20 points, including his third jam of the season.

The Tigers are hard to ignore after such a promising start, and there are some huge Class B conquests to be had, including two-time defending champion Woodlands (12/22) and a Briarcliff team that has drawn the pre-season favorite nod from outlets such as MGS and Lohud on January 7th. We'll know a lot more about the Tigers by then, but we do suspect they will be providing local basketball fanatics with a weekly dose of hoopla from now till County Center, provided they remain level-headed.

Deegan has been a standout performer,



RAY GALLAGHER/RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

Panas C Jeremy Keefe and Lakeland C Nick Fazio get after it in Panthers' tourney title win over Hornets Saturday.

but the senior-filled starting five, which has played together since their days on the CYO circuit, is truly in tune with one another. Kevin Gallagher has run the point with extreme effectiveness, Ander Spittal has emerged as a true No.2 scoring option, F Joey Spinola (11 points vs. Mahopac) has been a force in the paint and F Charlie Pagani (10 points) is just plain steady.

Coach Mike McDonnell acknowledged the unit's chemistry after the Tigers took down Mahopac with relative ease.

"Yeah, we're on everyone's radar now," the coach said before Saturday's shoot-around. "I don't think we've played our best game yet, but we're satisfied with the start and the way we share the ball. It's a very unselfish group."

Maybe **HENDRICK HUDSON** will be that team in Class A that shocks everyone after the Sailors ran off with their own tournament title last Friday night, taking down Valhalla, 72-51, behind All-Section swingman Jesse Breeding, who went for 26 points and 10 rebounds. Sophomore G Dylan Fraser had the best game of his budding career, dropping 18 points, snagging six caroms and dishing six assist. Senior

Mike Smith was named MVP after drawing first blood in the tournament-opening 76-59 win against Roosevelt when he set the school record with seven 3's. Smitty scored a career-high 26 points.

"We certainly aren't playing perfect ball right now, but we are playing hard and we are grinding," Hen Hud skipper Jordan Hirsch said. "We like it that way. We shot the ball pretty well on Thursday and rebounded well. The guys have been really good

about playing the role that is needed of them in different situations. We talk about playing fast, finding the best possible shot in the possession, and that our success is always going to be based on our chemistry and how it continues to grow. It was great to have different guys finding a scoring rhythm in different games and what is really cool to see is how supportive the guys are of each other when one of their teammates is playing well. Our concentration needs to stay on defense, rebounding, and development. The energy and enthusiasm has picked up with this group and I like the speed we are playing at."

PANAS opened some eyes last Saturday night when the Panthers took down a Lakeland team that has been tough to figure. Panas won 48-41 with Shakiem White securing an MVP nod and a double-double (10 points, 10 boards). Sophomore Brandon Hodge (13 points, 2 steals)



Brewster's Kevin Blank goes up for two against Lakeland's Trevor McCarthy and Nick Fazio in Bears' loss to Hornets.



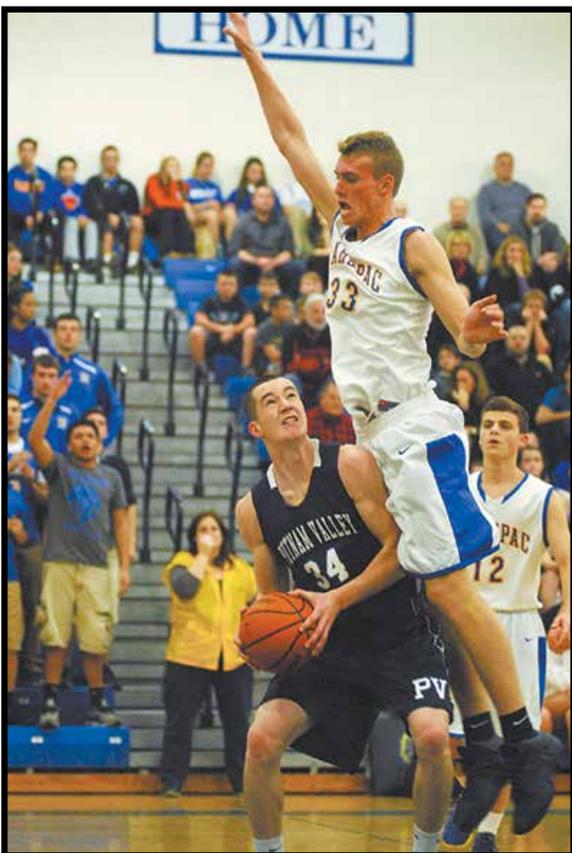
Panas' Brandon Ramos pulls up for jumper in win over Lakeland.



Brewster's Kieran Taylor takes a run at Lakeland's Matt O'Dair in Hornets' 48-46 win over Bears last Friday.

Sports

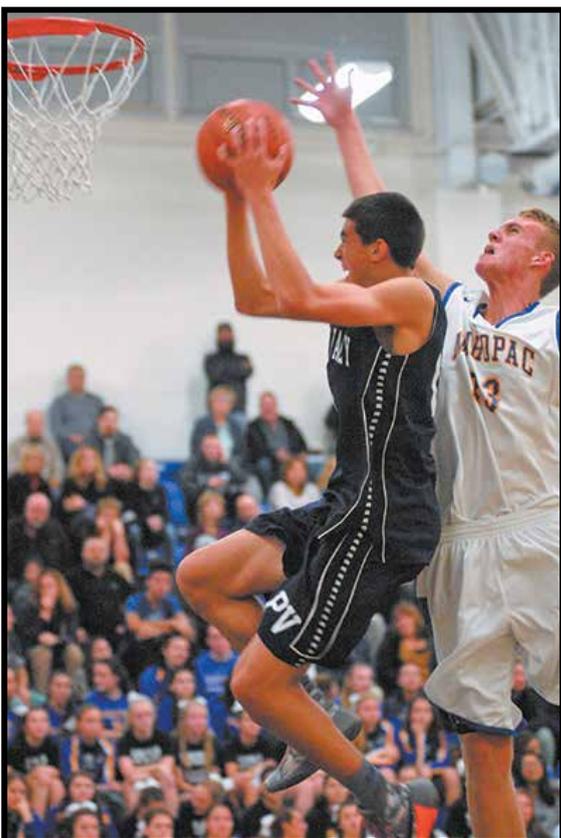
Boys' Hoops Notebook



Mahopac's John Vitkus gets into PV's Joey Spinola in Tigers' win over Indians last Thursday.

and senior F Jeremy Keefe (8 points, 7 boards) each asserted themselves with a solid effort against the rival Hornets, who just haven't been consistent under first-year boss Steve Fallo, who, given time, should get this team playing better after the New Year.

Lakeland G Eric Pombo scored 12 points for the Hornets and he torched Brewster for 15 points and dishing five



Put Valley's Harrison Deegan has a step on Mahopac's John Vitkus in Tiger win over Indians.



Putnam Valley's Kevin Gallagher (L) and Harrison Deegan (R) celebrate a Deegan bucket in PV victory over Mahopac's Aidan Hynes and Christian Donahoe last Thursday.

assists in the opening round during a 48-46 win over the Bears, who took third place after knocking off Mahopac in the consy.

Hornet F Nick Jarosz scored nine points in the loss to Panas.

"I am really proud of my team," Panas Coach Shawn Sullivan said. "Our 2 big guys (Keefe and White) had their best game of the season. I think our size bothered them a little bit. This was another very competitive Lakeland/Panas game that we were able to pull out at the end. Hopefully, winning our tournament is the start of something good to come this season."

After losing to Putnam Valley earlier in the week, Panas hopes to gain steam now and wins over Lakeland and Friday's 60-49 victory over Mahopac is a solid start for the Panthers, who were led by Brandon Ramos (15 points, 5 boards), Hodge (11 points, 3 steals, 4 assists) and David Reynoso (11 points) against the struggling Indians.

MAHOPAC was led by Christian Donahoe's 15 points, but the Indian offense has struggled mightily with injured F Dan Foley nursing a sore back.

We've having a rough time figuring out **LAKELAND**. The Hornets (2-3) looked brutal in the first half against Brewster, only to reverse their fortunes with a brilliant second half that showed just how capable they are. Fallo never seems to know which Lakeland team is going

to show on any given night.

"They were embarrassed with the way they played in the first half (against Brewster) and as a team they decided to do something about," Fallo said. "The starting group came out with tremendous intensity and set the tone, led by Eric Pombo (9 points in the 3rd). We made shots that we missed in the first half and switching to man-to-man made a big difference. Our bench made a huge contribution going 6-of-6 from the free throw line in the third and also playing terrific man defense. It was a great team comeback and win and a big confidence boost after two tough loses to Carmel and Greeley."

It was the kind of well-rounded effort we expected the Hornets to ride to the Panas title, but they failed to do so. Fallo (10 points, 3 assists), Nick Fazio (7 points, 8 boards) and Jarosz (6 points, and 6 rebounds) all had their way in the second half against **BREWSTER**, which looked solid in the first half but not so much in the second. The Bears (2-2) recovered the next night to post a 54-39 win over Mahopac. Bear G Kevin Blank led the way with 20 points while Jon Palmieri added 13.

YORKTOWN took two losses last week against a pair of quality foes - Spring Valley and Byram Hills -- who put their feet to the fire. Reining Class A champion Spring Valley handed the Huskers a 71-62 loss, in which Nick



Yorktown's Jesse Bambach fires shot in Huskers win over Jay EF.

DeGennaro knocked down 21 points in addition to grabbing four boards and four steals. Junior Tanner Dyslin had 14 points, five caroms and three steals. Despite the outcomes, Husker second-year Coach Kevin Downes was pleased with the effort his Huskers gave in both losses.

"Byram will be a Final 4 Class A team at the County Center and Spring Valley



Yorktown G Matt Severino gets an easy two in win over John Jay EF.

continued on page 35

Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook

Samuels Drops Career-High 45 Points in Ossining Win

Improving Put Valley Shocks Hen Hud; Mahopac 2nd in Panas Tourney

By Tony Pinciario & Ray Gallagher

Ossining had an extra week to prepare for its 2015-16 season which was not good news for the Pride's first two opponents – Our Lady of Lourdes and Scarsdale.

Two promising aspects resulted from Ossining's victories over Lourdes, 82-62, and Scarsdale, 85-71. The first is a given, that All-NYS F Shadeen Samuels is an unstoppable offensive force, when she



Yorktown's Carli Mager takes a run at the rim in Huskers' loss to RCK in opening round of Panas tourney.

wants to be. The second is that Ossining found its secondary scorers.

Ossining opened its season the way it concluded its Section 1 season, with a victory over Lourdes. The Pride defeated Lourdes in the 2015 Section 1 Class AA championship game.

Samuels put on a clinic, finishing with a game- and career-high 45 points, along with 14 rebounds and five assists. More importantly, though, freshmen Aubrey Griffin and Kialah Harris asserted themselves offensively and on the glass. Griffin contributed 19 points and 12 rebounds and Harris added 13 points and 10 rebounds.

"Against Lourdes, our young team played very tentative," said Ossining coach Dan Ricci. "We start three freshmen and this was their first time playing in front of our home crowd, and it showed. Shadeen single-handedly carried us to victory.

"Against Scarsdale, freshmen point guard Jaida Strippoli really showed she was much more comfortable."

Ossining found itself in a very uncharacteristic situation against



RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

Yorktown's Alyssa Francese goes up for two in loss to RCK during the opening round of Panas tourney.

Scarsdale as the Raiders had a two-point lead after the first quarter. The Pride quickly reversed that and went into halftime leading, 40-32.

Samuels filled out the statistics' sheet with 23 points, 10 rebounds, seven assists and seven steals. Strippoli poured in 22 points and dished out eight assists and Griffin chipped in 19 points and three steals.

In both games, Ossining had strong fourth quarters, outscoring Lourdes and



Mahopac F Claire Felix fires jumper in overtime loss to RCK in Panas tourney championship.

Scarsdale by double digits to cement the final verdict.

MAHOPAC opened the Panas Tournament with a 56-45 victory over the host, but R.C. Ketcham outlasted the Indians in overtime, 47-41, to take home the title.

Mahopac led Panas by one point, 27-26, going into the third quarter. The Indians took control in the third, outscoring Panas, 15-5, in the opening round.

Amanda Geyer had a game-high 17 points.

"The girls showed a lot of heart in the second half to build up a lead and protect it down the stretch when Panas made a late run," Mahopac coach Chuck Scozzafava said. "In the championship game, overall, we played a good game. We had some opportunities to win it in regulation, but we missed some put-backs and drives to the hoop. As a team, we need to play cleaner with less turnovers."

Carly Pease paced Mahopac with 12 points and was named to the all-tournament team along with Geyer, who finished with nine points.

HEN HUD split a pair of games and is now 2-2 on the season. The Sailors opened their week with a 51-43 win over Yorktown, but PUTNAM VALLEY was a rude guest, defeating Hen Hud, 48-38.

Hen Hud was in control from the opening tip against Yorktown. Hen Hud led 14-9 after the first quarter and 26-17 at halftime.

Maria Scalf led the Sailors with 14 points and Jaelyn Smith and Taylor Prokopiak added 10 points apiece. Smith also finished with a team-high nine rebounds, and collected four assists, four steals and three blocked shots. Jackie Raguso and Prokopiak contributed on the boards with seven rebounds apiece.

Hen Hud and Putnam Valley were even at 22 at halftime, but the Tigers roared in the second half, outscoring the Sailors by 10 points.

Scalf paced the Sailors with 14 points, and added seven rebounds and four steals. Smith finished with 11 points, six steals and four rejections. Raguso added six points and five rebounds. Maria Tomais and Stephanie Wagner each scored 13 points for the improving Tigers. Senior



Mahopac's Tara Ravoli splits two RCK defenders in Indians' OT loss.



Mahopac G Amanda Geyer lets a shot fly in OT loss to RCK.

C Reena Olsen added nine rebounds and five blocks for the Tigers.

Putnam Valley then shredded Palisade Prep, 58-29. Cornell-bound Olsen had 13 points, five rebounds and three blocks for the Tigers, who saw Dora Rippon and Maria Tomais add 11 and 10 points, respectively.

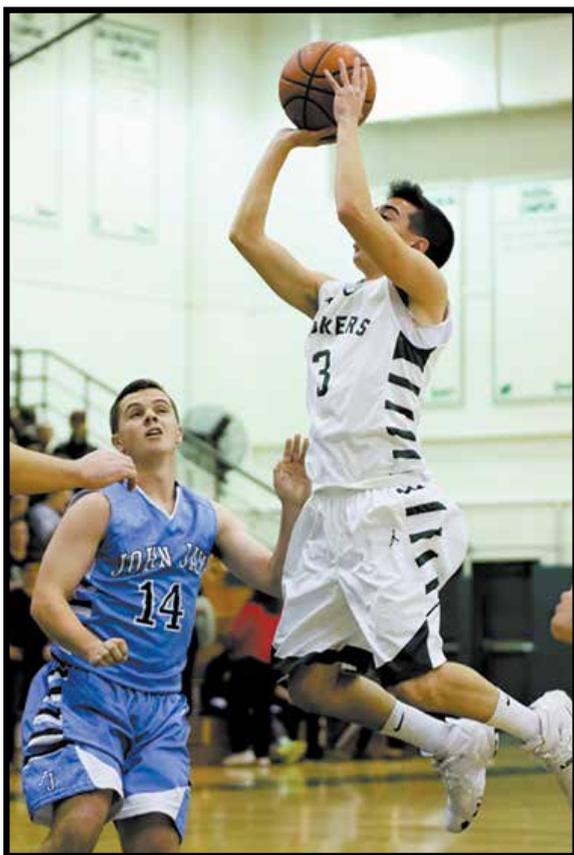
continued on next page

Sports

Gymnastics Hoops Notebook

Undefeated Putnam Valley Knocks off Panas, Mahopac

continued from page 33



Yorktown G Nick DeGennaro sinks shot in 62-59 win over John Jay EF.

should be top four seed in AA, so these were good tests for us," Downes said. "If we can play for three quarters like we did the second half against Spring Valley we will be fine. We don't have a ton of experience back, so guys needed to adjust. I think these first four games were a tremendous help in our growth. Now we need to finish

Samuels Drops Career-High 45 Points in Ossining Win

continued from previous page

YORKTOWN opened its week with a 51-43 loss to Hen Hud before a Panas Tournament first-round setback to R.C. Ketcham, 54-41. The Cornhuskers bounced back with a 72-56 win over Panas in the consolation game.

"We struggled to make our perimeter shots throughout the night," said Yorktown coach Kevin Clark of the Hen Hud game. "When we played Ketcham, we allowed an 11-0 run to close the first half and that proved to be the difference."

Alyssa Francese led Yorktown with a game-high 22 points and Sarah Bonner netted eight points against Hen Hud. Francese followed up with 20 points against Ketcham.

Francese, who was selected to the all-tournament team, scored 22 points and Bonner chipped in 21 in the victory over Panas. Anna Nuccio contributed seven points.

LAKELAND had only one game, but SOMERS prevailed, 50-40, in come-from-behind fashion. Somers also defeated

the month strong."

Perhaps OSSINING will take the dubious honor for 'Clunker of the Week' after the Pride laid an egg in a 65-60 loss to Horace Greeley last Saturday. Obie Toppin had 20 points to lead the Pride while A.J. Stokeley added 14 and Alan Griffin chipped in with 13 but it wasn't enough as first-year Coach Mike Casey suffered his first loss; one he didn't expect.

"We didn't see that coming," Coach Casey said. "I'll give the credit to Greeley. They played tough. We gave them a ton of second-chance points, especially in the second half. We had a six-point lead going into the fourth. We started the quarter with the ball and a chance to extend the lead, but we had a turnover and that set the tone for the fourth. We didn't execute down the stretch. We have Carmel next, so hopefully we respond well."

HALDANE is off to a nice 3-0 start but the competition hasn't been eye-opening. Still, the 3-0 start bodes well for the defending Section 1 Class C champions, who saw Tucker Beachak score 17 points in a 73-60 win over Children's Village. Nick Chiera and Aidan Siegel each had 13 points for the Blue Devils while Will Zovic added 12.



Mahopac's Kim Schiera drives the lane in Indians' overtime loss to RCK in Panas tourney final.

Mahopac Snags FDR Gymnastics Tourney Title

By Ray Gallagher

Among the most respected gymnastics coaches in Section 1, Mahopac's Vin Collins has his Indians off to a flipping good start this season. Mahopac placed first as a team in the FDR Tournament over the weekend, doing so behind a third-place all-around finish from Kristen Huber and three first-place finishes from Raquel Nelson (balance beam), Hailey Woods (floor exercise) and Katherine Dorovitsine (uneven bars). Sarah Citarella (3rd place balance beam), Annalee Hammel (4th place vault), Julia Israel (4th

place all around) and Kayley Mattos (6th place floor exercise) all contributed to the well-rounded effort.

"A good start to the season for each gymnast," Coach Collins said. "We've had some nice routines at this point in the season. We are trying to improve with each competition over the course of the season."

The Indians also won the event between Ossining and Sleepy Hollow, getting a first-place all-around effort from Chloe Lee (32.35).

CROTON-HARMON (3-1) had a vexing weekend, losing to John Jay CR in the opening round of the Hamilton tournament before bouncing back in the consy round with a 72-51 win over Hawthorne Cedar Knolls who got torched by All-Tourney selection Charlie Goldberg, who dropped 23 points (4 3s) and dished 11 assists.

Youthful SOMERS (0-4) has struggled to score points, averaging a shade over 40 PPG. The highlight of the week for Coach Chris DiCintio was seeing his sophomore son, Chris, come off the bench for a career-high 14 points in a 61-44 loss to Arlington.

NWE/PUTNAM FAB FIVE

No.1 PUTNAM VALLEY -- Anyone who thinks this team isn't better than last year's team isn't watching the same team I am. The Tigers (4-0) epitomize the word

T-E-A-M and play unselfishly.

No.2 HEN HUD - The Sailors (3-0) are athletic as heck and they're anything but a one-man Jesse Breeding show with Smith and them Fraser boys getting it done.

No.3 YORKTOWN - We were hoping for a much better showing from the Class AA Huskers (2-2) in the 74-59 loss to Class A heavyweight Byram Hills.

No.4 OSSINING - We'll attribute the clunker against Greeley to youth and the growing pains Coach Casey might see from the Pride (2-1) from time to time this season.

No.5 PANAS - Let's hope the Panthers (2-2) don't rest on the laurels of defeating Lakeland and winning their own tourney title because it'll be a long season if they do, what with Ossining and Hen Hud upcoming in what looks like a very balanced league.

Arlington, 55-45. Tusker G Gabby Rosenzweig went for a game-high 32 points in the win and the Tuskers have come flying out of the gate at 3-0 and take aim at the Somers Holiday Tournament title this weekend against Mahopac at 5:00 p.m. The other side of the bracket features Kennedy Catholic and Ursuline.

"Gabby is playing amazing right now," Somers Coach Kristi Dini said. "She's a leader off the court and in practice and on the court she's doing whatever it takes for her team to be successful on offense and defense... if that means distributing or scoring 32 points and guarding the best girls on the court, she

does it."

Lakeland kept it close, though, and that should bode well for the Hornets.

"It was a two-point game the whole time until late in the fourth quarter," Lakeland coach Miranda Lustig said after the loss to Somers. "We made some mistakes, defensively, and did not shoot well from the floor."

Colleen Walsh led Lakeland with 22 points and 10 rebounds.

HALDANE went 0 for 2, dropping a 53-33 verdict to Woodlands and then a 57-54 setback to John Jay-Cross River.

Allison Chiera led Haldane with 11 points against Woodlands. Marissa Lisikatos finished with 22 points and Chiera added 20 against John Jay-Cross River. The Blue Devils settled for third in the tourney after defeating Croton-Harmon, 43-28. Abbey Stowell scored 12 points and Allison Chiera added 11 points for the Blue Devils.



Bonner Day for Huskers!

Yorktown Settles for 3rd in Panas Tourney



RICK KUPERBERG PHOTO (PLEASE VISIT WWW.HVSP.PHOTOS FOR MORE ACTION)

Yorktown F Sarah Bonner scored 21 points for the Huskers in their 72-56 win over host Panas last Saturday in the consolation game of the Panas Tournament where the Huskers settled for third after losing to eventual champion RCK in the opening round... see Girls' Hoops Notebook



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