

**FREE**  [twitter.com/ExaminerMedia](http://twitter.com/ExaminerMedia)

December 30, 2014 - January 5, 2015 **SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS** Volume 6, Issue 301

## Last of his Kind: After 18 years, Oliverio Departs from Legislature

By David Propper

In a county where politics can be unparalleled, unpredictable and unforgiving, outgoing Legislator Sam Oliverio has remained a constant at the county level for the last 18 years, an impressive feat for a man who in high school aspired to one day become the president of the United States.

Talking with a past classmate recently from his days at Lakeland High School, the classmate reminded Oliverio of the time a former state senator visited their US history and government class and Oliverio asked, "What do you have to do to become president of the United States?"

"I had governmental ambition even then," Oliverio, with his trademark chuckle, said. "Of course you age and

realize president's pretty tough, but I knew I wanted to be involved in politics at a local level and that's what I've done."

While never reaching the presidency (hey, only 44 men have been able to) in more than one way, Oliverio is a Putnam politico rarity.

In a county run by Republicans at almost every level, and a Putnam County Legislature that will be completely Republican run on Jan. 1, Oliverio found a way to win election after election remaining the sole Democrat on the board for multiple years. And by surviving each election, the Putnam Valley resident will be noted as the final legislator to ever reach close to two decades of service with term limits now enforced at the county level that cuts all legislators off after 12

*continued on page 2*



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

Putnam County Legislator Sam Oliverio speaks to a small crowd of colleagues and friends at a recent farewell party for him and Legislator Lou Tartaro who served this last year. After such a long stretch on the county Legislature, Oliverio got choked up at one point

## Sheriff's Office Gets Its Way in Final 2014 Legislature Meeting

By Janine Bowen

The Putnam County Legislature approved new additions to the Putnam County Sheriff's Department Monday night, but only after discord between lawmakers.

First up was the approval of a new IED detection dog, which is being funded by a \$60,000 grant that was applied for by the sheriff's department. The pure-bred German Shepard would be trained as a bomb-sniffing dog and could be cross-trained to help find missing children or adults. The animal would be assigned to an existing officer, who would receive a \$6,000 stipend for the extra duty.

Legislator Dini LoBue was vehemently against the approval of the resolution, noting that the sheriff's department did not follow proper procedure when applying for the grant. She stated that the department only approached the

*"I couldn't justify this additional dog... we're growing government, I don't see the need for it. This isn't New York City," LoBue said.*

legislature after the money was applied for and received instead of beforehand. In addition, she stated that hiring another K9 officer would be a duplication of services since the county already has a bomb sniffing dog and, when necessary, can borrow a bomb sniffing dog from the state police or the MTA.

*continued on page 8*

*Happy New Year and a Blessed 2015 to Everyone*



CORINNE STANTON PHOTO

As Putnam County turns the calendar to another fresh year, 2014 brought plenty of notable news like the shut down and subsequent revitalization of Tilly Foster Farm, a cold and snowy winter to start 2014 (including this final December winter storm as pictured above), lawsuits left and right, justice for a cold case murder that took 19 years to crack, and the vindication of a man accused of rape who was found not guilty in the highest publicized trial in recent memory. The Mahopac school community was dealt a tough and at times tragic 12 months, and notable Putnam residents died leading to legacies that would never be forgotten. This year was the last for State Senator Greg Ball in public office, while Putnam voters elected County Executive MaryEllen Odell to serve four more years. For a full recap of the year that was, check out pages 6-8.



**The Bowl Company**  
SINCE 2002  
*It all happens at the table*  
162 Main St  
Brewster, NY 10509

Tea Tasting every  
**Saturday**  
11am-4pm



**ARTE ITALICA**

## Last of his Kind: After 18 years, Oliverio Departs from Legislature

continued from page 1  
years.

As a young man who was recently discharged from the Army, Oliverio returned to Putnam Valley and cut his teeth in Putnam politics by helping his father Samuel Oliverio Sr. (who died in 2001) with his legislative races, assuming the position of his campaign co-chairman. With his son's help, Samuel Oliverio Sr. was able to win two county elections to earn a seat on the legislature.

Then when Oliverio actually started his own political career, it was as a Republican, until he switched to the Democratic party when there was a debate in Putnam Valley on whether to keep the town's police force or disband that police department and go with the sheriff's department instead. Oliverio and his new friends on the Democratic side wanted there to be a town police force, while Republicans were advocating for the county to take control.

After he was a Putnam Valley town councilman for a few years, Oliverio decided he wanted to run for a county seat, winning on his first try to represent Putnam Valley on the county Legislature. Oliverio recalls his father's two proudest moments were when he joined the army, and when he won the same legislative seat he held for two terms.

After Oliverio won that District 2 seat,



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

Oliverio would occasionally have a fiery side, like during this July Physical Services Committee meeting regarding Tilly Foster Farm.

his father's advice was "Listen to the people because they are the ones that put us in office. They are the ones that had faith that you will represent them with a clear conscience and do the best that you possibly can."

"And I've always tried to do that," Oliverio said. "That always stayed with me."

The three tenants Oliverio has always governed by is does it server the greater good, is it the people's will and does it influence the health and safety of the county's residents.

"You have to compromise," Oliverio said of working on the legislature. "That more than anything else was the biggest lesson I learned. Not only learn that you have to compromise, but learn how to compromise. Many, many times, I got the exact thing that I wanted."

To Democrats running for county seats in the future, Oliverio has two pieces of advice for any candidate running: You must be willing to reach a middle ground with other legislators, Oliverio said, and you must be a moderate on "many, many issues."

"The Democrats under the Obama administration have been murdered, we have been murdered," Oliverio said. "Many people look at the Democratic Party as a left-wing, out of control faction and it's not. We have real moderates in this county who on many issues are very conservative."

Oliverio, while keeping his seat on the legislature for six terms, knows how tough being a Democrat can be, losing to Republican MaryEllen Odell for the county executive seat this year. But he received 300 more votes than Odell in Putnam Valley, even more impressive considering Democratic nominee Wendy Whetsel lost to Republican Bill Gouldman to replace Oliverio on the legislature.

"No liberal Democrat will ever win in this county," Oliverio, who describes himself a conservative Democrat, concluded. "I'm certain of that."

For at least the next year, not a single Democrat will sit on the legislature, which is troubling to Oliverio. But even more striking, Oliverio will be that final legislator that served longer than the term limits now allow, the last to have the institutional knowledge and sense of history any legislator can only attain when serving—and surviving that long.

Oliverio said, "I'm the last of that, I'm the last of that breed."



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

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

### Great Gifts for the Holidays at Somers Custom Framing



2-Time Best of Westchester Winner!

Custom Picture Framing, Printing and Gift Shop

253 Route 202 • Somers 914-276-3173 • www.somerscustomframing.com

FISHLIN & FISHLIN, PLLC - ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
WESTCHESTER, ROCKLAND AND NEW YORK CITY

Probate | Administration | Wills | Trusts  
Estate Litigation | Guardianship  
Commercial Litigation | Real Estate

*f&f* FISHLIN  
& FISHLIN

TODD FISHLIN | LEWIS FISHLIN

WESTCHESTER OFFICE NEW YORK CITY OFFICE

100 SOUTH BEDFORD RD. 60 EAST 42ND STREET  
SUITE 340 SUITE 4600  
MT. KISCO, NY 10549 NEW YORK, NY 10165

FOR ALL APPOINTMENTS CALL OR EMAIL

(212) 736-8000 | WWW.FISHLINLAW.COM

ATTORNEY ADVERTISING



FINE FOOD AND DRINK

## A DESTINATION

The sounds of local chatter, increase as you walk through the door. You're greeted by your host within seconds... the sense of being is established. The decor feels warm and inviting, yet rustic... the perfect balance to a welcoming environment.

Enjoy lunch, dinner or a late snack... always fresh!



*Come Celebrate the Holidays With Us!  
Open New Years Eve*

**Take 15% OFF the Entire Bill**

**With this coupon only • Valid everyday through Jan. 31, 2015**



**Fresh Food, Craft Beers. Impeccable Service and Great Ambiance**

Visit us at [www.socialon6.com](http://www.socialon6.com)

Open Sunday-Thursday 11:30am-Whenever!

Friday-Saturday 11:00am-Whenever

944 Route 6 • Mahopac, NY • 845.803.8193

*Like Us!*



# Putnam Valley Middle School Selected as an Apple Distinguished Program

Since the inception of a district-wide 1-to-1 laptop initiative in 2004, Putnam Valley Middle School has been recognized by Apple as A School Profiled for Success, A Distinguished School, and has now been selected as A Distinguished Program.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PV SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Apple Vice President for Education, Stephanie Carullo and Putnam Valley Middle School Principal, Edward Hallisey

This is a highly competitive honor that recognizes innovative and effective approaches to integrating technology with teaching and learning. In a letter to the school, Apple Vice President for Education, Stephanie Carullo, said, "The administration and faculty of Putnam Valley Middle School have shown that they demonstrate the Five Best Practices of an Apple Distinguished Program: visionary leadership, innovative learning and teaching, ongoing professional learning, compelling evidence of success, and a flexible learning environment." Ms. Carullo was in attendance at the most recent Board of Education meeting and presented an award and a banner to the Middle School Principal, Edward Hallisey and the submission team. All students in the Putnam Valley School District have access to a laptop, Kindergarten through 12th grade. Beginning in the 7th grade, students are assigned a laptop and are allowed to bring it home with them. Ms. Carullo stated, "Apple has engaged with educators for over 30 years to explore and enhance the experience of teaching and learning. Our education mission is to provide a learning environment that supports the way students live and how they want to learn. We applaud programs such as this one that advance this mission, ensuring that all students are prepared for future



PHOTO COURTESY OF PV SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Middle School staff and administration with Apple Representative, Stephanie Carullo, Superintendent, Dr. Wills, Director of Technology, Pat Bellino and CIO, Michael Lee.

success."

Mr. Hallisey shared, "We are proud and honored to be recognized by Apple! Our laptop program is truly reflective of our teachers working together to create a learning environment for our students using technology as a tool. We have come a long way since our inception 10 years ago. We are grateful to Apple for seeing the maturity of our program coupled with a true team effort

making us successful. This has been a student-driven initiative from the start and not a day goes by where we don't learn something new from our middle schoolers."

Mr. Hallisey and the staff team responsible for developing the award application received Pride in Putnam Valley from Superintendent Dr. Wills and the Board of Education on behalf of the entire Putnam Valley School District.

**GREAT FOOD!  
GREAT MUSIC!**

**DARYLHOUSE**

"Come for the music  
& enjoy fine dining."

**RESTAURANT, BAR & LIVE MUSIC CLUB**

"Incredible  
experience!"

**UPCOMING EXCITING SHOWS!  
TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

**JAN 17 AT 9PM  
MARSHALL CRENSHAW  
AND THE BOTTLE ROCKETS**

**JAN.31 AT 9PM  
AVERAGE WHITE BAND**

**FEB. 6 AT 9PM  
ROBERT RANDOLPH  
AND THE FAMILY BAND**

**www.darylshouseclub.com**  
**845-289-0185**

Wed-Thu-Sun 3:30pm - Midnight  
Fri-Sat 3:30pm - 2am  
130 Route 22, Pawling, NY

## Get Fit, Stay Fit – For Life !!



### Brand New Facility – Offering CrossFit & More!

DMB CrossFit is a 4800 sqft facility that will help people get fit by preparing them for life's unknowns. Whether you want to lose weight, get stronger, be more fit, or just be able to safely climb the stairs or carry in groceries, DMB CrossFit has a workout program for you to meet those goals.

**www.dmbcrossfit.com**  
**(845) 225 - 2317**



## ***Our Town Bagels & Bakery***

***Our Bagels  
are Boiled and  
Baked Fresh  
Every Day***



**Buy 6 Bagels  
Get 3 free**

*Exp. Jan. 31, 2015  
Not to be combined  
with any other offer*

**Any Egg  
Sandwich get  
a 12 oz coffee**

*Exp. Jan. 31, 2015  
Not to be combined  
with any other offer*

**Dozen bagels and  
a Quarter Pound  
of Cream Cheese  
10.99**

*Exp. Jan. 31, 2015  
Not to be combined  
with any other offer*

**Cold Cut  
Sandwich with  
Cheese on a  
Bagel for \$4.99**

*Exp. Jan. 31, 2015  
Not to be combined  
with any other offer*

**961 Route 6 • Mahopac, NY • 845-803-8745**

# A Look Back on the Year That Was in Putnam County

By David Propper

## January:

To no real shock to anyone who knows Putnam politics, the start of the New Year resulted in friction between the county Legislature as it mulled who the new chairperson would be. Three different legislators were nominated for the position, but when all was said and done, it was District 5's Carl Albano who got the nod, beating out Dini LoBue and Roger Gross. The final verdict was only determined in a 5-3 vote after former Kent councilman Lou Tartaro was selected to sit on the legislature to fill in for the rest of Rich Othmer's term, who is now Kent highway superintendent. Speaking of Tartaro, controversy surrounded his appointment to the legislature from a faction of Kent residents who complained he shouldn't be getting another elected position after he was booted from his town board seat the previous November. After the Legislature reorganized itself, it still had to deal with the fallout from Preserve Putnam breaking its lease to operate Tilly Foster Farm in Southeast. On the last day of January, the operations of the historic farm came to a halt and the rest of the winter and spring, community members could not partake in any farm activities. In rather disturbing news, a police chief from a Westchester County town was arrested as part of child porn charges. Mahopac resident Brian Fanelli was arrested for allegedly downloading and possessing child pornography. Fanelli was the police chief for Mount Pleasant. After he returned home from bail, he apparently attempted suicide and was rushed to Putnam Hospital Center. Finally, Dennis Sant, longtime county clerk, announced he would not be seeking re-election and retire at the end of the year. Sant has been in the spotlight for denying The Journal News' request for the names of every pistol permit holder in Putnam.

## February:

From beginning to end, the month was marred with tragedy. The first county

executive and only Democrat to be the head of Putnam, David Bruen, died on Feb. 1 at the age of 84. Bruen, who lived in Southeast until his death, served for two terms in office when the county went from a Board of Supervisors to a county executive and 9-member legislature. Democrats and Republicans alike mourned his death. His deputy county executive Regina Morini described him as a "gentleman" whose "first love" was Putnam County.



The first county executive, David Bruen, pictured here with Robert Kennedy, died on Feb 1.

Putnam also lost a man committed to public service, though he was never elected to an official seat. Mahopac resident Peter Creegan, who was a notable union leader, died after falling off his roof. Creegan was involved in the Tappan Zee project and union workers taking on the project. The line of mourners at his wake couldn't say enough about the upstanding citizen. "A guy that you could count on for just about anything," Mahopac resident Marc Pekowsky said. On February 21, the Mahopac school community was dealt a terrible loss, when Mahopac graduate David Diachenko crashed his BMW into the side of Mahopac high school, dying from injuries sustained from the impact. He was only 19-years-old.

## March:

Controversy exploded in Mahopac after eight students were suspended for posting racist tweets on social media stemming from a Mahopac-Mount Vernon basketball game at the Westchester County Center. Some of the hateful tweets included:

"Tough loss boys (Mahopac), but at least we can talk to our dads about #Vernon" and "Anyone else thinking: Where does Mount Vernon get the money to even have sports team." Former Mahopac head coach Kevin Downes, who is black, stepped down from his position and is now coaching at Yorktown High School. On not coaching at Mahopac anymore, Downes said at the time, "I'd like to think the kids will miss me as much as I'll miss them."



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Former Mahopac head basketball coach Kevin Downes resigned after Mahopac students were caught posting racially charged tweets on Twitter.

Well-known restaurateur Ariano Zaimi was able to avoid a conviction of rape after a jury was deadlocked and a mistrial was called. Zaimi was on trial for third degree rape, criminal sexual act and unlawfully dealing with a minor. He was found not guilty of unlawfully dealing with a minor and a verdict could not be reached on the other two counts. On the west side of Putnam, Cold Spring elected two new trustees, putting an end to a heated election season in the quint village.



Michael Bowman and Cathryn Fadde were elected over former trustee Matt Francisco and Donald MacDonald.

## April:

Alexandru Hossu, a friend of District Attorney Adam Levy, was found not guilty on all charges stemming from an accused rape, putting an end to an arrest and trial that kicked Putnam into overdrive and exposed a deep rift between Levy and Sheriff Don Smith. Hossu was accused of violently raping a 13-year-old girl, but the jury believed him to be innocent. One juror even said the accuser was a "liar." Levy recused himself and the case was handled by the Westchester DA's office. Though not officially involved in the case, Levy paid for part of Hossu's defense fund and his brother-in-law eventually took over the case. Right before Easter, Putnam lost an irreplaceable figure in the name of county historian Denis Castelli. Castelli, a fixture in the Putnam community was mourned by countless Putnam residents and even elected officials, past and present, from MaryEllen Odell to Nan Hayworth. As friend and Brewster resident Jack Gress noted, "(Putnam County) won't be able to replace Denis Castelli." The month came to a close when Sheriff Don Smith sued District Attorney Adam Levy for defamation for a sum of \$5 million because Levy was quoted in a newspaper article stating Smith was in declining mental health. "What I have seen is a steady decline in Don's mental health. He is clearly delusional...absolutely paranoid," Levy said in the article. "This guy literally believes that if you disagree with him on any subject that you must be corrupt." Levy at the time, had already filed a \$5 million lawsuit against the sheriff for defamation.

## May:

After months of speculation about his future plans, outgoing state Senator Greg Ball announced he was leaving public office rather than run for senate



DA Adam Levy and Sheriff Don Smith continue to be at odds with one another.

**Looking for something to do with the kids on the break ?**  
**Come Paint with us !**

All Christmas Items  
**50% OFF**  
 Not to be combined with any other discounts

Now booking  
 Birthday Parties  
 and events!

Join us for  
**Ladies Night**  
 on Friday Nights!

Westchester Putnam Pottery  
 54 Miller Rd • Mahopac NY 10541 • 845 628-2127  
[www.westchesterputnampottery.com](http://www.westchesterputnampottery.com)

# A Look Back on the Year That Was in Putnam County



COURTESY OF BALL'S OFFICE

Press conferences like the one above would no longer be held by outgoing state Senator Greg Ball, after he said he would be leaving public life.

again or the county executive seat in Putnam. That meant current County Executive MaryEllen Odell would avoid a Republican primary. Reports came out that Ball had been investigated for campaign funds misuse by the now defunct Moreland Commission, but he claimed that had nothing to do with his decision. Ball, who yearned for the public's attention, seemed content with his decision. "All options are open," Ball said at the time. "Everything at this point in life is gravy now because I've accomplished much more than I ever should have in my opinion." More embarrassment came to Mahopac when former school board president Ray Cote resigned after he was caught calling a district parent a "chubby-wubby" while talking to another school board member. Cote pulled out of the school board election. Elected instead was community member Brian Mahoney, who resigned this fall after he made a try at the open superintendent seat. Speaking of the Mahopac superintendent position, the only reason it doesn't have a permanent placeholder is because John Kopicki, a superintendent from a Pennsylvania school district withdrew his name after getting the job. He cited personal reasons for not

coming to the district. While Mahopac lost its incoming superintendent, Brewster found one among its own ranks when the Brewster Board of Education named Tim Conway permanent school chief.

## June:

Another school system in Putnam tabbed a new school leader, when the Putnam Valley Board of Education inked Fran Wills to a three-year contract after she spent the year as an interim. School board president Jeanine Rufo praised Wills, former Briarcliff school superintendent, stating, "There is nothing that really ruffles her or is unexpected. She's coming with a real expertise." Mahopac also landed a superintendent on an interim basis in the form of Brian Monahan, who had years as serving as a school chef for different districts in the region. In the highest profile wedding this year, Congressman and Cold Spring resident Sean Patrick Maloney married his partner Randy Florke. The wedding later came under attack by Republican challenger Nan Hayworth for the use of an unauthorized drone that capture video of the event. By this time it's without a doubt Mahopac had a tough school year, but unimaginable tragedy

struck when 8th grader Jenna Nolan died after drowning in Lake Mahopac. Nolan was 14-years-old and leaves behind her parents Michael and Cathy, older sister Abigail and younger brother John.

## July:

Tilly Foster Farm finally reopened after Preserve Putnam stopped operating it and the county was back in charge. It opened to much pomp and circumstance when the controversial Tilly Foster Country Fair was held over the 4th of July weekend. At a physical services committee meeting later that month, after finances revealed overtime costs would put the overall excursion in the red, screaming and shouting ensued over the merit of the carnival. While this next piece of news didn't actually take place in Putnam, it was very well connected to the region when a cold case murder was finally cracked. After 19 years, an arrest was made in the double homicide of a mother and daughter. Robert Honsch, a former Brewster resident, was arrested for the 1995 murders of his daughter Elizabeth and his former wife Marcia. On Sep. 28 1995, the body of Elizabeth Honsch was found behind a plaza in New Britain, CT, in which she was wrapped in trash bags and sleeping bags. Then on Oct. 6, 1995, a hiker in a Massachusetts state park discovered the body of Marcia Honsch. Both bodies, that were unidentified at the time, died after suffering a gunshot wound to the head. Three police agencies worked together to rework the cold case, which finally led them to Robert Honsch, who will stand trial this year.

## August:

This month centered on the ongoing battle between Putnam DA Adam Levy and Mahopac restaurateur Ariano Zaimi. Zaimi, who escaped conviction after a mistrial earlier in the year, filed a \$130 million lawsuit against Levy, claiming his civil rights have been violated by his office. Other defendants include the Carmel Police and Putnam County. The suit states he is only being targeted because he is

friendly with Sheriff Don Smith, who is described in the suit as the "arch nemesis" of Levy's. Levy's office later in the month had Zaimi's criminal attorney, George Galgano indicted on several charges including bribing a witness and tampering with a witness, both concerning the first rape trial waged against Zaimi in which Galgano was the attorney.

## September:

As it seemed the entire calendar year, Mahopac once again was in the news after school buildings were locked down—on the first day of classes no less—when a fugitive was being sought in the immediate area. According to the Putnam County Sheriff's Office, the fugitive, Xhem Hoti, 25, was wanted in New Jersey for an alleged grand larceny. Officers tried to pull Hoti over when they saw him driving on Myrtle Avenue, but he crashed his car into a fire hydrant and fled on foot. Eventually, Hoti surrendered and was arrested. While Putnam didn't feature many primary elections, there were a few to decide the Republican nomination for the general election in November. Yorktown councilman Terrence Murphy cruised past former assemblyman Bob Castelli to represent red in the 40th senate district. On the county level, incumbent Legislator Dini LoBue beat challenger Amy Sayegh and political newcomer Toni Addonizio defeated incumbent Legislator Lou Tartaro.

## October:

A month before the election, county executive MaryEllen Odell released the 2015 budget, proposing a 1.7 increase, which fell below the state mandated tax cap. The main focus of the \$145.5 million budget was joining together with non-profits to fight the drug scourge in Putnam. After some debate and changes, the budget was adopted by the county Legislature. One unplanned expense the county will feel in 2015 is the fallout from the Jeffrey Deskovic case that the county lost. Deskovic, a Peekskill resident, was jailed for 16 years for rape and murder



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

A large gathering of elected officials celebrated the reopening of Tilly Foster Farm with County Executive MaryEllen Odell and Legislature Chairman Carl Albano right in the middle of everything.

Start the New Year off with Some New Lighting

10% OFF

Showroom

With mention of ad

Happy  
New Year!

Gift Certificates Available

QUOIZEL  
TIMELESS DESIGN  
KICHLER  
GENERAC

MC

Mid-County  
LIGHTING SHOWROOM  
ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES

P.O. Box 894, 240 Rte 6, Mahopac, New York 10541  
845-628-9106 sales@midcountylighting.com

## Sheriff's Office Gets Its Way in Final 2014 Legislature Meeting

continued from page 1

"I couldn't justify this additional dog...we're growing government, I don't see the need for it. This isn't New York City," she said.

Legislator Sam Oliverio contested LoBue's assertion that dogs can be borrowed from other policing agencies, noting that the animals are not always available when they're needed. An assistant principal at Putnam Valley High School, Oliverio noted that without fail each year a student in the school will call in a bomb threat to try and disrupt final examinations. When this happens, the school must evacuate the students until the building is checked by IED detection dogs and Oliverio explained that, two years ago, Putnam Valley High School was forced to dismiss students after waiting more than three hours for a borrowed K9 unit that never showed up.

"I couldn't imagine the MTA giving us

*"I couldn't imagine the MTA giving us anything except a tax," said Chairman Carl Albano.*

*"If we need help, I'm depending on our sheriffs."*

anything except a tax," said Chairman Carl Albano. "If we need help, I'm depending on our sheriffs."

"I like the idea that we have this bomb dog there because, god forbid there is a bomb in that building...you can't put a cost on that," Oliverio added. "I can't see why we would turn our back on this; this is a great thing. Health and safety has to be paramount."

Legislator Roger Gross agreed with Oliverio, noting even though the sheriff's

department did not follow the approved procedure, legislators need to look past the red tape to make a decision that is best for the county.

LoBue was the lone legislator to vote against the IED dog, although legislator Lou Tartaro abstained from voting. LoBue was also the only one vote against the approval of a budget transfer to approve two new vehicles for the sheriff's department, although other legislators did voice concerns over the resolution.

Prior to the approval of the 2015 county budget, the sheriff's department had requested three vehicles, one of which was approved by County Executive MaryEllen Odell. They were asked to find funding in the 2014 budget to pay for the remaining two cars, which they did.

Legislator Ginny Nacerino said although the sheriff's department was only following the instructions they

were given, she would like to see certain budget lines remain nontransferable. In addition, she said expenditures such as the vehicle purchases should not be revisited after the county budget hearings, noting that it undermines the authority of the county legislators.

"Moving forward, I really do have a concern about underscoring our budgetary process that we have in place and we shouldn't exercise the fact that it goes through the county executive, it goes through the legislature, it goes through the final budget meeting and it's brought back then to committee when something is rejected...it dilutes government in my opinion," said Nacerino.

The new vehicles will replace old police cruisers that have more than 130,000 miles on them. Those old vehicles will be auctioned off to help fund the purchase of new cars.

## A Look Back on the Year That Was in Putnam County



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

County Executive MaryEllen Odell (center), who won reelection and her first full term celebrates with Republican chairman Tony Scannapieco (second to right) and legislators Roger Gross, Barbara Scuccimarra and Ginny Nacerino.

when he was just 16, only to be released after DNA evidence revealed he was not the killer. Putnam's connection is the fact a former sheriff's investigator, Dan Stephens, fabricated evidence and coerced a false confession out of then a young Deskovic, as found by the jury. Putnam must pay \$10 million to Deskovic.

### November:

Election Day 2014 in Putnam was simply Republican domination at almost every level of government. County Executive MaryEllen Odell reigned supreme, beating out Democrat and outgoing Legislator Sam Oliverio. At the county level on the legislature, Republicans Toni Addonizio and Bill Gouldman beat out Democratic challengers, and incumbent Republican Dini LoBue coasted to an easy win.

In the county clerk race, first deputy clerk Michael Bartolotti fended off his Democratic challenger to replace Dennis Sant. At the state level, Terrence Murphy beat Justin Wagner in a mudslinging senate race and Dutchess County Legislator and Republican Sue Serino beat Democratic incumbent Terry Gipson in the other state senate race. Republican Assemblyman Steve Katz kept his seat by topping Democrat Andrew Falk a second straight time. The only two democrats that were elected were Assemblywoman Sandy Galef who ran unopposed and Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney who beat former congresswoman Nan Hayworth.

### December:

The month started off with a visit from controversial figure Commissioner of

State Education Dr. John King when he observed classrooms at Putnam Valley Elementary School. About a week later, it was announced King would leave New York for a federal job. Over at the Brewster school district, voters passed a \$38.9 bond resolution to improve school buildings

and push the district into the 21st century. And in the Town of Southeast, the town board adopted the FEIS regarding the hotly debated Crossroads 312 project by a narrow 3-2 vote, pushing the project closer to fruition.

Business  
of the Week

# Curves Yorktown

By Neal Rentz

Mahopac resident Donna Rosende said last week she is a believer in the national Curves exercise and nutrition concept.

Rosende translated her passion for Curves into a business. She opened Curves in Yorktown in January.

"I was a member for 14 years and I lost a lot of weight and inches and the program works. I'm dedicated. I'm devoted and I'm motivated so I wanted to take over," Rosende said.

Rosende described a Curves workout. "Basically, it's a 30-minute circuit training. We go around the (exercise machine) circuit two times," she noted. Curves also offers Jillian Michaels body weight functional movement exercises which are done between exercise machines workouts, Rosende said. A person works out on a machine for 30 seconds before moving on to the next machine, she said. "You don't have to adjust any of the equipment. You come in. You get right on it and you start your workout," she said.

Rosende, who does the coaching and the training with her staff, said she encourages her clients to exercise at Curves at least three times a week. "Four times is a bonus," she said.

"There is a social aspect to the place



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Mahopac resident Donna Rosende, the owner of Yorktown Curves.

as well," she said. "I've made so many friendships throughout the years." Rosende's clients come from the local area, including such communities as Yorktown, Somers, Peekskill, Cortlandt and Mahopac.

Membership requires "a 12-month commitment," Rosende said.

On Dec. 13 an opportunity will be available to sign up for a free workout between 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., Rosende said.

In addition to the exercise programs, which are designed for women, Curves Complete is offered as a high protein weight loss meal program that features meal replacement bars and shakes, Rosende said. "You can eat whatever you want. It is portion controlled," she said. "It's a great program. You will lose weight on the program." For the first week of the nutrition plan the limit is 1,200 calories a day and the number of calories allowed increases for each week as a person continues with the plan, she said.

Rosende said Curves is the first business she has owned. She employed by IBM at various company locations for 16 years. She said it was "scary" opening the establishment. "It's a passion and I just wanted to take over," she said.

Rosende's Curves is located in a building that formerly housed Curves under different ownership. The facility features new "state-of-the-art equipment," she said.

Rosende had an explanation for the success of Curves nationally. "(It's) fast, fun and effective," she said.

Yorktown Curves is located at 1887 Commerce St. For more information call 914-455-2654.

## Mahopac Athletic Trainer Advises Sports Medicine Class at Tech

Subluxations, dislocations, ankle sprains and fractures were just some of the things students in the Sports Medicine class at The Tech Center learned about last week during a visit from the Mahopac School District's Athletic Trainer. Marissa Fleury taught students in Will Brightman's class on the campus of Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES about the role of an athletic trainer and engaged them in hands-on activities such as taping and bandaging injuries.

"Our Sports Medicine class prepares students for a variety of career and

educational opportunities," said Brightman, "including physical therapy, athletic training and chiropractic, in addition to sports medicine. It's a great opportunity for my students to have an athletic trainer here so they can see what she does on a daily basis and hear about the education it takes to get there."

Fleury told students that she attends every game in her role as Athletic Trainer in Mahopac and is there to tend to injuries that happen during games as well as educate athletes about injury prevention. Fleury, who was a Division I softball athlete herself at Stony Brook, knows the importance of athletic well-being firsthand. "It's such a great thing that high school students have the opportunity to take this class," she said, "because the sports medicine field is growing so fast. I have students coming to me all the time who are interested in it."

Sports Medicine is a new two-year course offering at BOCES that is designed to



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOCES

Mahopac High School students Joe Giorgio and Stephen Valdes practice ankle taping in The Tech Center's Sports Medicine class.

prepare students to learn about safety and prevention in sports, injury recognition and rehabilitation as well as fitness and athletic performance. The curriculum encompasses clinical anatomy, exercise physiology and nutritional science. Upon successful completion of the program students may attain a certificate as a Certified Personal Trainer. It also provides a substantial start for students interested in pursuing a degree in athletic training,

sports medicine or any type of sports or medical program in college.

"I want to be an Athletic Trainer," said Mahopac High School student Joe Giorgio, "so the information I got today is really valuable."

"I love this class," said Stephen Valdes, also from Mahopac. Stephen plans to study either physical therapy or athletic training in college. "This class gives us such great experience."



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOCES

Mahopac School District Athletic Trainer Marissa Fleury demonstrates taping in the Sports Medicine class at The Tech Center.

To advertise in The Examiner,  
call 914-864-0878

or e-mail  
advertising@theexaminernews.com

## The PUTNAM Examiner

Adam Stone  
astone@theexaminernews.com  
**Publisher**

Laura Markowski  
lmarkowski@theexaminernews.com  
**Associate Publisher**

Peter Stone  
pstone@theexaminernews.com  
**Chief Financial Officer**

David Propper  
dpropper@theexaminernews.com  
**Editor-in-Chief**

Neal Rentz  
nrentz@theexaminernews.com  
**Reporter**

Janine Bowen  
jbowen@theexaminernews.com  
**Reporter**

Ray Gallagher  
rgallagher@theexaminernews.com  
**Sports Editor**

Nikki Gallagher  
nikki@theexaminernews.com  
**Community Calendar Editor**

Bill Primavera  
bprimavera@theexaminernews.com  
**Real Estate Editor**

Dean Pacchiana  
dpacchiana@theexaminernews.com  
**Page Designer**

Dina Spalvieri  
dspalvieri@theexaminernews.com  
**Ad Designer**

Jeff Ohlbaum  
johlbaum@theexaminernews.com  
**Senior Account Executive**

Corinne Stanton  
cstanton@theexaminernews.com  
**Media Consultant**



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

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

Member of



# Winter Tips from Assemblywoman Sandy Galef

I hope December finds you well and that you have the opportunity to enjoy time with family and friends over the holidays. As 2014 comes to an end, I thought the information below might be useful to you at this time of year.

- **Hiring Snow Removal Contractors:** NYS Attorney General Eric Schneiderman issued a consumer alert offering tips for New Yorkers to avoid falling victim to unscrupulous snow removal contractors as winter approaches. These tips can be viewed at <http://www.ag.ny.gov/consumer-frauds/snowplowing-and-snow-removal> and if any consumers feel they have been victimized, please contact the AG's Consumer Helpline at 1-800-771-7755.
- **Unused Gift Cards:** New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli is urging New Yorkers to read the fine print on gift cards this holiday season for details about fees and expiration dates. Unused gift cards issued by New York corporations are required to be turned over to the Comptroller's office as abandoned property after five years of dormancy. In State Fiscal Year 2013-2014, \$5.8 million from gift cards was turned over to the state. DiNapoli's office is currently holding more than \$13 billion in unclaimed funds from gift cards, uncashed checks, bank accounts, stocks and more. To find out if you are owed money, visit [www.osc.state.ny.us](http://www.osc.state.ny.us).

- **Energy Savings and Safety for Holiday Lighting Decor:** Con Edison offers tips and ideas to help consumers as the season of decorating and entertaining begins. Energy efficiency tips can be found at [www.facebook.com/ConEdison](http://www.facebook.com/ConEdison). Before customers install their holiday lights they are encouraged to keep in mind the tips found here [www.coned.com/customercentral/safetytip.asp](http://www.coned.com/customercentral/safetytip.asp).
- **IRS Warns Taxpayers of Phone Scam:** The Internal Revenue Service is warning taxpayers to beware of a new telephone scam. Taxpayers nationwide have received unsolicited calls from individuals demanding payment or bank information while fraudulently claiming to be from the IRS. For details about how the scam works visit <http://www.irs.gov/uac/Newsroom/IRS-Repeats-Warning-about-Phone-Scams>. If you know you do not owe taxes or have no reason to think that you owe any taxes (for example, you have never received a bill or the caller made some bogus threats, then call and report the incident to 1-800-366-4484. A YouTube video published by the IRS is [https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=0y5z0kWgBcM&list=UUcWZOFh3l-1LC7UvhdCXxQg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=0y5z0kWgBcM&list=UUcWZOFh3l-1LC7UvhdCXxQg).
- **Help With Heating Bills:** Households outside New York City can receive up to \$625 to help defray heating costs this winter if they fall below certain

income thresholds. In order to receive the subsidy, a household of four must have earnings less than \$4,219 a month. The program, managed by the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, allows applicants to apply whether they own their home or rent it. The eligibility threshold varies depending on household size, from \$2,194 in monthly gross income for a one-person house to \$6,534 for an 11-person house. Applicants can apply for the one-time funding online at <https://www.mybenefits.ny.gov/>. Putnam residents under 60 years of age may contact the Department of Social Services at 845-808-1500. If you are over 60 years of age, please call Yvonne Niles of the Putnam County Office For Senior Resources at 845-808-1700 Ext. 47112. Westchester residents may visit <http://socialservices.westchestergov.com/home-energy-assistance> to learn how to apply for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). Westchester residents may wish to obtain information in-person at any of the social services offices <http://socialservices.westchestergov.com/about-us/dss-district-offices>. If you have questions, call 914-995-5619.

- **Reporting Gas Leaks:** Con Edison wants to help consumers identify a leak and how to report it. 1) SMELL – natural gas smells like rotten eggs. 2) STOP – if gas is in the air, do not

*continued on page 13*

## Obituaries

### Kathleen Santacroce

Kathleen Santacroce, 59, of Stormville died suddenly on Dec. 23rd in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Kathy is survived by her husband, Rick Santacroce and three children: David Santacroce and his wife April Rick Santacroce and his wife Jamie Christina Santacroce. She was also survived by her two precious grandchildren whom she adored: Emma and Alexis Santacroce and her brother Paul Maxcy. Kathy worked as a monitor in the Wappingers Central School District at Gayhead Elementary School for 20 years. She retired in 2011 so she could care for her granddaughter, Alexis. She was a very sweet and compassionate person that will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Visitation will be held Tuesday December 30, from 4 p.m.-8 p.m. at Cargain Funeral Home, Carmel. Funeral mass will be held Wednesday 10 a.m. at St James the Apostle Church. Interment to follow at Raymond Hill Cemetery.

### Isabelle Adams

Isabelle Adams died on Dec. 21 Adams was born on March 26, 1923 to Purdy and Cora Miller in Ancram. She married

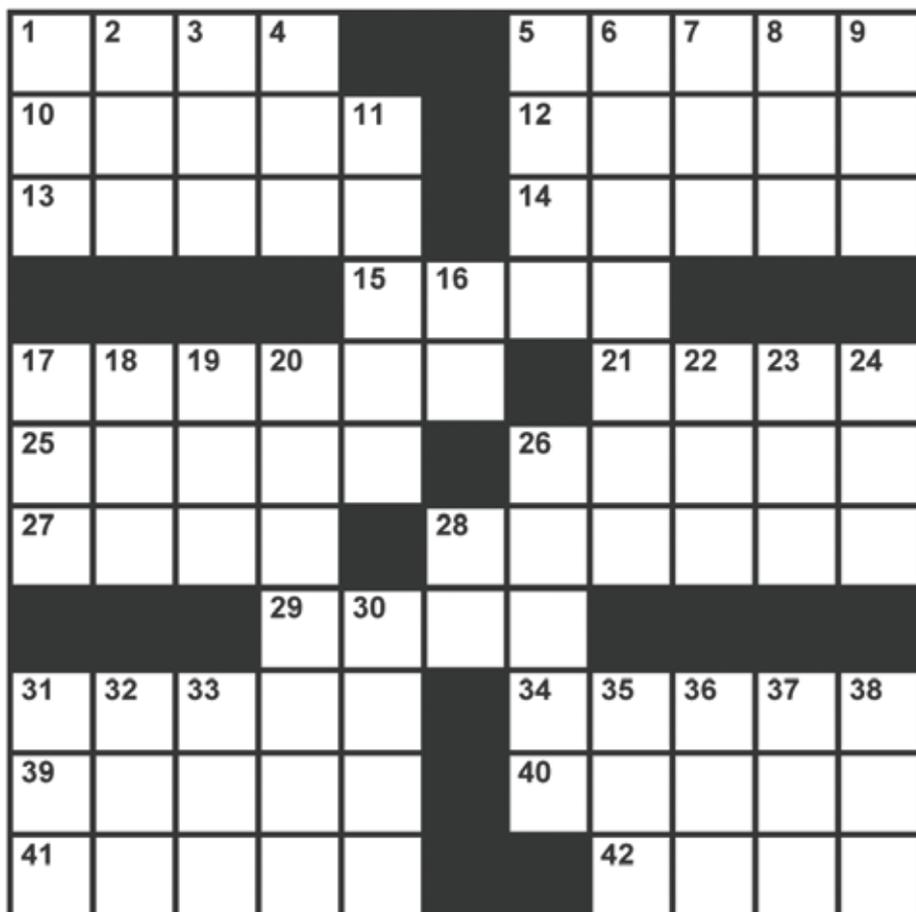
Kenneth Adams in 1939, at the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Carmel. She is survived by 4 children, Lee Ann Adams, Cora Outhouse, Kathleen Magnuson and Kenneth Adams Jr. She is predeceased by 2 sons, Philip F. Adams and George E. Adams. She is also survived by a brother and sister, as well as 9 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. Isabelle spent most of her time as a housewife, but she is best known for her over 60 years of service to the Croton Falls Fire Dept. Ladies Auxiliary.

### Reno Joseph Veschi

Reno Joseph Veschi, a lifelong resident of Mahopac, died on Saturday, December 27 at the age of 91. He was born on February 18, 1923 in the family home on Buckshollow Road, the son of the late Angelo and Maria Veschi. Reno was a teacher and coach at Mahopac Central Schools for 35 years retiring in 1984. He was a member of the Italian American Club, an usher at St. John the Evangelist Church and a long-standing volunteer at its Food Pantry. He served in WWII in the US Army Air Corps and served as a Councilman for the Town of Carmel from 1970-78. Reno loved spending time on

the golf course and trips to Atlantic City. On June 25, 1950 he married the love of his life, Inez Gaidon, at the Chapel at St. John's. In addition to Inez, he is survived by his sons John (Joanne) of Center Valley, PA, Michael (Gina) of Leesburg, VA and David of Hebron, CT, his sister Rose Carlone of Brewster and his brother-in-law Peter Gaidon of Red Bank, NJ. He is also survived by his grandchildren Vincent, Nicholas, Stephen, Christina, Catherine, Johnny, Caroline, Anthony and Thomas. He was predeceased by his son Joseph and sisters Marie, Nancy and Olga. Always a smile, happy with his life, so very proud of his family, a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and a true friend. We will miss him. Visitation will be held on Tuesday from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. & 7 p.m.-9 p.m. at the Joseph J. Smith Funeral Home. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday at 10:30 AM at Our Lady Queen of Angels Chapel at St. John the Evangelist Church, Mahopac. Interment will follow at Union Valley Cemetery. In Lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Reno's name to St. John's Food Pantry, 221 East Lake Blvd., Mahopac, NY 10541 (845)628-2006.

# Crossword Puzzle



Crossword by Myles Mellor

Answers on page 21

### Across

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

### Down

1. CSI stuff
2. Attention
3. Tom Hanks film
4. Greek T
5. Closing section of a musical composition
6. Large, unspecified number
7. "What nonsense!"
8. "Wheel of Fortune" request
9. Big zero
11. Oppose

16. Alternative maker
17. Bustle
18. Steal from
19. Deuce in poker
20. Obeying a dog school command
22. Took the initiative
23. Descend quickly
24. N.Y. time
26. Follows a recipe direction
28. "Let it \_\_\_": Beatles advice
30. Protection
31. Alternative to FedEx
32. Court divider
33. Molecular biology topic
35. Play part
36. How doves cry
37. Way out there, old-style
38. Bug someone, e.g.

P  
E  
T  
E  
R



Pet  
Of  
The  
Week

He is looking for a  
warm & loving home!  
Adopt him at:  
**The Putnam  
Humane Society**  
845-225-7777

Advertise in The Putnam Examiner • 914-864-0878

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

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

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

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

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



By Bill Primavera

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

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

The value of your home will continue to increase. The experts say ever so slowly, like this year, but did they fail to consider the news announced last week that in the last quarter our overall economy

grew at its fastest rate in over a decade? I believe that augurs well for what we can expect for the 2015 housing market. Especially in the metropolitan area, I believe we'll see a gain of at least 5 to 6 percent in the value of our homes. Maybe that isn't the rapid appreciation we rhapsodized about in 2013 as a kickback from the Great Recession, but it's pretty good as we move out of the rapid recovery phase to the "new normal" of the housing market.

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

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

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

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

Top on the list is a new front door,

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

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

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

# Parenting Pep Talk: 6 New Parent No-Nos

The first few months of parenthood come with a whole host of new challenges, including severe sleep deprivation and constant adaptation to ever-changing circumstances. Many of these challenges simply come with the territory. According to Natalie Diaz, founder of Twiniversity and author of *What To Do When You're Having Two*, there are some mistakes common amongst parents, and these apply whether you are the new parent of a singleton or of multiples. Here are the top 6 mistakes to be aware of along with ways to avoid these pitfalls.



By Dr. Jaime  
Fleckner Black

## Mixing Up Priorities

When children are first born, parents' only priorities need to be keeping children safe, clean, and nourished, as well as keeping themselves reasonably cared for as well. Things like family gatherings, a spotless house, etc. can wait. Putting pressure on yourself to accomplish more than the vital basics will only take attention from what

is really important and cause unnecessary stress.

## Not Napping

Despite the popular adage, you cannot always sleep when the baby sleeps, according to Diaz, because that is when you actually get things done! However, you can and should nap when a relative or close friend offers to come by and give you a break, and you can take turns with a spouse too. Schedule naps and ask people to come over at a certain time, because otherwise new parents tend to find a million things to do other than sleep.

## Losing Perspective

Chances are that in the midst of all the sleepless nights there will be some arguing between you and your co-parent. Diaz wants parents to remember that as the saying goes, kids do grow up fast and before you know it you will be shipping them off to college. You might even miss the insanity and chaos of having little babies around!

## Not Asking for Help

Take people up on their offers to help. An extra pair of hands for even 15 minutes can make a big difference. When people extend a vague offer, make them commit by saying

*“Chances are that in the midst of all the sleepless nights there will be some arguing between you and your co-parent. Diaz wants parents to remember that as the saying goes, kids do grow up fast and before you know it you will be shipping them off to college. You might even miss the insanity and chaos of having little babies around!”*

things like, “Great! I can really use a sitter for an hour on Tuesday.” Also, when people offer to help so you can take a break, take a break! Don't hover! Give them some tricks to get through the hour or the afternoon and get some rest.

## Not Being Honest with Yourself and Your Family and Friends

Diaz wants new parents to rethink

friendly visits. Repeat this to yourself, she says – “there are no visitors, only helpers.” When friends say they want to come over to see the baby, let them know that they will be helping. Don't fall into the pitfall of entertaining guests right after the baby or babies are born. Rather than feeling rejuvenated from a visit, you will feel drained and still be left with things to do.

## Depending on Everyone All if the Time

Sometimes less is more. It might sound like a great idea to have a bunch of friends or family members come over to help, but having too much help can be a big mistake. One helper at a time can really be better than two or more. If people offer to come over in a group and you aren't up for it, be honest. Tell them one guest at a time is all you can really handle for a while.

*Dr. Jaime Black is a licensed psychologist practicing in Westchester and New York City. Jaime works with high-functioning individuals on the autism spectrum, doing psychotherapy, conducting evaluations, and facilitating various socialization groups including an improv social skills group. Visit [www.spectrumservicesnyc.com](http://www.spectrumservicesnyc.com), e-mail [JaimeBlackPsyD@gmail.com](mailto:JaimeBlackPsyD@gmail.com) or call (914)712-8208.*

# Beware the Russian Bear as it Flexes its Diminishing Might



By Nick Antonaccio

There are many facets of wine, primarily self-contained within the expansive wine industry. From the agricultural component, to the technological, biological and marketing

components, the wine industry, at least in the United States, tends not to cross the line into sociopolitical matters or governmental intervention and influence--not to any major extent (federal distribution regulations notwithstanding). However, this is not always the case in other wine-producing nations.

Social trends and political intervention are exerting increasing influence in certain countries. For example, in Russia, the demise of the Soviet state and the recent international sanctions over the annexation of Crimea have altered Russian drinking trends and consumption. These changes in Russia have affected the fortunes of the neighboring wine regions that flourished during Communism. The reign of Vladimir Putin has also introduced new tensions in the area's wine industries.

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

Good news: Wines from Georgia, highly popular in Russia before and after Georgian independence, were banned in 2008 as the result of a war with Russia. Last year, trade relations resumed and Georgian red and white wines from the Black Sea area are once again available and increasing in popularity.

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

Bad news: Sanctions and embargoes by Western nations. Begun soon after the Crimean annexation,

*You Heard It  
Through the  
Grapevine*

wine imports were not widely affected by these measures. However, anticipating an ever-growing list of goods banned by the West, President Putin's office recently purchased over

one million bottles of wines from the European Union. At least the politicians will be able to weather the Western measures for a while.

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

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

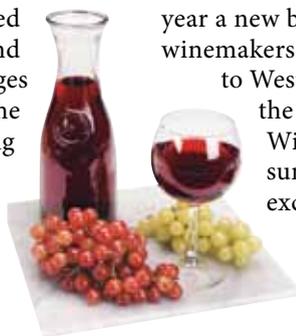
Good news: Wine consumption has been increasing steadily – albeit rather slowly. However, one reason

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

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

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

*Nick Antonaccio is a 35-year Pleasantville resident. For over 15 years he has conducted 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](mailto:nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com) or on Twitter @sharingwine.*



# Happenings

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 Nikki Gallagher at [nikki@theexaminernews.com](mailto:nikki@theexaminernews.com).

## Ongoing

**Beginning Watercolor Class** free at Reed Library Tuesdays January 6, 13, 27, February 3, 10 and 17 from 10 a.m. to noon. Please call the library to register 845-225-2439. Registration preference for this session will be given to students who have not recently taken art classes at the library.

**Drawing Basics Class** free at Reed Library Thursdays January 15, 22, 29 February 5, 12 and 19 from 10 a.m. to noon. Please call the library to register 845-225-2439. Registration preference for this session will be given to students who have not recently taken art classes at the library.

**Art:** Fifth grade students from Fulmar Road Elementary School created colorful paintings inspired by the distinctive pottery of the Native America tribes of the Southwest. Their work, which captures the spirit of the first American people, is currently on display in the Young Arts Gallery at Mahopac Public Library. This exciting show will remain on view through the month of December and can be visited during regular Library hours.

**Food for Fines and Toys for Tots at the Kent Library:** Through December 31st, the Kent Public Library will accept "Food for Fines." Library patrons can have \$1 waived from current overdue fines for each can or non-perishable food item they donate. This will only apply to Kent Public Library fines, not fines from other libraries. Food cannot be used to pay for lost books or other lost items. Collected food will be donated to Putnam Community Action Program. The Kent Public Library will also collect

new, unwrapped toys for the Marine Corps Reserve "Toys for Tots" program. Donating toys will not pay for overdue fines, but will give the donors the satisfaction of having given a child a happier holiday.

## Cancer Support:

**Cancer Support Available:** Support Connection, Inc., a not-for profit organization that provides free, confidential support services for people affected by breast and ovarian cancer, offers a wide range of free support groups women with breast and ovarian cancer. Groups focus on topics pertaining to living with cancer through all stages of diagnosis, treatment and post-treatment. They are offered in Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess, and by toll-free teleconference. For a complete calendar of groups at all locations, visit [www.supportconnection.org](http://www.supportconnection.org). Advance registration is required for all groups; call 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

## Save the Date: January 23, 2015

**4th Annual Inter Elementary School Board Breaking Championship:** Come support your local elementary Before & After School Taekwondo program as they battle it out in a Board Break-A-Thon to decide who will become the top program of the 2014/2015 school year. Putnam Valley Elementary School. 171 Oscawana Lake Rd, Putnam Valley. Sponsored by Chung Ma.

## Sunday January 4

**Epiphany Concert,** First United Methodist Church, 83 Main St., Brewster. Come enjoy a performance of Music, Poetry and Scripture for the Epiphany. 4

p.m. Organ solos and improvisations by renowned Swedish organist Dr. Johannes Landgren. Singers and soloists will perform music spanning from 1388 through 2005, directed by Dominique Hellsten. Free will offering to benefit the Organ Fund. For more information, call 845-279-7611.

## Monday, January 5

**Reed Memorial Library Board of Trustees.** 5:45 p.m. Public welcomed.

## Tuesday, January 6

**County Department of Health (PCDOH)** is offering a "last-chance" flu clinic, 2 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., at 1 Geneva Road in Brewster, for residents still needing a vaccination. The clinic is open to all Putnam County residents, 3 years and older. The fee for flu vaccine is \$25 for residents under 60 years of age. Those 60 years and older, or with a Medicare card, can receive the vaccine free of charge. High-dose flu vaccine is being offered for seniors, 65 years and older (as studies show this vaccine is more effective for this population). Proof of residency (driver's license) and Medicare card is required. No appointments are necessary. Forms will be available online at the Putnam County website at <http://www.putnamcountyny.com/health/immunization>.

**The Reads at Reed Book Club** will be meeting. 7 p.m. to discuss the book *The Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline. The meeting will be held at Reed Memorial Library. Contact 845-225-2439 with any questions.

## Wednesday, January 7

**Mahopac Central School district**

## 2015-16 Registration for Incoming Kindergarten Students.

Must be five years old on or before 12-1-2015 (No Exceptions) The Office of Central Registration located at The Falls District Office, 100 Myrtle Avenue, Mahopac, between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 3 p.m. on the following dates: Austin Road ES: January 7 & 9 & February 9, 11 & 26, Fulmar Road ES: January 21 & 23 & February 3 & 5, Lakeview ES: January 13th, 15th 28th 30 & February 24 Registration is by appointment only. To schedule an appointment and request a registration packet, please contact the Office of Central Registration at 845-621-0656, Ext. 13905 or 13902. Registration packets are also available on our District website under Departments, then Registration. Our web address is [www.mahopac.k12.ny.us](http://www.mahopac.k12.ny.us).

## Saturday, January 10

**Tasty Tips for Eating Healthy:** Patterson Library, 1167 Rte. 311 "Tasty Tips for Eating Healthy" 1 p.m. Make 2015 the year you get healthy with great information and tips from Registered Dietitian and Certified Nutritionist Amanda Montalvo. Learn how to eat a healthy balanced diet and improve your health with facts, recipes and a cooking demonstration to give you the tools you need to get you started. We will demystify myths about fats and carbs, teach you how to eat healthy at home, work or when you're out, and answer any nutrition questions you may have. Registration required, walk-ins welcome if space allows. To register or for more information, visit us online at [www.pattersonlibrary.org](http://www.pattersonlibrary.org) and click on calendar or call 845-878-6121 x10. Free program.

# Winter Tips from Assemblywoman Sandy Galef

continued from page 10

light a match, smoke, flip a switch, ring a doorbell or touch appliances or electronics, including phones. A spark could cause an explosion. 3) RUN - if you suspect a gas leak, get everyone out immediately. 4) CALL - when you are safe, call 911, Con Edison at

1-800-75-CONED. To learn more, visit [www.conEd.com/gassafety](http://www.conEd.com/gassafety).

- **Evacuate Metro-North Trains Safely:** If you were on a train involved in an accident, would you know how to get to safety? A safe and simple process can be found at <http://bit.ly/1CHJGGu>. A print copy is available in Grand Central at the Stationmaster's Office and other outlying stations.

- **Warning for Undocumented Immigrants to Avoid Being Scammed:** NYS Attorney General Eric Schneiderman is warning undocumented immigrants to take precautions in the wake of President Obama's recent executive action and avoid falling victim to unscrupulous individuals making promises they cannot keep. In the past, AG Schneiderman has taken action to shut down fraudulent immigration service providers that have engaged in the unauthorized practice of law, made false promises of citizenship and took payments for services that they did not provide. To find a licensed attorney in the State of New York visit

<http://www.nysba.org/lawyerreferral/> or call 1-800-342-3661. To find a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, visit <http://www.aialawyer.com/>. If you or someone you know thinks you've been the victim of an immigration services scam, contact the Immigration Fraud Hotline at 1-866-390-2992. The call is confidential.

Feel free to share any of the above information with your friends and family, and please let me know if you have any questions or comments on the topics mentioned.

Enjoy the lovely holidays ahead.

Sandy Galef  
Member of Assembly,  
95th Assembly District

## Crossword Answers

1	D	E	B	T	5	C	U	B	A	N		
10	N	A	I	A	11	D	12	O	M	A	N	I
13	A	R	G	U	E	14	D	P	H	I	L	
					15	M	16	O	A	T		
17	A	R	T	H	U	R	21	E	L	S	24	E
25	D	O	W	E	R	26	W	E	E	K	S	
27	O	B	O	E	28	B	A	N	D	I	T	
					29	L	30	E	E	R		
31	U	N	R	I	G	34	M	A	C	Y	S	
39	P	E	N	N	I	40	S	C	O	O	P	
41	S	T	A	G	S	42	T	O	N	Y		

## THINK LOCAL SHOP LOCAL

In this season of sharing joy with family, friends, and neighbors, we'd like to encourage you to support your local businesses. Watch our "Shop Dine Expore - Enjoy Pleasantville" special on PCTV and [pctv76.org](http://pctv76.org) for ideas. And as always, thank you for supporting PCTV.



# EXAMINER MEDIA Classifieds

123014

## ADOPTION

**Unplanned Pregnancy?** Caring licensed adoption agency provides financial and emotional support. Choose from loving pre-approved families. Call Joy toll free 1-866-922-3678 or confidential email: Adopt@ForeverFamilies-ThroughAdoption.org

## AUCTIONS

**Tiny house AUCTION**, Vermont post & beam sheds, Livestock shelters & firewood storage January 22, 2015 Absolute no reserve Bid online 802 297 3760 www.JamaicaCottageShop.com

**NEW KITCHEN CABINETS & BUILDING MATERIAL AUCTION- SATURDAY JAN. 3rd** 10am- Kitchen Sets, Granite Counters, Tile, Hardwood Flooring, Shower Units, Brand Name Tools! 237 Lyons Rd. Geneva, NY www.hessney.com

## AUTO DONATIONS

**Donate your car to Wheels For Wishes**, benefiting Make-A-Wish. We offer free towing and your donation is 100% tax deductible. Call 315-400-0797 Today!

**Donate your car to Wheels For Wishes**, benefiting Make-A-Wish. We offer free towing and your donation is 100% tax deductible. Call 914-468-4999 Today!

## AUTOS

**\*CASH TODAY\*** We'll Buy Any Car (Any Condition) + Free Same-Day Pick-Up. Best Cash Offer Guaranteed! Call For FREE Quote: 1-888-477-6314

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

**WELDING CAREERS-** Hands on train-

ing for career opportunities in aviation, automotive, manufacturing and more. Financial aid for qualified students. Job placement assistance. CALL AIM 888-205-1735

## HELP WANTED

**AIRLINE CAREERS begin here** Get FAA approved Aviation Maintenance Technician training. Financial aid for qualified students Housing available. Job placement assistance. Call AIM 866-296-7093

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**HAS YOUR BUILDING SHIFTED OR SETTLED?** Contact Woodford Brothers Inc, for straightening, leveling, foundation and wood frame repairs at 1-800-OLD-BARN. www.woodfordbros.com. "Not applicable in Queens county"

## IN HOME PET SITTING

**PLEASANT PAWS INN LLC** Catering to the most discerning dog owners in Westchester. Our home will be their home. 24/7 one on one love. Boarding, daycare, walks & transportation services available. **Book a reservation at info@pleasantpawsinn.com or 914-773-2020 or 914-906-8414. 9 Hobby St., Pleasantville.**

## LAND FOR SALE

**NYS LAND SALE ADIRONDACK TIMBERLANDS** 80-2000 acre hunting clubs. Starting at \$385/acre. Financing available. Call 1-800-229-7843. Or visit www.LandandCamps.com

## LEGAL NOTICE

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

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

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

## MISCELLANEOUS

**SAWMILLS from only \$4397.00- MAKE & SAVE MONEY** with your own bandmill- Cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship. FREE Info/DVD: www.NorwoodSawmills.com 1-800-578-1363 Ext.300N

## OUT OF STATE REAL ESTATE

**Sebastian, Florida** Beautiful 55+ manufactured home community. 4.4 miles to the beach, Close to riverfront district. New models from \$99,000. 772-581-0080, www.beach-cove.com

## WANTED

**MOST CASH PAID FOR** paintings, antiques, furniture, silver, sculpture, jewelry, books, cameras, records, instruments, coins, watches, gold, comics, sports cards, etc. **PLEASE CALL AARON AT 914-654-1683**

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

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

# DONATE YOUR CAR

*Wheels For Wishes* benefiting

**MAKE A WISH**

Hudson Valley

- \*Free Vehicle/Boat Pickup ANYWHERE
- \*We Accept All Vehicles Running or Not
- \*100% Tax Deductible

**WheelsForWishes.org**

\*Share the  
Power  
of a Wish\*

**Call: (914) 468-4999**



The Putnam  
**Examiner**  
**Sports**  
*Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports*

December 30 - January 5, 2015

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

SPORTS SECTION

# Can't Lasso Basso!

Put Valley  
 Routs  
 Ossining,  
 68-49



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Putnam Valley G Ryan Basso glides the lane en route to a game-high 23 points for the Tigers in a decisive 68-49 victory over visiting Ossining last Tuesday night when the Tigers improved to 4-4 and the Pride fell to 1-4... see Boys' Hoops Notebook

## Sports

## Boys Hoops Notebook

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

## Haldane Falls in Hastings Tourney Final

By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports Editor

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

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



PV's Joe Spinola finds seam in Ossining defense.

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

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



RAY GALLAGHER/RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

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

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

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

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

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

### Putnam/NWE Fab Five Hoops Poll

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

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

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

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

**No.4 HALDANE** – Coach Virgadamo's defending Section 1 Class C champion Blue Devils (5-2) are about to make believers out of the doubters; just as they did in a 71-47 rout of Hastings when Peter Hoffmann (15 points), Will Zuvic (15 points) and Edmund Fitzgerald (14 points, 11 boards) did the bulk of the damage. Expected more from the Devils in Sunday's 49-45 loss to Nanuet in finals



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

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

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

# Sports

## Boys Hoops Notebook



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

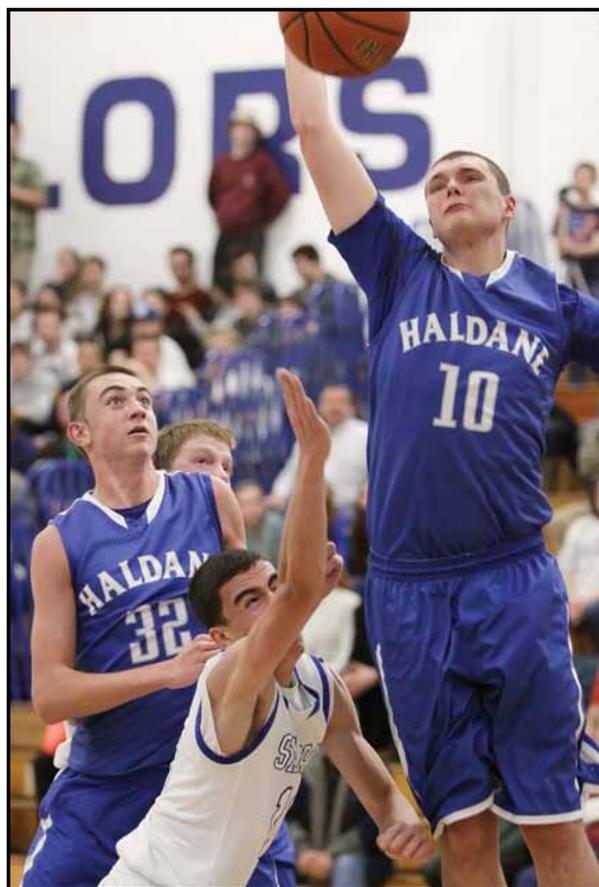
**HM HEN HUD** – I'm hoping like heck Coach Hirsch's Class A Sailors (4-

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

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



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



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



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

## Sports

## Hockey Notebook

# Surging Yorktown, Gavigan End Carmel's Streak

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

By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports Editor

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

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



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

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



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

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

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

Against Somers/NS (2-6), Alfonzetti upped his section-best goal total to 16 and added an assist, his 10th of

the year. He added one more goal and an assist against Yorktown and has 17G for the season. With 28 points to his credit,

'Fonzie' is tied with Scarsdale's James Nicholas for the most points in the section.

"I guess some games it just clicks," the modest 5'7" 135-pound Alfonzetti said. "This is my senior year and this season really means a lot to me, so I'm just putting it all out there."

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

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

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

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

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

Gamby was in synch the whole way.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

## Sports

# Thank Heaven for Our Little Safe Haven



By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports  
Editor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Sports

## Girls' Basketball Notebook

# Healthy Cunningham Sparks Kennedy; Pride Ready to Rumble

By Tony Pinciario

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ossining met Bishop Loughlin in the championship game, Monday.

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

# Alf' on a Shelf!



## Carmel F Tallies 5G in 6-3 Win over Somers; Rams Streak Ends vs. Yorktown

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Carmel senior Tyler Alfonzetti (all of 5'6" 135-pounds) was in the Christmas spirit the day after Santa's arrival when he lit the lamp five times, going top shelf and all, in the Rams' 6-3 defeat of Somers/North Salem at the Brewster Ice Arena last Friday. Alfonzetti scored his 17th goal of the season Sunday night but it wasn't enough as the Rams were cooled off in a 6-4 loss to Yorktown... see Ice Hockey Notebook

### 40 WAYS TO GET ACTIVE & BE HEALTHIER FOR **ONLY \$40**

Not to be combined with any other offer. Regular monthly dues apply. Offer ends 1/31/15.



Swim



Zumba®



Tennis



TRX®



## — JOIN CLUB FIT

Call us for 36 more ways!



WWW.CLUBFIT.COM

Briarcliff: 914-762-3444 | 584 N. State Road

Jefferson Valley: 914-245-4040 | 600 Bank Road