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February 11 - February 17, 2014

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 6, Issue 255

Hayworth to Run for Congress Again; Maloney Ready for Heated Rematch

By David Propper

While speculation had been growing for months, former congresswoman Nan Hayworth finally announced her candidacy for the 18th congressional district, preparing herself for a rematch with incumbent Sean Maloney.

In a kickoff event last Sunday in Orange County, Hayworth, a Republican who lost in 2012 after serving the 19th district the two previous years, said she's running again because she's ready "to go to the mat with those arrogant elitists," a reference to the current politicians that hold office in congress.

"We may be down but we're not out," Hayworth said during the 15 minute speech. "Might say I know something about that."

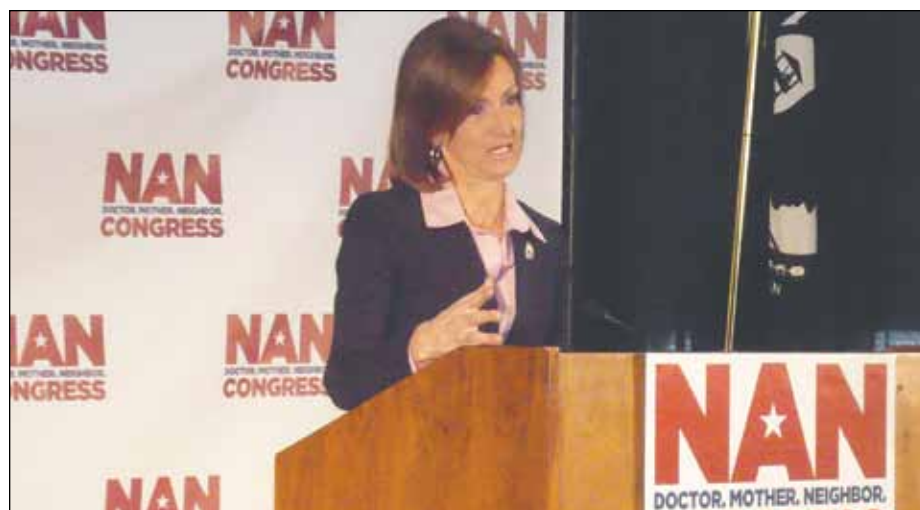
Pointing to failing businesses, high

unemployment, a troubled beginning to the Affordable Care Act, and an overall complacency among current representatives, Hayworth vowed she's determined to do better for the people of her district.

One of the main talking points during her speech to more than 200 supporters was the fight to repeal the Affordable Care Act, also known as "Obamacare." Hayworth listed off a few key principles to fix the current state of healthcare, which included allowing every American to have a tax protected savings account, opening up insurance options while holding down the costs, and having states set up a dedicated fund to help the patients most in need.

"No one should go broke because they get sick," she said.

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DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

Nan Hayworth speaks for 15 minutes as she announces her intention to run for the 18th congressional district.

George Fischer MS Students See Police Radar Device in Action



Student Resource Officer (SRO) Claire Pierson of the Putnam County Sheriff's Department, visited George Fischer Middle School (GFMS) technology classes for a demonstration of technologies used in law enforcement. Students listened to Deputy Pierson give information about safety and technology. The program then culminated with demonstration of a radar device which was used to determine the actual speeds of the CO2 cars that were made in class. Questions were asked and answered, personal stories were shared, and a fun learning environment was created.

Route 6 Biz Owners Share Outdoor Storage Woes at Public Hearing

By Kerry Barger

Southeast business owners and residents addressed problems regarding the 2013 Comprehensive Plan's proposal to reinforce an outdoor storage limit during a public hearing held by the town board on Feb. 6.

According to the draft's "Land Use, Community Character and Zoning" section, businesses would be required to remove outside storage from public view by way of "privacy fencing, evergreen landscaping, or berms" and, to the "greatest extent practicable," reposition it to the back of the building.

All of this would be confined to 15 percent of the business' lot size, excluding automobile dealerships and those otherwise determined by a special

zoning district.

This "amortization" clause to decrease outdoor storage was originally included in the town's 2002 Comprehensive Plan, which rezoned the portion of Route 6 between the Village and Danbury, Conn. as "gateway commercial" to establish an "attractive retail, office and commercial corridor."

Because it was never enforced, the 2013 Comprehensive Plan committee revisited the possibility of beautifying local businesses, as they believe that particular section of Route 6 serves as a gateway for visitors traveling from Danbury, Conn.

Some residents took issue with the corridor's gateway zoning, expressing

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Route 6 Biz Owners Share Storage Woes

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concern that an outdoor storage limitation would be detrimental to businesses and taxpayers alike.

"The comprehensive plan is for the whole town, but all the problems that I've seen discussed really pertain to the Route 6 corridor, that somebody decided was the gateway to Brewster," Southeast resident Andy Shearer said. "I don't understand it being the gateway to Brewster—most people come off 684, right into 22 into the village."

Shearer also said an attempt to

reorganize businesses in such a way would "stymie their growth," which owners reiterated to the board during last week's hearing.

Speaking on behalf of her family's business, Erika Tremblay said the outdoor storage requirements are unrealistic and would ultimately jeopardize the economic livelihood of local businesses like the Tremson Corporation.

"This is 2014, in America—we live with cars and trucks as our main transportation," Tremblay said while

addressing the board. "We can't just pretend like 'you have machines you need to park, you need to park them inside.' Outside storage is part of our business, it always has been, and we've been here for over 50 years."

Lisa Lisi of Lisi's Towing & Road Service, Inc. agreed "beautifying Brewster" is positive, but worried that modifying the aesthetic look of her family's business would be too costly.

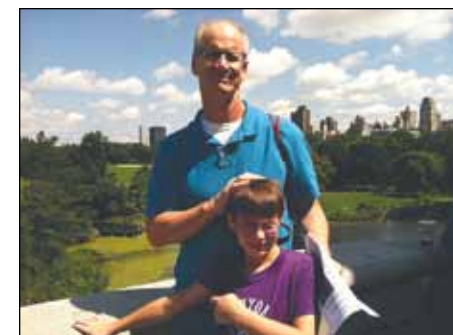
"Right now, I'm just at a point where I have to say to you, if we invest in this business and in this town and we turn it

over to our son, is he still going to have a business that he can develop, or is he going to be faced with more objections?" Lisi said. "15 percent of our property? There's no possible way we can keep our trucks there."

Southeast Town Supervisor Tony Hay said he sympathizes with the town's business owners, but reinforced that "things need to be done."

"You have to keep things up, and make them look nice," Hay said. "In the end, it's not going to be perfect, but it has to be better than where it is today."

Ed Durkee Appointed Interim Executive Director of Arts on the Lake



Board President Robert Bradley announced the appointment of Ed Durkee as Interim Executive Director of Arts on the Lake at the arts organization's annual Members Gathering on Saturday, February 1.

Durkee thanked the board for its confidence, expressed his excitement for the task ahead and asked the assembled members to assist in helping to guide the organization "though this period of transition."

A resident of Lake Carmel with his wife, Ellen Leerburger and two children, Durkee has a background in the arts as a teacher and designer as well as experience in business and technology. He has a Master's Degree in Arts and Religion from Yale University as well as an MBA in Technology and Innovation from the Theseus Institute in France. His undergraduate degree is from Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts.

Active in AotL since its opening in the spring of 2007, Durkee assisted the multidisciplinary arts organization as Technical Director for most of its productions, including Open Mouth, The Magic of the Nutcracker Tale, and last spring's puppet theatre production of Canterbury Tales.

Durkee will be taking over from James Shearwood who was recently appointed Executive Director of The Schoolhouse Theater in Croton Falls.

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Fundraiser Rallies Around Carmel Boy Battling Illness

By Janine Bowen

Putnam residents came out to Carmel Bowl on Saturday to raise money for a young boy battling a difficult illness.

10-year-old Michael Nappi was diagnosed a few months ago with severe ulcerative colitis, an autoimmune disease that is known to lead to colon cancer. The only cure for the illness is the removal of the colon. Since his diagnosis in September, Nappi has been hospitalized several times, nearly ending up in intensive care as recently as two weeks ago, after the stomach flu triggered a flare up of the disease.

"It's definitely taking its toll. You don't expect your kid to get sick," said Michael's mother, Krystal Garcia.

Friends of the family saw the difficult time the family was going through, and decided they should do something to help.

Christine Kirschbaum helped organize the event after her son, Kevin, who bowls in a Saturday morning league with Nappi, decided he needed to do something to help his sick friend.

"My son spoke to me and said 'we need to do something to help him,'" explained Kirschbaum.

Since Kevin and Michael met through the bowling league a few years ago, a fundraiser at Carmel Bowl seemed only



Michael Nappi hangs out with his four sisters, Kayla, Audry, Alyssa and Gracie, along with their mother, Krystal Garcia.

JANINE BOWEN PHOTO

natural.

"I came up with the idea to do the fundraiser because I wanted to help Michael and his family out because I knew he was sick and he couldn't pay his medical bills," said 10-year-old Kevin Kirschbaum.

Upon hearing that Michael's friends wanted to step up to help him, Garcia felt a sense of pride, but perhaps nobody was as excited about the fundraiser as Michael himself.

"My mom told me, when I was in the hospital, about this. I just popped up out

of my bed, so happy, and started smiling," he said.

The event was a success, with nearly two dozen of the bowling alleys thirty lanes filled with people bowling for Michael.

"It feels really good," said Kevin Kirschbaum. "It feels really warm inside that a lot of people came to help Michael with his medical bills."

For a price of \$20, bowlers at the Carmel Bowl got three games as well as shoe rentals. \$10 of every purchase went to the Nappi family. In addition, the event hosted a 50/50 raffle as well as a raffle of hair care products donated by Super Cuts. The money raised will help Garcia, who is a single mother and must take time off of work each time Michael is hospitalized, offset Michael's medical costs.

Garcia says that next year she hopes to hold a similar event to raise money for the Chron's and Colitis Foundation as well as the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, where Michael has received his medical care.





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Hayworth to Run for Congress Again; Maloney Ready for Rematch

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Hayworth also put an emphasis on public education, noting she would want to see the controversial Common Core learning standards repealed. She said she believed every area, rich or poor, should be able to set up charter schools, giving families the choice of where they want to send their children.

Hayworth was also critical of "Washington insiders" that don't walk in voters' shoes, yet have the power to make life more difficult for average citizens on Main Street.

"They made careers writing rules for the rest of us," Hayworth stated.

In an interview earlier in the week, Hayworth said her decision to run was based off support from voters she's met over the past year. She added she feels this "conviction and calling" to run again.

Hayworth said she isn't anticipating any other Republican challengers that could force a primary election, mentioning her support from Republicans, Conservatives and Independents.

A Maloney spokesperson said in a statement about Hayworth running again, "As Congresswoman Hayworth kicks off a rerun of her Tea Party campaign to give tax breaks to multimillionaires like herself by cutting Medicare, Sean is getting results for Hudson Valley families where Congresswoman Hayworth failed - like passing a historic Farm Bill, working across

the aisle on local jobs projects, and securing tens of millions of dollars in disaster assistance."

When asked to respond to Maloney's assertion, Hayworth said Maloney represents a "Washington elite... that takes from us and doesn't nearly return what we deserve and what we should have."

The email sent out by the Maloney campaign also stated the first term congressman has already \$1.14 million in cash heading into 2014 and raised \$1.75 million in 2013.

Hayworth said she had the best January fundraising effort during her political career, and said her campaign finance would be "absolutely fine" in terms of passion and resources.

In 2010 while running for the 19th congressional district, Hayworth, a Republican, won in a primary and then general election for the seat. When she ran again in 2012 for the 18th district, this time against Maloney, a former White House staffer, she lost by a slim margin.

This time, she's confident a rematch will have her taking the seat back.

"These are neighbors and friends from across the political spectrum," she said of her supporters. "They're ready for change."

The district represents all of Putnam and Orange counties and parts of northern Westchester and southwestern Dutchess counties.



DAVID PROPER PHOTO

Hayworth is surrounded by supporters ready to see her take back the seat currently held by Democrat Sean Maloney.

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Legislature Terminates Lease with Preserve Putnam

By David Propper

The final chapter of Preserve Putnam and Tilly Foster Farm was written and closed last Friday, when the Putnam County Legislature voted to terminate the lease agreement between the county and non-profit organization.

In a 5-2 vote, the legislature finally and officially severed ties with Preserve Putnam and more specifically, the Whipple family that ran the farm and put money into the Southeast public entity.

Preserve Putnam stopped managing the day-to-day operation of the farm after Jan. 31. In November, the group announced its intention to end the 40-year lease after just five years.

During February's full legislature meeting, most county lawmakers stated they would be voting to terminate the lease as a way to finally move on and focus on the future of the farm. The only two legislators that voted against it were Sam Oliverio of District 2 and Dini LoBue of District 8.

Kevin Wright of District 9 abstained from the vote and Roger Gross of District 6 wasn't in attendance for the meeting.

"I think it's time for the county and all of us to move on," District 1 Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra said emphatically. "And find a new purpose for Tilly Foster Farm."

Legislator 7 Ginny Nacerino agreed,

noting circumstances dictated the county has no choice but to move forward. She added the county must come up with new uses for the farm that would benefit county residents.

District 3 Legislator Lou Tartaro voiced similar sentiment and also mentioned as the county comes up with a new plan for the farm, citizen involvement is necessary.

The two dissenting voices, Oliverio and LoBue both said they still had lingering questions regarding Preserve Putnam's involvement in Tilly Foster.

"By us affirming the termination," Lobue said. "There will be no further examination for the public. It will not allow the public to get the answers that they request."

"I still have in my mind some unanswered questions about the whole situation," Oliverio said. "I will be a no vote on principle."

Southeast resident and outspoken critic of the Whipples, Ann Fanizzi said during the meeting the same discussion and transparency when the lease was being worked out several years ago should have occurred when the lease was ending.

"Tilly Foster was the property of the public and we have to care for it and make sure it continues," she said.

County attorney Jennifer Bumgarner said during the meeting the county



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

The Putnam County Legislature listens to Southeast resident Ann Fanizzi speak during public comment of last week's meeting about Tilly Foster Farm.

ensured everything was done by the book and Preserve Putnam took only its own personal property. She and others from the county took several tours around the farm in Preserve Putnam's final days.

After the meeting, Legislature Chairman Carl Albano said a transition team was put in place to review the property and financial papers, and the team compiled information together to make sure the county was not negatively affected.

"The farm is in good condition," he said. "In my opinion, I feel it's better than when we delivered it to Preserve Putnam and the Whipples. I'm happy with what I saw."

As for the future of the farm, Albano said suggestions from the legislature, administration and public are all being taken into account. At this point, there isn't a decision if a committee will be formed, but he noted it's very possible in order to get the farm ready by the spring.



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Ball Wants Cop Killers in Jail for Life in New York

By David Propper

With an old case of a murdered cop coming back into the spotlight, Republican state senator Greg Ball is calling for legislation in New York that would prevent parole for any convicted felon who murders a law enforcement official.

Ball, in a press release in late January, referenced to the parole hearing of Joseph Comfort, who murdered investigator Robert L. VanHall Jr. in 1980. On Dec. 5 of that year, he was shot in back with a sawed-off, double barrel shotgun while on duty and died.

Now as Comfort's sentence is under review, Ball is calling for parole hearings like this one to not exist in the first place and is urging New York residents to sign a petition proposing no parole for cop killers.

In an interview, Ball said he actually supports the death penalty for cop killers and terrorists, but with that unlikely, he'd like to see those killers never have a chance to get out of prison.

"Unfortunately what we've seen in New York State is not only do we not use the death penalty against the worst of these criminals," Ball said. "But these killers, who have targeted continuously, come up for parole."

Ball admitted he does receive calls from constituents that question whether

the legislation is creating two different types of protection between law enforcement officials and the average civilian. But Ball noted law enforcement officials put their life on the line every time they go to work.

He hopes the law would act a deterrent. "We have to send a very clear message if you kill a cop," he said. "You will either be killed or you'll never be eligible for parole."

Ball added it's sad state of affairs that families of the victims and the law enforcement community must collect old information every few years in order to ensure criminals aren't release by the parole board.

Ball hopes to build a coalition of bipartisan support for the bill, but noted the legislation might be tough to get through the state assembly, which tends to lean more liberal, Ball said.

Carmel resident and co-chair of the New York Fraternity of Police, Jimmy O'Neil supports Ball's legislation. He noted there are many parole hearing that involve murdered law enforcement coming up in the near future.

O'Neil said currently the parole system is set up to put victims and their families at a disadvantage. The former New York City police officer's own partner was murdered and he serves on the victim panel for that slain officer's



PROVIDED BY BALL STAFF

Senator Greg Ball stands with Carmel Lieutenant Brian Karst.

family during parole hearings.

While O'Neil would like to see legislation changed, he did point out members on parole board are the upmost professionals, but the system is broken.

"This is not an attack at all on the individual parole board members or

commissioners," he said. "What we are talking about is the system in place that really puts crime victims and in this case, the family of cop killer victims at a great disadvantage."

To sign Ball's petition residents can visit <http://www.nysenate.gov/webform/no-parole-cop-killers-0>.

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**Business
of the Week**

Mike and Joe's Wood Fired Pizza & Pasta Mahopac

By David Propper

When he moved to Mahopac in August, Anton Vuli didn't want to just live in Putnam County. He wanted to do more in order to be part of the surrounding community.

For him, that meant opening up his own business in the community, one that is a short walk from his house. And in January, that's exactly what he did, opening up Mike and Joe's Wood Fired Pizza and Pasta along Route 6. And since the start of the New Year, Vuli's pizza place has kept him busy and helped him get to know his neighbors.

"I feel like I'm here five or six years," he said. "Knowing the people and stuff like that."

And with Mike and Joe's opening, it almost completes the revitalization of a plaza storefront that was barren for several months. A bakery, bagel place, and a Subway all closed one after the other and are now replaced by Vuli's business, a pet salon and barbeque restaurant. Also coming soon is a bakery in the same plaza that Vuli and his family are involved in.

"When it was empty, it wasn't good for anyone in the town," Vuli said. "Because it was empty for a long time."

And with the pizza being wood fired,



Anton Vuli stands with his wife and one of his sons inside his brand new business in Mahopac.

Vuli points out how there's a different—and better taste in the food he serves. He already has one wood fire pizza place in Dutchess County.

"You have to come with something different," Vuli said as a way to draw customers. "There are a lot of

pizza places in town but wood fire is something different."

Vuli said the pizza tastes different depending on the wood used in the oven, from oak to cherry to hickory wood. Every wood has a distinct flavor. In addition to pizza, Vuli offers pasta

dishes, wedges, chicken, seafood, calzones and anything else you'd expect from an Italian restaurant.

While Vuli's family owns several culinary businesses in the Lower Hudson Valley, coming up with a name for his most recent business wasn't too difficult.

He decided to name Mike and Joe's after his two sons. Joe is 12-years-old and Mike is 10-years-old. When it came down to whose name would go first, Vuli said Mike and Joe's just rolls off the tongue better.

So far the business has kept him busy and Vuli is there 7 days a week despite his other businesses in the region. But he notes the convenience of being so close to work. With all the snow Putnam County has dealt with this winter, Vuli loves the fact he can walk to work and it won't slow him down.

"I don't have to think I might be late to work," he said.

Mike and Joe's is open Monday-Saturday from 11 a.m.-10 p.m. and open Sunday from noon-9 a.m. Customers can dine in, takeout or order delivery. Catering is also available. For more information, customers can call 845-628-5100. It is located at 961 Route 6 in Mahopac.

DAVID PROPPER PHOTO



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Editorial

Businesses Should Decide What They Sell, Not Governments

Last week, CVS Caremark made a landmark decision, announcing it would no longer be selling tobacco products in its 7,600 pharmacies in the United States.

Just a few months earlier, the Putnam County Legislature took a vote that if passed would have prohibited the sale of cigarette products where prescription drugs are sold within county borders. The amendment wasn't approved in a 7-2 vote. Months later and even after the announcement of a major pharmacy stopping its sale of tobacco products, the seven legislators that voted against the measure made the right call.

CVS's policy shows it should be the individual business that weighs the options and then renders a decision; not government. The chain store is set to lose more than \$2 billion in revenue, though it could make some revenue up taking more of a healthcare role. It's commendable what CVS is doing, and while it'd be nice for most other pharmacies to follow suit, it's simply unrealistic and government shouldn't force them to.

Most pharmacies aren't nearly as big as CVS and couldn't absorb the impact of the lost revenue. Not just that, but

customers still looking for tobacco products will find them.

Yes, there's an inherent contradiction to sell harmful products in health oriented stores, but the onus should fall on the customer more than the business. No one is forcing a customer to buy tobacco products at a certain store. While there is no concrete plan from anyone in the legislature to push the cigarette proposal again, if it comes up the final outcome should be the same as it was in October.

Let businesses decide what to sell, and let customers decide where they want to buy certain products.

Letter To The Editor

Putnam Commish of Health Applauds CVS's Decision

I was delighted by the decision of CVS Caremark Corporation that they will stop selling tobacco products in all of their pharmacies. Several months ago I failed to convince a sufficient number of our legislators about the merits of a legislative ban.

CVS understands that the sale of tobacco in a pharmacy sends the wrong message and is a conflict of interest. Furthermore, they understand that pharmacies that wish to be trusted points of health and wellness for their customers should not sell a product that when used as intended will

kill at least one half of its life-time users.

I salute their decision and hope all will fall into line supporting this important public health measure.

Sincerely,
Allen Beals, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner of Health

Southeast Democrats Searching for Highway Superintendent Candidate

The Southeast Democratic Committee is seeking an experienced, hard working individual to run for Town Highway Superintendent in November 2014.

This will be an election to fill an unexpired term.

Southeast Democrats are actively recruiting candidates to run for this position.

Interested Brewster/Southeast residents may contact the Southeast Democratic Committee at info@southeastdemocrats.org or 914-826-0180.

Obituaries

John R. Miller

John R. Miller, of Mahopac and Hague, died on Thursday January 30 at the age of 81. He was born on August 10, 1932 in Peekskill, the son of David and Grace Gustafson Miller. John was the art teacher at John Jay Junior High School for 35 years. He is survived by his wife of 60 years Gayle, sons Jeffrey and his wife Mary and Christopher and his wife Carla, 7 granddaughters and 2 grandsons. He was predeceased by his sons John Jr. and Allan and his brother David Jr.

Robert Casler

Robert Casler, 56, of Mahopac, died on February 1. Robert was born on May 28, 1957 to Hubert and Helen (Lein) Casler in the Bronx. On July 23, 1993 he married Lisa Lynch in New Windsor, NY. He is survived by his loving wife Lisa, an adoring daughter Lindsey, and one sister Joann Casler.

Ruth M. Richards

Ruth M. Richards of Garrison and a former longtime resident of Willingboro, NJ died on Sunday February 2, at the age of 94. She was

born in Toledo, OH on December 4, 1919, the daughter of Henry and Marie Rauch Wiersma. Ruth was a member of the Grace Lutheran Church in Yorktown Heights. In Willingboro she was a longtime member of St. Luke's Lutheran Church where she was active in many church activities. She was also a member of the Burlington Seniors and the Putnam Valley Seniors. She is survived by her daughter, Linda Tipa and her husband Vinnie of Garrison, her sons John of Oak Harbor, OH, Jim and his wife Terri and Mark and his wife Diane, all of Willingboro, her brothers, Charles Wiersma and his wife Doris of Mansfield, OH and Vernon Wiersma of Oak Harbor, eight grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband Kenneth in 1999, her son David, her daughter-in-law Susan and her brother Roy.

Charles Lawrance

Charles Lawrance, 73, of Mahopac, died on February 5, at Putnam Hospital Center. Mr. Lawrance was born on December 31, 1940 to George and Florence (Collier) Lawrance in Yonkers, NY. On January 10, 1960 he married the

love of his life, Barbara Jean Schwarzer in Yonkers. Before his retirement in 2000, Mr. Lawrance was an Electrician and was employed by Fontanella Electric in White Plains. He is survived by his four loving children; Valerie Lovelett, Sharon Lawrance, Bonnie Mongno and Charles Lawrance, his four siblings; George Lawrance, Donald Lawrance, Dorothy Liso and Nancy Farrell and eight adoring grandchildren. He is predeceased by his beloved wife, Barbara Jean who had passed on December 14, 2009.

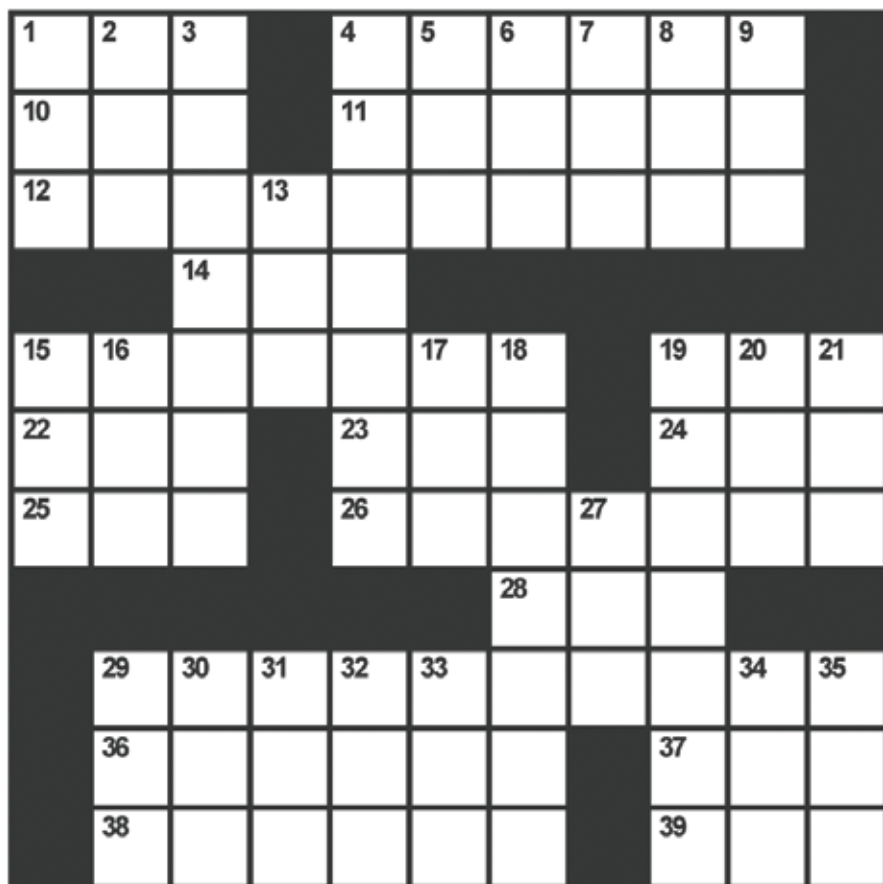
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Crossword Puzzle



Crossword by Myles Mellor

Answers on page 18

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Across

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- 4 Opulent residence
- 10 Plumeria garland
- 11 Some bar features
- 12 K-Mart, Walmart and Yorktown's own
- 14 Plead for
- 15 Bodies of collected works
- 19 WW II fighting unit (abbr.)
- 22 Body or African
- 23 Evan Almighty vessel
- 24 Idea of self
- 25 Aladdin's hat
- 26 Letter getter
- 28 Boston party
- 29 In a pretentious way
- 36 Candy coating on an apple or Putnam town
- 37 "I didn't know that!"
- 38 Cirque de Soleil employees
- 39 One billion years or so

Down

- 1 Will Ferrell character
- 2 Grazing territory
- 3 Israeli farm
- 4 A saying, witty and concise
- 5 Attack word
- 6 Woolen cap
- 7 Prescription reference
- 8 A rocky peak
- 9 Best guess: abbr.
- 13 Minister, for short

- 15 Klutzy one
- 16 In advance of
- 17 Slice of history
- 18 Wooden pin to a Brit.
- 19 Give a product a new logo
- 20 Days gone by
- 21 "The Simpsons" network
- 27 Spider-Man co-creator Stan
- 29 Take effect
- 30 Substantially
- 31 To's partner
- 32 Flight challenged bird
- 33 Prized mushroom
- 34 Zodiac, between Virgo and Cancer
- 35 Urge

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Remembering the First Putnam County Executive, David Bruen



David Bruen was a lifelong resident of Brewster and Putnam's first county executive in 1979. The Democrat served two terms.



Bruen sits, smiles and winks with his wife Marilyn. The couple got married in 1951. Marilyn died a couple years before David's death.



Bruen (center), smiles as he takes a picture with Robert F. Kennedy and former Democratic congressman Richard Ottinger.



Bruen is sworn into office for one of his two terms serving county residents.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BRUEN FAMILY

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When Homeowners Decide Who They Don't Want as Neighbors

"Don't believe anything you hear and only half of what you see," was one of my mother's favorite expressions when teaching me how to find my way in life. When I became old enough to think for myself, however, I asked myself, what kind of nonsense is that?

But after a formal education as well as attending a rigorous college of hard knocks, I find myself still relying on those pearls of wisdom doled out at my mother's knee. From time to time, however, I forget. Recently, I found myself in a situation where I believed everything I heard when I shouldn't have. And I was ashamed of myself for it.

As registered voters, we all take part shaping what our towns are and what they are to become in the future. Through zoning codes and by whom we elect as our town officials and by whom we appoint to our planning and zoning boards, we also determine who gets the privilege to live next door to us and down the street from us, even the types of houses they can live in and what kinds of businesses they can open to serve us.

Some would say that we have even more control on such situations depending on how much money we have and how much

we pay in taxes – local, state and federal laws notwithstanding.

All of these factors became crystal clear to me little more than a week ago in my home community of Yorktown Heights when I attended a town board meeting. A group of citizens had gathered to protest the application for a special use permit that would allow a large single-family home to operate as a "sober living" residence. It would temporarily house people who had been treated for substance abuse to help them transition back into their communities.

The surrounding neighbors had organized quite effectively to block any such use. If I were to believe what I heard that evening, it would seem that my community was about to be invaded by criminals who would endanger my safety, sexual predators that would be after our children and substance abusers who would be dealing drugs on the streets. Besides all that, property values would plummet.

One woman in particular, a lawyer who was a lead spokesperson for the group, did a grand job of presenting her case as though she were pandering to a jury, building to a crescendo, rousing the crowd to a frenzy and milking applause from her claque. When she finished presenting the

evidence, I found myself believing every word she spewed out and went home hoping the application would be denied.

But life is strange. Besides being The Home Guru, I also happen to be the founder of the longest running public relations firm in Westchester. No sooner had I arrived home, I found an email from an unknown sender which at first I thought was spam. On an inexplicable impulse, I took a chance and opened it to find that it was from the very applicant who was seeking the special use permit, asking if he could meet with me.

I replied yes, curious to hear his side of the story. The next day, he arrived with two associates and in a clear and concise way was able to educate me about the background and professional experience of all parties associated with the organization, its methods of operation, its screening processes, the safeguards in place, and its mission and goals, all of which were solidly grounded in principle and practice.

I was actually ashamed to realize that unwittingly I had allowed myself to become part of the lynch mob, part of the Salem witch trials, part of the group that would deny fair access and fair housing to other responsible citizens and businesses who have just as much right to share my community as I do. And as for the suggestion that property values would plummet, as a realtor I know that there

is no real evidence that supports such speculation.

Bottom line: I am now involved, and not just for my own town, but for all the towns we live in. I am on board to fight this kind of bias and discrimination. To me, this issue goes beyond the application for a special use permit. It speaks to an overriding big picture of what kind of town I want to live in and what it might become in the future.

To me this application symbolizes either the best that a town can be, a progressive community of neighbor helping neighbor, one of diversity and acceptance, or the worst, an exclusionary place that erects walls to ban certain kinds of people based on rumor, discrimination and fear mongering.

I will keep you posted on what happens in my own town with this issue. If you agree with me about the kind of town we should all want to live in, please keep alert in your community. Should any hint of this kind of vigilantism ever rear its ugly head, like me, be prepared to do something about it.

Bill Primavera is a Residential and Commercial Realtor® associated with Coldwell Banker, as well as a publicist and journalist who writes regularly as The Home Guru. For questions about home maintenance or to engage him to help you buy or sell a home, he can be emailed at Bill@TheHomeGuru.com or called directly at 914-522-2076.



By Bill Primavera

Has Wine Sparked '60s-Style Student Protests on British Campuses?



By Nick Antonaccio

Remember the student college campus protests that were held across the United States and Western Europe in the late '60s and early '70s? They arose over the ongoing war in Vietnam, perceived intrusive government policies and a myriad of social issues. For the most part they were peaceful, representing idealistic statements from students whose view of the world evolved from their isolation on college campuses. Many were founded on high moral principles others on socio-political issues.

Many of us remember campus sit-ins and marches, perhaps even as participants. Others remember these protests as polarizing events between left and right student populations, disrupting their daily collegiate lives rather than inspiring them to participate.

It's been over 40 years since the height of those demonstrations. That generation of students now constitutes the aging Baby Boomer population, many with different political and social viewpoints. It's amazing how post-college economic and financial needs can sometimes change our ideological activism.

Today's college generation doesn't seem as inclined to voice their discontent. Certainly there are numerous protests occurring across the globe, but many are carried on outside of college campuses.

Many are based on governmental oppression of citizens and changing political ideologies.

I read with interest of a protest that erupted in the United Kingdom recently. It proved that the spirit of dissension and activism is alive and well – even if the underlying cause hardly has the same universal appeal and impact as those in the '60s and '70s.

And, of course, it revolves around my favorite interest: wine.

Protestors on United Kingdom campuses have taken to the commons, with placards protesting the economic and financial policies of universities over social issues that have curried favor with today's British youth. Their issues: campus life and the plight of the downtrodden.

The genesis was a report in The Guardian newspaper that disclosed information concerning the amount of money

*You Heard It
Through the
Grapevine*

spent to purchase and hold wines at prestigious Cambridge University (18,000 students) for the consumption of administrators, faculty, staff and fellows (8,000 in total).

Students seized on this perceived abuse of academic power to lever against two other current student causes: university budget cuts to reduce and outsource campus dining services and raising awareness of the low minimum wages of university workers (about \$12.50).

The correlation was simple to make: cut back on wine budgets and allocate funds to dining halls and the wages of workers. Their mantra? "Wages Not Wine."

They may have a point concerning excessive expenditures on wine. According to The Guardian report, total wine purchases by the university's 31 colleges last year aggregated \$5 million, the equivalent of \$13,000 per day. Over the last three years the total was \$13 million, an amount asserted by the students as more than ample to offer higher wages to university workers. The wine cellar of one of the constituent campuses, Trinity College, contains 25,000 bottles, valued at over \$2.6 million. As one might expect, the cellars have a long legacy, originally endowed by King Henry VI in 1446.

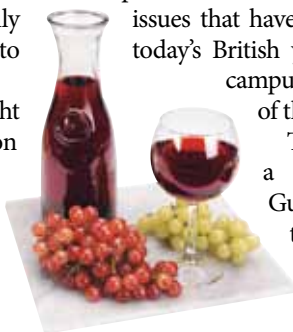
The university response to the sit-in

protests? Call in the police. The students' response to the police incursions? Clashes with the police, which resulted in violence and 41 student arrests. Not a good outcome for any of the parties. These confrontations on campus grounds evoked additional demonstrations by students over police brutality and the English equivalent of America's First Amendment rights.

*'And of course it
revolves around my
favorite interest'*

The ultimate outcome is still uncertain. Are these demonstrations the fomenting of youthful exuberance and idealism? Will they achieve the desired results? Will they result in a coalescence of British youth as they did with American students in the '60s and '70s? Or are they merely a tempest in an English teapot? Perhaps only the light of history will tell.

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 or on Twitter @sharingwine.



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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.

Thursday, February 13

Drug Crisis in our Backyard Community Roundtable with Senator Greg Ball. 6 p.m. Carmel Town Hall: 60 McAlpin Ave, Mahopac.

Friday, February 14

Lake Mahopac Garden Club Annual Flower Show: 2 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. and Saturday, February 15th from 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. This year's show, "Hugs and Kisses" will be held at the Mahopac Public Library, 668 Route 6 in Mahopac. There, the Lake Mahopac Garden Club members will display their creativity through beautiful themed floral designs, horticultural entries and educational exhibits. If you have any questions about the Flower Show or becoming a member, please ask one of the hostesses who would be glad to help, email their membership chairperson at lakemahopacgarclub@gmail.com or visit their website at www.lakemahopacgc.com.

Tuesday, February 18

Diabetes Support Group: Putnam Hospital Center. Carmel. 6 p.m., in the Michael T. Weber Community Auditorium at the hospital. Family and friends are welcome to attend meetings of the free Diabetes Support & Education Group, which is designed to teach individuals how to keep their diabetes under control and to live a healthier life. The group, which is led by a diabetes educator and a dietitian, offers the opportunity for patients to share concerns and help manage some of the psychosocial issues associated with diabetes. The meetings provide participants with an opportunity to hear from knowledgeable professionals who attend and speak on a wide range of topics related to diabetes and to network with others who have diabetes. Registration is recommended by calling 845-279-5711, Ext. 2779.

Wednesday, February 19

The Patterson Library will host a series of "History Workshops" with the Patterson Historical Society. Residents and people with knowledge and memories of Patterson's past are being asked to help the Patterson Historical Society identify dozens of fascinating old maps, photos and documents from the Patterson area. Anyone having documents, photos or items of relevance to the project is encouraged to bring them to the workshop to have them recorded in this exciting historical project. The workshops will be held at the Patterson Library also March 26th at 1 p.m. and April 16th at 7 p.m. Registration is preferred, walk-ins are welcome. Visit www.pattersonlibrary.org & click on calendar to register or call 845-878-6121 x10.

Thursday, February 20

Free Seminar: Discover how Dental Implants can increase your comfort, ability to eat, speak, and enjoy life. The gold standard of practice is now to replace a missing tooth with a "tooth", and implants allow us to do just that. Free educational seminar presented by Dr. Carl Ern and Dr. Vincent Cafarelli you will learn how to prevent these embarrassing moments. Dental implants are more affordable than you think. We will be more than happy to answer any questions you have regarding finances to make it easy for you! 6:30 p.m. Las Mananitas, 1250 Route 22 Brewster. Appetizers and beverages. Smile with confidence again <http://www.putnamdental.com>

Weight Loss Surgery Information Session: Putnam Hospital Center: also Thursday, March 20, at 4:30 p.m. at the hospital in the Michael T. Weber Conference Room. Learn about the latest surgical techniques, nutritional counseling, support programs and weight loss surgery

with no commitments. Informational discussions are led by bariatric surgeons Thomas Cerabona, MD, Ashutosh Kaul, MD, and Anthony Maffei, MD. For more information visit www.health-quest.org/WeightLossSurgery or to register please call (845) 230-4797. Walk-ins are welcome.

Friday, February 21

Mahopac Knights of Columbus presents Beef Stew and Chili Night: Come in out of the cold and enjoy Beef Stew and Chili, bread, salad and dessert along with a hot or cold beverage 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. \$12 adults / \$6 for kids / 5 and under free. 161 East Lake Blvd. Mahopac. Call 845-628-7171 or e-mail info@mahopacknights.org For more info or to make reservations

Saturday, February 22

X-Country Ski Tour at Cranberry Mountain. 1 p.m. Tour Cranberry Mountain Wildlife Area on cross-country skis with Beth Herr and husband Ralph. Space is limited for this easy to moderate tour; skis can be rented from Pawling Cycle and Sport (845) 878-7400. Without snow, it may turn into a winter nature walk. Call Beth and Ralph (845) 228-5635 to reserve a space.

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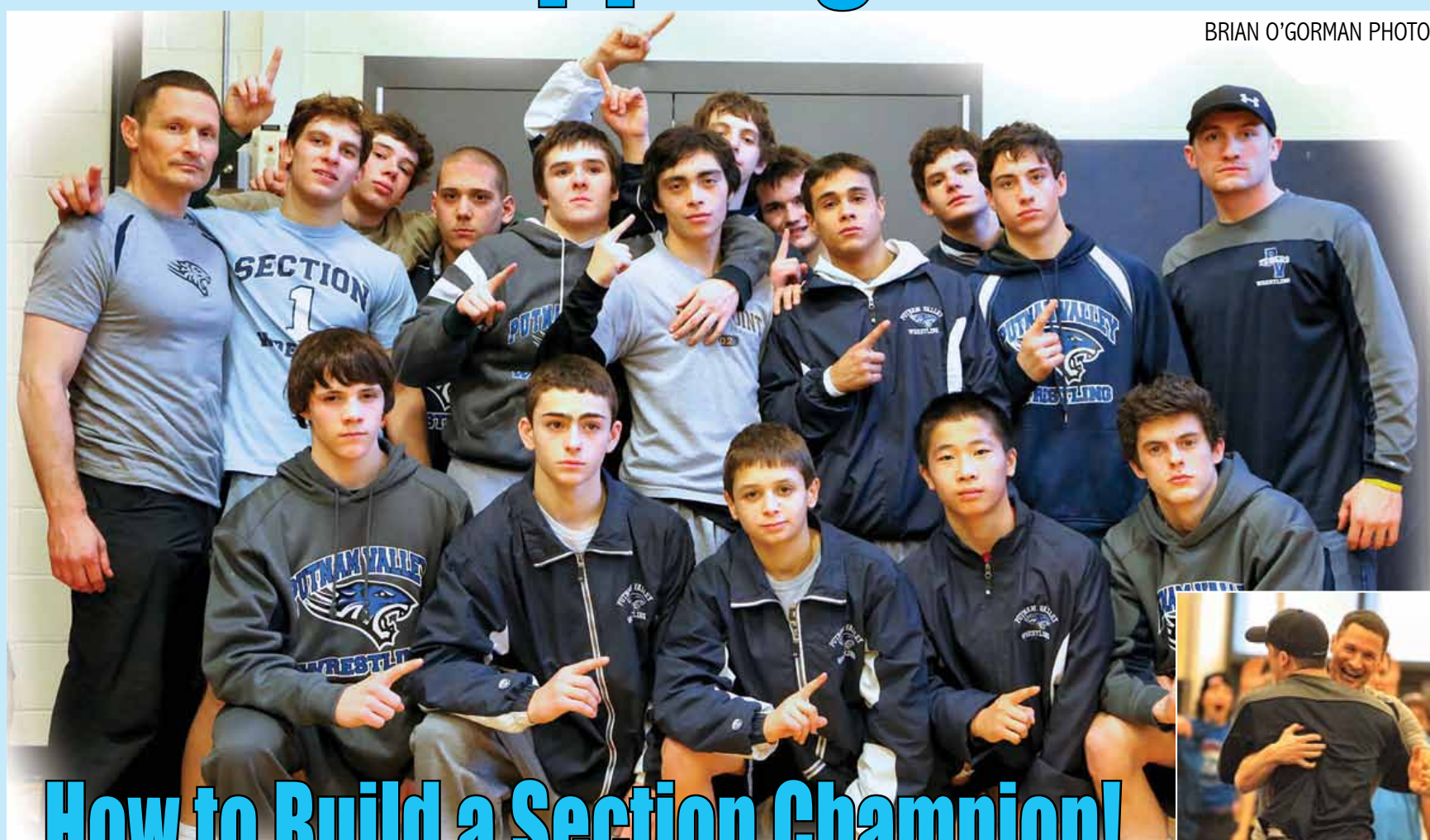
February 11 - February 17, 2014

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

SPORTS SECTION

Grappling 101

BRIAN O'GORMAN PHOTOS



How to Build a Section Champion!

The Putnam Valley High wrestling team, including Section 1 titlists eighth-grader Mikey Bruno (99 pounds), senior captain A.J. Mirabal (132), senior Angelo Zegarelli (160) and junior Willie Messinger (170 pounds), claimed the first Section 1 D-II team championship in the 10-year history of the program last Saturday at Beacon High School. The Tigers, led by Coach and former Section 1 champion Will Carano and sidekick Evan Kneuer (hugging inset) did so in stunning fashion, with Bruno upsetting defending champ James Bathon of Pleasantville and Zegarelli flooring top-seeded Thomas Marrone of Pleasantville in the finals where the Tigers amassed 228.5 points to outrun second-place Edgemont (197.5). Team members include Satoshi Abe, Erdis Canaj, Mike Christmas, Jared Eliopoulous, Constantine George, Christian Gonzales, Sam Honors, Denis Kelly, Gavin Kelly, Noah Kelvas, Matt Liscia, Alec McDonald, Kelmend Muriqi and Ryan Usai... See Direct Rays

Sports

Boys Hoops Notebook

Let the Madness Begin: 2014 Boys' Hoops Tournaments to Tip Off

Put Valley, Peekskill, Panas, Mahopac, Haldane Poised to do Damage

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

Well, we're finally here, gang: March Madness 2014 has arrived. Holy Hoopla: The hype is real, the madness is deafening and the mayhem will conclude at the Westchester County Center in both heartbreaking and stirring fashion as the winners will represent Section 1 in the NYSPHSAA basketball tournament while the losers lament what could have been.

The NWE/Putnam Examiner-area will be represented by a handful of legitimate Section 1 title contenders, including Class B's Putnam Valley and Croton-Harmon, Class C's Haldane, Class A's Peekskill and Walter Panas and Class AA's Mahopac. Six of the locals will hold seeds of No.5 or higher as the tournament tips off this Friday and expects to conclude in late February/early March at the fabled County Center venue.

Co-League I-C champions Putnam Valley and Panas will enter the tournament in contrasting fashions, with the high-flying Tigers expected to win Class B and the no-nonsense Panthers coming in totally under the radar, despite a potential No.2/3



RAY GALLAGHER/BRITTANY GALLAGHER/BILL KENNEDY

Putnam Valley's Kevin Fitzsimmons rumbles to rack against aggressive defense from Lakeland's Kevin Lynch in Tiger win over Hornets last Tuesday when PV clinched a share of the League I-C title with Panas.

seed (official tournament seeds were still unsettled and expected to be released today).

Coach Mike McDonnell's state-ranked (No.9) Tigers (15-3) were looking like a potential No.5 seed and appeared poised to take on No.12 Bronxville in the opening round before taking on the No.4 Croton/No.13 Pleasantville winner.

It's gonna get hairy, gang, so find a car pool to travel with and get ready to root your tuckuss off.

CLASS AA

MAHOPAC (15-3), which blew a chance for two home games and a No.4 seed when the four-time defending League I-B champion Indians were shocked at home by John Jay CR last Thursday, is now expected to draw the five-seed and face either visiting No.12 **SUFFERN** (8-10) or **OSSINING** (7-10) in the first round before a potential quarterfinal nightmare matchup with No.4 host **WHITE PLAINS** (14-3) or **FOX LANE** (16-2). That home loss to Jay (Mahopac first home loss in 4 years) could be so impactful that it could end Mahopac's three-year run to the County Center, as the Indians will now have to take their act on the road rather than their own confines and the comfy

surroundings of the Mahopac Maniacs.

The one thing Coach Downes' Indians have going for them is their moxie and the unrelenting presence of All-Section seniors Ryan Simone and RJ Martinez, who can score in droves and fill stat sheets like few in Section 1 can. The dynamic duo knows their legacy is on the line, and the complimentary cast of characters know that they can't play another game like the game they had against John Jay. Downes will need every intangible quality the Indians have.

CARMEL (9-9) looks to have drawn the No.10/11 seed, which might pit the Rams against a sixth-seeded **SPRING VALLEY** (14-4) or an **ARLINGTON** (13-5) team they defeated, 57-51, back in early December, though the Admirals are clearly better than they were back then. Likewise, the Rams are hot right now, having taken Mahopac to the wire and finishing the season with wins

in four of its last five. If Ossining loses to Riverside Tuesday, the new order would be: No. 10 Carmel, No. 11 Suffern No. 12 Ossining.

"Don't count us out too soon," said Captain James Loughran, a kid who bleeds for Carmel High. "We've clicked with each other now. Win or lose in sectionals, it was a successful senior year and I love my basketball family."

It's impossible to not like Carmel senior G Loughran or pull for him once you get to know him. His heart and love for his teammates is infectious, and the youth movement of Ryan Train (23 points, 11 rebounds, 3 assists in recent win over John Jay EF), Quinn Willman and Josh Alexander saw firsthand what it means to be a leader from Loughran.

YORKTOWN (6-12), as potential No.16 seed, will have to go the outbracket route, possibly against No.17 **NORTH ROCKLAND**. Lucky for them, Coach Caputi's Huskers will take their X-game win streak in tow with **THE CROP** and surging sophomore Luis Cartagena at their behest. They will need that and more against No.1 **MOUNT**

VERNON (16-0) should they prove worthy.

CLASS A

Yes, state-ranked (No.19) Eastchester



Mahopac's Aiden Hynes is doubled in the paint by John Jay's Joe Drpich (44) and Matt Palacio in Jay stunning defeat of Mahopac last Thursday.



Panas F Tyler Mason (L) and Put Valley G Zack Nolan are hoping to bring their A-game to the Section 1 playoffs.

Sports

Boys Hoops Notebook



Peekskill will need a big effort from Laron Holt in the upcoming playoffs if the Red Devils are going to get it done.

Hall of Fame career. If anybody ever deserved his "John Elway Moment" (going out with a title), it is Panzanaro, the galvanizing force behind Peekskill's five-time NYS championship history.

Senior G Laron Holt is the X-factor for Peekskill. After dropping 19 points, snaring 12 rebounds and serving three blocks on Putnam Valley during senior night and Lou Panzanaro Day in Peekskill last Friday night, Holt plateaued (Peekskill Mayor Frank Catalina proclaimed February 7th as Lou Panzanaro Day).

In speedy G Chavis Pigott (17 points against PV) and All-Conference swingman Neorck Brown, Peekskill has a pair of scary propositions. In the 6'5" Holt, they have one of the more talented players in Section 1, who has yet to realize that. If he does, Peekskill will be back at the County Center and the gold ball could be theirs for the taking. It's hard to imagine calling Peekskill a dark horse, but that's what they are with a potential No.9 seed.

PANAS (14-4) has low-balled its way to a top three seed. Nobody thinks much of Coach Sullivan's Panthers, and that is a huge mistake because they are athletic and gritty; just ask Peekskill, whom the Panthers swept for the first time in school history this season. Seniors Tim McCauley (18 PPG, All-Section), Tom Parish (7.2 PPG) Tom Frost (5 PPG), Brandon Collins (7.7 PPG), Mike Evans (8.7 PPG) and athletic Tyler Mason (9.2) pose a formidable big six, a sextet of complimentary stars and role players who can carry out a prescription

for victory. All six will need their best burn for Panas to do damage, but it's entirely possible that they lead the Panthers back to the County Center for the third time since 1997 (they also did so in 2008 semis). The Panthers have faced Eastchester and PV and Peekskill twice, so they've seen a number of quality foes.

No.12 **SOMERS** (8-10), No.17 **BREWSTER** (6-12), No.20 **LAKELAND** (5-13) and No.24 **HEN HUD** (7-11) will all take the outbracket route to the field of 16. Lakeland has played a tough schedule and given teams within its league fits all season, and it could provide a very tough out for Somers if the two meet in an outbracket game. Brewster can do longtime Coach John Martino proud in

from junior G Zack Nolan. If Nolan can summon his A-Game, PV will feature the best quartet of players in the Class B field. A confident Nolan will be the boost the Tigers need to go the distance with potential suitors like top-seeded, state-ranked (No.10) Irvington (17-1) and scary No.6 Woodlands (13-4) and win the first gold ball in school history (as of press time, Class B seeds were still very unsettled). If Nolan struggles to find his niche in the post season, the Tigers could have a short stay. He needs to step it up and he knows it.

"I am ready to step up and play the best to my ability to help the team win," said Nolan, who did not start for the first time in three years last Friday. "I am ready,



Put Valley Ryan Basso is hunted by Lakeland's Stephen Harten in Tigers' win over Hornets last Tuesday.

has emerged as the team to beat (but that has never been typed before). But seriously, folks: it all depends upon which **PEEKSKILL** team shows up. If the one that defeated Putnam Valley, 71-59, last Friday shows up, Coach Lou Panzanaro's Red Devils (11-7) could still be the team to beat. If the team that lost to Yorktown shows up, the likely ninth-seeded Red Devils will not get past No.8 host Byram Hills in the opening round, provided each survives its outbracket game.

It's that simple, yet that problematic: Peekskill is perhaps the only team in Class A that can either lose in the opening round or win the 11th gold ball in Coach P's NYS

his final season by taking an outbracket game and playing a high seed tough in the opening round. Somers actually sets up well at No.12 if the seeds hold true and they face an unproven, untested No.5 **SAUNDERS** (13-5), which hasn't beaten anybody any good. The Tuskers, if they brought their A-game, could end up in the quarters if All-Conference G Matt Moros and sharpshooter Conor Cousin can shoot the lights out in Yonkers, provided they take their outbracket game.

CLASS B

PUTNAM VALLEY and **CROTON** appear headed for a County Center-determining, quarterfinal collision as the No.5 and 4 seeds, respectively. Croton, the League III-B co-champion, has not played the difficult schedule that League I-C co-champion PV has faced. That schedule, which includes triumphs of reigning Class B champion Lourdes, Peekskill and Panas, should be enough to ensure the Valley its second-straight venture to the County Center.

Putnam Valley knows what it has in All-Section seniors Zach Coleman and Jelani Bell-Isaac and junior Ryan Basso; three of the most proven, well-rounded commodities in Class B. What the Tigers don't know is what they are going to get

believe me. I'm going to be as versatile as I can on the court and get the team motivated as well."

No disrespect to Croton, but it's hard to imagine a scenario where the Valley falls short of the County Center, especially with Croton having to face No.13 Pleasantville in the opening round. The well-balanced Tigers, and All-Section sophomore G Teejay Searight (11.4 PPG) and Patrick Gallagher (13.9 PPG), will have their hands full with the Panthers, but the streaking Tigers, winners of 11-straight, did post a quality W over Blind brook, which provides you with your Class B dark horse. Anyone sleeping on Croton will get burnt.

CLASS C

No.4 **HALDANE** (12-6) is one of five teams (as of press time) to qualify for the Class C field, which figure to be wide open between No.1 MLK, No.2 Hamilton, No.3 Children's Village and No.5 Tuckahoe. All-Section Blue Devil junior C Will Hoffman could be the best post player in the Class C tournament and they'll need the Big Hoff to post the numbers he did in Haldane's 58-46 win over Pawling, when he went off for 28 points and 13 rebounds. Haldane should see No.5 **TUCKAHOE** in the quarters.



Mahopac's Jordan Carroll sinks a trey with happy teammates looking on during senior night in Mahopac last Friday.

Sports

Girls Hoops Notebook

Somers Wins League by Beating Mahopac, Carmel

Peekskill, Yorktown, Hen Hud and Ossining Finish Strong

By A.J. Martelli

The **SOMERS** Tuskers made no bones this past week about how badly they want to win this season. By putting a damper on **MAHOPAC's** senior night with a 53-47 win over the Indians last Tuesday, the Tuskers guaranteed themselves a share of the league crown. Then last Thursday, after honoring its own seniors at home, Somers crushed the **CARMEL** Rams 50-22, becoming sole owners of the league title.

"Class A this year has been very even, which makes it exciting – in Section 1 sometimes we know who our top four are going to be and we don't," said Tuskers Head Coach Kristi Dini. "The biggest thing for me is that our last four games we've been playing up. Going into the playoffs playing like that, we know we can compete with any team; when we're playing Somers basketball and playing both ends of the court. We're setting our goals high. We want to go to the County Center. We absolutely want to play to win Class A and we know we can."

The Tuskers have been exuding confidence all season, and that confidence was only bolstered when they overcame a second half surge by Mahopac, which looks like a No.6 seed in the upcoming Class AA playoffs. After Somers led 28-12 after the first two quarters last Tuesday, Mairead Hynes took matters into her own hands to make it a game again. The Indians' senior sharpshooter had only netted 10 points in the first half, but put up



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Tusker Nicole DeMase makes good on two points in last Thursday's rout of Carmel.

a mind-numbing 24 in the second half to get Mahopac back in it.

The Tuskers kept playing up, however, mostly on account of the outstanding shooting of sophomore sensation Gabby Rosenzweig (16 points) and Caite Opfer (15 points).

"I think we're peaking going right into playoffs, which is what we need to do," Rosenzweig said. "We went into a little rough patch offensively, but our defense is really too strong. This is exactly how we want to go into the playoffs – with energy and enthusiasm, and strong offense and defense. That's going to be the key for us, being able to score. The County Center has been a goal all season; from the beginning we knew it was a possibility. If we stay in it mentally and play with so much heart, I think it's possible for us."

Following the significant win over the Indians, the Tuskers took their attention to Carmel and turned the affair into a laughter in a hurry. Somers ran the offense nicely, once again being led by Rosenzweig who netted – again – 16 points to lead all Tusker scorers. She was helped by Kayleah McGuire (eight points) and Nicole DeMase (seven points), but the defense proved to be key.

Somers held Carmel to just two baskets in the first half, leading 23-4 at the break. The Rams started the

second half with some life, netting six unanswered points, but were not able to climb back into the game. Justine Zerbo was Carmel's leading lady with six points.

Before the rout Somers paid homage to its seniors: Opfer (four points) and the Schurr sisters, Tara and Emma (five points). The Schurrs will be playing lacrosse at Boston College next year while Opfer will be at Skidmore playing hoops – but for right now she's focused on the unfinished business in Tusker country.

"A lot lately during the past two games we've been up and our energy is really well," she said. "It's really boost. We're going into the games with the mentality of 'let's go' so we're working well together. Being up this much is definitely going to help us."

Opfer added, on the thought of playing at County Center, "it's my dream. I think this year Class A is unbelievably open. Knowing our chances of doing so well, we're not looking to get past the first round. We're looking to go all the way. We all want to win."

Somers (14-4) finished up its regular season Saturday at John Jay-Cross River with one final victory, beating the Indians 43-32, and look like a potential No.6 seed in the Class A playoffs, which would pit them against No.11 (possibly Lakeland or Hen Hud).

While the Tuskers were dominant on their senior night, so were **PEEKSKILL** and **YORKTOWN**. The lady Red Devils honored seniors Shayla Midgette, Morgan Beechum, Adriane Jackson, Latisha Clark and Shaina Iton Thursday night, then went on to beat **LAKELAND** 58-28. The Hornets were playing without the services of senior Kate Weldon, who sat out for the remainder of the regular season after sustaining a knee injury vs. Hendrick Hudson on Jan. 31.

Clark and Beechum proved to be the difference makers, netting 21 points and 10 points, respectively, to lead the lady Red Devils past Lakeland.

"It was an emotional night, a lot of tears being shed," said Peekskill boss Rodney Headley, Jr. "I pretty much let all the seniors play the first and third quarters and those were actually the highest-scoring quarters. It was just good to see those girls out there. I've had them since 2008; I was their modified coach in middle school. To lead them from there to now is a good feeling and they really enjoyed the night."

Meanwhile the Huskers, after beating Hen Hud 54-53 Thursday, gave props to their seniors on Friday night. They sent Lauren Sackett and Talia Bonner off with a 47-44 win over **PANAS**.

The regular season wrapped for both Peekskill and Yorktown Saturday when they faced off for the second time this season, the lady Red Devils coming out on top 55-29. Headley noticed a difference playing Yorktown the second time around, being that the lady Red Devils only beat the Huskers by 11 on Jan. 9.

"We were in playoff mode," he said of the defending Section 1 Class A champion Red Devils, who look like a potential No.3 seed. "We're really clicking right now. That's the difference between playing them in the middle of the season and the end of the season."

Lanay Rodney paced the lady Red Devils with 11 points. Sarah Bonner was the Huskers' offensive leader with seven points.

Yorktown finished the season at 8-10 and could be a 14-seed in Class AA, while Peekskill ended 14-4 and claimed the league by going 7-1 vs. league opponents.



Tusker G Gabby Rosenzweig was a driving force in Somers' league title run last week, including Thursday's win over Carmel.

The only league loss the lady Red Devils suffered was to **HEN HUD**, who rebounded from the Yorktown loss Thursday by beating **CROTON-HARMON** 58-43 for the Gazette Cup on Saturday in Tiger land.

"It was a good game in that I was able to get a lot of my bench in," said Sailors' Coach Ken Sherman. "We got off to a great start, which is exactly what I wanted them to do. The Gazette Cup tends to be a very close battle, no matter what the records are going in. It's one of those types of backyard brawl games."

continued on page 19



Carmel's Maddie Riddle can't get a clean look with Tusker Caite Opfer breathing up and down her for shot block in Somers' win over Carmel.

Sports

Direct Rays/Girls Hoops Notebook

Carano's Dedication Wills Putnam Valley to D-II Title



By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

There may not be a nicer, more deserving man in Section 1 wrestling circles than newly-minted Section 1 D-II champion Coach Will Carano, who guided his Putnam Valley Tigers to the first grappling championship in school history last Saturday. On the strength of four sectional titlists -- eighth-grader Mikey Bruno (99 pounds), senior captain A.J. Mirabal (132), senior Angelo Zegarelli (160) and junior Willie Messinger (170 pounds) -- Carano's crowning moment came at Beacon High School where HIS Tigers made nothing short of local history by becoming the second boys'



PV Coach Will Carano poses with his four Section 1 champions -- Mikey Bruno, A.J. Mirabal, Angelo Zegarelli and Willie Messinger -- and trusty sidekick Evan Kneuer at the Section 1 D-II championships at Beacon High.

team to win a Section 1 title (boys lax has three).

Having known Carano since before his Section 1 167-pound championship heyday at Mahopac High back in 1986, I can honestly say that I haven't known many more educators who care about the youth of the community than Will Carano does. It doesn't matter who you are; boy, girl, pre-K or senior citizen... Carano has always been there to extend firm shake and a warm welcome. His cutting-edge approach to dealing with his wrestlers is a cross between "old school" and "nu skool", as he mixes the ideology of yesterday with the vicarious, often overbearing customs of today, doling out a personal prescription for success to each of his wrestlers.

As a parent of four kids and a devoted husband and dad, Carano knows what it takes to schmooze those that need to be schmoozed while serving a healthy dose of reality when certain buttons need to be pushed. His wrestlers will go to the mat for him and those that go through his program are better men -- and women in the case of Jess Kelvas -- for it. Built on the backs of former champions like Alex Pastena, Chris Orlando, Dan O'Gorman, Kris Castro, Noah Kelvas, Chris Bruno, John Messinger and others like assistant Coach Evan Kneuer, the PV program has finally plateaued last Saturday after several second- and third-place finishes.

Direct Rays

"To be honest there is no complete way for me to express what Coach Carano means to me," said Mirabal, who holds the record for career victories. "I think of him as my out-of-home father. He's a perfect mentor and knows how to guide people to success. I owe all of my success in all of my sports to him. He taught and showed me what hard work can bring to a person in anything they want to achieve. He doesn't only coach wrestling here; he teaches us characteristics that will carry you in life. I am blessed to have him as my coach and love him to death."

For years, Carano had educated the local folk about the needs of a wrestling program back in 2000; everything from a balanced diet (no one sucking unhealthy weights), to clean mats and mops, weigh-ins, setting up and breaking down the wrestling room/cafeteria, and explaining the concept of "competing up" to challenge the wrestlers and improve his program, which he helped facilitate with a self-started feeder program for K-6 some eight years ago. Carano sold the PV community on integrity, commitment and sincerity. His will to develop these youngster, through tireless, unpaid went largely unnoticed, but having witnessed it personally for more than a decade, it's time the cat was let from the bag.

"It's all about the kids and the community, and I've been blessed on both counts," Carano said, quickly pointing



The PV wrestling team sliced a championship cake and partied like it was 1999 last Sunday night at Thyme Restaurant in Yorktown.

to his wife, Holly, as his support system. "This has been more than 10 years in the making, and every kid to come through the program has helped get us to this point."

Carano, and his four individual sectional champs, will head off for the NYS championships in Albany in two weeks, and the epic saga and dreams of the Putnam Valley community will live on at the Times Union Center where Carano will ply his craft on the biggest stage in the state. A Science teacher by trade, Will Carano has never loosed his single-leg grip on the community he grew up in before heading off to Mahopac for a storied high school career; only to return to his old stomping; a la Gabe Kotter in Welcome Back Kotter (1970s sitcom). Thank God he did because ever since former Principal Ray Cooper hired him in the late '90s, Carano has touched the lives of hundreds of kids, and his imprint on the PV community and Section 1 wrestling is indelible.

Somers Wins League by Beating Mahopac, Carmel

continued from page 18

The Sailors jumped out to a 13-2 lead at the end of the first and led 36-19 at the half, due in large part to the all-around scoring attacks of Amber Feminella (16 points; named player of the game), Cassidy Boyle (15 points), and Lea Hutchings (10 points). On the whole, Sherman thought this season went very well, and is looking forward to sectional playoffs.

"We had a great year, highlighted obviously by the Peekskill game," he said. "My seniors have a lot to be proud of, going 12-6 in their senior year. It's a cliché, but

now it's like a second season; we have to work hard and see what the seedings bring us.

"What I've been telling them since the Peekskill game is, when you beat the section champs, you can really compete with anybody. So we're not afraid to go anywhere or play anybody, they have a confidence about themselves now. We're looking forward to it."

Reigning NYS champion OSSINING cemented its spot as the team to beat in Class AA, finishing up at 16-2 with a 66-38

win over Rye Thursday and locking up no lower than the No.3 seed. In the process, Ossining won its league for the 15th time, and the Pride followed with a 79-47 win over Horace Greeley Friday. Ossining is on a roll heading into the postseason, which is nothing new, but that's not going to stop the Pride from working hard before sectionals.

"It's always nice to win the league," Coach Dan Ricci said. "I think we are coming on strong at the right time for playoffs. We are getting key contributions from our bench,

which is always needed in sectional play."

Looking outside Section 1 in the CHSAA, KENNEDY honored its seniors Saturday afternoon. The Gaels showed love to Tiffany Panarese, Kiera Hennessy, Leah Greene, Elizabeth Varoli, and Noelle Torre before a close, 40-38 loss to Preston. Hennessy made the most of her senior day with 16 points and eight rebounds.

Kennedy has just one game left on the regular season schedule, vs. Maria Regina tonight.

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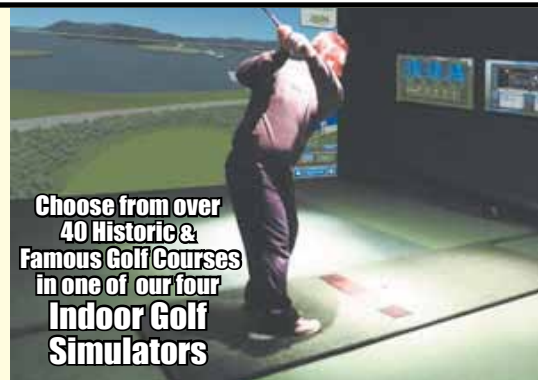
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Who Will Kiss Gold Ball?

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RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Just as John Jay's Phil Toon was made to do by Mahopac's Ryan Simone in Jay's stunning 81-75 win over Mahopac last Thursday, approximately 140-something Section 1 boys and girls' basketball teams will hope to kiss the coveted gold ball by securing a Section 1 championship during the utter insanity that is March Madness, which tips off this Thursday at a gymnasium near you... see boys'/girls' playoff notebooks inside