

Fatal Crash at High School Claims Mahopac Alum's Life

By David Propper

A Mahopac High School graduate's life was cut short late last Friday after he crashed his car into his former high school, leaving the Mahopac community in shock and mourning.

At about 11:26 on Feb. 21, 19-year-old David Diachenko crashed his 1990 BMW into the side of Mahopac High School, after the vehicle appeared to leave the roadway in the area of the high school and struck the building, according to Carmel police. Diachenko was rushed to Putnam Hospital Center after multiple emergency response units rushed to the accident.

He succumbed to his injuries at the hospital in Carmel; with an autopsy report showing it was from blunt force trauma to the teenager's upper torso that led to severe internal bleeding, according to Carmel police.

Superintendent Thomas Manko said when he heard about the accident involving a former Mahopac student; it hit him like a "ton of bricks."

"You're almost speechless at that point and time and you feel so bad for the family of the young fellow that lost his life," Manko said in a phone interview late Sunday night.

Carmel police Lt. Michael Cazzari said police are awaiting a toxicology report, which could take months and the completion of the accident reconstruction analysis.

The car crash also left part of the high school with structural damage, Manko said. The high school was open as usual last Monday, with classes being relocated and support staff available for grieving students and staff. Originally, it was thought at least 10 classrooms weren't usable because of the damage, but Manko said only three classrooms have been affected.

The repairs to the portion of the



David Diachenko was 19-years-old.

building hit by the vehicle could take weeks, if not months to complete, Manko said. He added most of the construction would hopefully be done at times while instruction is not in session.

Looking back on the entire weekend, Manko called the situation "unique" and one he's never seen or experienced in his more than 30 years as an administrator in New York.

But he noted the Mahopac school community would persevere following Diachenko's tragic death.

"That's Mahopac for you, that's the way people are," Manko said. "They pull together in times of trouble. We celebrate our successes but we certainly support each other in times of trouble and when we need each other."



PROVIDED BY THE MAHOPAC FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

David Diachenko's BMW crashed into Mahopac High School last Friday, resulting in the Mahopac alum's death. The crash also left structural damage to the building, but the high school was open as usual on Monday.

Drug Forum Stresses Help for Addicts, Not Immediate Jail Time

By David Propper

As the drug problem in Putnam County and the surrounding region continue to last longer and grow stronger than anyone would like, a Drug Education Forum hosted by Putnam County District Attorney Adam Levy stressed the resources that are available for residents in need.

The two hour forum at Haldane High School in Cold Spring last Wednesday featured a myriad of speakers from judges to law enforcement, to drug counselors within the county that work day-to-day with residents suffering from drug or alcohol addiction. The common theme among all the speakers was simple: if you're addicted to drugs, jail doesn't have to be your first or only

option.

Levy said in an interview after the forum he continues to see drug arrests climb at an alarming rate within the county.

"It's been a growing problem in Putnam County," Levy said. "Every time I read in the newspaper about an overdose death of a youngster in my community it could very well be one of my kids."

County Judge James Reitz, who was on the panel, told about 50 community members, any person arrested in Putnam stemming from a drug, alcohol or mental health incident has a major resource available to them.

The program Reitz was referring to is Drug Treatment Court, which helps

continued on page 4

WWW.CLUBFIT.COM

join for **\$41**

We are celebrating



41 years

MAKE US
YOUR NEW
YEAR'S
RESOLUTION
JEFFERSON VALLEY
914-245-4040

Offer ends 2/28/14. Not to be combined with any other offer. Monthly dues apply. No contracts, memberships are month-to-month.

Astorino Expected to Announce Decision Soon on Run for Governor

By Neal Rentz

Rob Astorino barely had time to enjoy his resounding re-election as Westchester County executive in November when speculation almost immediately began to swirl about the Republican's potential run for governor.

That decision will apparently be announced as soon as the end of this week.

Bill O'Reilly, a campaign spokesman for Astorino, said a decision could be made by Friday about whether the county executive plans to take on Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a fellow Westchester resident.

"The best possible scenario for Westchester taxpayers would be County Executive Astorino running for governor while continuing his reform work in the county," O'Reilly said. "The key drivers of runaway taxes and a stagnant state economy are in Albany and the county executive is pounding away at them every day. In short, a vacuum is sucking money out of Westchester, its school districts and municipalities, and its plug is in Albany. That plug needs to be pulled, and Andrew Cuomo isn't pulling it."

It's been no secret that Astorino, 46, has been mulling a gubernatorial run. State Republicans began courting him soon after he won a second term, he told The Examiner following his inauguration ceremony Jan. 1.

The county executive has a long record in public service in Mount Pleasant. The Hawthorne resident and Westlake High

School graduate was elected to the Mount Pleasant Board of Education as a 21-year-old college student at Fordham University. He also served for 12 years as a town councilman.

Prior to being elected to the Westchester County Board of Legislators in 2003, he began an extensive career in broadcasting, including stints with WFAS, ESPN Radio and MSG Network. He also hosted a program on Sirius satellite radio with New York Archbishop Cardinal Edward Egan.

On New Year's Day, Astorino said Cuomo has a record "that's not worthy of re-election."

"It's something I have to consider because maybe you get this shot once," Astorino said. "But I feel very, very strongly about the direction this state is going in, and it's not the right one and that concerns me."

O'Reilly said Astorino realizes he has a fundraising disadvantage.

"He knows that he cannot match Gov. Cuomo dollar for dollar, but he is confident he can raise enough money to win," O'Reilly said. "He raised \$7 million in his re-election race and has more than \$1 million on hand today."

Mount Pleasant Supervisor Joan Maybury, who served with Astorino until he left the town board to take his seat on the Board of Legislators in January 2004, said Astorino was always very involved, whether on committees or the board of education, before being elected to the town board.

Another asset was his ability to reach consensus.

As a councilman, Astorino was always well versed on the issues, Maybury recalled.

"He was extremely diligent," she said.

Mount Pleasant Councilman Carl Fulgenzi said he had fond memories of working with Astorino in town government and would be a solid choice for governor.

"He was always a professional, dedicated to what was best for Mount Pleasant," Fulgenzi said. "I always found him easy to discuss issues with, even if we did not always agree on the topic. He worked well with other board members."

While his former town board colleagues support an Astorino run for governor, County Legislator Peter Harckham (D-North Salem) said the county executive should instead focus on county government.

When he ran for re-election last year, Harckham said, Astorino promised to deal with county issues for another four years,



County Executive Rob Astorino, shown here at his New Year's inauguration, could announce his run for governor in the coming days.

but he cannot fulfill that pledge if he runs for state office.

"We have enormous challenges," he said. "The challenges call for a full-time county executive."

Harckham chided Astorino for the county's lower bond rating and the loss of federal aid for failing to fulfill terms of the county's affordable housing settlement with the federal government.

Harckham said Cuomo, who lives in New Castle, deserves a second term.

"The governor is doing a terrific job," Harckham said. "He's cut taxes. He's created jobs."

JEFFERSON VALLEY MALL

Join the club! Join the fun!

The Simon Kidgits Club® is a kids' club with interactive games, giveaways, prizes, and events for the whole family! \$5 annual membership fee. See Simon Guest Services for membership information and details.

SIMON | more choices® simon.com/kidgits

Sclafani Oil & Propane

Ultra low sulfur heating oil, biofuel, propane, diesel and gasoline. Call us today for the lowest prices with the highest quality!

"We make warm friends"

(845) 628-1330

Order on the web: www.sclafanioil.com
Ask us anything at www.sclafanioil.com/blog

Somers Custom Framing & Gift

Framing ~ Printing ~ Gifts.

2-Time Best of Westchester WINNER!

BEST 2009 **BEST** WESTCHESTER WINNER 2013

914.276.3173
253 Route 202 Somers
www.somersframing.com

Former Mayor Spars with Village Board, Threatens Lawsuit

By Neal Rentz

Former Brewster Mayor John Degnan said he is considering suing the village after the Board of Trustees denied his request to convert a portion of his commercial properties on Prospect Street to apartments.

The Board of Trustees voted 4-1 against Degnan's request for a special exemption use permit for the properties, which are located in a residential zone. Only Trustee Terri Stockburger voted in favor of the permit.

In an interview following the board's decision, Degnan said, "I reserve my right" to file an Article 78 lawsuit against the board.

"It's kind of unfair," Degnan said. "I live across the street from this property." Changing from commercial to apartments would allow for the removal of trucks from the three-quarters of an acre site, he said.

"I felt it would be a positive thing for the community," Degnan said.

Degnan said the properties, located at 13, 15 and 17 Prospect St. consist of first floor apartments and three businesses - two landscaping businesses and a tree removal business. He was seeking the permit that would allow him to convert the commercial space into eight apartments.

Degnan said the board should have made a decision on the project no later



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

The Brewster Village Board of Trustees turned down a request from former Mayor John Degnan to convert property he owns from commercial to apartments during the Feb. 19 meeting.

than 62 days following the village board's closing of the public hearing on Dec. 18. Since they went past the deadline, approval should have been granted. However, Village Counsel Anthony Mole said, "The law does not support that" and the board had the option to turn down Degnan's request.

"It should be based on the merits of the matter," Mole told the board. The board needed to decide if the proposed

new apartments would be more or less conforming to the zone, he said.

Much of the opposition to the issuing of the permit came from trustees who said the area was zoned for private ownership of homes rather than rentals. For the past few years the village has sought to have 75 percent of residents owned and 25 percent rentals, board members who opposed the permit said. What Degnan was seeking was "an equally non-conforming use,"

Deputy Mayor Christine Piccini said. "The zoned use is single-family."

"I don't want to expand the rental market at this point," Trustee Tom Boissonnault said.

Mayor James Schoenig said if Degnan had sought to convert the commercial space to condominiums or town houses rather than apartments it would be a more conforming use of the property.

Stockburger broke with her colleagues, saying she supported the permit. "It's a less non-conforming (use)," she said.

get NOTICED!

Advertise in The Putnam Examiner
Call 914-864-0878 today!

Brewster Ice Arena
ICE SKATING & PARTIES All Year
 63 Fields Lane, Brewster, NY (no. Salem border) 845-279-2229
www.brewstericearena.com

WINTER 2 & SPRING PROGRAM REGISTRATION
 Learn to Skate & Learn to Play Hockey
 Figure Skating Classes ~ Summer Camps

INQUIRE ABOUT OUR FREE TRIAL GROUP LESSONS
UNBELIEVABLE INTRODUCTORY EQUIPMENT PACKAGES

KEEP THE OLYMPIC SPIRIT

Banquet Room

Players Restaurant & Sports Bar

The Gym @ Brewster Ice Arena
NO Membership Fees ~ as low as \$39/month
 63 Fields Lane Brewster, NY 845-279-2600

Soundview Prep School:
The answer you've been searching for.

March Open Houses
Sunday, March 2 • 1 pm - 3 pm
Sunday, March 9 • 1 pm - 3 pm
Soundview Stop By Day
Thursday, March 13 • 9 am - 11 am

Tour our campus and learn about our rigorous college preparatory program and uniquely personalized learning community (grades 6-12) that fosters self-confidence and individuality.
 Call (914) 962-2780, ext. 112 to register or just stop by our beautiful campus.

Soundview Preparatory School
 370 Underhill Avenue, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
 (914) 962-2780 • soundviewprep.org

Putnam Tourism Dishes Details on Upcoming Bicycling Events

By David Propper

Snow might be on the ground and bicycling may seem like an activity for the distant future, but the Putnam Tourism Department unveiled more details for two cycling events coming up in May.

Putnam Tourism director Libby Pataki and Cold Spring resident and event producer Ray Fusco provided more information to the county legislature during last Thursday's Economic Development and Energy Committee meeting about the Putnam Cycling Classic and Tour De Putnam, which is making a return this year.

The Cycling Classic has a 62-mile and a 100-mile course for biking enthusiasts, while the Tour De Putnam is more family centric and offers a 14-mile and 24-mile course. The Classic would have a timed climb section and a time trial section, Fusco said.

Pataki said since she started in the tourism department, she's wanted to find ways to unite the eastern end of the county with the western part of the county, which she feels the two cycling events could do.

Fusco said another focus is driving business to retailers in the local area, which includes partnerships with multiple bike shops. If patrons buy a new bike at any of the three shops currently partnered with

the county, Fusco said they would get a 50 percent discount when signing up for either bicycling event.

"We want to drive foot traffic to these retailers, small specialty retailers," Fusco said. "This is a very difficult business, especially in this economy so we want to do our part."

Fusco also said the county has partnered with the closest hotel possible, which is the Hilton Garden Inn by giving participants discounted rates, as a way to get people to stay in the county longer than one day. The tourism office is also working with the MTA to put together getaway packages for those people coming from New York City.

With the event taking the place the day before Mother's Day, Fusco said the flower shop in Brewster, the epicenter of the event, would not be adversely affected and would be able to get all deliveries off without a problem.

One Brewster resident Erin Meagher, who works for a local business in the village, said the tourism office should reach out directly to village businesses where the event.

"I really do think there has to be some direct outreach from the tourism department," Meagher said. "Direct face-to-face contact because we need help in the village."

Drug Forum Stresses Help for Addicts, Not Immediate Jail Time

continued from page 1

addicts get clean and avoid jail time. Reitz explained treatment court started in 2002, which gives those arrested with an addiction the opportunity to get better before they find themselves in more trouble.

Reitz stressed in an interview afterward that while people think after they're caught the first time they are immediately put in jail that really isn't the case in Putnam.

"We do not throw them in a jail and throw the key away," he said. "We actually keep them out of jail, make them accountable, check on them daily, whatever it takes and help them change their life."

One success story and a graduate of treatment court is county resident Michelle Gumina, who was at the forum and briefly spoke to the crowd. Now clean for four years, Gumina was a heroin addict who had more than one chance. She was in fact almost thrown in jail before "a light came on."

Citing her own personal experience, Gumina said the justice system gives addicts every opportunity to get clean. In her case, she relapsed and was almost thrown in jail, but after that wake up call, she was finally determined get clean and

remains that way.

"I was deadly afraid of the system," Gumina said. "Don't be afraid of the system, they're there to help. They're not looking to put people addicted behind bars."

While Gumina did lose her teaching license, she said treatment court helped her reconnect with her family and paved the way to her marriage last year. She now assists in the treatment court program with Reitz and is getting her degree to be a drug counselor.

Other speakers included Putnam Supreme Court Judge Victor Grossman, Senior Probation Intake Worker April Lathrop, Executive Director for the National Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependencies Kristin McConnell, Arm Acres Director of Community Relations and Licensed Social Worker Naura Slivinski, Steve Salomone, whose son died of a drug overdose and representatives from the Putnam County Sheriff's Department and Carmel Police.

Levy plans to continue to push drug awareness and education within the county.

"It's not a dirty little secret," Levy said. "We can only help it out if we know about it."

Help us create awareness so we all live a long & healthy life!

Cancer of the colon remains the third leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States

1 in 20 people will contract colon cancer in their lifetime

A great majority of cases can be avoided with proper screening

The cost of screening tests are now covered by Medicare, and most commercial health plans

Colonoscopies should first be performed at age 45 for African-Americans, and age 50 for all other men and women. Screening should be initiated earlier if any concerning symptoms have occurred and if there is a family history of colon cancer.

Save the Date: March 13th 5-7pm
Open House and Informational Seminar

Enter a raffle by bringing a copy of this ad | Hors d'oeuvres will be served

Putnam Gastroenterology

Michael Kushner, MD | Sunil Gupta, MD

667 Stoneleigh Avenue Carmel, NY 10512 #A201 T. 845.278.5223
WWW.PUTNAMGASTRO.COM

A TREE FALLS ON BEDFORD ROAD DOES IT MAKE AN IMPACT?

You bet it does. So we're devising a system to let you record and upload what you see. To give the public access to information they need. Big things are happening at PCTV. Find out more at pctv76.org.

PCTV *It's all about you.*

Trumbull
PRINTING

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

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

Southeast Public Hearing Continues to Bring Complaining Businesses

By Janine Bowen

In a continuation of the Southeast Town Board's public hearing regarding the Comprehensive Plan, business owners again took issue with the proposal to reinforce an outdoor storage limit for local businesses.

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. This would be confined to 15 percent of the business' lot size.

Anthony Malay, representing George Tremblay who owns several properties along Danbury Road, took issues with

storage being limited to 15 percent of lot size.

"In regard to the 15 percent number that's been placed into the [comprehensive] plan proposal, 15 percent is merely pulled out of the air... there's no rational basis that's been stated thus far for the percentage arrived at by the committee, which makes it an arbitrary figure," he said at Thursday's meeting.

Malay believes including a specific percentage is more than necessary for the Comprehensive Plan and the decision of the amount of land allocated for storage should be left to the zoning board, to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

"Maybe, when you get to that point, you lay it out in a way that recognizes there are certain uses that need more

outside storage than others and have different outdoor storage... restrictions based upon uses," he explained.

Business owner Stuart Arbiet, who owns buildings at 991 through 999 on Route 22, also took issue with applying to the same storage limitations to businesses with different needs.

"I think the percentages should be absolutely out of the plan. It should be [based] on what you're doing there. A dealership can't operate with a percentage like that and we have a few automotive dealers around. You have to have a plan that's going to work, not a plan that can't be enforced," he said.

As of now, however, the plan will make exceptions for dealerships and other businesses determined by special zoning districts.

Arbiet also questioned if there would be an exception to the 15 percent rule for businesses that need to store large quantities of materials outside, because law prohibits the materials from being stored inside.

"There's no guarantee yes or no to that question, but when we discuss it in public, you will get the answer at that time," responded Supervisor Tony Hay.

Hay also said that, although there has been talk of the Comprehensive Plan including a provision that forbids a commercial building to be 500 feet from a residence, he "doesn't see that happening."

The Public Hearing phase of the Comprehensive Plan will remain open for the next Southeast Town Board meeting on March 13.

Levy Defends Harsh Sentence Against Drug Dealer

By David Propper

Putnam County District Attorney Adam Levy defended his push to put a heroin dealer behind bars for 40 years after the drug dealer's mother called the sentence "unfathomable" in an interview with The Journal News.

Levy, following a drug forum last Wednesday at Haldane High School, said in an interview that Stefano DiMicheli was a "hardcore drug dealer, who played the system" and had up to seven violations when he was in treatment court, ultimately being arrested for selling drugs and possessing a loaded firearm.

"That's why that individual was sentenced to 40 years in prison," Levy said emphatically.

"Got himself into treatment court when he didn't deserve to be," Levy said of DiMicheli. "Lied to get himself in."

DiMicheli, 26 and a Northern Westchester resident, was sentenced to four 10-year consecutive terms in prison by Putnam County Supreme Court Justice James Reitz on Jan. 30 after Assistant District Attorney Sarah Crabtree called on Reitz to impose a tough sentence. Crabtree said he failed multiple drug tests, refused to show up to outpatient treatment or to contact his treatment coordinator. She also pointed to new arrests, including one where a loaded gun was found on him and large amount of heroin and cash.

In a Feb. 7 article by The Journal News, Virginia DiMicheli, the mother of Stefano said "I don't think he should go unpunished. But 40 years is unfathomable. Why not arrest and make an example out of a drug dealer at the top of the chain, or the suppliers? Why go after a small town young man, one

without the means to defend himself?"

"It's like they want a feather in their caps for winning the war on drugs," she added.

DiMicheli's sister, Ceresa Gonzalez said in The Journal News "They're abusing their power to make an example of him."

When asked to respond to The Journal News article, Levy admitted he felt "very badly" for the mother and sister.

"I can understand the parents being upset," Levy said. "The mother had to be upset at someone, the sister had to be upset with someone. It's very easy to be upset with me and be upset with Judge Reitz."

Levy said he doesn't blame Virginia DiMicheli for his son's several violations or his involvement in a drug bust in Westchester County by federal authorities.

"I don't blame her anymore than I expect her to blame me or anyone else for her son's problems," Levy said. "He made choices, he made decisions, he put everyone's life in jeopardy by being in possession of that loaded gun, that's why he's in jail for 40 years. For no other reason than his own misbehavior and criminal conduct."

Levy said in a statement through his public relations firm the day of the sentence that allowing a dealer like DiMicheli in the treatment program is "like letting the fox into the hen house."

He went on to state that DiMicheli's sentencing would serve as a reminder that the county's treatment program shouldn't be taken lightly.

During the hearing, Judge Reitz told DiMicheli "you were given an opportunity that you really squandered and the privilege you just violated."

Carmel High School Indoor Track Impressive at Recent Meet

The Carmel High School Indoor Track Team had some stellar performances at the Section 1 Class AA Championships and the Section 1 State Qualifiers at the Armory in NYC.

At the Class AA Championships, Benito Muniz was 2nd in the 3200 Meter Run with a Second -Team Gold Standard National Elite time of 9:42 and Andrea Cortina was 7th in the Girls 1500 meters with a Second- Team Silver Standard National Elite Time of 5:07.8. Sawyer Maher was 3rd in the 3200 Meters with a Personal Best time of 9:50, Claire McNerney was 8th in the 1000 Meters with a Personal Best time of 3:15.6, and Katherine McCormack was 11th in the 600 Meters with a time of 1:46.8

The Boys 4 by 800-meter team of Sawyer Maher, Benito Muniz, Cisco

Muniz, and Tyler Wong was 5th with a time of 8:29.

Two boys and two girls qualified for the Section 1 State Qualifiers; Benito Muniz, Sawyer Maher, Andrea Cortina, and Katherine McCormack. The boys 4 by 800 meter team also qualified.

Benito Muniz qualified for the State Championship Meet by placing 3rd in the 1600 meters with a personal best of 4:20.7, which was also a First Team Gold Standard National Elite time.

Andrea Cortina placed 6th in the 1500 meters with a Second Team Gold Standard National Elite time of 5:05.5, Katherine McCormack placed 9th in the 600 meters with a time of 1:43.1, Sawyer Maher placed 10th in the 1600 meters with a time of 4:36.9, and the 4 by 800 meter relay team was 9th with a time of 8:41.3.



From left to right; Cisco Muniz, Tyler Wong, Andrea Cortina, Katherine McCormack, Sawyer Maher, and Benito Muniz.

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

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

Editorial

Prison Inmate Education Shouldn't Be Cuomo's Focus

While Governor Andrew Cuomo's plan to educate prison inmates in New York with taxpayer money is a forward thinking decision, it certainly isn't the time to pursue it. Cuomo made news last week by proposing the state provide college degrees in 10 prisons, one for each region of the state.

The cost would be approximately \$5,000 per year to educate one inmate, though the actual cost of the overall program wasn't revealed. Right now, taxpayers pay \$60,000 for one inmate a year. It seems Cuomo's hope is that if inmates are educated, they'll be less likely to return to prison once they get out, and become contributing members of society. In turn, the amount of money put into the state prison system would eventually go down over time, Cuomo claims. It sounds reasonable, but it certainly shouldn't be a priority for Cuomo at this point.

The priority for Cuomo should be on the students and their families (law abiding citizens) trying to afford higher education right now. It's become an all too common trend that students who work hard to get admitted into colleges either can't go the college of their choosing or college at all because of the financial burden. And if

and when they attend a certain school, student loans can lead to crippling debt that takes years for graduates to dig themselves out of. Simply put, no way is it fair for inmates to have access to free education, while the people who follow the law get stuck footing the bill for not just their own education, but an inmate's education as well.

Another priority that should come before educational opportunities for inmates is a refocus on public education. Talk to any school administrator or attend any school board meeting, and there is a common theme discussed: New York State, specifically Cuomo, isn't doing nearly enough for the public school system. State aid isn't nearly where it should be, and school districts are being forced to make tough choices that lead to a lessening education for students K-12. It makes more sense to pour money back into public education than into prisons, though anything Cuomo proposes with public education rarely seems sensible.

A petition started by State Sen. Greg Ball against the proposal has 5,810 signatures as of Monday. It should be noted that there are non-profit organizations that partner with colleges and already go into

prisons to provide associate and bachelors degrees. And it should also be pointed out those non-profits emphatically state that inmates are enthusiastic about getting that education and they leave jail in much better shape and are less likely to ever return.

It's true, correctional facilities should do more than just house inmates until their time is up. They should actually try to correct them and education is the way to do that. As this point though, it shouldn't be at the top of Cuomo's checklist.

Letters Policy

We invite readers to share their thoughts by sending letters to the editor. Please limit comments to 250 words. We will do our best to print all letters, but are limited by space constraints. Letters are subject to editing and may be withheld from publication on the discretion of the editor. Please refrain from personal attacks. Email letters to Editor David Propper at dpropper@theexaminernews.com. The Putnam Examiner requires all letter writers provide their name, address and contact information.

Obituaries

Michael A. Talerico

Michael "Mikey T." A. Talerico, 70 of Carmel died on February 15. Mikey was born on August 6, 1943 to Salvatore and Faye (Grande) Talerico in Utica. He is predeceased by his beloved wife Grace Mary who had died on July 11, 2009. He is survived by his loving daughter; Michele Renee Talerico Renaud, his brother; Leonard, his sister; Maria and

two adoring grandchildren Tiffany and Thomas who fondly called him "Poppi". Mr. Talerico was a Restaurant Manager for the Gold Fish Restaurant in Ossining. He enjoyed nature, fishing, was an avid reader, devoted husband, father and grandparent.

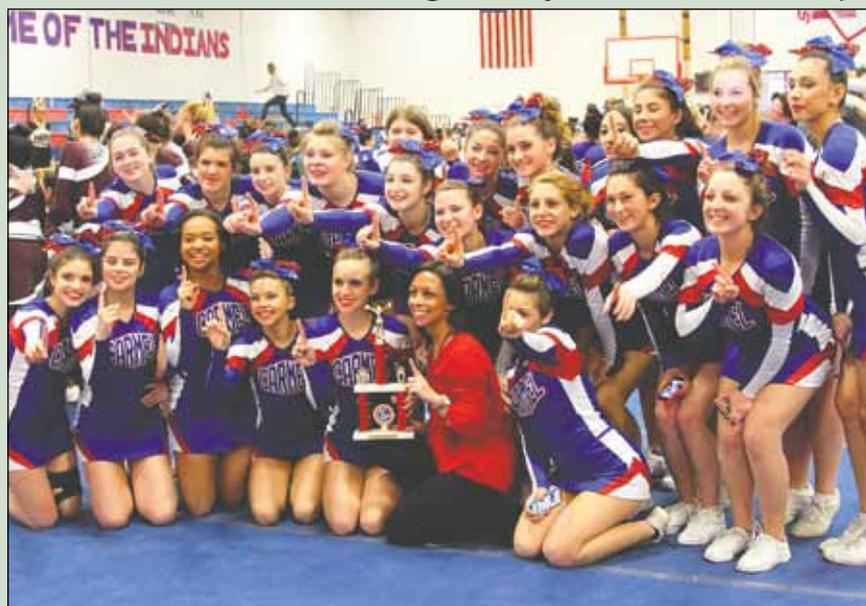
James Ormsby

James Ormsby, life long resident of Mahopac, died unexpectedly on Sunday,

February 16. He is survived by his loving wife, Carol and children James and Emily. He will be forever missed by his parents, four sisters, in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends. Always the life of the party, his humor was second to none. If you needed to laugh, he was your man. Although he was taken too early, he will forever live in the hearts of those he touched.

Fundraiser for Carmel Cheerleading Set for Saturday

The Carmel High School Football and Cheer Club invite community members to A Night At The Races, an evening of fun for parents. The event is at the Carmel Fire House and doors open at 6 p.m. this Saturday. Races begin at 6:30 p.m. and the after party is from 10 p.m. to midnight. For more information, email Jcdonahue4@gmail.com. All proceeds go to the Varsity Cheerleading Team's trip to Nationals in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.



Examiner
MEDIA
also publishes
The Examiner
The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER
Examiner
The WHITE PLAINS
Examiner

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

Member of

NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION
NYPA

CIRCULATION
VERIFICATION
COUNCIL



Putnam Gastroenterology Carmel

By Janine Bowen

The world of medicine is full of large conglomerates, but there are still local small practices that aim to give individual medical care to local residents.

Putnam Gastroenterology, located in Carmel, serves Putnam and Northern Westchester Counties and is an office of two doctors who believe that a small practice is the best way to serve patients.

“We decided to keep it small just to give more personal attention. When you become part of a big group, you can get lost in the system,” explained Dr. Sunil Gupta. “Here we can make quicker decisions, we have one to one, and the nurses get to know the patients very well.”

Gupta, who runs the practice with Doctor Michael Kushner, believes that practicing in a small office gives him more freedom to treat patients in a way that he wants, but also to be more considerate and lenient when it comes to the financial hardships of his patients. Many big medical groups become bogged down by politics, and often refuse to see patients because of outstanding balances. Gupta, however, deals with patients on a case by case basis and often works out payment plans, or offers services at nominal fees or



PROVIDED BY PUTNAM GASTROENTEROLOGY

Dr. Sunil Gupta stands inside his small, but proud practice in Carmel. Gupta and one other doctor focus on keeping all the focus on the patients they see.

pro bono for patients in need.

Of course, being a small practice in a world of major corporations does have its challenges. Without the power of a large group, it was difficult for the doctors at Putnam Gastroenterology to gain leverage with insurance companies

to secure better rates. But Gupta believes that going through the hardships of the early days are worth it.

“Someone told me that when you join a big group, your first days are comfortable because...you have administration work

nitty gritty [tasks] for you but then, the rest of your life, you are bound...you have to conform to a hundred other people in the group” he said. “On your own, your first years may be tougher, but after that, you are in a much more comfortable position because you can set the pace, the tone of the practice the way you’re comfortable with.”

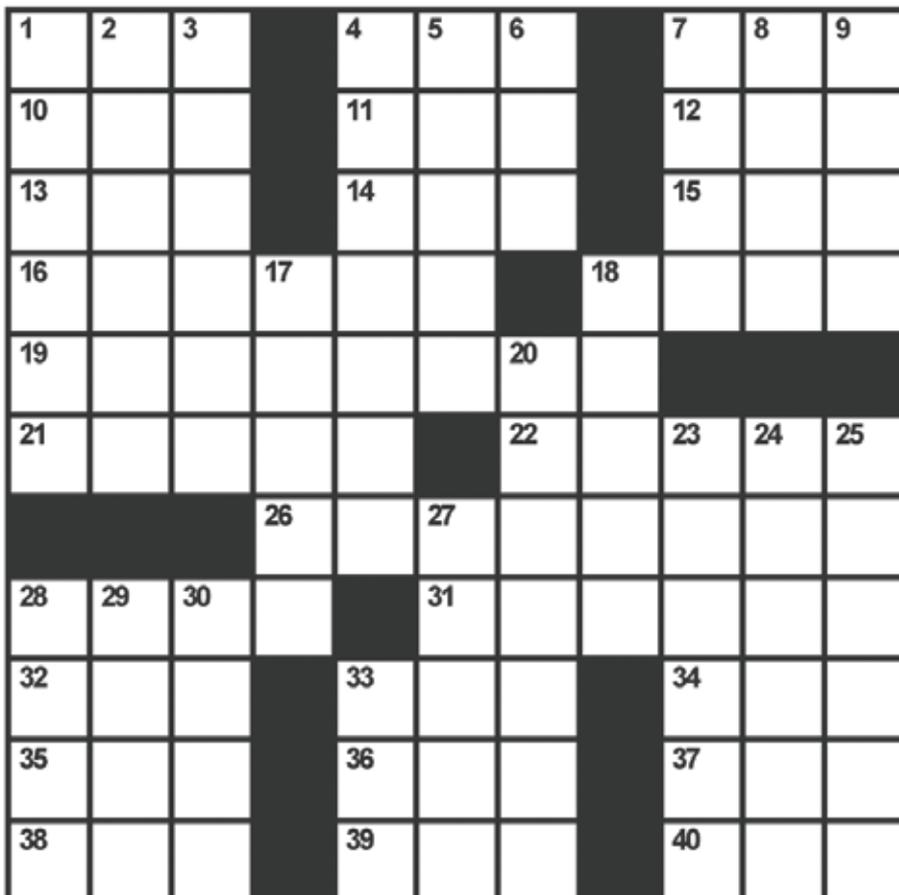
Freedom from large groups has also allowed the doctors at Putnam Gastroenterology to make additions and expansions without red tape. Most recently, they opened a state of the art surgery suite, behind their offices in 2012. Going forward, the hope to hire a female doctor, to create more diversity and give patients more options for physicians.

They also hope to enhance local awareness of the importance of intestinal health during Colon Cancer Awareness Month in March, by holding an open house at the practice.

“We’re a small practice with big ideas. We would like to cater to patients in a comfortable environment,” said Gupta.

Putnam Gastroenterology is located at 667 Stoneleigh Ave., Suite #A201. Its phone number is 845-278-5223 and its website is www.putnamgastro.com.

Crossword Puzzle



Crossword by Myles Mellor

Answers on page 11

Across

- 1 Women’s Environmental Institute or new Yorktown acupuncture center
- 4 Feline sleeping spot
- 7 World time zone (abbr.)
- 10 NFL player
- 11 Chill
- 12 Thriller writer, Child
- 13 French artist
- 14 Snare
- 15 G8 member
- 16 Ruler
- 18 Mohammedan leader
- 19 On the payroll
- 21 Right on
- 22 High up
- 26 1987 Def Leppard album
- 28 Smoking Putnam lake
- 31 Readying an apple for pie
- 32 Southwest native
- 33 Equal rights group; Women’s ____
- 34 ____-two punch
- 35 Repent for
- 36 Lamprey
- 37 Computer term
- 38 Completed
- 39 Drink
- 40 Pull the plug on

Down

- 1 Marine fish
- 2 Swab target
- 3 Chevy/antelope

4 Bell type

- 5 Genus of mites
- 6 Game piece
- 7 Like a sad sack
- 8 Western flattop
- 9 The Dream ____
- 17 Kind of club
- 18 Lounge lizard
- 20 Fit to be consumed
- 23 Baltimore ballplayer
- 24 Haddock
- 25 The very rear
- 27 Long-winded speech
- 28 Southwest Asian
- 29 Handbag
- 30 Exigency
- 33 Field covered with grass

Pet Of the Week



Sawyer is social, playful, and loves to meet people.

**The Putnam
Humane Society**
845-225-7777

Summer Camp Section

The Greenburgh Nature Center Offers Nature Learning Camps for All Ages

Enroll for Weekly Summer Camps for Children at Greenburgh Nature Center

Let us give your child an action-packed time during the summer at Greenburgh Nature Center. Our naturalists will involve, amuse and inform your children. Each day has different activities based on the specific camp's theme. Sign up now as camps fill up fast!

Pre-registration and pre-payment is required online. You must become a member in order to register for camp. Memberships help support our educational programs and animal museum.

End of Summer Half Day Camp (For children entering grades K-3):

Each day offers different activities, including live animal interaction, nature crafts, outdoor nature exploration, indoor and outdoor nature games and much more.

The four-day camp has a morning session from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and an afternoon session from 1 to 4 p.m.

Session Dates: Aug. 18-21 and Aug. 25-28.

Fee Per Session: \$180 plus \$75 membership fee.

Critter Camp (For children entering grades 4-6):

Celebrate the wild in your child at Critter Camp, where kids focus on making both human and animal friends. Campers go behind the scenes and into the forest for a hands-on introduction to the extraordinary world of animals and nature. They also get a chance to help care for our resident animals and explore the lives of our wild forest friends.

The five day camp runs from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Session Dates: July 7-11. and Aug. 4-8.

Fee Per Session: \$350 plus \$75 membership fee; hot lunch an additional \$30 per week

Nature Adventure Camp (For children entering grades 5-7):

Dirt on your clothes, leaves in your hair, grass stains on your shoes. That's what being a kid is all about.

Campers enjoy a full week of hiking, dipping nets in the pond, geocaching, exploring under dead logs, shelter building, close interaction with our live animal collection, nature games and more.

The five-day camp runs from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Session Dates: July 21-25 and Aug 11-15.

Fee Per Session: Members \$350 plus \$75 membership fee; hot lunch an additional \$30 per week

The Greenburgh Nature Center is a 33-acre woodland preserve with trails, a pond, gardens, a playground and outdoor animal exhibits, including a birds of prey aviary. The indoor exhibits include a live animal museum with over 100 specimens, exhibit areas focusing on nature and the environment, a greenhouse with botanical exhibits and a gift shop. It offers special programs for groups of all ages on a wide range of environmental topics, camps and birthday parties. It also has a variety of volunteer opportunities for all

ages and skill levels.

The mission of the Greenburgh Nature Center is to offer inspiring, hands-on environmental education experiences, to foster an appreciation of nature and to promote sustainable practices.

The Nature Center is located at 99 Dromore Rd., off Central Park Avenue, in Scarsdale. Parking is free, and handicapped parking is available. The center's grounds are open daily, dawn to dusk, throughout the year. Its indoor exhibits are open daily, except on Fridays and a few holidays, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekends.

For more information, call 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.



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

Flexible Enrollment!
Register for
1 to 9 Weeks

CH
Camp Herrlich

Early Bird,
Multiple Week,
and Sibling
Discounts
Available



Before & After
Care Available

9 Weeks of Fun!
June 30-Aug 29, 2014
9 am-4:30 pm



845-878-6662



Convenient to
all locations

101 Deacon Smith Hill Rd, Patterson NY 12563

www.campherrlich.org

Summer Camp Section

Putnam/N. Westchester BOCES Offers Science and Exploration Camps

Instead of lounging by a pool all summer, your child could be learning the ancient art of falconry or how to predict the weather or how to engineer products using principles from nature? He or she could even learn how to dive among coral reefs in Key Largo, Fla.

The Center for Environmental Education at Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES is sponsoring 25 one-week camps on topics ranging from meteorology to survival in the

wilderness.

In BOCES' Falconry Academy, campers from 12 to 16 years old will learn how to train and handle birds of prey. They will also learn how weight management affects the behavior and performance of birds, how to make equipment used in falconry and how to free-fly a bird of prey.

"Each apprentice falconer will have a chance to handle a hawk, owl or falcon and learn their different personalities,"

said Dorna Schroeter, coordinator of the Center for Environmental Education.

In Weather Camp with Jim Witt, campers will be grouped by age, with one camp for eight- to 11-year-olds and one for 12- to 16-year-olds. Participants will learn how to analyze surface weather maps, make a weather forecast each day, read and analyze weather charts, use forecast models to make predictions and create a weather broadcast.

In Nature's Engineers, campers will be shown how some of our best industrial designs were inspired by nature. For example, the woodpecker was the inspiration for an ice ax. Japan's speeding bullet train was inspired by a bird's beak and a termite

mound inspired the creation of an energy efficient building. They will look at geckos, boxfish and squid to see how they are able to adhere to surfaces or move through water.

The EcoDiver Program in Key Largo takes place from July 29 through Aug. 5 and is open to high school students who already know how to scuba dive. Participants will advance their knowledge by learning how to collect valuable data from coral reefs and will be eligible for EcoDiver certification, provided they pass a final test.

For more information on the Center for Environmental Education's summer camp offerings, go to <http://register.asap-connected.com/PNWboces> or call Rachel Wade at 845-225-9256.



www.tomthumbpreschool.com

We are a school!
Ages 2.9 to 5 years old

Full Day Programs 8:45 am to 2:15 pm OR 3:15pm dismissal
Operating Hours: 7am to 6pm

Physical Education, Music, Dance,
Drumming, Science. NY State Certified Curriculum

OPEN HOUSE
for both programs
Sunday, March 2, 2014
12 pm to 2 pm
Come and see the difference!

ThumBelina School for 2's
ThumBelina offers Half Day and Full Day Programs

Both programs are now registering for September 2014
For information on these programs call 914-528-5600
1949 E Main ST, Mohegan Lk, NY Nancy Brophy, Owner/Director

Follow US ON



twitter

twitter.com/ExaminerMedia

Green Chimneys Summer Camp

in Carmel and Brewster



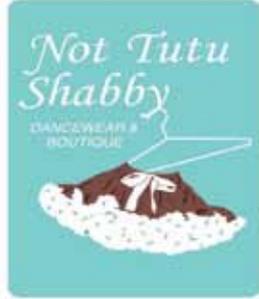

Adventure Activities • Arts & Crafts
Canoeing • Great Swamp Exploration
Farm & Wildlife • Sports and more!

Clearpool - Carmel, NY Hillside - Brewster, NY

Full day camp for ages 4-15
Half day *Little Explorers* program for 4 year olds
Caring, experienced staff
Early drop-off/late pick-up available

2014 Registration Now Open!
Go to greenchimneys.org/camps



~~~~~

*Come See Our Exquisite Collection of  
Communion Dresses, Veils & Gifts*

Sugarlips Tanks ~ Capezio Authorized Dealer ~ Camp Gear

Always FREE GIFT WRAPPING!

~~~~~




10% Off
One Item

Coupon valid on
Communion Merchandise
only including dresses,
veils and accessories.
Expires 4/15/14~
One Coupon per customer.

New Veils
in Stock

Not Tutu Shabby

Underhill Plaza
(Located Next to Rita's Ice)
1877 Commerce Street, Yorktown Heights
914.245.2200
Monday-Friday 10:00-6:00
Open Late Thursday until 7:00 ~ Saturday 10:00-5:00

Pairing the 2013 Oscar-Nominated Movies With Wine



By Nick Antonaccio

The 86th Academy Awards show airs this Sunday. This is my sixth year of presenting the Best Picture nominees and creating hypothetical pairings of wine with the top

contenders.

I've distilled my list to five of the nine nominees.

12 Years a Slave: Based on the true story of Solomon Northup, a free black man who lived in New York with his wife and children. In 1841 he was surreptitiously kidnapped and sold into slavery for over a decade.

Sent to Louisiana, the movie follows his travails in a microcosm of the degradation of blacks during the slavery era. In graphic detail, we are immersed in the horror of this dehumanizing period of history. But Northup's spirit of survival carries him through his ordeal, persisting in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds.

This movie should inspire us to cherish America's principles and the equal rights of all. Sitting with fellow citizens, sipping on an aged Port, provides an environment to do so. These wines represent a centuries-

old Portuguese respect for the land and its people that persists today.

Gravity: Just when you think all is right with the universe, disaster strikes. The shuttle crew sent to repair the Hubble telescope is thrown topsy-turvy, wreaking havoc on the lives of the crew. While the cinematography and special effects are amazing, the story-line is rather pedestrian. This movie may win the most awards, but perhaps not Best Picture.

So, too, California red wine blends. Americans rave about them but their essence is often devoid of intrinsic character. Tethered to Zinfandel or Cabernet Sauvignon, they can't seem to find their way through the enological universe.

American Hustle: The Led Zeppelin song in the background screams out: "Good times, bad times, you know I had my share." In 1978, con man Irving Rosenfeld and his seductive partner Sidney Prosser are on top of the world, raking in hordes of cash from unsuspecting marks. Good times soon turn sour as they get caught up in the middle of a government sting operation. The

You Heard It Through the Grapevine

movie's blatant message--everyone hustles to survive--is ever present.

Just as Irving and Sidney get trapped in lifestyles perceived to be desirable, others get trapped in wines perceived to be high quality. My generation embraced the

popular wines of the late 1970s because of their "cool" factor. There were many other, better, choices than Blue Nun or Mateus, but we fell victim to the advertising cons of the day.

The Wolf of Wall Street: Wow, sex, drugs and wild parties. Something for every moviegoer. In 1995, at age 26, Jordan Belfort made \$49 million as a Wall Street stock hustler. His real-life escapades, eventually shut down by the FBI, landed him in jail for three years. But not before he enjoyed the decadent excesses of his wealth.

What better way to celebrate the ethos of Belfort than Champagne? A few years ago, billionaire Mark Cuban held a celebratory dinner featuring a \$90,000 bottle of Armand de Brignac Champagne. That says it all when you're trying to impress friends and clients.

Dallas Buyers Club: Mathew McConaughey brings us back to 1985, and the shocking times when HIV/AIDS was rampant across the globe. Diagnosed as HIV positive, his character seeks a

way to prolong his life. Not accepting his 30-day death sentence, he is able to find experimental drugs for himself and then attempts to distribute them to other victims. Battling the government and the medical establishment, and with the unlikely help of a similarly afflicted transvestite, he creates a way to distribute his illegal drugs (hence the name of the movie) and prolong his life.

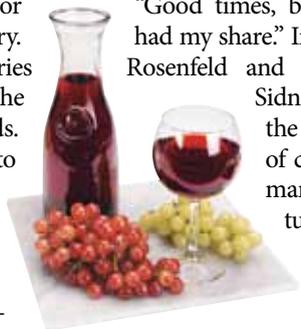
Zinfandel represents the persona of this movie. This wine is a chameleon of sorts. It can be an in-your-face fruit bomb

'Getting ready for the festivities'

or a sophisticated, thought-provoking statesman--at times misunderstood, at other times irrepressible.

Which movie will win the coveted Oscar? Sit back on Sunday night with your favorite wine in hand and enjoy the festivities.

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.



Learning About Cholesterol Can Mean Living Longer



By Dr. Robert Pilchik

High cholesterol is a major risk factor for cardiovascular disease -- including heart attack and stroke -- which will affect half of all men and one-third of women.

Understanding cholesterol and its role in heart disease, and taking simple steps to achieve safe levels, are vital investments in your heart's health and your own longevity. It's never too early, or too late, to take charge of this key aspect of your health. What's important is to start today.

Cholesterol is a type of fat. With all the grim news about it, you may be surprised to learn it's naturally produced by your body, and required for essential bodily functions, such as building cells. Your second source of cholesterol is the foods you eat, mainly animal fats.

Cholesterol is carried through your body by little packages of protein and cholesterol, called lipoproteins. There are two types: high-density lipoprotein (HDL), often called "good" cholesterol; and low-density lipoprotein (LDL), often called "bad" cholesterol. Over

time, if too much LDL cholesterol is circulating in your body, it starts to build up in the form of a hard structure called plaque, in the walls of arteries throughout the body, but mostly in arteries by the heart and those that feed the brain.

Plaque causes artery walls to thicken, leading to a condition called atherosclerosis or hardening of the arteries. As artery walls thicken, the vessels narrow restricting the flow of oxygen-rich blood to the heart or brain. Atherosclerosis is the leading cause of heart attacks and stroke.

Here's what happens: If an artery becomes 100 percent blocked, blood supply is cut off, and the portion of the heart muscle that relies on that artery dies. This is a heart attack. The same process leads to a stroke, except in this case, the total blockage occurs in the carotid artery, which supplies blood to the brain.

By contrast, HDL cholesterol helps the body get rid of excess LDL cholesterol. It actually neutralizes the toxicity that makes LDL so damaging to your arterial walls.

Think of it this way: LDL is a delivery truck bringing all those nasty fats to your arteries. HDL is the garbage truck that comes and takes all the bad stuff

NWH Can Help You Recover Faster

You've had a heart attack or heart surgery, or you need to manage risk factors linked to heart disease, such as high cholesterol, high blood pressure or being overweight... and you're rarin' to get back to your life. Northern Westchester Hospital's nationally recognized Cardiac Rehabilitation Program offers the "full package," including medically-monitored exercise customized to your needs, counseling with dietitians, and support for you and your family. Not only recover faster, but learn how to maintain good heart health for the rest of your life.

Northern Westchester Hospital's comprehensive cardiac rehabilitation program has been recognized by the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation for enhancing standards of care.

To learn more, call 914-458-8700 or visit www.NwhRehab.org.

away.

You can have dangerously high LDL cholesterol and be symptom-free. Here's why: Plaque builds up in artery walls slowly, starting as early as age 20. But you don't begin to develop symptoms of chest discomfort -- angina -- until the blood vessel is 70 percent blocked. So your vessel can be 65 percent blocked, but because it's not causing enough restriction of the blood to the heart, you don't know it, and neither does your doctor.

Plaque caused by high LDL is called unstable. It is vulnerable to rupture at any time, breaking open and releasing its contents into the bloodstream. Now

the contents of the plaque -- all that cholesterol and other fats -- form a blood clot in the artery wall. And the patient instantaneously goes from, let's say, 65 percent blockage to 100 percent blockage causing a massive heart attack. One minute, the patient had absolutely no idea anything was wrong. The next minute, he's fighting for his life.

Dr. Robert Pilchik is chief of cardiology at Northern Westchester Hospital in Mount Kisco. He was ranked a Top Doctor by the Castle Connolly healthcare research firm, and named a Best Doctor by Westchester Magazine. For more information, call 914-666-1200 or visit www.nwhc.net.

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.

Save the Date:

Saturday, March 8

"Tasty" a Group Exhibition: Opening Reception March 8, 6 p.m.- 9 p.m. Sat. and Sun. noon - 6 p.m. Display March 8 to April 6. bau Gallery, 506 Main St. Beacon.

The Carmel Rams Baseball Club will be hosting their Primary Season Fundraiser - "A Night at the Races" at the Carmel Fire House. Doors open at 6 p.m., and horse races begin at 7 p.m. The cost is \$25 per person paid in advance or at the door and includes dinner, beverages, and dessert. As an incentive to bring your friends, prepaid tables of eight may be purchased for only \$150. In order for us to plan appropriately, please RSVP by February 28th to Dawn - zmancubs@verizon.net or Allyson - carmelramsbaseball@gmail.net.

Saturday, March 15

Carmel Rotary's Annual Basketball Shootout: Interested in participating in a fundraiser for your organization, agency, sport's team, church, other non-profit group, or community project? Then consider taking part in the Carmel Rotary 7th Annual Basketball Shootout. 9 a.m. to noon, at Carmel High School, Fair Street, Carmel. To make it easier for anyone interested in supporting and donating to Carmel Rotary this year, a new website has been established that will allow you to contribute on line at: www.crowdrise.com/rotaryclubofcarmelny. Under 'Fundraisers', click on 'Community Basketball Shootout', then click on 'Donate' and follow the instructions.

Additional information is available at www.carmelrotary.org or by calling Rotarian Al Lotrecchiano at 845-225-4835.

Tuesday, February 25

Computer Basics: Patterson Library, 1167 Rte. 311 Patterson. 11 a.m. Learn the basics of computers, from using a mouse to navigating the Internet and basic software, with Margaret Carey. Registration required. To register or for more information, visit us online at www.pattersonlibrary.org and click on calendar or call 845-878-6121 x10. Free program.

Wednesday, February 26

Estate Planning: Patterson Library, Rte.311 Patterson 7 p.m. Attorney Erina Ponzini discusses the importance of basic Estate Planning and shares information on topics everyone needs to know. Topics will include: Last Will and Testament, Durable Power of Attorney, Living Will and Health Care Proxy, Probate, Trusts, Revocable Trust and Irrevocable Trust. Registration preferred, walk-ins welcome. To register or for more information, visit

us online at www.pattersonlibrary.org and click on calendar or call 845-878-6121 x10. Free program.

Thursday, February 27

HGAR - CID and Putnam County EDC Breakfast: Join the Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors' Commercial & Investment Division to hear about the latest developments in Putnam County. Our special guest will be Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell. 10am to noon . Putnam County Golf Course 187 Hill Street. Mahopac. This is a free event is sponsored by the Putnam County Economic Development Corporation.

8th Annual Sloop Woody Guthrie Benefit Dinner: At the Towne Crier Cafe, 391 Main Street, Beacon. All proceeds go toward the ferry sloop Woody Guthrie Restoration! Cocktail Hour 5 p.m.- 6 p.m., Cash Bar, Dinner at 7 p.m. Live Music by Painted Betty, Raffle, and Door Prizes. Tickets: \$75.00 per person. Online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/562891> Tom LaBarr: 845-831-4267.

The Tri-State IBM Retirees Club Meeting. 1:30 p.m. at the meeting hall of the United Methodist Church, 1176 E. Main Street, Shrub Oak, NY. The scheduled speaker is Fred Westendorf, Club member and AARP Senior Tax Advisor. Refreshments and sign-in at 1 p.m. New members welcome. Annual dues will be accepted.

Information: (914) 528-5916.

Saturday, March 1

Exploring Spirituality and the World We Live In: Unitarian Society in Mohegan Lake, 1698 Strawberry Rd, off Route 6. The sessions will be led by the Rev. Karen Brammer; minister of the society and program manager for the Unitarian Universalist Association Green Sanctuary. "Our Place in the Web of Life," a five-session, engaging exploration of how people interact with the environment - and one another --will kick-off 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. also "Spiritual Journeys," an interactive opportunity for participants to share their spiritual beliefs and learn about the spiritual paths people choose to follow, begins March 2, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The public is invited to attend one -- or all -- of the sessions in either series. There is no charge, though donations will be gratefully accepted. You may register or get more information at 914-222-3114.

Getting Organized: Paper, Paper Everywhere: Patterson Library, 1167 Rte. 311 Patterson, 1 p.m. Ellen Kosloff, Certified Professional Organizer, is back to help you organize all of your papers. Learn what papers to keep and what to get rid of to keep your home clutter free. Registration preferred, walk-ins

welcome if space allows. To register or for more information, visit us online at www.pattersonlibrary.org and click on calendar or call 845-878-6121 x10. Free program.

Gallery 66 NY Features "Non-Verbal Communication" and "Wandering Curves" An exhibition of the haunting portraits of Rieko Fujinami. Fujinami paints on mirrors with a multiplicity of mediums producing depth that is at once realistic as well as otherworldly. Also on exhibit is an unusual and enticing display of work by Maureen Winzig as well as Bob and Karen Madden in a show titled "Wandering Curves". Each artist uses their chosen medium - oil, stone, and fiber, respectively, to represent a variety of subjects through the sensuous bend and twist of the curve. "Non-Verbal Communications" and "Wandering Curves" will be on view from March 7 through March 30, with an opening reception on March 7 from 6 p.m.-9 p.m. The gallery's winter hours are Thursday through Sunday, from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, please call 845-809-5838, or visit www.gallery66ny.com.

Sunday, March 2

The BAMM Concert Series at Mahopac Public Library kicks off with a mandolin extravaganza featuring Mahopac resident Michael Sassano. "Mandolin Madness," a four-piece bluegrass and blues band,

will perform on an extraordinary range of mando-family instruments including mandolins, mandolas, mando-cellos, and octave mandolins. Admission is free and registration is required. To register, visit www.mahopaclibrary.org, or call 845-628-2009, ext 100.

For more information about BAMM or programs at Mahopac Public Library, visit www.mahopaclibrary.org

get NOTICED!



Advertise in
The Putnam
Examiner

Call 914-864-0878 today!

advertising@
theexaminernews.com

Crossword Answers

1	W	2	E	3	I		4	L	5	A	6	P		7	G	8	M	9	T
10	R	A	M				11	I	C	E				12	L	E	E		
13	A	R	P				14	B	A	G				15	U	S	A		
16	S	W	A	17	Y	E	R				18	I	M	A	M				
19	S	A	L	A	R	I	E	D											
21	E	X	A	C	T				22	A	L	23	O	24	F	25	T		
					26	H	Y	27	S	T	E	R	I	A					
28	K	29	E	30	N	T			31	P	A	R	I	N	G				
32	U	T	E						33	L	I	B			34	O	N	E	
35	R	U	E						36	E	E	L			37	L	A	N	
38	D	I	D						39	A	L	E			40	E	N	D	

EXAMINER MEDIA Classifieds

022514

ADOPTION

ADOPTION: Unplanned Pregnancy? Caring local licensed adoption agency provides financial and emotional support. Choose from loving pre-approved families. Habla Espanol. Call Joy 1-914-939-1180 or confidential email: Adopt@ForeverFamiliesThroughAdoption.org

AUCTIONS

AUCTION CHEMUNG COUNTY REAL PROPERTY TAX FORECLOSURES. 150+ Properties, Wednesday, March 26 @ 11AM. Holiday Inn, Elmira, NY. 800-243-0061 HAR, Inc. & AAR, Inc. Free brochure: www.NYSAUCTIONS.com

Buy or sell at AARauctions.com. Contents of homes, businesses, vehicles and real estate. Bid NOW! AARauctions.com Lights, Camera, Auction. No longer the best kept secret.

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!

CLASSIC CARS WANTED

Classic Cars Wanted!! 1950-1960 Cadillacs. Especially 1959s & any convertibles. Will consider Buicks, Chevrolets & other

makes & models. (Finders fee paid) Call/Text Steve @ 315- 863- 1600 or Email: eldo1959@live.com

DIVORCE

DIVORCE \$349 - Uncontested divorce papers prepared. Includes poor person application/waives government fees, if approved. One signature required. Separation agreements available. Make Divorce Easy - 518-274-0380.

DRIVERS

Job Opportunities in our owner operator fleet: Shuttle fleet, drop & hook \$3,000 sign-on bonus: \$1.52 avg/all miles. Call 800-525-3029 or visit www.driveatlas.com/shuttle

FOR SALE

Privacy Hedges- SPRING Blowout Sale 6 Arborvitae (cedar) Regular \$129 Now \$59 Beautiful, Nursery Grown. FREE Installation/FREE delivery 518-536-1367 www.lowcosttrees.com Limited Supply!

HEALTH

PELVIC/ TRANSVAGINAL MESH? Did

**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**

you undergo transvaginal placement of mesh for pelvic organ prolapse or stress urinary incontinence between 2005 and the present? If the mesh caused complications, you may be entitled to compensation. Call Charles H. Johnson Law and speak with female staff members 1-800-535-5727

HELP WANTED

PARISH SECRETARY, St. John's Episcopal Church, Pleasantville is in search of a technologically savvy, self-motivated, part-time parish secretary. Please, see our web-site for a complete job description: stjohnspleasantville.org. **You may send your resume to The Rev Mary B. Gregorius at mothermarystjohns@gmail.com**

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

AIRLINES ARE HIRING! Train for hands on Aviation Career. FAA approved program. Financial aid if qualified- Job placement assistance. CALL Aviation Institute of Maintenance 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"

LAND WANTED

3 COUNTY LAND LIQUIDATION! UPSTATE NY 21 TRACTS, 5-147 acres from \$14,900 Southern TIER-CATSKILL MOUNTAINS- CAPITAL REGION! State Land, Ponds, Streams, Views! Special financing & incentives! Call today for free info packet: (888)905-8847 newyorklandandlakes.com

MISCELLANEOUS

MATH TEACHER PART-TIME High School level Math for SAT Prep Sunday evenings in Pawling \$23-40 per hour Call 845-638-2826

SAWMILLS from only \$4897.00- 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

MORTGAGES

Ready to buy a home? We are ready to help. The State of NY Mortgage agency offers up to \$15,000 down payment assistance. www.sonyma.org. 1-800-382-HOME(4663).

OUT OF STATE REAL ESTATE

Sebastian, Florida Affordable custom factory constructed homes \$45,900+, Friendly community, No Real Estate or State Income Taxes ,minutes to Atlantic Ocean. 772-581-0080, www.beach-cove.com. Limited seasonal rentals

PETS



18-MONTH-OLD ADORABLE DOG NEEDS A LOVING HOME. "Chico" was found on the streets of Puerto Rico last week after

being severely neglected and will be arriving in NY next week. He is fully vaccinated and neutered and needs a permanent place to stay. **Contact Beth at 203-240-6521.**

WANTED

NY COMIC BOOK MARKETPLACE, THIS SATURDAY, 3/1 NEW YORKER HOTEL, CORNER OF 8TH AVE AND 34TH STREET NYC. 100's OF DEALERS/ ARTESTS/ CELEBRITIES. BUYING/ SELLING COMIC BOOKS/COLLECTIBLES NYCBM.COM Comic books to sell! Call MIKE: 800-273-0312

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**

CASH for Coins! Buying ALL Gold & Silver. Also Stamps & Paper Money, Entire Collections, Estates. Travel to your home. Call Marc in NY 1-800-959-3419

Outer Banks, NC Vacation Homes!

Brindley Beach

VACATIONS & SALES

Over 500 Vacation Homes,
from Duck to Corolla,
Oceanfront to Soundfront,
Private Pools, Hot Tubs,
Pets and More...

Book Online at www.brindleybeach.com
1-877-642-3224

"SERVICE FIRST... FUN ALWAYS!"

IMPORTANT NEWS IF YOU USED TESTOSTERONE HEART ATTACK or STROKE?

Studies show that using Testosterone products may significantly increase your risk of a heart attack, stroke, blood clots and death. If you or a loved one has suffered any of these injuries, call 1-800-THE-EAGLE now about making a claim for substantial monetary compensation. No fees or costs until your case is settled or won. We practice law only in Arizona, but associate with lawyers throughout the U.S.

GOLDBERG & OSBORNE
1-800-THE-EAGLE
(1-800-843-3245)
www.1800theeagle.com

915 W. Camelback Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85013

Open 7 Days
a Week

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

February 25 - March 3, 2014

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

SPORTS SECTION

Drive Angry!



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS



Mahopac, Put Valley Forge on to County Center

Mahopac G R.J. Martinez (L) and Putnam Valley swingman James Fitzgerald (R) both drive and snake their way to the rack in their respective quarterfinals wins last week. The 5th-seeded Indians managed to survive a Class AA 70-66 overtime triumph of No.4 host Fox Lane last Thursday after the 4th-seeded Tigers pushed past No.5 Croton-Harmon in a 55-45 Class B victory last Tuesday. Mahopac returns to the County Center this Thursday for an unprecedented fourth-straight year to take on No.1 Mount Vernon in the semifinals while PV returns for a record-setting second year in a row in the hopes of taking out No.1 Irvington in the semis... see Boys' Hoops Notebooks inside

Sports

Class AA Boys' Hoops Notebook

Mahopac Punches Unprecedented 4th-Straight Final 4 Ticket

5th-Seeded Indians Defeat No.4 Foxes, Brace for Showdown with No.1 Mt. Vernon

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

It was everything we media-types built it up to be, and then some: Mahopac (17-3) vs. Fox Lane (17-3), with their two whimsical fan bases, was just plain whack. It was more so given the fact that extra time was needed to settle on a winner, as the No. 5 Indians beat the No. 4 host Foxes, 70-66, in overtime to advance to the Section 1 Class AA Final 4 for an unprecedented fourth straight season. Westchester County Center, here they come!

"This is just awesome," said Mahopac senior Ryan Simone, who had 20 points, 11 rebounds, four assists and two steals while becoming the first three-year starter in Mahopac history to reach the County Center in all three seasons. "It's what I've dreamt about, and I'm so happy to be doing it for Mahopac. We just needed to get stops on the defensive end, we knew our offense would come. And we got big stops when we needed them."

If history tells us anything, though, it tells us a nightmare awaits, as Mahopac will challenge No. 1 Mount Vernon in Thursday's Class AA semifinal at 8:15 p.m. The state-ranked (No.3) Knights (18-1) have been the thorn in Mahopac's side in four of its last five County Center appearances, having gone 4-0 against the Indians in that environment (3 semis, 1 final) since 1998.

The Indians, who beat Arlington in double overtime the past two seasons



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Mahopac G RJ Martinez attacks rim against defense of Fox Will Paul in Indians' 70-66 OT quarterfinal win.

in the playoffs, showed poise down the stretch, playing lock-down defense and holding the Foxes to six points in OT, while dropping 10 of their own, six from the stripe.

Every kid that took the floor left it all out there, both sides. Those in the know thought it might come down to a central third-party player for either team, with both teams having two studs (Mahopac's Simone and R.J. Martinez & Fox Lane's James Morales and Andrew Redhead). Mahopac senior G Glenn Janik did more damage when it matter than any other third party, finishing with a career-high 20 points, nine in the final 12 minutes.

The studs were studs, but, like he has all season long, Janik stepped up throughout four quarters to provide a major boost to Mahopac. His three-point prowess was the stuff of legend, as he drained four from downtown. It seemed that every time Fox Lane took a lead, it would be short-lived; thanks to the exploits of the St. Leo-bound Janik, who would eventually be swarmed

by the MANIACS, who stormed the Fox Lane hardwood.

"This feels incredible right now, oh my God," said Janik, Mahopac's most improved player from a year ago. "We finally hit our foul shots. We could have ended the game in regulation if I hit that foul shot, so I wanted another chance and I got it. We hit them and we're going to the County Center... four years in a row and nobody thought we could do it."

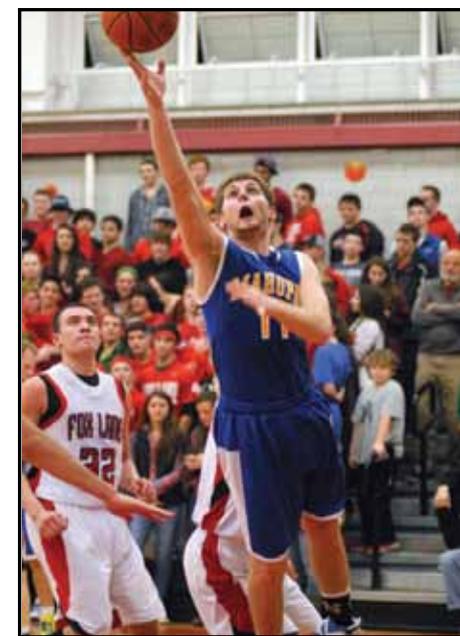
The snaky Martinez was a monster in transition and settled situations, scoring 21 points, including four game-clinching free throws in the final minute of overtime when Mahopac shot 6 of 7 from the free throw line. He added nine boards. Mahopac had essentially stunk the joint out from the Christy stripe over the first four quarters, shooting a ghastly 6 of 17 (missing a slew of 1-and-1's).

The Foxes, ranked No.22 in NYS, were down 60-58 in the closing seconds of regulation when Andrew Redhead (11 points, 9 boards) went to the iron and

drew a foul with 3.7 seconds left and converted two at the stripe to force OT. The game was tied 64-64 in OT before Janik, Martinez and Simone combined to hit 6 of 7 at the line with the Foxes forced to foul.

Morales (23 points, three assists, three steals) had carried the Foxes down the stretch, but Indian sophomore Aiden Hynes, who had six points, eight boards and a key late bucket, became a thorn in his side late in the fourth, a stanza that saw nine lead changes and four ties. In the end, experience and poise prevailed.

"You just get used to it," Mahopac Coach Kevin Downes said with a sheepish grin. "I just didn't want to go to a second one. All I wanted was not to go to another one. They kept their composure and were able to find a way. They fought through fatigue and I'm just so proud of this group. This never gets old. Going into the season, losing nine kids, four of our five starters and (Brendan) Hynes, to come back this year and do this again on the road against



Mahopac F Ryan Simone destroyed Fox Lane with a strong interior presence, with 20 points and 11 boards in 70-66 quarterfinal win over Fox Lane last Thursday.

a very skilled basketball team, it doesn't get better than that. It's a different group, but this is unreal. This is as big a quarterfinal win as we've had since I've been here."

Martinez, who moved transferred to Mahopac from Carmel this past summer, was clearly the key link for Mahopac. Without Martinez filling the stat sheet, Mahopac's chances of making the Final 4 diminish greatly. He was thrilled to be making his first trip to the County Center.

continued on page 19



Mahopac's Chris Escernio D's up on Fox hotshot James Morales in Indians' 70-66 win last Thursday.

Sports

Class A Boys Hoops Notebook

No.2 Panas Throttles No.7 Beacon, Punches County Center Tix

McCauley Does Significant Damage in 63-51 win over Bulldogs

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

Despite finishing with 17 points in the Section 1 Class A quarterfinals, Panas senior F Tyler Mason sat glued to the bench with foul trouble through long stretches of the most important game the Panthers would play since the 2008 sectional semifinals (an uneventful loss at the County Center). So, it would be up to his sidekick, senior G Tim McCauley, to put the Panthers on his back as No. 2 Panas defeated No. 7 Beacon, 63-51, behind a game-high 25 points from Timmaay!

"We were the two-seed and somehow we were still underdogs," said McCauley, who led the Panthers to their first trip in six years to the County Center Class A semifinals. Panas (16-4) will face No. 6 Tappan Zee (17-3) Wednesday at the County Center at 4:45 p.m., seeking the Panthers' first championship appearance since 1997 (the year they won their only Section 1 title). TZ upended Lourdes, 58-48, to reach the County Center for the fourth time in five years, so big-game experience will be on their side.

"We just wanted to prove that Panas is for real," added McCauley, who was also a key figure in Panas' football transition from doormat to contender. "I just came out and my shots were going in, and I just wanted to get to County Center. I'm so hyped right now. Mike Evans, Tommy Frost and Tyler Mason they all got rebounds and we all crashed the boards. This is probably the biggest moment in my career, I just can't wait for the County Center. I really think we have a good shot



Panas G Tim McCauley drops two of his game-high 25 points in the Panthers' quarterfinal win over Beacon last Wednesday.



Panas' Brandon Collins splits a pair of Beacon defenders for two points in Panthers' quarterfinal win last Wednesday.

buckets, which I don't think we did," Sullivan said. "It seemed like every guy on their team was six inches taller than us, so our game plan was to play tight, multiple zones until they started knocked down 3's and forced us to come out on them because I thought they might be more athletic. But they kept missing so we were able to stick with the game plan the whole time."

The game plan has enabled the Panthers to get back to the County Center for just the third time since 1997, a year the Panas



Panas F Tyler Mason splits two Beacon defenders for two of his 17 points in quarterfinal win over Bulldogs.

to get that gold ball."

McCauley added three rebounds and veteran poise throughout, something Panas Coach Shawn Sullivan has become accustomed to.

"Timmy is like unbelievable," the 12-year veteran Sullivan said. "He's the most competitive guy I've ever coached in all my years here at Panas. Whenever we need something big to happen, he makes it happen... a steal, an assist, finishing at the rim, or a big 3. He gets it done."

Perhaps the best part about McCauley is his modest nature. Humble to the core, McCauley is the kind of student athlete one can't help but root for.

"He's the most unassuming player in Section 1," Sullivan said. "I don't think I'll ever coach a guy like him again. He does whatever we need to get the win and nothing else matters to him. He and I spent more time in this gym this past summer than I ever have with a kid. We put up shots probably 60 days over the summer because he was determined to

make himself an elite guard, and I think you can see the results."

Senior G Tom Frost was smooth in all facets, with eight points, six caroms and three assists while Mason chalked up six boards and two assists, and the defensive efforts from unheralded G Tom Parrish could not go unnoticed, as he checked Beacon sophomore hotshot Elijah Hughes, to whom he gave up at least half a foot.

Panthers Mike Evans and Brandon Collins interchanged often, each providing a spark to the offense and yeoman's work along the glass. Every Panther, from top dogs to role player, did his job. Panas led 25-17 at halftime and never allowed the Bulldogs to get within five the remainder of the game.

"Our keys to every game have been rebounding, defensive transition and not giving up easy



Panther Tommy Frost goes baseline for two points in win over Beacon.

continued on page 19

Sports

Girls Hoops Notebook

Peekskill Beats Ardsley in Quarters, Advances to Class A Semis

Ossining, Mahopac Heading to County Center for AA Semis

By A.J. Martelli

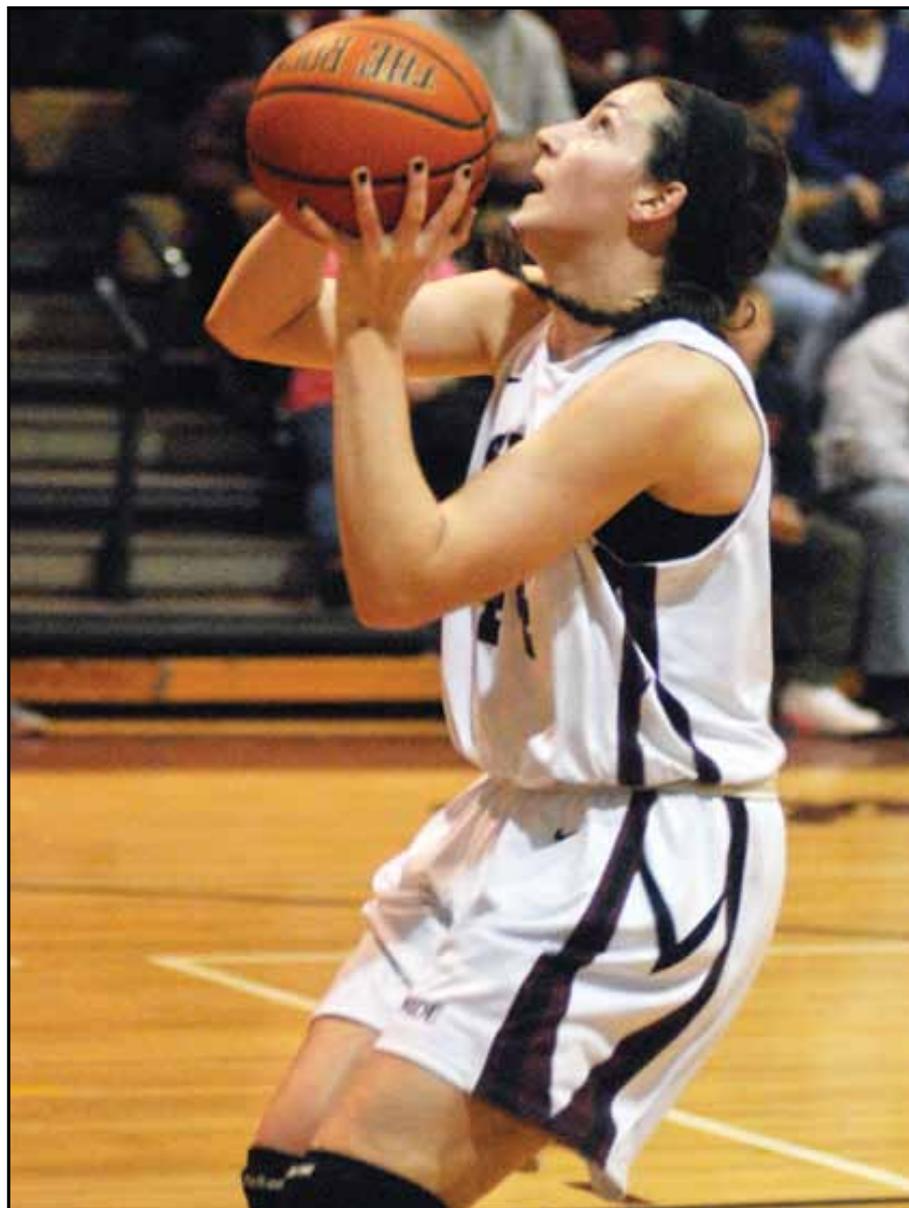
After a brush with mortality in round one vs. John Jay-Cross River, the No. 4 **PEEKSKILL** lady Red Devils were matched up with No. 5 Ardsley in the Class A quarterfinals last Wednesday at home. It was an unpredictable game for Red Devil Coach Rodney Headley, Jr., who had never coached against Ardsley in his career.

Going in with the mentality of “may the best team win” the defending Section 1 champion Red Devils held on to oust Ardsley 64-57; thanks to a fourth-quarter power surge, which advanced them to the semifinal round at the Westchester County Center – and gives Peekskill a chance to capture its third gold ball in five years.

“I told them, it’s the playoffs,” Headley said. “And rarely do you get a blowout after the first round. You’ve got to keep your six or seven-point lead and hold onto it as best you can. We picked up on what Ardsley was doing; realized what their game plan was, which was drive and kick, and we have the basketball IQ to make adjustments.”

The Red Devils led 50-40 in the fourth with 4:24 left, until Ardsley showed some life with five unanswered points, and then chopped it down to a three-point Peekskill lead. With the Red Devils only leading 52-49 with 2:07 to go, they settled down and gave themselves some breathing room.

Latisha Clark (12 points) made a layup and then an Ardsley turnover ensued. Sophomore Lanay Rodney, who led Peekskill with 22 points, was soon after fouled and sank both her free throws,



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Pride F Abby Squirrel squares up for a shot in win over New Rochelle.

which gave Peekskill a big enough cushion to hold on.

“It felt good,” Rodney said. “We just had to keep on going; keep the confidence going the whole game. We just had to keep playing our game and (the key was) not letting them get into our heads. During practice we play like we don’t know each other, so we always make ourselves better.”

Headley echoed the same feelings.

“I’ll throw them in the grinder any day because they can run up and down and up and down, and we don’t have to take the press off at any time,” he said.

“It’s a beautiful thing to have that many people who want to play. They’re competing against each other in practice – making each other better. Sometimes people don’t get a chance to play, but when they do they take advantage of their time.”

Nyrie Holliman only proved that point in the second quarter, netting seven points in the frame to keep the Red Devils

out in front, as they took a 28-22 lead into halftime. Peekskill maintained a six-point lead at the end of the third as well, up 39-33 entering the game-deciding fourth.

The Red Devils only trailed early in the first quarter, until Tiarra Dillard (seven points) hit a 3-pointer, propelling Peekskill on a run of 10 unanswered points to give them the lead for good.

Tomorrow, at the County Center, the Red Devils (16-4) tip off against top-seeded Beacon in the semis, a team they did not play this year but won a close 52-51 war over in last year’s opening round.

“We’re very excited,” Headley said. “It really means a lot for the program in general. Year after year we’ve been having success, and we just want to keep building. There are a lot of young girls coming up and it’s just motivation for them. Now our focus is on getting our third gold ball in five years.”

CLASS AA OSSINING, made a

statement in the quarterfinal round Thursday, the Pride picking up an 82-65 victory over No. 8 New Rochelle at home. Three-time defending champion Ossining will now return to the County Center for the sixth consecutive year – and for the 10th time in 13 years.

Pride Head Coach Dan Ricci talked about shooting lights out in the first two quarters against the Huguenots, then cracking down on defense to seal it up.

“We came out really strong in the first half, scored 25 points each of the first two quarters,” he said of the reigning state champion Pride. “We shot really well and the second half they came out in a zone, played a little better. To their credit they made some shots, but we held them scoreless the last five minutes. Defensively we got it right.”

Ossining was led by C Jalay Knowles, who not only appeared in Sports Illustrated this past week in the “Faces in the Crowd” section, but also recorded an absurd double-double with 26 points and 15 rebounds. Three other players were in double figures, keeping the Pride’s balanced game intact. Shadeen Samuels (17 points), Stef Svoboda (11 points, 10 assists) and Abby Squirrel (10 points, 11 rebounds) all chipped into the collective attack.

“Jalay’s energy level is unbelievable, she’s an all-around varsity player now,” Ricci said. “We got a lot of help from Shadeen, she’s finally healthy. Stef Svoboda, Abby Squirrel were in double figures. This is definitely the most consistent team I’ve ever had. Depth is big.”

The Pride (18-2) will square off with No. 4 Horace Greeley on Thursday in the semis – a team they handed an 81-67 loss to on Dec. 18. A win over the Quakers would pit the Pride against the winner of No.7 Mahopac/No.3 Clarkstown South in Sunday’s championship.

“Once you’re there you want to win,” Ricci said of reaching the County Center. “We’re the only team there that has any experience playing there; the other three teams are new. The kids are in awe usually at the beginning, but we’re going with the sole purpose of winning another gold ball.”

Ossining has collected its last two gold balls by beating Lourdes in the AA section finals, but that won’t be the case this year. Only because No. 7 **MAHOPAC** pulled off the ultimate upset last Thursday, beating No. 2 Lourdes 68-59 on the road in the quarterfinals, earning a trip to the County Center.

“I was really happy with the way the girls played and how they passed the ball around,” said Mahopac boss Chuck Scozzafava. “Going into the game we



Ossining’s Shadeen Samuels scores two in Pride’s Class AA quarterfinal win over New Rochelle last Thursday.

Sports

Girls Hoops Notebook



Peekskill G Aubrey Dabbs and the Red Devils will seek their 3rd gold ball in five years this week at the County Center.

knew we had to control their guards, and we also knew we had to take advantage of our size inside; the advantage we had there a little bit. When I looked at the tape, I thought they (Lourdes) were a good team but didn't have the size inside. They reminded me a lot of Scarsdale except they were better shooters and a little bit



Ossining G Stef Svoboda on the go in win over New Ro.

"The girls are really pumped - on the bus on the way home they were excited," Scozzafava added. "It's a big thing; they haven't been there in awhile. It's been either 12 or 14 years since we've been there. We don't know much about them (Clarkstown South), we haven't seen any film on them yet. We know they got (Laura) Castaldo, who I heard is a fantastic player. We just have to see who she has around her and we have to figure out how to contain it as best we can; see what we can take advantage of."

While Peekskill, Ossining and Mahopac are each moving on, the season ended for **SOMERS**, No. 7 in Class A, last Wednesday. The Tuskers were edged 48-41 by the No. 2 seed Albertus Magnus - marking the second year in a row the Tuskers' season ended on Magnus'

hardwood.

Junior Gabby Rosenzweig led Somers with 20 points. She and most of the Tuskers will be back next year, save for the senior



Ossining's Jaylay Knowles took no prisoners in the Pride's romp of New Ro last Thursday,

Schurr sisters (Tara and Emma) who will be playing lacrosse at Boston College next year, and senior Caitie Opfer who is going on to play basketball at Skidmore.

In Class C **HALDANE** will kick off County Center week this afternoon, the No. 1 Blue Devils up against No. 4 Hamilton in the semifinals. Haldane, led by Sam Lisikatos and Allie Monteleone, has a chance to quickly avenge its loss in the Class C finals to Hamilton last year.

Outside Section 1 in the CHSAA, **KENNEDY** is prepping for its postseason, which will begin tomorrow at home vs. the winner of the Preston-St. John's University on Grymes Hill opening round game. The Gaels earned the No. 3 seed and a first round bye, going 14-10 this season with a 9-1 record in league play.



Mahopac's Alayne Felix had a career game in the Indians' win over Lourdes, propelling them back to the Class AA Final 4 for the first time since 2002.

more aggressive. I thought if we did what we're supposed to do and control their guards, we'll have a chance as long as we get the ball inside and get our big girls to score."

The Indians played evenly with Lourdes until halftime, the game tied up 31-31. Mahopac fell behind in the second half yet didn't panic, overcoming a late 43-39 third-quarter lead by Lourdes. The fourth quarter was another story.

"The one who really got us over the hump in the fourth quarter was Alayne Felix - she had 11 points in the fourth," Scozzafava explained. "That really helped us in our 21-13 advantage in that quarter."

Felix finished with a team-high 25 points, while Mairead Hynes (23 points) and Caroline Horan (14 points) provided excellent backup. The Indians (15-5) now have the difficult task of facing undefeated No. 3 seed Clarkstown South (20-0) in the semifinals Thursday in what will be their first appearance there since 2002 (circa Adrienne Blount & Sarah Fixler).



Ossining boss Dan Ricci does indeed have the No.1 team in Section 1.



Sports

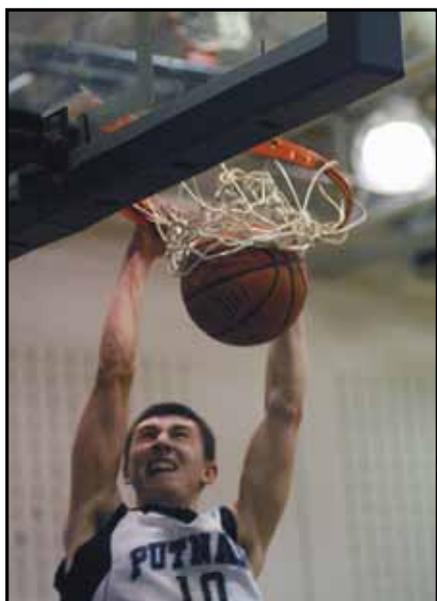
Class B Boys Hoops Notebook

2nd-Half Adjustment Triggers No.4 Put Valley to Final 4

Switch to 3-2 Zone is Key in 55-45 Defeat of No.5 Croton

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

Putnam Valley's 55-45 Section 1 Class B quarterfinal win over visiting Croton-Harmon last Tuesday night was, perhaps, Putnam Valley's finest basketball moment in its 12-year history. For starters, it was performed in come-from-behind fashion in a wild playoff atmosphere before an



Putnam Valley's Zach Coleman puts an exclamation point on the Section 1 quarterfinal win over Croton last Tuesday.



Shadowed by PV's Jelani Bell-Isaac, Croton's Teejay Searight gets his last good look at the rim early in the third against a thwarting PV defense in Croton's 55-45 loss to Tigers.

of a program, with a truly great Coach in Billy Thom," McDonnell said. "They were problematic for us in the first half, but Zach Coleman kept us in it. He was hitting shots with guys draped all over him. At halftime, I told the guys you didn't think we were just going to waltz into the County Center did you? Croton's for real, but getting this team back to



Tiger Ryan Basso drives for two on Croton's Patrick Gallagher in PV's 55-45 win last Tuesday.



Putnam Valley's Jelani Bell-Isaac is checked by Croton's Chris McVeety.

overspill crowd, the likes of which the school has never seen before. Most importantly, though, it gave the fourth-seeded Tigers (17-3) exclusive rights to enter the Class B Final Four at the Westchester County Center for a second-straight year where the Tigers were due to face top-seeded Irvington last night.

It wasn't as easy as the final score might indicate. Croton Harmon led 30-26 at halftime, but the defensive adjustment enabled the Tigers to hold Croton to a season-low 15 points in the second half. The Tigers were being torched throughout the first by Croton hotshot Teejay Searight, who finished with 15 points for No.5 Croton (16-4), the vast majority coming before PV Coach Mike McDonnell made the game's biggest adjustment; putting lanky 6'4" senior F Jelani Bell-Isaac at the top of a

sophisticated 3-2 zone, which completely neutralized the free-wheeling Searight.

"I had an old mentor who once told me, 'you better make sure you've got something in your bag of tricks for when you need it,' and we needed it because Searight was killing us," McDonnell said. "Having Jelani's length out there made it tough for him to shoot over."

Bell-Isaac finished with a game-high 18 points, but it was his defense that turned the game on a dime. With Bell-Isaac sitting for more than five minutes of the second quarter in foul trouble, senior G Zach Coleman (16 points) kept the Tigers from getting blown out of their own gym.

"Jelani's ridiculous wingspan made all the difference in the second half," Coleman said. "I just did whatever I could to keep us in the game in the first half. But J's pressure on the top of the 3-2 zone was what changed everything."

"Yeah, Jelani at the top of their 3-2 kept Teejay flat out on the perimeter," said Croton Coach Bill Thom, who returns every vital piece next season and should be a Class B force like he is every year. "That was a big adjustment because they were flying out after Teejay in the first half and that opened up a lot of things for us."

"Croton's is a heck of a team, a heck

County Center and winning it all is very important to us."

Bell-Isaac, a walking, talking double-double spoke about the mission.

"We knew we were going to come back



Despite the hand of PV's Kevin Fitzsimmons in his face, Croton G Teejay Searight drains a 3.

continued on page 19

Mahopac Punches Unprecedented 4th-Straight Final 4 Ticket

continued from page 14

"It means the world to me," Martinez said. "I'm happy I made it my senior year and blessed to be playing with all these great players. We could have won the game earlier if we hit our free throws, but in overtime I just told the guys we need to shoot our foul shots like we're shooting them in our driveway and we prevailed in the end."

Simone was quick to credit to the @



Coach Downes fires up his team and the crowd after the Indians clinched an OT triumph at Fox Lane.



The Mahopac Maniacs were a forceful, vociferous bunch at Fox Lane.

MahopacManiacs, who outworked @ FoxTape, as they danced, sang and proclaimed their dominance as Section 1's top fan base.

"They packed the stands," Simone said. "It was almost like a home game for us. They stepped up for us and we stepped up for them."

That impulsive wave of contentment – a mix of primarily Italian and Irish folk – was last seen rushing north on I684 last Thursday night, ready to reassemble one week later at the Westchester County Center; where nine-time NYS champion and five-time NYS Federation champ Mount Vernon, New York State's No.1 public school program, lies in wait.

CLASS AA Tourney:

Thursday, February 27 -- Semifinals: No. 2 Clarkstown South (15th in NYS) vs. No. 6 Spring Valley (No.15 in NYS), 6:30 p.m.; No. 1 Mount Vernon (No.3 in NYS) vs. No. 5 Mahopac (HM in NYS), 8:15 p.m.

Sunday, March 2--Championship, noon

2nd-Half Adjustment Triggers No.4 Put Valley to Final 4

continued from page 18

the whole time," Bell-Isaac said. "We want that gold ball, we've wanted it all year and it's the only thing that matters."

State-ranked (No.19) Putnam Valley would play state-ranked (No.9), top-seeded Irvington (18-1) Monday at 8:15 p.m. for the right to face the winner of No.6 Woodlands (15-5) and No.7 Rye Neck (16-4) in what would be the Tigers' first championship appearance on Saturday at 2:00 p.m. at the County Center, a place that was not so kind to them last season during a semifinal blowout loss to eventual champion Our Lady of Lourdes. But the Tigers have put that setback in the

rear-view mirror and fully expect to win it all.

With a No.1 seed joined by a No.4, No.6 and a No.7, the Class B tournament has been anything but the chalk, but most Class B observers believe the best four teams in Class B were still alive Monday night, and many more expected Putnam Valley to be the last one standing. With defending champion Lourdes out of the mix, one thing was certain: Like every other classification in Section 1, Class B will have a new champion.

Prior to 2013, there was no welcome sign at the County Center for Putnam

Valley, which had compiled a string of losing seasons a decade long. It has come full circle since 2002-03 when former Coach Gerry Carlin, who, at barely 5'7", looked more like a student manager than a coach at the time. Carlin was on the bench for the Tigers' first loss, when the team was comprised of two freshman, a few sophs and a few juniors, and he watched in awe last Tuesday, during the program's biggest win.

"Our A.D. at the time, Bill Conroy, placed us in a league loaded with talented teams," Carlin said. "We had Lourdes, Beacon, Panas, Peekskill, and one of our

non-conference games was against Fox Lane, who had Taj Finger, who went on to Stanford on a full ride. Back then, basketball season was a way for most PV kids to keep in shape during other seasons. It's very different now: We now have PV kids whose number one sport is basketball, and it's very evident."

Carlin admitted it's been nice to see the program flourish like it has, having put the roots for success in place. Surely, though, a gold ball would be the perfect blossom.

No.2 Panas Throttles No.7 Beacon, Punches County Center Tix

continued from page 15

faithful recall fondly, as it concluded with its only gold ball and a run to Glens Falls and the NYS finals under former boss Pistol Pete Kelly, who coached a team very similar in nature to the current Panthers.

"I'm exhilarated, this is my favorite team ever," Sullivan said, "and I'd be telling you that even if we lost tonight. They are just about each other and winning. They're actually happy for the other guy when he scores. It's the first team I've ever had where everybody bought in."

And Sullivan's Panthers are hoping the buyout is gold, as in their second gold ball.

Class A Final 4 Schedule:

Wednesday, Feb. 26

Semifinals, at the County Center: No. 2 Panas (HM in NYS) vs. No. 6 Tappan Zee (HM in NYS), 6:30 p.m.; No. 1 Eastchester (No.15 in NYS) vs. No. 4 Harrison (HM in NYS), 8:15 p.m.

Saturday, March 1st

Class A championship, 5 p.m.



Follow us to

a world

with more birthdays.



THE OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF BIRTHDAYS.™

Indoor Golf

Play Your Favorite
Golf Courses
from Around the World
Without having to Leave
Westchester County!

Pike Plaza Shopping Center
(Behind King Buffet - Up Around Back)
2050 East Main St. (Route 6)
Cortlandt Manor; NY 10567
914.739.GOLF (4653)
www.thebacknineindoorgolf.com

Lessons & Clinics • Menu & Full Bar • Private Parties

Hours of Operation:
Sunday: 8am - 9pm • Monday - Thursday:
8am - 10pm • Friday & Saturday: 8am - 11pm





Choose from over
**40 Historic &
Famous Golf Courses**
in one of our four
**Indoor Golf
Simulators**

Indians Win Epic Jump-Off!



**Mahopac
Senior
Trio Lead
Charge
to County
Center**



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Mahopac seniors Ryan Simone (jumping off), Glenn Janick (howling) and R.J. Martinez (hugging mom & driving lane) were pivotal assets in the 5th-seeded Indians gaining a fourth-straight trip to this week's Section 1 Class AA Final 4 at the Westchester County Center after a 70-66 overtime triumph of host Fox Lane last Thursday. The Indian boys will be joined at the County Center Mairead Hynes (inset) and the 7th-seeded Lady Indians, who shocked No.2 Lourdes, 68-59, to make their first trek to the Mecca since 2002 when the Adrienne Blount/Sarah Fixler-led Indians did likewise... see Boys'/Girls' Hoops Notebooks