



Passing the Ball: State Senator Ready to Leave Public Life

By David Propper

After weeks of speculation about the political future of State Sen. Greg Ball, the 36-year-old announced last week he no longer would pursue a life in the public arena after this current term runs out in January.

Ball opted not to run for a third term in the state senate or go for the Putnam County Executive position, which he said he was interested in and would have led to a primary election against incumbent and Republican MaryEllen Odell. Reports came out that Ball has been investigated for campaign funds misuse by the now defunct Moreland Commission, but he claims that has nothing to do with his decision.

In a video announcement, Ball said, "it is time now to return to the private sector and even maybe find some time to raise a family."

Though confident he would beat Odell in a primary, Ball said running for the county executive post was not the right fit in his life at the moment. As for bypassing another run for senate, Ball claims he told Republican leaders his previous election in 2012 would be his final one for the senate, but the complication was finding a suitable

Republican to run for the seat.

If Yorktown councilman Terrence Murphy didn't come forward, Ball said he would have run again in order to keep the seat secure from Democrats.

"Until a month ago, (Republicans) did not have a replacement," Ball said. "I decided over two years ago during redistricting not to run this term for this seat."

He also noted by announcing at such a late date, it prevented a large number of Democrats and Republicans from making a run for that 40th senate seat. As of now, Murphy and former state Assemblyman Bob Castelli are looking to earn the Republican nod, while the sole Democrat running is Justin Wagner, who lost to Ball in 2012.

Ball stated the Moreland Commission, which was eyeing him for personal use of campaign funds, had zero impact on his decision. Ball spent \$23,000 on retail and other stores, but Ball said it was for campaign events. He said the investigation has no validity and there is no follow up investigation from it.

"The Moreland Commission was set up to intimidate the legislature by governor



PROVIDED BY BALL STAFF

State Sen. Greg Ball at a past press conference. Soon the Patterson resident will be out of the public spotlight after he said he wouldn't run for any office this election season.

(Andrew Cuomo) to pass public financing for campaigns as well as other things," Ball said. "Even the Moreland Commission suggests nothing was illegal or unethical so it is what it is but it didn't factor into my decision."

He also added donors have continued

to support him and any suggestions that certain donors have pulled back is a "lie."

As it stands now, only Odell and Democrat Sam Oliverio are running for county executive.

Odell said she doesn't believe the county

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Shake-up on Mahopac School Board After "Chubby-Wubby" Comment

By Janine Bowen

Mahopac School Board President, Raymond Cote, has resigned following public outcry about derogatory remarks he made about a parent at the end of an April 8 Board of Education meeting.

At a May 13 board meeting, attorney for the district, Ralph DeMarco, announced the resignation of Cote, effective immediately, and read a statement from the former school board president, who did not attend the meeting.

"I would like to apologize for my choice of words after the close of the board meeting on April 8, 2014, which are regretful. My words were inappropriate and do not reflect my feelings or attitudes. I will strive to regain the trust and respect of the community," said the statement from Cote.

At the April 8 meeting, Cote referred to a parent and volunteer for the district over an open mic as "chubby wubby" and stated that "she gets fatter and fatter at every meeting, she really does." The statement was later removed from the video recording of the meeting that



NIKKI GALLAGHER PHOTO

New school board president Michael Sclafani listens to residents at a May 13 board meeting. He replaced former president Raymond Cote, who resigned after making a derogatory comment about a parent.

appeared on the district website and replaced with a shortened version.

Cote also has withdrawn his candidacy for reelection for board of education, which means there are now two candidates running for three open seats. DeMarco explained that ballots with Cote's name, which have already been printed, will still be used, but write-in candidates for the open seat will be accepted. In the meantime, Vice President, Michael

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Ball Threatens to Sue Katz in War of Words

By David Propper

State Sen. Greg Ball might be leaving office in six months, but that hasn't left him gun shy when going after his critics, including state Assemblyman Steve Katz.

Ball called Katz a "drug addict" in an interview, when responding to Katz's claim that Ball is being investigated by US attorney Preet Bharara. During a press conference Thursday, Katz said Ball and four other state senators are being investigated because they abused campaign funds and it is connected to the investigation by the Moreland Commission.

Adding to the drama, an attorney representing Ball sent a letter to Katz last Monday threatening a lawsuit if Katz continued to make statements about Ball allegedly being investigated.

"Consider yourself on notice that if you again make any such defamatory comments against Senator Ball, you will be answering for them in a courtroom," attorney Joseph Tacopina said.

Tacopina reiterated in the letter that Ball did not misspend a "penny

of campaign funds" and if Katz makes statements claiming Ball did, then Katz would face litigation.

A spokesman for Katz said he hasn't received the letter yet as Monday afternoon and would not have comment until he did.

Tacopina also represents Putnam County Sheriff Don Smith in his defamation lawsuit against Putnam County District Attorney Adam Levy.

"Steve Katz is a miserable, unappreciative, little man," Ball said last Friday. "who was caught smoking pot on his way to vote and arrested, flipped his vote on medical marijuana while being a paid spokesperson for recreational pot."

Ball went on to say, "I don't know whether Steve was high when he made the comment or just paranoid and delusional, which is probably a byproduct of being a drug addict."

Katz was stopped by a state trooper on the New York State Thruway for speeding on March 14, 2013 and charged with possession of marijuana. He was never

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Ball Ready to Leave Public Life

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needed a "chaotic" primary that would divide Republicans and Putnam overall. She added she's confident she would have beaten him in a primary regardless.

"I'm definitely looking forward to being the county executive of the county that I grew up in, and raised my family in for the next few years," Odell said.

Meanwhile, Oliverio said he believes Ball would have beaten Odell in any primary and would have been very difficult to beat head-to-head in the general election. He believes his chances of earning the county executive position increased "100 fold" with Ball out

of the picture.

Oliverio also said he's hoping that Ball, either outwardly supports him or at least stays neutral in the race.

"I think knowing the senator he would probably join the campaign as we got closer saying he is in favor of my candidacy," Oliverio said. "I would hope that would happen."

Ball said even though he worked hard to help Odell get elected the first time, he's been disappointed in the direction the county have gone under her leadership. But when asked if he thought Oliverio would make a better county executive, Ball refused to give a clear answer. He also didn't give an answer when asked if he would voice support for either candidate

When asked what it would be like to leave the public spotlight, which Ball at times seems happy to embrace, he said he's "happier right now than I have been in months, if not years."

While Ball said he certainly would consider a return to higher public office one day, he didn't definitely say he would continue to reside in New York. For a guy who came from a blue-collar family, he's proud of what he's achieved during his eight years in the assembly and senate.

"All options are open," Ball said. "Everything at this point in life is gravy now because I've accomplished much more than I ever should have in my opinion."



PROVIDED BY BALL STAFF

Putnam residents were preparing for State Sen. Greg Ball, County Executive MaryEllen Odell, and legislator sam Oliverio to all run for county executive this fall. Instead, Ball decided not to run. All three took a photo before the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

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Three New Members Appointed to IDA After Controversy

By David Propper

It might've have taken a heated debate during a special full legislature meeting, but three board members were finally appointed to Putnam County's Industrial Development Agency.

On May 13, the legislature finally approved the recommendations from IDA Chairman Richard Ruchala in a 6-3 vote. Some on the legislature have butted heads with IDA members in recent months over placing new members on the board, with a question of how efficiently the IDA has been working and how much power the legislature has in selecting new members for one of the most important volunteer boards in the county.

Every member of the IDA was in attendance for the special meeting, with only the CEO Neal Sullivan missing.

In an interview after the meeting, Ruchala noted he was "very proud and very happy" that the legislature decided to vote for the new members approved by the IDA. The Brewster resident and business owner noted he wasn't thrilled that two alternates were put on the board that the legislature handpicked.

"I'm never happy when the legislature takes on appointments without taking them from the board who has to work with these people," Ruchala said.

A critic of the IDA, Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra said, in an interview, it was

important to get three more members on the board because she feels the board with just four members isn't working efficiently. She said, "It's unfortunate that they all don't seem to be on the same page."

"Mr. Sullivan seems to be on one side," she said. "Mr. Ruchala is on the other side. It's time to put that aside to unite the IDA."

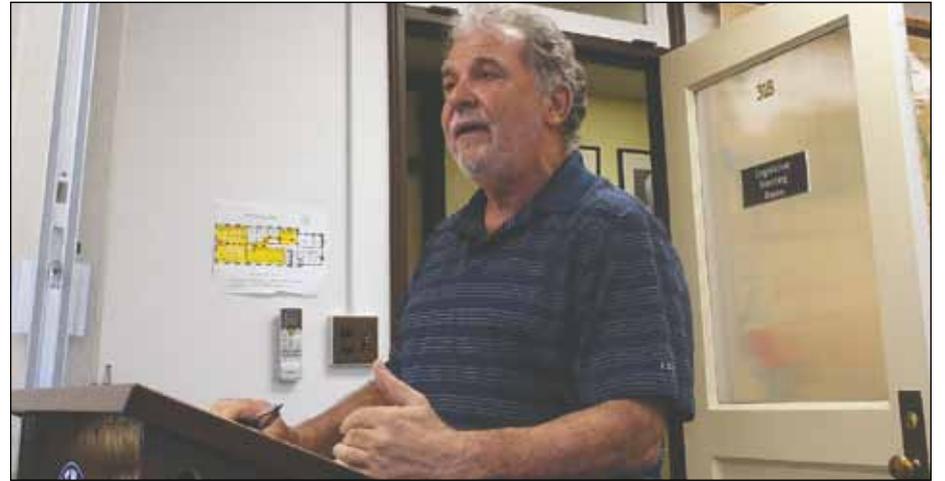
Chief Financial Officer of the IDA Alan Wolfson stood up during the meeting and blasted the legislature. He argued multiple IDAs have been "severely criticized" and cited by the New York comptroller's audit report, and not just Putnam. The reason, he said, is because the IDA is not being informed what the rules and regulations are.

Wolfson went on to say the less than stellar report about the IDA from the state audit office has nothing to do with the current members on the board, but rather those people from the state audit that are deficient because of a lack of guidelines they don't provide to IDAs.

"No IDA should suffer criticism over this," he said.

Legislature Chairman Carl Albano rebuked there are basic things like filing certain reports on time that the IDA can improve on going forward. He added he wanted to see the organization work at its best.

"This isn't throwing stones," he said.



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

IDA chairman Richard Ruchala speaks during the special full legislature meeting at the county offices.

"This trying to bring it to the next level."

When Ruchala stood up and spoke during the meeting, he said the IDA is currently always reacting to the legislature, which slows down the progress the IDA is trying to make. In the past, he said the IDA board would give the legislature recommendations and legislators took their word for it.

Ultimately, when the votes came in, Albano, Scuccimarra, and Sam Oliverio are the three legislators that voted against it.

Scuccimarra, who was a former

member of IDA, said she would continue to be a watchdog of the IDA.

"We can't disregard that (the IDA) got a derogatory report and we can't disregard that they haven't filed for annual reports so they have to show some accountability for this and I'm going to keep a close eye on this," she said.

Ruchala said he's committed to making the IDA the best it's ever been.

"Not saying we can't be better," he said. "Right now we're working hard. I'm looking forward to creating the best IDA Putnam County's ever had."

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Putnam Legislators Considering Tilly Foster Farm Proposals

By Neal Rentz

The Putnam County Legislature has started its review of a set of proposals to revitalize Tilly Foster Farm.

The Tilly Foster Task Force Core Team led by Deputy County Executive Bruce Walker held a series of meetings in the county earlier this year and presented its recommendation to the Putnam County Legislature's Physical Services Committee on May 15. The discussion was slated to continue at this week's Audit and Administration Committee meeting.

Walker first told the committee about the recommendations for Phase II, the long term plan for the farm.

Walker said the task force stated the county should look to partner with an institution of higher learning to have two or four-year degree programs offered at the farm. A potential partner for the county could be the Cornell Cooperative Extension, he said. The farm could be a place for Putnam residents to attend college, he said. Right now Walker noted Putnam is providing \$3.2 million to send Putnam residents to community colleges in Westchester and Dutchess counties.

Walker said another long-term proposal from the task force would be to have the farm host education programs for youths with autism. About 70 youths with Putnam could stay in the county for their education if a program was held at



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Putnam County Deputy County Executive Bruce Walker discussed his task force's recommendations for Tilly Foster Farm during the May 15 meeting of the Putnam County Legislature's Physical Services Committee.

the farm, he said.

There are several Putnam residents in their 20's and 30's with appropriate training that could teach the youths with autism, Walker said. Putnam County is spending about \$7 million this year to send youths with autism to take part in educational program outside of the county, he said.

The county should also consider partnering with the Putnam-Northern Westchester BOCES to conduct high school educational programs at the farm, Walker said.

Another task force recommendation is for the county to lease portions of the farm for solar energy farms, Walker said.

Among the other long term plans for

the farm could include a lease agreement with a private firm "to get horses on the property," Walker said.

Walker said the task force's phase one recommendations would answer the question "how do we get there" to implement the long term proposals that would be enacted under phase two.

The task force is recommending that phase one to include several renovations to existing facilities on the farm. Walker said some of the task force renovation proposals include converting the general store to a visitors' center, and renovate the kitchen and other facilities in the existing conference center building so it could be rented for catering events, he said. The task force is also proposing to hire a full-time administrator to oversee the operations of the farm and work to have the county's buses have routes to the farm and extend an existing bike path to the property, he said.

Walker also said water supply issues on the farm also need to be handled and a dam need to be repaired on the site.

The total costs of the renovations included in phase one would be \$830,000, but the costs of the programs dealing with water issues and the dam could be paid for through funds available to the county through the 1997 intergovernmental memorandum of agreement to protect

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Other Republicans Now Ready to Run for Open Senate Seat

By David Propper and Rick Pezullo

The surprising announcement by State Sen. Greg Ball on Friday that he would not be running for any political office this year has thrust Yorktown Councilman Terrence Murphy into the spotlight as the leading Republican to replace Ball.

Murphy, who maintained he learned of Ball's decision when the 36-year-old senator released a video Friday morning but had been told about a month ago to prepare for the possibility of Ball stepping away, said he was "cautiously optimistic" about receiving the blessing of the Westchester County GOP Committee Monday night.

Former State Assemblyman Robert Castelli has also announced his intentions to seek the Republican nod but Ball threw his support behind Murphy.

"It's an opportunity of a lifetime to have such a dynamic senator leave and have an open seat and he decides to tap you as the best guy to fill his shoes. You either take it or you lose it," Murphy said. "I'm really excited about it. I'm not going to abandon Yorktown, that's for sure. I live here, I work here, I grew up here."

Murphy, a chiropractor and proprietor of Murphy's restaurant in Yorktown, was elected to a second four-year term on the Yorktown Town Board in November. In 2011, he ran unsuccessfully for a seat on the Westchester County Board of Legislators.

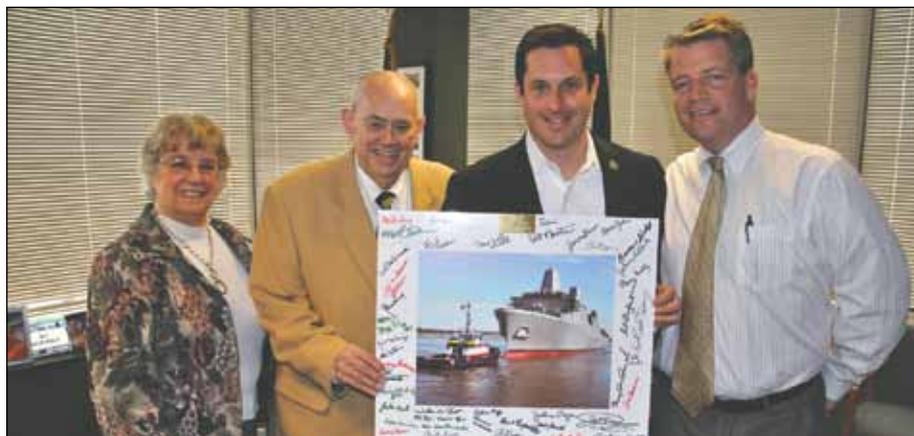


PHOTO BALL STAFF

Yorktown Councilman and state senate candidate Eric Murphy with current senator Greg Ball.

"I think I've done a fairly good job and I'd like to take it up a notch to a higher level," he said. "I'm very optimistic that a lot of this work we started, as a state senator I will continue to watch over and follow through."

Castelli announced his intent to run for the open seat, which would force a Republican primary, according to a press release last Friday. In the press release, Castelli touted his many accomplishments during his two years in the Assembly, including taking a role in repealing the MTA Payroll Tax, authoring the toughest ethics laws in state history, passing three on time budgets, passing a tax cap, and passing a middle class tax cap to reduce

taxes statewide to the lowest level in a generation.

Castelli was the first Republican to win that Assembly seat in 17 years, because of his bipartisan attitude and tireless work ethic, according to the release. He lost in a reelection bid.

"While Sen. Ball has decided to pick his replacement — a man we both know and like — I am however calling upon the leaders of the Republican Party in Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess to open up this process to all qualified candidates," Castelli said. "This way the chairmen, chairwomen and our district leaders can hear from each and every candidate, and make up their own minds."

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Tilly Foster Farm Proposals

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the watershed, Walker said. The \$300,000 cost of renovating the buildings would need to be paid by the county, he said.

Though the committee considered submitting a plan to bond the \$300,000 to the full legislature, it decided instead to submit the bond proposal to the Audit Committee for its review next week. Legislator Dini LoBue said the legislature has taken out bonds for several projects in recent years and should not do so for the farm. Legislator Sam Oliverio Jr. also said the building renovations should not

be bonded. The county already has several bonds and the building renovations should instead be taken from the fund balance because the county is receiving much more in the way of sales tax revenues than originally anticipated in the 2014 budget. "Take it from the surplus. We're bonding too much," he said.

Walker said the task force has estimated the annual cost to the county to operate an upgraded farm would be about \$153,000, but he added nearly all of the costs could be covered by rental fees paid to the county.

In another issue related to the farm, Ann Fanizzi, a farm volunteer, told the committee she was concerned that a large cabinet was recently taken off the property off the property, even though it was county property. Walker said the county would seek to find out who took the cabinet off the property.

Walker said the county is scheduling an event at the farm over the Independence Day weekend to "reintroduce Tilly Foster Farm to the community."

Ball Threatens to Sue Katz

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actually arrested, as Ball claims. Katz took a plea deal and paid a \$75 fine and ordered to perform 20 hours of community service.

In an interview last Friday and before the letter was sent to him, Katz stood by his statement that Ball and four senators are being looked into for misdeeds. He said he is simply repeating information that has been present in published reports like the New York Post. He added that he believes the investigation is one of the reasons Ball is not running for any public office.

"All I'm going to say about it right now is it's a great day for the State of New York," Katz said. "As five more corrupt legislators are being investigated and that's great. The more we get rid of people like this, the better this state is going to be."

In the war of words between the two, who have had a frosty relationship, Katz even offered Ball some praise, even if it was backhanded.

"When you're under federal investigation the decent thing to do is to bow out and wait until you're exonerated," Katz said. "So on that level I respect what he did."

After much speculation over his political future, Ball announced last week he was not seeking election for any position. Katz meanwhile, is seeking a third term in the Assembly.

Missing Somers Man Found Dead in Woods

By Rick Pezullo

The body of a Somers man who disappeared the morning of May 9 was located last Thursday afternoon in a wooded area off Route 202.

State Police in Somers said an extensive search was underway when Garret (Gary) McKeon, 67, was spotted by an area worker passing through at approximately 1:15 p.m. No signs of foul play are suspected and the cause of death is pending an autopsy.

McKeon suffered from Parkinson's disease and dementia. Since his disappearance, countless local residents joined police agencies in the almost weeklong ground searches and displaying missing person fliers. His family had also set up a Facebook page.

The search efforts involved the State Police Aviation, Canine, SCUBA and Bureau of Criminal Investigation, the Westchester County and Stamford, CT Police Bloodhound units and the MTA Police.

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Katz Looks to Earn Third Term in State Assembly

By David Propper

Although one state lawmaker announced last week he was calling it quits, another declared his intent to run for reelection.

State Sen. Greg Ball caught the headlines with his decision to not run for any public office, but that didn't stop Assemblyman and Republican Steve Katz from announcing his bid for reelection.

At a press conference Thursday, Katz formally stated his decision to run for a third term in the Assembly, even if it didn't come as much of a surprise. Katz accepted the endorsement from the Putnam County Republican Committee and when Democrat and challenger Andrew Falk attacked Katz when he announced to run for the 94th district, Katz defended himself as if he was seeking another term.

Katz represents parts of Westchester and Putnam Counties.

In an interview last Friday, Katz said he was running again because of "unfinished work."

"I don't want to leave certain things that I was involved in unfinished and the same token I think I'll be able to accomplish that in the next few years," he said. "Quite frankly as a citizen legislator this is what we're suppose to do."

Katz said he would like to see NY Assemblyman and Democrat Sheldon Silver "thrown out" as the speaker of the

assembly and also mentioned his continued effort to disband the SAFE Act, a series of gun control laws wildly unpopular with Republicans and especially in Putnam.

He also brought up a controversial topic, medical marijuana, and his desire to see it become legal in New York. He said medical marijuana would bring in additional revenue but more importantly, it would help patients that face seizures, posttraumatic stress disorder, anxiety and other medial issues.

"These are things that the majority of other states have recognized and we seem to be locked in post-1937 days," Katz said. "I think that's very sad for the people of our state."

And Katz did what he usually does — and that was rail against other lawmakers up in Albany. He said the two biggest roots of corruption in the state capital right now are lack of term limits and campaign funding uses. He argued too many legislators are more interested in their own political futures rather than legitimate work.

He also said members in the Assembly should not have to convene in Albany for more than a couple of months each year. During that time, they could solely focus on the "vital business of the State of New York." He claims by meeting only two months, lawmakers would be saving \$165 million a year in taxpayer money.

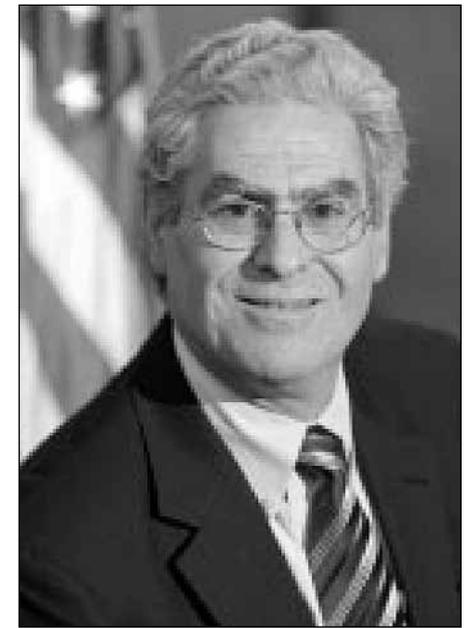
"What a waste," Katz said emphatically. "What a scandal."

"This is a scandal to have us up there for six months of the year, unless you want to just openly say we're here for the economy of Albany, we're not here to make laws," Katz said. "It's an embarrassment the things we vote on each day."

Falk, his opponent for the second straight election cycle said there is a discord between what Westchester and Putnam families want, and what Katz is offering.

"I've been out in our community talking every day with families and small-business owners and I keep hearing the same thing: People serving in government aren't listening." Falk said in a statement. "We need good jobs. We need lower taxes. We need more opportunities so our children and grandchildren can stay here and raise their families. There is a disconnect between what Westchester and Putnam families care about and what the politicians are focused on. I want to bridge that gap and be their strong voice in Albany working for them. I think we are all looking forward to change in the November elections."

Katz has been embroiled in controversy that might follow him into this election season. Katz was stopped by a state trooper on the New York State Thruway for speeding on March 14, 2013 and charged



PROVIDED BY KATZ STAFF
State Assemblyman and Republican Steve Katz hopes to earn a third term this fall.

with possession of marijuana. Katz took a plea deal and paid a \$75 fine and ordered to perform 20 hours of community service.

He said he hopes it doesn't affect voters.

"I know that I've apologized, I know that I've gone out of my way to give back to the people of my district," he said. "They have my heart and soul in everything I do."

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Levy Launches Innovative Domestic Abuse Awareness Program

Putnam County District Attorney Adam B. Levy is proud to announce an innovative new Domestic Abuse Awareness training program, conducted in partnership with the Putnam/Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center, specifically targeted towards beauty professionals, like hair stylists, nail technicians and estheticians.

"The hair or nail salon is often one of the few places abused women are able to go without their abuser and feel safe," Levy said. "With proper training on how to recognize the signs of abuse and safely refer victims to help, Putnam's beauty professionals can become invaluable and influential partners in the fight against domestic abuse."

Statistics show domestic abuse is one of Putnam's most prolific crimes, reported at least once daily in 2013. The actual

occurrences are likely much higher: while one in four women are impacted by domestic abuse in her lifetime, most instances of abuse—more than 65%—are never reported. This makes identifying potential victims and getting them the services they need very difficult. Finding and helping victims is also crucial to stopping the cycle of abuse, because children who are witnesses or victims of domestic abuse are far more likely to grow up and be victims or abusers themselves.

The free, two-hour trainings are scheduled around the county on Mondays, when most salons are closed. The seminars will take place June 2 at the Mahopac Library from 2pm-4pm, June 9 at the Desmond-Fish Library from noon-2pm, and June 16 at Studio Around the Corner in Brewster. The June 16 training will be conducted in both English and

Spanish.

Beauty professionals will learn about the varied dynamics of domestic abuse, which can strike any age, race, sexuality and demographic. They will learn how to recognize the warning signs, and how to gently and safely talk to their clients about the many resources available to help them find safety and peace in their lives.

As an added incentive to attend, all participants will be entered to win gift certificates donated by local businesses, including Ramiro's 954, The Terrace Club, and a one week trip to Mt. Snow in Vermont! Training is free, and open to all beauty and interested professionals. Registration is required, online at putnamcountyda.org/dvtraining, by calling 845-808-1803, ext. 49254, or via email to publicinformation@putnamda.org

Obituaries

Robert S. Netti

Robert S. Netti, 65, of Kent, died on May 14. Mr. Netti was born on January 3, 1949 to Sebastian and Ida (Pelletieri) in the Bronx. On August 27, 1972 he married the love of his life, Rose Staino in New York City. Mr. Netti worked in the Maintenance Department for ConEdison at Indian Point. He is survived by his devoted wife, Rose, his two loving children, Nicole Netti and Robert Netti, his sister Carol Odierno and his brother Richard Netti and two adoring grandchildren.

Elting Warren "Beef" Brusie

Elting Warren "Beef" Brusie entered into eternal rest on Tuesday, May 13 at Waterview Hills Nursing Home, Purdys, NY. He was 84. Born Elting Warren Brusie to Nellie and David Brusie on July 5, 1929 in Brooklyn, "Beef" as he liked to be called was a kind and loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and uncle. He worked for many years for the Board of Education, in the City of New York as a Carpenter Foreman. He was a proud Marine and Navy man who served during the Korean War. He is survived by his

wife Claire, his daughters; Tracy Brusie of Carmel, Ellen Brusie of Wake Forest, NC, Patricia Meo of Lynbrook, and a son, Kevin Brusie of Scarborough, Maine. He is also survived by seven grandchildren.

Garret P. McKeon

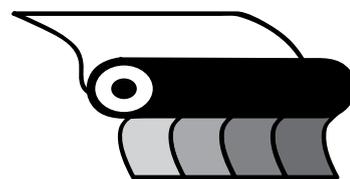
Garret P. McKeon of Somers formally of Mahopac died on May 15. He was born on January 19, 1947 in New York City to Helen and Malachy McKeon. He married the love of his life Kathleen (Gilbride) on September 13, 1975 in Yonkers. He was the owner/operator of U.M.C. moving and storage in Brooklyn, New York. He is survived by his loving wife Kathleen, and 5 adoring children Sara Almeida, Siobhan O'Connor, Eamon McKeon, Collin McKeon, Brigid McKeon. He also is survived by two brothers Anthony and Kevin McKeon and a sister Donna Mancuso and 4 grandchildred Jordan Almeida, Sean McKeon, Michael McKeon, Caitlin O'Connor.

Carmela F. Friberg

Carmela F. Friberg, age 88, of Brewster, died on Sunday, May 18, 2014 in Carmel. Mrs. Friberg was born in Manhattan on June 5, 1925 to Costantino and Lucy

(Caruso) DeLucia. She graduated from schools in Manhattan. Mrs. Friberg married Enar H. Friberg on October 16, 1976 in Scarsdale. Mrs. Friberg was an accounting clerk for Raichle Molitor (a ski equipment distributor) in Brewster for many years. Mrs. Friberg was a 35 year resident of Brewster having lived in Mamaroneck prior. Mrs. Friberg enjoyed travel as well as shopping and care of her flower garden. Besides her husband of 37 years, Mrs. Friberg is survived by her sister Anna Cassone of Brewster as well as three nieces and a nephew, Linda, Louann, Patricia and Frank and their families.

A mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, May 22, 2014, 10am at St. Lawrence O'Toole Church in Brewster, NY. Interment will follow at Milltown Rural Cemetery, Brewster, NY. Friends may call at the Beecher Funeral Home, 1 Putnam Avenue, Brewster on Wednesday from 4-8pm. www.beecherfuneralhome.com. In Lieu of flowers, contributions in Mrs. Friberg's memory may be made to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, 1275 York Avenue, New York, NY 10065.



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Shake-up on Mahopac School Board After Comment

continued from page 1

Sclafani, will fill Cote's vacant seat as president.

Two Mahopac residents Brian Mahoney and Roger Bell have come forward to run for the seat left open by Cote. Sclafani and incumbent Leslie Mancuso are seeking reelection and their names are on the ballot.

Although the announcement of Cote's resignation, which wasn't made until more than an hour into the meeting, was met with massive applause from the parents and students in attendance, many still chastised the board for not taking action against Cote, with some comparing the incident to the recent scandal involving racist comments by Clippers owner, Donald Sterling.

"The NBA did not take five weeks to issue a statement that said that the statements of intolerance were wrong. And just as importantly, the NBA didn't wait to see whether or not somebody resigned first to actually say it was wrong," said one Mahopac High School teacher, who questioned if the issue would ever have been addressed by the Board if Cote had not resigned.

Several Mahopac High School students pointed out the hypocrisy of the board for not holding trustees to the same standards of behavior as they hold students, who face punishment if they don't abide by the

district's 41 page code of conduct.

"As an adult, you have the ability to be a role model for us kids. As a board member you have the responsibility to be a role model for us kids," said freshman, Kasey Bell. "When these role models aren't practicing what they're preaching, it is difficult to tell where the maturity truly lies."

The comments made by Cote at the April 8 meeting were brought to the attention of the public and the board by resident Roger Garcia, who was astonished when no action was taken immediately after the remark was made. Garcia arranged a meeting with Superintendent Thomas Manko, where he asked for the resignation of Cote, as well as of Leslie Mancuso and Earle Bellows, who heard the comments but did nothing.

Garcia's wife, Carole, spoke at Tuesday's meeting to reveal that a Carmel Police detective visited her home on Friday night and that there is an open criminal investigation against her husband for harassment, as a result of his conversation with Manko. She stated that the complaint came from an anonymous source, but believes that the board of education is somehow involved.

"It's not a stretch to assume the complaint came from someone up on this stage tonight," she stated.

"I was always under the impression

that the people elected to the school board were entrusted to represent the interests of the children and the taxpayers of the district," she continued. "Instead, some people on the board are using their position to speak poorly for people, cuddle up to one another, and to try and intimidate, harass, and retaliate against respected members of the community when their poor behavior is brought to light."

Later in the week, a report from The Journal News revealed the investigation against Roger Garcia has been closed and the complaint was dropped.

Carole Garcia was not the only resident who accused the board of defending itself and covering up the issue. Resident Fred Reger, asked the board directly if there was an active attempt to keep the incident quiet and referred to the board as a "clique".

He stated that he was less concerned about the lack of disciplinary action, and appalled at the dismissive way in which the comment was made by Cote and accepted by the trustees who heard it said.

"Of equal importance is the fact that the comment is not only insulting, but it was highly dismissive...how do we know that any concern is not ignored? How do we know that any member in here that asks a legitimate question is not dismissed behind closed doors as a jerk, or fool, or

whatever," said Reger.

Reger stated that anybody who knew about the comments or attempted to cover up the incident should resign as well, as they can no longer be trusted.

Although the board accepted public comment, they refused to make any further statements on the resignation of Cote at that time. They did, however, release a statement accepting the apology for Cote and condemning his actions. This statement, as well as a separate email containing Cote's apology, were sent out to district parents on Tuesday afternoon.

David Propper contributed to this report.



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A Miracle in Home Improvement With Woman-to-Woman Talk

For several years now, I've noticed that my Home Guru column has often shared the same page as the Miracle Home Improvements advertisement.

I didn't know anything about the company, so I thought I'd call and introduce myself. When I asked for the owner I was directed to Robert Sniffen.

I thanked him for his company's support and asked if there was anything that he would consider unique about his services.

"I certainly do," he said. "I have a secret weapon: my wife Mary. She is my sole sales

representative and she is very successful at it because women are the decision-makers about home improvements and they relate better to another woman."

In thinking about that, I realized that for the many years I've been a homeowner, I have never once encountered a woman to pitch a home improvement job to me. Yet, I have always deferred to my wife to make the final choice about design elements and colors, so it made great sense that a woman should work with a woman about such decisions.

When I arrived at the company's building on Route 9A in Croton-on-



By Bill Primavera

Hudson, I saw that one side was a patchwork of different siding materials as was the garage. Once inside, I shook hands with Robert and was about to pet a blond lab when I realized it was a realistic sculpture of the Sniffen's dog, Lucy, who had grown too old to make it to the office each day. When I met Mary, I wasn't prepared to be pleasantly greeted by a lookalike for singer Amy Grant.

But any resemblance to an entertainer quickly faded as Mary launched into her tour of the showroom where

she demonstrated her expertise of the products--the siding, the roofing, the windows and doors--that are incorporated into the showroom space as they would be into a home.

When I admired a greenhouse window, I was surprised to learn that it cost over \$2,500.

"You can buy one at Home Depot for \$900," Mary bluntly said, "but it is not of the same quality." By the time she had shared with me all the special qualities of this window compared with the cheaper version, I was convinced I'd go with the upgrade should I buy one.

When we finished the tour, I asked

if we could sit down and talk about woman-to-woman sales. I learned that the Sniffens had been in business together since 1999 after having met and worked together for another contractor.

They bought their building after it had served as a meditation center, and the aura of tranquility still lingers in their business, with the walls of their conference room painted like a sunset.

"Our business is based on honesty," Robert said. Mary chimed in "and we're ethical...we care about our customers."

"We do one job at a time," Robert continued, "and we say when we can start the job and what it will cost. Then we have Mary, who is the only woman in the business who is in the field, actually hands on, and has more knowledge than most people in the industry. It's women who make decisions about home improvements and they form a bond with Mary."

"Yes, it's true," she concurred. "Ninety percent of the time I deal only with women among our customers and men are not involved at all in the decision making."

The Sniffens agreed that in home improvement, relationships are built on trust and performance and they can last for years.

With permission, the couple gives

each prospective client a referral list of over 300 customers' names, addresses and telephone numbers with a description of the jobs they've done for them.

"We invite them to call any one of them for a reference. That's how confident we are of our work," Robert said.

"And our greatest asset is our people who do the actual work who have been with us from 12 to 15 years. We don't hire off the street," Mary added.

When asked about how the company was given its name, Mary replied, "It's based on the miracle that happens when we come in on budget and on time."

If you want your own home improvement miracle, call 914-271-9119 or visit www.miraclehomeimprovements.com.

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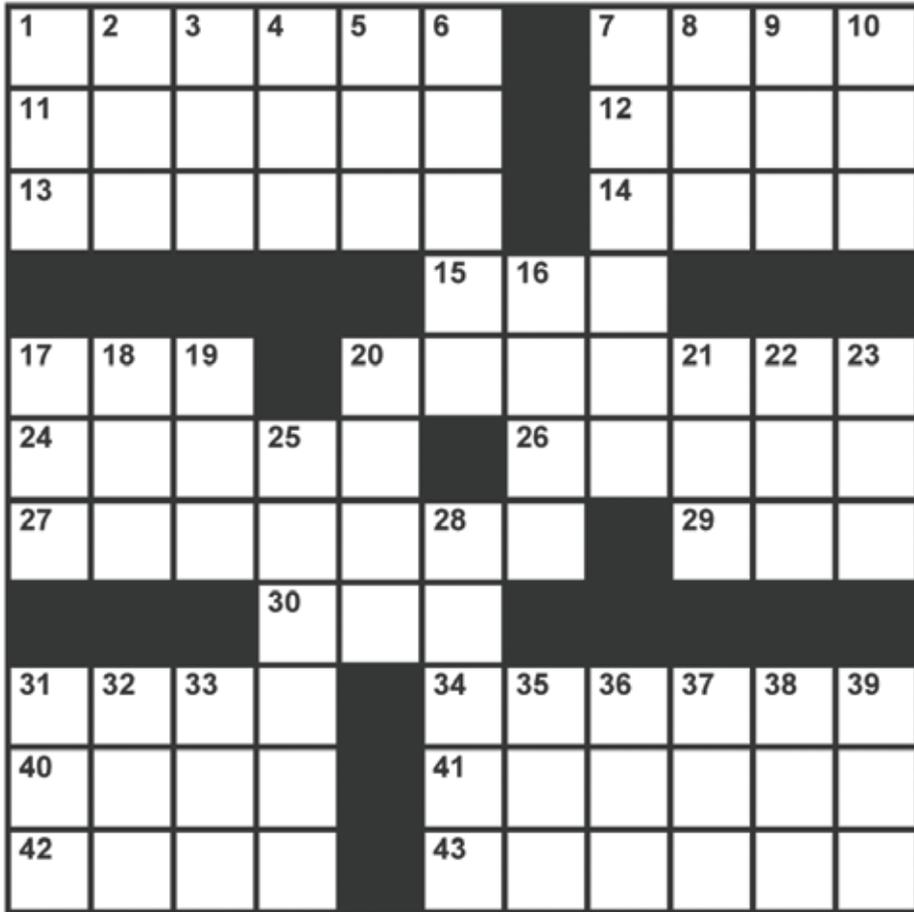
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Crossword Puzzle



Crossword by Myles Mellor

Answers on page 20

Across

1. Tasty Putnam Cinema
7. Indian tourist city
11. Lacking the resources
12. Toe feature
13. Central American country
14. Object of worship
15. Edge
17. Speed measurement, abbr.
20. Subject to loss on a laptop
24. Employing
26. A beast of burden
27. Make known
29. Essence
30. Nothing at all
31. With it
34. Colorful antique shed in Mahopac
40. "Eat, Pray, Love" setting
41. Talk from the pulpit
42. "Beat it!"
43. The best of times

Down

1. Trophy
2. A collection of antidotes
3. Executed a specific program
4. Wharton grad

5. "A Nightmare on ___ Street"
6. Live's partner
7. Sloth, e.g.
8. Roam (about)
9. ___ de Janeiro
10. First word of "California Dreamin'"
16. Presque ___, Me.
17. Damp ground
18. Pressure measure
19. Subject of "Philadelphia"
20. Unattractive tangelo?
21. Singer, Morrison
22. Flightless Aussie bird
23. Butter blob
25. Papal ambassador
28. Graphic symbol. in computing
31. Radios
32. Cry of defiance
33. U.N. agency established in 1919
35. Bard's preposition
36. "The Conquest of Space" writer Willy
37. Boy
38. Goose, in Genova
39. Kid's query

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Smith Remembers Fallen Heroes This Memorial Day

By David Propper

When Putnam County Sheriff Don Smith thinks back to his many years of service in the United States military, one moment sticks out to him and is still with him to this day.

While serving during the Vietnam War, Smith recalls he and other troops in base camp doing maintenance on vehicles and trying to get a break from combat. Smith, who was an lieutenant at the time, said they were in an area assumed to be safe, but sappers from the Vietcong sneaked into the base pass the wires, killing two soldiers.

"It was very hard for me," Smith said. "It was my first taste of death in the military and it was very, very hard."

This Memorial Day, Smith will look back and remember those two fallen heroes, along with so many other service members that have lost their lives fighting for freedom. Smith, who ascended to become a general, knows first hand the sacrifices made by so many, and can name countless soldiers who lost their lives while serving.

He said Memorial Day is a time for the country and specifically Putnam County, which is a Purple Heart County, to show appreciation to those who served and died as a result. Any freedom, Smith notes, is because of those soldiers whose lives were cut short.

"Memorial Day to me is one of the most sacred days of the entire year," Smith said.

Growing up in Patterson, Smith knew since the fourth grade he wanted to serve in the military. Going to football games at West Point as a child, Smith always had a love of the Army. He calls it a "career dream."

But he notes it was also a long shot with people in Patterson doubting if he could make it. Those people were wrong and he attended West Point in 1965 and graduated in 1969.

During his company grade years, he served as a platoon leader, company executive officer, cavalry troop commander, and a company tactical officer in an assortment of assignments. Smith was also assigned duty in the U.S. Army Europe for six years. Once he returned home, Smith eventually commanded the 194th Separate Armored Brigade at Fort Knox, Kentucky, from August 1989 to August 1991. He had other responsibilities and his last assignment during active duty was in 1994.

Smith credits "a lot of hard work" for his successful and fulfilling career in the military.

His experience in the U.S. Army has helped with a smooth transition to the sheriff's office, Smith said. He has been



Sheriff Don Smith with 59th Superintendent of West Point, Lieutenant General Robert L. Caslen, Jr.

the sheriff since 2002 and just started serving his fourth term.

He said the sheriff's office is considered a paramilitary organization and is command and ranked structured.

"Virtually everything about the sheriff's office comes from the military," Smith said. "The leadership model in the military works very well in law enforcement."

As Memorial Day comes once again, Smith will remember service members

from his West Point days, service members from Putnam, service members from other experiences in the military, and express his gratitude like much of the county, which is very focused on veteran needs.

"On that day we pause and say we're a grateful nation and we make sure that all of those that gave their lives know how much we care about them," Smith said. "Keep their memory alive and we also care about their families."

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They Were All Heroes – Vietnam Memories

By Jeff Ohlbaum

I Corp Thau Thien Province 19 miles south of Hue... Firebase Tomahawk.

It started raining heavily the night of June 19, 1969. No full moon and visibility at best two feet. You learn quickly in Vietnam that weather and stealth are potent combat components.

Charlie Battery from the 2nd Battalion 138th Field Artillery unit had the stellar reputation of inflicting heavy losses on the NVA (North Vietnamese Army) as they crossed the DMZ along the Ho Chi Min Trail into South Vietnam. Charlie Battery was a well-trained National Guard unit from Bardstown, Kentucky. They had trained together stateside for years and socialized with each other at home. The 155 howitzers at Firebase Tomahawk, 14,500 meters max range, had a primary target: Ruong Ruong Valley, the lower A Shau Valley a stronghold of the NVA.

Mountains and valleys covered by an umbrella of trees in full foliage created a perfect landscape to harbor the hardcore NVA. They knew the terrain and functioned best in darkness. Their mode of transport was usually elephants; you cannot carry mortars and rocket launchers manually. Sadly, the 155's had to target the transporter as well as the enemy.

Firebase Tomahawk was in a good location for the artillery pieces to rein

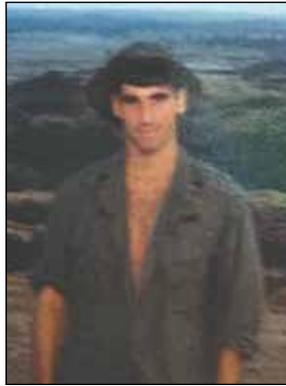
havoc but not viewed too favorably by the soldiers holding and defending it.

The terrain and sloping hills outside our 360-degree perimeter would be difficult to defend. We later found out our Firebase had been cleared (defoliated) with Agent Orange; which was common in Vietnam.

In addition to the artillery battery, we had an 18-man platoon from Charlie Company 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division sharing perimeter support with us. Our bunkers were heavily sandbagged with mounted M-50 and M-60 machine guns pointing outside the perimeter and manned every night with two people inside.

0120 June 20, 1969 it was still raining hard. I was on perimeter duty that night facing north. The radiotelephone rings. We are alerted the artillery firebases to our north and south are under mortar attack. We knew the drill...our base was put on full alert. Those who are off-shift were awakened. M-16s were loaded, never to the max to prevent jamming, usually 19 rounds.

The playbook was now in enemy hands, no full moon, no visibility, our artillery



Jeff Ohlbaum during his military service

support bases that have pre-fired grid co-ordinates to drop artillery rounds outside our perimeter (broken arrow) to protect us are under mortar attack themselves...s__t we must be next!

0130 June 20, 1969, incoming mortars. The noise is deafening and the dirt beneath me vibrates. Cannot see the enemy flash tubes...too dark. Pick up the phone to get info. Phone is dead; a mortar or rocket

may have cut the phone wire or is the Fire Direction Center Command Post (phone link) hit? Our M-50's and M-60's go hot (mad minute). Can only see the tracers... it is pitch black outside.

0155 June 20, 1969 bad news our firebase lights up...self-illuminating round fired by one of our artillery guns. That means the enemy has breached our perimeter under their own mortar fire and are now in our backyard; Firebase Tomahawk. Since they did not penetrate the perimeter from the north side they were behind us! We are unable to turn around based on our posture in the narrow bunker and all weapons are hot facing north.

We ignited the pre-set claymores outside the perimeter. Another deafening

sound with metal and debris flying incorrectly towards us. The enemy had rotated the claymores to fire back at us. They had re-conned our firebase.

We also had Foo gas, a mixture of explosives and napalm in 50-gallon drums outside the perimeter as a layer of protection, which was detonated to disperse an explosive fire over a large area.

We were now hearing large explosions on the Firebase; not mortars. It was satchel charges and handheld rocket propelled grenades being used by the NVA to destroy the six deployed artillery guns and anyone around it. It must be an NVA Sapper Company specifically trained to destroy and kill with immediacy. For them it is an honor to die in combat.

0300 June 20, 1969 A Flare gun fires a green color round into the air. The enemy was retreating (didi mau). Spooky aka "Puff the Magic Dragon" (AC-47) arrived overhead firing their four Gatling guns; each with multiple barrels as the enemy withdrew. It was immense firepower. Huge trees were dismantled and large rock formations turned into pebbles. The enemy had nowhere to hide.

The dust-offs (medivacs) supported by gunships landed to remove the injured and dead. The less serious were flown to Phu Bai and the more serious to Da Nang; those with severe burns were airlifted

continued on next page



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Odell Holds Row of Honor Press Conference

County Executive MaryEllen Odell held a press conference on the shores of Lake Gleneida on Tuesday, May 13, to highlight the launching of Putnam County's Row of Honor, an installation of American flags as part of the county's Memorial Day remembrances.

Sponsorship of the 100 American-made flags is meant to raise awareness and funds for various veterans' projects, which Odell said would "assist our veterans and the veteran community within the county." Flags that have been purchased by Putnam residents will bear the name of their loved one who died

while serving in the military or who is presently on active duty.

"Every name we see engraved onto an erected monument around our county is the name of a Putnam resident who went into battle and never returned. Every name you will see here in our Row of Honor is the name of one of our local heroes living or dead," said Odell.

The Row of Honor project is a group venture among the Putnam County Joint Veterans Council, Putnam County Tourism and Putnam County government. Each branch of the American Armed Forces will be represented: United

States Army, United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Air Force, United States Coast Guard along with flags of the Army and Air National Guards.

The flags will remain on display until June 12 and are expected to be re-installed as part of the County's Veteran's

Day festivities.

Flag sponsorships are still available for \$100. To order a flag, e-mail: rowofhonor@putnamcountyny.gov or call Mimi at Putnam County Office for Veterans Affairs at (845) 808-1620.



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

County Executive MaryEllen Odell stands with various other county officials and county veterans to celebrate the launching of the Row of Honor.

They Were All Heroes

continued from previous page

from Da Nang to a Naval hospital ship based in the South China Sea. The damage and human toll was beyond words.

We later find out through one surviving prisoner that 150 NVA Sappers, 72nd Sapper Company 4th Regiment NVA, had amassed outside our perimeter. Seventy-five of them wearing only a loin cloth with satchel charges strapped to their bodies and some with 2 cigarette filters taped to their chest (in case gas is used it works like a gas mask when inserted into the nostrils). They were high on drugs as they snaked through the concertina wire and avoided the trip flares. The other 75 Sappers outside the perimeter were waiting for a red flare that would have doubled the enemy force. They determined enough damage had occurred; we avoided being overrun.

Three of the six howitzers were destroyed, one disabled, ammunition

storage area eliminated, nine perimeter bunkers destroyed, make-shift mess hall, maintenance and ammo carriers gone. Tomahawk was in shambles and everyone was dazed seeking to locate and help their fellow brother.

Nine artillerymen were killed. The 101st Airborne lost four. Over 50 were wounded. They were young, fearless and served with honor. They had wives, kids, girlfriends, parents and grandparents.

Twenty-three of the Sapper bodies were counted.

The southern and western perimeter bunker positions had been penetrated. Fate had me facing north that night.

Those who proudly served were all heroes at Firebase Tomahawk but some are not here to tell their story. This Memorial Day, 45 years later, I am their spokesperson.

Jeff Ohlbaum is an account executive with Examiner Media.

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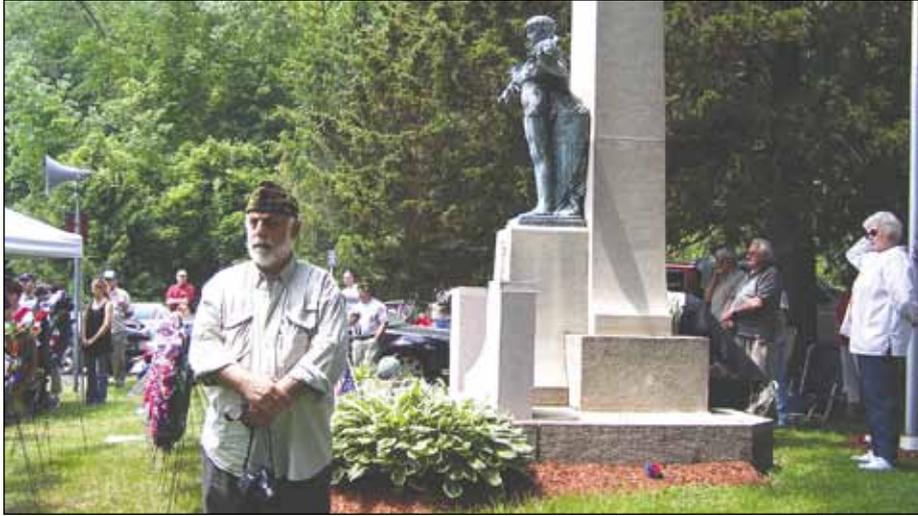
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Denis Castelli, a Veteran Remembered on Memorial Day



Denis Castelli, a Vietnam War Veteran, died last month leaving a void in Putnam County. He was an advocate for veterans throughout the years and served on Nan Hayworth's team regarding veteran affairs.

Job Readiness Program To Prepare Veterans for Employment

A group of veterans, career development professionals, employers, educators and local government leaders have come together to address the growing needs of veterans who are either unemployed or underemployed in the greater Putnam County area. On Wednesday, May 21, the Veterans Job Readiness Workshop and Seminar will be offered at the Paladin Center in Carmel. This free full-day program was

designed by and for veterans, to provide expert advice and guidance on how to develop the knowledge and skills they will need to join today's workforce.

This program will include presentations and workshops featuring veterans who have been successful in transitioning from serving their country to working in the private sector, and includes resume writing, interviewing, social media, and career transitioning

guidance. Veterans who attend will be provided with opportunities to edit or develop their resumes, and will learn how to apply the skills and experience they gained while serving our country to jobs that require these skills.

"Veterans need to be prepared to enter the workplace," said Karl Rohde, Putnam County Director of Veterans Services. "It can be a daunting experience to walk into an interview

even if you commanded a combat platoon while in the military. It is our hope that with this workshop we can arm Veterans with the skills they need to succeed outside of military service. Why? Because those who have served deserve the best we can give them."

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are approximately 600,000 American Veterans that remain

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Memorial Day Events in Putnam

Putnam County Joint Veterans Council - John Morris Memorial Watchfire Vigil, each night 6 p.m.-6 a.m. May 23, 24, 25. Opening Ceremony Friday 7 p.m. Flag retirement all night.

Sunday May 25:

VFW Post 1374 & Ladies Auxiliary, Carmel & American Legion Post 270 - 9 a.m. Ceremony at monument on Terryhill Road, Kent 11:30 a.m. Ceremony at Post Home 32 Gleneida Ave, Carmel Refreshments to follow 11:30 a.m. Ceremony

VFW Post 2362 and American

Legion Post 275 - 11 a.m. memorial presentation at Parrott Gun Memorial by Cold Spring water front.

Monday May 26:

VFW Post 391, Putnam Valley - 11 a.m. Ceremony Putnam Valley Town Hall 11:45 a.m. Ceremony Lake Peekskill Monument (Chester Place) 12:30 p.m. Ceremony Post Home 153 Oscawanna Lake Road Refreshments to follow 1 p.m. ceremony at Post Home 2 p.m. Start of "Round of Honor". Visiting grave sites, cemeteries, and monuments in vicinity, including Lakeland High School, Bill Mangero Park

VFW Post 672, Brewster - Parade from Brewster Fire House to Electrozone Field (step off 11 a.m.) Ceremony at Electrozone Field following parade. Refreshments to follow at post home

VFW Post 2362 and American Legion Post 275 Cold Spring - Parade Main Street to Cold Spring Cemetery (step off 9 a.m.) Ceremony at Cold Spring Cemetery at conclusion of parade Refreshments to follow (location to be announced)

VFW Post & Ladies Auxiliary 5491 Mahopac & American Legion Post 1080 - Parade from Clarke Place to Veterans Memorial Park on East Lake Blvd. (step off 10:30 a.m.) Ceremony to

follow at Monument American Legion Post 1080 Ceremony at noon following VFW Ceremony at 333 Buckshollow Road Ceremony and Refreshments to follow at VFW Post home 154 East Lake Blvd

VFW Post 9257 & Ladies Auxiliary & AMVET Post 1111 Putnam Lake - Parade from Castle Restaurant to Veterans Monument on Haviland Road (step off 10 a.m.) Ceremony to follow parade at monument Refreshments to follow at Post Home at 4 Fairfield Drive

VFW Post 8013 Somers - Annual Memorial Day Parade and Remembrance Ceremony. Step off 10 a.m. from Somers Middle School to Ivandell Cemetery. Refreshments at Somers Town House following the ceremony. (Somers has been added to the list of Memorial Day events because the Somers VFW has recently joined Putnam County Council VFW)

Thursday May 30:

Putnam County Joint Veterans Council - 7p.m. Traditional Memorial Day at Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park

Job Readiness Program for Vets

continued from previous page

unemployed, and there are millions more who are either underemployed, or have given up searching for work.

"As we continue our slow climb back to full employment, our veterans continue to struggle to find work after they have returned from serving our country" said MaryEllen Odell, Putnam County Executive. "The skills and experience they have acquired are actually in demand from today's employers, as they look to hire people who possess the qualities our veterans can bring to the workforce. This event is designed to help our area veterans realize their potential and start their transition into jobs working in the private sector."

For information, or to register for the Veterans Job Readiness Workshop and Seminar, visit <http://www.putnamcountyny.gov/Veterans-Job-Readiness-Workshop/> or call (845) 808-1021.

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Summer Camps 2014

What's the Deal on Day camps? How do you Choose?

Picking your child's day camp is good practice for helping to pick your child's college—you need to do your homework, collect your data, and be sure you know what your child wants from his/her summer camp experience.

Here are a few key points to remember when looking for a camp

--FUN first! Kids work hard all year in school. Camp is about playing games, swimming, enjoying arts and crafts! The first priority shouldn't be about academics. Rest assured that all the camp activities that your child is participating in will teach them plenty about communication, team-work and social skills.

--SAFETY is a top priority! Is it clean and neat indoor space? Outdoor space well maintained? Is equipment up-to-date? And be sure your child gets OUTSIDE during the day, covered in sunscreen of course.

--Vive la difference! Unless your child really wants to go to a program that focuses on one special interest, children thrive on exposure to different activities. Be sure your camp choice mixes it up for an active, interesting and busy day!

--Designated downtime. Kids today are over programmed; quiet rest periods are important.

-Check out the staff-do they have CPR training? If there are children with special needs in the camp, or if your child has a special need, do they have the trained employees to work with them? And most importantly, can your camp verify their employee screening process? You can't be too careful.

--Lots of counselors! The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends a child to staff ratio of 5 to 1 for toddlers, 7 to 1 for three year old and 8 to 1 for four and five year-olds.

-Always do a site visit and scour the camp's website—both will tell you a lot about the flavor and feel of the camp. Can you visualize your child having fun there? Go with your gut.

If you do your homework, both you and your child will be happy campers



and have a summer full of wonderful memories.

The YMCA of Central and Northern Westchester offers summer camp programs at their White Plains branch, through its Community Y in Somers, and at its 80 acre camp in Putnam Valley, Camp Combe. Go to www.ymca-cnw.org or www.campcombe.ymca-cnw.org for further camp information. We provide financial assistance on camp fees for families in financial need and foster an inclusion policy at all our camps.

Amadeus Musical Theater Camp Open House This Saturday

Amadeus Conservatory of Music & Theater will be holding an open house for its musical theater summer camp this Saturday, May 17 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The camp gives children from six to 16 years old the opportunity to perform "The Little Mermaid," study two instruments, create sets and studio art, compose songs and learn photography and filmmaking. The camp, which will run from June 30 to Aug. 8, has one- to six-week sessions available.

The open house is located at Amadeus Conservatory of Music & Theater, 201 King St. in Chappaqua. For more information and to RSVP, call 914-238-0388, visit www.amadeusconservatory.com or www.amadeustheaterartscamp.com or email amadeus@amadeusconservatory.com.

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Summer Camps 2014

Specialty Camps With Sports Focus the New Trend for Children

For children who have a passion for sports, specialty camp experiences with a sports focus can offer a variety of benefits.

Regardless of a camp's specialty area, it is the nature of camp to help children develop into caring, resilient, compassionate, independent people. But especially at sports camp, campers enjoy the community and friendships of peers and role models with similar interests. They are also able to concentrate on and gain confidence in the sport they love.

Ten percent of American Camp Association-accredited camps offer a targeted sports focus. By comparison, in 2004, only 3 percent of ACA camps offered a targeted sport focus. That's more than a threefold increase in 10 years. You can even find sports at special needs camps, where the activities are geared to campers' abilities.

The diversity of camps today reflects the diversity of America; there is a camp for every ability level and interest, from horseback riding to soccer, race car driving to softball. According to ACA's most recent Sites, Facilities and Programs Report, 98 percent of responding ACA camps reported offering at least one sport even if sports were not a targeted focus. The top five sports activities offered are recreational

swimming (87 percent), aquatic activities (76 percent), basketball (72 percent), archery (71 percent) and camping skills (67 percent). Unique offerings include fencing, lacrosse, SCUBA diving, windsurfing and more.

You and your child can search for the perfect camp experience on ACA's Find a Camp database (<http://find.acacamps.org>). This resource allows families to search for camp programs based on location, price, session length and more, including whether the camp focuses on just one sports activity or multiple activities.

When searching for multiple-activity camps, families can also search by intensity level—recreational, instructional or intense/competitive. Camps are able to serve campers who are just looking to try a new sport, campers who are looking for serious skill building and everyone in between.

Beyond the activities offered at a camp, it is also crucial to consider a camp's philosophy. ACA encourages parents to ask camp representatives if the camp is ACA accredited. If not, ask why. ACA accredited camps meet up to 280 health and safety standards and are a parent's best evidence that the camp is committed to the safety and well-being of their child. A

few other tips for learning more about the camp's philosophy include:

- What is the camp's philosophy and program emphasis?
- How does the camp handle homesickness and other adjustment issues?
- Visit the camp if possible to see practices first-hand.
- Ask for references.

Quality sports camp experiences will not only improve a camper's skills or allow them to explore a new interest, they will nourish a child's social and emotional development as well. Camp experiences help children gain skills they'll use for a lifetime — both on and off the field.

The American Camp Association® (ACA) works to preserve, promote and enhance the camp experience for children and adults. ACA-Accredited® camp programs ensure that children are provided with a diversity of educational and developmentally challenging learning opportunities. There are more than 2,400 ACA-accredited camps that meet up to 280 health and safety standards. For more information, visit www.ACACamps.org or www.CampParents.org.

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Registration Open for Katonah Art Center Summer Camps

The Katonah Art Center offers weekly half-day or full-day camps in art, computer art,

pottery, film, jewelry, music and dance. New this year is STEAM (Science, technology, engineering, math + ART) with robotic sculpture, LEGO ARTchitecture and more.

Art center camps are geared for three age groups: Art & Imagination camp (ages three and a half to five years old); Children's Art camp (grades 1-5); and Teen Art camp (grades 6 and up).

From Robot camp to Fashion Illustration or any of the other innovative camps, children will learn, create and have fun in beautiful studios... and outside, too, on the art center's lawn.

For more information about Katonah Art Center summer camps, call 914-232-4843 or visit www.katonahartcenter.com.

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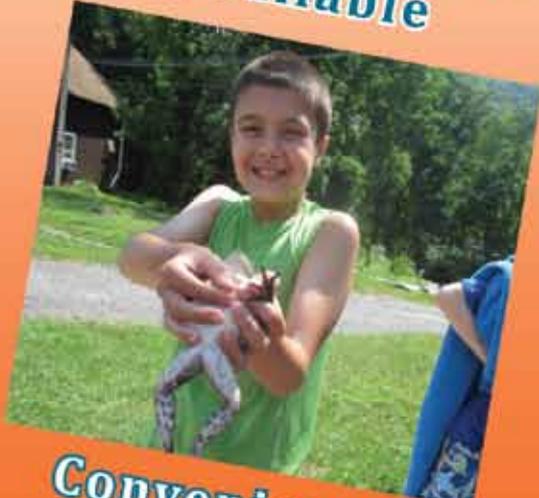
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The Grapevine Clone Wars With Mother Nature



By Nick Antonaccio

In a recent column, I expounded on a time-honored and well-worn axiom in the wine industry: 90 percent of a wine is made in the vineyard. This implies that the characteristics of a wine are primarily under the influence of nature, not man. That the soil, natural irrigation, vineyard elevation and microclimate influence the vigor and unique profile of a cluster of grapes more so than the alchemy exacted by a winemaker in the winery. It is the harvested grapes that contain the elements for a great or poor wine, not a winemaker's talents.

Much has been said of the influence of modern technology in winery operations. Yet there is a growing influence of science in the vineyards as well. Man is diligently exercising his 21st century scientific enlightenment in the traditional realms of nature; advancements in genetic engineering are influencing many aspects of the natural order of nature.

Is the 90 percent paradigm in jeopardy?

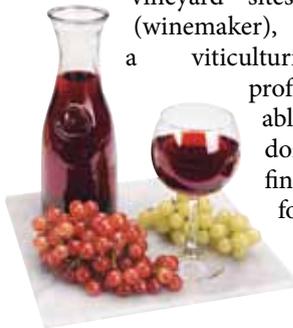
In recent years the characteristics of grapevines have come under the increasing control of scientists and viticulturists. One such intrusion is the genetic cloning of grapevine plants,

through which the vigor and quality of vines and grapes can now be influenced and enhanced.

By hybridizing and then grafting select woody branches of one grapevine variety onto the grapevine rootstock of another grapevine variety, man is altering the very core of wine's natural profile, affecting resistance to disease, vitality and even the flavor of its fruits.

Examples of these grapevine clones abound.

Pinot Noir is perhaps the most fickle of grapes, subject to myriad diseases, unpredictable in various microclimates and sensitive to subtle differences in soil composition. Today, through DNA research and sophisticated trials, viticulturists are able to create specific traits in field trials and laboratories to create grapevine stock that is tailored to specific vineyard sites. A viticulturist (winemaker), working with a viticulturist (vineyard professional), is able to select from dozens of clones to find the ideal match for their vineyard plantings.



A problem with a

You Heard It Through the Grapevine

particular soil fungus? Clone #27 is highly disease resistant. Seeking a grapevine that can tolerate frost better than others? Try Clone #19. Seeking more fruit flavors or less acid in grapes? Try Clone #177.

Another example comes from Italy. In the 1990s, the local consortium of winemakers in the Chianti Classico region of Tuscany was struggling with a reputation for mass-produced, low quality wines. A carryover from 50 years of winemakers who focused on the bottom line rather than the quality of their wines, the newest generation of winemakers were intent on improving their wines, their image and ultimately their profitability.

They embarked on a multiyear, self-funded project to improve the practices of winemaking. The core goal of this research was to find the ideal grapevine clone that could optimize the growing conditions of their vineyards and the quality of their wines.

After testing hundreds of existing and newly created clones, they narrowed their choices to a handful of clones. Today the quality and popularity of Chianti Classico wines is at an all-time high, as is the financial success of the consortium.

This approach has been successful in western Europe for years and has

spread to the United States. One of my favorite examples is Siduri Winery in California. The owner, David Lee, has built a reputation for identifying multiple Pinot Noir grapevine clones that provide the optimal expression of a particular plot of land. He then contracts with growers to graft these clones each year, thus providing him with a painter's pallet of choices to mix and match. The end product is the ultimate expression of his vision to consumers.

'man is altering wine's natural profile'

Once again we see man inextricably entwined with nature as we seek to coexist in a vast ecosystem that becomes more delicate with each passing harvest. So long as man understands his role in fostering this balance, consumers will continue to reap the fruits.

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

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Crossword Answers

1	C	2	A	3	R	4	M	5	E	6	L		7	A	8	G	9	R	10	A	
11	U	N	A	B	L	E							12	N	A	I	L				
13	P	A	N	A	M	A							14	I	D	O	L				
										15	R	16	I	M							
17	M	18	P	19	H				20	U	N	S	A	21	V	22	E	23	D		
24	U	S	I	25	N	G				26	L	L	A	M	A						
27	D	I	V	U	L	28	G	E					29	N	U	B					
						30	N	I	L												
31	C	32	H	33	I	C				34	Y	35	E	36	L	37	L	38	O	39	W
40	B	A	L	I						41	P	R	E	A	C	H					
42	S	H	O	O						43	H	E	Y	D	A	Y					

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.

Ongoing Mondays

11 a.m. - Babies and Books Program for ages 3 months + 4:30 p.m.-6 pm-Homework Help

Tuesdays

4:30 p.m.-6 p.m. - Homework Help. www.brewsterlibrary.org

Wednesdays

10:30 a.m. - Drop in stories and crafts for ages 3-5, 4:30 p.m.-6 p.m.-Homework Help, 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.-Chess Class. www.brewsterlibrary.org

Fridays

11 a.m. - Stories & Puppets for ages 2-5. www.brewsterlibrary.org

Saturdays

11:30 a.m. - Picture Books for ages 2-5. www.brewsterlibrary.org

Music with Marlana: 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Reed Memorial Library. Children ages 3 through 6 have fun singing, dancing and playing instruments.

Save the Date:

Friday, May 30, Saturday, June 1

2014 Inguinal Putnam County Blues & Jazz Festival: Hosted by the Putnam Valley Parks and Recreation. Putnam Valley Town Park. Noon-6 p.m. Food, vendors, music and fun for all ages. Info on bands visit pvpr.com. To become a vendor contact Sherry at 845-526-3292.

Saturday, June 13

Mass in Honor of St. Anthony

(in Italian) Sponsored by the Italian American Club of Mahopac at 7:30 p.m. St. John the Evangelist Church. 225 East Lake Boulevard, Mahopac. Celebrant: Fr. John DeBellis. Procession, reception with blessed bread & raffle will be held after the mass For further info call Bee Cefaloni (845-628-7175)

Tuesday, May 20

Networking for a Cause: Benefit Relay for Life: Don't miss this great opportunity to network with like minded professionals in your community. A portion of the evenings proceeds will be donated to Relay for Life. Purple Hair Extensions, 50/50 Raffle and More. Location: Ramiro's 954. 954 Route 6 Mahopac. 6 p.m.-8 p.m. \$15pp PWP Members, \$20pp Non Members. Includes appetizers. Cash Bar. www.professionalwomenofputnam.com

Diabetes Support Group: Putnam Hospital Center's free Diabetes Support Group. Michael T. Weber Community Auditorium at the hospital. Family and friends are welcome to attend meetings of the free Diabetes Support & Education Group, which is designed to teach individuals how to keep their diabetes under control and to live a healthier life. The group, which is led by a diabetes educator and a dietitian, offers the opportunity for patients to share concerns and help manage some of the psychosocial issues associated with diabetes. The meetings provide participants with an opportunity to hear from knowledgeable professionals who attend and speak on a wide range of topics related to diabetes and to network with

others who have diabetes. Registration is recommended by calling 845-279-5711, Ext. 2779.

Wednesday, May 21

VA 2K Walk and Roll to End Veteran Homelessness. Staggering start times: 11:30 a.m., Noon, 12:30 p.m. FDR Montrose Campus, Sculpture Garden. 2094 Albany Post Road, Montrose, NY Castle Point Campus, River Memorial Garden. 41 Castle Point Road, Wappingers Falls. VA 2K Walk and Roll to Benefit Homeless Veterans and promote employee wellness. Contact: For more information or directions, contact the Public Affairs Office at 914-788-4328 or 845-838-5234.

Putnam County Veterans Job Readiness Workshop: Paladin Center 39 Seminary Hill Rd, Carmel. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.. This is a FREE event which offers a unique opportunity for veterans to hear from job and career development experts and learn how to match your experience with what today's employers are looking for. Free Breakfast and Lunch included.

For more details call 845-808-1021. To register please visit: www.PutnamCountyNY.gov/Veterans-Job-Readiness-Workshop/

Friday, May 23

BHS Semper Fi Students are holding a Buffett Dinner at the VFW Post #672 on Peaceable Hill Road in Brewster from 6 p.m-9 p.m. The goal and purpose of this dinner is to raise funds and awareness in support of our active duty service members. The BHS Semper Fi Students from Brewster High School are looking for donations to raise money for several reasons (see below) Accepting: Donated food supplies, prepared or unprepared Gift Cards/ "Prize items" to be auctioned off at the event or cash/check donations payable to; Brewster High School Activity Fund Also, feel free to come. They are \$15 each, \$10 for Veterans All Businesses that donate will be recognized for their contributions! The funds raised will be used for charitable donations. Last year we donated \$500 each to Wounded Warriors, Help Our Military Heroes and Tunnel To Tower Foundation. rgallagher@brewsterschools.org

Saturday, May 24

A Defensive Driving Course: also May 31, from 12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Mahopac Library The Defensive Driving Insurance Reduction Program is a 6-hour course consisting of a series of films and discussion about driving attitudes and behaviors. It is designed for licensed drivers, but those with permits may attend. Completion of the course may result in a ten percent liability insurance discount to the principal operator as

well as a maximum of four points off the driver's violation record. This program is approved by the Department of Motor Vehicles. The cost of this course is \$45 per person, and \$35 for seniors 65+. Register with payment at the Library's Information Desk; for further information call 845-628-2009, ext 100.

Sherman Sets its SALES for Summer: This Memorial Day Weekend: Sherman Historical Society's Annual Barn Sale 10 Route 37 Center • shermanhistoricalsociety.org Saturday, May 24, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sunday, May 25, 9 a.m. - Noon Sherman Library's Book Sale

1 Sherman Center • shermanlibrary.org Saturday, May 24, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Jewish Community Center Tag Slae. 9 Route 39 South • jccinsherman.org. Saturday, May 24, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sunday, May 25, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday, May 25

The Friends of the Kent Library Annual Giant Book Sale: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. also Sunday May 25 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Book lovers take note. You have a wonderful opportunity to do some bargain shopping among thousands of books, and stock up on summer reading over this Memorial Day weekend. The annual event will take place at the Kent Town Hall (adjacent to the library) in the Kent Town Center off Route 52. Admission is free. Early bird preview is 8:30 AM to 9 AM Saturday morning. (Members free or \$10 donation.)

Mahopac Knights of Columbus Family Magic Show and Dinner: 4 p.m. A Sunday afternoon of sleight of hand magic by magician Jonathan Blair followed by a meal of pasta, desserts and more. Prizes for the kids. \$10 per person. Tickets available on our website at www.mahopacknights.org or call Mike at 914-837-2368 or Tom at 914-329-3099. Proceeds to benefit food pantry and Knight's charities.

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AUCTIONS

SULLIVAN COUNTY REAL PROPERTY TAX FORECLOSURE AUCTION: 300+/- Properties June 11+12 at 10AM. Held at The Sullivan, Route 17 Exit 109. 800-243-0061 AAR, Inc. & HAR, Inc. Free brochure: www.NYSAuctions.com

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FULTON & HAMILTON COUNTY, NY REAL PROPERTY TAX FORECLOSURE AUCTION- June 18th at 11AM Held Holiday Inn Johnstown, NY 800-292-7653. HAR Inc. Free brochure: www.HAROFF.com

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