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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 7, Issue 302

## Recycling Gem in Kent Proves to be Worthy Town Resource

By David Propper

It's a one of a kind facility in New York State and it lies right in the Town of Kent.

The Kent Recycling Center (KRC) is considered a gem in Putnam County by hundreds of Kent residents for more than one reason. First and foremost, it has the highest recycling rate in all of Putnam County and even more impressively, it's the only full volunteer operation in all of New York and has always been that way.

"I think it's a wonderful service we provide to the community," former legislator and Kent resident Lou Tartaro, who is involved with Kent Recycling, said. "I've got to really take my hat off

to all of these volunteers who are here religiously."

The facility located on Route 52 and Horsepound Road in Kent is open Wednesdays and Saturdays. While Wednesdays have a small influx of residents, Saturday can typically see approximately 250 people stop by.

Overall, there are about 600 members, a testament to the growth of the facility since it started in 1992.

When Kent Recycling first began, it was located in the Kent Firehouse parking lot and then for a little bit, located at the town's old landfill, neither ideal, Tartaro

*continued on page 8*



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

From left to right, Kent Recycling co-chairperson Susan Kotzur, former legislator and former Kent councilman Lou Tartaro, Kent recycling co-chairperson Howard Carpenter, one of the founders, Jim Baker and a Kent resident using the facility to get rid of unwanted materials.

## Putnam Hospital Center Sees First Baby of 2015



The first baby born at Putnam Hospital Center came minutes after New York's first sunrise of 2015. Jeffrey Anderson was born at 7:35 a.m. weighing 8 pounds, 7 ounces and 20.5 inches long. The newborn joins his parents, Corey Anderson and Michelle Fong, of Southeast, and 16-month old sister, Sophie. "So far so good," said proud dad Corey Anderson, 35, as mom was busy nursing. Jeffrey came a few days early from his Jan. 6 due date but the New Year's surprise didn't faze the new parents. "Any day is OK with me," Anderson said. "He came out screaming."

## Odell, Countless Officials Take Oath, Ready for New Terms



COURTESY OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

On the eve before a New Year and the day before new terms began for countless officials, County Executive MaryEllen Odell took her oath of office to serve Putnam County residents for another four years at around 4 p.m. in her third floor office. Holding the intimate ceremony earlier in the day so her parents could attend, Odell was sworn in by Putnam County Court Judge James Reitz. Her father, Ronald Hicks (far right), her mother, Muriel Hicks holding the bible, and daughter Hope (far left) were all on hand, in addition to brother Brian Hicks and one of her sisters, Michelle Hicks. To read about all the Putnam officials sworn into office, please go to pages 4-6.

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# Murphy Sworn in as State Senator in Yorktown Ceremony

By Rick Pezzullo

New York State Senator Dr. Terrence Murphy (R,C/Yorktown) was sworn in on New Year's Day in his hometown in front of hundreds of family, friends and supporters in a packed Yorktown Stage.

Murphy, 48, flanked by his beaming wife Caroline and children McKayla, Jack and Kian, took the oath of office for his first two-year term representing the 40th District from former Yorktown Town Justice and current New York State Supreme Court Justice Mark Dillon.

"Being here today I have to pinch myself. This is unbelievable," said Murphy. "I'm completely overwhelmed with the outpouring of support that people have shown me. From the bottom of my heart I can't thank you enough. I will do my best to make you proud and fight for a future to make us all proud."

A chiropractor and part owner of Murphy's Restaurant in Yorktown, Murphy handily defeated Democrat Justin Wagner in November to succeed Greg Ball, who opted not to seek reelection after four years in office. The 40th Senate District covers northern Westchester, all of Putnam and part of Dutchess County.

On New Year's Eve, Murphy handed in his resignation to Town Clerk Alice Roker, ending a five-year run on the Town Board that was his first experience as an elected official.

"It has never been about politics for me. It's been about helping my neighbors," Murphy said during his inauguration, which included such guests as Yorktown Supervisor Michael Grace, Peekskill Mayor Frank Catalina, Westchester County Legislator John Testa (R,C/Peekskill), Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell, Deputy Westchester County Executive Kevin Plunkett and Westchester Chief of Staff George Oros, who served as the master of ceremonies.

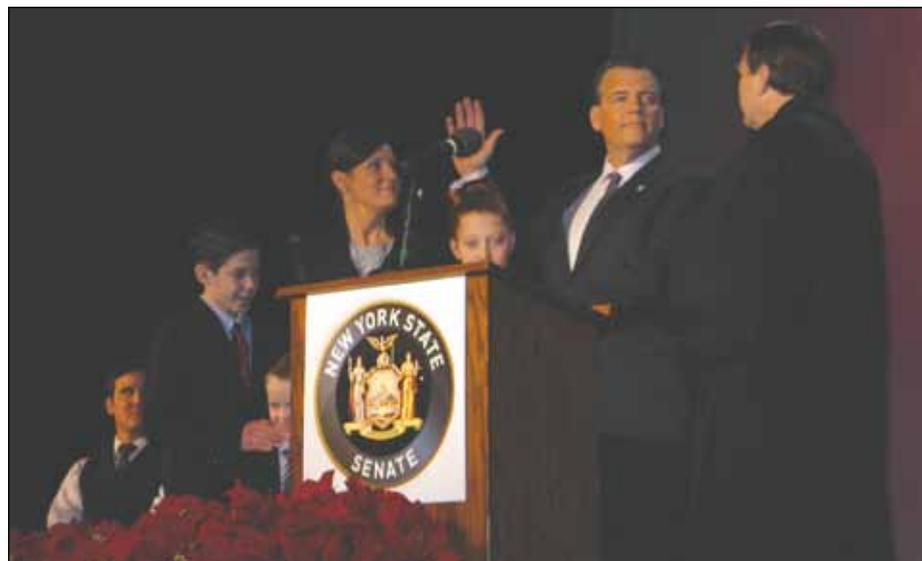
Oros said he was honored to call Murphy a friend and praised him as "a dedicated father and a loving husband" with a "charming smile and infectious laugh."

"We seldom meet someone in politics that we would want to have a beer with," Oros remarked. "We have elected a terrific man to be in Albany."

Murphy said it was a "team effort" that led him to victory over Wagner and he vowed to be a senator that will be held accountable for his record in Albany.

"You came out in droves. You had your trust in me and I won't let you down," he said. "When we all work as a team we can accomplish an awful lot. I stand in awe of the sacrifices we all made and the effort to save this state. If I'm not representing you in the right way, give me a call."

Murphy revealed that he had been given the opportunity to chair a committee on economic development in Albany and would focus on improving New York State's



RICK PEZZULLO PHOTO

State Senator Dr. Terrence Murphy takes the oath of office from Supreme Court Justice Mark Dillon with his wife and three children at his side.

current standing as being last in the nation as "business friendly" and first in the country in high property taxes.

"I will work to bridge the gap between business and government. There's no Republican way to fix potholes. There's no Democratic way. There's only the right way," he said, noting he had a "common sense plan to get taxes under control."

He also made several references to his late father Jack, a union worker who was employed with Con Edison for more than

50 years and inspired his siblings and his mother to open Murphy's Restaurant in his honor in 2006.

"I know my dad would be proud of me standing here," said Murphy. "My dad taught me the value of hard work and a good beer. I'll never forget where I came from. It's a dream come true for me and the opportunity of a lifetime. I will make sure our families are taken care of. When we put our families first we can make this a great community?"

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## COMPLETE BREAST HEALTH

What women need to know about breast density...



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**Bonnie Litvack, MD, FACR**

Director, Women's Imaging  
Northern Westchester Hospital

[nwhbreastinstitute.org/DrLitvack](http://nwhbreastinstitute.org/DrLitvack)

#### Q: At what age should I begin getting mammograms?

**A:** Once a woman turns 40, the American Cancer Society and most recognized medical authorities recommend she start getting yearly mammograms. But mammograms aren't uniformly sensitive in all women. Between 40 and 50 percent of women have dense breasts - fibrous tissue as opposed to mostly fatty tissue - and that density can obscure potential problems.

Many women aren't aware that breast density is an issue. New York State requires doctors to notify women, in a letter, when their mammogram reveals this is the case. Do not become alarmed if you get this letter. It simply means that you should have a conversation with your doctor about your overall breast cancer risk.

#### Q: Why is it important to know if I have dense breasts?

**A:** Dense breasts can make mammograms less sensitive, and they may also contribute to cancer risk. You'll need to speak with your doctor about your individual lifetime risk and thoroughly evaluate your risk factors. To determine your risk, your doctor will ask you about your family history of breast and ovarian cancer, your age when you had your first period, whether you have

children, when you had your first child, and any history of chest irradiation, among other potential risk factors. The good news is that for many women with dense breasts, their risk won't be elevated enough to warrant any changes in screening.

#### Q: What if I'm high risk?

**A:** Women who are at high risk (greater than a 20-25% lifetime risk) and who have dense breast tissue should have annual screening breast magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) in addition to a mammogram. MRIs are very sensitive and can pick up some cancer missed on a mammogram.

#### Q: Shouldn't all women, regardless of their breast density, get a Breast MRI?

**A:** There are many false positives with Breast MRI, which is why it is only recommended for women who are at high risk as they will derive the most benefit. Regardless of your breast density, make sure you get your yearly mammogram and discuss your risk factors for breast cancer with your physician.

**Did You Know?**  
Having dense breast tissue may increase your risk of getting breast cancer.



Learn more about breast density and mammograms at [www.nwhbreastinstitute.org](http://www.nwhbreastinstitute.org)



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# Former Southeast Woman Jumps to Sudden Death

By David Propper

A former Southeast resident apparently jumped to her death on Dec. 30, leaping from a bridge along Interstate 84 near Brewster.

The Putnam County Sheriff's Office confirmed that Kathleen Kondrat, 69, a Putnam resident who lived on Shady Lane in Southeast before moving to Danbury, CT six months ago died after injuries sustained from the jump. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

The incident occurred around 10:30 a.m. when Kondrat left her car on Veteran's Memorial Bridge known also as "the high bridge." The bridge carries one lane of eastbound traffic and one westbound lane of traffic with U.S. Route 6 and 202 and New York Route 22 running underneath the

bridge.

A male driver first saw Kondrat's car on the right shoulder of the westbound lane of the bridge and stopped to tell a highway crew of workers. A flood of 911 calls also began coming in reporting a woman was lying on the westbound lane of the beneath roadway.

The investigation and recovery of the body led to the closure of the roadway for almost two hours, according to the sheriff's department.

Sheriff investigators only found Kondrat's driver's license and a note that had the names and phone numbers of her children. Her name was withheld until her relatives were notified.

# Putnam Students Log Long Hours of Volunteer Work at PHC

Local high school students Emma Hauser and Darcy Carlin have together amassed more than 400 hours of volunteer service at Putnam Hospital Center.

Hauser, 17, a senior at Carmel High School, started volunteering at the hospital in April and has accumulated 250 hours. Hauser helps transport patients throughout PHC, and comes in three times a week.

"I love it. I love the people I've met here and helping patients," Hauser said. "I can't wait to do similar things in college."

Carlin, 17, a senior at Brewster High School, has logged close to 200 hours of service during her two years of volunteer work at PHC. Carlin mainly helps transport patients, too, but she has also made care packages and volunteered at hospital events, she said.

"I enjoy helping others and interacting with all the patients," Carlin said.

Carlin started volunteering at PHC



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MARCELA ROJAS/PUTNAM HOSPITAL CENTER. Junior volunteers Emma Hauser (left) and Darcy Carlin.

because she heard "it's a lot of fun and helps you gain experience and knowledge in the medical field." Both, she said, are true.

Carlin and Hauser said they expect to volunteer until at least August before they head off to college.

For more information on the hospital's volunteer program and/or to apply, please contact Michelle Piazza at 845-230-4752 and/or mpiazza@healthquest.org.

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# Galef and Katz Take Oaths of Office for Assembly Seats

By David Propper

Two household names in the New York State Assembly were once again sworn into office, as Assemblywoman Sandy Galef and Assemblyman Steve Katz took their oaths, though each had differing point of views on how the state of New York is functioning.

Galef, who was sworn into office by Southeast Councilwoman Lynne Eckardt, ran unopposed and was the only other Democrat to win an election in Putnam besides Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney.

Galef said four years ago when the economy was horrid, it left a bitter taste in her mouth when the state had to cut programs and people's jobs. Now, Galef

said the state is only moving forward, while being fiscally conservative.

The state has created about half a million private sectors jobs, "which is what we want to do," Galef said.

"All I can say is I'm going back to Albany with a lot of good knowing that it's going to be a good year," Galef said. "We've got the issue of fracking out of the way, we've got casinos coming, and we've got some good projects here."

While Galef was touting the good of state government, Katz was sitting there raising his eyebrows at some of the things Galef noted.

Katz, who has made it known he despises much of what is going on in the state capital, took the oath of office



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

Steve Katz takes the oath of office with his wife Nicole by his side. This will be his final term in office.



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

Southeast Councilwoman Lynne Eckardt talks about Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, who was sworn into office Wednesday night. Eckardt joked when she grows up, she wants to be just like Galef.

for the final time with Putnam County Court Judge James Reitz doing the honor.

Katz, who has won three elections, said he is term limiting himself after this last term.

Katz said he would continue to be a watchdog in Albany and in order to rid

state government of corruption, Katz said imposing term limits is key. He even challenged other lawmakers at the swearing-in ceremony to do the same.

"I promise I'll do the best I can and from me all you'll get is the unvarnished truth of what I see going on in Albany," Katz said.

## Two New State Senators Sworn in During County Ceremony

By David Propper

Two new state senators that helped the New York State Senate become a Republican majority took their oath of office Wednesday night and vowed to fight the drug problem plaguing the region.

"We are going to fight this drug epidemic in Dutchess County, in Putnam County, in Westchester County," Senator Terrence Murphy said. "It's one of those things you cannot fight alone. No one is immune to this. This is something that needs to be addressed."

Murphy, a former Yorktown councilman was sworn in by Putnam County Court Judge James Reitz, said he would always have an open door policy.

"That's the way my office will be," Murphy, representing the 40th senate

district, said. "24 hours, seven days-a-week, 365 days-a-year, whatever I can do to help out the people of Putnam County, don't even hesitate to ring or knock on my door."

The other state Senator sworn in, Sue Serino, a former Dutchess County legislator, said the battle against heroin is so important because everyone knows someone affected by drug abuse.

"We really need to work together as a team, which I know we all are going to do," Serino, of the 41st senate district, said.

Reitz, who was busy swearing in elected officials all night, noted both senators have a common interest in fighting the war on addiction and "working together to help change people's lives."



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

With his family all up there with him, Senator Terrence Murphy took the oath of office in Putnam County on New Year's Eve. He held another swearing-in ceremony the following day, as well (see page 2).



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

Senator Sue Serino was sworn in Wednesday night before also being sworn in on Jan. 2 in Dutchess County where she lives.

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# Odell's First Full Term Underway After Oath of Office

By David Propper

After being sworn in during a private ceremony earlier in the day so her mother could be with her, MaryEllen Odell saved words of gratitude later that evening for supporters of a county executive ready to start her first full term in office.

During remarks that lasted about 10 minutes, Odell thanked multiple groups and people within the county that helped her reach the point as highest elected official in Putnam County.

"To the people of Putnam County I can't thank you enough for having the confidence in me three years ago and delivering me that confidence again in November," Odell said. "And certainly, it's not about one person, it's about a team and the team I've assembled I'm very, very proud of."

Odell, a Republican, beat Democratic challenger and former legislator Sam Oliverio in November's election.

Recognizing veterans, first responders, librarians, seniors, and the Chambers

of Commerce, Odell noted the responsibility her administration has to each group. The overarching theme was finding a solid middle ground between social and fiscal responsibility.

"On every single issue we face we ask ourselves how do we do this, how do we do this better," Odell said. "And are we balancing our social and fiscal responsibility."

Addressing the drug crisis in the county, fighting for second amendment rights, and keeping the county budget manageable are all goals Odell referenced going into her second term.

"To my colleagues on the legislature we owe it to each other to care for each other, to work together, to understand that we work for the taxpayer and that every decision we make should never be a personal agenda, it should always be about is it the right thing to do for the taxpayer," Odell said. "There is a great opportunity here in the next four years not only for Putnam County but in the Hudson Valley region."



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

County Executive MaryEllen Odell spoke to supporters during Wednesday's swearing-in ceremony. Odell took the oath of office earlier that day in her office.

# After Lifetime in Clerk's Office, Bartolotti Finally at the Top

By David Propper

Working for the county as long as he has, new Putnam County Clerk Michael Bartolotti couldn't shield his excitement when he finally took the oath of office on New Year's Eve.

With his wife by his side, Bartolotti took the oath and then the first words he spoke when addressing the audience was, "Wow, that's all I can say."

"It's unimaginable that 20 years ago when (clerk office co-worker) Emily handed me a box of correspondence and said put these in alphabetical order and get them in the filing cabinet that I would be standing here as Putnam County clerk," he said.

Bartolotti beat Democrat Lithgow Osborne, who seemed to be the only losing candidate to attend the swearing-in ceremony of an opponent.

Bartolotti, who gave a candid

speech, thanked his supporters, none bigger than former clerk Dennis Sant. He remarked how Sant taught him how to listen to people's concerns and how he wants to embody that during his term in office.

"You can't find a better public servant and a man of the people, more than Dennis Sant," he said.

Town of Southeast Justice Gregory Folchetti, who swore him in, remembered how impressed he was with a young Bartolotti 19 years ago when Bartolotti helped Folchetti with legal papers he was trying to submit to the clerk's office. Folchetti recalled how respectfully and professionally Bartolotti was even as a young man.

On Wednesday night it was evident how much passion Bartolotti has for the office he is now the head of.

"I love that office," Bartolotti said. "I love that office."



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

New County Clerk Michael Bartolotti, replacing retired clerk Dennis Sant, gave a euphoric speech after being sworn into office.

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# One Incumbent, Two Newcomers Sworn Into County Legislature

By David Propper

A trio of new legislators were sworn into office, marking the first time the county will officially have an all Republican Putnam County Legislature.

Incumbent Dini LoBue, and newcomers Bill Gouldman and Toni Addonizio all took the oath of office Wednesday evening, less than a week before the legislature's first full meeting of 2015.

LoBue, sworn in by Town of Carmel Justice Thomas Jacobellis for her third term and with her sister by her side, noted the support of Republican chairman Tony Scannapieco and Conservative chairman James Maxwell during her "challenging campaign."

"I most importantly want to thank the people for their unwavering support and their constant appreciation for what I do," LoBue said. "They tell me to continue to do what I'm doing and that's what I intend to do in 2015."

Putnam County Court Judge James Reitz swore in Bill Gouldman, who beat Democrat and Putnam Valley

councilwoman Wendy Whetsel. Reitz described Gouldman as someone always willing to lend a helping hand.

During his short speech, Gouldman, "thanked voters for allowing me to stand before you today." Gouldman said how excited he was to work with the county executive's office and fellow legislators to push Putnam forward.

"Putnam County is a very small county, but just because we are small doesn't mean we can't do large things," Gouldman said.

And finally, Addonizio, who was also sworn in by Judge Reitz, thanked everyone in her campaign who put up signs for her, walked door-to-door with her, drove her around, or those who "just believed in me."

"I know there are many people believing in me to make the right decisions for Putnam County and I want you to know that I take this oath of office very seriously," Addonizio, who beat Jeff Green in the general election, said. "I intend to use wisdom and good judgment in all my decisions."



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

Third term legislator Dini LoBue speaks to a packed house at the old historic courthouse after taking the oath of office.



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

New legislator Bill Gouldman of District 2 is officially sworn in by Judge James Reitz.



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

New legislator Toni Addonizio of District 3 is officially sworn in by Judge James Reitz.

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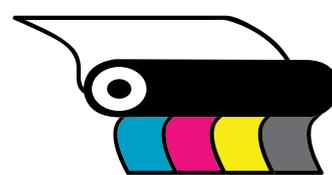
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# Peekskill Hudson River Plunge Raises \$10,200 for Good Cause

By Rick Pezzullo

Some of the 28 participants who signed up for the third annual Polar Plunge at the Riverfront Green in Peekskill on New Year's Day were stripping down for the first time. Others, such as Christine Bischoff of Peekskill, were returning for a third consecutive frigid dip in the Hudson River.

Dan Keegan, 41, of Peekskill, said he was back to support the This Is Me Foundation and experience the bone chilling temperatures of the winter water after last year only being sprayed by a fire hose because of ice buildup.

"Once you're wet, you're wet. There's nothing you can do about it," said Keegan, who revealed his preparation technique was a shot of whiskey before and after the

plunge.

Sisters Mandy McGuire of Buchanan and Tana McGuire of Yorktown conceded they were risk takers and happy to support the efforts of Lauren and Caitlin Brady, sisters and creators of the This is Me Foundation, which raises awareness about alopecia areata, an autoimmune disease that causes hair loss, which both were diagnosed with in high school.

"It's like being baptized all over again," Mandy McGuire quipped. "We're freezing but we're smiling."

"We're bucket list people," Tana McGuire said. "Every 10 minutes we drop another layer. When I go I want everyone to say that Tana didn't miss anything."

The Brady sisters said they were "completely overwhelmed" by the \$10,200 that was raised, more than doubling their goal. The first Polar Plunge in 2013, which attracted 13 participants, raised \$2,400. Last year, 35 plungers raised more than \$6,100, tripling the goal of \$2,000.

"It's crazy," Caitlin Brady said. "The worst part is leading up to it. The water is not bad."

In January 2011, after watching Miss Delaware 2010,



RICK PEZZULLO PHOTO

Participants of the Polar Plunge in Peekskill dealt with freezing water for a good cause last weekend.



RICK PEZZULLO PHOTO

One man who took the polar plunge looks to dry off after getting soaked head-to-toe.

Kayla Martell, take her wig off on National TV and explain she would compete in the 2011 Miss America pageant wearing a wig, as she too had alopecia, the Brady sisters decided they needed to do something to inspire others just as Martell had done for them. Three weeks later, on February 12, 2011, "This Is Me" was born as a two-and-a-half minute YouTube PSA. The video was created to not only raise awareness about alopecia, but to try and inspire anyone who faces any insecurity.

In January 2012, the Brady sisters began giving six \$500 scholarships as part of "This Is Me." The college scholarships are awarded to high school seniors at Walter

Panas and Peekskill enrolled in college who have displayed leadership skills while having faced adversity of any kind or helped others through adversity. The scholarships are presented in honor of the Brady sister's late friends Ryan Risco and Cait Chivonne Polhill.

The Polar Plunge is sponsored by The Quiet Man Public House in Peekskill. Joe Brady said he was so proud of his daughters.

"As a father you can't feel much better," he said. "This helps so many people. It's wonderful."

For more information on This Is Me Foundation, [www.thisismefoundation.com](http://www.thisismefoundation.com).

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# Recycling Gem in Kent Proves to be Worthy Town Resource

continued from page 1 noted.

"As membership grew, we needed a more permanent home," Tartaro said.

Tartaro helped secure a grant five years ago that alleviated the workload of volunteers and allowed Hudson Baylor to pick up tossed material that would lead to a more financially lucrative market for the stuff dropped off at the center.

Members can pick up certain items left by others, in a way making the old adage, "one man's trash is another man's treasure" ring true.

There is a yearly membership fee of



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

Longtime Kent resident Jim Baker stands next to a sign at the entrance of the Kent Recycling Center that commemorates Jim and his wife Wilma (now deceased) for founding the center.

\$60 and a fee of \$3 for a 30-pound bag of garbage and sliding charge for other possible bulk items like mattresses, heavy metal, couches, and refrigerators. There is no charge to recycle paper, plastics, aluminum, cardboard, and glass.

"I want to stress once you get rid of the cardboard, the glass, the plastic, the paper, even the bags from the supermarket, once you get rid of all that material, there's very little sticky garbage left," Tartaro said.

According to Kent Recycling's website, the center is an alternative to curbside collection. For residents that choose curbside collection, it costs more and is less efficient, according to the website, with more resources ending up in a landfill and completely wasted.

Resident Susan Kotzur, who is one of the chairs of the Kent Recycling Commission now, got involved with Kent Recycling all the way back when it started in the early 1990s. She said she even has her first recycling tab saved from 1992.

"I wanted to do the right thing," she said.

Each week, Kotzur comes in at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday along with a small group of seven or eight other volunteers. As Kotzur said, "It's a really good team we have."

The venture started when husband and wife Jim and Wilma Baker explored



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

Residents can slide their bottles into a dumpster than eventually is all recycled.

towns throughout the Northeast that had a recycling center and found the best run one in Wellesley, Mass, a wealthy suburb, which the Bakers wanted to replicate in Kent.

"So we thought that we would try to start one here in the Town of Kent with all volunteers," Jim Baker said. "No one paid anything and for some reason it worked. I think it speaks well for the people of the Town of Kent."

Jim Baker, who still frequents the recycling center, moved to Kent about 50 years ago with Wilma, who is now deceased. Tartaro said the Baker couple was the heart and soul of the operation for many years.

Now in its 23rd year, the Kent Recycling Center continues to flourish. Kotzur and the other co-chairperson Howard Carpenter are expected to continue to lead the center and Tartaro, though now out of the political game for the first time in a long time, still sees himself being an active member of Kent Recycling that comes at least once a week.

Tartaro said, "There's a true sense of family and community."

*Kent Recycling is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for recycling only (no household garbage) on Route 52 across from Horsepound Road and just below Bottle Gate Farms.*

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## 360 Comfort Packages Shipped to Soldiers Overseas

Comfort packages to 360 men and women serving overseas in the U.S. Armed Forces will be sent through United For The Troops, thanks to a campaign supported by the Putnam County Government employees. The initiative, known as Stockings for Soldiers, was the brainchild of County Executive MaryEllen Odell.

"During the season of giving, it was important to remember that our greatest gift is that of freedom," said Odell. "I launched the Stockings for Soldiers program, a joint effort with United for the Troops, to supply comfort packages to those serving overseas in the U.S. Armed Forces."

United For The Troops is a 501-c-3 that sends care packages to troops serving overseas. It was started by Mahopac residents Jim and Pat Rathschmidt. The couple along with their friends and neighbors launched the organization in 2007 when Rathschmidt's son, Luke, was serving with the 82nd Airborne Division of the US Army in Iraq.

Following numerous conversations with service men and women, the group found out that while the military provides soldiers with the essentials for day-

day life, many of them miss the extra amenities that they enjoy while at home. The organization's purpose is to make the soldiers' lives a little better while serving overseas by sending items such as cookies, DVDs, CDs, snacks and t-shirts.

"While all of our comfort packages are made up of donated items, it costs us about \$15 to ship a care package overseas," said Jim Rathschmidt. "Through the great efforts of MaryEllen Odell, the county employees and other Putnam residents, we will be able to pay the shipping for 360 gift boxes being sent to our men and women serving our country overseas. Thanks to the generous support we received, our mission to 'Bring A Little Comfort To Our Troops' will continue on."

While many of the county employees contributed toward the giving campaign, one person in particular went the extra mile. Putnam County Sheriff Deputy Corinne Pitt, who is a school resource officer at Putnam Valley High School, collected donations totaling \$825 from the school staff to support the Stockings for Soldiers initiative.

"It was such a pleasant surprise to have Deputy Pitt show up at my office to



COURTESY OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell presented Jim and Pat Rathschmidt, the founders of United For The Troops, with the donations collected from the county's Stocking for Soldiers campaign.

present us the money she had collected from the generous men and women at Putnam Valley High School," said Odell.

In addition to the donations received from the county employees, the campaign

received \$465 from the N.Y.C Firefighters Hudson Valley East.

United For The Troops has sent over 10,000 comfort packages to the troops since its inception.

Business of the Week

# Children of America Educational Childcare & Academy - Yorktown

By Neal Rentz

Maureen Gioio grew up in a large family in Ossining and certainly knows about dealing with children.

"I'm the oldest of 12," Gioio said "I'm a mom, a grandmother."

Beginning in early 2015, Gioio will be guiding the Children of America Educational Childcare & Academy when it opens in the Cortlandt Town Center in early 2015 through her role as the facility's director.

Children of America is a national chain of child care facilities, Gioio explained recently. "We're the first one to come to Westchester," she said. "We offer child care that will serve infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school age for families in the Westchester County area."

"We are committed to providing a safe, developmentally appropriate environment for infants through elementary school (students)," Gioio said. "Our emphasis is to provide a stimulating and educational experience that provokes every child's social, emotional, physical and cognitive development. We deliver educational programs that foster self-esteem, encourage curiosity and inspire children to desire to be lifelong learners. We have to build that safe, secure environment



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Ossining resident Maureen Gioio, director of Children of America Educational Childcare & Academy, which is scheduled to open in the Cortlandt Town Center in early 2015.

where people feel comfortable and trust. It's the most important job that anyone can have."

There will be several physical activities offered at the new child care facility. "We have indoor and outdoor facilities. We

have an infant/toddler play area," Gioio said. "We also are going to have a little water park."

The indoor arena features a soccer field, a basketball court, a volleyball facility and a batting cage, she noted.

"It's a beautiful facility," she said. "We do embrace a lot of nutrition and fitness for all the age groups and we encourage that."

Academics will also be an important part of services offered by the new day care facility, Gioio said. "The curriculum is based on the children's experiences and what they want to learn. It's hands-on."

A free grand opening event for families is scheduled for Saturday, January 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. "We will have a photo booth, arts and crafts, a bounce house, different vendors to show different activities, such as martial arts (and) gymnastics, (and) live music," Gioio said. Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi is expected to participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony during the event.

Gioio said she has 31 years of experience in child care. "I've worked with every age group and I've directed in the Westchester area," she said. "It's just a passion for me. And I enjoy watching children thrive in a safe, nurturing, loving environment."

Children of America Educational Childcare & Academy is located in the Cortlandt Town Center at 3093 E. Main St. in Mohegan Lake. For more information, visit [childrenofamerica.com](http://childrenofamerica.com) or call 914-930-6084.

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# Yorktown Resident, News Photographer Stan Gitner Dies at 85

By Rick Pezzullo

Stanley Gitner, a beloved community treasure and award-winning newspaper photographer, died Saturday at Hudson Valley Hospital Center in Cortlandt following a recent illness. He was 85.

Mr. Gitner and his cherished wife, Sonia, lived in Yorktown for more than half a century. During that time he volunteered for 53 years with the Yorktown Auxiliary Police, and served for 33 years as deputy director of the Town of Yorktown's Office of Disaster and Emergency Services. But he is probably best known as being the roving spot news photographer for 15 years with the former North County News and most recently Examiner Media.

"He was always interested in what was happening," Mrs. Gitner said about her husband's nose for news. "Even as a teenager he used to go on his bicycle with a radio to the fire department in the city. That kept him going. He enjoyed doing it."

Rick Davin, captain of the Yorktown Auxiliary Police for the last 30 years, said Mr. Gitner was the "eyes and ears" to the Police Department, who knew him on the scanner as badge #551. Every Halloween, Davin said Mr. Gitner would deliver coffee and donuts to his fellow Auxiliary Police members as they patrolled the streets of Yorktown to control mischief.

"That was always a highlight of Halloween," Davin said. "The thing that always amazed me was his energy level. Stan always had an energy level that exceeded everyone I knew. Taking pictures and developing pictures kept him going. Even to his last day he was sharp."

Mr. Gitner was born on February 3,

1929 in Brooklyn to Rebecca and Frank Gitner. He graduated from Erasmus Hall High School in Brooklyn and, in 1952, from City College of New York, where he majored in motion picture film technology, a major created specifically for him. For more than 30 years he worked repairing and restoring motion picture film, including classic Walt Disney movies. He was a longtime member of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers.

Mr. Gitner married Sonia Auerbach of the Bronx on January 27, 1951. They had three sons, Fred of Manhattan, Barry of Morgan Hill, California and Henry of Goshen, all of whom survive. From 1976 to 1982, Mr. Gitner and his wife ran a movie theater in Rockland County. They would later screen films for neighbors in their home.

From 1984 to 1986, the couple also owned a dry cleaning business in downtown Peekskill. "He was very good at removing stains," Mrs. Gitner noted.

Mr. Gitner's true passion was being a newspaper photographer and he was recognized for his work by the New York Press Association. He would also regularly call in breaking news to local radio station WHUD/WLNA.

In 2011, he was honored by the Yorktown Town Board for his 50 years of tireless continuous service, an accomplishment unmatched in the town.

"He was such a wonderful person," said Yorktown Councilman Vishnu Patel. "He was so dedicated to the community."

A longtime member of the Yorktown Jewish Center, Mr. Gitner was also

honored by many local volunteer fire departments and ambulance corps and was an honorary life member of both the Yorktown and Mohegan Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

Herman Shulz, former longtime owner of Yorktown Auto Body and a close friend of Mr. Gitner, recalled first meeting him more than 50 years ago after he had struck a deer with his vehicle on the Taconic State Parkway.

"He became very quickly a fixture in the community," Shulz said. "He was always there to do what was right for anyone at any time. You could trust your life in him and he always believed in the good in everyone. He was a very special person. He'll be really missed."

Besides his three sons and daughters-in-law Joanne of California and Debra of Goshen, Mr. Gitner is survived by grandchildren Jessica of St. Louis, MO, Andrew of Denver, CO and Christopher, a student at Purchase College (SUNY); step-grandchildren Scott Choy of Scarsdale, and Alyson (Perry) Ganz of Natick, MA; and three step-great-grandchildren, Tyler, Zachary and Leah Ganz.

Funeral services were held Monday at Yorktown Funeral Home in Shrub Oak, followed by burial at King David Cemetery in Putnam Valley. Contributions in Mr. Gitner's memory can be made to either Hudson Valley Hospital Center, 1980 Crompond Road, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567; Yorktown Volunteer Ambulance Corps, P.O. Box 104, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598; or Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association Ambulance Corps, P.O. Box 162, Mohegan Lake, NY 10547.

## Obituaries

### Edward T. Sevcik Sr.

Edward T. Sevcik Sr. of Vero Beach, FL and formerly of Mahopac, died peacefully at home on December 30, at the age of 81. He was born in Benwood, WV on March 26, 1933, the son of Thomas and Susan Suchock Sevcik. Ed served in the US Army during the Korean Conflict. While in Mahopac he was a parishioner of St. John the Evangelist Church and a member of the Knights of Columbus, Fr. Mooney Council. He was also a past member of the Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department. Ed was a retired service technician with Robison Oil Co. in Elmsford. He retired on October 30, 1995 after 40 years of service. On June 3, 1955 he married Phyllis Porter in Cumberland, MD. Phyllis died on March 30, 1993. In 2002 he married Patricia Folchetti. Pat died in June of 2010. He is survived by his sons, Edward Jr. and his wife Becky of NY and Eric and his wife Dana of Vero Beach, his daughters, Deborah Fleming and her husband James of Vero Beach and Jennifer Tucker and her husband Michael of Pleasant Valley, NY, his grandchildren

Ryan, Hanna, Mikey, Valeen and Abigail and his step-grandchildren Jessie, Jacob and Jared. He was predeceased by his son Richard in 1958 and grandson Morgan in 2005.

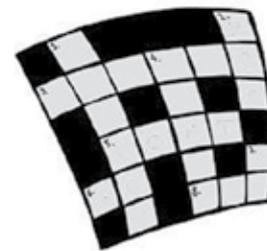
### Eleanor B. Simone

Eleanor B. Simone died December 31, at the age of 94. Mrs. Simone was born September 22, 1920 in Mahopac to Lucretia (Hill) and Albert Barrett. She married Andrew Simone on December 7, 1941 in Mahopac. She is survived by her beloved husband Andrew, her loving children Terry, Michael and Luann Panebianco, she is also survived by eight adoring grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

### Joseph G. Omboni

Joseph G. Omboni of Putnam Valley on December 31, at the age of 84. He was born in Italy, the son of Gregory and Rose (Ritrovato) Omboni. On September 26, 1954 he married Victoria Cristello in Italy and now joins her in heaven. After

they immigrated to the US he worked as a laborer in the construction industry with the Local 235. Joseph is survived by his daughter Rose Scolpini, his sons Gary and Joseph, his sister Claire, and his grandchildren Anthony M. Scolpini II, Brian, Andrea, Jason, Victoria, Isabel, and Julia Omboni.



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# Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10
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Crossword by Myles Mellor

Answers on page 13

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### Across

- Children of \_\_\_\_: the future of this country, or new preschool in Mohegan Lake
- Leftover
- Climbing grip
- “The Matrix” hero
- Non-drinkable cocktail
- High explosives, for short
- Famed Biblical trio
- Sun protection
- Wound that is healing
- Intrigue
- Relating to electrical resistance
- Like a beaver
- Go along (with)
- Like a busybody
- Fighting mood
- Mower storage
- Pitches
- This Mahopac pastry shop has a “small” name but a huge following, Cafe \_\_\_\_
- Global positioning fig.
- It should help you breathe easier
- Insidious
- Critical

### Down

- Place to make deposits, briefly
- Sound from a Holstein
- Evasive one
- Like a diamond
- Crumb

- Blocks up
- Dear Abby reply
- Busy
- Calls something different
- Unstable
- Church parties
- Relating to groups of musical notes
- Forgiveness
- Railroad maintenance vehicle
- Dog tooth
- One-ton beast
- Sound reverberation
- Familiar
- Aloha garland
- It needs refinement

Pet  
Of  
The  
Week



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## Tips to Keep Your Pets Safe and Secure this Winter

As the weather starts to turn cold, the Putnam County SPCA would like to remind dog owners of their responsibilities under the law. The New York State Animal Cruelty Laws state that in order for a dog to be left outside it must meet all of the following conditions:

- The shelter provided must be appropriate for the dog’s breed, physical condition and climate. This means that a wooden doghouse, plastic igloo, or similar type of shelter is not appropriate during freezing and below freezing conditions for shorthair breeds (beagles, pit bulls, Chihuahuas, etc.). This also means an older dog or a dog with a medical condition, such as arthritis, cannot be left outside in freezing and below freezing temperatures. “Physical condition shall include any special medical needs of a dog due to disease, illness, injury, age or breed about which the owner or person with custody or control of the dog should reasonably be aware.”
- “Dogs that are left outdoors” shall mean dogs that are outdoors in inclement weather (“Inclement weather” shall mean weather conditions that are likely to adversely affect the health or safety of the dog, including but not limited to rain, sleet, ice, snow, wind, or extreme heat and cold) without ready access to, or the ability to enter a house,

apartment building, office building, or any other permanent structure that complies with the following standards. For all dogs that are left outdoors in inclement weather, a housing facility, which must (1) have a waterproof roof; (2) be structurally sound with insulation appropriate to local climatic conditions and sufficient to protect the dog from inclement weather; (3) be constructed to allow each dog adequate freedom of movement to make normal postural adjustments, including the ability to stand up, turn around and lie down with its limbs outstretched; and (4) allow for effective removal of excretions, other waste material, dirt and trash. The housing facility and the area immediately surrounding it shall be regularly cleaned to maintain a healthy and sanitary environment and to minimize health hazards.

- Inadequate shelter may be indicated by the appearance of the housing facility itself, including but not limited to size, structural soundness, evidence of crowding within the housing facility, healthful environment in the area immediately surrounding such facility, or by the appearance or physical condition of the dog.

Also, please keep in mind that, by law, dogs must be supplied with water at all

times. A water bowl that has frozen to ice does not meet this requirement. If your shelter does not meet the above requirements or if your dog is not breed, age, physical/medical- appropriate, then you must keep it inside during inclement weather. This also applies to when it is too cold for the water bowl to contain water in its liquid state.

Don’t subject your pet to winter’s harsh conditions – it’s a crime.

Owning a dog is a responsibility. Please take it seriously, especially when the temperatures drop. To report animal cruelty/animal crimes, the public can contact the Putnam County SPCA at their 24-hour animal cruelty hotline at 845-520-6915 or through our website [spcaputnam.org](http://spcaputnam.org). All calls will be kept confidential.

The Putnam County SPCA is a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit corporation, which receives no funding from any government agency or the ASPCA. Their mission is to prevent cruelty to all animals by enforcing the New York state cruelty statutes by their countywide, humane law enforcement department, providing medical care and shelter to abused animals and providing humane education to schools and other interested groups. They exist solely on donations of supporters who care about animals and how they are treated. Given

law enforcement powers by the state of New York, the Putnam County SPCA responds to calls of suspected animal cruelty throughout Putnam County.

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# Beauty of Cut Flowers as Part of Décor Lifts Spirits as Well

Ever since our first year of marriage, there's always been something special to my wife and me about adding fresh cut flowers to our home decorating scheme. To this day, mostly every week when I stop off at A&P to pick up my copy of The Examiner, I look for the special bargains in the flower section.

If I hadn't become a reporter, then a PR guy and realtor, I know I would have been perfectly happy as a florist because I love coming home, choosing one of the many vases we keep under the sink and making a new and large floral arrangement, challenging myself to have each one look very different from any I've made before. Then I place it in the center of our kitchen island that has an overhead light that beams down directly on it where it will be sure to catch my wife's attention when she returns home from work.

What is it, I wondered, beyond their beauty, that makes fresh flowers so much a desirable part of our interior décor?

I remembered reading about a study that answered this question.

Sponsored by the Society of American Florists and conducted by Dr. Nancy Etcoff of Massachusetts General Hospital



By Bill Primavera

and Harvard Medical School, that study considered the immediate effects flowers have on mood in comparison to a generic piece of home décor over a period of a week. Those who lived with fresh cut flowers during that period felt an increase in compassion and kindness and felt less negative. They most frequently placed flowers in their kitchen (our favorite spot), dining room and living room where they spend most of their time at home. It was also found that having flowers at home had a positive carryover impact on their mood at work.

Presenting flowers at home doesn't seem to hurt in the romance department either. According to a 2012 study reported in the Journal of Social Psychology, men who sought to engage women (vernacularly speaking, pick them up) in a shopping mall scored more successfully near a flower shop than they did near a cake shop or shoe store. Flowers are proven scientifically to convey emotion, from our early prom date to that final funeral spray.

I especially enjoy the creative "hunt" aspect to decorating with flowers when I come across special "buys" that look

exotic -- beyond the roses, carnations, daisies and mums that you would expect to find -- perhaps a variety of lily that I might never have seen before, laden with buds that haven't quite opened, full of promise for the beauty that awaits me in the days ahead.

We take special delight in using unusual conveyances for the flowers. We don't settle for just ordinary vases, but look for other vessels not normally considered for flowers such as antique pitchers, mixing bowls, canisters and vintage milk bottles.

Throughout the seasons, I like to add color, sticking to the yellows and pinks of spring, the oranges and purples of fall and the reds, greens and whites of winter, all etherealized with lots of baby's breath, which I always use as the finishing halo to most arrangements I do.

There are times when I'm feeling particularly elaborate, such as this past holiday season when I found bargain bunches of flowers as cheaply as \$4.99 and bought a dozen of them for a massive and thick Christmas display. I followed that up during New Year's week with one that was quite delicate, open and loose, with generous spacing between stems, standing straight with the use of a frog at the bottom of the container.

By the way, my favorite trick for having tulips stand straight as a stick in the vase in spring -- and I was surprised when I

had a co-worker who didn't know about it -- was to place a few pennies in the bottom of the vase. The copper in the pennies make them stand straight...but look for older pennies which have more copper in them.

I've just purchased a condo where I have a Juliete balcony high above ground level with no way to just swing open the doors and step outside to enjoy a flower garden. But I have a fabulous idea to have fresh flowers indoors all year long. I'm taking an antique iron urn from the garden of my country home and placing it just inside my balcony windows and, from spring through fall, I will plant a profusion of geraniums in it. During winter, I will fill it with a large bowl of fresh cut flowers. It will be my way of always having the color and mood-lifting energy of fresh flowers indoors all year long.

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

## Continuous Experimenting Results in Instinctive Behavior



By Nick Antonaccio

My wife and I have been fortunate over the years to enjoy high-end travel destinations and the sophisticated restaurants that thrive nearby. Several of these destinations and restaurants have been in the wine regions of several countries, notably France, Italy and the United States.

Whenever we see one of these destinations in the news, it rekindles our fond memories of the unique times we enjoyed. But every so often, these destinations are in the news for less than glorious reasons. So it was last week. The French Laundry restaurant, deep in the heartland of Napa Valley, was burglarized.

We were patrons when the owner and chef, Thomas Keller, first opened the restaurant in 1994 to critical acclaim for his (at the time) innovative approach to menu offerings, eclectic ingredients and groundbreaking food preparation. The restaurant has earned the coveted top ranking from

the dining review arm of Michelin (three stars, one of only nine restaurants so acclaimed in the United States).

We returned to The French Laundry several years later for a similarly glorious meal and wondrous wine pairing, but recently its reputation has influenced its price: \$295 for a nine-course chef's tasting dinner, before considering the world famous, and equally expensive, wine list offerings.

With these memories now brought to the forefront of my consciousness as I read last week's news, I sought out the details of the burglary more closely.

Keller and his staff served their last meal on Christmas Eve, before a scheduled renovation and expansion of the restaurant, and "had just settled down for a long winter's nap," to blatantly use a line from the Clement C. Moore poem I recently read to our young family members.

The vacant restaurant was broken into on Christmas Day. How did they enter? The thief (or thieves) clumsily smashed open the door to the wine cellar -- with a hammer, splintering

*You Heard It Through the Grapevine*

the lock and the door. "They spoke not a word but went straight to their work. And filled all their stockings."

What did they flee with? Precious wine, valued at over \$300,000, according to the Los Angeles Times.

And not the first wines they could grab, but specific bottles from specific high-end wineries. These facts had me thinking it was an inside job perpetrated by one or more knowledgeable burglars.

However, when I saw the story, my first thought was Whoa! What a collection." This surely ranks with the most expansive and expensive restaurant cellars in the United States. Even an average price of \$300 per bottle for the higher-end wines would equate to about 1,000 bottles -- and this would represent just a portion of the cellar contents. Reading further, Keller confirmed that only 76 bottles were missing. That is an average value of nearly \$4,000 per bottle.

Additional details began to emerge.

The list of stolen bottles read like a Who's Who of high-end wines, many of which are rarely on a restaurant wine list, unless you're a three-star Michelin restaurant serving \$295 dinners. And did I mention that this expansive and

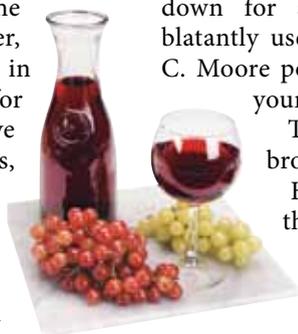
expensive cellar caters to a capacity of only 62 seats at The French Laundry? This is a striking example of rare, quality wines at a rare, quality restaurant.

The list of individual wines is dominated by the most expensive bottles in the world: Domaine de la Romanée-Conti from the French Burgundy region (60 bottles), the most valued bottle of which is estimated to be worth \$15,000. The American cult wine Screaming Eagle is also represented on this now infamous list, as are several bottles of Dom Pérignon, a French cult Champagne.

Here the term "valued at" refers to retail pricing. The prices on a restaurant wine list are typically marked up two to three times over retail (and for rare wines even higher), which if this is the case for The French Laundry list, would catapult this theft to grand proportions.

Certainly Keller will recover from this tragedy -- and most likely more quickly than I.

*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.*



# Happenings

We're happy to help spread the word about your community event. Please submit your information at least three weeks prior to your event and include the words "Happenings Calendar Submission" in your email subject line. Entries should be sent to Nikki Gallagher at [nikki@theexaminernews.com](mailto:nikki@theexaminernews.com)

**Ongoing**

**In-Stitches Knitting Club at Reed Library** (845-225-2439). Wednesday mornings 10:30 a.m. to noon and Thursday evenings 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Beginners and experienced knitters and crocheters are welcomed in this fun and friendly group.

**Cancer Support:**

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

**Save the Date:**

**Friday, January 23**

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

Putnam Valley Elementary School. 171 Oscawana Lake Rd, Putnam Valley. Sponsored by Chung Ma.

**Saturday, February 7**

Teatown's Hudson River Eaglefest is

coming: Time to Celebrate the Return of the Eagle to its Winter Home in the Hudson Valley: Teatown's Hudson River EagleFest is held at Croton Point Park (Eagle Headquarters) to celebrate the return of the eagle. This year, our 11th celebration will take place on Saturday, February 7.

**Winter Art Classes:**

**The Belle Levine Art Center,** Mahopac. Draw, Paint, Sculpt, Spin, Develop & More. Affordable winter ART classes begin the end of January with many new offerings and ongoing favorites including pottery, painting, drawing, and photography. New adult offerings include - Drawing: Preparing the Sketchbook with Joann Zwolski and Driven to Abstraction with Jeanne Demotes along with a new Teen Darkroom class taught by Jim Sparks! Designed to explore, educate and enjoy, our classes are geared for beginner to advanced and are available for children, teens and adults. Our winter class schedule is currently posted @ [putnamartscouncil.com](http://putnamartscouncil.com)

**Tuesday, January 6**

**County Department of Health** (PCDOH) is offering a "last-chance" flu clinic. 2 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., at 1 Geneva Road in Brewster, for residents still needing a vaccination. The clinic is open to all Putnam County residents, 3 years and older. The fee for flu vaccine is \$25 for residents under 60 years of age. Those 60 years and older, or with a Medicare card, can receive the vaccine free of charge. High-dose flu vaccine is being offered for seniors, 65 years and older (as studies show this vaccine is more effective for this population). Proof of residency (driver's

license) and Medicare card is required. No appointments are necessary. Forms will be available online at the Putnam County website at <http://www.putnamcountyny.com/health/immunization>.

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

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

**Wednesday, January 7**

**Mahopac Central School District 2015-16 Registration** for Incoming Kindergarten Students. Must be five years old on or before 12/01/2015. Kindergarten Registration for the 2015-16 School Year will be held at The Office of Central Registration located at The Falls District Office, 100 Myrtle Avenue, Mahopac, between the hours of 8:15am and 3:00pm on the following dates: Austin Road ES: January 7th & 9th, February 9th, 11th & 26th. Fulmar Road ES: January 21st & 23rd, February 3rd & 5th. Lakeview ES: January 13th, 15th 28th 30th, February 24th. Registration is by appointment only. To schedule an appointment and request a registration packet, please contact the Office of Central Registration at 845-621-0656, Ext. 13905 or 13902. Registration packets are also available on our District website under Departments, then Registration. Our web address is [www.mahopac.k12.ny.us](http://www.mahopac.k12.ny.us).

**Saturday, January 10**

**2nd Annual Italian Children's Fashion Show:** Hosted by Sacred Heart Gifts and Apparel. Westchester Italian Cultural Center. One Generoso Pope Place, Tuckahoe. Call to Reserve Tickets at 914-771-8700

**Tasty Tips for Eating Healthy:** Patterson Library, 1167 Rte. 311. 1 p.m. Make 2015 the year you get healthy

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

**Thursday, January 15**

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

**Friday, January 16**

**The Wizard of Oz at the Paramount Hudson Valley.** Directed by Melodie Wolford, this adaptation of the classic Wizard of Oz will be starring Gabrielle Sansone as Dorothy and a cast of talented actors from Westchester and surrounding communities. This live performance, based on the Turner Entertainment Company's 1939 film starring Judy Garland, will be showcasing the Royal Shakespeare's Wizard of OZ script adapted by John Kane; music and lyrics by Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburgh. Performances will be held on January 16, 17th and 18th and can be purchased through the box office, over the phone (914-739-0039 x2) Student, senior and group sales are available through the Box Office. dates of show: January 16, 17, 18 - 2015

Price: \$29 (Adults), \$19 (Students/Seniors) hours: 7 p.m. on January 16/17 - 3 p.m. Sunday Matinee January 18 Location: Paramount Hudson Valley. 1008 Brown Street. Contact info: 914-739-0039 x2. [www.paramounthudsonvalley.com](http://www.paramounthudsonvalley.com)

## Crossword Answers

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

## THINK LOCAL SHOP LOCAL

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# EXAMINER MEDIA Classifieds . . . . . 010615

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## LEGAL NOTICE

**HUD HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM WAITING LIST OPENING AND LOTTERY IN PUTNAM COUNTY NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Putnam County Housing Corporation (PCHC) Carmel, New York in accordance with regulations outlined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and in accordance with New York State Home & Community Renewal, Statewide Section 8 Voucher Program, Section 8 Administration Plan, April 1, 2012 will reopen the Section 8 waiting list for all income eligible individuals and families. Annual income limits vary by household size:

**1 person - \$29,400; 2 persons - \$33,600; 3 persons - \$37,800; 4 persons - \$41,950; 5 persons - \$45,350; 6 persons - \$48,700; 7 persons - \$52,050; and 8 persons - \$55,400** Following the HCR Administrative Plan, priority will be given to those below 30% of area median income: **1 person - \$17,650; 2 persons - \$20,150; 3 persons - \$22,650; 4 persons - \$25,150; 5 persons - \$27,200; 6 persons - \$29,200; 7 persons - \$31,200; and 8 persons - \$33,200.**

Applications will be available to the public on January 5, 2015 at PCHC's office, 11 Seminary Hill Road, Carmel, NY 10512; online at www.putnamhousing.com or by calling 845-225-8493.

Applications must be mailed to: **HUD HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM P.O. Box 119 Carmel, New York 10512**

All applications submitted between February 1, 2015 and February 28, 2015 will be placed in a lottery to be held **Monday, March 16, 2015**. No applications will be accepted at PCHC offices. The lottery process will be observed by Putnam County Department of Social Services staff to ensure lottery procedures are followed. Seven hundred and fifty (750) applicants will be drawn in random order and assigned a waiting list number in order drawn to the existing, computerized waitlist. Additionally, each application will be dated and time stamped, numbered and entered into a bound log book. Letters will be sent to selected ap-

plicants confirming their placement on the waiting list. All applications not drawn as one of the 750 will be destroyed and will not be part of the waiting list.

The Housing Choice Voucher Program is a federal housing program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The program provides housing assistance to renters with low to moderate income in the form of rental subsidies. Individuals with disabilities are eligible for the program and reasonable accommodations will be made where necessary to ensure equal participation in housing assistance. **Equal Housing Opportunity Statement:** We are pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for an achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the Nation. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtaining housing because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin.

## MISCELLANEOUS

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## WANTED

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the next week's  
publication**

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

January 6 - January 12, 2015

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

SPORTS SECTION

**Riddle**  
**Me This!**  
**Carmel Shines**  
**at Weaver**  
**Tourney**



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

Carmel sophomore Maddie Riddle was a difference-maker for the host Rams last Tuesday in their 50-43 victory over Emily Sanyshyn (30) and the Brewster Bears in the final round of the 8th annual Ronnie Weaver Friendship Tournament where Carmel Coach Dan O'Hare (inset) would notch the 200th victory of his Ram career... see Girls' Hoops Notebook

## Sports

## Boys Hoops Notebook

# 8th Annual Putnam Challenge Successful Despite Weather *Putnam's Haldane, Put Valley, Brewster All Victorious; Host Carmel Comes up Short*

By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports Editor

The 8th annual Putnam Challenge was a huge success, despite the shaky weather that prompted tournament officials to hold the five-game challenge over the course of two days, instead of one. Saturday's snowy/slushy conditions forced the postponement of the final two games of the day, forcing the Carmel-Brewster and the Haldane-North Salem contests to Sunday while Saturday featured three final-possession games, including Putnam Valley's 55-53 win over Peekskill and Croton's 42-38 victory over John Jay CR.

The Putnam basketball officials, IABBO Board 161, hosted the event at Carmel High School, hoping to add to the \$9,000 previously raised in scholarships in its history, and despite the gloomy weather officials were praised for another job well done.

One slight criticism the organizers might want to work on: If you're going to have a Putnam Challenge, Mahopac needs to be a part of it. Generally speaking, the matchups were great: Peekskill vs. Putnam Valley could be a decent game for a couple of years based on the recent returns and what they have on the lower levels. Haldane vs. North Salem or Croton is a match made in heaven. Brewster should be squared up against bordering John Jay, though, and Carmel vs. Mahopac would really cap



RAY GALLAGHER/RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

PV's Ryan Basso went for 35 in 55-53 win over Peekskill last Saturday.

the night off (just my two cents). Lastly, the Webutuck vs. Pawling matchup -- of minor interest even in Dutchess County -- couldn't draw flies at a picnic in Putnam #PleaseAbolish.

PUTNAM VALLEY's triumph of PEEKSKILL for the second time in three meetings was eerily reminiscent of the Tigers' early-December loss to Lakeland, when the Hornets smacked the Tigers in the mouth while erasing a 16-point fourth-quarter deficit. Only this time the Tigers responded by getting off the mat to close the game out. Leading 33-20 at the half on account of 26 first-half points from sniper Ryan Basso, the Tigers saw Peekskill throw the kitchen sink at Basso in the third quarter. Like the Lakeland loss, which set the Tigers into a temporary free-fall (3-straight losses), nobody stepped up when Basso was taken out of the game by the Red Devils. Thusly, Peekskill's frenetic defense and pace enabled the Red Devils to erase the

deficit and eventually take a 41-37 lead at the end of three.

But in the fourth quarter, PV Coach Mike McDonnell finally found the right rotation to counter Peekskill's speed and interior strength, which comprised of space-eating Anthony Murphy, who had his way with PV in the third. Murphy was feasting in the paint, whittling away at PV's lead until the fourth, when McDonnell adjusted and match Peekskill's speed and put senior Mike Del Guidice on Murphy. The two jostled for position on every Red Devil possession and the help defense stemmed the tide.

Meanwhile, Basso got back in the groove in the fourth, scoring nine more points to finish with a game-high 35 and MVP honors, going 11 of 12 from the stripe. PV junior F Joe Spinola scored six clutch fourth-quarter points and finished with eight points.

"I can't tell you how proud I am of my guys for beating Peekskill for the



Peekskill's CJ Redd soars for two against Tiger Ryan Basso in Putnam Challenge loss to PV.

second time in three tries," McDonnell said. "Yeah, they may be down in terms of their record (1-6), but Peekskill is Peekskill and any time you beat them you're beating one of the best programs around. We knew they would throw everything that had into stopping Ryan, who was tremendous in the first half, but I like the fact that they punched us in the mouth and we took their best shot and got off the canvas. We've been a little streaky this season, but I get the feeling that we're starting to turn the corner. We're about to get on a run here. I think



Croton's Charlie Goldenberg attacks rack in win over Jay at Putnam Challenge.



Croton's Chris McVeety drops in two in Putnam Challenge win over John Jay.

# Sports

## Boys Hoops Notebook

we're ready to unleash Joey (Spinola) as a complimentary scorer to Ryan and if we can get what we need from Zack Nolan on a consistent basis we'll have enough on offense to match the good things we're doing defensively."

The Tigers will be off until Jan.13th while the Red Devils, who are better than their record would indicate, will take on Lakeland Wednesday in a League I-B tone-setting match.

In HALDANE's 72-45 thrashing of North Salem, Blue Devil senior Peter Hoffmann dropped a game-high 30 points to lead the team while Edmond Fitzgerald continued his yeoman's services with seven points and 11 boards. Will Zuvic (10 points) and Ryan McCollum (9) were other big contributors for the 6-2 Blue Devils.

Coach Joe Virgadamo has to like the fact that his team has bought into their respective roles. Yes, it's Hoffmann's team and people would be crazy to deny that. But one man cannot go at it alone and this unit is well-rounded and poised to make a run at the league title; with only Putnam Valley, realistically, standing in the Blue Devils' way.

"Multiple guys stepped up offensively and defensively," Coach Virgadamo said. "We're starting to come together as one, and when we do that we are a good team. We're hoping to build as a team on this win. We will have some very tough games coming up. We will see what we are made of and these games will prepare us for sectionals."

BREWSTER was rewarded for its hard work this season with a 53-38 win over host CARMEL. Bear G Jon Palmiero was the difference maker, as the wily sniper dropped a game-high 19 on the discombobulated Rams. Palmiero is coming into his own, and the Bears will



Peekskill's Anthony Murphy was a beast in the Putnam Challenge, notching a double-double.



Haldane's Edmund Fitzgerald has been a terror in the paint and on the glass for the Blue Devils, including the Putnam Challenge win over North Salem.

need more of the same as they head into the league fray this week.

Carmel's Ryan Train finished with 15 points, but the Rams aren't playing smart ball right now. The game plan is said to be sound but the execution is lacking.

Brewster is a tough scrappy team that will get better with Coach Tom Nelligan on their side as the season progresses, but the Bears are competing in one of the tougher leagues around the rest of the way.

CROTON defeated John Jay 42-38 at the Putnam Challenge Saturday. Tiger G Charlie Goldberg led Croton's balanced attack with 10 points in what could only be termed a physical encounter. Slick Tiger point guard Teejay Searight's 3 point shot early in the 4th quarter gave the Tigers a lead they would not relinquish as the Tigers held the to four fourth-quarter points. Chris McVeety added nine points for the winners.

Here's a look at the latest Feb 5 Poll for Section 1 teams within the coverage zone.

Putnam/NWE Fab Five Hoops Poll

No.1 SOMERS - Coach DiCintio's Class A Tuskers (5-0) looked pretty good when I saw them but I got a ton of people telling me I'm overrating and overhyping them #BackMeUp.

No.2 YORKTOWN - Coach Downes Class A Huskers (5-1) will now go about business in League I-D, which is a combined 30-9. Same dudes tell me I'm overrating the Huskers, too.

No.3 MAHOPAC - Coach Harter Class AA Indians (3-4) will find it tough to make their way back to Final 4 for a 5th straight year, but they are more than capable of giving Arlington fits for the

I-A title chase.

No.4 HALDANE - Coach Virgadamo's defending Section 1 Class C champion Blue Devils (6-2) are a matchup nightmare and if the guard play pans out they will be tough to beat in league play.

No.5 PUTNAM VALLEY - Coach McDonnell's Class B Tigers (5-4) seem to have righted the ship, and we'll be anxious to see if their superior guard play will be enough to take down Haldane for league.

HM BREWSTER - Coach Nelly's Class A Bears (3-4) are better than the record says they are and Carmel can attest, but they'll need to start bunching W's in a tough league to qualify for post play.

HM PANAS - Coach Sully's reigning Section 1 Class A champion Panthers (3-4) get Ossining and Hen Hud out of the break so we're expecting them to be 5-4 before they see Peekskill and Lakeland.

HM CROTON - Coach Thom's Class B Tigers (5-2) are a tough team to read. Two wins over Class A John Jay but beaten by a sub-par Carmel outfit.

HM PEEKSKILL - Upon seeing Coach Turner's Class A Red Devils (1-6) live for the second time, I'm inclined to believe they will be right smack dab in the middle of a wide open League I-B title chase, maybe even win it.

HM LAKELAND - Coach Weltman's Class A Hornets (3-5) better fess up their A-game against Peekskill because every win will be pivotal in this up-for-grabs title chase.

HM HEN HUD - Coach Hirsch's Class A Sailors (4-1) get sub-par Beacon and an undefined Panas outfit this week, so we'll know more after Friday about the Sailors.

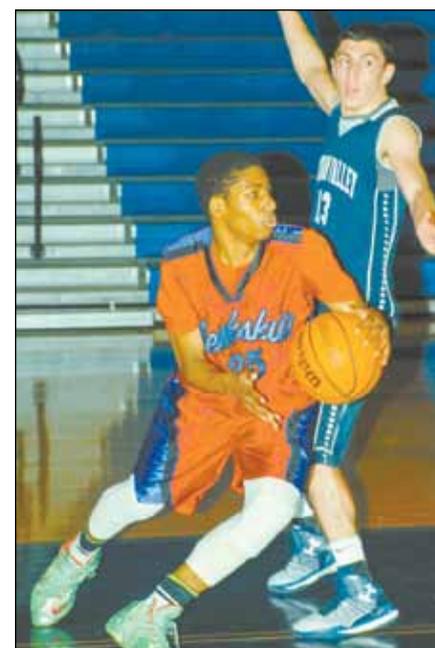
HM CARMEL - Coach Venditto's Class AA Rams (2-5) have to wonder where that team that beat Croton went.



Haldane's Ryan McCollum pulls up for two in Putnam Challenge win over North Salem.



Red Devil Ronald Richburg runs lane in loss to PV.



Peekskill G Galen Tookes is checked by PV's Zack Nolan in Tiger win over Red Devils.



TJ Searight snatches ball from hands of Jay player as Garrett Lynch guards basket in Tiger win.

## Sports

## Girls Hoops Notebook

# O'Hare Notches 200th Win, Carmel Racking up W's

By Tony Pinciario

The Carmel girls' basketball team was not very friendly during the Ronnie Weaver Friendship Basketball Tournament during the Christmas break; on the court that is.

Carmel defeated Suffern and Brewster in its two games. With the triumph over Suffern, Carmel gave Coach Dan O'Hare the 200th win in his 18-year career for the Rams.

Kellie Oliver and Caitlin Murphy were named to the all-tournament team. Carmel's two victories enabled the Rams to close out December with a 4-2 record.

O'Hare likes what he has seen from his team in December, but he and his team understand what they need to do.

"I am very pleased with the way our team has been sharing the ball and our successful tight defense," O'Hare said. "We do need to do a better job on the boards, cut down on our turnovers and improve our free-throw percentage.

"We play in a very tough league with Mahopac, Arlington and Lourdes and we have some tough upcoming games with Irvington and Fox Lane," O'Hare said.

Carmel will be prepared for its difficult league schedule, led by Oliver and Murphy, both senior captains.

"Kellie is our go-to scorer and Caitlin is our fast-break catalyst," O'Hare said. "Alexis Wright leads the team in rebounding and sophomore Madrid Riddle has been an effective scorer coming off the bench.

MAHOPAC did not play during the Christmas break. The Indians are



Brewster's Frannie Merkel looks to block shot of Carmel's Clair Cody in Rams' win over Bears in Weaver tourney action.



RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

Haldane's Allie Monteleone and the Blue Devils have faced some adversity early on, which Coach Searight believes will strengthen them.

currently 5-3 for second-year coach Chuck Scozzafava.

"I'm pleased with the progress we are making game by game, the effort the girls are playing with and how the girls are playing their role for the team," Scozzafava said.

Mahopac has been led by Alayne Felix, Caroline Horan, Carly Pease, Tara Ravoli with Kim Schiera and Amanda Geyer.

"Over the next two weeks and the rest of the year we are into league play," Scozzafava said. "We have Carmel and Lourdes this week and Arlington and John Jay-East Fishkill next week. All good teams. We have no easy games the rest of the way."

After losing a tight game to Archbishop Molloy before Christmas break, the OSSINING

Pride bounced back with a strong showing in the Slam Dunk Challenge at the Westchester County Center.

Ossining defeated Jamesville-DeWitt (71-32) and Bishop Loughlin (77-64) to win its bracket.

Jalay Knowles finished with 27 points and seven rebounds, Shadeen Samuels added 15 points and three steals and Madison Strippoli had 11 points, seven rebounds and three steals against Jamesville-DeWitt. Knowles (36) and Samuels (25) combined for 61 points against Bishop Loughlin. Samuels also had six rebounds and seven assists and Stefanie Svoboda handed out a game-high 11 assists.

Coaches always talk about how their team will react following a tough loss. Ossining coach Dan Ricci had a good feeling about his team going into the Slam Dunk Challenge.

"Our practices were much more intense after the loss, and the level of play increased quite a bit," Ricci said. "I told the girls that the Slam Dunk would be two games on our schedule where they were going to be challenged so we needed to show that could beat a good team, which



Brewster's Frannie Merkel looks to block shot of Carmel's Clair Cody in Rams' win over Bears in Weaver tourney action.

we did on back-to-back games."

HALDANE is undergoing some growing pains through the first month of the season. Coach Tyrone Searight and his girls are currently 1-5, but he has challenged them.

"The girls are playing a tough schedules out the gate and we are a young team," Searight said. "And we don't lighten up coming back off the holiday break playing Pine Plains, which might be a semi-regional match-up in February for us, playing powerhouse Peekskill, which is undefeated, and then our league.

"Every day we are getting stronger and learning how to put four quarters together."



Tusker Nicole DeMase D's up Admiral A. Darling in Somers' 42-35 loss to Arlington Saturday

## Sports

## Hockey Notebook

## Reliving Kennedy's NYS &amp; Federation Titles, 10 Years Later



By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports  
Editor

They gathered at Kennedy Catholic a couple of weeks ago to celebrate the 10-year reunion of one of the greatest basketball teams this scribe has ever covered in a quarter century on the northern tier of the

Section

1 hoops circuit. And while their midribs were slightly wider than I remembered, all indications were that the former NYSPHSAA and Federation champions of 2004 were just as successful off the court as they were on it when school the school honored the eight players who joined then-coach Tom Nelligan (now Brewster's coach) and former assistant and current Kennedy head coach Al Morales for a ceremony during halftime of a recent Gaels' victory over Xavier.

I remember the two runs to Glens Falls for state and feds like it was yesterday because wherever that loveable unit went, I went with them. Coach Nelligan gave me full access to the locker room before, during and after each and every triumph, and there was plenty celebrate;

for this engaging group of youngsters was among my favorite teams to cover, on and off the court.

Devin Brown, Pete Courtney, Mike DeStefano, Dan Gumb, Matt Maher, Rob McLaughlin, Dan O'Connell, Pat O'Gara, Greg Robstad, Tyler Tripodi, Mick Warncke, Joe Weldon, John Zanzarella and the respectful leader that was Tyrell Thompson, who tragically passed away in 2012 while balling at West Point for Army, was quite the collection of student athletes. I know for a fact that we looked forward to being with each other, because we dined together like family at the

Falls, and hanging out with their parents into the wee hours of night were some of the best times I'd had while working with the now-defunct North County News.

"It was an amazing feeling to be back on the court with the guys, so many great memories came rushing back," said former guard Maher, the revved-up motor of the JFK engine. "When we all get back together it's as if nothing's changed. There's still that closeness, that laughter and joy we still share with one another. We may now live in different states, have fiancées, wives, even children, but that magical season that helped shaped who we are as men. That's something that will



ROB D'ANTONIO PHOTO

Members of the 2004 Kennedy hoops team gather at recent ceremony to celebrate 10-year reunion of state and federation title run.

always stand the test of time."

Seriously, Nelligan should have a wing, or at least a plaque, at Kennedy named after him for all he did there to mold these men. His Kennedy teams – which won four sectional titles and featured the likes of Donnie McGrath, James Gray and Brian O'Donnell – exhibited class and sportsmanship while they wiped the floor with you on most nights. The epic battles and dustups with Peekskill and the war, literally, with Burke Catholic come rushing to my mind, as I found myself in the middle of those tussles. What an era it was for Section 1 hoops; I like to think of those days as the glory days for Northern Westchester, which Mookie Jones continued as a three-time NYS champ at Peekskill shortly thereafter.

Kennedy may never have another

run like that one, so it was good to see Coach Morales gather the troops for a ceremony befitting the champions they were. Turns out, Morales has assembled another pretty solid crew of ballers for the 2015 season, and he's hoping that some of that 2004 magic rubs off on the current Class A state-ranked (No.7) Gaels (7-0) as they entertain the notion of competing for the CHSAA title. We don't get over there to see the Gaels as much as we used to on account of their not competing in Section 1 anymore, but we hear nothing but good things about Morales' Gaels and wish them as much luck as the old gang once had...

CONGRATS to Carmel girls' basketball Coach Dan O'Hare on snagging the 200th win of his career, which came over Suffern, in the first round of the Ronnie Weaver Friendship Tournament that he started to honor his friend and former Carmel assistant. That's quite the fitting touch for a milestone, coach...

RIP Stan Gitner, my beloved colleague of 25 years who was respected by everyone he worked with, including local journalists, photographers, fire fighters, police and first responders everywhere. Grass never grew under your feet, buddy, and you trampled the competition for decades when it came to getting "the shot" #FastTrackToHeaven.

## DeRosa Tricky as Mahopac Manhandles Brewster, 6-2,

By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports Editor

It was a light week of action with the holidays, but it looks like Mahopac might be making a push for top dogs in the Northern Westchester/Putnam region after the Indians saw F Matt DeRosa score a hat trick and add two assists in Mahopac's 6-2 win over Brewster at the Brewster Ice Arena last Friday night. DeRosa now has six goals and seven assists for the Indians, who improved to 4-4. Robert Buckley (1G, 2A) and Jon

Mastracola (1G, 2A) were all over the stat sheet as well, giving the Indians four players with 10 or more points on the season, including Matthew Stefunek (4G, 6A). Buckley and DeRosa lead the club with 13 points. G Tommy Gilmore had posted a 2.84 GAA through six games.

"I think our team has matured a lot in the past few weeks and some of the younger kids have started to step in and fill bigger roles," Captain Buckley said. "Our win over Brewster is just the start to what our team is capable of, and I'm excited for our next few games to come."

Mahopac takes on Carmel this Friday (7:10 p.m.) in what figures to be a pretty fierce game. Carmel is banking on a W here to maintain some order/balance in



Mahopac's Matt DeRosa has been picking up steam of late.

the sports rivalry that sees the Indians dominating the Rams in most sports; hockey being an exception the last few years...

Sniper RJ LaSpina and Max Tylta each had two goals and an assist in Somers/North Salem's 9-0 win over Fox Lane. The emerging Tylta also found the back of the net twice for Somers/North Salem in a 5-3 win over Horace Greeley at the BIA, getting the undermanned Sabers



Mahopac's Kim Harker on the go in recent action.

back on track after falling to John Jay, 4-1, earlier in the week...

L/P junior Jimmy Rathschmidt stood on his head to make an astounding 70 saves in the Rebels' 17-3 loss to Greeley. That's 87 Quaker shots on goal for those counting at home. According to NYS records we checked at [nyshsca.org/records.htm](http://nyshsca.org/records.htm), that places him second on the single-game saves list...

Yorktown's Frank Gavigan (24 points) and Liam Donnelly (21 points) have been on a tear this season, so if you're looking for a 1-2 knockout punch you best check them out because they have the Huskers (6-3) on a tear right now.



Mahopac F Robert Buckley has been on a tear of late.

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# Storming off in a Hoff'!

## Haldane Senior Leads Blue Devils at Putnam Challenge



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

Haldane senior swingman Peter Hoffman has been among the best players in the section this season, proving so in the 8th annual Putnam Hoops Challenge where the 6'5" captain led the reigning Section 1 Class C champion Blue Devils with a game-high 30 points, including this flush, during a 72-45 stomping of North Salem last Sunday at Carmel High School... see Boys' Hoops Notebook.



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