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November 24 - November 30, 2015

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 7, Issue 348

Cutting MVFD's Funding, Carmel Town Board Adopts Budget

By David Propper

The Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department's requested funding was officially slashed when the Carmel town board adopted its 2016 budget Wednesday, as fallout from a missing \$5 million from the fire department continues.

In a unanimous vote, the town board approved next year's spending plan that stays under the state's tax cap, including a \$550,000 reduction toward the Mahopac fire department after it requested \$1.75

million for next year. Instead, the town is giving the department \$1.2 million, which is the cost to cover operations for another year.

Schmitt defended the decision to cut 32 percent of the requested funding, noting with the "little information" the department provided the town board, it made the right choice. Schmitt added he hopes after an investigation is completed, the department is able to recover some of

continued on page 19



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

The Carmel town board voted last week to adopt its 2016 budget, which includes a 32 percent reduction toward the Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department.

Maloney Votes for GOP-Backed Legislation on Syrian Refugees

By David Propper

As the controversy over whether Syrian refugees should be allowed inside the United States has stretched from the east to west coast, local Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney broke from Democrats last week and voted for Republican-sponsored legislation that could slow refugees entering the country.

In a resounding 289-137 vote of approval in the House of Representatives for the SAFE Act, which essentially could suspend the program allowing Syrian and Iraqi refugees into the US until key national security agencies certify they don't pose a risk, another

layer was added to the debate between national security and humanitarian obligations following the Paris terrorist attacks.

According to the SAFE Act, refugees from Iraq and Syria, or anyone who had been there at any point since March 1, 2011 must be approved by the Secretary of Homeland Security, FBI director, and director of national intelligence as "not a threat to the security of the United States" after a more extensive screening process than the one already in place before they can settle in the country.

Maloney was one of 47 Democrats to vote with Republicans on the legislation. As a result, he's faced immense backlash

By Arthur Cusano

The Putnam Valley Central School District needs voter support to get approval for the creation of a new reserve fund, with a vote scheduled for early December.

School District treasurer Jill Figarella, who attended a town board meeting last Wednesday, told town board members the vote is scheduled to take place Dec. 8



ARTHUR CUSANO PHOTO

Putnam Valley Central School District Treasurer Jill Figarella addresses town board members at their Nov. 18 meeting about an upcoming reserve fund referendum.

PV School District Looks to Establish Reserve Fund

from advocates that want refugees welcomed in the country as planned and from his own party.

Maloney, in an oddly worded statement sent out by his office that almost gave the appearance he was against the legislation he in fact voted for, encouraged the Obama administration to agree to "immediately certify refugees" if they pass current screenings instead of "slowing the program or pausing it."

"It's understandable that people are scared, and Americans have a right to know that the process we use to screen refugees will keep us safe," Maloney stated. "I have faith in our system, and



Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney.

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Septic Regulations Debated Amongst Putnam Lawmakers

By Neal Rentz

Septic regulations were debated during the Putnam County Legislature's Health, Social, Educational and Environment Committee meeting on Nov. 19.

Committee Chairwoman and Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra said many residents have expressed concerns that the regulations are often too burdensome on homeowners seeking to make renovations to their houses.

One of the major concerns discussed at the meeting was about regulations regarding converting of rooms, which the county often considers to be potential new bedrooms that could require upgrades to existing septic systems because of potential increased capacity.

The septic regulations for home renovations are a particular concern of Philipstown residents, Scuccimarra said.

Putnam County Director of Environmental Health Robert Morris told the committee the county must obey state regulations regarding septic systems. The regulations regarding portions of homes being converted into spaces that could become bedrooms does not affect homes built before the state rules went into effect in 1970.

A renovated room that has not been a bedroom, but is 70 square feet is considered under state law to be a potential bedroom, Morris said.

Scuccimarra said she agreed that water needed to be protected from faulty septic systems, but she did not want the rules to be too burdensome on the homeowners and contractors.

Septic regulations have to be consistent across the county, regardless of if a house is located near a water body or not, Morris said.

County Commissioner of Health Dr. Allen Beals said portions of Putnam are located in the New York City Watershed and there are many lakes in the county and both need to be protected. His department uses a team approach in determining how septic regulations apply to home renovations in cases disputed by homeowners, Beals said, adding he is part of the team.

Scuccimarra said she understood the need for stringent septic regulations for homes located near lakes, which could be polluted by faulty systems.

Legislator Ginny Nacerino said some residents have complained that they are faced with improving their septic systems even when they want to renovate rooms that they have no intention of turning into bedrooms, such as converting a garage bay into a playroom. The current enforcement on some home renovations has been burdensome to homeowners, she said.

For instance, Cold Spring resident



Putnam County Director of Environmental Health Robert Morris discussed septic system regulations at the Putnam County Legislature's Health, Social, Educational and Environment Committee meeting on Nov. 19.

James Hartford, who is an architect, said one of his projects in the county is being held up because the health department has told him the planned renovation project could potentially create another bedroom in the home he is seeking to work on. The homeowner, who is his client, is not seeking to add a third bedroom, Hartford said. The home's septic systems had previously been upgraded, he said.

Beals said his department provides free

staff consultations for those seeking to renovate homes and he asked residents to meet prior to submitting plans to the county for renovation work.

Scuccimarra said the county Legislature should consider forming a committee to review the septic regulations for home renovations, but committee member Dini LoBue disagreed, saying to do so could lead to micromanaging a county department by county legislators.

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Navid Mootabar, MD

Chief, Obstetrics & Gynecology
Director, Institute for Robotic & Minimally Invasive Surgery
Northern Westchester Hospital

nwhroboticsurgery.org/DrMootabar

Q: What gynecologic conditions do you see most frequently in your practice?

A: Endometriosis, uterine fibroids and ovarian cysts are the big three. With endometriosis, cells from the lining of the uterus are found in the pelvic area. This can cause pelvic or abdominal pain, painful periods and painful intercourse. Uterine fibroids are benign tumors (most remain benign) growing from the uterus wall. They can cause pain, especially if large and pushing against other organs, heavy and painful periods, urinary symptoms, infertility or miscarriage. An ovarian cyst is a fluid-filled or solid growth in an ovary that can be benign, pre-cancerous or malignant, and can cause pain.

Q: What should I do if I have one or some of these symptoms?

A: Do not delay in seeing your gynecologist. I stress this because women are so busy that they often unnecessarily put up with pain. These conditions are diagnosed through a complete medical history and physical exam, sometimes aided by ultrasound and, in the case of endometriosis, a laparoscopy, in which a camera detects uterine cells in the pelvic area.

Did You Know?

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* National Institutes of Health

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For Second Straight Year, Putnam Valley's Budget Over Tax Cap

By Arthur Cusano

Putnam Valley's 2016 adopted town budget will exceed the state tax cap, a situation the town finance director said can't be avoided.

The \$12.7 million budget was unanimously adopted by the town board on Nov. 18, and carries a budget-to-budget increase of 2.98 percent, or \$295,348. For a home valued at \$300,000, taxes will increase by \$28.67 for a total of \$722.09.

The calculated state tax increase cap

for the town is .73 percent, but director of finance Maria Angelico said because of the town's low sales tax revenue and unfunded state mandates, such as rising worker's compensation and insurance costs, staying below the cap was simply not possible.

"The only way we kept it as low as we did was by holding the line on everything," she said.

Two new elected officials will start at lower pay rates than the longtime officials they are replacing. Newly elected

Town Supervisor Sam Oliverio will make \$70,366 when he takes office Jan. 1, which is \$5,000 less than current supervisor Bob Tendy. Likewise, incoming town clerk Sherry Howard will start at \$60,969, which is \$5,000 less than outgoing clerk Eileen Royale.

Highway Superintendent Larry Cobb will receive a 2 percent raise, for an annual salary of \$87,707. The town has bonded \$800,000 to pay for four new highway department vehicles, Angelico said, three of which have already been purchased.

The town's general fund balance currently sits at \$653,705, and will likely be around \$628,705 by the end of 2016.

Angelico said the long planned expansion of town hall has been scaled back to a smaller plan that is still being evaluated by town officials, she said.

"The need is still there, but the cost is certainly going to be under scrutiny," she said.

This is the second year in a row the town has busted the state mandated tax cap.

Investigation Continues into Putnam Valley Gang Assault

By David Propper

A gang assault in Putnam Valley has left one victim in the hospital as New York State Police investigate the disturbance that occurred last Saturday.

At around 10:15 p.m. students from several local high schools gathered to

get into a fight concerning members of rival varsity football teams, according to state police. During the incident, one bystander who was not directly involved in the throw down was physically assaulted by a group of students, which resulted in him suffering serious injuries,

said police.

The victim was transported by ambulance to the Trauma Center at Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, in serious, but not life-threatening condition, according to police.

It's also alleged the victim was robbed,

according to police.

The schools involved are not yet known as the investigation continues.

Any witnesses who were not already interviewed by state troopers at the scene of the incident are asked to contact the State Police BCI at (914)-737-7171.

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Calls to Reject Syrian Refugees in New York Reach Fever Pitch

By David Propper

As the United States and the rest of the world continue to reel from the terrorist attacks that occurred in Paris, France two weeks ago, calls to stop Syrian refugees from entering the nation have built to a scream over the last week.

Republicans like New York State Senators Sue Serino and Terrence Murphy, and state Assemblyman Steve Katz all called to suspend refugees from settling within New York borders, as did many other Republican state lawmakers. More than 30 states have announced they'll refuse to accept Syrian refugees, many of them led by Republican governors. President Barack Obama has committed allowing 10,000 Syrian refugees to enter the country next year.

According to a CNN report, legally states have no power to refuse refugees. An American University law professor, Stephen I. Vladeck, said states have no legal bearing to stop refugees from entering a certain state, but those states that don't want to participate in the resettlement can refuse to cooperate making things harder for the federal government.

Serino said since Nov. 16--the first business day since the Paris attacks--her office had been "inundated" with phone calls and inquiries from community members concerned over the nation's



NYS Senator Sue Serino released a statement calling for the US to suspend allowing Syrian refugees into the nation until a better procedure is put in place.

security. While sympathetic to thousands of refugees seeking another country after they were uprooted by violence, the nation's first priority should be to citizens within the US borders, Serino said.

"The first obligation of any government is ensuring the safety and security of its people, and any plans to allow an influx of Syrian refugees should be suspended because of the serious concerns that have been raised regarding the effectiveness of the vetting process to prevent terrorists from entering the United States," Serino said in a statement.

'It would only take one extremist to slip through our filter to wreak havoc in our state.' -
**NYS Assemblyman
Steve Katz**

Murphy, in a statement, said it is "abundantly clear" that the federal government is unable to guarantee refugees entering the country pose no threat and aren't involved with ISIS, the terror group that killed 129 people in Paris. Until there is a "clear process" in place to fully vet refugees' backgrounds, none should be accepted in the state.

"While we grieve for those lost on Friday evening (Nov. 13), we must begin a thorough process of reevaluating our own security measures here at home," Murphy stated. "We face a major national security issue stemming from illegal immigration. Four of the 9/11 hijackers were illegal immigrants on visa overstays."

Katz said in a statement the director of the FBI, James Comey, had previously outlined the difficulties with performing background checks of all refugees. Instead, Katz believes the country should

provide humanitarian aid to those people affected by the Syrian Civil War.

"It would only take one extremist to slip through our filter to wreak havoc in our state," Katz stated. "There is too great a risk considering the lack of a proper vetting procedure. I am urging Gov. Cuomo to join the growing list of states refusing Syrian refugees."

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, has held firm New York plans on welcoming refugees coming from a war-torn part of the world, according to reports.



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Putnam Legislators Explore Over-the-Counter Narcan in County

By Neal Rentz

A day after the federal Food and Drug Administration approved the Narcan nasal spray, the ramifications of the potential over-the-counter sale of it in the state were discussed at the Putnam County Legislature's Health, Social, Educational and Environment Committee meeting on Nov. 19.

Though the discussion lasted for an extended period of time, the committee took no position on whether Narcan should be sold in pharmacies over the counter.

As stated on the FDA Web site, "naloxone hydrochloride (is) a life-saving medication that can stop or reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. Opioids are a class of drugs that include prescription medications such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, and morphine, as well as the illegal drug heroin."

"Many first responders and primary caregivers, however, feel a nasal spray formulation of naloxone is easier to deliver, and eliminates the risk of a contaminated needle stick," the FDA stated on its Web site. "As a result, there has been widespread use of unapproved naloxone kits that combine an injectable formulation of naloxone with an atomizer that can deliver naloxone nasally. Now, people have access to an FDA-approved product for which the

drug and its delivery device have met the FDA's high standards for safety, efficacy and quality."

Narcan is not allowed for sale over the counter currently in New York State.

CVS Pharmacy sells Narcan in several states and is seeking to sell it in that fashion in additional states and that was the reason for the discussion at last week's committee meeting. Putnam County Commissioner of Health Dr. Allen Beals said CVS already sells Narcan over-the-counter in 14 states.

Beals said first responders in the county have been administering Narcan to those who have overdosed on drugs and it has saved lives.

Beals said he has not taken a position on whether Narcan should be available over-the-counter at a pharmacy. "I'm



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Putnam County Commissioner of Health Dr. Allen Beals discussed the potential over-the-counter sale of Narcan at the Putnam County Legislature's Health, Social, Educational and Environment Committee meeting on Nov. 19.

neutral on it," he said.

County Sheriff's Department Senior Investigator Mark Gilmore, who works in

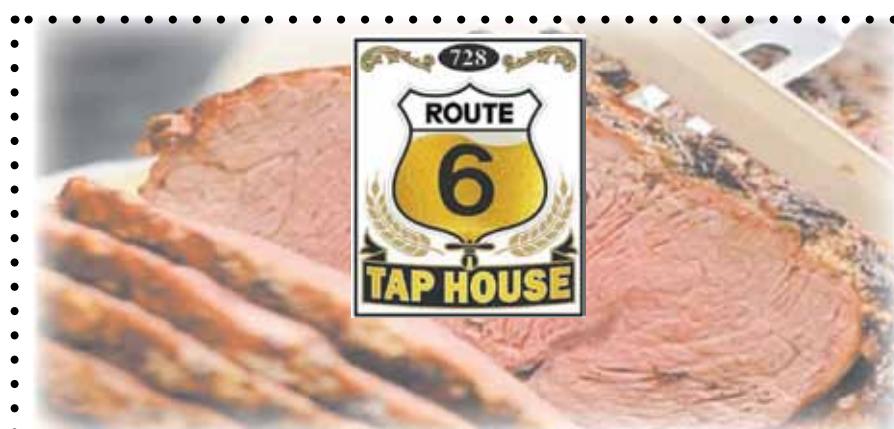
the department's Narcotics Enforcement Unit, said Putnam families with persons who have abused drugs have Narcan in their homes that they would use in the event of an overdose.

Beals said after a person who has overdoses has been administered Narcan that individual should be taken to a hospital for observation and follow up care. There are times when a person requires Narcan a second time shortly after the first, he said.

Gilmore said if Narcan was available in a home youths could be able to administer it in the event of an overdose at a party, for example, and save a friend's life. But as Beals said, a person given Narcan should be taken to a hospital for treatment.

Committee Chairwoman and Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra said she did not have a position on whether to ban over-the-counter sales of Narcan because it could be valuable to parents of someone known to abuse drugs.

Beals said the overuse of prescription drugs is a major factor in why individuals are led to abuse heroin and other drugs. People recovering from an injury should be told by doctors that aspirin, rather than stronger drugs, should be used when possible, he said. Addiction to prescription drugs is very difficult to break, Beals added.



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PV School District Looks to Establish Reserve Fund

continued from page 1
 left over at the end of the fiscal year when the school district has its audit and there are discretionary funds left over from revenues or under-expended appropriations."

The district is allowed by state law to maintain a 4 percent fund balance, and reserve can be moved into different kind of reserves depending on what is needed by the district. Board of Education members would have to vote on whether to add money to the new reserve fund.

Figarella said the school district's auditors have recommended creating such a fund, and that many other school districts already have such a fund or are looking to create one. She stressed that the Dec. 8 vote, which will take

place at the high school from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m., will be to establish the fund, not to immediately put any funding into it. (Typical school district-wide votes take place between 6 a.m.-9 p.m.)

"There's nothing built into the budget to go into this fund," she said.

Leftover financial assets cannot be used unless district residents vote to establish the fund, and Putnam Valley Central School District Superintendent Fran Wills explained that once created, any use of the accumulated reserve fund would require an additional voter referendum. Wills said after the meeting the state tax cap has left districts with no other way to pay for necessary capital projects.

"It's prudent for us, at this point," she

said. "When you have a tax cap and you cannot raise funds for large projects, you would have to include in your budget the kinds of interest you'd have to pay to say, replace a roof. We just don't have the funds anymore."

Wills said there were no large capital projects planned for the district in the immediate future, but said there was an inevitable need to replace facilities as they get older, such as athletic turf fields.

"If we wait, we'll be in a position of taking on debt," Wills said. "And that means we'll have to raise revenue."

Town attorney William Florence told board members there is a certain amount of uncertainty in the state retirement fund, and that if the comptroller's office underestimates the amount insurance

costs rise from the previous year it is the taxpayer that makes up the difference.

"If he surcharges all the local municipalities and schools, they have to pay the extra money, if they don't normally have a reserve it would have to be added to the tax budget and taxpayers pay it," Florence said.

Councilman Steve Mackay said that the reserve would allow the district to make improvements or repairs without having to totally rely on bond funding that would be paid back with interest, such as putting solar panels on the high school.

"They might not have enough money to (completely) cover that expense, but it would reduce the amount they would have to go out to bond for," Mackay said.

Maloney Votes for GOP-Backed Legislation on Syrian Refugees

continued from page 1

I don't believe these refugees -- the overwhelming majority of whom are women, elderly, and children -- threaten our communities or national security."

In a conference call on a separate subject prior to his vote, Maloney expressed his stance on whether to allow Syrian refugees into the nation after questioned by The Putnam Examiner.

Maloney said he had a "real problem" with the Obama administration refusing to certify refugees and that Americans have the right to expect that their government will keep them safe.

"The government should certify it or they shouldn't be doing it so I'm inclined to support the bill," Maloney said. "But what really ought to happen is we should be working in a bipartisan fashion on this. This is the last thing we should be having a political fight about."

He encouraged the president and Speaker of the House Paul Ryan to come to a compromise.

"I don't think it's unreasonable to certify their own process," Maloney said. "We actually have a pretty good process."

Maloney has faced backlash on social

media sites like Twitter with some users calling him a coward and even a bigot for his support of the bill. On his Facebook page, an overwhelming amount of people also criticized Maloney for his vote, though a small handful thanked him for protecting Americans.

The Associated Press reported earlier Thursday that Maloney clashed with Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson inside a private meeting meant to persuade Democrats to oppose the bill, according to Democratic aides. Those aides said, according to the AP report that Maloney said that Democrats

could lose seats over the vote.

Maloney enters a reelection year in 2016 after he narrowly beat former congresswoman and Republican Nan Hayworth in 2014. Currently, two Republicans have filed to run for the 18th congressional seat--Sakima Brown and Dan Castricone. Both ran for New York State Assembly in 2014 and lost by wide margins.

The legislation still needs to pass through the United States Senate and President Obama has promised in statements to veto the bill if it came to his desk.

Southeast Man Accused of 2nd Degree Rape

By David Propper

A Town of Southeast man was arrested on rape charges on Nov. 11, accused of having sex with a 13-year-old girl, according to the Putnam County Sheriff's Office.

Ronaldo Araely Lopez-Miguel, who is in the country illegally, was charged with rape in the 2nd degree, a felony and unlawful imprisonment in the 2nd degree and endangering the welfare of a minor in the 2nd degree, both misdemeanors, said the sheriff's department.

The charges stem from the alleged victim's father reporting to authorities

his daughter was involved in a sexual relationship with Lopez-Miguel, who is 20-years-old. Two days later he was arrested, according to police.

Lopez-Miguel was arraigned by Town of Southeast Justice Richard Vercollone and sent to Putnam County Correctional Facility in lieu of a \$100,000 cash or bond. Because Lopez-Miguel is an illegal immigrant, a detainer has been placed on him by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

He is scheduled to appear in Town of Southeast court again on Dec. 8.

Putnam Lake Man Arrested on Multiple Sexual Assault Charges

By David Propper

A Putnam Lake man was arrested and charged on sexual assault charges on Nov. 14 with allegations that he had inappropriate contact with a female child multiple times, according to New York State Police.

Abner D. Alonzo-Santos of Putnam Lake was charged with predatory sexual assault against a child, a class A-II felony and two counts of rape in the third degree, class E felonies, according to authorities.

Charges stem from incidents in the Town of Pawling, police said, where Alonzo-Santos is accused of sexual contact with a girl over the course of several years beginning when the child was 10-years-old. Alonzo-Santos was arraigned in Town of Beekman Court and



was sent to Dutchess County Jail with no chance for bail. He'll be back in Town of Pawling Court on Dec. 10.



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Letters to the Editor

Does Presumption of Innocence Still Apply?

According to a press release issued by NYS Police, a tragic fatality of a passenger resulted in connection with an auto accident (that occurred shortly before 10 p.m. in Mahopac when the driver of a Jeep Patriot SUV failed to yield the right of way of a vehicle (a Dodge Caravan) operated by former Carmel Police Officer Richard O'Keefe which was approaching from the left travelling north on Route 6, a 40 MPH road (O'Keefe was not cited for speeding), as the driver of the Patriot attempted to turn left cutting off the Caravan. As the Patriot attempted to maneuver across Route 6, it was struck by the Caravan. The Patriot rolled over killing a passenger sitting in a rear seat. The driver of the Patriot and two surviving passengers were transported by EMS to a hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

During the investigation, while interviewing O'Keefe, NYS Police stated that they observed "clues" that O'Keefe was intoxicated at the time of the crash and O'Keefe was placed in custody, brought to Putnam County jail, and at 12:35 a.m. charged with Aggravated Vehicular Homicide, Vehicular Manslaughter and DWI (based on observations-the results of blood tests are pending). No charges or violations were issued against the driver of the Patriot who caused the accident by making a reckless turn leaving the parking lot and cutting off O'Keefe who was unable to avoid the collision.

I am in no way condoning DWI; however at the time of the preliminary investigation there was no conclusive

evidence that O'Keefe, sober or not, could have avoided the collision given the manner that the operator of the Patriot cut him off, failing to yield his right of way, sharply turning the Patriot to make a left hand turn. In fact, based on studies made by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration have concluded that SUVs are more likely to overturn while making sudden turns than automobiles, and the Patriot is only rated three out of five in NHTSA overturn tests. Thus, given the fact that the driver of the Patriot was probably accelerating while attempting to turn in front of the Caravan, the shift in weight distribution of the SUV combined with strong gripping tires could have led to an overturn even had it not been struck by the Caravan. There is no indication that NYS Police took this into consideration as not only was it not mentioned in the report, the SUV driver was not charged with reckless operation or failure to yield, despite their acknowledgement that the Patriot did, in fact, cut off O'Keefe while making the left turn across a double solid yellow line (a clear violation of NYS DMV law). Accordingly, this leaves me to question as to why O'Keefe was not only cited by NYS Troopers as being the primary cause of the accident, that they were so quick to charge him with Vehicular Homicide and Manslaughter while the accident investigation was still in progress. Instead, while there was undoubtedly reasonable cause to charge him with DWI, integrative jurisprudence-specifically the presumption of innocence as has evolved

from the V, VI and XIV Amendment of the U.S. Constitution would dictate that any further charges would have been made pending completion of a comprehensive accident investigation the following morning, not to mention the fact that the driver of the Patriot would have been charged immediately with reckless operation and failure to yield right of way. However it is my personal opinion that given the present atmosphere concerning police "favoritism", the fear of "perception" may have led to a denial of the presumption of innocence whereby O'Keefe, a retired policeman, was quickly charged so the matter could be turned over to the hands of the local D.A. and a Grand Jury investigation.

In conclusion, I for one feel that before prematurely placing all the blame on Officer O'Keefe and filing felonious charges that will destroy both his and his family's lives, a thorough investigation should have been performed prior to reaching the "politically correct" presumption and conclusion of his sole responsibility and guilt for both the accident and the fatality and the operator of the Patriot who was unquestionably responsible for the occurrence of the accident should have been cited for violation of DMV Operator laws. At this point it will be impossible to select an unbiased jury.

Andy Powers
Mahopac

Vote No On Putnam Valley School Referendum

forward.

The school is going to hold a Special Vote on December 8th with limited hours from 3 to 9 p.m. unlike the normal 15 hours. While this is a very important issue the School would like the taxpayers to vote, by limiting the hours and holding this vote in the busiest time of the year, between Thanksgiving and Christmas, what do you think the turnout will be, 200-300?

It is not fair to the 11,000 residents that only a few will decide on this. The request and suggestion to School's Superintendent Fran Wills to include this referendum vote in November of 2016 where the voter turnout will be a true representation of the residents of Putnam Valley was answered "out of the question." A compromise suggestion and request was also made to hold off on this vote until May of 2016 was also rejected.

So come December 8th from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m., 6 hours, a limited amount of voters (200-300?) will decide the fate for 11,000 residents of Putnam Valley. This should be voted down. Vote no sending a message to the school that an important issue such as this should be presented to the residents in

November of 2016 or at the very least May of 2016 during the School Budget vote where a better representation of the public will decide.

Dan Vera
Putnam Valley

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**Business
of the Week**

Carmel Taxi and Car Service Carmel

By David Propper

When Ruth Pardo Ayala-Quezada first started Carmel Taxi, it was primarily just she and her sister. Since then, it's expanded quite a bit from 2006 when the business was founded.

"We started growing," she said. "We started hiring."

And today, Carmel Taxi (also associated with Mahopac Taxi) has become a trademark name in Putnam County for residents that need a ride guaranteed to be safe and on time. Chatting with Ayala-Quezada for even a few minutes, anyone can tell she has a thorough knowledge of the industry.

In fact, the taxi industry runs in Ayala-Quezada's family. Her father worked his way up to owning his cabbing company, Ernie's Taxi, in Mount Kisco in Westchester County and then sold it and opened another taxi company in Putnam County. Her father began as a cleaner in the office and other side-jobs, then drove a taxi and eventually started his own business.

Ayala-Quezada, who immigrated to the United States from Peru when she was 11 with her family, even drove for her dad at one point.

Ayala-Quezada explains in order to run a successful taxi business it must focus



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

Ruth Pardo Ayala-Quezada stands with some of her dedicated staff in front of a Carmel Taxi vehicle and Mahopac Taxi vehicle.

first on safety. All of Carmel Taxi vehicles are registered in Westchester in which the company pays fees and all drivers must be fingerprinted, background tested and drug tested. Every vehicle is inspected and properly insured.

"It's a lot more than having a license and getting your car and going," she said.

Ayala-Quezada said what makes Carmel Taxi unique is the business is able to know where all the drivers are at any

point. There is a GPS tracking item in each car, all of which are company owned, so Ayala-Quezada can see on a map on the computer where each driver is heading. It's actually rare to have cars owned by the cabbing company, Ayala-Quezada said, because many other companies usually have private operators and that company gets a cut of the money the driver earns.

By knowing where each driver is going, it makes safety paramount. Customers

want to make sure they're getting into a secure car, she stressed.

"We control our drivers," Ayala-Quezada said. "I guess I'm a little bit of a control freak."

Carmel Taxi and Mahopac Taxi typically services the Putnam area like Carmel, Brewster, and Mahopac, but will take passengers to locations like airports near New York City. On occasion, people will call with strange requests, especially during overnights. Some will ask to for drivers to make pit stops at late night fast food places like McDonalds, which is usually accommodated.

Ayala-Quezada said she wants residents enjoying the night out to realize taking a cab is a better option than driving buzzed or drunk. For around ten dollars, paying for a ride home seems like the obvious choice, rather than risking an accident or getting pulled over by police. Carmel Taxi will be open on New Years Eve for patrons.

"It's really sad sometimes that you do see taxis sitting outside a bar and nobody gets in it," she said. "Everybody just comes out of the bar and gets in their car."

Carmel Taxi and Car Service can be reached at 845-225-5555 and its website is <http://www.carmeltaxi.net>. Mahopac Taxi can be reached at 845-621-2525.

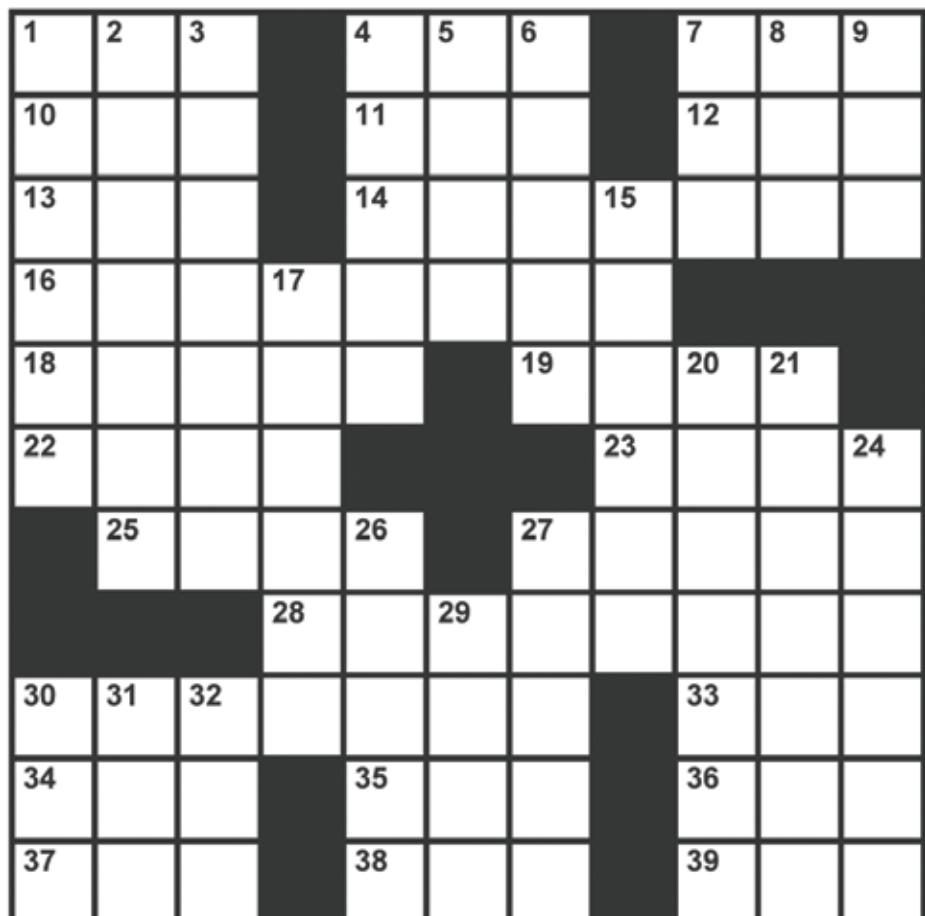
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Crossword Puzzle



Crossword by Myles Mellor

Answers on page 18

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- 12 Cellphone storage card
- 13 Type of wind
- 14 Unpaid debt
- 16 Released again
- 18 Smoked delicacies
- 19 They're all in the family
- 22 Petitions
- 23 Englishman in New York?
- 25 A Romanov title
- 27 You will be in this state of mind when you eat at this Mahopac dairy bar & grill
- 28 A small preliminary model of intended work (such as a sculpture)
- 30 Ancient Greek city- in modern day Turkey
- 33 Small songbird
- 34 Slide shout
- 35 Set (against)
- 36 One-striper (abbr.)
- 37 Make a goof
- 38 Work under cover, in a way
- 39 Formally known as

Down

- 1 Curving, twisting lines, shapes, or forms, or Mahopac frozen yogurt shop
- 2 Sink a putt

3 DNA shapes

- 4 Aggregate
- 5 Buddhist spiritual instructor
- 6 Giants
- 7 Mexican neighbor (abbr.)
- 8 Elton John, for one
- 9 Jimmy Kimmel has four
- 15 OK to munch on
- 17 Kind of oil
- 20 English composer, Benjamin
- 21 Chapel in Vatican City
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- 27 Buxom
- 29 Witticism
- 30 Farm animal
- 31 Apiece
- 32 ___ Highness

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Obituaries

Claire Brizzolari

Claire Brizzolari, of Brewster, and Vero Beach, FL, died October 26, at Ridgefield Crossings. She was 84 years old. Claire was born November 17, 1930 in the Bronx to Frank and Harriet (Cisneros) Conway. She graduated from High School in the Bronx. On September 23, 1950 she married the love of her life George Brizzolari at St. Valentines Church in Bronx. He predeceased her on July 16, 1993. In 1964 they moved to Brewster. During the winters she traveled to Vero Beach. She spent her past time volunteering at Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel and both a prison, where she taught reading, and a hospital in Vero Beach, FL. She enjoyed world travel – it was her passion. Claire was the assistant to the principal at Robert E. Bell Middle School in Chappaqua, before retiring in 1993. She is survived by her three children; Drew Conway (Kim) of Georgetown, Washington D.C., Karen Bruen (David) of Brewster, and Gary Brizzolari (Kristina) of Odessa, FL; 11 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her niece Charlotte Southard. A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated on Saturday, November 28, 10 a.m. at St. Lawrence O'Toole Church, Brewster. Interment of ashes will follow at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne. Beecher Funeral Home, 1 Putnam Avenue, Brewster, is assisting the family with arrangements. Donations in celebration of Claire's life may be made to Regional Hospice And Home Care of Western CT , www.regionalthospicect.org.

Joseph Tandoi

Joseph Tandoi, 76, of Carmel, died on November 14. Mr. Tandoi was born on June 7, 1939 to Alfonso and Rose (Esposito) Tandoi in the Bronx. During the Vietnam Era, he proudly served his with the US Marines. On June 9, 1963 he married the love of his life Marianne Milazzo in the Bronx, NY. Before he retired, Mr. Tandoi was a District Manager for Stella Doro in the Bronx, NY. He is survived by his devoted wife of 52 years, Marianne, his two loving daughters; Laura Tandoi and Karen Martucci, his sister Anna Conte and his brother Anthony Tandoi and two adoring grandchildren; Albert Martucci and Megan Martucci.

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Joann Bade

Joann Bade, of Carmel, died on November 10, while visiting her daughter, Patricia, and family, in the Netherlands. She had a wonderful week celebrating her 87th birthday. Joann was born on October 30, 1928 in Fort Lee, NJ, daughter to the late Charles E. and Adele (Mester) Cumiskey. She graduated from High School of Music and Art and attended Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) and

later Hunter College. Joann married Timothy LaFollette Bade in NYC. He predeceased her after 49 years of marriage. Together Joann and Tim enjoyed traveling the world. Joann was a talented artist. The majority of her working career was in textiles. Joann's passion was horses. She drew them, she rode them, she bred them, she taught them, and share them with her friends and family. Joann's life was this and so much more; she was involved in National Ski Patrol, The Women's Club, Fresh Air Fund,

Putnam County Horse Council, Running Fox Pony Club, and numerous tennis, bowling, and square dancing organizations. Joann was a leader and inspired others. Joann is survived by her three daughters; Virginia Frame of Berwyn, PA, Diana Calligaro of Ringwood, NJ and Patricia Van Motman of the Netherlands. Her five grandchildren, Jason and Lindsey Calligaro, Bree (Calligaro) Decker, Chelsea Frame, and Candice Van Motman.

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Happy Thanksgiving To All Our Friends & Neighbors!

Delicious Food and Wine Pairing Tips for Thanksgiving

With the weather cooling down, the kitchen will be heating up for America's favorite holiday: Thanksgiving.

How can you top last year's decadent feast? The trick is to be thoughtful when pairing wines with food.

Welcoming Wines

Medium-bodied crisp white wines will complement your hors d'oeuvres course. A tasty California Chardonnay is a classic choice and easily found at your neighborhood store. With notes of fresh pear and pineapple, it makes a fantastic pairing for mild cheeses and rich seafood appetizers, such as crab or salmon.

A great example is St. Francis Sonoma County Chardonnay 2013. It is made from grapes picked in the cool of night to create a wine with delicate aromas, crisp acidity, and a rich, lingering finish.

For your main course, try out a Zinfandel, a deeply aromatic red wine with flavors of juicy berries and a touch of spice. It is perfect to pair with flavorful dishes, savory cheeses, and, of course, roast turkey. Consider picking up a bottle of St. Francis Sonoma County "Old Vines" Zinfandel 2012, which features notes of wild blackberries and clove along with a long, smooth finish.



"Old Vines' Zinfandel is one of my family's Thanksgiving traditions. From stuffing to pumpkin pie, it complements every flavor: spicy, savory, sweet and bold,"

said Christopher W. Silva, president & CEO of St. Francis Winery & Vineyards.

Hearty Food

If you're looking to top last year's meal, try a twist on the classic potato dish with a recipe for Smoked Twice Baked Potatoes from Chef Bryan Jones of St. Francis Winery.

Ingredients:

- 3 lg. German Butterball Potatoes
- 1 Tbsp. kosher salt, plus more for seasoning
- 1 Tbsp. canola oil
- 2 cups applewood smoking chips soaked in water for 1/2 hour
- 3 Tbsp. heavy cream
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 3 Tbsp. crème fraîche
- 1/4 cup aged white cheddar cheese, shredded
- 2 Tbsp. parmesan, finely grated
- Bunch of chives, finely chopped
- 1 tsp fresh marjoram, finely chopped
- Salt and white pepper to taste

Preparation:

- Coat whole potatoes with oil along with 1 Tbsp. of salt. Place wood chips in the smoking chamber of grill, light only the

burner needed for smoking and place potatoes on rack off to the side of the direct heat. Smoke for 30 minutes.

- Remove potatoes from grill. Place in a 9 x 11-inch pan with 1/4 inch water on bottom. Cover with aluminum foil and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes, or until a paring knife pierces easily. Let cool.
- Cut potatoes in half, scoop out most of inner potato, leaving about a half inch of potato all around for the shell.
- Use potato ricer to "rice" scooped out potatoes into bowl.
- Heat cream and butter together and add to potatoes.
- Mix, then stir in crème fraîche, cheeses, chives and marjoram. Season with salt and white pepper to taste.
- Place potato mixture in pastry bag. Pipe mixture back into potatoes and mound just over the level of the potato.
- Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes until hot.
- Pair with Sonoma County "Old Vines" Zinfandel

For more wine-paired recipes, visit StFrancisWinery.com/culinary/recipes.

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Turkey Carving Tips to Keep in Mind for Thanksgiving

Cooking is only part of Thanksgiving prep. For many hosts, carving the bird represents the most intimidating feast feat.

Don't chicken out! There are some quick tips you can follow to demystify the process, from the carving experts at Smith's Housewares, a manufacturer of innovative knife sharpeners and kitchen tools.

- The first thing you will want to carve out is a proper amount of time to cook the turkey. When coordinating your schedule that morning, keep in mind that between taking the turkey out of the oven and cooking it, you should allot about 20 minutes. This waiting period is not frivolous. It makes the handling of the hot turkey easier on your hands, and gives the meat's juices crucial time to redistribute.
- If your turkey is tied, remove the string first. Start by removing each leg and thigh from the body of the turkey, using your hands to separate, and your knife to slice through the meat.
- Next, separate the thighs from the legs by pulling on a leg and using your knife to slice. Target the 'V' area with your knife, feeling around until you find the joint. Slice the meat away from the thigh bone and place it directly on your serving platter.



A compact electric knife sharpener is an essential tool for efficient holiday cooks.

- The next step is to remove the wings using a similar method. By identifying where the joint is you can avoid slicing bone.
- Using an even stroke, slice each breast from slightly off the midline. Slice down, gently pulling the breast away on the side you've chosen. Slice each breast into quarter inch thick slices. Place on your platter. Alternatively, cut slices of breast directly off the turkey, parallel to the rib cage. Just ensure you keep the slices even on both sides.
- Be a sharp chef. To make the job

smooth sailing, and avoid tearing the meat and making a mess, use a sharp, straightedge knife and a carving fork to steady your meat. You'll save time and energy and get better results.

- In the days leading up to the holiday, make sure your kitchen is ready to go by sharpening all the knives you will need for food prep that day, particularly your turkey carving knife. A compact electric knife sharpener is a great kitchen essential to have on hand for everyday use, as well as for major holiday feasts, as it is ideal for precise sharpening of straight edge knives. Those from Smith's Housewares feature a manual slot for polishing a freshly ground edge or a quick touch-up of already sharp knives. They can be found at www.walmart.com.
- Add a garnish to the serving platter to make your turkey a feast for the eyes. As the main course, it deserves a bit of extra flair. Fresh in-season herbs, fruits and vegetables all work well to complete the look.

Don't let the final throes of preparation be the most difficult on Turkey Day. All you need are the right, well-maintained tools and proper technique.

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DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE 

Doc's Note: Lung Cancer Screening Detects Cancer Sooner

By Dr. Christos Stavropoulos, FACS

You may know that lung cancer is the number one cause of cancer death in the U.S. (and worldwide).^{*} But you may not know that an advanced type of screening -- the Low-Dose CT Scan -- is reducing lung cancer deaths by 20 percent.^{*} Its effectiveness makes this scan today's "standard of care" for those at high risk; and it is newly covered by Medicare and most health insurance plans. Read on to see if you meet the screening criteria, and to learn how Northern Westchester Hospital (NWH) makes sure every eligible person

can afford this test.

Who should get a Low-Dose CT screening?

If you meet each of these criteria, Low-Dose CT (LDCT) lung cancer screening, which is conducted at NWH, may be right for you:

- You are between 55 and 74 years old;
- You have a smoking history of 30 pack years. That means you smoke (or smoked) one pack daily for 30 years, two packs daily for 15 years, or three packs daily for 10 years;
- You currently smoke or quit within the past 15 years;

- You have no symptoms of lung cancer.

What exactly is LDCT screening?

LDCT lung cancer screening is a new form of traditional CT (computed tomography) imaging technology that uses a very low dose of radiation to provide critical 3-D information about the lungs. It is unprecedented in its ability to detect ever-smaller lung cancers called nodules -- small lesions or defects in lung tissue that can represent early cancers. The life-saving power of earlier detection can't be overstated. When we catch cancer early -- when it is smallest -- we can have the

most impact on prognosis and survival. According to the American Cancer Society, LDCT screening is shown to prevent up to 12,000 deaths from lung cancer a year in the US.

Why is getting screened so essential?

Screening for lung cancer is particularly vital, as this cancer presents no symptoms in its early stage. Here's why: The lung is a relatively large organ. Picture a marble floating within a big balloon. For the marble to have a noticeable impact, it must become bigger. Only when that marble becomes the size of an acorn or an orange, do symptoms develop. There may be pain as the now-bigger growth presses against neighboring lung tissue or blood vessels; or a persistent cough can develop from its pressure against the airways. That is why a person harboring early-stage lung cancer usually reports they "feel fine," and precisely why screening is necessary and effective.

What are the chances of something being found?

Most screening results are negative. The overwhelming majority of nodules are benign. Fewer than three percent of those screened will need intervention in the form of a biopsy. Of those people, only a small percentage wind up having cancer. That's the point: We are looking for those few people with lung cancer. As with any screening, a small number of false positives can lead to unnecessary diagnostic biopsies. However, every biopsy performed at Northern Westchester Hospital is done using the most up-to-date, minimally invasive method possible. When lung cancer is diagnosed, NWH offers comprehensive oncologic care second to none.

How affordable is the LDCT screening?

Medicare now covers LDCT screening and commercial insurers are moving toward coverage. But what if you meet the eligibility criteria, and don't have commercial insurance or Medicare? NWH can help -- with a wide range of payment options and below-average pricing. We will work with you. If you can benefit from the screening, we make sure you get it.

Steps to take

If you believe you meet the screening criteria, speak to your primary care physician about ordering an LDCT. If you don't have a physician who can refer, NWH's nurse practitioner will perform a comprehensive assessment, determine eligibility and order an LDCT if necessary. NWH is going the extra mile to make this potentially life-saving screening 100 percent accessible to everyone who needs it.

To learn more about the Lung Cancer Screening Program or to make an appointment with our Nurse Practitioner, call 914-242-7695 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

*National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Christos Stavropoulos, MD, FACS is Chief of the Thoracic Surgery Division and Director of the Lung Cancer Program at the Cancer Treatment and Wellness Center at Northern Westchester Hospital.



Holiday Tree Lighting & First Annual "Love Holds Life" Free Toy Give-a-Way*

Saturday, Dec. 5, 2015 at 4:30pm

At the Gazebo, Corner of Division & Park Streets, Peekskill, NY

LIVE MUSICAL PERFORMANCES BY:
 Classical/Rock Violinist **Daisy Jopling**
 Crooner **Doug Ferony**
 Pop/Rock/Soul Singer **Clayton Bryant**

Free toys will be distributed to Peekskill area children by **Love Holds Life Children's Cancer Foundation**

SPONSORED BY:

The City of Peekskill, Peekskill Business Improvement District, Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce,
 The Kearney Realty & Development Group, Shades of Green and Westchester Tool Rentals

Jopling, Ferony & Bryant are all performing at the Paramount Hudson Valley.
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*Supplies may be limited, one toy per child.

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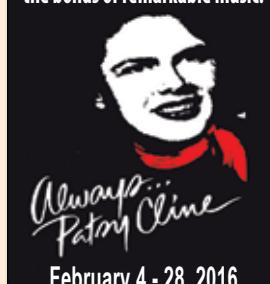


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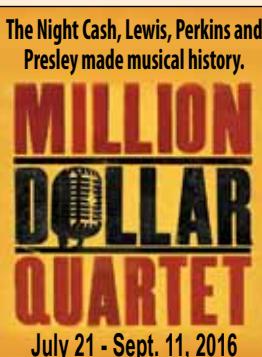
"Impossible Dream" musical celebrates its 50th Anniversary on the WBT stage!



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2016 Special Entertainment Events

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Cutting MVFD's Funding, Carmel Town Board Adopts Budget

continued from page 1
the funds they lost.

"We felt it was necessary, we felt that it was appropriate under the circumstances," Schmitt said. "And I believe everybody in this room understands what the circumstances are and what has occurred."

Multiple law enforcement agencies are investigating an alleged missing \$5 million from the Mahopac fire department with former treasurer of the department, Michael Klein resigning last month.

The other two fire services, the Mahopac Falls Volunteer Fire Department and Carmel Volunteer Fire Department, got the full funding they requested.

Mahopac resident Randy Tompkins, who is part of the Mahopac Falls Volunteer Fire Department yet spoke simply as a resident, argued the fire department's money and not the taxpayers' money, was stolen and he was bothered that the Carmel town board didn't refute that assertion in the past.

"From the onset of this incident, I haven't heard anyone say 'what can we do to help those guys,' I've only heard people make derogatory comments," Tompkins said. "There's one bad guy down there, the rest of those guys, they're like you."

Outspoken resident and regular at meetings, Michael Barile, then stood up and said the money to build the fire house

and allow the department to function comes from taxpayers' dollars.

"It doesn't fall from the sky," Barile said, to which Tompkins responded the fire department provides a service for the money they get. Throughout the fire department's turmoil, the service provided by firefighters hasn't changed, he said.

"Those guys earned whatever you gave them and if you gave them too much, that's on you," Tompkins told the town board.

That's a statement Carmel town board members took umbrage to.

Councilman John Lupinacci said the missing \$5 million isn't the board's fault, but it's on the fire commissioners and the treasurer to do their due diligence.

"It's not on us because I based everything on a certified financial statement signed by an accountant," Lupinacci said. "The public and other public officials have said we're to blame here. You got five commissioners that review what that treasurer does and you have an outside agency review what that treasurer does and then we rely on that."

Councilman Frank Lombardi also defended the board and said, "If we gave someone too much money, does that require someone to steal it?"

Schmitt stressed pointing the finger at the town board is wrong and pumping

out rumors doesn't help.

"Let's stop rhetoric, let's stop the destructive comments that are being made out there," Schmitt said. "Don't blame this town board. It was one individual that did this, that created this."

Councilman Jonathan Schneider said he and other residents have questioned why the fire department hasn't said anything over the course of controversy. The only time the Mahopac department has publicly made any statement was on its Facebook page in October to acknowledge an investigation into the missing money is ongoing.

Schneider said he'll do whatever it takes to make sure the town eventually has three separate fire districts in town.

"And when specifically asked why (the MVFD) do not turn over and become a fire district so the public can actually look at books, be at meetings, vote on bonds for buildings and equipment, the only answer I was given after a blank stare by a



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

Mahopac Falls fireman Randy Tompkins speaks at the town board meeting last week.

lot of people was 'because if we were a fire district than I couldn't be a commissioner, I do not live this town,'" Schneider, who after meeting noted this encounter occurred a few years ago, said. "That's the only answer I got."

CHS's Music Program Selected for 2016 GRAMMY Semis

Carmel High School principal, Louis Riolo is pleased to announce that the Carmel High School Music program is one of just 119 schools nationwide to be selected as a GRAMMY Signature Schools semifinalists for 2016. Created in 1998, the GRAMMY Signature Schools program recognizes top U.S. public high schools that are making an outstanding commitment to music education during an academic school year. "Our students and our Music Department faculty continue to amaze all of us with their talent, drive and continued success," commented Riolo. "This latest recognition is another indication of a strong K-12 music program whereby our staff help develop student talent to the highest and most professional levels."

"We are honored," said Dr. Joseph Phillips, Carmel's Director of Music. "This is a very prestigious recognition." The program is affiliated with the GRAMMY organization that presents the recording industry awards each year.

Each of the GRAMMY Signature Schools finalists will receive a custom award and monetary grant to benefit its music program. The top programs are designated Gold recipients, and the best program of the Gold recipients is



Students in the Carmel High School music program.

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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Putnam Accepting Applications for 2016 PILOT Program

For the third year, Putnam County Government will once again offer high school, college and graduate school students the opportunity to apply for paid and unpaid summer internship opportunities throughout its many departments as part of the Putnam Invests in Leaders of Tomorrow (PILOT) Program.

"The PILOT program has been a win-win for Putnam County and the students who participate," County Executive MaryEllen Odell said. "The PILOT program not only gives students from Putnam County an opportunity to have a hands-on real world experience but also the chance to learn the role of county government has in our communities. In addition, Putnam County is able to benefit from the talent and eagerness of our youth."

Past interns have found the PILOT program provided insight and resources that will help them as they consider their career choices.

"It was a great opportunity, I made great connections and I learned a lot about how the county government operates," Zachary Cecere, a 2015 intern in the Purchasing Department, said.

The P.I.L.O.T Program helped some interns validate their career choices.

"Going into it I wasn't sure if I really wanted to be a prosecutor," said Timothy Martin, who is in his senior year at SUNY Buffalo and was a 2015 intern in the District Attorney's Office. "But I found it interesting that you aren't just working for yourself, it is very team oriented... it was a great experience."

Some of the intern's had eye opening experiences in regard to what occurs in their county.

Christine O'Loughlin, a 2015 intern in the Department of Social Services, stated, "Some cases are like TV, you wouldn't think that they happen where you live, but it's nice to see that there are people working to make it better."

Odell first introduced the concept of PILOT back in 2013. Since its inception, interest in the PILOT Program and the number of student applicants has grown dramatically.



County Executive MaryEllen Odell with many of the 2015 PILOT interns.

Eligible participants must be Putnam County residents who are graduate, college, or high school students in their junior or senior year. Applicants must be at least 16 years of age. For college students a GPA of 3.0 or higher is recommended.

The 2016 Summer PILOT program will be held May 23 through August 12, 2015, depending on student availability. Internship hours, are typically 28 hours a week, and will be coordinated with Department supervisors.

Online filing instructions are now posted on the Putnam County Personnel website at www.putnamcountyny.com/personnel. The application consideration deadline for students is Friday, January 15, 2016. Initial candidate interviews will begin in December.

Celebrating the Upcoming Holidays at My Favorite Wine Bars



By Nick Antonaccio

The holiday season is upon us. Celebrations with family, friends and business associates are beginning to ramp up. What better way to relax with friends or family than at the modern-day American version of the English pub, the wine bar.

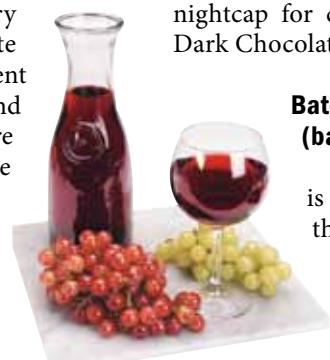
In northern Westchester, we have two outstanding examples. In Mount Kisco, Pour Café and Wine Bar at 241 E. Main St., has been a mainstay for revelers the last eight years. In Pleasantville, Batonnage Wine Bar at 10 Marble Ave., will soon be celebrating its fifth anniversary.

Each establishment offers unique slants on the traditional wine bar theme.

Pour Café and Wine Bar (www.pourmtkisco.com)

At Pour, you feel like you're visiting a rich relative's home. It is a refurbished 19th century Victorian, with intimate candle-lit rooms resplendent with comfortable sofas and lounge chairs. But you are attracted to the bar, where bottles of rare spirits are on display – and open for your consumption.

Your host, Anthony Colasacco, wants to replicate this experience.



So pull up a seat, engage him in conversation and take advantage of his largesse, all at reasonable prices.

"Pour is the place to come and discover boutique spirits, small production wines and small plates folks won't find elsewhere in Westchester," Colasacco said. "We are the place to discover new and unique flavors in an intimate setting."

Here is the breakdown of the vastness of Pour's offerings. Space doesn't permit a discussion of its breadth and depth.

By the glass:

16 wines (eight each of white and red)
10 cocktails
100 bourbons and ryes (also offered in five select sets of flights)

By the bottle:

12 beers
62 wines (28 whites; 39 reds)

Small plates:

A well-conceived menu of cheeses and charcuteries plus six flatbreads with alluring gastronomic toppings. A must nightcap for chocoholics: Vosges Mo's Dark Chocolate Bacon Bar.

Batonnage (batonnagewinebar.com)

Manager David Paljevic is working hard to reinvent the wine bar. His lists tend

to be more expansive than others and he offers a unique flight concept. All by-the-

You Heard It Through the Grapevine

glass selections of wine, whiskeys and scotches are available as choose-your-own small pours of one to three ounces in multiples of three choices (flights). For example, pick any three of the 48 bourbons

and ryes to sample in one-ounce portions, then enjoy a more generous portion of your favorite.

David and his father, Paul (the owner of Batonnage and its next-door neighbor, Eurospa), have created a New York City vibe. The high-top tables in the front room and the lounge seating in the rear room invite patrons to relax in a sophisticated atmosphere. From the teak flooring to the corkwood composition vaulted ceiling, from the hand-crafted fixtures to the onyx bar top, Batonnage is cosmopolitan and urbane.

David will soon be introducing Flight Passport, his promotional app, which will capture your on-premise flight purchases for future visits. For every five flights purchased, you receive a sixth flight gratis.

"It's about the experience," David said. "My goal is to stock the familiar and the unfamiliar, so try something different when you visit."

Jordan Vazquez, Batonnage's mixologist, has crafted an eclectic cocktail list (try his version of the Old Fashioned).

"Tell me the style and ingredients you prefer in a cocktail and I'll create a personalized mixed drink on the spot," Vazquez offers adventurous bar patrons.

By the glass:

20 wines (10 each of white and red, plus flights)
8 sparkling wines
17 cocktails
68 Bourbons, ryes and scotches (plus flights)
2 Sangrias
4 Margaritas
8 Ports
3 Aperitifs

By the bottle:

26 beers
129 wines; half and full bottles (32 whites; 94 reds; 3 Roses)

Small plates:

An extensive menu of cheeses and charcuteries. Try the truffle burrata bruschetta or one of the five personal-size gourmet pizzas.

Note: Batonnage will change its name in January to Flight Wine and Whiskey Bar. Stay tuned for announcements.

Wine bars have evolved into much more than the monolithic outposts of the last century. Whether you are a novice, a casual drinker or a highly particular tippler, today's wine bars are committed to satiating your appetite – and curiosity.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 20 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

Food Drives

Food for Fines at Kent Library During the month of November, the Kent Public Library will participate in "Food for Fines". Library patrons will have \$1 waved from current overdue fines for each can or non-perishable food item donated. Donated food may not have passed its expiration date. "Food for Fines" can only apply to Kent Public Library fines, not fines from other libraries, and cannot be used to pay for lost or damaged items. Collected food will be donated to Putnam Community Action Program.

Toys for Tots:

Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots: The Putnam/Northern Westchester counties toys for tots program is now getting under way. For drop off locations visit: www.toysfortots.org click on drop off sites, than state and than Putnam/Westchester. Checks can also be made payable to the toys for tots foundation may be mailed to toys for tots 44 Somerset la, Putnam Valley, NY 10579.

December 12 Event: 5th Toys4Tots Winter Celebration. Brewster Ice Arena from noon-4pm, with the donation of a new unwrapped toy will give families free rental on skates & ice skating from noon-4 p.m., also 12:30-1 p.m. the Magic of Michael Bochar, 2 p.m.-3 p.m. live music, and 2 p.m.-4 p.m. Santa & Mrs Claus.

Tuesday, November 24

Brewster Theater Company's Armchair Actors will present a reading of the Christmas classic Miracle On 34th Street at our local libraries. If you wish to participate, contact patsoprano1@verizon.net for a script and join us at the first rehearsal. Rehearsals: 6:30 p.m. Community Room at Mahopac Library, 668 Rt 6 Performances: Mahopac Library Dec. 6 Wednesday, November 25 Dueling DJ's Thanks Eve: Bull & Barrel Brewery/Restaurant. 8 p.m. 988 Route 22, Brewster.

Saturday, November 28

The Greater Mahopac-Carmel Chamber of Commerce Park 953 S Lake Blvd, Mahopac, Holiday in the Chamber Park: 4 p.m. Tree and Menorah Lighting.

School house bank workshop: Home Depot. 9 a.m. - noon 5-12 years. Register: www.workshops.homedepot.com/ workshops/kids-workshops. Free <http://workshops.homedepot.com/workshops/kids-workshops>

Zumba Gold Chair: 10 a.m.-10:45 a.m. Zumba Gold Chair is a fun Latin-inspired dance/fitness program which includes the exciting Latin and international dance rhythms such as the Merengue, Salsa, Cha Cha, Cumbia, etc., as well as Oldies and Pop Tunes. Great for anyone who may have physical limitations and/or does not feel comfortable in a standing class. Space is limited. Registration is required. You may register for the program by going to www.kentlibrary.org or calling the Kent

Public Library at 845-225-8585. The library is located at 17 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes

Tuesday, December 1

Enjoy herbs all year round: Come to the Kent Public Library. 6 p.m.-7 p.m. and learn to savor summer throughout winter! Don't let the herbs grow in your garden go to waste, just because winter has come! Join Master Food Preservers from the Cornell Cooperative Extension, to learn how to dry, freeze and use herbs infusions. Registration is required. You may register for the program by going to www.kentlibrary.org or calling the Kent Public Library at 845-225-8585. The library is located at 17 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes.

Putnam County Department of Health Hosts Two Public Events in Recognition of World AIDS Day: To commemorate this international observance, the Putnam County Department of Health is offering free rapid HIV testing and counseling 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 1 Geneva Road, Brewster. HIV results take just 20 minutes and no appointment is necessary. On Friday, December 4, in collaboration with Westchester Medical Center, a Teen Health Day for individuals ages 13 to 24 will be held at the Carmel Fire Department, 94 Gleneida Avenue, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Teen Health Day will offer free and confidential services including HIV testing, STD screening, Hepatitis C testing, pregnancy testing and mental health and substance abuse referrals. Several other community organizations will be participating in the event to provide education and answer questions. For more information about HIV or Hepatitis C testing, or disease education and prevention, contact the Health Department at (845) 808-1390. www.putnamcountyny.gov

Thursday, December 3

Health Insurance and the Marketplace: Kent Public Library. 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Putnam CAP Certified Application Counselors will hold an information session on how health insurance works and provide enrollment assistance to Medicaid, ChildHealth Plus, The Essential Plan and Qualified Health Plans through the NYS Health Insurance Marketplace. Open enrollment starts November 1, 2015 and ends January 31, 2016. Registration is required. You may register for the program by going to www.kentlibrary.org or calling the Kent Public Library at 845-225-8585. The library is located at 17 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes.

David Benoit's Christmas Tribute to Charlie Brown - Featuring Jane Monheit: 7 p.m. A Charlie Brown Christmas is back by popular demand! Kick off your family's holiday season with a special return to the Paramount by legendary jazz musician David Benoit as he performs a mix of A Charlie Brown Christmas

classics and original compositions. David will be joined by the exquisite voice of American jazz vocalist, Jane Monheit and an all-star chorus featuring talented young singers from the Hudson Valley including Peekskill and Haldane Middle schools and Cortlandt School of Performing Arts. Don't miss these Charlie Brown classics and holiday favorites live on stage! Paramount Hudson Valley Box Office P: (914) 739-0039, Option #2 from Main Menu E: boxoffice@paramounthudsonvalley.com

Putnam County Office for Senior Resources Computer Learning Center

for Seniors will hold Registration: William Koehler Senior Center, 180 Route 6 in Mahopac and the Putnam Valley Senior Center, 117 Town Park Lane, Putnam Valley. Registration hours at both sites will be from 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. Anyone 55 or older can register for a variety of computer classes from basic to advanced, to using an iPad, to Digital Photography. To view the available classes visit us at www.putnamrsvp.com/clc. Register in person or call Judy Kolt at (845) 277-5422 or email her at jak4dogs@verizon.net. If anyone is interested in volunteering to teach basic computer classes, please call.

Friday, December 4

The Putnam County Health Department, in partnership with Westchester Medical Center's Teen Mobile Van, will be hosting our 2nd Teen Health Day. Carmel Fire Department, 94 Gleneida Ave., Carmel. Open to anyone between the ages of 13 – 24 years old. We will be providing free and confidential medical screenings- including HIV Testing, Hepatitis C testing, STD screenings, pregnancy testing as well as mental health and substance abuse referrals and more. There will be several community organizations available to answer questions that the teens may have regarding a wide range of topics on Teen / Public Health issues. We will be having food and refreshments. We will raffle off great prizes some include: Carmel cinema tickets, monster mini golf and more. No question is off-limits. Kent Lakes.

Support Groups:

What can you do when someone close to you drinks too much? You might be surprised at what you can learn at an al-anon meeting. For meeting information call 914-946-1748 web site www.westchesterputnamalanon.org

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group:

Putnam Hospital Center 670 Stoneleigh Avenue. Carmel. 3rd Thursday of the month & time: 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. caregiving for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease...you don't have to go it alone. Join us and receive the emotional, educational and social support needed to successfully care for someone with dementia. Free of charge. Registration required. For more information and to

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

register: Call 800-272-3900 www.alz.org/hudsonvalley.

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. Advance registration is required for all groups; call 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

Monday's

Paws to Read at Kent Library Join volunteers from Therapy Dogs International and their dogs at Kent Public Library, for the Paws for Reading Program, select Mondays in September through November. This program is designed to give children, ages 6-10, the opportunity to gain confidence and improve reading skills by reading aloud to a therapy dog. This is a free event. One-on-one fifteen minute sessions are available by appointment only. Registration is required. Once you are registered, you will be called and an appointment will be made. To register call the library at 845-225-8585 or stop by the Kent Library.

5th Grade and Up Book Club: Every Third Monday 5:30 p.m. Enjoy reading books at home, then join Miss Jenn and Miss Kathleen to discuss the books and have fun with friends! Registration required. For more information or to register contact the Patterson Library at 845-878-6121 x10 or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org and click Calendar.

Tuesday's

Introduction to Mixed Media at Reed Library, Carmel. Create unique visual art pieces through the combination of watercolor, drawing, and collage techniques program runs through October 27, 10 a.m. to noon. Registration is required, 845-225-2439.

Wednesday's

Ready, Set, Read: Every Other Wednesday 4:30 p.m. Join Miss Kathleen in this Kindergarten book club to read exciting books together, play games, and have fun with friends! Registration required. For more information or to register contact the Patterson Library at 845-878-6121 x10 or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org and click Calendar.

Thursday's

Stories, Songs and Crafts in English and Spanish at Reed Memorial Library Carmel. 10:30 a.m. This is a drop-in program and does not require registration. FMI: 845-225-2439

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LEGALS

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF KEVIN KENNEDY PLLC filed with the Secretary of State of NY on September 9, 2015. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the PLLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **2020 Maple Hill Street #1113, Yorktown Heights, New York 10598**. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of M&R Account Services LLC Art. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 10/14/2015. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **M&R Account Services LLC, 29 Scenic Dr Apt O, Croton on Hudson, NY 10520** Purpose: any lawful purpose.

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The Putnam Examiner Sports

Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports

November 24 - November 30, 2015

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

SPORTS SECTION

Port' Authority! Portville Nips Haldane in State Final Thriller, Again!

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor
@Directrays

Haldane High, which made its sixth consecutive trip to the state finals, has nothing to hang its head about after a thrilling five-set loss to two-time reigning NYSPHSAA Class D champion Portville last Sunday at the Glens Falls Civic Center.

Despite losing so much to graduation, first-year Head Coach Ashley Anderson's Blue Devils exceeded expectations while living up to the standards set at Haldane, long, long ago. Haldane junior Brooke Vahos and senior Nicole Etta were named to the Class D NYSPHSAA all-tournament team.

In a match eerily similar to last year, Haldane lost to Portville in five sets, with the Blue Devils serving for match point, yet Portville won both Game 5's, 26-24. The folks in and about Cold Spring need to find a new word, something beyond heartbreaking and gut-wrenching, as the Lady Blue Devils have felt the agony and the ecstasy of the NYS playoffs in consecutive years.

Leading 2-1 after three games, the Blue Devils lost the fourth game, 25-18,



SHARON DIPALO PHOTOS

Displaying the class they are known for at their home away from home, members of the Haldane volleyball team celebrate and pose with the NYSPHSAA runner-up plaque last Sunday when the Portville Panthers rallied from a 17-13 deficit in the fifth and final game to eke out a 26-24 victory in the NYSPHSAA Class D championship game at Glens Falls Civic Center where the Blue Devils had match point for the second-straight year but could not put the final nail in the coffin either year.

and the pivotal fifth in a 17-25, 25-18,

32-34, 25-18, 26-24 loss. In the end, the Blue Devils thanked their faithful fans for showing up in droves and doing what they do best; supporting the classy kids that make this small, tight-knit community one of the best in New York State. Once again, the community rallied behind the 2015 Blue Devils: Nicole Etta, Melissa Tringali, Brooke Vahos, Catherine Parr, Morgan Etta, Sophia Carnabuci, Maisy Curto, Mackenzie Patinella, Clara Thompson, Apryl Norton, Marissa DiPalo, Willa Fitzgerald and coaches Ashley Anderson and Megan Lyons.

"We fought every game and pushed ourselves as far as we could have," said Etta, the last of the Etta trio, who were

part of 11 of Haldane's 13-straight Section 1 championships. "We have been doubted all season on how far we would be able to go. Nobody thought we would make it past sectionals, let alone be in game five of the championship match. We are extremely proud of how far we have come and we are blessed to have even made it to the state championship. It is hard losing when you work the whole season for one match and then lose in a five-set heartbreaker. I'm extremely proud of the team and I couldn't have asked for a better season for my senior year, despite the outcome, and I know the other seniors would say the same."

Like we said; all class.



Sports

Girls Hoops Notebook

County Center Road Runs Through Ossining, Peekskill, Haldane

By Tony Pinciario, John Orlando & Ray Gallagher

OSSINING may well be, once again, the best public school program in New York State; the proof is in the pudding. Team that underestimate Ossining this year because of its graduation departures, would be making a huge mistake.

Ossining, which went 23-3 last year, won its fifth consecutive Section 1 Class AA title and third-straight New York State championship last March, does not rebuild. The Pride retool and refine.

Pride Coach Dan Ricci was happy, but also sad at graduation when six seniors – Jalay Knowles, Stefanie Svoboda, Madison Strippoli, Jenna Lividini, Abby Squirrell and Cyan Scarduzio -- received their Ossining diplomas. Knowles (playing at Hartford), Svoboda (playing at Pace), Strippoli (playing at New York Institute of Technology) and Lividini (playing at Brockport), as well as



RICK KUPERBERG/RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Ossining's Shadeen Samuels expects to lead the Pride back to the NYS Class AA tournament after yet another Section 1 title.



Peekskill G Lanay Rodney is among the best all-around players in Class A.



Brewster's Frannie Merkel and the Bears are said to be much improved this season.

Squirrell (playing lacrosse at Marquette) and Scarduzio (playing field hockey at St. Thomas Aquinas) were the nucleus for two of the three state-title teams and some of the best players in program history.

Ricci, in his 24th year, welcomes back one starter, but, in Shadeen Samuels, he feels he has the best player in Section 1. Samuels, who averaged 19.4 points, 6.2 rebounds, 3.7 assists and 3.6 steals per game, recently committed to play at Seton Hall, and is the best-rounded player in the section. She is virtually unguardable without the help of double and triple teams.

Along with Samuels, Ossining returns seniors Gabby Ferrao and Alexis Bernardo along with sophomore

Helen Ishmael.

Ricci has promoted sophomore Kelsey Quain, a guard, along with a talented freshmen trio of Aubrey Griffin and Jaida Strippoli, both guards, and Kailah Harris, a center, to varsity. Harris is the truth, cut in the mold of Knowles. Griffin, a freak of nature, is the most gifted player at Ossining since UConn stud Saniya Chong. Both Griffin and Harris have been offered by Seton Hall, but that's just the start for each.

All three freshmen will start and produce four incredible runs to add to the lore of Section 1's finest program ever, quite possibly the finest public school program in state history by the time they are done.

The rest of the unit forms what Ricci said may be the most athletic team he's ever coached.

"We have some good returning role players in defensive stopper Gabby Ferrao, shooter Alexis Bernardo and rebounder Helen Ishmael," Ricci said. "Add in the very talented freshmen class and this

could be a special team. It all depends on how fast our young players adapt to the varsity game and the pace at we like to play."

That pace is incredibly fast and often overwhelming, which is what we can expect on a regular basis this season.

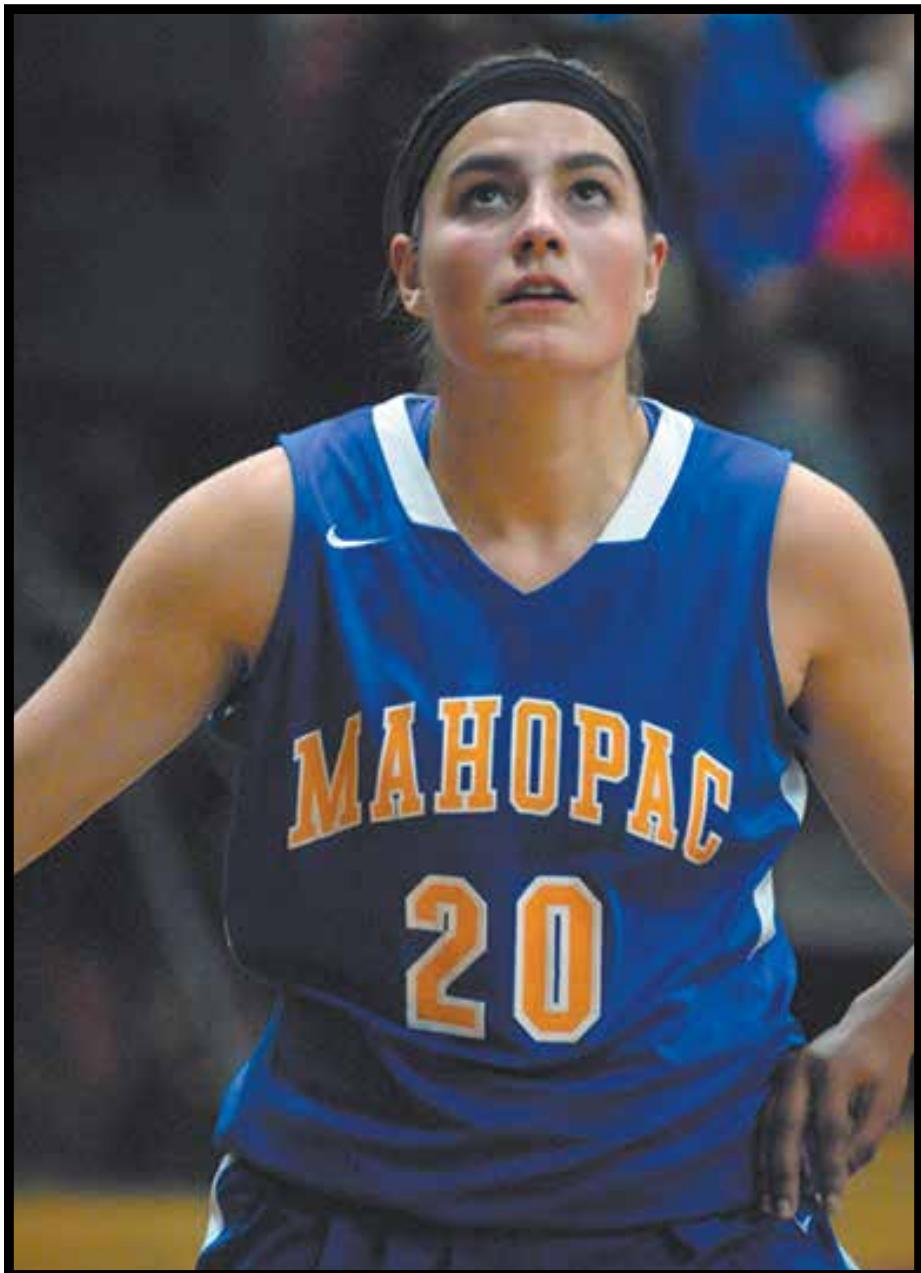
BREWSTER went 11-7 and lost in a first round sectional game last year, but fourth-year Coach Mike Castaldo has an experienced returning core to lead the team.

Castaldo will turn to a pair of seniors and juniors to guide Brewster through a difficult league schedule. Senior Frannie Merkel returns to the front court and classmate Katie DePaoli is a guard. Junior Julia Borsari, whose father, Chris, was an offensive lineman for the University of Virginia, will join Merkel on the forward line and fellow junior Dayja Medina will play guard.

An underclassmen duo will also man the guard positions – sophomore Jess Miele and freshman Maggie DePaoli.

Through the first two weeks of

Sports



Mahopac F Tara Ravoli will provide a strong paint presence for the Indians this season.

preseason, Castaldo said his team is meshing the returning experienced players with the talented younger players and it has worked extremely well. There are two open starting positions which has led to girls working hard hoping to earn one of those two spots.

"I feel we have a solid team that can compete for the league title this year, however, our league has so much talent and great coaches that we need to play more consistent this year to have a shot," Castaldo said.

CARMEL will have a new look entering the 2015-16 season after six seniors graduated, including Kelly Oliver, who is playing at Mount St. Vincent.

Veteran coach Dan O'Hare will turn to senior Hanna Riddle (forward) and freshman Claire Cody (guard). O'Hare said these two returnees played significant minutes last year for a team that went 8-12. Carmel beat Mount Vernon in a first round sectional game, but lost to Ursuline in the next round.

O'Hare cited four newcomers to varsity who will see quality minutes. The group

is comprised of junior Sia Kassoh (guard), sophomore Maria Mazzamuto (forward) and the freshmen tandem of Khadijah Johnson (guard) and Alex Barry (forward).

"We have speed and the ability to get to the rim," O'Hare said. "We are concentrating on scoring from the perimeter and playing lock-down man defense. I like the make-up of our team and their eagerness to learn. I believe that once our very young newcomers learn the intensity and pace of varsity ball, our team can be very competitive. We will be a work in progress and look to improve with every game played."

MAHOPAC will need to replace the points and rebounds supplied by graduated Alayne Felix, who was the primary option for third-year Mahopac Coach Chuck Scozzafava the last two seasons. Carly Pease, Amanda Geyer and Tara Ravoli, are three returning starters. Kim Schiera, Allison Reilly, Claire Felix, Amanda McCarney, Katie McDonough, Natalie Scanlon, Samantha Colatruglio, Siobhan Hynes and Zina McInerney are a nice mix of younger and older veterans

within the rotation.

Coming off an 11-8 season and a first round loss to Scarsdale in the Class AA playoffs, Coach Scozz thinks this unit is ready to improve upon that record, despite the loss of Alayne Felix, now playing Maine Maritime Academy.

"Carly, Tara and Amanda are all returning starters who know what it takes at this level to compete and be successful," the coach said. "All of our newcomers are key. They give us strength of depth, since I feel like I have 12 kids we can get into flow without fear. The key is how well these young girls adjust to the varsity game."

PEEKSKILL will have its third coach in three seasons as Kim Saxton takes over a talented team that could be the last ones standing in Class A if the unit develops the maturity and necessary discipline to become a champion. After leading Peekskill to an 18-4 season and a sectional final appearance, Steven Loscher resigned.

All-Section senior Lanay Rodney will return for a fourth season and will serve as the team's go-to girl after scoring 23 PPG last season, one that saw the Red Devils' reign as two-time defending sectional champions come to an end in a loss to Albertus Magnus.

Rodney is the most talented player in Section 1 Class A and should drop buckets in bushels this year. This is Lanay's team and her legacy will be forged with a senior year that ends up with a gold ball moment.

All-Section senior G/F Lisana Burnett will also be a force for the Red Devils, who fully expect to be back at the County Center in 2016. Senior C Taylor Clare should rock the boards and G Nyrie Holliman is poised for a breakout campaign.

Peekskill should be hungry, what with the bitter taste of defeat still pungent in their mouths. Should the Red Devils make ball security and stifling defense a priority, the rest will come as naturally as a Rodney 3-ball.

HALDANE will be aiming for a Section 1 Class C title three-peat after besting Alexander Hamilton in the final the past two years. Coach Tyrone Searight

Girls Hoops Notebook

and his team will have to do it without the graduated Allie Monteleone, who surpassed 1,000 career points and is now playing at Pace University.

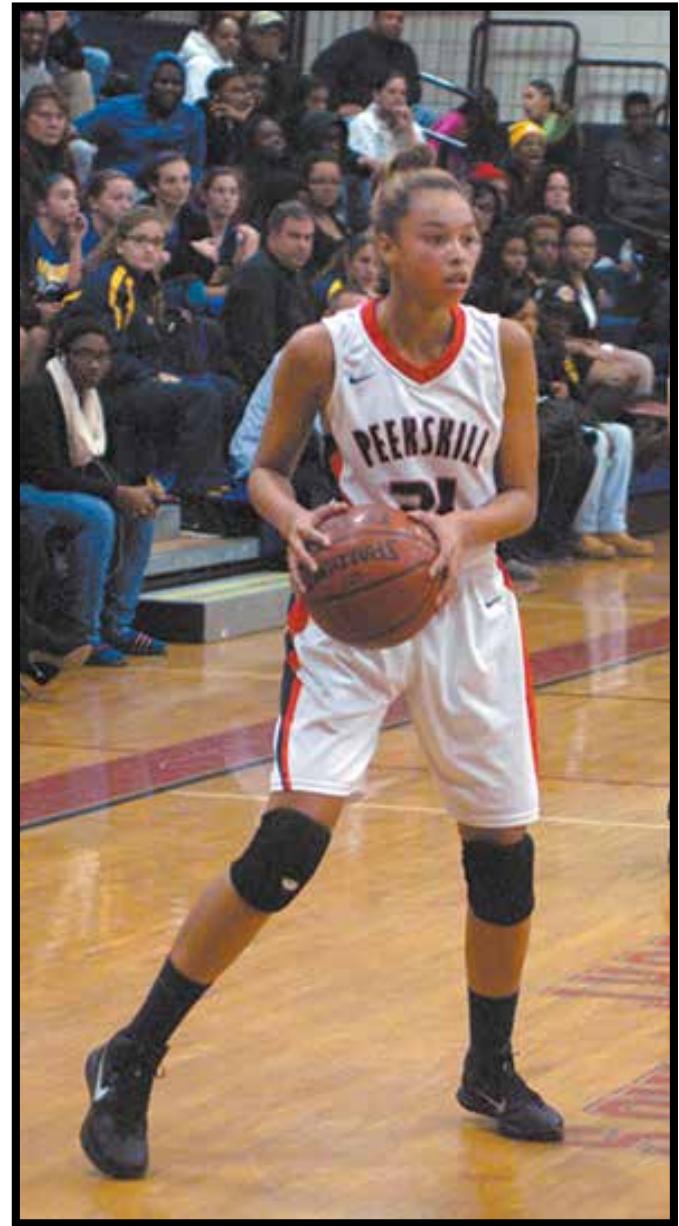
Even though Monteleone graduated, the cupboard still has plenty of talent returning from a 12-8 team. This core is spearheaded by the junior guard triumvirate of Hanna Monteleone, Marissa Lisikatos and Alexandra Cinuanta. Joining the trio are sophomores Abby Stowell, Allison Chiera, Allison Marino and Gabriele Baumann, and freshmen Julia Rotando and Zoe Lyons-Davis.

The newcomers to varsity are sophomore Valerie Scanga, freshman Sandy Harrison and eighth-grader Olivia McDermott.

"We have the girls that played in big games last season so having that experience on the floor is important and we want to play that up-tempo style that we like to play," Searight said.

Searight feels the major adjustment his team will have to make is create a way to get the 20 points-per-game that Allie Monteleone gave Haldane. Also, his team will be tested early with a tough schedule.

"The key for our season is how we fight



Peekskill's Lisana Burnett will slash and dash for Red Devils this winter.

Sports



Haldane G Missy Lisikatos (R) provides a steady calm to the Blue Devil backcourt.

when adversity hits during games and how we, as a team, battle out of it to become a team," Searight said.

SOMERS lost a bunch to graduation but remains a well-coached unit under Kristi Dini, the former Boston College



Somers G Gabby Rosenzweig is ready to push the tempo for the Tuskers this season.

and Putnam Valley star.

Given the fairly broad turnover of personnel at Somers High, one might expect a slight drop off from last year's trip to the Section 1 Class A quarterfinals.

"Yes, five girls have moved on to graduation and this may look like a different team, but in this case different is good," Somers Coach Kristi Dini said. "All who remain are highly-qualified, system girls with strong ability, and two of the new faces are seniors that did not play basketball last year due to playing various other sports at a very high level. They are top notch athletes we'll add to the mix."

With all that said, a strong stench of excitement and confidence erupted from her voice as the unit of Gabby Rosenzweig, Livy Rosenzweig, Livi Lipski, Jackie Penzo, Meg McHue, Hannon Eberts, Allie Arcidiacano, Christina Heibeisen, Faith Ferguson, Dani Cucharella and Hannah Angelini take aim in Class A. It's obvious her belief from what has transpired in practice will lead to a Tusker team that will compete solidly in league play as well as against the various other AA teams scheduled. For those willing to bet on the Tuskers chances to travel deep into sectional play, should at least consider reading into the enthusiasm surrounding Tusker Territory.

PUTNAM VALLEY

Three years ago, when Coach Nick Lenhard took over the reins of a struggling program, Putnam Valley was to be considered young and raw, as the overwhelming majority of the team consisted of freshman and



Yorktown G Alyssa Francese will work the point for the Huskers this season.

sophomores. They suffered mightily and took their lumps throughout that season. In year two, and still loaded with freshman, sophomores and juniors, the Tigers were able to obtain a fair amount of wins, thus qualifying them for an out-bracket playoff bid. A loss to North Salem ended things abruptly, however, the maturity was very evident indeed. As Section 1 begins a new season, this squad is a "Now Team", one that is extremely experienced and fairly deep and plum out of excuses.

Putnam Valley will bring back five seniors, two juniors, three sophomores and Dora Rippon (the one freshman replacing last season's lone graduate). All three sophomores (G Maria Tomais, G/F Catherine Mazza and F Morgan Winogradoff) received significant court time last season for the Tigers and will undoubtedly be major contributors, even more so this season.

G Julianne Torsiello and F Rebecca Marro are back as juniors adding athleticism, ball skills and height to the roster. All five seniors (F Alyssa Stockinger, F Alex Knight, G Stephanie Wagner, C Christina Byrne and C Reena Olsen) have logged three seasons at this level and are ready to let it fly, as is eighth-grader Kelly Venezia, who is polished beyond her years and poised to inflict immediate damage as the youngest player in the program's history.

The Tigers are battle-tested and prepared to lead the charge to what should be a very solid season. How solid a season

Girls Hoops Notebook

Sports



Haldane G Hannah Monteleone hopes to lead the reigning Class C champion Blue Devils back to the state tournament.

is not yet known, but one thing is for certain, improvement is on the horizon.

HEN HUD enters the season minus its top two scorers from last year in Amy Glashoff and Amber Feminella. The tandem combined for 24 points a game as Hen Hud went 8-12.

Veteran coach Ken Sherman is planning to account for those 24 points per game with an experienced returning group, featuring junior point guard Jaelyn Smith and classmate Maria Scalf, who will start alongside Smith at the two guard. Sherman will always rely on senior guards Jenna Richardson and Montana Garrett, and juniors Jackie Raguso (center) and Kamryn Sherman.

Sherman highlighted sophomore Taylor Prokopiak (forward) as one of the team's key newcomers. Sherman plans on creating offense from his defense this season, hoping to use transition as a means to score. He said his team will work hard defensively and create turnovers, which will lead to some points.

Hen Hud will not receive a break from

the schedule-makers as the Sailors league includes Ossining, Peekskill, Beacon, Lakeland and Panas. Ossining (Class AA) and Peekskill (Class A) are the pre-season favorites to win sectional titles.

"My team has a great attitude and we are looking forward to our opener on Dec. 1 against Pleasantville," Sherman said.

LAKE PLAINS is looking to build off a .500 (10-10) 2014-15 season. The Hornets opened the post season with a sectional win over arch-rival Panas, but lost to Harrison. Second-year Coach Miranda Lustig has an experienced nucleus returning, led by starters Colleen Walsh (guard/forward) and Jordyn Coitino (guard), both juniors. The tandem is joined by classmates Val Potenza (guard/forward) and Rieley Walsh (guard/forward), sophomore Kelsey McCrudden (guard) and freshman Alexa Cole (guard).

Juniors Krista Verrino (guard) and Maura Coakley (guard), along with sophomores Kelsey Walsh (forward), Jessica Ascencio (guard/forward) and Adrianna DeSantis (guard) comprise the



Putnam Valley's Reena Olsen hopes to lead Tigers to a strong Class B showing.

new varsity players.

"The girls are working hard and they are having fun together," Lustig said. "It's hard to succeed if you're not having fun. Our main goal is to continue to be better than we were the day before. The key is getting the season off to a good start and to never be outworked by our opponent."

WALTER PANAS is young, but Coach Matt Evangelista is excited to tap his team's potential after an 8-11 record last year. Samantha Sudol, Jenna DeSilva and Kailey D'Alessandro graduated, but Panas returns three starters and six players total.

The starting trio of juniors Melissa Keefe (center) and Carlyn Mucci (guard/forward) are joined by sophomore Danielle Merante (forward). Merante is fresh off a stellar field hockey season. She led the team in scoring as Panas won eight games and was seeded third in the Section 1 Class B Field Hockey Championship Tournament.

Junior Jade Pagel (forward/center) and sophomores Kristen Kelly (guard) and Kellie Brown (guard) round out the returning nucleus. Freshman Julia Araujo

(point guard) is one of the young, new players to varsity.

Evangelista is encouraged by his team's enthusiasm, athletic ability and team chemistry through the first two weeks of preseason. His immediate concern is injuries as he said a number of players are nursing them.

"With a freshman and three sophomores in the rotation, we will be young," Evangelista said. "Although many of the girls played AAU, summer and fall leagues, and were largely successful, they will need to translate that to real varsity games. Additionally, this group of girls is very nice, but they play and practice incredibly hard. Hopefully, our youthful enthusiasm will overcome some of our inexperience."

Girls basketball Coaches are strongly encouraged to contact beat writer Tony Pinciaro at tfinch23@optonline.net with positive comments, stats and box score info after each game or no later than Sunday morning for inclusion in the Examiner's weekly Girls' Hoops Notebook.

Girls Hoops Notebook



Swish It, Dish It... Just Don't Miss It!

Road to County Center Runs Through Haldane

2015-16 Girls' Hoops Preview

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

Haldane point guard Hannah Monteleone (L) hopes to lead the defending Section 1 champion Lady Blue Devils to their 8th Class C title in 12 years, 22nd title overall since 1989 (14 in Class D) this winter when five Putnam County teams hope to leave their mark on a Section 1 hardwood near you, including Putnam Valley senior C Reena Olsen and Brewster senior Frannie Merkel (R), ... see Girls' Hoops Preview