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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

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Proposed County IT Policy Shut Down by Legislators

By David Propper

A proposed information technology policy for all Putnam County government employees was slammed and stopped during a last minute Rules, Enactment and Intergovernmental Relations meeting last week that led to some of the loudest screaming and shouting heard all year.

The policy has been in the works for roughly a year, deputy county attorney Dan Harvey of the Law Department said, noting most counties in New York have some form of an IT policy that regulates the use of IT equipment to prevent "possible discrimination and illegal conduct" on the IT system and avoid any security breaches by a county employee.

The proposed policy wouldn't apply to union members because those unions need to negotiate with the county going forward.

"We want to put certain protections in place for people using our system," Harvey said.

The proposed policy would apply to county employees, contractors, vendors, affiliates, and other third-party vendors with whom the county has a relationship. As stated, "all communications that relate in any way to the county or reflect on the county, whether verbal or electronic or made on or off duty, must comply with county's values and expectations."

Each employee is considered "an ambassador of the county" and even if

the employee chooses their password, it doesn't mean they should expect the material protected behind the password to potentially not be surveilled, including Internet, email, voicemail, telephone, cellphones and personal digital assistant.

"Employees who violate this policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary and/or legal action, up to and including termination," part of the policy reads.

Some legislators took great umbrage with the fact that as elected officials they were classified as county employees, none more annoyed than Kevin Wright.

Looking more like a prosecutor treating Harvey as hostile on the witness stand, Wright, Putnam's former district attorney, attempted to put some "concrete under a policy that is built on quick-sand." He wanted to know if legislators could be under surveillance and if the legislature in turn could look at the county executive's administration's emails.

"We got this resolution a couple hours ago and it's been in the works for a year and nobody knows a goddamn thing about it for god's sake," Wright, who at times was shouting, asserted. "This is absolutely asinine. I seldom have been so perplexed by the absolute folly of this kind of thing to try to stick this in the face of the legislature."

Harvey said the supervisor who has administrative authority over an employee

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DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

Legislator Kevin Wright almost singlehandedly delayed a proposed IT policy last week.

Sheriff Urges Vigilance as Vehicle Break-ins Rise

By David Propper

Car thieves in Putnam County are treating themselves to a very nice holiday season.

More than 20 thefts of property from parked cars have been recorded the past few weeks in Southeast and Putnam Valley, according to the county Sheriff's Office, including two cars that were stolen.

The majority of incidents stem from owners leaving their car doors unlocked, according to the sheriff's department. Property stolen includes cash and credit cards, GPS devices and other electronics and other miscellaneous items.

Two cars were even robbed in Southeast. One grand larceny occurred on Dec. 14 and the other on Dec. 16. Both

vehicles were left unlocked, though one was eventually recovered in Westchester County where it was abandoned.

Sheriff Don Smith urged residents to lock their cars at all times, including in their driveway. Smith added having a car alarm and turning on security lighting in driveways at night also combat thieves up to no good. Any suspicious activity should be reported to the sheriff's office.

"Thieves can be opportunistic and an unlocked car with valuables visible inside offers an alluring target to thieves," said Smith. "At this time of year, especially, thieves know that people might leave Christmas presents or holiday shopping money in their cars and so the thieves are on the lookout for cars left unlocked."

Putnam Hospital Volunteer Reaches 7,500 Hours of Service



Putnam Hospital Center volunteer Terry Scrivani (above and on left receiving flowers from Michelle Piazza of volunteer and pastoral services at Putnam Hospital) recently completed 7,500 hours of volunteer work at the hospital, equaling 1,000 full-time days of service. Scrivani, 86, began as a Putnam Hospital Center volunteer in 1995 after retiring from the cashier department at the Foundation for Christian Living in Pawling. "Terry is well-known and well loved by many of our staff and visitors," said Piazza. Scrivani had surgery on her foot at Putnam Hospital Center and had such a positive experience, she said, that she wanted to give back to the facility. "All the people in the Ambulatory Surgery Unit were so good to me that I said, 'When I retire, I'm going to volunteer here.'" Scrivani said she had a goal to reach 7,500 hours of service. A plaque with her name on it for reaching that many hours hangs in the hospital. "It feels wonderful," she said, adding that she doesn't plan to stop anytime soon. "As long as my health continues, I'll be there."

Mahopac School Board Approves \$3.1 Million Technology Grant

By Arthur Cusano

The Mahopac Central School District will move forward with a plan to make significant upgrades to its technology infrastructure and supply Google Chromebooks for hundreds of its students.

Board of Education members passed a resolution accepting the New York State Smart Schools Bond Act investment plan at a special Dec. 21 meeting at Mahopac Falls Elementary School.

The state allotment for the Mahopac district is \$3.1 million, \$200,000 of which will be used to immediately purchase 540 touchscreen Chromebooks, laptops built on Google's chrome operating system that make heavy use of cloud-based programs, and 18 storage and charging carts. The district will use the remaining grant money to upgrade internet capabilities and install new security doors and security cameras over the next two years.

The district is moving toward use of the Google Classroom programs cloud-based programs used by teachers across the country for classroom instruction, testing and communication. Teachers will undergo training for the system in the coming months.

Mahopac Superintendent of Schools Dennis Creedon said the bond would help the district get up to speed with necessary technology, and would not cost

the taxpayers anything.

"We do not have certain infrastructure improvements that we need if we're really going to advance technology. If our high school was to have kids use our Wi-Fi all at once, the system would fail. If you're trying to show a video, it will start and stop, depending on how many people are on."

Creedon said the new Google Classroom software will give teachers tools to make teaching to technology-oriented young people easier.

"We're not going to change teaching or learning to the point that we're not going to have great teachers in our schools or have computers teaching our kids. Our goal is to have totally tech-savvy educators who know how to engage young people and turn them on to learning."

Board members approved the bond just prior to a presentation by Galit Price of Southern Westchester BOCES on the district's current technology status and improvement plans for the near future.

Price gave a rundown of current district IT initiatives, such as Infinite Campus, the district's new online help desk system installed this past summer.

Going forward, the district was looking to upgrade the internet speed from 200 megabytes per second to 500 megabytes per second, she said. The three elementary schools and middle school have all been



ARTHUR CUSANO PHOTO

Mahopac Board of Education Members approved the acceptance of a \$3.1 million state grant to fund technology upgrades at a Dec. 21 meeting.

recently upgraded to AC technology, with the high school next on the list.

"They will be upgraded to AC 2, and that will increase the capacity to up to four times what we have right now," Price said.

The Monday meeting, which began more than 45 minutes after the slated 7:30 start time, was scarcely attended. Just three residents showed up for the public hearing, which was held after the resolution was passed.

Residents who spoke voiced concerns over privacy and worried that student data could be shared with third parties,

and that the new technology would be used to implement the controversial Common Core testing.

However, board members assured them they had already looked into concerns over privacy and data sharing, and that the closed cloud system kept all information within the district. Board president Michael Sclafani said the bond was focused helping students prepare for a technology-driven workforce.

"I can't think of a job today that doesn't use some level of technology," he said. "We need to get technology into the kids hands as soon as possible."

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WHEN BACK PAIN STRIKES...

What you should know about treatment options



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Marshal D. Peris, MD, FAAOS

Co-Director, Spine Surgery
Orthopedic & Spine Institute
Northern Westchester Hospital

nwhorthoandspine.org/DrPeris

Q: My back is killing me – what can I do?

A: You'll be happy to hear that most people recover from back pain within a few days just by taking it easy, continuing gentle activity, and using over-the-counter pain medicine such as naproxen or ibuprofen to ease their pain. If the pain doesn't resolve itself within a week or so, your doctor may suggest physical therapy where you can learn stretches and ways of moving that will ease the strain on your back.

Q: What if that doesn't work?

A: Next steps may include prescription pain medications and possibly steroid injections to reduce swelling in your back. You may also be referred for imaging to determine whether abnormalities in your spine are causing your pain. If your back pain doesn't get better using these more conservative methods, your doctor may refer you to an orthopedic surgeon to determine if surgery can help. Sometimes abnormalities in the vertebrae or the soft discs that cushion your spine can press on spinal nerves and cause pain or numbness in your legs and make it difficult to walk or stand. In such cases, surgery can help immensely.

Q: Can surgery really solve my problem?

A: It can. Your orthopedic surgeon will explore your options with you, and the two of you can decide on the best approach. The good news is that the surgical solutions for back pain are continuously advancing. One exciting development used at Northern Westchester Hospital is direct lateral fusion, which can address back abnormalities that cause chronic pain.

As "lateral" implies, the surgeon works from the side of the patient. This advanced technique is much less invasive and allows us to achieve amazing results, especially in scoliosis patients. The incision is much smaller and we don't have to fuse as many vertebrae to get great results. It's often a simpler, more effective treatment, and patients are usually up and moving after one day (instead of three to four) and typically leave the hospital after three to four days versus six to seven. The vast majority of patients are much happier and back to their normal activities much sooner.

* American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons

Watch Dr. Peris discuss Lateral Spine Fusion
at www.nwhorthoandspine.org/DrPeris

Did You Know?
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A Look Back At The Year It Was In Putnam County

By David Propper

January:

The New Year started with a high-profile termination when former Bureau of Emergency Services commissioner Adam Stiebeling was released of his duties by County Executive MaryEllen Odell. The dismissal of Stiebeling, who followed in the footsteps of former commissioner and now the late Bob McMahon, set off a firestorm in the emergency services community concerned about the next steps for the bureau. Stiebeling would eventually sue the county for his job back, but lost on a technicality... For the second straight year, Legislator Carl Albano got the nod as chairman of the county Legislature and Legislator Ginny Nacerino earned the vice-chairmanship for two years in row... Always lauded as a top tier asset to the county, former Putnam Economic Development Corporation president Meghan Taylor departed from her position to take a job with New York State's Empire State Development. It took almost all year to fill her old position... Once again, allegations of racism by the Mahopac basketball program surfaced from a Jan.7 game between Mahopac

MTA's history. The train line does reach up to Patterson and Southeast, but on this day it never let all its passengers off. The crash occurred when a vehicle entered a railroad crossing, but wasn't able to get off the tracks before the train barreled in, causing wreckage that caught nationwide attention and grief. The crash site was located in Chappaqua, which NYS Senator Terrence Murphy represents. He called for all levels of government to look into ways to ensure this type of tragedy never happens again... Carmel school chief Dr. James Ryan announce his retirement at the Feb. 3 board meeting... In probably the most heated vote by a local municipality this year, the Southeast town board voted 3-1 to approve a zoning change for the proposed Crossroads 312 project. Councilwoman Lynne Eckardt was absent, but would have voted against it along with Supervisor Tony Hay. The project would bring a hotel and large retail along Route 312. Many residents fought the project because of traffic, safety, and infrastructure concerns and hurting the rural character of the town. Proponents of the project claim it will bring the first hotel to Putnam and secure jobs and sales tax revenue in the county.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NTSB

Wreckage from the deadliest crash in MTA history.

than anyone would have liked because of the ongoing litigation with Stiebeling... The controversial Algonquin Pipeline by Spectra Energy was approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Critics today are still fighting the pipeline, which will run through parts of Putnam... In the Cold Spring village election, former Philipstown town board member Dave Merandy earned the mayor's seat by a wide margin over Barney Molloy while Marie Early and Fran Murphy were elected trustees... Over in Nelsonville, the little village elected what appears to be its first ever woman to serve as trustee. Danielle Pack-McCarthy earned the seat in a re-vote on March 31 after the first vote resulted in a tie. She called it "empowering" for a woman to finally earn office in a village of roughly 600 residents.

parents in droves opted their children (grades 3-8) out of much maligned state exams connected to the Common Core... In a clash that included wild claims of misconduct, the now former county health commissioner, Dr. Allen Beals accused Putnam Valley Supervisor Bob Tandy of raising the tax assessment on his Putnam Valley property by \$500,000 because Beals closed down Spur Beach in town. What ensued was a war of words between the two where Tandy questioned

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DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

The Crossroads 312 project brought hundreds of Southeast residents out.

and Carmel. It was alleged that "racially charged language" was directed at a Carmel player by a Mahopac player. Former Mahopac school chief Brian Monahan ended up suspending the player the rest of the season, though the punishment was said to be because of sharp elbow the Mahopac player threw during that same game. An appeal filed by the player was denied by the Mahopac school board and the player's career came to an end... At the state level, former NYS Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver was arrested and charged with corruption. He later would be found guilty.

February:

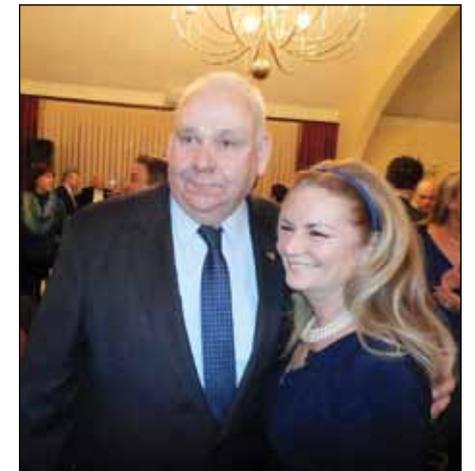
Although it didn't occur in Putnam and no county residents were killed, six lives were lost in the deadliest train crash in the

March:

It's been talked about for years, but Carmel town board members finally and formally requested the county conduct a feasibility study into merging all law enforcement agencies into one police force, including the Putnam sheriff's department. That letter would make waves across the county and lead to apparent tension between Carmel and the county executive administration in the months ahead... After Adam Stiebeling was booted from his EMS commissioner job, Odell named a successor: Tony Sutton, who previously worked for New York State and Westchester. She made the announcement during her State of the County address. The move was pending legislative approval, which took longer

April:

It seemed to take forever, but the Mahopac school system finally found their next superintendent of schools when it named Dr. Dennis Creedon to take over. Creedon, who is in the middle of his first school year, came from the Philadelphia school system. For Mahopac, it took almost two years to hire a new permanent school chief... In Carmel, the town had the honor of being named the first Purple Heart Town in Putnam. Other towns soon followed Carmel's lead... Putnam school



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

After it took some time, Tony Sutton, a respected figure in the EMS community was named commissioner of emergency services.

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A Look Back At The Year It Was In Putnam County

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if Beals was holding events on his farm that were not permitted by the zoning. Eventually, Beals got his assessment cut down, but solid proof of his strong accusations were never founded.

May:

In one of the most incredible stories of the year, a Mahopac woman who lived on Ann Drive shot and killed an intruder who used to be an ex-boyfriend after he entered her house. The woman, never identified, struggled to get the gun away from Philip Miraglia of Mahopac and shot him in what Carmel Police asserted was self-defense... With the old Carmel school chief stepping aside, the Carmel Board of Education named Andy Irvin the new superintendent of schools. Irvin has been with the district for years as an administrator...In another example of New York State swimming in corrupt politics, former NYS senate majority leader Dean Skelos was arrested and brought up on corruption charges. He would later be found guilty...EMS Commissioner Tony Sutton was finally named to his current position by the county Legislature...With little stress, each and every school district in Putnam got their budget approved by voters... Officially announcing his long shot bid for president, Putnam's own George Pataki entered the 2016 race for the White House. Pataki lives in Garrison and was a three-term Republican governor of New York. His wife, Libby, is the tourism director for the county, but has been on leave ever since her husband announced. As of this week, Pataki was apparently still running, though his poll numbers are almost as dreadful as the average person reading this newspaper.

June:

One of the most inspiring and heroic



PROVIDED PHOTO

Danielle Pack-McCarthy became the first ever woman to serve as trustee for the Village of Nelsonville.

actions in Putnam came from man's best friend when Brewster based guide dog Figo saved his owner, Brewster resident Audrey Stone, from further injury when a vehicle hit her. The news spread across the nation and even caught international attention. According to reports, Figo leaped in front of the vehicle and absorbed some of the hit leading to a fractured leg and lacerations. Stone, who is legally blind, suffered a broken ankle, elbow, and ribs and head wound, but it could have been a lot of worse if not for Figo. The dog and owner were happily reunited later this year.



PROVIDED PHOTO

International hero and Brewster based guide dog Figo.

July:

The proposed redevelopment at Butterfield in Cold Spring has been a lightning rod for controversy for years, but a slew of elected officials in early July celebrated the groundbreaking and naming of buildings, parks and roads, including a senior center that seniors in the area have long fought for. After the groundbreaking, developer Paul Guillaro even admitted he didn't think it would ever reach this point of rejoicing. Though the original senior center was supposed to be located in the new building, it appears now it'll be situated at the adjacent Lahey Pavilion. A lease between the county and Guillaro was agreed on in November.

August:

Outside of a red-hot summer between district attorney candidates Adam Levy, the incumbent, and Bob Tandy, the challenger, the summer was a rather sleepy one in Putnam until August. The indictment of former sheriff investigator Pat Castaldo was tossed after he was accused of putting a shackled prisoner in a chokehold and beating him. Castaldo was among the highest ranking sheriff officials in the department until he



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

A slew of elected officials and FOX News chairman Roger Ailes and his wife Beth (far left) came out to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Butterfield redevelopment. The senior center is named after Roger Ailes.

resigned after revelations came about that he allegedly mistreated that prisoner who went for former sheriff official Gerald Schramek's gun in Carmel town hall... Mahopac mourned the loss of 17-year-old Hannah Mikus who died suddenly from an unexplained illness. Mahopac student and friend of Hannah, Stefani Ferrari said, "Without Hannah the days won't seem as bright and the nights will seem even darker"...Another tragedy that struck the Hamlet of Mahopac came when Sean Callahan, a well-known and courageous young man, succumbed to cancer. Callahan, who was only 12, raised

more than \$100,000 for Relay For Life earlier that year, a worldwide mark that impressed, but didn't surprise anyone that knew him. His father, Dan, described him as someone who was all about hope...A new hockey team, the Brewster Bulldogs, came to Putnam County. Currently, they're in the middle of their inaugural season at the Brewster Ice Arena.

September:

A Republican primary showdown that resulted in one of the biggest upsets in Putnam history came to a *continued on next page*

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dramatic climax when Putnam Valley Supervisor and challenger Bob Tandy beat incumbent Adam Levy in the race for district attorney. Even though he was in office for eight year and had unlimited money to spend, Levy couldn't overcome allegations of misconduct and scandal as he fell to Tandy badly. Levy's terrible relationship with Sheriff Don Smith also didn't seem to help. Tandy, who knocked on thousands of doors, would go on to defeat Levy in the general election... The Vietnam Traveling Wall arrived in Putnam for the third time at the end of the month, bringing thousands of veterans and family members to Veterans Memorial Park in Kent. The traveling wall is 80 percent of the actual Vietnam Memorial Wall located in Washington DC.

October:

A story that will surely continue into the New Year is the ongoing probe into the missing millions of the Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department, in which revelations of the alleged embezzlement came to light during the early part of the month. As much as \$5.4 million is said to be missing from the department's funds, leading to fury from residents directed at those in the Mahopac department. One name that keeps coming up is former



PROVIDED PHOTO

Sean Callahan of Mahopac was well known for his courage and the hope he gave everyone around him and will be greatly missed.

treasurer Michael Klein who has since resigned. Klein was the treasurer for more than ten years and owns Buckshollow Emergency Equipment. A ramification of the investigation is the Carmel town board cut the department's budget request by more than 30 percent for 2016...A positive note from a fire department came when the Brewster Volunteer Fire Department welcomed a piece of 9/11 steel — the last piece being given out — from ground zero of the World Trade Center. Honored during a ceremony to usher in

the steel was former Brewster resident and firefighter Glenn Bisogno, who went down to the city after the attacks to help in the aftermath of the wreckage. He died last summer due to illness connected to the conditions down there...At the end of the month, a split county Legislature adopted the 2016 county budget proposed by County Executive MaryEllen Odell. The proposal that led to the division and outcry was forcing county retirees to pay more for their health insurance. As a retiree's pension went higher, the more money they had to pay into their health provided by the county under the new

proposal. Despite intense protests by the CSEA union and hundreds coming out to complain, it didn't change the minds of five legislators that voted the budget through.

November:

Another election in Putnam saw more dominance from Republican candidates. All three Republican legislators that ran again won easily, and outside of Democratic hotbed Philipstown, only three candidates running on the

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DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

Adam Levy and Bob Tandy provided plenty of news prior to a Republican primary fight that Tandy emerged as winner.

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A Look Back At The Year It Was In Putnam County

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Democratic line earned seats at the town level. Notably, former legislator Sam Oliverio was easily elected Putnam Valley supervisor. Bob Tendy completed his quest to become district attorney by beating Adam Levy again. As Tendy said, "the little person with no money can do a lot if he really want to and tries very hard." A lesson to residents that their vote counts is no more indicative than the Patterson supervisor race where Republican Rich Williams won by only 17 votes to top Democrat Andy Falk...A former Carmel police officer, Richard

O'Keefe, was charged with aggravated vehicular manslaughter after he allegedly drove drunk and hit a car on Route 6, killing a woman in the other vehicle. New York State Police quickly charged O'Keefe in the death of Anna Estrada of Mahopac...The police merger study that Carmel officials requested finally got underway with graduate student and Erie County Sheriff officer Dan Ditchkowskyj leading the study. The study will be ready by mid-February though Carmel officials aren't happy a graduate student is doing the study.



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

The faces of CSEA representatives Jane Gorman and Glenn Beckman sum up a tough budget season in Putnam.



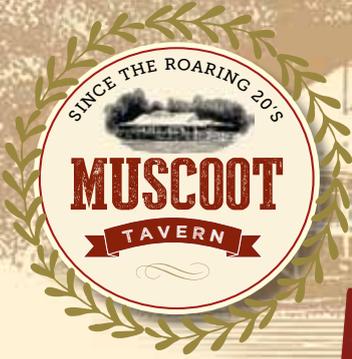
DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

The Vietnam Traveling Wall stood tall in Putnam for a few days, with veterans and current military personnel expressing appreciation toward it.

December:

NYS Senator Sue Serino perhaps got the worst press of the year when she demanded a constituent from Poughkeepsie not videotape an informal forum held at Putnam Valley town hall. The constituent who said his name was Mert Melfa refused at first, but he eventually agreed and left after he was threaten with arrest by a Putnam County Sheriff deputy. A day later, Sheriff Don Smith said the man

should've been allowed to videotape, though Serino stuck by her request... The year in county government ended the way it started with another department head getting the pink slip. Dr. Allen Beals has been put on administrative leave by the county executive's office, which led to accusations being tossed around on both sides.




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Proposed County IT Policy Shut Down by Legislators

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would have the ability to request certain IT information concerning the individual under scrutiny, similar to the regular disciplinary system already in place.

"I don't think the point of the policy is that someone's going to be consistently looking at (emails)," Harvey said. "It would come about because there's some sort of suspicion."

While Legislator Dini LoBue said she supports a strong IT policy and secure network, a lot of the policy is ambiguous. LoBue questioned if the county executive administration would be the office to enforce the policy when the legislative branch is suppose to be an equal partner.

She also questioned if the policy would give authority to the county to look an employee's personal computer or cell phone if the county perceived that person to be in breach of the proposed policy.

Legislator Roger Gross said the crux of the concern for legislators is if the county executive's administration could "peak" into emails that are between two lawmakers.

Legislator Ginny Nacerino spoke in support of the policy, calling it "long overdue" and that elected officials should be held to the same standard and policy as everyone else within county government. She stressed county business should be done on county equipment and county



Legislators (from left to right Ginny Nacerino, Joe Castellano, and Roger Gross) were split on whether to implement the new IT policy as written.

email.

As a longtime Brewster schools employee, Nacerino said most public entities have strict IT policies to stop "misuse or abuse" and employers can monitor what an employee's online activity within the building.

"I think we're sort of thinking that Big Brother is watching and we're just going to arbitrarily read each other's emails and snoop on each other," Nacerino said.

"Which is purely not the intent here."

Legislator Carl Albano said he thought the policy should be voted on that night and if changes needed to be made, lawmakers could examine that going forward. Albano said he views himself as a county employee because he collects a county paycheck. He called the policy a "common sense thing."

"In my emails, everyone is welcome to look at them," Albano said. "I don't think

it would be appropriate for people from the administration to look at them, but I don't think anybody would."

Legislator Joe Castellano, who works for Westchester County, noted Westchester has an IT policy in place.

"The big concern today is the fact can someone else can read your email," Castellano said. "And I think that's a legitimate concern."

Rules Committee Chairwoman and Legislator Toni Addonizio eventually tabled it because "at this point it doesn't make sense. We have not had the chance to thoroughly vet this. I don't even know how it's written."

DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

Pet Of The Week



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Business
of the Week

The Music Cottage Brewster



PROVIDED PHOTO

The Music Cottage students, alongside George Krzyzewski, performing at Daryl's House in Pawling.

By David Propper

For more than 20 years, George Krzyzewski used to travel around the area giving music lessons to a wide net of students. Since 2011, those students have been coming to him.

George and Lauren Krzyzewski opened up The Music Cottage in Brewster close to five years ago and since then, have only seen a steady incline of students attending the main street location. Offering tutelage and expertise for various instruments and levels, The Music Cottage is the sweetest sounding business on the block.

"He was reaching a point where he was tired of having students one place, one day and different place, another day," his wife and co-owner Lauren said. "(This is) something we always talked about doing."

The Krzyzewskis have twelve teachers from different music backgrounds and offer summer programs, private lessons, workshops, and showcases. Though the cottage looks quaint from the street, it has five music rooms, as well as a small section for musical items aimed at students for sale.

When the cottage first opened, it had about 40 students already lined up to take lessons there that George had tutored. Now, there are about 200 young musicians that walk through the door during the year.

"It sort of evolved organically," Lauren said.

George and Lauren both take care of certain sides of the business. George, who is a guitar and bass player, handles the music side of things and Lauren, a former project developer and marketer,

handles the business side of things.

The couple's son and daughter also get involved with The Music Cottage at various points. Lauren notes how much fun it is to see the entire family part of the business in one form or another.

Students eventually and hopefully build up to a show as they progress. Each student must be studying for six months to participate in a showcase. Recently, many students performed at Daryl's House in Pawling, which is owned by Rock N' Roll great Daryl Hall, who was part of Hall and Oates.



PROVIDED PHOTO

A group shot of The Music Cottage students after their performance at Daryl's House.

"We're really into getting kids to perform, to play music with others," Lauren said. "We feel like that's a part of playing music, not just going into your lesson and playing in your room every week."

Finding kids interested in music isn't very difficult. The area has a strong emphasis on performing arts and music, but before The Music Cottage, a Brewster Chamber of Commerce member, there was nothing else really in Brewster for rising musicians outside of the music department at Brewster High School. Instruments like guitar, bass, drum set, piano, and a couple others aren't offered in school.

"We have kids that either want a little extra help with an instrument that they're studying in school or they're more advance and they'd like to take it a little further," Lauren said.

The Music Cottage is located at 177 Main Street in Brewster and its phone number is 845-363-1456.



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

The exterior of The Music Cottage in Brewster.

Serino Calls on Cuomo to Provide Sufficient Funds for Local Infrastructure

Governor Andrew Cuomo recently announced an agreement that the MTA five-year capital program would receive roughly \$6 billion in state funding, while remaining silent on the growing infrastructure needs of our Upstate roads and bridges.

Surrounded by supporters for "parity" in funding for the New York State Dedicated Highway and Bridge Trust Fund, Senator Serino last week called on Governor Cuomo to make our crumbling infrastructure a priority and include in his Executive Budget, an equitable level of funding for the deteriorating roads and bridges.

"Frankly, the people of Dutchess and Putnam Counties are tired of taking a back seat to the needs of the MTA," said Serino. "It doesn't take much to see the years of neglect when we drive on our state roads and bridges. Whether we use Metro North or not, we are paying for it in our gas taxes and motor vehicle fees

and it's high time, we were treated fairly in addressing the needs of our ailing infrastructure."

In the 1990's, a Dedicated Highway and Bridge Trust Fund was created for our state transportation capital needs. It was agreed, at that time, that a portion of the state's gas tax and auto fees go to the Dedicated Mass Transit Trust Fund, as long as the two funds were negotiated simultaneously and there would be "parity" in funding levels.

In 2009-10, when the state was under the control of one-party governance, New York City interests dominated state government policy and funding decisions. It was at that time that the State enacted an MTA five-year capital plan without funding a plan for the State's roads and bridges. Since that time, it is estimated that funding for our transit system has outpaced an investment in the State's transportation infrastructure by \$6 billion.



PROVIDED PHOTO

Senator Sue Serino called on Governor Andrew Cuomo to better fund bridge and road repairs.

"To leave the rest of the state behind while funding mass transit is not only unfair, but foolish," Serino continued. "With each passing year, more bridges are ranked in unsafe or deteriorating condition and it is reported that more than 60 percent of our roads are in need of repair or reconstruction."

"An investment in our roads and bridges

is an investment in our economy, in our safety, and in our future," Serino continued to state. "It's unreasonable to ask taxpayers to continue to pay for the Metropolitan Transit Authority, while conditions of the roads and bridges they must travel on every day remain dangerously neglected. It is time for Governor Cuomo to make Upstate infrastructure a real priority."

Letters to the Editor

Taconic Overpass in Putnam Valley Puts Students' Lives at Risk

The Putnam Valley Board of Education at their Business Meeting of December 17, passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS approximately 300 students on 36 bus runs travel through the dangerous crossing on the Taconic Parkway at Pudding Street each day, or 54,000 individual student crossings per school year; and

WHEREAS, for over a decade the Board of Education of the Putnam Valley

Central School District has attempted to persuade New York State to create safe passage for our students; and

WHEREAS, we are fearful that a dangerous and tragic outcome could occur if an alternate way across the Taconic State Parkway is not designed and constructed immediately,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Putnam Valley Central School District Board of Education hereby calls

upon the State of New York, in order to protect the children of our District, to immediately begin the process of constructing a way to provide safe passage across the Taconic State Parkway at the Pudding Street interchange. After decades of promises that have not been fulfilled, we continue to fear for the well-being of students who are transported daily to and from our schools.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that a

similar resolution was passed on February 21, 2013, to no avail.

THEREFORE, we must plead for an urgent response from our local, regional, state and federal leaders in order that we fulfill our responsibility to provide for the health and safety of our students.

The Putnam Valley Central School District Board of Education

Police Services in Kent Should Remain Unchanged

I am an 18 year resident of the Town of Kent. I, like many Kent residents, am very happy with the services provided us by the Kent Police Department. I have followed recent stories regarding the Carmel Town Board struggles with their growing annual budget, followed by their concerns about the increasing costs associated with their police department.

So it came as no surprise to read about Carmel's request for a countywide police department consolidation study. Rather than beginning to make hard choices, such as cutting the rate of growth of their budget, they have decided that it would be nice to share law enforcement costs with the rest of the county. After all, why shouldn't Brewster, Kent and other

towns in the county help Carmel fund their department that they can't afford to do themselves? They could do what Putnam Valley did and eliminate their overly costly PD and have the Putnam County Sheriffs Department take over those duties. I, for one, want no part of changing the Town of Kent PD. Perhaps the Carmel Town Board should be paying

closer attention the workings of the Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department, than whining about the need for a police department consolidation.

Kevin J. McGuinness
Kent

Obituaries

Joseph Budzienski, Sr.

Joseph W. Budzienski, Sr., age 62, of Mahopac, died on December 19, at Putnam Hospital Center, Carmel, NY with his family by his side. Joe was born on October 15, 1953 in Mahopac, son to the late Stanley and Emma (Schaniel) Budzienski. He attended Carmel High School. On April 6, 1974 he married the love of his life Audrey R. Rodgers. Joseph was a mechanic with B & C Auto Service in Mahopac for 26 years. Through the years, Joe enjoyed gardening, fishing with his son and sitting on the beach. His biggest passion in life however were his children and grandchildren, they were his life. Besides his wife Audrey, Joseph is survived by his two children; Joseph Budzienski and his wife Jaime of Mass. and Amy Budzienski of Long Island, his three siblings; Ethel Adams (Fred), Johnny (Michele) Budzienski and Roseann McNitt (Barry). Also his three grandchildren; Jake, Cole and James. He was predeceased by his Brother Stan. A Memorial Service

will be held on Saturday, January 2, 2016 at 11:45 a.m. at the Beecher Funeral Home, 1 Putnam Ave., Brewster. Interment will be private. Friends may call at the funeral home on Saturday January 2, 2016 from 10 a.m.-noon. Contributions in Joe's memory may be made to: American Lung Association.

Jaqueline A. Coccozza

Jaqueline A. Coccozza of Patterson, New York, died Thursday December 24, with her family at her side at Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel, at the age of 70. She was born February 18, 1945 in Manhattan, daughter of the late Michael and Mary (Kelly) Tierney. She was a graduate of St. Gabriel's School in New Rochelle. Mrs. Coccozza moved to Brewster, in 1978 and worked at Putnam County Savings Bank in Brewster for 30 yrs. retiring in 2010 as an Assistant Vice President and was a member of St. Lawrence O'Toole Church in Brewster. Mrs. Coccozza was predeceased by her husband Philip M.

Coccozza on October 11, 2000. She is survived by her sons Michael Heintz of Stormville, NY, Daniel Heintz of Brewster, Peter Heintz of Seymour, CT, her daughters Jacqueline Heintz of Southbury, CT, Carolyn Butler of Patterson and her step daughter Kimberly Testa of Glenham, and her grandchildren Matthew, Kayla, Kevin, Danielle, Camryn, P.J., Christina and Jessica. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Lawrence O'Toole Church in Brewster, NY on Wednesday December 30 at 10 a.m. Internment will follow at St. Lawrence O'Toole Cemetery in Brewster. Friends may call at the Beecher Funeral Home, 1 Putnam Ave. Brewster on Tuesday December 29 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Theresa Rendine

Theresa Rendine of Kent died on December 25 at Calvary Hospital, Bronx. Born on August 25, 1937 in Santander, Spain to the late Teresa Rivas San Emeterio. Theresa came to the United States at the age of 12. She graduated from Walton High School in Bronx, New York in 1955. On May 26, 1957, she married Joseph Rendine, who pre-deceased her in 2013. Theresa was a Civil Service employee at the Town of Kent, Assessor's Department for 23 years until her retirement. Theresa is survived by her daughter, Laura (Mark) Miceli of Stormville, grandson, Salvatore DeSiena of LaGrange and a sister, Ann (James) Gray of Millstone, NJ. And several nieces and nephews. Visitation will be held Tuesday December 29, from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. & 7 p.m.-9 p.m. at Cargain Funeral Home, Carmel. A Funeral Service will be held Wednesday December 30, 2015 10 a.m. at the Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Union Cemetery, Route 301, Kent. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations

may be made to Calvary Hospital, 1740 Eastchester Road, Bronx, NY 10461.

James D. Carey

James D. Carey, age 65 of Brewster, died Sunday, December 27, at his home.

Mr. Carey was born October 11, 1950 in Manhattan, son of the late John and Marjorie (Fleming) Carey. His mother Marjorie having recently passed at the age of 102. He was a graduate of Cardinal Spellman High School in Bronx, NY. Mr. Carey was an electrician for the IBEW Local #3 in Manhattan for 36 years, retiring in 2005. He had lived in the Bronx before moving to Brewster in 1977. Through the years, Mr. Carey was a softball coach for his daughter Meghan's team and enjoyed attending many a sporting events for both his son James and daughter Meghan. He was an avid Giants fan and enjoyed the many home related projects that pop up along the way. His family was very important to him. He is survived by his former wife Maureen J. (Hilgenberg) Carey of Brewster, his son James G. Carey of Manhattan, and his daughter Meghan Dell of Huntersville, NC. A brother John Carey of Williamsburg, VA and two sisters, Eileen McGirl of Burke, VA and Fran Small of Williamsburg, VA. Also a granddaughter Charleigh Dell and several nieces and nephews. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Lawrence O'Toole Church in Brewster, on Thursday, December 31, 2015 at 10am. A private cremation was held earlier. Friends may call at the Beecher Funeral Home, 1 Putnam Ave. Brewster on Wednesday, December 30th from 7 p.m. to 9p.m. In lieu of flowers, contributions in James's memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, PO Box 1000, Dept. 142, Memphis, TN 38148-0142

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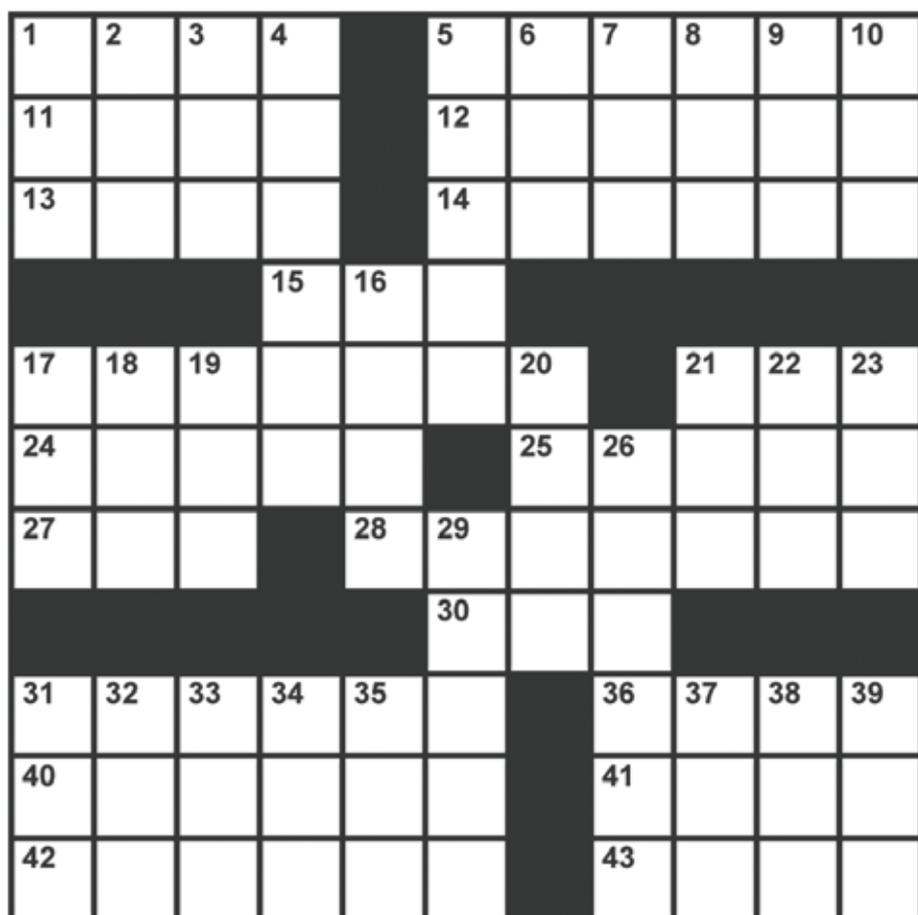
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Crossword Puzzle



Crossword by Myles Mellor

Answers on page 13

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Across

- Steady date
- Conn. University or Mahopac religious gift shop, ____ Heart
- Kuwaiti leader
- Sedative drug
- Silly
- Salt Lake City native, for example
- Former NYC Dept. store of JV gourmet food shop (includes punctuation symbol)
- Sweater, cardigan combo
- Band booking
- Isuzu model
- Eye opener
- Indubitably
- Intersection of perfect squares and prime numbers
- Grazing ground
- Broadcast
- Water under the bridge
- Bleep out
- Supports
- Noisy insect
- Pig food

Down

- Fourposter, e.g.
- Kiwi walk-alike
- Ambition
- Polished
- Steep in wine
- Fitting
- Tom Clancy subj.
- Fan sound
- JFK abbr.
- Cub's home
- Ending of some business names (includes a punctuation symbol)

- Hear
- Hardship
- Checks for under 21's
- Whopper
- Exxon offering
- Miff
- Clock standard: Abbr.
- Woolly S.A ruminants
- Extreme
- Communication authorities, for short
- Garland
- Party in Pretoria: Abbr.
- Where Springsteen was born
- Doze off
- Driller's quest, often
- Flap
- Itty-bitty meas.

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TD Charitable Foundation Support for CAREERS for People with Disabilities

The TD Charitable Foundation, the charitable giving arm of TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank®, once again donated \$2,500 to CAREERS for People with Disabilities, Inc. (CAREERS) as part of the foundation's commitment to giving back to the community.

The grant will support CAREERS' Workforce Readiness, Placement and Training program, which teaches individuals with disabilities the skills they need to become employable, helps them find and secure a job, and provides on-the-job training and follow-up to make sure they are successful.

"TD Charitable Foundation is a great ally to our programs, allowing us to continue to provide our job placement and training services free of charge to individuals with disabilities," said Tina Cornish-Lauria, CAREERS Executive Director. "We take pride in our one-to-one relationship with our clients, which ensures they are getting the training and support they need to be the best employees, and community members, they can be."

A staunch commitment to active involvement in the local community is a vital element of the TD Bank philosophy. The TD Charitable Foundation provides support to affordable housing, financial literacy and education, and environmental initiatives, many of which focus on improving the welfare of children and



Mike Griffin, (center), Manager of TD Bank in Carmel, accepts an Award of Appreciation for The TD Charitable Foundation's ongoing support of CAREERS for People with Disabilities programs. Also pictured is CAREERS' Community Instructor Dave Duncan, (far left), and CAREERS' Ambition In Motion (AIM) Program participants Stephen, Doug and Arte (left to right).

families.

For more information on CAREERS programs for disabled individuals or employers in need of qualified help, contact CAREERS' Valhalla office, which serves central and lower Westchester at 914-741-8500, or the Carmel office, which serves northern Westchester and Putnam Counties, at 845-225-8007. For more information, please visit www.careersforpeoplewithdisabilities.org.

About the TD Charitable Foundation

The TD Charitable Foundation is the

charitable giving arm of TD Bank N.A., which operates as TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank®, and is one of the 10 largest commercial banking organizations in the United States. The Foundation's mission is to serve the individuals, families and businesses in all the communities where TD Bank operates, having made more than \$148.1 million in charitable donations since its inception in 2002. The Foundation's areas of focus are affordable housing, financial literacy and education, and the environment.

More information on the TD Charitable Foundation, including an online grant application, is available at www.TDBank.com.

About TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank®

TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank, is one of the 10 largest banks in the U.S., providing more than 8 million customers with a full range of retail, small business and commercial banking products and services at approximately 1,300 convenient locations throughout the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Metro D.C., the Carolinas and Florida. In addition, TD Bank and its subsidiaries offer customized private banking and wealth management services through TD Wealth®, and vehicle financing and dealer commercial services through TD Auto Finance. TD Bank is headquartered in Cherry Hill, N.J. To learn more, visit www.tdbank.com. Find TD Bank on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TDBank and on Twitter at www.twitter.com/TDBank_US.

TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank, is a member of TD Bank Group and a subsidiary of The Toronto-Dominion Bank of Toronto, Canada, a top 10 financial services company in North America. The Toronto-Dominion Bank trades on the New York and Toronto stock exchanges under the ticker symbol "TD". To learn more, visit www.td.com.

Locally Crafted KAS Krupnikas a Top 100 Spirit for 2015

KAS Krupnikas, a small-batch spiced honey liqueur made in Mahopac, NY has been included in Wine Enthusiast's Top 100 Spirits for 2015. The inclusion by the esteemed publication comes on the heels of receiving a high scoring 92 from the magazine back in October of this year.

KAS Krupnikas is a spirit crafted with New York State honey and a combination of 10 spices to create an 80 proof liqueur that is popular with the Lithuanian community wherein the recipe originates as well as all spirit enthusiasts. KAS Spirits recently received praise from the New

York Times, revealed a new label, and released multiple size offerings of their popular spirit into the New York market.

"I've believed since Day One that we have a beautiful and distinctive product," says Co- Founder, Kestutis Katinas, "We are steadfast in our high quality and continue to craft everything by hand, from zesting lemons to labeling bottles. It's not always easy but to receive this honor from a respected source reinforces that we are creating something really special."

The holidays and winter months are a premiere time for KAS Krupnikas as it's

warming spice notes and locally sourced honey make for an easy hot toddy. The company introduced the 100ml on December 1, almost instantly creating a demand for the small stocking-stuffer sized bottles.

"At recent events in Manhattan and Brooklyn, customers were clamoring for the new 375ml and 100ml size bottles as perfect holiday gifts," says Marushka Osman. "It's a more interesting and unique gift to bring to dinner parties than the usual bottle of wine or champagne. Traditionally a toasting spirit, it is ideal

for celebrations but also versatile in a multitude of cocktails. The individuality and handcrafted nature of the spirit make it an exceptional choice for those looking to stand out."

KAS Krupnikas is currently available at fine bars, retailers, and online. It is being distributed directly by KAS Spirits, LLC and is available to licensed businesses in the state of New York. You can learn more about KAS Krupnikas by visiting www.kasspirits.com or emailing them at info@kasspirits.com.

CCSI Brings Holiday Cheer to Children in Putnam County

As members of the Children's Coordinated Services Initiative (CCSI), Putnam Family & Community Services (PFCS), Green Chimneys Outreach Center and the Putnam County Youth Bureau teamed once again on December 10 to host their Annual Children's Holiday Party. More than 100 people representing over 30 families, including 50-60 children and their parents/relatives, gathered at the Carmel Fire Department to celebrate the holiday season with food, fun and festivities.

In cooperation with the Toys for Tots Foundation, a program run by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, toys were distributed to all children in attendance in the hopes of making the holidays extra special for the kids. Other generous donations made this wonderful evening possible, including funds to buy gift cards for presents suitable for the older children and food for holiday dinners, as well as funding for a wonderful buffet dinner served up by the Arthur Avenue Deli.

The CCSI team and supporters including Connie Chin, Beberly Lopez, Christina McGuigan, Stephanie Roberts, Bonnie Soldano, Diana Burns-Wetzel and Elyse Gehring all of PFCS joined Jessica Day and Elizabeth Owen from Green Chimneys and Putnam County SPOA Coordinator, Dawn Mullins, to coordinate gift giving, decorating and running the



evening. "The families we serve through the CCSI program have said that this event is the highlight of their holiday season," said Christina McGuigan, PFCS CCSI Team Coordinator. "Everyone has a wonderful time, and the children are so excited to get gifts that they might not otherwise have received during this holiday season. It's great to be able to bring such joy."

Putnam County notables joined to support the holiday cheer including: Judge

James Reitz, Family Court Judge; Michael Piazza, Commissioner of the Putnam County Department of Social Services, Mental Health and Youth Bureau; Joseph DeMarzo, Deputy Commission of Social Services, Mental Health and Youth Bureau; and Janeen Cunningham, Executive Director of the Putnam County Youth Bureau.

About Children's Coordinated Services Initiative (CCSI)

CCSI is a partnership between family

members and service providers designed to assist families whose children have mental health needs. The goal is to keep families together by creating linkages to community based services.

About Putnam Family and Community Services, Inc.

Putnam Family and Community Services, Inc. (PFCS) is the only private non-profit agency providing recovery-based mental health and substance use disorder treatment and prevention services in Putnam County, NY. PFCS offers hope and healing to people of all ages through a comprehensive range of services including individual and group counseling, care management, family advocacy, parenting education, community outreach, psychiatric rehabilitation, and medication management. For more information, visit www.PFCSinc.org or www.Facebook.com/PFCSinc.



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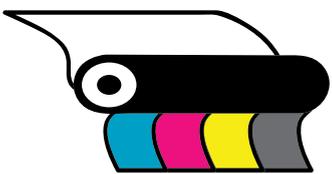


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Happenings

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

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 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.

Book Clubs:

Mahopac Public Library Adult Book Groups: Monday Evening Book group: Meets the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Light Bite Book Group: meets on the third Monday or third Wednesday of each month at 1:00 pm. Flo Brandon Book Review Group: meets on the first Friday of each month at 11 a.m. Wednesday Evening Crossover Book Group: meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Registration is required for the young reader book groups. Register online at www.mahopaclibrary.org, or call 845-628-2009, ext 100

Tuesday, December 29

Post-Holiday Get to Know Your eReader Program at the Desmond-Fish Library. 6:30 p.m. For anyone who's received a tablet or eReader over the holidays, this program will help you get to know your new device and how to load it up with free eBooks, audiobooks, and, new for 2016, digital magazines from the Library. This free program is part of an ongoing series of technology clinics for adults held throughout the year at the Library. The Library also hosts weekly one-on-one computer help sessions on Friday and Sunday afternoons. For more information please visit desmondfishlibrary.org or call 845-424-3020. The Desmond-Fish Library is located at 472 Route 403 (at the corner of 9D) in Garrison.

Thursday, December 31

Noon Year's Eve Party: 11:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. Grades K and up. Ring in the "noon"

year with Patterson Library! Dress New Year's festive, enjoy dancing, munching on cupcakes, wearing party hats and noisemaker's at noon. 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.

Monday, January 4

Bronx Club: Share memories and make new friends at the 55+ Born in the Bronx Club meeting Danbury Public Library at 11am. For further information, call 203-744-7687.

Tuesday, January 5

Mahopac Central School District 2016 - 2017. Registration for Incoming Kindergarten Students. Must be five years old on or before 12/01/2016

(No Exceptions) Kindergarten Registration for the 2016-17 School Year will be held at The Office of Central Registration located at The Falls District Office, 100 Myrtle Avenue, Mahopac, between the hours of 8:15am and 3:00pm on the following dates:

- Austin Road ES: January 5th & 7th
February 3rd, 5th & 22nd
- Fulmar Road ES: January 20th & 22nd
February 16th, 18th & 29th
- Lakeview ES: January 11th & 13th
February 9th, 11th & 26th

Registration is by appointment only. To schedule an appointment and request a registration packet, please contact the Office of Central Registration at 845-621-0656, Ext. 13902.

Registration packets are also available on our District website under Departments, then Registration. Our web address is www.mahopac.k12.ny.us.

The Reads at Reed Book Club: 7 p.m. to discuss the book "The Archivist" by Martha Cooley. The meeting will be held at Reed Memorial Library, 1733 Route 6, Carmel. Contact 845-225-2439 with any questions."

Wednesday, January 6

Drawing Soft Realism with Graphite and Colored Pencils: You will learn to create rich, vibrant color and value using colored pencils. Basic techniques such as layering, burnishing, and graphing will be covered, Participants will also develop and extend their basic drawing skills, such as exploring line, shape and value, and perspective. They will be encouraged to be creative and to have fun either working on projects of their own choosing or those suggested by the instructor. No previous experience is necessary. The class, which is intended for adults. 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. and run for six Wednesdays. This class will be taught by Mary Schreiber. Mary holds an M.S. from Bank Street College of Education. Locally, she teaches art classes for both adults and children. As an artist, her interests are colored pencil drawing and constructing marionettes. She is also a teacher trainer and educational

consultant. 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.

Friday, January 8

Lotus Lanterns for Kids. 4:30 p.m. Kids ages 9 and up, want to spruce up your room? Come enjoy creating your own colorful and unique lotus flower lantern with members of the Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project! 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.

Flannel Friday: Also January 15, and 22. 1:30 p.m.- 2:15 p.m. For ages 3-5. Beat the cold with Flannel Friday! Wear your warm, comfy flannels and listen to a flannel board story with Miss Kathleen. 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.

Seussical Jr. Auditions at Seven Star School of Performing Arts

Seven Star School of Performing Arts is holding auditions for their spring musical, Seussical Jr., Saturday January 9 by appointment. Auditions are open to kids, ages 5-18. Rehearsals will be scheduled on select Saturdays and Sundays at 509 Route 312 in Brewster. Performances are May 13 and 14.

Horton the Elephant, the Cat in the Hat, and all of your favorite Dr. Seuss characters spring to life onstage in Seussical Jr., a fantastical musical extravaganza! Transporting audiences from the Jungle of Nool to the Circus McGurkus, the Cat in the Hat, our narrator, tells the story of Horton, an elephant who discovers a speck of dust containing tiny people called the Whos, including Jojo, a Who child who gets in trouble for thinking too many "thinks." Horton's challenge is twofold - not only must he protect the Whos from a world of naysayers and dangers, but he must also guard an abandoned egg that's been left in his care by the irresponsible Mayzie La Bird. Although Horton faces ridicule, danger, kidnapping, and a trial, the intrepid Gertrude McFuzz never loses faith in him. Ultimately, the powers of friendship, loyalty, family, and community are challenged and emerge triumphant!

While there is no cost to audition, if cast, there is a participation fee. Visit their website for information on what to prepare for the audition.

To schedule your audition and for additional information, visit www.SevenStarSchool.com, email info@sevenstarschool.com or call (845) 278-0728 for more information.

Crossword Answers

1	B	2	E	3	A	4	U		5	S	6	A	7	C	8	R	9	E	10	D
11	E	M	I	R					12	O	P	I	A	T	E					
13	D	U	M	B					14	U	T	A	H	A	N					
				15	A	16	&	S												
17	T	18	W	19	I	N	S	E	20	T			21	G	22	I	23	G		
24	R	O	D	E	O				25	A	26	L	A	R	M					
27	Y	E	S					28	N	29	U	L	L	S	E	T				
								30	L	E	A									
31	F	32	L	33	A	34	U	35	N	T			36	M	37	O	38	A	39	T
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More Living Using Less Space With Convertible Furniture

In the early days of our marriage, my wife and I lived in a small New York City studio apartment and we had to make the most of what space we had.

Some of our neighbors opened up floor space by sleeping on Murphy beds that folded up vertically into the wall. We opted instead to purchase an extra-long convertible sofa, a Lawson-style, upholstered in red velvet, and had that as our regular bed. It followed us through many moves. The daily ritual of folding the sofa up again early in the morning became ingrained in us.

Eventually we settled into our home in the suburbs and acquired a queen-sized bed in its own bedroom. Our old convertible sofa became part of our living room furniture. We imagined that it could still be unfolded for our relatives when they came to visit, but as we already had a separate guest bedroom with its own bed, the sofa was opened for company only rarely, mainly on Christmas Eve when relatives visiting from a distance stayed over.

After many years we finally brought it to the curb and replaced it with a more



By Bill Primavera

delicate – but admittedly less adaptable – pink Sheraton-style settee. We felt fortunate to have enough rooms to meet our needs. But now as we look forward, we see the appeal of having less house to tend to. Eventually we will downsize, yet we will still want to entertain and have family over as before. I decided to investigate convertible furniture to see if it has evolved from my old city days.

There is no doubt that the fold-out sofa is the classic choice for temporary guest bedding, although many of us dread spending a night over

that infamous metal bar that runs across the width of the mattress. Fortunately, a little research on the Apartment Therapy or Consumers Digest websites can give you advice for choosing the newest comfortable brands.

One alternative to the fold-out is a daybed with a slide-out trundle underneath, turning a sofa into two side-by-side twin beds. Another is the ingenious sofa bunk bed, which unfolds upward, revealing easily-positioned ladder rungs and safety rails.

For the more experimental, many

manufacturers offer geometric foam pieces that can be rearranged like building blocks into a sofa, a daybed or a low table with extra blocks on the floor for seating. I'm not sure how much I would enjoy picking myself up off the floor after sleeping on that foam, but the younger or more limber among us may want to try it.

Once you know where your guests will be sleeping, it's time to find them a place to sit and eat. The most traditional way to expand your dining table is to buy one that accommodates extra panels in the center, and perhaps unfold a card table for the overflow.

But if your space is too small for a dedicated dining table, there are still alternatives. One of my favorites is the fold-down table, where one edge is joined to the wall with hinges. When open, the legs unfold down for support, and when closed, the legs and eating surface lie flat against the wall. Some models, available online for the DIYer, reveal medicine cabinet-sized storage when the table is folded down. Other versions, such as those made by IvyDesign, turn the underside of the table into a framed work of art once it is folded up.

Even small furniture items can give you more space when you need it. Not only can sets of end tables nest into each other, but with design ingenuity even chairs and

coffee tables can be stored in a similar way.

For the ultimate in space efficiency, one can marvel at the highly-engineered components that make up accordion-style apartments, where sliding and pivoting structures transform one room into three or more. The traditional Murphy bed, for example, not only folds up into the wall, but it might pivot to reveal bookcases and a fold-down table on the other side. What looks like a solid wall might easily slide forward, similar to the mobile shelving in museum archives, to create a new mini-room with bunk beds or other storage that unfold from the newly revealed wall.

While I don't see myself returning to the days of folding my bed away every morning, I can certainly handle stacking a few coffee tables, matryoshka doll-style, after company leaves. Even this longtime suburban homeowner can adapt to using space in a new way.

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

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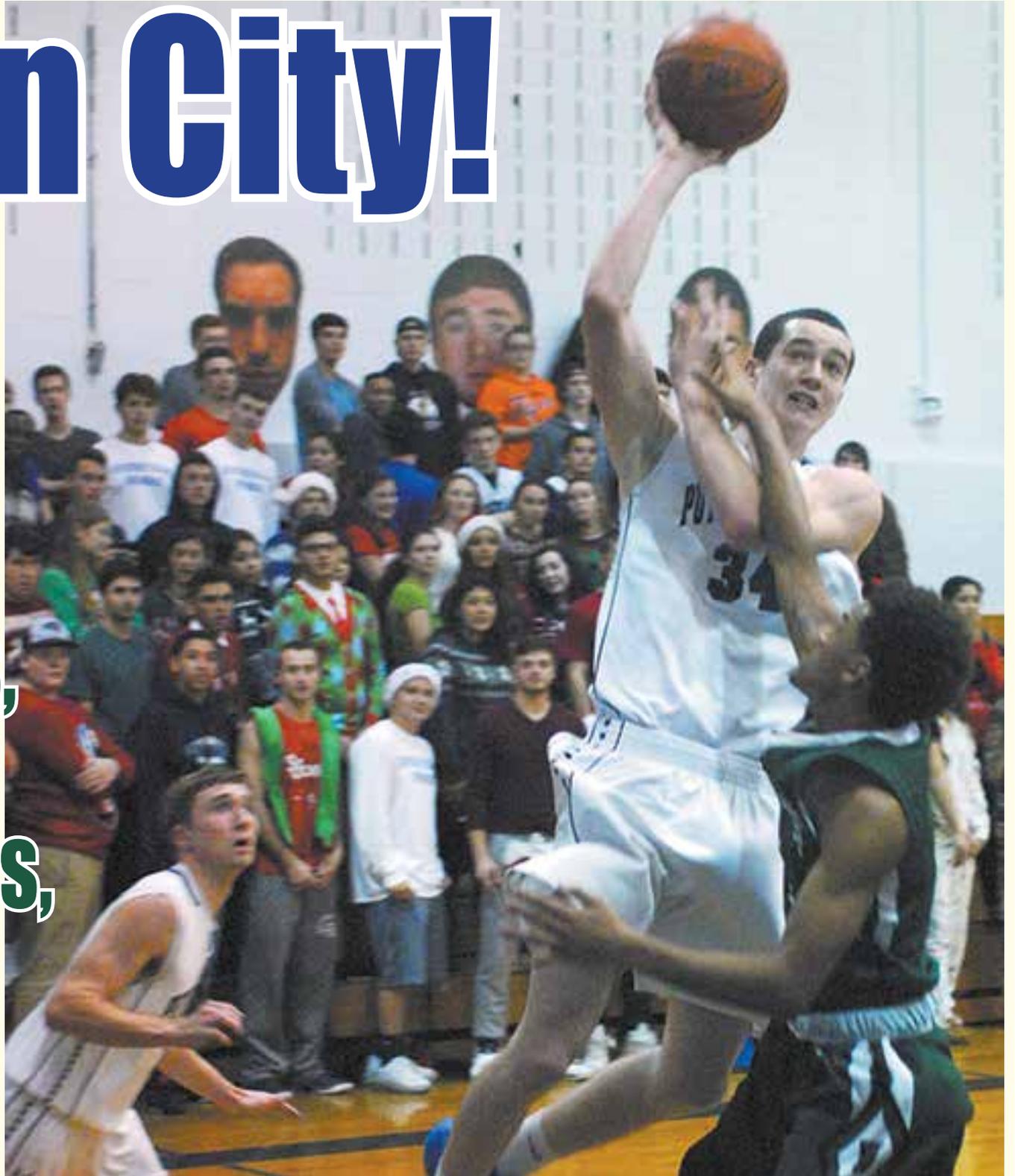
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December 29, 2015 - January 4, 2016 **SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS** **SPORTS SECTION**

Spin City!

Putnam Valley Tops Its Nemeses, Defeats Woodlands, 51-41



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Putnam Valley senior F/C Joey Spinola is harassed by a Woodlands defender in the host Tigers' 51-41 triumph of the two-time reigning Section 1 Class B champion Falcons last Tuesday when the state-ranked (No.14) Tigers knocked off the nemeses that ended their season two years in a row in the Final 4 at the Westchester County Center, including the 2014 sectional championship... see Boys Hoops Notebook

Sports

Boys' Hoops Notebook

Hen Hud, Breeding Hoping to Reach Next Level in '16

Putnam Valley Storms Woodlands; JFK 2nd in Fla. Tourney

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor
@Directrays

HENDRICK HUDSON has had some really decent hoopers over the years (a bunch from the '80s--'90s), but this Jesse Breeding kid is making a name for himself. Averaging 16 PPG and eight caroms per go, Breeding has been a monster in Hen Hud's last two wins. The standard double-double in this neck of the woods is typically between 12-14 points and 10-12 rebounds, but over two of the last four games – victories over Brewster and Edgemont -- Breeding's numbers are exceedingly atypical.

The Concordia-bound swingman went for 17 points and 16 rebounds in a 54-45 triumph of Brewster last Tuesday and posted one of the gaudier stat lines of the 2015-16 season when he dropped 23 points and hauled in 15 boards in a 64-44 win over Edgemont earlier in the week. He added another 27 points in a 51-47 loss to Rye, a team that could be standing in the Sailors' way if they intend to make Final 4 hay this March.

"Jesse has been playing hard and we've asked him to be assertive in the rebounding game," said Sailor skipper Jordan Hirsch, a 2003 Hen Hud Grad. "He is extremely athletic and has played very aggressive, which has really gotten him to produce some nice numbers."



Put Valley F Charlie Pagani has made steady contributions throughout the season for the Tigers.



RICK KUPERBERG/RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Kennedy Gaels pose with 2nd place trophy at Fla. tourney.

Those are the kind of numbers that might lead the Sailors (5-3) to their first County Center visit since a 1991 playdate set up by none other than Chris Kelly, Ted Leshinski, Chris Talma, Tim McNulty and Keith Friedman, plus bench sparkplugs Will and Slack Mauro.

Those are some vintage names in the Sailor annals, but if Breeding can carry the 2016 Sailors to the County Center he might be mentioned in the same breath with some of the greatest ballers in Hen Hud history, including but not limited to the legends they still speak of at Fulgum's Bar: As in guys like Steve Leshinski (circa 1987), a 6'11" center who went on to play D-I

at Bucknell; cats like Nelson Keels, Greg Economou (played at UConn), Chris Flink, Kurt Thomas, JJ "Thrill" Hill and the program's only two 1,000-point scorers, Bruce Fulgum and Seth Heaton. Ol' Bruce will still talk your ear off if you pull up a stool and get him started (Happy New Year, pal!)

Breeding will likely tap out around 800 points, but if he gets Hen Hud to County Center for the first time since that '91 semifinal loss to Peekskill; he's in conversation with the group above, but those are some serious ballers. We'll see what Breeding's Sailors are made of when they come out of the break and the league slate heats up in earnest with battles against Panas, Ossining and Lakeland, but the No.4 playoff seed is likely there for the



PV's Harrison Deegan attacks baseline for two in win over Woodlands.



Croton's Rory Parker looks to fire shot against Indians Aidan Hynes.

taking behind state-ranked favorites like Tappan Zee (No.13), Lourdes (No.23) and Byram Hills (HM). Long way to, though...

CLASS B

There was no mention of vengeance last Tuesday night, not so much as an utterance of payback... PUTNAM VALLEY (8-1) simply wanted to continue to take care of business before, during and after its 51-41 triumph of reigning two-time Section 1 Class B champion Woodlands, the same Falcons (0-5) that had ended the Tigers' season in each of the past two years in the sectional finals and semifinals, respectively.

"We weren't thinking about the last two years," said Putnam Valley senior G Kevin Gallagher, a veteran member of the team since 2013. "We don't dwell on that. It's a new year, a new team. Our goal is to get back to the County Center and take care of some unfinished business."

The state-ranked (No.14) Tigers, so long as they remain focused, are looking like a contender to get back to the Westchester County Center – home of the Section 1 Final 4 – for a fourth-straight year, which was unfathomable just five years ago when the cellar-dwelling Tigers were struggling to make ends meet.

Fast forward to what should be a wild 2016, which gets off to a raucous start when Coach Mike McDonnell's Tigers visit state-ranked (No.3) Briarcliff right out of the holiday break (January 7th, 4:30 p.m.) in one of the more anticipated games of the regular season. Briarcliff, the 2015 Class B runnerups, will surely expect to represent at the Mecca, and Nanuet (4-3), which took Cliffy into OT, Blind

Sports

Boys' Hoops Notebook



Croton's Eli Reyer is met by the staunch defense of Mahopac's Aidan Hynes in Tigers' overtime loss to Indians last Tuesday.

Brook (5-2) and maybe even Ardsley (6-2) and/or Croton (4-3) are also posing as challengers to the Class B Throne Put Valley has never sat upon.

Class B is chock-full-of-interesting this season.

CLASS AA

MAHOPAC saw John Jacklett go off from downtown, nailing five 3's and a career-best 23 points in a 67-65 win over Class B **CROTON** last Tuesday. Senior G Christian Donahoe added 19 for the Indians (3-4), who will awake from their New Year break with a high noon tip off on January 2nd.



Mahopac's Andrew Ryan tries to slow Croton's paint-driving Charlie Goldenberg in Indians' OT win over Tigers.



Kevin Blank and the Brewster Bears have some heavy lifting to do to make some hay in League I-D.

Charlie Goldenberg (24 points) and Eli Ryder (20) kept the Tigers in the game on a night when Croton formally recognized Coach Bill Thom's induction into the NYS Hall of Fame.

CARMEL (4-4) used a balanced attack to even its record in a dominant 62-37 defeat of North Salem, doing so behind senior F Matt Haughney's game-high 20 points last Tuesday. Ram G Ryan Train went for 16 while Ryan Sullivan (10) provided a third double-digit option. Quinn Willman (8) and Brian Harlin (7) were also contributors for the Rams, who expect to be among the league title contenders all taking aim at Lourdes, the pre-season league favorites. We are still waiting for a prime-time W before we shuffle the Rams into our Fab 5 Poll below.

Both Carmel and Mahopac will participate in the 9th annual Putnam Challenge at Carmel this Saturday, which includes: 10:00 a.m. WEBUTUCK vs. PAWLING; 12:00 p.m. MAHOPAC vs. PEEKSKILL; 2:00 p.m. DOBBS FERRY vs CROTON; 4:00 p.m. NORTH SALEM vs HALDANE; 6:00 p.m. JOHN JAY CROSS RIVER vs MAMARONECK; 8:00 p.m. SPRING VALLEY vs CARMEL.

CHSAA
KENNEDY CATHOLIC, the reigning CHSAA NYC champions, are currently 7-2 overall and 2-0 in league play with wins over Msgr. Farrell and Nazareth. Coach Al Morales' Gaels only loss came to a hot shooting and well coached Iona Prep club. To date, the state-ranked (No.5) Class A Gaels have won the STOP DWI Holiday Classic in Binghamton, back in early December with wins against Binghamton HS and in the finals against Schalmont High. Malachi de Sousa was MVP of the tourney while Kevin Buron and AJ Morales were named to the All-Tournament team.

Kennedy recently returned from Miami, Florida for the 4th Annual Akerman LLP Holiday Classic at Gulliver Prep where JFK beat Florida Christian, 81-55 behind the high output of Alex Benson (31 points) while de Sousa (14), Henry O' Reilly (11) and Jordan Wright (9) balanced the sheet.

Kennedy, which eventually settled for second place in the tournament, also knocked off Gulliver Prep, 52-48 despite Gulliver having a 7-footer, 6'10, 6'7 and 6'6 in its starting line-up. de Sousa (14), Alex Benson (12) and Wright (10) all went for double digits.

NWE/PUTNAM FAB FIVE POLL

(Local Section 1 teams only)

No.1 PUTNAM VALLEY - Coach McDonnell's confident Tigers (8-1) believe, deep down, that they have Briarcliff all figured out, so long as they bring their A-game, which they will surely need on Jan.7th at the home of the big, bad Bears. Either way, this game should bring out all of the media bigwigs and draw lots of attention to the Class B scene.

No.2 YORKTOWN - Coach Downes' Huskers (4-2) would do really well to come away with a second-place finish in League I-D, though you won't find a Husker ready to concede anything to a Fox Lane team that Downes has scouted extensively. Having seen the Foxes with thine own two eyes, I can speak to their legit-ness, but I wonder if they can be out-toughed by a blue-collar club like Yorktown.

No.3 HEN HUD - Coach Hirsch's Sailors (5-3) will find out just how serious they are about their League I-B title aspirations when the host Sailors take on bordering rival Walter Panas on Jan.5th in what should be one of those pack-the-house type nights when the @HenHudFanBase and @PanasSports might actually help determine the



Panas F Shakiem White (shooting) and the Panthers will get a long-awaited crack at Hen Hud shortly out of the break.

outcome of this crazy rivalry. Don't think the 3-point 2nd quarter in a 52-36 loss to Sleepy Hollow at the Slam Dunk friendly went unnoticed, because that was downright yuck. "We played very carelessly and poorly in every aspect of the game. Sleepy is a tough, scrappy, athletic team and we really didn't do ourselves any favors," Coach Hirsch admitted.

No.4 PANAS - Coach Sully's Panthers (5-2) have been idle during the break but we still sense they can give Hen Hud everything - and then some - for the League I-B title, considering the Panthers have a budding point guard in young Brandon Hodge and a pair of burgeoning bigs in Jeremy O'Keefe and Shakiem White, who should hold the key to defeating the Sailors in Round 1 next Tuesday.

No.5 BREWSTER - Coach Nelly's Bears (4-3) had a legit chance to turn this poll on its keister but they did not have a body to match up with Hen Hud's Breeding, but they remain in the top 5 on account of quality W's against Put Valley and Mahopac.

HM OSSINING - Coach Casey's Pride (4-2) still have the curious loss to Greeley but the shakedown against Hen Hud comes on Jan. 9th at Pace University in what will be one of the early daggers in the league title chase. The Pride have length, size and athleticism on their side but I think the Sailors may have the best player (Breeding) on the floor and better discipline in their sets. We shall see, but there's not much separating these two teams and Panas in a balanced league.

Sports

Girls Hoops Notebook

Youthful Mahopac Top Fox Lane, Improves to 6-3

Ossining Snags Slam Dunk Title; Put Valley Trims Lakeland

By Tony Pinciario & Ray Gallagher

Mahopac graduated two starters and impact players – Alayne Felix and Caroline Horan – from the 2014-15 team so how would the Indians react to their departures?

Six wins in its first nine games has Mahopac ahead of schedule as it prepares for league season when school resumes in January. Add in the addition of four freshmen and one sophomore to the varsity team and it's easy to understand Mahopac's delight.

Mahopac closed out December with a 56-46 victory over Fox Lane as junior Amanda Geyer led the way with 14 points.

"We feel that it's a good start and now we just have to keep going forward, not backward," Geyer said.

Along with Geyer, classmate Carly Pease and senior Tara Ravoli returned for Mahopac. However, incorporating four freshmen and a sophomore into the team was an adjustment.

"We had a rough start with our scrimmages, but that was understandable

because with four freshmen and a sophomore, who were new to the team, we hadn't all played together so we had to get a feel for each other," Geyer said.

Along with the five new varsity underclassmen, Geyer said the remainder of the team had to raise their level of play.

"We had to step it up and build it up, together," Geyer said. "We all worked really hard because we love this sport and we are dedicated."

Mahopac opened the season with a loss to Peekskill. The Indians rebounded to win the Lakeland tournament, then lost to R.C. Ketcham in overtime of the Panas tournament final. Somers dealt Mahopac a second consecutive loss, but the Indians bounced back with consecutive wins.

"Winning the Lakeland tournament definitely boosted our confidence, especially after a tough game against Peekskill," Geyer said. "After the two losses in a row, it kind of brought us down, but made us come together."

"It was important for us to beat Kennedy and going into the Fox Lane game we felt better about ourselves."

Geyer, along with Ravoli and Pease, have been instrumental in

their underclassmen's transition to varsity. Geyer said the trio is constantly encouraging the younger players and making sure they are ok.

Mahopac coach Chuck Scozzafava was especially pleased with his team's performance against Fox Lane.

"We had a good effort," Scozzafava said. "Our offense is making progress and our defense is coming along nicely. It was a nice team win with 10 girls scoring."

OSSINING returned to its second home – the Westchester County Center – for the annual Slam-Dunk Challenge.

The Pride walked away with its third title in four years after beating Grand Street Campus, 75-67, then manhandling Albertus Magnus, 66-52. The final score was not indicative of



RAY GALLAGHER/RICK KUPERBERG

Putnam Valley F Catherine Mazza is hounded by Lakeland G Kelsey McCrudden in recent Tigers' win over Hornets.



Mahopac G Amanda Geyer has been a catalyst to the Indians' hot start this season.



Somers hotshot G Gabby Rosenzweig and the Tuskers will prepare for a big test against a vastly improved Fox Lane team on Jan.5.

Ossining's dominance as the Pride led by 22 after three quarters.

Shadeen Samuels was named most valuable player after scoring 33 and 24 points, respectively. Freshman Aubrey Griffin added 21 points and nine



Lakeland's Jordyn Coitino sniped three 3's in loss to Put Valley.

Sports

Girls Hoops Notebook

rebounds against Albertus Magnus. Griffin, who put up 51 points in the team's last game, against Arlington last Friday, has made the transition from Chicago to Ossining quite swimmingly.

Samuels also finished with six rebounds, five assists and four steals against Albertus Magnus, and the youngsters appear to be handling the "Ossining Way" of doing things under her guidance.

"So far so good, a few bumps along the way but they seem to be getting it," Ricci said of the rookies. "We passed another test today beating reigning Class A champion. Shadeen has been great. There is a lot of pressure on her playing with three freshmen, but she has done a great job so far. I would like her to be more vocal when things get chaotic and she will with time."

Ossining trailed by five points, 38-33, at halftime against Grand Street Campus before outscoring the Brooklyn school by 13 in the second half.

The 6-0 Pride travel to Orlando, Florida for three games in the KSA Classic. Ossining opens with St. Thomas More, of Lafayette, La., Tuesday, before beginning their assault on League I-B foes.

LAKELAND went 0 for 2 on the short week. **PUTNAM VALLEY** rallied to a 46-42 win over Lakeland, then the Hornets ran into a buzzsaw in Pearl River.



Putnam Valley's recent run of success coincides with Alyssa Stockinger's fine play, including scoring, boards and assists.

"We were leading through the third quarter then struggled offensively when Colleen (Walsh) had to sit with foul trouble in the third and part of the fourth quarters," Lakeland coach Miranda Lustig said. "Both Colleen and Jordyn Coitino fouled out in the fourth quarter."

Coitino led Lakeland with 15 points and Walsh finished with eight points.

Putnam Valley was led by senior C Reena Olsen, who had 16 points and 12 rebounds in the win over the Hornets. F Alyssa Stockinger chipped in with 11 points after going for a triple double against Croton a week earlier. Stockinger added four rebounds and hit two free throws to seal the win over Lakeland, one of the Valley's biggest since 2007.

Tiger point guard Maria Tomais added 10 points (2 3's). Lakeland was led by sharp-shooting Coitino, who hit three 3's.

Putnam Valley (4-4) faces visiting Pleasantville on Jan. 5th.

PEEKSKILL saw its All-NYS G Lanay Rodney go off for a career-high 44 points in a 79-77 win over Woodlands as the Red Devils improved to 3-1 on the year. "It pretty much came to a point where Teisha Hyman of Woodlands and I were going back and fourth, score for score," Rodney said. "And I was able to outscore her in the end."

WALTER PANAS made a statement in the Panthers' 69-51 win over reigning Section 1 Class C champion **HALDANE** last Tuesday. Danielle Merante dropped a game-high 21 points for Panas while Melissa Keefe added 19 points. Haldane's Missy Lisikatos and Allison Chiera each scored 14 points.

Girls basketball coaches who are not contacting Examiner girls' hoops beat writer Tony Pinciario at Tfinch23@optonline.com are doing the student athletes in their respective program a serious injustice. If you don't see your team's recaps in this weekly notebook, ask your coach why.



Peekskill senior Lanay Rodney exploded for a career-high 44 points in a 79-77 win over Woodlands, Peekskill improved to 3-1.



Put Valley G Maria Tomais runs an effective point in recent win over Lakeland.



Put Valley's Reena Olsen blocks a shot by Lakeland's Kelsey Walsh in Tigers' win over Hornets.

Hey Maca- Reena!

Put Valley Edges, Lakeland, 46-42



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

In one of Putnam Valley's biggest wins in at least eight years, senior center Reena Olsen notched a bountiful double-double, dropping 16 points and snagging 12 rebounds in last Monday's 46-42 win over visiting Lakeland. The Cornell-bound Olsen added four blocks and made Colleen Walsh (fouled above) and the Hornets pay for every point they got during the Valley's biggest win in nearly a decade... see Girls Hoops Notebook