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December 8 - December 14, 2015

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 7, Issue 350

Private Garbage Collection Debate Draws Much Interest in Patterson

By David Propper

No decision will be made about whether to privatize all garbage collection in Patterson until next year, but that didn't stop residents from coming out to express their opposition to the plan at last week's town board meeting.

After a sanitation subcommittee made up of town board members, and highway and sanitation workers undertook a yearlong study, findings were discussed Wednesday night at a heated town board meeting that took place in the Patterson recreation center to accommodate the large crowd.

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DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

Patterson sanitation and highway workers came out in full force to hear what the town board had to say about possibly privatizing garbage collection throughout the entire town.

Serino and Videographer Clash in Putnam Valley

By David Propper

Controversy exploded inside Putnam Valley town hall last Tuesday after a constituent in the 41st senate district was threatened with arrest for attempting to videotape an informal forum featuring New York State Senator Sue Serino inside the town hall's meeting room.

The most memorable moment of an otherwise mundane community conversation with Serino occurred before the forum even got underway, when Serino and a man who identified himself as Mert Melfa of Poughkeepsie clashed over him trying to videotape the public meeting. The entire confrontation was caught on tape by Melfa who posted the video clip online. As of Sunday night, the video has registered more than 9,000 views on YouTube.

The videotaping came to an end when a Putnam County Sheriff's deputy arrived and after a few minutes told the videographer "you're pushing that line" toward an arrest.

The forum was scheduled to begin at 5



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

NYS Senator Sue Serino at an informal forum last week that certainly had some controversy.

p.m. but Serino didn't appear until more than 20 minutes later. When she did, she said she talked to her chief of staff and legal counsel stated that the videographer can be asked not to film because residents at the forum may not feel comfortable to speak

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Putnam Youths Play Vet During 4-H Program



PHOTO COURTESY OF CORNELL COOPERATIVE

Cornell Cooperative Extension's Youth Development Program has just completed the recent 4-H Jr. Vet Program. In a joint partnership with South Putnam Animal Hospital, 15 Putnam County youths took part in the 6-week series as an introduction to explore a career in the veterinary sciences with hands-on experience and a chance to shadow local veterinarians. Participants learned about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) related careers. A special acknowledgement goes to Dr. Kathi Heiber and Teresa Delahanty of South Putnam Hospital, Brook Farm Veterinary Center and Northfork Stables for a successful program. The Jr. Vet Program will be offered again in the Spring and is open to all Putnam County youth, 4-H membership is not required, between the ages of 9-14. For additional information about Cornell Cooperative Extension and the 4-H program please contact 845-278-6738 or online at Putnam.cce.cornell.edu.

Mahopac Fire Department Spars with Carmel Town Board

By David Propper

After a couple months of silence, the Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department finally spoke up—and spoke out against losing some of its requested funding in next year's budget adopted by the Carmel town board.

During last Wednesday's town board meeting, chairman of the Mahopac fire department's Board of Commissioners

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*‘Did you look at a check for 12 years up until two months ago.’
Carmel Councilman
Jonathan Schneider*

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Legislators React to Former NYS Assembly Leader's Guilty Verdict

By David Propper

Former New York State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver's disgraceful fall came to an end last week when he was convicted on federal corruption charges, leading once again to questions of ethics reform in the New York State Legislature.

Silver was found guilty on all seven charges that could result in up to 130 years in jail. According to reports, his attorneys plan to file an appeal. Because of his guilty verdict, Silver automatically forfeits his assembly seat, which the Manhattan Democrat held for nearly 40 years. He had been assembly speaker since 1994 until he resigned shortly after he was charged earlier

this year.

"Today, Sheldon Silver got justice, and at long last, so did the people of New York," Preet Bharara, the US Attorney that prosecuted Silver, said in a one sentence statement.

In a statement, Governor Andrew Cuomo also said that justice was served.

"Corruption was discovered, investigated, and prosecuted, and the jury has spoken," Cuomo, a Democrat, said. "With the allegations proven, it is time for the Legislature to take seriously the need for reform. There will be zero tolerance for the violation of the public trust in New York."

While Cuomo offered no further details into how state lawmakers could reform and combat corruption, local lawmakers had some ideas.

In a press release, Republican Steve Katz called it a monumental day in New York following Silver's conviction. Katz, who could be considered Silver's most fierce critic, noted he's warned New Yorkers for years the sort of corruption that Silver partook in.

"While arguably the most notorious criminal to have disgraced our legislature is now convicted; the time has come to drain the cesspool, the festering carbuncle of a legislative swamp that is called Albany," Katz said in a fiery statement.

Repeating his call for term limits, Katz said no one should be in the assembly for

more than eight years and would want the proposal of term limits to be placed on the ballot for state voters to determine.

"As a matter of fact, every single member of the Assembly who voted to keep Sheldon Silver as Speaker should be term limited out," Katz stated. "Let's face it; none of these people have the integrity nor decency to vote for term limits."

Democratic Assemblywoman Sandy Galef expressed her disappointment in Silver's criminal behavior.

"It's just a very difficult time for all of us in government when any of our colleagues misuse the public's trust and figure out ways to get around the laws that they create," Galef said. "It's very problematic."

One piece of legislation that Galef advocated for many years ago is term-limiting how long a lawmaker can chair a committee or sit as speaker of a legislative body. It passed in the state senate but couldn't get enough clout in the assembly, Galef said. The committee and speaker limit would be for a total of eight years, she proposed.

"That would have stopped it maybe because the power hadn't grown so much," Galef, looking back on Silver's career, said. "It's so troubling because I think the majority of people in government are very honest and ethical people and they're for public service and helping others and not helping themselves."



Former NYS Assembly Speaker and now convicted felon Sheldon Silver.

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Peripheral vascular disease involves a loss of blood flow to hands and feet due to narrowing of the arteries. Pressure ulcers, which you may know as "bedsores," are chronic wounds resulting from sustained pressure where bone is close to the skin surface, reducing blood supply. Wounds can cause severe infections

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Mahopac Fire Department Spars with Carmel Town Board

continued from page 1

George Jones and Carmel town board members clashed over the department getting \$1.2 million, which is \$550,000 less than it wanted, as a result of the ongoing investigation into the department's missing millions.

Speaking on behalf of the department's 145 members, Jones said he tried to meet with the town board and specifically Supervisor Ken Schmitt on numerous occasions, but the two sides never met to discuss the department's requested budget. He said proper fire protection requires planning, and when the department puts its budget in, it does so to ensure it can put some of that money aside in savings for the future.

"By decreasing the budget amount to what it takes to operate for the year, you are potentially increasing the risk of our members," Jones said.

He claimed the department didn't get official notice from the board that it would lose some of its funding, an assertion Schmitt shot down. The Republican supervisor, who just earned another term, said he personally called Jones to tell him the budget would be reduced prior to the Nov. 4 public hearing.

"You think official notice from the supervisor isn't official notice," Schmitt questioned.

From there, the floodgates opened and a back-and-forth ensued for the next 30 minutes.

Councilman Jonathan Schneider slammed the commissioners board for a lack of accountability and called it a "major, major issue" for him. He asked how could the department know what it takes to operate when it was difficult for them to provide financials to the board supported with invoices, statements, or checks.

Schneider said he'd rather hear from the fire chief and department president about what the department needs because "they feel the same way a lot of the taxpayers feel."

"As a fire department, we do put a lot of trust in our members," Jones said. "We might've trusted this guy a little too much."

"Did you look at a check for 12 years up until two months ago," Schneider shot back.

Councilman Frank Lombardi said many residents are outraged by the missing money from the department over a long period of time. While the town board appreciates what the department does, Lombardi asked, "do you really get it" regarding the anger among residents. While Jones said he wants to have a dialogue with the town board, Lombardi said he recalls the board only meeting with the board of commissioners twice in six years.

"You can't say you can't run the

department when someone has been taking, it sounds to me from what I understand, over ten years, \$5 million," Lombardi said. "That's half-a-million-a-year."

When Jones asked how the board arrived at the amount of money it did to give the department this year, Schneider said it used past financials it was able to attain to come to that determination. Schneider repeated what he said a couple weeks ago, that most of the members on the fire commissioners board don't live within the district.

Councilwoman Suzi McDonough stressed the contract between the department and the town board needs to be changed to put better safeguards in place.

"We need to work together to find out what is the safest and correct way to do it so this does not happen again," she said. "Things will be changed in the contract and I expect you guys would expect that because you can't keep it the same."

The contract would be signed by March when the funding kicks in. There has been no update on the embezzlement investigation undertaken by multiple agencies. Former department treasurer Michael Klein resigned from his post two months ago.

"We put our trust in one of our brothers and we got burned by it," Jones said.

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Private Garbage Collection Debate Draws Much Interest in Patterson

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Town Councilmen Shawn Rogan and Peter Dandreano were the two town board members on the sub-committee that explored existing and future sanitation services in town. Sanitation District 1, which is the Putnam Lake community, already has a private garbage hauler and the yearly household charge is on average \$191. Sanitation District 2, which is west of Route 22, is the area that is covered by municipal services and the yearly charge for residents on average is \$362.

There were three options, Rogan listed: Keep things the way they were, turn the entire town over to a private hauler, or have the entire town serviced by municipal workers, although that last option didn't seem probable because of the lack of equipment.

Rogan also made clear there is no plan to close the recycling center.

Supervisor Michael Griffin painted a grim picture of the town's financials. He noted mortgage tax revenue into the new century was between \$600,000 and 800,000. Now, that money had dwindled back to the 1994 mark of between \$200,000 and \$300,000, Griffin said.

Griffin said the last year has been tough financially for the town. One reason for the difficulties was the town needed to start paying for a private ambulance service because volunteers couldn't keep



Supervisor Michael Griffin.



Councilmen Shawn Rogan (left) and Pete Dandreano.



CSEA representative in the highway department Phil Capalbo.

up with the volume of emergency calls. Since July, the town has paid \$21,000 a month to ensure ambulance service everyday. Griffin said the town budgeted \$275,000 for the service for next year.

Search for cost savings have been stressed, Griffin said, and privatizing garbage collection is just one of those options. By privatizing garbage, residents would save about \$1,000 individually over five years from their fee, and the town overall would save \$2.5 million over five years.

"In five years we're going to be in a negative territory," Griffin, who is retiring this year, said. "We're going to be in big trouble."

He added the town has negotiated with the CSEA Union from the highway department and has reached an impasse. The union asked for \$260,000 in wage and benefit increases and the town had asked for as much in concessions, but neither side would budge, Griffin said.

CSEA representative for the town highway department, Phil Capalbo, beat back against Griffin's assertion, stating the town had 13 pages of concessions and the

union had just five. He stressed the list of concessions is more of a wish list than anything else. In the previous contract from three years ago, the union gave back overtime language, agreed to contribute more to healthcare, and gave up vacation schedules for new employees, Capalbo said.

One way to save the town money, Capalbo said is by getting grants for the sanitation department that hadn't been previously broached. The town could also save money through efficient recycling and new technology.

Capalbo pointed out that while the town can negotiate over costs with the union, it wouldn't have much leverage against a private carter. The amount of money used for the municipal sanitation department is exactly how much money is needed to run its yearly operation.

The town sent out to bid what the cost of garbage pick-up would be from private carters to get an idea of the cost. While all three are lower than what it cost to operate municipally, Capalbo asserted certain information in the bid process was done incorrectly and resulted in the lower return bids than in actuality.

AAA Carting offered a bid of \$169 for each resident for one year, Royal Carting offered \$360, and Suburban Carting offered \$319.

"I hope when the costs get too high for private carters, you're able to get them to the town board and say 'hey the economy stinks and we need give backs, can you help us out,'" he said. "And I'm not sure you're going to get that help from the private carters."

Capalbo also said he hopes incoming supervisor Rich Williams sticks with his campaign pledge that he would look for any cost savings over the next year before he opted to turn garbage collection to a private carter.

Residents that spoke generally told the town board they thought any plan to privatize garbage service stunk.

Resident Andy Falk, who ran for Patterson supervisor this year and lost

by 17 votes, unloaded on the board for even considering privatizing garbage collection. He asked the residents in attendance to stand up if they supported the sanitation department, which followed by the majority of the crowd rising to their feet.

He said for 55 additional cents each day, residents were willing to pay that to see the town keep its municipal garbage service.

Falk then assailed the town board for discussing ways to save money, even though the board voted to give every member a raise in the 2016 budget, adding he's "ashamed" of the town board.

"You dipped into our reserves to bring the budget in under the tax cap and when you saw that pile of money on the table, you took it and you stuck it in your pocket," Falk said.

Resident Ken Harper questioned how the garbage fee residents individually pay is connected to the loss of money in the town's general fund. Griffin's retort is that it still affects the tax cap number in what the town can raise in overall taxes because it is not separated by district.

Harper added he's happy to pay more money for a municipal service because of the more personal service he gets than he would from a private company.

Resident Joe Bellucci said the sanitation workers put a tremendous amount of effort into their job every day. He too, voiced his willingness to pay extra to keep the sanitation department in Patterson.

"I know how hard they work and I know what a job means," he said. "I know people that have lost jobs and in America, that's a big thing."

Jane Smith, Putnam Sheriff's Wife, Dies



COURTESY OF PUTNAM HOSPITAL CENTER

After a long and courageous fight with cancer, Jane Smith, the wife of Putnam County Sheriff Don Smith, has died at 65. Sheriff Smith and Jane were married for more than 40 years. She leaves behind a son and daughter, and eight grandchildren. She passed away Sunday. Funeral Services were not known as of press time Monday.



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Kent Lawmakers Look to Officially Rename Causeway

By David Propper

Renaming a causeway is easier said than done, as became evident at Kent's town board meeting last week.

During a ceremony prior to Thanksgiving ushering in a new and improved causeway on Nichols Street in town, the only aspect missing from the festivities was officially renaming that part of the road, "Veterans Memorial Causeway" because it lacked town board approval. At a town board meeting last Tuesday, lawmakers discussed what would be the best name for the causeway

going forward, but not without some quarreling first.

Currently, the causeway is known as Little Fill's.

Some town board members were upset that a road was being renamed before it went through the proper process and the board didn't have a chance to officially approve it. That set up a spirited back-and-forth between Kent Highway Superintendent Rich Othmer and town board members.

Othmer apologized and took responsibility for the mix-up, noting as

a former county legislator, he believes in going through the legislative process. Because the road leads to Veterans Memorial Park, he and other local veterans like resident Karl Rohde thought that name was appropriate.

"I thought it made common sense because it's connected," Othmer said.

Fleming said when Othmer mentioned Veterans Memorial Causeway to her prior to the ribbon cutting; she too was excited about the proposal.

But Councilman Mike Tierney said he didn't even know about the causeway



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

Public officials celebrated the fixed causeway on Nichols Street in November but didn't officially rename it.

ribbon cutting and possible renaming and slammed an email sent out to residents that claimed some town board members were resistant to the name change. Tierney, along with every board member voiced his or her support for a veteran themed name for the causeway.

Councilman Paul Denbaum said he was upset that it appeared the county was renaming the road without permission from the town board and nobody on the board knew about it. He also didn't like that Councilman Bill Huestis and Othmer didn't get credit from the county press release for the work they put into the causeway. Fleming acknowledged she was unaware that a press advisory from the county was even issued until after the fact.

After the flap over miscommunication between officials settled down, town board members looked into actually renaming the causeway. Huestis said he thought a veteran-themed name was a great idea and offered other possible names like Armed Forces Way, Heroes Way, GI Crossing, Military Service Crossing, and more. He even mentioned naming it after a certain person that either lived or still lives in the area.

He encouraged public input when deciding on a new name.

"Whoever comes up with a recommendation, I'd ask to step back and really look at this and we'll vote," Huestis said. "We'll be supportive. I'm sure you're going to get a 5-0 vote and that's going to be remarkable on this town of Kent (board)."

Rohde, who is the Veterans Affairs director for the county, encouraged the board to select a name that would include a wide net of veterans rather than just one specific person or group.

It appears that Veterans Memorial Causeway was the leading potential name-change and could be voted on as early as next meeting.

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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

After Filming Dustup, Serino Holds Wide-Ranging Forum

By David Propper

Once the clash between New York State Senator Sue Serino and a videographer hoping to film her during an informal forum concluded, Serino heard from Putnam County and the surrounding region residents about an array of issues last Tuesday.

During the nearly hour long town hall style meeting called "Community Conversation with Sue Serino," the freshman lawmaker along with Putnam Valley town board members mostly discussed the progress, if any, that's been made in building an overpass at Pudding Street to cross the Taconic State Parkway. The crossing has been hailed as unsafe by officials for years.

Serino said she's working with the state Department of Transportation and the design and engineering selection process has been completed and the consultant can begin his analysis on the proposed project. Right now, work on the project wouldn't begin until 2020, but Serino is hoping a new DOT commissioner will spur the project forward faster.

The start date for construction of the overpass was originally pegged for 2016 or 2017, incoming supervisor Sam Oliverio said.

"2020 is four more years of Putnam Valley school district busses crossing," Councilman Steve Mackay said, adding



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

From left to right, incoming Putnam Valley supervisor Sam Oliverio, Councilwoman Wendy Whetsel, and NYS Senator Sue Serino listen to the concern of a resident.

the state DOT told residents it wasn't a priority because there weren't fatalities yet.

Serino said she heard it takes three deaths before they can speed up the process, calling that prospect "scary."

Councilman Louie Luongo said the safety of motorists on that road is more critical than any environmental concerns the state DOT might have, stressing, "If that's what our stumbling block is, I think we need to get our priorities straight."

Putnam Valley Board of Education member Guy Cohen noted the state has told town and school officials at least four times it was moving ahead with the overpass, but no concrete results seem close.

"It doesn't make any sense when you have delays on all these projects that they have especially when they know it's dangerous," Serino said.

Outside of the Pudding Street discussion, issues at the forum were more regional.

Former legislator and Putnam Valley senior Marie Zarcone expressed how seniors in the region are struggling to remain in their homes because of the tax bill each year, specifically from the school system. Zarcone said it was a good time to introduce a bill to counteract the taxes seniors pay.

"You're going to get to a certain age where income get much, much lower," Zarcone said. "You need to have some help."

Serino noted lawmakers plan on eliminating the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) that would bring millions back to school systems. Overall, the pot is roughly \$600 million, which could result in lower property taxes.

Oliverio, a Putnam Valley High School assistant principal, said because school taxes are tied to property and not income, it hurts seniors that live on a fixed income like social security.

A few residents questioned how committed Serino was to fighting against Common Core and the SAFE Act, a set of controversial gun laws in New York.

Putnam Valley resident Kathy Zebzda said Serino voted for the budget, which included funding for both Common Core and the SAFE Act. Serino responded by noting Republican lawmakers made changes with the Common Core prior to the final budget going through and if they didn't vote on it, it would have reverted back to Democratic Governor Andrew Cuomo's proposed budget.

Serino said lawmakers are pushing for more participation among parents and teachers and that Cuomo is "nervous and backpedaling" regarding his push of the learning standards.

"The kids have lost their love of learning and the teachers have lost their love of teaching," Serino said, vowing to push even harder this legislative session.

With ethics reform a hot topic now, Serino said one way to combat corruption is to extend terms and set term limits. Serino would rather see a three or four year term and then limit a lawmaker's term in the assembly or senate to eight years.

She noted she was excited to get underway with new Senate Majority leader John Flanagan and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie.

Another resident asked Serino what she's done to scrap the SAFE Act, to which Serino replied one of the first bills she signed onto was to repeal the SAFE Act.



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Serino and Videographer Clash in Putnam Valley

continued from page 1
out while video recorded.

"It's not the same forum and I'd like to have an open dialogue and I don't want anyone to be worried about what they're saying," Serino said. "I'm asking you to remove the camera."

Several times Melfa said because it was a public meeting, he had the right to film it. A few residents that attended the forum defended him and cited Open Meeting Law, but to no avail.

Putnam Valley Councilwoman Jackie Annabi, who works for Serino's office, also asked Melfa to stop video recording and said she believed there were residents in attendance that didn't want to speak on camera. When Melfa vowed to not film the residents, but only Serino's answers, that didn't go over well either.

"(Serino's) a guest here in Putnam Valley and we're asking you to please not disrespect our town board and to shut down the camera," Annabi said.

The deputy sheriff appeared to give the reasoning that the meeting was only open to Putnam Valley or Putnam County residents, to which Melfa, a Dutchess County resident, responded residency doesn't matter because it's still a public meeting.

"I think you're making up your own rules because this is a public meeting," Melfa said.

After Melfa left, Serino said that same

videographer in the past has videotaped and edited her remarks to make her look bad.

Other elected officials at the meeting included Councilmen Steve Mackay and Louie Luongo and Councilwoman Wendy Whetsel. Supervisor-elect Sam Oliverio was also in attendance.

In a statement, Sheriff Don Smith said after a review and assessing the entire situation, the sheriff's department concluded that the citizen was acting within his rights to use the video recording equipment.

Smith stated the deputy acted "in good faith and with pure intentions" in trying to defuse the situation in front of him. The deputy also relied on Serino's statement that a legal determination had been rendered that Melfa's use of a camera was deemed illegal.

"The deputy's reliance upon the announced opinion of the official's (Serino) legal counsel to the contrary was misplaced, because that legal opinion does not appear to be in accord with the Open Meetings Law or the court cases interpreting it," Smith stated. "We regret that the misunderstanding about the Open Meetings Law provisions occurred in this case."

He commended the deputy and Melfa for both maintaining a calm demeanor during the entire ordeal.

"I have directed my command staff to review with our members the provisions of the Open Meetings Law governing the recording of proceedings by citizens, Smith said. "My staff will also remind our members that, whenever the exigencies of a future situation do not make it impossible, before taking action to stop a citizen's recording of a meeting they should seek supervisory guidance in assessing the validity of a ruling by a public body that the recording is prohibited."

Robert Freeman of the Department of State Committee on Open Government said if a majority of the town board were present and functioning as the board, the Open Meetings Law would apply and allow anyone to record. If those board members were just there to observe, then the Open Meeting Law doesn't apply.

Freeman said he believes Serino has the right to ask the videographer not to record, but he wasn't sure the videographer would need to abide by that request.

"In 2015, virtually every event of any significance or many of no significance are recorded all the time. It is part of life," Freeman said. "To suggest that people either do not or cannot record is out of sync with the reality of our society today."

According to the Department of State Committee on Open Government, "any meeting of a public body that is open to the public can be photographed, broadcast,

webcast, or otherwise recorded and/or transmitted by audio or video means."

The Putnam Examiner, which attended the roughly hour-long forum that featured topics ranging from lowering taxes and local Putnam Valley needs to Common Core and the SAFE Act, audio recorded the entire meeting without an issue.

After the meeting, Serino defended her actions and said she checked with legal counsel to ensure she could ask him not to videotape.

"We would never do anything without doing that and (counsel) said 'yes, we have the right to ask him to not film,'" Serino said.

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Business
of the Week

Kelly-Oster School of Irish Dance Baldwin Place

By Neal Rentz

Irish Line Dancing has been an important part of the life of Brewster resident Karyn Oster since childhood.

"I could dance before I could walk," Oster said last week, adding many family members were avid Irish dancers and some even won world championships.

She translated her passion for Irish dance into a long career. The Kelly-Oster School of Dance was started nearly 35 years ago by Kerry Kelly-Oster, Oster's mother.

"I knew I always wanted to teach dance," Oster said.

Oster described what Irish Step Dancing is. "We only use our feet. We don't use our arms," she said. "That comes from the history of being in protest to the English king." Back in the famine times of Ireland in the 19th century, "The Irish were pretty much slaves in their own country," she said. "They were actually banned from dancing." If they were dancing from the waste down it was not considered dancing, she said.

"It's very intricate footwork," Oster said. "We do both soft shoe and hard shoe, like ballet and tap."

The school has trained several champion Irish dancers. Competitions are judged on such elements as timing of dancing to music, footwork and body positioning, Oster said.

Over the Thanksgiving weekend students from the dance school participated in the regional Mid-Atlantic Oireachtas (the Irish word for competition) in Philadelphia, which featured dancers from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. The school took home first and second place in the team dance drama competition, qualifying the participants for next year's North American competition in Orlando, FL in July and the world championships in Scotland in March. "In six minutes we have to tell a traditional Irish story all through



COURTESY OF KELLY-OSTER SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE

From left to right: Brewster's Kerry Kelly-Oster is the founder of the Kelly-Oster School of Irish Dance. Olivia Hoyt, a 7-year old-dancer, lives in Mahopac, and recently placed 17th at the Mid-Atlantic Oireachtas last weekend in the Girls Under 8 solo competition. Karyn Oster, director of the Kelly-Oster School of Irish Dance, lives in Brewster.

Irish dancing," Oster said. However, though the two teams qualified for the world championships, their spots will be transferred to 2017 because Oster and her mother are judging the 2016 world championships. "It's an amazing opportunity for my mom and me," Oster said.

The Kelly-Oster students have practiced for years, Oster said. For example, the youngest competitor in a solo category in the November competition is seven and has been dancing since she was four, Oster said. The Kelly-Oster students compete and perform at various venues throughout the year and can take classes all year round, except for a brief Christmas season break of about two weeks. The students took part in over 100 performances during this year's St. Patrick's Day season, Oster said.

Teachers from a dance school in

England have been coming to the Baldwin Place school every year for the past decade to share their expertise with students.

While the school specializes in Irish Line Dancing, it also offers ballet and tap dances, which are often used as secondary techniques for the Irish dancing participants, Oster said. There are introduction to dance classes for children as young as two and classes are offered for both youths and adults, though the line dancing competitions are limited to those up to the age of 21, Oster said.

Most of the school's students come from Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess, Oster said. The family also holds classes

in Hopewell Junction.

The school was originally opened by Oster's mother in Carmel and has been in various locations before moving to its current spot last year, Oster said.

Aside from learning to dance, students learn to get up in front of a crowd and be able to be a good public speaker through their competition experience, Oster said. "They're usually more outgoing," she said.

Oster said she wants her students to receive life lessons. "Hard work pays off. They have to go home and practice," she said. "They have to follow through, if they dedicate themselves and they really work hard they will win that trophy."

But hard work alone may not guarantee victory and students also need to deal with defeat. "That doesn't make you any less of a person," she said. "It doesn't degrade your hard work."

"My goal is to make it extremely family orientated," Oster said. Throughout the year the school works with students and parents to raise funds to pay for some of the expenses involved with taking part in competitions, she said.

"I think the key to success is actually just treating the kids and the parents as people," Oster said. "We make it a family event. We try to invite everybody in."

The Kelly-Oster School of Irish Dance is located at 267 Tomahawk St. in Baldwin Place. For more information call 845-598-3094 or visit <http://www.kellyoster.com>.

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Editorial

Serino's Battle with Videographer at Forum Ill-Advised

What occurred inside Putnam Valley town hall last Tuesday prior to a "Community Conversation" with NYS Senator Sue Serino was a disgrace. There's no other way to describe the affront on the 1st Amendment.

Before the informal forum got underway, Serino walked in and told a 41st district constituent prepared to videotape the forum that after conferring with legal counsel, she could tell him to put the camera away. The man, Poughkeepsie resident Mert Melfa, refused and from there, things spiraled out of control ending with a Putnam County Sheriff deputy threatening to arrest Melfa if he didn't comply.

At that point, Melfa packed up and left. While Serino stood firm, citing her legal counsel's understanding of the law, the legality is irrelevant. While it's up for debate if Serino outright violated the Open Meetings Law, she undoubtedly broke the spirit of it. Serino's reasons for not allowing Melfa to videotape seem conflicting.

On one hand, Serino cited how attendees may feel uncomfortable in front of a camera and she wanted to have an "open dialogue." A few residents in attendance in fact stood up for Melfa's right to videotape. And, more generally

speaking, residents who attend these community forums often love having their questions and statements on tape; it allows them to get their ideas and opinions out to the public. On the other hand, she argued Melfa has taped her at other events and made selective edits to make her look bad.

So which is it? Concern for residents or concern for herself? Serino even had her own videographer the night after in Dutchess County at another informal forum to counteract any selective editing by others, so apparently the idea that residents couldn't speak freely in front of a camera changed quite quickly in 24 hours. Even if Melfa is the most obnoxious and maniacal constituent in Serino's district, it doesn't matter.

Free speech applies to everyone. The excuses Serino gave were as head scratching as they were insulting to her constituent's intelligence. Even worse, Serino got other public officials involved in an attempt to stop the videotaping. Putnam Valley Councilwoman Jackie Annabi also requested Melfa turn the tape off after Serino failed to persuade him.

Considering Annabi (who works for Serino's office) has proven herself to champion open government and is a refreshingly straightforward lawmaker,

her involvement was rather disheartening. When her request didn't work, a deputy sheriff was unfairly expected to handle the situation.

Police officers are primarily trained to keep the peace. While the deputy handled the situation as best he could, Serino sat silent, expecting others to fight her ill-advised battle. Putnam County Sheriff Don Smith has come out and said Melfa should've been allowed to videotape and New York State Committee on Open Government Executive Director Robert Freeman added it's unrealistic to expect people to not videotape public events like this one in this day and age.

Serino should be commended for holding forums and gathering concerns from residents in her district. The forum Tuesday proved to be productive. Ironically, by Serino quashing filming of what was an otherwise controversy-free forum, she did more damage to her reputation than anything Melfa could have caught on tape or even edited together.

Hopefully, Serino learns from this event and when she claims to support full transparency, actually proves it with her actions. If not, perhaps she should consider retiring from public life where the cameras won't be pointed at her.

Letter to the Editor

Thanksgiving Dinner for Vets a Success Once Again

It is one of my favorite times of the year that I, along with hundreds of volunteers get to welcome, salute, honor, respect and thank our Veterans. The 5th Annual Veteran's Thanksgiving Dinner was held on Saturday, November 21st at the Putnam County Golf Course. Over the two seating's, we were grateful to serve over 500 veterans and their guests.

It was such a wonderful sight to see. The New York Flag men greeted the veterans with flags waving in the wind. As the veterans entered the hall, numerous boy scouts and cub scouts shook the veterans' hands, waved flags, held welcome and thank you signs and smiled as the veterans made their way through.

This was only the beginning of such a touching event. You could feel the warmth and sincere appreciation for the veterans as they were ushered to their seats between rows of applauding volunteers. Waiting at their tables were handmade placemats and center pieces by the Lakeland School District which they got to take home. As we stood and sang the National Anthem together, the love for our nation resounded loud and clear.

And, we must never forget our veterans who are still missing, or who have died. As we stood in silence as the POW ceremony took place, it reminds each and every one



of us what has been given, or taken away, so that we may live in freedom.

As I stood and watched, greeted, and talked to the veterans I could not help but wonder what they have experienced and I can only wish, pray and hope that this dinner helped ease some of their pain.

The veterans were served a full course Thanksgiving Dinner by volunteers, and the beverages and desserts were served by the Girl Scouts. As they conversed with the other veterans at their table, they listened to music provided by Soulshine Entertainment and an unexpected arrival of Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus (aka Ed and Helen Hess) handed out candy canes. As the veterans exited they were once again greeted with a line of Cub Scouts handing them handmade thank you cards.

This day was truly the community coming together to thank the men and

women who have given us the freedom that we all continue to enjoy each and every day. Thank you Veterans, thank you volunteers, and thank you to this community.

Special thanks to: Purple Heart Homes NY Downstate Chapter, Black Stone, Former Senator Greg Ball and Joe Bachmeier, Al Ciuffetelli, Putnam Golf Course, Hannafords, Value Village, Aversano's, On-Line Hair Design, Morgan Stanley, Lakeland School District, Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney, Tompkins Mahopac Bank, Cross Roads Deli, Putnam County Health Dept., Clocktower Grill & Bar, Town of Southeast Recreation Dept. Youth Basketball League, Pepsi, Putnam County Fish & Game, Lou Cardillo, Bucci's Deli, Traditions, Villa Barone, Tap House, Chophouse, The Carriage House, Freight House Café, Brooklyn Organic kitchen, Grand Central Deli, Four Brothers, Tim Russell, Lynne Mongon, Maryanne Gallipani and all of the volunteers.

Thank you!
Suzi McDonough
Town of Carmel Councilwoman

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9
10				11				12		
13				14				15		
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			26		27					28
29	30	31					32			
33				34		35		36		
37				38				39		
40				41				42		

Crossword by Myles Mellor

Answers on page 15

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Across

- 1 Hydro-massage facility
- 4 Fat letters
- 7 Ladies' wear
- 10 Yonder ship
- 11 Weather report backdrop
- 12 Attention
- 13 Evil warrior in "The Lord of the Rings"
- 14 Mexican neighbor (abbr.)
- 15 Target
- 16 Saudi Arabian money
- 18 Curving, twisting line, shape or form or Mahopac frozen yogurt shop
- 20 Anticlimax
- 22 Stuff to be crunched
- 23 Say again
- 26 Campaigner's greeting
- 29 Moguls
- 32 The Grinch's season
- 33 Detergent brand
- 34 Best guess: abbr.
- 36 Rest
- 37 Skipping contraction
- 38 ___plasm
- 39 Put the kibosh on
- 40 Palindromic Bobbsey twin
- 41 Pig paddock
- 42 Lawyer's thing

Down

- 1 Like the weakened Samson
- 2 Sentence ender
- 3 Secrets
- 4 Cassowary's cousin

- 5 Cue stroke
- 6 Brought forth
- 7 Tolerate
- 8 Train track
- 9 Prepares for battle
- 17 "Hands off me!"
- 19 The ___ and Scratchy show
- 21 If Valerie Bertinelli and Ben Kingsley were an item or gourmet deli in Somers
- 24 Truck
- 25 How some people shop
- 27 Thing for the plus column
- 28 Homeowner's documents
- 29 Gas used in signs
- 30 Carpentry calculation
- 31 Type of owl
- 35 Christmas present, often

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New Prayer Garden Blessed in Mahopac

Dozens of St. John the Evangelist Church parishioners waded across the street two Sundays ago and joined Father. Quinn, the pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church, in a blessing of the new prayer garden. The garden, will function as an outdoor prayer space for parishioners and visitors of the parish. The large garden area contains memorialized benches, statues, and a paved stone walkway for reflection and prayer. The garden also features a Children's Section, especially for the parish's younger members. Parishioners also chipped in to memorialize two guardian angel statues in that area for Jenna Nolan and Sean Callahan, two young parishioners of St. John's who passed away in 2014 and 2015, respectively. The prayer garden project, which began with a groundbreaking on July 17, has been welcomed enthusiastically by the St. John's parishioners, hundreds of whom purchased paver stones over the last few months to memorialize their families or loved ones.

NICOLE GALLAGHER PHOTOS



Tech Students Bake Holiday Pies for Needy Families

When making food is your passion, you want to share it. That was particularly the case this week for Culinary students at The Tech Center, who baked pumpkin pies for Putnam Community Action Program (CAP) in Brewster, just in time for Thanksgiving.

When Judy Callahan, the director of Putnam CAP, came to the kitchen on the campus of Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES to pick up the tempting desserts, she spoke not only of the students' hard work, but of their love of helping. "You can tell they really want to do this," she said. The pies will be among those included in

the more than 400 holiday baskets the organization gives to families in need during Thanksgiving.

Tech Center teacher Chef Stanley Rupinski said the students roasted fresh pumpkins before pureeing and adding the spices to the pie. "They did everything from scratch."

"It really makes me feel happy to be able to give back, especially by doing something I love, like cooking," said Adrian Boyle, a junior from Hendrick Hudson High School. "This program, and Chef (Christina) Holic and Chef Stanley, are really incredible."



Tech Center Principal Jim Bellucci, Putnam CAP Director Judy Callahan, and Chef Stanley Rupinski with Culinary students, who baked Thanksgiving pumpkin pies for families in need.



Dana Savarese, Brewster, with some of the finished pies to be donated.



Adrian Boyle, Hendrick Hudson, and Dana Savarese, Brewster, clean up after baking.

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Putnam First Responders Conduct Emergency Exercise with Metro-North

County Executive MaryEllen Odell observed the full-scale joint emergency exercise between the first responders of Putnam County and the MTA Metro-North Railroad that was held on Saturday, Nov. 21 at the Metro-North Railroad Brewster Yard. The Brewster Fire Department was the host department of the event.

“We never want to see the scenarios happen in real life, but it is good to know that the MTA Metro-North Railroad and our first responders are prepared with the tools and knowledge to handle these types of incidents,” Odell said. “Seeing everyone in action reaffirmed my confidence in the ability of the first responders who are committed to keeping the residents of Putnam County safe.”

In the drill scenario, a passenger train traveling north along Metro-North Railroad’s Harlem line encountered a motor vehicle impeding the right-of-way. The train engaged its emergency brakes, but was unable to stop in time. Passengers of the train in the front two cars sustained injuries as a result of the impact.

“Ensuring the safety and security of our customers, employees, and the public at large is the most important thing we do,” said Metro-North President Joseph Giulietti. “We strive to prevent accidents from taking place, but nevertheless, part of being safe means being ready to act quickly and carefully in the event that



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY MTA/PATRICK CASHIN. Firefighters from the Brewster Fire Department participate in the Joint Emergency Exercise between Putnam County first responders and the MTA Metro-North Railroad.

something does go wrong. Our exercise in Brewster helped us to do that and we appreciate the assistance of County Executive Odell, Mayor [James] Schoenig and all of the teams of first responders who participated with us in the exercise.”

The Metro-North staff and the first responders went through the response and recovery actions of the scenario. The areas of consideration were: critical transportation, operational coordination, mass search and rescue operations, public health and medical services, on-scene

security, protection, and law enforcement and operational communication. The scenario included Metro-North employees, first responders and other participants who acted as victims or bystanders.

“Understanding how to handle a large-scale situation that has both injured and non-injured groups is such an important takeaway from drills like this one,” said Brewster Fire Chief Tom Leather. “We are always looking to hold exercises like this one with the large corporations within Putnam’s borders. It allows our volunteers an opportunity to practice the skills they need in a safe environment, the departments gain inside information from the corporations about the emergency plans they have created and we develop working relationships with the employees of the corporations. The experience is truly valuable.”

The goal of the exercise was to ensure the participants familiarization with Metro-North’s Passenger Train Emergency Plan (PTEP), emergency response procedures, and equipment. In addition, the players were able to demonstrate incident management and coordination between

the Metro-North entities, local dispatch centers and on-scene Unified Command during a complex incident. It also provided an opportunity to evaluate the rail-based search and rescue operations, management of mass casualty incident (MCI) response capabilities, including patient management and tracking, the ability to maintain a secure perimeter and facilitate crowd control and Metro-North’s and local first responders’ ability to address passengers with disabilities during emergencies.

“The value of an exercise like this is immeasurable,” said Putnam County Commissioner of the Bureau of Emergency Services Anthony Sutton. “Drills such as this put first responders together in a setting where they can observe and learn each other’s capabilities and tactics. As a first responder, you do not want to meet the members of other services for the first time at an actual crash. My hat goes off to the organizations and individuals that planned, hosted and participated in this opportunity to practice in a very realistic scenario. Putnam’s first responders learned many lessons and best practices today. Now have this learning experience to draw on should they someday face a real emergency of this nature.”

In addition to the Brewster Fire Department and the MTA Metro-North Railroad, other participating entities include: Brewster Village Police Department, Carmel Fire Department, Carmel Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Croton Falls Fire Department, Lake Carmel Fire Department, Mahopac Falls Fire Department, Mahopac Fire Department, MTA Metro-North Railroad, MTA Police Department, New Fairfield CT Fire Department, New York State Police, North Salem Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Patterson Fire Company, Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services, Putnam County Office for People with Disabilities, Putnam County Sheriff’s Department, Putnam Lake Fire Department and Transcare EMS.

Crossword Answers

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



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY MTA/PATRICK CASHIN.

Buying Holiday Gifts for the Smart Home

Come holiday time, my wife Margaret and I have always engaged in a practice I suspect many homeowners share: in addition to buying gifts for each other, we also buy gifts "for the home."

Over the years these have ranged from practical choices, such as new appliances, to objets d'art found during our frequent visits to antique stores and auctions. A gift I was considering for this holiday was an antique decorative screen that would have been perfect for covering a central air control panel in our dining room, but Margaret is now fonder of modern décor so I agreed to let it go.

After so many years of gifting our home, we're hard pressed to think of anything more for it. But thinking back, if I had it do over again I would have invested more in purchasing gifts that would be not only modern but technologically advanced enough to turn our abode into a "smart home." I checked around for what I might recommend to others to accomplish this goal.

First I considered temperature control. Of the many options available,



By Bill Primavera

the Nest Learning Thermostat has won over many users by putting its sleek digital appearance in service toward ease of use, even for only moderately wired individuals like myself. After a short time tracking the temperature adjustments you make to the Nest, the device will learn your patterns and begin to anticipate them. What's more, if it doesn't sense your presence via a motion detector for several hours, it will assume you are not home and will adjust the climate accordingly to save energy.

All well and fine, although I hope that binge-watching "Breaking Bad" for an afternoon won't inadvertently cut the heat off.

Lighting was next on my exploration list, and the choices grew more complicated. Should the bulbs themselves be smart, linked in small groups via a hub or your wireless device? They are the easiest to install, but I will have to overcome decades of habit and remember to leave the switches on when I leave the room. Turning them off will render the smartest bulb inoperable.

Smart switches require more expert installation, but allow for more variety

of bulbs and fixtures. No matter which system you choose, there is still a learning period. One Forbes Magazine reporter recently discovered that the system may decide to turn on all your lights in the wee hours of the morning.

In the area of security, the August Smart Lock seems promising, allowing you to open and close the deadbolt on your door through your smart phone or send a visiting guest or service person an invitation allowing them access. It sounds like a lifesaver for parents and homeowners who need to be at work all day, but be certain to use a strong password that resists hacking. In fact, I would personally hold off on this one until the security standards in the smart home industry develop further.

In the meantime you might go for the Ring, the smart video doorbell. It sends a video image of your visitor to your phone – even alerting you of their approach before they ring the bell – and allows you to converse with them from inside via a speaker. You can see and speak with the person at your door even if you aren't home, while still giving the impression that you are inside.

Are you ready to make your home a smart home? Well, I suppose it depends on your tolerance for technological systems that still have some bugs to be worked out. For example, if you try to

install a new app on your phone and get a message saying it can't be done, do you quickly hop onto Google to see how others solved the problem or do you call up the "computer person" in your family for yet another favor as I do? Maybe you do neither, and instead give up on the app altogether while saying "this is why I hate computers!"

If you are in the third group, or if you don't have a resident computer genius in your family, you may want to wait a few years for smart home technology to become more standardized. However, if you find that the benefits and excitement of this technology outweigh the occasional hassle of trouble-shooting, then proceed with appropriate caution.

As for me, I will step back for this year and try to talk my wife into some decidedly non-smart décor for our home, possibly from another century – if I can find the room, that is.

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.

Law Book: Assessing Different Types of Capacity

Nearly every aspect of estate planning and elder law requires an attorney to assess a client's legal capacity. As elder law attorneys, we are regularly working with individuals who have some form of cognitive impairment such as dementia or Alzheimer's Disease. A common assumption is that someone with dementia or Alzheimer's cannot sign a Last Will and Testament ("Will") or Power of Attorney with Statutory Gifts Rider. This assumption can have grave consequences if the opportunity to draft necessary estate planning documents is foregone.

Mental capacity is different than legal capacity. A person diagnosed with a cognitive impairment may very well have the legal capacity to execute documents, especially in cases where they are in the initial stages of the disease. Each case must be analyzed based on its own particular facts and circumstances.

Legal capacity generally falls into two categories: testamentary capacity and contractual capacity.

Testamentary capacity is the requisite capacity to sign a Will. A person has testamentary capacity if he understands, in a general way the property he owns, the identity of the natural objects of his bounty, and the disposition he is making of his estate. This is a very low standard and much lower than the requisite



By Salvatore M. DiCostanzo, Esq.

capacity to create a trust or execute a Power of Attorney and Statutory Gifts Rider.

Contractual capacity is the requisite capacity to create a trust or execute a Power of Attorney and Statutory Gifts Rider. Contractual capacity focuses on whether the person was able to understand the nature and consequences of a transaction and make a rational judgment concerning it. Thus, contractual capacity is a higher standard.

It is not uncommon for a client to have the capacity to execute a Will but not a trust or Power of Attorney. This is akin

to someone being acquitted in a criminal matter and found liable in a civil matter (do the letters O.J. sound familiar?).

There is no bright-line test for an elder law attorney when assessing a client's capacity. Quite frankly it is often difficult to determine and I must make a determination using my best judgment. A major factor in assessing capacity is the likelihood of the documents being challenged. Where there is a black sheep in the family, I am more conservative in my assessment. However, I will take every measure to make the case for capacity.

For instance, I was recently consulted by a client whose spouse has diminished capacity due to dementia and Alzheimer's. In order to protect the couple's primary residence, I

recommended that the residence be transferred to the well spouse. Rather than resorting to the Court system in the form of a guardianship, I am making a personal visit to the nursing home in order to properly assess my client's spouse. This is an integral part of how I practice.

If you or someone you know has diminished capacity, please do not be hesitant to contact us. There still may be an opportunity to execute important legal documents. We are sensitive to the issues involving diminished capacity and might be able to make an assessment resulting in significant preservation of assets in the long run.

I can be reached at 914-245-2440 or by e-mail at smd@mfd-law.com.

Obituaries

E. Nobles Lowe

E. Nobles Lowe, 103, of New York City and Carmel, died on December 1, after a brief illness. He was born on October 4, 1912, in Minturn, Arkansas to the late James and Lula Ether Lowe. Nobles received his B.A. and LL.B. from the University of Arkansas. He was General Counsel of Westvaco Corporation for 34 years prior to going into private practice. Nobles is survived by his wife,

Margaret Breece Lowe; daughter Nancy Lowe; sons, Edwin and James; his four grandsons, Michael, Christian, William and Thomas; four great-grandchildren, Alison, Theo and Zoe; his brother, Thomas and several nieces and nephews. Nobles was active in the Practicing Law Institute, American Arbitration Association and the American Bar among other law-related organizations. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, December 11 at the Drew Methodist Church in Carmel.

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 p.m. 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 pm. Registration is required for the young reader book groups. Register online at www.mahopaclibrary.org, or call 845-628-2009, ext 100

Save the Date:

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.

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/Northernwestchester 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.

Tuesday, December 9

Brewster's C.V. Starr Intermediate School is hosting a free luncheon for seniors. Noon at the school located on Farm-to-Market Road in Brewster.

History of the Church at Tilly Foster Farm: Patterson Library, 1167 Rte. 311 Patterson. 7 p.m. Learn the history of how the Church at Tilly Foster Farm became today's Gilead Presbyterian Church in Carmel from local historical researcher Lori Kemp and the Patterson Historical Society. Registration preferred, walk-ins welcome if space allows. To register or for more information, visit us online at www.pattersonlibrary.org and click on calendar or call 845-878-6121 x10. Free program.

Wednesday, December 9

"Last Chance" Public Flu Vaccination Clinic at the Putnam County Department of Health. The influenza season is upon us with flu activity being reported sporadically across the nation. In the United States, flu activity is usually highest between December and February, but cases may linger as late as May. With flu activity starting to increase and family and friends gathering for the holidays, now is a great time to get a flu vaccine to protect yourself and your loved ones. The Putnam County Department of Health (PCDOH) is hosting its final public flu vaccination clinic. The clinic hours will be 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the main health department office at 1 Geneva Road in Brewster. No appointments are necessary. Any Putnam County resident age three years and older is eligible to receive flu vaccine at this clinic. The fee, covering vaccine cost and administration, is \$25. There is no fee for those over age 65 or with a Medicare card. High-dose flu vaccine will be available for individuals age 65 and older, which studies have shown appears more effective in fighting flu in seniors. For more information, please visit our

website at www.putnamcountyny.gov or visit our social media sites on Facebook at www.facebook.com/putnamhealth, www.facebook.com/RunWalkPutnam, www.instagram.com/PutnamHealthNY, and Twitter @PutnamHealthNY.

Annual Menorah Lighting: As part of its Holiday on the Lake festivities, the Hamlet of Carmel Civic Association (HCCA) will be sponsoring a menorah lighting ceremony at 5 p.m. The holiday celebration will be greatly enhanced this year with an amazing fire juggling show. Rabbi Avi Korer of Chabad of Putnam County will preside over this Chanukah festival ceremony with singing and refreshments. The menorah will be located on the shore of Lake Gleneida, at the intersection of Routes 6 and 52 (opposite the Reed Memorial Library), and the public is invited to come help us celebrate. The fire juggling show will begin at 5 p.m. and the menorah lighting ceremony will begin at 5:30 p.m. For more local Chanukah activities visit www.PutnamChabad.org. For more information about the HCCA, visit their website at www.carmelcivicassoc.org.

Friends of Kent Library Book Sale Dec. 11, 12: Book lovers and bargain hunters take note. 10 am to 4 pm each day. This will be a wonderful opportunity to find holiday gift books and stock up for winter reading. There will be thousands of books available, including fiction, non-fiction, coffee table books, children's books, DVD's, CD's, and audio books. Collectibles and first editions will be available at higher prices. The sale will be held in the downstairs "book cellar/program room" of the Kent Library. Friday, December 11th will be the early bird preview from 10am to 12 pm for a \$10 entrance fee. General entrance hours will continue on Friday noon to 4 pm and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 pm. The book cellar can hold up to 49 people at a time, so buyers who come at an especially crowded time may have to wait their turn to enter. However, in past sales at this venue no one has had to wait. The donated books have been carefully sorted and cleaned, and only the best will be offered for sale. Volunteers are always needed. Please call the library at 845-225-8585 to help out.

Friday, December 11

The Nutcracker: An Annual Holiday Tradition in Brewster. Experience the magic of this beloved holiday classic featuring the tale of young Clara and her Nutcracker Prince. Share the enchantment with your family and friends as you journey through a glistening winter wonderland and the whimsical Land of the Sweets. Seven Star School of Performing Arts' annual holiday tradition of "The Nutcracker" includes a cast of over 175 local performers, beautiful choreography and stunning costumes and sets. Tickets are available at Seven

Star School of Performing Arts 509 Route 312 in Brewster. Performances are Friday, December 11th at 6:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 12th at 3 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 13th at 3 p.m. Pre-sale tickets are \$15 and \$20 at the door. Visit www.SevenStarSchool.com, email info@sevenstarschool.com or call (845) 278-0728 for more information.

Saturday, December 12

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 p.m.-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.

Book Signing: After Joe Bagnato lost his daughter to a rare form of liver cancer, he established a foundation to help other families that are dealing with pediatric cancers. He also wrote a book, Families Inspire Great Hope Together, which is a tribute to his daughter who lost her battle with cancer in 2009. Mr. Bagnato will talk about his book and his experiences at Mahopac Library on Saturday, December 12, from 2 p.m.-4 p.m.; copies of his book will be available for purchase at his talk.

Make your own wrapping paper: noon -2 p.m. at the Kent Public Library, we will be making our own wrapping paper! Make the perfect gift even better by wrapping it in wrapping paper that you have designed. Attendees will be given a sheet of wrapping paper -- there will be stickers, stamps, crayons and more to decorate with. A quick but fun craft! 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, NY 10512.

Gift Baskets 101: Patterson Library, 1167 Rte. 311 Patterson. 2 p.m. Learn how to make beautiful gift baskets with Elaine Langsam of Basket Mania. Elaine will teach you how to create one of a kind gifts for any occasion by demonstrating how to make two types of gorgeous gift baskets. Registration preferred, walk-ins welcome if space allows. To register or for more information, visit us online at www.pattersonlibrary.org and click on calendar or call 845-878-6121 x10. Free program.

Sunday, December 13

After serving First Presbyterian Church in Mahopac and the community for 27 years, **Rev. Kenneth Mast will be retiring at the end of this year.** Snow date Sunday December 20th. We will celebrate his ministry, and to wish him well in his future endeavors. Hymn Sing at 4 PM, reception to follow at 5 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 411 Rt. 6N (at Secor Road) in Mahopac. For more information please call 845-628-2365 or email presby411@verizon.net.

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120815

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LEGALS

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF WHOLESOME GROWTH LLC d/b/a Kumon of White Plains. Arts of Org filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/27/2015. Office location: WESTCHESTER county. SSNY designated agent

upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to: **476 SHELTON RD TRUMBULL, CT, 06611. Principal business address: 600 N BROADWAY WHITE PLAINS, NY 10603. Purpose: any lawful act.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SORENSEN HC ADVISORS LLC. Articles of Incorporation filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 7/7/14. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **15 Petersville Road, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549. Purpose: General.**

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.**

Notice of Formation of Frawley Coaching, LLC. Arts of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 9/4/15. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. **Purpose: any lawful activity.**

Notice of Formation of Dovetail DB LLC Arts of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY(SSNY) on 9/15/2015. Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC. SSNY shall mail process to: 55 East 76th St., 1D, NY, NY 10021. **Purpose: any lawful activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF TTL Photography, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secy. Of State of N.Y.(SSNY) on 09/16/2015. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated agent whom process may be served and shall copy of

process against LLC to principle business address: 1304 Midland Avenue, Ste. B-60, Yonkers, N.Y. 10704. **Purpose: any lawful act.**

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A government-funded Lifeline Assistance Program.

The Putnam
Examiner
Sports
Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports

December 8 - December 14, 2015 SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS SPORTS SECTION

Full Throttled!

**Put Valley
 Hits Gas
 in 3rd,
 Nips
 Carmel
 for
 Tourney
 Title**



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Carmel Junior Andrew DiLeo (right) gets a good piece of Putnam Valley senior G Kevin Gallagher's windpipe, as he's also clobbered by Ram Isaiah Fredericks in the Tigers' 37-27 win over the Rams last Saturday night in the finals of the Carolyn Conroy Memorial Tournament at Lakeland High where PV gassed up in the third and went on a decisive 18-4 run... see Boys' Hoops Notebook

Sports

Boys' Hoops Notebook

Put Valley Guts out Lakeland Tourney Title over Carmel

Ossining's Griffin Bursts onto Scene, Snags Sleepy MVP Nod

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor
@Directrays

Class B Putnam Valley (2-0), by far the smallest school in the Carolyn Conroy Memorial Tournament at Lakeland High last weekend, conquered a pair of Class AA schools – Horace Greeley and runner-up Carmel -- to waltz off with the tournament title behind an MVP performance from senior G Anders Spittal, an All-Tournament nod from senior G Harrison Deegan and an all-around solid team effort.

Without putting the cart before the horse, it can be said that Coach Mike McDonnell's Tigers asserted themselves as serious Class B title contenders after a solid second-half effort that led to a 37-27 victory over Carmel last Saturday and a 61-39 thumping of the Quakers last Thursday.

After a moribund first half against Carmel, the Tigers were a revenant pack against the Rams in the second half, spearheaded by senior F Joe Spinola who scored five quick points to trigger an 18-4 third-quarter run that sealed the deal for PV. Carmel smothered the Tigers in the first half, making the Tigers pay for every



Put Valley senior G Harrison Deegan throws down one of two dunks in romp of Greeley last Thursday.

shot they took with a tough, aggressive brand of defense the Rams will need to play with all season. Carmel is short on pure finishers this season, and a tough defensive mindset is THE ONLY THING that is going to keep them competitive throughout.

"We don't have a whole lot of scoring we can rely on, so we need to bring it



Lakeland's John Mule' takes a run at Somers' Jack Gilroy in Hornets' 45-38 win over Tuskers last Tuesday.

defensively," said All-League Carmel swingman Ryan Train (7 points), sporting a welt above his eye and some evident pain below the belt after mixing it up with the Tigers.

PV finally got things going in transition in the third quarter, with G Kevin Gallagher (4 points, 5 assists) sifting through the Rams to find open teammates; Spittal (12 points), Deegan (10) and Spinola (7). Charlie Pagani was a force on the boards for the Tigers. Dan Walsh (2 3's) led the Rams with eight points. Quinn Willman added five points while Train and Matt Haughney each plucked 11 rebounds.

In the Valley's opening-day romp of Horace Greeley, Deegan dropped a game-best 20 points, including a pair of slam dunks that electrified the PV crowd, which turned out strong both nights. Spittal went for 19 points, hitting on 4 of 5 from downtown.

Carmel is going to need well-round contributions like the one the Rams got in a 42-38 win over the Hornets in the opening round of the Lakeland tourney, including Ryan Train (10 points, 4 assists, 4 steals), Matt Haughney (11 points, 6 assists), Isaiah Fredericks (6 points, 3 assists), Dan Walsh (6 points) and Ryan Sullivan (4 points, 1 assist).

Lakeland was led by Nick Fazio (13 points, 8 boards), Trevor McCarthy (5

boards, 5 assists), Nick Jarosz (4 points, 7 boards) and Jaz Burton (8 points). We certainly expected a better showing from the Hornets, and fully expect them to turn around the disappointing start.

Yorktown 53, Panas 46

It was the Nick DeGennaro show as the Husker hotshot torched cords for 24 points (3 treys) while grabbing five boards and dishing five assists on opening night. Junior F Tanner Dyslin impressed in his debut with 11 points. Panas was led by Brandon Ramos, who scored 15 points and grabbed six rebounds. Brandon Hodge and Shakiem White went for 10 points each.

"Kind of what I expected; some good, some bad," Panas boss Shawn Sullivan said. "Offensively, we need to make much better decisions with the ball and find a few consistent scores. Defensively, our intensity needs to pick up. We can't let teams do what they want and expect to win. Like last year, we are going to go through some growing pains this month. I see a lot of potential with this group."

Croton 49, Pal. Prep 45

Charlie Goldberg dropped 17 points to lead the Tigers. F Garrett Lynch notched a double-double with 14 points and 11 rebounds. F Eli Reyer added seven point and eight rebounds while Frank Addeo pitched in with 10 rebounds.

Putnam/NWE Top 5 Pre-Season Hoops Poll

No.1 PUTNAM VALLEY – Coach McDonnell's first six players are as well-rounded as any in Class B and I'll be shocked if they fail to reach a fourth-straight Final 4 this March.

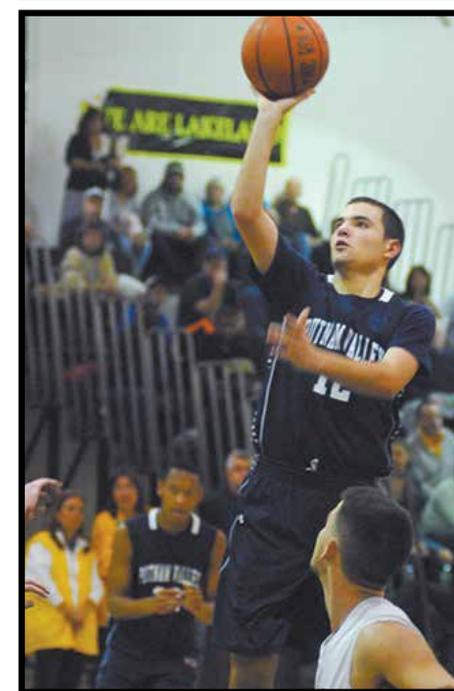
No.2 OSSINING – I like Coach Casey's 2-0 Pride's chances of being 4-0 before their huge early-season showdown with Fox Lane on Dec. 16, which should be a true indicator of whether or not Ossining is a ready-for-prime-time player. Allen Griffin had 25 points and Obie Toppin added 14 and A.J. Stokeley had 12 in season-opening 74-44 win over Gorton. Toppin then had 29 in 67-60 tourney



Carmel's Brendan Cody is met by Put Valley's Anders Spittal in Tigers' tourney title win over Rams.

win over rival Sleepy Hollow and Griffin secured an MVP nod. This Griffin is truth and the kind of addition that could have the Pride snagging a league title in early Feb.

It's been a number of years since the Pride were truly relevant on the boys' hoop circuit, having long lived in the vast



Put Valley's Charlie Pagani goes up for shot in win over Carmel.



Lakeland's Trevor McCarthy goes for two as Somers' Chris DiCintio defends in Hornets' 45-38 win over Tuskers last Tuesday.

shadow of Coach Dan Ricci's three-time reigning NYS champion girls' program. But ya get the feeling this year could be a special one if Ossining can continue to evolve under Casey, a first-year coach who

the players really like playing for.

"It was a nice tournament win for the program," Coach Casey said. "Gorton who was athletic like us and were able to use a late first-half run to gain confidence, which led us to the win. We were in for a battle playing Sleepy at Sleepy for their tournament championship, so it was a good test for us. We wanted to match their intensity the entire game and we felt like we did a nice job of that. The game was close throughout, and we expected them to make a run and they did, taking the lead with a couple minutes to go. We were proud of the way our kids responded, not getting frustrated and understanding that basketball is a game of runs and we were confident we had one left in us. It was a battle though."

No.3 YORKTOWN – DeGennaro's stat line was well rounded and dynamic in win over Panas: 24 points, five rebounds and five assists and three steals. This Husker program and its players exudes a collective mind-over-matter mentality now and it's evident from the opening tip, I'm told.

No.4 HEN HUD – Nick Marra scored 10 points and copped eight steals while Thomas Maloney added nine points for the Sailors in a 58-40 win over Somers (0-2). Marc Maestri led the youthful Tuskers with 10 points, and things got a little testy in the end. As a result, the Sailors will be without All-Section swingman Jesse Breeding when they tip off in the opening round of the Roosevelt tourney. J.B. cannot get baited like that in the future, he's too dang valuable.

No.5 CROTON – No real stars here but Coach B.T.'s Tigers (2-0) have some chemistry and a yeoman's effort each night out, and it was on display in a 60-53 win over Bronxville. Goldenberg and Lynch had 12 points each. Reyer was key



Carmel's Ryan Train buys some hang time in an effort to thwart Put Valley's Harrison Deegan in Tigers' tourney win over Rams.

with 10 in the first half. Rory Parker and Connor Moore had nine points each. This unit will only improve.

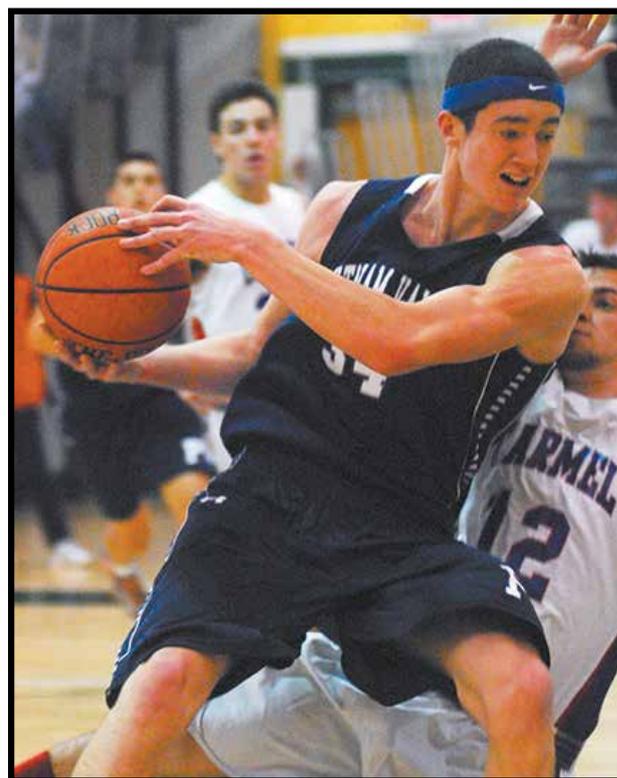
HM CARMEL – Opening-day win over Lakeland put the Rams on the map and blows the Hornets, who placed last in their own tourney, clear off.

HM PEEKSKILL – Until the Red Devs show us what they can do, all we have to go off of is last year, which was unspectacular at best. My guess is swingman CJ Redd keeps them close most nights and their success is dependent upon whether or not they commit to defense the way ghosts' of Peekskill past used to.

HM MAHOPAC – Without F Dan Foley (back injury) in the lineup until after the holiday break at the earliest, the Indians will be without their No.1 option for quite some time, so we're gonna pull the plug on the tribe being a top 5 team until further notice. Let's see if the next man up can hold his own during Foley's absence.



Put Valley freshman Darnell Shillingford scores the first two points of what could be a glorious high school career.



Carmel's Danny Walsh draws a charge on Put Valley's Joe Spinola in Tigers tourney title win over Rams.

Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook

Mahopac Snags Lakeland Tourney Title, Pease MVP

Panas Opens Strong in Win over Yorktown; Ossining Opens with Lourdes

By Tony Pinciario

Following a loss, especially to a high-caliber opponent, a coach is always anxious to see how his or her team responds in its next game.

MAHOPAC opened the season with a loss to a Peekskill team that reached the 2015 Section 1 Class A Girls' Basketball championship semifinals. The Indians proved that, collectively, they have a short memory showing that the Peekskill game was a distant memory in responding by winning the Lakeland Tournament with victories over Clarkstown North, 47-41, and Horace Greeley, in the final, 46-29.

"Peekskill is a tough team to open with," Mahopac coach Chuck Scozzafava said. "We had some trouble putting the ball in the basket in the first quarter, but after the first quarter I was happy with our effort and our play."

Carly Pease, who scored 28 points in the two games, was named the tournament most valuable player. Amanda Geyer, who finished with 23 points in the tournament, was chosen to the all-tournament team.

"Our defense was good, although it is still a work in progress," said Scozzafava of the win over Clarkstown North. "Offensively, we played well in spurts. I was happy with our effort."

"Against Greeley, we played well defensively and shot the ball better," he added. "Tara Ravoli's play on the boards



RAY GALLAGHER/RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

Mahopac's Natalie Scanlon is denied by Peekskill's Sandra Murphy in Red Devil win.

and on defense was big for us."

Pease netted a game-high 17 points against Greeley and Geyer added 11.

PEEKSKILL was simply too much for the Indians in the season opener for both clubs, as All-NYS G Lanay Rodney dropped 17 points and Sandra Murphy added 16 for the Red Devs.

WALTER PANAS opened its season with a 52-51 victory over **YORKTOWN**. The final score was indicative of Panas' control as the Panthers held an 18-point lead midway through the third quarter. However, the Cornhuskers had a determined second-half charge which threw a scare into the Panthers.

"We shot the ball well, early, and handled their pressure," Panas coach Matt Evangelista said. "Honestly, credit Yorktown as they increased their intensity and pressure."

Alyssa Francese led Yorktown's rally, finishing with a game-high 24 points.

Kristen Kelly paced Panas with 16 points, Carly Mucci chipped in with 11 and Danielle Meranted added 10.

Evangelista and Yorktown coach Kevin Clark both cited their respective teams for not converting at the free-throw line.

Despite the loss, Clark was pleased with his team's determination.

"It was really a superior effort," Clark said. "It would have been easy to stop playing being down by as many as 19 points in the second half, but the girls dug deep

and fought back right until the final horn."

LAKELAND, like Mahopac, lost its season-opener, 47-42 in a first-round game of the Hornets' tournament, but the Hornets rebounded with a 46-39 triumph of Clarkstown North in the consolation game.

Colleen Walsh pumped in a game-high 25 points against Clarkstown North. She also had 13 points against Greeley.

"We were successful against Clarkstown North because everyone contributed," Lakeland coach Miranda Lustig said. "Colleen led the way, but our other players came off the bench and stepped up when we needed it. Val Potenza and Jess Ascencao gave us extra energy we needed to push forward when we were in a lull."

Alexa Cole and Walsh each had 13 points and Riele Walsh added eight



Mahopac's Kim Schiera takes a run at Peekskill's Lanay Rodney in Indian loss to Red Devs.



Peekskill's Clare Taylor fires J with Mahopac's Kim Schiera on guard.



Peekskill's Nyrie Holliman scores and two in win over Mahopac last Wednesday.

Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook



Peekskill's Sandra Murphy gains the paint on Mahopac's Carly Pease in Red Devil win over Indians.



Mahopac's Amanda McCarney pounds the paint in Lakeland tourney title championship over Greeley last Saturday.



Mahopac's Amanda Geyer fight off a double team in loss to Peekskill last Wednesday.



Mahopac's Carly Pease shows the form that earned her an MVP nod in the Lakeland tourney last Saturday.

against Greeley.

"It was a close game all the way through, but we went 10 for 24 from the foul line which hurt us and our inexperienced youth showed during the final two minutes," Lustig said.

BREWSTER cruised in its season-opener – 63-20 over **CROTON** – as Dayja Medina finished with a game-high 19 points, along with four assists and three steals. Frannie Merkel added 10 points, 14 rebounds and four blocked shots, Julia Borsari also had 10 points, and three steals, and Maggie DePaoli contributed eight points.

"We did a good job of forcing turnovers and getting ahead in transition," Brewster coach Mike Castaldo said. "The girls also did a great job of sharing the ball on offense and we shot extremely well from the outside."

Brewster followed

this up with a 62-46 win over rival, **CARMEL**, in the Ronnie Weaver Memorial Tournament.

Carmel opened its season with a pair of games in the Ronnie Weaver Memorial Tournament, sponsored by the Lady Rams' Basketball Booster Club.

Unfortunately for the Rams, neither Harrison nor Brewster were very accomodating guests as the Huskies prevailed, 61-52, and Brewster won, 62-46.

"Opening our season against two very good teams was a tough test for our young squad," Carmel coach Dan O'Hare said. "Offensively, we were consistent, but plagued by turnovers. I think we will see a lot of improvement from game to game as our freshmen and sophomores become more acclimated to varsity play."

Freshman Claire Cody had 17 points and six assists against Harrison and 14 points against Brewster. Senior Hana Riddle scored 13 and 12 points, respectively, against Brewster and Harrison.

HALDANE, the 2015 Section 1 Class C champions, began the season with a 52-24 victory over Palisades Prep as Marissa Lisikatos scored a team-leading 13 points. Hanna Monteleone and Alezy Ciquanta scored 10 points apiece.

The Blue Devils have a busy week ahead and will be traveling. They will have played R.C. Ketcham, Monday, Woodlands, Tuesday, and John Jay-Cross

River, Thursday, in a first-round game of the Hamilton Tournament.

OSSINING is the lone area team that did not play. The Pride begin its defense of the sectional and state championship, Tuesday, against Our Lady of Lourdes. Ossining has beaten Lourdes in the last two Section 1 Class AA title games.

Senior Shadeen Samuels is looking forward to Tuesday, especially after a promising preseason.

"I believe that we have a very strong team from the first person off the bench to the last and if we play like we are capable of playing, we will have a great season," Samuels said. "Lourdes is a very good team so we have to come into this game confident. We have played them multiple times. They know our style of play so this won't be easy. But, I am excited."

As is the better part of Ossining, which is expecting to pick up right where it left off.

Local girls' basketball coaches are strongly encouraged to contact beat writer Tony Pinciario at tfinch23@optonline.net after each game or no later than Sunday mornings with a weekly recap.



Indians Out-grit Quakers for Lakeland Tourney Title

Mahopac Defeats Clarkstown North, Greeley for Crown



RICK KUPERBERG PHOTO (PLEASE VISIT WWW.HVSPHOTOS FOR MORE ACTION)

Mahopac's Tara Ravoli (R) and Greeley's Lauren Brown collide in the paint during the Indians' 46-29 victory over the Quakers in the finals of the Carolyn Conroy Memorial Tournament at Lakeland High School last Saturday night when the Indians saw Carly Pease secure an MVP nod and Amanda Geyer named to the All-Tournament team... see Girls Hoops Notebook