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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

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Putnam Women's Networking Group to Celebrate Five-Year Anniversary



A group shot of the members of the Professional Women of Putnam taken during the organization's four-year anniversary. The same group of women is ready to celebrate the five-year milestone on March 18.

By David Propper

Connecting local businesswomen with other local businesswomen has been a passion for Jamie Imperati since she started Professional Women of Putnam (PWP) five years ago. As that fifth anniversary is going to be marked this March, Imperati, a Mahopac resident, has never been more excited about the direction her organization is going in.

"It's a pretty diverse mix of women and

women like to network with like-minded women," Imperati said. "So people have made very good connections through the organization."

With the delicate balance of professional commitments and personal pleasures harder to achieve for women in the 21st century, PWP looks to bring working women from a variety of career fields together to speak with each other about

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The Plot Thickens: Odell Defends Move to Replace Stiebeling

By David Propper

Former Bureau of Emergency Services Commissioner Adam Stiebeling may have filed a lawsuit, but County Executive MaryEllen Odell is looking to gain an edge in the court of public opinion.

After Stiebeling filed a Jan. 30 lawsuit against Odell and Putnam County for losing his commissioner's position, Odell said in an interview last week her administration no longer felt that Stiebeling had an "understanding of exactly what the commissioner for the bureau of emergency services does, (and) what comes along with that title."

Two incidents separated by mere hours in 2013 was the final straw, Odell indicated.

On Christmas Day 2013, a deputy arrived at Stiebeling's Patterson home during the evening after there were four hang-up calls from that address. Stiebeling told the deputy there was nothing wrong and he could leave, according to documents from a Sheriff's Department personnel investigation, obtained by The

Putnam Examiner through a Freedom of Information Request.

Stiebeling appeared to be "agitated" and possibly intoxicated, and as standard practice, the deputy refused to leave the premises until he checked on the well-being of the other people in the home. When the deputy walked closer to the door, Stiebeling attempted to get between the deputy and the door, according to the Sheriff's Department's report.

Once a sergeant arrived, Stiebeling allowed him to enter the home to confirm nothing was wrong, the report stated. The sergeant, Kevin McManus, also reported that a 911 dispatcher told him that Stiebeling yelled at him to stop calling the residence.

The next day at 4:20 a.m., according to documents, the 911 center got another call involving Stiebeling at a Patterson condo development after a woman and her boyfriend got into a physical dispute. Responding deputies began to search

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Mahopac's Servino Honored as BOCES' February Student of Distinction



COURTESY OF BOCES

Dedication, ambition, humor and respect were just some of the words used to describe Mahopac's Michael Servino, a student at Fox Meadow High School at Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES. Servino was named a Student of Distinction and honored at the Mahopac Board of Education meeting on Feb. 11. "Michael is having an outstanding year," Fox Meadow Principal Fred Santoli said. "A lot of this is owed to the dedication that Michael has shown since he walked through our doors. Servino said he enjoys attending Fox Meadow High School and appreciates the opportunities it presents. Carpentry has been one of Servino's favorite classes and he has made several projects in the class. "It has been my highest honor going to Fox Meadow," Servino said. "It's great going there every day and knowing that I'm welcomed by students and teachers. It's a down right blessing to be there." After Servino received his award, his parents spoke about how proud they were of their son. "It's been a long road and it has been bumpy at times, but in this program Michael is sailing smoothly," said Servino's mother, Michele Reyes. "He has definitely found his niche. Micheal Servino shows off his Student of Distinction awards at a recent Mahopac Board of Education meeting. From left: Fox Meadow Science Teacher Patty Lucido, Michael Servino, Sr., Fox Meadow Principal Fred Santoli, Student of Distinction Mike Servino, Linda Reyes, George and Margarita Reyes, BOCES Coordinator of The Guidance and Child Study Center Neil Boyle, Michele Reyes, Anthony and Nicholas Reyes.

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Freestyle February Fever Takes Over Putnam Golf Course

By David Propper

Since HomeStyle Caterers took over the management of Putnam County Golf Course, banquet manager Iliana Buigues believes the county owned property has become the "epicenter of entertainment in Putnam County."

That assertion, while bold, seems to ring true as the Putnam County Golf Course in Mahopac is set to host another event this Saturday when the Latin Freestyle trio TKA/K7 and Judy Torres comes to Putnam for Freestyle February. Since HomeStyle Caterers started managing the golf course a couple years ago, Buigues has been responsible for booking events each month and now is trying something different.

"I said there is a whole other audience out there like my age that we haven't really catered to yet," Buigues, who is 41, said. "So I'm trying it out and that's where I got Freestyle February from."

Buigues said from when she first started planning events for the golf course leading up this weekend, the attendance and interest has steadily grown. During the golf course's first barbeque, it had less than 100 people attend, but the course's clambake at the end of summer had more than 500 people.

One way Buigues has been keeping



COURTESY OF PUTNAM COUNTY TOURISM

The Latin Freestyle trio of K7/TKA is performing at the Putnam County Golf Course on Feb. 28.

residents interested is by having a range of performances and events that attract a large demographic of people of all ages from disco nights to softer rock.

"It's been catching on and there are still a whole bunch of guests that we haven't had here yet," she said. "We're trying to reach them all."

Buigues, along with HomeStyle Caterers owners Al and Joe Ciuffetelli,

expressed gratitude towards the community members that have come out so far, and hope to see their continued support.

"I'm really excited for it," she said. "I feel that this is something new that I really put my heart into to try to target new faces and if it does really well, we'll have a freestyle event again next February," Buigues said.



COURTESY OF PUTNAM COUNTY GOLF COURSE

Three staff members from the Putnam County Golf Course get groovy during Disco Night, which took place in March 2014. The idea for Freestyle February was born from that Disco Night.

For resident interested in purchasing tickets, call 845-808-1881 or go to <http://homestylerecaterersinc.com/services/>.

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Q: What is metabolic syndrome and how can it damage my health?

A: 'Metabolic' refers to the life-sustaining, chemical processes that happen in our bodies. We often speak about metabolism in relation to our body's ability, or inability, to burn the fat and calories we consume. Metabolic syndrome is a cluster of adverse factors that doubles your risk of heart disease. You are also five times more likely to develop type 2 diabetes.

Factors include: high blood pressure; high triglycerides; low levels of good HDL cholesterol; high fasting blood sugar; and excess weight specifically in your midsection. All factors need not be present for very serious consequences.

Q: What can I do if I have metabolic syndrome?

A: Eating a healthy diet with plenty of fruits, vegetables and other fiber-rich foods, along with exercising at least 30 minutes daily, several times a week, will help control your blood pressure, blood sugar, and weight - all key triggers of the syndrome. However, for people with excess weight in the midsection, losing significant weight and keeping it off can be very difficult.

For some of these people, weight-loss (bariatric) surgery can be the best solution. With the right surgical procedure, obese patients can lose a lot of weight and almost immediately start lowering blood sugar, blood pressure and blood fat counts.

Q: How can I prevent metabolic syndrome?

A: Healthy eating and regular exercise, as I describe above, are great ways to keep the syndrome's various triggering factors at bay. If you already have some or all of the factors involved in metabolic syndrome, see your doctor. If surgical weight-loss is recommended, Northern Westchester Hospital's website is an excellent place to explore today's most advanced, safest and most effective options: www.nwhsurgicalweightloss.org.

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Butterfield Public Hearing Set for March as Project Moves Forward

By Janine Bowen

A public hearing regarding the proposed Butterfield redevelopment project has been set for March 4, but not everybody is happy with the project moving forward so soon.

Cold Spring Planning Board member Arne Saari was opposed to having the public hearing at the March meeting, stating that he is concerned about the adequacy of the proposed parking plan for the development. According to the proposal, there will be 55 dwelling units on the property with 63 parking spaces allocated for residents. Saari voiced concern that the majority of the units are two-bedroom apartments and will therefore house more people with more cars.

“If a third of these were one-person efficiencies then one space [per unit] is fine but the majority of them are two-bedroom, two-person and I can’t believe in that today’s age that there isn’t going to be a lot of two car families here,” said Saari.

Other members of the planning board, as well as consultant Chuck Voss, noted however that while some residents may have more than one car, other elderly residents might not have any vehicles at all. Attorney for the developer, Steven Barshov also pointed out that although the majority of the units consist of two bedrooms, it doesn’t necessarily indicate

that multiple people will live there. Many residents want two bedroom units to accommodate visitors, not a full time roommate, he said.

Saari was also concerned about the amount of parking spaces that would be utilized by the post office and government offices that may also occupy space on the site. Planning board chair, Barney Molloy noted, however, many residents could leave Butterfield during the day to go to work, thereby creating vacant parking spaces for employees who work on the site. According to Voss, the site will use a flex parking plan that will ensure there are enough spaces for everybody at all times of the day, even if people may not be able to park in a spot that is immediately in front of their destination.

“The mix of businesses and residential should potentially work in harmony because, theoretically when businesses are in operation during the day...they will have an abundance of parking being utilized but after 5 p.m. when businesses shut down... you may have a lot of vacant parking here that’s completely underutilized,” said Voss.

According to village code, 199 parking spots are required to accommodate the amount of people who will live and work at the Butterfield site and the current proposal calls for 213 official parking spots. Functionally, there will be 229



JANINE BOWEN PHOTO

Village of Cold Spring planning board members discussed the Butterfield redevelopment at length and then decided to mark a March 4 public hearing on the proposal.

parking spaces, but several cannot be included in the official count for technical reasons. This includes 5 spaces in the below-ground parking garage that will accommodate compact cars and 16 parallel parking spaces that don’t meet the dimensional requirements for official parking spaces.

The planning board made the decision to discount these spaces as opposed to making them larger in order to avoid moving the curb, which would reduce the amount of open green space on the property. According to Barshov, the preservation of open space was always paramount in the development, and a

sacrifice of parking spaces was a decision made to maintain as much green space as possible.

“If there is going to be a squeeze, and many there will be one to some degree on some days and some times of the year, that’s the value judgment that the village board made was that parking should be squeezed and open space should be maximized,” he said.

Residents will have the opportunity to comment on parking, and voice any other concerns they may have about the project at the March 4 public hearing, which is currently scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at the Cold Spring Fire House.



JANINE BOWEN PHOTO

Consultant Chuck Voss explains the landscape plans during a Feb. 18 meeting.



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Discussion for Ban on Plastic Bags Underway by Putnam Lawmakers

By David Propper

As some supermarkets move toward eliminating plastic bags from their inventory, Putnam County legislators are looking for an outright ban on the plastic shopping bags countywide.

On the same week Putnam lawmakers were nearing a ban of polystyrene products in county buildings, the county Legislature's Health Committee is now exploring outlawing plastic bags that are constantly used in supermarkets throughout Putnam. Legislator Dini LoBue, who requested the item be put on the committee's agenda for

its Feb. 11 meeting, described the use of plastic bags to be "egregious."

She added while some plastic bags are being recycled, the problem continues to be a long-term headache.

"They're never ending," LoBue said.

LoBue and Legislator Barbara Succimarra rattled off several municipalities that have either enacted plastic grocery bag bans or are pursuing legislation including Westchester County, Hastings-on-Hudson, Mamaroneck, Rye, Westport and even the entire state of California.

The ban would only outlaw plastic bags used at the end of the grocery store line, and not sandwich bags or garbage bags.

Scuccimarra said that about 73 percent of plastic bags are in the world's oceans, harming wildlife and water quality.

Mahopac resident Jerry Ravnitzky, who is an environment advocate, noted there are over a trillion plastic bags used each year worldwide and a million plastic bags used every minute. Only three percent of plastic bags are recycled, Ravnitzky added.

"It really has become a terrible thing for our environment," he said.

Stores like Trader Joes, BJ's and Mrs. Greens are three companies that stopped using plastic bags, as mentioned at the meeting.

One skeptical legislator, Roger Gross, said while he understands the issue, it bothers him when lawmakers just start banning things, rather than encouraging residents to seek alternative bags to use.

"We start banning things, we should ban aluminum cans and bottles because they are littered all over the place," Gross said. "Tires a major environmental problem."

The Food Industry Alliance of New York, Inc. has also sent a memo to the legislature standing firmly against the ban. In the letter the Alliance sent, it stated, "Bans are drastic. They are the most extreme form of regulation that government can impose."

Scuccimarra noted that just like the fight to ban polystyrene in county buildings, the legislation to ban plastic bags would be a lengthy one.

"It took a year for me to get styrofoam where we are today, so this is going to take awhile but I really think it's an important piece of legislation for Putnam," Scuccimarra said.

Putnam in Need of Road, Bridge and Culvert Repairs

By David Propper

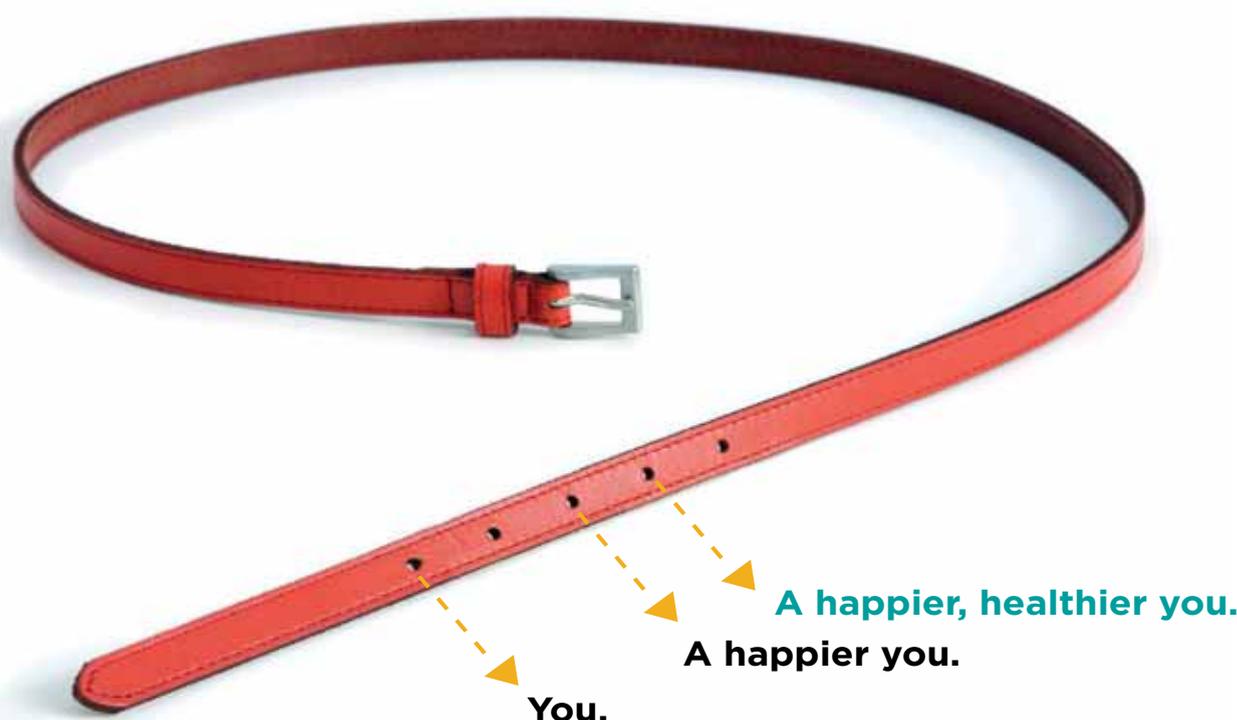
With multiple infrastructure fixes and upgrades across Putnam County that need addressing, the county's Highway and Facilities Department is hoping to expend a tight budget to get the job done.

During a Physical Services Committee meeting on Feb. 17, Highway Commissioner Fred Pena said the county is looking to keep within a \$1.5 million bonding requirement per year to cover the costs to repair road surfaces, bridges, culverts, and highway equipment. Pena admitted the estimation is aggressive, considering that \$1.5 million is usually only focused on road surfaces.

Pena said if that estimation weren't enough, he would have to come back to the legislature. He said the culverts are a particular concern, noting there are four culverts that are in "collapse-mode" at this point, which means they've become progressively worse to a point where they are showing surface deterioration.

Physical Services Chairman Carl Albano questioned if that was enough money to handle the pressing needs the county faces.

"That seems conservative to me," Albano said. "We better have someone looking for grants and monies that are out there to help us with the bridges and stuff."



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Lake Carmel Woman Dies After Discovered Unconscious in Snow

By David Propper

A 53-year-old Lake Carmel woman died shortly after she was found face down in the snow outside her Barrett Hill Road home early Saturday morning, Kent police said over the weekend.

Kent police chief Alexander DiVernieri

said Karen Goos was laying in the snow, unconscious after Goos' mother called authorities to report she hadn't seen her daughter for almost two hours after she apparently went to throw out the garbage. Goos left the residence at 11 p.m. Friday and was reported missing by the mother

Saturday around 12:45 a.m.

Goos, who had a disability was rushed to Putnam Hospital Center when found, but died shortly after. Her disability is unknown.

An autopsy was conducted and when revealed, the results should determine if Goos fell from a medical condition or

possibly slipped in the snow, DiVernieri said.

An online fundraiser to cover the funeral costs was set up by a neighbor. Please go to <http://www.gofundme.com/mzmjsg> to donate.

Retired White Plains Police Officer Kills 2 Daughters, Then Self

By Pat Casey

Harrison Police Chief Anthony Marraccini and Harrison Mayor Ron Belmont held a joint press conference Monday morning to confirm the shooting deaths of former White Plains Police Officer Glen Hochman, 52, and his two daughters Alissa Marie Hochman, 17, a senior at Harrison High School, and Deanna Nicole Hochman, 13, a student at the Windward School in White Plains.

The case is being called a murder, suicide, although police were still awaiting the toxicology report from the medical examiner's office at the time of the press conference to confirm that gunpowder residue was on the hand of Glen Hochman at the time of the shooting.

He was found in the garage of his home with a single gunshot to the head and a 40 caliber Glock in his hand.

The family's three dogs were also found shot dead at the scene.

According to Marraccini, the shootings

occurred sometime after 2 a.m. Saturday morning.

The two teens, the youngest of three, were each killed by a single gunshot to the head as they slept in their beds.

The oldest daughter, age 22, and Mrs. Hochman were away on an overnight trip at the time of the killings.

On the trip back, mid-afternoon Saturday, the women tried calling the house and its occupants with no answer, prompting them to call Alissa's boyfriend to ask if he would check out the house. He was able to access the house through the garage at which time he found Mr. Hochman dead and called 911, Marraccini said.

A second 911 call was made to Harrison Police Headquarters by a woman driving with Mrs. Hochman after the boyfriend told them what he had found.

The boyfriend had left the house immediately after finding Mr. Hochman and did not find the two dead teens. They were later discovered by Harrison Police



Glen Hochman with his daughters Alissa and Deanna and two of their dogs.

responding to the call.

The community, completely stunned by the event, is in mourning and trying to heal. Mayor Belmont, who acknowledged that he knew the family personally, said Harrison High School opened its doors on Monday at noon and was offering grief counseling to students and their families through the Interfaith Council.

The Windward School in White Plains was also offering aide to its students and their families.

Hochman, who had retired from the White Plains Police Department in January 2015, had previously been injured in an incident while he was on traffic duty. In May, he had been honored for saving someone's life.

White Plains Public Safety Commissioner David Chong released a statement over the weekend saying the White Plains Police Department was in shock.

"The department is shocked and horrified by the news of this unfathomable tragedy," Chong said in a statement. "We can only pray for the family. Officer Hochman served this department and the city of White Plains with honor and integrity for over 22 years."

People close to the family indicated that in mid-January the couple had discussed a separation, but that Mr. Hochman did not appear outwardly depressed.

During the press conference, Marraccini said that Mrs. Hochman had

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The Plot Thickens: Odell Defends Move to Replace Stiebeling

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for the boyfriend when they came upon Stiebeling in a white Chevrolet Tahoe.

Stiebeling asked deputies about a "man down" because he received such a text message, but a deputy told him there was no report of that. Eventually, the boyfriend was found and arrested on assault charges. When the boyfriend was interviewed with a Legal Aid lawyer on Dec. 27, the boyfriend said his girlfriend and Stiebeling would go on "blunt runs" together, referring to marijuana, according to the documents.

"He's the leader in emergency services in

Putnam County," Odell said in an interview. "And he didn't lead by example at all."

Odell and her administration were informed of the two incidents in March. It was decided that Stiebeling should receive counseling from a Sheriff's Department Superior Officer and be made aware of Penal Law Official Misconduct and Penal Law Obstructing Governmental Administration in the 3rd degree. It was also suggested a workplace violence report should be submitted to the Work Place Violence Committee because Stiebeling told a deputy, "Do you want to get down"

when he arrived at Stiebeling's house Christmas 2013. The Putnam County Courier was the first to report about those incidents.

In addition to those incidents, Odell also cited an error Stiebeling committed soon after he became commissioner when he allowed a documentary film crew to shoot an Indian Point drill, "which is a complete breach of security."

After that occurred, Odell said she called him into her office where she said Stiebeling admitted that he was in over his head, but that he still wanted the job.

At that point, Odell said she offered Stiebeling mentoring. In fact, in a county press release dated April 1, 2013, that announced Bob Lipton as EMS deputy commissioner, Odell called Lipton "a great mentor for Adam." Lipton is now interim commissioner.

Odell stated there were other instances that caused concern, in which the purchasing department or law department had to come to Stiebeling's aid.

When asked about the Christmas 2013 incidents, Stiebeling's attorney, Michael Sussman, said if someone in an important role such as Stiebeling was caught "behaving inappropriately," it would be critical for the county executive to act promptly and "to do something about it, not a year a later, not 14 months later."

"It's important to confront (your) subordinate with what it is they might have done," Sussman said, referring to Odell. "If there was an internal investigation, it precludes speaking with the alleged perpetrator, finding out his or her version of events. That's pretty fundamental due process."

Sussman also said that if Odell wanted to oust Stiebeling from his position she should have gone to the county legislature to receive approval.

Sussman said the information obtained by The Putnam Examiner, "doesn't have anything to do with anything," and that it's "a cover because the county executive did not follow the law and to distract attention from that."

"There's smoke being thrown around Mr. Stiebeling," Sussman said.

Odell reiterated that she followed the law when she did not reappoint Stiebeling, suggesting Sussman should read the public officer's law and the state constitution. Additionally, Odell said the decision to replace Stiebeling as commissioner was reviewed by the necessary individuals before she took action.

Odell also recalled when the late Bob McMahon, the county's first fulltime EMS commissioner, handed her his resignation letter when she took office in 2010, an example of what should be done, Odell said, while adding that Stiebeling and McMahon are "obviously two different people."

Odell defended keeping Stiebeling in his role as long as she did. After her administration received reports from the Sheriff's Department in March, Odell determined it would have taken months to go through the legislature to relieve Stiebeling of his duties. Odell also claimed she was looking out for Stiebeling's best interest by failing to reappoint him, rather than opting for termination.

"With all of that, comes litigation. Obviously, by his actions here, by not accepting his non-reappointment, I knew then he would file suit," Odell said. "Why do something that would cost the taxpayers money, cost him his reputation. I have no interest in any of that."

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SPRING 2015

Business of the Week

Cold Spring Depot

Cold Spring

By David Propper

For dozens of years, Cold Spring Depot has been a destination for village residents who live right down the street, or out-of-towners seeking one of the most established eateries in the Lower Hudson Valley.

Cold Spring Depot's reputation even drew one of the United States' most prolific political couples to the restaurant, Bill and Hillary Clinton, on Valentine's Day of all days.

"I didn't even see the security (that does a check before the couple enters any location) so I just saw them walking in and I was like 'Hey' so that was interesting," new co-owner Greg Pagonos said. "I shook their hands on the way out so that was pretty cool. I shook the president's hand and possibly the new president's hand so it was a really cool experience."

Hillary had a burger special from the Hudson Valley Cattle Company and Bill had the Jamaican Jerk Mahi-Mahi. Where the Clintons had their lunch is now considered the "presidents seat."

But even if the Clintons didn't dine at the local eatery recently, the Cold Spring Depot still has plenty to brag about, always drawing a crowd with a savory and wide ranging menu with a friendly staff



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

New co-owner Greg Pagonos sits at the same table where Bill and Hillary Clinton recently sat to enjoy a Valentine's Day lunch together.

"The opportunities are just endless around here so that's exciting." - Cold Spring Depot co-owner Greg Pagonos

and a new co-owner taking the reins. When Pagonos closed his former restaurant last May, he said he wasn't in a rush to jump back into the restaurant business unless a golden opportunity presented itself. Sure enough, it did. After one of the Cold Spring Depot owners, Stu Schetters, decided to depart from the business, the other co-owner Tom Rolston welcomed Pagonos.

"This is a great situation, the location is great, plus the staff has been here a long time," he said. "So you can only go up, you can't screw up around here."

"The opportunities are just endless around here so that's exciting," Pagonos added.

Pagonos admits that when a new guy like himself comes into a new restaurant, customers can be apprehensive because they enjoy the familiarity of a business that's been around more than 30 years. But he said the locals have welcome him warmly.

And while he doesn't plan on any wholesale changes, Pagonos has tweaked and tinkered here and there to continue to improve the restaurant. He said before any changes, even slight ones are made, it's important to get acclimated with the restaurant, the food served and the staff that does the work.

"We're getting gradually a little more aggressive in our menu changes," Pagonos said. "But it's still going to be comfort food, homemade, that's the most important thing to me."

The Cold Spring Depot is located at 1 Depot Square in Cold Spring and its number is 845-265-5000.

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Adam Stone
astone@theexaminernews.com
Publisher

Laura Markowski
lmarkowski@theexaminernews.com
Associate Publisher

Peter Stone
pstone@theexaminernews.com
Chief Financial Officer

David Propper
dpropper@theexaminernews.com
Editor-in-Chief

Neal Rentz
nrentz@theexaminernews.com
Reporter

Janine Bowen
jbowen@theexaminernews.com
Reporter

Ray Gallagher
rgallagher@theexaminernews.com
Sports Editor

Nikki Gallagher
nikki@theexaminernews.com
Community Calendar Editor

Bill Primavera
bprimavera@theexaminernews.com
Real Estate Editor

Dean Pacchiana
dpacchiana@theexaminernews.com
Page Designer

Dina Spalvieri
dspalvieri@theexaminernews.com
Ad Designer

Jeff Ohlbaum
johlbaum@theexaminernews.com
Senior Account Executive

Corinne Stanton
cstanton@theexaminernews.com
Media Consultant

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Sheriff Announces County Boater Safety Classes

Putnam County Sheriff Donald B. Smith announces an upcoming series of boater safety courses. The dates, times, and locations are as follows:

March 14, 2015 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Mahopac Marina, 897 South Lake Boulevard, Mahopac. April 25, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services Building, 110 Old Route 6, Carmel. May 9, 2015 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Bureau of Emergency Services Building in Carmel.

Persons over the age of 14 who wish

to operate a personal watercraft in the State of New York and/or motorboat operators born on or after May 1, 1996 are required by law to successfully complete this course. Persons who wish to attend and complete this class must be at least 10 years of age. This course is free of charge. Upon successful completion of the course, participants aged 19 years or older must remit a \$10 fee to the State of New York in order to receive a certificate of completion. Participants aged 18 years or younger are entitled to receive the certificate free

of charge.

To register for the course at the Bureau of Emergency Services Building, register online at www.putnamsheriff.com by using the link for the boater safety class. A separate form must be completed for each individual applicant.

To register for the course at the Mahopac Marina, appear in person at the front desk at that location.

For further information or questions about the courses, contact Sergeant Michael Szabo at michael.szabo@putnamcountyny.gov

Putnam Sheriff's Dept. is Offering Voluntary Vessel Inspections Starting in May

Sheriff Donald Smith invites Putnam County residents to have a voluntary vessel inspection done by one of his Deputies assigned to the Marine Unit. In an attempt to educate the community on safe boating, Deputies will advise boaters of the required safety equipment and boating regulations in New York State. The Putnam County Sheriff's

Marine Unit patrols Lake Mahopac, Oscawana Lake and the Hudson River.

Deputies will be performing inspections at:

Mahopac Marina @ 897 South Lake Blvd, Mahopac on May 30, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Cold Spring Boat Club @ 5 New Street, Cold Spring on May 31, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

MacDonald Marina @ 1 Marina Dr., Mahopac on June 6, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Oscawana Lake Marina @ 96 Dunderberg Road, Putnam Valley on May 31, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

If you cannot make one of those events please contact Sergeant Michael Szabo 845-225-4300 x266 to arrange an appointment.

Sleep disorder screenings at Putnam Hospital Center

It is estimated that 70 million Americans have some form of acute or chronic sleep disorders, yet most people may not even know it.

National Sleep Awareness Week is from March 2-8 and offers public education and information on the importance of sleep.

Health Quest Sleep Medicine will mark the week with a series of events including one at Putnam Hospital

Center from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday, March 5, main lobby, 664 Stoneleigh Ave.

Christine Braccino, Health Quest Sleep Medicine manager, along with a representative from a CPAP/BIPAP equipment vendor, will provide screenings for sleep disorders.

Participants will learn how to schedule a sleep study, obtain a referral to a board certified sleep physician and

learn about the latest advancements in sleep equipment and masks. Pressure checks on CPAP/BIPAP machines will also be provided.

The Center for Sleep Medicine at Putnam Hospital Center offers overnight sleep studies for conditions such as sleep apnea.

For more information, call Health Quest Sleep Medicine at 845-838-8160.

Letters Policy

We invite readers to share their thoughts by sending letters to the editor. Please limit comments to 250 words. We will do our best to print all letters, but are limited by space constraints. Letters are subject to editing and may be withheld from publication on the discretion of the editor.

Please refrain from personal attacks. Email letters to Editor David Propper at dpropper@theexaminernews.com.

The Putnam Examiner requires all letter writers provide their name, address and contact information.

Obituaries

Marilyn Anderes

Marilyn Anderes, 62 died Wednesday, February 18th at Westchester Medical Center. She was born on January 31, 1953 to Raymond and Amelia Davanzo. She married Edward Anderes on September 15, 1974 in Mount Vernon. Marilyn was a devoted wife and mother of 3. She moved to Carmel in 1993 and worked for Albano Insurance Agency in Mahopac. She is survived by three children Edward, Jaime and Ryan. One daughter-in-law Samantha and One son-in-law John , 6 grandchildren Jenna, Angelina, John, Adrianna, Juliette, and Amelia, One brother Kenneth and one sister Diane, one sister-in-law Elizabeth and two brother-in-laws, Richard and Leigh.

Wallace G. Blanchard

Wallace G. Blanchard, 71, of Mahopac, died on February 19, at Putnam Hospital Center. Mr. Blanchard was born on

August 21, 1943 to Wallace E. and Marion (Newton) Blanchard in Yonkers. He proudly served his Country with both the US Navy and US Airforce. On September 20, 1980 he married Gloria Schochemaro in Yonkers. Before he retired, he was a Chauffeur for the UN in New York City and was also once employed by Lake Mohegan Motors, in Mohegan Lake. He is survived by his devoted wife, Gloria, his loving daughter; Louise Volphe, his six loving step-children; Paul Tucker, Stephen Tucker, Gloria Crimmins, John Tucker, Peter Tucker and Michael Tucker; his two sisters; Barbara Hedgepeth and Audrey Horetz, one grandchild, twenty step-grandchildren and seventeen step-great-grandchildren.

**SMALL NEWS
IS BIG NEWS**

Putnam Women's Networking Group to Celebrate Five-Year Anniversary

continued from page 1

their business and family life and the challenges they face when both aspects interlock.

At the PWP's first event in March 2010, Imperati was hopeful to at least attract 20 women who live in the county. But, in fact, more than 80 residents crowded the former Route 6 Bistrant, a clear indication there was a need for a group like PWP in the area.

Imperati moved up to Mahopac with her husband in 2003 after living in the Bronx and working in Southern Westchester, where she would regularly go to networking events in New York City. Bringing that networking up north has been rewarding for Imperati, who notes that many women have become good friends and in some cases even, have been able to professionally collaborate.

She still recalls three members — a mortgage broker, a realtor, and a real estate attorney — all meeting at the very first event and forming a trio that even to this day does business together.

"I've gotten to see it evolve and grow and the nice thing is people will let me know 'Oh I met with so and so, we're doing business together,'" Imperati, who also has three children, said. "They keep me in the loop, which is great."

Others working women in Putnam have lauded PWP as an integral role in the county.

Lisa Kaslyn, who owns and operates Prosper Communications in Carmel, said the organization allows women to break down barriers and have a more honest conversation than if it were a co-ed networking group. She noted there's a certain warmth and commonality that women in PWP enjoy.

"I don't know if intimidated is the right word, but there is a certain atmosphere that comes into play when men and woman are together in a business environment and for whatever reason women seem to kind of shy away or



PWP founder Jamie Imperati.

take sort of subordinate approach to the conversation," Kaslyn said. "When it's just women all together, that doesn't happen. They can be themselves."

As the communications director of PWP, Kaslyn said when the organization just began, residents were "clamoring" for it and it "took on a life of its own." Now, over the past five years, both social and traditional media have continued to inform women about the organization that now enlist more than 150 members overall.

Local county leaders like County Executive MaryEllen Odell and Legislator Dini LoBue have also been involved with PWP, Imperati said.

Odell, who is the first female county executive after four male county executives held that title, said local women's groups like PWP are vital because the support system it holds can help women advance in their specific career path.

"I don't think I could have been a strong legislator and still have a career and manage my family if I didn't have strong women around me," Odell, who was on the county Legislature before becoming county executive, said. "These groups should be congratulated for organizing and keeping women together and letting us know there's somebody there for you



In the third year of existence, PWP continued to boast a booming membership of women in Putnam.

on the days that you need somebody."

She also noted within county government there are female department heads in the Office for Senior Resources, Consumer Affairs, and the Law Department, as well as many other women who work for county government, while still "balancing a family, children, and parents and just life in general."

Imperati has scheduled a 5-year anniversary event for March 18 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Route 6 Tap House in Mahopac. Putnam resident and President of the Westchester County Association Marissa Brett will be the featured speaker.

Imperati certainly isn't going to rest on her five years of connecting and networking Putnam County women. She continues to promote the organization and

has even started a northern Westchester chapter and a young women's chapter for high school and college aged women.

The challenging balance of work and family that women in PWP face are even epitomized in Imperati herself.

Though Imperati has a desire to build up other PWP chapters in the region — she owns the name Professional Women in New York City and says "I have other names that are on my long-term bucket list," — right now she has other aspects of her life to focus on.

"Right now, my kids are too little," Imperati said.

To attend the five year anniversary, or for more information on the organization please go to www.professionalwomenofputnam.com.



The PWP celebrated its two years of existence in 2011 as more women continued to join the group.



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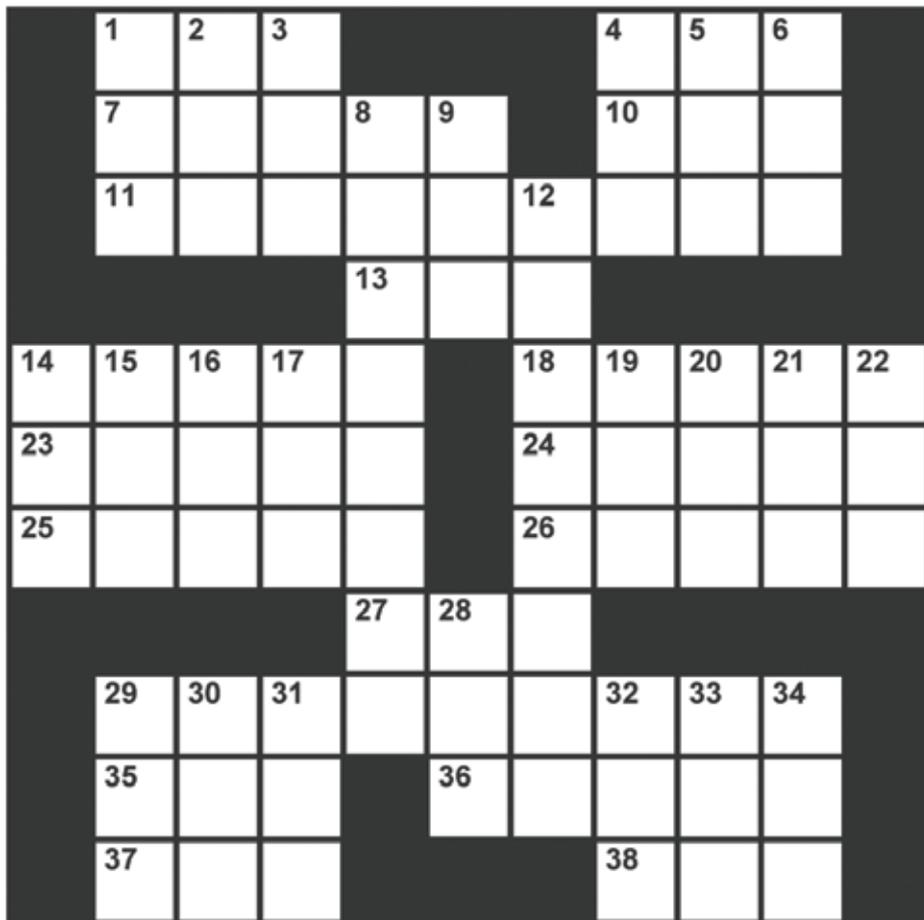
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Crossword Puzzle



Crossword by Myles Mellor

Answers on page 17

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Across

- 1 Venomous reptile
- 4 Lamb serving
- 7 Asian capital
- 10 Before, in an ode
- 11 Mountain range plus "Beverly Hills" secretary or river towns' real estate (goes with 12 down)
- 13 Down south, to a Canadian
- 14 Kind of length or point
- 18 Tire measurement
- 23 Young bird
- 24 Robust
- 25 Cousin of a raccoon
- 26 Leave dumbfounded
- 27 At this point
- 29 Texas border river
- 35 Certain colonist
- 36 Giving the once-over
- 37 It makes molehills out of mountains
- 38 Interval

Down

- 1 Gr. neighbor
- 2 H. Rider Haggard adventure
- 3 Standard
- 4 Hawaiian Islands offering
- 5 Make a goof
- 6 Go right
- 8 Staying in the shadows
- 9 Long-eared beast
- 12 See 11 across

- 14 Broadcasting board
- 15 Expression of surprise
- 16 Government intelligence
- 17 Shakespearean segment
- 19 Computer memory
- 20 Important time
- 21 Woodworker's tool
- 22 One way to change color
- 28 Copper, e.g.
- 29 I smell a ____
- 30 Place to stay
- 31 Canadian government city
- 32 Zero
- 33 Evidence piece
- 34 Prod



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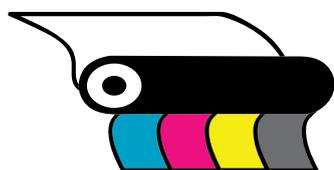
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My Personal and Frightening Story of Living With Toxic Mold

More than a dozen years ago, Ed McMahon, the famous pitch man and announcer for Johnny Carson, brought to the public's attention the health problems that can result from living with toxic mold in the home.

After a long legal battle, McMahon was awarded \$7.2 million from several companies who were negligent in allowing toxic mold into his home resulting from a broken pipe, sickening him and his wife and killing their dog.

As it happens, I had been aware for some years that I had a mold problem in my home, but not being sensitive to it, I thought it was a minor situation and let it go without remediating it.

Last week, however, I learned that this was a mistake and my health has probably been affected to some degree by my procrastination.

It started on Christmas Eve three years ago, before my living room in my antique house was converted to the office of my public relations business. At that time, my daughter said she could no longer sit in that room because she was having an allergic reaction to something there.

To accommodate her discomfort, we moved our holiday get-together into our



By Bill Primavera

family room, but at the end of the evening I checked around and found that, indeed, in a corner in an 18th century glass door-enclosed bookcase-on-chest, there was mold forming on my collection of antique books. I simply closed the doors and let the situation just sit.

A month ago, I was curious about a certain book, wondered whether it was in that that bookcase, opened the doors and was shocked to find that the mold had spread from the books onto the shelves. The smell had become somewhat noxious.

By coincidence that very week, I received a call from

Valerie Maziarz of Oxygen Sanitizing Systems, who had read one of my articles, to tell me about her environmental services, which included mold remediation. Wow, I thought, how synchronistic. Come right over, I told her.

In short order she was in my living room-turned-office, opened the cabinet, and just from a visual check and the smell, she was aware that the problem was severe.

"You've got a green mold forest growing in there. It's a regular party!" she proclaimed. It seems that the antique books, with its cellulose in the pages, had

provided a perfect growing environment for the mold.

The next Friday evening, when the room would be empty for the weekend, Maziarz arrived with her partner, Tom Schassler, and her equipment in tow to literally replace the air in my office.

Here is how the system works. The room was sealed off and generators with ultraviolet light and electric static discharge, produced converted oxygen in industrial-level concentration and quantities treating all surfaces and permeating all cracks, crevices, killing all microorganisms.

The process is 100 percent green, chemical-free and EPA and FDA approved. Besides mold, it eradicates odors, allergens, bacteria and viruses, restoring the environment and improving health.

After 24 hours, Maziarz and Schassler returned with commercial grade HEPA equipment specifically designed to remove all remaining particulates from the air and surfaces. Lastly, the office was treated with an antimicrobial surface protectant.

When I returned the following Monday, I could feel that the air was "cleaner" and wasn't aware that there was a problem until the problem was gone. This process restored my office environment and salvaged my antique book collection dating to the 1880s.

According to tests taken before and after

the process, Maziarz showed me that I had four different mold types in my office, one of which, *Penicillium Aspergillus*, was highly toxic and there in high levels.

"Does this mean that my years of living with toxic mold in the environment could have affected my health without my knowing it?" I asked.

Yes, I was told, it could have affected my health.

Perhaps my experience, scary as it was, can be an alert to someone reading this. If you know of or suspect that you may have a mold problem in your home, please don't procrastinate as I did only to wonder to what degree it may have affected your health. Take action immediately and have the problem addressed. Your health is the single most important thing to you.

To reach Oxygen Sanitizing Systems, call 877-244-3080 or visit www.newindoorair.com. God speed.

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Artisanal Importers Can Tantalize Our Discerning Palates



By Nick Antonaccio

Having sought out new wines for several decades now, I've found that I prefer particular styles of wine and specific wine regions.

This has certainly helped steer me in the right direction when I'm perusing the numerous offerings at my local wine shops. Certainly, the new round of wine apps, a number of which I reviewed in a recent column, is very useful in ferreting out particular wines that align with my personal preferences. However, many of these apps tend to focus on one-off data for specific wines, which, in the aggregate, may not be necessarily aligned with my overall palate.

What I've deduced over the continuum of developing my instinctive behavior is that I tend to favor wines offered by select importers.

How does an individual importer influence my wine purchasing decision? This is today's topic.

Over the past 20 years the universe of wine importing has broadened, from

monolithic importers who controlled most of the wine purchased in the United States, to a sophisticated, focused group of smaller importers that supplement the offerings of the mainstream importers.

Many of these "artisanal importers" have a passion for particular styles or regions and vigorously pursue wines that express their passions. Their focus is typically on the small producers, who don't produce enough to garner the attention of the larger importers and distributors.

Thus, certain importers' names have become synonymous with small producers who offer wines that would not otherwise be available in the marketplace.

If you like the new wines coming from the Bordeaux and Burgundy regions of France, there are artisanal importers who have spent hours in the cramped, damp and poorly lighted cellars of family-owned wineries. Many of them are fourth and fifth generation producers, who finally have the opportunity to offer their finely crafted wines across the Atlantic to a consumer in northern Westchester.

If you like Champagne, there are artisanal importers focused on

You Heard It Through the Grapevine

small producers who offer alternatives to the highly marketed French mega producers, at prices that are highly competitive to the big Champagne houses.

If you like organic or biodynamic wines, there are artisanal importers who search high and low for small producers with simpatico philosophies, bringing these wines into the United States and creating a new awareness of natural wines to the American consumer.

Who are these artisanal importers? Their names are in plain sight. (You can usually find them by looking on the back label of your favorite wines.) Using this research tool as your guide, new vistas will open as you seek out wines to enjoy.

Several of these artisanal importers are right here in our backyard. Their offerings may or may not be aligned with your preferences, but in the interest of opening new vistas to you, I present them so you may experiment in finding palate-pleasing offerings.

Chappaqua is home to Serge Doré Selections, the eponymous house whose founder long ago traded constant toiling on hot, concrete pavements for traipsing through vineyard rows with sun-warmed soil underfoot. He traded meetings

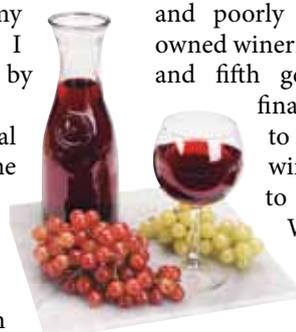
in sterile corporate board rooms for kitchen table meetings in the homes of French winemakers. Today, his offerings from nine French regions have become popular with Americans seeking wines with unique bouquets, aromas and flavors.

Based in Pleasantville, Vintus Wines is focused on small producers around the world who practice the art of the symbiotic relationship with nature. Michael Quinttus and his team state that their goal is "to assemble a diverse, international range of 'wines of place' produced by passionate personalities."

In Mount Kisco, Polaner Distributors is a unique blend of distributor and importer. Although primarily a distributor, they encourage consumers to "open your mind and taste." Their focus is to "comb the wine world to discover and launch tiny, up-and-coming producers."

In upcoming columns I will focus on the philosophy and specific offerings from several artisanal importers.

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



School & Camp Guide

Sports Summer Programs Returning to Kent Recreation

By Neal Rentz

While Kent youths may be preoccupied with bundling up and shoveling snow during this frigid February, it will soon be time for them to think about what they plan to do when school is out this summer.

For the fourth consecutive summer the Town of Kent Recreation and Parks Department will provide a series of sports programs.

"The Town of Kent doesn't have a summer camp program," Director of Recreation and Parks Louis Fernandez said last week. "We have summer sports."

Sports programs will again be provided by the New Jersey-based US Sports Institute. In previous summers

the company has provided a variety of programs, including tennis and golf. "There's no taxpayer contribution" for the summer sports programs, which are paid for by the participants, Fernandez said.

The summer sports programs are conducted at the Edward Ryan Memorial Park in July and August, Fernandez said.

Last year's programs were for youths of all abilities between the ages of 3 and 14 and each session lasted between 60 and 90 minutes. Aside from golf and tennis classes, Sports Squirts was offered by US Sports Institute. As described on the Institute's website, "Squirts programs are designed to introduce children aged 2 to 7 to a

variety of sports in a safe and structured environment. All games and activities will encompass hand-eye coordination, balance, agility and movement - all key factors to the early development of children in sport."

Registration for this summer's sports programs is expected to begin in April, Fernandez said. The sports programs that will be offered for the summer of 2015 have not yet been determined, he said.

For more information, call the recreation and parks department at 845-531-2100 or send an e-mail to recreation@townofkentny.gov. The department, which is open weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., is located at 25 Sybil's Crossing off Route 52 in Kent.

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School & Camp Guide

Summer Camp Offers Free Full Session to Children of Metro-North Victims

By Janine Bowen

Seven children were left without a father following this month's tragic Metro-North train crash and Kiwi Country Day Camp in Carmel is trying to make life for those children a bit brighter.

Adam Wallach, the owner and camp director at Kiwi Country Day Camp, reached out to New Castle Supervisor Robert Greenstein soon after the crash looking to get in contact with the victims to extend a generous offer. The camp will be offering scholarships to attend a full eight-week session to all of the young

children who lost a parent in the Valhalla crash.

The sessions cost \$5,400 per child, but Wallach said that extending the scholarships felt like the right thing to do.

"After the tragedy...we were talking in our office and said maybe we could help make life a little bit easier for the families over the summer and provide the children with something to look forward to," Wallach said. "Obviously, it will never replace the loss of their parents; it's just a small way that we can help their family

through a difficult time."

Kiwi, which Wallach describes as an authentic and traditional summer camp, offers a variety of activities to children including zip-lining, archery, art lessons, swim lessons and traditional sports such as basketball and baseball. Wallach hopes that by extending the offer, the children will have a happy memory to look back on.

Three of the passengers killed in the first car of the train, which struck an SUV driven by Edgemont resident Ellen Brody at the Commerce Street crossing, left behind young children. Chappaqua resident Robert Dirks, 36, and Eric Vandercar, 53, of Bedford each had a son and a daughter while New Castle resident, Joseph Nadol, 42, left behind three children. Each of those children are not only eligible to attend Kiwi Country Day Camp this summer, but will be invited back each subsequent summer for as long as they want, Wallach said.

"I think, in general, when anything happens like this, everybody feels bad and everybody wants to try to help in some way and unfortunately there's not really a lot that people can do during the situation," said Wallach. "For me, the only way that I can think to help these families in any meaningful way to try to make

their lives easier was to provide their kids with a great experience and something memorable that they can do this summer."

Wallach is not the only one who has stepped up to help the families following the crash. Pleasantville resident Maggie O'Connor has been offering free therapy sessions for anybody affected by the tragedy. Also, a campaign started by Chappaqua Cares, Chappaqua Shares to collect donations for the families of Dirks and Nadol received such an overwhelming response that the organization needed to ask for donations to be temporarily halted.

A fundraiser on the crowd-funding website YouCaring.com for the Robert Dirks Memorial and Family Fund has collected more than \$80,000 from nearly 1,000 donors in a little more than a week. The original goal was to raise \$63,000.

In a comment on the fundraiser's page, Dirk's widow, Christine Ueda, shared her surprise at the level of support she and her children have received from community members.

"When I was first facing the reality that Robert was gone, I felt scared and alone," she wrote to supporters. "You have made me realize that there's an incredibly supportive community out there with open arms and hearts."

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Trans. Advisory Council Commends Top-Notch 2014, Looks to 2015

The Transportation Advisory Council, a group whose mission is "to provide transportation needs for those who utilize a public transportation system" and to "provide reliable and affordable transportation for the people of Putnam County," has achieved much in 2014, according to Chairman Vincent M. Tamagna.

"The year zipped by and we have accomplished many great things during 2014," said Tamagna. "We passed a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) review with flying colors, improved operations, transitioned through a new operator, MV Transportation, and added a new MV-1 ParaTransit vehicle to our fleet. We are currently reviewing a Request for Proposal (RFP) in order to award a contract for technology and software for our public transportation and ParaTransit systems. We also have launched a successful marketing campaign."

The Putnam Moves marketing campaign to attract advertisers whose information can be placed in, on and around the buses has been wonderfully successful with Putnam Hospital Center joining the ranks of area advertisers. County Executive MaryEllen Odell was pleased to welcome PHC President James Caldas as they posed alongside one of the bright blue refurbished

buses. "It's wonderful that Putnam Hospital Center, Putnam's largest employer, has recognized the advertising potential we present with our Putnam Moves transit system," she said. "Advertising on the buses is smart and affordable and we're thrilled that businesses are coming on board with us in this venture."

Caldas was quick to announce his pleasure at having the opportunity to have the hospital's services advertised so easily.

"We are very excited about the opportunity to benefit from the county's revitalized transit program by advertising on the newly renovated buses," said Caldas. "It is an attractive means of building public awareness of our high-quality, patient-care services."

Tamagna expects 2015 to be equally successful for the county's public transportation system.

"We are revving up for a great 2015 with prospects of comprehensive bus routes that make better connections, additional fleet enhancements and the introduction of much needed bus shelters," he said.

Persons or businesses interested in advertising on the buses should contact the Putnam County Chambers of Commerce at: info@putnamchamberny.org or by calling (845) 228-8595



County Executive MaryEllen Odell welcomed Putnam Hospital Center President James Caldas as he announced the hospital is now advertising its many services on the newly refurbished Putnam Moves transit buses.

Retired White Plains Police Officer Kills 2 Daughters, Then Self

continued from page 5

filed a police report on Friday about a dispute she had with her husband over an \$80 phone bill, but that there was no indication of verbal or physical abuse claims in the report. She had filed the report for documentation purposes only because a friend had advised her to do so, Marraccini said.

A multi-page suicide letter found at the scene was addressed to Mrs. Hochman and according to Marraccini offered her advice on what she should do next to get her family's business in order.

Marraccini would not share what else the suicide note said, nor would he indicate if Mr. Hochman acted because of a marital dispute.

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Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival Announces New Managing Director

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival (HVSF) is pleased to announce the appointment of Kate Liberman as its new Managing Director. Reporting to HVSF's Board of Directors, and working in partnership with Artistic Director Davis McCallum, Ms. Liberman will be responsible for all administrative and operational aspects of HVSF's activities.

With an MFA in theater management from the Yale School of Drama and an MBA from the Yale School of Management, Ms. Liberman has devoted her career to theater administration, serving Yale Repertory Theatre as Associate Managing Director, Berkeley Repertory Theatre as a Managing Director Fellow, and The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts as Assistant Manager in Development. She is currently General Manager of The Laguna Playhouse, a \$4.5 million regional theater in Laguna Beach, CA, which is entering its 95th season. Ms. Liberman will join HVSF in March.

"The Board has made an outstanding choice in selecting Kate as the new Managing Director, and I am delighted to have her join our team," said HVSF Artistic Director Davis McCallum. "Not only is Kate a natural leader with a wide range of skills and experience, she also has an unmistakable passion for the mission of our theater company. I look forward to introducing her to the HVSF community and embarking on the next chapter of the company's story together."

Robin Ardit, President of the HVSF Board, said: "We are delighted to welcome Kate as our new Managing Director. She is an exciting new leader in the field of theater administration, with great energy, intelligence, and commitment to HVSF's mission and the power of theater to enrich our lives and build community. Her experience, training, and consistently high record of achievement convinced

us that she will be a superb partner to Davis in leading HVSF in its next phase of development."

On accepting the position, Ms. Liberman said: "I am thrilled to join Davis, the board and the staff at this exciting time for HVSF. This is a remarkable organization that engages the community, young artists, and students through its dynamic productions and impactful theater education programs. I look forward to contributing to and continuing the wonderful work that has defined HVSF for the last 28 years."

Ms. Liberman succeeds Maggie Whitlum, who left HVSF in the fall to return to England with her husband, who took up a post at Oxford University. Since then, the HVSF administrative staff has been led by Jared Goldstein as Interim Managing Director and Mona Smith as Deputy Interim Managing Director. Ms. Ardit said, "The Board is deeply appreciative of the staff's exemplary team work during this transition period, as they executed our sold-out "second stage" productions during the fall, planned for our diverse and innovative in-school education programs, and set the stage for what promises to be a terrific 2015 summer season."

Ms. Liberman's appointment concludes a nationwide search that attracted a distinguished pool of candidates. The search was conducted by a Board committee chaired by Leslie Kelley, Managing Director of Blue Man Productions.

About Kate Liberman

Ms. Liberman joins HVSF on March 2, 2015. She is currently General Manager of The Laguna Playhouse, a \$4.5 million non-profit theater in Laguna Beach, CA. During her tenure at The Playhouse, she worked with senior leadership and the Board of Trustees on a strategic plan, assisted in an organizational fiscal turnaround,



Kate Liberman,
Managing Director

and oversaw the planning and implementation of significant capital improvements.

Prior to her job at The Playhouse, she served as Associate Managing Director at the Yale Repertory Theatre in New Haven, CT.

In her time at Yale,

Ms. Liberman also served as the Managing Director of Yale Summer Cabaret and as the Company Manager for Yale Repertory Theatre. She has also served as the Managing Director Fellow at Berkeley Repertory Theater and was a member of the development staff of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

Kate has an MFA in Theater Management from the Yale School of Drama as well as an MBA from the Yale School of Management. Kate completed her undergraduate work at the University of Pennsylvania, where she graduated summa cum laude with a degree in Theatre Arts and English. She was a 2006 recipient of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship and now serves as the President of the Truman Scholars Association Board of Directors. Originally from the Boston area, Kate is thrilled about settling in the Hudson Valley.

About Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival

Founded in 1987, the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's mission is to engage the widest possible audience in a fresh conversation about what is essential in Shakespeare's plays. Both in production and in the classroom, our theater lives in the present moment, at the intersection of the virtuosity of the actor, the imagination

of the audience, and the inspiration of the text.

HVSF's primary home is a spectacular open-air theater tent at Boscobel House and Gardens in Garrison, NY. Every summer, more than 35,000 patrons join us there for a twelve-week season of plays presented in repertory, with the natural beauty of the Hudson Highlands as our backdrop. HVSF's exuberant productions garner consistent critical acclaim from regional and national media (New York Times, New Yorker, Wall Street Journal) for communicating great stories with clarity, energy and imagination. HVSF also tours productions throughout the Hudson Valley and presents limited runs of classic plays in local landmark venues. HVSF's acclaimed arts education programs include training for early-career theater artists; professional development for educators; and programs and performances that serve more than 40,000 middle and high school students each year.

HVSF's 2015 summer season opens June 9 and continues through September 1. Running in repertory will be *The Winter's Tale* by William Shakespeare, directed by Davis McCallum; *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare, directed by Eric Tucker; *The Arabian Nights* by Mary Zimmerman, adapted from the *Book of Thousand Nights and One Night*, directed by Lileana Blain-Cruz; *An Iliad* by Lisa Peterson and Denis O'Hare, adapted from Homer's *Iliad* as translated by Robert Fagles, and directed by Gaye Taylor Upchurch; and *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare, directed by Jim Calder and featuring the HVSF Conservatory Company.

Online ordering for the 2015 season begins March 1, and the Box Office opens May 19. For more information about tickets and shows, please visit hvshakespeare.org.

KG&D Architects Names New Principal of Firm

Kaeyer, Garment & Davidson Architects, PC of Mount Kisco is pleased to announce that Walter P. Hauser, AIA has been named Principal of the firm. Walter possesses strong management skills with attention to design detail and an outstanding ability to interface and communicate with owners, consultants and contractors. Russell A. Davidson, FAIA KG&D President and Erik A. Kaeyer, AIA KG&D Vice President enthusiastically welcome Walter in joining them in the planning and management of operations of the firm.

KG&D Architects, has worked with numerous public school districts—including the Brewster Central School District, which is set to undergo multiple building renovations after voters approved a bond referendum back in December.

Walter joined KG&D as a Project Architect in 2004 and continued to hold positions as an Associate and Associate Principal. Since joining KG&D, Mr. Hauser has designed and managed projects with a combined construction value of approximately \$100 million. He has served as the project manager for significant projects including Westchester Community College Master Plan, additions and renovations to Somers High School, District-wide infrastructure upgrades for the White Plains City School District, Master Planning and District-wide renovations for Middletown City School District



Walter P. Hauser

and Trinity Pawling School Master Plan and new Scully Dining Hall designed to achieve LEED Silver certification.

Walter holds a Masters of Architecture degree from the University of Pennsylvania, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Architecture from Trinity College. Walter is a licensed architect in the state of New York and a member of the American Institute of Architects.

Walter has contributed significantly to the firm's success and is an important part of its future in his position of leadership as firm Principal.

About KG&D

KG&D Architects, PC is a general practice firm specializing in educational, municipal and commercial/industrial campus and facilities design. We are a mid-sized firm providing planning, architectural design, civil engineering, interior design and construction administration. In business for more than 60 years, KG&D has a long history of superior services to clients; in the past 10 years, the firm has planned and constructed projects valued at more than \$600 million throughout the lower Hudson Valley. KG&D's planning and design philosophy is "Listen, Imagine & Build." Through open and interactive collaboration with clients, KG&D plans and designs sites and buildings that are functional, attractive, cost-effective and sustainable. Visit www.kgdarchitects.com

Child Welfare Advocates Offer Guidance to School Officials

Protecting children is everyone's business. These days, school officials may be called upon to recognize and offer help to children who are victims of abuse, or suffering from mental illness or an emotional crisis, or having difficulties at home.

That's why the Guidance and Child Study Center at Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES invited child advocates and representatives from Westchester and Putnam counties to address social workers, counselors, psychologists and administrators from districts across the region on Friday, Feb. 6th.

Panelists included Michael Orth, deputy commissioner of Department of Community Mental Health, Westchester County; John Befus, deputy commissioner of the Department of Social Services, Westchester County; Vincent Agnano, manager in the Peekskill office of the Department of Social Services; Frank Marocco, Director of Children and Family Services, Putnam County; and Marla Behler, program coordinator, Child Advocacy Center, Putnam County; and Alison Lusardi, CPS supervisor, Putnam County.

"Whether you are a teacher, counselor or psychologist at a school, you are our first line of defense against child abuse," said Putnam County's Marocco. "You can see changes in their behavior. We have to



John Befus, deputy commissioner Department of Social Services, Westchester County, addresses school social workers, counselors and psychologists at a panel discussion on child protection at Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES. Looking on from left to right: Michael Orth, deputy commissioner Department of Community Mental Health, Westchester County; Vincent Agnano, manager Peekskill office of DSS; Alison Lusardi, CPS supervisor, Putnam County; Marla Behler, program coordinator, Child Advocacy Center, Putnam County; and (not seen) Frank Marocco, director of Child and Family Services, Putnam County.

rely on you to really dig and see what is going on" with a child.

The speakers tried to give school officials a better understanding of what happens when someone makes a report of suspected child abuse as well as efforts in both counties to help maintain families, rather than place children in foster care.

Of the nearly 7,000 reports of abuse maltreatment reported and nearly 5,000 investigations completed each year in Westchester, Befus said 23 percent are indicated with a standard of some credible evidence. In Putnam, officials field about

700 reports of abuse each year.

Among other things, the speakers told attendees that when investigating an allegation of abuse CPS workers do not need a release to obtain a student's school records. They also said school officials need not make a complaint in order to recommend that a family receive support services however, the family must request the services.

One question was whether CPS maintains confidentiality of the person who makes a report. The panelists said the reporter's name is confidential, however,

parents may figure out who has reported them based on things the child has said.

Because of confidentiality, officials from both counties said they cannot discuss details of an investigation. For example, if a report is investigated and the allegations are ruled to be "unfounded" the officials cannot explain why the ruling was made or what details were uncovered or what, if any, preventive services were recommended.

Both Westchester and Putnam counties are making efforts to improve child protection. In Westchester, the county has created a Cross Systems Unit that brings together Probation, Mental Health and Preventive Services, with a goal of ensuring that a person in need finds help.

"The idea is that there is no wrong door," said Orth. "If something is wrong, the team goes out and assesses what needs to be done to help. The goal is to direct families to services that can best meet their needs from any of our systems."

In Putnam County, the Child Advocacy Center provides a coordinated response. "Our goal is to ensure that the process itself is not traumatic," said Behler.

"This was a wonderful, great start," said Dr. Edward Escobar, director of pupil personnel services in Bedford. "There was a nice representation on the panel and it was good to be able to get together and collaborate."

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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

Plant Putnam 2015 Putnam County Tree and Shrub Seedling Sale Spring will be here sooner than you think! With that, comes sprucing up the yard and making decisions about plant materials for your property. The Putnam County Soil & Water Conservation District is once again offering a variety of native trees, shrubs, groundcovers and flowers to assist landowners in providing food and shelter for wildlife; groundcover for erosion control, riparian buffers and rain gardens; and general beautification. Every year we try and offer a wide variety of options and I'm sure with this year's offerings you won't be disappointed. Plant material is sold bare root, hand dipped in a moisture protection gel, wrapped and bagged. Orders need to be placed by March 25th. Call 845-878-7918, email lauri.taylor@putnamcountyny.gov or go to www.putnamcountyny.com/keepputnamgreen for an Order Form.

Register Now:

10 Day Weight Loss Challenge: Take a 10 Day Vacation From Processed Foods. This program is certified Organic, Vegan, it is a Non-GMO Super Transformation. Expect to: Lose 5-20 lbs Guaranteed, Lose Inches, Reset Your Metabolism, Eat Healthy & Be Healthy. Must register by Feb 28, WLC begins March 9. For more information call: Diane 914-843-8745

Join us for the **Third Annual "A Full House for Opportunity" Charity Poker Classic** presented by Hudson Valley Cerebral Palsy Association.. The tournament will be held Saturday, March 21st at the HVCPA building on 15 Mt. Ebo Road, Brewster, NY. Two \$10,000 WSOP 2015 Main Event Seats in Las Vegas will be awarded! We are an official satellite location for the WSOP. All net proceeds to benefit the Opportunity League Park - all ages, all abilities, one community. \$250 donation, Register online at <http://www.hvcpa.org/sites/poker> and for more info: 845.878.9078 x 4115

Vendors Needed for Indoor Community Tag Sale on May 16. Do a little Spring cleaning and reserve a spot to sell your items. Patterson Recreation Center. 65 Front Street. Patterson. 845-878-7200

Ongoing:

Tuesday's:

Certified Application Counselor from Open Door will be available to answer questions and make appointments for consumers to enroll in the Health Insurance Marketplace. 3 p.m.-7 p.m. Brewster Public Library. Walk-ins are welcome, but to schedule an appointment, please call 914-502-1478 or email insurancecoverage@odfmc.org. For more information about either of these services, call the Brewster Public Library at 845-279-6421

Wednesday's:

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

Thursday's:

Foreclosure Counseling will be offered by Putnam County Housing Corporation (PCHC). 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. If you're facing foreclosure, PCHC may be able to help. PCHC, a HUD-certified Housing Agency, offers free confidential counseling to assist you in negotiating with your mortgage company. Brewster Public Library. Walk-ins are welcome, or call 845-225-8493 ext.201 to schedule time.

Reed Memorial Library presents, Beginning Yoga and Crafts for children ages 3 - 5. Thursdays 10:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m., Feb. 5-March 5th. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a mat or large towel if you have one. Call to Register 845-225-2439

Sunday's:

Winter Farm Market

This season, the Winter Market will be open every Sunday until May 31, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Winter Market footprint will be located in the lower level of the HVCPA building (15 Mt. Ebo Road South,) and we are proud and excited to showcase vendors including: Vegetables, fruit, meat, fish, jams, bread and baked goods (gluten free too!), eggs, mushrooms, food artisans and specialty items from local growers and producers.

Cancer Support:

Cancer Support Available: Support Connection, Inc., a not-for profit organization that provides free, confidential support services for people affected by breast and ovarian cancer, offers a wide range of free support groups women with breast and ovarian cancer. Groups focus on topics pertaining to living with cancer through all stages of

diagnosis, treatment and post-treatment. They are offered in Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess, and by toll-free teleconference. For a complete calendar of groups at all locations, visit www.supportconnection.org. Advance registration is required for all groups; call 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

Save the Date:

Saturday, March 7

Basketball Shootout Please join us in shooting baskets at Carmel High School. Just get pledges from your friends and family and shoot for charity. It only takes 10 minutes to shoot baskets. Come any time between 9 a.m. and noon. <https://www.crowdrise.com/2015BasketballShootout>

Sunday, March 8

No. Westchester / Putnam St. Patrick's Day Parade. Eastbound on Route 6, Mahopac. Step Off Time: 2 p.m.

Wednesday, April 15

17th Annual Hudson Valley Food & Wine Experience. 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Benefiting the Putnam/Northern Westchester. Women's Resource Center

Sunday, March 15

For our **First Annual St. Patrick's Day Brunch:** Noon - 2 p.m. Walsh's Irish Tavern. 1118 Route 311. Patterson, NY. General Admission. \$35 pp Sponsor: \$250 4 Tickets and recognition at event! LNRC-Putnam County, 12 Main Street, Brewster, NY 10509 RSVP to lnrcofpc@hotmail.com or 917-538-3844

Friday, March 20

Mahopac Knights of Columbus presents: The Chiclettes. New York's premier girl group performing hits from the 60's to today. Putnam County Golf Course. 187 Hill Street Mahopac, NY. Doors open at 7 p.m. / Show at 8 p.m. \$37 per person pre-order / \$40 at the door. Hot buffet included / Cash bar For tickets and information call Mike at 914-837-2368 or Tom at 914-329-3099. Proceeds benefit Knights Scholarship fund and community charities

Tuesday, February 24

Professional Women of Putnam and Professional Women of Westchester host: "Celebrate Your Heart" Networking Event to benefit the American Heart Association. Raffles, Red Hair Extensions and More 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Augie's Prime Cut. 3436 Lexington Ave. Mohegan Lake. \$15pp PWP/PWW Members. \$20pp Non Member. Includes appetizers. Cash Bar. Register to attend: www.professionalwomenofputnam.com

Wednesday, February 25

Meeting of The American Legion Argonne Post 71. 7 p.m. The post is located on Ice Pond Road Brewster NY. All members are urged to attend. New members are always welcome.

Thursday, February 26

Putnam County Chambers of Commerce 2014 Trailblazers Awards.

The winners of the 2015 Trailblazer Awards will be celebrated at a ceremony held at Villa Barone Hill Top Manor, 466 Rt. 6, Mahopac. 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Tickets are on sale now for \$75.00 a piece or 10 for \$700. You can purchase your tickets by credit/debit card through our Secure On-line account by clicking HERE or send a check to our office @ Putnam County Chambers of Commerce 953 South Lake Blvd.. Mahopac, NY 10541

Thursday, February 26

The Tri-State IBM Retirees Club will hold their February Meeting at 1:30 p.m. in the meeting hall of the United Methodist Church, 1176 E. Main Street, Shrub Oak, NY. The scheduled speaker is IBM Club retiree and club member, Fred Westendorf, who will give his annual information and suggestions for filing the 2014 income taxes. Refreshments and sign-in at 1 PM. Dues will be collected. New members welcome. Information: (914) 528-5916.

2014 Trailblazer Awards Gala: 38 Putnam County Professionals to be Honored on February 26 at Villa Barone- Proceeds Designated for Community Development Projects in 2015 & 2016. The winners will be celebrated at a ceremony held at Villa Barone Hill Top Manor, 466 Rt. 6, Mahopac, 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.. Tickets are on sale now for \$75 each or 10 for \$700. Attendees may purchase tickets by credit card through the PCCC's secure online account here: putnamchamberny.org. Alternatively, tickets may be purchased by check, payable to Putnam County Chambers of Commerce. Mail to: Putnam County Chambers of Commerce, 953 South Lake Blvd., Mahopac, NY 10541

Saturday, February 27

A Swing Thing at Valley Restaurant. Put on your dancing shoes hosting Luis Perez of Fishkill's VP Dance Academy's 10th anniversary celebration! The event will begin at 7 p.m. and feature a two-course meal and professional dancing instruction. To reserve your spot please contact us at jamesb@thegarrison.com. 7 p.m. Cost: \$29.+ With Two Course Menu. \$9 Class Only. Valley Restaurant at The Garrison 2015 US 9. Garrison. Contact Information: James Brown. 845-424-3604. Email: jamesb@thegarrison.com

Disney's Aladdin, JR. 7:30 p.m. also Saturday, February 28, 2015 at 1 p.m.. Yorktown Stage is located in the Yorktown Community Cultural Center, at 1974 Commerce Street (off Veterans Road) in Yorktown Heights, NY. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors and children. All tickets are reserved. Tickets may be purchased online (www.yorktownstage.org) or by calling 962-0606. Contact: Barry Liebman, 914-962-0606, barry@yorktownstage.org.

Crossword Answers



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LEGAL NOTICE

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING
MOUNT PLEASANT CENTRAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant Central School District (the "District") that a special meeting of the qualified voters of said District be and the same is hereby called to be held in said District in the Westlake High School Gymnasium, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, New York on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. for the purpose of voting on the following propositions:

PROPOSITION #1

Shall the Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant Central School District be authorized to (1) construct additions to and reconstruct various District buildings and facilities, including infrastructure and site work improvements, and acquire original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus, at a maximum cost of \$34,920,000, (2) expend such sum

for such purpose, (3) levy the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into account state aid; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$34,920,000, and the levy of a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

PROPOSITION #2

Shall the Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant Central School District be authorized to (1) construct an addition to and reconstruct the auditorium and related music rooms, including site work, and acquire original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus required for the purpose, at a maximum cost of \$4,996,000, (2) expend such sum for such purpose, (3) levy the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into account state aid; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$4,996,000, and the levy of a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

PROPOSITION #3

Shall the Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant Central School District be authorized to (1) construct a new access road to the District campus and construct grass athletic fields, at a maximum cost of \$2,685,000, (2) expend such sum for such purpose, (3) levy the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into account state aid; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$2,685,000, and the levy of a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

The vote upon such propositions shall be by machine or absentee ballot. The hours during which the polls shall be kept open shall be from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. pre-vailing time or for as long thereafter as necessary to enable qualified voters who are in the polling place at 9:00 p.m. to cast their ballots. Personal registration of voters is required, and no person shall vote whose name does not appear on the register of the District. If a voter has heretofore registered pursuant to Section 2014 of the Education Law and has voted at an annual or special district meeting within the last four (4) calendar years, he or she is eligible to vote at this meeting. If a voter is registered and eligible to vote under Article 5 of the Election Law, he or she is also eligible to vote at this meeting. All other persons who wish to vote must register. Any person may register to vote not less than five (5) days preceding the vote between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the

office of the District Clerk, 825 West Lake Drive, Thornwood, New York. The register prepared by the Board of Registration shall be filed in the office of the District Clerk, 825 West Lake Drive, Thornwood, New York and will be open for inspection immediately upon its completion by any qualified voter of the District from during regular school hours on each of the five days prior to the vote, except for Sunday, March 22, 2015. Absentee ballots may be applied for at the office of the District Clerk. Applications for absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days prior to the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or on or prior to March 23, 2015, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk not later than 5:00 p.m. on March 24, 2015. A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available in the office of the District Clerk on each business day during school hours until the date of the vote. Any qualified voter may challenge the acceptance of the ballot of any person on such list, by making his challenge and reasons therefor known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls.

**DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2015
DISTRICT CLERK MTPCLSD
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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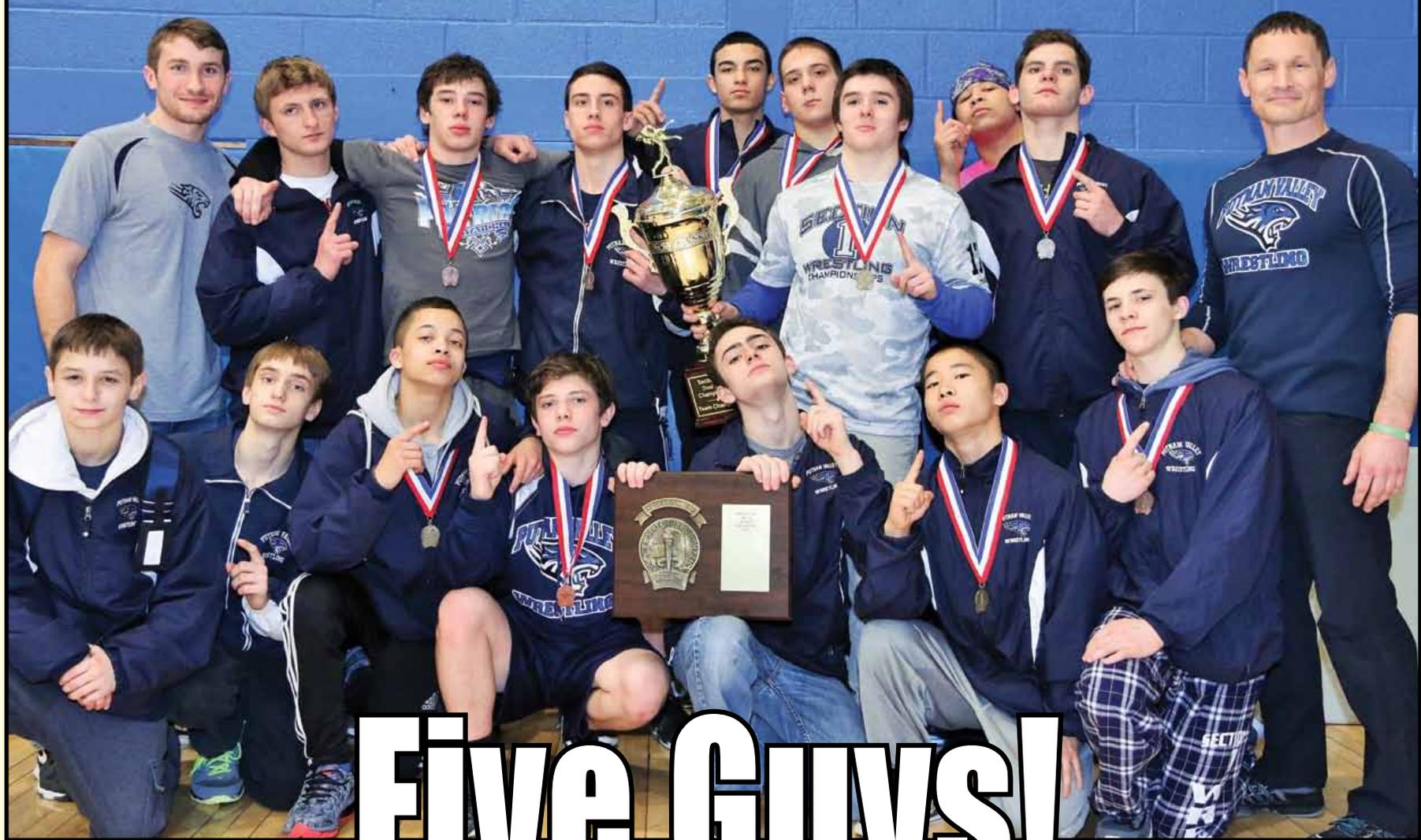
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The Putnam
Examiner
Sports
Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports

February 24-March 2, 2015 SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS SPORTS SECTION



Five Guys!

Putnam Valley Sending 5 Grapplers to State Meet

ROCK OGO PHOTOS

In an unprecedented display in school history, Putnam Valley Coach Will Carano will join five Tigers at the NYSPHSAA wrestling tournament Feb. 27-28 in Albany at the Times Union Center where the two-time reigning Section 1 D-II champion Tigers will be well represented by the likes of Section 1 champions Kyle Sams (106), Satoshi Abe (113), two-time champ Will Messinger (170) and Connie George (220), plus wild card recipient Mikey Bruno (99). Joining the Tigers on the trek will be D-I sectional champions Carmel's Kevin Knox and Mahopac's John Delahanty (285) and Mike DiNardo (182)... see Wrestling Notebook

Sports

Class A Boys Hoops Notebook

Somers Ventures to County Center for 1st Time Since 1992

No.2 Tuskers Bounce No.10 Pelham, Face No.3 Byram Hills; Yorktown, Hen Hud Ousted

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

The last time a kid from Somers touched the Westchester County Center hardwood in a Section 1 Final 4 was 1992 when former Tuskers Derek Hyra and Willie Dietrich were doing so under then first-year Coach Dennis Gallagher. There were many lean years between then and now, but Coach Chris DiCintio's 2015 Tuskers have suddenly erased 23 years of basketball misery after second-seeded Somers rattled off a 43-36 victory over No.10 Pelham in the Section 1 Class A quarterfinals last Tuesday night.

Hyra remembers what it was like because he never forgot the surge of adrenaline while leading Somers to its lone Section 1 title, carrying that high all the way to Colgate University, where he balled for four years, before becoming an Associate Professor at American University.

"It was a thrill to play in the County Center and I hope the Tuskers are able to bring home another gold ball, but it'll take a total team effort like it did with us," said Hyra, recalling the efforts Matthew Goodman, Dietrich, Brian Zuban, Brian Stroh and



RAY GALLAGHER/ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

Yorktown's Jesse Bambach and the No.9 Huskers were knocked off by top-seeded Spring Valley.

the '91 Tuskers.

Somers trailed Pelham 12-5 early on and appeared to have a serious blind-spot as they fired away from downtown with reckless abandon (emphasis on reckless) until the key turning point of the game; a pair of 3-balls from side pocket by senior swingman Anthony Maestri, giving Somers a 28-22 lead they would never relinquish with 2:35 left in the third.

"You know it and everybody else knows that we've lived and died by the 3 all year," Coach DiCintio said, "but we've only died three times and we lived 17 others, so I like our chances. This is a special group of kids, just like the last two I've had here at Somers. They really wanted to put their stamp on what we're trying to do here. Nobody really had them on their radar (except you, Ray)."

Tied 15-all at the half, @Tusker_Nation looked frazzled and

Pelham fans thought they had made a wrong turn at the corner of 139 & 202 and found their way to a Somers rec. league game, possibly the Team Smith vs. Team Tuosto event (won by Tuosto by a point). It was hard on the eyes for a half. Air balls were fired and clangers were rung, but the Tuskers turned to their defense to salvage their offense in the second half, dialing up the pressure and using their athleticism to their advantage.

Tusker senior wing Ryan Grossman, who had been mired in a shooting slump for a couple of games, didn't have his best stuff but still led Somers with 11 points and never let one end of the floor affect the other.

"It's the best feeling in the world to be going to the County Center, man," Grossman said. "I've been dreaming of this ever since I was a little kid. There were plenty of media guys telling us we were going to be upset, that we couldn't do this, but we did it. We're finally going back there."

The state-ranked (No.24) Tuskers (17-3) relied on a wealth of different scorers, with six players scoring at least four points, as the shots were not dropping with regularity. Somers F Tom Gargiulo, as usual, was a catalyst, getting Somers out in transition off the boards and granting second- and third-shot opps.

"All season we dreamt of getting to the County Center, this is the best moment of my sports career" said Gargiulo, who finished with eight boards, four steals, two last-minute free throws and a game-saving block. "We worked hard and did what we had to do in the regular season



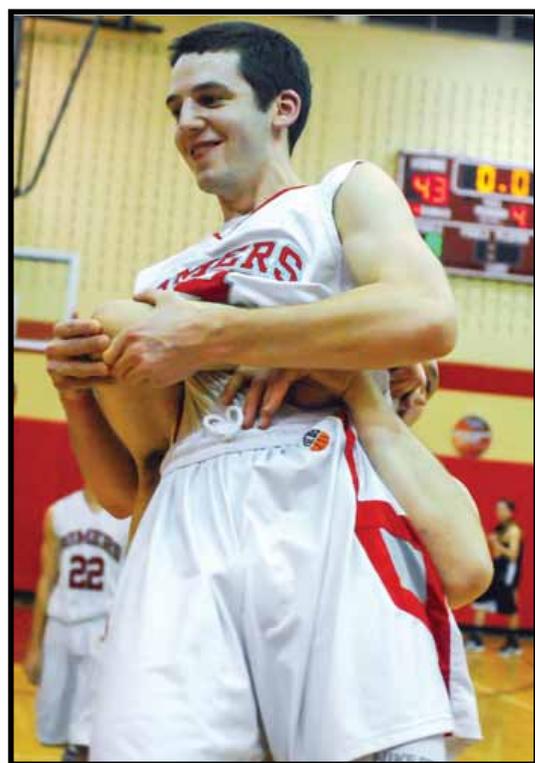
Somers F Anthony Maestri dropped a pair of crucial 3's in quarterfinal win over Pelham.

and we came through in the playoffs and we're finally there. Our shots weren't fall early on, but our defense keeps us in the game, and we know if we play solid D we'll come out with the win."

Up next for the Tuskers is a state-ranked (No.20) Byram Hills club they are somewhat familiar with. Somers and Byram Hills last played two years ago in the sectional quarterfinals when the then-18-1 Bobcats saw hotshot Brian Skelly's drop four 3's in the second half of a 76-58 Byram win, despite Tusker John Decker's game-high 37 points and one of the best regular seasons in Somers history.

"Our accomplishments are just a reflection of the guys before us," senior All-Section G Matt Maloney said. "They were able to set the foundation for us. We just got over the hump to get to County Center. This is a reflection of what Coach DiCintio has been able to do with this program, taking it to another level. We just got more physical with them in the third and started hitting some shots and we didn't look back. We said before the game, 'let's get Tusker Nation to the County Center' and we finally did."

Twenty-three years have passed since Somers' last trek to County



Tusker Matt Maloney gets a lift off court after win over Pelham.



Hen Hud senior Jeremy Morris sticks a huge 3-ball from side pocket in Sailors' Class A quarterfinal loss to Byram Hills.

continued on page 23

Sports

Class B Boys Hoops Notebook

Putnam Valley Reaches Final 4 for 3rd-Straight Year

No.5 Tigers to Face No.1 Woodlands; No.7 Croton Ousted by No.2 Briarcliff

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

Try as he may, Putnam Valley All-Section G Ryan Basso simply cannot do it alone as he faces box-and-one defenses time and time again, and that was becoming glaringly evident last Wednesday night as his Tigers tested brinksmanship in fifth-seeded Putnam Valley's 49-41 win over No.13 Ardsley in the Section 1 Class B quarterfinals.

Trailing 30-29 through three quarters and on the brink of early elimination, Coach Mike McDonnell's listless Tigers (14-6) sought a spark, which came out of nowhere when junior G Anders Spittal scored all 10 of his points in little more than two minutes of the fourth quarter to help the Tigers reach the Class B Final 4 for a third consecutive season.

PV will now play No.1 Woodlands at 4:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 25 in the semifinals at the Westchester County Center in a rematch of last year's Class B final, which was won by state-ranked (No.7) Woodlands, 55-51.

Basso and junior G Harrison Deegan each scored 11 points for Putnam Valley, who can ill-afford a similarly slow start against the Falcons, who trailed the Tigers for much of three quarters last season before a 22-0 run -- spearheaded by wing Brandon Johnson's 3-point proficiency -- sent Woodlands all the way to the NYS semifinals.

"Sure, we'd like another crack to get back at Woodlands," said Basso, who is



RAY GALLAGHER/RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

Tiger G Anders Spittal drops two of his clutch fourth-quarter points in win over Ardsley.

averaging 20 PPG this season and recently became the lone male to score 1,000 points. "We're going to need everyone to step up again, especially the juniors. Tonight, those guys stepped up in the second half. Spittal got hot in the fourth and he was big. Harrison gave us what we need at both ends, and (Kevin) Gallagher controlled the point and really helped out when they were 'box-and-one-ing' me. It just feels great to get back to the County Center. We're just focused on winning. I think when we play our best we can play with anyone."

Spittal's antics were unprecedented, a coming-out party if you will. Typically, the All-Leaguer is steady but not sensational, but during the two-minute span in the fourth he saved the day, stepping back to nail a pair of treys, a runner in the lane and a put-back, creating what he called his finest moment.

"Oh, without a doubt

this is probably the best feeling I've ever had, to be able to come through like this," Spittal said. "It feels great, my teammates had a lot of confidence in me. They were focused so much on shutting down Basso, and he trusted us to take the shots and we did. I just wanted the ball at that point, to keep shooting and help get my team to the County Center for three years in a row. We've really built a program here."

That surreal feeling permeated throughout the gymnasium, which just four years earlier was a dungeon of despair when it came to boys' hoops exploits. The Tigers were the perennial floor-mats opponents used to usher in double-digit triumphs, typically averaging anywhere between two and six wins per season while being habitually crushed. Despite the never-ending efforts of those who played prior to

2012 -- like Nicky Ivezek and Anthony Tyndal -- the Tigers failed to win a playoff game and often faded before qualifying.

All that changed in 2013 when Basso and classmate Zack Nolan, then sophomores, joined with then-juniors Jelani Bell-Isaac and Zach Coleman, who led the Tigers to their first Final 4 appearance where they were gonged by Lourdes before their down-to-the-wire championship appearance in 2014. Essentially, the only thing missing is the championship piece of the puzzle, which won't be easy to find against a Woodlands team that returns everyone from its title team.

CROTON-HARMON (13-7), the No.7 seed, fell short of its Final 4 goal in a 73-63 quarterfinal loss to No.2 host Briarcliff in a border war between the two League III-A rivals. All-Section Croton G Teejay Searight scored 13 points and Lucas Curran added a team-high 14 for the Tigers, but it wasn't the vintage effort they would need to defeat the balanced Bears (16-4), who seemed to come



Putnam Valley G Kevin Gallagher soars for two key fourth-quarter points in win over Ardsley.

out with more fervor than the Tigers did, according to reports. While building a 32-13 second-quarter lead, Briarcliff built up enough of a cushion to counter the 31 points Croton scored in the fourth quarter when the sense of urgency increased but wasn't enough to upset the state-ranked (No.17) Bears, with whom they split during the regular season.

Briarcliff (16-4) advanced to face No.3 Irvington (17-3), with the winner getting the PV/Woodlands survivor in Saturday's Class B championship (5:00 p.m.).



Ardsley's Tyler Loccisano is doubled-up by PV's Ryan Basso (L) and Kevin Gallagher in Tigers' Class B playoff win last Wednesday.



Putnam Valley's bench and fans erupt after clutch late bucket in win over Ardsley.

Sports

Girls Hoops Notebook

Ossining, Peekskill, Haldane Poised for Title Drive

By Tony Pinciario

The reigning two-time NYS Class AA champion Ossining Pride will be playing in comfortable surroundings and its home away from home this week – the Westchester County Center.

The 2014 Section 1 and New York State Class AA champions return to the County Center for a seventh consecutive year as the Section 1 Girls' and Boys' Final Four take place.

Ossining will be joined by NWE/Putnam Examiner teams Peekskill and Haldane as the girls crown four champions.

"For me personally, the experience of being on the team since eighth grade and playing so many games there, it's a very comfortable feeling," Ossining senior Jalay Knowles said after recording her 1,000th rebound earlier in the week, becoming the first in school history to score 1,000 points and snag 1,000 boards. "I have so much fun playing there because it's an excellent atmosphere."

Along with the final four, Ossining plays twice each December in the Slam Dunk Challenge at the County Center. The Pride will play North Rockland, 8:15 p.m. in one Class AA semifinal. The other semi has Scarsdale playing Our Lady of Lourdes.

Ossining advanced to the final four with an 89-38 win over Arlington as Knowles had 26 points and 11 rebounds. Knowles said the team's focus in practice has the Pride prepared for everything.



Somers G Nicole DeMase is met head on by Peekskill G Aubrey Dabbs in Red Devils' Class A playoff win over Tuskers.



RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS (PLEASE VISIT WWW.HVSPHOTOS FOR MORE)

Despite being cornered by four Tuskers, Peekskill junior hotshot Lanay Rodney scored 18 points for the Red Devils in Class A playoff win.

"During our practices, because our court is smaller, we've been using the out-of-bounds as if we were at the County Center," Knowles explained.

One thing Ossining won't do is stroll into the County Center thinking the title is already won.

"From a senior standpoint, we don't want it to end abruptly," said Knowles, who will attend the University of Hartford and play basketball. "We're taking it step by step and not underestimating any team. We are focused on North Rockland."

PEEKSKILL is making its third consecutive trip to the final four. The two-time defending Section 1 Class A champions stamped their ticket with a hard-fought 64-55 win over Somers. Lanay Rodney led Peekskill, who trailed by nine points at the half, with 18 points.

Peekskill will play Rye, 3 p.m., Thursday in one semifinal. The other semi is an all-Rockland County affair with Tappan Zee playing Albertus Magnus, runner-up to Peekskill the last two years.

"In the Somers' game, we didn't execute as well as we should have in the first half, but then we played a much better second half," said Peekskill senior Kiarra Dillard, who dropped a career-high 24 in Peekskill's opening round win.

Dillard and her teammates are excited to be back this year, especially with first-year coach Steve Loscher.

"The first year we were not expected to get to the County Center and then last year we were," Dillard said. "This year, we had to work hard to get to the County Center and that's what has made it one of the most exciting years."

Rye earned its ticket with a victory over Pearl River as three players reached double figures. Dillard said Peekskill has to focus on two players, in particular, on the defensive end.

"We have to play full out and hard the whole time," Dillard said. "We have to



Peekskill did all it could to stop Somers F Kayleah McGuire, who led all scorers with 29 points, in Red Devs win over Tuskers.



Red Devil G Kiarra Dillard finds a crease in the Tusker defense in Peekskill's 64-55 win over Somers last Tuesday.

make that extra pass on offense and play our best defense."

YORKTOWN, the No.9 seed, was knocked out in the quarterfinals by top-seeded Magnus by a 61-34 count.

HALDANE has been dealing with inactivity, from a competition standpoint, after learning it advanced to the Class C championship game against Alexander Hamilton. They are the only two teams playing in Class C.

"There are usually six to seven teams that qualified in Class C, but they dropped out," Haldane senior Allie Monteleone said. "It was kind of confusing, at first. Then we had to start preparing for the championship game which is an advantage, but also a disadvantage because we've been off for three weeks."

This will be Haldane's fifth straight Final Four appearance. Haldane beat Hamilton in the 2014 Class C championship game. The Lady Blue Devils also bested Hamilton earlier this season. However, Monteleone knows both teams have progressed since the January game.

"We know that we are a better team," said Monteleone, who will attend Pace University next fall and play basketball. "We know what to expect from them. We expect them to be aggressive. We want to take advantage of that and get them in foul trouble."

Messinger Leads Put Valley Contingent to Albany

PV Quintet Joined by Carmel's Knox, Mahopac's DiNardo, Delahanty

By Tony Pinciario

A February trip to Albany for the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Wrestling Championships has become a Messinger family tradition.

In 2012 and '13, John Messinger won the Section 1 Division II 170-pound title to stamp his ticket to Albany. Last year, younger brother, Willie, kept the 170-pound sectional title in the family. Willie Messinger then went out on February 14th of this year and matched his brother, winning the 2015 Section 1 Division II 170-pound crown to earn his second consecutive trip to Albany and the family's fourth.

Messinger will be joined by fellow sectional champs and teammates -- Kyle Sams (106 pounds), Satoshi Abe (113) and Constantine George (220) and Mikey Bruno (99), who received a wild card.

The Putnam Valley group along with Mahopac sectional champs Michael DiNardo (182 pounds) and Ryan Delahanty (285), will compete in the 2015 state championships, Friday-Saturday, Feb. 27-28, at the Times-Union Center in Albany.



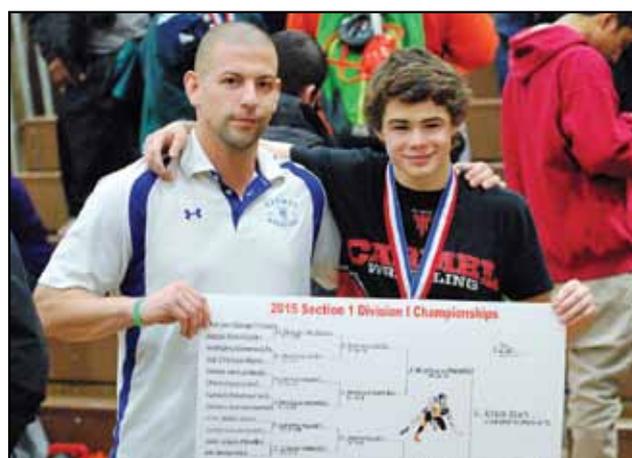
Putnam Valley's 2014 Section 1 champions Connie George, Will Messinger, Satoshi Abe and Kyle Sams.

"It is pretty awesome," said Messinger of winning two-170-pound titles to match his brother.

Messinger said he realized the significance of this when he recently walked into John's room and saw his championship bracket on his wall.

Messinger recalled finishing fourth in the section his freshman year and then going to Albany to support his brother.

"The environment was crazy," Messinger said. "The idea of me being there seemed completely out of reach, but watching my



Carmel Coach Seth Harrison with Section 1 D-I wrestling champion Kevin Knox.

brother wrestling up there drove me to want to get there."

Messinger went 1-2 last year and came away feeling that he was not prepared. He said that will not happen this year.

"This year, I am prepared," said Messinger, who has been training with John, who wrestles for New York University. "I'm putting in the extra time because I know what I need to do and what I want to accomplish."

Along with his individual accomplishment, Messinger is happy to see Sams, Abe, George and Bruno also competing; those five being the most the Valley has ever sent north in one year.

The Putnam Valley captain has made it a point of explaining to his teammates what to expect in Albany.

"I told them they have to stay focused and even though the stakes are higher, just pretend that it's any other match," Messinger said. "It has been great watching my teammates reach their goals."

While Messinger prepares for a state-title run, he is still proud of

what the team accomplished -- winning the Section 1 Division II Dual-Meet Championship and a second consecutive Section 1 Division II team title. Putnam Valley beat Pearl River in the dual-meet final and overcame Pearl River on day two to win the sectional title. Messinger's victory in the 170-pound final sealed the championship.

"I wanted this for my team and my coaches," Messinger said. "I remember when we beat them in the Section 1 dual in a close match. I realized that we could do this and we did, overcoming adversity to do it."

Somers Ventures to County Center for 1st Time Since 1992

continued from page 20

Center where prohibitive shooters often go to die on account of the vast depth perception issues and arena-like setting many players are not accustomed to. Somers, which takes as many 3's as any team in Section 1, will need to account for this and the throng of Bobcat fans expected to rival @Tusker_Nation at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 25.

The semifinal survivor will face the winner of No.1 Spring Valley (19-1) vs. No.5 Tappan Zee (15-5) in Sunday's 7:00 p.m. championship. SV is ranked No.3 in NYS while TZ is No.22...

Be forewarned: **HENDRICK HUDSON** will not be anybody's punching bag over the course of the next few seasons. After falling 50-49 to No.3 Byram Hills in last Tuesday's Class A quarterfinal of the Section 1 tournament, the 11th-seeded Sailors (14-7) served notice that the future is bright at Hen Hud.

Byram Hills C Matt Groll (6 points) sank the winning basket off a put-back with 11 seconds left and host Byram Hills hung on when rangy Skylar Sinon (12 points, 7 rebounds) blocked Hen Hud's final shot. Senior G Jeremy Morris hit two



Hen Hud senior F Carson Jacobs is met by Bobcat big man Andrew Groll in Sailors' quarterfinal playoff loss to Byram Hills.

3-pointers in the waning moments to give the Sailors a 49-48 lead, but the 6'7" Groll was a force on the boards all night and found his way to the iron in the end.

"This one was tough in the way it ended for obvious reasons," Sailor skipper Jordan Hirsch said. "Not the result we wanted, but not for a lack of effort or passion. We're fighters and we ask a lot of these guys. They have accepted the challenge of being a basketball player at Hen Hud, which now means something very different than it may have meant years ago. This team made it a priority in their life to make our program relevant in the Section 1 basketball world and they have set the bar very high for the teams that will come in the future."

Those teams will include a J.V. unit that went 15-3 this season under the tutelage of venerable veteran Coach "Pistol" Pete Kelly.

"We talk so often about opportunity and how the best opportunity is the next one and that couldn't have been represented better than Jeremy

Morris, a senior captain, who is a very cool customer and hit two big time shots in that game coming off the bench," Hirsch said. "His example is one of many that I see daily with our guys inside and outside of the gym. We will learn a lot from this season and do what we do best: Go back to work and get better."

Nobody in any school district likes a "not since" quote, so maybe the 2016 Sailors end the dry spell next season and put an end to the "not since 1991 when Tim McNulty's Sailors went to the County Center has a Hen Hud team graced the scene." We can only hope...

YORKTOWN'S final score, 67-45, is not indicative of how hard Coach Kevin Downes' 9th-seeded Huskers (13-8) played against top-seeded host Spring Valley. Yorktown senior Mason Dyslin led Yorktown with 16 points and G Nick DeGennaro added a 10-spot. While falling short of their ultimate goals, these Yorktown seniors -- led by All-Section F Dyslin -- suffered through a couple lean seasons as underclassmen, but put Yorktown back on the Section 1 map, serving up the best season since 2009.

Center Stage!



Putnam Valley Reaches 3rd Straight Class B Final 4

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Amidst a quartet of defenders, Putnam Valley senior G Ryan Basso jets for two of his team-high 11 points in the 5th-seeded Tigers' 49-41 Section 1 Class B quarterfinal win over No.13 Ardsley last Wednesday when the host Tigers advanced to the Westchester County Center Final 4 for an unprecedented 3rd-straight year. Harrison Deegan also scored 11 points and Anders Spittal added 10 — all coming in a pivotal two-minute span in the fourth quarter -- as the Tigers rallied for the come-from-behind win to face No.1 Woodlands in Wednesday's 4:45 p.m. semifinal... see Boys' Hoops Notebook