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February 9 - February 15, 2016

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 8, Issue 359

Libby Pataki, Tourism Under Fire for 2nd Foundation

By David Propper

Libby Pataki and the Putnam County Visitor's Bureau are facing a heap of criticism and scrutiny—and now could be facing an investigation from the New York State Attorney General's Office.

According to The Journal News, Attorney General Eric Schneiderman has started an inquiry into two nonprofit organizations that both have Libby Pataki, wife of former state governor George Pataki, as its director. The two agencies are the Visitor's Bureau, which gets roughly \$250,000 per year from the county and state, and then the Putnam Tourism Corporation that is funded by private donations. Pataki is paid about \$70,000 by the Visitor's Bureau.

Pataki started the foundation, Putnam

Tourism Corp., in 2012 and was paid \$110,000 from 2012 to 2014, in addition to her tax-funded salary for her work with the Visitor's Bureau, according to The Journal News article. Pataki, a Garrison resident, earned \$50,000 in 2014 alone from the second non-profit, the article stated.

The article also reports both nonprofits didn't have functioning boards of directors to oversee and control funds given to tax-exempt foundations, which would be illegal under state law. According to The Journal News article, board members of the Tourism Corp. listed didn't know they were officers and one Visitor's Bureau board member hadn't gone to a board meeting in years.

While Putnam Tourism Corp. isn't a

county connected entity, the county's address and phone number were listed on an IRS report from 2014, according to the article.

Also under the microscope is Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra. The lawmaker, who just started her second term, was listed as the treasurer/secretary for Tourism Corp., according to the article. The Garrison resident has also served as treasurer of the Visitor's Bureau since 2012, but did not disclose that for 2013 and 2014 and voted on issues concerning the Visitor's Bureau, according to the article.

County Ethics chairman Robert Bickford, a Garrison resident, said the non-disclosure "was not a major *continued on page 8*



Visitor's Bureau director Libby Pataki is facing questions over a second foundation she created in 2012 called the Putnam Tourism Corp.

Carmel PBA Files Grievance Over Sheriff's Patrol in Town

By Arthur Cusano and David Propper

The Carmel Police Benevolent Association has filed an injunction to prevent other law enforcement agencies from patrolling one specific part of the town, according to a town board member.

The legal action was revealed during Wednesday's Carmel Town Board meeting, when board members were asked by resident and business owner Mike Barile why there was still no finalized

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ARTHUR CUSANO PHOTO

Carmel Town Board member John Lupinacci revealed a grievance filed by town police against the town board at Wednesday's board meeting.

At it Again, Falk Enters Name for State Senate Seat

By David Propper

For the third straight year, Patterson Democrat Andrew Falk is seeking elected office.

Falk, who confirmed his run for the 40th Senate District seat last Friday afternoon presumably against first-term Sen. Terrence Murphy, said he is gearing up for a campaign focused on public education, middle class relief and making the state more affordable. The district encompasses parts of Westchester, Putnam, and Dutchess counties.

Falk said despite the repeal of Common Core being perceived as a Republican issue, he has been a staunch opponent of the new standards.

He also said the state must find a way to stop burdening middle class families and small businesses with crushing

continued on page 4



Andrew Falk



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Brewster Trustees Talk Urban Renewal, Wells Park

By David Propper

With more questions than answers surrounding the Urban Renewal Plan in Brewster, the village board announced a date for an educational session for residents seeking feedback on the proposal.

During a village board meeting Wednesday night, Deputy Mayor Christie Piccini confirmed there would be a session on Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. at St. Lawrence O'Toole Church with a snow date pegged for Feb. 27 at 10 a.m. Planners from VHB planning and designing would do a presentation and answer questions from residents for a cost of \$1,214. The informal meeting is the result of village residents coming out in droves frustrated and confused by the plan some trustees are hoping to pass to boost Brewster.

"It's not a decision making meeting for us," Piccini said. "It is strictly an informational meeting and hearing questions and providing answers that should be more available through (the planning professionals) than through us."

Piccini said before any action goes further at the village board, it still needs to receive comments from the planning board once its public hearing is closed. She predicted those comments wouldn't be sent until Feb. 16. At the village board's regular meeting on Feb. 17, the



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

The Village of Brewster Trustees held a low key meeting Wednesday night in front of a small bunch of residents.

board might be able to set an official public hearing that would be held March 9 at St. Lawrence O'Toole church.

Only a handful of residents were on hand for the meeting and no one spoke.

Wells Park Operations

With renovations to Wells Park in the village completed, the village board discussed plans for the park this summer.

Trustee Tom Boissonnault suggested opening the park Memorial Day weekend

and stopping activity around Labor Day with a grand opening in early May. The hours of the park would be around 10 a.m. until dusk.

As for special events at the park, the village board is hoping to set up at least four concerts--once a month--in order to drive traffic to the park from residents in and out of the village borders. The concerts would be held either Friday or Saturday nights.

One question that came up was whether the village would pay bands to perform.

Trustee Erin Meagher said when the village puts on Founder's Day in September it doesn't need to pay performers because there are many local bands in the area that play for free. Boissonnault responded by noting bigger bands would bring in a larger audience.

"Not to say some smaller bands aren't terrific, but I think more bands that are established will bring more people to the area," Boissonnault said. "That's our goal."

Movie nights are also being planned, Boissonnault said, and he's nailed down three sponsors so far. As for the concerts, Boissonnault is seeking larger businesses in the area that could sponsor the concerts.

"I think this is all getting very exciting," Trustee Mary Bryde said.

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Kurt Voellmicke, MD, FAAOS

Director, Foot and Ankle Section
Orthopedic & Spine Institute
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Q: Did I simply twist my ankle, or is it a sprain?

A: Confusion over what constitutes a sprained ankle is common. A sprain is defined as a stretched or torn ligament – the tough, fibrous tissue that connects one bone to another and supports your joints. By far the most common type of sprain is in the ankle. Ankle sprains happen when the foot twists, rolls or turns in a manner that causes the ligaments to stretch beyond their normal length. While the intensity varies, pain, bruising, swelling, and inflammation are common to all sprains.

Q: If my ankle is swollen and tender, what should I do?

A: Be sure to practice RICE immediately: Rest, Ice, Compress and Elevate. Sit or lie down, put your ankle up on some pillows, wrap it with an ace bandage, and ice it for 20 to 30 minutes several times a day.

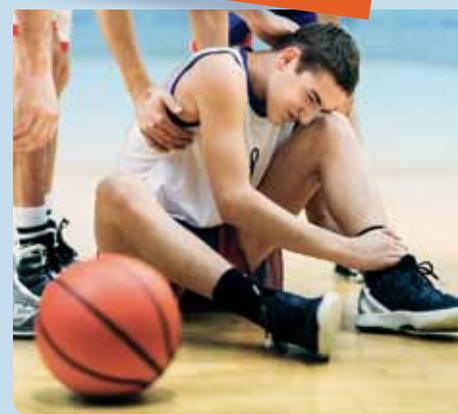
If you can't put weight on the joint, you should see a doctor immediately. After the ankle is evaluated and other injuries such as fractures or tendon damage are ruled out, and depending on the severity of the sprain, you may be able to start rehabilitating your ankle.

Q: What can I expect from rehab?

A: With a severe sprain, I often put a boot on the patient for two weeks or so and start physical therapy to strengthen the ankle as soon as possible. One exercise patients can try is writing the alphabet in the air with their big toe. Another is standing on one foot with your eyes closed. The goal is to work up to a minute. This improves your balance and strengthens the muscles that stabilize your joint.

Following through on rehab is key. The single highest risk factor for ankle sprain is having a history of sprain. Completing an appropriate rehabilitation program and utilizing at least short-term bracing will decrease future risk of an ankle sprain.

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At it Again, Falk Enters Name for State Senate Seat

continued from page 1

taxes by seeking mandate relief.

"These are real issues and they've always been the issues," Falk said. "If you've heard this before, it's because this fight is still there. I don't see that we've made any progress."

Falk has had two failed runs for the 94th Assembly District seat, both times falling to Republican Steve Katz. Last year he lost to Rich Williams in the race for Patterson supervisor by a paper-thin margin. When he lost to Katz in 2012 and 2014 in a Republican heavy district that encompasses parts of upper Westchester and Putnam, he received 45 and 47 percent of the vote, respectively.

Falk voiced a series of complaints about Murphy, claiming he's made numerous promises when he ran for Senate, but hasn't followed through on many. Even though Murphy ran on the Stop Common Core line, he voted to include the Common Core in last year's budget, Falk said. He also voted to send money to charter schools in New York City, but not for public schools in the Hudson Valley, Falk added.

"His vote is just a disaster and a disappointment and breaking his promise," he said.

Falk also called out Murphy for referring to now convicted ex-Senate majority leader Dean Skelos as a "true

'If you've heard this before, it's because this fight is still there. I don't see that we've made any progress.'

- Andrew Falk

gentleman" after he was indicted on corruption charges. He said the Ethics Committee that Murphy sits on didn't have a meeting in 2015, calling it "mind boggling."

"He congratulates himself when he doesn't accomplish anything," Falk said.

The state GOP committee didn't think much of Falk entering the race.

"Not only aren't we going to comment specifically about a guy who has run twice and lost twice for the Assembly, was defeated for town supervisor last year, and is already seeking yet another

office, voters shouldn't give him the time of day either," Senate GOP spokesman Scott Reif said in a statement.

Addressing his propensity to run for office, Falk said he thinks residents appreciate that he continues to fight for causes he finds important. Each time he's run, support has grown, he said.

As for Murphy, his comments struck a more respectful tone. Murphy beat Democrat and Croton-on-Hudson attorney Justin Wagner in 2014 in a contentious race.

"Welcome to the race. Democracy

is a beautiful thing," Murphy said in a statement. "I am proud of my record both as a local councilman and in my first year in Albany. I look forward to a positive campaign focused on the issues that matter to the families of the Hudson Valley such as providing real tax relief, creating jobs, restoring honesty and integrity to state government and winning the war on heroin and opioid addiction."



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Entergy Downplays Leak at Indian Pt. as Cuomo Initiates Probe

By Rick Pezzullo

The owner of the Indian Point nuclear power plant downplayed radioactive-water that recently leaked into the groundwater at the Buchanan facility.

In a statement issued Saturday, Entergy maintained elevated levels of tritium in three monitoring wells at Indian Point likely reached the ground during recent work activities onsite “did not affect any source or drinking water onsite or offsite.”

“While elevated tritium in the ground onsite is not in accordance with our standards, there is no health or safety

consequence to the public, and releases are more than a thousand times below federal permissible limits,” stated Entergy officials, who noted they voluntarily notified the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), state agencies and key stakeholders about the elevated level of tritium, which was described as “a radioactively weak isotope of hydrogen.”

Entergy also stated tritium in the ground was “a well-studied issue by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), which previously concluded historic leaks

of tritium to the ground at Indian Point had no effect on public health or safety.

However, Governor Andrew Cuomo, who has opposed the pending 20-year license renewal of Indian Point that the NRC has been mulling, called the levels of radioactivity at three wells “alarming” and directed DEC Acting Commissioner Basil Seggos and Health Department Commissioner Howard Zucker to fully investigate the incident and determine the extent of the release.

“Our first concern is for the health and safety of the residents close to the



Andrew Cuomo

facility and ensuring the groundwater leak does not pose a threat,” Cuomo stated. “This latest failure at Indian Point is unacceptable. We need to identify whether this incident could have been avoided by exercising reasonable care. We also need to know how a recurrence of this episode can be avoided by specific steps that Entergy should be taking.”

‘This latest failure at Indian Point is unacceptable. We need to identify whether this incident could have been avoided by exercising reasonable care.’ - Governor Andrew Cuomo

U.S. Senator Charles Schumer (D) also called on the NRC to investigate the leak.

U.S. Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney, a Cold Spring Democrat, has long held the stance Indian Point should be shut down. In a statement issued Sunday, he repeated that call, asserting the plant is “too great a risk for the Hudson Valley.” He stated this isn’t the first time Indian Point has been responsible for radioactive water.

“I applaud Governor Cuomo for calling for further investigation and look forward to working together to responsibly end nuclear operations at Indian Point while safeguarding the jobs of those who work there and keeping energy prices low for my neighbors in the Hudson Valley,” Maloney said.

David Propper contributed to this report.

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Carmel PBA Files Grievance Over Sheriff's Patrol in Town

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contract between the town and the police department and department of public works after five years of negotiations.

Councilman John Lupinacci told Barile the town had received a subpoena to appear in a state court over a grievance against the town. The scheduled conference is March 14 in front of the Public Employment Relations Board.

"They are claiming the town of Carmel patrol is exclusive," Lupinacci said. "The grievance says exclusivity, that they have the right to patrol, not the sheriff."

The town has recently arranged an agreement to have the Putnam County Sheriff's Department assist in patrols in the town, a move that drew objection from the Carmel PBA. New York State Police are also assisting more in town patrols.

Carmel PBA president, Sergeant John Dearman, said the town board is basically taking away one-third of the work the police department is suppose to do and giving it to another law enforcement entity.

"The union sees that as a form of trying to basically bust our union," Dearman said. "The argument is the sheriff provides patrols to other towns in the county. They don't have one specific, one little piece of towns. They provide a general town-wide

patrol."

While the PBA welcomes the sheriff's department assisting, it'd rather have help throughout the entire town, rather than one sector, Dearman noted.

Dearman and the town board have butted heads over the sheriff's office taking over one sector of town, with Dearman expressing numerous concerns over the arrangement at past town board meetings. With the agreement only a month old, Dearman said he didn't have any hard data yet about how well the new system was working.

According to the Notice of Conference obtained by The Putnam Examiner through a Freedom of Information Request, the grievance states the Carmel police department has detectives that are part of the bargaining unit that have "exclusively investigated crimes which have occurred within the town," but at the behest of the Carmel town board, the sheriff's office agreed to investigate crimes in a certain sector of town instead.

Lupinacci said he was holding off on further negotiations until the issue was resolved because he was not sure what would happen if the town lost the grievance. The town might have to hire six to eight police officers if the sheriff's office is not allowed to aid with patrols, he said. That would cost the town \$300,000

initially and as much as \$1 million within five years.

"The police department budget is already \$9 million of the \$24 million town budget," Lupinacci said. "In five years we're asking it to go up to \$10 (million) or (\$10 million) plus."

As for contract negotiations, Dearman stressed the grievance filed and the contract talks are two separate issues, "where one has nothing to do with the other."

Barile said he believed that the contract negotiations should be made more public, and said he didn't understand what was holding up the process.

"I think the public should be aware of what the town is offering, and the public should be aware of what the police and highway department people are asking for," Barile said.

Lupinacci said he wanted the previous contracts to be posted on the town website and said he was open to public negotiations, but stressed that he was speaking only for himself and not the entire board.

Board members stressed that they were not planning to eliminate the town police department, and said they were planning to hire two new police officers and approved the purchase of two new police patrol vehicles during the meeting.

Carmel Police Chief Michael Cazzari was not available for comment Wednesday evening.

Barile also said the highway department employees told him they did not know of any ongoing negotiations. Board members said that there had been a breakdown in communications and that there had not been any recent discussions.



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Pols Focus on Funding Rail Crossing Improvements

By Martin Wilbur

One year after the worst Metro-North accident in history, millions in federal dollars are on the verge of being sent to the states to enhance safety at railroad crossings throughout the nation, including potentially in Westchester.

On Feb. 1, Rep. Nita Lowey (D-Harrison) and Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (D-Cold Spring) were joined Monday morning by Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Administrator Sarah Feinberg on a conference call to outline the efforts underway to make grade crossing improvements.

"We must continue working together to ensure these horrific accidents don't devastate more lives," said Lowey, the ranking member on the House Appropriations Committee.

Last Feb. 3, six people were killed and 15 were injured when an SUV crossed into the path of a Metro-North train at Commerce Street in Valhalla.

Within the past few months, Congress appropriated \$350 million from the Highway Safety Improvement Program to help communities across the United States pay for improvements at dangerous crossings across the United States, Lowey said. States will be able submit applications to the federal government to share in that money.

Another \$6.5 million has been set aside



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Town officials in Mount Pleasant marked the one-year anniversary of the MTA train crash during a candlelight vigil last week.

for a public education and awareness campaign, she said.

Funding for \$50 million in railroad safety grants will also be available, half of which will go toward Positive Train Controls (PTC) technology that helps operators slow down trains on difficult curves of it senses something is on the track. The other half of that money will be for railroad infrastructure improvements.

While officials did not mention when the \$350 million will be released to the states, Feinberg noted that it should happen soon as possible.

"We are working diligently to execute and get that money out the door," Feinberg said. "In terms of the public education campaign we'll work closely with our colleagues...to help that campaign."

That money does not include \$1 billion

in federal loans granted to Metro-North to help the commuter railroad install positive train controls, said Maloney, a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee who has been instrumental in advocating for the technology. Railroads have until 2018 to have positive train controls installed.

The MTA is studying all of its Metro-North and Long Island Railroad crossings – more than 430 of them – in its jurisdiction.

Maloney said 95 percent of all railroad deaths occur at crossings. However, while crossing accidents have been decreasing nationwide, in New York State mishaps are on the rise at its 5,304 crossings statewide.

"The local communities have a useful role advocating for changes that made sense to them," Maloney said.

New York State has also increased funding by more than 50 percent to improve crossings for this year. The state has set aside \$9.8 million for 2016, compared to \$6.1 million last year.

Despite the money that is supposed to flow from Washington and Albany, Feinberg acknowledged Monday that there have been no improvements at the Commerce Street Crossing during the past year. Feinberg said the investigations by the FRA and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) are ongoing and that equipment or structural changes are prohibitively expensive.

"The equipment can sometimes (cost) into the millions of dollars, and if we're talking about a grade separation, actually separating the roadway, the automobiles and the vehicles from ever interacting with the railroad track or (eliminating) the possibility of interacting with the trains, that's millions and millions of dollars," Feinberg said.

One community that sounded warnings over an unsafe crossing within weeks of last year's accident was the Town of New Castle. Supervisor Robert Greenstein said his office has been working with state Sen. Terrence Murphy (R-Yorktown) to get the Roaring Brook Road crossing off the Saw Mill Parkway in Chappaqua onto the state's Transportation Improvement Program list. At some point town and state officials hope to meet and discuss improvements at Roaring Brook Road.

He said keeping the spotlight on improving safety is crucial to seeing improvements materialize.

"We're at the one-year anniversary and while you don't want to exploit the tragedy, it is a chance to talk about the issue again," Greenstein said.

Meanwhile, in Mount Pleasant, town officials are awaiting reports from the NTSB and its own engineer before deciding on whether to call for the closing of Commerce Street or one of the town's other three grade crossings.

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Libby Pataki, Tourism Under Fire for 2nd Foundation

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problem” and she would disclose the necessary information, according to the article.

In a seven-paragraph statement, the Visitor’s Bureau refuted some of the reporting in The Journal News article. The statement claims the Putnam Tourism Corp. was created to save taxpayers dollars because it would have the ability to raise funds privately. Referencing a resolution dated Aug. 9, 2013, the county Legislature requested the Visitor’s Bureau privately fund one-third of its budget.

The statement called The Journal News article “an inaccurate representation, and failed to distinguish between the Putnam County Visitor’s Bureau and the Putnam Tourism Corp.”

“The Putnam Tourism Corp. was never in possession of a single tax payer dollar, and operated completely separately from the Visitor’s Bureau,” part of the statement read. “Never did Visitor’s Bureau funds end up supporting the Tourism Corp., but many times, privately raised Tourism Corp. funds were used to supplement the Visitor’s Bureau.”

The statement did concede the board of directors did not have the level of involvement necessary.

“The article was correct in that the Visitor’s Bureau did not meet the requisite level of corporate governance, and for that we apologize,” part of the statement read. “This is not to say that appropriate levels of oversight did not exist; every purchase made through the New York State Matching Funds program was approved, cataloged, and processed by Empire State Development in Albany.”

County Executive MaryEllen Odell, who brought Pataki on after she was elected, said Putnam Tourism Corp. was established to help different tourism initiatives in the county. When organizations or other tourism events were in need of funding, Pataki was able to distribute money around. The purpose of the second nonprofit was to promote



PHOTO PROVIDED

Libby Pataki (far right) with other county officials like County Executive MaryEllen Odell and Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra, who are both to the left of her.

and expand tourism in the county, Odell said.

Odell stressed no tax dollars have gone to the second foundation and she only had limited knowledge of the second nonprofit.

“I’ve always known that Libby’s had a foundation, but I’ve also known that Libby’s been involved in New York and the whole region for quite some time,” Odell said. “My visibility was limited to go to her to ask her to fund something, she always said yes and she always followed through. That’s really all I knew.”

Odell said Pataki’s policy, going back to her time as First Lady, is focused on transparency, with Odell adding Pataki would probably admit there are some things she would’ve and could’ve done differently. From her understanding, which much of is second hand information, Odell said there is no legal obligation to disclose the second foundation. Still, the legislature can start expecting answers.

“If she had the foresight a columnist was going to create this story, I think she probably would have felt she needed to explain this foundation,” Odell said. “I know she has every intention of

giving (the legislature) any information, answering any questions that they may have.”

Legislature Chairwoman Ginny Nacerino said she was unaware of the other foundation and was as surprised as many fellow legislators. She said the Visitor’s Bureau would be requested to come in front of the legislature’s economic development committee in March to discuss the situation. While Nacerino said Pataki has worked in “earnest and her heart is in it,” she would

like an explanation from her or another representative of the Visitor’s Bureau.

“I was taken a little aback by it,” Nacerino said. “I can’t speak to why it was not open and transparent but I do question that.”

Legislator Dini LoBue welcomed the investigation by the AG’s office.

“The existence of the shadow tourism corporation formed without the knowledge and consent of the county Legislature raises troubling concerns that bear a thorough and independent investigation,” LoBue said in a statement.

Putnam Valley Supervisor Sam Oliverio, a former legislator, said he had no idea Pataki had a foundation set up to coincide with the county’s Visitor’s Bureau. Oliverio said he felt Pataki’s appointment was a “quid-pro-quo” for her husband, former New York Governor George Pataki, endorsing Odell when she ran.

Oliverio called it “troublesome” that no one from the legislature was aware of the second non-profit. Questions swirling around put a “real pale” on county government, Oliverio said.

“That’s wrong,” Oliverio said. “You’re taking one job from the county and creating another that’s a mirror from the other job we give you and don’t tell anybody, you don’t inform anybody.”

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Travelers with Zika Symptoms Are Eligible for Free Testing

Putnam County residents who have traveled to areas where Zika virus infection is ongoing—and who have symptoms—can take advantage of free advanced testing by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH).

Testing is currently not available through commercial laboratories. Symptomatic residents can visit their personal healthcare provider who will work with the Putnam County Department of Health (PCDOH) to facilitate the proper testing procedure through the NYSDOH laboratory at Wadsworth Center. Wadsworth is one of only three state laboratories in the country equipped to perform the screening and confirmatory tests of Zika antibodies and other related viruses.

“We urge any county resident who has traveled to one of the infected areas and has symptoms of Zika virus infection to visit their doctor promptly,” said County Executive MaryEllen Odell. “A New York State Department of Health Zika virus information line has also been established,” she added. The number is 1-888-364-4723.

“Symptoms of Zika virus infection are usually mild,” explained Putnam County’s Interim Health Commissioner, Michael Nesheiwat, MD. “Fever, rash, joint pain and conjunctivitis, or red eyes, are common ones that usually begin two

to seven days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. The bigger problem appears to be a link to microcephaly, a birth defect that results from stunted brain development, so the infection is of utmost concern for pregnant women.” Symptoms can last from several days to one week.

for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will update their travel notices accordingly at <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>

All travelers to any of these areas should make prevention the highest priority. Wear long sleeves and pants, and



Severe infection requiring hospitalization is uncommon and fatalities are rare.

To date local transmission of Zika infection has been identified in at least 14 countries and territories, including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Caribbean, and further spread in the region is considered likely. The Centers

use repellent products registered with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), carefully following the directions. Pregnant women or those trying to become pregnant should consider postponing travel to these regions. The mosquito that carries the Zika virus is an aggressive, daytime biting variety.

Confirmed Zika virus infection cases have been identified in the continental U.S., including New York State. No local transmission by mosquitoes has occurred in this country, but education and surveillance efforts are being enhanced. Prior to 2015, outbreaks of the virus had occurred only in areas of Africa, Southeast Asian and the Pacific Islands. Last May the first confirmed cases were reported in Brazil.

The Zika virus cannot be passed on through casual person-to-person contact. The CDC has confirmed a case in Texas of Zika virus infection through sexual transmission. The situation regarding Zika virus is changing rapidly as new information develops.

Zika virus infection is transmitted by the same Aedes mosquito that carries dengue and chikungunya virus, which made headlines last year. This is a tropical mosquito that has trouble surviving in winter weather. The PCDOH and the NYSDOH plan to monitor mosquitos in the Hudson Valley when the warmer weather returns. Only one lone mosquito of this species has been detected in Putnam County since 1999 when surveillance began. Surveillance will continue, as well as enhanced testing of other species for Zika virus. Further information on Zika virus is available at <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/diseases>

Advertorial

FAMILY FUN AT THE COUNTY CENTER

The Royal Hanneford Circus, a traditional 3 Ring Circus, returns to the Westchester County Center for 9 Shows during President’s Day Weekend. The Royal Hanneford Circus has been entertaining generations of area families for 41 years! And, the tradition continues as the Hanneford Grandchildren perform for the first time at the County Center.

The Royal Hanneford Circus will be filled with Color-



ful Costumes and Daredevil performances plus the Circus animals you love including elephants, tigers, camels and Cousin Grumpy’s Pork Chop Revue all in the Center Ring.

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favorites like the Magical Quick Change and Everyone’s favorite Grandma, Grandma The Clown.

The Royal Hanneford Circus is over two hours of family entertainment close to home and has been providing a welcome and entertaining respite from the cold weather for 41 consecutive years.

The Royal Hanneford Circus will perform at The Westchester County Center February 13- 14-



15. Three Shows daily at 10AM, 2PM and 6PM. Ticket prices are \$25 for regular reserved seats and \$32 for premium seats. Tickets are on sale at the Westchester County Center Box Office, ticketmaster or ticketmaster.com. For details contact, The Westchester County Center (914) 995-4050 or visit countycenter.biz.

Letter to the Editor

Residents Need State Senate Support for the Pudding Street Overpass

Many of us in Putnam Valley and Philipstown have been concerned about the very dangerous intersection of Pudding Street and the Taconic State Parkway. It has been the site of accidents and near accidents over the years. There was a recent letter to the editor in another paper in which the writer wondered why nothing had been done about this.

For those who've either forgotten, or never knew, the recent history, Terry Gipson, who was our State Senator in 2013 and 2014, considered the safety concerns surrounding this intersection to

be a top priority.

In 2013, Sen. Gipson secured a \$1 million Department of Transportation grant to study the building of an overpass over the Taconic at Pudding Street. He then held a community forum in August 2013 where the DOT gave a detailed presentation of how that \$1 million would be used for engineering studies. Sen. Gipson and his staff stayed on this throughout his term, continually pushing to move this project to the top of the DOT's schedule. Near the end of Gipson's term, the DOT had agreed to this and stated they were ready

to go forward with an overpass as soon as the needed funding – about \$22 million – was available. Negotiations to secure this funding were underway.

That was the good news. But the bad news is that, in November 2014, our district elected a State Senator who did not place this project as a high priority. There is much competition for state funding of projects like this, therefore it is necessary that our State Senator constantly pushes the project with the State to keep the momentum going. We don't have such a Senator right now, and, as a result, the

project apparently has stalled.

Terry Gipson served our district well, in this and many other matters, because he genuinely cares about the needs of the communities he serves and actually did the work required to get things done. I look forward to his return to office in 2017, after the November 2016 election, and I know that many in Philipstown, Putnam Valley, Kent and the rest of our Senate District agree.

Margaret Yonco-Haines
Garrison

Time to End The Gap Elimination Adjustment

Do you have school aged children or grandchildren? Have you heard about the GEA?

While the 'Gap Elimination Adjustment,' or 'GEA,' is not exactly a buzzword, the GEA has real, destructive effects on our schools that directly impact our students. Since its inception, schools in our Senate District have lost out on over \$160 million in state funding. What's

worse? Our schools stand to lose even more if the GEA is not fully repealed this year.

One of the very first bills the NYS Senate passed this session is one that Senator Serino co-sponsored which would require the state to fully eliminate the GEA this year. We need our colleagues in the Assembly to join our fight to fully eliminate the GEA immediately so that

our schools can focus on providing a quality education for our children. And we need your help to send that message.

Our kids need your help and they can't afford to wait another year while politicians in Albany drag their feet. If you agree that it's time to eliminate the GEA once and for all, please take a minute to sign Senator Serino's petition at <http://www.nysenate.gov/petitions/sue-serino/>

help-end-gea-school-aid-cuts and help us spread the word by forwarding this message and sharing the petition's link on social media.

Dan Vera
Putnam Valley

Obituaries

Jesse M. LePino

Jesse M. LePino, of Brewster, died suddenly on February 3, at home. He was 31 years old. Jesse was born on June 21, 1984 in Mt. Kisco, son of John Sr. and Deborah (Conklin) LePino of Brewster. Jesse was a 2003 graduate of Brewster High School. Jesse was a great friend to everyone who entered his life. He had a huge heart and a wonderful sense of humor, always the life of the party. Family was extremely important to Jesse and he made each family member feel important and loved. Jesse cherished these moments, especially with his daughter, Isabella. Besides his parents, Jesse is survived by his daughter, Isabella, along with siblings John and his wife Sandra and Jason and

his wife Kyle. Jesse was deeply loved by his nine nieces and nephews, John, Olivia, Daniel, Joseph, Christopher, Tatum, Piper, Sophia and Simon. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Antoinette Handrik

Antoinette "Toni" Handrik (nee Delcore) of 460 Cornwall Hill Road, Patterson, died on the evening of February 5 surrounded by her family. She was 70 years old. Toni is survived by her son, John Peter Handrik and her daughter-in-law Jessica Handrik, of New York City, her sister Victoria Delcore Blake of Fort Myers, FL and her brother Daniel Delcore, of Cincinnati, OH. She is preceded in her death by her

husband, Zoltan Benedict Handrik and her son, Zoltan. She was a beloved aunt to Daniel's children and cherished stories and photographs of her great nephews. Toni was beloved also by her dear friends Carol Rapalje and Nancy Banffy and their families. The length and depth of Toni's many close friendships with people from all phases and aspects of her life is a testament to her loving, loyal, and kind nature, and to her sense of playfulness and joy. Toni was born in Saranac Lake, NY on October 9, 1945, to parents Katherine Williams and Victor Delcore. A Registered Nurse, she graduated from St. Pius High School and from Harlem Valley - Wingdale Hospital School of Nursing. Toni met her husband Zoltan, originally from Zalaegerszeg, Hungary, while training at the hospital; they married in 1966 and moved to Patterson in 1967. The very definition of a nurse, Toni spent her career in service to others, in their homes and, for nearly thirty years, at Putnam County Family and Community Services, formerly Elliot House, in Carmel. Owing to the professionalism and compassion that made such a difference to her clients' lives, and the many ways in which she exemplified the vocations of nursing and of teaching, Toni was highly respected and deeply beloved by all of her colleagues. Toni took enormous joy in her family and friends, and in hosting meals and holidays for them, cooking with love and skill and thinking of every detail to make friends and first time visitors alike feel welcome

and comfortable in her home. Having grown up on a farm in upstate New York, she held a deep appreciation for nature, and generously passed her knowledge of flowers, birds, plants, animals, and trees and how to care for them, to her son, her daughter in law's family, her godchildren, and many more. These are the memories we will cherish most: days spent at her home enjoying a fire in the fireplace in the winter, flowers in the garden in the summer, and in all seasons her humorous, well-told stories, including classic gems from her childhood on the farm, her courtship with Zoltan, and her nursing school days. She will be greatly missed and will be remembered with deep appreciation and boundless love every time we see a nurse serving with compassion, a hummingbird hovering, leaves turning bright orange in the fall, and tulips bursting in the spring. And, we will remember her fondly whenever we learn of a lucky dog or cat finding a home through the Putnam County Humane Society, where donations may be sent in lieu of flowers. A funeral service will be held on Wednesday, February 10, 10 a.m. at Dwyer Funeral Home, 23 South Street, Patterson. A private cremation will follow. Friends may call at the funeral home on Tuesday from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

www.dwyerfuneralhome.com

As mentioned earlier, in lieu of flowers, contributions in Toni's memory may be made to the Putnam County Humane Society, PO Box 297, Carmel, NY 10512.

The **PUTNAM**
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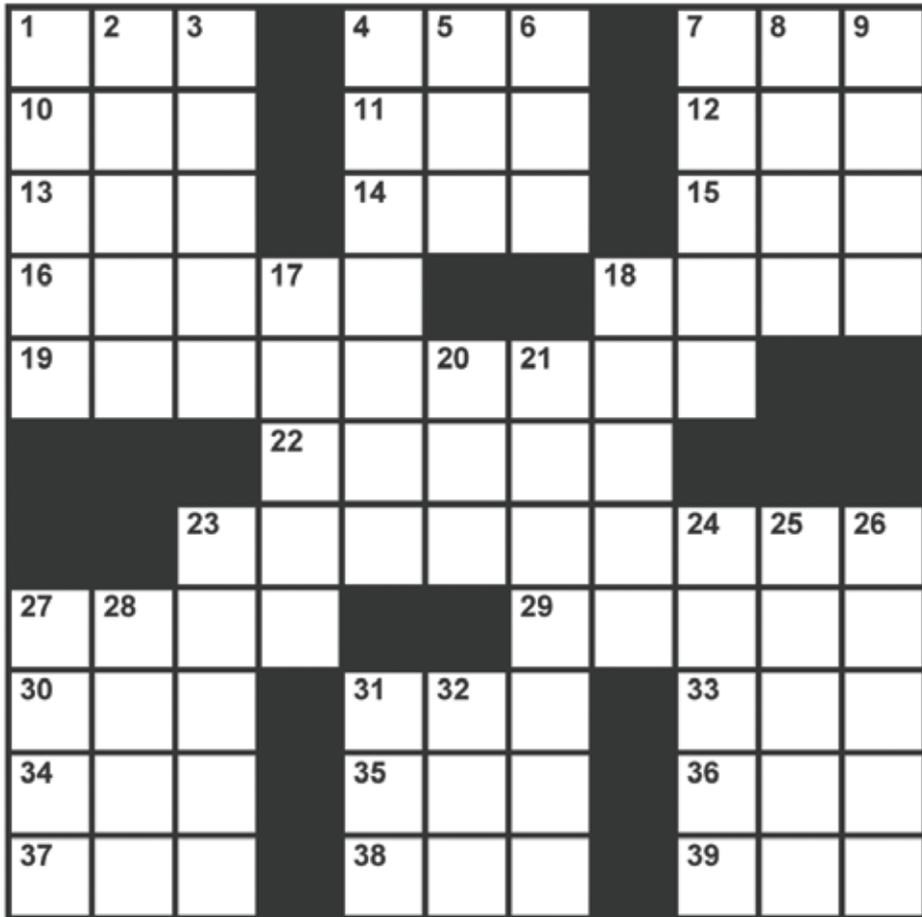
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Crossword Puzzle



Crossword by Myles Mellor

Answers on page 15

Across

- 1 Ship, affectionately
- 4 Creeper
- 7 Leaf in many sculptures
- 10 Make demands on
- 11 Formerly
- 12 "Much ___ about nothing" Shakespeare
- 13 "Not a Pretty Girl" singer DiFranco
- 14 Animal lair
- 15 Mint
- 16 Bear or icecap
- 18 CT _____
- 19 Ranking series
- 22 Cursed
- 23 Belonging to actress Jennifer or Cortlandt Manor martial Arts
- 27 Metallic flying insect or Mahopac tattoo parlor, ___ Butterfly
- 29 Happening
- 30 Cacophony
- 31 Time in Westchester
- 33 Coldplay's Berriman
- 34 Many a time
- 35 Muumuu accessory
- 36 Dander
- 37 Author Harper
- 38 Mauna ___ (Hawaiian volcano)
- 39 Obstinate animal

Down

- 1 Kind of infection
- 2 City in Vietnam
- 3 Ostracize
- 4 Introspective

- 5 Churchill's sign
- 6 Desire
- 7 Liking
- 8 Inkling
- 9 Women's evening wear
- 17 Bad match result?
- 18 Mantelpiece
- 20 Nancy's partner
- 21 Zagreb's republic
- 23 French tale
- 24 Traditional maxims
- 25 Pronoun before or after "truly"
- 26 Eye sores
- 27 Worship object
- 28 Loaded
- 31 Wapiti
- 32 Perceive

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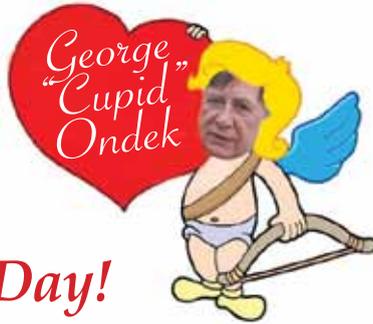
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Wishing all my viewers and Examiner readers a **Happy Valentine's Day!**

George "Cupid" Ondek



SPECIAL BULLETIN

Watch the "George Ondek Show" on Youtube. The latest edition features the crowning of the Miss Italia Westchester winners. Also, the Grand Opening of "Be First Boxing" in Peekskill... It's a knockout!

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Law Book: Handling 'The Space Between'

By Sal DiCostanzo

When I meet with people for the first time who are interested in estate planning, their focus is usually on after-death planning. Whether their concern is minimizing estate taxes, planning for minor or spendthrift children, or simply passing assets to the next generation as quickly and efficiently as possible, nearly every meeting begins with a discussion on post mortem planning and the preparation of documents, such as a Last Will and Testament or revocable trust. This is a shortsighted approach.

More important than planning for death is planning for that period of time between your golden years and death where you may become disabled and incapacitated. This necessitates long-term care. I like to refer to this period as "the space between". I often joke with clients that dying is not the problem. Becoming disabled and incapacitated - that is a problem.

It is sometimes difficult to redirect someone's attention to this topic when they have geared themselves up for a discussion about their death. I am very sensitive to this since most people wait many years before they find the nerve to finally talk about their death. Then they meet with me and I throw them a curveball about incapacity and disability. But once we start talking about how "the space between" can be a tumultuous time in a person's life, I



Sal DiCostanzo

usually grab their attention.

Once you die, the game is over. Your assets are no longer needed to cover the cost of your care. It is during "the space between" that you run the risk of losing a considerable amount of assets to the cost of your care. In order to fully appreciate this risk, one must consider the probability of falling ill and the possibility of requiring long-term care, and then the limited options to pay for the cost of that care. It quickly becomes apparent that there are a limited number of ways to pay for the cost of long-term care and without proper planning, there is a high probability that

'Once you die, the game is over. Your assets are no longer needed to cover the cost of your care. It is during "the space between" that you run the risk of losing a considerable amount of assets to the cost of your care.'

you will be spend a considerable amount of assets. This is why planning for "the space between" is my primary focus as an elder law attorney.

No one likes to think about becoming disabled or losing their capacity, but compounding that with the significant loss of assets is usually intolerable for most. In order to properly plan, one must consider planning techniques such as an irrevocable Medicaid Trust and a properly drafted power of attorney together with a statutory gifts rider. These are documents that work to protect your assets if you require long-term care. A Last Will and

Testament does not protect your assets. So often I hear people say to me, "doesn't my will protect me?" or worse, "my assets are protected because I have a revocable trust". These documents do not protect your assets, they simply provide a mechanism to pass your assets to the next generation.

Thus, when you decide to meet with me, be prepared to talk about "the space between" and remember, dying is the easy part. And if I shake your hand and tell you that I hope you die of a sudden heart attack, perhaps you can appreciate my rationale.

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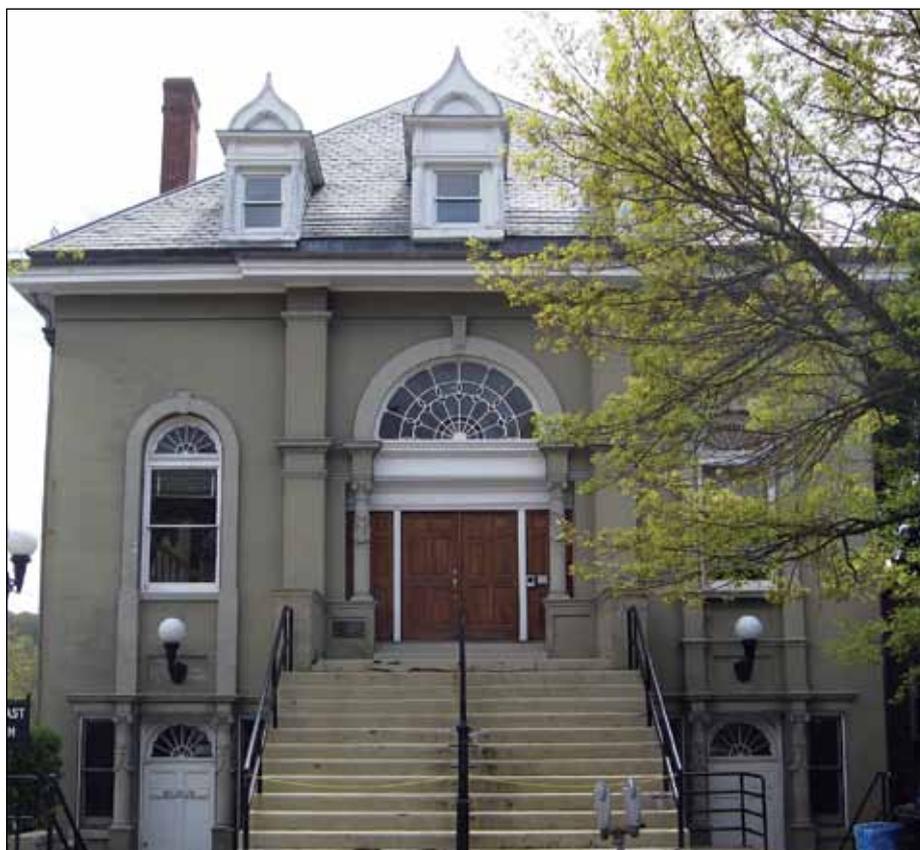
Work to Begin on the Old Town Hall Theater in 2016

The Town of Southeast Cultural Arts Coalition is pleased to announce that renovations for the Old Town Hall Theater at 67 Main Street, Brewster, will begin in 2016 along with a fundraising campaign. Old Town Hall was built in 1896 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Currently, it houses the Cultural Arts Coalition's Studio Around the Corner on the ground floor and the Southeast Museum on the middle floor. Once open, the renovated theater on the top floor will make the building a cultural hub and tourist destination on Main Street, just 2 blocks from the Village of Brewster train station.

This past summer, the Cultural Arts Coalition and the Town of Southeast signed a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Old Town Hall. TOSCAC will oversee planned renovations, paid for in part by a NYS Grant of \$250,000, and will raise the additional funds needed to open the Theater in this town-owned building. The MOU also stipulates a 10-year lease of the theater for the Coalition as lessee, with 2 optional renewals for a total of 30 years. The Town, in conjunction with TOSCAC, will solicit bids for work, which will include window restoration, a fire stair addition, heating system upgrade, sprinkler system installation, and accessible bathrooms installation.

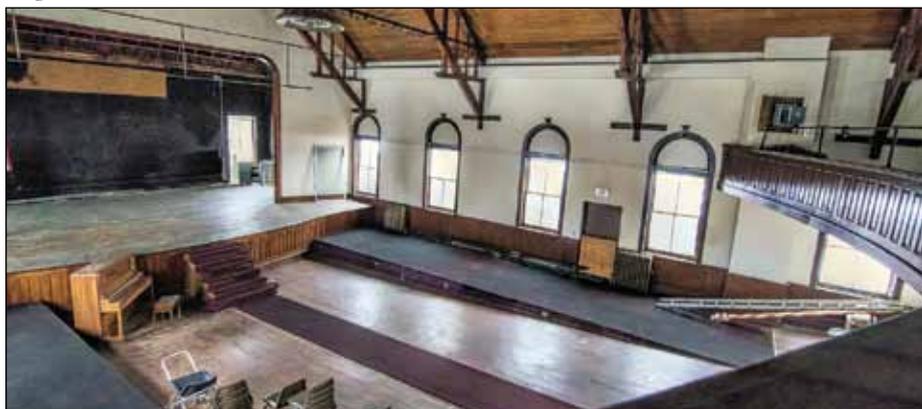
The acoustically excellent Old Town Hall Theater will accommodate audiences of 200 or more and will provide performance space for local groups as well as exciting guest performers.

For more information on the renovations, our current programs at the Studio Around the Corner, and donating to the building campaign, visit www.OTHTheater.org or contact us at TOSCAC2010@gmail.com or (845) 363-8330. Donations can be sent to TOSCAC, 67 Main Street, Suite 101, Brewster, NY 10509. TOSCAC is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation; donations are tax deductible.

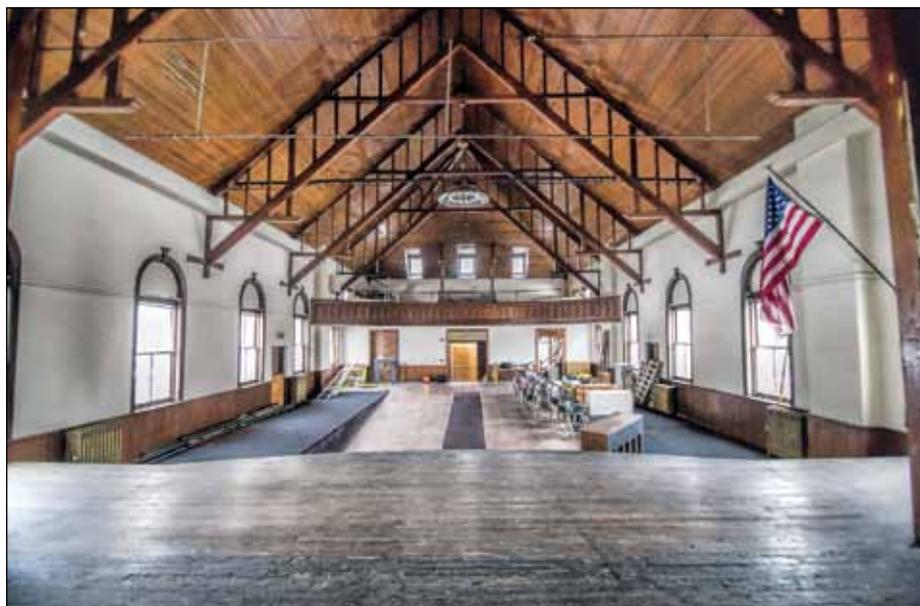


The exterior of the theater.

PHOTOS COURTESY DAVID HENNINGSEN.



The view of the theater from the balcony.



The view of the theater from the stage.

Crossword Answers

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|---|
| 1 | S | H | E | | 4 | I | V | Y | | 7 | F | I | G | |
| 10 | T | A | X | | 11 | N | E | E | | 12 | A | D | O | |
| 13 | A | N | I | | 14 | D | E | N | | 15 | N | E | W | |
| 16 | P | O | L | 17 | A | R | | | 18 | S | C | A | N | |
| 19 | H | I | E | R | A | R | 20 | 21 | C | H | Y | | | |
| | | | | 22 | S | W | O | R | E | | | | | |
| | | 23 | C | O | N | N | O | L | 24 | L | 25 | Y | 26 | S |
| 27 | I | R | O | N | | | | 29 | A | F | O | O | T | |
| 30 | D | I | N | | 31 | E | 32 | S | T | | 33 | G | U | Y |
| 34 | O | F | T | | 35 | L | E | I | | 36 | I | R | E | |
| 37 | L | E | E | | 38 | K | E | A | | 39 | A | S | S | |

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'Zombie Homes' and Their Effect on Owners and Communities

Last month, residents of Mount Vernon breathed a sigh of relief as a long-abandoned house in their city was finally torn down. The building had stood empty for four years, and was then damaged by fire two years ago.

Finally, the high winds and snow accumulation from the recent winter storm caused the structure to begin to tilt. The city got ahead of the problem and razed the building before it could collapse and hurt someone.

Abandoned houses of all types cause many problems, and making sure that empty structures are being maintained properly is important to the safety and property values of the surrounding community. The house in Mount Vernon was an example of a "zombie home," a subcategory of abandoned houses with a unique set of problems all their own.

Zombie homes, despite their supernatural-sounding name, are formed when a bank declares its intent to foreclose on a property, but then does not actually go through with the foreclosure. In some cases, this has occurred because the banks were overwhelmed with foreclosures, and some slipped through the administrative cracks. At other times, the foreclosure



By Bill Primavera

process may be moving along on schedule, but the process can still take years. In either case, the house sits unoccupied, with an unkempt lawn and snow on the sidewalks.

Before long, a visibly abandoned house will drag down property values on its street. Thieves may be attracted to the copper pipes or appliances and squatters may move in. As was the case in Mount Vernon, the structure can deteriorate to the point where it becomes dangerous. The town or county may step in to maintain or tear down the building, but unless the owner can be found, the costs will be borne by local taxpayers.

If the owners are accounted for, zombie homes will have a terrible impact on their lives. These owners are booted from their homes with the announcement of the foreclosure, but they are still responsible for the taxes and upkeep costs of the property. In many cases the owners go on for months or years with no idea that they are still in possession of the house and responsible for its care. They receive a rude shock when the bill arrives, sometimes with fees for code violations or the cost of tearing down the house added to the accumulated expenses.

Sometimes owners have resorted to returning to their old homes to mow the grass and make repairs to avoid additional penalties, even though they can't move back in. Sometimes they are barred from finding a seller for the home on their own.

In a recent report by the Independent Democratic Conference (IDC) and Mount Vernon Mayor Richard Thomas entitled "The Next Great American Bank Robbery," there are 107 known zombie homes in Westchester County. Citing a study which determined that every abandoned property brings down the value of the homes around it by 1.3 percent, the report concluded that all the zombie homes in Westchester caused a loss of \$10.8 million in property value. (This doesn't include the loss in property value from standard foreclosures in Westchester, which was calculated at another \$9.2 million.)

In response, the IDC and Thomas are proposing a bill that would require banks to maintain the properties they own as soon as it is learned that the property is abandoned or vacant. Speeding up the foreclosure process would also relieve some of the burden on communities and foreclosed owners.

In the meantime, let's give a tip of the hat to communities that are trying to keep the problem of zombie homes from getting worse, whether it involves large actions such as tearing down properties, or smaller steps like trimming the grass

and picking up trash.

I had the honor of helping save a historic home in my hometown that had every appearance of becoming a zombie home, although technically it was not. The home in question, the Adams-Bernstein House, was bequeathed to the Town of Yorktown with the expressed intention that it be utilized as a museum, but for various reasons over a 20-year period that plan never materialized. The home fell into disrepair, was vandalized and even experienced a fire which damaged part of the building.

Eventually, the town put the property up for sale and I won the listing. I was fortunate to find a buyer for the house who promised to restore it and put it to good use as affordable housing. That buyer was Mark Franzoso of Franzoso Contracting. In exchange for that service, the town agreed to allow Franzoso to eventually subdivide the property and build another home at market rate. If only every real estate "zombie" story could have such a positive ending.

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

History and Traditions Recounted in Contemplating a Wine Bottle



By Nick Antonaccio

Two columns ago I expounded on the rich traditions that are the essence of wine enjoyment. Having explored the many aspects, both ethereal and practical, of the millennia of wine fact and fancy that have survived each of our interactions with wine, I related these to a recent restaurant experience.

During the presentation of the bottle of wine by the restaurant sommelier to our table, I focused on the somewhat grandiose – some might say arcane – traditions incorporated in this ritual.

Yet, more mundane traditions have been passed down to 21st century wine consumers. This week, I'll focus on several.

Much of our experience with a bottle of wine comes to us from the logistical dilemmas faced by early winemakers: designing a suitable vessel in which to store the wine and then creating an adequate means to seal and preserve the contents. Their ingenuity and innovation are evident to this day.

As the sommelier presented

the bottle for my consideration, I sat and digested these traditions, realizing that several are in the throes of radical change, if not extinction.

The vessel: For centuries, wine was stored, transported in and consumed from, large, multi-gallon vessels. Early Greeks transported wine in amphorae, two-handled ceramic or terracotta jars with a narrow neck, wide body and narrow bottom. Wooden barrels came into vogue during Western Europe's Age of Exploration. When glass-blowing became popular in 16th century France, the present-day bottle and shape began to take form.

The standard bottle size (750ml/25.4 oz.) has remained constant. As legend has it, the volume capacity of today's bottle is a direct function of the first glassblowers' lung capacity to produce a single bottle.

The shape: As glass bottles gained in popularity in France, individual wine regions adopted specific shapes to distinguish their wines from other regions. Today, these traditional shapes are still employed for specific grape varieties, providing consumers a handy reference when perusing

You Heard It Through the Grapevine

the multitude of offerings on wine shop shelves and wine tasting event tables. Here is a sampling:

The winemakers of the Bordeaux region created a bottle easily distinguished by its straight sides and tall, rounded shoulders. Adopted by most wine regions over the centuries, today this traditional shape typically indicates one of the Bordeaux varieties: Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Malbec, Petit Verdot (or a blend) for reds and Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon and dessert wines for the whites.

The bottle from the Burgundy region has sloping shoulders and a slightly broader bottom than the Bordeaux bottle. The contents? Pinot Noir and Chardonnay – around the world.

Next is the Rhone bottle, with a shape similar to the Burgundy bottle, but with more angular shoulders and a bit slimmer. If a bottle displays the Papal coat of arms on the neck, it is specifically from the Rhone region of Châteauneuf du Pape.

The closure: Cork, steeped in tradition, is nevertheless a relatively new bottle stopper. Although in use since the 17th century, for the prior seven millennia, oil-soaked rags and wax were the only practical products available.

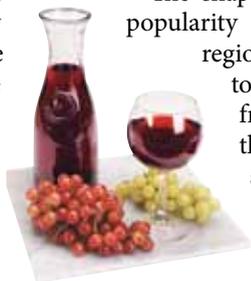
The seal: The wrapper at the top of the

bottle is a throwback to medieval times when wine was stored in caves and cellars. In order to prevent rodents or other insects from gnawing at or infesting the cork, winemakers covered the cork with lead. Eventually, lead was recognized as a poison and the wrapper evolved into foils of tin and aluminum. Today's shrink-wrap plastics are a modern invention, yet hardly necessary.

The wine in a bottle may be maturing for months, years or even decades. But the vessel itself has been doing its job for centuries, even millennia. But are these mundane storage traditions beginning to disappear? With the advent of alternative vessels (cans, boxes) and closures (screwcap, glass, synthetics) and the declining use of seals, we may be on the verge of a major transition to new traditions.

But will they be long-lived or will modern man continuously seek innovations? It's food for thought the next time you ponder a bottle of wine.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 20 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick's credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.



Happenings

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

Save the Date:

Parade Date Sunday March 13, 2016
step off 2 p.m. at Mahopac Firehouse Pledge of Allegiance at 12:30 p.m.

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

Book Clubs:

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

Registration for Kindergarten:

In Brewster School District: Kindergarten registration for the Brewster High School Class of 2029 takes place the week of February 29 – March 4. Children who will be five years of age on or before December 1, 2016, are eligible to register for September classes. Families residing within the Brewster School District are asked to call John F. Kennedy Elementary at 279-2087 x 4111 to make an appointment.

Mahopac Central School District 2016 – 2017 registration for incoming kindergarten students Must be five years old on or before 12/01/2016 (No Exceptions). Kindergarten Registration for the 2016-17 School Year will be held at The Office of Central Registration located at The Falls District Office, 100 Myrtle Avenue, Mahopac, between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 3 p.m. on the following dates:

Austin Road ES: February 22, Fulmar Road ES: February 16th, 18 & 29, Lakeview ES: February 26. Registration is by appointment only. To schedule an appointment and request a registration packet, please contact the Office of Central Registration at 845-621-0656, Ext. 13902.

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

Wednesday, February 10

Marine Corps League Meeting: Putnam County Detachment 242. The Putnam County Marine Corps League will hold its monthly meeting at the Carmel VFW Hall, 36 Gleneida Ave. (Rte.52) Carmel. Meetings are always held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the VFW Hall. Always looking for new members. If you are a U.S. Marine or FMF Corpsmen Veteran, Reservist or on Active Duty, we welcome you as a Brother. View us at www.putnammcl.com

Carmel High School seeks community businesses to participate in job fair Carmel High School (CHS) invites community businesses to participate in a student-centered job fair to take place at the school on February 10, 2016 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Casey Hall at the school. The fair will assist students in learning about local employment opportunities while providing an ideal option for employers to recruit employees, interns and volunteers. Contact one of the people below as soon as possible to reserve your spot. Mike Murphy – mmurphy1@carmelschools.org – 845 225-8441, ext. 610. Denise Petersen – dpeterse@carmelschools.org – 845 225-8441, ext. 453. Serena Shea – sshea@careersfp.org – 845 225-8007

Saturday February 13

Celebrate Valentine's Day at the Brewster Public Library. At 11am there will be a special storytime, followed by a tasty activity for children. Come and listen to some fun books and then create a yummy and sweet snack to share with your Valentine. Registration is requested, but walk-ins are welcome. For all ages. Young children may need the help of an adult. For additional information visit <http://tinyurl.com/zgwcjf5> or call the library at 845-279-6421.

Sunday, February 14

Spotlight Arts for a 3-day workshop studying the technique of one of the greatest classical playwrights of all time - William Shakespeare! Students will work directly with Shakespeare scenes, gaining a better understanding for his language and rhetoric while also receiving one-on-one acting coaching from Spotlight Arts' new instructor, Jess Emerson. This is a great class for students who are new to Shakespeare as well as experienced students who are looking for a challenge. The 3-day workshop will be held of Sunday, February 14 through Tuesday, February 16 from 9am -3pm at the Studio Around the Corner 67 Main Street in Brewster, NY. Jess will also be directing a junior workshop on Fridays at 4:30 p.m. for children age 6-12 years old beginning on February 12th. The end result is a full workshop production of the tale of Alice in Wonderland Jr. with costumes, lighting, sound & scenery. For more information call 845-444-ARTS or email spotlightartsinc@gmail.com.

Space is limited, so sign up today at www.spotlightartsinc.com.

Kent CAC Valentine's Day Hike for Nature Lovers: 1 p.m. Lake Gleneida Trail Celebrate Valentine's Day out in nature. Bring a lover, bring a friend, or just bring yourself. Join the Kent Conservation Advisory Committee for pleasant walk around this glacial lake right in the middle of Carmel. Meet at 1pm at the NYCDEP kiosk. Park along Route 301 near the historic courthouse. Wear good hiking boots. A light snowfall would provide a canvas for animal tracks, but deep snow or an icy coating would postpone the hike with an alert on kentcac.info by 11am that day. Or call 228-5635 for the latest status. Co-sponsored with Friends of the Great Swamp.

Save the Date:

Knitting 101 and Beyond: February 16, 17, and 18 from 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Ages 7 and up. Join us for a three-day workshop of knitting. Beginners will learn how to finger knit and to knit with needles. More advanced students can perfect their skills. Registration required. For more information or to register contact the Patterson Library at 845-878-6121 x10 or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org and click Calendar.

Ongoing

Shed your winter blues, get re-energized and ready for spring at Mahopac Library. Pick up a museum pass, join a book group, attend a drop-in adult coloring session, and more. Registration is requested for all of the Library's wellness events; no Library card required. For fee-based programs, register at the Library's Information Desk. Additional information can be obtained by calling 845-628-2009, ext 100

Monday's

Knitting instructor, Pascale Zeynali, returns to the Brewster Public Library to teach a second session of knitting classes for children. This four week program is for beginners, as well as those who want to improve on the skills they have already learned. The classes will be held from 5 p.m.-6 p.m. on Mondays, February 8, 22, 29 and March 7. Supplies will be provided for all newcomers; students who attended the previous class are asked to bring their supplies with them. For ages 7 and up. Space is limited. Registration is required. For additional information visit <http://tinyurl.com/h9lnbjh> or call the library at 845-279-6421.

Tuesday's

Exploring Composition and Color Through Watercolor Basics at Reed Library. Through April 5, 10 a.m. to noon. Participants will be guided through a six week session of basic watercolor painting lessons in which the focus will be on composition and color. No previous experience is necessary. Registration required, call the library to register, 845-225-2439.

Art Class – Exploring Composition and Color Through Drawing and Watercolor Basics at Reed Library, Tuesdays January 12 through February 9, 10 a.m. to noon. Participants will be guided through a five week session of basic drawing and watercolor painting lessons in which the focus will be on composition and color. Registration is required, 845-225-2439

The Great Courses: How to Draw: Patterson Library, 1167 Rte. 311 Patterson. Tuesdays and Thursdays. February 18 at 1 p.m.. Don't sit home this winter! Join us every Tuesday & Thursday for 6 weeks starting January 12 for this wonderful video course presented by world-renown professor David Brody. You'll study the core principles of drawing including: line, proportion, composition, value, light and shadow, texture, color, and figure drawing plus so much more. Bring your sketch pad & pencils and get ready to draw! See our calendar for recommended materials. To register or for more information, visit us online at www.pattersonlibrary.org and click on calendar or call 845-878-6121 x10. Free program.

Chair Yoga at Reed Library, Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m., through February 24. Certified yoga instructor Robin Starr Cohen will guide you in breathing, mindfulness, flexibility and balance during a delightful hour of chair yoga. Everyone is welcome. Registration is required, 845-225-2439.

Thursday's

Basic Drawing at Reed Library Thursdays February 25 through March 31, 10 a.m. to noon. Participants will develop and extend their basic drawing skills, such as exploring line, shape, value, and perspective. No previous experience is necessary. Registration required, call the library to register, 845-225-2439.

Art Appreciation Class at Reed Library: 10 a.m. to noon, through February 11. Participants will examine a selection of works of art and will try hands-on drawing exercises that demonstrate the creation of the artwork and the artists' styles. The last class will be a guided tour of the Loeb Art Center at Vassar College. Class size is limited and registration is required. Please call the library to register, 845-225-2439.

Friday's

Lego Club Friday, February 12, March 4, and April 8 from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Kids ages 5 and up, come build Lego sculptures with friends! We will have a theme each week to challenge your Lego-building skills or you can choose your own theme. We will then display your creation in the library for all to see! Registration required. For more information or to register contact the Patterson Library at 845-878-6121 x10 or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org and click Calendar.

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LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE OF FORMATION OF PARANDA MEDIA, LLC, ARTS OF ORG. filed with Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 4/11/2006. Office in Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served,

SSNY shall mail process to: **80 Vaughn Ave, New Rochelle, NY 10801. Purpose: any lawful activity.**

Notice of Formation of Jenny Dobell Gardenscaping, LLC Art. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 12/17/15. Offc. Loc: Westchester Cty. SSNY desig. as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the **LLC, 10 Central Ave. Rye, NY, 10580. Purpose: any lawful purpose.**

Notice of Formation of Sabina Global Communities, LLC. Sabinagc.com filed with Department of State of New York on 8/28/15. Office location: Westchester County. United States Corporation Agents, Inc. Suite 202; 7014 13th Avenue Brooklyn NY 11228 designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **United States Corporation Agents, Inc. Suite 202; 7014 13th Avenue Brooklyn NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.**

Notice of Formation of HSN Property, LLC Art. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 11/27/15. Offc. Loc: Westchester Cty. SSNY design. As agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the **LLC, 2 Overhill Road Suite 260, Scarsdale, NY 10583. Purpose: any lawful business activity.**

Notice of Formation of Invariably Digital, LLC Art. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 9/9/2015. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **Invariably Digital LLC, 143 Park Dr, Eastchester, NY 10709 Purpose: any lawful purpose**

MISCELLANEOUS

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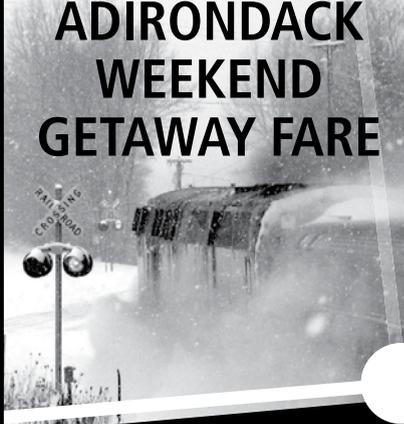
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The Putnam
Examiner
Sports
 Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports

February 9- February 15, 2016 SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS SPORTS SECTION

**Abbey
 Road
 Blocked!**

**Haldane
 Stumbles
 in Loss to
 Somers**



RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS (PLEASE VISIT HVSPHOTOS FOR MORE ACTION)

Haldane's Abbey Stowell (25) finds herself at a crossroad when met by Somers' Hannah Angelini and Megan McHugh last Thursday in the Class C Blue Devils' 53-31 loss to Class A Somers, the likely No. 1 seed, which improved to 17-2 with the win. It was Haldane Coach Tyrone Searight's intent to step up the competition for his Blue Devils (10-10) in an effort to prepare the reigning Section 1 champs for the upcoming post season.. see Girls' Hoops Notebook

Brewster, Somers Set Records for Regular-Season Wins

Ossining, Peekskill Poised for Post-Season Damage; PV Wins League Title

By Ray Gallaher
Examiner Sports Editor
@Directrays

Class A's BREWSTER and SOMERS High have officially joined PEEKSKILL and reigning three-time NYS Class AA champion OSSINING and defending Class C champion HALDANE as legitimate, prime-time hopefuls to hoist the gold ball this winter at a Section 1 Final 4; coming soon to a basketball theatre called the Westchester County Center.

We know the story of state-ranked (No.1) Ossining; a record 81-straight wins against Section 1 foes, five consecutive Section 1 titles, three state jewels, blah-blah-blah (as if!). Coach Dan Ricci's Pride (18-2, 16-0) are the light at the end of the tunnel you see just before you get run over by a freighter. Ossining just continues to prey upon every record in the Section 1 books, and, to make things even easier, one of its toughest competitors -- state-ranked No.3 Ursuline -- was unwittingly dropped down to Class A this season (way to go, Section 1, you've outdone yourselves this time).

But what is going on under our very noses with some of the other Class A locals adds to what might possibly be the finest stretch of regular season basketball in the Northern Westchester/Putnam County area. Brewster (16-4), with its 16 wins could be ranked as high as No.4-6 in the sectional seeds, and state-ranked (No.18) Somers, with its 17 wins, have set school records for victories in a year and might



Brewster's Kelly Dovi completes a key coast-to-coast bucket as Yorktown's Anna Nuccio trails in Bears' win over Huskers.



RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

Brewster hotshot Dayja Medina goes up for two as Yorktown's Miranda Walsh defends in Bears' win over Huskers.

end up the No.1 seed in the tourney, while state-ranked (No.5) Peekskill is vogue again, a serious contender for the Class A throne with a 15-5 record with a seed in the 4-6 range. Panas (12-7) is also having a terrific season and could be looking at an 8-to-10-seed.

Add it all up and we could have four top 10 teams from this neck of the woods in Class A alone, and another top seed in Class AA; not to mention Class B's PUTNAM VALLEY (14-6) having its finest season in nearly a decade, including the Tigers' first league title since 2007 and maybe the third best record in history (18-4 in 2005, 16-8 in '07). PV seniors Reena Olsen, Alyssa Stockinger, Stephanie Wagner and Alex Knight all played four years (Wagner 5) on varsity and took some lumps early on but finished with a trailblazing finish for the future.

Reena Olsen had 21 points and 16 rebounds in the 61-38 win over Haldane, thus splitting the league title with the Blue Devils. Sophomore Morgan Winogradoff (15 points) made many big plays throughout the game, and senior F Alyssa Stockinger added 10 points and 16 rebounds. "Each time Haldane seemed like they might make a run, Morgan would come up with a big play," PV boss Nick Lenhard said.

Among the title contenders, we must consider defending Class C champion Haldane (10-10), doing what Coach Tyrone "Sea-Dog" Searight's Blue Devils do every season; competing for the crown.

The Lady Blue Devils may be .500 and unranked by state pollsters but don't bet against them come playoff time.

BREWSTER cannot be overlooked, having taken Somers to overtime twice this season. In a 37-33 win over Yorktown last week, Brewster hotshot Dayja Medina had 19 points, four steals and seven rebounds to lead the Bears. Recent Con Ed winner Frannie Merkel was a hoop shy of a triple-double, going for eight points, 16 rebounds and 10 blocks.

"This was a defensive game where both teams struggled to score for a majority of the game," Brewster Coach Mike Castaldo, now in his fourth year, said. "Yorktown did a great job of double teaming Frannie and taking her out of the game, however, her defense and rebounding helped us tremendously to pick up a big league win on the road. Dayja was our main offense, and hit two huge 3's late in the third to get us the lead. She also hit 2 free throws in the final seconds to make it a two-possession game."

The turning point of the game was a steal from Kelly Dovi (an outstanding junior softball player) with two minutes to go, after which she went coast to coast for a layup.

"That really sparked us and gave us energy in a game where we were struggled to score," Castaldo said.

In Brewster's 57-42 win over John Jay, Merkel went for the trifecta (19 points, 18 rebounds, 11 blocks). Katie DePaoli added 15 points (on 5 3's) and Medina had 9 (on 3 3's).

"I told the girls at halftime to play smarter on defense, we were giving them easy looks from everywhere and they couldn't miss," Castaldo said.

The Brew Crew went on 22-3 from there and took total command.

"I couldn't be happier for our seniors, they have been the heart and soul of this team and we have had a tremendous regular season," Castaldo said. "To finish with the most wins in school history speaks a lot about the character of this team."

The Bears have played for more than half a season without Julia Borsari, a three-year starter who would have been a lock for All League. They hope to get her back for the post-season, which would be a big boost to the Bears' playoff hopes.

"Hopefully, she can return in time for sectionals, but I couldn't be more proud of this group," the coach said. "They play with such passion and heart and understand the meaning of team basketball."

OSSINING enters the tourney fresh off a 103-76 win over visiting Peekskill last Tuesday and its seventh-straight league title and the 17th in Coach Dan Ricci's



Somers sniper Gabby Rosenzweig splits defense of Haldane's Allison Chiera (13) and Abbey Stowell in Tuskers' win over Blue Devils.

25 years on the Pride side. The Pride also knocked off Panas, 86-40. The win over Panas was the Pride's 75th-straight against NYSPHSAA teams, their last loss coming at the hands of Cicero-North in the state semifinal loss in 2012.

The win over Peekskill was Ossining's best game of the season, according to Ricci. With freshman sensation Aubrey Griffin sitting for three quarters of the game in foul trouble and All-NYS senior Shadeen Samuels playing cautiously in serious foul trouble throughout, the rest of Pride really stepped up, including freshmen F Kailah Harris, who drained a career-best 33 points and 15 rebounds.

Pride freshman G Jaida Strippoli ran the point with smooth effectiveness, scoring 12 points and dishing a career-high 14 assists. Ossining's Gabby Ferrao checked Red Devil All-NYS G Lanay Rodney in the second half and did an outstanding job before fouling out in the fourth. Rodney scored just 12 second-half points after scoring 24 in the first half to finish with a game-high 36. Although Aubrey played just about 9 or 10 minutes she did score 18 points and Samuels was just shy of another triple double, scoring 29 points to go with 17 rebounds and eight assists. Griffin was the difference against Panas, scoring 39 points, grabbing 11 rebounds and seven steals, in just three quarters.

Panas bounced back nicely in a 51-39 win over Beacon, in which Kristen Kelly (22 points) and Carlyn Mucci (15 points) shined.

Streaking Putnam Valley, Ossining Lock Up League Titles

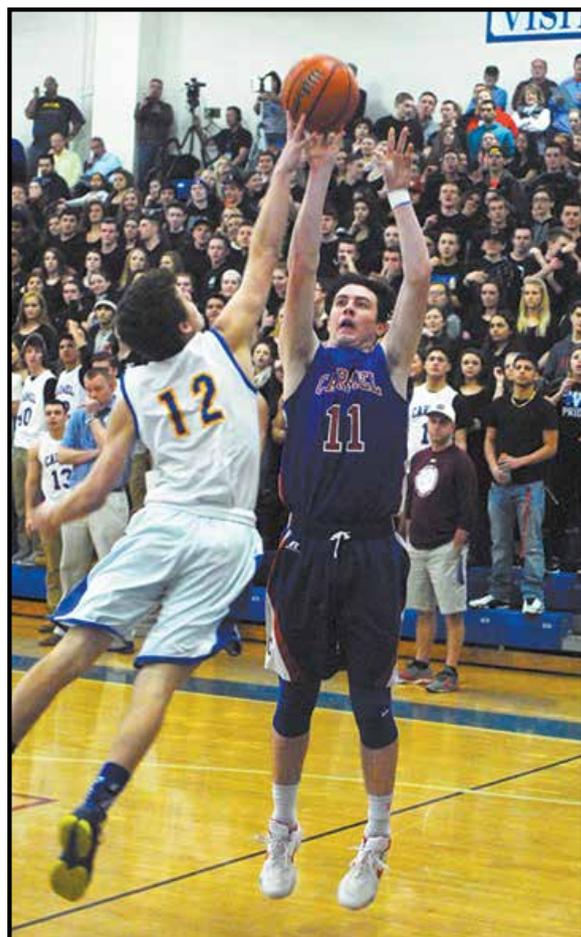
By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor
@Directrays

So if league titles are an indication of what we can expect in the Section 1 playoffs, we can envision state-ranked (No.12), League I-C champion Putnam Valley making a strong run in Class B, and maybe, just maybe, League I-B champion Ossining overachieves and finds a way to the Class AA Final 4.

Outside of that, we've got a lot of long shots on our hands, including Class AA Yorktown, Mahopac and Carmel, as well as Class A's Hen Hud and reigning Class C champion Haldane. At this point, it seems a good bet that the rest of the locals in and about the Putnam/NWE region would be hard-pressed to reach the Final 4 and grace the Westchester County Center hardwood with their presence; though stranger things have happened.

PUTNAM VALLEY (17-2, 6-0) has the best chance to do so, what would be a fourth-straight trip to the Mecca for the once-woe begotten program. With two Final 4's and one championship appearance in the last three years, the Tigers are a "now team"; built to win this season with five grizzled seniors - Joe Spinola, Harrison Deegan, Kevin Gallagher, Anders Spittal and Charlie Pagani -- on the grill. Next year will be a somewhat down year in the Valley (by their recent standards), so it's now or 2018-19 before they find a way back.

Coach Mike McDonnell's Tigers, who



RAY GALLAGHER/BILL KENNEDY PHOTOS

Carmel's Ryan Sullivan has his jumper contested by Mahopac's Andrew Ryan in Indians' 55-46 win over Rams last Thursday.

could be a No.3 seed, were riding an eight-game winning streak into last night's tilt

with potential No.3 seed Blind Brook, but most coaches, fans and pundits are predicting a rematch with state-ranked (No.4) Briarcliff, who PV lost to, 54-48, back in early January. Outside of 12-point win over Croton-Harmon (8-11), a likely No.10ish seed in the Class B playoffs, the Tigers haven't been tested since their loss to Briarcliff. A good, stiff quarterfinal challenge might serve them well, and

the Tigers just might get that against reigning two-time champion Woodlands, a club that has been PV's bugaboo the last two years. No matter how you slice it, PV and Briarcliff are the favorites to get there, but anything, and we do mean anything, can happen along the way should the Tigers take anyone lightly, which is highly unlikely give the quality leadership within...

OSSENING (16-4)

would appear to be the best bet among the Class AA hopefuls, what with slumping Yorktown having suffered a regular-season-ending 60-59 overtime loss to a youthful seven-win Somers team last Saturday #Shocker. Ossining's 59-55 win over Beacon last Tuesday paved the way to the Pride's first league title since 2006, as they followed up with wins over Peekskill and Panas to clinch a share with Beacon in Coach Mike Casey's first season at the helm.

The Pride' Obie Toppin (27 points, 6 rebounds), Alan Griffin (18 points, 6 rebounds, 4 assist) and AJ Stokeley (7 points, 4 rebounds, 4 assists, 3 steals, 3 blocks). Ossining returned to beat a Peekskill team that is far better than its 2-18 record would indicate, 83-81. Griffin (30 points, 10 rebounds, 4 assists), Toppin (26 points, 14 rebounds, 2 assists) and Stokeley (16 points, 10 rebounds, 4 assists) were at it again. If the Pride's Big 3 show up in force in the playoffs, Ossining could be looking at its first Final 4 since 1982, according to school officials...

Pre-season Reflections: Take a quick gander at the poll below and see how close it resembles to our pre-season inkling, which read as follows in late November: No.1 PV, No.2 Ossining, No.3 Hen Hud, No.4 Lakeland, No.5 Mahopac, No.5A Yorktown (not too shabby, eh). We were way off the mark with Lakeland, and Mahopac went the distance without its best two-way player Dan Foley, but the Indians, through no fluke, still found their way back to the Top 5 this week with three-straight wins, including rival Carmel.

NWE/PUTNAM FAB FIVE POLL (Section 1 teams only)

No.1 PUTNAM VALLEY - Coach McDonnell's state-ranked (No.12) Class B Tigers (15-2) average margin of victory over the last eight games is a ghastly 26 points. They need to take this upcoming scrimmage with Fox Lane as if it

were the real deal.

No.2 OSSINING - Coach Casey's Class AA Pride (16-4) are no ranked right where we had them in the pre-season, at No.2, and they look like a potential No.5 seed in the playoffs, which gives them a home game and a potential game with a beatable Spring Valley outfit for its first Final 4 venture since 1982.

No.3 HEN HUD - Coach Hirsch's Class A Sailors (13-7) are seeking their first Final 4 venture since 1991 and with a potential No.7-8 seed, a home game in the 1st round and a wide open Class A field, who's to say Breeding's boys won't make it happen #LegacyOnTheLine.

No.4 BREWSTER - With a No.12-13 seed in the making, we're thinking Coach Nelly's Class A Bears (10-9) can be one of those bracket-busters we see come out of nowhere.

No.5 MAHOPAC - Coach Simone's Class AA Indians (10-9) have continued to improve, find their roles and buy in to what the coach is preaching. The effort the Indians gave in their 55-46 win over rival Carmel was the stuff they will never forget; including but not limited to senior Aidan Hynes, had 12 points and eight rebounds and specialized on containing Carmel hotshot Ryan Train, who finished with 18 points (8 in 1st Q), eight rebounds and five steals. 'Pac senior Christian Donahoe had 14 points (5 in a row during a critical fourth-quarter junction), five rebounds and four steals. Wing Jonathan Jacklett added 11 points for Mahopac, including three 3's. Junior point guard Andrew Ryan, who drained the go-ahead trey, was also effective for Mahopac, as was 'The Big Con', Connor Moloney (8 points off bench), an unsung star of the game.

HM SOMERS - Coach DeCintio's Class A Tuskers (7-13) have now knocked off Yorktown, John Jay CR, Mahopac and Brewster... believe me, I can make a case for them as Top 5 in this useless poll. The future is bright, boys #WorkIt. Junior Marc Maestri led Somers with 17 points in win over Yorktown.

HM YORKTOWN - We've sort of soured a bit on Coach Downes' Class AA Huskers (11-9), who seem to be underachieving some these days.

HM CARMEL - Coach Venditto's struggling Class AA Rams (10-10), losers of 4-straight, have picked a not-so-fine time to leave us, Lucille.

HM CROTON - Coach Thom's Class B Tigers (8-12) spent over 30 years being mentored by one of the classiest cats in Section 1 history. Whether he wins a game or not in the Section 1 tournament next week, NYS Hall of Fame Coach Thom leaves us with a legacy that falls just short of 400 wins and thousands of happy Croton campers. It has been an honor and a privilege, sir.



Mahopac's Andrew Ryan takes a run at Carmel's Isaih Fredricks in Indians' 55-46 win over Rams.

Sports

Wrestling Notebook

Mahopac's DiNardo, Brewster's Larm Divisional Champs

Iowa Style Wrestling Places 34 Grapplers in Divisional Finals, Gains 24 Champs

By Tony Pinciario

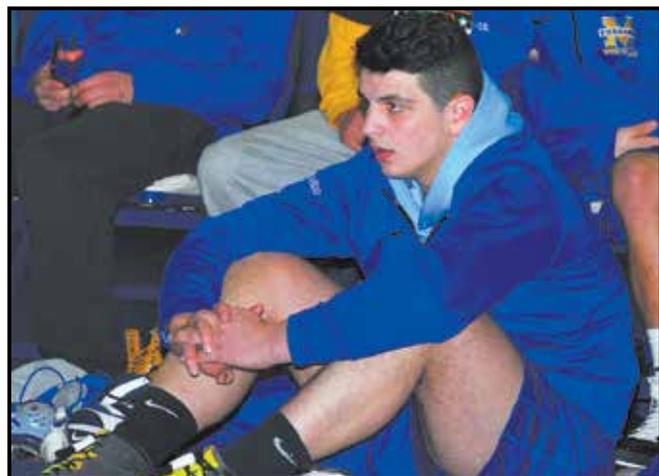
Mike DiNardo enters the 2016 Section 1 Large School Wrestling Championships/New York State Qualifier in the same situation as 2015.

The Mahopac senior will be the top seed, this time in the 195-pound weight class, as he aims to make it consecutive sectional titles. Last year, DiNardo was the 182-pound champion.

DiNardo will begin his quest for title number two Saturday, 9 a.m. at Arlington for day one of the Section 1 Large-School Tournament. Wrestling will resume Sunday, 9 a.m., at with the semifinals at Clarkstown South. The finals, third and fifth-place matches are scheduled for 2:30 p.m.

DiNardo has manhandled his Section 1 competition. He is 34-2 with the losses both happening at Eastern States. Having been the top seed last year at sectionals has DiNardo prepared for a tough road.

"I'm expecting the number one seed



Mahopac's Mike DiNardo is seeking a 2nd-straight Section 1 title.

and with that I feel like I have a target on my back and everyone will be coming at me," said DiNardo, who verbally committed to attend and wrestle at Johnson and Wales in September. "I'm just going to take it one match at a time and keep my composure."

Since Eastern States, DiNardo has been focusing on correcting the minor errors he made in the two losses, including one in the championship semifinals.

"My assistant coach and I watched the videos, especially of the semifinal match, and we've gone over the things I need to work on so I make sure I do the right things if I see him again," said DiNardo, who finished fourth in the state last year. "What bothered me about that match is that I was hit with stalling, then I hit the wrong move at the wrong time and it gave him two back points. I have to remember to wrestle smart."



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Carmel's Kevin Knox was crowned 132-pound champion at the D-3 Divisionals at Carmel High last Saturday.

DiNardo is planning to raise his level of his wrestling, starting with practice this week, in preparation for sectionals and the state championships.

"The first two days will be pretty hard," DiNardo said. "There's nothing new to learn. It's just a matter of getting my conditioning in."

Winning a sectional title last year was excellent, but DiNardo wants to repeat and show he is among the state's elite.

"It would be awesome to win another sectional title and it would show that all of my hard work will pay off," he said.

DiNardo will be joined by teammates

Garrett Semenetz (99) and Mike Muldoon (126), both fellow divisional champs, and Chris Horan (113), Alex Rabinowitz (120), Eric Gagne (138) and Michael Delahanty (285)

BREWSTER senior Mike Larm is in the same situation as DiNardo. Larm is the projected No. 1 seed at 285 pounds and favorite. Larm is not focusing on his seed or being the favorite. Instead, Larm is focused on wrestling his best.

"You have to have a good mentality, going in, and know that you are the guy that works the hardest," said Larm, who is 38-4 and undefeated in Section 1. "You have to know you deserve it and the only person who is going to stop you is you."

Following his fourth-place finish at Eastern States, Larm has become even more attentive to studying his matches on video.

me about my matches and watching the films with me." Larm said. "He's always there for me to get a workout. He's also told me I am working hard and I am at the top level with these guys in the state."

Alexander Melikian will be making his first appearance in the Section 1 Large School Wrestling Champions. Melikian transferred to Lakeland for his senior year and is among the top two wrestlers in the 182-pound weight class.

Melikian, who was the Catholic States 182-pound runner-up last year, is currently 30-3. His lone loss in the section was a 3-1 decision to John Jay-Cross River's Evan Frank in the Westchester County 182-pound final.

"I really was not being able to finish the majority of my shots," said Melikian of that match. "I was aggressive, where I wanted to be and wrestled really hard, but I walked right into a shot."

Melikian said he has watched the match and knows what adjustments he wants to make should he and Frank meet in sectionals.

Melikian will be joined in sectionals by teammates Brandon DiDomenico (106) and Caleb Meekins (113). Wrestling in the Section 1 Championships, with DiDomenico and Meekins, has Melikian psyched.

"I've always kind of considered myself a Section 1 guy," said Melikian, who trains at the Iowa Style Wrestling School with many Section 1

"I've focused on fixing the little things to get me on the winning side of those close matches," he said. "I've also focused on the things that I know I can do better."

Larm has received a huge boost from his older brother, Tom, the Ossining assistant wrestling coach.

"My brother has been a huge help in that he is always talking to

wrestlers under the guidance of former legendary Mahopac state champion John Degl, who, overall, saw an astounding 34 of his ISW grapplers in the Section 1 divisional finals. "It's nice to be back. I feel comfortable here and it would be great to win the title here."

PUTNAM VALLEY will be looking for a three-peat in the Section 1 Small School Wrestling Championships/New York State Qualifier, Friday-Saturday, at Pearl River.

The Tigers roared past Pearl River on the second day of the 2015 Championships.

Junior and 2015 113-pound sectional champ Satoshi Abe is one of Putnam Valley's core group, which includes Mikey Bruno, Kyle Sams, and Noah Kelvas, that has been instrumental in the titles.

"I think, like any other wrestling season, there are ups and downs as a team and individually, but every time we focus and work hard, we get the job done," Abe said. "I think we have the right guys in place and if everybody gets the job done, a three-peat is possible, but we know we will have to battle for every point."

Even though Putnam Valley has won consecutive team titles, Abe said that has no impact on 2016.

"We can't think about the titles we won in the past," Abe said. "Everyone starts with zero points coming into sectionals. We have to fight like we're the underdogs. We've gotten it done before."

Yorktown qualified divisional champ Mauricio Arango (132), Connor Thomas (160), Josh Grant (182), Ross Mandel (145), Patrick Patierno (138), Daniel Kramer (126) and Tyler Rodriguez (220).

Arango decisioned top-seeded Elias Perkes (Arlington), 9-3 in a semifinal and pinned second-seeded Seth Schulman (Scarsdale) at 1:59 in the final.



Mahopac's Garrett Semenetz won the 99-pound Divisional championships at Carmel High last Saturday.

Sports

Give Me Hugs & Handshakes over Punches & Shoves



By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports
Editor

I didn't always feel this way, but I'm actually pretty happy that the Section 1 basketball season is nearing its conclusion: The start and end of Section 1 hoops are the two things I look forward to most, because both are absolutely exhilarating and a great way to get sports junkies through the winter doldrums. The girls' and boys' Final 4's continues to be one of the most amazing venues of the year, possibly the best Section 1 has to offer the local sports fanatic.

But oftentimes, during portions of the regular season, there's no place to hide from the lunacy when we're all camped inside a tiny gym where we can hear what we're all saying about each other and parents act like immature kids and kids act like jerks; get the picture? Let me paint it: Too many clowns, too close to me, for my liking. And, yes, entitlement and vicarious living plays a major part in all of this; don't kid yourselves.

Nowadays, civility is lost in these tiny confines, making me long for open space and the lash of a lacrosse ball by the time the Section 1 Final 4 concludes at the Mecca, the Westchester County Center, which puts a fancy bow on an otherwise anxious winter season. I love the actual

games, the players and coaches, but some fan bases and overzealous parents -- and even grandparents -- have lost sight of what we're supposed to be doing; cheering for our teams, instead of harassing the referees and each other while spilling profanity from every orifice.

I don't want to pick on one particular fan base, but you know who you are; many of you have been warned repeatedly for antics deemed over the top by administrators who sometimes have soft, sappy security in charge of potentially volatile situations. And some of you people can drain the life out of a cast iron plant with the rudeness you exhibit toward one another.

I give you the "rivalry" between Putnam Valley and Haldane, which borders on something out of the Hatfields and McCoys these days. The spit finally hit the fan last week and culminated in a Put Valley boy being sent to the hospital after he was allegedly sucker-punched (for no reason, I'm told) in the PV High parking lot by a loose cannon from Haldane High. I'm told by the Putnam County Sheriffs that the Haldane lad was facing an arrest and suspension from school for having splattered some orbital bones and having concussed the young lad.

When the good folks of Haldane and Putnam Valley -- who border up and share the same dang woods -- get together these days, it's like a meeting between Blackbeard and Rasputin, two of the more

audacious cats in history, who couldn't have gotten along with Mother Theresa if she showed up to the bash with a vintage batch of rum punch.

When I was at Peekskill a couple of weeks back for the Red Devils vs. Ossining girls' game (the best game I've seen all winter), I was wildly entertained by the action on the floor and curiously aroused by the toughness of the some of the women in the crowd, who sought the referee's head on a platter; best served over a bed of freshly spilled intestine.

Don't get me wrong; it's not all bad. I was over at Mahopac last week, which hasn't been able to shake its bad rap since the unforgettable Mt. Vernon incident in 2014, for the hoops rivalry with Carmel, and I was at Carmel the week before for a wrestling match with Mahopac. There wasn't a single incident between the @MahopacManiacs and @CarmelCrazies_ that I'm aware of, though I wasn't at the local town park or cemetery where some of these insane off-campus incidents

take place afterward. It was, thankfully, just good, clean fun from what I could tell.

Most folks are fine, and the vast majority of our student fan bases -- like @TheCrop, @SHSTuskerNation -- are fairly well behaved and generally mature most of the time, but, why, oh why, must we occasionally act so ill-mannered toward one another? Eventually, we're going to need to have each other's backs if, and when, these ISIS-type thugs overseas, and the sympathetic malcontents within our own country, inevitably strike our soil and put our homeland in jeopardy. Save the disparaging, interpersonal scorn for @SMACKHighNY and beat each other up on Twitter if you must, but show some dang respect when we're all out and about.

Peace! For the sake of everyone, peace!

Direct Rays



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

The Mahopac Maniacs may have caught a bad rap a couple years back but it was all good, clean fun last Thursday in win over Carmel.

Sports

Gymnastics Notebook

Mahopac Wins Section, Sends Four to NYS Meet

By Ray Gallagher

Mahopac's Callie Johanson (36.65) and Katherine Dorovitsine (35.85) placed first and second, respectively, in the all-around at the Section 1 championships, leading the Indians to a first place finish over Lakeland/Panas, 170.425 to 167.550. Cassie Traina (9.2 on vault) and Chloe Lee (8.6 on uneven bars) will join Johanson and Dorovitsine on the Section 1 team at the upcoming NYS meet after the Indians ran off with the title last Thursday at Carmel High.

"We had 11 gymnasts qualify for the tournament and it was a solid effort by all; Katherine, Callie and Cassie had strong routines and qualified for the sectional tournament as all arounds; Chloe Lee also qualified as an all-around and Kristen Huber qualified on floor exercise. Sectionals was a total team effort."

To say the least: on balance beam, Johanson placed first (9.525) was nearly flawless. On vault, Johanson (9.525) was

first. On floor, Johanson (9.625) was second and Dorovitsine (8.95) was close behind. On the uneven bars, Dorovitsine (9.45) was first. But it was solid scoring across the board that won the event.

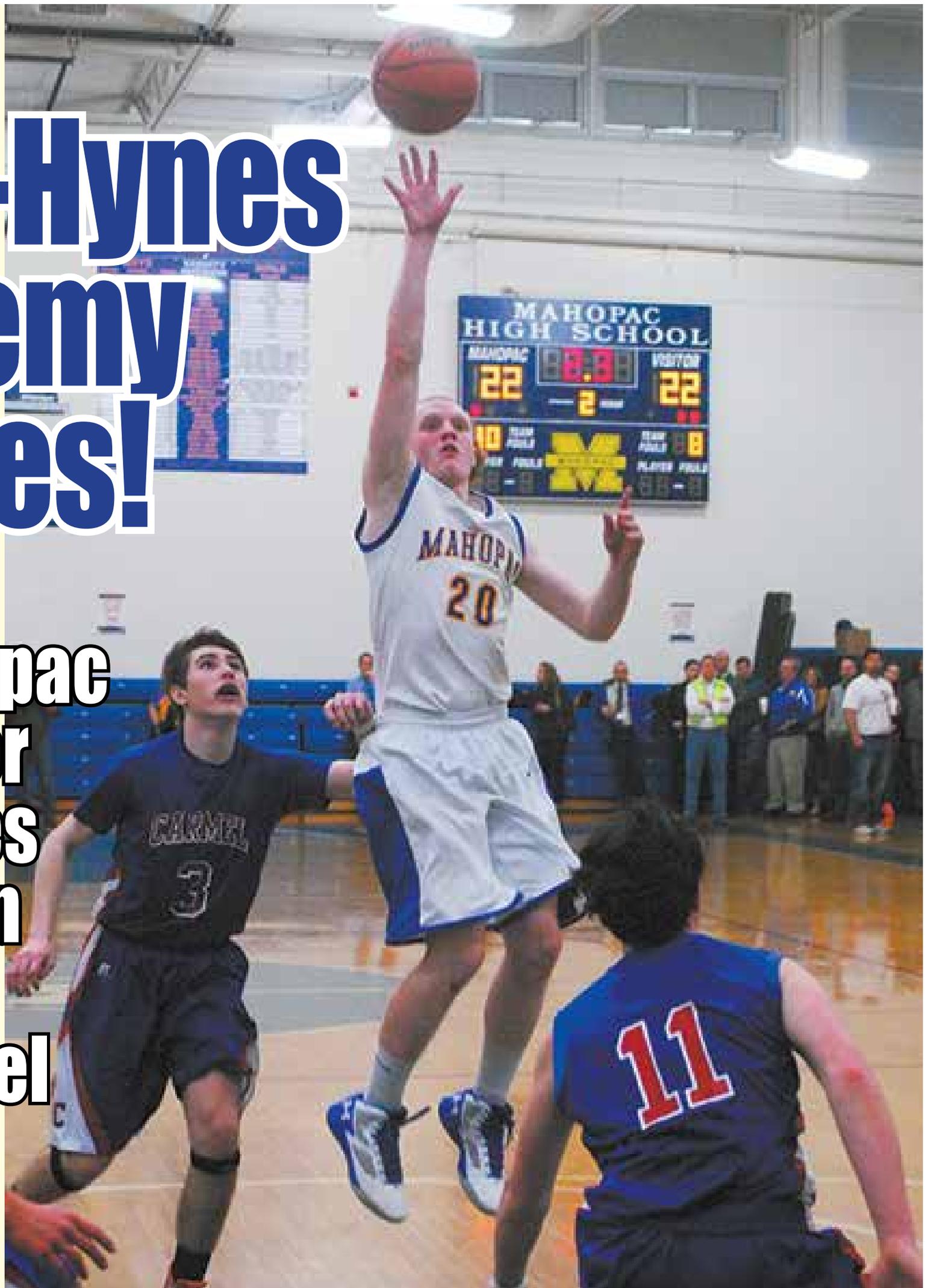
"Every gymnast who competed made major contributions to the highest team score of the season," Coach Collins said. "To accomplish this at this tournament with judging as tight as it is, is really something. Callie was something special. Her vaults and routines were solid; she was really on tonight. Katherine's bar routine was really something special -- her best routine of the season. Cassie had outstanding vaults and routines; consistent throughout the tournament. Chloe, Kristen Huber and Hailey Woods all had consistent routines and vaults the entire evening. This is something special that the entire team, especially the seniors -- Katherine, Kristen Nicole & Angela, will remember for a long time."



Mahopac gymnast pose with the hardware last week after winning Section 1 title.

Be-Hynes Enemy Lines!

Mahopac Senior Shines in Win over Carmel



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Mahopac senior G Aidan Hynes (20) pulls up in lane against the defense of Carmel's Brendan Cody (3) and Ryan Sullivan (11) last Thursday in the Indians' 55-46 win over the arch-rival Rams. Before an SRO crowd at Mahopac, the Cornell-bound Hynes finished with 12 points and eight rebounds, while containing Carmel hotshot Ryan Train from the second quarter on as the suddenly-surging Indians split the season series with the suddenly-struggling Rams... see Boys' Hoops Notebook