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March 1 - March 7, 2016 **SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS** Volume 8, Issue 362

## Putnam Consumer Affairs Chief Resigns as Part of Guilty Plea

By David Propper

Jean Noel has stepped down from her post as Putnam County's director of consumer affairs in light of a guilty plea in which she admitted to stealing more than \$4,000 from local contractors who her department has the power to fine and license.

Noel, of Kent, pled guilty to petit larceny, a class A misdemeanor, in Carmel town court and agreed to terminate her employment with the county, pay restitution, and pay back part of her salary. She was sentenced to a one-year conditional discharge. According to a joint investigation by the New York State Comptroller's Office and New York State Attorney General's Office, Noel stole \$4,575 in cash payments made by contractors that were paying county-

*continued on page 4*



FILE PHOTO

Kent resident Jean Noel is out at the Department of Consumer Affairs after she admitted to stealing money from the office.

## Carmel Town Board Signs Off on New MVFD Contract

By Neal Rentz

Against the backdrop of an ongoing criminal investigation of possible embezzlement, the Carmel Town Board voted 4-1 on Feb. 24 to approve a one-year contract with the embattled Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department that includes a variety of measures intended to safeguard taxpayer dollars.

Voting against the contract, which will end on Dec. 31, was Councilman John Lupinacci.

US Attorney Prett Bharara is investigating a possible \$5 million missing from the department that apparently occurred for more than a decade. Originally, the Putnam County District Attorney's Office was involved

in the investigation, along with the New York State Police and state Comptroller Office.

The investigation became public last October and since then, high scrutiny has fallen on the department, one of three that serve the town of Carmel. One particular name from the department that has been at the forefront is Mahopac resident Michael Klein, the former treasurer of the department.

Supervisor Ken Schmitt said last week the contract changes, which include "fiscal safeguards" to protect taxpayers, were made in response to the investigation.

One of the new features of the contract is how the fire department will be paid.

*continued on page 2*

## Three Cheers for Put Valley: Section 1 Champs!



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Members of the Putnam Valley cheerleading squad pose with their Section 1 Championship plaque after the Tigers were tabbed Small School/Small Team Division winners last Saturday at the Westchester/ Putnam/Dutchess/Rockland Cheerleading Coaches Association competition. Members of the winning PV team bound for the first NYS championship meet in Syracuse on March 5th include: Coach Ariana Amin, Abigail Alvarez, Samantha Bruno, Emily Casey, Nicole Fabiano, Jenni Hernandez, Antonia Hoyos, Megan O'Leary, Tess Rhian, Danielle LaFleur, Kylie Shocker, Caitlin Sigmund, Kianna Thompson, Alessia Zegarelli and Raquela Zimbaldi.

## Planners Shed More Light on Brewster's Urban Renewal Plan

By David Propper

With confusion and angst among some residents, business owners, and property owners in Brewster over the proposed Urban Renewal Plan, a presentation Wednesday night looked to calm some of the questions circulating throughout the village.

The informational meeting was held at St. Lawrence O' Toole Church ahead of the village Board of Trustees' public

*continued on page 6*



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

Residents, business owners and property owners came to an informational meeting about Brewster's Urban Renewal Plan last week.

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# Carmel Town Board Signs Off on New MVFD Contract

continued from page 1

The department will receive \$300,000 now, another \$300,000 on April 1; another \$300,000 on July 1, and the final payment of the year on Oct. 1.

The fire department agreed to provide all documentation asked for by the town board on Dec. 8; submitting a copy of an independent audit of the department and agreeing to keep the town funds in a separate account and not mix it with its other revenues.

The contract also includes a provision to provide the town data including financial records at least every 35 days. The financial information will include copies of the front and backs of all checks.

The fire department will now conduct monthly meetings that will be open to the public.

There are also provisions regarding the department's commissioners. The current commissioners will not be allowed to seek reelection at the conclusion of their terms, which are staggered. Any commissioner vacancies will now be filled by a vote by the membership to ensure that the new commissioners will have the support of a super majority of the district residents. Schmitt said he did not want the public to read into the requirement that current commissioners cannot run for another term as an accusation by the town board of any wrongdoing by them.



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

The Carmel Town Board voted 4-1 to approve a one-year contract with the Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department at their Feb. 24 meeting.

The town then has the right to terminate the contract with 90 days notice. "In the event that any investigation, prosecution or other enforcement action by any county, state or federal agency results in the enjoining, cessation, or otherwise inability or failure by Mahopac to undertake the activities and obligations of performance required under this agreement."

Lupinacci explained why he voted

against the contract. "I'm not against the Mahopac Fire Department," he stressed.

While the new contract included many positive provisions, Lupinacci said it did not go far enough to protect town taxpayers. "I wanted 100 percent," he said. "I wanted a little bit more."

The other town board members said they favored the new contract. Councilwoman Suzi McDonough praised the fire department officials who worked

*"I wanted 100 percent, I wanted a little bit more." – Councilman John Lupinacci*

with the town to get a new contract. "They were very open," she said. The open fire department meetings will allow residents of the fire district to speak, she noted.

Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department Treasurer Chuck Lewis said the department will no longer mix town funds with other revenues in its budget. An outside audit of the department is scheduled to begin in April and the first public commissioners' meeting is also slated for April, he noted.

Resident Robert Buckley praised the efforts of the fire department and town officials to come up with a new contract. "It's a great start," he said.

The town board last week also approved a series of contracts with such entities as the Mahopac Falls and Carmel Fire Departments, the Carmel and North Salem Volunteer Ambulance Corps, and the Mahopac and Reed Memorial Libraries.

## ARE YOU AT RISK FOR ENDOMETRIAL CANCER?

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#### Q: What is endometrial cancer – and am I at risk?

A: Endometrial cancer arises in the glands of the lining of the uterus. The major risk factor is age: it usually occurs in post-menopausal women between the ages of 55 and 64. Another major risk factor is any condition that produces excess estrogen. Receptors in the uterine lining make it highly reactive to estrogen. Elevated levels of estrogen can overly stimulate receptive uterine cells causing them to grow uncontrollably and turn into cancer. The main cause of elevated estrogen in American women is obesity. A woman who carries extra weight has more fat cells, which store a hormone that converts to estrogen. As a result, obesity puts women of any age at risk for endometrial cancer. Other risk factors include Tamoxifen use, hypertension, familial cancer syndromes (such as Lynch Syndrome), and diabetes.

#### Q: What symptoms should I look out for?

A: The most common symptom is bleeding after menopause. Non-menopausal women should pay attention to an irregular bleeding pattern: heavy bleeding or bleeding between periods. At the first symptom, see your gynecologist. You will typically have an endometrial biopsy and a pelvic ultrasound. If the biopsy reveals endometrial cancer, see a gynecologic oncologist.

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A: The main treatment is a hysterectomy to remove the uterus. At Northern Westchester Hospital, robot-assisted surgery is performed on most patients with endometrial cancer. Patients benefit from decreased blood loss and risk of infection, and faster recoveries. Tiny incisions are an advantage for obese women, who are at greater risk for wound infection; while being mobile the next day reduces the risk of blood clots. When endometrial cancer is discovered early, post-surgical outcomes are good.

#### Q: Can I reduce my risk of developing endometrial cancer?

A: You can reduce your risk by maintaining a healthy weight and exercising regularly. Know your Body Mass Index (BMI), which represents body fat, and strive for under 25. A BMI greater than 30 indicates obesity. And see your gynecologist at the first sign of abnormal bleeding.

Learn more about Dr. Wertheim and watch her discuss the advantages of using da Vinci Surgery to treat gynecological cancers, visit [www.nwhroboticsurgery.org/DrWertheim](http://www.nwhroboticsurgery.org/DrWertheim)

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# Mahopac Resident Enters Assembly Race to Replace Katz

By David Propper

Another Mahopac resident is seeking the legislative seat being vacated by outspoken incumbent New York State Assemblyman Steve Katz, who is not seeking a fourth term in office.

Kevin Byrne, a Republican, is the latest candidate to announce his intention to run for the 94th assembly seat in what could be a packed GOP primary. Byrne held his kickoff event last Saturday in front of family, friends and supporters including Katz, former congresswoman Nan Hayworth, and state Senator Kieran

Lalor.

In an interview, Byrne described a time in the recent past where he actually considered taking a step back from politics. Securing a new job, getting married and completing a Masters Degree, Byrne had so much already on his plate. But because of the rampant corruption in state government, including the arrests and convictions of former Republican Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos and former Democratic Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Byrne felt compelled to enter the race.

"I think we have to do a lot more on ethics reform to tackle this problem because of the corrupt politicians in Albany," Byrne said. "It's becoming the new norm and that shouldn't be acceptable."

Byrne also stressed how young folks specifically struggle to live and raise a family in New York. Many of Byrne's high school classmates have either moved away, are still living at home, or renting substandard living spaces. Good paying jobs aren't in the state and many are leaving out of economic necessity, he



Mahopac resident Kevin Byrne announced his run for the 94th assembly seat last Saturday.

noted.

"That's what really bugs me," Byrne said. "The failed policies in Albany are making us lose a generation. People are leaving the state of New York."

Senior citizens on fixed incomes are also struggling to remain in New York, Byrne added.

Byrne has been involved in politics and local government for many years. He was a former aide to Hayworth when she was in office and served on the Putnam Valley Planning Board. Additionally, he is currently the vice-chairman of the Putnam County Republican Committee.

Growing up in Putnam Valley, Byrne graduated from Carmel High School. He's also been part of the Boy Scouts for America and Kent Fire Department, having a leadership role in both organizations. Currently, he is the regional director for the American Heart Association.

Byrne is another candidate in a likely crowded Republican field. Mahopac resident Suzi McDonough announced her intention to run months ago and there are at least three or four other candidates that could pursue the seat.

As the race kicks into another gear, Byrne plans to canvass the district to meet voters and get to as many events as possible. Byrne stressed he's a strong believer in learning by meeting people and asking questions.

When asked if he would partake in a primary if he didn't receive the party's endorsement, Byrne was conflicted. On one hand, as vice-chairman of the Putnam GOP committee he's always been someone to support the endorsed candidate. But on the other hand, Byrne said he's heard regardless of which candidate is endorsed, there will be a primary fight and he would make a final decision after the party's convention a couple months from now.

"It's something I'm going to think long and hard about," Byrne said. "I'm just going to leave that option open and I'm going to work to earn the support of the committee and earn the nomination."



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# Putnam Consumer Affairs Chief Resigns as Part of Guilty Plea

continued from page 1  
issued fines.

Noel has already repaid \$4,300 from what she took and owes another \$275, the comptroller's office asserted. Overall she's paid \$7,891 to the county that includes part of her salary. According to court documents, Noel spared herself going to trial for felony grand larceny by cutting a deal.

An audit and investigation were started by state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli's office in 2014. Noel was eventually

charged by New York State Police once the investigation concluded.

"As our audit and investigation revealed, Ms. Noel abused her position to steal fines paid to Putnam County," said state Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli. "Whenever we uncover fraud, we will work with law enforcement across the state to hold people accountable and recoup the public's money. I thank the New York State Police and Attorney General Schneiderman for following up on our findings."



The offices of Attorney General Eric Schneiderman (left) and Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli worked together on the Jean Noel case.

*'I acquiesced to a plea after consulting counsel, solely to bring closure to a two year misdirected, malicious investigation fueled by disgruntled former employees.' - former consumer affairs director Jean Noel*

In the complaint detailed by the AG's office, before Noel came aboard, three secretaries handled all payments to the consumer affairs office and eventually transferred that money to the Department of Finance. After Noel took over in 2012, she assumed sole responsibility for maintaining and transferring funds, the complaint read.

Starting in 2012 and extending to 2014, there were numerous occasions listed by the AG's office that indicated Noel would bring less than the necessary amount of money to the finance department. For instance, two contractors paid the department \$500 each, but there was no record of the department receiving those funds, which were collected by Noel.

"Public service should never be about private gain," said Attorney General Eric Schneiderman in a statement. "When

public officials abuse their position for financial gain, there will be consequences. Since 2011, my office has successfully prosecuted dozens of officials and their cronies from both political parties and we will continue to fight to clean up state and local government."

While Noel pled guilty, she hasn't expressed much regret.

"I stand by my record of over 25 years of public service and the results achieved. I acquiesced to a plea after consulting counsel, solely to bring closure to a two year misdirected, malicious investigation fueled by disgruntled former employees" Noel said in statement. "In the end, I decided I would rather settle and pay \$275 in restitution for missing funds and enjoy my life, family, and retirement than spend any more precious time and upwards of \$75,000 battling state bureaucrats who were pursuing victory, certainly not justice."

Her attorney, Robert Leader of Carmel, argued the only crime Noel admitted to was taking \$275. While the comptroller's press release stated she already paid back \$4,300, Leader refuted that and said that money was found in the office and Noel never personally paid it back.

He said the brunt of the money in question was "misfiled and misplaced" in the office, claiming "much of the money was there, but not in the correct place." He claims once the office staff searched for the missing funds, it was found.

Leader said Noel took the plea to avoid the financial and emotional toll of a trial. Leader said he believes the prosecution was "politically motivated" and taking the plea was the fastest resolution.

"All of the other money to make up that \$4,300 had already been found in the office," Leader said. "So that's why the only money she had to put in was \$275."

But in that plea agreement, under oath, Noel admits, "I stole \$4,575 from numerous local contractors and I further admit that I never provided those payments to the Putnam County Finance Department."

Noel worked for the state for many years, starting when former governor and Garrison resident George Pataki was in office. She was appointed to her county position in 2012 by a 7-0 vote, with Legislators Dini LoBue and Roger Gross absent. Noel is also a fixture in the Town of Kent, previously serving as a town councilwoman for a term and previously serving on the planning board. She's also been active with Republicans in Kent.

This is just the latest bombshell to hit Putnam County government. Visitor's Bureau Director Libby Pataki is under investigation by the AG's Office for creating a second nonprofit that mirrors tourism and not having functional boards for either one. At least one county legislator has called for the former First Lady of the state to resign.

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# County Exec., Legislators React to Noel's Guilty Plea

By David Propper

When Legislature Chairwoman Ginny Nacerino first joined the Putnam County Legislature, she recalled working closely with former Department of Consumer Affairs director Jean Noel on an item pricing issue. During that time, Nacerino found her to be a "smart and savvy woman."

"By all accounts, the legislature was presented with glowing reports month after month showing the department was generating revenue," Nacerino said.

Which made Noel's guilty plea and resignation for taking money from the department she led for four years all the more perplexing, Nacerino said in an email last week, a sentiment felt by several elected officials that reacted to Noel's improprieties. The guilty plea to a misdemeanor comes after a joint investigation by the state Attorney

General's Office and Comptroller's Office.

Nacerino said she was both "shocked and disappointed" to learn of Noel's wrongdoing and noted safeguards have been implemented for the near future within the department. She also stressed while this situation is not excessive to Putnam County or Republicans, legislators have a fiduciary responsibility to taxpayers to put in place policies and procedure to protect against potential violations.

"It is very disturbing news to learn a department head has been charged with a crime and has betrayed the duties and responsibilities entrusted to that position," Nacerino said.

County Executive MaryEllen Odell, who got a resignation letter from Noel on Feb. 19, said everyone in the consumer affairs office and related departments cooperated fully with investigators. She

described two years as a long time for any official to be under scrutiny and said it was a wise decision for Noel to plead guilty and step aside.

"It just didn't look like there was going to be any vindication," Odell said.

Odell hired Noel in 2012 and she was unanimously approved by the county Legislature. The position is a tested civil service job, in which Odell recalls Noel tested better than anyone else.

Odell said the county executive's office would again review policies within the department going forward. She noted the department has come a long way since Odell took office and even grew under Noel. One important control placed in the office was stopping the acceptance of cash payment, Odell said and another was logging into a database.

But discrepancies still existed leading to the dark cloud over the department.

Legislator Roger Gross said he was in "disbelief" when he heard that Noel had pled guilty and resigned. The first he heard about the investigation into consumer affairs was Monday, Feb. 22.

The Southeast legislator once again called for the county Legislature to have more oversight concerning every aspect of county government because "this shows we're not catching some things." The Legislature needs to be "very pointed" in its auditing and questioning about county

*'It is very disturbing news to learn a department head has been charged with a crime and has betrayed the duties and responsibilities entrusted to that position.'*-Legislature Chairwoman Ginny Nacerino

government, Gross said. He has also been critical of the Visitor's Bureau, which is under investigation by the AG's Office.

"Legislator LoBue was always criticized for asking too many questions," Gross said. "We need to ask too many questions. I'm personally very disappointed in what's happened."

Legislator Toni Addonizio of Kent chimed in, "I was very surprised to find out that Jean Noel was under investigation for fraudulent conduct."

## Transcare Stops Operating in County; New EMS Company Takes Over

By David Propper

A new emergency services company is taking over in Putnam County after Transcare EMS notified the county it could no longer provide services after filing for bankruptcy.

EMStar now has exclusive rights to the county and according to its social media page, already ordered more vehicles to accommodate Putnam's needs. EMStar has been in business for more than 25 years and services different municipalities in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware.

Transcare's cease to operate affected Dutchess County, parts of Westchester, and New York City. The financially troubled company had been teetering on shutting down services for several

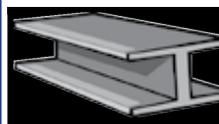
months now and stopped services late Friday. County legislators had heard about back-up plans for the last several months from EMS Commissioner Tony Sutton in preparation for the worst

Right after the county received the news, County Executive MaryEllen Odell authorized the Bureau of Emergency Services to implement its contingency plan. Most Transcare employees have accepted positions with EMStar, Sutton said in a memo to the county.

Odell thanked Sutton and the his staff, volunteers, and the employees manning EMStar vehicles that made it an "almost seamless transition." The county going forward will put out a Request for Proposal for a permanent emergency provider.



Vehicles from EMStar that is now operating in Putnam County.



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# Planners Shed More Light on Brewster's Urban Renewal Plan

*continued from page 1*

hearing scheduled for March 9 located once again at the church. While the room didn't fill to capacity, there were still more than 50 various stakeholders that had questions about the Urban Renewal Plan.

Planners from VHB planning and an architect from Tecton Architects gave some additional details regarding the plan at the start.

David Schiff of VHB noted that in 2013 the village signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Covington Development as a potential redeveloper for the renewal plan. There have been a SEQRA review, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement and a Final Environmental Impact Statement approved that set the stage for the village to approve subjects like the Comprehensive Plan and zoning changes that would fit with the renewal plan.

Schiff also said the blight study was updated, which gives the village an area where it might be best for urban renewal to take place. The blight study gives the indication of properties that might be run down or vacant, Schiff said.

"I think the thinking is there'd be a combination of new development and rehabilitation," Schiff said.

Another VHB planner, Gina Martini said many different factors went into the determined blighted zone and that the

study concluded the area was "sufficiently blighted to warrant" a plan to revitalize Brewster. The Garden Street School--now closed--wasn't originally part of the blight study, but was later added on. The zoning is flexible for different uses and could even change at the site of the former school.

Martini said planners looked at land uses that were incompatible with the existing zoning and incompatible to adjacent land uses and not just individual building conditions. Vehicular and pedestrian circulation was also looked at, Martini said. She added all land acquisitions would be through private entity and the village doesn't plan on purchasing any large pieces of property.

Tecton Architects' Ted Cutler gave early design ideas near the train station. Conceptual ideas included possible infrastructure changes like extending Marvin Avenue, fixing the Main Street to Oak Street connection, and a traffic circle at Progress Street. Creating a village square with green space with destination retail and restaurants and reinforcing a cultural square where the library and Southeast museum center reside were other ideas. The plan would also emphasize walkability for village residents.

"In order for a big vision to get rolling, there has to be a certain splash at the beginning," Cutler said. There are five



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

Village Attorney Anthony Mole (right) spoke during the meeting to clarify some of the questions residents had.



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

This property owner was just one of many that spoke last week, asking a question to one of the planners.

sections that would be worked on overall, according to the presentation.

Once the presentation wrapped up, the questions and comments started flowing.

Business owner Steve Priest asked about eminent domain, which Schiff stated the village isn't interested in at this point. Village attorney Anthony Mole said if there were instances where eminent domain was necessary, the property owner would get fair market price and there is a court process required.

Planning board member Rick Stockburger (who recused himself from this proposal) once again asked why he and other neighbors' properties were in the blight zone if they're considered in good condition. Schiff said an entire street could receive improvements, but there are no specific plans for individual lots.

Stockburger also argued that improvements to sidewalks and roads would not be covered by developers, but residents' money.

"Tell the taxpayers how much their taxes are going to have to go up to implement some of these things," he said, calling the plan too ambitious.

Resident and business owner Richard Ruchala urged the planners to put in market rate housing and asked if the village wanted to eliminate low-income housing. With a lot of senior housing and low-income housing already, Ruchala said the village needs to "raise our standards" to make the village "prosperous."

Another business owner questioned

how the development could affect their business operations and if they can improve their property on their own, which Martini said the village would likely welcome. There were lingering questions whether houses in the blight study could get financing from banks, a subject still in dispute and the need for additional parking was also brought up.

While much of the publicly voiced comments about the plan have been critical, a few residents threw support behind it near the end of the meeting.

Karen Saunders, a 20-year resident, said since she moved to Brewster, Main Street has gone downhill and many businesses have closed. She found the current conditions of Main Street "sad" and some property owners should be "embarrassed."

"I don't love my Main Street," she said. "I love some of it."

Mole said the village board has been praised by other municipalities for bringing in developers and planners early on because they are getting crucial information at the start of the process. After a proposed Urban Renewal Plan is passed, the usual procedure of approvals and permits would still need to be granted, Mole stressed.

"They're not excused from any of the approval processes just because they're part of the Urban Renewal Plan," Mole said. "The Urban Renewal Plan is not a plan of development, it's plan for a vision of the village moving forward."



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# Carmel Town Board Hires Police Officer



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Fishkill resident Gary Pietropaolo was hired as a police officer by the Carmel Town Board on Feb. 24. He is being congratulated above by Police Chief Michael Cazzari. Pietropaolo, who received his oath of office from Supervisor Ken Schmitt surrounded by family members, is earning an annual salary of \$55,033. The town budget for this year called for the hiring of two officers. The police department union and town board have butted heads the last few months over contract talks and the Putnam County Sheriff's Department operating in part of the town.

# Sons of the American Legion Post Donate TV to Vets

On Sunday February 21, members of the Sons of the American Legion Post 1080 Mahopac donated a 48-inch SMART LED TV to the veterans at the Putnam County Vincent Leibell Veterans Home in Carmel. The new TV was installed in the homes community room for all of the veterans to enjoy. This donation was made possible from the largely supported February monthly breakfast the Sons hold the first Sunday of every month. The Sons monthly breakfast fundraiser is open to the public and proceeds are donated back to the community with similar donations to the veterans Holiday.

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# Local 'Times Square Hero' Recounts Preventing Terrorist Attack

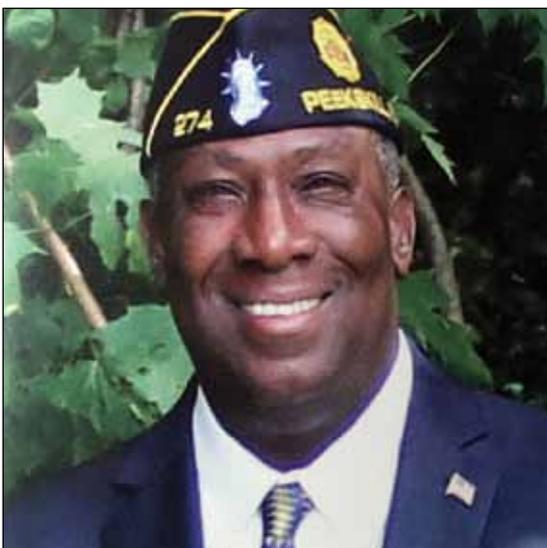
By Rick Pezzullo

On May 1, 2010, Duane Jackson found himself in the middle of Times Square with a New York City police officer he had summoned to investigate a suspicious SUV left running during rush hour at a crowded intersection with no driver.

After an M-80-like firecracker detonated inside the car, Jackson, a street vendor and a U.S. Navy Vietnam veteran, thought about opening the driver's side door to turn off the ignition but recalled intuition stopped him and he backed away from the vehicle.

It was one of several quick and decisive moves Jackson made that day that helped thwart a planned terrorist attack after it was discovered the vehicle was equipped with five sticks of dynamite, gasoline, propane and other explosives--enough ammunition that could have set off a blast 75 yards away and three stories high, causing massive destruction and countless fatalities.

"Fortunately it didn't go off. Something that could have been catastrophic turned into an instance where the good guys won," Jackson remarked during a presentation Saturday sponsored by the Van Cortlandtville Historical Society at



Duane Jackson received congratulations wherever he turned after his heroic actions on May 1, 2010.

The Little Red Schoolhouse in Cortlandt. "My life kind of took a different turn after that."

Instantly heralded as a hero, Jackson, a Buchanan Village Trustee since 2012, became somewhat of a celebrity, appearing on television news programs, such as Good Morning America with Mayor Mike Bloomberg, and constantly being asked to pose for photos with tourists, well-wishers and famous faces, such as Dolly Parton, who made a special trip to visit Jackson after learning about

his efforts.

"If you believe in manifest destiny, it was meant to be," Jackson said. "It comes down to awareness, not taking things for granted and realizing we're in a different era. Unfortunately freedom is not free, and it has never been free. It's incumbent on us to pass that along to our children and grandchildren there will be adversity in this world and we have to stand tall."

Jackson, who grew up in California and has resided in Buchanan for the last 22 years, received numerous awards and honors for his heroism and was personally praised in a phone call from President Barack Obama. He was

named one of Time Magazine's People of the Year in 2010 and was presented with the prestigious Patriot Award by the American Legion at its national convention. He was also recognized by the FBI.

"It was an honor and a privilege for me that he would take the time to give me a call," Jackson said of Obama's call. "Had that explosive gone off I certainly wouldn't be here to talk about it."

Jackson has penned a book on his experiences called May First...The Day Times Square Stood Still. For more information on Jackson and his book, visit [www.mayfirstthebook.com](http://www.mayfirstthebook.com).

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**Business of the Week**

# Prato Trattoria Carmel

**By David Propper**

From the moment a customer opens the door, they can expect to be treated to a family affair at Prato Trattoria.

"It's a completely family run business from the front to the back of the house in everyway," John Spaccarelli Jr. said.

And the result is a delicious meal and relaxing atmosphere for folks to sit down and enjoy a fine Italian meal or grab a slice of top-notch pizza. With the entire family pitching in, Prato Trattoria has established itself as a dining destination in the area.

John Spaccarelli Sr. and his family are very familiar with the restaurant business, owning an Italian restaurant in Millwood in Westchester County for several years. Called Spaccarelli's after his last name, John eventually sold it to a friend who still runs it to this day.

For several years, John Sr. pursued other opportunities and interests including working at Fordham University as the special projects and facilities director. But there was always a lingering part of him that missed the food and service business. John Sr. missed mingling and meeting with customers and making new friends. Seeing customer satisfaction first hand is rewarding, John Sr. said.

His family, including his two sons,



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

From left to right: John Spaccarelli Jr., his wife Danielle, Angel, John Sr. and Victor.

John Jr. and Victor and wife, Angel, convinced him to get back into the food business.

"We decided if we're going to do it, we're going to do it in our town," he said. "Provide our community the good food and service that we did in Millwood."

John Sr. decided on the name Prato Trattoria because Prato is a city in Italy where he has family roots. The Spaccarelli family bought the restaurant from the former owners of the location last year.

Although John Sr.'s full-time job is at Fordham University, the rest of the

family is here throughout the day. The entire family works as a team. The two sons make pizza and assist in the kitchen, Angel focuses on pasta and desserts, and John Jr.'s wife Danielle is the hostess.

When the family bought the restaurant from the former owners, they overhauled the entire inside. In the dining room the walls were designed and painted to give it an old world look and the furniture and ceiling color were changed for a cozier atmosphere. A full service bar was also put together in the back of the dining area. The front of the restaurant received

a facelift and new equipment was put in the kitchen.

All of the renovations took just two weeks or as John Jr. said, "Twenty-four hours for 14 days." When customers from the old restaurant walk in for the first time, they're pleasantly surprised.

"It has a new identity now," John Sr. said. "And the food is equal to the identity as far as quality."

Specialty pizzas are offered and if the customer wants something off the menu, John Jr. said they're happy to make it if they have the ingredients. There are traditional Italian meals, steaks, seafood, and specials that "the Carmel area has never seen before," John Sr. said. The restaurant has a culinary chef in the kitchen to lead the way. The family also owns Benmarl Winery that is served at the restaurant.

In the near future, the family intends to sell all its pasta by the pound and sauce by the quart so customers can prepare their own meals at home.

"All the ingredients you find here are top quality," John Sr. said.

Prato Trattoria is located in Putnam Plaza at 1892 Route 6 in Carmel. Its phone number is 845-225-6914. Catering and parties are available. Delivery is also offered.



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

The interior of Prato Trattoria provides a relaxing atmosphere and quality food.

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## Letter to the Editor

# Retiree Health Insurance Increase Unfair and Irrational

Some of the recent headlines in the local papers present a misleading idea about what we are asking. I am a county retiree. When I began my employment back in the early 1970's, I was told that since county salaries were not as high as they would be in the private sector, we would receive certain benefits that would in the long term make up for that. When I retired after 25 years serving the people of Putnam County, my salary was only about 50,000. I was grateful that I would be getting a pension and secondary health coverage at a very reasonable rate. So, we are not asking them to reduce the retiree contributions, we are asking that they not be increased in the way it is proposed.

It is import to note that in the 25 years

that I worked for Putnam County, I also paid taxes in the county, so in a sense, I was paying for my own salary! Now that I am retired, I still pay taxes, so I am paying for my health coverage twice! In the 25 years that I was helping the people of Putnam County, I, as a director of one of the mental health clinics saw several hundred people a year. Multiply that by the 25 years and I probably saw 1 out of almost every family in the county for issues related to alcohol and other drug issues as well as other mental health problems. I now know what it must have felt like for those people who talked about incest: that's where you get screwed by people you were told you should trust.

Following my retirement, the county

with the aid of a "Blue Ribbon Panel" decided to increase what we, as retirees should pay each year for our secondary health coverage. We tried to get around that plan, but in the end, it seemed like a reasonable increase, and now the amount we pay has gone up every year.

However, the legislature, (albeit there are a few who opposed this plan) have changed the method by which a determination is made about how we can be charged for our insurance. The increases are totally unbelievably irrational and unfair. We have been told that the budget must be balanced on the backs of people like myself, (83 years old) who get no cost of living adjustment this year, and who live on very strict budgets.

Some of us think that the \$75,000 item in the budget for the "bodyguard/ chauffeur" to the county executive could be used to help offset the problems. The rest of us drive our own cars, and few people really believe that a bodyguard is

necessary to ensure the safety of our county executive. I am not aware of any previous person in that position who ever felt the need to be so "protected."

I hope that the county legislatures will indeed take another look at what they are proposing and change that part of the budget before April 1. We would continue to pay our insurance portion with a reasonable increase every year.

Anita Somers  
Brewster

## Odell to Give State of the County Address Next Week

Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell will present the State of the County address at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 10, at Putnam County Golf Course, 187 Hill Street in Mahopac. Prior to the address, there will be a Putnam County Market Place, which will open at 5:30 p.m.

As she has in the past, Odell has chosen to highlight a particular theme for the year. Odell has decided that 2016 will be "The Year of Business Development."

"One of the greatest secrets out there is that Putnam County is the perfect place to live, work and play," said Odell. "We can no longer keep the secret to ourselves. Putnam County has so much to offer the business community. Business

development is about promoting and supporting our existing businesses, encouraging companies to consider expanding or relocating to Putnam County and identifying solutions to the obstacles, such as infrastructure, sewer and water, which have previously prevented growth in our business community."

Danbury Mayor Mark D. Boughton will be joining Odell to unveil a partnership between Putnam County and the City of Danbury for a Regional Economic Initiative.

In addition, the Putnam County Market Place will highlight businesses, organizations and not-for-profits from throughout county that make Putnam the

place to live, work and play. Organization that would like to participate in the Putnam County Market Place can contact Heidi Kuhland at 845-808-1150 x49406 or Heidi.kuhland@putnamcountyny.gov.

## Obituaries

### George E. Schmitt

George E. Schmitt, Jr., 76, of Mahopac, died on February 23, at his residence surrounded by his loving family. Mr. Schmitt, Jr. was born on July 2, 1939 to George E. and Harriet (Davis) Schmitt, Sr., in Valhalla. He was a graduate of Briarcliff High School and Dean Jr. College. Before he retired, George was an Inventory Supervisor with General Motors in Tarrytown, NY. On November 17, 1984 he married the love of his life, Linda Tofferi, in Mahopac. He was truly a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin and friend. He will be remembered for his love and devotion to his family. He is survived by his devoted wife, Linda, his seven beloved children; Jeanne (Jim) Vitale, Julie (Brian) Sweeney, George

(Anne-Catherine) Schmitt, Jennifer (Greg) Matera, Joanne (Paul) Bauer, Jamie (Chris) Smith, and David Schmitt, his two stepdaughters; Kimberly Wood and Debra Newton, his sister Nancy (Carl) Baker, brother-in-law Paul DelGiudice, his cherished twenty-two grandchildren; William, Michelle, Brendan, Connor, Erin, Sabrina, Jocelyn, Emily, Zakary, Jeremy, Andy, Hannah, Alison, Danielle, Tom, Lindsay, Nicole, Ashlee, Keith, Tristen, Spencer, and Jordan and his two adoring great-grandchildren; Mackenzie and Bradley, and numerous nieces and nephews, all of whom he adored and held a special place in his heart. George was also survived by the mother of his elder six children, Anne Murphy Schmitt of Florida. He is predeceased by both of his parents and his sister Patti DelGiudice.

## Southeast Democrats Seek Candidates

The Southeast Democratic Committee is seeking experienced and dedicated community-minded individuals to run for county and village offices in November 2016.

Putnam County Legislative District 6 seat, encompassing ten Election Districts in the Town of Southeast, is up for a full

three year term.

In the Village of Brewster: Two Trustees positions, which are two year terms, are up for election this year.

Interested Southeast/Brewster residents may contact Southeast Democratic Chairperson Cathy Croft at info@southeastdemocrats.org or 914-826-0180.

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### Clarification

In an Feb 23-29 article titled "Zika Virus Addressed by Putnam Health Dept." it stated a mosquito wrongly called the Egyptian had the virus and that the mosquito existed in Putnam. In fact, it is called the Aedes Aegypti and it has never been discovered in Putnam, according to the health department. The other mosquito that carries Zika is the Aedes Albopictus and that has only been discovered once in Putnam. The Putnam Examiner regrets the error.

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# Sheriff Deputy and Sergeant Receive Recognition from Smith

Putnam County Sheriff Donald B. Smith officially commended a deputy sheriff and a sergeant for their actions in preventing a suicide last year. Sheriff Smith has conferred Sheriff's Commendation Medals and uniform award ribbons upon Sergeant Timothy Keith and Deputy Sheriff Daniel Hunsberger for saving the life of a despondent 53-year-old man who tried to hang himself outside his Southeast residence on November 25, 2015. The awards were presented at a ceremony held at the Sheriff's Office on February 16.

Back on the evening of November 25th of last year, Sgt. Keith and Deputy Hunsberger were dispatched to the man's home after the Sheriff's Office received a third-party request to check on his welfare. They pulled their patrol cars into the man's driveway, and as they walked toward the home they encountered the man standing on a ladder alongside the garage, with a metal cable looped around his neck and attached to the garage roof. They tried to talk the man down, but he jumped off the ladder and began to be strangled by the cable noose.

Sergeant Keith and Deputy Hunsberger sprang instantly into action. They scrambled up the ladder and lifted and supported the man's weight, even as he resisted and tried to push them away. Unable to loosen or cut the cable, the pair managed to use brute force to break a roof



support to which the cable was attached. As the cable detached from the roof, all three men fell hard to the ground.

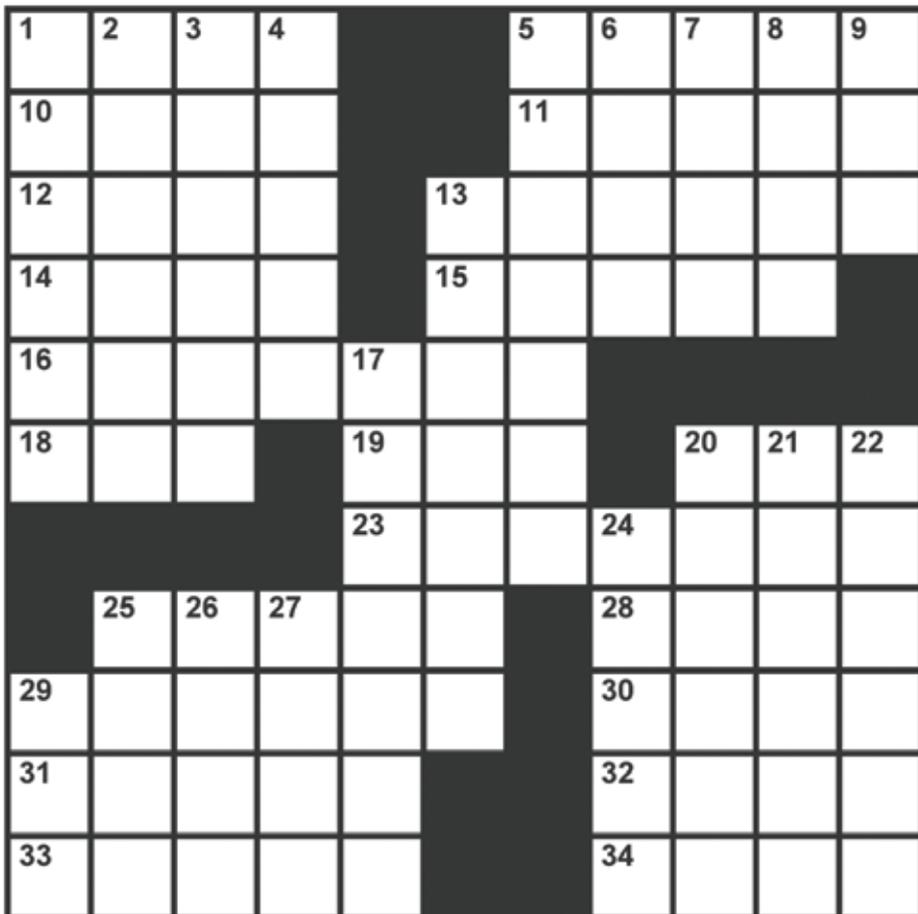
Disregarding their own pain from bruises and contusions suffered in the fall, Sgt. Keith and Deputy Hunsberger removed the noose from the man's neck and administered emergency first aid to him. They established an open airway, administered oxygen, and immobilized

the man's spine as a precaution against any potential cervical injury. The man was subsequently turned over to the care of the Brewster Volunteer Ambulance Corps, which transported him to Danbury Hospital for further evaluation and treatment. The sergeant and deputy were later treated at Putnam Hospital Center for their injuries and released the same evening.

*'Because of the heroic actions of Sgt. Keith and Deputy Hunsberger, another human being has been given a second chance at life, and for that we are all very grateful and proud.' - Sheriff Don Smith*

At the award ceremony, Sheriff Smith paid tribute to Sgt. Keith and Deputy Hunsberger for what he called "their selfless and valiant acts of valor, performed in spite of peril to themselves, which prevented a tragic death." "Because of the heroic actions of Sgt. Keith and Deputy Hunsberger, another human being has been given a second chance at life," said the Sheriff, "and for that we are all very grateful and proud."

## Crossword Puzzle



Crossword by Myles Mellor

Answers on page 15

### Across

- 1 Mark for life
- 5 Malfunction
- 10 Pioneer of TV comedy
- 11 Caregiver
- 12 In between
- 13 Woodland
- 14 Comedy Central show "\_\_\_ 911"
- 15 Milk dispenser
- 16 Yorktown senior residence, The \_\_\_ House
- 18 Lt.'s inferior
- 19 Atom with an electric charge
- 20 Russell Crowe's middle name
- 23 Mahopac cafe- The \_\_\_ House
- 25 Irritate
- 28 Agitation
- 29 Essay subject
- 30 Unfrequented
- 31 Kitchen wrap
- 32 Cupid's back up
- 33 Scenery
- 34 Put to the proof

### Down

- 1 Infrequent
- 2 Lure
- 3 Berry
- 4 Radioactive element
- 5 Pain reliever
- 6 It gets in the whey

- 7 Peach or beech
- 8 What Gorbachev reorganized
- 9 Lassie, e.g.
- 13 Public uproars
- 17 Lunches
- 20 Disregard
- 21 They're thick-skinned
- 22 Swear
- 24 Land in the sea
- 25 Scorch
- 26 Deli order
- 27 Chop-chop
- 29 Cooking meas.

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# Brewster Theater Announced New Season of Performances

The Brewster Theater Company, celebrating its 16th year as a non-profit community theater, announced its new season at their annual meeting in January. In the midst of searching the area for its new permanent home, BTC will be performing its first main stage production, both the male and female versions of Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple*, at the HVCP Center at Mt Ebo. Performances will alternate versions over the course of two weekends: March 10-13 and again March 18 - 20. Felix and Oscar and their pals, in repertory with the female version featuring Florence and Olive and their friends, will be directed by Donald Birely and produced by Joe Manuele. Check [www.BrewsterTheaterCompany.org](http://www.BrewsterTheaterCompany.org) for details regarding performance dates and times.



In April, BTC is planning to hold its Sweet Sixteen party/fund-raising event, promising loads of fun with proceeds going towards the funding of its new performance space.

In May, BTC will present an evening of One-Acts written by Christopher Durang, a playwright known for works of outrageous and often absurd comedy. The One-Act series is the perfect forum for folks who are not quite ready for a main stage production, but are itching to "tread the boards" along with many

of BTC's favorite friends and returning performers.

Brewster Theater Company's popular cabaret series kicks off in June with *The American Songbook*, directed by Melissa Jones and Kim Papa, featuring a summer's evening of American standards. BTC's signature summer musical will be Monty Python's *Spamalot*, directed by Christopher Gladysz, with musical direction by Melissa Jones. This musical comedy is adapted from the 1975 film *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. Like the film, it is a highly irreverent parody

of the Arthurian Legend, yet differs from the film in many ways. The show offers plenty of roles for men and women of all ages.

BTC will present the thriller *Deathtrap* in the Fall of 2016. The play was written by Ira Levin in 1978 with many exciting and unexpected plot twists. It holds the record for the longest running comedy-thriller on Broadway.

In November, BTC alum Ted Schwartz will helm a cabaret evening featuring tunes by Billy Joel, Elton John and Carole King. If you're in a New York State of

mind, you'll want to put this on your calendar now.

The annual popular Holiday Cabaret will put everyone in a festive mood in December.

Throughout the year, The Brewster Theater Company will feature its Armchair Actor series which has expanded performances from within Brewster and Southeast to libraries in Mahopac, Carmel, Kent and beyond. This group, led by new Board Member, Mario Riccobon, takes to the road, letting our neighboring communities know what BTC is up to and encouraging all levels of performers to participate.

These events are made possible, in part by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the NY State Legislature and with public funds from Putnam County. These grant programs are managed and monitored by the Putnam Arts Council, Mahopac.

Please visit [www.brewstertheatercompany.org](http://www.brewstertheatercompany.org) for more exciting announcements, Brewster Playhouse updates and additions to our programming, including workshop and camp opportunities. Tax-deductible donations in support of our 501(c) 3 performing arts organization can be sent to Brewster Theater Company, 26 Prospect St, Brewster, NY 10509.

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# Kent Winter Festival Attracts All But Snow

The lack of snow on the ground did not deter residents of the Town of Kent from turning out in great numbers to enjoy their town's 2016 Winter Festival. Sponsored once again by the Carmel-Kent Chamber of Commerce, the event took place on Saturday, February 20 on the grounds of the Kent Town Center from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

As temperatures climbed into the mid-50's, the skating rink was used and enjoyed early on by several determined skaters but the ice eventually succumbed

to the unexpected warmth and turned to slush. Still, and thanks to the Kent Recreation Department, there were many family friendly activities to be enjoyed throughout the event.

"I have been walking around with a smile all day," said Kent Town Supervisor Maureen Fleming who was concerned that the good weather might prove to be a deterrent to folks looking for typical winter weather activities such as the tobogganing and the building of snowmen that took place at last year's premier event

but that obviously was not the case.

The Kent Public Library hosted a variety of flavorful events which attracted children of all ages to play Chocolate Bingo, to make chocolate crafts and edible dirt cups and to watch the movie "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory."

Kent Library Director Carol Donick was not to be kept indoors all day, however. She joined numerous other adults and several families who signed up for a Nature Walk sponsored by the Kent Conservation Advisory Committee and led by KCAC Chairwoman Beth Herr. The hikers enjoyed identifying certain trees and mosses and were able to look closely at their natural world by using magnifiers supplied by the KCAC.

While Kent Justice Court was not officially in session, the courtroom was filled with young and old playing Family Bingo and Movie Trivia. Strategic

planning by Kent Recreation Director Louis Fernandez had townsfolk enjoying themselves both indoors and out where hikes, scavenger hunts, birds of prey demonstrations and obstacle courses took place. Special guests throughout the day included the Nimham Mountain Singers, Radar, the Kent Police dog and members of the Lake Carmel Volunteer Fire Department who kept careful watch over the bonfire.

Next up on the Kent Recreation and Parks Department calendar is the Annual Egg Hunt which will be held on Saturday, March 19 at noon at the George Fischer Middle School. Residents are invited to bring their toddler though 4th graders to attend the free event. For more information, visit their website at [http://www.townofkentny.gov/sites/kentny/files/u86/2016\\_egg\\_hunt\\_flyer.pdf](http://www.townofkentny.gov/sites/kentny/files/u86/2016_egg_hunt_flyer.pdf) or call them at (845) 531-2100.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY KENT LIBRARY



Kent Conservation Advisory Committee Chairwoman Beth Herr (kneeling, left) gave an animated pre-Nature Walk presentation to those who had signed up to participate in her outdoor walk.



Kent Conservation Advisory Committee Chairwoman Beth Herr (far right) invited her group to match their twigs to the surrounding trees and shrubs at the start of the Nature Walk.

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The Town of Kent Justice Court was the setting for the popular candy bingo and movie trivia games hosted by the Kent Recreation and Parks Department.

# Fire Officers Throughout Carmel, Mahopac Sworn In

On Feb. 2, members of the fire departments providing service to the Town of Carmel gathered at the Mahopac Falls Fire Headquarters for a special ceremony. Chief Jeff Boyle welcomed the group before asking Judge James Reitz, a 3rd generation legacy and Life Member of the MFVFD to do what he does best- and that is what's best for the community. With Carmel Police Chief Mike Cazzari overseeing that the paperwork was in accordance with the law, Judge Reitz proceeded to swear in members of the Carmel, Mahopac and Mahopac Falls fire departments as new Fire Police officers for the State of New York. Both Chief Cazzari and Judge Reitz stressed the importance of the job that these members signed on for which is to serve and protect.



Mahopac Fire Dept. members take the oath.



Carmel Fire Dept. members take the oath.



Mahopac Falls Fire Dept. members take the oath.

# Parishioners Stuff Bags to Help Feed Families

St. John the Evangelist collected over 1,000 stuffed shopping bags full of food and supplies as part of the 2016 Lenten Outreach, "Families Feeding Families", supporting SJTE Food Pantry Families and Mothers and Children assisted by the Sisters of Life. Parishioners carried multiple bags to all masses this past Sunday.



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# Serino Gets Hands-On Maple Tapping Lesson in Putnam Valley



On Feb. 22, New York State Senator Sue Serino was in Putnam Valley for office hours in her Putnam Valley District Office when she made a stop at Nieses Maple Farm on Wiccoppee Rd., to get a hands-on lesson in maple tapping.

“I have a whole new appreciation for the work it takes to tap and collect maple syrup and I am in awe of the Nieses’ dedication to preserving the tradition of Maple farming,” said Serino. “Their farm is a real gem and I am so glad I had the opportunity to learn about the process from start to finish to really appreciate all that goes into making a high quality, local product. With maple season just around the corner, I encourage people to shop local and check out the high quality products our Hudson Valley farms have to offer.”

Senator Serino is pictured above with Glenn and Doreen Niese, their daughter Heidi, their granddaughter, Trinity, and Putnam County Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra and her granddaughter.

The Nieses Maple Farm Country Store opens on March 19th.



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## Crossword Answers

1	S	2	C	3	A	4	R			5	A	6	C	7	T	8	U	9	P			
10	C	O	C	A						11	N	U	R	S	E							
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## Kent Republican Committee's Host St. Patrick's Day Event

The Kent Republican Committee (KRC) will host their annual fundraising event on Friday March 11th, beginning at 6 p.m., at McCarthy's Family Restaurant 374 Route 52 in Kent to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. There will be Irish music to enjoy including a special bagpipe presentation by Kevin Byrne. Dinner will include Irish fare with McCarthy's well-known corned beef and cabbage, shepherd's pie, salad, Irish soda bread, coffee/tea/soda and dessert.

For the not-so-Irish, baked ziti will also be offered.

The cost is \$40 per person with a portion of the price designated to the KRC Scholarship Fund offered to a graduating Carmel High School Senior. Checks can be made payable and mailed to the Kent republican Committee, 21 Club House Drive, Carmel, New York 10512.

Please RSVP to 845-225-8603 or [JaimeMcglasson@yahoo.com](mailto:JaimeMcglasson@yahoo.com)

# That Time of Year to Think About Tax Tips for the Homeowner

As winter draws to a close, we are reminded that tax time is just around the corner. Those of us who own our own homes are fortunate enough to have many tax deductions and advantageous strategies available to us.

Have some solid advice below, but be prudent and check these out with your tax professional first.

The mortgage interest deduction is the first obvious deduction that comes to mind for many of us. In order to qualify, your mortgage must be secured by your home – and you may be surprised to hear what counts as a “home.” In short, if you can sleep in it and cook in it, and if it has a working toilet, that living space is a home. That includes boats and trailers, so don’t miss out if your home is one of those alternate options.

Interest paid on a mortgage of up to \$1 million (or \$500,000 each for married people filing separately) can be deducted when used for the purchase, construction or improvement of the house.

Second mortgages (also home equity loans or home equity lines of credit) count



By Bill Primavera

toward the \$1 million limit if used to improve your original home or to buy or build a second one. If you use the home-secured loan for any other purpose, you can still deduct the interest on loans up to \$100,000 (or \$50,000 for married filing separately). Use Schedule A to make this deduction.

Prepaid interest (or points) paid when you took out your mortgage is usually 100 percent deductible in the year you paid it. If you refinance and use that money for home improvements, any points you pay are deductible in the same year. But if you refinance for other reasons, such as to get a better rate or use the money for something other than home improvements, you’ll need to deduct the points over the life of your mortgage. This deduction can also be made on Schedule A, and Form 1098 (sent from your lender) should list the points you have paid.

Don’t forget your property tax deduction, also on Schedule A. If your mortgage has an escrow account, the amount you paid will show up on your annual escrow statement. Property taxes paid when you closed on

your house will also appear on your HUD-1 settlement statement.

Private mortgage insurance (PMI) premiums are deductible as mortgage interest on Schedule A if you itemize your return, but only if your loan was taken out in 2007 or later and if your income is less than \$100,000 (or \$50,000 for married filing separately). If your adjusted gross income is above those amounts, your deduction is reduced incrementally until your income reaches \$110,000, after which you are no longer eligible for the deduction.

There is also mortgage insurance available from the Federal Housing Administration, Veterans Administration and the Rural Housing Service. You can usually deduct the cost of this coverage, but I urge you to use a tax adviser or well-rated tax software instead of figuring out these complicated rules on your own.

Capital improvements – work done to increase the value of your home – can also have tax benefits. If you plan to live in your home for many years and make multiple improvements, the odds of you turning a profit when you sell your house are greater. More profit is good news for the seller, but then taxes must be paid on any profit past the first \$250,000 for single filers or \$500,000 for joint filers.

If the money you expect to make from the sale of your home exceeds these amounts, you can benefit from deducting the cost of your capital improvements. The more of these costs you add, the smaller your profit is in the end and the less you pay in taxes.

The trick is in knowing what improvements are eligible. Basic repairs are not, unless your home was damaged by fire or natural disaster.

Eligible improvements have to last for more than one year and add value to your home, prolong its life or be adapted for new uses. They also have to remain in place when the house is sold, so if you build a new deck but tear it down 15 years later, the cost of building the deck cannot be deducted. IRS Publication 523 has a list of eligible improvements on page 9.

Well, my head is spinning, but there are some things about home ownership that have always been more challenging to me than others.

*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.*

## Determining if a Wine Has the Qualities to Be Ageable



By Nick Antonaccio

A few columns back, I expounded on the ageability of wines. In the vineyard of a competent winemaker, there are a number of factors that influence the ability of a wine to age gracefully and ultimately become a pleasurable wine that is highly evolved from its vineyard beginnings.

From the grape varietal chosen to be planted and nurtured in the vineyard comes the underlying components that portend the characteristics of a great wine. From the loving techniques of a winemaker in the winery, come the subtle nuances that differentiate a sophisticated, complex wine from a pedestrian, quaffing wine.

Ageability, as I opined in that earlier column, is a function of nature and nurture. It is both the genetic code and the environmental circumstances exerted in the vineyard and the winery that ultimately determine whether a wine should be drunk when released or after years, even decades, of cellaring.

This week, we’ll delve into more objective measurements of a wine’s

ageability.

There are four basic components of wine, each present in varying degrees and exerting varying influences: tannins, acidity, taste and alcohol. The combination of each of these determines the final style and life cycle of wine. While these components are present in all wines, it is the winemaker’s manipulation of each that influences the evolution, and longevity, of a particular wine.

**Tannins provide longevity.** Somewhat harsh and unrefined at first, over time they soften and add a strong backbone and character to wine. Certain winemakers avoid tannins in order to produce a fresh wine that may be enjoyed in its youth. Others seek out high levels of tannins, which, while initially harsh tasting, will soften over time and add complexity, sophistication and longevity to a wine.

The underlying influence of tannins is present in a chemical compound in the skins of red grapes – polyphenols. Oxygen is the enemy of wine, eventually causing oxidation and, by extension, spoiling. It is mainly polyphenols (sometimes referred to as resveratrol by supplement companies) that delay the insidious effects of oxidation. To a lesser extent, aging in oak barrels also produces

*You Heard It Through the Grapevine*

tannins. The types of grape varietals, and their manipulation during the winemaking process, have the greatest influence on ageability.

**Acidity and taste are inextricably entwined in influencing longevity.** The level of acidity and taste (fruit) in a wine will determine its balance. Too little acidity and the wine may be lush but without any distinction. Too much and the end product may be acerbic and off-putting. As a wine matures, its acidity softens and its taste declines, so that the end result may be either a bland wine or a well-balanced, nuanced product with deep-rooted complexity. Each winemaker seeks the ideal balance. At times this is immediately evident; other times it may be years before such balance is achieved.

**The level of alcohol remains constant throughout the life of a wine.** Early on, it may create a harsh and unbalanced wine. As a wine matures, the alcohol will tend to mellow the overall character of the wine, making it more approachable and pleasant.

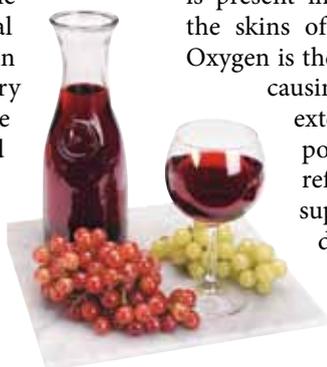
Another external factor is the storage condition utilized to age wines. A wine cellar is imperative to maintain consistency of temperature and humidity. Excessive heat (over 58 degrees) or significant spikes in temperature are wine’s enemies. Warm temperatures accelerate the oxidation of wine,

shortening its aging potential. Here’s the rub: Enjoying wine at its absolute peak is a sublime experience. Opening and pouring a wine before or after that sometimes fleeting moment can be a nightmare.

*‘the winemaker’s manipulation influences a wine.’*

Each consumer’s palate differs in its appreciation of the elements that contribute to the ageability of a particular wine. However, the reality of wine consumption in the United States today is that most consumers seek instant gratification rather than prolong their anticipation. I encourage these erstwhile consumers to experiment, either at their wine shop or in their makeshift home cellars. New experiences await.

*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](mailto:nikki@theexaminernews.com)*

## Carmel Central School District Kindergarten Registration

Registration for Kindergarten for students who will be entering Carmel schools in September 2016 will be held at the school the child will attend. All registrations take place from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Kent Primary School, 1065 Route 52, Carmel, NY (845 225-5025). Wednesday, March 16 for families with last names beginning with A-L. Thursday, March 17 for families with last names beginning with M-Z. Matthew Paterson Elementary School, 100 South St., Patterson, NY (845 878-3211). Wednesday, March 16 for families with last names beginning with A-L. Thursday, March 17 for families with last names beginning with M-Z. Kent Elementary School, 1091 Route 52, Carmel, NY (845 225-5029). Wednesday, March 16 for families with last names beginning with A-L. Thursday, March 17 for families with last names beginning with M-Z. Children who will be five years old on or before December 1, 2016 are eligible to register for the September classes. Parents are asked to bring the child's original birth certificate, immunization records and two proofs of residency. For additional information please call the school your child will attend. If unsure of the school your child will attend, please call our Transportation Office at 845 225-3200.

## Scholarships

**The Brewster-Carmel Garden Club** offers two scholarships. One to a resident of Brewster/Southeast and one to a Carmel resident planning to study horticulture, floriculture, landscape design, botany, environmental studies or a related field. Letter of recommendation from a person outside the school of attendance is required and award applicants will be interviewed by a representative of the garden club. Please contact Emily at 845-279-6061 for more information and an application. The deadline for applying is April 8.

## Wanted:

**The Village of Brewster Film Festival (VOBFF)** is now accepting independent film submissions for its 2016 season.. The Village of Brewster Film Festival is Labor Day Weekend, from September 1st-4th. You can submit your film via the website at [VOBFilmFestival.com](http://VOBFilmFestival.com) or contact Bob at 845 729 5107 for more details.

## Tuesday, March 1

**The Reads at Reed Book Club:** 7 p.m. to discuss the book "Cutting for Stone" by Abraham Verghese. The meeting will be held at Reed Memorial Library, 1733 Route 6, Carmel. FMI: 845-225-2439

## Thursday, March 3

**Putnam County Office for Senior Resources Computer Learning Center** for Seniors will hold registration. At the William Koehler Senior Center, 180 Route 6 in Mahopac & The Putnam Valley Senior

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

**Health Care Options at the Kent Public Library** 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. to find out more about your healthcare options. You and your family may be eligible for free or low cost health insurance. Topics to be discussed include Medicaid, Child Health Plus, Essential Plan and Qualified Health Insurance Plans. The program will be presented by Cathy Quaranta of the Putnam Community Action Plan. Registration is required. You may register for the program by going to [www.kentlibrary.org](http://www.kentlibrary.org) or calling the Kent Public Library at 845-225-8585. The library is located at 17 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes,

**Kennedy Catholic Players** proudly presents: Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella, March 3rd-7 p.m. March 4th-7 p.m., March 5th-7 p.m., March 6th-3 p.m. Advance Purchase: All Seats \$15. At the Door: All Seats \$20 Sunday Brunch: Additional \$15 per person. Mass: 12:30 p.m. Brunch: 1:15 p.m. To purchase tickets: [www.KennedyCatholic.org/Spring-Musical/](http://www.KennedyCatholic.org/Spring-Musical/) For more information: Call: (914) 232-5061 Ext. 226 or Email: [players@kennedycatholic.org](mailto:players@kennedycatholic.org). Kennedy Catholic High School, 54 Route 138, Somers.

## Friday, March 4

**Lego Club:** 4:30 p.m. Ages 5 and up. Show off your incredible imagination and building skills by tackling our monthly theme, or choosing your own theme with the library's Legos. We will display some of your creations for 2 weeks so bring a camera! Have any Legos to donate to the library? Bring them with you! We have a limited number of base plates so bring one if you want, you will get them back. Registration required. For more information or to register contact the Patterson Library at 845-878-6121 x10 or go to [www.pattersonlibrary.org](http://www.pattersonlibrary.org) and click Calendar.

**Reform Temple of Putnam Valley Shabbat Across America:** Service 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. followed by Dinner. Hundreds of Synagogues across the continent will take part in the historic national Jewish event to celebrate that which unifies all Jews everywhere . . . SHABBAT. Join our temple family for a wonderful Shabbat dinner followed by evening services and one Shabbat. Everyone is invited: singles, families, all ages. We encourage you to reach out, and invite someone who is unaffiliated, so they

can participate together with us. \$15/ single \$25/couple \$30/family. No charge for unaffiliated first time guests. Reform Temple of Putnam Valley. 362 Church Rd, Putnam Valley, NY 10579 [www.rtpv.org](http://www.rtpv.org) Dinner Reservations Required: 845-528-4774 or email: [Ronrod3@aol.com](mailto:Ronrod3@aol.com)

## Monday, March 7

**High School Battle of the Books:** 5 p.m. Grades 9-12. Come join an exciting book competition team for high school teens. This group is for kids entering 10th - 12th grades (9th graders accepted on case by case basis, see Miss Jenn.) Registration required. For more information or to register contact the Patterson Library at 845-878-6121 x10 or go to [www.pattersonlibrary.org](http://www.pattersonlibrary.org) and click Calendar.

**Hidden Treasures of the Hudson Valley:** 6 p.m.-7 p.m. Local Author, Anthony Musso discusses his two-volume book, "Hidden Treasures of the Hudson Valley" Volume One and Two. Each feature 55 sites throughout the upstate New York region that, while not widely known but boast significant ties to, among other things the American Revolution, early American Industry and local and national politics. Registration is required. You may register for the program by going to [www.kentlibrary.org](http://www.kentlibrary.org) or calling the Kent Public Library at 845-225-8585. The library is located at 17 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes.

## Wednesday, March 9

**The Putnam County Marine Corps League** will hold its monthly meeting at the Carmel VFW Hall, 36 Gleneida Ave. (Rte.52) Carmel, NY at 1930. Meetings are always held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the VFW Hall. We are 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. FMI: View us at [www.putnammcl.com](http://www.putnammcl.com).

## Ongoing Events

### Monday's

**Knitting with Pascale Zeynali.** Brewster Public Library. 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 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. FMI: visit <http://tinyurl.com/h9lnbjh>. 845-279-6421.

**Great Art and Artists** (Grades K-2) Monday, March 28, April 4 and April 11 at 4:30 p.m. Kids will create artwork inspired by masterpieces with artist Mary Schreiber! They will use paint, pastels, and other supplies to recreate paintings from Van Gogh to Pollack! Registration required. For more information or to

register contact the Patterson Library at 845-878-6121 x10 or go to [www.pattersonlibrary.org](http://www.pattersonlibrary.org) and click Calendar.

**Therapy Dogs International** and their dogs at Kent Public Library for the Paws for Reading Program, select Mondays in March through June. This program is designed to give children, ages 6-10, the opportunity to gain confidence and improve reading skills by reading aloud to a therapy dog. This is a free event. One-on-one fifteen minute sessions are available by appointment only. Registration is required. Once you are registered, you will be called and an appointment will be made. To register call the library at 845-225-8585 or stop by the Library. The library is located at 17 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes.

## Tuesday's

**Exploring Composition and Color Through Watercolor Basics** at Reed Library, Through April 5, 10 am 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.

**SSSPA is thrilled to welcome back a story time** group with movement, music and mostly just fun for girls and boys ages 1-4 years old. Story Time with a Twist. 10:30 a.m.-11 a.m. with open studio time for parents and children to play from 11 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Seven Star School has a state-of the art, 2-floor facility located at 509 Route 312, Brewster. March 1, 8, 15, 29. April 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31. This program is offered to the community for free! Visit [www.SevenStarSchool.com](http://www.SevenStarSchool.com), email [info@sevenstarschool.com](mailto:info@sevenstarschool.com) or call (845) 278-0728 for more information.

## Wednesday's

**Drawing for Beginners Class** meeting bi-weekly starting on Wednesday, March 16th from 1 p.m. -2:30 p.m. Participants in this class will experiment with basic drawing materials such as graphic pencils, pastels, charcoal, and ink. They will learn about line, shape, value and perspective in a friendly and non-threatening atmosphere. No previous experience necessary. Attendance at all sessions is requested. Registration is required. Registration begins March 1st. You may register for the program by going to [www.kentlibrary.org](http://www.kentlibrary.org) or calling the Kent Public Library at 845-225-8585. The library is located at 17 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes,

## Thursday's

**Basic Drawing at Reed Library** 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.

# EXAMINER MEDIA Classifieds

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## ADOPTION

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**Elementary School Principal (Pre-K ñ 4)** Potsdam Central School District An application and more details regarding this position may be found at: <https://sites.google.com/a/potsdam.k12.ny.us/home/> employment Applicant screening will begin March 15, 2106. Anticipated start date of July 1, 2016.

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## LEGALS

**LEGAL NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SO MULCH MORE, LLC.** Art. Of Org., filed with SSNY on 1/07/16. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **28 Fox Lane, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549.** Purpose: any lawful activity.

**Notice of Formation of CGC Solutions LLC** filed with the Department of State on 09/30/2015. Putnam County, SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 74 Hillside Park, Brewster, NY 10509. General Purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF: Connected Healthcare Technologies, LLC,**

office in Westchester County; Articles of Organization filed with SSNY on 2/17/2016. SSNY designated agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: the company, c/o **Sarah Ball, 80 Central Avenue, Rye, NY 10580.** Purpose: any lawful acts or activities.

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March 1- March 7, 2016 **SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS** **SPORTS SECTION**

# Triple Play!

## Haldane 3-Peats as Section Champs for 1st Time Ever



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Members of the Haldane boys' basketball team hoist the coveted Section 1 Class C gold ball after the third-seeded Blue Devils defeated No.1 Hamilton, 61-52, last Saturday at the Westchester County Center where the Blue Devils became the first team in school history to three-peat as sectional champions. Haldane (13-9) will play Section 9 champ Chester in the Class C semifinal regional at 4:15 p.m. today at the County Center in a rematch of last year's state playoff that Haldane won 44-34 before reaching the state finals for the first time... see Boys' Hoops Notebook

## Haldane Outslugs Hamilton, Reaches Class C Title Tilt



rick kuperberg photos



Three Haldane players scored in double figures, including (pictured) G Missy Lisikatos (12), who scored a game-high 16 points, to lead the way for the defending Section 1 Class C champion Blue Devils, who defeated second-seeded Hamilton, 48-32 in Friday's Class C semifinals. Hannah Monteleone (3) and Allison Chiera (also pictured) added 12 and 10 points, respectively, for the No.3 Blue Devils, who were set to face top-seeded Keio in last night's sectional championship.

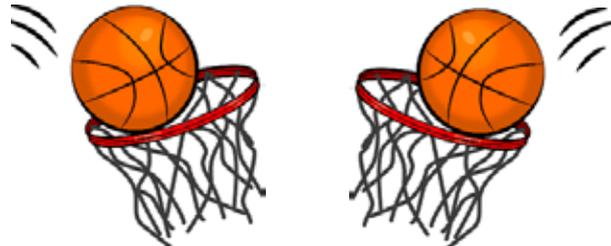
## Putnam Valley's Late Collapse Spells Doom in Final 4 Loss

### No.7 Tigers Fall, 45-35, to No.2 Woodlands



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Members of the Putnam Valley girls' basketball team, including Morgan Winogradoff, Cat Mazza, Reena Olsen and Steph Wagner console captain Alyssa Stockinger at the Westchester County Center last Friday after the No.7 Tigers were nipped by No.2 Woodlands, 45-35, in a Section 1 Class B semifinal game that was much closer than the scored would indicate.



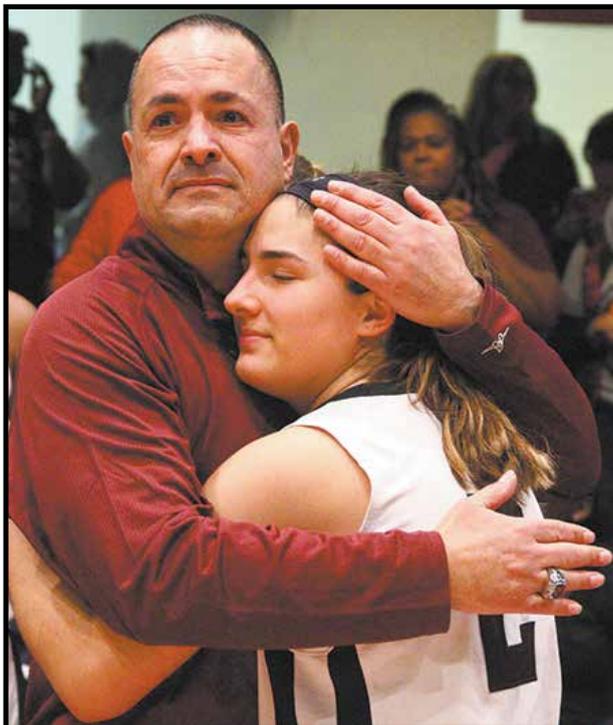
Put Valley's Cat Mazza is met with resistance by Woodlands standout freshman Teisha Hyman, who filled the stat sheet and led the Falcons to last night's finals.

Putnam Valley senior Alyssa Stockinger and the Tigers found the Woodlands defense to be very to solve in their Section 1 Class B semifinal loss last Friday at the Westchester County Center where the Tiger reappeared for the first time since 2007 after a magical 16-7 season under Coach Nick Lenhard.

## No.1 Ossining Wins Record 6th-Straight Section 1 Title No.2 North Rockland No Match in 76-60 Pride Triumph



Ossining freshman Kailah Harris triggered the Pride's 6th-straight Section 1 title with 20 points, 9 boards and 4 assists.



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Ossining assistant coach Jose Ferrao shares a daddy-daughter moment with Captain Gebby Ferrao after Pride won 6th-straight title in 76-60 win over North Rockland.



Ossining freshman Aubrey Griffin dropped 31 points and snagged 12 boards en route to MVP nod in 76-60 win over North Rock.



Ossining Coach 'Dancing Dan' Ricci jigs the sideline with euphoric Pride players loving every minute while clinching 6th-straight Section 1 title.



The Ossining girls' basketball team revel in the moment after securing a 6th-straight Section 1 Class AA championship and gold ball after defeating North Rockland 76-60. Team members Gabriella Ferrao, Jaida Strippoli, Kelsey Quain, Zaira Turner, Alexis Bernardo, Adriana McFadden, Shadeen Samuels, Angela Torricella, Alyssa Aurora, Sam Cozzolino, Cassidy Martinez, Helen Ishmael, Kailah Harris and Aubrey Griffin.



Ossining MVP Aubrey Griffin leaps into arm of All-NYS senior Shadeen Samuels after Pride topped North Rockland for 6th-straight Section 1 Class AA title Sunday at County Center.

## Sports

## Wrestling Notebook

# L/P's Melikian, Mahopac's DiNardo Place 2nd at States

## Bruno Leads Put Valley Contingent in 4th, Brewster's Larm 4th

By Tony Pinciario

In two previous trips to the New York State Wrestling Championships, Putnam Valley's Mike Bruno came away unhappy with his performances.

The sophomore was motivated for a third consecutive weekend in Albany and this time, come away with an all-state finish.

Bruno accomplished his goal, registering his 100th varsity win and finishing fourth in the New York State Division II (Small School) Wrestling Championships at the Times Union Center in Albany.

He became the fourth Putnam Valley wrestler to place top-six at the state championships, joining Willie and John Messinger, who both placed fourth, and Kris Castro, who finished sixth.

Bruno, who went 3-2 for the two days, hit the century mark in wins with a 10-8 decision over Eli Rodriguez (Norwich) in the quarterfinal round.

"Getting my 100th win was pretty cool and it was a good match," said Bruno, a sectional champ in 2014 and wild-card entrant last year. "Most people when they get their 100th win is one they will always remember. I will always remember my 100th because it happened in Albany."

Even though Bruno lost, to eventual state champ and No. 1 seed Jon Charles (Central Valley Academy), he bounced back to post a 3-0 victory over third-seeded Dalton Gardner (Fredonia) in the consolation semifinals.

Bruno said the major difference in his performance this year as opposed to 2014 and 2015 was familiarity with the tournament.

"I was definitely more comfortable this year," Bruno said.

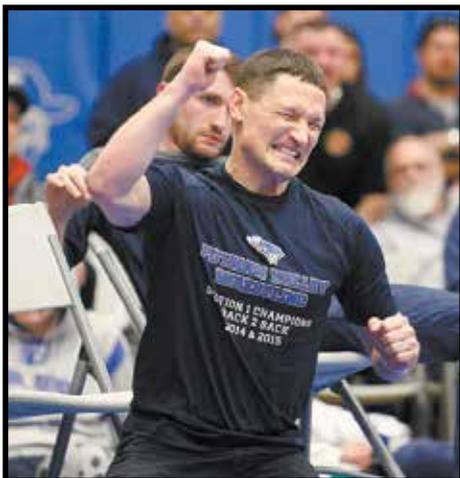
Along with finishing fourth, Bruno now owns family bragging rights. Chris, his older brother, was the 132-pound champion in 2013, but he did not place at states. Mike Bruno now owns two sectional titles and all-state honors for placing in the top six.

"You always want to do better than you did the year before," Bruno said. "Now it's back to practice and hopefully, I can win it all next year."

Bruno hopes to be accomplishing this with teammates, Satoshi Abe, Kyle Sams, Noah Kelvis and Jared Eliopoulos, all sectional champs, as well, who made the trek to Albany for states.

"It felt good to have all of us there," Bruno said. "If we continue to all work hard, year-round, we can have a good team, again, and get back to Albany."

**LAKELAND's** Alexander Melikian transferred from Kennedy Catholic back to Lakeland for his senior year and he



VIC MCGEE PHOTO  
Putnam Valley Coach Will Carano brought a school record five grapplers to the NYS D-II tournament in Albany last weekend.

became the standard-bearer for future Lakeland/Panas wrestlers.

Melikian became the first Lakeland/Panas wrestler to reach a state final and also its highest finisher -- second in the 182-pound weight class. Shenendehowa's Kevin Parker decisioned Melikian for his second straight state title.

"I thought we were equal on our feet, but Parker was really good on top," Melikian said. "I couldn't get out of those legs. I fought back hard and showed that I deserved to be there."

Melikian, who was seeded third, finished with a 37-4 record. His three victories at the state championships were by decision -- 5-4 over Sam Schuyler (King's Park), 4-1 over Mike Spallina (Hilton) and 6-4 over Kendall Elfstrum (Monroe-Woodbury). He imposed his will on his opponents and they were on the defensive from the opening whistle.

"In those matches I wrestled smart and didn't make any mistakes," Melikian said. "Anyone I wrestle I try and set the pace and then I am going to wear you out."

Melikian enjoyed his return to Lakeland to wrestle with many of his teammates who he went to elementary and junior high school with.

"The first week of practice is when I felt really comfortable," said Melikian, who is considering Campbell (N.C.), Binghamton and North Carolina State, to name a few colleges. "I earned their respect and I gave them my respect."

"They were supportive of me and I was supportive of them. They were with me on the podium at states. This season definitely brought us a lot closer."

**BREWSTER** senior Mike Larm and teammate, sophomore Grant Cuomo, became the first Brewster tandem to place at the state championships. Larm finished fourth in the 285-pound weight class and Cuomo took fifth at 152 pounds.

Larm won his first-round match, but a loss in the quarterfinal round would test his mental approach. Larm had to regain his focus and set his goal on third place knowing he needed two more victories to reach the consolation final.

"After the loss my coaches and brother told me to take third and to do it for myself," said Larm, who finished with a 46-6 record. "I was also talking to Anthony Tortora, one of my coaches at Iowa Style, and he told me he placed his junior year and then his senior year when he lost in the quarters, he didn't place and it still bothers him to this day."

"After speaking to my coaches and then Anthony, I knew I wanted to finish out strong as a Brewster wrestler. I knew I owed it to my coaches, my family and myself to have a good finish, especially after all that my family and coaches have done for me."

Larm responded by outscoring Elmira's Zane Tucker and Lindenhurst's Jon Solorzano, 19-1, to reach the third-place match.

"I used the loss to drive me into winning in dominating fashion," Larm said. "I also wrestled smart and was aggressive."

Larm said the two losses, both to Middletown's Joe Humphrey, will definitely hurt, but he is not too mad at himself, either, for finishing fourth. Larm was happy for Cuomo, who went 4-2. Cuomo decisioned New Rochelle's Jordan Wallace in the fifth-place match.

"Grant is a great wrestler I can see him being one of the top guys in the section the next two years," Larm said. "He works so hard and we were always pushing each other at practice and at Iowa Style."

**HEN HUD** had two state qualifiers for the first time in school history in Sebastian Burbano (160 pounds) and Jordan Artope (182). It was an exclamation point on an excellent year for the Sailors, who finished third in the Section 1 Division II Wrestling Championships.

"It was such a tremendous experience for Sebastian and Jordan to be able to compete at that level," Hen Hud assistant coach Shane Turrone said. "Sebastian beat his first opponent, 11-0, then got hurt against the kid who placed second in the

state. Jordan also lost to his opponent who placed second in the state.

"It's great for the program and as a coach to have two kids competing at states. Since Anthony Alberti won back-to-back state titles in 1989 and 1990, we've had three guys compete at the state championships -- Mark Grant, Sebastian and Jordan. I was lucky enough to coach all three, but I really hope this is able to help our program continue to excel. I am very excited for the future."

**MAHOPAC's** Mike DiNardo became the fourth Mahopac wrestler to reach the state final, joining state champions John Degl and Joe Mazzurco and runner-up David Colagiovanni. DiNardo wrestled for the 195-pound state title, but dropped a 3-1 decision to Charlie Araneo (Ward Melville). Araneo had beaten his first three opponents by a combined score of 32-3.

DiNardo, who will attend Johnson and Wales in September and wrestle, also joined Mazzurco and Colagiovanni as two-time state placefinishers. Mazzurco was a state champion, state runner-up and third-place finisher.

DiNardo advanced to the final with a major decision over Ricky Almonte (Levittown Division) and a pair of first-period pins over Paul Brachfield (Massapequa) and Jake Sweet (Brockport)

Teammate Garrett Semenetz went 2-2 in the 99-pound weight class and came within a win of placing in the top six.

**CARMEL's** Kevin Knox, a two-time sectional champ, finished 2-2 and came within a win of placing top-six in the state in the 132-pound weight class.

### Brewster's Record-Setting Season Ends in Final 4 Loss to RT/H



ANDY JACOBS PHOTO  
Brewster's Chris Frossel celebrates a first-period goal in the Bears' 7-4 Section 1 D-II quarterfinal win over Fox Lane last Wednesday when Mike Isola (2G, 1A), Kyle Dineen (1G, 2A) and Chris Frossel (1G, 2A) each had three points to lead the way, but the No.2 Bears (18-3-1) couldn't find enough offense in their season-ending 6-2 loss to No.6 Rye Town/Harrison Friday in the Final 4.

## Haldane Three-Peats for 1st Time in School History Blue Devils to Face Section 9 Champ Chester Today at County Center

Right: Blaine Fitzgerald scored 13 points for the Blue Devils and was named to the All-Tournament team after the Blue Devils snatched a third-straight gold ball at the Westchester County Center last Saturday. No. 3 Haldane (13-9) will play Section 9 champ Chester in the Class C semifinal regional at 4:15 p.m. Tuesday at the County Center



Above: Tucker Beachak (L), David Rotando (M) and Blue Devil teammates react to Beachak's being named MVP of the Section 1 Class C boys' basketball tournament after dropping a game-high 20 points, including 7-of-8 from the stripe, in the third-seeded Blue Devils' 61-52 win over No.1 Hamilton Saturday at the Westchester County Center where Haldane three-peated as section champs for the first time in school history.



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

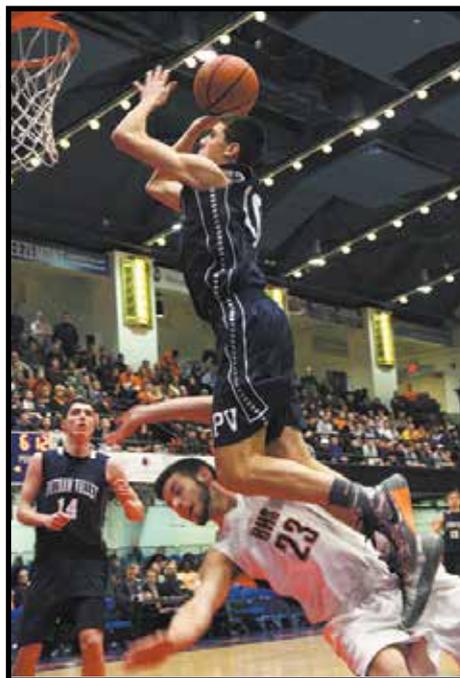
Feisty Blue Devil David Rotando hits the dog pile after scoring 14 clutch points and turning the game on a dime with a sound defensive play/foul that led to three technical fouls against Hamilton, whereby Tucker Beachak would convert all six free throws in the pivotal swing.



Members of the Haldane basketball team — including David Rotando, Eric Rizzi, Nick Chiera, Andrew Gannon, Tucker Beachak, Stephen Junjulas, John Parr, Cole Sussmeier, Marco Scanga, Aidan Siegel, Kyle Sussmeier, Will Zovic and Blaine Fitzgerald—pose with their third-straight Section 1 Class C gold ball after earning Coach Joe Virgadamo his 100th career win.

## Putnam Valley Can't Solve Briarcliff's Interior Defense No.2 Tigers Fall 53-42 to No.1 Bears in Class B Title Tilt

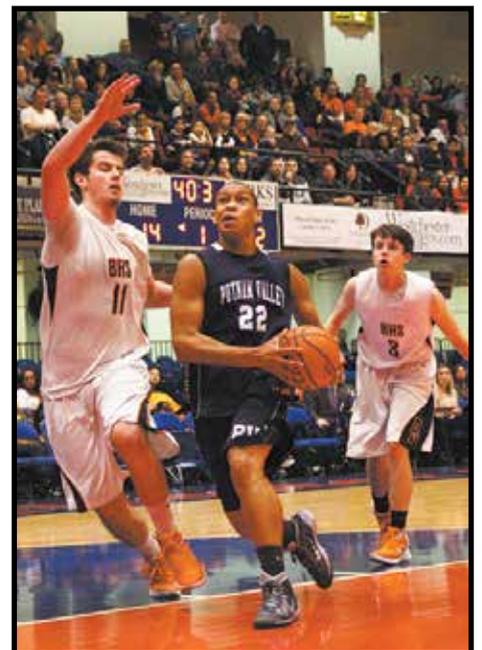
RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS



Putnam Valley's All-Section G Harrison Deegan goes up for two of his team-high 16 points in the second-seeded Tigers' 53-42 loss to No.1 Briarcliff in the Section 1 Class B championship last Saturday night at the Westchester County Center where the Tigers suffered their second finals defeat in the last three years.



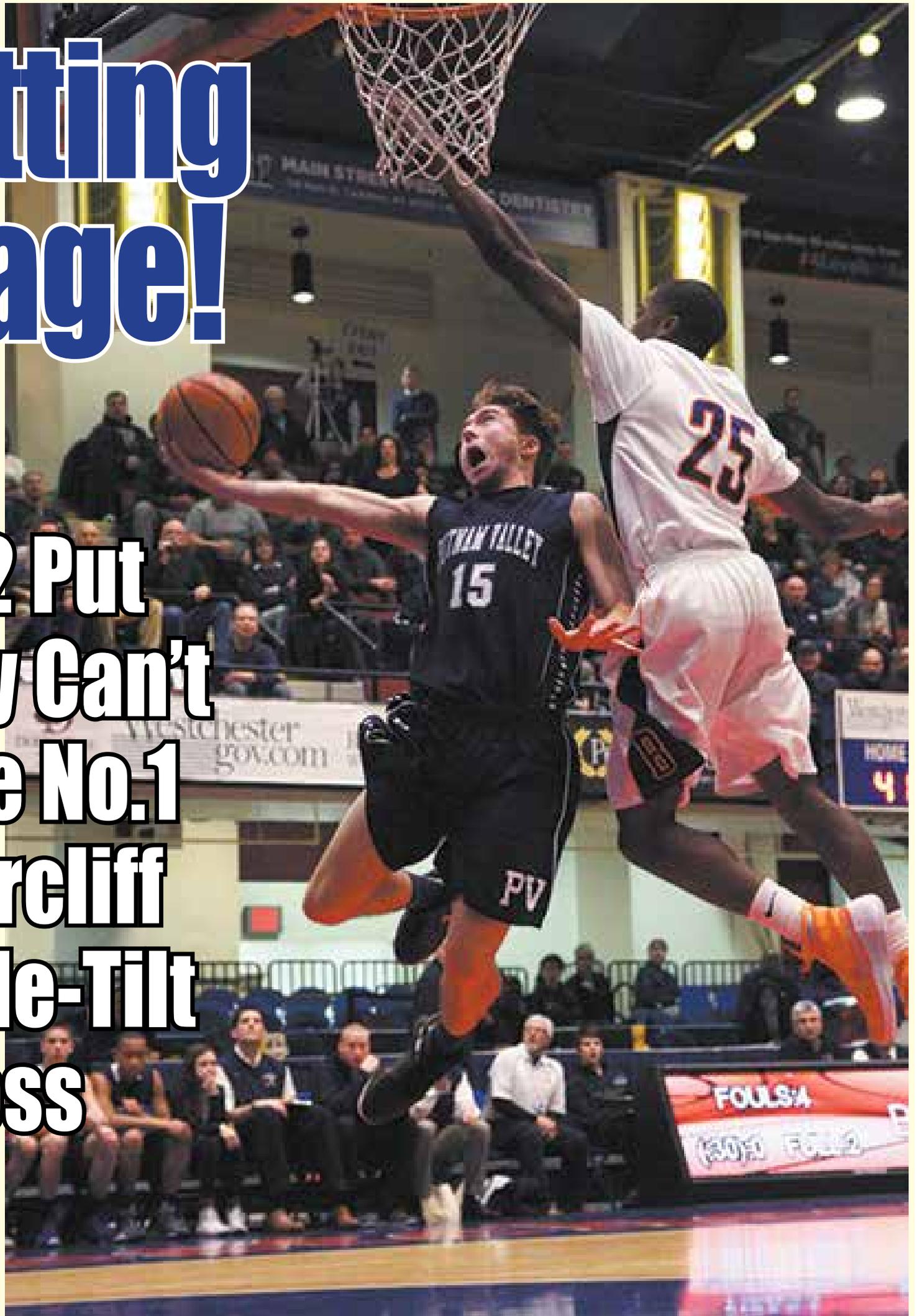
Putnam Valley's All-Section C Joe Spinola found Briarcliff's interior defense — led by Sean Crowley -- too tough to be solved with any regularity as he finished with nine points on 4-of-15 shooting.



Put Valley freshman Darnell Shillingford will take the torch from five-record setting seniors — including Kevin Gallagher, Charlie Pagani, Anders Spittal, Joe Spinola and Harrison Deegan — who established a new school record with a 21-3 mark and a No.8 NYS ranking while guiding PV to the County Center for a 4th-straight season under third-year Coach Mike McDonnell.

# Spitting Image!

## No.2 Put Valley Can't Solve No.1 Briarcliff in Title-Tilt Loss



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Putnam Valley senior G Anders Spittal soars to the rack for two points in the second-seeded Tigers' 54-42 championship loss to top-seeded Briarcliff in Saturday's Section 1 Class B finale at the Westchester County Center where the Tigers were down 16-2 after the first quarter before a second-quarter rally saw them take a 19-18 lead into the break. But just like the first time these two powerhouses met back in January the state-ranked (No.8) Tigers couldn't muster enough offense or get enough stops against Josiah Cobbs (25) and the second-ranked Bears in the second half. Spittal found some solace in being named to the Section 1 Court of Excellence for academic and athletic excellence... see Boys' Hoops Notebook