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December 19 - December 25, 2017 **SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS** Volume 9, Issue 456

New Captains Selected by Incoming Sheriff

By David Propper

With Sheriff-elect Robert Langley two weeks away from taking office, his transition team announced his five-person command staff last week.

After notifying the current captains in the department under Sheriff Don Smith last month that they wouldn't be back once the new administration began on Jan. 1, Langley assembled his leadership team soon after, which includes the

first female captain in the department's history. The five impending captains come from different law enforcement agencies, including the FBI, the Westchester County Department of Correction, the NYPD, the Putnam district attorney's office, and the sheriff's office and all average about 25 years of experience, according to a press release from Langley's transition team.

continued on page 4



PROVIDED PHOTO

The five new captains as follows: top left: Kevin Cheverko, Captain of the Jail, top right: Jon Jennings, Captain of BCI, bottom left: Edward Swarm, Captain of Patrol, bottom middle: Lisa Ortolano, Captain of Civil, bottom right: James Babcock, Captain of Communications.

Carmel Residents Honored for Work with Military

By Neal Rentz

The Carmel Town Board honored three local residents for their continuing efforts on behalf of current and former American soldiers at their Dec. 13 meeting and they were presented with proclamations from the board and New York State Sen. Terrence Murphy.

John Bourges was honored as a nominee for the 2017 New York Senate 40th District "Veterans Hall of Fame" by Murphy. Also honored at last week's meeting were James and Patricia Rathschmidt, co-founders of United for the Troops.

Supervisor Kenny Schmitt said the honorees provided "outstanding service to our veterans."

Bourges is the Putnam County program coordinator for The Joseph P. Dwyer

Bourges was a member of the New York City Police Department from 1981 to 2001, retiring with the rank of detective second grade. Schmitt said he and Bourges both graduated from the Police Academy in 1981.

In 2003, Bourges earned a degree in nursing. He served in the US Army Reserves from 2006 through 2014 and served in "Operation Iraqi Freedom" where he was assigned to the Emergency Medical Treatment Center. He is a Putnam County coroner and serves as an emergency room nurse at several local hospitals.

Schmitt and the town board also honored James and Patricia Rathschmidt.

"I'm sure everyone in this room has heard of United for the Troops and what



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Carmel Supervisor Kenny Schmitt presented a proclamation on behalf of the town board to John Bourges. Bourges was joined by wife, Phyllis, daughter, Samantha, and son-in-law AJ, at the Dec. 13 town board meeting.

Vet 2 Vet Outreach Program, which is administered through the state Office of Mental Health, the Mental Health Association of Putnam County and the Putnam County Veterans Service Agency. Over 1,500 veterans in the state battling PTSD or TBI have been assisted through the programs, Schmitt noted.

"John, we thank you so much for everything that you do for the veterans-- day in and day out," Schmitt said.

their mission is and what they provide for the members of our armed services who are deployed overseas," Schmitt said.

For the past 10 years the organization has collected items donated by the public not provided by the military to the troops, including snacks, DVDs, CDs, T-shirts, as well as cards and letters from citizens.

"It's a wonderful mission that you guys do," Schmitt said.

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Sheriff's Office Conducts Large Scale Drug Bust

By David Propper

The Putnam County Sheriff's Office conducted one of the largest drug seizures ever recorded in the county's history earlier this month, resulting in the arrests of two Brewster residents.

Following a joint investigation into drug trafficking in the area by county and federal law enforcement officials, about \$200,000 worth of heroin was recovered, according to the sheriff's department.

Village of Brewster residents Francisco Osorio Sagastume, 18, of Eastview Avenue and Eduardo Paiz-Ortega, 21, of Oak Street were arrested on Dec. 8, the sheriff's office said in a press release. The two men were both charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance in the 1st degree, a class A felony, and additional charges are expected as the investigation continues, according to police.

Sagastume was arrested driving in the village after he was pulled over by sheriff's deputies and investigators. A deputy sheriff and his K-9 partner, Kato, assisted in searching the vehicle and found about one kilo of heroin inside, the sheriff's office said. Paiz-Ortega was taken into custody later that day when authorities went to his apartment and detained him there. With search warrant in hand, another kilo of heroin was found, according to authorities.



PROVIDED PHOTO

Deputy Christopher Irwin and his dogged companion, Kato, helped seize a large quantity of heroin shown on table.

The two arrested men could face 20 years in jail if convicted.

As the investigation widened, it involved several agencies including the sheriff's department, the Putnam district attorney's office, the Westchester district attorney's office, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and the

United States Attorneys' Office for the Southern District of New York.

Senior investigator Thomas Corless, who is in charge of the sheriff's narcotics enforcement unit, said a caller's tip to the sheriff's department drug hotline initiated the investigation. Residents with tips can call 845-225-DRUG.



Francisco Osorio Sagastume of Brewster.



Eduardo Paiz-Ortega of Brewster



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Q: What is a hernia?

A: A hernia is an opening within muscles or connective tissue, called fascia, through which intestines or fat protrudes. Hernias tend to occur in the belly through previous incisions, or most commonly in the groin, which is known as an inguinal hernia. They can develop at any age, from birth onward. Hernias may grow over time or they can come on suddenly; they may result from strenuous activity, heavy lifting, during pregnancy, or even from a fit of coughing.

Q: What should I do if I think I have a hernia?

A: It's important to seek medical attention right away if you think you have a hernia. Aside from resting and taking ibuprofen for pain, unfortunately there isn't a lot that people can do on their own when it comes to treating a hernia. The only definitive treatment is surgery. Hernias, if left untreated, can continue to enlarge, putting you at risk for potentially dangerous complications, like lack of blood supply or strangulation to the intestines.

Q: What are the surgical options for treating a hernia?

A: Hernias are treated either by open repair, or minimally invasive surgery, which includes laparoscopy or robot-assisted surgery. At Northern Westchester Hospital all methods are available and selected based on the size and location of the hernia. Inguinal hernias, or hernias in the groin, require a synthetic mesh to repair and cover the defect, or hole. Other methods, like Laparoscopy and robotic hernia repair, allow the surgeon to make smaller incisions with smaller operating tools. In both types of surgery, the risk of complications is minimal – about the same as any surgical operation. Hernia repairs are ambulatory procedures and you'll be able to go home the same day. The risk of recurrence is slim: There's about a 5 percent chance that a person will experience another hernia in the same spot or elsewhere.

Q: How long is the recovery period?

A: I generally recommend patients take a week off from work and that they do not lift anything heavier than 25 pounds for at least six weeks. I typically don't restrict cardiovascular exercise with my patients and most patients are able to return to regular activities without pain after a few weeks.

County Exec. Authorizes Lawsuit Against Big Pharma

By David Propper

A resolution passed by the Putnam County Legislature pursuing a lawsuit against pharmaceutical companies was signed and authorized by County Executive MaryEllen Odell Monday afternoon in light of the vicious drug epidemic that has hit Putnam and the region the last several years.

The county Legislature in an 8-0 vote with one lawmaker absent approved the litigation against pharmaceutical companies and distributors last month at the behest of Odell. Napoli Shkolnik, which is the co-lead counsel in the suit, has been investigating pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors and was hired by the county to represent its interests in the New York Opioid Cost Recovery litigation. The companies that the county is going up against include Purdue Pharmaceuticals, Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, Endo Pharmaceuticals, Johnson & Johnson, McKesson Corp., Cardinal Health Inc., and AmerisourceBergen Corp.

On hand for the signing were many county legislators, NYS Assemblyman Kevin Byrne, NYS Senator Sue Serino, District Attorney Robert Tendy, Putnam Valley Councilwoman Jackie Annabi, county department heads, and members of the group Drug Crisis in Our Backyard.

Odell called the litigation "historic"



County Executive MaryEllen signed a resolution to take action against pharma companies.



DAVID PROPPER PHOTOS

Odell spoke about the drug crisis in Putnam.

for Putnam. She stressed people from all walks of life have been "sicken" by the drug crisis in the county and throughout the rest of the country.

"We have so many reasons to stand shoulder to shoulder and stand up and fight for all those that we love," Odell said as the battle begins against pharmaceutical companies. "We are not alone, we are not the first (county) and we will not be the last."

Odell said this litigation has been widespread throughout the United States with municipalities receiving large monetary settlements or even getting

confirmation from pharmaceutical companies that they need to develop better practices.

In 2016, there were 339 drug related arrests and in 2017, there have been 456 drug related arrests in Putnam. Additionally, more than 40 opioid drug overdoses have been reported in the county the past three years.

She noted earlier this month the county conducted one of the biggest drug busts in Putnam's history. Law enforcement, government, and non-profit organizations are all working toward minimizing the drug scourge, Odell said.

"We're on target, we're doing everything we can do," Odell said.

Going forward, the county must expand recovery options and provide more resources to law enforcement, Odell said. The programs and resources in place are costly, Odell said, and if the county wins its lawsuit or receives a settlement, the money awarded would go toward the public health department, law enforcement, the court system, social services and other programs that are "taxed out because of this epidemic."

Odell said the goal is see that the county is fully compensated for the costs incurred as a result of local prescription opioid abuse including workplace costs relative to loss of productivity, healthcare costs such as abuse treatment and criminal justice costs.

Because the county filed this lawsuit, it allows the county to be in the "driver's seat," Odell said, with county officials determining whether to settle and where possible settlement money would be allotted, rather than New York State.

"New York counties are leading the way to bring justice and change to a growing public health crisis," Odell said. "It is my hope and intention that this action will bring responsibility and improved accountability to those responsible."

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New Captains Selected by Incoming Sheriff

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"I am very happy that we have assembled a command team with such deep and varied experience," Langley said in a statement. "This is an incredible team that will elevate professionalism, raise standards, improve public safety, and return integrity to the department."

Langley, a Democrat and former investigator, beat Sheriff Smith, the Republican incumbent, last month in a close election. A press release issued Friday revealed more about each new captain.

Leading the sheriff's bureau of criminal investigation is former FBI special agent Jon Jennings. Jennings served as acting supervisory agent of the FBI's organized crime squad where he was the lead case agent on several multi-year investigations, including the Genovese Crime Family resulting in the prosecution of more than 100 defendants. He's investigated everything from homicide and drug trafficking to racketeering and money laundering.

The new Putnam County jail captain is Kevin Cheverko, who is finishing up his tenure as Commissioner of the Westchester Department of Corrections. He is a 32-year corrections veteran, starting as a correction officer and rising through the ranks. Cheverko is in charge of the Westchester County jail, which is

tenfold the size of Putnam's, and oversaw several different programs.

The first female captain in the department's history is Lisa Ortolano, who was selected to lead the civil division. She has more than 27 years of criminal and civil experience as a career prosecutor, defense attorney, and civil litigator. Ortolano used to work for the Putnam district attorney's office under former top prosecutor Adam Levy. She was named the first assistant district attorney during her tenure with Levy. When Ortolano worked for the Bronx DA's office, she was a supervisor in the criminal court bureau and deputy bureau chief leading more than 60 attorneys.

Former NYPD lieutenant Edward Swarm was picked to be the new road patrol captain. He started out as a patrol officer, then sergeant, and then was named lieutenant of detectives in the NYPD where he responded to major crimes and supervised 20 detectives. When he was a patrol supervisor, Swarm managed police officers and coverage.

Finally, James Babcock is the incoming communications captain and is the sole member of Langley's command team to previously serve in the sheriff's department where he worked from 1993 to 2016. During his tenure, he was promoted to sergeant in 2008 and then in 2011 was picked for the position of

criminal investigator.

"The Putnam County Sheriff's Office will be in good hands," Langley said in the press release.

Running Langley's transition team has been Jim Borkowski, the county's Democratic Committee chairman and a former candidate for sheriff himself.

During a brief appearance in front of the county Legislature's personnel committee on Dec. 11, Langley met with county lawmakers for the first time and gave them feedback about the direction he wants to take the department.

Langley said he wants to achieve national accreditation for the county jail, the civil division and the law enforcement division of the department. Certain requirements, rules and regulations must be met for accreditation, he said.

Langley also commended the legislature and County Executive MaryEllen Odell for pursuing a lawsuit against pharmaceutical companies that accuses the companies, in part, of causing

the drug epidemic in the county and region.

"They need to answer for their acts," Langley said.

To address the drug crisis in the county, Langley said he plans on implementing a treatment program within the county jail to help inmates that are addicted to drugs. He said when those addicts in jail aren't treated, they repeat offend once released and are arrested again.

He also told legislators there are areas of the budget in the sheriff's department that could be cut back to save taxpayers' money. Necessary cuts will be made, Langley vowed, and he said he has further plans for the department that would be "financially adventitious" for the county.

"We have the same values as you do and I'm glad that you spoke to them," Legislature Chairwoman Ginny Nacerino said. "We're looking forward to working in concert with you to save the taxpayers in any way we can without compromising efficiencies or safety within our county."

Carmel Residents Honored for Work with Military

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What United for the Troops does "is absolutely amazing," Schmitt said. The organization was started after the Rathschmidt couple's son, Luke, was deployed with the US Army to Iraq in 2007, Schmitt said. "Luke is the reason that they started this," Schmitt said.

Following the presentation of the proclamations, the recipients expressed their gratitude for the honors. Bourges said, "It's a great honor, but it's not necessarily just for me. It's for the Dwyer program and for all the veterans who have served our country. It's also a great honor to be here with Jimmy Rathschmidt and United for the Troops. He does a great job."

Bourges said sadly there are 22 suicides a day in the United States among veterans

and it is important for him to help. "You start in your local home ground and you do it one veteran at a time," he said.

James and Patricia Rathschmidt also said they were thankful for their honors. "It's humbling because this is done through our community. It's the people of our community who have made this possible," Patricia said. Her husband agreed. "We're also very proud to be part of the community and that's a big part of how this whole thing works," he said. "Everybody's works together."

Aside from the items included in their boxes that are distributed throughout the year, the troops are also gratified by the letters of support written and given by the public, Patricia Rathschmidt said.

"It means the world to our military," she said. "They love to know that they're being thought of by the American people."



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NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Carmel Supervisor Kenny Schmitt presented a proclamation to James and Patricia Rathschmidt, co-founders of United for the Troops, on behalf of the town board. The couple was joined by family members at the Dec. 13 town board meeting.

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Pace Students Recognized for Championing Elephant Law

By Anna Young

State Sen. Terrence Murphy (R-Yorktown) presented students from Pace University's Environmental Policy Clinic with a copy of the recently signed Elephant Protection Act, a bill they proposed that prohibit using elephants in entertainment acts throughout the state.

Murphy joined students and faculty last Wednesday at Pace's Dyson College

of Arts & Environmental Policy Clinic as they rejoiced in saving elephants' lives after spending four years crafting the legislation. Murphy gave students a copy of the bill that Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed into law on Oct. 19.

Murphy said working with the students was an educational experience for him because they made him aware of the abuse the animals experienced at the expense of

entertaining the public. He added that his colleagues were motivated to move the bill forward in May when they learned trainers often stab or hook the animals to perform tricks.

"These students took on the monumental task of ending the mistreatment of performing elephants," Murphy said. "I am proud to be able to present them with this bill. Pace students will always be able to look at this and know they made a difference."

Assemblywoman Amy Paulin (D-Scarsdale) also worked with students to ensure passage by the Assembly.

Under the supervision of Pace faculty members John Cronin and Michelle Land, students worked tirelessly to create legislation that highlighted the glorification of taming wild animals for entertainment. The act safeguards all elephants from the physical and psychological harm inflicted upon them as a result of their living conditions, treatment and methods necessary to train them for performances such as circuses.

With New York the first state to pass this type of measure, Cronin assured the students that the law they helped craft would catch legislators' attention in other

states and nations.

"It's going to change attitudes of children growing up about the global condition of elephants and teach a whole new respect that elephants aren't clowns, they're wild animals," he said.

"The cruel practices and false values that circuses and similar venues promote in the U.S. only contribute to the dire condition of elephant populations globally," added Land, who originally inspired students to pursue the elephant performance ban. "They are the antiquated relics of a bygone era."

Pace student Nicole Virgona commended her fellow students on achieving their dream. She said the clinic has been passionate about protecting elephants and thanked Murphy and Paulin and their professors for giving students free range to achieve their goal.

Pavan Naidu, a second-year graduate student who worked on the project from the start, said holding the signed bill was equivalent to holding a Super Bowl trophy.

"We helped protect elephants, something that I never thought I'd do," Naidu said. "We really made a difference in the world."



ANNA YOUNG PHOTO

Terrence Murphy joined students and faculty from Pace's Dyson College of Arts & Environmental Policy Clinic on Dec. 13 to celebrate the law banning the use of elephants for entertainment. The law, signed by Gov. Cuomo on Oct. 19, was spawned by the Pace University students.

Deadline for Recertifying Handgun Licenses

Putnam County Sheriff Donald B. Smith is reminding Putnam County handgun license holders that a state-imposed deadline to recertify many licenses is approaching.

Holders of handgun licenses issued prior to January 15, 2013 must recertify their licenses with the New York State Police by January 31, 2018. Covered licensees who fail to recertify by that date could be subject to having their licenses suspended or revoked without further notice.

The State Police offers an online recertification process for all handgun licenses issued in New York State (with the exception of those issued by New York City and by Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester Counties).

Licensees can download forms and complete the recertification process online at <https://troopers.ny.gov/firearms>.

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Health, Safety Issues Surrounding Pipeline in Somers Discussed

By Anna Young

Environmental activists held an informational forum on Dec. 4 bringing awareness to the health and safety issues surrounding the installation of a 42-inch pipeline in Somers.

Throughout the hour-long discussion, Dr. Courtney Williams, a Peekskill resident and cancer researcher who has been fighting Spectra Energy for several years, explained what residents should be aware of as the controversial Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (AIM) project moves into their town.

"This project has been in the works for many years, it will continue to be in the works for several years," said Williams, who is also a member of Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE), who organized the forum. "My life has been this pipeline for many years now."

With the Atlantic Bridge Pipeline project currently underway, expansion plans have called for the replacement of an existing 26-inch pipe, which was installed in 1954, with a 42-inch pipe, which is meant to increase the demand for natural gas. The pipeline will run north from Pennsylvania to Canada.

Williams added that the project poses a serious threat with the AIM pipeline within 105 feet of Indian Point. She referenced instances in Pennsylvania and underneath the Arkansas River where pipelines ruptured sending several thousand gallons of gas into the waterways.

Williams said with the high-pressure pipeline, along with compression, metering and pigging stations in commercial and residential areas, residents could be susceptible to disease with stations emitting several pollutants into the air.

"When something goes wrong these compressor stations have what are called 'blow downs,' that means something goes wrong in the pipe and they have to rapidly vent that gas," she said. "They really just open up the valves and release massive amounts of natural gas and all the things that are contained in it within the air."

A compressor station is currently located in Southeast. A health forum was held last Monday in North Salem regarding that compressor.

She added that air emissions from the pipeline infrastructure, that include carbon monoxide, nitrous oxide, volatile organic compounds, and particulate matter, could lead to respiratory and cardiac conditions. She said the effects of continuous exposure are still being researched.

"All of these are not things you want to breath, but Spectra Energy is just pumping this stuff out," she said.

All four schools in the Somers School District, several nursery schools, parks and Heritage Hills are all within the vicinity of the pipeline.

She explained that the yearlong project would involve the elimination of trees, removal of the existing pipeline, excavating the gasoline, installation of the new pipeline, testing the water supply and restoration of the area. She stressed that trees would not be replanted.

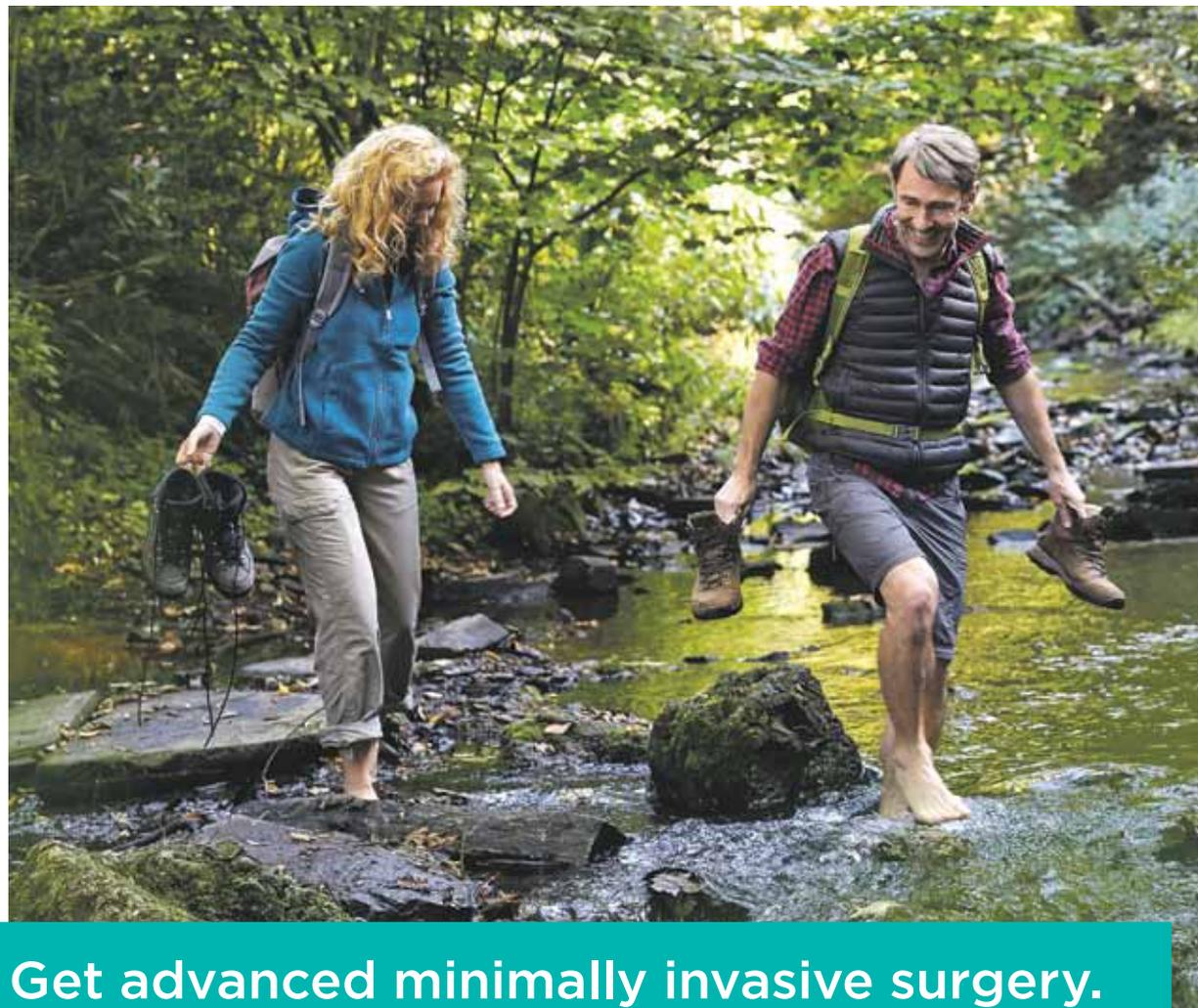
The project has already caused devastation in neighborhoods in Yorktown, with age-old trees sliced down in several residential backyards, Legacy Field, near Thomas Jefferson and Ben Franklin elementary schools, and Willow Park.

Healing and Protecting Our Land Together: A Call to Prayer, a local group of environmental activists, held an interfaith vigil at Willow Park on Curry Street in Yorktown last month calling on Governor Andrew Cuomo to stop construction.

Williams encouraged residents to

get involved in opposing the pipeline expansion stating that speaking up and taking action will make a difference.

"Get involved because it works," Williams said. "It may seem like we're a drop in the bucket but all across the country are communities like us holding meetings like this and organizing to push back against a multi-billion dollar international fossil fuel company that wants to come to their neighborhood and consider them dispensable and it's fine. You can breathe it, you can blow up, they don't care, they make their money."



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HEALTHQUEST



Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus

We take pleasure in answering thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of *The Sun*:

Dear Editor—

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in *The Sun*, it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon

115 West Ninety Fifth Street

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by

their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence.

We should have no enjoyment, except

in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see

what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

"Is There a Santa Claus?" reprinted from the September 21, 1897, number of *The New York Sun*.

A Parents' Guide to Teenage Holiday Parties

By the Putnam Communities That Care Coalition

As parents, we know the importance of our teen's social life and that parties are a way to socialize and relax. But an unsupervised or poorly planned party can result in unwanted or even tragic consequences. Parent accountability is the key. Today, many teens drink alcohol to "ease stress," while others use alcohol because they "enjoy the feeling of being drunk." As parents, one of the most important things we can do is to be a positive role model for our children. Communication and honesty practiced in your home is a positive step to your child's safety. It cannot be stressed enough that

teens whose parents talk to them regularly about drugs & alcohol are 42 percent less likely to use those substances than those students whose parents do not!

Remember the top place teens say they get their alcohol from is their home and the number one place they drink alcohol is at other people's homes.

As parents of teenagers attending a party...

- Know where your teen will be and for how long he/she will be there.
- Contact the parent of the party-giver. Confirm that a parent/adult will be home and supervising the party. Make certain that no alcohol will be served. Offer assistance.

- Know how your teen will be getting to and from the party.
- Discuss how your teen would handle a situation where alcohol was available at a party.
- Make sure your teen knows what time he/she is expected home.
- If your teen is staying overnight at a friend's house after the party, verify with the friend's parents that your child will be staying over and that they will be home.

As parents who are hosting a party for your teen...

- Set ground rules before the party.
- Decide what part of the house will be used for the party.

- Limit party attendance and times.
- Have plenty of food and non-alcoholic drinks available.
- Make sure at least one and preferably several parents-adults are present.
- Do not allow party guests to come and go.
- Avoid easy access to alcohol in your home. If necessary, lock up your liquor.
- Notify the parent of any teen who arrives drunk.

What is a parent's liability for hosting a teenage party where alcohol is present?

Criminal: If a parent hosting a party allows a teen to bring alcohol into their home or provides alcohol to a teen,

continued on page 10

Sheriff's Office and Carmel Police To Boost DWI Patrols

Putnam County Sheriff Donald B. Smith and Town of Carmel Police Department Chief Michael Cazzari report that their departments will be coordinating increased patrols to be on the lookout for drunk drivers during the upcoming holidays. The extra sheriff's deputies and town police officers will be deployed between December 15 and January 1. The stepped up patrols are the latest action in ongoing efforts aimed at deterring intoxicated or impaired driving and is part of a statewide STOP-DWI Crackdown effort.

Historically, holiday festivities usually gives rise to increased incidents of impaired driving and drinking related crashes, resulting in injuries and deaths on New York roadways. In December 2016 alone, some 781 traffic deaths were related to drunk or impaired driving, and over a 5-year period, almost 4,000 unnecessary and tragic deaths were recorded. In an effort to deter DWI offenses around holidays, the New York State Police, County Sheriffs, and local law enforcement agencies across the state go on heightened alert looking for

impaired drivers with increased patrols and sobriety checkpoints.

While STOP-DWI efforts across New York have led to significant reductions in the numbers of alcohol and drug-related fatalities, too many lives are still being lost because of crashes caused by drunk or impaired drivers. Highly visible and highly publicized efforts like the STOP-DWI Crackdown Campaign aim to further reduce the incidence of drunk and impaired driving. Research shows that high-visibility enforcement can reduce fatalities caused by drunken driving by as much as 20 percent.

"Christmas and New Year's Eve are occasions for the spreading of holiday cheer," said Chief Cazzari, "but all too often those celebrations can result in some people overindulging in alcohol and then getting behind the wheel."

The advanced announcement of the stepped up anti-drunk driving efforts is aimed at discouraging drunk driving.

"We want to urge folks who will be celebrating the holidays to have a sober plan and to make arrangements for getting home safely from parties, such

as using taxis or designated drivers," said Sheriff Smith.

The STOP-DWI Holiday Season Crackdown is one of many statewide enforcement initiatives promoted by the New York State STOP-DWI Association with additional funding from the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee and implemented by the STOP-DWI Foundation. The Foundation offers a

GPS enabled smart phone app called "Have a Plan" that helps users find safe rides home wherever the need may arise. The app is available as a free download for smart phone uses through the support of the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee. Smart phone users may access the app at www.stopdwi.org/mobileapp or at their app store.

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Mahopac Falls Nursery School

Mahopac

By Neal Rentz

The Mahopac Falls Nursery has been a fixture in the community since 1970 and now it is expanding its programs for youths.

School director and teacher of the three-year-old pupils Michelle Armstrong of Cortlandt and Carmel resident Danielle Sblano, who teaches the four-year-old students, said the school is part of the mission of The First Presbyterian Church, though the nursery school is not a religious one.

Armstrong said the nursery school is a half-day program for children three and four years old, but it is expanding. The school has a goal to be a full-day daycare center beginning in September for children two to four. Because households with both parents are working are much more common today, “nursery school is not the way the world is going,” Armstrong said. “People need full-day.”

Even if the non-profit school offers full-day day care next fall the nursery school concept will continue for parents who still want the half-day program, Armstrong said. “We do have very affordable rates,” she said, adding nursery school



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

The Mahopac Falls Nursery School has been in operation since 1970. Shown above are, from the left, school director and teacher Michelle Armstrong of Cortlandt and students Kevin McGarrigle, Sadie Kalpaxis, Maddie Rasetetter, Ella Caramihai, Amelia Matos and Connor Aponte.

enrollment is still being accepted.

In the meantime, the school will be holding Toddler Time, which will be held on eight Thursdays from noon to 1 p.m. for children two and younger, beginning

Jan. 4, Armstrong said.

Sblano said the nursery school provides more than play for its four-year-old pupils. “We do academics based on the Common Core standards for pre-K,” she said.

“Every minute of my day is budgeted.”

“Our four-year-old program is based on kindergarten readiness,” Sblano said.

Armstrong said the three-year-old students have a less vigorous educational component. “It is a little bit more laid back,” she said. “I introduce the children to the letters. I’m not expecting them to sink it all in, but it’s just an introduction.” Some of the other things her students learn about are colors and numbers, Armstrong said. One of the goals of the class for three-year-olds is for the youngsters “to love school,” she said.

Most of the nursery school’s students live in Putnam County, Armstrong said.

The public is being invited to watch the school’s students perform. A Christmas show will be held in the sanctuary of the adjacent The First Presbyterian Church on Dec. 21 at 7 p.m.

The Mahopac Falls Nursery School is located at 411 Route 6N (at Secor Road) in Mahopac. For more information call 845-444-6206, visit MahopacFallsNurserySchool.org, or send an e-mail to MahopacFallsNurserySchool@gmail.com. The school also has a Facebook page at TheMahopacFallsNurserySchool.

Putnam County Welcomes Newest Citizens

Putnam County Clerk Michael C. Bartolotti hosted a Naturalization Ceremony last Wednesday at the Putnam County Historic Courthouse in Carmel. Clerk Bartolotti administered the Oath of Allegiance to 46 new citizens from 29 different countries.

The Naturalization Ceremony was opened by the American Legion Post 1080 Color Guard. The Hon. James F. Reitz, Acting Justice of the Supreme Court and Putnam County Court Judge served as the officiating Supreme Court Justice and offered court remarks. Sheriff Donald B. Smith led the opening prayer. Karl Rohde, Director of Putnam County Veterans Affairs, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Janet Ocasio, representative from LiveonNY and an organ donor recipient, gave the Keynote Speech. Isabella Ciatto, a sophomore at Carmel High School, presented the gathering with beautiful renditions of the “Star Spangled Banner” and God Bless America.” After the ceremony, a coffee and cake reception was held to welcome our newest citizens. Any citizen wishing to view photos and video of the ceremony is encouraged to visit www.putnamcountyny.gov/county-clerk or visit our Facebook page.



Santa Visits Across Putnam County

On Donner and Blitzen, and Harley and Davidson...



With the reindeers in the shop getting their antlers rotated, Santa was spotted making a practice run on a "hog" on the Taconic State Parkway in Yorktown earlier this month. Hope Santa obeys the "Right of sleigh" laws.

PAUL CARDI PHOTO

Mahopac FD Collects Toys for Good Cause



On Dec. 9, the Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department held its Annual Candy Cane Run to visit the children and families of the Mahopac Fire Protection District. Despite the snowy conditions, Mahopac's Bravest Firefighters and EMT's traveled all around town collecting a generous amount of toys for the Toys-for-Tots program while delivering candy canes to all our residents. In addition to helping Santa Claus with his holiday duties we were also able to continue our commitment towards keeping our residents safe, as there were two medical emergencies during Saturday's event that we responded to. The Mahopac fire department wishes everyone a wonderful and safe holiday season.

PROVIDED PHOTOS

Mahopac Falls FD Braves Snow For Annual Tradition



As the snow began to fall on Dec.9, Mr. and Mrs. Klaus gathered their Mahopac Falls volunteer firefighter/ EMS family for the 2017 Candy Cane Run as they all head out to visit the children of the Mahopac Falls Fire District, a tradition that is almost 50 years old. With candy canes in hand, firefighters and EMT's got on board trucks pulling out of headquarters at 10 a.m. with lights flashing and sirens blaring. The Mahopac Falls Volunteer Fire Department wishes everyone a wonderful and safe holiday season.

PROVIDED PHOTOS



A Parents' Guide to Teenage Holiday Parties

continued from page 8

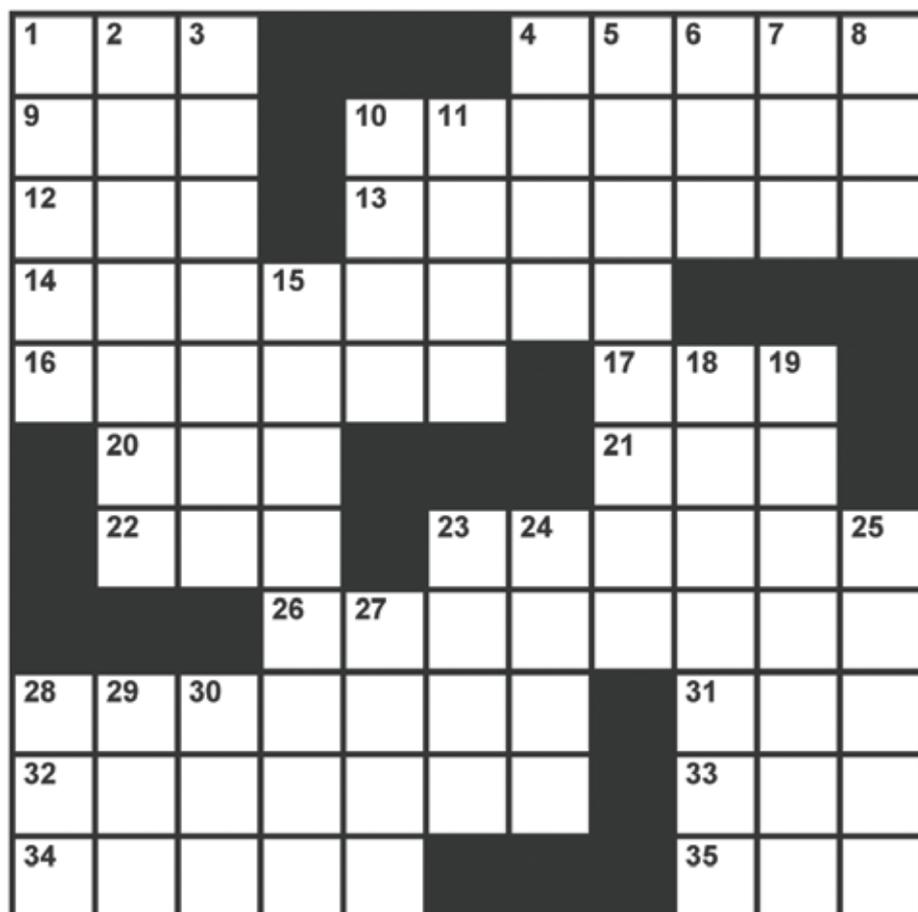
that parent has committed the crime of unlawfully dealing with a child, a class A misdemeanor. If convicted, the sentence ranges from one year in county jail to a three-year probationary sentence, fines and/or conditional release.

That parent can also be charged with the Social Host Law, which is has been enacted in every town and village in the county. This law only requires that the parent know of the party and that teens are drinking alcohol. This, too, is a class A misdemeanor and can result in a fine plus response recovery costs (a parent is liable for the expense of the response by a public agency or agencies to the incident; which

can run into thousands of dollars)

Civil: A criminal conviction can place restrictions on your freedom and give you a permanent record. But the consequences of your actions do not end there. Your civil liability of hosting an underage drinking party can be costly. Under civil law, you can be held liable for any damage caused by a teen who has become intoxicated at the party you are hosting, if you know alcohol is being served, or if you provide alcohol at the party. If an individual dies as a result of an intoxicated minor, you could face a wrongful death cause of action. Simply put, you could lose everything.

Crossword Puzzle



Crossword by Myles Mellor

Answers on page 17

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Across

1. Degrees
4. Ceremonial staffs
9. Holiday lead-in
10. Customary
12. Exam giver, maybe
13. Plain
14. Putnam County destination for skating and hockey, Brewster ____
16. Zany
17. Bank offerings, briefly
20. End of the year month, for short
21. Saudi export
22. Columbus sch.
23. Spark Valley Steakhouse in Yorktown now has a name explorer Henry would approve
26. Vegas game
28. Big hit for Ace of Base
31. Fall mo.
32. Williams of "Ugly Betty"
33. Tell on
34. Stockholm native
35. Tackle

Down

1. Obscure
2. Popular salad ingredient
3. Withdraws
4. "Buddenbrooks" author
5. Phone number prefix
6. Blackguard
7. A Manning

8. Min.part
10. City with a marble mausoleum
11. Slip (in)
15. Ill-fated
18. Misrepresent the truth
19. Tiny racer
23. Holds close
24. Arm bone
25. Trapping
27. Seine feeder
28. Plasma sets
29. Goes with hem
30. Mariner's compass direction



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Obituaries

Michael J. Murphy

Michael J. Murphy of Mahopac, (formerly of Woodlawn) died unexpectedly at his home on December 9 at the age of 52. He was born in New York City on June 4, 1965, the son of John and Margaret (Peggy) (O'Neill) Murphy. He was a graduate of Mount St Michael's school and he for the past twenty-five years worked as an assistant manager and projectionist for United Artists Theatres (Movie Land) in Yonkers prior to moving to Mahopac. Mike loved Stephen King novels and he was an avid reader and collector of comic books and stamps. He had a passion for movies and television. He was a sweet humble man and all that knew him will miss him dearly. Mike was an inspiration for many and he touched a lot of hearts as a resident of the Search for Change organization. His life for the past five years was greatly improved. He was also a part time volunteer at the Mahopac Public Library where he worked in the Book Barn and probably spent way too much time on Facebook like many of us. The family is requesting that in lieu of flowers, please consider donations in memory in the name of Michael Murphy to Search for Change, Inc. (link <http://www.searchforchange.org>) or CoveCare Center (formerly known as Putnam Family & Community

Services (<https://covecarecenter.org>). Like for so many others these organizations greatly helped Mike gain independence and prosper over the few years. Mike is survived by his younger brother Jim and his wife Susan along with his children Kerry and James, and his brother John and his wife Theresa along with niece Ashley Rae Murphy and nephews Christopher and Thomas. He is also survived by his aunt Eileen Krummerich.

Joseph J. Karl

Joseph J. Karl, of Carmel, died on December 9 surrounded by his family at the age of 95. He was born on October 7, 1922 in the Bronx. He proudly served in the Army during WWII. On July 14, 1975 he married the love of his life Marsha Frank. Joseph worked for the New York City Sanitation for over 35 years. After retirement he enjoyed volunteering his time to his community at the office of the aging, and Kent seniors etc. He enjoyed calling bingo, and spending special time with all his close friends. Most of all, he loved spending time with his family. Joseph always was the first to lend a hand to anyone in need, always putting others first before himself especially with family. He will be sorely missed by all that knew him. Joseph is survived by his loving wife Marsha, four

adoring children Gail (Louie), Eileen (Jimmy), Neal (Lisa), Ira (Amanda) and is predeceased by his loving daughter Linda. He is also survived by 10 cherishing grandchildren Briana (Matt), Joey, Justin, Erik, Jared (Nathalia), Matthew, Diana, Tyler (Michael), Kacie, and Christopher. In addition to his grandchildren he is survived by 5 great grandchildren Joey, Madison, Isaiah, Madison, and Travis.

Kenneth R. Hurley

Kenneth R. Hurley, 83, of Carmel, died peacefully on December 9. He proudly served our Country in the US Army, as a Military Policeman. He is predeceased by his beloved wife Marilyn and brother Wilfred. He is survived by his five loving children; Debbie and Mark Mikucki, Bill and Kathy Hurley, Kenny and Mary Hurley, Laura and Spencer Tagliarini and Stephen and Melissa Hurley and eleven cherished grandchildren; Madeline Mikucki, Emily Mikucki, Maggie Hurley, Austin Hurley, Carter Tagliarini, Althea "Ally" Hurley, Charlie Hurley, Melissa Tagliarini, Olivia Hurley, Eric Hurley and Angelina Hurley all of whom he adored and each child held a special place in his heart. In his spare-time, he was an usher at St. James Church, participated in Relay for Life and retired from ConEdison.

His hobbies included; metal detecting, and camping at Hammonasset Beach, socializing at flea markets, he was a baseball enthusiast who Coached CYA baseball. He was also very artistic and enjoyed painting Santa Claus and other holiday scenes on store fronts. He will be greatly missed by his friends and family.

Edith Janet Olsen

Edith Janet Olsen, of Holmes, died peacefully on December 12, at Putnam Ridge Nursing Home. She was 74-years-old. Born on October 2, 1943 in Brooklyn, daughter of the late Einor Bjorn and Else (Undem) Olsen. She was a graduate of Bay Ridge High School, Brooklyn and continued her education at Eastern School for Physicians Aids in Manhattan. Janet was a lab technologist with Victory Memorial Hospital in Brooklyn for 28 years before retiring. She was very generous towards others, generous of heart. Janet wore many hats with the Pawling Theater Group, she was a producer, a makeup artist and assisted with fundraising. She was also very active with Patterson Community Church, where she was the director of prayer ministry, clerk of council as well as an elder.

Ms. Olsen is survived by her sister

continued on page 14

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and a New Year filled with Peace,
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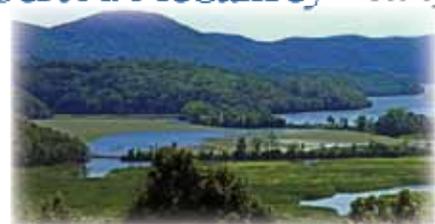
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Putnam Hospital Center Offers Cognitive Stimulation Program

At the last class of the cognitive stimulation program at Putnam Hospital Center this fall, speech therapist Jenny Kalanz was inspired, she said, by her students' progress.

"The first day we did a simple assessment timed activity. They have each greatly improved since then," Kalanz said. "That was very impressive to me."

The complimentary program kicked off earlier this year, offering participants who have mild cognitive deficits a variety of activities including word games, visual recognition and repetition tasks meant to stimulate attention, memory and thinking skills.

"I've learned everything to make the brain strong," participant Howard Bruning said.

The class is geared toward mature adults who have concerns with



Speech therapist Jenny Kalanz leads a recent cognitive stimulation class.

PROVIDED PHOTOS

memory and want to keep the brain active. Research has shown improving concentration and brain function may lead to improvements in remembering, making new memories, driving abilities and reducing falls, Kalanz said.

To qualify for the program, participants must go through an evaluation.

"It was fun and challenging," participant Diane O'Brien said. "The camaraderie of the group was nice, too."

The cognitive stimulation program will pick up again at noon on Thursday, Jan. 4, and will meet every Thursday for 12 weeks in the Michael T. Weber Conference Room 2. Registration is required. For more information, call Kalanz at 845-279-5711 ext. 2483 (TTY 1-800-421-1220).

Drewville Road Bridge in Carmel Reopened

The reopening of the Drewville Road Bridge in Carmel occurred last week, according to the Putnam County Executive's office. The New York State Department of Transportation has approved the reopening last Friday after the Putnam County Highways and Facilities Department completed the necessary repairs to the infrastructure.

"I am so proud of our highway department workers who came through as promised to have the bridge open in two weeks' time, even under the recent harsh weather conditions," said County Executive MaryEllen Odell. "Repairing our aging infrastructure is a priority for

the county so we can ensure the safety of our residents."

The highway department constructed temporary shoring for the bridge that will support the safe travel across the Drewville Road Bridge.

"The process required two weeks to make the repair," explained Fred Pena, Highways and Facilities Commissioner. "Week 1 included designing the shoring, gathering equipment and material, obtaining permits and developing a work plan. During Week 2 the execution of the repair was done."

A full replacement of the Drewville Road Bridge is scheduled for 2019.



Obituaries

continued from page 11

Evelyn M. Olsen of Holmes, and her cousins; Arnold, Sonja and Kristine and family.

Nicholas Parthemore

Nicholas John Parthemore of Mahopac, and formerly of Ossining died on December 13, at the age of 73. He was born in Ossining on August 31, 1944, the son of John and Rose Nigro Parthemore. Known as "Nicky" to most, he was a husband, father, grandfather, brother and uncle. Nicky was a hard worker who dedicated 29 years to the maintenance of the Tech Center of BOCES Yorktown. Nicky was a wood worker who lovingly refurbished furniture for his family. He was a music enthusiast, especially Do-Wop and Motown. He was a gifted communicator with animals and loved his dogs with his whole heart. Nicky enjoyed working in

his garden and would drop everything to help someone in need. Nicky was a true family man and will be missed. He is survived by his wife Christine, daughters Danielle Simmons and her husband Shawn and Tina Yi and her husband Dennis, his brother George and his sisters Rosemarie Ryan and Adeline Christie and his grandchildren Corey, Cierra and Ocean.

Jamison Carafa

Jamison Carafa of West Palm Beach, FL and formerly of Mahopac, died unexpectedly on December 13, at the age of 44. He was born in New Rochelle, the son of Arthur and Nancy (Cestone) Carafa. Jamie was a graduate of Mahopac High School and managed Strobes R Us Lighting in Pompano Beach, FL. Jamie is survived by his father Artie and his wife Sandra, and his children AJ (Andrew Joseph) and Julia. He was predeceased by his mother Nancy and his brother Joseph.



The logo for Trumbull Printing features a stylized speech bubble with a large eye-like shape inside, containing the letters 'TP'. To the right of the logo, the text "Trumbull" is written in a large, bold, black font, with "PRINTING" in a smaller, all-caps font below it. Below the logo and name, a list of services is provided: "Newspapers • Publications • Shoppers • Catalogs • Magazines", "Directories • Coupon Books • College Course Catalogs", "Business and Financial Periodicals", and "Free Standing Inserts • Advertising Supplements". At the bottom, the address "205 Spring Hill Road, Trumbull, CT 06611" and phone number "203.261.2548" are listed, along with the website "www.trumbullprinting.com". The entire advertisement is framed by a colorful border of small squares in shades of blue, pink, yellow, and grey.

Law Book: Spending Down Your Assets is Not a Plan

By Salvatore M. Di Costanzo

In a perfect world, everyone would craft an estate and elder care plan well in advance of having to implement it but the world isn't perfect!

I have had the opportunity to work on a fair amount of cases where clients, who had no estate or elder care plan, fell ill or became disabled. In some cases, the person needed homecare services. Yet in other cases, nursing home care was a necessity. I am disheartened when I am confronted by these situations after clients have exhausted most, if not all, of their assets because they were under the impression that they waited too long to do their planning, and as a result, there was nothing to do other than spenddown their assets. There is always something a competent elder law attorney can do to protect someone's assets, even at the 11th hour.

One of the simplest techniques that we use in homecare and nursing home care planning scenarios is spousal refusal, but obviously there needs to be a spouse. This is where the assets of the ill or disabled spouse are transferred to the healthy spouse, who then refuses to apply those assets to the cost of health care. Many are surprised to learn that the Medicaid five-year look-back period does not apply to transfers between spouses. Once the assets are out of the ill or disabled spouse's



name, that spouse may be eligible for Medicaid. If you are in a situation where you are expending countless resources towards the cost of your spouse's care, you should contact us immediately.

The five-year look-back period is also inapplicable in all homecare cases. Fueled by lack of knowledge and correct information, many people think they are ineligible for Medicaid at home because they have assets in their name leaving them to care for their loved ones themselves or spend exorbitant amounts of money on care. In a homecare scenario, assets can be transferred to anyone with no effect on Medicaid eligibility and we often use outright transfers and certain trusts to move assets to create eligibility.

The real challenge is when there is no spouse and an individual enters a nursing home where the five-year look-back period does apply. In that case, an experienced elder law attorney can implement a certain planning technique commonly referred to as a "promissory note/gifting strategy". The intricacies of the strategy are outside the scope of this article, but the result is that we can save approximately 40-50 percent of the individual's assets. Most people are ecstatic to achieve these savings since they were contemplating total spenddown at the rate of approximately \$15,000.00 per month to a nursing home. These are real success stories.

Medicaid also allows for certain exempt transfers and does not count certain assets as available for eligibility purposes. For instance, a primary residence can be transferred to a caretaker child without penalty. Moreover, individual retirement accounts ("IRAs") are exempt, provided that the individual is receiving their required minimum distributions once they turn 70 1/2. On too many occasions I have seen people exhaust their IRAs unnecessarily.

All of the above techniques may require a power of attorney and statutory gifts rider in order to complete the planning. A basic boilerplate form will be inadequate for these purposes. If the person in need has capacity, there is a rush to prepare

and sign a new power of attorney and statutory gifts rider. If there is no capacity, a guardianship must be contemplated. Although a guardianship proceeding may be the only key that unlocks the door, there is an expedited form of a guardianship under Article 81.16 of the Mental Hygiene Law that allows for the appointment of a special guardian for a limited purpose. For instance, where we are seeking to transfer the primary residence to a healthy spouse, we will utilize this type of proceeding to save costs and time.

Salvatore M. Di Costanzo is a partner with the firm of Maker, Fragale & Di Costanzo, LLP located in Rye, New York and Yorktown Heights, New York. Mr. Di Costanzo is an attorney and accountant whose main area of practice is elder law and special needs planning. He is a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys while also being a current member of the executive committee of the New York State Bar Association's elder law and special needs planning section. Mr. Di Costanzo is a frequent author and lecturer on current elder law and special needs topics. Since 2013, Mr. Di Costanzo has been selected each year by the rating service, Super Lawyers as a New York Metro leading elder law attorney. He can be reached at (914) 925-1010 or via e-mail at smd@mfd-law.com. Visit his practice specific website at www.plantodayfortomorrow.com.

Five Reasons NW Hospital Supports the Invisible Patient

By Marian Hamilton, founder of the Ken Hamilton Caregivers Center at Northern Westchester Hospital

Families shouldn't have to face the stress of caring for an ill loved one by themselves. That's why I founded the Ken Hamilton Caregivers Center (KHCC) – in memory of my husband – at Northern Westchester Hospital. The Center helps community members through the most difficult time in their lives – caring for a loved one with a chronic or long-term illness. Let me tell you why it's so important to support caregivers, even after their loved ones are no longer in our care.

1. It's hard to juggle family life at home, work and caring for a loved one who is sick. We know – because we've been there.

The KHCC was named in memory of my husband, who I cared for, both at home and in many different hospitals, during his battle with lung cancer. I was caring for my husband for two years, while at the same time juggling my role as a mother to two teenage daughters. I was thrust into this painful role of having to care for a seriously-ill loved one, all the while feeling emotionally devastated and at my wits' end. It's really challenging for families. At the KHCC, our staff recognizes that it's hard. We strive to be the caregivers "go to" place when they



Marian Hamilton (left) with a caretaker.

need help, resources or direction – even after their loved one is no longer in our care.

2. Sometimes, we need someone who will listen and won't judge us.

As caregivers, we have needs that often aren't being met – we're exhausted and stressed. Other feelings may also come up when we are caring for someone. We may get annoyed, feel unappreciated, experience great sadness, or feel sorry for ourselves. Yet, we're often reluctant to

express these emotions. The KHCC is a judgment-free zone. You will be greeted with a sympathetic ear and can feel comfortable to share freely. There is also a monthly support group for caregivers.

3. Sometimes we need a break.

While you want to make sure your loved one is comfortable in their hospital room, you may need to take a breather. The KHCC is a place to do just that – designed by caregivers for caregivers, the Center offers a soothing environment to

close your eyes, get a snack or perhaps sit in a massage chair and de-stress and reenergize.

4. We'll need to deal with challenges that we're not prepared for.

When our days and evenings are spent at the hospital bedside, everything can seem daunting. Understanding how the hospital works – what the different roles are, or where to get the info we need can be confusing. The KHCC team is trained to support you in navigating the hospital system, understanding advanced directives or end of life issues, managing family challenges and learning stress relief strategies.

5. It's comforting to have a support system when you leave the Hospital.

After discharge from the Hospital, caregivers still need support. This is the time when caregivers can feel most isolated and alone. At Northern Westchester Hospital, the KHCC team reaches out to families with their permission, every two to three weeks until they feel that they are ready to discontinue the calls. The staff can listen as you share your experiences and offer resources if appropriate. Family caregivers feel supported in the community and have a "go to" resource in between calls if they need it.

Learn more about Northern Westchester Hospital, visit nwhc.net.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Handmade Holiday Memories to Last a Lifetime – or Two

Before I married, I had a roommate named Tom who was an excellent artist and craftsman, a fellow who added more taste and style to our place than one normally would expect to find in an apartment occupied by two bachelors.

We shared living space for little more than a year but when Christmas approached, he suggested that we have a tree, fully decorated. I was somewhat surprised, even resistant to such an idea – I was not what you would call domestic when I was young, certainly not a Home Guru in training – but he insisted. And, because he was really into crafts, he suggested that we make our own ornaments. I was definitely not interested in that prospect, so I suggested that he make the ornaments, and I offered to buy the tree.

Because he worked in the garment district, he had access to shops where he bought spools of ribbons, many kinds of different glass beads, sequins, buttons and feather plumes. With a supply of different sized Styrofoam



By Bill Primavera

balls and lots of straight pins, he had assembled all the makings of a home industry for ornaments. Artistic as he was, he crafted ornaments that were indeed sensational. Impressed by his artistry, I thought I'd try my hand at it and must confess, while I'm not at all crafts oriented, I enjoyed it, but hoped that I wouldn't want to take up knitting next!

When I moved out, I didn't get custody of the handmade Christmas balls, but soon after I was able to bring the concept to my wife and, as newlyweds, we had our first project to share.

In the days before A.C. Moore and Michael's, not to mention Martha Stewart, the place to get the wildest stuff for ornamental projects was in the hat district of Manhattan, west of Fifth Avenue on 38th Street. On my way home from work each day, I'd pass through and buy interesting hat decorations from the time when women still wore hats.

Then, immediately following dinner, my wife and I would sit in the living

room, spread out my finds on our large coffee table and get to work.

We came up with the idea of each making one elaborate tree ornament every year throughout our marriage. We got into our new hobby so much that it became an obsession the first year. The balls became more and more elaborate as we practiced our skills, and many were themed with their own names.

One ball, completely covered in pink ribbon ruching was named our Baby Girl ball, even though we didn't have a baby yet. There was also the Grace Kelly ball with pale blue and yellow ribbons and pearls; the Swan Lake ball with white ribbons, white feathers and crystals; the Can-Can Girl ball with black and red ribbons, beads and a black feather plume on top; and our real piece de resistance, a large Faberge ball with semiprecious gems all over it, taken from old pieces of jewelry.

The tips of our thumbs had developed calluses from pushing in the pins until we got smart and used thimbles to aid our obsession.

We decided it would be safer to buy a large artificial tree so that there would be no threat of sap staining the balls. We kept producing our little gems until

we ran out of space on the tree. We had become Christmas ball addicted.

During that first holiday season, we magnanimously allowed any visitor to select one of our creations for their own trees, and still the tree seemed overladen. The bottom line, however, is that we must have OD'd on our first year's attempt because we haven't made a single ball since then. We did, however, add antique and specialty ornaments over the years, as presents to each other.

As we have gotten older, our tree has become smaller, and our daughter, who was predated by that pink ribbon ball in her honor, is now the recipient, one by one, of our early Christmas ornament binge.

I guess that's the kind of stuff newly-married couples do together, projects that can be appreciated later in life when there's time to do so. And, that's exactly what has happened.

While Bill Primavera has enjoyed careers as a journalist and publicist, he is now a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate, specializing in upper Westchester and Putnam Counties. To engage the services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

My Experiences in Tasting and Purchasing Holiday Sparkling Wines



By Nick Antonaccio

By Nick Antonaccio
I've penned several columns on the subject of sparkling wines. At this time of year, with the holidays looming and visions of tiny bubbles in a fluted

glass dancing in my head, I become immersed in the joys of indulging in sparkling wines from around the world.

For my palate, sparkling wines are one of the most versatile wines produced around the globe. Their acidity and crispness highlight the acidity or the creaminess of many foods; the effervescence cuts through the fattiest of foods.

What brings this subject to the forefront this week are three occasions in which sparkling wines were the focus. Allow me to regale you with these experiences. Not to be braggadocios (although it may seem as such) but rather to provide insights into the vast array and diversity of bubbly wines.

The premise for each of my three experiences was quite disparate. My first was a sampling at a holiday tasting luncheon sponsored by the

Wine Media Guild, of which I am a member. The second was a tasting I provided to a monthly wine group, of which I am a member. The third was perhaps the most rewarding – selecting a sampling of sparklers from various countries and regions for a holiday gift to friends.

Once a year, at the year-end holidays, members of the Wine Media Guild meet to share good cheer over a sampling of sparkling wines. This year's theme was rosé Champagne. Twenty-two of them to be precise. Fifteen, each of which was produced from multiple vintages, and an additional seven, each produced from a specific year's harvest.

The rosé Champagnes I tasted varied significantly in style and price. Several were soft and readily quaffable. Others were a bit more austere, while a few displayed perfectly balanced fruit and acidity. Most of these are readily available at wine shops that focus on Champagnes. Here are a few of my favorites.

In the under \$60 price range, I enjoyed the roundness and lack of sweetness

You Heard It Through the Grapevine

in the Ayala Rosé Brut Majeure NV, Duval-Leroy Premier Cru Brut Rosé NV, Phillipe Gonet Brut Rosé NV and the Moët & Chandon Extra Brut Rosé 2009 (the standout in the sea of pink and salmon

colored wines).

Care to splurge? In the \$75 and higher price range, I enjoyed the complexity, balance and rich mouth-feel of Bollinger Brut Rosé NV, Charles Heidsieck Brut Rosé Reserve NV, Taittinger Comtes Brut Rosé 2006 and Pol Roger Brut Rosé 2008 (my overall favorite).

My next exhilarating experience was at my home for a group tasting of 12 wines, including several Champagnes from the Gosset winery, which has been producing highly praised wines since 1584. With my nine fellow wine group members I sampled the Blanc de Blanc NV and the 2002 Celebris Extra Brut. Each was quite approachable; the 2002 Celebris was silky, bright and mineral, but expensive. A more reasonably priced offering is the Brut Excellence NV, which in my opinion may be the best Champagne value on the market today.

My third experience was a shopping trip to purchase a gift for two friends of a representative sampling of sparkling wines from around the world. My budget was no greater than \$30 per bottle. I

visited Westchester Wine Warehouse in White Plains for my purchase. Ken, the affable and very knowledgeable store manager, guided me to this diverse collection/

France: Moutard Grande Cuvee NV (\$30), Maison Foucher Cremant de Loire Brut Cuvee NV (\$16), Lucien Albrecht Cremant d'Alsace Brut Rose NV (\$19).

United States: Schramsberg Blanc de Blanc, 2014 (\$30).

Spain: Recaredo "Relats de Recaredo" Gran Reserva Brut Nature Cava, 2012 (\$30).

Australia: Paringa Sparkling Shiraz 2015 (\$16).

I'm hoping my friends share these wines with me. If they do, I'll attempt to report my tasting notes in a future column.

I encourage you to visit your local wine shop that has a passion for presenting fine sparkling wines to its customers. Then begin to experiment. In this day of highly affordable price-quality ratio wines, you won't be disappointed.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 20 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. Nick is a member of the Wine Media Guild of wine writers. 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

Trees For Sale: Brewster Elks Lodge # 2101 located on the corner of Milltown Road and Route 22, Brewster, N.Y. is having their annual Christmas Tree sales until December 23. The trees will range from 5 feet to 9 feet in height and we will have Balsam Trees and Fraser Trees; starting price is \$40.

Wednesdays: The Putnam County Marine Corps League: Monthly meeting at the Carmel VFW Hall, 36 Gleneida Ave. (Rte.52) Carmel at 19:30 on the second Wednesday of the month. If you are a U.S. Marine or FMF Corpsmen Veteran, Reservist or on Active Duty we welcome you as a Brother. View us at www.putnammcl.com

Thursdays: The Putnam County Computer Learning Center for seniors holds registration the first Thursday of every month at the William Koehler Senior Center, 180 Route 6 in Mahopac and at the Putnam Valley Senior Center, 117 Town Park Lane, Putnam Valley. Registration hours in Mahopac are from 9:30 a.m.- 11 a.m. Putnam Valley registration is from 10 a.m. -Noon. In addition to a variety of computer classes, we also teach classes in iPad, iPhone and Android Basics. Anyone 55 or older can register for a variety of computer classes. Registration is required in person. For more information you can call Judy Kolt at (845) 277-5422 or email her at jak4dogs@verizon.net. We are in need of volunteers. If interested in volunteering for this program, please call Judy Kolt as above.

Brewster American Legion Meetings - The American Legion Argonne Post 71 holds its monthly meeting at 7 p.m., on the third Tuesday of each month at the Brewster Elks Club. If you are interested in joining or would like more info, call Bill Miller at 845-406-2533.

Fridays

Joy of Dance: dance/movement therapy for people with Parkinson's Disease. Joy of Dance is a dance/movement therapy group for people with Parkinson's Disease. This on-going group meets every Friday, 10-11 a.m. at the Seven Star School of Performing Arts, Brewster. To register contact Marie Carstens at 347-742-6591 or email at mccarstens21@yahoo.com. Pre-registration is required. Sessions are \$15/person, a caregiver or loved one is encouraged to join for an additional \$5

Tuesday, December 19

Spotlight Family Support Group: Mahopac Library, Periodical Room 6:45 p.m.-8 p.m. This is a guided recurring support group for family and friends suffering with the effects of a loved one that has a problem with drugs or alcohol. For more information contact Drug Crisis in our Backyard 845-842-1212. No

registration is required

Calling all Lego® lovers: Kent Library 4:45 p.m., -5:45 p.m. for our new program, Literary Legos®! Listen to a fun story and build a Lego® creation based on the story. Your Lego® creation will be put on display for the whole library to see! Program is for those ages 7-9 or grades 2nd -4th! Registration is required. You may register for the program by going to www.kentlibrary.org or calling the Kent Public Library at 845-225-8585. The library is located at 17 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes.

Gingerbread House Decorating: 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., Patterson library. Get creative and decorate your own gingerbread house with delicious, colorful candy and enjoy listening to some festive music! Please bring a bag of decorating candy to share if possible. Children under 5 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information or to register contact the Patterson Library at 845-878-6121 x10 or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org and click Calendar.

Wednesday, December 20

Donations to Putnam Humane Society - 1 p.m. at Meadowland of Carmel, the Putnam Humane Society will visit to receive a donation of six truck loads of dog/cat food to them. Usually the donation feeds pets at the Humane Society for a year.

Winter Wonderland Story Time: Patterson Library. 10:30 a.m., - 11:15 a.m., Junior Geniuses are invited to celebrate the winter holidays with a fun, interactive story time! We'll be singing songs, playing games, and creating a beautiful craft to take home. For ages 3-5. For more information or to register contact the Patterson Library at 845-878-6121 x10 or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org and click Calendar.

Thursday, December 21

Middle School Book Group @ Mahopac Public Library. 3:30 p.m. Join us for pizza and discussion with Deborah Rafferty Oswald, author of The Girls of Haviland. Copies of the book are available at the Circulation Desk; read it and share your thoughts with the author at this book group meeting. Registration is requested; register online at www.mahopaclibrary.org, or call 845-628-2009, ext. 100.

Foreign Film Screening – A Christmas Tale, a film by Arnaud Desplechin screened in French with English subtitles. Mahopac Library. 6:30 p.m. The troubled Vuillard family is no stranger to illness, grief, and banishment, but when their matriarch requires a bone-marrow transplant, the estranged clan reunites just in time for Christmas. Registration requested; drop-ins welcome. Register online at www.mahopaclibrary.org.

Sunday, December 24

First Presbyterian Church of Mahopac: Visitors to our church are always welcome, regardless of religious background. Anyone looking for a church home is invited to contact Pastor Glen at pastorglen54@gmail.com. Christmas Eve services this year Sunday, 12/24/17: 10:30 a.m. service- featuring the Christmas Pageant 5:00pm- Family Christmas Eve Service, featuring the Handbell Choir 7:30pm- Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, featuring the Choir, the Handbell Choir and distinguished Guest Singers and Musicians. First Presbyterian Church is located at 411 Rt. 6N (at Secor Rd.) in Mahopac. For more information please call 845-628-2365 or email presby411@verizon.net.

Gilead Presbyterian Church Christmas Eve Pageant 10:00 a.m., Gilead Presbyterian Church 9 Church Street. Carmel. 845-225-4586 gilead@gileadchurch.org

Wednesday, December 27

New York Blood Center Blood Drive at Mahopac Public Library. 2 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Donate this year and help save a life. Walk-ins welcome. Call for information: 1-800-933-2566

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, 3 p.m. at the Kent Library. Wizards from ages 8-11 are invited to join us for a thoughtful discussion of the nineteen-years-later play, Complete with trivia questions and a Time-Turner craft, this

is a program you don't want to miss! Please read the book before the meeting! Costumes are, as always, encouraged, and registration is required. You may register for the program by going to www.kentlibrary.org or calling the Kent Public Library at 845-225-8585. The library is located at 17 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes.

Thursday, December 28

Kids Movie Day Come join us for a fun drop-off kid's movie! 11 a.m., - 1 p.m. Drinks and snacks will be served. For ages 6 and up. For more information or to register contact the Patterson Library at 845-878-6121 x10 or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org and click Calendar.

Sunday, December 31

Noon Year's Eve Celebrate the "noon" year at Patterson Library! 11 a.m., - 12:30 p.m. Get dressed up and join us for some dancing and tasty treats with games and more as we ring in the "noon" year! For more information or to register contact the Patterson Library at 845-878-6121 x10 or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org and click Calendar.

Children's New Year's Eve Party: Putnam Lake Volunteer Fire Department. A fun filled Children's Event from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Music, face painting, activities, snacks & dessert, apple juice toast & balloon drop at noon. For kids 12 and under- \$5 per child. Contact person: Lisa @ 914-469-2021 or www.PutnamLakeParkDistrict.com

Crossword Answers

1	B	2	A	3	S			4	M	5	A	6	C	7	E	8	S
9	E	V	E					10	A	11	S	A	R	U	L	E	
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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF NEW YORK SHITTY LLC. Articles of Org. filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on July 18, 2017. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail service of process (SOP) to UNITED STATES CORPORATION AGENTS, INC. @ 7014 13TH AVENUE, SUITE 202, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, 11228, UNITED STATES CORPORATION AGENTS, INC. is designated as agent for SOP at 7014 13TH AVENUE, SUITE 202, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, 11228. **Purpose: any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CORDOVA MANAGEMENT, LLC. ARTS. of Org. filed with SSNY on 11/08/17. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 1251 Wilson Road, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598. **Purpose: any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF 336 WASHINGTON AVENUE ASSOCIATES, LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of state of NY on 11/10/2017. Office loc:

Westchester. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to the principal business address: 336 Washington Ave., New Rochelle, NY 10801. **Purpose: any lawful acts.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: **Flaggers Unlimited Plus, LLC** Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/10/2017. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: **The LLC, 66 Leonardo Dr. North Haven, CT, principal business location of the LLC. Purpose: any lawful business activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF M. ELIA WELLNESS, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/01/17. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **M. Elia Wellness, LLC, P.O. Box 609, 1350 East Main Street, Shrub Oak, NY 10588 Purpose: For any legal purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF M. ELIA WELLNESS, NP IN ADULT HEALTH, PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/27/17. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **M. Elia Wellness, NP in Adult Health, PLLC, P.O. Box 609, 1350 East Main Street, Shrub Oak, NY 10588 Purpose: Practice the profession of Nurse Practitioner in Adult Health.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF BLOOM HAIR SALON LP. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/29/2017. Office loc. Westchester. SSNY designat-

ed as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail process to the principal business address: **Maria Katsoros, 305 Florence Street, Mamaroneck, NY 10543. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

Notice of formation of SIXTH BOROUGHS CLOTHING LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 10/10/2017. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **LEGALINC CORPORATE SERVICES INC. 1967 WEHRLE DRIVE, SUITE 1 #086, BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14221. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.**

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The Putnam
Examiner
Sports
Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports



'Liv'ing on the Edge!

Somers Duo Thrives on Perimeter in Win over Mahopac

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

Somers senior wing Liv Lipski (L) sank three 3's and teammate Dani DiCintio (4) hit five from downtown last Saturday afternoon when the Tuskers defeated Natalie Scanlon (21) and visiting Mahopac, 50-30, in the opening round of the Tuskers' Holiday tournament... see Girls' Hoops Notebook

Sports

Boys' Hoops Notebook

Section 1 Hoopers Shining Bright Despite County Cloud

Put Valley Win over Panas One for Ages; Somers Takes Out Mahopac

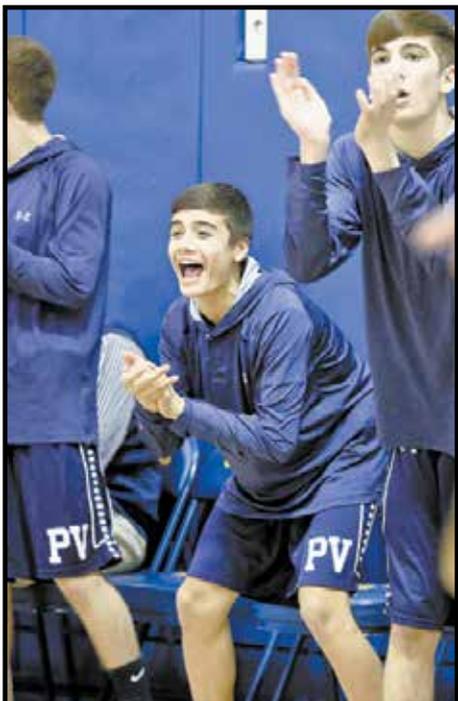
By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor
@Directrays

They can go all the way back to the dawn of PUTNAM VALLEY basketball, all the way back to the turn of the century, and they won't find a regular season game as good as the one the Tigers played last Wednesday against host WALTER PANAS, which came out on the shy side of an 88-79 triple overtime PV win.

Beastly PV junior F Darnel Shillingford and electric Panas senior G Brandon Hodge seemingly traded buckets throughout overtime until Shillingford's Tigers prevailed in what might be the wildest game of the young season. Shillingford dropped a career-best 39



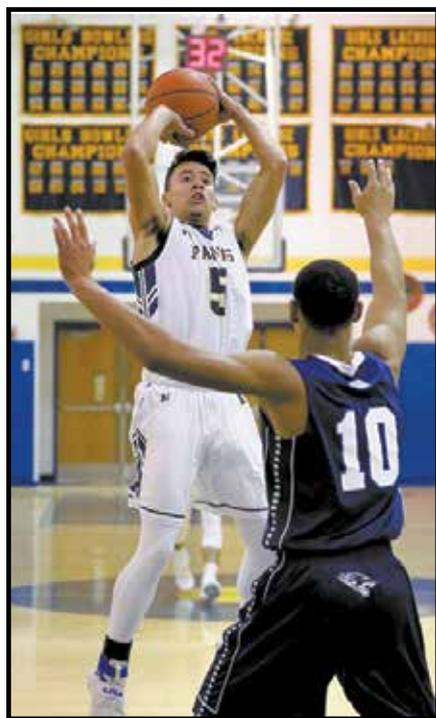
Put Valley F Darnel Shillingford powers up for two of his career-high 39 against Panas Brandon Ramos in Tigers triple OT win over Panthers.



Put Valley's Charlie Gatewood (L) and Adam Cekaj celebrate one of many wild moments in Tigers' triple OT win over Panas.

points while teammates TJ Brescia (14 points), John Millicker (11), Ryan Soto (12) and Brandon Guerra (13) were also clutch for the Tigers. The resilient Hodge went for a career-high 32 and Panther hotshot Brandon Ramos added 25 points before fouling out in OT.

Simply put, their will be a ton of great games like this one played this season despite the shroud of the County Center cloud that hovers. But kids like Shillingford, Hodge and hundreds of others continue to burst through the layers of cover and provide silver linings with games like this: In spite of the powers that be within Section 1 Executive Committee, which have epically failed the student athletes, fans and families



Panas' Brandon Ramos spots up against PV's Darnel Shillingford in Panthers' triple OT loss to Tigers last Wednesday.

throughout the section.

For those just tuning in, more than a dozen members of the Section 1 basketball tournament committees, including the boys' basketball chairman Roman Catalino, tendered their resignations this week in protest of Section 1's decision to move the boys' and girls' championships out of the institutional Westchester County Center, opting for Pace University



RAY GALLAGHER/RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

Put Valley players had plenty of cause to celebrate after Tigers' triple overtime win against Panas last Wednesday.

instead. No slight on Pace intended, but it's not the fabled County Center, home of the boys' Section 1 semis and finals since 1933, and girls since 1999.

With the list of those who have resigned from the Section 1 basketball committee swelling, the black cloud hovers over the student athletes, the very same kids we're sworn to serve. Big-wigs like Anthony Nicodemo, who is president of the boys' basketball coaches' association; girls' basketball Co-Chairman Dan Ricci, the Ossining coach; North Salem Coach and Athletic Director Henry Sassone, Tappan Zee Coach George Gaine; longtime respected committee member Dave Greiner; girls' committee member Eric Buzzetto, the North Salem coach, also resigned. These are men who held down the fort for years... all GONE!

In an effort to get a last-ditch resolution in their favor, the Coaches Associations for Section 1 high school Boys' and Girls' Basketball Programs have retained William P. Harrington, Esq. and the law firm of Bleakley Platt & Schmidt, LLP to represent them and their student athletes. The association hopes the retention of legal counsel will insure an open and honest conversation with Section 1 officials. A viable amicable solution exists to use both



Panas G Brandon Hodge was incredible with 32 points in triple OT loss to Ryan Soto and the Put Valley Tigers.

Pace University and the County Center for this year's tournaments, and they hope to prove that.

Their decisions to resign were preceded by an email sent last Tuesday afternoon by Section 1 President James Mackin, the Hendrick Hudson High School Principal, who has taken much of the whip and backlash for the executive committee. Makin, seen previously as a good man

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Sports

Boys' Hoops Notebook

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and solid administrator by those in the know, sent a message to Section 1 school superintendents announcing that Section 1's Executive Committee had reiterated its verdict to host the 2018 playoff semifinals at neutral sites and the finals at Pace.

Overall, by failing to get the County Center in play for the semis, we've failed our student athletes and those that love Section 1 basketball. As I sit back and watch, helplessly, as this travesty plays out, I could only thank my lucky stars for one thing: The black cloud will likely hover over Section 1 all season, but the games and the resilient athletes will push on and make the best of a bad situation. Still think some heads have got to roll on this, though...

AROUND the RIM: Shillingford was also unstoppable in the Tigers' 58-34



Hen Hud wing Mekhi Gray fires jumper in Sailors' loss to North Salem in opening round of Somers tourney.



Hen Hud F Kyle James gets ready to power up in Sailors' loss to a tough Class B North Salem club.



Hen Hud G Austin Fraser is clawed at as he drives the lane in Sailors' loss to North Salem last Thursday.

win over Edgemont, scoring 24 points and yanking 17 rebounds, but the Tigers played far beneath their own expectations in a 59-45 loss to visiting Briarcliff last Friday...

Ramos (25 points), Hodge (11) and Staino (12) were right back at it the next night for Panas in yet another 49-48 heartbreaking loss at Rye...

The dominoes began to fall in Class B last week. Putnam Valley will likely have its hands full with the likes of North Salem looking every bit the part of the favorites after winning the Somers Holiday Tournament last Saturday, besting a field of two Class A teams and one AA, including **SOMERS**, **HEN HUD** and **MAHOPAC**. Throw in a 59-45 PV loss to Briarcliff last Friday night, and truth be told, the Tigers are looking like the third or fourth best team in class at this point, depending on the legitimacy of Irvington, another Class B obstacle.

A betting man would be inclined to lay odds on North Salem after the Tigers' 67-58 first-round win over Hen Hud. Tiger 6'6" Baltimore transfer Kendrick Tchoua torched the Sailors for 24 points, 16 rebounds, six assists and two blocks, which was more than the Sailors could handle despite the efforts of senior G Dylan Fraser, who hit five 3s for 15 points while adding five assists and six boards...

Mahopac senior G Justin Parker had a career-high 28 points to go with five rebounds, five assists and two steals, but it wasn't enough in the Indians' 79-69 loss to Somers in the opening round last Saturday. That's because Somers wing Lorenzo Bicknese threw up 30 on the Indians and F Jack Gilroy added a career-high 20. Tusker Drew Lasher added a

career-high 12 off the bench and Lucas Fecci (11 points) was a fourth double-digit scorer for the Tuskers, who came up short in a 54-49 loss to Class A power Byram Hills earlier in the week...

LAKELAND sophomore Jack Kruse was at it again last Wednesday drilling 9-of-10 from behind the arc for a career-high 31 points in the Hornets' 73-69 win over Eastchester. This Kruse kid can play a little, huh? So can this Joey Vetrano kid, the sophomore who went for a career-high 28 in Lakeland's 65-56 loss to a quality Ardsley club.

In **PEEKSKILL's** 58-48 non-league win over Harrison Shion Darby dropped 30 points. Darby went out and dropped another 29 in the Red Devs' 81-72 win over White Plains in the opening round of the Harrison tourney

where teammates TJ Lawrence added 17. The Red Devils were also dropped by the host Huskies the next night by a 50-45 count to snag the tourney title. Red Devils Darby and Cyrious Ellis were named All-Tournament...

OSSINING started out 5-0, before falling to upstart John Jay-EE, 84-68. Pride F Jacob Toppin has been spinning and winning all season and added to his résumé with a sterling 30-point, nine-rebound effort in a losing cause... Guard play was the order of the day when Haldane got 18 points from Nick DiPalo and 16 from Alex Kubik to upend the Children's Village, 69-42...

Host **CROTON-HARMON** did not survive its first-round loss to Irvington in the Robert E. Mayclim tournament where the Tigers were bested by a solid



Panas' Kyle Denault hurries to get after Put Valley's Kevin Gallo in Panthers' triple OT loss to Tigers.

Irvington club, 57-42, despite 12 points and three rebounds from sophomore Sean Macarchuk. Miles Ackerman (4 points, 5 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals, 1 block) and Cal Colistra (8 points, 4 rebounds, 4 assists, 1 steal, 1 block) were also in on the action for the Tigers. In Croton's 64-47 win over O'Neill, Macarchuk showed why he is considered one of the purest shooters in Class B, dropping 26 points.

"Irvington showed why they are an early-season favorite to be in contention for the gold ball in Class B," Croton Coach Ben Martucci said. "We held the lead at halftime with a tremendous defensive effort but couldn't hold it."

NWE/PUTNAM Examiner Super 7

No.1 HEN HUD - The Sailors weren't going to survive North Salem with a sub-par game from both Mekhi Gray and Kyle James, but they still managed to lead through halftime and stuck like white on rice to the bitter end. Every team in this poll took at least one loss last week, and the top three all fell to legit title contenders.

No.1A SOMERS - When Bicknese is pulling for 30 and Gilroy is dropping 20, like the duo did against Mahopac, the Tuskers are pretty nice, but their non-league schedule is going to be a legit grind, which Byram Hills was.

No.3 PUT VALLEY - Guard play has to reach the next level if the Tigers are going to battle the Briarcliffs and North

Salems for Class B supremacy.

No.4 OSSINING - Jacob Toppin went for 30 points and nine boards in an 84-68 loss to John Jay EE, who appears to be on the verge of a historical season.

No.5 PANAS - A loss in triple OT to visiting Put Valley last Wednesday and a devastating buzzer-beater setback at the hands of visiting Rye the next night: Welcome home Coach Auerbach.

No.6 MAHOPAC - Gonna come down to grit, toughness and the want to change the culture. Without that, we're looking at another lackluster season.

No.7 LAKELAND - I'll take my chances rebuilding this program around Kruse and Vetrano.

Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook

Somers Handles Mahopac; Put Valley Wins Croton Tourney

By Tony Pinciario

Following a season-opening loss to perennial Section 1 power, Albertus Magnus, 2017 Section 1 Class A champion **SOMERS** has reeled off three consecutive wins.

Somers capped its week with a 50-30 victory over **MAHOPAC** in a Somers Tournament first-round game. The Tuskers will face Section 1 Class AA power, Ursuline, at a date and time to be determined as the first round of the tournament last Friday was snowed out and moved to Saturday.

Prior to the win over Mahopac, Somers handled Peekskill, 62-42.

"Albertus is a great team," senior Jackie Penzo said. "It was tough to play them the first game of the season, but the positives we took from that game is that we have to communicate better and to work together as a team rather than five individuals."

The Tuskers took control of the game against Mahopac, immediately. Somers led 20-7 after the first quarter.

"Dani DiCintio made five 3s and Liv Lipski hit three," Somers Coach Marc Hattem said. "We were very good defensively and we forced turnovers."

Tusker hotshot Hannah Angelini finished with a game-high 21 points in the victory over Peekskill.

"Any time you beat Peekskill it's a good day," Hattem said. "Hannah had a great day and really led us. Her hustle was incredible on the floor and for every loose ball. Hannah showed why she was



Put Valley freshman MVP Arianna Stockinger drives the lane for two in Tigers Croton tourney win over Dobbs Ferry.

the player of the year in our league last year and an all-section kid. Pooja Rao, a sophomore, finished with nine rebounds and I am excited about her progress."

Somers will now await the scheduling of the Ursuline game. Somers and Ursuline are among the elite of Section 1 girls' basketball programs.

"I believe it will be a very good game," Penzo said. "Ursuline has a lot of talented players. If our team follows through with the game plan and works hard during every play, we will have a great outcome."

One aspect of **PUTNAM VALLEY's** game is on point after three games: Its defense.

Putnam Valley opened the season 3-0 and won the Croton Tournament championship. In the Tigers' three wins, they allowed a total of 89 points – 49-35 over Westlake, 51-25 over Croton and 41-29 over Dobbs Ferry in the tourney final.

"Our defense has been unbelievable," Putnam Valley Coach Kristi Dini said. "The girls take so much pride in it and buy in every practice to prepare. The rotations, the help, the decision-making and the talk has been fun to watch."

Putnam Valley opened the season with the win over Westlake, despite the absence of point guard and 2017 All-Section selection, Kelli Venezia, who was sidelined with a nagging back injury.

Morgan Winogradoff led Putnam Valley



RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

Somers G Hannah Angelini drives the lane against Mahopac's Siobhan Hynes in Tuskers tourney win over Indians last Saturday.

with a game-high 17 points. Dora Rippon contributed 15 and Arianna Stockinger added 12.

Putnam Valley opened the Croton Tournament by doubling up the host behind a career-high 26 points from Rippon, who dazzled in front of a college scout in attendance. Winogradoff finished with 11 points and Stockinger chipped in with nine.

Venezia, in her second game back, finished with a team-leading 14 points in the championship game against Dobbs. Rippon was selected to the all-tournament team and Stockinger, who led the lockdown defense, was named most valuable player.

"I'm just so proud of Arianna," Dini said. "She is only a freshman and she's shutting down upperclassmen and the top kid on every team we've played while scoring double digits and playing multiple positions for us."

OSSINING improved to 5-1 on the season following



Somers' Danielle DiCintio (R) and Mahopac's Zina McInerney get after it in Tuskers' tourney win over Indians last Saturday.



Mahopac's Zina McInerney works the floor against the defense of Somers' Danielle DiCintio in Tusker win over Indians.

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Sports

Girls' Hoops Notbook

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A healthy Kelli Venezia was welcomed back to the Tiger lineup by Putnam Valley Coach Kristi Dini last weekend.



Put Valley All-Tourney F Dora Rippon goes for two points in Tigers romp of Dobbs Ferry in Croton tournament Saturday.

victories over Dobbs Ferry, 96-55, and Scarsdale, 104-52. Prior to the Dobbs Ferry game, Ossining also handled Class AA rival, North Rockland, 88-51.

The Pride is averaging 82.5 points per game, led by Aubrey Griffin. The junior has shown no ill effects from the knee injury that sidelined her for her sophomore year. Griffin is pouring in 23 points per game

and is also averaging seven rebounds and 3.5 steals a game.

Griffin scored a game-high 26 points and Harris added 21 points and 11 rebounds against Dobbs Ferry. Kelsey Quain chipped in 19 points while Alyssa Aurora collected 10 rebounds and Jaida Strippoli had 10 assists.

Ossining rang up 45 points in the first quarter on its way to cracking the century mark in points against Scarsdale.

Griffin finished with 36 points while Quain and Harris each had 24 points. Helen Ishmael led Ossining with 11 rebounds, Strippoli handed out 13 assists and Julia Iorio scored a season-best 11 points.

Ossining played Flowery Branch (Ga.), Monday, at the KSA Holiday Tournament in Orlando, Fla. Ossining will also play Tuesday and Wednesday, against yet-to-be-determined opponents.

MAHOPAC has split four games through the first two weeks of the season. The Indians have victories over Clarkstown South, 48-43, and Mount Vernon, 44-39, while falling to PANAS, 44-36, and Somers, 50-30.

"Defensively, we played well, especially on the boards," said Mahopac coach Chuck Scozzafava of the Clarkstown South game. "I thought our girls boxed out well. Offensively, I felt we played more consistently and in sync. And we hit our shots.

"Against Mount Vernon, we played a good defensive game," he added. "I was pleased with the play of my young girls off the bench, also. Offensively, I thought we played pretty well. I was glad of how we were able to score off of their press. The team is coming along and making positive gains."

Claire Felix led Mahopac with 14 points and Zina McInerney added 10 points against Clarkstown South. Siobhan Hynes and Katie McDonough had nine points apiece, though the fiery McDonough was lost for the year with a significant leg injury that will likely sideline her for the 2018 lacrosse season. Felix went for 26 points against Mahopac and McInerney contributed 10 points.

Claire Felix scored 14 points and

Siobhan Hynes registered 11 in the loss to Panas.

"It was a close game, although Panas did open up a 13-point lead in the third quarter," Scozzafava said. "We got it to one, but they hit a 3 and it was back and forth the rest of the game. I was pleased on how the girls came back after being down by 13. They made the shots down the stretch and we didn't."

PANAS then went on to suffer consecutive losses to Tappan Zee, 66-53, and Class AA John Jay EF, 43-39. Tappan Zee went up 20-6 and Panas could not come all the way back, despite cutting the lead to six twice. Danielle Merante led Panas with 28 points and freshman Kristen Cinquina added 15. Merante and Cinquina had 11 points apiece in the loss to the Patriots.

HEN HUD took advantage of a huge first quarter to defeat Yorktown, 51-37.

The Lady Sailors outscored Yorktown, 19-3, in the opening quarter.

Sophomore Caitlin Weimar and freshman Grace Moretti each went 6 of 11 from the field and finished with 15 points. Weimar also had 12 rebounds.

Moretti also had four rebounds and five assists and Chloe Stewart added six points and three steals.

CARMEL's Clair Cody had another



Mahopac's Claire Felix goes up for two against the defense of Somers Liv Lipski in the Indians' opening-round loss to Tuskers in Somers tourney.

killer game in the Rams' 62-27 win over Port Chester, finishing with 32 points, 15 boards, six steals and six assists. Cody is averaging over 20 a game and has become a walking double-double this year. Khadijah Johnson added 11 points for the improving Rams.

Pulice Forces Mahopac Past Somers, Nets Hat Hat Trick



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Mahopac F Gianfranco Pulice scored three goals and set up another in the Indians' 6-2 win over Somers/North Salem last Sunday night at the Brewster Ice Arena. Brandon Laspina scored both goals for the Sabers. "The team worked hard as a group and made a lot of good things happen," Mahopac Coach Tim Donaghy said.

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

Putnam Valley freshman Arianna Stockinger showed the poise of a seasoned veteran in the Tigers 41-29 championship win over Dobbs Ferry in Croton's annual Mayclim Tournament last Saturday night when Stockinger dropped 12 points and balled-out defensively to secure tourney MVP honors. The unbeaten Tigers (3-0) also defeated host Croton, 51-25.