

**Year in
Review
2017**
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December 26, 2017 - January 1, 2018

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 9, Issue 457



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from the
staff of
Examiner
Media

Friction Deepens in Carmel School System

By David Propper

Following the disappointing results of the capital bond referendum earlier this month, the Carmel Board of Education is looking to offer a scaled down bond proposition sometime next year.

The administration and school board discussed what items to include in the next bond vote that could be held early next year. Carmel Superintendent

of Schools Andy Irvin said one recommendation is to only have the roofs repaired to a certain extent and the building of a bus garage in the new proposition. During the school board meeting at Mathew Paterson Elementary School it was stressed the roofs and new bus garage are the most necessary fixes

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DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

From left to right, school board vice president Richard Kreps, board president Greg Riley, and school chief Andy Irvin.

Costco 'Absolutely Committed' to Patterson Crossing Site

By David Propper

Costco made it clear last Monday that it's coming to the Town of Patterson no matter what.

That was the overarching message during a meeting with Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell, developer Paul Camarda of Patterson Crossing LLC, Patterson Supervisor Rich Williams, Kent Supervisor Maureen Fleming and

Costco representative Ernest Annibale. During the nearly hour long meeting on the third floor of the county office building, Annibale of Northwest Atlantic (that owns Costco) stressed Costco had every intention of opening a store at the Patterson Crossing Retail Center site, even if it meant waiting out litigation that's holding up the mega store's arrival.

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DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

There was a meeting last week that included Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell, developer Paul Camarda, Patterson Supervisor Rich Williams, Kent Supervisor Maureen Fleming and Costco representative Ernest Annibale about the Patterson Crossing project.

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Friction Deepens in Carmel School System

continued from page 1

that need to be pursued. If a bond for the new roofs is voted through, it's unlikely the work would be done in 2018, district officials said.

Two bond propositions that totaled more than \$85 million failed on Dec. 11 with about 65 percent of voters turning down the capital projects that would have made sweeping improvements and changes across the district.

School board member Tara DeTurris said she wants infrastructure fixes done completely rather than piecemeal. She doesn't want instructional development and programs cut from the annual budget in order to pay for the building repairs.

"Especially with new construction you don't want to do it halfway, you want to do it right the first time," DeTurris said.

Board member Michelle Yorio said she wants to see the buildings become ADA compliant for students with physical handicaps. She also argued that libraries and fields in the district need to be upgraded. Yorio warned that if the district needs to do emergency work on the buildings, it'll end up costing more money in the long run.

School board member John Curzio said he heard from residents that they

were concerned about the property in Kent the school district was planning on purchasing for the new bus depot because it would be taken off the tax rolls. Currently Kent is getting \$22,000 in tax revenue from that property.

Board vice president Richard Kreps said he was skeptical that the land for the proposed bus garage would ever be developed for commercial use and didn't think \$22,000 was a lot of money for the town to lose out on. Other board members said even if the district finds another piece of land, it'll come off Kent's or another municipality's property tax rolls. Additionally, the bus garage is currently in an untenable place, board members noted.

The board will open itself to more public input about a new bond during the first meeting in January and then vote for another bond referendum during the second meeting later that month.

A few residents slammed Curzio's method of campaigning against the referendum and some residents admonished him for fighting against the propositions all together.

Stormville resident Susan McIntyre, a capital project committee member, said the community needs to invest in the school system so people are drawn to

live in the district. She said she found it "really disturbing" that Curzio put a lot of effort into convincing voters to oppose the bond.

Carmel resident Donna Stenger said excellent schools actually improve home values and New York State would have provided financial aid to the district for the projects if the bonds passed. She said the people against the propositions sent out misinformation that people referred to when voting against it.

"It would have placed Carmel Central School District on the map," Stenger said of the previous bond propositions.

Curzio stressed he supported the students "110 percent" and simply has a different point of view on how the schools can succeed. He defended his actions leading up into the race.

Kent resident Dennis Illuminate said the cost of the bond was too high. He defended Curzio, saying anyone should be allowed to voice their opinion on a matter and convey it to other people.

Kent resident Edward Harf said it was "preposterous" people were upset over Curzio vocally fighting against the bond and board members should be allowed to have their own opinions. He said higher taxes from the bond proposal would have resulted in the value of homes in the area

decreasing.

"Eighty-five million could sink this town because people don't want to live in a town that has super high taxes," Harf said.

East Fishkill resident Jason Paraskeva said he thinks the school system could've done a better job explaining the proposal to voters and disseminating information and numbers better.

At times, decorum at the meeting deteriorated. Kent resident Eric Mittelstadt, a former school trustee, angrily shouted at Curzio because he accused him of putting a flier against the bond in his mailbox. There was crosstalk and interruptions between residents that got up to speak. Kreps and Curzio bickered over their age difference ("You're 20, I'm 64, I've been around a long time," Kreps told Curzio) and Kreps even impersonated Curzio at one point. Board members also chastised Curzio for writing on social media that the board spends endlessly like an American Express card with Curzio sticking up for the swipe against the rest of the board.

"I don't mind that we don't agree and we don't agree on a lot of things," Yorio told Curzio, with DeTurris cutting in and telling Curzio, "We don't agree on anything."



Ask the Doctor

Elisa E. Burns, MD, FACOG

Director, Quality & Outcomes
Institute for Robotic &
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Sex Trafficking Arrest Takes Place in Brewster

By Anna Young

A Montrose woman was arrested Tuesday for the sex trafficking of a 17-year-old girl that took place in Brewster, following a multi-agency investigation.

According to Joon H. Kim, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, Jennifer Coviello, 43, pressured the minor to engage in commercial sex acts for Coviello's profit and introduced the teen to illegal drugs.

Following an investigation conducted by the FBI's Westchester County Safe Streets Task Force, with assistance from the Putnam County Sheriff's Department, Coviello was found operating her sex trade out of a Brewster motel for roughly one week in early December.

According to the complaint filed in White Plains federal court, Coviello allegedly posted advertisements of herself and the minor online, sending nude and partially nude photos of the teen to those who inquired. She arranged for customers to meet her and the victim in exchange for cash and told customers the girl was 19-years-old.

Coviello and the victim also used heroin together during their weeklong motel stay, the complaint said.

"Today's arrest takes an allegedly dangerous woman off the street and is a testament to the continued cooperation between our federal and local law enforcement partners to combat the exploitation of children in our communities," Kim said.

Charges include one count of sex

trafficking of a minor, which carries a maximum sentence of life in prison and a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years. She is also charged with one count of use of interstate facilities to promote a prostitution enterprise, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison.

"My office is grateful to the U.S. Attorney's Office and the FBI for their diligent work in helping to put an end to this deplorable case, stopping the victimization of a young woman and bringing the perpetrator to justice," Sheriff Don Smith said in the press release. "This case is yet another example of how effective law enforcement can be when local agencies, the FBI, and the U.S. Attorney's Office all work together to fight crime and to help keep Putnam

County and the Hudson Valley safe."

Coviello was convicted of petit larceny in May and released in October, during which time a court issued an order of protection for the young girl, the complaint said. Coviello has allegedly been soliciting prostitution customers for herself and the teen victim since 2015.

The Office's White Plains Division is handling the case. Assistant United States Attorney Jacqueline Kelly is in charge of the prosecution.

"There are simply no words to express how despicable human behavior can be at times, and in law enforcement we see a lot of laws in human behavior," said FBI Assistant Director-in-Charge William F. Sweeney Jr. "But for a woman to allegedly sell an underage girl for sex is too much to understand."

LoBue's Tenure Comes to a Close on Legislature

By David Propper

Last Wednesday was the final legislative meeting for longtime Legislator Dini LoBue.

After losing her most recent election bid to Mahopac resident Amy Sayegh, LoBue will depart from the governing body once 2018 begins. The Mahopac resident was often a voice of dissent against the rest of the legislature and County Executive MaryEllen Odell's

initiatives.

During her final meeting, Legislature Chairwoman Ginny Nacerino presented LoBue with a plaque thanking her for her dedicated service.

"We wish you the best of luck on your future endeavors," Nacerino told LoBue. "As you move forward on your life's journey."

LoBue's message to constituents in a statement to The Putnam Examiner was

short and sweet.

"As my term in office comes to an end I would like to thank the people of Putnam County," LoBue said. "It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as your Mahopac representative. I will continue to communicate with you and hope to see you in the future."

Nacerino also noted this would be her last meeting as chairperson. After serving for two years as the leader of



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO
Legislators Dini LoBue (right) and Ginny Nacerino at the last legislative meeting of the year.

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A Look Back At The Year It Was In Putnam County

By David Propper

January

The Putnam County Legislature began the New Year by replacing a longtime fixture of the lawmaking body. Legislative Counsel Clement Van Ross was ousted by the legislature when most lawmakers voted to rescind a 2015 resolution that appointed him counsel for three years, effectively ending his decades-long tenure

with county government. He threatened to sue the county, but didn't follow through. Robert Firriolo was named the new legislative counsel later in the year... Ginny Nacerino was appointed legislature chairwoman, making her the first woman to lead the legislature two years in a row... In a move that sent shockwaves across the region, New York State and Entergy announced Indian Point nuclear plant in Northern Westchester would be closed by

2021. The power plant supplies electricity to several million homes and businesses and provides hundreds of jobs to residents in the Lower Hudson Valley... Patterson resident and perpetual Putnam sheriff candidate Andrew DeStefano's conviction for filing forged nominating petitions in 2009 was overturned and vacated by a state appellate court. DeStefano, a former NYPD captain, said he felt "born again" after the ruling came down in his favor... Putnam Visitor's Bureau board chairman Barney Molloy, a Cold Spring resident, was arrested and accused of stealing newspapers from a local merchant on the village's main street.

in a surveillance video seemingly hitting the prisoner after he was subdued. The indictment was thrown out at one point and then was reinstated. The Orange County District Attorney's Office handled the case because current District Attorney Robert Tendy recused his office from the prosecution... Former Carmel Police cop Richard O'Keefe pleaded guilty to one count of criminally negligent homicide stemming from a case where he allegedly drove drunk and crashed into another car on Route 6, leading to one person's death. O'Keefe was later sentenced to one year in county jail.



The Putnam County Legislature in 2017, led by Chairwoman Ginny Nacerino.

February

Paul Boscia, following in the footsteps of the late Peter Convery, began his term as Putnam undersheriff. Sheriff Don Smith named Boscia, a former sergeant in the department, to the position after Convery died suddenly in 2016... Former treasurer for the Patterson Volunteer Fire Department, Albert Melin, was sentenced to 33 months in prison for stealing more than \$1 million from the department. Melin pleaded guilty in 2016 and was handed down the sentence in federal court in White Plains. The stolen money

March

Chaos ensued in Carmel when town property owners finally received their new tax assessments following a town wide tax reevaluation. Hundreds of residents came out to voice their intense anger and disapproval toward the tax reassessment, complaining their taxes would increase too sharply. Town board members defended the process for the most part and noted many people saw the taxes on their property decrease or remain level. While there was talk of delaying the implementation of the new tax assessments, the town assessor



Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy (back row) retained his seat barely against challenger Alison Anthoine (front row, right).

was recuperated by the department through its insurance company... Former sheriff's investigator Patrick Castaldo's police brutality case came to close when he pleaded guilty to harassment in the 2nd degree and was sentenced to conditional discharge. Castaldo was originally charged with a felony and two misdemeanors by former district attorney Adam Levy stemming from a 2014 incident where a shackled prisoner went for a former investigator's gun and Castaldo prevented it, but then was seen

decided to forge ahead with certifying the revaluation... Ex-treasurer of the Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department Michael Klein pleaded guilty to charges connected to the embezzlement of the department's funds. Klein was accused of stealing more than \$5 million from the department over 13 years. The theft, which only involved Klein, has resulted in a tense relationship between the department and the Carmel town board... Bruce Conklin

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A Look Back At The Year It Was In Putnam County

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was named Visitor's Bureau director. He took over for interim director Frank Smith, who took the reins after former New York first lady Libby Pataki resigned following scandal... Former Mahopac Chamber CEO Erin Meagher was arrested on a charge of grand larceny. She was accused of using the Mahopac chamber's credit card to purchase personal items, including an Ivanka Trump shoes... Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy eked out a close win to retain his seat against challenger Alison Anthoine. The vote on Election Day in the village was too close to call, but Merandy pulled through after absentees were counted to win by 23 votes.

April

The Philipstown town board, in front of a packed house of divided residents, voted in a 3-2 decision to make the town a sanctuary town following the election of Republican Donald Trump. The status, heavily debated, prohibits town officials from helping federal agents in illegal immigration cases unless compelled by a judicial order... The New York State budget passed, even though a few days late, with local state senators Terrence Murphy and Sue Serino voting in favor of it, Assemblywoman Sandy Galef voting for it, and Assemblyman Kevin Byrne voting against it... The only murder in Putnam County all year took place near the end of the month when Mahopac resident Perla Gatchalian was killed by her daughter's father-in-law, according to Carmel Police. Gatchalian was shot once, according to police, by Filippo



Roger Ailes, who died at 77, lived in Garrison.

Buffone in her daughter's Mahopac home. Buffone ended up committing suicide as authorities were closing in on him.

May

Sheriff Don Smith's quest for another term in office started when he was endorsed overwhelmingly over challenger Andrew DeStefano at the GOP convention. Endorsing Smith was oddly enough, former sheriff candidate and past critic of Smith, Kevin McConville... Putnam Visitor's Bureau board chairman Barney Molloy's case in which he was charged with stealing copies of The New York Times from a local business in Cold Spring was dismissed... Roger Ailes, the past CEO of Fox News and Garrison resident, died at the age of 77. Ailes was a controversial figure in Putnam and owned two local newspapers. He was supposed to donate money to a senior center in Cold Spring and have his name affixed to the center, but that never materialized after he was accused of sexual harassment at Fox News... Erin Meagher, former Mahopac chamber CEO, pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor after she was accused of stealing from the chamber. She refused to resign her trustee position in Brewster, but never showed up to another meeting after she admitted wrongdoing. At the start of each meeting for months, her fellow board members would call on her to step down.

June

Tilly's Table at Tilly Foster Farm opened at the start of the month after the county poured more than \$1 million into the farm property... The first ever female sergeant was appointed in the Town of Carmel's police department. Carmel resident Laura Smith broke a glass ceiling when she was named to the position by chief Michael Cazzari... What could only be described as an absolute bombshell, Sheriff Don Smith admitted he told the public untruths about former district attorney Adam Levy's conduct in a rape investigation. In 2013, after the rape



Former treasurer of the Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department seen Michael Klein with his wife after he was sentenced to 6 years in prison in federal court.

arrest of Alexandru Hossu (later found innocent), Smith alleged in press releases Levy interfered with the investigation and knowingly harbored an illegal immigrant, but retracted those statements at the conclusion of Levy's defamation lawsuit against Smith. The county paid Levy \$125,000 and Smith personally paid \$25,000 to Levy, leading to outrage in the county. Former sheriff investigator Robert Langley announced his bid for the top cop spot soon after the revelations came out about Smith's untruths... Former Mahopac fire department treasurer Michael Klein was sentenced to more than 6 years in prison for convictions connected to his \$5 million theft of fire department funds.

July

The Putnam County Legislature voted down a proposed Patrolman Benevolent Association contract for sheriff office personnel, leading to anger among the rank and file in the department. The legislature stonewalled the deal unanimously, calling it fiscally unsustainable... Mahopac Superintendent of Schools Dr. Dennis Creedon announced he'd be leaving the district once his contract expired at the end of the school year. A new school chief

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Pet Of The Week



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A Look Back At The Year It Was In Putnam County

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is expected to be found by early 2018... A proposed recreation center in Putnam Valley was voted down by referendum. The \$3.8 million bond would have been paid off over many years, but voters in town decided the proposition was too costly and the center wasn't necessary... Former NYPD captain Andrew DeStefano, vying

for the sheriff's office, was bounced off the ballot for a September primary against Sheriff Don Smith. Over the next month DeStefano and the Board of Election battled back and forth, with DeStefano ultimately staying off the ballot... Sheriff Smith was admitted to the ICU with heart problems, but was expected to make a full recovery.



Mahopac resident Amy Sayegh after her big GOP primary day win.



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August

The suspect of the Garrison Garage murder, Anthony Grigoroff was convicted again for the slaying of former Philipstown resident John Marcinak. Grigoroff was found guilty once in 2009, but on appeal was granted another trial. District Attorney Robert Tendy personally tried the case and saw that Grigoroff was sentenced to at least 25 years behind bars.

September

A new commissioner for the county's Bureau of Emergency Services was named after the retirement of Tony Sutton. Kenneth Clair, a longtime Brewster resident and firefighter, was named the new EMS chief, being promoted from his deputy commissioner position... Two local Republican primaries for town board saw success for political newcomers. Promising change for Carmel, Mahopac businessman Michael Barile was the top vote getter in the three-way primary to secure one of the two spots on the general election ballot. Incumbent Republican Suzi McDonough came in second, getting past Councilman Frank Lombardi, who will be leaving the town board at the end of the year. In the Patterson town board GOP primary for two seats, newcomer

Mary Smith was the top vote getter and current Councilman Peter Dandreano won against local businessman Joe Capasso... The biggest shocker from primary day was three-term legislator Dini LoBue losing to challenger Amy Sayegh in the GOP contest. Sayegh was the endorsed candidate against LoBue, who has been the sole voice of dissent on the legislature... The entire zoning board of appeals in the Town of Kent resigned from their positions after clashing with the town board and receiving backlash from community members after they made a ruling that allowed an unpopular concrete plant to operate along Route 52. The ZBA remains barren as of this week and residents remain peeved at the concrete plant nearby.

October

Perhaps the most disturbing news piece of the year occurred when the sheriff's office arrested a Brewster High School instructor for allegedly having sexual interaction with a female high school student, who was a minor. Christopher Vlangas, 41, was arrested on rape charges. An investigation into the allegations began

continued on next page



The chaotic scene of absentee counting following Election Day.

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continued from previous page

at the start of the month with Vlangas, 41, eventually taken into custody... It was thought the legal drama between ex-district attorney Adam Levy and Sheriff Don Smith was over, but that wasn't the case. Levy filed legal action to seek liquidated damages from Smith because Levy's legal team claims Smith and his attorney made disparaging remarks about Levy when explaining why the two settled Levy's defamation case in June... The Putnam County Legislature adopted the county budget for 2018, including a sizable pay hike for themselves. Legislators, in a 6-3 vote, approved giving themselves a \$5,000 salary bump, going from almost \$36,000 annually to earning almost \$41,000 yearly.

November

In one of the most shocking election results Putnam County has ever seen, Democrat Robert Langley beat Republican incumbent Sheriff Don Smith by a slim margin for the office of sheriff. Langley, a former sheriff's investigator, eked out the victory by less than 350 votes against the 16-year incumbent. The election wasn't called until absentee votes were counted a



Robert Langley



Don Smith

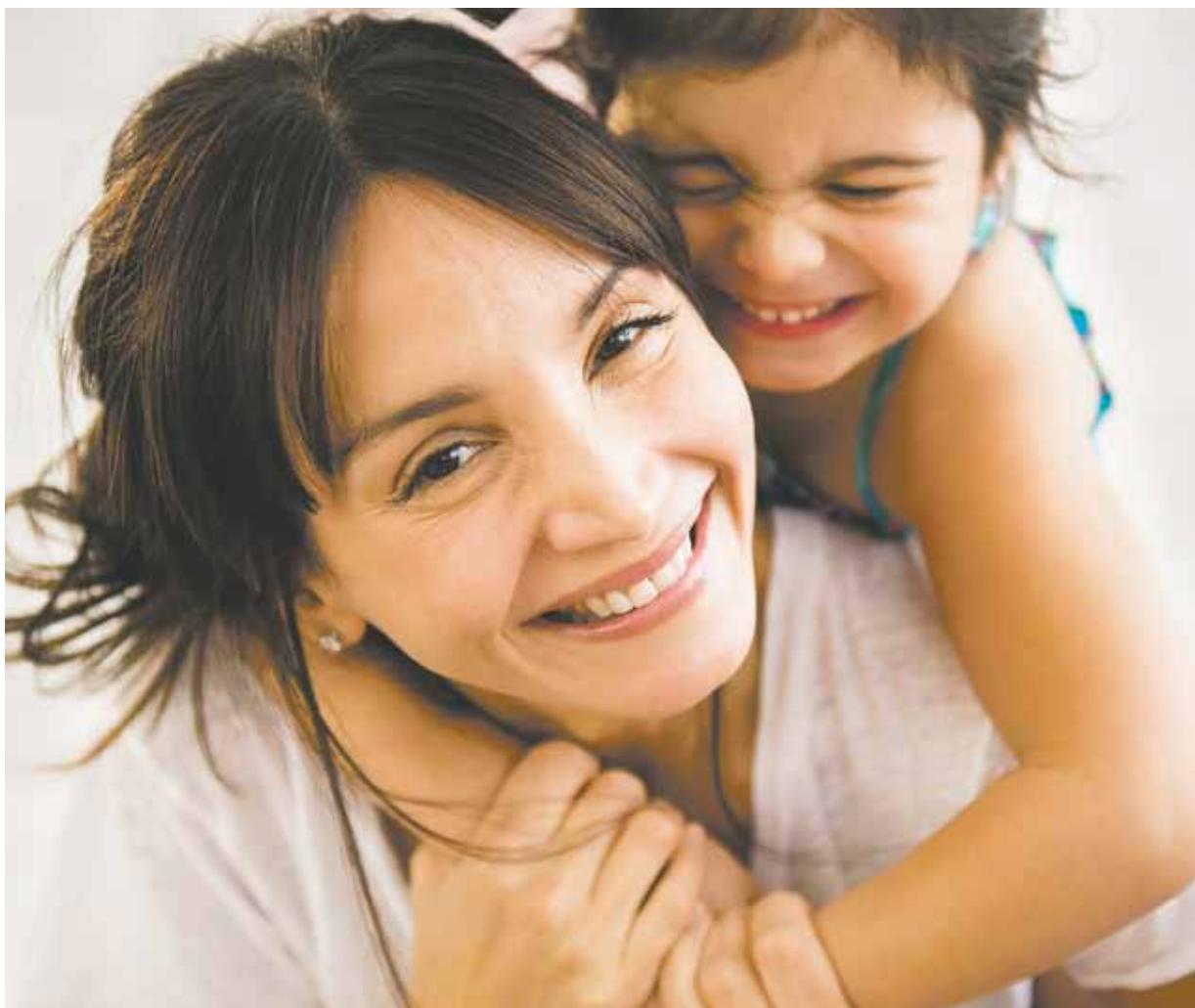
week after Election Day. It's the first time in decades a Democrat won a countywide race. While most incumbents on the town board and legislature won their races, another election upset occurred when Democrat John Lord topped Republican incumbent Robert Cullen for a seat on the Southeast town board. Lord's race also went to absentee votes, and he won by just 27 votes... All six town budget proposed in the county were approved and remained under the tax cap... It was announced the decision whether to erect a controversial

cell tower in Nelsonville would be delayed until January. Originally, the deadline was Dec. 15, but it was agreed by the applicant and village zoning board to push it off until the start of next year.

December

A \$85.6 million bond put forth by the Carmel school district failed with 65 percent of voters turning down proposition A and 68 percent of voters going against proposition B. The capital project bond was meant to make sweeping

repairs, renovations, and improvements across the school system... County Executive MaryEllen Odell signed a resolution that gave Putnam County the green light to sue big pharmaceutical companies, accusing them of causing the opioid crisis in the county. The county Legislature voted 8-0 to approve the litigation as Putnam joins other counties in hopes of recuperating money from the big pharma companies that's been spent on the drug epidemic and possibly getting them to change their practices.



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Sex Abuse Victims Press Murphy to Back Longer Statute of Limitations

By Martin Wilbur

Childhood sex abuse survivors and their advocates pressured state Sen. Terrence Murphy (R-Yorktown) earlier this month to support the Child Victims Act that would expand the criminal and civil statute of limitations so victims can seek justice.

New Yorkers Against Hidden Predators assembled outside Murphy's district office in Shrub Oak on Dec. 13 in hopes that he can convince the senator to urge Majority Leader John Flanagan to release the bill out of committee for a vote.

"We are asking that the members of the Senate finally pass the Child Victims Act for the purpose of knowing where these predators are in the state of New York," said Marci Hamilton, a leading expert on child sex abuse statutes of limitations. "Right now, the members who are blocking this bill are actually aiding and abetting child predators."

Under the proposed bill, the criminal statute of limitations on sexual abuse

offenses would be extended from five to 10 years and allow for civil lawsuits to be filed until the victim is 50 years old. Current law prohibits the filing of a suit after victims turn 23, Hamilton said.

The bill would also allow for a one-year window for anyone to file a civil claim regardless of age.

Sexual abuse victims and a few advocates have stepped up their effort to zero in on state senators that have not pledged support for the bill. During the past 14 years, the Child Victims Act has been approved in the Democratic-controlled Assembly five times, including before the end of the last session; however, it has never come to the Senate floor for a vote, said Steve Jimenez, a victim who participated in last week's announcement.

Without the law, victims and advocates have argued they and others are barred from seeking justice because it can take years before a childhood victim has the courage to speak up.

"Gov. Cuomo has expressed the

support of this bill but the Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan has continued to block this bill," Jimenez said. "He has not allowed this bill to the floor for a vote. We need to know where Sen. Murphy stands on this because by not taking a stand on this bill, Sen. Murphy is protecting predators."

A spokesman for Murphy released a statement, which reiterated the senator's concerns regarding due process with the provision for the one-year unlimited look-back period to file civil litigation. However, he indicated his support for a bill that extends the statute of limitations.

"To the victims of childhood sexual abuse: we believe you," Murphy's statement read. "We support you. You're not alone, and while you are dealing with something terrible, legislators are looking at solutions. You are trailblazers, and we are going to fight to lengthen the statute of limitations for the future to protect all New Yorkers."

Bob Hoatson, co-founder of Road to Recovery, a New Jersey-based nonprofit

organization that helps childhood sex abuse victims, was one member of the group who expressed dismay at how New York has among the weakest laws on the books in protecting the public, and children in particular, from predators.

He said approving the bill would shine a brighter light on the problem in New York, especially at a time where the issue of sexual abuse and harassment has gained extensive exposure.

"We're looking to help people whose souls were murdered by predators to regain their lives," Hoatson said. "So, we're asking Sen. Murphy today to get off your duff and pass this bill."

"This is obviously now a national issue and we're looking to protect children especially, as well as women out there, from sexual predators," said Richard Tollner, who is also a victim. "I can't fathom a reason for any senator, let alone Sen. Murphy, to not meet to address this issue and serve his constituency by asking this to come to a vote and to ask Sen. Flanagan to call for a vote."

Costco 'Absolutely Committed' to Patterson Crossing Site

continued from page 1

Two Patterson residents, Harry Hitner and Michele Sweig, filed a legal action to thwart the project in 2016 after a gas station was added to the plans, but a judge ruled against them and in favor of Town of Patterson governing boards and Patterson Crossing LLC. The attorney representing the residents, Jim Bacon, has until late January to appeal the 40-page decision and possibly prolong the legal battle. Camarda said he's confident Patterson Crossing and the town would win any appeal and he would even consider a settlement with the neighbors suing to move the project ahead. Bacon could not be reached for comment before press time.

As this litigation plays itself out, Costco waits. Camarda hopes to see a shovel in the ground by spring 2018 if the legal drama ends soon.

"We are absolutely committed to this

site and there is no other site," Annibale said. "This is the site we intend to do and we're going to stick it out until it's done."

Annibale said a year and a half ago, Costco was approached by developers about building a store in Fishkill and there were conversations with them. But ultimately Annibale and Costco decided against it and it was never under serious consideration.

Camarda explained the fight to get Costco into Putnam--which he called "one of the best companies in America"--has been long and strenuous. He recalled he and his wife brought their daughter, young enough to be carried in his arms at the time, to a public hearing for the project around 2005. Now, that same daughter is a sophomore in college. He said he bought the property for \$3 million and has invested \$15 million in it over 15 years.

Two others stores, TJ Maxx and HomeGoods have committed to the site.

'We are absolutely committed to this site and there is no other site.' -
Costco Representative Ernest Annibale

Camarda said he expects to reach a deal for another store similar to Costco's size by early next year.

Odell said the county needs a destination store that will keep residents shopping in Putnam instead of traveling to Connecticut and also draw people from the surrounding region. She called Costco an "anchor." While Odell noted the importance of small businesses in the area, bigger stores and companies are a necessity going forward.

"Nail salons and dry cleaners no longer are what we want in supporting our economic development," Odell said. "This county is poised to do some great economic things that will create stability."

While Williams stated the project would be highly beneficial to his town, Fleming was more skeptical. She said during the meeting that Kent doesn't reap the same benefits as Patterson, but would require Kent to expend more resources toward the Patterson Crossing site like emergency services.

"That's a concern," Fleming said, adding later she hopes Costco is a "good neighbor."

Fleming said there are some residents that have reservations about the mass of the building and lighting, as well as the gas station that'll go in.

Camarda agreed with Fleming that Kent wouldn't benefit the same way Patterson would, but pointed out the Carmel school system, which encompasses all of Kent, is the biggest winner with the tax revenue it'll receive. The sales tax the county would pull in is substantial, he noted.

He also argued that by a reputable company coming to Putnam, it'll lead to other well-known businesses gravitating to the county.

"We're back on the map as a county, we're moving again," Camarda said.

Annibale downplayed any issues the massive project could have in the community. Annibale said most concerns would not be found once the store is opened because the site is well designed and most of the traffic would come from the interstate.

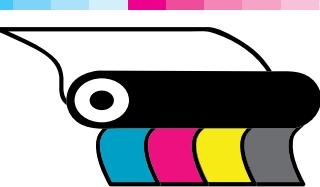
"People will be shopping at Costco and loving it," Annibale said. "And a lot of the early concerns will dissipate."

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Putnam Accepting Apps for PILOT Internship Program

Putnam County students can apply for paid and unpaid summer internships in county government through the Putnam Invests in Leaders of Tomorrow (PILOT) Program as of Dec. 1. Now entering its fifth year, the concept of the PILOT Program was first introduced by County Executive MaryEllen Odell and continues to be supported by the Putnam County Legislature.

"I am so proud of the PILOT Program. Our interns work on real projects and are able to get a genuine sense of what it is like to work in one of the 25 county departments," said Odell. "By having the interns, we are investing in the future

workforce of the county government and may inspire some of these youths to potentially be community leaders or county officials, right here in Putnam, later in their lives."

Since its inception, hundreds of Putnam County youth have participated in the PILOT program.

Eligible participants must be Putnam County residents who are graduate, college, or high school students in their junior or senior year. Applicants must be at least 16 years of age. For college students a GPA of 3.0 or higher is recommended.

The 2018 Summer PILOT program will run from May through August,

depending on student availability. Internship hours, are typically 28 hours a week, and will be coordinated with Department supervisors.

Online filing instructions are posted on the Putnam County website at www.putnamcountyny.com. The application consideration deadline for students is Wednesday, January 31, 2018.

For more information, contact Putnam



County Personnel, Adriene Iasoni at 845-808-1650 ext. 46625 or adriene.iasoni@putnamcountyny.gov.

Holiday Hazards: How to Protect Your Pets

Holidays are a time for friends, family, and fun - not an emergency trip to the vet! Brook Farm Veterinary Center in Patterson warns pet owners to watch out for your furry friends this season with a few simple reminders.

The holiday menu is a veritable minefield of hazards for our pets, and everything is tempting for a curious cat or dog. Chocolate, alcohol, onions, and garlic are just a few of the many human foods that can easily send a pet to the hospital.

Symptoms include excessive drooling, vomiting and diarrhea. If you think your pet may be suffering from some sort of food toxicity please contact your

emergency vet right away for treatment. Get ahead of this potential problem by making sure you watch those table scraps and provide pets with safe snacking alternatives.

Decorations are another concern this season, causing problems ranging all the way from intestinal blockages to burns and electrocution. Tinsel and string are two big offenders in this respect. When ingested, the long strands can become stuck in a pet's intestines and cause a blockage, leading to extensive surgery and postoperative treatment. Pets with intestinal blockages may stop eating, have tender or sore abdomens and become less active up to a day or two

after ingesting the object.

Make sure to keep small decorations and cords tucked out of reach and always monitor pets around the tree and fireplaces. For those particularly determined pets, products like bitter spray can help deter unwanted chewing.

Everyone should have a happy holiday season, and that includes our pets. With a little preparation and know-how, you can ensure that the fun times don't need to stop - especially for an emergency trip to the vet!

Established in 1982, Brook Farm Veterinary Center of Patterson, New York provides exceptional veterinary medicine with an emphasis on

empathy and precision. Brook Farm's accreditation by the American Animal Hospital Association, an honor that only 15% of practices nationwide have earned, reflects over 30 years of hard work and unwavering dedication to the people and pets of the Hudson Valley. Today, Brook Farm is known for their commitment to improving animal health and wellness through community outreach: their staff regularly volunteers their time to support local non-profit organizations and to raise funds for their various donor-driven programs. To learn more about Brook Farm's mission, visit www.brookfarmveterinarycenter.com.

Obituaries

Francis G. Englert

Francis "Frank" G. Englert, 62, of Mahopac, died on December 17. Mr. Englert was born on October 3, 1955 to Francis and Jane (Mallon) in the Bronx. He had attended Lakeland High School in Shrub Oak, after which he served with US Marines Corps. On September 9, 2000, Frank married the love of his life, Carolyn Brunke at St. John's the Evangelist Church in Mahopac. Frank was a self-employed Plumbing Contractor, servicing families throughout Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester Counties. He was a great man with a big heart and always showed love and compassion to all. He will be dearly missed by all who had known and loved him. He is survived by his devoted wife, Carolyn, his three beloved siblings; Jane Gaudiano, Christopher Englert and Paul Englert, eleven cherished nieces and nephews all of whom he adored and each child held a special place in his heart. He is predeceased by his father Frank and his brother James.

Thomas Charles Slater

Thomas Charles Slater, Sr., 90, of Brewster died at his home of natural causes on December 17. Tom was born in Mt. Vernon to Thomas E. Slater and Alma G.

Reed Slater. A long-time resident of the Bronx, he joined the US Navy and served honorably in both WWII and the Korean War. In 1953 he joined the NYPD, was a member of the NYPD Honor Legion and retired as Detective after 36 years. Married to his wife, Mary Patricia "Patsy" (née Keogh) for over 67 years, they enjoyed their life together, loved to travel and raised ten children. An avid history buff, Tom was actively involved in the restoration of historic Ft. Morris in Sunbury, GA and served a term as president of The Friends of Ft. Morris. He and his wife enjoyed participating in Revolutionary War re-enactments. Tom is survived by his wife, Patsy, their ten children, Thomas Slater, Jr. and wife, Susan; Patricia Slater and husband Richard Scheer; Peter Slater; Paul Slater and wife Patricia; Frank Slater and wife Bobi; Katherine Slater, Margaret (Peggy) Slater, Fred Slater and wife Meaghan, Robert Slater and wife Barbara, and Mary Slater-Venkata and husband Tata Venkata; 17 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren.

Bernadette T. Roberto

Bernadette T. Roberto, a lifelong resident of Mahopac, died peacefully on Monday, December 18 at the age of 60 with her loving family by her side. She was born in

Mahopac on August 19, 1957, the daughter of Joseph and Rosemary Coons. Terry attended St. John's Elementary School and graduated from Mahopac High School in 1975. She was a Customer Transaction Specialist with Bluebook Contractors Registry in Jefferson Valley. In addition to her mother, Rosemary, she is survived by her sons, Andrew of Mahopac and Christopher of Clarksville, TN, her brother, Thomas and his wife Karin of Cornwall and her sister Elizabeth Fisher of Denver, CO. She is also survived by her former

husband Vincent Roberto Jr. and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her father, Joseph in 2007, her brother Andrew in 1976 and her sister, Patricia in October of this year. A Memorial Visitation will be held on Thursday December 28 from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. & 7 p.m.-9 p.m. at Joseph J. Smith Funeral Home. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated for Terry and her sister Patricia on Friday, December 29 at 10 a.m. at St. John the Evangelist Church in Mahopac. Interment will follow at Ballard-Barrett Cemetery in Mahopac Falls.

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**Business
of the Week**

By Anna Young

Since young chef Nick Altero opened the doors to his Mahopac restaurant, Nick's Plate, in September, he has been determined to electrify his hometown with his creative flair in the kitchen.

Growing up with an Italian grandmother who loved to cook, Altero, 23, was inspired as a kid to take over the kitchen and prepare meals for his family, stating that he could never get his chores done because he was too busy in the kitchen. Now he does that everyday at Nick's Plate in Mahopac.

Before graduating from the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, where he minored in farm-to-table cooking, he traveled throughout the country and as far as Italy to hone his craft. Now the budding chef puts in over 80 hours a week making sure every patron can taste his passion and soul in every bite.

"I'm going to make my food as best I can so when you eat it, you're going to appreciate it. You can tell it wasn't made a year ago and frozen; my food has love in it and time," Altero said. "I want to cook outside the box and show people what there really is to food. I want to do what my heart wants me to do."



ANNA YOUNG PHOTO

Nick Altero stands inside Nick's Plate located in Mahopac. The young chef likes to cook and prepare food outside the box.

Nick's Plate offers a variety of wood fired pizzas, soups, and salads, along with a modest selection of contemporary American cuisine that's made fresh and by hand everyday. Altero said his staple

'I want to cook outside the box and show people what there really is to food. I want to do what my heart wants me to do.'

dishes are the braised beef, roasted pork loin, Parmesan meatballs, calamari and any pizza.

Every month, Altero will slightly alter the menu incorporating seasonal fruits and vegetables into his entrees to enhance the flavors and satisfaction.

"I get bored of cooking the same food over and over again," Altero said. "I have a lot of play with the menu. My whole menu is a special."

Nick's Plate offers half-off appetizers on Tuesdays and half off bottles of house wine on Wednesday's. Diners can also choose from a wide selection of classic favorites, original creations and seasonal mixtures on martini Thursday.

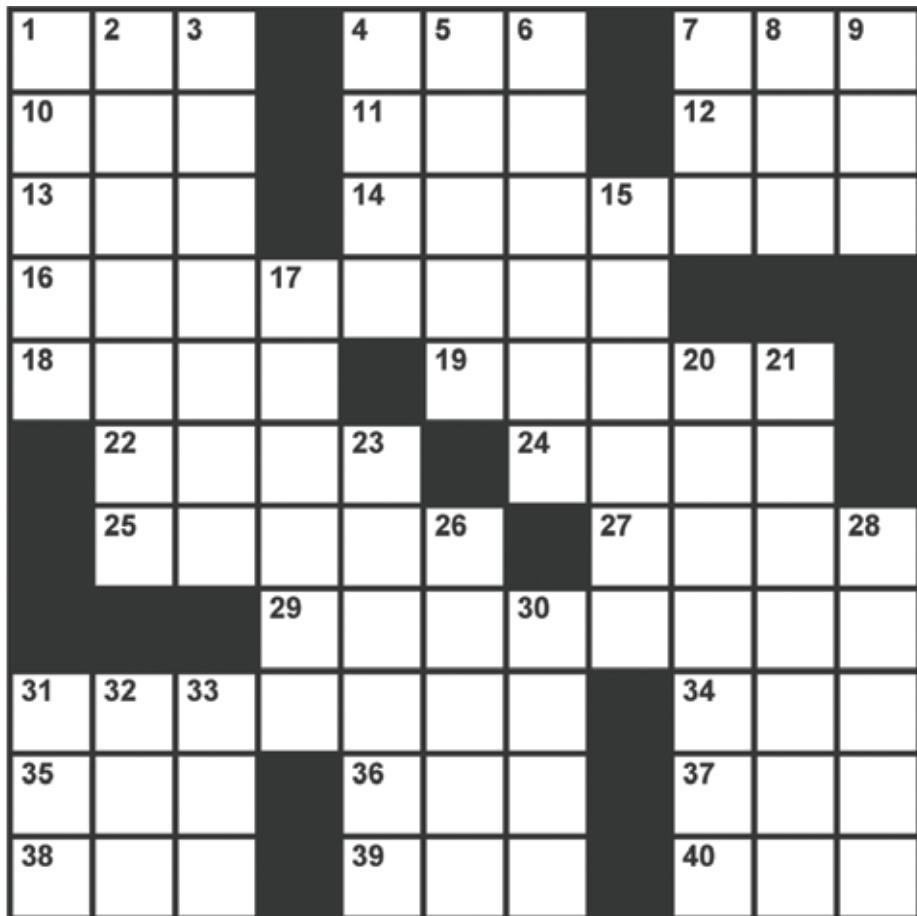
The completely renovated interior at Nick's Plate is inviting for lunch or dinner, serving about 40 seats in the downstairs, with an upstairs that features a fully-stocked bar in a quieter ambiance. Altero said the bar area can hold private parties and events.

While Altero admits he still has a lot to learn as a chef and a business owner, it means a lot to him to have the opportunity to be creative and experiment within the community he calls home.

"My meals, or should I say plates, are some of my favorite recipes I've made throughout my young culinary career," he said. "This is my vision of how a nice and enjoyable meal should be. This is my eyes, my heart and my creative mind."

Nick's Plate is located at 18 Clark Place in Mahopac. It is open everyday except Monday. Lunch is served starting at 11:30 a.m. and is open until 9:30 p.m. For more information, call 845-621-0747 or visit www.nicksplateny.com

Crossword Puzzle



Crossword by Myles Mellor

Answers on page 15

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Across

1. PC "brain"
4. "____ sells seashells . . ."
7. Bill holder, abbr.
10. Surgery sites, for short
11. Movie computer
12. Compass direction
13. Abbr. after many an old general's name
14. Cartographical works
16. Opinion opener
18. Prefix with type
19. Univ. military programs
22. Major-____
24. New Mahopac restaurant, "Let's have ____"
25. In any ____
27. Flowerless plant
29. Responding (to)
31. Actress Alba or Tandy
34. Jeer
35. Tee off
36. Computer program
37. Small eagle
38. Merit badge org.
39. Volcanic fallout
40. Beam of light

Down

1. Reef material
2. Officiate
3. Stage actor, Sir Peter

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Concert for Peace on New Year's Day

The Cultural Arts Coalition presents: New Year's Day Concert for Peace, Monday, January 1st, 2 p.m., Studio Around the Corner, Brewster.

Start your new year at a peaceful gathering, with music, readings and camaraderie. This year's concert will highlight women composers and celebrate the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote! Jennifer Tao, piano; Robert Zubrycki, violin; Sebu Sirinian, violin; Adria Benjamin, viola; and Anik Oulianine, cello. Poetry by Maya Angelou and more will be recited. Amy Campanaro, director of the Southeast Museum, has prepared a talk about women's suffrage.

The program will feature Jeffrey Marano singing "True Colors" by Cyndi Lauper; the Mel Bonis (Mélanie Hélène Bonis) Piano Quartet; works by Mary Rhoads, Jennifer Higdon, Cécile Chaminade, Lili Boulanger, Rebecca Clarke, and Woodworks, by the Danish String Quartet. To celebrate the New Year, a few Waltzes by Johann Strauss II and Auld Lang Syne.

Mélanie Hélène Bonis, (1858-1937) taught herself the piano, in a hostile family environment, until the age of twelve, when her parents, influenced by one of their friends, a professor at the prestigious Conservatoire, resigned themselves to give her a musical education. She was introduced to César Franck, who was so impressed with her abilities that he made arrangements for her to be admitted to the then all-male Paris Conservatory, in 1876. While at the Conservatoire, she fell in love with a fellow student, a



Laurie Rhodes Photo

Robert Zubrycki will perform on New Years Day

relationship her parents disapproved of, so she was removed from the school and later forced into an arranged marriage. Since women composers were not taken seriously at the time, she composed under the pseudonym, Mel Bonis. Camille Saint-Saëns highly praised her chamber music and could not believe a man had not composed it. This was both a compliment and a sad commentary on the fact that women composers were basically ignored and regarded as second rate.

Mary Rhoads (Lotus Pond, Lament for the Lost Children) was a jazz and classical performer, composer a feminist and the mother of local artist and teacher, Sharon Nakazato. Mary taught at the University

of Northern Colorado and later settled in Seattle, where she continued composing and performing.

Violinist, Robert Zubrycki, is currently Concertmaster for the New York City Chamber Orchestra, a member of the American Symphony Orchestra, the Stamford Symphony, and has performed in the orchestra for the American Ballet Theater at Lincoln Center. He has recently performed as Concertmaster for the New York Choral Society at Carnegie Hall, Encores! at City Center, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic and for Pope Francis at St. Patrick's Cathedral. A veteran of dozens of Broadway shows, Bob performed in the orchestra for "She

Loves Me" and previously performed in "A Gentleman's Guide To Love and Murder", winner of the 2014 Tony Award for Best New Musical and he can be heard on the recent cast recordings of "She Loves Me", "An American in Paris" and "Paint Your Wagon" (violin and mandolin). He has won an Emmy Award for his musical contribution to the documentary, "The Curse of the Bambino". As the first violinist for the Queen's Chamber Band and the Abaca String Band, Robert has recorded extensively and toured United States, including performances at the Chautauqua Institute and the White House. At this performance, Bob will be joined by his colleagues from The American Symphony, Amici New York, New York City Chamber Orchestra and Broadway.

Tickets are a suggested donation of \$10; \$5 for children under 12. Reservations are recommended, as seating is limited. Tickets can be purchased online at toscacbooktix.com or call (845) 363 - 8330 or email info@culturalartsco.com for reservations.

For more information on this and other Cultural Arts Coalition events, visit: www.CulturalArtsCo.com or on Facebook, Cultural Arts Coalition.

Concerts Around The Corner is made possible in part by the NYS Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the NYS Legislature. In Putnam County, this grant program is administered and monitored by the Putnam Arts Council, Mahopac.

Fall Projects Benefit Putnam CAP and New York City Homeless

Camp Herrlich's "Before and After School" programs held their annual fall community service projects leading up to the holiday season. The Camp After School Program participants, students from George Fischer Middle School in the Carmel Central School



District, spent a full week in the Camp Herrlich kitchen. They baked over 50 mini-loaves of pumpkin bread for the Putnam Community Action Program's Thanksgiving food drive which supports local families in need and provided food for 350 families this year. The students learned about baking and community service and brought home their own loaves of pumpkin bread along with the recipe so they could make it again.

The before and after school program participants at Matthew Paterson Elementary School in Patterson collected items and assembled "Blessing Bags" for St. John's Church breakfast run program which brings bags of essential items to the homeless population in New York City. Donations of things like gum, razors, toothpaste and toothbrushes, came from program participants' families and from teachers at the Carmel School District. Once they were collected, the students and staff in the program assembled Ziploc bags to be distributed by St. John's.

Camp Herrlich's award winning,



licensed School Age Child Care programs place great importance on community service and do at least two projects per year. For more information

on Camp Herrlich's programs or for partnership opportunities, visit www.campherrlich.org or check them out on Facebook - facebook.com/campherrlich

PWP President Named Boy Scouts Honoree

The Boy Scouts of America Westchester-Putnam Council hosted its inaugural Women in Leadership gala on Wednesday, November 29 at the Mount Kisco Holiday Inn. Emceed by WHUD Radio host, Kacey Morabito Grean, the event gathered members and supporters of the Council, as well as friends, family and colleagues of Women in Leadership honorees, Jamie Imperati, founder and president of Professional Women of Putnam and Professional Women of Westchester, and Pamela Louis, director, Phelps Memorial Hospital, Wound Care Institute.

"I am grateful for this honor and recognition, but more importantly, I am excited about the pivotal changes and new direction that the Boys Scouts of America is undertaking to recognize women and include girls in their Cub Scout program for the first time," said Imperati.



Jamie Imperati, Lisa Kaslyn of Prosper Communications and Kacey Morabito Grean of 100.7 WHUD

"The Westchester-Putnam Council is honored to recognize Jamie Imperati and Pamela Lewis for their outstanding service and leadership in the community," said Andrew Nam, district director, Westchester-Putnam Council, Boy Scouts of America. "These women exemplify all of the great qualities and values that we aim to instill in our scouts and the communities in which we serve."

Starting in 2018, the Boy Scouts will allow girls to join its Cub Scout program for the first time in the organization's more than 100-year history. Girls who join can work toward the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout, an award often used to bolster college applications and professional resumes.

For more information, visit the Boy Scouts of America Westchester-Putnam Council, www.wpcbsa.org or BeAScout.org.

Somers High Students Raise Money for Putnam Hospital Center

As part of a class project at Somers High School, juniors Isabella DeChico and Adelina Ademaj came up with an idea that would also help raise money for Putnam Hospital Center's oncology department.

At the hospital, DeChico and Ademaj set up a table in the lobby selling holiday ornaments and pens they made out of polymer clay. The colorful decorations

are whimsical and come in a variety of sizes.

"It is our local hospital so we wanted to help out," DeChico said.

Ademaj said she is interested in pursuing medicine and cancer research and DeChico is into making crafts. So the two combined their interests for the project, she said.

"What a wonderful way to ring in the holidays," Putnam Hospital Center Foundation Executive Director Priscilla Weaver said. "We appreciate Isabella and Adelina's ingenuity and generosity. Thank you for thinking of our patients in this giving season."

Customers could either purchase the ornaments for themselves or donate the items to cancer patients, the students said.



Adelina Ademaj, on left, and Isabella DeChico sell holiday ornaments and pens in the Putnam Hospital Center lobby.

HHLT Welcomes New Manager of Public Policy and Planning

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) is pleased to welcome Karen Doyle as the newest member of its staff. Karen joins the Land Trust as Manager of Public Policy and Planning, a newly created position responsible for engaging village, town, city and county representatives in sound land-use planning and natural resource protection strategies.

"We are very pleased to welcome Karen onboard. With the addition of her professional background, experience on municipal boards and committees, and passion for the environment, HHLT will be able to further advance our mission of protecting the natural resources of the Hudson Highlands" said Michelle Smith, HHLT's Executive Director.

Karen has worked as an attorney at non-profit and governmental law offices, and represented various municipalities



PROVIDED PHOTO
Karen Doyle joins Hudson Highlands Land Trust as Manager of Public Policy and Planning.

in land-use, zoning, public health and environmental matters. During her career in the NYC Law Department,

she spent many years working with the Department of Environmental Protection on watershed protection issues, earning recognition for outstanding achievement from the NYC Bar Association and the Corporation Counsel. Karen has also served on a variety of municipal boards and committees, including Village of Cold Spring Planning Board, Special Board for the Comprehensive Plan and Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan, and Code Update Committee. Karen holds a Juris Doctor from Brooklyn Law School and a Bachelor of Science in Applied Economics from Hofstra University.

As the Manager of Public Policy and Planning, Karen will spearhead HHLT's efforts on natural resource planning, open space prioritization and watershed protection, serving as the primary contact to municipal bodies across

the Hudson Highlands. She will also assist with securing public and private funding sources to finance conservation of municipal open space protection and water-source protection priorities.

"As a member of the Hudson Highlands community, I am thrilled to be joining the Hudson Highlands Land Trust team," said Karen. "I have dedicated my career to working in the public interest and for the environment, and am very excited to apply my experience, knowledge and passion to furthering HHLT's mission."

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust is a community-based, accredited non-profit land conservation organization dedicated to the protection of the natural resources, rural character and scenic beauty of the Hudson Highlands through land conservation, advocacy, and public education. For more information, please visit www.hhlt.org or call 845-424-3358.

New Year's Predictions for the Housing Market

There have been times through the many years I've offered advice as The Home Guru when I've made New Year's predictions about the housing market for the coming year, and there have also been times when I have been spectacularly wrong.

This year, I'm playing it safe and relaying 2018 housing predictions offered by Zillow, with far greater resources, namely from top economists and housing experts, including Zillow chief economist Svenja Gudell, who offers the following forecast for the industry on a national basis. I've added my own notations as they apply to the local market.

"We're on the other side of the housing recovery, and the real estate market looks quite different than it did 15 or even five years ago," Gudell said in a recent statement. "We have a huge generation entering the market. They really want to be homeowners, and they're faced with an inventory crisis that leaves them with few options."

"Builders won't ignore this hungry market, and we'll start to see a rise in new construction at the more affordable end," she added.

"However, builders are also facing high



By Bill Primavera

costs, so instead of adding density in cities where zoning laws and land costs often preclude affordable building, we'll see the suburbs grow and expand outward."

While that may be the case nationally, I would make the obvious observation that, locally, new construction is limited, especially in upper Westchester, by the scarcity of available land.

Here are the six things Gudell expects to happen in 2018:

1. Inventory shortages will drive the housing market. Low inventory will continue to push up home prices,

which will serve as a barrier for first-time homebuyers. Locally, low inventory levels are very much the state of affairs and realtors are complaining that there are not enough houses on the market to show their buyer clients. Gudell said there are 12 percent fewer homes to choose from nationwide than there were a year ago, and 51 percent of for-sale properties are in the top one-third of home values, which are out of reach for first-time buyers.

2. Builders will turn their focus to entry-level homes. Economists have said that increased residential housing starts, especially at the starter home level, are the key to bringing home prices down.

Housing starts have been well below the 50-year average of 1.2 million, but Gudell expects builders to finally hearken to the call of first-time and lower-to-middle-income buyers yearning for more affordable options.

3. Millennials will move to the suburbs. The majority of millennials would rather live in urban centers with access to a plethora of entertainment and shopping options and robust tech-centered job opportunities. But most millennials, especially those without help from parents, can't afford to live in these areas.

Gudell said 25- to 34-year-olds will begin moving to the suburbs in search of more affordable home prices. Here in the upper Westchester and Putnam County areas, we find that a good percentage of our first-time buyers are coming from the city, many times either Brooklyn or Queens.

4. Many homeowners will remodel rather than sell. In addition to higher housing starts, experts have said more homeowners selling their homes would help alleviate low inventory issues. Homeowners, despite having high confidence about being in a seller's market, will continue to stay still, according to Gudell.

Instead of buying a new home, homeowners will invest in remodeling efforts to make their current homes feel and look brand new. This has been evident

locally as well.

5. Baby boomers and millennials will drive home design. Baby boomers and millennials are driving the housing market, so it's no surprise that Gudell said they'll be driving home design trends in 2018, too. New starts and renovated homes will feature designs that appeal to both millennials and baby boomers, such as wide hallways that can accommodate both strollers (for young families) and/or wheelchairs (for aging boomers).

6. Home prices will continue to grow, but at a slower pace. 2017 has been full of record-breaking home price growth, with economists calling it nearly "unstoppable." Gudell said home prices are expected to climb 4.1 percent in 2018 — 1.1 percentage points higher than the "normal" annual appreciation closer to 3 percent, but slower than the current annual pace of 6.9 percent.

But whatever the pace of growth, home ownership has always been, and will remain the most reliable investment any of us can make; that is a prediction to feel confident about for 2018 or any year.

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.

For Those Who Experience Adverse Reactions to a Glass of Wine



By Nick Antonaccio

Are you one of those unfortunate wine lovers who have an adverse reaction to drinking wine? Do you peer at a glass of wine and wonder if the wine gods are going to strike you with a bevy of unpleasantries: wheezing, headache, facial flushing, sinus inflammation?

Let's analyze what can cause these reactions and how you may prevent them, or at least make them more tolerable. Is your negative reaction allergic or non-allergic? (a hangover is typically not an allergic reaction). Although the symptoms may be similar, the causes are quite diverse. Disclaimer: none of the following commentary should be considered medical advice.

First, there are those of us that have an allergic reaction (stuffy nose, itchy eyes) to sulfites present in wines. Although naturally present in all wines, many winemakers add additional sulfites to their barrels in order to preserve the wines. Red grape skins have natural preservative compounds, thus reducing the need for added sulfites. If you can tolerate red

wine more than white wine, sulfites may be the reason. What to do? Organic wines tend to have fewer sulfites. Seek them out.

Second, adverse reactions such as headaches, itchy eyes and runny nose may be metabolic rather than allergic. Only 1% of the population is allergic to sulfites. There are certainly more consumers who have allergic-like reactions to wine. Similar outcome you say, I still feel terrible, so what's the difference? The difference: ways to overcome the indications. Here are non-allergic influences that cause allergic-like symptoms:

1) Histamines: Compounds present in many foods (especially strawberries) trigger the production of histamines in humans (that's right: foods don't contain histamines, humans produce histamines). These compounds are naturally found in the skins of red grapes (much more than in white grapes). Reactions include

headaches and facial flushing. If you can tolerate white wine more than red wine, this may be the cause. What to do? Take an over-the-counter anti-histamine

before drinking and see if your reaction is the same. If it's not, you've isolated your

You Heard It Through the Grapevine

problem. If the same - read on.

2) Ethanol: Naturally present in alcohol, when ingested it breaks down into a compound called acetaldehyde. In the bottle, this volatile compound

imparts the fruity aromas present in wine; in your body (in sufficient quantity) it irritates the membranes of the brain, causing headaches and facial flushing. Our liver is designed to mitigate this effect. However, an overloaded or diseased liver is not adequately able to remove high levels of acetaldehydes from the bloodstream. What to do? Drink in moderation (defined differently for each liver), drink copious amounts of water to flush out the acetaldehydes and have your physician check your liver functions.

3) Congeners: A compound found more in red wines than white, which is believed to cause hangovers. When consumed, this nasty element actually is kept under control by the alcohol in our bloodstream. When the alcohol leaves your system, the congeners then go to work – hours after (the next morning?) the wine has been consumed. What to do? Moderation, moderation, moderation.

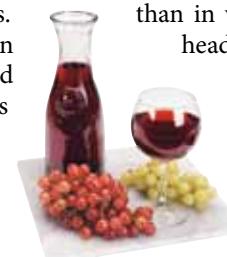
4) Modern agriculture: Many chemicals used to treat plants and soils are toxic. If fruits and vegetables are not washed

and cleaned properly, these toxins may cause many of the allergic-like symptoms noted above. Making matters worse, since grapes are sensitive to handling after being harvested, they typically go straight to the crusher – no washing, no thorough removal of particles of rotting leaves. What to do? Seek out organic wines.

5) Cheap wine: It's true; you are more likely to have a negative reaction to mass-produced bulk wines. Why? These wines are typically subjected to high levels of chemical additives and other manipulative methods. Not to mention that the growing, harvesting and winemaking techniques may be lacking in cleanliness and consumer health concerns. What to do? I'm sure you can answer this question yourself.

For those unfortunate to have negative reactions to wine consumption, I suggest you find ways to isolate the causes and consult your physician for medical advice on consuming wine.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 20 years he has conducted numerous 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

Mahopac Public Library is hosting three information sessions for Mahopac residents who might be interested in serving on the Library's Board of Trustees. Meet current Board members, get to know the Executive Director, Michele Capozzella, and enjoy a light supper while you discover the important aspects of board membership. The Library's information sessions will be held on Wednesday, January 31, Tuesday, February 20, and Wednesday, March 14. The sessions are held from 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., and you are asked to register so that we have ample food for all of our guests. To register online, visit www.mahopaclibrary.org, and add your name and contact information on the date that's most convenient for you. You may also call 845-628-2009, ext 100, to register by phone. The community is at the heart of our Library, and we look forward to sharing our vision and goals with individuals interested in being a part of our Board leadership. If you have questions or would like additional information, contact Michele Capozzella at 845-628-2009, ext 107.

Ongoing:
Tuesday:

Spotlight Family Support Group: Mahopac Library, 3rd floor, 6:45 p.m.-8 p.m. January 2, 16, 30. This is a guided recurring support group for family and friends suffering with the effects of a friend or loved one that has a problem with drugs or alcohol. For more information contact Drug Crisis in our Backyard. 845-842-1212 No registration required.

Wednesdays:

Short & Sweet, A Short Story Book Club at Reed Library. Meeting Alternating Wednesdays at 1 pm. Join for a lively discussion of short stories, a different story each meeting. Registration required, please call the library to register 845-225-2439.

The Putnam County Marine Corps League: Monthly meeting at the Carmel VFW Hall, 36 Gleneida Ave. (Rte.52) Carmel. 1930 on the second Wednesday of the month. (10/11/17) 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 26

New York Blood Center Blood Drive at Mahopac Public Library. 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Donate this year and help save a life. Walk-ins welcome. Call for information: 1-800-933-2566

Wednesday, December 27

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

Saturday, December 30

Harry Potter Fans Invited to Yule Ball: Attention Wizards, Witches and

even Muggles! Harry Potter Fans of all ages are invited to attend the "Yule Ball" at the Studio Around the Corner at 67 Main Street in Brewster. The Yule Ball is a formal dance, which is a tradition of the Triwizard Tournament as written in J.K. Rowling's 4th Harry Potter book, "The Goblet of Fire". After the overwhelming response to their "Day at Hogwarts" event this summer, the Cultural Arts Coalition is offering a magical event to ring in the New Year! The first session will be held from 4-6pm for \$5 and is open to all ages. The second session will be held from 8-11pm for \$10 and is open to anyone 16 and older. Both sessions will include activities such as wand making, divination (fortune telling), costume contest, photo booth and trivia. The evening session will also include a DJ, Dancing and an ultimate Trivia contest. Themed concessions will be available for purchase. Attendees are invited to come in costume, formal attire or muggle-wear. We suggest purchasing tickets in advance since we anticipate that this event will sell out. Tickets are available online at <http://toscac.booktix.com>. Space is limited. For more information visit www.CulturalArtsCom.com, email info@CulturalArtsCo.com, or call 845-363-8330

Basics of Excel: Kent Library. 12-30 p.m., -2 p.m., Workshop cover an overview of the software, some of the most common functions, proper formatting, printing, sharing, and basic charts. Workshop is being taught by Taught by Sergio Zygmunt & Chris Figura. Please bring your own device (laptop, ipad, etc). Participants will need to have Excel 2010 or later as 2007 and lower are no longer supported by Microsoft. PowerSerg will provide a computer for use during the program to any participant who doesn't have one with the Excel 2010 or newer. If you need either a device or an ASL interpretation, please let the Library know by December 21st.

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,

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

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

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. to 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

Save the Date:

Freedom from Smoking Program to Begin Late January. Are you ready to quit smoking? It is one of the top New Year's resolutions each January, and this year the Putnam County Department of Health offers help with an eight-session program developed by the American Lung Association called Freedom from Smoking (FFS). The sessions, which last from 60 to 90 minutes, begin in late January at the health department's main office at 1 Geneva Road in Brewster. Nicotine replacement products (NRT) will be available for free while supplies lasts. Using NRT is encouraged, and will be discussed as part of the program, but it is not required. Pre-registration is required, as group size is limited. Start date and class schedules will be determined based on preferences of early registrants and posted on the health department's website at www.putnamcountyny.gov/health. For more information or to pre-register, contact the Putnam County Department of Health at (845) 808-1390, ext. 43155.

Crossword Answers

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|----|---|---|---|----|----|----|---|----|---|----|----|
| 1 | C | P | U | 4 | S | H | E | 7 | E | N | V |
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| 22 | D | O | M | 23 | O | 24 | T | H | A | I | 25 |
| 25 | E | V | E | N | 26 | T | E | 27 | A | L | G |
| 29 | R | E | A | C | 30 | T | I | 31 | B | O | O |
| 31 | J | E | S | S | 32 | S | I | C | A | 33 | 34 |
| 35 | I | R | K | 36 | D | O | S | 37 | E | R | N |
| 38 | B | S | A | 39 | A | S | H | 40 | R | A | Y |

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LEGAL NOTICES

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 designated 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 BOROUGH 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.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF WI- ESEN, LLC. ARTS. Of Org. files with SSNY on 10/6/2017. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **LegalZoom, 7014 13th Ave, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228.** Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CZOU & CO., LLC. Arts of Org. filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/18/2017. Office location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail copy to **9 Highview Dr, Scarsdale, NY 10583.** Purpose: any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF ADVANCED PROFITS, LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of state of NY on 5/11/17. Office loc: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process

against it may be served and shall mail process to PO BOX 112, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF @CE- SARCAPJR, LLC. ARTS. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/15/17. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Ave, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose any lawful activity.

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The Putnam
Examiner
Sports

Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports

Fecci Details!

Nothing Sketchy about Somers:
Tuskers Stick to Finer Points



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Somers G Lucas Fecci attacks the rack after creating a turnover -- something the defensive-minded Tuskers (3-2) have committed to -- during the Tuskers' 58-49 win over visiting Nyack last Wednesday when a series of defensive traps and pressures led to Somers' third win in the last four tries... see Boys' Hoops Notebook

Sports

Boys' Hoops Notebook

Somers Creates Defensive Identity During 3-1 Start

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor
@Directrays

Short week, short version... Happy Holidays, y'all!

Somers Coach Chris DiCintio knows his Tuskers aren't exactly blessed with God-given talents who can average 20 or more PPG, but he knows precisely what it will take for the 2018 Tuskers to reach a Class A Final 4 or die trying.

Playing pressure defense over the course of four quarters requires heart and will, and it turns defense to offense in a hurry when done effectively. This is Somers' game-plan for the 2018 campaign: Heart,



RICK KUPERBERG PHOTO

Yorktown G Tommy Weaver had 12 points, 6 boards and 5 assists in Huskers' 54-49 win over Salesian Thursday.

hustle and defense.

"We have created an identity for ourselves," Coach DiCintio said after Somers handled visiting Nyack, 58-49, last Wednesday in a non-league win that featured three double-digit scorers, including sniper Lorenzo Bicknese (15 points), handle-heavy G Gio Tradito (14 points) and paint-pealing F Jack Gilroy (11 points).

"We like to play pressure defense throughout the game," DiCintio said. "We used the 1-2-2 three-quarter press and a



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Somers G Andrew Lasher goes for two points in Tuskers' win over Nyack last Wednesday.

half-court trap against Byram, Mahopac and Nyack. "I felt it worked against all three opponents despite coming up short against Byram 54-49. It creates energy for our team while pressuring the other team into making quick decisions all game long."

Somers has a bevy of quick, feisty, athletic guards who can pressure the ball, turns teams over and score in transition

watch. Credit to the boys. They scored 60 against Pelham, 79 against Mahopac and 58 against Nyack. If they knocked down their wide-open looks against Byram, they easily could've scored 60 in that game."

DiCintio, almost unbeknownst, put together the toughest non-league schedules in his six years at Somers.

"We're going to see North Salem -- who looks like a Class B favorite -- in the finals of our tournament, after Mahopac, who is a much improved and a Class AA school, and Class A favorites Byram Hills, and we'll eventually see Saunders (Jan. 20), who is also the favorites in Class A in January, and the Hen Hud, and regardless of the outcomes with our future games, this team is a joy to coach," DiCintio said. "I have great kids who work hard every day in practice. They have great balance with solid leadership in my five seniors. They are unselfish and are fun to be around. I am thoroughly enjoying this season."

It would only get better should the Tuskers reach their lofty goals, which include their first league title since 1989, and their first County Center visit in three years; though the whole County Center thing... don't get me started!

"I have no doubt we will be primed to make a run for a league championship and a Final 4 appearance," a confident DiCintio said. "That's how much I believe in this group."



Somers G Chris DiCintio drives lane in Tuskers' win over Nyack last Wednesday

NWE/PUTNAM Examiner Super 7

No.1 HEN HUD – In Hen Hud's 67-50 win over Riverside, Sailor wing Mekhi Gray went for 17 points, 10 boards and 5 assists and F Kyle James added 12 points. Something tells me I didn't see Gray's best effort in the loss to North Salem, so we're looking forward to seeing him again.

No.1A SOMERS – Feb. 3rd. So, yeah, I have that date circled; Somers visits Hen Hud in what should be one heck of game and provide some clarity in this poll, but that's a long wait.

No.3 OSSINING – Pride beat White Plains, 58-53, with this Jacob Toppin kid going off again (19 points, 12 boards) and huge games from Latrell Goss (17 points, 4 assists, 5 reb) and Zahir Hernandez (9 points, 6 reb).

No.4 PUT VALLEY – When Tiger forwards TJ Brescia (game-high 23 points, 14 boards) and Darnel Shillingford (22 points, 11 boards) are putting up double-doubles like they did in PV's 68-44 win over Pelham, the Tigers are a Final 4

Class B force. Still, in no particular order, North Salem, Irvington and Briarcliff are substantial stumbling blocks. Jan. 12 at North Salem: Circle it.

No.5 PANAS – Panthers beat Pearl River, 59-57, in OT, so we're guessing Panas just loves a close game, seeing how 2 of last 3 went into OT and a 3rd was a buzzer-beating loss to Rye.

No.6 MAHOPAC – Anyone can understand losing to Mamaroneck but losing by 20 points in unacceptable unless the Tigers (4-1) turn out to be an unexpected juggernaut. On a positive note: Indian G Rob Garcia is a true grunt, and Mahopac needs more grunt, but still has head-to-head on Lakeland.

No.7 LAKELAND – We keep hearing things about Coach Fallo's Hornets and their 72-60 win over Gorton only added to the notion that Lakeland might be a "now" team as opposed to one a year away from truly competing. Kruse, Cohen, Vertrano, Foci, Capozzi and Co. might be legit.



Somers wing Lorenzo Bicknese drops three of his game-high 15 points in Tuskers' win over Nyack last Wednesday.

Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook

Ossining Takes Top Honors in KSA Holiday Tourney

By Tony Pinciari

Kelsey Quain sat patiently and watched as OSSINING Coach Dan Ricci diagrammed a play for the senior wing during a time out with less than 40 seconds remaining in the Pride's game with mighty Flowery Branch (Ga.) at the KSA Holiday Tournament in Orlando, Fla.

The fourth-year veteran was looking forward to the challenge as Ossining, winners of eight of the last 13 Section 1 Class AA titles, trailed by two.

"At first, I was a little nervous," Quain said. "Then Coach Ricci told the team that I was going to hit the shot and we were going to win the game. That gave me a confidence boost and made me hungry to make the shot and win it for my team."

Quain made good, swishing a corner 3 with 22 seconds on the clock, giving Ossining the lead for good in an 81-78 championship victory.

Aubrey Griffin, who missed the first game of the tournament because she was sick, sealed the game with a layup after Helen Ishmael's outstanding defensive play forced a Flowery Branch miss.

The win was gratifying because Ossining dropped a 67-55 verdict to Flowery Branch to open the tournament. Ossining bounced back to thump Lafayette (Ky.), 82-50.

Kailah Harris and Griffin were selected co-most valuable players.

"I had been overthinking most of my shots that game, but on that one I wanted to have a quick release on my shot," said Quain, who will attend Pace University in September and play basketball. "When I released the shot, I had no clue if it would go in or not. It felt like the shot was in the air for an hour."

Ossining faced its first tough game of the season and responded in the fourth quarter. Quain explained that Flowery Branch held the lead throughout the

game before Ossining rallied in the fourth quarter, making it a back-and-forth game.

"In the fourth quarter we realized that we needed to work harder on defense," said Quain, a 2017 all-section volleyball selection. "Our defense was better because we focused more on our defense in the fourth quarter.

"Winning this game helps our team grow a lot and gives us confidence and we can pull through in a tight game. It also helped us to prepare on how to play in a close game so when we're playing the tougher competition we can pull through."

Ossining, now 7-2 this season, will return to action, Thursday, Dec. 28 in the Slam Dunk Tournament at the Westchester County Center. The Pride will play Penfield (Section 5), 1:45 p.m. Ossining will play again, Friday.

Ossining is looking forward to the County Center because it will be the team's only trip to Section 1's Mecca of Basketball as Section 1 Final Four in all classes for the boys and girls will not be held at the County Center. Instead, the championship semifinals will be held at neutral sites and the championship games at Pace University's Goldstein Center.

"It's really a privilege and we look forward to playing at the County Center," Quain said. "Playing there in December is awesome because it shows how dedicated we are and that we are always putting in the work."

BREWSTER improved to 6-3 this season with a victory over perennial Section 1 Class A power, Pearl River.

Meagan Beal led Brewster with 20 points and 11 rebounds and Maggie DePaoli added 13 points and four steals.

"It was a very tight game from start to finish and I was so proud of how well and composed our kids played because we are so young," Brewster Coach Mike Castaldo said. "We only start one senior, the rest are juniors and one eighth-grader, so the fact that we are playing so well is a testament to how hard these kids are working. Practice has been great, high energy and very competitive."

Brewster will not take a break while on vacation. The Bears open with Sleepy Hollow in the John Costello (Hastings) Tournament, Thursday, Dec. 28.

LAKELAND continued its solid play with a 43-40 victory over Hen Hud, improving to 5-3 this season. Alexa Cole paced the Hornets with a game-high 19 points.

"We had a slow start, but came out with a lot of energy and intensity in the second half," Lakeland Coach Miranda (Lustig) Mangan said. "Alexa really stepped up for us, offensively."

SOMERS split a pair, dropping a 51-44 decision to Our Lady of Lourdes, then overwhelmed Eastchester in the second

half of a 61-37 victory.

"It was a great effort against Lourdes and we outrebounded them, 39-27," Somers' Coach Marc Hattem said of the reigning Section 1 Class A champs. "In the Eastchester game, Liv Lipski hit three 3s in a two-minute span in the third quarter to break open the game."

Hannah Angelini finished with 23 points and eight rebounds against Lourdes.

MAHOPAC had two rough games last week – a 44-41 loss to Mamaroneck and 33-27 setback to Mount Vernon.

"Our downfall was a poorly-played second quarter where we turned the ball over 12 times and scored just three points," said Mahopac Coach Chuck Scozzafava of the Mamaroneck game. "Other than the second quarter, we played well but just came up short by three."

Claire Felix led Mahopac with 15 points and Zina McInerney and Katrina Klammer had seven points apiece.

"Offensively, we got looks, but we struggled to score," said Scozzafava of the Mount Vernon game. "Defensively, we played well only giving up 34 points. We just need to become more consistent on offense and put together four good quarters, but the girls are working hard and improving everyday."

The schedule-makers were not kind to YORKTOWN, loading up the early season with numerous tough opponents, including Suffern, which beat the Cornhuskers, 51-39.

"A tough early schedule for our young team," Yorktown Coach Kevin Clark said. "Our losses have been to Mount Vernon, Ketcham, Hen Hud, Tappan Zee and Suffern. The girls played their hearts out and battled all the way against an older and very physical basketball team."

Kat Severino led Yorktown with 22 points and Mackenzie Merson added seven points.

New Rochelle outlasted PANAS, 59-



RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

Somers' Jacqueline Penzo and Peekskill's Sandra Murphy go all out for 50-50 ball in recent Tusker win over Red Devils.

51 as the Panthers suffered a major blow when senior Kellie Brown was sidelined with an injury.

"We experienced a lot of foul trouble with an already short bench," Panas Coach Matt Evangelista said. "While we got one senior back from illness, Kristen Kelly, we lost another to injury, Kellie Brown. We should have all three seniors back after the break to help guide the younger players to more success."

New Rochelle played very tough, pressure defense against us and made the big shots when it mattered most."

Following two wins to start the season, HEN HUD suffered two losses – 43-40 to Lakeland and 58-50 to John Jay-Cross River – last week.

"Caitlin Weimar fell and hit her head midway through the second quarter and we lost our composure," said Hen Hud Coach Ken Sherman. "We were up 11 at the time. Right now, we are relying too much on Caitlin and we need to have a more balanced attack on offense."

Taylor Prokopiak finished with 14 points and Grace Moretti had 10 against Lakeland.

Prokopiak rang up a team-leading 16 points and Weimar added 15 points against John Jay.



Put Valley F Dora Rippon (R) has really gotten after on both ends of the floor for the surging 4-1 Tigers.

Dunkin' Dugan!

**Mahopac
Serves
Holiday
Stuffing
to Port
Chester**

BILL KENNEDY PHOTO

Mahopac senior C Ryan Dugan flushes home two points in the Indians' 66-40 non-league romp of visiting Port Chester last week behind 12 points from Shane Loos and 11 more from Justin Parker. However, the week ended on a down note when the Indians suffered a 62-42 loss to Mamaroneck... see Boys' Hoops Notebook