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February 21 - February 27, 2017

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 9, Issue 413

## Castaldo Case Ends in Plea Deal

By David Propper

The Patrick Castaldo police brutality case has come to a close, with the former Putnam County Sheriff investigator taking a plea that his defense attorney called "vindication" Thursday morning.

Inside the county courthouse, Castaldo agreed to plead guilty to harassment in the 2nd degree, a much lesser charge than the three counts he was indicted on. Dutchess County Court Judge Edward McLoughlin, who was asked to preside over the case by Judge Alan Scheinkman, chief judge for the 9th Judicial District, signed off on the plea offered by the Orange County District Attorney's Office and agreed to by Castaldo, sentencing him to conditional discharge for a year.

McLoughlin, when handing down the sentence, said he considered Castaldo's career with the sheriff's department and the facts and circumstances of the case.

"I think it's entirely vindication for my client," Castaldo's attorney Andrew

*'I am 100 percent confident that if we went to trial on this case, we would've have won all counts.'*  
- attorney for Patrick Castaldo, Andrew Quinn

Quinn said.

Castaldo, a Mahopac resident, was originally indicted on three charges in 2015, including filing a false instrument, a felony, and official misconduct and attempted assault, both misdemeanors,

*continued on page 4*

## Sheriff's Office Holds Promotion Ceremony



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

The Putnam County Sheriff's Office promoted six members of the department to various leadership and investigative roles in a ceremony last Tuesday, with family, friends and local dignitaries looking on. The six members, shown above, include the new Undersheriff, Paul Boscia (far left), who is replacing the late Peter Convery. Sheriff Don Smith swore each officer into their new role before each promoted said a few words of appreciation.

## A Day Without Immigrants Protest Hits Brewster

By David Propper

Immigrant communities across the nation stayed home from work or school last Thursday, in hopes of giving their fellow Americans a look at what life would be without them.

Even residents in Putnam County got an idea of that, where immigrants in places like Brewster weren't open for business leaving the village unusually quiet because of the boycott.

The Village of Brewster's Main Street was empty with a large chunk of stores--from delis and stationary shops to salons and eateries--off for the entire day. Close to 20 businesses had their lights out and



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

Shops in Brewster like this deli were closed all day Thursday in protest as the morning paper delivered remained on the ground.

"closed" signs up. There was a printed out sheet of paper taped to the door that explained in Spanish and English the business was closed due to the day without immigrants strike.

Norma Mora, a Carmel resident and grassroots organizer, said the point of the daylong protest was to show fellow residents how valuable immigrants are to the community, including in the small village. While she said it hurt businesses financially to close up shop for a day, the long term goal of sending message is more significant.

*continued on page 8*

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# Yorktown Seeks Taxes for State-Owned Property

By Rick Pezzullo

The Town of Yorktown is looking for its fair share of property taxes for state-owned land within its borders.

Councilman Vishnu Patel crafted a resolution for the Town Board to adopt calling on state representatives to support a bill that would mandate the state pay local property taxes for land it owns in Westchester, including approximately 1,000 acres in Yorktown.

That property includes about 600 acres at FDR State Park and 154 acres in the French Hill section of Donald J. Trump State Park off Baldwin Road.

The resolution from Patel was received by the Town Clerk's Office on February 6 and was intended to appear on the February 7 agenda, but it is now slated to be entertained by the Town Board on February 21.

Meanwhile, state Senator Terrence Murphy (R/Yorktown), who chairs the New York State Senate Committee on Investigations & Government Operations, is seeking clarification on what he maintained "appears to be a discriminatory policy regarding state-owned land."

Murphy pointed out the Trump State Park land that is located in Putnam County is fully taxable in Putnam Valley but the portion in Yorktown is tax exempt.



Donald Trump State Park.

In fact, none of the estimated 5,000 acres of state-owned property in Westchester is taxed by a municipality.

"It is a prime example of an 'unfunded mandate' on the taxpayers in Yorktown and Westchester," Murphy said. "The state's ownership hurts the local tax base and drains services, and yet the benefits of the property are primarily enjoyed by people who live elsewhere. The Office of Real Property Tax Services must take a hard look at this inconsistent and

potentially discriminatory policy."

The bill in the Senate was introduced by Senator George Latimer (D/Rye),



State Senator Terrence Murphy

who announced last week he is seeking the Democratic nomination to run for Westchester County Executive.

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## Complete Breast Health

What women need to know about breast density...

### Q: At what age should I begin getting mammograms?

**A:** Once a woman turns 40, the American Cancer Society and most recognized medical authorities recommend she start getting yearly mammograms. But mammograms aren't uniformly sensitive in all women. Between 40 and 50 percent of women have dense breasts – fibrous tissue as opposed to mostly fatty tissue – and that density can obscure potential problems.

Many women aren't aware that breast density is an issue. New York State requires doctors to notify women, in a letter, when their mammogram reveals this is the case. Do not become alarmed if you get this letter. It simply means that you should have a conversation with your doctor about your overall breast cancer risk.

### Q: Why is it important to know if I have dense breasts?

**A:** Dense breasts can make mammograms less sensitive, and they may also contribute to cancer risk. You'll need to speak with your doctor about your individual lifetime risk and thoroughly evaluate your risk factors. To determine your risk, your doctor will ask you about your family history of breast and ovarian cancer, your age when you had your first period, whether you have children, when you had your first child, and any history of chest irradiation, among

other potential risk factors. The good news is that for many women with dense breasts, their risk won't be elevated enough to warrant any changes in screening.

### Q: What if I'm high risk?

**A:** Women who are at high risk (greater than a 20-25% lifetime risk) and who have dense breast tissue should have annual screening breast magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) in addition to a mammogram. MRIs are very sensitive and can pick up some cancer missed on a mammogram.

### Q: Shouldn't all women, regardless of their breast density, get a Breast MRI?

**A:** There are many false positives with Breast MRI, which is why it is only recommended for women who are at high risk as they will derive the most benefit. Regardless of your breast density, make sure you get your yearly mammogram and discuss your risk factors for breast cancer with your physician.

### Did you know?

Having dense breast tissue may increase your risk of getting breast cancer.



# Community Gives Input in Search for Next MHS Principal

By Anna Young

Parents and community members gathered together Thursday night for an open forum as the Mahopac School District continues their search for a new high school principal.

After Dr. Adam Pease got promoted to Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Instruction and Professional Development last year, the district has been consulting with Putnam-Northern Westchester (PNW) BOCES to hire a new principal for the 2017-18 school year. Athletic Director John Augusta was named interim principal at the start of the school year.

Lynn Allen and John McCarthy, Assistant Superintendents at PNW BOCES have conducted focus groups and open forums with students, faculty and administrators in order to develop a profile of the of the candidate the community would most like to see hired.

"The quality I would like to see is that the principal needs to be approachable to the students, to the staff, to the teachers,

to the administrators and to the parents," Mahopac resident and Town of Carmel Councilwoman Suzi McDonough said at the Feb. 16 forum.

While parents feel the next principal should be patient, reasonable, respectful and consistent, they also agreed candidates should have an administrative background as well as experience with special education.

"I want to make sure that this person has sensitivity to the special needs community within our community," resident Nanette Saturn said. "I think it's really important to have an educated principal who recognizes that there might be (special needs) issues there and get that student the help they need."

Saturn added, the district has become very segregated and it's important to hire someone who will bring the mainstream students and special education students together as one community.

Parents also agreed they want to see a residency clause within the contract stating, they feel it would bring the

district closer together having someone who understands how the community functions.

"I would love to see someone who lives in the community be principal because they will pay taxes and be aware of what's going on," McDonough said. "We want somebody who is going to be invested in the community, spend some time in it and not just use us as a stepping stone to retirement."

While one parent disagreed explaining how it's unfair for a principal to be attacked by parents outside of work, district employee, Lynne Mongon stated, the district needs a face of the community who is going to be strong and fair.

Mongon also feels the principal would need to have a strong hold of the continuity in the curriculum throughout all the schools in the district.

Parents also feel the district has become too lenient disciplining students and want someone who will practice fair and consistent discipline.

McDonough added the district should find someone who will have an open door policy for all students taking the time to listen in order to get to the root of whatever problem that student may face.

"I think if you can get someone the students can respect along with the parents and teachers, that's a homerun,"



ANNA YOUNG PHOTOS

Parent Peter Maccio, believes the next principal should be hired from within the school district stating, an outside person will create unwanted animosity

McDonough said.

PNW BOCES plans on starting their screening process in the spring hoping to present the Board of Education with their recommendation by May.



Lynn Allen and John McCarthy are assistant superintendents at PNW BOCES.

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# Castaldo Case Ends in Plea Deal

*continued from page 1*

by former District Attorney Adam Levy. The case stemmed from a July 3, 2014 incident where shackled prisoner Kenneth DeFreitas tried to take former investigator Gerald Schramek's gun in Carmel Town Court. Schramek and then Castaldo wrestled DeFreitas to the ground, stopping him from getting the weapon. In a surveillance video, it shows Castaldo continuing to strike the prisoner after he apparently was subdued.

The entire indictment was thrown out by Judge Robert Neary later in 2015 with

Levy filing appeal before he left office. The appeal was won late last year and the indictment reinstated. Once current District Attorney Bob Tandy took over in 2016, he recused himself and handed the case to the Orange County DA's Office.

Orange County Assistant District Attorney John Geidel said in court the offer came after an extensive review of the evidence and noted it would be difficult to prove the charges of filing a false instrument and official misconduct.

When addressing the misconduct charge, Geidel said because the incident with DeFreitas occurred on Thursday,

July 3, 2014, and the next day was a national holiday and then the weekend, Castaldo only filed the paperwork 48 business hours later than usual. Geidel added it would be hard to prove Castaldo did so with the intent to gain some sort of benefit from the delay.

When addressing the attempted assault charge, Geidel said DeFreitas was a career criminal who was not injured in the course of the physical contact he faced from Castaldo. DeFreitas received \$35,000 from the county after he filed a notice of claim over the dust up.

Quinn said he appreciated the Orange

County DA's office "fair and unbiased" look at the evidence and his client was ready to move on with his life and retirement.

Outside the courtroom on the fourth floor, Quinn had stronger words about the case against his client. He called the case politically motivated and argued Levy only brought the charges against Castaldo to gain leverage in his civil lawsuit against Sheriff Don Smith. Levy and Smith, longtime political adversaries, are both suing each other for \$5 million over defamation.

"He indicted Pat Castaldo on a set of facts I don't think any other district attorney in the country would consider criminal," Quinn, claiming Levy abused his position of power, said. "I am 100 percent confident that if we went to trial on this case, we would've have won all counts."

Michael Sussman, the attorney representing Levy in the civil suit, dismissed the accusation Levy only went after Castaldo to benefit his civil trial.

"The charge is nonsense and his client is a lawbreaker who is why he was and should have been prosecuted," Sussman said in an email.

Quinn said Castaldo only pleaded guilty to a violation to put the case behind him and not have it hang over his head.

Quinn even said a parade should have been thrown for Castaldo, for saving himself, Schramek, and Judge Joseph Spofford. When asked if there is anything Castaldo should have changed the day of the DeFreitas incident and subsequent days, Quinn replied no, adding, "honestly, I would have told him to do exactly what he did."



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# Putnam Valley Zombie Home Faces Demolition

By David Propper

The countdown to demolition day in Putnam Valley is underway.

During its monthly meeting Wednesday, the town board voted unanimously to tear down a single family home at 31 Orchard Road after a public hearing was held last month to determine the fate of the decrepit house. Frustrated board members, including Supervisor Sam Oliverio and Councilwoman Jackie Annabi, were unhappy no progress was made on the home since the hearing last month.

Annabi said the town board has given the homeowner and mortgage holders a chance to rectify the situation at 31 Orchard Road, but "nothing has been done." Annabi, who was more receptive to seeing if a mortgage holder could get the building up to code during last month's public hearing, said the home still hasn't been boarded up.

"Nothing has been done to the building to secure it as promise," Annabi said.

Oliverio, said the demolition and removal of the home would not begin until 120 days from Dec. 7, 216, when



A house on Orchard Road could be torn down.



DAVID PROPPER PHOTOS

Supervisor Sam Oliverio and Councilwoman Jackie Annabi at last week's meeting.

the notice that the house violated town code was served. That gives the interested stakeholders a chance to seek a remedy through the legal system.

"We're going to rip that building down otherwise," Oliverio said. "Nothing has been done to this building. And the residents of Floradan, you are absolutely right. It is still open to any kid that wants to go in and cause mischief, it is still open to vermin and animals, and the roof is still collapsing. Not a single thing was worked upon as we were promised."

Robert Siano, an attorney representing

mortgage holder and former owner of the home Marwan Daoud, said his client attempted to fix the home up, but was told he wasn't allowed to by the current homeowner Ralph Capodici. Siano said he advised Capodici to board the property, but nothing was done.

Oliverio said he'd prefer to see zombie homes like the one on Orchard Road renovated, rather than ripped down. Still, he was skeptical if it could get done in this case.

Oliverio cautioned to repair the building would be an "onerous task."

## Veterans Group Looks to Start Auxiliary Unit in Brewster

By Anna Young

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) in Brewster is looking for members to join their newly formed auxiliary unit in order to continue supporting veterans and the community.

The auxiliary unit is designed to involve family members of VFW-eligible veterans who will focus on helping with community events, VFW fundraisers, assisting local families of deployed service members and participating in other veteran-related issues.

According to Commander Art Hanley, the auxiliary unit will work alongside members of the VFW providing financial and moral support when and where it's needed.

"Together veterans and auxiliary members work to make the community which they live a better place by supporting schools, scouting and sports programs," he said.

The unit will also assist members of the VFW helping local active-duty and deployed service members and hosting the Memorial Day parade and the Veteran's Day service.

"Like other post members, my wife, kids, parents and other family members already help out at our events," Steven

*'Together veterans and auxiliary members work to make the community which they live a better place by supporting schools, scouting and sports programs.'*  
Commander Art Hanley

Mattson, who serves as the post surgeon, said. "The auxiliary gives them an official role and looks to expand the ranks of the VFW's supporters."

Auxiliary memberships will be available to men and women above the age of 16 who are related to a United States veteran who served honorably and who served in a war, campaign, or expedition on foreign soil or in hostile waters.

Meetings will be held once a month at the VFW location.

VFW Post 672 is located at 262 Peaceable Hill Rd. in Brewster. For more information call 845-279-6969, email HQ@vfwpost672.org or visit <http://www.vfwpost672.org/home.html>.

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# Congregations Seek to Assist Residents Affected by Trump

By David Propper

As President Donald Trump continues a strong stance on immigration policies, religious leaders in the region are trying to find ways to help those residents feeling the effects of it.

Places of worship from Judaism to Christian to Buddhism have set up a vehicle to assist community members that might need help in light of a Trump presidency, while staying away from the political fray. With the hope of helping immigrants and their families, religious leaders are partnering with each other to offer assistance.

Currently, there are about 20 religious houses involved, including a few Putnam Valley locations and a Mahopac parish. There are also many places of worship in upper Westchester including Yorktown, Peekskill, Somers, Mohegan Lake, and Mount Kisco involved.

Acting Rabbi for Temple Israel of Putnam Valley, Steven Axinn, said without impugning the Trump administration and its stance on deportation and immigration issues affecting the Latino and Muslim communities, he believes religious institutes have an obligation to "practice what we preach."

"We preach togetherness, we preach respect and dignity for everybody," Axinn said.

In a declaration of concern by clergy and leaders of congregations in Putnam and northern Westchester counties, it said as a result of recent actions by the federal government, there are communities and groups "now fearful of what may become of them and their families."

If vulnerable communities are singled out and threatened, the declaration stated that "none of us are really safe." The religious institutes pledge to draw from the talents of its membership to provide lawful aid to neighbors in distress.

"In keeping with our beliefs and traditions, it is our duty and our joy to stand with our neighbors who are now experiencing distress and anxiety because of their religion, their race, their ethnicity or their immigration status," the declaration stated. "No matter someone's status, we believe that we are all children of God."

Since Trump has taken office, immigration has been a major part of his administration. He has continued to push for a wall to stretch across the southern border and made clear he wants to deport undocumented immigrants especially those that have committed crimes in the country.

He signed an executive order barring people from seven Middle Eastern

countries from entering the country, but it was struck down by the judicial courts.

Axinn said he and other religious leaders want Latino churches in the area to know if their parishioners are in need of help, there are people there for them. All assistance is voluntary, Axinn said.

Axinn said he's already heard from one person and Axinn, an attorney for more than 50 years, was able to help that person with an immigration issue.

Axinn stressed this has nothing to do with politics. Whether a congregation member or religious leader personally supports or opposes Trump's action, the point is to simply help people.


"We cannot and are not making a political statement," Axinn said. "We want to let these folks to know they are not alone. We stand with them."

## Below are congregations taking part as of last week:

- Reform Temple of Putnam Valley
- Open Doors Community Parish, Putnam Valley
- Temple Israel of Putnam Valley
- United Methodist Church, Yorktown
- Temple Israel of Northern Westchester
- NOW Cooperative Parish, Carmel and Mahopac
- St. Mary's, Mohegan
- Hebrew Congregation of

Somers

- Temple Beth Am, Yorktown
- NOW United Methodist Churches, Purdys
- NY/CT District Supp't, Annual Conference, United Methodist Church
- Tetsuguiji Zen Temple
- First Hebrew Congregation, Peekskill
- St Andrew's Lutheran Church, Yorktown
- Yorktown Jewish Center
- Buddhist Association of the U.S.
- Bet Torah, Mt. Kisco



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# Environmental Activists Pray for the Planet in Peekskill

By Anna Young

Environmental activists gathered on Feb. 11 in Peekskill to raise awareness, offer indigenous prayer and call for strength, solidarity and compassion for the planet as concerns rise over the Spectra pipeline construction.

Healing and Protecting Our Land Together: A Call to Prayer, a local group of environmental activists, held an interfaith vigil at the Riverfront Green where roughly 30 attendees held signs such as "Honor mother earth, stop polluting fossil fuel," and formed a circle to pray for climate justice.

Sister Bette Ann Jaster, a Dominican Sister of Hope, led the vigil requesting attendees to breathe the air and to appreciate the sky, trees and ground below them. She then led the group in a rendition of "This Land Is Your Land" where revised lyrics expressed the importance of climate justice.

"We're coming to learn that Earth is a living organism worth relating to as a teacher, mentor and healer, it's not just an object to be treated and abused but a safe subject worth relating to," Jaster



ANNA YOUNG PHOTO

Garrison resident Paula Clair was one of about 30 environmental activists who protested Saturday in Peekskill to protect the planet against the Spectra Pipeline.

said during the rally. "We do this to draw attention to the natural world around us and to invite ourselves to reflect on it

and pay attention and leave here awake and aware of what we can offer back in mutuality."

After President Donald Trump signed a January 24 executive order advancing construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline and the Dakota Access Pipeline, members of the group became motivated to take preventative action to slow construction before any damage is done to the environment.

"We focus on prayer and nonviolent direct action, which seems to be the only thing left in order to raise awareness and get the attention of our elected officials who seem deaf," said Croton-on-Hudson resident Paola DalleCarbonare, founder of Healing and Protecting.

Since 2015, Healing and Protecting has worked with Resist Spectra, a group of advocates dedicated to stopping Spectra Energy's Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (AIM) by holding vigils throughout Westchester.

Vigils have also been held outside the home of Gov. Andrew Cuomo in New Castle with the hope he will instruct the state Department of Environmental

Conservation (DEC) to deny Spectra Energy's request for water quality permits for the second part of their 42-inch pipeline expansion called Atlantic Bridge.

"It's our job as citizens to stop this construction because of the irreparable damage the construction will have to the wetlands and the water in New York," said Courtney Williams, a Peekskill resident and Resist Spectra coordinator. "We can all stand together and stop these types of projects."

Garrison resident Paula Clair expressed her concern with the pipeline located next to Indian Point, contending that it will damage people's homes and lives.

Alexia Weilder of Manhattan added that if changes aren't made people are going to suffer the consequences. Westchester Resident Vitalah Simon agreed stating, people will die if preservation of air and water quality isn't a priority.

"I believe in the power of prayer and the power of people together, so I think when people pray and get together miracles are possible," DalleCarbonare said. "We're calling for a miracle; a miracle hasn't happened yet but we're still hoping."

## A Day Without Immigrants Protest Hits Brewster

*continued from page 1*

Mora said the current system set up is not helping all people in the country. Mora also stressed the immigrant community will only continue to grow, including in Putnam.

"This is just the beginning," she said. "Immigration is a part of the economy of the nation. It's what the United States is all about."

She noted on May 1 there are plans nationwide to have larger rallies and boycotts to protest a barrier being built on the southern border between the United States and Latin America.

Mora said many immigrants in the Lower Hudson Valley are afraid since there was news of Immigration and Customs Enforcement conducting raids in New York. Some immigrants that fear deportation won't even go to local grocery stores to pick up food and supplies for the week and some have called Mora to ask if they should send their child to school.

While Mora is a legal citizen, she "wishes everybody to have the opportunity that I had." She encouraged Putnam residents to have a welcoming attitude toward new people in the county.

"We are human, we have the same needs, we are parents, we have children and children are exposed to all what's happening," she said. "Let's just try to find ways to build bridges."

While immigration is a national issue debated feverishly throughout the country, Putnam County residents also



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

The open sign might have been shown, but no one was inside this business on Main Street in Brewster.

have strong opinions on the matter.

County Democratic Committee Chairman Jim Borkowski said in an email that in less than a month, "Trump has shown he is in over his head."

"Rather than leading our country, and bringing us together, Trump plays to the dark side of human nature: prejudice and fear," Borkowski said. "We are Americans, and we are better than this. We are better than a President Trump."

But Republican Committee Chairman for Putnam, Tony Scannapieco, argued Trump is enforcing the law and in some cases he's continuing actions taken by former president Barack Obama. He said illegal immigrants that break the law need to be held accountable, just like a citizen would be. He also noted there have been serious crimes in the region committed by illegal immigrants like a rape and murder in Croton Falls in 2005.

"These people should be deported," Scannapieco said. "And when they come back they should be put in jail."

Scannapieco said that if a person illegally enters Mexico, they could be sentenced to prison time and even face ten years if they're caught twice.

He also wants the border wall to be built to keep undocumented immigrants out.

"The liberals are out of their minds," he went on to say. "They can't believe President Trump is now their president."

Nick Fannin, the president of the Putnam's Young Republican Club, said while there have been mixed reports about whether there have been a surge in deportations, enforcing existing federal laws was one of Trump's law and order pledges. He added that every border in the United States deserves the best protection possible.

"A motivated and informed populace is the backbone of this democracy," Fannin, referring to the boycott last week, said "It's encouraging to see so many people politically engaged but the outcome of such a strike may be more detrimental to the businesses who support the hiring of immigrants than anything else."

Brewster Village Trustee Erin Meagher said she was encouraged to see residents voicing their opinion through protest.

"A Main Street without immigrants is a paralyzing calm that's less lively and less economically sound," Meagher said. "It was exciting to see the

*continued on next page*



## Business of the Week

By Neal Rentz

Scarsdale resident Jeffrey Cohen opened his Pet Supplies Plus franchise in Yorktown in early January and has owned several businesses in the past. But this is his first pet store.

"People spend money on pets. People love pets like their family," Cohen said last week. "I think it's a very good business and it's a terrific company. So I wanted to be part of their team."

Cohen's new business is located in what was a portion of a Staples store. "I've been working on this for two-and-a-half years," he said. "I like Yorktown and I like the BJ's shopping center."

"We wanted to take care of the people in the neighborhood," Cohen said. It took nine weeks to renovate his new store, said Cohen, who runs the business in conjunction with his wife, Madelyn.

Cohen said most of his customers live in Yorktown, Cortlandt, Peekskill and Somers. He noted Pet Supplies Plus consists of 370 franchises located in 27 states.

Pet Supplies Plus has "that local neighborhood feel" with personal attention for its customers, Shawn Blessinger, a Long Island resident who is a Pet Supplies Plus district team leader, said.

# Pet Supplies Plus Yorktown



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

A Pet Supplies Plus franchise opened recently on Route 202 in Yorktown. (L-R:) Pet Supplies Plus district team leader Shawn Blessinger, Yorktown franchise owner Jeffrey Cohen, and his wife, Madelyn.

Blessinger said the new store will support pet-related causes in the area, including dog parks and holding pet adoption events.

Pet Supplies Plus offers products to owners of dogs, cats, birds, reptiles,

fish, and even sells chicken feed, Cohen noted. Some of the items offered include pet food (including healthy treats), medical supplies, and toys, fish and fish tanks, birds, mice, rats, gerbils, and even tarantulas. "We have stuff that you can't

find every place," he said.

"It's a one-stop shop," Blessinger said. The Plus in the name of the stores refers to the "one-on-one service" and positive experiences provided to its customers, he said.

Cohen said his store offers holistic and natural pet food including Redford Naturals, dog food, which is only sold in Pet Supplies Plus stores. "It's a premium food, but it's cheaper than the ones you see advertised on TV," he said. "It's for the health and maintenance of a dog." The better quality offered by Redford Naturals lengthens the lives of dogs, he said.

Blessinger said Pet Supplies Plus stores encourage pets to come and walk around with their owners. "It's like brining a kid to Toys 'R' Us and that's what makes us so unique," he said.

Another feature of Pet Supplies Plus is its dog wash facilities. "You bring your own pet. We give you towel and soap," Cohen said. "You get to leave your mess here."

*Pet Supplies Plus is located at 3333 Crompond Rd. (Route 202). in Yorktown. For more information, call 914-930-8585 or 917-939-9959 or send an e-mail to madjef@psppfranchise.com.*



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## A Day Without Immigrants Protest Hits Brewster

*continued from previous page*

immigrant community come together in the Village of Brewster to exercise their first amendment rights, the most fundamentally American of all rights."

And business owners weren't the only people sitting out Thursday. Students also protested by not attending classes.

Kevin, a Brewster High School graduate and college student, said he took the day off from school to stand in solidarity with fellow immigrants. At his college and place of work, Kevin said there are

many immigrants, enough that if they were all gone it would be noticeable. He stressed the roles of immigrants--legal or not--are important.

"I wanted people to see what it would be without us," Kevin said. "The Hispanics and minorities fill in a lot of jobs that not many people think about and as soon as they're all gone people are going to be this is hectic."

Kevin and his family came to Putnam 13 years ago. Both came from Latin countries, entering the country illegally. The family eventually worked toward getting their green cards and proper paperwork, Kevin said.

With the new presidential administration a month old, Kevin said people he knows are in fear. While his family is secure, he has friends that have parents in the country illegally.

Kevin said he plans to continue speaking out, including going down to a protest in front of Trump Tower in New York City in a couple of weeks.

"We have to be heard," Kevin said. "It's not fair that people are going to get in trouble and kicked out of this country for just living and fulfilling the American dream and making a better life for themselves."

### Pet of the Week



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# Marketplace Set for State of County Address

This year, The Year of the Millennial, the Marketplace which will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. just prior to the presentation of the Putnam County Legislature and the County Executive's State of the County Address will be focused on the Age of Technology and its impact on the Putnam County community. The generation of young people returning to Putnam County is reliant upon the internet and all forms of technology throughout their daily lives to shop, find the best restaurants and entertainment, for travel and to locate housing and employment. If you are a business or agency who has developed new and innovative means of accessing

technology to market to this consumer group, then we would love to hear from you. The State of the County address is March 9.

We hope to have several presentations and technology exhibits from those in our community who are focused on reaching the younger generation of Putnam County residents in the hope that they choose to live, work and play right here in our community.

So, if you are a Putnam County business who is focused on social media and other new and exciting technological platforms to reach the new generation of consumers in our community, and you would like to offer advice to others on

the best ways of doing so, we would love to have you participate.

If you have participated in previous Marketplaces and are interested in joining us this year, you will find contact information below. We are hopeful that you will focus your exhibit on the ways in which your organization utilizes technology and social media to market your business or cause. We are looking for our local businesses and agencies to provide an innovative display of the manner in which they use technology and web-based targeted marketing to reach our younger generation of Putnam County residents in an effort to encourage them to remain and thrive

in Putnam County. Should you have particular needs for technical equipment, be sure to let us know so that we may accommodate you. We will do all we can to ensure that your presentation is as exciting and successful as possible.

We look forward to an innovative and state-of-the-art Marketplace!

Kindly contact Heidi Kuhland or Maureen Bernard at the Putnam County Law Department for more information and to make arrangements for your presentation: heidi.kuhland@putnamcountyny.gov; maureen.bernard@putnamcountyny.gov.

## Obituaries

### Suzanne F. Muller

Suzanne F. Muller of Mahopac, died on Sunday February 12, at the age of 78. She was born in Brooklyn on November 24, 1938, the daughter of John and Frances Olsen. Suzanne worked for many years as a school bus driver and dispatcher with the Somers School District. She is survived by her son John and his wife Lorraine of Clifton Park, NY, her daughter Mary Meyer-Funk and her husband Paul of Mahopac and her grandchildren, John, Michelle, Christopher, Adam, Laurel, Mark and Julianne. Her brother John predeceased her.

### Muriel Louise Rapp

Muriel Louise Rapp, of Brewster, died peacefully at Putnam Ridge Nursing Home on Monday, February 13. She was 94 years old. Mrs. Rapp was born June 1, 1922 in the Bronx, daughter to the late Charles and Caroline (Widman) Menge. She is predeceased by the love of her life, Frederick C. Rapp, in 2007, whom she married on October 6, 1946 in the Bronx. They had met just after WWII as a result of her membership in the Eastern Star and his in the Masons. With Frederick by her side, they owned and operated Riverside Motel, which they later converted to

the Riverside Apartments in Brewster. Additionally, she worked as a dietician for the North Salem Schools. Muriel and Fred spent their retirement years in Big Pine Key, FL where Muriel enjoyed boating, rendezvous events with the Power Squadron, and get-togethers and cards with friends and neighbors. Muriel was a charter member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Brewster, where she played the organ for the morning service for many years. She enjoyed the friendships she made in the Welka women's club and the crafts they produced for their Christmas sale. She was also a member of the Garden Club of Brewster and enjoyed her friends and their many activities. She is survived by her loving daughters; Carol L. Rezba (Richard) of Key West, FL and Linda J. Salinger (Robert) of Brewster, NY, her five grandchildren, Timothy and Andrew Salinger, Sarah Browne, Elizabeth Bickel and Michael Rezba, and her six great grandchildren, Chase, Austin, Lily, Hayden, Henry and Lyla. She was predeceased by her twin brother Charles Menge and her sister Eleanor Kumpf.

### Madeline O'Loughlin

Madeline D. O'Loughlin, of Brewster, formerly of Pawling and Wingdale, died peacefully at Putnam Ridge Nursing Home in Brewster on Tuesday, February 14. She was 88 years old. Mrs. O'Loughlin was born September 29, 1928 in Mt. Kisco, daughter to the late Thomas J. and Mary (Mannix) Dennison. She graduated from Brewster High School in 1946 and attended nursing school at BOCES. Madeline was an LPN with Harlem Valley Hospital in Wingdale, NY for 14 years, where she loved her job. She was also a waitress in Bob's Diner for over 23 years. Her personality was one everyone loved, she was funny, and always made everyone smile. She loved to dance. Her greatest passion in life was her family, her children and grandchildren were her everything. Mrs. O'Loughlin is survived by her 6

children; Martin (Sharon) May, Michael May, Maureen (Ron) Christie, Robin O'Loughlin, Patty Ann O'Loughlin and Kelly Magnuson, her 14 grandchildren; 6 great grandchildren and sister Mary Medeiros. She was predeceased by her granddaughter Danielle Kara May and her sisters Elizabeth Link, Evelyn Stevens and Pauline O'Loughlin.

### Carmela Yobak

Carmela Yobak, a longtime resident of Mahopac, died on Tuesday, February 14th at the age of 95. She was born in New York City, the daughter of Daniel and Josephine (Sica) Cappiello. On April 8, 1945 she married Charles Yobak in the Bronx. Carmela worked as a monitor in Mahopac Middle School for over 20 years. The students knew her as "Little Millie". Carmela is survived by her daughter Janet Pizzola, daughter Frances Ruocco and her husband John, son Charles and his wife Joanne, sister Anna Gloria, seven grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

### Barbara M. Zeisler

Barbara M. Zeisler of Mahopac, and formerly of the Bronx died on Wednesday, February 15th at the age of 71. She was born in the Bronx,

the daughter of John and Margaret (Schipits) Nolan. Barbara is survived by her significant other of 25 years James Myers, daughter Susan Salamone and her husband Joseph, daughter Eileen Zeisler and her companion Dave Dobrozsi, son Joseph and his companion Evelyn Richardson, and brother Thomas Nolan and his wife Joann. She is also survived by her grandchildren Rudolf, Jordyn, Aidan, Kimberly, Jessica, Joseph, Kate, Elizabeth (Milton), and Jerome; and three great grandchildren.

### Angelo L. Bergamasco

Angelo L. Bergamasco, age 84, of Mahopac, and formerly of the Bronx, died peacefully at home on Saturday February 18. He was born in Manhattan on March 14, 1932, the son of Pasquale and Irene Bergamasco. Angelo served in the US Army during the Korean Conflict. He was a retired master butcher for the Grand Union grocery chain in New York City. Additionally, he was a member of American Legion Post 153 in the Bronx and a member of the Boys Club in Manhattan. Angelo loved to cook and decorate, and presentation was very important to him. He loved to sing and enjoyed collecting models of

*continued on next page*



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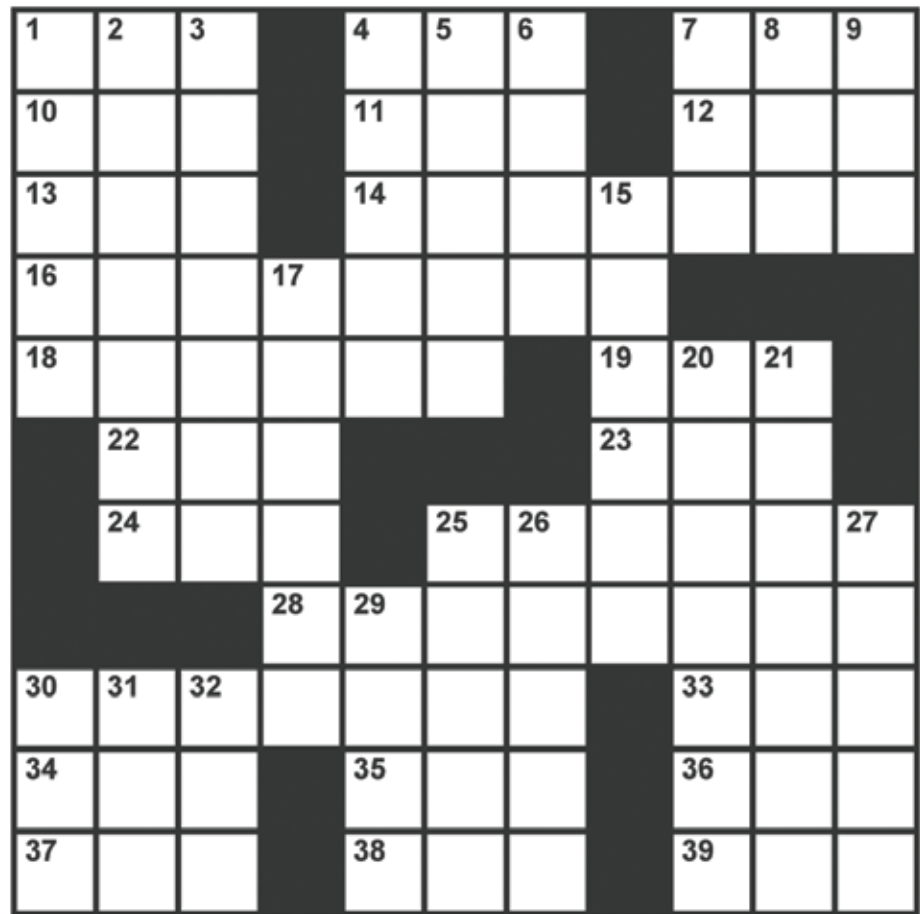


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# Crossword Puzzle



Crossword by Myles Mellor

Answers on page 18

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## Obituaries (continued)

cars and boats. Angelo could fix almost anything and would say “if I can’t fix it, throw it out”. He loved watching children play and most of all he loved spending time with his family. On September 25, 1955 he married Rosemarie Locantro at Holy Rosary Church in Manhattan. In addition to Rosemarie, he is survived by his sons, Patrick of Suffern, NY and Thomas and his wife Anne of Norwalk, CT, his daughters Angele Masenior and her husband George of Forest Hill, MD, Irene D’Onofrio and her husband Frank of Conowingo, MD, and Antoinette Nardini and her husband John of

Mahopac; his sister Florence Vidal and her husband Abe of Staten Island, 13 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. Visiting will be held on Tuesday February 21, from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. & 7 p.m.-9 p.m. at Joseph J. Smith Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday February 22, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. at St. John the Evangelist Church in Mahopac with interment to follow at Raymond Hill Cemetery in Carmel. In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Angelo may be made to NCAN, 2480 Hull Ave., North Bellmore, NY 11710. [www.netcancerawareness.org](http://www.netcancerawareness.org)

### Across

- Quote from Homer
- Hot springs
- Gusto
- Fertility clinic stock
- Widower on “The Simpsons”
- Goof
- Social newcomer
- Eroded
- Mythical Greek creatures or Peekskill landscaping service
- Dine at a restaurant
- Although abbr.
- Unfriendly dog
- Harley-Davidson owners group
- Driver’s gadget
- Sound quality
- “The Diving Bell and the Butterfly” director Julian
- Sleep
- Third guy with the same name
- Big galoot
- Troublemaker
- D.C. setting
- Deuce in poker
- Service call
- That Muse

### Down

- Artful move
- Ham it up
- Frequenter
- Mix-up

- Little in Paris
- Yemen gulf
- Sunday seat
- Time piece
- Jimmy
- Breathing problem
- Woodland
- Leisure-time pursuits
- Like a fairytale monster
- Evergreen herb or Yorktown restaurant
- All thumbs
- Top-notch
- Overlay with wood or plaster
- Fields persona
- Don’t hem and \_\_ about it
- Sky craft



## Southeast Democrats Call for Candidates

Are you ready to make a difference? Here’s your chance. The Southeast Democratic Committee is seeking passionate, community-minded people to run for office in the Village of Brewster and the Town of Southeast in November 2017.

Southeast Democrats are actively recruiting candidates to run for the following positions. In the Village of Brewster, four seats are up for election:

- Mayor (two-year term)

- Two Trustees (two-year terms each)
- Village Justice (four-year term).

In the Town of Southeast, four seats are up for election; terms are four years each.

- Two Town Council seats
- Two Town Justice seats.

Interested Brewster/Southeast residents who want to make a difference should contact Democratic Committee Chairwoman Cathy Croft at [info@southeastdemocrats.org](mailto:info@southeastdemocrats.org) or (914) 826-0180.

## Putnam County Democrats Call for Candidates

If you are an experienced, dedicated, community-minded individual who feels it is time to make a difference, running for office is one way you can effect change. The Putnam County Democratic Committee is seeking individuals like you to run for county offices in November 2017.

The following office is up for election:

- Putnam County Sheriff-four-year term.

The following Putnam County Legislative seats are up for election; terms are three years each.

- Legislative District 2 (nine Election Districts in Putnam Valley and one

- Election District in Carmel),
- Legislative District 3 (nine Elections Districts in Kent), and
- Legislative District 8 (ten Election Districts in Carmel).

To view an interactive Legislative District map, go to <http://www.putnamcountyny.com/legi/legislative-district-map>

Interested Putnam County residents may contact Putnam County Democratic Chairman Jim Borkowski at [info@putnamdemocrats.org](mailto:info@putnamdemocrats.org) or 845-494-7630



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## School & Camp Guide

# Local Seniors Receive V-Day Cards from Seven Star School

Over 200 handmade cards were delivered to local Senior Citizens at the Office for Senior Resources' Annual Valentine's Day Luncheon in Carmel. Performing Arts Students attending Seven Star School classes were provided with materials to create special Valentine's Days cards as part of the school's S.T.A.R. Up community outreach program. The acronym stands for "Serving Today Always

Reaching UP" which supports Seven Star School's commitment to teaching classes wrapped around life lessons including giving back to the community.

The seniors were delighted as they read the cards. Pre-School Director, Jacqueline Madera, "The kids worked very hard on creating the cards and it was heartwarming to see the seniors' reactions to the Valentine's Day cards."



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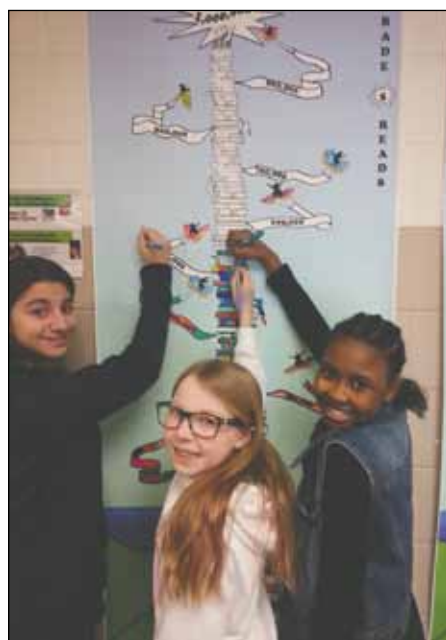
# The Million-Page Challenge at George Fischer Middle School

The Million Page Challenge is going strong at George Fischer Middle School. Similar to last year's challenge, students in fifth and sixth grade are reading to benefit two local nonprofit organizations. Fifth graders are reading for Happy Life Animal Rescue and sixth graders are reading for Animal Ark Wildlife Rescue. Both are located in Patterson.

Should students achieve the goal of reading one million pages as a grade level, their chosen organization will receive a donation. In addition, if either grade level reaches a million pages read, the librarian's hair will certainly change color, not pink like last year, but possibly a neon green or brilliant blue! As of January 31, fifth graders have read 655,084 pages and sixth graders have read 430,076 pages.

In addition to the donation, when an individual student reaches 1,000 pages, he or she receives a "paw" token. When a student completes 5,000 pages he or she receives a sun token indicating this achievement. The class who reads the most on the grade level receives a pizza lunch.

The Million Page Challenge is designed to build excitement about



PROVIDED PHOTO

Angie R., Sasha Z., and Shanaya W. coloring books on the lobby chart to indicate their reading progress.

reading in students, while helping them develop and foster an awareness of responsibility toward their community.

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# PCCC Announces Keynote Presenters for Trailblazer Awards

The Putnam County Chamber of Commerce (PCCC), the county's largest business organization and primary advocate, voice, and resource for the business community, announced today that Dr. Marsha Gordon, President & CEO of The Business Council of Westchester, and Meghan Taylor, Regional Director of Mid-Hudson Empire State Development will present keynote remarks at the PCCC's seventh annual "Best in Business" Trailblazer Awards dinner at Villa Barone on Thursday, March 23.

As the largest business recognition and networking event in Putnam County, the PCCC's Trailblazer Awards presentation seeks to further educate and inspire local business leaders through experienced and respected leadership perspectives and best practices.

"We couldn't be more pleased to have Marsha Gordon, a long-time 'go-to' person on legislative and regulatory issues throughout the Hudson Valley, and Meghan Taylor, former president of the Putnam County EDC and now Regional Director of Mid-Hudson Empire State Development," said Jennifer Maher, Chairwoman, PCCC. "We want businesses to embrace and help strengthen Putnam's brand as a destination to Live, Work and Play. In



Dr. Marsha Gordon

doing so, we drive tourism and grow our population – key elements to business growth and vitality."

"This event's celebration of excellence in business and community leadership in Putnam County showcases why our region continues to prosper and grow," said Marsha Gordon. "It is a privilege to be speaking at the Trailblazer Awards to



Meghan Taylor

honor the impressive winners."

Gordon and Taylor will focus on business trends affecting the Hudson Valley Region, as well as opportunities to impact growth by emphasizing and building upon Putnam's strengths as a community to live, work and play.

"From its status as one of New York's safest and healthiest counties, to excellent

schools, scenic beauty and easy access to the New York Metro area, Putnam has an incredibly unique array of features that make it attractive to live, work and play," said Meghan Taylor.

Save the date: The "Best in Business" Trailblazer Awards will be given at Villa Barone on Thursday, March 23, from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Sponsorships for this countywide event are available ranging from \$500 to \$5000. There will also be a printed program for the evening, with various sized ads available. For more information on sponsorships, program advertising, or nomination of award candidates, please call Jennifer Maher at (914) 330-7222 or for information on chamber membership, call President/CEO, Bill Nulk at (845) 225-8595 or email [info@putnamchamberny.org](mailto:info@putnamchamberny.org).

## About the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce

Since 2010, the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce (PCCC) has been dedicated to serving as the primary advocate, voice, and resource for our business community. The PCCC's utmost priority is to promote its members, provide educational opportunities and to enhance individually viable commerce districts throughout Putnam County and beyond.

# Murphy and Byrne Co-sponsor 'Community Heroes Protection Act'

There has been an alarming increase in mortality rates of law enforcement officers, firefighters, corrections officers and emergency medical services personnel within the past decade. Between 2015 and 2016 alone, there was a 68 percent increase in firearms related fatalities among law enforcement, bringing the total number of officers fatally shot in 2016 to 64.

According to The National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, four out of five medical technicians have experienced some form of injury while on the job. Approximately 52 percent, claimed to have been injured by assault and over 20 percent said personal safety was their primary concern.

To help stem the rising tide of attacks on first responders, Senator Terrence Murphy has co-sponsored the Community Heroes Protection Act (S1114A/A2962A). The legislation designates offenses against law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency medical services personnel as hate crimes. These offenses are designated as hate crimes only if they are intentionally aimed at first responders and the penalty is based on the profile of the assailant's career.

"Firemen, police officers, our EMS techs and other first responders are on the firing line every day," said Murphy. "They have been targeted not because of

who they are, but because of what they are and what they represent. This legislation sends a very clear message - we will not tolerate attacks on those who protect us."

Assemblyman Kevin Byrne said, "As a volunteer firefighter and as someone who has both worked and volunteered as an EMT, I am extremely proud to join my colleagues in the Assembly by co-sponsoring this important piece of legislation. The fact that our first responders are being targeted because of the uniform they wear is simply unacceptable. These brave men and women put their lives at risk every day to protect us. Now we need to step up and be there for them. This legislation is a no brainer, it is non-partisan, and it will offer added protection to all our first responders."

Senator Sue Serino agreed saying, "When the safety of a first responder is intentionally threatened—when they are targeted solely for the uniform that they selfless sign-up to wear—it can set off a chain reaction that in turn can endanger those in the community who they were trying to protect. Passing this bill is about deterring crimes against our first responders, and that starts with building trust and improving safety for our communities and those who serve them."

Michael B. Powers, President of NYSCOPBA said, "We are honored

to stand side-by-side with our fellow brothers and sisters in law enforcement and the first responders who put their lives on the line to protect our communities. Recently we have witnessed several unjustified crimes against members of the law enforcement community for no other reason than the type of job that they perform or the uniform that they wear. Criminals who target law enforcement officers and first responders need to be held accountable for their actions. This legislation is a step in the right direction that will help ensure that our members return home safely at the end of their shifts."

Jerry DeLuca, Executive Director of the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs said, "The mission of the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs is to educate and train firefighters and officers, so that they can stay safe while working to protect their communities. The Community Heroes Protection Act goes one step further in helping to ensure the safety of those firefighters, police officers and EMS workers who place their lives in jeopardy for the safety of the public."

"Our firefighters and so many other first responders put their lives at risk every single day to rescue others," said James Slevin, President of the United Firefighters Association. "To know that criminal acts - against our heroes - are

on the rise is a serious concern, and we commend the Senate for introducing the Community Heroes Protection Act. This bill will help ensure that crimes targeted against our brave emergency service workers will be punishable as hate crimes."

Recent history has dictated the necessity for legislation that would hold anyone who attacks a first responder accountable for their actions. In 2009, Mark Davis, a volunteer Emergency Medical Technician in Cape Vincent, was shot and killed by a patient he was trying to help. Three years later, Webster Police Lt. and volunteer firefighter Mike Chiapperini and 911 Dispatcher Tomasz Kaczowka, were killed by a gunman who ambushed the firefighters by creating a fire at his home. In a heinous act that remains a fresh, two New York Police Department officers, Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos, were murdered in an ambush-styled killing while they were sitting in their patrol car in 2014.

Under current law, when a person is convicted of a hate crime and the specified offense is a misdemeanor or a class C, D or E felony, the hate crime is deemed to be one category higher than the specified offense. Police officers and first responders are not included in the current definition of a hate crime.



# The Scale May Be the Home's Most Used Gadget

Considering that one in three women and one out of five men in this country are on a diet, might the bathroom scale be the most utilized gadget in the home?

I can't speak for anyone else, but I know that for many years, I've had an almost unnatural relationship with my scale.

Every morning I surrender myself to it just before jumping into the shower. If this simple act stopped there, it might be considered perfectly normal behavior, but a secret ritual has developed over the years. I tap the glass surface of the attractively designed gadget, step on it lightly and wait with baited breath as digital figures start their little dance until the final number pops up in an excessively large digital display, the only reading I am able to achieve without my glasses.

More often than not, I don't accept the preliminary hard evidence of my imprudence. Surely the scale needs to "warm up" before it gives me an accurate weight. I step off and on the scale again, but this time I lower my weight slowly as I lean on a shelf nearby. The result of



By Bill Primavera

this little trick may actually be higher than the first reading.

Convinced that the floor tiles where the scale rests must be uneven, I step off again and nudge it along the floor a few inches to another spot and try again. If I get a more favorable weight, I will stop there. If not, there may be a couple of more nudges along the floor, before I am forced to call out to my wife, "Honey, do you think the scale is off this morning? Maybe it's the change in the weather?"

I will resist elaborating on the fact that for a while I had two scales in the bathroom, each a different brand; I'd weigh myself on both, then accept the average weight between them.

With our distant ancestors, not fettered by body image issues spawned by the media, it was the need for measurement in commerce that created the first scale. Evidence of the earliest scales in Roman times shows that they were actually balancing systems, using two plates attached to an overhead beam fixed on a central pole, much like the smaller version held by Lady Justice. The weight

of any object for trade, like gold, was measured by placing it on one plate and weight-setting stones on the other, until equilibrium was reached.

In the late 1700s, British balance maker Richard Salter invented the spring scale, which measures the pressure exerted on a spring to deduce the weight of an object. Spring scales are still fairly common today, but are not as accurate as the new and sleek scales that came with the digital age.

The first automatic vending machine was a large spring scale that was imported from Germany in the late 1880s. People would go to a local store or arcade where they availed themselves of a coin-operated weighing scale, requiring a penny to see one's weight.

In the 1920s and 1930s, Peerless Scale operated a scale on almost every corner and weighing in was considered an affordable novelty, even during the Depression. To feed interest in this pastime, fortunes were added to the ticket that was dispensed, then the names and pictures of movie stars who paid to have themselves promoted through this service.

By the 1940s, improvements in mechanical scale technology made smaller, inexpensive spring scales

available for the home, and they stayed pretty much the same until recently when they advanced to digital models operated by batteries.

Today, bathroom scales come in many models and range from the inexpensive and simple to the more elaborate, supported by technology, where we can also learn our Body Mass Index.

Through the years, I've met a few people who have told me they never get on a scale and don't own one. Their only weight monitoring system might be to cut back on dessert when they feel their pants getting a little snug. This system is so foreign, so unfathomable to me that I can only marvel at it.

Judging from the number of bathrooms I've visited as a realtor, I would say that these lucky people are in the minority and that the bathroom scale is one home gadget that is here to stay.

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

## Making Difficult Choices is a Lot Easier These Days



By Nick Antonaccio

The wine industry has evolved, and its production of quality wines at lower price points has significantly improved, more in the past decade than perhaps in the previous century.

The introduction of new technology and new techniques has raised the overall quality, quantity and diversity of wines available to consumers. The profile of many of today's wines is dramatically different from the mass-produced, mass-marketed wines of yesteryear. There has been a sea change in winemakers' approaches to making wine, utilizing recent developments to enhance the quality of their wines.

The phenomenon of high quality wines at value prices once again came home to me for a recent event. Over the 20-plus years I have been conducting wine tastings, I have honed my skill at selecting crowd pleasers, yet for each event I labor considerably over matching wines with guests.

One of the events I support is a networking gathering near Grand

Central Terminal organized by Chapin Hill Advisors ([www.chapinhill.com](http://www.chapinhill.com)). Kathy Boyle, the energetic founder and president, for years has been bringing together professionals from numerous industries to meet and greet.

Several few weeks ago, I assisted her at one such event. My role was to select, purchase and present 15 wines to the 100 professional guests that had signed up, as well as offer my comments on each wine. The challenge for me was to select wines that would satisfy the divergent tastes and preferences of a large group.

On the (very) snowy day of the event, midway on my train ride, I received a frantic call from Kathy.

"I'm here at the wine shop to pick up the eight cases of wine. The store is closed because of the snow!" she frantically exclaimed. "What should we do?"

I thought for a second and anxiously responded: "We'll resort to Plan B."

"Plan B?" Kathy shot back, with tinges of relief and anxiety in her voice. "And what is Plan B?"

Here was my moment of truth. All of my planning and selection was on

### You Heard It Through the Grapevine

the line.

"I'll call you right back," was all I could muster, trying to sound comforting and in control.

Plan B? There was no Plan B. There was never a need for a Plan B. Pick up

the wines and bring them to the event; a simple task that requires no Plan B. Except it did.

Trying to stay calm and clear-headed, I called Kathy right back. "Trust me. I'll find alternative wines near the venue and will get them to the event in plenty of time." "Whew," she exclaimed, confident from the reassuring tone of my voice.

Now what do I do? In two hours, 100 guests would be arriving to sample wines that were locked in a storeroom in Westchester.

When situations arise that require acute problem-solving skills and innovative solutions, what is the increasingly logical course of action? Google it.

So I did. "Wine shops in Grand Central area," I frantically typed. I found three shops. I chose the closest.

Racing to the store, I ran up and down the aisles seeking out familiar regions and producers. The selection was sparse and the producers unfamiliar. The wine shop staff was of no help; their manager had stepped out.

Furtively checking my watch (90

minutes to showtime), I drew upon my accumulated years of wine knowledge. I scanned the shelves for regions with excellent reputations that embraced modern technology and techniques. I then checked the back labels for the name of the importer/distributor, confident that selections from reputable companies would be of high quality and value.

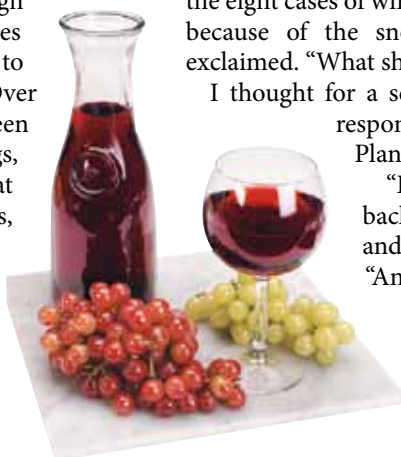
About 15 minutes later, my 15 selections were complete, and I was ready to transport the eight cases of wine, none of which I had tasted before.

Mission accomplished. Plan B implemented and successfully executed. And all with five minutes to spare before guests were scheduled to arrive.

And the wines? A big hit, every one of them eliciting favorable comments.

More anecdotal proof that the wine industry has evolved, and significantly improved, more in the past decade than perhaps in the previous century. Now we just need to work on Mother Nature's whims.

*Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 20 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. Nick, a member of the Wine Media Guild of wine writers, 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](mailto:nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com) or on Twitter @sharingwine.*



# Happenings

*We're happy to help spread the word about your community event. Please submit your information at least three weeks prior to your event and include the words "Happenings Calendar Submission" in your email subject line. Entries should be sent to Nikki Gallagher at [nikki@theexaminernews.com](mailto:nikki@theexaminernews.com)*

Registration for Kindergarten in Brewster School District: Kindergarten registration for the Brewster High School Class of 2030 takes place the week of February 27– March 3. Children who will be five years of age on or before December 1, 2017, are eligible to register for September classes. Families residing within the Brewster School District are asked to call John F. Kennedy Elementary at 845-279-2087 x 4111 to make an appointment.

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](mailto:jak4dogs@verizon.net). If anyone is interested in volunteering, please call Judy Kolt as above.

## Ongoing

On Display: Mahopac Public Library is pleased to host a display of artwork created by the 1-2 class at Lakeview Elementary School

Marionettes on display at Kent Library: Marionettes constructed by Mary Schreiber will be on display during the month of February at the Kent Public Library. The marionettes are part of a series of "freedom fighter" puppets. For more information, visit [hawkrocktheater.org](http://hawkrocktheater.org). The Kent Library is located at 17 Sybil's Crossing (off of Route 52) in Kent Lakes.

Art of the Heart: A group show featuring 36 local and regional artists. The show is currently on display in the Third Floor Gallery and will remain on view through February 28.

## Daily:

EA Test Prep Team is here to assist you every step of the way. Each member of the team wants you to be accepted to the college of your choice. Start preparing today by calling EA Test Prep at 845-582-0017 or visit our website at [www.eatestprep.com](http://www.eatestprep.com) to learn about how we can help you achieve your college goals.

Winter session of Reading Buddies at the Kent Library: If you're in 1st through 4th grade, you can participate in Kent Public Library's winter session of Reading Buddies! Running from daily through April 1st. Reading Buddies is a program

that pairs teen volunteers with students in grades 1st through 4th grade. Reading Buddy applications are available at the Library. Contact Rebecca Newman, the Children's Librarian, at 845-225-8585 for more information. The library is located at 17 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes.

## Wednesdays

Craft Time for Preschoolers at the Brewster Public Library, from 11 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Wednesdays through March 8. Children ages 3-5 and their caregivers are invited to make a creative seasonal or holiday related craft. Some crafts may be messy; please dress accordingly. Registration is required. For more information call 845-279-6421 or visit <http://tinyurl.com/zjbkyjf>.

## Thursdays

Basic Drawing at Reed Library. This six week class is designed for students who have never picked up a pencil and will help participants develop basic drawing skills. Meets Thursdays 10 a.m. – Noon. Beginning March 9. Registration is required, please call the library to register 845-225-2439.

## Fridays

Dance of joy: 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 ongoing group meets on Fridays at 10 a.m.-11 a.m. at the Seven Star School of Performing Arts. Marie invites you to move at your own comfort level and ability, as well as express feelings safely and playfully. If you would like more information about this group, please contact Marie Carstens at 347-742-6591 or email at [Mccarstens21@yahoo.com](mailto:Mccarstens21@yahoo.com). Pre-registration is required. Registration is \$15 per session, a caregiver or loved one is encouraged to join for an additional \$5.

## Wednesday, February 22

Anthony Musso discusses his book, FDR and the Post Office, at Kent Library. 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. It is appropriate that this fascinating program about a great American president will take place just two days after President's Day. This book reviews how Roosevelt's passionate interest in a pastime primarily viewed at the time as being limited to a young audience, and his continuing and hands-on involvement with all aspects associated with the department that issued the tiny artwork treasures of documented history provided it with a new credibility and lasting presence for both its pleasure and educational value. Registration is required. You may register for the program by going to [www.kentlibrary.org](http://www.kentlibrary.org) or calling the Kent Public Library at

845-225-8585. The library is located at 17 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes.

## Thursday, February 23

Tinkerlab at Kent Library: New to the Kent Public Library is the 4-week Tinkerlab series for 4 year olds. 11 a.m.-11:45 a.m. The Tinkerlab will provide playful activities that encourage tinkering, curiosity, and creative thinking. Children must be accompanied by an adult caregiver. Registration is required. You may register for the program by going to [www.kentlibrary.org](http://www.kentlibrary.org) or calling the Kent Public Library at 845-225-8585. The library is located at 17 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes.

The Tri-State IBM Retirees Club: 1:30 p.m. Meeting hall of the United Methodist Church, 1176 E Main St, Shrub Oak. The speaker will be James Killoran, CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Westchester. Annual membership dues will be collected. Sign in and light refreshments at 1pm. Info: 914-528-5916.

Middle School Book Group. 3:30 p.m. Join us for pizza and discussion! Copies of "Touching Spirit Bear" are available at the Circulation Desk. Registration is requested. To register for most programs at Mahopac Public Library, call 845-628-2009, ext 100, or visit [www.mahopaclibrary.org](http://www.mahopaclibrary.org). You must register at the Library for programs that require a fee.

## Friday, February 24

Cooking for Teens: 5:30 p.m. Do you enjoy cooking or want to learn to cook? Then come check out this basic cooking class with professional chef, Stefan Fraundorfer! For teens in grades 8 and up. Registration required. For more information or to register contact the Patterson Library at 845-878-6121 x10 or go to [www.pattersonlibrary.org](http://www.pattersonlibrary.org) and click Calendar.

Blue Oyster Cult: 8 p.m.-10 p.m. Admission Prices: \$30, \$40.03, \$57.19. Event/Ticket Link: <http://paramounthudsonvalley.com/events/blueoystercult/> Paramount Hudson Valley Box Office. 914- 739-0039

## Saturday, February 25

International Dinner: All Are Welcome. 5p.m. (snow date is Sunday, Feb. 26, 2 p.m.) Admission: Bring a dish from your heritage plus beverages of choice. Fill out Registration Form back of church or just call Deb Lawlor at 845-278-427 (Also International Rosary at 3 pm, Mass at 4 pm) Please join us for one or all events Sacred Heart Catholic Church 414 Haviland Dr., Patterson.

CHILD ID Program at Kent Library, during Winter Festival. noon.-2 p.m. New York Life will be visiting the Kent Library with their CHILD ID Program. The New

York Life Insurance Company has a long tradition of embracing the communities they serve; positively impacting families, schools, and businesses in local towns across the country. In the Child ID program, they work with the members of the local community to create a safer environment for their kids. All children, accompanied by their parent(s) or legal guardian, will receive a complimentary identification card, courtesy of New York Life. The card can be used in the event of an emergency to quickly send out current picture and fingerprints of the child to pertinent agencies. For more information, please call the Kent Public Library at 845-225-8585, or visit the Library website at [www.kentlibrary.org](http://www.kentlibrary.org). The library is located at 17 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes, NY 10512.

February Defensive Driving Course at Kent Library: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Kent Public Library at 17 Sybil's crossing in Kent Lakes. Receive up to a 10 percent discount on your motor vehicle collision and liability insurance premium for up to three years, and up to a four-point reduction on your driving record. This class is offered by DigitalDefensiveDriving.com. The cost is \$40, with a portion benefiting the library. Registration is required at [www.kentlibrary.org](http://www.kentlibrary.org) or call 845-225-8585. Registration is not complete without payment. Please have payment in before the class. The library is located at 17 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes.

## Sunday, February 26

The Desmond-Fish Library presents Healing the Heart of Democracy®, the first in a new series of facilitated non-partisan conversation circles 1p.m. Using the Circle of Trust® approach, developed by the Center for Courage & Renewal ([www.couragerenewal.org](http://www.couragerenewal.org)) facilitator Cat Greenstreet teaches five "habits of the heart" which encourage mindful listening and speaking. The monthly sessions will be scheduled after the introduction, based on the availability of those interested in participating. The Desmond-Fish Library is located at 472 Route 403 (at the corner of 9D) in Garrison, NY. For more information about any of the library's upcoming programs, please visit [www.desmondfishlibrary.org](http://www.desmondfishlibrary.org)

Al Di Meola's Elegant Gypsy 40th Anniversary Tour. 7 p.m. Description: Released in 1977, Elegant Gypsy was the follow-up album to Di Meola's debut release. The distinctive music on the album is a fusion of jazz and rock, with Di Meola's lightening-fast guitar riffs intermixed with lyrical acoustical passages. The album was named Best Guitar Album in Guitar Player magazine and is regarded as a masterpiece in the rock-jazz music genre. Paramount Hudson Valley Box Office 914- 739-0039.



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## LEGAL NOTICES

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF TAX-SOLUTION4EXPATS.COM, LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 11/14/2016. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **Seung Yup Kang, 27 Overlook street, Mount Vernon, New York 10552. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.**

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF HARD-CORE REALTY LLC FILED WITH SSNY ON 12/6/16.** Office in Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **829 Franklin Avenue, Thornwood NY 10594. Purpose: any lawful purpose.**

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF WOLVERINE SECURITY LLC.** Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/26/2016. Office loc: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to the principal business address: **373 Downing Dr., Yorktown Heights, NY 10598. Purpose: Security Business.**

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LEARNING ANALYTICS GROUP, LLC.** Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/07/2011. Office loc: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail process to the principal business address: **2435 Pinetree Pl Yorktown Hts, NY 10598 Purpose: any lawful acts.**

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF STONE HOME INSPECTIONS, LLC.** Filed with SSNY on January 3, 2017. Office in Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of LLC. upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **Lisa Stone 2245 Mark Rd., Yorktown Heights NY, 10598. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

**NOTICE OF THE FORMATION OF: HALITE GROUP, LLC.** ART OF ORG. filed with SSNY on 12/30/16. Office lo-

cation: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process: **156 Great Oak Lane, Pleasantville, NY 10570. Purpose: any lawful acts. Provides management consulting services.**

**NOTICE OF QUALIFICATION OF BEVERAGE MANAGEMENT SERVICES LLC**, a foreign limited liability company ("LLC") Cert. of Authority filed with Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/14/16. Office in Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served, SSNY shall mail process to: **David B. Petshaft, P.C. 222 Bloomingdale Rd, Ste 116, White Plains, NY 10605. Purpose: any lawful activity.**

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF: RAY BLUE MUSIC, LLC.** Articles of organization filed with NY Sec. of State (SSNY) on 11/29/16. Office in Westchester County, SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **107 Armstrong Avenue, Peekskill, NY 10566, which is also the principal business location. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

**LEGAL NOTICE G ELITE SPORTS AND FITNESS, LLC.** Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/22/16, with an existence date of 01/01/2017. Office: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, **39 Hilltop Dr., Mahopac, NY 10541. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF FRUIT & PEPPER, LLC.** Arts of Org filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/30/2017. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **109 Robins Rd., New Rochelle, NY 10801. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.**

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING SERVICE WESTCHESTER, PLLC.** Arts of org filed with Secy. Of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/26/2017. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **110 Washington Ave., Pleasantville, NY 10570. Purpose: To provide Mental Health Counseling.**

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: DGOLDCONSULTING, LLC** Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY)

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continued from previous page

on 01/04/17. 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, 24 Larissa Lane; Thornwood, New York 10594, principal business location of the LLC. Purpose: any lawful business activity.**

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF NO-ZELGOV, LLC.** Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on Jan. 06, 2017. Office in Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **Yves Jerome 60 Morrow**

**Ave. 5KS Scarsdale, NY 10583. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF YOU-CREATE, LLC.** Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 2/13/17. Office in Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **25 Caruso Pl., Armonk, NY 10504. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

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# The Putnam Examiner Sports

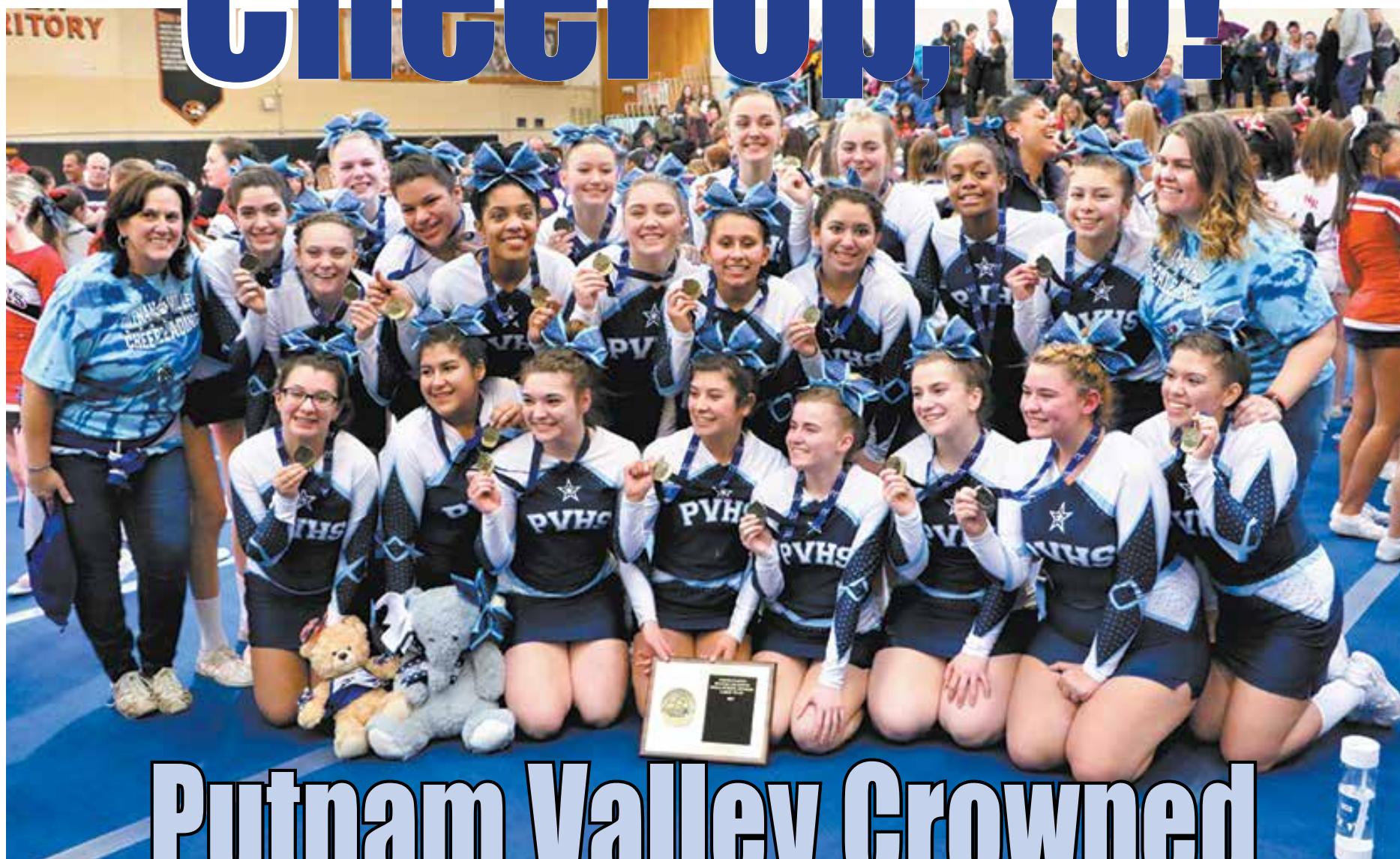
Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports

February 21 - February 27, 2017

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

SPORTS SECTION

# Cheer Up, Yo!



## Putnam Valley Crowned Section 1 Cheer Champs

EDEL HOYAS PHOTO

Members of the Putnam Valley cheerleading team pose with their first-place medals last Saturday at White Plains High School where the Tigers were crowned Section 1 Class B champions, repeating last year's title win by beating out defending NYS champion Pearl River for the small school, large team sectional title after winning the small-team title in 2016. The Tigers will now head back to the SRC Arena & Events Center in Syracuse on March 4-5 to compete for the state title, including All-Section captain Antonia Hoyos, All-Section 7th-grader Nia Givan, All-Leaguers Samantha Bruno, Kylie Shocker, Caitlin Sigmund, Kianna Thompson, Angelica Ordonez and Keiko Waters, plus Tess Rhian, Kayla Ortiz, Antonia DiFusco, Samantha Dalton, Abigail Alvarez, Emily Casey, Rebecca Mosny, Lauren Pateman, Jenifer Hernandez, Rose Gencarelli, Cassandra Tenesaca, Lilliana Medici, Shannon Lee, Antonia DiFusco and Samantha Dalton.



## Sports

## Boys Hoops Notebook

# Just Four Teams Left Standing After Feisty 1st Round

## Yorktown, Somers, Croton, Put Valley Survive, Advance to Quarters

By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports Editor  
@Directrays

The odds were against most of the locals going in. With so many out-bracket games to be contested -- and nobody in their respective Section 1 tournaments with anything better than a No.7 seed -- the chances of many teams surviving the first round of the tournament were against those teams in and about the Northern Westchester/Putnam County region.

However, four teams survived Saturday's opening round to advance to this week's quarterfinal round, including Class AA Yorktown (16-5), Class A Somers (12-10) and Class B's Croton-Harmon (14-7) and Putnam Valley (11-10). It was the end of the line for Class AA's Carmel (7-14) and Ossining (5-17) and Class A's Peekskill (14-7), Panas (11-11), Lakeland (6-15) and Brewster (6-15).

Those left standing, though, were one win away from playing on the section's grandest stage, the Westchester County Center and the Final 4.

### CLASS A

**SOMERS** G Matt Pires had 17 points and Gio Tradito added 15 for the 10th-seeded Tuskers in a 52-46 overtime triumph of No.23 Nanuet in last Thursday's outbracket round. Somers went on to meet No.7 host Peekskill Saturday when the Tuskers advanced to the quarters behind a 54-50 victory and will travel to No.2 Tappan Zee Thursday.

Somers junior swingman Lorenzo Bicknese; he of the smooth stroke, was



RAY GALLAGHER/RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS (PLEASE VISIT WWW.HVSRPHOTOS FOR MORE)

Peekskill big man Amadou Traore can't catch up to Somers G Gio Tradito, who scored game-tying hoop in Tuskers' 54-50 win over Red Devs.

on fire, draining a game-high 26 points, including four 3s. If 26 points could somehow be quiet, his were. He simply kept Somers in the game with a steady, silent stroke that kept Peekskill from taking the game over.

"We knew they were going to come out and give us their best shot in the second half," Bicknese said. "We just had to play our game and we did that. We knew we had what it takes, and we got our big man back, Nick (Gargiulo), and he was huge today with something like 15 rebounds and played amazing. We needed a big athletic body against these guys."

Tusker guards Gio Tradito (9 points) and Matt Pires (8 points) handled Peekskill's pressure when the Red Devs finally ramped it up in the second half, erasing a 22-14 halftime deficit to take a 40-37 fourth-quarter lead before blowing it down the stretch.

"Coach (DiCintio) told us to expect their pressure," Tradito, a sophomore, said. "We had to slow it down and not get caught up in



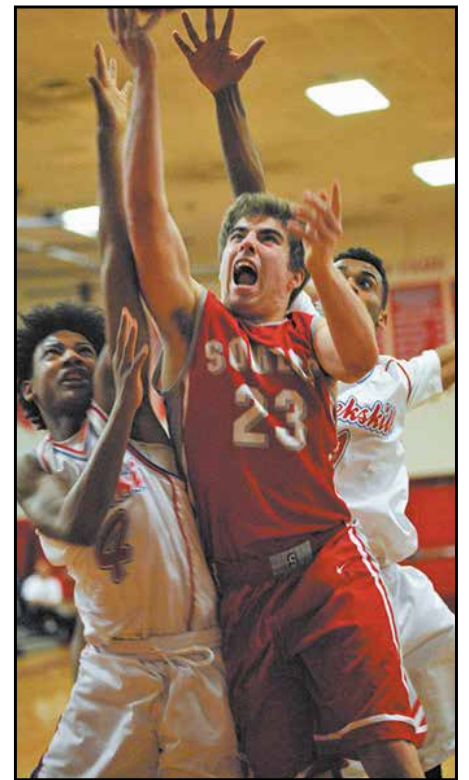
Peekskill's CJ Redd goes up for two of his 15 points in 54-50 season ending loss to Lucas Fecci and Somers last Saturday.

it, and do what we do on offense. We'll take our chances on the road against TZ next and I wouldn't want to do that with anybody but these guys."

Peekskill junior swingman C.J. Redd and G Shion Darby had 15 points apiece for Peekskill, which turned around a two-win 2016 season but played a sub-par first half. The Red Devils had put themselves in position to win, having taking the game over in the third quarter with the kind of legendary defensive pressure that secured five-straight Section 1 titles from 2005-09, but Peekskill withered down the stretch and Somers' superior athleticism prevailed.

Somers will seek its first trip back to County Center since 2015 when the Tuskers snapped a 23-year drought.

The real PANAS team showed up in the 17th-seeded Panthers' 71-60 win over No.16 host Sleepy Hollow, which failed miserably to match up against the Panas back court. Panther guards Stephan Reyes (24 points) and Brandon Hodge (20 points, five rebounds and four assists) were too much for the Headless Horsemen to handle. Panther F Brandon Ramos added 18 points and seven boards as Panas advanced to face No.1 Byram Hills Saturday in the first-round where the defending champion



Peekskill's Marcus Ruff (4) and CJ Redd put clamps on Somers G Matt Pires in Red Devils' loss to Tuskers Saturday.

and state-ranked (No.1) Bobcats made short work of the Panthers in a 71-50 season-ending rout.

No.11 HEN HUD went on a three-point bender in a 60-37 thumping of No.22 LAKELAND, which failed to contest the



Lakeland's Tim Fallo is checked by Hen Hud's Dylan Fraser in Hornets' out-bracket loss to Sailors, who were later eliminated in first round.

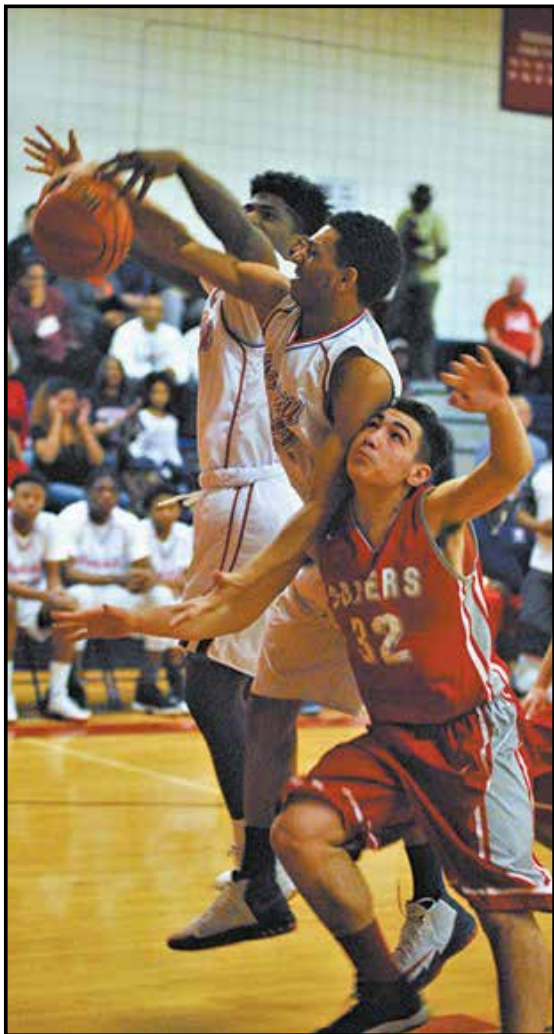


Somers F Marc Maestri meets up with Peekskill's CJ Redd (L) and Joe Dabbs (R) in Tuskers' 54-50 Class A playoff win over Red Devils.



# Sports

## Boys Hoops Notebook



Peekskill's Nadame Tucker (L) and Joe Dabbs work for rebound against Somers G Lorenzo Bicknese in Red Devils' season-ending loss to Tuskers Saturday.



Yorktown captain Matt Severino saved his best game of the season for Huskers' Class AA playoff win over Clarkstown South Saturday.

perimeter in the first half when the Sailors went deep nine times. Swingman Matt Mikulski scored 11 points for Lakeland, who much more was expected of. Sailor G Dylan Fraser had 18 points on six 3-pointers for the Sailors, who went on to fall against No.6 Albertus Magnus, 60-46, in Saturday's first-round challenge.

Rob Pigat led No. 25 **BREWSTER** with 18 points in the Bears' 69-60 outbracket loss at No.8 Ardsley.

### CLASS B

**CROTON HARMON**, the No.8 seed, defeated No.9 Irvington, 49-36, behind Rory Parker (18 points) Charlie Goldberg (16 points) and Sean Macarchuk (10 points). Parker and Goldenberg, the seniors who seem like they've been around forever because they have, have left the program in good hands no matter what happens down the stretch.

"We couldn't be prouder of this group that continues to prove everybody wrong," first-year Croton Coach Ben Martucci said. "The vocal leadership of Goldberg and Parker has carried us, and continues to carry us. This young and inexperienced team continues to follow their lead by executing our game plans to the best of their ability, especially on the defensive end. The effort and enthusiasm are great; what a pleasure they are to coach. Very fortunate to work with a group like this."

Croton will play at No. 1 Briarcliff in Wednesday's 6:15 p.m. quarterfinal with an eye on their first Final 4 since 2012.

**PUTNAM VALLEY**, the No.10 seed, continued to impress in a 56-45 dismantling of No.7 Bronxville, which had handled the Tigers back in early December. However, a different Tiger team emerged in the post season, one with four sophomores in the starting lineup, including Darnel Shillingford (16 points), Ryan Soto (13), John Millicker (11) and defensive menace TJ Brescia, one of the most unsung two-way players in Class B this season.

"Millicker and (Kevin) Gallo hit four big 3's between them," fourth-year PV Coach Mike McDonnell said. "TJ Brescia,



Yorktown junior G Marc Spinelli drives for two in Huskers' playoff win over Clarkstown South.

as always, anchored our defense. The whole team gave a much-needed effort on defense, including Anthony Fabiano and Marc Zadrima. This was our best team rebounding effort as everyone contributed."

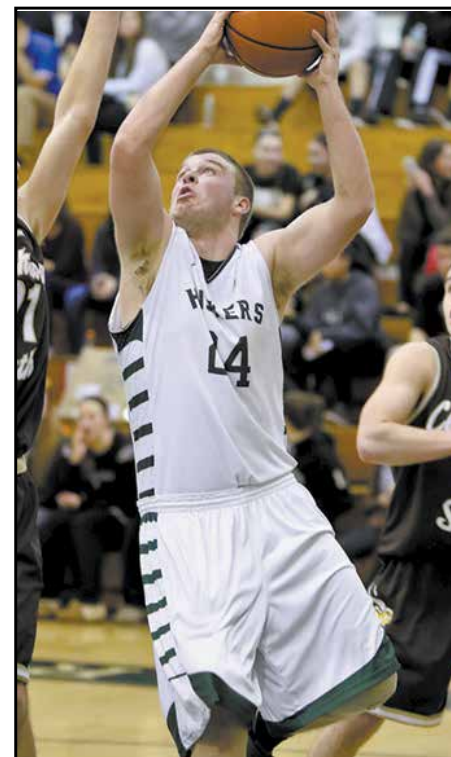
Putnam Valley will play at No. 2 Pleasantville at 5 p.m. in Wednesday's quarterfinals. It won't be easy, but a victory would secure the Tigers of a fifth-straight trip to the County Center Final 4. If this young unit fails to do so, it would fully expect to return and contend for the sectional title in both 2018-19. Jot that down and remember who said it first.

### CLASS AA

No.7 **YORKTOWN** survived and advanced against No.10 Clarkstown South, winning 55-46 behind senior F Tanner Dyslin. A healthy Dyslin is a capable Dyslin, one that can go for 25 points and six rebounds while leading the Huskers to the quarters against No. 2 host Spring Valley (4:30 Friday), which is ripe for the picking after struggling with No.17 Suffern in the opening round.

Junior G Marc Spinelli added nine points, grabbed four rebounds and dished three assists for Yorktown while senior captain Matt Severino chipped in with six points, eight rebounds and six assists in a well-rounded game. Point guard Sol Barer was solid on the dish, finding open Huskers all night.

"It was an unbelievable performance from Tanner in just 30 minutes," Yorktown Coach Kevin Downes said. "Spinelli and Severino both played fantastic as well. I thought we played very well defensively.



Yorktown senior F Tanner Dyslin came in to the Class AA playoffs like a wrecking ball in Huskers' opening round win over Clarkstown South.

South is a solid team and very well coached. They made some runs and I was proud of the way we responded each time.

"This is a resilient group that continue to play well together," the coach added. "Spring Valley will be a huge test for us. At 19-2, they are very athletic and one of the top teams in AA the last few years. We will have to play well, but I'm confident we will show up to compete."

No.16 **OSSINING** trounced No.17 **CARMEL**, 55-36, behind a flurry of fury, jettisoning out to a 32-5 halftime lead. Ossining's Robert Valdez had 14 points and senior G Jay Criss added 10 points and seven rebounds. Not sure what this says about the future of Carmel, but they are sure to rattle some cages after scoring just five first-half points. Ossining went on to play at No.1 Mount Vernon Saturday in a first-round game the state-ranked (No.17) Knights won with ease, 85-64. Kasheim Trotter led Ossining with 17 points.

### PUTNAM/NWE FAB FIVE HOOPS POLL

**No.1 YORKTOWN** - Class AA Huskers are on the kind of roll that just might end 7-year County Center drought.

**No.2 SOMERS** - Class A Tuskers may not survive No.2 TZ but the Dutchies are in for a fight.

**No.3 CROTON** - Goldberg and Parker, plus slew of complimentary players, give the Class B Tigers a puncher's chance vs. Briarcliff.

**No.4 PUT VALLEY** - I'll put this Class B unit up against almost any team in Section 1 next two years (maybe not Mount Vernon, maybe).

**No.5 PEEKSKILL** - Class A Red Devils will rue that first-half effort vs. Somers

**HM HEN HUD** - Program has turned the corner under Coach Hirsch.



## Sports

## Girls Hoops Notebook

# Major Representation for Locals at Quarterfinal Turn

## Ossining, Panas, Somers, Lakeland, Put Valley Survive, Advance

By Tony Pinciario

When the seeds were released for the Section 1 Class A Girls' Basketball Championship, Walter Panas received something unexpected.

The Panthers slipped past Somers on the final eve and were surprisingly seeded first in the tournament, with Somers, Hen Hud and Lakeland seeded second, third and fourth, respectively.

"We were definitely surprised because it's not that we thought we weren't good enough, it's just something we never experienced or expected," said senior Carlyn Mucci. "Earning the top seed means so much to us because it shows how hard we've worked this season and also how far our program has come."

PANAS (16-5) went on and played to its seed with a convincing 52-33 victory Brewster in a first-round game.

The Panthers will host No. 8 Harrison in a quarterfinal

-round game, 5 p.m., Thursday. The winner advances to the Class A final four at the Westchester County Center.

Danielle Merante led Panas with 17 points and 11 rebounds. Mucci finished with 11 points and Kellie Brown added nine points. Panas coach Matt Evangelista said it was Mucci's defense that set the tone.

"Carlyn played phenomenal defense on one of Brewster's best players," Evangelista said. "Kristen Kelly handled Brewster's defensive pressure very well and Jade Pagel played great minutes for us off the bench, getting eight rebounds and taking charge."

Mucci understood her role and focused on it from the opening tip.

"I guarded their point guard and my job was to take her out of the equation offensively and keep her from shooting," said Mucci of Brewster's Maggie DePaoli. "I focused only on what she was doing and



RAY GALLAGHER/RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

Panas 8th-grader Kristen Cinquina put on some major moves in Panthers' opening-round Class A win over Brewster Saturday.

trusted my team would defend everyone else."

A victory would send Panas to rarified air. Evangelista is researching the last time a girls' basketball team made the final four. As exciting as it sounds, Mucci said she and her teammates are focused on Harrison.

"If everything goes well on Thursday, and we win, it will mean so much to our program and team," Mucci said. "Our team hasn't won a sectional game in years and to talk about the County Center right around the corner is new to us, but a goal we've had all season."

Brewster Coach Mike Castaldo said the

difference in the game was Panas' defense.

"We could not have played a worse first half and Panas deserved most of the credit," he said. "They swarmed Borsari whenever she touched it and denied DePaoli all game. Panas' energy was through the roof and we were sleeping for the first 16 minutes. Panas took a 27-10 lead at halftime."

"The second half we finally woke up but it was too late. Panas was the team that was playing with something to prove and they did a great job on the 50/50 balls, hustle plays, and they shot extremely well."

Borsari led the Bears with 15 points.

"Jules left with two minutes to go and got an amazing ovation from the crowd and the entire Panas team," Castaldo said. "Jules has been a tremendous leader for this team, and a great player for the past four years. We will miss her greatly."

SOMERS (16-5) took the first step toward a trip to the Westchester County Center for the final four. The Tuskers overcame No. 15 John Jay-Cross River, 51-48, in their third meeting of the season.

The Tuskers will host No. 7 Rye, Thursday.

Sniper Liv Lipski had a game-high 19 points, including five more treys. Somers' coach Marc Hattem noted that Lipski has 17 3-pointers in her last three games.

"Liv's recent hot streak is a credit to her working on her shot at practice, and just being comfortable, right now," Hattem said. "Her release point and balance have been great."

An early run to start the fourth quarter gave Somers a sizeable lead, but John Jay did not quit.

"We made a run early in the fourth



Lakeland's Alexa Cole splits pair of Nyack defenders in Hornets' narrow opening-round Class A playoff win.



Panas' Kristen Kelly finds a seam in front of Brewster's Julia Borsari in Panthers Class A playoff win over Bears Saturday.

quarter to enable us to build the lead, but they forced us into some turnovers and we made a couple of bad decisions," Hattem said. "They played great and had a chance to tie it late."

LAKELAND (14-7) survived a scare from No. 13 Nyack in a 44-43 win.

Lakeland will host No. 5 Eastchester, 5 p.m., Thursday in a quarterfinal game. The winner advances to the final four at the Westchester County Center.

Lakeland coach Miranda Lustig said her team led by double digits throughout the game before Nyack raised its level of play in the fourth quarter, including two 3-pointers in the final 30 seconds.

Rieley Walsh hit key free throws in the final minute, but the Hornets did have to defend against the last shot.

"We made some mistakes down the



Lakeland's Val Potenza gets baseline in Hornets' Class A playoff win over Nyack Saturday.

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# Sports



Brewster's Jessica Miele is guarded by Panas' Jade Pagel in Bears' opening-round loss to Panthers Saturday.

stretch, but the senior leadership pulled the girls together," Lakeland coach Miranda Lustig said. "At this point, we just take nothing for granted. The girls realize that every possession counts and that it's anyone's game. I know the girls will bring the intensity and passion on Thursday."

Colleen Walsh had 11 points, 13 rebounds and seven steals and Kelsey Walsh added 11 points.

**HEN HUD** was shocked by Beacon, falling 44-42, in the opening round to end an otherwise sterling campaign.

**PUTNAM VALLEY** (14-7), seeded sixth, opened play in the Section 1 Class B Championship with a 69-26 triumph over No. 11 Edgemont.

The Tigers, a 2016 Section 1 final-four participant, will play at third-seeded Valhalla, Wednesday. The winner advances to the Westchester County Center.

Eighth-grader Arianna Stockinger had a game-high 26 points, as the young Tigers improved to 14-7 this season. She was one assist shy of a triple-double, adding nine assists, 14 boards and six steals. Her 11-point third-quarter effort sealed the deal. Morgan Winogradoff and Kelli Venezia added 10 points apiece.

"I'm just so proud of this group," first-year Putnam Valley coach and alumnus Kristi Dini said. "We have no seniors and six out of our 10 players were either modified or JV players last year."

"They lost four great leaders and seniors last year, including a Division I player, but they've all stepped up and decided since their first day of practice that being young would not be an excuse. They've worked so hard to get themselves in the position they're in. This was one of our best team wins. Everyone contributing, sharing the ball, making the extra pass and committing to defense. It was fun to watch."

**OSSINING** (16-5), the top seed in Class AA, overwhelmed No. 17 White Plains,



Putnam Valley freshman G Kelli Venezia goes up for two in 69-26 playoff win over Edgemont Saturday.

97-64 behind 51 points from UConn-bound Andra Espinoza-Hunter. It was her fifth 50-plus-point game of the season.

The Pride, on a four-game winning streak, will host No. 9 New Rochelle, Thursday in a quarterfinal game. The winner advances to the Class AA final four at the Westchester County Center where the Pride will look to secure a seventh-straight title.

Ossining blitzed White Plains with a 37-point first quarter. Kailah Harris finished with 16 points, 11 rebounds and five assists and Kelsey Quain 14 added 14 points and five steals.

Brewster opened with a 52-44 victory



Putnam Valley G Cyera Daughtry draws foul in Tigers' rout of Edgemont Saturday in Class B playoffs.

## Girls Hoops Notebook



Putnam Valley 8th-grader Arianna Stockinger dropped career-high 26 points, grabbed 14 boards and dished nine assists in Tigers playoff win over Edgemont Saturday.

over Ardsley in an out-bracket game before dropping a 52-33 verdict to Panas.

"The outbracket game was the first time where we played for all 32 minutes and we had several players step up on both ends of the court," Brewster coach Mike Castaldo said. "Kristen Stefancnick was huge in the

first half, leading us with eight points. She did a great job of getting to the rim and hitting tough shots."

Julia Borsari led Brewster with 17 points, Maggie DePaoli added 12 points and Stefancnick finished with 10.

**YORKTOWN** (12-9), seeded 12th, encountered 2016 Section 1 Class AA finalist North Rockland in the first round and the seventh seed came away with a 57-46 win.

Yorktown coach Kevin Clark pointed out the Cornhuskers went into halftime with a 35-33 lead.

"The girls played a terrific game and displayed real heart and determination," Clark said. "They played with great effort and did everything possible to win a game against a talented AA opponent. I couldn't be prouder of each and every one of them."

Kat Severino led Yorktown with 17 points. Emily Nigro contributed 11 points and Alyssa Francese added 10 points.

Yorktown finished second in the league behind perennial champion, Ossining.

No.4 Lourdes beat No.13 **MAHOPAC**, 58-20, in a first-round game.

## Bar Rescue at Mahopac! Johanson's Bar Routine Secures All-Around, Team Title for Indians



In addition to shining on floor, beam and vault, Mahopac junior Callie Johanson worked a wondrous uneven bar set to tie Olivia Frederick of Wappingers for the Section 1 all-around title, each scoring 37.175. Amanda Grigas of Lakeland/Panas/Putnam Valley finished third (34.8), and Johanson, who repeated as the all-around champion, led Mahopac to its second-straight Section 1 title, barely outscoring Lakeland/Panas/PV 167.375 to 166.85. All three will represent Section 1 at the upcoming NYSPHSAA meet on March 4 at Cold Spring Harbor High School on Long Island, and will be joined by Chloe Lee of Mahopac (bars); Sydney Hughes of Mahopac, Zoe Markou of Wappingers and Caitlin Pellegrino of Lakeland/Panas/Putnam Valley (on beam); Jadyn Koss of Clarkstown, Jana Frattellone of Lakeland/Panas/Putnam Valley and Jessica Healey of Wappingers (floor); and Cassie Traina of Mahopac, Lilli Oliviero of Lakeland/Panas/Putnam Valley and Amber Vane of Brewster (vault).



# Ave Maria!

Pray Tell:  
Putnam  
Valley  
Advances  
to Quarters  
in Blowout  
Fashion



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Putnam Valley G Maria Tomais (L) battles for rebound in the 7th-seeded Tigers 69-26 rout of No.10 Edgemont in Saturday's opening round of the Section 1 Class B playoffs where youthful PV advanced to face No.3 Valhalla in Wednesday's quarterfinals at 4:30 p.m... see Girls Hoops Notebook