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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

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Brewster School Forum Leaves Many Unhappy

By Anna Young

Tensions flared last Tuesday as the Brewster Central School District hosted a town hall style meeting where a panel of clergy members, school and elected officials discussed the controversy where four recent graduates were seen in a video using racial slurs.

During the hour-long meeting, the 14-member panel discussed ways to prevent racism and boasted the reputation of the community despite the racially charged video.

Earlier this summer the Brewster community became tangled in controversy when a video, posted by Baller Alert, showed former Brewster students using the n-word. In the seven-second video, chants of the n-word are heard and at the end of the video, one teen is heard saying, "I f---ing hate n---ers."

"Brewster is a good school district

and community with wonderful children, families, educators and staff," Superintendent of Schools Dr. Valerie Henning-Piedmonte said. "The ultimate goal this evening is to make sure that all children know that our schools are committed to ensuring that they are safe, valued and cared for regardless of who they are."

While several panel members discussed methods parents and school officials can do to combat bigotry and racism, the nearly 100 community members in attendance grew increasingly frustrated when district officials abruptly ended the meeting without allowing time for the public to share their concerns.

"This was not a town hall meeting, it was a lecture," one audience member screamed out when officials brought the meeting to a close.



ANNA YOUNG PHOTO

The panel during a town hall style meeting about the Brewster school system.

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On Again, Off Again: GOP Sheriff Candidate Off Ballot

By David Propper

With the Republican primary two weeks away, it's still undetermined if GOP candidate for sheriff, Andrew DeStefano, will be on the ballot to challenge incumbent Sheriff Don Smith.

DeStefano was once again removed from the ballot, this time by a New York State appellate court last Wednesday, but will appeal the decision to the state Court of Appeals in Albany. The appellate court, in a 4-0 ruling, stated the prior court proceeding that got DeStefano back on the ballot was untimely and as a result his case should have been dismissed.

The Court of Appeals will hold a hearing Wednesday morning to decide if they will consider the case.

DeStefano, a former NYPD captain, submitted more than the 1,000 signatures required to appear on the ballot in July,



PROVIDED PHOTO



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

but after a challenge, the county Board of Elections invalidated enough signatures to toss him off ballot. Then DeStefano appealed that decision and state Supreme Court Judge Paul Marx ruled that the board of elections wrongly invalidated hundreds of signatures on his petition due to a technicality, and ordered he be placed back on the ballot. But the drama wasn't done yet. The county appealed Marx's decision and was ultimately victorious in the most recent judicial fight. Putnam Democratic Committee chairman Jim Borkowski filed the objections that led to DeStefano originally being thrown off the ballot. Borkowski also appealed Marx's decision with regards to improperly witness

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Volunteers Raising Money for Kent Fire Tower

By David Propper

When Bill Volckmann first visited the Mt. Ninham Fire Tower, he was just a child in the 1970s. Volckmann, a Yorktown native, hiked to the top and even met one of the last rangers to ever patrol the tower while on the lookout for forest fires.

That ranger showed him around, including the fully equipped cabin, and since then Volckmann, a Kent resident, has always gravitated toward the tower and surrounding natural land.

"It's really a great place to be," he said. "It's part of the wonders of the Town of Kent."

The Mt. Ninham Fire Tower is an historical landmark in Kent that has been in existence since the 1940s when it was used primarily in the summer months to look for flames in the forest. The 82-foot structure is actually the tallest fire tower in all of New York State, overlooking all of nature's beauty. It's also the tallest point in Putnam County.

But it also needs a facelift, which is why the Kent Conservation Advisory Committee (KCAC) is seeking donations to make repairs and upgrades to Mt. Ninham tower through its fundraising arm, the Kent Conservation Foundation. The upgrades include a top to bottom paint job and other minor fixes, Volckmann, a KCAC member, said.

While the tower is property of New



PROVIDED PHOTO

Bill Volckmann and David Ehnebuske at the top of the Mt. Ninham Fire Tower in Kent.

York State, no one from the state ever inspects it or invests money into it. And because the tower is state property, the

Town of Kent could never expend its funds toward it.

The KCAC is hoping to raise about \$30,000 for the project.

KCAC chairman David Ehnebuske said the last time the tower was painted was more than a decade ago. Because of the height and complexity of the tower, it isn't safe for volunteers to paint most of the structure, he said.

An engineer that was hired a couple years ago to inspect the structure said while the tower was in good condition it required a paint job in the near future, Ehnebuske said. The entire metal part of the tower will be painted, mostly by professionals, with volunteers handling the parts they can reach.

"Turns out it's expensive to paint big things like that that are way on top of a mountain," Ehnebuske said.

Other ongoing expenses to maintain the tower include replacing the landing and floors and also repainting the constant stream of graffiti in the cabin at the very top. Safety fencing along the stairs also needs to be taken care of because some of it is torn up, Ehnebuske said.

Volckmann said while the floors and two of the landings were completed two years ago with local contractor David Tompkins, four more landings need to be done.

When the tower stopped being used

in the late 1970s, the state didn't want residents going up there because it was unsafe, Ehnebuske said. But over a period of ten years, volunteers were able to get the fire tower reopened. It's an effort that began in the late 1990s and individuals paid for the repairs out of their own pockets, he noted.

One aspect that frustrates KCAC members is the continual vandalism of the tower cabin. There are constant scribbles of names and other messages and in some cases, drawings too inappropriate to print in a newspaper.

"There's no reason for that type of behavior," Volckmann said.

The tower is supposed to hold only six people at time as a safety precaution. But on any given day, many more visitors will climb to the very top. (When The Putnam Examiner visited the site, nearly 20 young people from the area attempted to reach the top until they were told by Volckmann to take turns.)

Volckmann goes to the tower several times a week and is one of the people that paints over the graffiti.

"On a personal level, everything I do is part of living a life of service," Volckmann said. "Serving communities, serving others and helping be part of the solution."

Volckmann noted on a clear day,

continued on next page



Life-Saving News For Women

What you need to know about cervical cancer screenings...

Ask the doctor

Navid Mootabar, MD

Chief, Obstetrics & Gynecology
Director, Institute for Robotic & Minimally Invasive Surgery
Northern Westchester Hospital

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Visit www.nwhroboticsurgery.org/DrMootabar to learn more about Dr. Mootabar and his work at Northern Westchester Hospital.



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Q: What causes cervical cancer?

A: Human Papillomavirus (HPV) causes about 90 percent of all cases. HPV is a sexually transmitted virus that is so common, most people will have it at some point in their lives. Certain strains of HPV can cause changes on a woman's cervix that may result in cervical cancer. Additional risk factors include smoking, extended use of birth control, and having many sexual partners.

Q: What are the symptoms of cervical cancer?

A: It's important to realize that in most cases, there are no symptoms. Uncommon symptoms include unexplained vaginal bleeding, bleeding after intercourse and abnormal vaginal discharge. Given that the HPV strains that can lead to cervical cancer *are themselves asymptomatic*, it becomes clear why you must be regularly screened for cervical cancer.

Q: How often should I have a Pap smear?

A: New guidelines recommend women have a Pap smear and HPV test every three years starting at age 21 until age 65, provided you have no risk factors or abnormal Pap smears. This regimen makes it extremely likely the disease will be caught while still in the highly

curable pre-cancerous stage. Some women require more frequent screenings. At each visit, your gynecologist will evaluate all risk factors and determine if you need a Pap smear. Although the recommendations call for getting a Pap smear every three years, annual gynecologist visits are extremely important to your health. Pelvic exams, Pap tests and breast cancer screenings help detect problems at an early and potentially highly treatable stage.

Q: What about the HPV vaccine to prevent cervical cancer?

A: Two other forms of prevention include the condom and the HPV vaccination, which protects against several strains of HPV known to cause cervical cancer. It does not, however, protect against all strains. I often recommend to my patients that they get the vaccine when they are considering becoming sexually active. Note that the vaccine does *not* replace the need to practice safe sex or to get regular Pap smears.

Did you know?

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Volunteers Raising Money for Kent Fire Tower



PROVIDED PHOTO

The view from the top of the fire tower.

continued from previous page

the New York City skyline, including the Freedom Tower, can be seen in the distance.

Ehnebuske said the tower is used more than people think, which is why it's so critical to take care of it. The hope is to have the painting done by next year.

"It's important because we want to keep

it open to the public and safe," he said. "It takes a lot of dedicated work. It's an ongoing thing."

The KCAC will have a PayPal account set up in the near future and reveal more details on its Facebook page or website thekcf.org. To mail a donation, you can send it to The Kent Conservation Foundation, P.O. Box 474, Patterson, NY 12563-0474.

Brewster School Forum Leaves Many Unhappy

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Another parent expressed that they came to speak in an open forum, not to write on an index card.

Prior to the meeting, residents were encouraged to write their questions or concerns on an index card that would be presented to the panel following their discussion. When school board president Dr. Stephen Jambor stated they would schedule another town meeting to discuss public concern, angry community members fought back.

"This was them talking to us, they don't want to hear what we have to say, they just want to tell us what they want" parent Cathy Meyer said. "This is not the first time this type of crap has happened. They say this is a diverse community, it's not."

"I apologize that you didn't get time and we obviously recognize that and we will be working to make sure we create another venue where you do have time and that we give you that opportunity," Henning-Piedmonte said. "We certainly wanted to have you involved and participating."

Few panel members approached frustrated community members apologizing and expressing they weren't aware the meeting would end before the

public had been given a chance to speak.

Parents were also upset that the addition of a new school logo wasn't discussed, as promised, during the panel discussion. The Board of Education followed the forum with their own meeting where they agreed not to move forward with the logo until a public hearing is held.

A new logo, meant to accompany the Brewster bear mascot on the district website and letterhead, was created to symbolize the district's commitment to ensuring that all children acquire 21st century academic and social emotional skills that will set them up for success in life, work and future learning, district officials said. The district has received pushback against the proposed logo because it abandons tradition, upset residents have stated.

Trustee Sonia Mesika said discussion regarding the school logo would be tabled until their next meeting on Sept. 12.

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On Again, Off Again: GOP Sheriff Candidate Off Ballot

continued from page 1

petition pages, but the appellate court never ruled because they already ruled in favor of the county.

"Here, the parties agree that the last day to commence a proceeding to validate the subject designating petition was July 31, 2017," the appellate court stated. "Thus, contrary to the court's finding, the petitioner was required to file the petition to validate the designating petition and to serve all necessary parties on or before that date. Since the

petitioner failed to effect service on or before July 31, 2017, this proceeding was not timely commenced."

DeStefano said he wasn't surprised he lost in the appellate division against the county, but wanted to take this fight to the very end with the hope the Court of Appeals sides with him. He said he wouldn't have changed anything when collecting signatures because he in fact got enough Republicans to sign his petition.

"Whatever happens at the Court of Appeals, the people of Putnam County

have already lost," he argued. "You cannot have a board of elections that supports one candidate."

Throughout the entire ordeal, DeStefano and GOP elections commissioner Tony Scannapieco have engaged in a war of words with DeStefano blasting the county Board of Elections. In one Facebook post in the wee hours of Thursday morning, he said while he didn't expect Scannapieco to support him, "I honestly didn't think, however, that he had it within himself to stab me in the back and actively work

against me."

Scannapieco hasn't held back defending himself, telling The Putnam Examiner earlier this month DeStefano's petitions were the sloppiest he's seen in his 27 years as Republican elections commissioner.

In an interview last week, Scannapieco said DeStefano was "really losing it" and that he's done his job as elections commissioner properly throughout his tenure.

"I'll stake my integrity against him or any of his friends chastising me on Facebook," Scannapieco said. "It's foolish, it's foolish. People know my integrity. They can say whatever they want to, but that doesn't make it true."

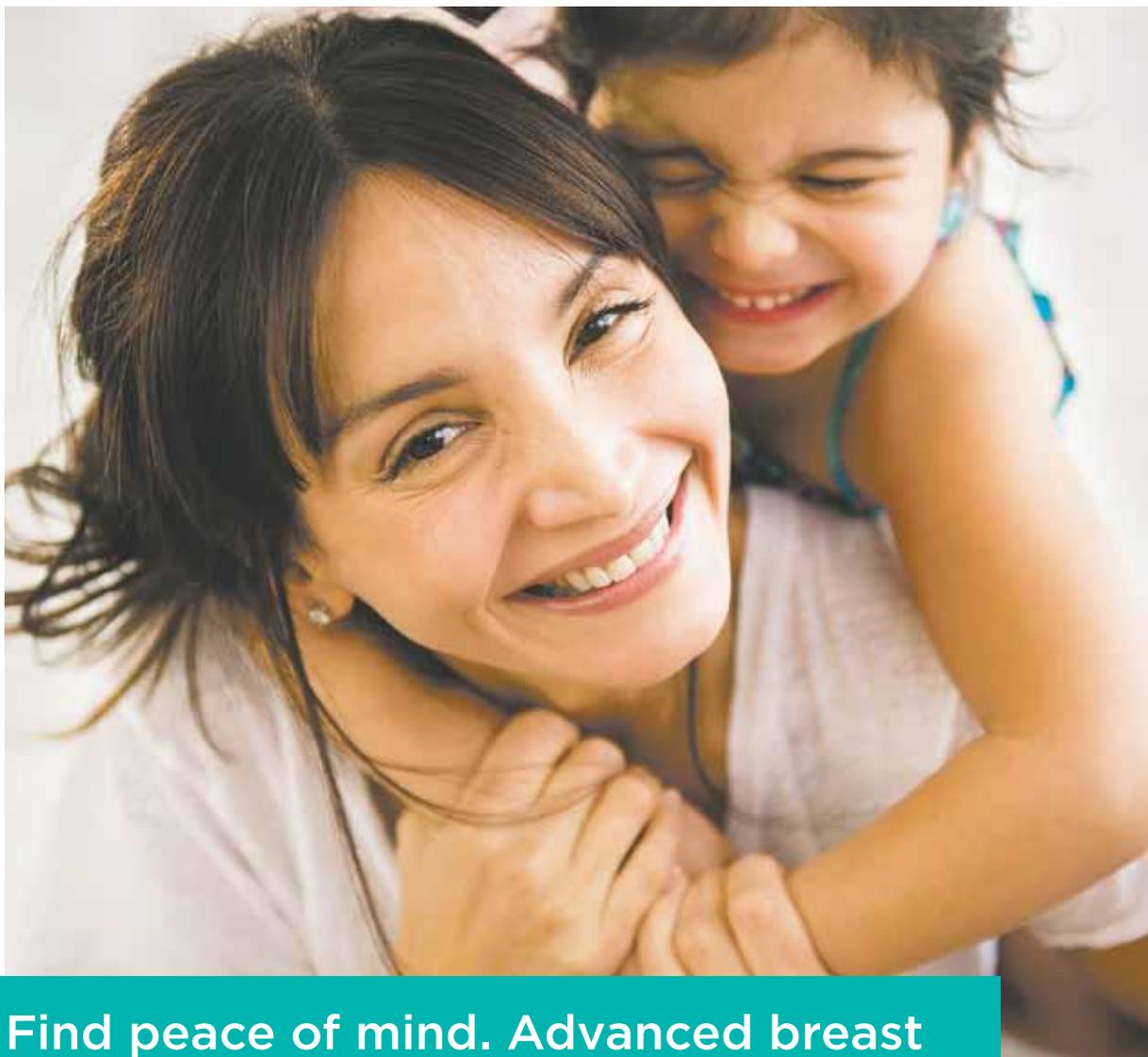
Borkowski said he believes the appellate division correctly applied the law to DeStefano's case and he's confident the Court of Appeals will affirm the appellate court's ruling to keep DeStefano off the ballot.

DeStefano and Borkowski also have a strained relationship, with the two running for sheriff in 2009 against Smith. When asked about DeStefano's comments about him and the county Board of Elections, Borkowski brought up DeStefano's legal problems from 2009 when he confessed to forging petitions, though Borkowski conceded the two misdemeanors (filing a false instrument and misconduct) he was convicted of were later reversed and vacated.

"He has no business running for Putnam County sheriff," Borkowski said. "Only (Democrat) Robert Langley has the integrity to be the next sheriff."

DeStefano scoffed at Borkowski drudging up the petition fraud investigation against him and even questioned Borkowski's mental health. DeStefano asserted Borkowski had "uncontrollable anger issues."

"I'm praying for Jim's mental health," DeStefano said.



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County Bus System to Cut Final Loop of Routes

By David Propper

Pointing to low ridership, officials at Putnam Area Rapid Transit (PART) intend to cut the last loop of bus routes 1, 2, and 5 starting in mid-September.

County transportation manager Vincent Tamagna said PART will no longer run buses until 9 p.m. each day because only two or three riders -- at most -- were on each bus at that time. Financially, Tamagna said it didn't make sense to continue that last loop from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Tamagna said based on the county's contract with bus carrier MV Transit, the county is allowed to change any route at any time. He said MV Transit's general manager has indicated she's fine with the change and told Tamagna that no drivers will be laid off and the hours for drivers will remain steady.

He said the change is to make the routes as efficient as possible and the county would save roughly \$56,000 from the elimination.

"We're certainly sympathetic to the drivers," Tamagna said. "At the end of the day, we're most sympathetic to the taxpayers."

Sometimes drivers were riding in buses with no passengers at all, he said.

Tamagna said he's followed Federal Transportation Administration guidelines in making the move. Unless the change is



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

One of the bus stops along the PART system in the county.

more than 10 percent of the overall bus plan, the transit department doesn't need approval from the county Legislature. He said the total impact is about 4 percent.

The FTA reviewed the job Putnam has done with the transit system recently and it received a near perfect rating, Tamagna said.

When asked what the handful of riders that depend on the final loop can do, Tamagna said, "There's a great taxi

system." He added those riders might be able to modify their work hours or carpool. So far, only one resident has called to complain about the new move and two drivers that operate during those late night hours have called him.

"Is ridership lower than it's been in the past? Yes," Tamagna said. "It's not just a countywide issue."

Tamagna argued when the cost of gas was higher, more people relied on public transportation, but with gas at lower prices, more residents get around independently.

MV Transit general manager Sherry Malverty confirmed no drivers would be negatively affected by the change and no layoffs would commence.

"The drivers--their hours are not being affected at all," Malverty said, with most drivers having the same hours or even slightly increasing.

While MV Transit has no input on whether a route is changed or cut, she agreed with Tamagna there is low ridership for that final loop.

Frank D'Anna, the union shop steward that represents the drivers, said he was relieved despite the cut in operating hours, that no drivers would be losing full-time status and everyone would keep their benefits. He gave credit to Malverty for finding a tenable solution for drivers.

But he disagreed with the county's decision to eliminate the final loop and said "100 percent of the drivers" are against it. The change will now promote taxi services in the county for the ridership that needs it at late hours, D'Anna said.

The cost for the bus is \$2.50 or \$1.25 if the passenger is disabled, elderly, or a child.

He said the elimination of the loop is foreshadowing to possible further cuts down the road.

Unlike Westchester County and nearby Connecticut municipalities, Putnam doesn't do enough advertising so residents know the benefits of the county system, D'Anna said. He said despite talks with transportation officials about promoting the system a couple years back, nothing has ever happened.

D'Anna said a couple times each month, he hears from new riders that tell him they never knew the bus service was available. More bus schedules are needed, too, D'Anna said.

"They wasted not a penny on promoting it," D'Anna said.



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

Buses in Putnam County will likely no longer run until 9 p.m. each day because of low ridership.

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Cortlandt Reaches Deal to Swap Land and Relocate Bus Depot

By Rick Pezzullo

The Cortlandt Town Board has reached an agreement to swap town-owned land with Montauk Student Transport and relocate a despised bus depot out of Verplanck.

During a meeting earlier this month, Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi announced the town would be assuming ownership of the 6th Street parcel where school buses have been operating from for the last three years without required approvals for use of a central garage.

In exchange, Montauk, which currently services the Putnam Valley and Peekskill school districts, will move to Roa Hook Road.

"We are pleased to be able to do that," Puglisi said. "It's fair all the way around."

The Town Board will officially vote on the land deal at its September 19 meeting after a few final stipulations are ironed out between the two parties, which Town Attorney Thomas Wood characterized as "nothing that would be a deal breaker."

Wood said more than half of the 60 buses utilized during the school year would be removed from Verplanck in September and the rest within three or four months.

Both properties have been appraised, according to Puglisi, and since the Roa Hook Road site is valued higher than the Verplanck property, Montauk would pay the town the difference.

During the 9th public hearing on the project before the Planning Board on July 5, homeowners who reside in the vicinity of 301 6th Street took turns lambasting Montauk Student Transport, its employees and town officials for not looking out for their best interests by subjecting them to noise, speeding vehicles, trash and other annoyances that have disrupted their quality of life.

Montauk originally submitted plans to the town in March 2015, and then resubmitted plans five months later, for approval for 92 parking spaces for full and van-size buses and 95 spaces for passenger

Cyclist Killed After Collision with Car in Brewster

By David Propper

Despite the effort of two doctors to revive a cyclist who just collided with a car, a Connecticut man succumbed to his injuries in Brewster Friday morning.

The Connecticut man, identified as David Eric Wellin, 68, died when a car struck him on Route 6 in Brewster around 9:05 a.m. The crash occurred in two lanes of the four-lane highway east of Starr Ridge Road when the cyclist and the driver, Mahopac resident Ryan Smith, were both heading westbound, according to the Putnam County Sheriff's Office.

Wellin was traveling on the right-hand shoulder as the car was approaching and driving past him. The cyclist apparently tried to make a U-turn, pulling from the shoulder and moving left across the road into the car's path, according to the sheriff's office. Smith, 18, hit the bicycle

broadside in the left-hand lane of the road.

Because the crash occurred in front of Brewster Medical Group, two doctors rushed to aid the victim. Dr. Frank Kessler and Dr. Matthew Kessler, who are father and son, respectively, performed CPR seconds after the crash, according to authorities. Sheriff deputies, New York State troopers, paramedics, and Brewster Volunteer Fire Department and ambulance Corp. all rushed to the scene to take Wellin to Danbury Hospital where he was pronounced dead, the sheriff's office said.

Route 6 was closed in both directions from 9:15 a.m. to noon Friday as investigators cleared the scene and reconstructed the crash. No charges have been filed.

vehicles, along with use of an existing 4,200-square-foot garage facility, on almost five acres. A stop work order was issued by the town's Code Enforcement Office in 2014 for enlarging a parking lot, but that was resolved.

A stipulation was then apparently reached with town officials after Montauk paid a \$10,000 civil penalty in June 2015 for a violation notice allowing Montauk

to operate while pursuing Planning Board approval, with one of the conditions being that property taxes were paid in full.

Bernie Vaughey, a more than 60-year resident of Verplanck and a vocal opponent of Montauk's operation, thanked the Town Board for its efforts.

"I'm glad we can see the end of the tunnel. It's not years down the road," Vaughey said.

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Business of the Week

Chic Meets Shabby Brewster

By David Propper

When Nicole Adel and Vanessa Johnson wanted to open a furniture store in Brewster, the biggest challenge they faced was coming up with a catchy name.

After much deliberation, the two Dutchess County residents and new business owners settled on the unique name 'Chic Meets Shabby.' The shop opened last week offering custom painted furniture and home décor that can't be found anywhere else.

Customers can either bring pieces of furniture to the store and have Adel and Johnson redo it, or the store offers recreated pieces of furniture they find and transform. Chic Meets Shabby also makes custom, rustic signs and creative creations in most cases using Chalk Paint by Annie Sloan.

After looking for a store location for three or four months, the two Wappinger Falls natives settled on Brewster because they didn't see a store like this in the area. And the pair have heard how one of a kind their shop is from the customers that have stopped by so far.

"We kind of incorporate our style into it unless someone wants something specific for themselves, but we try to do it like we were putting it in our house," Adel said. "We put our heart and soul into it and try



Nicole Adel and Vanessa Johnson inside their new store, Chic Meets Shabby.



Some of the work Chic Meets Shabby offers.

to make it look our best."

When the pair started out, they would do work for just family and friends, who were always impressed with their work. Now, they do it for everyone at Chic Meets Shabby, a member of the Brewster Chamber of Commerce.

"We started painting furniture for ourselves and kind of got addicted to it," Adel said. "We've always been crafty and done stuff like that so we just decided to jump into it."

Johnson, who always wanted to redo

her own furniture, took a class a few years back to learn more about it and continued from there. Adel also loves going to yard sales and consignment stores and upgrading older pieces of furniture that the average person might not think twice about.

While neither Johnson nor Adel ever expected to open a business one day, it's no surprise they decided to do it together. The two have known each other since--incredibly--kindergarten.

They were friends when they were five-years-old and there are even home videos of the two back from that time to prove it. While they went to different schools for a short time, they were eventually reunited in high school and have been friends ever since.

"We mesh well, we have our own talents," Adel said.

Chic Meets Shabby is located at 867 Route 22 in Brewster, its number is 845-363-1256.



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Letters to the Editor

Montanaro Would Serve Southeast Town Board Well

I am writing to show my enthusiastic support for Melinda Montanaro. She has the skills and experience needed to address complex issues we face in our town.

In the corporate world, Melinda managed budgets and deadlines for projects affecting hundreds of stores nationwide. After the birth of her first daughter, she opened a childcare business serving children and their families in Southeast and in 2015 she

was awarded Best In-Home Family Day Care of Putnam County by The Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam County. Her ability to analyze and execute complicated projects and their budgets, and her endeavors for entrepreneurial achievements will be needed assets to the Town Board.

Melinda also knows our town and has been an enthusiastic participant in the community since she and her husband Gabriel moved to Southeast. She has

donated her time and skills to several local non-profit organizations and has also been an active participant in our government, following the activities of the Planning Board, Zoning Board, and Town Board over the last year and continues to educate and immerse herself in town issues.

Melinda's past reflects her hard work and commitment. Southeast is lucky to have such a qualified candidate running for office, particularly, one that will bring

a fresh and objective view to issues that impact the town.

I will be happily voting for her and her running mate, John Lord this November and urge the residents of Southeast to do the same.

Challen H. Armstrong
Brewster

Voters Should Support Mirra for Carmel TB, Langley for Sheriff

Earlier this month I had the good fortune of meeting candidates Judie Mirra and Robert Langley.

Judie is running for Carmel Town Board. She is bright, engaging and enthusiastic. Her work ethic indicates that she'll stay on top of Carmel Town business rather than letting things, like our costly property revaluation, and now

a major sewer project, take our Carmel Town Board by surprise.

Robert Langley is a candidate for Putnam County Sheriff. What a breath of fresh air! Langley spoke about keeping Putnam safer while saving money and returning integrity to the sheriff's position. He assured the crowd that he would establish a good working relationship with the

Putnam County District Attorney's office. He laid out a common-sense approach to deal with the opioid crisis and advocated for community policing to help make our neighborhoods stronger and safer.

Judie and Robert would both be so good for Carmel and Putnam County. Their commonsense approach and strong work ethic came shining through. I'll be

proud to vote for Judie Mirra and Robert Langley this November.

James Mills
Mahopac

The Importance of Buckling up in a Vehicle

As Labor Day approaches, people find themselves wrapping up the summer by traveling with their families. In light of that, I would like to stress how important it is to remain safe during these last few days of travel by buckling up.

Recent studies by Dr. Masao Ichikawa, of Tokyo University have shown that unbelted back seat passengers pose the biggest threat to passengers in the front seats. In fact, the risks of dying increase fivefold for front passengers if the back passengers are not buckled in a collision.

This risk is even greater if the collision is head on, as the risks of dying are increased six or seven times. According to Ichikawa's studies, approximately 80 percent of deaths of belted front seat occupants could have been prevented if the backseat passengers were wearing seatbelts.

I am writing to you about this because currently, seatbelts in New York are required for front seat passengers and children in the back seats of cars, but are not required for adults seated in the back

seats. While there have been movements encouraging seatbelt usage in past years, seatbelts are used 20% less in back seats than they are in front seats. According to a study, adults aged 35 to 54 are the least likely to wear seatbelts while occupying the back seat of a car. In one of my recent surveys, out of the 1,226 people who responded, 70.8% of them were in favor of a law that would require all passengers in the front and back seats to buckle-up. Similar laws are in place in 29 other states. Due to the severe danger and risk that

unbelted passengers have on front seat passengers, I encourage people to support such legislation in order to make traveling safer for everyone.

Regardless, the decision to wear a seatbelt extends far beyond the safety of oneself. So buckle up!

Sandra R. Galef
NYS Assemblywoman
Assembly District 95

Informed Voters Important in a American Democracy

"Nobody will deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves."—Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Your vote is an expression of power. As a citizen of this great nation, this power that you are entitled to is precious. If you believe your elected officials are not performing the duties of their offices, it is because we, the voters, tolerate this behavior. In today's technological age, it is relatively easy to educate ourselves on the issues and the qualifications of the candidates running for office. We are aware that information can be subjective by those that disseminate it—such as television networks, newspapers, and political parties, which may impair our ability to find the truth. Vote 411.org is a LWV website available to all, that will provide non-partisan information regarding those candidates running for offices on the National, State, and County levels.

It is no wonder that many people feel estranged and alienated from the political process. Educating oneself, so that our vote most clearly reflects our views and beliefs, requires effort. Democracy is an inclusive institution. It is the cornerstone of our government. Elected officials represent us.

Although, by all appearances, many seem to only want to control us. Let us not forget that the focus here is on us, "We The People." Don't sit back. Exercise your right to vote. If you haven't already registered to vote please do so. If you are a registered vote, exercise your power on November 7!

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. To learn more about The League of Women

Voters visit www.lwv.org. To learn about upcoming New York State LWV issues, primary deadlines, voter registration, visit www.lwvny.org. To become involved locally as a league member please contact me at ereilly818@optonline.net or 845-

216-7058.

Eileen Reilly, President
League of Women Voters of Putnam County

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Obituaries

Philip J. Giorgio

Philip J. Giorgio of Cohoes, and formerly of Mahopac, died on August 21st at the age of 64. He was born in the Bronx, the son of Louis and Marie (Robeta) Giorgio. Philip was a proud veteran of the US Air Force and served from 1971-74. Philip was an avid hunter and always enjoyed a Sunday ride on his motorcycle. Philip is survived by his sons Michael and Vincent, his brother Louis, and his sister Angela DiPasquale and his long-time girlfriend Pamela Yantz. He was predeceased by his brother Frank.

John Peter Franciosa

John Peter Franciosa, 85, of Beverly Hills, FL, formerly of Putnam Valley, died at 8:55 a.m. on Monday, August 21, at Crystal River Health & Rehab Center, in Crystal River, FL with his loving wife by his side. Mr. Franciosa was born on June 30, 1932 to the late, Gaetano and Josephine (Pastore) Franciosa, in Manhattan. During the Korean Conflict he proudly served our Country with the US Marines Corps., from 1950 to 1952. On June 2, 1956, he married the love of his life, Madeline DePietro at St. Cecilia's R.C., Church in Brooklyn, New York. Together they were blessed with four children; Therese and Thomas and pre-deceased Twins Robert (Dec.1972) & John (Feb.1973). Before John retired in 1973, he was honored to be a part of New York's Finest, the NYPD, serving as a Police Officer in the Safety Unit A Precinct in Manhattan. One thing for sure he enjoyed a challenge, if it was tinkering with something around the house to gardening, but most of all John enjoyed spending his time with family and friends. John is survived by Madeline, his devoted wife of 61 years, his two loving children; Therese (Carl) Ellyn of Putnam Valley, NY and Thomas (Marlene) Franciosa of Ft. Pierce, FL, three cherished grandchildren; Lauren Ellyn, Jason Franciosa and Katie Franciosa and one precious great-grandchild; Amir Franciosa all of whom he adored and each child held a special

place in his heart. He is also survived by his sister Grace Branciforti of Wildwood, NJ and many loving sister-in-laws and a brother-in-law and nieces and nephews. He will be dearly missed by all who had known and loved him, yet his legacy of love and devotion to family and friends will continue to grow in our hearts.

Michael Verde

Michael Verde of Mahopac, died on Thursday August 24, with his family by his side, at the age of 83. He was born in the Bronx on March 11, 1934, the son of Raffaele and Bianca Scotti-Verde. Michael was educated in the Bronx and later served in the United States Army in Panama from April 1954 to March 1956. He went on to attend Food Trade Technical Schools and later worked in many restaurants, following which he worked for the Marriott Corporation for more than 25 years. He married Carmella "Linda" Aliberto on June 25, 1961 and later settled and moved to Mahopac where they raised their family. He was a parishioner of St. John the Evangelist Church in Mahopac and a member of Holy Name Society and Italian American Club of Mahopac where he was active over the years. In his spare time he travelled extensively and enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and cooking. In addition

to his wife Carmella, he is survived by his four sons, Ralph (Linda) of Mahopac; Joseph (Laurie) of Patterson, Michael (Debbie) of Hopewell Junction, and Anthony Verde of Poughkeepsie and 12 grandchildren. Michael was predeceased by his sister Mary Santucci and a brother Silverio Verde.

James H. Hooten

James H. Hooten, 88, of Holmes, died peacefully at home on August 25 with his loving family by his side. Mr. Hooten was born on July 31, 1929 to Ernest and Nora (Loftus) Hooten in Grand Rapids, MI. He proudly served our Country with the US Navy on the USS Leyte and was honorably discharged on February 4, 1950. On September 4, 1949, he married the love of his life Eileen F. Hughes in NYC and together they were blessed with 4 children; Thomas, Ellen, Robert and Eileen. Before he retired in 1990, he was an Ironworker for the New York City Transit Authority. He is survived by his three loving children; Ellen Malone, Robert Hooten and Eileen Johnson, twelve grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. He is predeceased by his beloved wife Eileen and his son Thomas.

Albert G. Willis

Albert G. Willis, age 83, a 56year

resident of Brewster, died Friday, August 25, at his home surrounded by his family. Albert was born on March 3, 1934 in Mt. Kisco, to Arthur and Lucy (Ours) Willis. He graduated from Bedford High School and proudly served his country in the Navy during the Korean War from 1952 to 1956 and remaining in the reserves until 1960. On March 30, 1963 Albert married the love of his life, Virginia Caroli at St. Lawrence O'Toole Church in Brewster. Albert was a steamfitter in the plumbers and steamfitters union local 543 out of Yonkers for 47 years retiring in 1989. Albert was a member of the American Legion Argonne Post #71 in Brewster and he also enjoyed playing golf. Albert was a friend to many. Besides his wife Virginia of 54 years, Albert is survived by his daughter Karen Bellantoni and her husband Steven of Wappingers Falls, his son Kevin Willis of Brewster, and his grandson Zach Biondo. A mass of Christian burial will be celebrated Tuesday, August 29, 11 a.m. at St. Lawrence O'Toole Church, Brewster. A private cremation will follow. Friends may call at the Beecher Funeral Home, 1 Putnam Avenue, Brewster on Monday from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. www.Beecherfuneralhome.com. Please consider making a contributions in Albert's memory to the Putnam Humane Society, PO Box 297, Carmel, NY 10512.

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Of
The
Week



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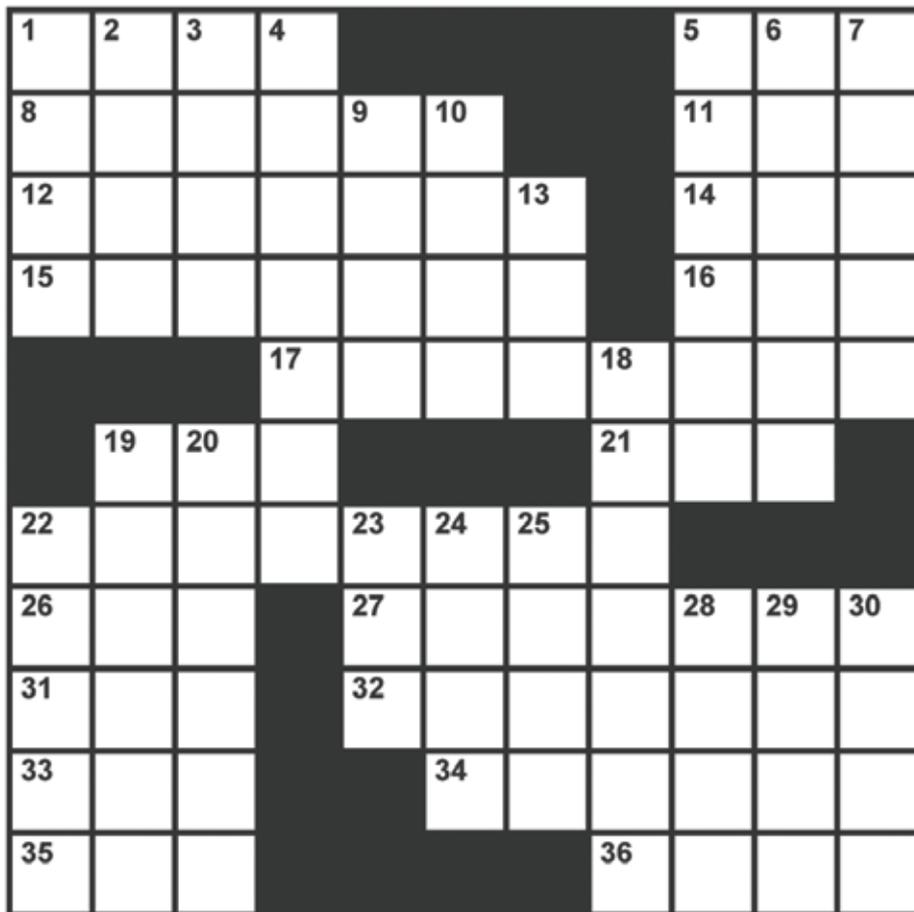
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Crossword Puzzle



Crossword by Myles Mellor

Answers on page 15

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Across

1. "Money, money, money" singers
5. Tire pressure measurement, abbr.
8. The place to go in Yorktown when you want to get away, goes with 22 across
11. Politico ___ Paul
12. Of a tune
14. ET from Melmac
15. Bread cutters
16. "___ out!" (umpire's call)
17. Detested person
19. Well known beer
21. Ending for east and west
22. See 8 across
26. Manners advice
27. Averages
31. "___ been workin' on the railroad"
32. Steamed
33. Small songbird
34. Star close to Venus?
35. The Pointer Sisters' "___ So Shy"
36. Canadian prov.

Down

1. Emergency cash sources
2. French singer, Jacques
3. Indonesian island
4. Salad ingredient
5. Benediction
6. Glum

7. Prefix with structure
9. Home for Adam and Eve
10. Old Milan money
13. Chicago time zone
18. Sewing machine attachments
19. Low point on a director's resume
20. Angers
22. Archie Bunker's wife
23. Genetic stuff
24. They carry a charge
25. More than suggest
28. Vicinity
29. Camera part
30. Badlands Natl. Park locale

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Hudson Valley Baseball Org. Donates to Youth Sports

The 3 Up 3 Down Organization (3U3D) put on the 2017 Hudson Valley Men's Adult Baseball League All Star Game on Friday July 28, at Dutchess Stadium, Wappingers as well as the presentation of \$12,000 in local grants to six local baseball organizations and five local charities including Green Chimneys, Anderson Center for Autism, Fragile X Research Foundation, Zylophone and Julies Jungle.

The event was free to all in the community and the Organization had free hot dogs, cotton candy and water for the 1,000 fans in attendance. The first 100 kids received free a wiffleball bat and ball set and kids that returned foul balls received free fidget spinners. Vendors were present providing discounted glove embroidery, free face painting for the kids, free yoghurt and juices, and free bat demos (Axe Bats) as were other vendors/sponsors including ATT, Carmel Sports Club, BSN Sports, Hayes Fitness and Noosa Yoghurt. Preceding the game was the league's annual home run derby which was won by Marlboro resident Steve Aurigemma.

The All-Star Game pitted the Hudson Valley Men's Amateur League's (HVMSBL) 18+ age division and its 35+ age division all stars. Many of the top former high school and college players now call the HVMSBL home including



PROVIDED PHOTO

The Town of Kent Youth League was donated \$1,000. Pictured: Lou Babe Ruth (\$1,000) and Fernandez, Director Kent Recreation Department, Rick Stockfield (left) City of Poughkeepsie and two members of the Kent Cubs All Stars Rob Webb, and former Little League (\$2,500). Carmel High standout Zack Graczyk)

local standouts Zack Graczyk (Carmel and SUNY Cortland star), Jake Slate (former Arlington), Clint Boettcher (SUNY New Paltz), Marty Hand (Iona College, and Steve Green (Boston College, Brewster High star). Honored on the evening was Barry Zehnbauser (Wappingers), Jim Petrosino (Ketchum), and Steve Aurigemma (Marboro, Florida Atlantic), three of the most prolific ball players in the Hudson Valley over the last 15-20 years. All three were inducted into the HVMSBL Hall of Fame.

Through its fundraising efforts this year, 3U3D can offer up to six baseball

grants annually to local leagues. The six recipients went through a qualifying grant application process. 2017 recipients included the Town of Kent (\$1,000), Beekman Athletic Club (\$1,500), Town of Wappingers Little League (\$1,000), East Fishkill Babe Ruth (\$1,000), as well as the

About the 3 up 3 Down Organization

The mission of the 3 Up 3 Down Organization is to promote, strengthen, and foster youth baseball in and around the Greater New York and Hudson Valley areas, as well as provide additional community support for those with developmental disabilities. The Organization has a longer term goal of building an inclusive park for those with and without disabilities. Such a park will enhance the health, physical fitness, wellness, independence, and an enhanced quality of life through inclusive fitness programs, including recreation

and sports competition for people of all abilities and all ages, in community based, and accessible multi-use park(s).

In its short existence, the non-profit has already put on Major League Baseball's Pitch, Hit & Run and Junior Home Run Derby for ages 7-14-year-old boys and girls and established key partnerships with several recreation departments and youth leagues to benefit from its donations.

About the Hudson Valley MSBL

The HVMSBL is the largest competitive amateur adult baseball organization in the Hudson Valley. The non-profit league currently has 25 teams and more than 400 players with 18+, 35+ and 45+ divisions, midweek, Saturday and Sunday morning ball. Though many ex-pro or college players play in the league, it also is a great place for those that may have played high school or recreational ball and want to continue playing. The league is currently getting ready for its 2017 Fall Season and is currently seeking new teams and players.

For more information about our efforts, partnerships and get involved, please visit www.3u3d.org or email the Organization at hvmsbl@3u3d.org. The league may be reached at hvmsbl@gmail.com to inquire about individual or full team participation.

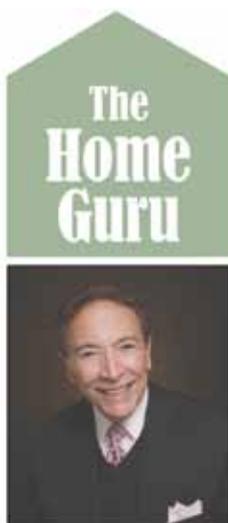
How Not to Get Snookered With Home Improvements

I've written many times about various established contractors and their work in this column who rely on the quality of their work and good reputations to stay in business.

But I've learned the hard way to take advantage of the protections we have as consumers to make sure that we don't get duped when seeking out contractors for home improvement.

I'm embarrassed to share this story, but very early in my experience as a homeowner, I was totally taken by a dishonest contractor. It happened to me when I first moved to Westchester. I was short of cash but one renovation job just had to be done, specifically the reconstruction of the mudroom that served as the main entrance to our antique home. It was literally falling off the house.

Another young couple from the city with whom we were friends had moved to Westchester just before us and had used a contractor they recommended highly for the job. They even escorted him to our house to meet us. He seemed like the most amiable kind of guy so we agreed on a deal. He asked for a \$500 check in



By Bill Primavera

advance to "cover the cost of materials." I wrote the check without thinking. In those days, \$500 was a lot of money for me. Long story short, the contractor didn't show on the appointed day, and when I called the number he gave me, I found that it had been disconnected.

Yes, I had been taken and was miserable about it. And, as human nature would have it, I even felt resentful toward my friends who recommended him.

However, of all the suppliers I've used since, I haven't had a single bad experience with any of them, most certainly because I learned after that first experience how to choose them.

There are times when contractors haven't been dishonest, but there were other reasons that they wouldn't have been the best choice. For instance, I have interviewed contractors who would only commit to an hourly rate without estimating how many hours a job would take. Beware this open-ended technique for padding a project's cost.

At the same time, be wary of bids that seem too good to be true. They probably

are. Be realistic in your own mind about what a job should cost to have it done well.

Overall, most contractors are hardworking and knowledgeable pros who want to do a good job. But protect yourself from the possibility of disappointment by checking these additional points.

*Never give cash in advance for materials before any service is provided.

*Ask for referrals from people who have had similar jobs done satisfactorily by a contractor, and ask if you can see the job that was done.

*Ask for at least three proposals and bids, and review them carefully.

*Make sure that you have a written contract with all the details, including the materials to be used.

*Check to see that contractors are licensed by the county in which you live. If something goes wrong or if there is a misunderstanding, you have some recourse. Also, ask if there have been any serious complaints against the contractor you want to use.

*Ask if they are insured.

*Remember that this is also a personal relationship you're entering. If the contractor is qualified but seems surly (it happens), move on to someone with whom you'll enjoy interacting.

There was a time when the credo for

selecting contractors was simply "buyer beware." But for some years, those of us who live in Westchester or Putnam have had an excellent cushion against fraud. Both counties have established consumer protection programs, which require contractors to be licensed. Also, the counties serve as arbiters for complaints.

For complete information in Westchester, call 914-995-2164 or visit <http://consumer.westchestergov.com>.

The county cracks down on unlicensed contractors, enforcing a law that allows the county police to seize the assets of renegade contractors.

For information in Putnam, call 845-808-1617 or visit <http://www.putnamcountyny.com/consumer-affairs/home-improvement-board>.

If there are home improvements in your future that will be contracted out, you'll be well-served following the guidelines listed above.

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.

When Amazon Decides to Flex its Virtual and Real Muscle Power (Again)



By Nick Antonaccio

Every day, the incessant influence of the Internet rears its head in any number of ways. Just when I think its mesmerizing, all-consuming effect on my life is under control, another aspect invades my psyche and my mindset, drawing me further, once again, from my traditional lifestyle.

Of course, this growing rapture has been compounded and fostered by ubiquitous smartphones. No longer tethered to a desktop or laptop computer, the smartphone has given me the mobility and in-the-moment capability to be omnipresent in all worldly matters. And to think that a mere 10 years ago, the iPhone and its ilk didn't exist. My, what a short, strange trip it's been.

We're living through what just may be the most profound revolution in the history of mankind. Not just an industrial revolution, but a social and economic revolution. The impact of artificial intelligence, the marvels of economic thought and innovations and the upheaval of how we interface with each other socially and politically, are having

a profound effect on how we conduct our lives and the growing influence of a handful of Internet-based businesses.

A clear example surfaced this week.

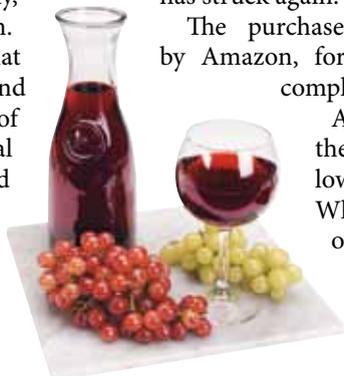
The permanent decline of brick and mortar retail stores at the hands of Internet sales sites seems inevitable. However, the survival of national and regional supermarket chains seems assured. After all, we all need to shop for fresh food and other essential goods. Stores deliver their products much more efficiently and conveniently than any Internet interloper.

It seems not. The behemoth behind the surge in Internet sales has once again disrupted an age-old market. Amazon, the game changer, the monopolistic-like ruler over the American retail industry, has struck again.

The purchase of Whole Foods by Amazon, for \$13.7 billion, was completed on Monday.

Amazon announced they were immediately lowering prices at Whole Foods stores on "organic bananas, organic eggs, responsibly-farmed salmon" and a multitude of other products.

You Heard It Through the Grapevine



Based on the proven strategy of Amazon to woo consumers to shop their website, and the indefatigable ability of Whole Foods to cater to its food and wine customer base through its network of 460 stores, I can readily speculate that wine, ordered online and delivered to your door, is in the offing.

Here's the real game-changer: Amazon has been diligently building customer loyalty via its Amazon Prime membership service. For a fixed \$99 annual cost, purchases on Amazon.com are shipped free in two days. In certain markets, Prime customers receive ordered items the same day; select items are delivered in two hours – all at no charge. With this convenience incentive, customers are ordering goods at a record pace. Amazon Prime members will soon receive customer rewards when shopping at Whole Foods, a very clever means to tighten Amazon's grip on the American consumer. What does this portend for local retailers and wine shops? Only time will tell.

And no longer must we rely solely on Alexa, Amazon's virtual personal assistant. Amazon has ventured into the realm of the living, breathing personal assistant. It offers free two-hour delivery service of beer and wine in several cities. I expect Whole Foods to follow suit in the

future.

What's next?

"Alexa, I'd like to order a nice red, with fruity aromas and taste."

"Sure, Nick, Whole Foods just announced a sale on ripe organic peaches. How many pounds would you like?"

"Alexa, I don't want fruit. I want an inexpensive libation I can enjoy with friends over dinner tonight."

"I understand, Nick. Look no further. Whole Foods can deliver a pre-packaged strawberry/raspberry/nectarine smoothie to your home in two hours. You can serve it in those crystal glasses you purchased online last year from Williams Sonoma."

"Forget it. I'll go shopping at Whole Foods myself."

"Whatever you wish, Nick. By the way, your current GPS coordinates indicate you're at work. Shall I have an Uber pick you up in the next five minutes?"

Next week: My further thoughts on the future of our neighborhood wine shops in the face of the Amazon juggernaut.

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

ABCDEF GHIJKL M **Back to School Guide** NOOPQR STU VWXYZ
Green Chimneys' Scottish Highland Calf Makes 4-H Debut

Early this summer, the Green Chimneys Farm & Wildlife Center was donated a beautiful Scottish Highland calf by a local farm in Brewster. The now six-month-old "Fiona" has been under the care of Green Chimneys' expert farm staff which has ensured the healthy growth and development of the young calf. Green Chimneys students also participated in her daily care and training, and were able to have her ready for the annual Putnam County 4H Fair livestock competition in July. Fiona traveled to the fair with her

barn mates and caretakers to be one of the 15 farm animals shown by the children of Green Chimneys. The students prepare for weeks for individual presentations of their handling of the animal, knowledge of the breed, and its care. The group who presented Fiona received top honors, which, of course, are cause for Fiona to celebrate as well! As a therapeutic day school focused on nature-based education, providing students with special needs opportunities to be a part of a new animal's life, to study farm science and



 <p>www.tomthumbpreschool.com We are a school! Operating Hours: 7am-6pm 2:15 or 3:15 dismissal programs available ThumBelina 914-528-5600 School for 2's  1/2 Day/Full Day Programs Available</p>	 <p>www.dynamicgym.com 914-528-5437 SUMMER CLASSES Preschool, Recreational and Team Classes Available Directors: Teodora Cepoi-Olympic Silver Medalist Sorin Cepoi-Twice Olympic Competitor Tom Brophy-Club Manager Helping to build Healthy Bodies and Strong Minds.</p>
 <p>Stay & Play Club Located on the  914-528-5600 Tom Thumb Campus- 1949 E Main St., Mohegan Lake, NY - Nancy Brophy Owner/Director</p> <p>The Stay & Play Club is a fun, active and safe environment for Elementary school aged children after school. Hours: Before Elementary School Starting at 7AM After Elementary school till 6PM</p>	

biology in class, and spend time on the farm, is how Green Chimneys enhances learning. The goal in involving students in the calf's direct care is to transfer these skills to tending to their own pets at home, and in nurturing positive relationships with peers and adults. And since Fiona's joining the farm during our bustling summer camp season, children throughout the community have also had the chance to meet and learn about her, adding to her growing fan base. Fun Fiona Facts:

- One of the Scottish Highland's most

distinctive features is its coat. As Fiona grows, her hair will follow, transforming her current "fuzzy" appearance into a long, wavy coat.

- Fiona was born on St. Patrick's Day! She shares her special day (March 17) with Green Chimneys' Jersey cow, Paddy, and Bactrian camel, Phoenix.

Meet Fiona (and others) in person at Green Chimneys Farm & Wildlife Center at 400 Doansburg Road in Brewster. Free and open to the public on weekends from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

<p>OPEN HOUSE & FREE TRIAL Saturday August 26th - 2:30-4:30 Monday August 28th - 2:30-4:30 Tuesday August 29th - 2:30-4:30 Wednesday August 30th - 2:30-4:30 Classes begin Wednesday September 6th You can choose 10 week, 20 week or full year payment</p>		
<p>Register Now For Fall Classes September 2017</p>		
<p>2121 Crompond Road Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567 www.Gymnasticscity.com (914) 734-1616</p>		
<p><i>Celebrating 38 years!!</i> Inquire about our Gymnastics City USAIGC Team</p>		

<p>Brewster Ice Arena ICE SKATING & PARTIES All Year 63 Fields Lane, Brewster, NY (No. Salem border) 845-279-2229 www.brewstericearena.com</p>	
<p>~ FALL PROGRAM REGISTRATION ~</p>	
<p>Learn-to-Skate & Learn-to-Play Hockey Mini-Mite (Future Rangers) & Recreational Leagues Figure Skating Classes ~ All ages & abilities</p>	
<p>UNBELIEVABLE INTRODUCTORY PACKAGE AGES 3-9 SEPTEMBER 5 - 6 - 7</p>	
<p>INQUIRE ABOUT OUR FREE TRIAL GROUP LESSONS</p>	
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<p>Banquet Room</p>	<p>Players Restaurant & Sports Bar Holiday & Family Parties, Team Functions</p> 
<p>The Gym @ Brewster Ice Arena 63 Fields Lane Brewster, NY 845-279-2600</p>	

ABCDEF GHIJKL M Back to School Guide NOPQRSTU VWXYZ

The Back to School Top 10 List: A Parents' Survival Guide

Transitioning from the lazy days of summer to school can be challenging for children of all ages. Parents also feel the pain, as schedules fill with sports, tutoring, and other activities. As kids' anxiety levels rise and impact the family dynamic, parents look for solutions to ease the re-entry process.

Dr. Ellen Lestz, a pediatrician with White Plains Hospital Physicians Associates with offices at White Plains Hospital Medical & Wellness in Armonk, sees how back-to-school stress affects her patients each year.

"Some kids are eager to go back, but many have concerns about the demands of schoolwork or making friends, or even who their teacher might be," Lestz said. "That added stress can lower a child's immune system, making them more susceptible to illness. Then, if a child misses school days because they're sick, that creates even more stress."

To help ease the process - for both parents and children - Lestz offers this

helpful to-do list to get everyone ready for back to school.

1. Complete all forms for teachers, the school office and the nurse.

Parents know forms need to be updated, so keep a keen eye on your e-mails so alerts are not missed. When forms are not submitted, kids won't receive school schedules or teacher assignments in a timely manner. Also, children are often "benched" from school sports until medical clearances are submitted.

2. Set up well visits and get immunizations before the rush.

Children should have well visits with their pediatrician each year. Set reminders in your phone or calendar so that you know when new appointments are needed. The period before school starts is often very busy at physician's offices, so being ahead of the pack will reduce stress. Also, check with your child's school to see if any new vaccines are required and to ensure your child's immunizations are up to date.

3. Give necessary medications to the school nurse.

If your child needs access to regular medications, including but not limited to an EpiPen, asthma inhalers, Benadryl and Tylenol, provide those to the school nurse before the first day. For the safety of your

own child and others, don't send children to school with their own supply of pain relievers or other medications.

4. Finish school supply shopping early.

Print out supply lists early and purchase a few items each week. Get your child excited for the new school year by letting them select their own folders, backpacks, notebooks and planners.

5. Complete all summer reading and homework assignments.

Many schools require a community reading project, while others assign homework over the summer. Help your child schedule the work so that it doesn't diminish their enjoyment of summer. It's important for children to have unscheduled down time to relax, so help them balance both.

6. Set up afterschool activities without overscheduling.

With all of the wonderful activities available to children today, it's tempting to take on too much. Ask your child to identify their top activities, and then create a schedule to determine what's realistic for you both. Factor in study time and down time, too.

7. Create a school sleep/wake schedule.

Check with your pediatrician to determine the correct amount of sleep for your child's age group. Two weeks before

school starts, begin gradually adjusting your child's bedtime and wake time. Stick to the schedule during the school year. To encourage sleep, limit evening screen time and encourage relaxing activities, such as bath time and reading.

8. Safeguard physical and emotional well-being.

From making smart, nutritious choices in the lunchroom, to making sound choices when spending time with friends, discuss key health and safety issues. Be sure to address topics like healthy friendships and bullying, and talk to your child about how to advocate for themselves with teachers, the principal, the nurse, other parents and friends.

9. Set expectations for back to school sports.

Address issues like safety and sportsmanship. Do a pre-season equipment check to make sure gear is safe, clean, current and still fits, including helmets, cleats and pads.

10. Address learning issues early.

Parents may want to set up a separate meeting with teachers and the school district to discuss concerns such as learning issues, special help (504/IEP), anxiety or other important matters that should be brought to the school's attention.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CHARLES RHEIN PROJECTS, LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/26/2017. Office loc: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to the principal business address: **613 Viewpoint Terrace, Peekskill, NY 10566. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CIROCCO DEVELOPMENT LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 08/03/2017. Office loc: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to the principal business address: **543 Main Street, Apt. 610, New Rochelle, NY 10801. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF JAMPAGANZA PROPERTIES, LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/20/2017. Office loc: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to the principal

business address: **c/o United States Corp Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Ste. 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. The business address is 58 Caryl Ave, Yonkers, NY 10705. The purpose of this LLC is to engage in a lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF BAYVIEW COTTEGES, LLC filed with the Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on June 09, 2017. Office location: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **Bryan and Janet Weed, 50 Laurel Road, Lake Peekskill, NY 10537. Purpose: any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF NOSHINKU, LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/28/2017. Office loc: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to the principal business address: **46 Usonia Rd., Pleasantville, NY 10570. Purpose: any lawful acts.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF FUNDING FOR TEAMS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on January 18, 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: **Jonathan Goldman, 5 Bradys Farm Road, Goldens Bridge, NY 10526. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). The name of the LLC is: 3465 White Plains Pizza, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) office on: 6/30/2017. The County in which the Office is to be located: Westchester. The SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is: **21600 Sacajawea Rd. Sedalia, MO 65301. Purpose: any lawful activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF EMPIRE ASSET GROUP LLC, ARTS OF ORG filed with the Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/19/2017. Office loc: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to the principal business address: **6 Brookridge Road, New Rochelle, NY 10804. Purpose: any lawful acts.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF PROPERTY SOLUTIONS PLUS, LLC. Arts of Org. filed with SSNY on 01/03/2017. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail

process to **Joseph Mulvihill, 72 Congress Street, Harrison, NY 10528. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF 3 THE CROWS NEST LLC. Arts of Org. filed with Sec'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/16/2017. 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: **David B. Petshaft, P.C., 222 Bloomingdale Rd. Suite 116 White Plains, New York 10605. Purpose: any lawful activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF DARK ABYSS, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 07/31/2017. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **135 Clarence Road, Scarsdale, NY 10583. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION FOR A DOMESTIC COMPANY OF SMALL BOOK CLUB, LLC. Articles of Org. were filed with the NY Secretary of State (NS) on 7/25/2017, with an office location in Westchester County at 75 Virginia Road, R1, White Plains, NY 10603 and Marco Vitolo is designated as agent upon whom process may be served for any lawful purpose. It's main purpose, but not limited to, is membership and advertising.

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**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CLIMATE SHIELD HEATING AND COOLING LLC, Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 07/27/17. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail a copy of process to: **Climate Shield Heating and Cooling LLC, 195 Washington Ave, New Rochelle, 10801. Purpose: Any Lawful Act or Activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF PURPLE HEART PRODUCTIONS, LLC. filed with the Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 08/16/2017. Office loc: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail process to the principal business address: **5 South 16th Ave. Apt.39, Mount Vernon, NY 10550. Purpose: any lawful acts.**

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8	T	R	A	V	9	E	10	L	11	R	O	N		
12	M	E	L	O	D	I	13	C	14	A	L	F		
15	S	L	I	C	E	R	S		16	Y	E	R		
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22	E	M	P	O	23	R	24	I	25	U	M			
26	D	O	S		27	N	O	R	M	28	A	29	30	S
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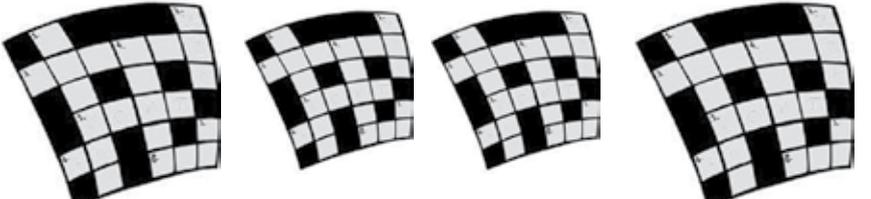
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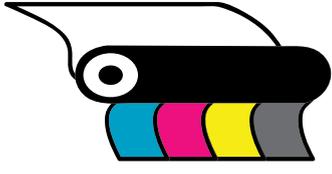
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Happenings

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

Mondays

Join the renowned Putnam Chorale, directed by Douglas Anderson, for its Thirty-Third year of providing orchestra-accompanied beautiful music to the Lower Hudson Valley. Rehearsals at 7 p.m. every Monday night at Carmel H.S. music department, beginning August 28. All singers (SATB) are invited! For information, call 845-520-7574 or visit www.putnamchorale.org

Tuesday:

Family Support Group: Every Other Tuesday (8/29,9/12,9/26) Drug Crisis in our Backyard Spotlight Family Groups is a guided recurring support group for family and friends suffering the effect of a loved one's struggle with addiction. Mahopac Library. 6:45 p.m. -8 p.m.,

Thursdays:

Beginning Portraiture and Still Life at Reed Library: 10 a.m., to Noon, Thursdays through October 12. In this series of six classes students will use various types of graphite and charcoal, and will learn techniques to create expressive portraits and still-life drawings. For beginning and advanced students. Registration required. Please call the library to register, 845-225-2439.

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 - 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.

Putnam Lake Park District Advisory Board Meetings: The Park Advisory Board holds public meetings on the First Thursday of every month at the Putnam Lake Firehouse in Putnam Lake at 7 p.m. We encourage all Putnam Lake residents to attend for the latest information, and have any questions or concerns addressed. 9/7, 10/5, 11/2 & 12/7, Work Sessions. In addition to open public meetings, the Park Advisory Board holds work sessions 7 p.m. @New Life Church, where the Board members meet to further the progress of the Putnam Lake Park District. Residents may be present but no comments will be addressed.

Saturdays:

New Family Services: Gilead

Presbyterian Church. Every Third Saturday 5:30 p.m., the monthly service will feature music, a special theme for the services and refreshments. You will find a more relaxed, friendly and fun atmosphere. There is a variety of participation of many ages. The parish is part of the Presbytery Church USA and the Presbytery of the Hudson River, led by the Rev. Martin McGeachy. All are always welcome. For information and directions, visit www.gileadchurch.org or call 845 225-4586.

Vendors Wanted:

Vendors Wanted For Rent-A-Space Community Tag Sale First Presbyterian Church located at 411 Rt. 6N (at Secor Rd) in Mahopac will host a Rent-A-Space Community Tag Sale on Saturday September 30, 2017 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Rain or Shine. Refreshments will be available. Double parking space \$25 in advance (by check until September 18th, cash until September 28th) or \$30 cash on the day of the sale. Tables are available for rent @ \$10 each, set up starts 8AM. For more information please call the church office at 845-628-2365 or email presby411@verizon.net

Art on Display:

Serendipity September 10-24, An invitational exhibit featuring selected artists from PAC's member show (exhibiting artists include local Mahopac artists: Adrienne Cullom, Toby Hyde, JoJo Maxwell, Margaret Scarfi, Sergio Gonzalez-Tornero, and including the work of Beverly Wallace) Opening reception & meet the artists, Sunday, Sept. 10, 3-5pm. Gallery hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday from 11:30-3:30 p.m. Saturday & Sunday, September 16, 17, 23, & 24, 1 p.m. -4 p.m. or by appointment

Tuesday, August 29

Mindfulness Meditation series at the Desmond-Fish Library: Ann Herrington and Rick Steinberg will be teaching another intro class. 7 p.m., Mindfulness is the basic human ability to be fully present, aware of where we are and what we're doing, and not overly reactive or overwhelmed by what's going on around us. While mindfulness is something we all naturally possess, it's more readily available to us when we practice on a daily basis. Ann and Rick are wonderful teachers and are committed to helping those who want to learn. This very popular class is free and everyone is invited to attend. The Desmond-Fish Library is located at 472 Route 403 (at the corner of 9D) in Garrison. For more information about any of the library's upcoming programs, please visit www.desmondfishlibrary.org or call 845-424-3020.

Thursday, August 31

Art Classes at Reed Library. Thursdays 10 a.m., to Noon. Registration required for each class. Call the library to register, 845-225-2439.

Friday, September 1

Flo Brandon Book Group @ Mahopac Library. 11 a.m. This monthly group will discuss *The Killer Angels: a novel of the Civil War* by Michael Shaara. New members always welcome.

Tuesday, September 5

The Reads at Reed Book Club: 7 p.m. to discuss the book "Parnassus on Wheels" by Christopher Morley. The meeting will be held at Reed Memorial Library, 1733 Route 6, Carmel. Contact 845-225-2439 with any questions.

Thursday, September 7

Meet The Carmel Town Candidates: The Hamlet of Carmel Civic Association will be hosting a "meet the candidates" night for the public to meet this year's candidates running for office in the Town of Carmel. Presently, there are four candidates running for two available seats on the Carmel Town Board. They are incumbents Frank Lombardi and Suzanne McDonough; and challengers Michael Barile and Judie Mirra. Town Supervisor Ken Schmitt is running unopposed. This will not be a formal debate. Each candidate will be given time to introduce themselves and state their qualifications and then will handle questions from the audience. The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m., at the Carmel Fire Department, 94 Gleneida Avenue, Carmel. For more information about the Hamlet of Carmel Civic Association, visit their website at www.carmelcivicsoc.org

Save The Date:

Saturday, September 9 & Sunday September 10

Oktoberfest Time: At the German American Social Club - Under a GIANT Party Tent with Beer Truck - Rain or Shine. Featuring a wonderful band from Germany, Musikverein Unterjettingen E.V. and the Polka Brothers. Come to a relaxing country setting in Putnam Valley to enjoy a unique event, a friendly atmosphere with live music & a variety of German & American foods, along with imported beers, Viennese Cafe & Oktoberfest pretzels! Plus Jagermeister, Fireball and Shot Ski tent. There will be activities for the kids & a FREE bouncy tent too! Indoor clubhouse bar, Free ample parking, ATM on premises. 3 p.m., -10 p.m., & Sun Sept 10, Noon - 7 p.m., Where: German American Club 11 Kramers Pond Road, Putnam Valley. Adults \$10, children under 14 Free with an adult More info: www.gac1936.com. Please no outside food, drink or coolers

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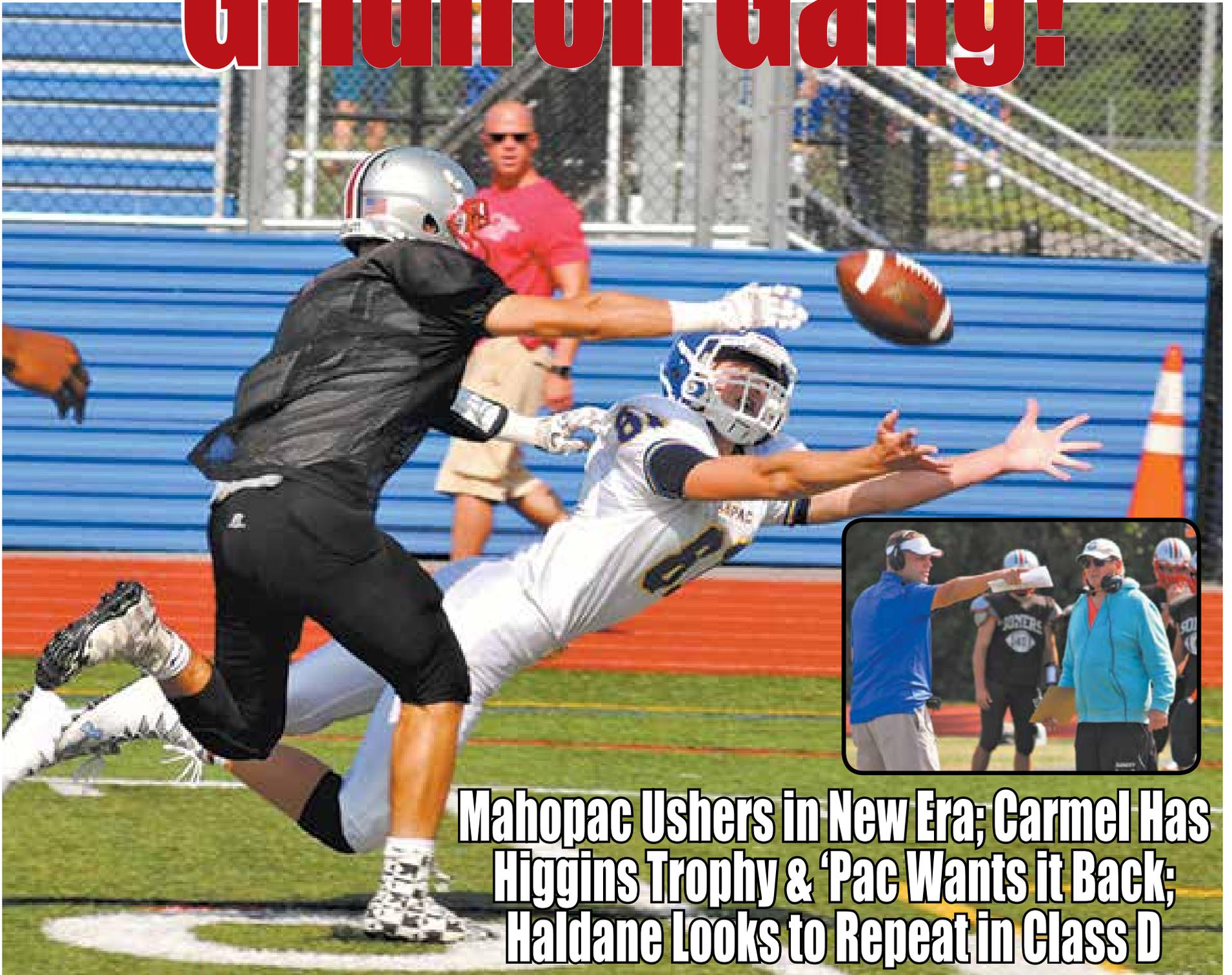
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**2017
 Pigskin
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Gridiron Gang!



Mahopac Ushers in New Era; Carmel Has Higgins Trophy & 'Pac Wants it Back; Haldane Looks to Repeat in Class D

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Mahopac WR Chris Dalo launches himself for a long ball in Saturday's scrimmage against Somers, the defending NYS Class A champion Tuskers, who gave the Indians their max effort as the two neighboring units helped each other prepare for the rigors of Section 1 football, which kicks off this Friday at a gridiron near you. Class AA Mahopac and first-year Indian Coach Dominick DeMatteo (inset left), will usher in a new era while Carmel, which has defeated Mahopac in back-to-back seasons by a combined 45-6 score, will utilize the stability of 24-year veteran Coach Todd Cayea to make another playoff run in Class AA while Haldane seeks its fourth Class D title since 2007... see previews inside.

Sports

Several Class A Gridders Should Be Among Title Contenders Class AA Mahopac Ushers in New Era; Carmel Set to Reload

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor
@Directrays

There will be an insane amount of optimism advancing between the Section 1 Class A borders of Somers and Yorktown this fall. The two neighboring football rivals are as hyped as ever as we enter the 2017 campaign: Somers fresh off its first ever 2016 NYSPHSAA championship and Yorktown still feeling the ill-effects of its 42-6 Section 1 title drubbing at the hands of Coach Tony DeMatteo's Tuskers last November.

Throw in a promising Hendrick Hudson program, a rebuilding but still respected Brewster outfit, a new perspective at Lakeland and some exciting talent at Walter Panas, and Class A football has the makings to attract some wild crowds in and about the Northern Westchester/Putnam County regions. Lakeland will introduce its first-year coach, Mike Meadows, as the Hornets unveil their new and improved Hive, a sparkling modern turf facility, on September 2nd, better known as opening day of the 2017 Section 1 grid season.

Class AA Mahopac has a new, fair-haired boy in Coach Dominick DeMatteo, the former leading man at Arlington and Nyack, the son of Somers boss Tony D and the hope of Mahopac football all rolled into one. Additionally, Carmel, which comes off a solid 2016 season, is quite fond of its two-year stranglehold on the coveted Higgins trophy, signifying its recent command of Mahopac.

No matter where you look the optimism is rampant, running as feverishly as each team's best running back. From the trenches to the skill spots, we got you covered...

CLASS A LEAGUE ALIGNMENTS			
NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH	WEST
Somers	Yorktown	Rye	Lourdes
John Jay	Hen Hud	Harrison	Sleepy Hollow
Brewster	Panas	Eastchester	Tappan Zee
Beacon	Lakeland	Byram Hills	Nyack
Pough'sie	Peekskill	Lincoln	Pearl River

SOMERS

2016 result: 12-1, NYSPHSAA Class A champions

Coach: Tony DeMatteo (334-106-4, 48th season overall, 17th at Somers)

Top Returnees: Who's getting the ball now that All-NYS playmakers Messiah Horne and Matt Pires have graduated and moved on to the University of Rhode Island? The competition is fierce and open with RBs Cameron Pepe, Rob Fazzinga, Vincent Cartelli, Mike Somoza, Antonio Vieira, Justin Lancaster and FB Tyler Carr all potentially getting some run.



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

A force on defense last year, Brewster RB/LB Michael Buonadonna should have a much bigger role on offense this year.

Jack Gilroy, a 6-3, 220-pound senior TE/DE, is poised to do damage on each side of the ball. Senior DB Vincent DiFilippo is a ball-hawking threat and excellent in coverage.

The Tuskers have so much talent back on defense, including eight of their leading 11 tacklers, spearheaded by Vieira, a run-stuffing, edge-rushing menace to society. Gilroy (79 tackles, 4 sacks) is among the top DE's in the section and will develop this season as a wily receiver. The 6-3, 220-pounder is a lethal downfield threat and should draw major targets from two-year senior QB Kevin Olifiers (1,479 yards, 14 TD passes), who is set to emerge from the shadows of Pires and Horne.

"My prime targets this year will be Jack Gilroy, Vincent (V) Cartelli, Justin Lancaster, Connor Gill, Anthony Decoro and Antonio Vieira," Olifiers said. "We will be running by committee and it will be much different than last year."

What won't be much different is Somers' prowess up front as 6-5, 275-pound Yale-bound OT Nick Gargiulo - a man among boys -- and hard-nosed G/NG Chris DiCintio return along the line. Jack Farrell, Dom Cheek, Robert Curma and John Squitieri make up the rest of the grunts.

"We just finished triple sessions and our team is excited, attacking each day with hard, deliberate practices," Olifiers said. "We are truly spreading the ball around this season."

Tusker Andrew Cassin, a weapon on returns and a HB, will be a key newcomer.

Final Thoughts: It's unlikely that DeMatteo, who won his second state title last year (Roosevelt, 1994), and his staff will permit a 'fat-cat' mindset to permeate

among this cast of veterans and mix of wide-eyed greenhorns. Therefore, Somers will remain hungry and its desire to feast will be as strong as last year. It's hard to imagine a scenario where the Tuskers aren't one of the last two teams standing, though Yorktown, Rye, Lourdes, John Jay CR and dark horse Hen Hud are just a handful of potential obstacles. Fact: Somers is thriving while many other programs are in decline. Numbers are up, optimism is sky high and there seems to be a "Come-Get-Some" sense among the masses. We suspect Somers will be one of the last two standing and representing in the state tournament for the second time in history is well within the realm of possibility.

The Tuskers will kick it off at home this Friday when they welcome Poughkeepsie back to Section 1 after a brief stint in Section 9.

YORKTOWN

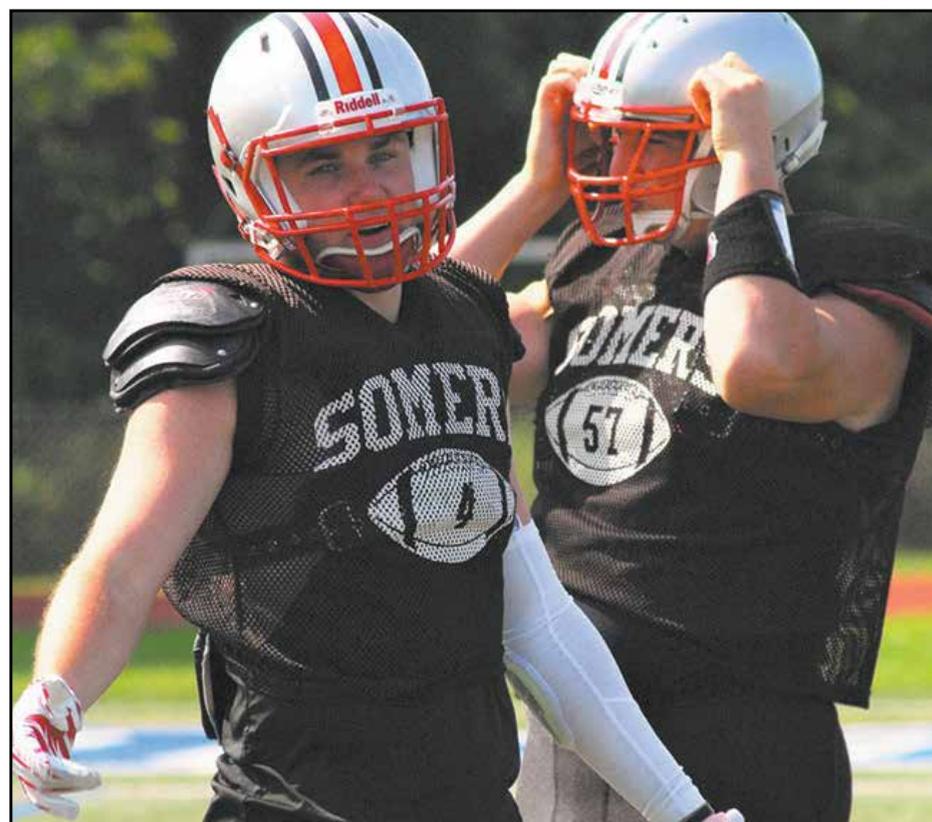
Coach: Mike Rescigno (12th season, 75-37)

Last year: 9-1, lost to Somers in Section 1 Class A title game

Key Returnees: senior RB/LB Brett Makar (6, 185), senior RB/DB Brandon Meyreles (5-9, 176), junior QB Tommy Weaver (5-9, 160), senior TE/DE Alex Ujkaj (5-11, 180).

"Brett Makar is a special athlete that comes around once every so often," Rescigno said. "He is the total package."

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Tusker TE/DE Jack Gilroy (L) and DL-OL Nick Gargiulo gives Somers two of the top players in Section 1 this season.

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First, he is one of the most solid and upstanding student-athletes you will ever meet: Loyal as heck, respectful, diligent and accountable. He's a tremendous leader. The kid plays like a man. Offensively, he can run past you or run over you. Defensively, he will always get a hat on the ball. Brett will tell you that he is flanked with some pretty solid help. Brandon Meyreles is another kid coming back who was a tremendous impact last year. Tommy Weaver has taken command of our offense, replacing Jose Boyer under center. We are expecting that Tommy will pick right up where Jose left off. Yes, they are big shoes to fill but they will be ready."

Final Thoughts/Coach's Comments: They are fired up, as always, for the new season in the land of the Cornhuskers.

"Gotta feel blessed to be coaching the single greatest game in the world," Rescigno said. "More importantly, my staff and I are excited because we have a group of kids that we love."

A group that hasn't forgotten the sting of the 2016 campaign and the memories of a Section 1 Class A championship blowout loss at the hands of Somers.

"This group has come into this season with a very strong sense of reality," Rescigno stated. "Our 9-0 season went out with an awful taste. Many people will tell you that we should be very proud of a season with only one loss, and we are; however, that wound is still wide open. To be honest, it has motivated both staff and players alike to work even harder, and we have been."

Rescigno has made a name for himself as one of the section's top coaches and tradition says the Huskers are always in it to win it, despite not having won a sectional title since 1998. Yorktown will be young in some areas and the offensive line is still a work in progress, but the expectation is for the new guys to understand their role in this team's tradition.

"Their role is simple; Bring a tangible level of competitive toughness to every down at practice," Rescigno said. "Every down needs to be a fight. Every measurable moment of practice has to have something at stake. This is the single best way to decrease your chances of disappointing yourself or your team. We take that very seriously. The Huskers will have new faces in many positions. However, our expectations remain the same."

The Huskers open this Friday at Lakeland, then head to Panas in Week 2, which should set up a Week 3 track meet at home against Hen Hud.

HEN HUD

Coach: Mike Lynch (7th season, overall record 24-29)

Last season Results: 5-4 overall, 4-2 league, playoffs (1st round defeated TZ 20-14, quarterfinals lost @ Brewster 42-28)

Top Returners: Junior- TE/MLB Michael Fasolino (6-1, 215, All-Section HM, All-League). Offensively, Fasolino was QB Nick Cunningham's safety blanket



Brewster RB/OLB Tim Meissner is expected to be a two-way force for Bears this season.

over the middle of the field last year, leading to a very productive sophomore season (24 receptions, 370 yards, 5 TDs). Defensively, he was very disruptive at DT, but he'll be switching positions this year and will move to MLB. He quite possibly the best two-way player Hen Hud has had since 1999 (Mike Pritts). He is to the Sailors what Gronk is to the Patriots.

Junior- RB/OLB Jordan Grullon (5-8, 175, All-Section HM, All-League). Grullon is among the most electric players in Class A and can do it all offensively. The powerful speedster galloped for over 700 total yards as a sophomore (354 rushing, 347 receiving) and found the end zone eight times and was tied for third on the team in receptions (27). It's entirely possible that Grullon establishes career yardage records at Hen Hud when all is said and done. He has the potential to set the all-time record for rushing yards in a season this year if he stays healthy and the O-line meshes.

"His workload is expected to increase as he will become the focal point of the offense," Lynch said. "Defensively, he's a very talented open-field tackler, who also returned two interceptions for TDs last season."

Senior- WR/FS Alan Porter-Jackson (6', 175, All-League). Porter-Jackson was among the most game-breaking threats in Class A last year and had some of the most spectacular catches in Section 1. He was second on the team in catches last season with 29 and 389 yards and scored four TDs. We suspect he'll double those numbers this year.

Senior- C Doug Smith 6'0" 275 (Captain). Devoted Smith is the anchor of the offensive line. He started every game last year and is the most experienced

linemen on the club.

"Doug is the most dedicated player in the program," Lynch said.

"He never missed a lifting session this summer. He will be the leader on the O-line."

Senior- WR/DE Jake Travis (6'3, 190) started every game at DE last season. He is now expected to become a two-way starter.

Key Newcomers: Junior- QB Manny Carbone (5-11, 175) will find it tough to replace the guy - Nick Cunningham -- that rewrote the passing records at Hen Hud. Cunningham departed Sailor Country as its most decorated QB with 19 school records to his credit, but Carbone is a very suitable replacement.

"As crazy as it sounds, for an offense that averaged 40 points per game last season, I think can be even more dynamic with Manny at the helm," Coach Lynch said. "Manny is a true dual-threat quarterback. He is the fastest player in the program. Last season in a limited role on offense he averaged almost 10 yards per carry (26 carries, 255 yards, 6 TDs). Manny has worked extremely hard this summer to improve his accuracy and understanding of our pass concepts and protection calls."

Junior- RB/LB Donte White was very explosive on JV last season. Has looked great in 7 on 7s this summer.



Hen Hud RB/DB Jordan Grulon will be a major priority of opposing defenders this season.

Working primarily out of the slot. He's very difficult for linebackers to guard in space.

Quick Facts: Expected to have between 30-35 players on varsity. Porter-Jackson is a three-sport stud.

Coach's Comment: We expect to be competitive in every game we play this season. Our defense should be improved with the new personnel and position

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Hen Hud MLB/TE Michael Fasolino figures to be among best two-way players in Class A this season, if not Section 1.

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Somers LB/RB Antonio Vieira is about to get up in the grill of opposing Class A players like few others can.

changes. We're excited to see the offense take shape around a running back, in Grullon, that can break it on any play. QB Manny can beat you with his arm or legs, and has a deep threat in Alan Jackson and a big tight end working the seam in Fasolino. The key for this team will be how quickly can the offensive line gel, come together and get on the same page.

Final Thoughts: The fact that Lynch is willing to put Carbone in the same sentence with Cunningham tells you all you need to know about the potential

drop-off under center. If the Sailors decide to commit defensively, this unit will be a compelling group to watch as they vie for the first sectional championship in Hen Hud history. Playmakers about, but is anybody besides the usual suspects willing to mix it up in the defensive fray? The Sailors, who would make for a great fantasy football squad, will put up an incredible amount of points this season – bank on it – but if the score 40 and the other guy drops 41, it won't much matter.

We're expecting a much better effort on defense this season and we're thinking the Sailors, if they stay grounded and humble, could be Final 4-bound and might even shock the section and show

up at Mahopac, what would be their first sectional championship appearance since the 1999 Mike Pritts-led Sailors lost to the Sammy Maldonado-led Harrison Huskies, who, ironically enough, the Sailors will open up with in a Week 1 doozy.

We told folks in this space, two years ago, mind you, that the Sailors were turning a corner under Coach Lynch, a real go-getter. If not this year, then next; the Sailors will be a major force #AnchorUpFullSpeedAhead.



Somers senior QB Kevin Ollifiers will likely see longer, sustained drives this season as opposed to the quick-strike ability last year.

BREWSTER

Coach: Ed Mulvihill, 30-15, 5th year

2016 Result: 8-1, lost to Somers in semis

With so much turnover on offense, Brewster will rely on its defense this year to keep them in games, according to Mulvihill.

Key Returners -- It all starts with the three LB's that are back for their senior year. Three-year starters, including stout Manny Costales (5-9, 220), Mike Buonadonna (5-8, 175) and Tim Meissner (6, 195) will lead the defense. Run-stuffing senior DT/OL JJ Jiminez (6-2, 260) will be a force on the D line with Tino Surace (5-9, 230), Ryan Jackson (6, 160), Dylan Gusler all seeing time at DE/LB.

What's New: The secondary is all new starters as Mike Ercole, Tyler Smith, Paul Catalano, Josh Nelson, Kove Lambert, Charlie Russell and Brian Spellman are all in the mix.

Offensively, the Bears have to make up for a lot on offense with the graduation of 1st team All-NYS QB Jack Guida and RB Henry Terry. Those two players accounted for 90% of the Bears offense last season. This season look for Brewster to spread the ball around to different players. Brendan Fox, Lou Martin and veteran Buonadonna are all vying for the starting QB position.

"Each has a different tool set to offer, so we may have some different looks depending on who is out there," Coach Mulvihill stated.

RBs Buonadonna, Owen Hamm and Josh Nelson will be in the backfield. Versatile Tim Meissner, Dom Triolo and Ryan Jackson will man the H-back position. At the receiver spots, the Bears have a host of players to turn to, including Chris Skorewicz, Nick Sheehan, Paul Catalano and Charlie Russell on the outside with Mike Ercole, Brian Spellman and Kove Lambert in the slot.

O-Line: Jiminez, Costales, Andrew Noce at center, Will Banks, Nick Girard, and Ryan Lynch. Mark Delgado, Nick

Gonch and Tino Surace will also be in the rotation for playing time. At TE, Dylan Gusler, Surace and Jackson will all see time.

Coach's Comment: We're still trying to figure out who we are right now. We may start out a little slow but we hope to be improving all season and getting hot at the right time. We're looking forward to the scrimmage to find some answers.

Final Thought: Brewster's senior class, which may have been its best since the Bears were regularly competing for NYS championships between 1996-99, will be extremely difficult to replace, if not impossible this season. Contending the way in which the Bears have the past three years, will be a tall order. Matching similar expectations should be tempered, given the losses at the skill positions and the bulk of its mass up front. Still, the Bears are nobody's pushover, and we like to think that their Week 2 matchup with John Jay CR will tell us a lot about the Bears' future; though they are hardly in a position to look past Tappan Zee in Week 1.

WALTER PANAS

Coach: Dan Patronik (23-25, 8th year)

2016 Result: Finished 4-5, lost to Lourdes (7-0 in playoffs), finished season by beating Eastchester and open up against the Eagles this year.

Top Returners: Brandon Hodge Sr. QB; the nimble veteran has started all 16 games the past two years and returns for his third very comfortable in the system. A captain now, he's said to have worked hard to increase strength and speed in the offseason. The 2nd team All-Section signal caller is as elusive as they come.

Versatile Jacob Liebert, a senior, returns following a frustrating year. He will be a two-way starter again, and in better shape after losing 20 pounds, he is faster and stronger. This will be his third year starting on the varsity where he can play any position and will be counted on in big spots.

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Lakeland captains Michael Capozzi, Justin Rivera, Coach Mike Meadows, Ray Stretz and Armando Smith.

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Yorktown RB/DB Brandon Meyreles (7) will be a primary point of concern for opponents on both sides of the ball.

Junior HB David Louis returns following a productive breakout sophomore season. He became the starting tailback and never looked back. Senior Justin Walker returns following a solid year at OLB. Patronick notes his football instincts, quickness to the ball and good coverage skills.

Senior Joe Walsh returns off a solid year at DE and TE last year, at 5'11, 185, he is quick on the outside rush and disruptive to opposing offenses. He will earn more time on the offensive side of the ball this year.

Other returning starters include senior Ryan Scully (6' 195, disruptive, tough, physical player), senior DB Taji Hargrove (will be counted on to lock down opposing receivers and will see time at receiver as well), senior ILB Gabriel Urena (6' 200, returns after earning a starting spot, a run stopper and can fill). Big senior OT/DT Jordan Grossberg (6'1, 315 returns as a 2nd year starter, solid run blocker and quick feet). Junior OL Anthony Mastraccio (6' 205, returns to the offensive line, started all eight games as a sophomore at tackle, will be moved to guard to capitalize on quick toughness inside). Massive senior OL Austin Gilligan (6'8" 335, had a frustrating junior year but has worked hard in the offseason in the weight room and attended several linemen camps. His feet are quicker and the strength is there). Explosive junior Sean Laukitis (5'8, 170, returns after a solid sophomore year in which he returned three kicks for, will take a bigger role on offense this year).

Coach's Comments: We will continue our style of playing tough Panas football. The key to this season is staying away from injury. Depth is key and finding others to fill in will be key to our success. Specials

and defense are the cornerstone of our game this year. Offensively, we should be able to put points up but as always the offensive line will be the key to the season. We have some skill position players and some experience, and winning close games will be key.

Final Thoughts: You had me at Hodge, who can dodge or lodge from the pocket. He will keep the Panthers in games with his arms and legs while Louis keeps opposing defenders honest. The Panthers have some game-breakers if the men in the trenches can do their thing up front. Louis is poised to do damage in Year 2 of what should be a terrific three-year varsity career. After Eastchester in Week 1, we'll find out if the Panthers are legit or not when they host Yorktown in Week 2.

LAKELAND

Coach: Mike Meadows (1st year)

Last year- 3-6 overall record; 2016 playoff result -- lost to Yorktown in qualifying round, 39-0

Top returners- Michael Capozzi RB/QB 6'0 175, Armando Smith TE/DE 6'2 200, Justin Rivera RB/LB 190, Raymond Stretz OL/DL 250, Tommy Barnett 5'8 150 RB/DB

Key newcomers- Phil Dellamonica TE/OLB 5'10 180, Kristian Bujaj OL/DL 6'0 230, Dan Ciraco RB/LB 5'9 185, Lucas Kowalski OLB/TE 5'10 170

Quick Facts: 40 guys on varsity, most in recent history and nearly 90 people in the entire program... Multiple looks on defense with a base defense being 4-4. Offensively, Lakeland will be running the zone read. "We have a good core of experienced seniors coming back lead by our four captains Michal Capozzi, Armando Smith, Justin Rivera and Ray



Yorktown players get after it during recent inter-squad action.

Stretz." Meadows said. "Capozzi is back after missing almost the entire season last year due to injury."

The defense will be anchored by two of the top four tacklers from last season in Armando Smith and Justin Rivera. Stretz will be a force on defense, as good an interior lineman as Lakeland has had in some time.

Coaches Comments/Outlook: After taking over for Rob Cappelli, who has the most wins in Lakeland football history, I want to build on top of the foundation that was already built. We are an established program with a great feeder system (SOAC) that is very supportive. Although we struggled at times last season, we expect a lot from ourselves as coaches and players this season. We can't focus on other teams, rather we need to focus on how we can get better and be the best team we can be. What I want from my boys this season is a sense of urgency, competitiveness, and unity... day in and day out. If we do that, then our season will be a success. The backbone of our team will once again be our defense and toughness. That is what Lakeland football is all about.

Final Thoughts: Lakeland comes off a sub-standard season in which it didn't meet the terms to qualify for the field of eight Class A playoff

teams. Longtime Coach Rob Cappelli has retired and replaced by former Hornet RB and assistant Coach Mike Meadows.

Meadows comes into a situation where the skill position players are relatively green but four of his five offensive linemen have varsity experience and playing time, including LT Ray Stretz (6-2, 250), who will guard the blindside of Capozzi and open holes for RB Tommy Burnett. Capozzi's two main targets figure to be senior WR John Mule and burner John White, who has top-notch, field-

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Carmel senior RB Nick Heis will be a primary option for the Rams this fall.

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Mahopac RB Alex DiCioccio could emerge as a featured back for the Indians if he can hold up health-wise after two hip surgeries.

stretching speed.

Capozzi has a big-time arm and his brother, Anthony, was a legit force for Cappelli a few seasons ago, but it's going to take a Herculean effort for Lakeland get over the .500 hump in Meadows' first go. Truth be told, reaching the quarterfinals should be the realistic, high-end goal, but we'll know a lot more after a Week 1 dust-up with Yorktown.

**CLASS AA
CARMEL (League AA-North)**

Coach: Todd Cayea (24th season, 131-76-1)

Last Year: 6-3 overall, 2-2 league

(lost to New Rochelle, 6-0, in sectional quarterfinals)

Top Returners: senior RB Nick Heis, ILB Dylan Seals, senior WR Henry Flacco, Nick Rodriguez, OL Ryan Beauchesne, Jaden Pellino, junior QB Peyton Cayea

Key Newcomers: QB Aiden Nunez, Joe Mascetta, Rich Keating, Brian McCabe, Sean McCarthy, Alex Beauchesne, Randy Soumakis, Tyler Alloca, John Cox, RB Sam Duke

Quick Facts: The Rams gave two-time defending sectional champion and NYS semifinalists New Rochelle one of its toughest games of the year in a 6-0 post-



The reins will come off Carmel junior QB Peyton Cayea, who the Rams hope to unleash, this season.



As Somers Coach Tony DeMatteo looks on, Mahopac QB Ryan Dugan will lead a young Indian unit this season.

season setback. Lo' and behold, the road to the title will go through the Huguenots again.

Coach's Comment: The question will be developing and young but dedicated offensive line. Plenty of skill players returning, with a good 1-2 punch with Duke and Heis as featured RBs. Rodriguez is a three-year varsity player who could be amongst the best DL in the section. Cayea and Nunez compete for the QB spot. Cayea did see some action as a sophomore. Seals is back at ISLB and led 2016 team in tackles.

Final Thoughts: The QB battle is an intriguing one, but the Rams will go deep often under Coach Cayea, who trusts his players to make plays, including Heis, who should be the bell cow of a dynamic offense. The Rams could be 3-0 by the time they see Arlington in Week 4, which is the start of a rough two-game stretch that also includes John Jay EF, the favorites to win the league.

MAHOPAC (League AA North)

Coach: Dominick DeMatteo (11th year overall, 1st year at Mahopac, previously coached Arlington, Nyack)

Last year: 3-6, lost in playoff qualifying round

Key Returners: senior QB Ryan Dugan, WR/DB Joe Dalo, WR/DB Chris Dalo, OL/DL Chris O'Halloran, OL/DL Matt Posniak, OL/DL Robert Alleva. "These guys have done everything we've asked them to do,"

DeMatteo said.

Quick Facts: Mahopac has lost the last two games against rival Carmel by a 45-6 combined score, which means the Rams will bring the coveted Higgins trophy to Indian Country in Week 3... First three games of the season are at home.

Final Thoughts/Coach's Comments: Mahopac is in new-era mode, an epoch that features first-year Indian boss DeMatteo, who ushers in a different attitude and a fresh perspective. DeMatteo takes over for former Coach

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In his 24th season, Carmel boss Todd Cayea will lead the Rams in an ultra-competitive Class AA field.

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Mark Langella. The team has accepted the change, which has brought about an upbeat tempo at practice, which may or may not amount to much on the field if the Indians can't run the ball.

That's DeMatteo's biggest challenge; finding the right beast who can line up 7-10 yards deep and push the pile forward. "I honestly don't know who that will be right now," DeMatteo admitted in early August. "We're hopeful someone will emerge."

That someone might be junior RB Tim Cegielski, who missed some of the early portions of pre-season due to prior lacrosse commitments, or senior RB Alex DiCioccio, who has had some injury concerns in the past.

"We're fine with our guys playing lacrosse," DeMatteo insisted. "We want our athletes playing two and three sports. It's the best thing for them, but Cegielski's the guy I keep hearing about, the guy we'd like to think can carry the rock for us."

DeMatteo knows his QB, senior Ryan Dugan, can sling it, but his receiving corps, albeit willing, is unproven, including the Dalo boys, who should serve as primary targets.

"He's got a great wrist and can get the ball down field," DeMatteo said of the 6-5 signal caller with a year under his belt.

Truth be told, this is the start of a rebuilding era. It may take several years before DeMatteo posts an acceptable record, which, at this point in time, would be a .500 season. The league is brutal and runs through rival Carmel, John Jay EF and Arlington. DeMatteo, who wasn't hired until mid-summer, cannot afford to look ahead, being that the Indians are so far behind.

"It's about practice tempo, practice structure, new terminology, getting on and off the field and bringing this team up to speed on so many different levels," he said.

Week 1 against Ossining should provide a manageable foe for the undersized Indians.

OSSINING (League AA-Central)

Coach: Dan Ricci (14th season, 66-56 overall record)

Last year: 1-8 overall, 0-4 League 2016 Playoff Result: didn't qualify

Top Returners & Accolades: Senior RB James Sanchez, senior OL/DL Farouk Capablo, senior OL/DL Latrell Goss, senior SE/DB Diego Orellana, junior OL/DL Josh Manning, junior RB/LB Isiah Steen RB/LB, junior QB/DB Isiah Beltran, junior RB/DB Zair Fields, senior OL/DL Dan Miranda.

Key Newcomers: Sophomore QB/DB Jaseem Gray.

Quick facts: Ossining's record in the last 13 years in Class A is 49-18, but the Pride's Class AA record is 17-38.

Coach's Comments: We are very young and inexperienced so time will tell how long it takes to jell. Due to the amount of injuries we had last year several of these guys got some valuable varsity experience



Haldane QB Brandon Twoguns and RB Joe DiGregorio return to anchor what should be an explosive backfield this season.

last year.

Final Thought: Class AA has been hell on the Pride, who simply don't have the turnout for football that Ossining had through 2007. The lack of numbers has been devastating and it could have a similar effect this season. Coupled with inexperience, the Pride have a tough road to hoe.

CLASS B PUTNAM VALLEY

Coach: Ryan Elsasser (2nd year, 4-5 record)

Last year: 4-5 overall

2016 Playoff Result: 2016 no playoff appearance, won the Blythedale Bowl

Top Returners & Accolades: Junior Darnel Shillingford All-League WR/LB (6-2, 205, Junior). "We are expecting a strong leadership role this year from Darnel," Coach Elsasser said. "This will be his second year on varsity and he will be a returning captain. He has been a strong presence on both sides of the ball."

Jason White WR/DB (6-2, 190, Senior). "Jason has been working extremely hard in the off season to develop a strong set of skills," Elsasser said.

Travis Anderson QB (5-8 160, Senior). "This will be Travis' second year behind center for us and we expect a solid and dynamic performance from him," Elsasser said. "He will have multiple tough backs to give the ball to in the run game as well as a set of impressive receivers to go to in the air."

Adam Rukaj RB (6-0 200, Senior). "Adam ran the ball well for us last season," the coach said. "He is a fast and quick back, who is looking forward to getting the ball back in his hands this year."

Versatile senior C/LB Mike Gaitan will be playing both ways in multiple capacities.

"Mike will be a key player; however,

the staff is still determining where he will play," Elsasser said. "He has experience at C, LB and DE and we will be solidifying his role in the coming weeks."

Senior QB/WR Angelo Milano, senior DT Daniel Martinez, senior OLB Tim Sainz, senior DB Mike Nolan, senior DE Chase Sauther.

Key Newcomers: Junior RB/LB John Listwan (5-10, 205).

"We had a great JV season with Coach Matt Mello working with the team," Elsasser said. "They learned a great deal under him and I expect some of those players coming up this season to take off athletically and make a name for themselves at the varsity."

Unexpected Loss: Junior DE/OL Joe Garbowski, who transferred unexpectedly to Stepinac in early August.

Quick facts: 30 players on the roster.

Coach's Comments: I am looking forward to seeing what this team can do this season. Many of our players are dynamic multi-sport athletes. We have a significant number of players returning on both sides of the ball. The players have been putting in a lot of work at Team Moljo Strength and Conditioning over the summer. As always, leadership and getting the team to come together is a priority. We have a lot of players on this team that are extremely passionate about the game of football and the team that they are part of. When asked what the team quote and philosophy will be for this year, it was a quick response of the single word, "Brotherhood". We finished last season hot and want to continue that type of play to start this season. Section 1 Class B will be a very competitive class this coming season. Pleasantville is coming off a fantastic finish in the states, Ardsley is adding RB Glenmour Osbourne from White Plains, and of course the always

competitive Westlake with QB Rob Dinota returning will make this an exciting season for sure.

Final Thought: PV cannot afford another slow start. It's one thing to finish hot, but subpar starts have often placed the Tigers in holes they cannot dig out from, leaving them out of the playoffs every year but twice since 2007. There is not a lot of depth on the squad but there is solid talent at the skill positions. Shillingford should break out this year on both sides of the ball.

CLASS D HALDANE

Coach: Ryan McConville (4th year, 9-18)

Last Year: 3-7 (Section 1 champs, Region 1 champs, lost in state semifinals)

Top Returning Players: Senior QB/FS Brandon Twoguns (719 passing yards, 5 TD passes; 675 rushing yards, 9 TDs), returns with All-League, All-Section and HM All-NYS honors.

Junior RB/LB Sam Giachinta (936 yards & 6 TDs) returns with All-League, All-Conference and HM All-NYS honors. WR/DB Luke Junjulas. Massive size returns in the form of OL/DLs Will Westerhuis (6-2, 245), VJ Fina (5-7, 235) and Matt Ortiz (5-6, 260) and quickness from C Anthony Lombardi (6, 165).

Key Newcomers: Sophomore WR Matt Champlin (6, 150) played as a freshman last season, but sparingly at WR. A great athlete, Champlin will add a new dimension with his height and jumping ability

Coaches Comments: We are going to continue to set the bar high for our program on the field and in the classroom. Off the field, we want to build student athletes who will grow into dedicated, hard-working men. On the field, we want to compete to be the best team in our league and section. I think we have had a successful off-season filled with workouts and camps, and we have a great outline on how to attack our pre-season as we prepare for a tough and competitive schedule. Our team has a ton of guys who have been playing as freshmen and sophomore so we have a ton of experience and understand the hard-work, effort, sacrifices it's going to take to win the section again."

Final Thoughts: With Twoguns (5-8, 130) slinging it to Champlin and Sammy "The Bull" Giachinta (5-9, 175) bowling dudes over, the Blue Devils have a two-dimensional attack they lacked last year. As always, Tuckahoe will be standing there before Haldane when all is said and done, and the Tigers have been the main hurdle preventing the Blue Devils from being perennial contenders for the state title, winning seven of the last nine sectional titles. But for the third time in 10 years, it's Haldane that enters as the hunted, having shocked the demoralized Tigers last season. Don't be surprised if they do it again. The Blue Devils open up at home against Rye Neck Saturday and will visit Tuckahoe in Week 5.

Up & Adam!



Put Valley Hopes to Rise Among Class B Ranks

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

Putnam Valley senior RB Adam Rukaj will be heavily used by second-year Tiger Coach Ryan Elsasser as he hopes to make the Tigers a Class B playoff contender for just the third time since 2007. The Tigers and the other four Putnam County football teams will take the field this coming weekend as the Section 1 season kicks off at a gridiron near you... see Grid Previews in sports