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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 10, Issue 459

New Leadership Selected for County Legislature

By David Propper

The Putnam County Legislature ushered in a new leadership team during its organizational meeting last week, with the new chairperson and deputy chairperson receiving unanimous support.

In 9-0 votes, lawmaker Joe Castellano was approved the chairman and Toni Addonizio was selected as the deputy chairwoman for the calendar year. Castellano replaces Ginny Nacerino, who

served as chairwoman for two straight years. As chairperson, Castellano will make an additional \$8,000 annually.

Afterward, Castellano, a Republican, said he was "humbled and honored" to serve in the top position.

"This is the best job possible," Castellano said. "I love living in Putnam County, I want to do right for the taxpayers of Putnam County and I'm just honored

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DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

New Chairman Joe Castellano and Deputy Chairwoman Toni Addonizio at the conclusion of last week's meeting.

Your 2018 Putnam County Legislature



PROVIDED PHOTO

The Putnam County Legislature took their 2018 photo last week following its organizational meeting. Standing from left to right: Neal Sullivan-District 9, Bill Gouldman-District 2, Paul Jonke-District 6, and Amy Sayegh-District 8. Seated from left to right: Barbara Scuccimarra-District 1, Carl Albano-District 5, Joe Castellano-District 7, Ginny Nacerino-District 4, and Toni Addonizio-District 3. The Legislature can be contacted by email at putcoleg@putnamcountyny.gov or phone at (845) 808-1020.

Gov. Cuomo Blasts Trump in State of State Address

By David Propper

Taking aim at the federal government, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo slammed President Donald Trump's administration, even if he only mentioned the Republican firebrand by name once during his annual State of the State address last week.

During his wide ranging and never-ending speech last Wednesday, Cuomo, a Democrat, said the state plans to sue the federal government for its newly imposed tax law as unconstitutional, alleging that it's the first federal double taxation in U.S. history, which violates states' rights and equal protection.

The Republican tax overhaul, approved late last year, puts a cap of \$10,000 on deductions of state and local income and property taxes, referred to as SALT, which

*'It is an economic
civil war and make
no mistake, they
are aiming to hurt
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Andrew Cuomo*

has concerned New York officials across the political spectrum.

Cuomo called the federal government, controlled by the GOP in the executive and legislative branches, "the most hostile and aggressive toward New

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Displaced Puerto Rican Families Get Taste of Home in Putnam

By David Propper

It's been months since Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, destroying the island and displacing thousands of people that call it home. In the aftermath, several families decided to relocate to Putnam County and last Saturday they got a nice reminder of home.

Many Latino families across the county gathered to celebrate Three Kings Day with dozens of children braving the freezing weather to unite for a final celebration of the holiday season. There was plenty of food, music and gifts for the dozens of

children that attended with their families. Three Kings Day, also known as the Epiphany, is Jan. 6 each year and marks the day the three wise men gave gifts to a newborn Jesus Christ, according to the Bible. In Spanish, it is referred to as the Dia de Los Reyes.

One of the organizers of the event, Norma Pereira, said the purpose of the celebration is to gather the community in a neutral place where everyone feels welcomed. Unity was spoken about throughout the evening and different organizations and several volunteers



Some of the volunteers that made the celebration possible.



DAVID PROPPER PHOTOS

The three wise men at last weekend's festivities.

pitched in to help make the event possible at the Studio Around the Corner in the Village of Brewster. More than 125 gifts were donated, Pereira said, so every child received a present. There were even three residents dressed up as wise men to hand out the gifts.

Several families from Puerto Rico displaced from the devastating hurricanes over the summer also attended the gathering. Pereira said a "Parranda" (a Puerto Rican music Christmas tradition)

was performed to remind those families of their homeland.

"We're so warm to them," Pereira, who knows about six new families from Puerto Rico in Putnam, said.

Pereira said speaking with one Puerto Rican family, the mother is happy to be in New York, but misses home everyday and continues to adjust to life in another state, including the frigid northeast weather.

Brewster resident Yolanda Arce, who

continued on next page



The Pap Test

What every woman must know about this test and possible results...

Ask the Doctor

Elisa Burns, MD

Medical Director,
Director of Quality and Outcomes
Institute for Robotic and
Minimally Invasive Surgery
Northern Westchester Hospital

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Q: What does the Pap test show?

A: The Pap test (or Pap smear) screens for pre-cancerous cellular abnormalities in a woman's cervix. If abnormalities are found, you can be monitored or treated so you don't develop cervical cancer. A Pap test involves scraping cells from your cervix to examine for pre-cancerous changes in tissue. Depending on your age, history and previous Pap test results, the cells might also be tested for high-risk types of the human papillomavirus (HPV), the most common cause of cervical cancer. Ninety-nine percent of cases of cervical cancer are caused by the human papillomavirus, which is generally sexually transmitted.

Q: If my Pap results are abnormal, what are the next steps?

A: If your cervical cells appear abnormal and/or you are positive for high-risk HPV, you may undergo a colposcopy, an examination of the cervix under magnification, to find areas most likely to have abnormal cells. If these are found, a biopsy is used to make a definitive diagnosis.

Among women aged 20 to 30 years, cervical cell abnormalities often go away by themselves, so we typically monitor rather than treat these women,

as cervical cancer develops slowly. However, when an older woman receives a positive biopsy report, we more often treat because abnormalities don't always go away on their own. We usually surgically remove the abnormal area.

Q: How effective is the Pap test?

A: Very. Routine Pap tests have decreased the rate of cervical cancer in the U.S. by 80 percent. Women who get screened for cervical cancer have an extremely low rate of this cancer.

Q: At what age should I start and stop having Pap tests?

A: Start at 21. Women under 21 have a very low incidence of the type of high-grade abnormalities that will progress to cervical cancer. Screening after age 65 isn't needed if you have a recent history of normal Pap results. If your Pap test and HPV test are negative, you should repeat both tests in three years.

Did you know?

Routine Pap tests have decreased the rate of cervical cancer in the U.S. by 80 percent.

Displaced Puerto Rican Families Get Taste of Home in Putnam

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has roots in Puerto Rico, visited the United States territory for nine days over the holidays. She saw family and friends and also brought supplies and food into areas still hurting from the mega hurricane. Places where she used to see trees and homes in Puerto Rico were no longer there.

In Putnam, she's also been involved in helping Puerto Rican families new to the area.

For the families that have arrived in Putnam, they've done so with limited clothes and other necessities. Organizations like Putnam CAP, Arce said, have stepped up to help them by providing clothes for a freezing winter and English classes to better integrate into

the community.

"There's been a lot of help," she said.

One Puerto Rican family with three children that Arce knows arrived in October and the children attend the Brewster school system. (She noted many kids that remain in Puerto Rico still aren't in school many months after the storm.)

"It's been a big culture shock," Arce said.

But for at least one cold night, the shock

was lessened with warmth surrounding the county's newest residents. This was the fourth year the Three Kings Day celebration was held and Pereira hopes to see it continue to grow every year.

"Hopefully we continue including more neighbors from the community," Pereira said. "The new ones and old and anyone that wants to participate."



Each child, including Alison, received a gift.



DAVID PROPPER PHOTOS

James Shearwood, playing one of the three kings, hands a gift to a young girl.



Handing out presents brought the most joy to youngsters at the event.

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New Leadership Selected for County Legislature

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that the legislators chose me to be the next chairman."

Castellano has served for almost two terms and faces reelection this year in District 7. Before serving in an elected role, Castellano was on the Zoning Board of Appeals in the Town of Southeast for eight years and has worked for the Westchester County Clerk's Office for more than 20 years.

Nacerino nominated Castellano, who was the deputy chairman the last two years, for the new job.

Nacerino lauded Castellano for his work ethic and sound judgment. She called him "the epitome of a fine public servant."

"Joe is a man of integrity and maintains a calm and quiet demeanor," Nacerino said. "He is pensive and analytical and always gives careful consideration to all matters."

During his tenure on the legislative body, Castellano has been a reliable vote for initiatives and spending brought forward by the county executive's office, voting in lockstep with most of his colleagues on critical issues like the senior center lease at Butterfield and funding for Tilly Foster Farm in Southeast.

Castellano will be sitting right in between Nacerino and Legislator

Carl Albano, who were the last two chairpersons the previous four years, during full legislative meetings at the historic county courthouse.

"They did a great job the last four years," Castellano said. "I just hope I can continue in their footsteps."

Following in the footsteps of Castellano as vice chair is Addonizio, who is just starting her second term in office. The new position is a quick ascension for the Kent Republican who never held public office before she won her first race four years ago.

Legislator Neal Sullivan nominated Addonizio and said during her tenure she's successfully advocated for her district and noted she has done a good job at uniting people to solve problems.

"Her intense focus on serving her constituents is unmatched," Sullivan said.

Nacerino backed up Sullivan's nomination, stating she's seen Addonizio grow and evolve the last three years.

"Toni is a woman of conviction," Nacerino said. "Her unwavering commitment to make sound decisions, which are not based on self-preservation, but rather the greater good, is most impressive."

Addonizio originally came onto the scene as an outsider when she challenged fellow GOPer Lou Tartaro and soundly



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

Castellano conducted his first meeting as chairman.

topped him in a primary. In her first year, she voted against the proposed budget because it increased the health insurance costs retirees needed to pay. But over the last couple of years, Addonizio has supported most of the key initiatives put forward by County Executive MaryEllen Odell and the majority of the legislature. She's also held forums in Kent focused on hot topics occurring regionally, including

Common Core.

"It is an honor to be voted in by my colleagues as the vice chair of the Putnam County Legislature," Addonizio told The Putnam Examiner. "I would like to thank them for their unanimous support, faith and confidence in me. I'm looking forward to a productive 2018 with my continued commitment to the people of Putnam County."

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Students From Brewster-Based Dance School Strike Gold

By David Proper

Brewster-based Seven Star School of Performing Arts was represented on an international stage last month and even had students of the dance studio walk away with gold medals.

Eighteen students from Seven Star traveled to Riesa, Germany to participate in the 2017 IDO World Dance Championship providing an unforgettable experience for them. Overall, there are more than Seven Star 130 students that go to regional and national competitions and if students reach a certain level at those events, they qualify for international competitions



PROVIDED PHOTO

The gold medalists in the junior small group division at the 2017 IDO World Dance Championship. From left to right: Danielle Garcia, Lauren Bettuchi, Gia Iwanec, Sarah Shectman, Emerson Forbes, Angie Santamorenna, and Alexa Villega.

even more. Four Seven Star students impressively walked away with a gold medal. Sarah Shectman, Angie Santamorenna, Danielle Garcia and Alexa Villega were part of a tap dance team that won the junior small group division on Dec. 1 for “Doom Tek.” Besides the Seven Star performers, three dancers from Danbury-based Gloria Jean’s Studio of Dance were in the group.

The four Seven Star students are taught by Aravena, Bill Coates and Alicia Monaco.

“It doesn’t get better than the gold,” Aravena said.

What made the gold medal win even more stirring is the team of girls only had 21 days to practice the routine they displayed in Germany. Aravena said the group of girls only found out about traveling overseas in November after another team dropped out. While it’s possible to put a routine together in 21 days, Aravena said, it usually is not at the caliber for a world championship. The other teams that went to Europe were able to rehearse for more than a year.

“Their fire and drive brought them to that gold medal,” Aravena said. “We were all shocked, we could not believe it. It was extremely exciting.”

and can send a videos of their audition in for final selection.

Seven Star owner Nicole Aravena said she enjoys seeing her students at dance competitions because they get to see the

best performers from different schools. It provides her students motivation to improve and on an international stage, with so many different countries partaking, students are able to learn

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Governor Cuomo Blasts Trump in State of State Address

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York in history.” He claimed the federal government is robbing the blue states to pay for the red states.

“It is an economic civil war and make no mistake, they are aiming to hurt us,” Cuomo said, arguing it will drive residents out of the state. “We believe it is illegal.”

Cuomo also revealed the state is putting together a plan to restructure its current income and payroll tax system in response to the new GOP tax law. A more concrete plan could be rolled out later this month.

Besides scorching the federal government, Cuomo listed a long list of progressive initiatives he’d like to pursue. At times, it appeared he was positioning himself for a presidential run in 2020.

He spoke about his desire to eliminate cash bail for low-level offenses, put abortion rights into the state constitution, improve access to voting and allow children of illegal immigrants to go to public colleges for free or receive financial aid.

He also proposed laws meant to combat sexual harassment and assault. Legislation he offered would stop taxpayer funds from being used to settle sexual assault and harassment complaints leveled against state officials. Additionally, Cuomo wants

policies that would apply to all state and local governments in New York and implement a whistleblower process to help victims come forward. Sexual harassment cases would not be confidential unless the victim insists, Cuomo said.

Suing big pharmacy companies is another priority for Cuomo as a way to fight the drug scourge that’s crippled many parts of the state and led to thousands of overdose deaths.

Looking back at what he’s done, Cuomo touted “historic investments” in education, healthcare and economic development.

“State government is back,” Cuomo said.

In an interview, Assemblywoman Sandy Galef (D/Ossining) was pleased with much of what Cuomo addressed. Galef said she was happy Cuomo wants to have a statewide policy to tackle sexual harassment, which is legislation she has spearheaded.

Galef said it was important Cuomo proposed easier voter registration and a policy that would force political advertisements that appear on social media to identify who paid for them. Galef agreed that the federal government is targeting New York and supported legal action against the new tax plan. Changing

tax policy within the state is also critical, she said.

“It really is double taxation,” Galef said of the new federal tax law.

State Senator Sue Serino said in a statement that Cuomo listed many expensive initiatives, but didn’t explain how they would be paid for. She also wants Cuomo to touch on how to make the state more affordable, especially for seniors, and funding for Lyme and tick-borne diseases, which Serino, a Republican, has fought heavily for during her state tenure.

She wants to work with her colleagues to cut spending, increase government efficiency and invest in small businesses during legislative session.

“Too many people right now are being forced to choose between raising their thermostats to keep from freezing and putting food on the table, and that’s just not right,” Serino stated. “We need to deliver a more affordable New York to ensure our communities can thrive.”

State Assemblyman Kevin Byrne was critical of Cuomo’s attacks the federal government. He said New York’s tax structure has been regarded as one of the most “convoluted and complex in the nation.” He noted there is currently a \$4 billion deficit and a 2017 comptroller report indicated New York is more than

\$60 billion in state funded debt.

“However, the governor continues to spend hundreds of millions of tax dollars each year through ‘backdoor borrowing’ on initiatives that have yet to deliver the economic growth and job creation results we were promised,” Byrne, a Republican, stated. “I hope that this year our state’s leadership will take much-needed steps to reestablish New York as an attractive destination for businesses and residents alike.”

State Senator Terrence Murphy (R/Yorktown) said since he began as a state lawmaker three years ago, the Senate has worked cooperatively with Cuomo in a “bipartisan way to deliver real results” for residents. But he said this latest speech struck a more partisan tone and was better suited for Washington D.C.

He said there are important issues that need to be addressed including the closure of Indian Point in Northern Westchester, controlling the state’s spending and cutting property taxes.

“I am confident we can put aside our philosophical differences to work with the Governor and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to address these critical issues and give everyone in New York the opportunity to succeed,” Murphy stated.

Bathroom Fan Cause of Fire at Clinton Compound in Chappaqua

By Anna Young

The small fire that broke out at the Secret Service facility on the Clinton property Wednesday afternoon in Chappaqua was caused by a bathroom fan, New Castle Supervisor Robert Greenstein said.

“Apparently a bathroom fan shorted out - burned a hole in the bathroom ceiling,” Greenstein explained. “Our incredible volunteers with Chappaqua Fire Department promptly responded. The Clintons were not home.”

A Secret Service employee within the compound reported the fire to the Chappaqua Fire Department at 2:40 p.m. Wednesday and it was put out by 3:17 p.m.

The Clintons bought the five-bedroom home on Old House Road in 1999 as Bill Clinton was wrapping up his second term as president.

The fire started in the ceiling of the facility used by the Secret Service, on the second floor. The facility is located behind the Clintons’ home, not attached to the house.

“Fire extinguishers were utilized to suppress the fire and members of the Chappaqua Fire Department responded and inspected the area above the fire to ensure it had been completely extinguished,” a statement from the Secret Service on Wednesday said.



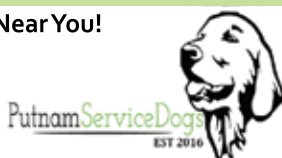
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Westchester County Exec. Bans Gun Shows at County Center

By Anna Young

New Westchester County Executive George Latimer issued an executive order last week banning gun shows from being held on county-owned property. Despite a record-breaking turnout at last year's knife and firearm show at the County Center in White Plains that drew throughout the region, Latimer cited a national rise in gun violence, stating that he doesn't want gun culture glorified on county property. "This venue, which was created decades ago, is a showplace for family

Latimer recognized that some may not agree with his decision, but said he feels strongly that the County Center is the wrong venue to host the event. He also condemned the sale of Nazi and confederate memorabilia that was spotted at last year's show, stating that there's no purpose for it to have been there. "Westchester County government should not be in the business of advancing the sale of weapons and other items often sold at gun show – plain and simple," Latimer said. "This is not a restriction on gun shows in the entire county, but rather

just on public land." Minority Leader John Testa (R-Peekskill), who voted against the ban last year, said Latimer's decision will result in the county having much less control over how gun shows are operated if they are held in private venues. "I believe that taking a discriminatory approach by banning law abiding gun owners, sportsmen and businesses from holding a gun show at the County Center is wrong," Testa told The Examiner. "A better approach is to require operators to follow the strict guidelines for gun shows

that have been established by Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, the same guidelines which are observed for the gun shows that Gov. Cuomo allows in New York State-owned buildings." Members of the Democratic Caucus were in attendance supporting Latimer, stating they would work to make his Executive Order an official law. "This is a great first start to our new year," Majority Leader Catherine Borgia (D-Ossining) said. "It's not appropriate for the government to make money selling weapons to its citizenry."



ANNA YOUNG PHOTO
Westchester County Executive George Latimer banned gun shows at the County Center in White Plains last week.

entertainment and for family programs and services," Latimer said at the Jan 2. press conference at the County Center. "This center has always been a place for those types of family values." Following intense debate last January after former county executive Rob Astorino scheduled the Northeast Gun Show, the Board of Legislators, in a straight partisan vote, approved legislation that would have banned gun shows on county property by a 9-8 margin. But days before the scheduled show, Astorino vetoed legislation without any time for an override vote, stating that he was protecting First and Second Amendment rights. A push was made by members of the Democratic Caucus to override Astorino's veto following the mass shooting in Las Vegas that killed 59 people and injured more than 500 last October. The action was denied. From 1999 to 2010, the county discontinued gun shows. But Astorino lifted the ban after taking office. After the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy, a 2013 show was canceled, and a handshake agreement was made among county officials that the venue would no longer host the shows.



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Letter to the Editor

Voting Reforms Need to Bring New York Into This Century

The League of Women Voters of Putnam County spent the summer and fall working to educate voters on the constitutional convention ballot proposal. We held public educational forums, passed out comprehensive brochures on the history and process of conventions, and encouraged voters to be open to both sides of the debate. We were pleased so many voters turned over their ballots to vote on the convention question, but disheartened to see how many people

opposed holding a convention that could have resulted in much needed ethics and voting reforms.

State legislative leaders, and eventually the Governor, came out in opposition to holding a convention. Legislators have reasoned that ethics and voting reforms are possible without calling a convention. Although true, they have been slow to move these reforms. New York State continues to rank among the worst states in the nation in voter turnout and

participation. According to the Union Capitol Bureau newspaper, we ranked 41 in

the country in the 2016 election. That is shocking news in a state whose proud motto is, "The Empire State." Convention or not, New Yorkers are tired of waiting for our

election operations to be modernized. The legislature needs to act and pass voting reform.

Now that the convention measure has

failed, we should all be calling on both houses of the legislature and the Governor to put their words into actions. Tell your state Assembly member, Senator, and the Governor to pass comprehensive voting reforms and bring our election procedures into the 21st century

Eileen Reilly, President
LWV of Putnam County

Program Helps New Yorkers With Disabilities Save for the Future

By Thomas P. DiNapoli

New Yorkers with disabilities can now save through a new plan called The New York Achieving a Better Life Experience (NY ABLE) program.

The program, modeled after New York's 529 College Savings Program and adopted under the federal Stephen Beck Jr. Achieving a Better Life Act of 2014, helps individuals with disabilities maintain their health, independence and quality of life.

NY ABLE allows New Yorkers to save and invest funds without putting their disability-related benefits at risk and should provide some relief for families worried about the long-term financial situation and future care of their loved ones with disabilities.

Also known as 529A accounts, these tax-free savings programs give people the opportunity to set aside money for short- and long-term needs. New York is one of several states to offer this type of program.

The NY ABLE legislation was signed into law in 2015. The legislation authorized the state comptroller's office to administer the program. Until now, families could create a special needs trust in order to secure a loved one's finances, but trusts can be costly to establish and maintain.

NY ABLE allows New Yorkers with disabilities to save money in their own names without risking their Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid and certain other means-based benefits. ABLE programs are intended to supplement other governmental and private benefits, including SSI and Medicaid.

An account can be opened with as little as \$25. Families and others may contribute to an account, but contributions are not tax-deductible. The annual contribution is capped at \$14,000 and the maximum account balance is \$100,000. In 2018, the annual contribution cap will be

increased to \$15,000.

NY ABLE provides a variety of investment options, from conservative to aggressive.

Earnings and distributions from NY ABLE accounts are tax free provided the funds are used for qualified disability expenses. These include costs for education, health and wellness and transportation and housing, among other expenses. Users can access funds in several ways, including an optional checking account and debit card. Earnings on non-qualified withdrawals may be subject to federal and state and local income tax and a 10 percent federal tax penalty.

In order to qualify, a person must have a disability that was present before he or she turned 26 years old. Participants must be eligible for SSI or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or be blind, have a significant disability documented by a medical doctor or have a disability that is included within the Social Security Administration's requirements.

New York State residency is also required and only one account per individual is allowed.

Many New Yorkers will benefit from this program. The comptroller's office is committed to helping families and individuals enroll in NYABLE.

To start an account, visit www.mynyable.org or call 1-855-5NY-ABLE (855-569-2253). A copy of the Disclosure Booklet and Participation Agreement is available online at <https://cdn.unite529.com/jcdn/files/NYB/pdfs/programdescription.pdf>.

One should always consult their legal and tax advisers regarding specific legal, investment or tax situations.

Thomas P. DiNapoli is the New York State comptroller.

Current Sheriff Thanks Former Longtime Sheriff

I would like to thank Donald B. Smith for his 16 years of dedicated service as Putnam County Sheriff. He served all of the people who make Putnam home, as well as visitors to our wonderful County. Under Don's leadership, the Sheriff's Office has grown and evolved in the protection of our community, and

strong progress has been made by our law enforcement officers and emergency services. We have all benefited. I would like to wish Don well as he begins a new chapter in his life.

Robert L. Langley Jr.
Putnam County Sheriff

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Moonlight Café and Caterers Mahopac

By Neal Rentz

Neal Hirsch has owned Moonlight Caterers for 21 years and recently branched out by opening Moonlight Café and Caterers in Brewster in December.

Hirsch, who lives in New Fairfield, CT, said last week he was formerly a corporate executive chef before entering the catering field. The word Moonlight referred to how he became a caterer, Hirsch noted.

"The company that I worked for was offered to do a large catering function but they had to charge too much money so the client refused it," he recalled. "I asked the company that I worked for if I could go out on my own and provide services as a caterer and they said yes."

The event which had expected to draw about 300 guests actually had 1,200 attendees, he said.

"That's how Moonlight Caterers started on July 4, 1997," he said.

Hirsch said he chose the Route 22 site for his new venture because "it's such a good location and I knew the idea of what we're going to do here has not been done anywhere near this area. My wife (Dawn) and I decided to roll the dice."

Hirsch said Moonlight Café, which is a Brewster Chamber of Commerce member, is part of the revitalization of



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Neal Hirsch opened Moonlight Café and Caterers in Brewster in December.

Brewster. "Technically, we are phase one," he said.

All the cooking is done by Hirsch. "Everything that we do here is made on the premises from scratch," he said. The café offers at least 10 side dishes daily, five entrees and about 50 to 60 percent of its

menu being vegan options, he said.

"Because everything here is made in-house we're able to offer it at a super reasonable price," Hirsch said.

Every day the café offers two soups, five sandwiches, and pizzas. Each pizza slice represents one-quarter of a whole pie,

Hirsch said. He added the dough starter was imported from Greece.

"I always wanted more than a slice, but not quite two slices," he said. "It is considered a New England Greek style pie. So it has sourdough flavors. And the dough starter that I have is a 21-year-old."

The menu also offers street tacos with such fillings as duck confit, Mahi Mahi and filet mignon.

The desserts are made by his wife who serves as the café's pastry chef, Hirsch said, adding the desserts also include such items like rice pudding and Crème Brûlée.

Hirsch said in the coming weeks a new room with 50 seats will be open for catered events or for additional seating for the café when needed. Hirsch said he wants to have outdoor seating in the summer.

Hirsch said he brings passion and dedication to his work.

"I've been doing this since I was 13. I'm 47," he said. "I love what I do."

Moonlight Café and Caterers is located at 850 Route 22 in Brewster. For more information call 845-279-9000 or visit <http://www.moonlightcaterers.com>. The restaurant also has a Facebook page.

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Obituaries

Daniel "Danny" Como

Daniel "Danny" Como of Carmel, died on December 28, at the age of 65. He was born in Yonkers, the son of Francis and Helen (Malone) Como. Danny loved music and the open road. He was a great father, grandfather and friend to everyone he ever met. Danny was the life of the party and always had the best energy. Danny is survived by his wife Linda, his five children, Daniel (Jessica), Francis (Brittni), Erica Como, Jessica Segur (Matthew), and Melissa Como; his siblings Kevin Como, Peggy Masterson, and Helene Como; and his eleven grandchildren Bryan, Bryanna, Christopher, Andrew, Kaylee, Nicholas, Francis, Tyler, Anthony, Landon, and Aubrey.

Olive B. Bennett

Olive B. Bennett, a lifelong resident of Mahopac, died on Saturday, December 30, at the age of 83. She was born in Bronxville, on May 30, 1934, the daughter of Kenneth M. and Olive Humphrey Britton. Olive earned her Associates Degree at Westchester Community College and was the bookkeeper for her husband's carpentry and contracting business, George Bennett, Inc. Olive was a very active member of the First Presbyterian Church in Mahopac Falls. She served as an Elder and on many committees and in many capacities as a volunteer at the church. She was a member of the Town of Carmel Historical Society and the Model A Club. On September 11, 1954 she married George D. Bennett at the Lake Mahopac United Methodist Church. Mr. Bennett died on February 12, 2015. She is survived by her son, David J. Bennett and his wife, Monica of Mahopac, her daughters, Susanne Bennett-Berlinger and her husband, Carmine of Fishkill, and Jean Murray and her husband, Brian of West Hartford, CT. She is also survived by her 8 grandchildren, Christopher, Jennifer, Bryan, Daniel, Michelle, Jacqueline, Caroline and Margaret and her 3 great grandchildren, Charlotte, Emily and George. In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by her son, George D. Bennett Jr. on December 10, 2016.

Myles Joseph Tomblin

Myles Joseph Tomblin of Danbury, CT, formerly of Brewster, died peacefully surrounded by his family on December 31. He was 38 years old. Myles was born on November 17, 1979 in Danbury, CT, son of Curtis and Bernadette (Clarke) Tomblin of Brewster. He was a 1997 Brewster High School graduate and continued his education at SUNY Cortland, Cortland. On February 16, 2008, Myles married the love of his life Maria Lopane at Manhattanville College, Purchase. Myles was a beautiful person

both inside and out. He was extremely loyal, possessed great integrity and was a friend to all. Myles simply had a very large heart. In addition to being an avid NY Jets and NY Mets fan, Myles enjoyed cooking of all sorts. His greatest passion was spending time with his sons Ryan and Joseph. Myles is not only survived his parents, and his wife Maria of 10 years, but also his sons Ryan and Joseph. His brother Luke Tomblin and fiancée Sonya Kane, his sisters, Bernadette Kenny of Patterson, NY and Patrice Wiss and her husband Christopher of Kearny, NJ. Also 6 nephews and 1 Niece, Liam Kenny, Luke Kenny, Hope Kenny, Colin Wiss, Bailey Wiss, Noah Kane and Holden Tomblin.

Robert J. Placek

Robert J. Placek, 74, of Mahopac, died on December 31, at Vassar Brothers Hospital in Poughkeepsie. Mr. Placek was born on November 2, 1943 to Edward and Rose (Palus) Placek in New York City. On July 15, 1964, he married the love of his life, Karen Van Overbergne, at the Duane Methodist Church in New York City. Before he retired on September 11, 2015, he was a Project Assembler for Hipotronics Inc, in Brewster. In his spare time, he had a passion for Antique Cars which not only did he collect but enjoyed going to the car shows. Yet his greatest passion of all, was spending it with his family, his dog Corky Chase and his friends. Robert is survived by his devoted wife of 53 years Karen, his two beloved sisters; Adrienne Eastwood and Denise Placek, his beloved dog Corky Chase who was also his best "buddy" and several nieces and nephews whom he adored! 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.

John Chivily

John "Alexander" Chivily, 88, of Putnam Valley, died on January 1, in Wilmington, NC. He was born on February 6, 1929 to Nicholas and Mary Elizabeth (Fittus) Chivily in New York City. During the Korean Era, Mr. Chivily, proudly served our Country with the US Army. On August 26, 1964 he married the love of his life, Daphne Grammatikou in Athens, Greece and together, they were blessed with two sons; Nicholas and Philip. He graduated from NYU. After graduating college, he worked with his father in the family's electronic and appliance business in Astoria. He spent many years working as a substitute teacher, in the Lakeland School District after moving to Putnam Valley and continued to do so after beginning work with the Ossining Post Office as a letter carrier and retired in 1992. Alex was a devoted husband, loving father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin and a friend to many. He was a true family man and always put his wife and family

before himself. Alex is survived by his devoted wife of 53 years, Daphne, his two loving sons, Nicholas and Philip and daughter-in-law Christina and their two children who are John's most cherished grandchildren; Caroline Chivily and Philip A. Chivily, whom he adored and each child held a special place in his heart. He is predeceased by his brother; George. John 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.

William M. Baer

William M. Baer of Mahopac, died on January 3, at the age of 69. He was born in the Bronx on November 27, 1948, the son of William and Marie (Scaduto) Baer. William worked as a butcher at the A&P Grocery Store for 44 years. He was a proud veteran of the US Army and a life member of the VFW Auxillary Post 5491 in Mahopac. William is survived by his mother Marie Baer Nesbitt and his brother Michael.

Dominick Merlucci

Dominick Merlucci, 89, of Mahopac, died on January 4, at Hudson Valley Hospital with his loving family by his side. Mr. Merlucci was born on November 19, 1928, to Rocco and Generosa (Cusano) in Flumeri, Italy. He moved to the United

States at the young age of 19 and settled in New Rochelle to make a better life for himself. Dominick soon met the love of his life Victoria Carlino and they were married on October 29, 1955 at Blessed Sacrament R.C. Church in New Rochelle, together they were blessed with four children; Roy, Donna, Teresa, Dominick, and Patrick. His passion for cooking allowed him to be a chef for many years at Schraffts in New Rochelle, and later at Alex and Henry's in Eastchester. He later went on for thirteen years as the proud Owner of Dominick's Luncheonette in Valhalla and he retired in 1992. In his spare time, Dominick enjoyed cooking, gardening, but most of all being with his wife, his great big family and friends. He was a devoted husband, a loving father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin and a friend to many. Dominick is survived by his devoted wife of 63 years, Victoria, his four loving children; Roy and his wife Wendy Merlucci of Stamford, CT, Donna and her husband John Masotti of Mahopac, Teresa and her husband Alan Horowitz of Bayshore and Dominick and his wife Maria of New Rochelle. He is also survived by his eight cherished grandchildren; and six adoring great-grandchildren. 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.

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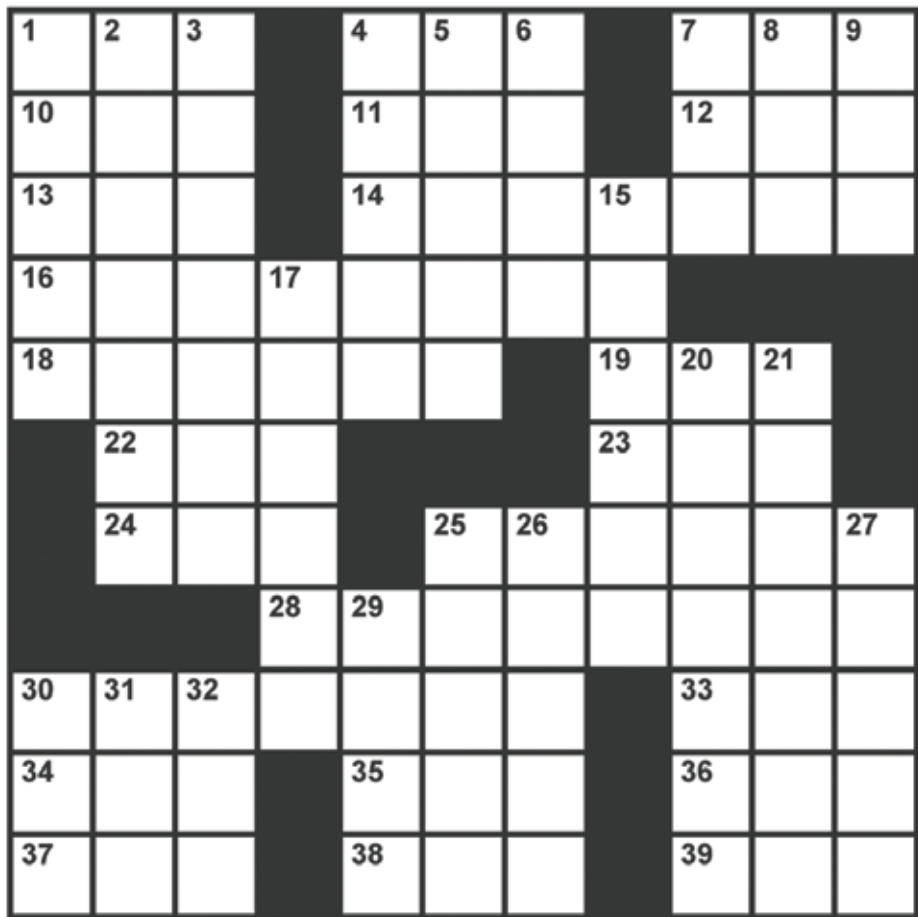
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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Crossword Puzzle



Crossword by Myles Mellor

Answers on page 15

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- Across
1. Two-striper (abbr.)

4. Football positions

7. Trial lawyer’s advice

10. Laughter on the internet, abbreviation

11. Building addition

12. Thanks, for short

13. Miss. neighbor

14. Small plant part

16. Carmel sewer and drain supply

18. Mugs

19. ___ rule (usually)

22. Energy measurement

23. Relax

24. Commotion

25. Belonging to model Klum, or Brewster Inn

28. Water

30. Fragrant long-grain rice

33. 10th anniversary gift

34. Court group, abbr.

35. French for sea

36. Space invaders, for short

37. How-___

38. They’re paid to have the last wd.

39. One kind of bread
5. Blemishes

6. Fruit of the blackthorn

7. Arch city, for short

8. Four stringed guitar (abbr.)

9. Superlative add on

15. Country singer Randy

17. “Dances With Wolves” structure

20. Cooler

21. Gymnast trait

25. Despised

26. Mideast leaders

27. Feeling

29. Woman of rank

30. Fruit or vampire

31. Blood system letters

32. Flier out of Stockholm

New Year, New Home!

Harlie is calm, housebroken & walks nicely on a leash.
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- Down
1. Feline’s defense

2. More cultured

3. South American cowboy

4. Played over



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PV Middle School Student Council Holds Annual Food Drive

The Putnam Valley Middle School Student Council, led by teachers Joanne Byrnes and Mary Kay Cohen, collected over 900 items to be donated to the Putnam Valley Food Pantry last month. The Putnam Valley Food Pantry serves over 200 families per week from Southern Putnam and Northern Westchester communities. Dr. Fran Wills, Superintendent of Schools shared, “our students are always interested in helping others and the Putnam Valley Food Pantry has provided a wonderful way to partner with our community. In addition to the efforts of our middle school students, our high school has been holding a coat drive for the pantry. The holiday season reminds us to be grateful and to show compassion for those in need. I am very proud of our students and their advisors.”



The Putnam Valley Food Pantry got a boost from many local students.

PROVIDED PHOTOS



Students looked to reach certain goals when donating items.



Everyone lent a helping hand.

Visit
TheExaminerNews.com
 and click on Puzzles
 at the top of the homepage
 to play today's crossword!

Mahopac Library Seeks Teens with Talent

Calling all talented teens – represent Mahopac Library at the first Teen Talent Night hosted by Putnam County libraries. Bring your instrument, your voice, or your special skill and share the stage with teens from across the county. Whether you can sing, dance, play an instrument, tell a joke, rap or perform a magic trick – come out and share your talent on Friday, January 12, from 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m. at Mahopac Public Library.

Performers must be at least 13 years old; one 3-minute performance per person – no tryouts necessary. Each performer will receive one raffle ticket for a chance to win a basket of gifts. Registration is required to participate in the show; register

online at www.mahopaclibrary.org, or call 845-628-2009, ext. 136.

Mahopac Library is also looking for teen performers for the 2018 spring musical – “It’s a Wonderful Neverland!” Pick up a script at the Library’s Information Desk, read the script and join us for rehearsals beginning on Thursday, February 1, from 2:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Rehearsals continue through April 26, and a public performance of this magical play will be held on Friday, April 26 at 5:30 p.m.

Students can take the Mahopac school bus #347/354 to the Library; refreshments provided at each rehearsal. For more information, or to participate, call 845-628-2009, ext. 136.

Law Book: Avoiding a Medicaid Lien or Estate Claim

By Salvatore M. Di Costanzo

For many families, a good portion of their wealth exists through the equity in their home. The home may also be the most sentimental asset as it carries many memories and emotional ties. We often counsel clients on different planning techniques to protect the home where Medicaid is contemplated to pay for nursing home or home care. This is a review of just how Medicaid may take your home if you don't implement some form of planning to protect your assets.

It is inevitable that we may all at some point fall victim to an illness and require care, including nursing home care or home care. Medicaid has become the insurance of the middle class, especially in nursing home and home care cases.

In order to be eligible for Medicaid, you cannot have more than \$15,150 in assets. When contemplating Medicaid eligibility, the home is generally treated as an exempt asset for purposes of determining whether you have less than \$15,150 in resources. However, Medicaid keeps track of those benefits and may look for them to be repaid.

If you are a Medicaid recipient in a nursing home, a lien can be placed against your home if you are not reasonably expected to return home. A lien allows Medicaid to recoup what they paid on



Salvatore M. Di Costanzo

your behalf when the property is sold. Prior to placing the lien, Medicaid must provide notice to you that they intend to file a lien against your home. If proper notice was not provided, there may be an opportunity to remove the lien.

Notwithstanding the above, Medicaid cannot place a lien against your home if any of the following persons live there:

- i. your spouse;

- ii. a minor child, or a child of any age who is certified blind or disabled;

- iii. a sibling who has an equity interest in the home and who was residing in the home for at least one year preceding the date you entered the nursing home.

A lien also cannot be placed against your home if you set up a Medicaid Trust and get through the five-year look-back period. This is why the Medicaid Trust has become such a popular planning technique.

If you are a Medicaid recipient while receiving Medicaid home care benefits, Medicaid cannot place a lien against your home, but they can file a claim against your probate estate upon your death if no planning has been done to avoid probate. For instance, when you die, your Will needs to be probated. Once the Will is probated, Medicaid will send the Executor of your estate a letter demanding payment for benefits paid. The Executor of your estate cannot ignore this otherwise they may become personally liable for the amount.

In a recent case, an individual required home care and did not retain an elder law attorney to work through the Medicaid home care process. Although the home was not considered an available asset, it became part of the Medicaid recipient's probate estate when she died since no

planning was done to avoid probate. In this case, Medicaid filed a claim and the entire proceeds of sale were paid to Medicaid at the closing table. Although she failed to plan in advance with a Medicaid Trust, this could have been avoided using a Revocable Trust to avoid probate.

Fortunately, if you take the time to consult with us, there are many options available to protect your home in advance of these unfortunate scenarios. We regularly use Medicaid Trusts, Revocable Trusts and other planning techniques to plan in advance.

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

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Young Brewster Students Donate to Local Food Pantry

Ms. Brittany Bednarczyk's first grade class led the JFK Holiday Food Drive to help families in need this holiday season. Once all the food was collected, they counted and boxed the items to donate to the Brewster Community Food Pantry. Nearly 800 items were donated! Students at JFK are developing their understanding of civic responsibility and practicing how to be good citizens, not only at school, but impressively in the community as well.



PROVIDED PHOTOS

Brewster students from JFK Elementary counting how many items they've collected.



PROVIDED PHOTOS

Students helped families in need over the holidays.

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Some of food that was collected.

Log-Grown Shiitake: Economics and Management for a Profitable Crop

The cultivation of shiitake mushrooms offers farmers and woodlot owners a good opportunity to utilize their forested lands while turning a profit. Startup costs are low, and previous Cornell University research indicates that profitability can be achieved in the second or third year of dedicated production. As with any farming venture, viability is achieved with good business planning and attention to strategies which minimize costs and optimize efficiency.

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Putnam County is offering a training on Log-Grown Shiitake on Friday January 26 at Clearpool Model Forest, 33 Clearpool Road, off Route 301, in Carmel. A list of additional dates and locations where the program is available can be found at <https://www.easymapmaker.com/map/2018LogShiitakeWorkshops>.

The workshops are held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a catered lunch and handouts included in the \$30 per person registration fee.

A live webinar training will also be offered on Friday, March 2nd online with a registration fee of \$20 per person



Row of logs with Shiitake on them.

and can be accessed from anywhere with a highspeed connection. (Note: please contact stg53@cornell.edu for

information if there is concern regarding lack of funding.)

Anyone who is a resident of New

York State or who farms in New York and is growing commercially, starting a new enterprise, or considering commercial production is welcome to attend. The workshop content will cover aspects of production important to selling mushrooms in New York, including safety, sanitation, marketing, and regulations. Learn more about cultivation at: <http://cornellmushrooms.org/factsheets>

Those who attend one of the workshops or the online livestream are eligible to participate in an advanced training group and receive one-on-one support for the 2018 growing season. Details of this opportunity will be provided at the workshop.

To Register: visit www.cornellmushrooms.org/viability

For additional information contact Jen Lerner at CCE Putnam County at 845-278-6738 or email jjs95@cornell.edu. The Agroforestry Extension Specialist at Cornell University Small Farms Program can be reached at 607-342-2825 or by email at sfg53@cornell.edu.

Red Cross Offers Tips for Winter Freeze

As winter hits full stride across the country, the Red Cross offers these winter storm tips to help you safely weather the storms. "We want people to be safe and given the impending storm and frigid weather the Red Cross has put together some easy steps to take," said Mary Young, CEO, American Red Cross Metro New York North.

Winter Weather Tips to Prep Your Home:

- Keep your thermostat at the same setting day and night. If there's a power outage, go to a designated public shelter to stay warm.
- Bring pets indoors. If that's not possible, make sure they have enough shelter to keep them warm and that they can get to unfrozen water.
- Run water, even at a trickle, to help stop pipes from freezing.
- Keep garage doors closed if there are water lines in the garage.
- Before taking on tasks such as shoveling snow, consider your physical condition.
- Insulate your home by installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic from the inside to keep cold air out.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected every year.
- If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55 degrees.

Home Heating Safety

- Keep all potential sources of fuel like paper, clothing, bedding or rugs at least three feet away from space heaters, stoves, or fireplaces.
- Portable heaters and fireplaces should never be left unattended. Turn off space heaters and make sure any embers in the fireplace are extinguished before going to bed or leaving home.
- If you must use a space heater, place it on a level, hard and nonflammable surface (such as ceramic tile floor), not on rugs or carpets or near bedding or drapes. Keep children and pets away from space heaters.



- Never use a cooking range or oven to heat your home
- Keep fire in your fireplace by using a glass or metal fire screen large enough to catch sparks and rolling logs.
- Check that smoke alarms are working and that families have practiced fire safety escape plan.

If You're Headed Outside in the Winter:

- Know the signs of hypothermia – confusion, dizziness, exhaustion and severe shivering. If someone has these symptoms, they should get immediate medical attention.
- Watch for symptoms of frostbite including numbness, flushed gray, white, blue or yellow skin discoloration, numbness or waxy feeling skin.
- Dressing in several layers of lightweight clothing keeps someone warmer than a single heavy coat.
- Mittens provide more warmth to the hands than gloves. Wear a hat, preferably one that covers the ears.
- Wear waterproof, insulated boots to keep feet warm and dry and to maintain one's footing in ice and snow.

Tips to Stay Safe in the Car this Winter:

- The safest thing to do during a winter storm is stay off the roads if possible.
- Winterize your vehicle and keep the gas tank full. A full tank will keep the fuel line from freezing.
- Clean the lights and windows to help

you see.

- If you can, avoid driving in sleet, freezing rain, snow or dense fog. If you have to drive, make sure everyone has their seat belts on and give your full attention to the road. Avoid distractions such as cell phones.
- If you have to travel, keep a disaster supplies kit in the car. Now is a good time to be Be Redcross Ready.
- Don't follow other vehicles too closely. Sudden stops are difficult on snowy roadways.
- Don't use cruise control when driving in winter weather.
- Don't pass the snow plow truck.
- Find out what the weather is where you are traveling. Before you leave, let someone know where you are going, the route you plan to take, and when you expect to get there. If your car gets stuck, help can be sent along your predetermined route

If you're stuck in the car:

- If someone does get stuck, stay with the car. Do not try to walk to safety. (Unless, of course, you can see a heated building that you can safely get to)
- Tie a brightly colored cloth (preferably red) to the antenna for rescuers to see.
- Start the car and use the heater for about 10 minutes every hour.
- Keep the exhaust pipe clear so fumes won't back up in the car.
- Leave the overhead light on when the

engine is running to help rescuers see the vehicle.

- Keep one window away from the blowing wind slightly open to let in air.

Remember, when temperatures drop and winter storms roll in, check on your elderly neighbors and help those who may need special assistance, including people with disabilities and children.

Weather Alerts and First Aid Tips

People can download the Red Cross Emergency App for instant access to winter storm tips and weather alerts for their area and where loved-ones live. Expert medical guidance and a hospital locator are included in the First Aid App in case travelers encounter any mishaps. Both apps are available to download for free in app stores or at redcross.org/apps.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or cruzrojaamericana.org, or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.

Crossword Answers

1	C	2	P	3	L		4	R	5	B	6	S		7	S	8	U	9	E
10	L		O	L			11	E		L	L			12	T	K	S		
13	A	L	A				14	R	O	O		15	T	L	E	T			
16	W	I	N	W	A	T	E	R											
18	S	T	E	I	N	S							19	A	20	S	21	A	
		22	E	R	G								23	V	E	G			
		24	R	O	W			25	H	26	E	I	D	I	27	S			
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30	B	31	A	32	S	M	A	T	I				33	T	I	N			
34	A	B	A				35	M	E	R			36	E	T	S			
37	T	O	S				38	E	D	S			39	R	Y	E			

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The Season to Guard Against Burst Water Pipes

Since I now live in a condo in a large building, I thought that I no longer had to worry about the prospect of water pipes freezing and bursting, but, unfortunately, the sprinkler pipes in the attic did freeze and burst during last week's frigid weather causing water damage in the unit next door to mine. And the units below that one suffered water damage as well.

Other than a fire or tornado, the most damaging event a house can suffer is flooding from a burst water pipe. Yet, most people have just a sketchy knowledge of how to avoid this potential disaster.

One of my most memorable mishaps with burst pipes involved a young couple, buyer clients, who had found the home of their dreams and wanted to close as quickly as possible because the lease on their rental was about to expire. But their dream was dashed, at least temporarily, by a discovery we made when we arrived at the house for the engineering inspection.

We were greeted by an ominous sound of water leaking and discovered in the



By Bill Primavera

family room that water was spraying through the seams of the plasterboard walls and half of the ceiling had collapsed. The engineer quickly shut off the water main, but it was too late to prevent the extensive damage to the walls, ceiling, built-in cabinetry and flooring.

As an estate sale, the house was empty, but the selling agent had been very careful to monitor the heating system so that the pipes wouldn't freeze, so she couldn't understand what went wrong. The engineer looked around and found that, outside, the garden

house had not been disconnected from the outside spigot. He explained that water in the hose had frozen and backed up into the pipe that traveled through the garage, which was unheated, to the family room on the other side of the garage wall, causing the pipes to burst. When the ice melted, the room was flooded.

When water freezes, it has the force of 2,200 pounds of pressure per square inch, according to Dave Goldberg, now retired from Goldberg Plumbing & Heating, but

whose son is still serving Westchester and Putnam counties. "One of the most common causes of burst pipes is when people forget to detach their hoses for the winter. It should always be done by mid-October," he said.

"But there are many reasons pipes can burst," he continued. "It can be a mere draft through a tiny crack in a wall, and if it is cold enough outside, the wind chill factor can cause a pipe to freeze, and it can be anywhere in the house, even over the living room."

Goldberg cited the popular use of wood and gas-burning stoves as another cause of burst pipes. "They give you a false sense of warmth," he said. "It can be 70 degrees inside, but that heat may not get to the outside walls where the water pipes are located."

As a safeguard, Goldberg recommends that non-toxic anti-freeze be added to the heating system so that if the power goes off, the water won't freeze. "It's like putting anti-freeze in a car," he said, "and, it should be checked annually to see that it's still at an effective level."

For insulating pipes in the basement or crawl space, he suggests using a heating strip that turns on automatically like a thermostat, and then to wrap both the

pipe and heating strip with insulation.

Another safeguard in frigid weather, he said, is to keep water running from both the hot and cold taps where the pipes are against an outside wall. I'm well aware of this technique because, when I lived in an antique single-family home, my wife always cautioned me on frigid nights to keep the water dripping in the mudroom half-bath which was exposed on two sides by outside walls. "Remember to keep the water dripping," she always said, and I always responded back, "I know, I know, you already told me," but then, I would get myself into trouble by turning the faucet off anyway, just by force of habit.

With the weather currently colder than any wintry spell I can remember, keep in mind that using a little extra water by the drip method, especially for pipes on outside walls, is a safe investment to protect against burst pipes.

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

A Glimpse Into the Rarefied Air of High-end Wines Sold at Auctions



By Nick Antonaccio

We read with envy the numerous accounts of rare, high-end wines sold in the marketplace. Collectors enter into bidding frenzies to acquire wines from highly rated wineries and highly rated vintages. However, for most of us 99 percenters, after we read of these wines changing hands amongst a few rich collectors, we never hear of them again until the next sale.

Here's the rub: investors in high-end wines typically seek out trophy wines for bragging rights, not imbibing rights. Rarely are bottles of older vintages of highly regarded wines ever opened for the sheer pleasure and enjoyment such wines afford. Rather, they sit in an expensive temperature-controlled underground cellar, simply on display as trophies.

There is a consensus amongst those in the wine trade that the rarer the wine, the less likely it will ever be consumed. It will merely make the rounds of auction houses, garnering escalating prices with each passage of ownership.

With this thought in

mind, I've decided to present a tally, and brief narrative, of the 10 most expensive wines ever sold - to date.

Note: I've written in greater depth on a few of these wines. I annotated them as the "Focus of a Previous Column (FPC)." For copies of these columns, please email me.

10. 1947 Château Cheval Blanc. Talk about bragging rights. This imperial-size bottle Bordeaux, the equivalent of eight standard bottles, was purchased at a Christie's auction in 2010. This size bottle will surely impress friends and family. Price: \$304,375, equivalent to \$38,047 per bottle and \$7,609 per each of the 40-glass capacity. Just enough for a (large) dinner party.

9. 1951 Penfolds Grange Hermitage. A highly regarded, and rare, Australian wine. Who would think a Shiraz could command such high prices in every vintage? There are purported to be less than 20 bottles remaining. Price: \$38,420/bottle; \$7,684/glass.

8. 1945 Château Mouton Rothschild (FPC). One of the most highly regarded vintages from one of the most highly regarded estates in Bordeaux, this wine was sold at auction last May from the cellar of world-famous collector

You Heard It Through the Grapevine

Bill Koch. The astounding price was \$34,350 for each of the 10 bottles auctioned. But that's not the highest price ever paid. In 2007, an anonymous bidder paid significantly more for a jeroboam bottle (equivalent to six standard bottles). Price: a whopping \$310,700 or \$51,792 per equivalent bottle. That's \$10,358 per glass, if you're ever in a position to enjoy it.

7. 1992 Screaming Eagle Cabernet Sauvignon. One of the most famous wines in the world, this Napa cult wine is a bit of an outlier, as this imperial size bottle is significantly younger than many of the other wines on my list. Sold in 2000 at the famous Napa Valley Wine Auction, a perennial showcase of one-percenters vying for bragging rights, the bidding frenzy amped up the winning bid to \$500,000, the most ever paid anywhere, anytime for a single bottle of wine. Price: \$62,500/equivalent standard bottle; \$12,500/glass. If you went shopping for a single standard bottle today, it would set you back \$8,500 to \$10,000, still in the one-percenter stratosphere.

6. 1811 Château d'Yquem (FPC). This is where we cross the threshold into high stakes bragging rights. The lofty standard bottle prices of the previous four bottles are far surpassed by the remaining wines in my tally. Beginning with this dessert wine, the most expensive white wine ever sold, prices are now in the affordability

a tally of the most expensive wines ever sold - to date.

range of only the top end of the top one-percenters.

This French producer in the Sauterne region limits production to miniscule levels, even foregoing production in vintages not meeting its strict criteria. And prices reflect this. In 2011, an Indonesian restaurateur purchased this half bottle, one of only ten offered for sale that year. His plan was to display the bottle behind bulletproof glass in his wine bar, waiting for a special occasion to open and enjoy it. Price: \$117,000 or \$23,400 per glass.

Next week, the top five. Can it get crazier than wines six through ten? Yes, it can.

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



Happenings

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

Winter Break Options: The Patterson Recreation Center is excited to be offering the following program: Winter Break Fun Days Monday/Tuesday Feb. 19 and 20th. 9 a.m. -4 p.m. \$50/day. \$45/sibling rate. Before and after care will be available to 6 p.m. Activities will include dodgeball, crafts, Xbox, open gym, air hockey and much more. Register by Feb. 12. Located at 65 Front Street Patterson. For more information call 845-878-7200.

Ongoing:

Tuesdays:

LCFD Ladies Axillary Meeting: Second Tuesday of each month. 8 p.m. Lake Carmel Firehouse. Bring a friend. Be part of our family.

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

Wednesdays:

Short & Sweet, A Short Story Book Club at Reed Library. Meeting

Alternating Wednesdays at 1 p.m. Join for a lively discussion of short stories, a different story each meeting. Registration required, please call the library to register 845-225-2439.

The Putnam County Marine Corps League: Monthly meeting at the Carmel VFW Hall, 36 Gleneida Ave. (Rte.52) Carmel, at 1930 on the second Wednesday of the month. (10/11/17) If you are a U.S. Marine or FMF Corpsmen Veteran, Reservist or on Active Duty we welcome you as a Brother. View us at www.putnammcl.com

Thursdays:

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

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

Tuesday, January 9

Percy Jackson & the Olympians Monthly Book Club: 5 p.m. -6 p.m. - dive into the series, by Rich Riordan, with the first book, The Lightning Thief. The book club is for ages 8-11. We'll discuss the book, learn about Greek mythology, and make a fun craft! Please have the book read for the first meeting. Registration is required. You may register for the program by going to www.kentlibrary.org or calling the Kent Public Library at 845-225-8585. The library is located at 17 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes

Wednesday, January 10

Movie Matinee: Victoria & Abdul. 1 p.m. A beautiful film about the extraordinary true story of Queen Victoria and Abdul Karim's enduring, controversial friendship. Starring Judi Dench and Ali Fazal. Rated PG-13 for adult themes. For more information or to register, contact the Patterson Library

at 845-878-6121 x10 or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org and click Calendar.

Thursday, January 11

Coloring for Adults: Mahopac Public Library. 7 p.m. Re-connect with your inner child. Join us on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month, for an evening of relaxation, stress relief, focus, and fun. For ages 18 and up. Materials will be provided; no registration needed. Also, January 25

Saturday, January 13

Exploring Watercolor on Canvas: Reed Library. 10 a.m.- 1 p.m. Registration is required, please call the library to register, 845-225-2439.

Monday, January 15

Light Bite Book Group: 1 p.m. This book group meets at Mahopac Library on the 3rd Monday and Wednesday of each month. January's read is A Man Called Ove by Frederick Backman; join us to discuss this popular title - new members always welcome. Also, January 17, 2018

Tuesday, January 16

Calling all Lego® lovers: Come to the Kent Library: 4:45 p.m. -5:45p.m. for our new program, Literary Legos®! Listen to a fun story and build a Lego® creation based on the story. Your Lego® creation will be put on display for the whole library to see!

Program is for those ages 7-9 or grades 2nd -4th! Registration is required. You may register for the program by going to www.kentlibrary.org or calling the Kent Public Library at 845-225-8585. The library is located at 17 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes.

Soul Painting at the Reed Library: 10:30 a.m. - noon. Registration is required, please call the library to register, 845-225-2439.

Save the Date:

Saturday, January 20: Defensive Driving Class with Jack Coxen at Mahopac Library. 9:45 a.m. The Defensive Driving Insurance Reduction Program is a 6-hour course consisting of a series of films and discussions about driving attitudes and behaviors. It is designed for licensed drivers, but those with permits may attend. Completion of the course may result in a ten percent liability insurance discount to the principal operator (check with your insurance company) as well as a maximum of four points off the driver's violation record. This program is approved by the Department of Motor Vehicles. \$45 per person; \$35 for senior citizens. Register online, by phone, or in-person. Payment will be taken only on the day of the class. Cash or checks payable to Jack Coxen only; charge cards not accepted. For information or to register by phone, call 845-628-2009, ext. 100.

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4-H Junior Master Gardener Series

A Junior Master Gardener series will be offered through Cornell Cooperative Extension's Youth Development and volunteer Master Gardener programs. This is a 2-year program offered in eight sessions. At the end of each session a coin will be awarded. Participating youth may choose to attend any of the individual sessions or complete all eight to become certified as a Junior Master Gardener.

The first of the 8 week series will begin January 22 through March 19 on Mondays 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Cornell Cooperative Extension office in Brewster and is open to Putnam County youth, grades 3 - 5, with a limit of 12 participants per session. In the first workshop, Plant Growth and Development youth will learn how plants grow and make our world a better place. Each session incorporates both group and individual activities that foster leadership skills through service learning projects. They will be encouraged to take home small experiments and then share their experiences with the group.

The other topics covering the additional 7 part series will offer: Soils and Water, Ecology and Environmental Horticulture, Insects and Diseases, Landscape Horticulture, Fruits and Nuts, Vegetables and Herbs, and Life Skills and Career Exploration.

There is a fee of \$40 per session in addition to an Annual 4-H Youth Enrollment fee of \$30. For additional information please call Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County at (845)-278-6738. Registration may be done through our website at Putnam.cce.cornell.edu/events.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC).

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

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

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

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF BLOOM HAIR SALON LP. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/29/2017. Office loc. Westchester. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail process to the principal business address: **Maria Katsoros, 305 Florence Street, Mamaroneck, NY 10543. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

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

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

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

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF ADVANCED PROFITS, LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of state of NY on 5/11/17. Office loc: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to PO BOX 112, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF @CE-SARCAPJR, LLC. ARTS. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/15/17. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be

served. SSNY shall mail process to: United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Ave, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose any lawful activity.

SUMMONS: Complaint for Divorce or Divorce from Bed and Board Kshitiz Agnihotri v. Adya Shukla In the Providence Family Court in and for the County of Providence. 1 Dorrance Plaza Providence, RI 02903 Civil Action File Number: P20176290 Nominal Hearing Date: 02/01/2018 at 9:00am **To the Above Named Defendant:** You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon the Plaintiff or the Plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address appears below, an answer to the complaint, which is herewith served upon you. Under Rhode Island Family Court Rules of Domestic Relations Procedure, your answer must be in writing and filed with the court within 20 days after service of this Summons, complaint, Language Assistance Notice, and all other required documents, exclusive of the date of service. A copy of your answer should also be forwarded to the Plaintiff's attorney. Failure to answer may result in a judgment by default against you for the relief requested in the complaint. Under the Family Court Rules of Domestic Relations Procedure, your answer must state as a counterclaim any related claim you may have against the Plaintiff. Failure to do so may prohibit you from making such claim in any other action. **Kshitiz Agnihotri. Don P. Moyer, Atty. for Plaintiff 51 Jefferson Blvd. Warwick, RI**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF MAN ON FIRE PRODUCTIONS, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on October 20th, 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: **Joel Fendelman, 8 Fox Hill Road Pound Ridge, NY 10576. Purpose: Film Production.**

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The Putnam
Examiner
Sports
Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports

**Rubick's
Kubick!**

**North Salem a
Hard Solve for
Haldane in
Putnam
Challenge**



Haldane sophomore G Alex Kubik drives the lane on North Salem's Kevin Ryan in the Blue Devils' gut-wrenching 52-50 loss to the defending Class C Section 1 champions last Saturday in the 11th annual Putnam Challenge at Carmel High where ever-improving Haldane stated its case for respect... see Boys' Hoops Notebook

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Sports

Boys' Hoops Notebook

Putnam Hoops Challenge Could Get Facelift for 2019

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor
@Directrays

Okay, so here's the deal: Almost seven years to the day since I last poked my nose into the affairs of the 11th annual Putnam Basketball Challenge, I'm doing

so again; this time with the blessings of tournament directors Tom McMahon and Bob Nugent, who do all they can to keep this hoops challenge going.

Usually, when I stick my nose into places it doesn't belong, the response is as expected: "Butt out, big fellow!" But after four fairly ordinary games and minimal fanfare at the Putnam Challenge last Saturday at Carmel High School, most of the necessary parties are on board with the idea to make the 2019 Putnam Basketball Challenge the best one yet.

The most vital element of the next rendition is to get all five Putnam County programs back on board, including Putnam Valley and Brewster, which opted out this year's tournament for whatever reasons. Here's what I'll be asking Mr. McMahon and Nugent to consider when we sit down later this winter as partners in crime to hatch a new plan to invigorate the Putnam Challenge.

First and foremost, bag the Webutuck vs. Pawling game: the matchup doesn't

draw local flies when teams come from Amenia and other portions of Southern Dutchess for the Putnam Challenge. I'd rather see Pawling vs. Ontonagon; just out of morbid curiosity.

Secondly, make the Putnam Challenge an actual challenge, and have the five schools from Putnam County challenge five bordering rivals from Northern Westchester in a five-game bid to establish regional supremacy. Haldane vs. North Salem is simple, since it's already in place and provides folks with a superb small-school matchup between two feisty, well respected programs with two superb coaches – Haldane's fiery Joe Virgadamo and Salem's stylish Henry Sassone -- who completely contrast in style.

Get Putnam Valley, a solid Class B contender now for six years, on board again, and pit Coach Mike McDonnell's Class B Tigers against Class A Lakeland. Seriously, do I even need to say another



Putnam Valley junior TJ Brescia is met by Carmel juniors Shane McNerney and Peyton Cayea in Tigers' 57-56 win over host Rams last Wednesday.



Carmel junior Christian Hutra drained a handful of clutch shots on PV's Darnel Shillingford and Tigers in PV's 57-56 win over host Rams last Wednesday.



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Putnam Valley junior F Darnel Shillingford drives for two of his 22 points on Carmel junior John Franklin in Tigers' 57-56 win over host Rams last Wednesday.



Haldane sophomore Matt Champlain works paint in Blue Devils' 52-50 loss to North Salem.

word about this matchup? There's no love lost between the bitter rivals who rarely get to square off against one another due to their classifications, and they love to kick each other's @\$@ whenever possible. PV vs. Lakeland is a must, so Hornet Coach Steve Fallo: Please clear your calendar for the first Saturday in January or, perhaps the first week in December, which is when I'd like to see this Putnam Challenge 'Season Tip-Off' take place.

That's two games out of the way. So, Brewster used to host the event and Coach Tom Nelligan never backs down from a challenge since he was the prime minister of Kennedy Catholic's heyday in the mid-90s/early 2000's, so let's square the Bears off against natural border rival John Jay (CR), who has been faithful Putnam Challenge participant for

continued on next page

Sports

Boy's Hoops Notebook

continued from previous page



Carmel junior Peyton Cayea gains paint against Put Valley's Matt Aviles (L) and Darnell Shillingford in Tigers' 57-56 win over host Rams last Wednesday.



Put Valley sophomore Matt Aviles dropped 20 points on Carmel in his varsity debut.



Mahopac senior Shane Loos drives lane in Indians' 55-48 loss to John Jay last Saturday.

years, including Saturday's 55-48 win over Mahopac.

Three down, two to go. So, let's tee up Carmel next. Rams A.D. Susan Dullea, perhaps the nicest A.D. in the land, is totally on board to host the venue next year and do whatever she can to help promo the event, so we gotta get

head, I like a Carmel vs. Somers matchup since Somers used to be a part of the challenge and I love me some of Coach Chris DiCintio's Tuskers. I'd also settle for Panas, Ossining and/or Hen Hud in this game against Carmel... so we have some options here if anyone is listening and/or

Coach Paul Brennan's upstart Rams, who should be pretty decent next year, a special game. Off the top of my

interested.

Lastly, Mahopac is in. We just need to figure out who Coach Matt Simone's Indians play. While it would make some sense to just have the Indians face Carmel in the evening's finale; that would limit us to four games and deter from the original Putnam vs. N.West. theme, so let's get Yorktown in the mix and have Coach Kevin Downes' Huskers battle against his former Mahopac club. Yeah, Yorktown vs. Mahopac makes a ton of sense any time. That might be the perfect finale.

So, in conclusion, let's make the 12th

annual Putnam Challenge something we can all be proud of: North Salem vs. Haldane; Lakeland vs. Putnam Valley; John Jay vs. Brewster; Somers, Hen Hud, Ossining or Panas vs. Carmel; and Yorktown vs. Mahopac. The first county to win three games wins the Putnam Challenge and claims regional supremacy.

Y'all have my email address. Consider this an invite, and hit me up if you're interested in the 2019 Putnam Challenge.

NWE/Putnam Examiner Super 7 Poll

No.1 HEN HUD – Sailors (5-1) posted a 59-43 win over reigning Class A champion Lourdes, who is hardly the same Warrior team we saw last year, but when Mehki Grey (17 points), Kyle James (14) and Austin Fraser (12) are all doing significant damage, the Sailors are still a unit with Final 4 potential and could be playing a semifinal game in Osh-Kosh (since we have absolutely no clarity from Section 1 Exec. Comm. on the County Center debacle).

No.2 SOMERS – At 4-3 overall, the Tuskers have a very intriguing tip off against host Panas today and a grudge match with league rival Brewster Thursday.

No.3 OSSINING – Coach Casey's Pride (7-1) are currently behind state-ranked (No.1) Mt. Vernon and New Ro' in terms of Class AA seeds as we enter the halfway point. Can they sustain or is this a mirage? League grind will tell the tale.

No.4 PUT VALLEY – 55-43 loss to Sacred Heart Sunday at County Center, on the heels of a 57-56 win over Carmel... you can't tell me there's not work to be done here. JV call-up Matt Aviles provided and offensive spark with 20 in his debut, and the youthful Tigers (7-3), without a senior starter, are still a dangerous Class B club when clicking on all cylinders.

No.5 PANAS – The Panthers (3-2) have a very legitimate chance to win the Yorktown tourney this coming weekend, and a win over Somers today would go a long way toward securing the respect of Section 1 and provide a major shakeup in this poll.

No.6 MAHOPAC – This 3-4 record could turn to 3-6 if Indians don't know what's good for them with Jay EF and Arlington on deck before the Indians tip off against Carmel on Jan. 17, but the win over 7-3 Suffern shows what the unit is capable of.

No.7 LAKELAND – Brewster, Magnus and John Jay this week. If the Hornets (4-4) are indeed legit, they need to go 2-1 worst case scenario and win the two league games.

HM HALDANE – Impossible to ignore the Blue Devils' 6-2 start after they battled North Salem in a 52-50 loss at Putnam Challenge. Coach Virgadamo has always drawn blood from a stone but that was truly impressive, more striking than wins over Schechter, Chester, Rye Neck and Clark.

HM YORKTOWN – Really need to see the Huskers (3-4) make it to the finals of the Budries tourney this weekend, and would love to see a 'Town vs. Panas final, but the Panthers have a tough road to hoe in Clarkstown North.

HM CARMEL – I mean, the Rams are 1-8, but they're one of the better one-win teams around, if that means much of anything.



Mahopac senior Ryan Dugan splits four Jay defenders for two of his game-high 21 points in Indians' Putnam Challenge loss last Saturday.

Lakeland, Brewster, Panas Chalk up Wins out of Break

By Tony Pinciario

Following an 18-day layoff, **LAKELAND** resumed its winning ways in the current girls' varsity basketball season.

Lakeland trumped Nanuet, 47-41, improving its record to 6-3 this season. Alexa Cole led all scorers with 21 points and she also added nine rebounds and three blocked shots. Cole went 4 for 4 from the free-throw line to seal the win. Kelsey Walsh chipped in with 14 points.

Lakeland's record has the team feeling optimistic as it heads into the second half of the season. The Hornets have been successful, to date, because of three factors.

"I think what's helped us so far is our team chemistry and our hard work," Walsh said. "We all get along really well and we work hard in practice and it transfers over into the game."

"Also, Alexa (Cole) has been our leading scorer each game, which also helps a lot. Having a good record early in the season has been a great motivation and confidence booster for our team."

After a lengthy 'vacation' from games, Walsh and her teammates made the best of practice and overcame complacency that could affect teams.

"After not playing a game for over two weeks, it got a little hard, at some points, to stay focused in practice over the long break, but we managed to do it," Walsh



RICK KUPERBERG PHOTO (please visit www.HVSPphotos.com for more)

Panas' Danielle Merante and Taryn Hodge try to outwork Yorktown's Ashley Zeolla in Panthers' 49-48 win over Huskers last Wednesday.

said. "And when it came time to play, we stayed energetic and focused, which helped us have a really good game against Nanuet."

Lakeland Coach Miranda (Lustig) Mangan credited her team with picking up its defensive intensity in the fourth quarter against Nanuet. Mangan cited senior Claire McKenna with being a difference-maker defensively in the final quarter.

"Claire did a really nice job of defending Zoe Amalbert in the fourth quarter," said Mangan of Nanuet's leading scorer. "Claire did a great job of denying Amalbert the ball. When Amalbert did get the ball, Claire did a great job of staying in front of her and challenging her shots."

BREWSTER, like Lakeland, continued its fine play as it opened 2018 with a 54-44 win over North Salem.

Maggie DePaoli poured in a game-high 27 points and Meagan Beal added eight points and 11 rebounds as the Bears improved to 9-3 this season.

"We did a great job adjusting

to three starters in foul trouble and not playing great transition defense in the first half," Brewster Coach Mike Castaldo said. "We were only up six at the half. We stayed in a zone and did a much better job in the transition."

"I was very happy with the way we adjusted and responded because North Salem did a great job against our man and we needed to stay in the zone. I wasn't happy that we had to switch to zone, but we played it well and it got us the win."

MAHOPAC swept Ursuline B, 39-24, and **YORKTOWN**, 47-38 in the consolation game of the Panas Tournament, to even its record at 4-4.

Claire Felix scored a game-high 16 points and Caitlyn O'Boyle chipped in with nine points against Ursuline B.

Zina McNerney scored a season-high 21 points and Felix added 11 points against Yorktown. McNerney was named to the all-tournament team.

"We were anemic offensively in the first half and we also got into foul trouble, early, having to sit two starters midway through the first quarter," Mahopac coach Chuck Scozzafava said. "Our defense kept us in the game during the first half. In the second half our offense came to life and we were able to pull away enough to get the win."

Kat Severino led Yorktown with 15 points and was chosen for the all-tournament team.

PANAS (3-4) held firm for a 48-48 win over host Yorktown last Wednesday, getting a team-high 17 points from senior captain Danielle Merante. Panther Kellie Brown added 11 points, including big free throws down the stretch,

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Panas' Kristen Kelly is pressured by Yorktown's MacKenzie Merson in Panthers' 49-48 win over Huskers last Wednesday.



Panthers Kellie Brown and Danielle Merante put the pinch on Yorktown's MacKenzie Merson in Panthers' 49-48 win over Huskers.

Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook

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Yorktown's Ashely Zeolla is guarded by Panas' Kellie Brown in Panthers' 49-48 win over Huskers.



Panas' Taryn Hodge is pressured by Yorktown's MacKenzie Merson in Panthers' 49-48 win over Huskers last Wednesday.

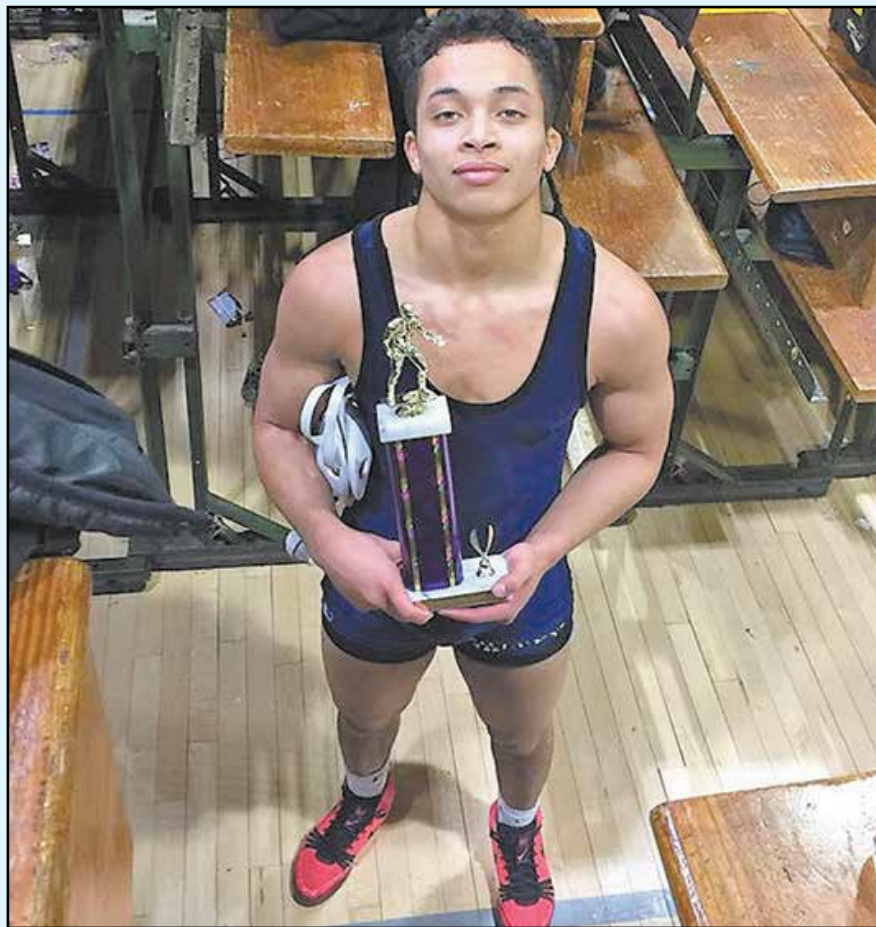
according to Coach Matt Evangelista. Kristen Kelly chipped in eight points and big baskets to bring Panas back from an early deficit. Severino led Yorktown with 22 points to keep her solid season going.

Panas also lost to Class AA R.C. Ketcham in the finals of the Panas Holiday Tournament, 49-38. Merante led the Panthers with 14 points. Merante and Brown were named to the all-tournament team...

Ossining had the week off. The Pride returned and played Kennedy Catholic, Monday, before a Friday meeting with 2017 Section 1 Class A champion, Somers. The Tuskers and Putnam Valley, who are having solid years, were both snowed out of its respective games last week.

HEN HUD dialed up the defensive intensity in a 41-28 victory over Haldane. After allowing 12 points in the first quarter, Hen Hud only

Sams I Am! Put Valley Senior Crowned Shoreline Champ



Putnam Valley senior wrestler Kyle Sams, a top-notch student athlete on and off the mats, poses with his first-place trophy after winning the 132-pound title at the prestigious Shoreline Wrestling Tournament at New Rochelle High School last Saturday.



Yorktown's Emily Metz drops a shot on Panas' Danielle Merante in Panthers' 49-48 win over Huskers last Wednesday.

surrendered 16 points the rest of the way, including just three points in the fourth quarter.

"What I was most happy with in the fourth quarter was I had the role players who came off the bench and did their jobs," Hen Hud Coach Ken Sherman said. "Kira Varada came off the bench and had five steals and shut down their guard. Aniyah Thomas and Thalia Oliveria also came off the bench and contributed quality minutes which we will need down the road."

Caitlin Weimar finished with 19 points, 10 rebounds and eight steals. Thomas added six points and three steals.

Coaches are encouraged to contact beat writer Tony Pinciario after each and every game at Tfinch23@optonline.net for inclusion in the weekly Girls' Hoops Notebook.



Smacked Down!

Putnam County Teams Go 0-3 in 11th annual Putnam Hoops Challenge

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Despite the best efforts of leaping Mahopac senior Augie Djerdjaj and Coach Matt Simone's Indians, three Putnam County teams went winless in the 11th annual Putnam Challenge last Saturday at Carmel High School where Mahopac fell, 55-48, to Dean Ford (L) and John Jay CR, Carmel lost 63-37 to Mamaroneck and Haldane suffered a 52-50 loss to North Salem. The Putnam Challenge could be looking at a facelift next season and a new theme if local programs are interested, but it's imperative that Brewster and Put Valley return.. see Boys Hoops Notebook.

