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December 18 - December 24, 2018

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 10, Issue 508

## Putnam Sees Decrease in Drug Deaths This Year

By David Propper

With 2018 only a couple weeks away from coming to a close, it appears drug overdose deaths within Putnam County will decline for the first time in several years as the county continues to battle the opioid epidemic.

Since at least 2014, drug overdose deaths in Putnam have increased to the frustration and heartbreak of

stakeholders across the board but so far this year there have been 17 overdose deaths, which is seven less than a year ago. In 2014 there were 11 fatal overdoses, in 2015 there were 14, in 2016 there were 15 and last year there were 24 in a county of less than 100,000 people. The downward trend this year was welcomed news at a recent

*continued on page 4*

## Wreaths Across America Ceremony Honors Vets

By Neal Rentz

The holiday season is a time for Americans to place wreaths all over from homes and businesses to stores and the front of cars.

People across the nation had other locations in mind when they place wreaths in cemeteries at the headstones of military veterans last Saturday.

Locally, the Putnam County Civil Air Patrol conducted a Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Raymond Hill Cemetery in Carmel. Veterans, their family members and friends and military cadets took part in the ceremony meant to remember and honor fallen heroes.

More than 2 million volunteers were expected to participate in Wreaths Across America throughout the United States. The annual event honors veterans and advances the Wreaths Across America mission to "Remember, Honor and Teach," ensuring the memory of those who served.

Major Elena MacDermant, squadron



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Major Elena MacDermant, squadron commander of the Putnam County Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, moderated a Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Raymond Hill Cemetery in Carmel on Dec. 15.

commander of the Putnam County Composite Squadron of the Civil Air

*continued on page 4*

## Lakeview Class Raises Funds for Operation Smile



PROVIDED PHOTO

Lakeview Elementary School's cafeteria was transformed into a pop-up shop with homemade and donated items by Mary Kurtz's 5th grade class on November 20. As these 10 year olds were talking up their hand-crafted keychains, stress balls, slime, and stress balls to sell to fellow students, they also delivered a compelling message why to support their efforts. Kurtz's class recently read an article in Storyworks, a Scholastic online reading platform, about a charity, Smile Train, which provides corrective surgery across the globe for impoverished children with cleft lips and palates. The class was moved by the organization and collectively decided on a way to help. Their pop-up shop raised \$805, which provides three corrective surgeries for fellow children. For more information about Smile Train, and to make donation, go to [www.smiletrain.org](http://www.smiletrain.org).



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

A Wreaths Across America Ceremony was held on Dec. 15 at the Raymond Hill Cemetery in Carmel.

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# Brewster's Prospect Hill Bridge Finally Reopened

By David Propper

It took a decade, but the Prospect Hill Road Bridge in the Town of Southeast is finally open again to vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

The announcement was made earlier this month after the bridge, which is owned by the MTA Metro-North Railroad, was unusable since 2008 due to safety concerns. The 270-foot bridge was originally built in 1910 and is located just south of the Southeast station. It carries Prospect Hill Road over the Harlem Line tracks and parts of Metro-North's Brewster Yard.

"The reopening of the Prospect Hill Road Bridge represents the importance of investing in infrastructure, not only for our quality of life but for the safety and wellness of Putnam County residents, which has always been my administration's top priority," County Executive MaryEllen Odell said in a press release. "I am pleased that we can have partners such as the Metro North Railroad that share our values. I appreciate Metro North's commitment to investing in its infrastructure in Putnam County."

The first phase of the reconstruction involved demolishing and removing the bridge, piers, abutments and roadway approaches, according to a press release from the county. Trees and shrubbery



PROVIDED PHOTO

The Prospect Hill Road Bridge is open to traffic again after it was closed off for a decade.

were also cleared and utility poles were taken down and later re-installed, according to the county.

The process began in April 2017 and cost about \$9.45 million.

Metro-North president Catherine Rinaldi said she was pleased the new Prospect Hill Bridge is now a reality for Putnam residents.

"The Prospect Hill Bridge has been a key component of the town's infrastructure for over a century, and funds from the MTA's Capital Program will help maintain it well into the future," Rinaldi said.

County legislators that represent parts of Southeast commended the long awaited completion of the bridge. Legislature Chairman Joe Castellano said

the reopened bridge brings "renewed life" into the community.

"It also provides a much-needed secondary passageway from the Village of Brewster to Route 312, which could potentially alleviate some of the traffic on Route 6," Castellano said.

Legislator Paul Jonke voiced similar sentiment.

"With the recent re-paving on Route 6 and Route 312, the new bridge on Prospect Hill Road caps off a series of incredible infrastructure projects that made traveling through the Town of Southeast a lot easier," Jonke said.

*'The Prospect Hill Bridge has been a key component of the town's infrastructure for over a century.'*  
- Metro-North president Catherine Rinaldi

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#### Q: What is a hernia?

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

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

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

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

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

#### Q: How long is the recovery period?

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

# Proposed Polystyrene Ban Dies in Leg. Committee

By David Propper

After the legislation was tabled at the start of the month during a full legislative meeting, one legislator's push to ban polystyrene across much of Putnam County died in committee last week.

In her final meeting as chairwoman of the health committee, outgoing Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra was unable to convince enough of her fellow lawmakers to move forward with the measure that would have outlawed at least 20 food service businesses from using polystyrene in Putnam.

In her final plea, Scuccimarra argued the dangers of polystyrene outweighed any inconvenience businesses might face from the ban. She noted polystyrene, also known as Styrofoam, puts toxins in a person's food, especially hot drinks and it takes about 500 years for it to decompose leaving it in the environment long enough that it contributes to climate change and pollution.

"It's really not a pleasant material," Scuccimarra said. "We were concerned with the 20 businesses that this would impact, but I have to say that I think the rest of the population of Putnam is more important than 20 businesses that are making six-figures anyway."

The proposed ban would only impact food chain restaurants, including



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO  
Chain businesses like Dunkin Donuts would've been affected by the a polystyrene ban if it went through.

McDonalds, Starbucks, Dunkin Donuts, Burger King, Applebee's, Dominoes and KFC. The proposed law would result in a written warning for a first offense, and if there were another violation, it would result in a fine not to exceed \$250. If there continued to be repeated offenses, it would translate into a fine that cannot exceed \$1,000. The health department would enforce any new regulation. Businesses that have a gross income of less than \$500,000 would be allowed to file for a waiver to avoid the new law for

at least one year.

She said Dutchess County is moving forward with the measure and New York City is considering it, as well. The cost to use a new product for the businesses affected would be minimal, Scuccimarra claimed.

"I really don't understand the problem with getting this through," Scuccimarra added.

Legislator Carl Albano, who has voted often with Scuccimarra during her tenure, said the legislation was common sense and businesses would need to move in that direction eventually. Legislator Ginny Nacerino said the merits of the law speak for itself, but noted that several lawmakers that expressed concern about the proposed law were not in attendance for the recent committee meeting.

Legislator Amy Sayegh, who was skeptical of the proposal, said the Food and Drug Administration has deemed polystyrene safe to use.

"If it's truly bad, why is it in every plate

of meat that you buy at the grocery store," Sayegh said. "I hesitate to just pick and chose what businesses I want to have polystyrene and what businesses I don't want to have polystyrene."

"I don't use it myself, but that doesn't mean I want to tell businesses that they can't use a legal, safe product," Sayegh continued, with Scuccimarra cutting in, "Well, it not safe," with Sayegh replying "According to the federal government it is."

"The FDA has made a lot of rulings that I don't agree with," Scuccimarra said.

Legislator Bill Gouldman was also against the proposal even though he agreed polystyrene was bad for the environment. He said if the county goes after the businesses that use polystyrene, those companies could open franchises in other places that border Putnam.

"All we're doing is putting more laws on the books and making it harder for businesses and individuals to survive," Gouldman said.

Scuccimarra, seeing that the legislation was not going forward, encouraged residents to reach out to county lawmakers about the ban.

"And you tell them how you feel about polystyrene and maybe when this comes back, if it ever does, they'll know which way to go," Scuccimarra said.



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# Putnam Sees Decrease in Drug Deaths This Year

continued from page 1

protective services committee meeting of the county Legislature.

Acting Health Commissioner Michael Nesheiwat, who is also one of the county coroners, said of the 17 overdoses this year, 14 of them were due to mixed drugs that could've included fentanyl, Ativan, oxycodone, methadone, and other prescription drugs, two were related to cocaine, heroin and fentanyl and one death was the result of cocaine.

The number of the deaths was about on par compared to other counties in the state per capita, Nesheiwat said.

"This is a problem not for the Hudson Valley--this region, but throughout the

country," Nesheiwat said.

Fentanyl, which is dangerous to the touch, can require more than one dose of Narcan, an antidote that can be administered to someone suffering from an overdose, Nesheiwat said. Fentanyl has been a more common and troubling substance used by addicts in recent years.

Nesheiwat, in an interview, stressed education is key to seeing the number of overdose fatalities decrease so residents, especially younger people, know the dangers of these drugs. Nesheiwat said one of the reasons for the decrease in overdoses is the numerous committees and organizations in Putnam spreading the word about just how lethal these

drugs can be.

Partnering with parents, law enforcement, healthcare providers is critical, Nesheiwat said.

In an interview, county Judge James Reitz, who is in charge of the highly touted drug prevention court, said in order to see the number of cases spiral down, more help is needed and parents need to be involved as much as possible in the daily lives of their children. Working collaboratively can lead to better outcomes, he added.

"We're not an island, we can't do it alone," Reitz said. "If we all work together we will solve this problem so I'm hoping the trend continues and it keeps going down."

The past few years have been difficult with overdose cases rising until this year.

"It's an awful feeling," Reitz said. "Frustrating doesn't even begin to explain it when you're working so hard night and day and people are dying at an alarmingly high rate. We hope we're stemming the tide."

Nesheiwat pleaded with people addicted to drugs to seek the help they need to live a substance free life.

"I beg you, get help," Nesheiwat said. "There are a lot of people that are willing to help you. Just take that first step and we will help you."

"We are here, we want to help and we never say no to anybody that needs help," Reitz added. "We're there for you."

# Wreaths Across America Ceremony Honors Vets

continued from page 1

Patrol, moderated the Carmel program. MacDermant quoted President Ronald Reagan when describing the importance of the service.

"He said freedom is not free," MacDermant said. "Everything that

we have we owe to a veteran today, particularly those from the Revolutionary War who put down their farming equipment, closed their shops and took up arms against one of the biggest, well prepared armies in the entire world at the time. So that must have been daunting for them but they did it because they had a

belief that we had rights and freedoms that King George was stomping on."

Two Revolutionary War veterans are buried at Raymond Hill Cemetery, MacDermant noted. Volunteers placed wreaths on headstones throughout Raymond Hill Cemetery. Medallions on the headstones indicated which grave had

a military veteran.

MacDermant instructed the volunteers. "When you place the wreath take a step back and say thank you for your service and the name because if you say the name the name will never be forgotten. And if you're military, give them a salute for their service."

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# Support in Region for Undoc. Immigrant Driver's Licenses

By Anna Young

New York State and Westchester County officials stood in solidarity earlier this month in support of a proposed law that would grant undocumented immigrants the right to access a driver's license.

Advocates for the campaign Green Light NY: Driving Together hosted a standing-room-only forum on Dec. 3 at the White Plains Public Library where officials and advocates gathered to urge state lawmakers to support the Green Light bill. The legislation would establish that the newly created standard license be accessible to all state residents regardless of immigration status.

Officials said allowing undocumented immigrants to obtain a driver's license would enhance traffic safety, ensure drivers understand traffic laws, unify the community and prevent small traffic infractions from resulting in arrest or deportation. State Sen. Shelley Mayer (D-Yonkers) said that allowing everyone the right to a license will reduce racial profiling, and the state would protect the residents' immigration status.

"Now because the Democrats have become the majority in the New York State Senate, we finally have the possibility of passing this bill," said Mayer, a co-sponsor of the measure.

The proposed bill would require any undocumented state resident to pass



ANNA YOUNG PHOTO

Supporters of the Green Light bill, which would make the standard state driver's license accessible to all residents regardless of immigration status packed the White Plains Public Library earlier this month for an informational meeting on the legislation.

a road test and provide proof of state residency prior to obtaining the license. Officials stressed the license cannot be used for federal purposes, will not allow the license holder to vote or change the legal status of an immigrant.

Currently, 12 states and Washington D.C. permit all residents to apply for a driver's license without checking their immigration status.

"Everyone driving should be properly trained and properly insured,"

Assemblyman Steven Otis (D-Rye) said. "Life is complicated enough, but it shouldn't have the added complication of having to drive around in fear."

Otis added that expanding licenses would be an economic boom. State and county governments would receive about \$57 million in combined annual revenue and \$26 million in one-time revenue through taxes and fees, he said. The bill has strong support in the Assembly and is hopeful the bill will pass next year when the Democrats take over the Senate, Otis added.

"This bill gives people equal access to opportunity, it allows people to get to work," Senator-elect Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro) said. "I'm very proud to support this bill."

Along with state lawmakers, county officials showed their support. Ten members of the Board of Legislators' Democratic caucus sent a letter of support to Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

"I stand for the passage of this bill," Westchester County Executive George Latimer said. "We have excellent senators and Assembly members in this county, they're going to work very hard to make this happen and those of us in the county government will help them in any way they need it, and we will win."

But not everyone is on board with the proposal, including many GOP

lawmakers. Assemblyman Kevin Byrne, who represents parts of Westchester and Putnam counties, expressed his opposition to it in a statement to Examiner Media.

"I continue to oppose any attempt to issue government identification to individuals who have entered our country illegally," Byrne said. "While border security, the visa-system, and other forms of immigration reform remain a responsibility of the federal government, I will not support any effort to circumvent the rule of law or further encourage illegal immigration in our state."

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipient Kevin Duarte noted that immigrants shouldn't live in fear of law enforcement or deportation because they are driving to work, school or dinner. Duarte said there's nothing preventing an undocumented immigrant from wanting to be an insured and authorized driver should the legislation pass.

"We realize that denying an important form of identification not only makes it really difficult for people to go about their day-to-day lives, it also makes it more difficult for the police to do their jobs," Duarte said. "This is the right thing to do because people deserve to drive in peace, and when everybody can drive in peace, everyone will be safer for it."

David Propper contributed to this report.

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# NY State Lawmakers Set For Large Pay Raise

By David Propper

Being a New York State lawmaker will soon be a more lucrative job once the new legislative session starts next year with the discussions of a large pay bump for elected pols gaining speed.

The state's 213 lawmakers will likely see their base pay spike from their current salary of \$79,500 to \$130,000 by 2021, which would be a 63 percent increase, as recommended by a state compensation committee earlier this month. The pay bump would be phased in over three years, with lawmakers potentially making \$110,000 as soon as this January. By 2021, New York legislators would be the highest paid elected officials in the country, after not getting a pay increase since 1998.

The pay raise would come with a caveat though. Outside income earned by lawmakers could be limited to 15 percent of their base pay and many stipends that legislators receive for chairing committees would be discontinued, unless for a small handful of leadership positions in the chambers.

The pay raises are expected to begin unless lawmakers vote to turn down their own raises, which seems unlikely. The limit on outside income would start by 2020.

GOP lawmakers that represent parts of Putnam slammed the idea.



PROVIDED PHOTO

NYS Sen. Sue Serino is against any pay increase for state lawmakers.

Assemblyman Kevin Byrne has long opposed any pay raise for elected officials and believes the current salary for a part-time position is adequate and should not be raised until New York improves its tax and business climate. In 2018, he voted against a budget bill that created the committee that eventually decided to funnel more money to lawmakers.

Byrne worked with Democratic Assemblyman James Skoufis (who is now Senator-elect) to request the committee target double dipping of state lawmakers.

"Instead, the committee provided other recommendations which I believe

were outside its scope," Byrne said. "The committee's recommendations will only propel the development of career politicians, and make life as a citizen legislator nearly impossible."

NYS Sen. Sue Serino, in a statement, said now is not the right time for lawmakers to earn more money considering the number of residents still struggling to make ends meet and with legislative proposals looming that could result in increased taxes. Serino, who has even refused taxpayer funded reimbursement, said this pay increase would "absolutely encourage" lawmakers to become career politicians.

"What's worse, this process completely circumvented the voices of New Yorkers by bypassing the legislature and the very people elected to represent them," Serino, who owns a realty company, said. "For me, this job has always been about the people, not about the paycheck, and I will continue to put the needs of those I represent above all else. I urge the new leadership in Albany to find a way to bring this proposal to a vote before the Legislature so that New Yorkers get a real say in the process."

Outgoing NYS Sen. Terrence Murphy said there are many things wrong with the possible pay raise. (Peter Harckham, who beat Murphy this past election to take

his 40th senate seat, previously signaled support for a pay raise if it resulted in ethics reform, including limiting outside income.)

"Not only did we forfeit a prime opportunity to finally get term limits but limiting outside income sends a clear message that citizen legislators are no longer welcomed to be active participants in our state government," Murphy said in a statement. "This decision will only act as seeds that will grow career politicians - which I can tell you firsthand is exactly why our state government continues to fail New York taxpayers."

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# Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus

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

Dear Editor—

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

Virginia O'Hanlon

115 West Ninety Fifth Street

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

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

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

We should have no enjoyment, except



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

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

in the world.

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

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

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

## Obituaries

### Richard 'Dick' J. Troha

Richard 'Dick' J. Troha, of Gainesville, FL, died peacefully on November 26, at the haven hospice with his family by his side. He was 90-years-old. Dick was born on March 29, 1928 in Brooklyn, son of the late John Troha and Anna Fugina. He was a graduate of Brewster High School and honorably served in the US Army as an occupational force in Japan between wars. Mr. Troha married the love of his life Marie G. Giliberti on June 5, 1954 at St. Lawrence O'Toole Church, Brewster. Dick was a manufacturing plant manager with Amphenol in Danbury, CT for 34 years before retiring in 1988. He was an avid hunter and fisherman. He was also a member of the Candlewood Camera club and enjoyed taking photographs. Dick is not only survived by his loving wife Marie, but also his two sons John J. Troha and his wife Janice of Walsenburg, CO and Richard J. Troha and his wife Michele of Gainesville, FL, his 3 grandchildren; Anna, Madeline and Maxwell and his great grandson Jaxyn.

### Angelo W. Percacciolo

Angelo William Percacciolo, age 94, died peacefully on Friday, December 7 in his home with his loving family by his side. Born in Cold Spring, September 26, 1924 to Joseph and Rachel (Constantino) Percacciolo. He was predeceased by his loving wife of 69 years, Elaine (Sylvester) Percacciolo. Angelo built their home on Church Street where they raised four children; Elaine Way (Richard), William Percacciolo (Joyce), Annette Flaherty (Robert) and Anthony Percacciolo (Joanne). He was predeceased by his brother Joseph A. Percacciolo Jr. and grandson, Joseph Angelo Way. His loving sister Teresa (Percacciolo) Van Tassel of Fishkill, formerly of Cold Spring survives, along with ten Grandchildren; Richard Way, John Way (Darlene) and Angela Fanette (Darrin), Michael and Nicole Percacciolo, Rachel (Flaherty) McNamara (Joseph) and Kelsey Flaherty and Claudia, Anthony and Thomas Percacciolo. Seven Great Grand-children Joseph and Jacob Way, John Robert and Natalie Way, Anthony, Andrew and Lauren Fanette and several nieces and nephews also survive. Angelo was a parishioner of Our Lady of Loretto Church and graduated from Our Lady of Loretto Grade School in 1938 and from Haldane High School in 1942. He was a lifelong member of the Cold Spring Fire Company and an Honorary member of the North Highlands Fire Company, the VFW post 2362, American Legion Post 275 where he was President Adjutant. He helped to build both the VFW and the American Legion Halls after the war. He also organized the Cold Spring Drum and Bugle Corps, a local organization that played in numerous patriotic parades in the area. He was a member of the Dutchess Drum and Bugle Corps in Beacon for many years.

Angelo played in many local orchestras and formed the "CNP" with his very good friend, Carmel Carufe. The band was very popular in the area and played for many dances and club dates including the Mount Beacon Casino and the Bear Mountain Inn. He loved the big bands and would go to their performances at the Paramount and Capital Theatres in New York whenever they appeared there. Angelo served his country proudly enlisting in the United States Army Air Corps at the age of eighteen. He was a radio operator and top turret gunner on a B-24 Liberator stationed in Seething, England during the European Theater of Operations. He flew thirty-five combat missions as a member of the Mighty 8th Air Force, 448th Bomber Group, 712th Bomber Squadron. He and his fellow crew of 10, named "The Pied Piper" were cited numerous times for valor and meritorious service. He was awarded the Air Medal with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters, 3 Battle Stars for Campaigns in Normandy, Southern France and the Rhineland. He received the World War II Victory Medal

and the Good Conduct Medal. Upon discharge in October 1945, he went into the construction business with his father and brother known as Joseph Percacciolo and Sons. He was a member of Local 137 I.U.O.E. as a Heavy Equipment Operator. On April 8, 2017 Angelo participated in the Hudson Valley Honor Flight Mission #15. He was accompanied by his son, Tony. They flew out of Stewart Airport and spent the day with other WWII, Korean and Vietnam Veterans touring Washington, DC. Angelo enjoyed traveling with his wife and betting on the horse races. He was especially proud of his children and grandchildren and loved spending time with them. He was an avid New York Yankees and New York Giants fan and enjoyed watching their games. Angelo was known as a genuinely kind and generous man. He will be missed dearly by his family and all whose lives he touched.

### Edward K. Cassidy

Edward K. Cassidy, of Brewster, North  
 continued on page 10



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Adam Stone  
 astone@theexaminernews.com  
**Publisher**

David Propper  
 dpropper@theexaminernews.com  
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# Man Charged with Using Axe to Take Holiday Gift

By Rick Pezzullo

A Peekskill man was arrested Thursday for allegedly using an axe to forcibly take a holiday gift from a co-worker in Putnam Valley.

According to State Police in Cortlandt, at approximately 8:45 a.m., troopers were dispatched to Oscawana Lake Road in Putnam Valley for a report of menacing with a weapon. Investigation determined \$30 was given to Sean Date, 54, of Peekskill, and the victim to share by a customer as a holiday gift for their refuse collection services.

Police said Date attempted to forcibly take the entire \$30 from the victim using an

axe.

Date was charged with Robbery in the 1st degree, a class B felony, Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 4th degree, and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 7th degree, both class A misdemeanors.

He was arraigned in Town of Putnam Valley Court, and remanded to the Westchester County Jail in lieu of \$500 cash bail or \$1,000 bond. He is next scheduled to appear in court on December 19.

## Man Admits Defacing Newspaper with Hate Symbols

Peekskill police have located the suspect who defaced a November copy of The Northern Westchester Examiner with swastikas and the letters KKK.

Although the suspect admitted to writing the racist symbols, the police department believes criminal charges cannot be brought, restrained by First Amendment protections. If the symbols were written on a building, or other private property, an arrest could have been made, but defacing a newspaper does not meet the same legal criteria, police said.

Despite the cited restraints from charging a perpetrator with a crime, police decided to investigate, hoping to deter similar incidents in the future.

"Our PD thanks the public for...their assistance," Detective Sgt. Jack Galusha remarked.

On Nov. 14, the defaced copy of The Northern Westchester Examiner was discovered in a Chase bank at 1025 Brown St. in Peekskill. Police used bank surveillance footage to help locate the perpetrator.

The reader who found the defaced copy at the bank alerted police and the newspaper, prompting the probe. That week's lead story, in the Nov. 13-Nov. 19 edition of The Northern Westchester Examiner, was about the election to Congress of Yorktown High School graduate Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who is of Puerto Rican descent.

Incidents of anti-Semitism have spiked across the country, as have crimes more broadly. For example, hate crime incidents targeting Jews and Jewish institutions in the U.S. jumped about 37 percent between 2016 and 2017, according to F.B.I. data.

The local community is not immune. This past Sunday evening, Dec. 8, during the Jewish celebration of Hanukkah, 18-year-old student Gunnar Hassard hung multiple posters with Nazi symbols at the SUNY Purchase campus. Hassard was arraigned earlier this week, charged with Aggravated Harassment in the First Degree, a class E felony.

An attorney representing Examiner Media, Todd Fishlin, contends the wrongdoing should be prosecuted and sent a legal letter to relevant departments this week encouraging them to charge the suspect.

## Larca Takes Oath of Office in Southeast

By Anna Young

Southeast Councilman Eric Larca was sworn into office last week, sharing his excitement to serve the community.

Surrounded by his parents, wife and daughter, Larca was sworn in by Putnam County Judge James Reitz before last Thursday's town board meeting. Larca, a lifelong Brewster resident, will take over the seat previously held by former councilwoman Liz Hudak, who resigned less than two months before Election Day.

Hudak stepped down on Sept. 14, citing family and personal health issues. Larca, who served on the Southeast Planning Board for the last two years, will complete Hudak's term, which ends in 2021.

"I know I have some big shoes to fill and I'm looking forward to doing that," Larca said. "Thank you to the community and everyone who supported me. I really appreciate it and look forward to working hard for the Town of Southeast."

Reitz spoke highly of Larca stressing his deep roots to the community, his dedication to serving his constituency and fostering the spirit of Southeast.

"Eric has been on the planning board for two years and has exceptionally formed both concerns and opinions of his residents," Reitz said. "He's dedicated to transparency and accountability and making responsible decisions to continue developing our community while maintaining its character."

Among Larca's first official actions as councilman, he voted 3-2 in favor of appointing James King to fill his vacancy on the Planning Board, effective immediately. Councilman Lynne Eckardt and John Lord opposed the appointment following interviews with four candidates.

"I do think he's qualified but I will be voting no on this. I felt there was a more qualified candidate who would add another dimension to the board," Eckardt said. "That is not to take away anything from Mr. King, but I think there was a better candidate."



# New CEO Appointed to CoveCare Center in 2019

CoveCare Center is pleased to announce Eric A. Toth as its next Chief Executive Officer, effective January 2019. Diane E. Russo, current CEO of CoveCare Center, is retiring at the beginning of 2019 after 20 years of dedicated service.

Mr. Toth has spent the past 18 years with Family Services of Westchester (FSW), most recently as the Vice President of Program Operations, a position he has held since 2013. His role at FSW focused on managing, coordinating and developing clinical and community-based programs and projects. With his extensive experience and proven record of dedication to helping those in need, Mr. Toth is well suited to advance CoveCare Center's mission to partner with



individuals, families, and the community to foster hope, wellness, and recovery, and to restore quality of life by addressing mental health needs, substance use, and social and emotional issues.

Speaking on behalf of CoveCare Center's Board of Directors, Board Chairperson Sal Gambino stated, "We are confident that Eric's experience, knowledge, and integrity are a great match for the work, staff, and friends of CoveCare Center. Together we will continue to move forward and spread our vision of a strong, united community where all people are valued, accepted, and empowered to live healthy lives."

"I am honored and excited to join CoveCare Center. The quality of the

care provided by this organization is a reflection of the teamwork and values of the staff, the community partners and the Board of Directors. With CoveCare Center's 20 years of experience to build upon, I am eager to join this team, to continue to help those in need and to grow our services to meet the needs of the community," said Mr. Toth.

Mr. Toth holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Literature from The New School, a Master's Degree in Social Work from Hunter College, and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from New York University's Stern School of Business. He is an adjunct professor at Fordham University's Graduate School of Social Services.

# Putnam County Welcomes Newest Citizens

Putnam County Clerk Michael C. Bartolotti hosted a Naturalization Ceremony on Wednesday, December 12, at the Putnam County Historic Courthouse, Carmel, New York. Clerk Bartolotti administered the Oath of Allegiance to 50 new citizens from 22 different countries. The Naturalization Ceremony opened by the posting of the colors by American Legion Post 1080 Color Guard. The Hon. Victor Grossman, Supreme Court Judge, Ninth Judicial District, served as the officiating Supreme Court Justice and offered court remarks. The Hon. Robert V. Tandy, Putnam County District Attorney, offered welcoming remarks. Putnam County Sheriff Robert L. Langley, Jr. led the opening prayer. Mr. Art Hanley, Deputy Director of Putnam County Veterans Affairs, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Isabella Ciatto, a junior at Carmel High School, presented the gathering with beautiful renditions of the "Star Spangled Banner" and God Bless America." After the ceremony, a coffee and cake reception was held to welcome our newest citizens. Any citizen wishing to view photos and video of the ceremony is encouraged to visit [www.putnamcountyny.gov/county-clerk](http://www.putnamcountyny.gov/county-clerk) or visit our Facebook page.



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## Obituaries

*continued from page 8*

Salem, and Carmel died peacefully on Sunday December 9, at The Grand Nursing and Rehabilitation in Pawling, at the age of 74. Edward was born in the Bronx, to John and Isabelle (King) Cassidy on May 22, 1944. He went to high school there and later attended Manhattan College and Rice University where he earned several degrees including two Masters' Degrees. He went on to become a self-employed Environmental Engineer for over thirty years. Edward is survived by his five sons; Daniel, Patrick, Joel, Jonathan, and Christopher. He is also survived by a brother David Cassidy and eight grandchildren. Edward enjoyed being active in St. Joseph's Choir, as well as refereeing Soccer and supporting the local libraries.

### Margaret Lynch

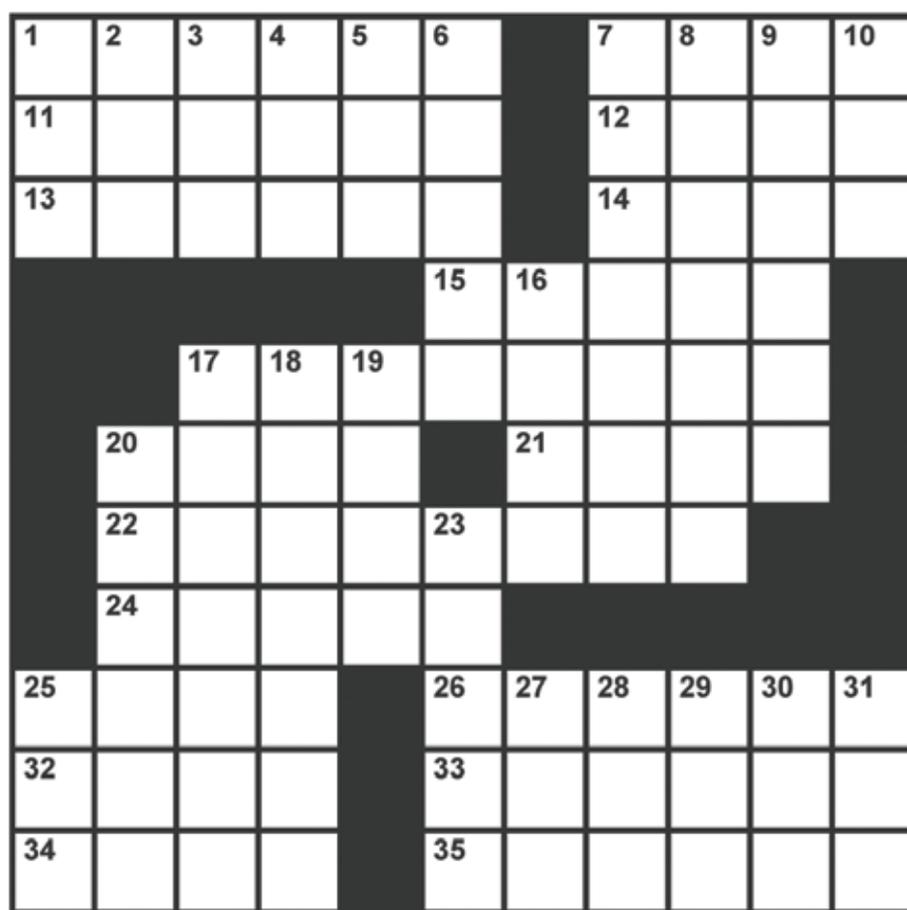
Margaret Lynch, 89, died on December 10, daughter of the late Peter Lynch and Margaret. She was predeceased by her brother Edward. A longtime resident of Brewster. She was a lifetime member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas-Court Bernadine #185. She also held membership in the Past Regents Chapter

of Catholic Daughters. The local court named her volunteer of the year in 2004 and again in 2013. Her hobbies included, collecting and mailing cancelled postage stamps to the veterans. She did this project for over 20 years. She enjoyed knitting for Court Bernadine #185 and many other groups. She was blessed by having so many good neighbors and friends during her lifetime. She is survived by many cousins.

### Janet F. Marion

Janet F. Marion of Mahopac, died on Tuesday, December 11, at the age of 72. She was born in Yonkers, on November 13, 1946, the daughter of Jay and Emilia (DiMuro) Shepherd. Janet moved to Mahopac in 1970 from Yonkers. She was a retired Account Manager with the Simmons Group, LTD in Briarcliff Manor. On May 27, 1967 she married George D. Marion at Annunciation Church in Yonkers. In addition to George, she is survived by her son, George C. and his wife Bernadette, her daughter, Jennifer Marion McCormack and her husband, Todd, all of Mahopac; her brother Jay "Bill" Shepherd of Yonkers and her grandsons, Logan Lee and Luke Daniel.

# Crossword Puzzle



Crossword by Myles Mellor

Answers on page 16

## Across

1. Right away
7. That too
11. Somewhat
12. One of Alcott's "little women"
13. Synthesized music
14. U.N. flight agency
15. Aboveboard
17. This eatery is a "milestone" in Cortlandt Manor, Oregon \_\_\_\_\_ Deli
20. On the safe side?
21. Like a bog
22. Arctic creature
24. Novelist Brookner
25. What comes to mind
26. Bridge of Sighs locale
32. Jazzman Saunders
33. Ousts
34. \_\_\_ 'n' Andy
35. Accusers

## Down

1. L.A. clock setting, abbr.
2. Future fish
3. Tolkien beast
4. Max. degree
5. Heavy weight
6. Gone by
7. First name of two first ladies

8. Spy novelist
9. Long and slender
10. Expression of surprise
16. "Harry Potter" actress Watson
17. South American cowboy
18. TV antennas
19. Amphibian
20. Head wreath
23. "Safe \_\_\_\_" or Cortlandt Manor hair studio
25. Introduction, in a way
27. \_\_\_\_ Peron, Argentinian first lady
28. Matchsticks game
29. Hotel freebie
30. Geom. point
31. Part of a slalom path



## Outside Holiday Decorations – for the Child in All of Us

Among all the holidays of my life, the one I remember most vividly is Christmas when I was seven years old, living in a row home in Philadelphia. That was the year my parents suggested that I could have a holiday party and invite the neighborhood kids to see our gigantic tree, decorated to the nines with hundreds of balls and demonstrating our family's specialty skill with hanging lead tinsel so precisely on each branch that it created a cascading effect of a frozen waterfall.

I loved decorating the lower branches with this material until it was discontinued in 1972 at the suggestion of the Food and Drug Administration, claiming that the lead posed a threat to children.

My particular delight was that at our tree's base was an oval track where a Lionel train, originally my dad's from the 1930s, chugged along with a clatter that I can still hear in my head. My brother Bobby, six years older than I, to whom Dad's set was given, allowed me to lie to my friends and say the train set was mine rather than his, and that



By Bill Primavera

I could operate it myself as long as he was present to supervise.

My preeminence for holiday decoration and wonder was short-lived, however, when my arch nemesis who lived next door, Joey Delayo, announced that his dad was decorating his front porch with strings of colored lights and we were all invited to come see it that evening. Christmas decoration outside, I wondered? I had never seen it.

Sure enough, later that evening, Joey's dad flipped the switch on what seemed to be endless strings of lights on the porch, illuminating the brick facades of the entire block. And Joey beamed as his mom handed out candy canes to all the children who came to see the only outdoor display on the block. God, I hated that kid.

When I asked my dad if we could also decorate outside for Christmas, he said it was a waste of time and money. "Why decorate for the neighbors?" I remember him saying.

Today, more and more homeowners

want to decorate for the neighbors. Whenever I see a home with its lawn highly decked out for the holidays, I get the urge to pull up, knock on the door and meet the owners. I'm sure that they would be great people who love children and probably are still as wondrous as kids themselves.

In my old neighborhood, I remember the most talked about home at Halloween was owned by a fellow named Dominic who lived on a quiet street with his wife and three children. His lawn was a dark wonderland of scary figures, more than life-sized, in various guises and contraptions, from execution in an electric chair to scenarios with video amplification, music and smoke.

One year, I stopped and knocked on his door, but Domenic wasn't home. However, a young mother was walking past the house with her two children, ages 8 and 4. When I asked what they thought of their neighbor's display, the woman told me with great animation about all of its special effects.

I later reached out to Domenic by phone and asked whether he knocked himself out each year for the children or for himself.

"It's both," he said, explaining that it's "in his blood." "My parents always decorated their lawn and instilled the

fun of it in me. Now my dad comes to help me build new devices to add to my collection."

The scary fun of Halloween seems poised to overtake the serenity of Christmas in terms of money outlay. The National Retail Association reports that today we spend about \$8 billion on costumes and outside decorations for Halloween, more than double of what was spent in 2005.

What happened to the day when my biggest effort in entertaining my child for Halloween was to carve out a pumpkin and place a candle inside?

As for that Lionel train set, my very kind and generous brother Bobby, knowing how sentimental I was about it, presented it as a gift to me several years ago. Since then, sadly, my brother has died but I think of him at least once daily because the train set sits in a large box in the corner of my office, awaiting the opportunity to once again provide noisy entertainment around the base of my Christmas tree.

*Bill Primavera, while a publicist and journalist, is also a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and Founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc. (www.PrimaveraPR.com). To engage the services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.*

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**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF 306 PRESCOTT STREET, LLC.** Art. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 10/26/2018. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 7 **Arbor St, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: any lawful purpose.**

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF WEBER ROSSELLI & CANNON LLP** filed with SSNY on 8/8/2018. Office in Westchester, SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 7 **Skyline Drive - Suite 350, Hawthorne, NY 10532. Purpose: any lawful purpose.**

**APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY OF SURETY TITLE AGENCY COASTAL REGION, L.L.C.** filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/6/18. Formed in NJ on 10/12/99. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail copy of process to 853 Mill Creek Rd., Manahawkin, NJ 08050. The office

address required to be maintained in NJ is **11 Eves Dr., Ste. 150, Marlton, NJ 08053. Cert. of formation filed with State Treas., 33 W. State St., Trenton, NJ 08608. Purpose: Any lawful activity.**

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SU-JEAN STUDIO LLC** filed with Secretary of State NY on 11/14/2018. Office location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **33 Windmill Rd., Armonk NY 10504. Purpose: Any lawful activity.**

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SECOND MOUSE CHEESE, LLC.** Articles of Organization were filed with the SSNY on 10/18/2018. Office location is Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **SECOND MOUSE CHEESE, LLC, 351 Manville Road, Pleasantville, NY 10570. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.**

**NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN** that a license number PENDING for beer, liquor and wine has been applied for by the undersigned\* to sell beer, liquor and wine at retail in a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 222 East Main Street, Store #1, Mount Kisco, in the County of Westchester for on-premises consumption. **TPM Partners, Inc. d/b/a Fiesta Cancun on Main**

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF K-BATCHNICK ENTERPRISE HOLDINGS LLC** Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/7/2018. Office location is Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **18 Belmont St., White Plains, NY 10605. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.**

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF ROMANOFF ELEMENTS, LLC.** Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/25/2018. Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to **Carol Romanoff 55 Byram Ridge Road, Armonk NY 10504 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a license, serial number pending, has been applied for by the undersigned to permit patrons to bring wine, beer and cider for on premises consumption under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 141 E. Post Rd., White Plains, NY 10601 - **Am-badi Kebab and Grill Corp. d/b/a Am-badi Kebab and Grill.**

*continued on next page*





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# Continuing on the Spanish Wine Trail With Your Wine Guy



By Nick Antonaccio

Yes, we're still touring – and enjoying Spain's geography, culture, cuisine and wines. This week on our virtual tour we're leaving the coastal regions and heading inland.

With every step we take into Spain's past, literally and figuratively, we find a bright and exotic present. From the blending of old and new architecture to the revitalization of the wine industry, Spain continues to rise in esteem throughout the world, a direct reflection of its ancestral roots of the 15th and 16th centuries and the Age of Exploration, when Spain dominated the Western Hemisphere.

On our virtual tour we leave Barcelona and head toward the foothills of the Montsant and Priorato regions. Priorato is the smaller of the two regions; in fact, it is surrounded by the Montsant region, making it difficult at times for our virtual GPS to know in which region we are traversing. We are traveling to the heart of Priorato on this

trip, justifiably considered one of the top wine regions in all of Spain.

Soon we notice the landscape changing as steep terraces loom in the near distance. The vines planted here appear as long wavy rows, undulating up and over the hilltops, giving the impression of rows of camouflaged soldiers in strict military formations. (A great photo op.) These terraces enjoy abundant sun and a unique slate soil that infuse the grapes with great body and strength.

The dominant grape variety is Garnacha, followed by Cariñena, with an uncharacteristic smattering of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot used for balancing the intense fruits and rough edges of the Garnacha. The wines are deep purple in color and full-bodied, with flavors of plums and blackberries, not to mention alcohol levels ranging above 13 percent.

Why have these wines become so highly regarded? It's all about time and place. Today, the newest generation of Spaniards, the EU generation, has a sophisticated view of life and their place in the world. They have transformed

*You Heard It  
Through the  
Grapevine*

their homeland. No longer is Spain a self-centered, quixotic nation of tumultuous politics, civil war and agrarian economics. Instead, they have catapulted their homeland to the forefront

of new age cuisine, art, architecture and wine making, all the while retaining their unique heritage, masterfully blending the best of the old and the new. If only they could solve their nation's ongoing economic woes.

This new-age sensibility on winemaking is most evident in the Priorato region. Long a sleepy wine region, the EU generation has transformed the Priorato into a highly regarded wine appellation. By looking outward, they have incorporated the best equipment, practices and techniques that are prevalent in global winemaking, including a revitalized respect for the land. The Priorato region now produces some of the most sought after wines in Spain. The young winemakers have embraced the land's unique soil and climate, while retaining the widespread plantings of old vines. From this base they are producing wines of intense flavors and balance.

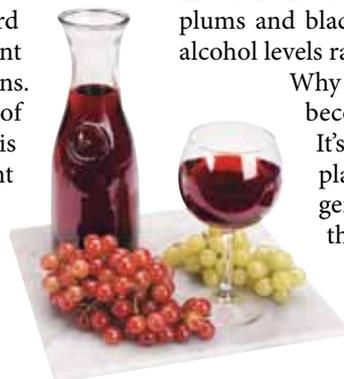
Here are examples of Priorato wines available locally. At the high end are Clos Erasmus, Mas Doix and Clos Mogador,

selling above \$60. (Notice the French-sounding names; the young winemakers received their education at the best French schools and wineries and these names distinguish them from the old-world winemakers) These are blockbuster wines that won't reach their greatness for at least five years. For wines at the popular "under \$20" price point, try La Cartuja (\$19), Conreria d'Scala Dei (\$15) and Solanes (\$19).

The wines of the greater Montsant region are also noteworthy, having characteristics similar to Priorato wines. Try Clos Dels Codols (\$17), Cellar de Capcanes selections (from \$20) and one of my favorite blends, Can Blau (\$14).

As I write this column a time-worn phrase comes to mind: "Everything old is new again." In the Priorato region, the winemakers have embraced this maxim and the results are far better than the wines of "the good old days."

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 25 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](mailto:nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com) or on Twitter @sharingwine.



# Happenings

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

**Calling all bands and acoustic performers: The 3rd Annual Brewster Music Festival** slated for June 8, 2019 at Wells Park in Brewster is looking for some fresh music talent. With last year's success and a viewing audience of over 1,000 people, we expect the 2019 festival to be bigger and better. If you are interesting in being part of this exciting fundraiser, please submit a brief bio of your band, sample set list and two sample songs. Bands will be playing 60-minute sets and individuals will be playing 20 minutes sets at the event. All submission must be received by February 1, 2019. The event is a fundraiser for the restoration of the Old Town Hall Theater and all performers will be volunteers. The selected bands will be notified by March. For more information and online application, visit [www.BrewsterMusicFestival.com](http://www.BrewsterMusicFestival.com). Questions? Contact [info@culturalartscos.com](mailto:info@culturalartscos.com).

**Reed Library's Holiday Cookies to Bake Your Day:** 4:30 p.m. Join us for a Crafternoon creating a variety of cookies to pick and 'chews' from. All supplies will be provided, just bring your jolly good ideas! For 1st graders & up! [www.carmellibrary.org](http://www.carmellibrary.org)

**Tuesday, December 18**  
**Celestial objects:** 6:30 p.m. Michael Zeilnhofner at the Kent Library to give another stellar presentation about There are many different types of stars which have been classified in our universe. Some of these stars out in the universe are much hotter and brighter than our Sun, while some are much cooler. Different types of stars also evolve differently, from white dwarfs to black holes. Join me as we explore the cosmos to learn about how stars evolve and what our Sun will evolve into in the next 4.5 billion years! This is a family program for ages 10 and up. The Kent Library is located at 17 Sybil's Crossing off Route 52 and can be reached at (845) 225-8585 or [www.kentlibrary.org](http://www.kentlibrary.org).

**Chat 'n' Chill:** Noon. Come gather with your friends or meet new ones at this monthly get together at the Patterson

Library. We will provide the space for you to bring your lunch, play cards or games, work on your crafts or just sit and chat. Adults only. For more information or to register, contact the Patterson Library at 845-878-6121 x10 or go to [www.pattersonlibrary.org](http://www.pattersonlibrary.org)

**Thursday, December 20**  
**Foreign Film Screening - The Man Who Invented Christmas,** a film from England. 6:30 p.m. The Man Who Invented Christmas tells the magical journey that led to the creation of Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim, and other classic characters from A Christmas Carol. The film shows how Charles Dickens mixed real life inspirations with his vivid imagination to conjure up unforgettable characters and a timeless tale. Rated PG; screened in English. Registration requested; register online at [www.mahopaclibrary.org](http://www.mahopaclibrary.org), or call 845-628-2009, ext 100.

**Friday, December 21**  
**Longest Night Candlelight Service at Trinity Lutheran Church.** 7 p.m. 2103 Route 6, Brewster.

**Saturday, December 22**  
**The Cold Spring Main St. Merchant and Chamber of Commerce** will be doing a luminaria display event 5p.m. till 7 p.m. This truly exciting display of light on Main Street will be something to see. Come see this spectacular event, dine at local restaurants and shop the many unique local businesses

**Midwinter Bingo Bash:** Brewster Public Library. Kids ages 6-10 are invited to the library on Saturday, December 22nd from 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. for some lively rounds of holiday-themed bingo. Winning participants will go home with a prize and some treats (and every child will win!). All library programs are free. To register, or for more information, please call 845-279-6421 or visit [www.brewsterlibrary.org](http://www.brewsterlibrary.org).

**Monday, December 24**  
**First Presbyterian Church of Mahopac Holiday Service Schedule:** Visitors are always welcome, regardless of religious

background. Anyone looking for a church home is invited to visit with us during the holidays and anytime. Christmas Eve services this year- Monday, 12/24/18: :00pm- Family Christmas Eve Service, featuring the Handbell Choir. 7:30 p.m.- Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, featuring the Handbell Choir and the beautiful voices of the First Presbyterian Choir Regular Sunday Service: 10:00am First Presbyterian Church is located at 411 Rt. 6N (at Secor Rd.) in Mahopac. For more information please call 845-628-2365 or email [presby411@verizon.net](mailto:presby411@verizon.net). You can also find us on the Web at [www.mahopacchurch.org](http://www.mahopacchurch.org) and on Facebook at First Presbyterian Church, Mahopac.

Christmas Services at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2103 Route 6, Brewster. Come worship with us. December 24th at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. accompanied by Trinity Brass. December 25th at 10 a.m.

**Monday, December 31**  
**Noon Year's Eve:** 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Celebrate the "noon" year at Patterson Library! Get dressed up and join us for some dancing and tasty treats with games and more as we ring in the "noon" year! For ages 5 and up. For more information or to register contact the Patterson Library at 845-878-6121 x10 or go to [www.pattersonlibrary.org](http://www.pattersonlibrary.org) and click Calendar.



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# Double Whammy!



## Mahopac Duo Combine for 8 Goals in 9-7 Win vs. Carmel

BELLA DINAPOLI PHOTOS

Behind five goals and three assists from T.J. McKee and three more tallies and two assists from Brian O'Shea, Mahopac pulled away for a feisty 9-7 come-from-behind win over rival Carmel last Sunday night at the Brewster Ice Arena where McKee (71) -- checked above by Carmel's Chris Cieciera (16) -- and O'Shea (with captain's C) -- slithering past Carmel's Alex Wood (8) -- rallied the Indians from a 4-2 first-period deficit with a 3-1 third-period run to remain undefeated (7-0) on the Section 1 circuit. Mahopac's Nick Bricker (1G, 2A), John Dundon (2A), Aidan Martin (1A) also found the scoring sheet. Carmel (2-4) was led by Brendan Murphy (2G, 2A), Jack Lagan (2G, 1A), Luke Golisano (2G), Wood (1G, 1A), Robert Paradiso (2A), Chris Cieciera, Pasquale Fata and Matt LaFontaine each had one assist. The two clubs will meet again this Friday (6:30 p.m.) in a Hockey Fights Cancer evening at the BIA with all proceeds raised during the game donated to Community Cares and the Ty Louis Campbell Foundation.

# Sports

## Boys' Hoops Notebook

# Somers Upends Yorktown, Mahopac for DePaoli Tourney Title

By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports Editor  
@Directrays

If you were a fan of defense, you probably enjoyed Somers' 23rd annual Michael DePaoli Memorial Boys' Basketball Tournament more than most. If you like bruising, hard-nosed basketball, you certainly appreciated seeing the host Class A Tuskers walk off with the championship after a 43-39 triumph of Class AA Mahopac last Saturday afternoon. State-



Mahopac senior F Rheel Allen has shot contested by Put Valley senior F TJ Brescia in Indians' 47-43 tourney win over Tigers.

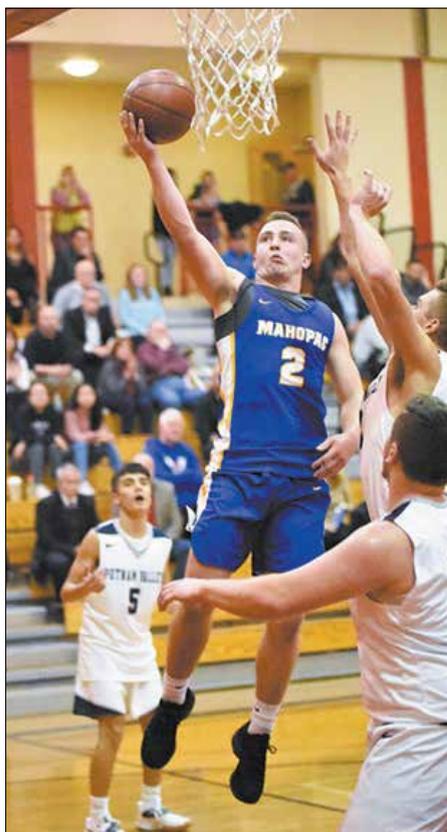
ranked (No.17) Class B Putnam Valley, who was shocked by Mahopac, 47-43, in Friday's opening-round, settled for third after a 63-49 victory over Class A Yorktown in Saturday's consy round.

Make no bones, though, the team that played captivated Tusker fans with a tantalizing display of defense were clearly the superior squad.

In the championship of the DePaoli Tournament, Somers MVP Lucas Fecci had 13 points while spearheading a defensive effort that was second to none. Senior teammate Nick Maestri was also named all-tournament. Mahopac junior G Matt McMahon and senior F Reahl Allen had nine points apiece for Mahopac. Teammates Mike Argila, a senior G, and sophomore Vin Bastone were named to the All-Tournament team.

Somers Coach Chris DiCintio preaches defense, and the Tuskers have bought in, according to the coach.

"Roman (Catalino, Somers A.D.) thinks it's the first time we've won the DePaoli



Mahopac senior G Tim Cegielski has a step to rack on Put Valley's TJ Brescia and John Millicker in

tournament in back to back seasons in over twenty years," DiCintio said. "Fecci has been unbelievable. He's averaging 16 points, six steals and four assists per game so far. He is truly the best defensive guard I've ever coached. And Max Germaine is averaging nine points and 11 boards a game to give us a great paint presence at both ends. We're committed to defense and I saw something that said we first or second in the entire section in points allowed, so we're thrilled with the defensive effort."



Somers freshman G Bennett Leitner gains baseline as Yorktown senior G Ben Schumer defends in Tuskers' tourney win over Huskers.

It was defense that spurred Somers to a 50-39 win over Yorktown in the opening round of its tournament when Fecci led all scorers with 19. Somers senior F Charlie Weissman added 10, including six in the pivotal fourth quarter. Yorktown's Roni Brucaj (11 points) and big Joe Sgobbo (10 points) led the Huskers.

"We just know that we have to dig in on defense because our coach always preaches that defense wins games," Fecci stated.

Mahopac's opening-round win over Put Valley might have been the biggest shock of the tournament, given the fact that Tigers have owned the Indians the last five years. However, Mahopac was too physical for the Tigers and the Indians' guards outplayed the Tiger backcourt.

Mahopac senior guards Tim Cegielski (11points), Argila (6 points), McMahon (9 points) and Drew Riolo (9 points) combined to score 35 points while PV's guards



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Somers senior G Nick Maestri goes up for shot against Yorktown G Ben Schumer in Tuskers' tourney win over Huskers.

were overmatched physically against the Indians. Meanwhile, Put Valley's dynamic frontcourt of TJ Brescia (10 points) and Darnel Shillingford (9 points) never seemed to get in an offensive rhythm and weren't the factor they've been the last two years against Mahopac.

"Brescia and Shillingford have beaten us up for the last two years," Mahopac Coach Matt Simone said. "The main thing we talked about all week was playing consistently for an entire game. We showed, in flashes, the last time you saw us (against Lakeland) how good we can be. We were up big against Lakeland and Brewster, but then we let up. We can't allow that, we're not good enough to let up against anyone. This was a good win against a good team, probably one of the best in their class, so we're very proud of this win."

Cegielski admitted the loss to Lakeland, in the Panas tournament a week prior, was an eye-opening loss for Mahopac. As a result, the Indians were a different team against Put Valley.

"We realized in the loss to Lakeland that the game's not over until the final buzzer



Somers F Charlie Weissman goes for two points during huge fourth quarter in Tuskers' tourney win over Yorktown.

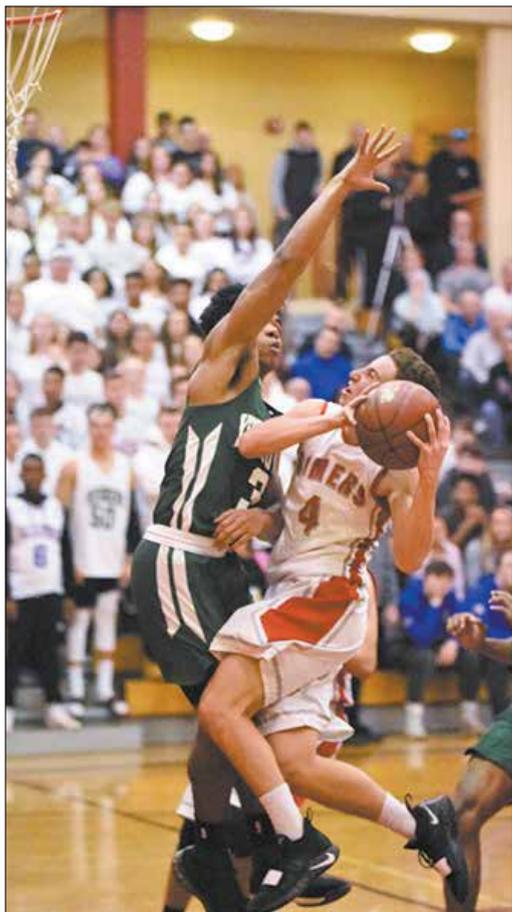
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# Sports

## Boys' Hoops Notebook

continued from previous page

sounds," Cegielski said. "You can't get too cocky in the middle of the game. We were up 15 points on Lakeland and we blew the lead. Putnam Valley is a great team,



Somers tourney MVP Lucas Fecci takes run at Yorktown G Brandon Carter in Tuskers' tourney win over Huskers.

well-coached, but our bench rose to the occasion and helped us to have fun, and when we're having fun we play our best basketball. That's us, that's what we do in practice, that's everything."

**NEWS/NOTES:** **HALDANE's** 62-54 loss to Solomon Schechter is of some concern, given the Blue Devils (4-2) will need to solve Schechter in the Class C post season at some point if they are going to hoist a gold ball. In Haldane's 77-42 win over Children's Village, Blue Devil F Matt Champlin nailed a game-high 19 points while Mame Diba added 11 and Alex Kubik (10) added a third double-digit scorer for Haldane...

All it took was a dicey performance from **CARMEL** in the 38th annual Robert E. Mayclim Tournament at Croton-Harmon to get this prognosticator off the Rams' bandwagon. Class B Dobbs Ferry took the Class AA Rams to task in a 49-23 beatdown last Thursday. Now, it's no secret that we went out on a limb in this space to predict that Carmel's athleticism would be enough to ensure a quick turnaround from a three-win 2018 season, but unless they can get more than the team-high eight points they got from Shane McNerney, the Rams could be destined for another long season.

The Rams did salvage a consy win in the tournament with a 64-34 win over the Montfort Academy when Mike Calcagno hopped on the All-Tournament team with a career-best six 3's. Earlier in the week, the Carmel P.A. announcer was getting hoarse from calling out one name in last Wednesday's 74-63 win over visiting Port Chester. McNerney dropped 20 of his game-high 29 points in the second half while Jarid Garcia (14 points), Mike Calcagno (11 points off of the bench), Christian Hutra (9 points) and Peyton Cayea (9 points, including slam dunk) all chipped in with big contributions...

**CROTON-HARMON** advanced to the finals with a 77-46 win over the Montfort Academy when Jack Connolley had 10 points to lead the Tigers, who could not solve Dobbs in the finals...

Versatile senior G Shion Darby led **PEEKSKILL** (0-4) with 23 points and Antonio Taylor added 20 in the Red Devs' 77-72 loss to Eastchester...

**PUTNAM VALLEY** semi-avenged last year's semifinal shakedown against Blind Brook with a 50-40 victory behind Brescia's game-high 19 points. Brescia was also feeling it the night before when he sank a game-high 23 in a 79-38 rout over defending Section 1 Class B champion Ardsley...

Three weeks in and the season isn't quite a lost cause but finding seven suitable teams for our NWE/Putnam County Super 7 Poll is quite a chore, but here's a crack at it nonetheless...



Yorktown's Crop turned out in force for Somers tourney but saw their Huskers settle for fourth place.

### NWE/Putnam Examiner Super 7 Hoops Poll

**No.1 SOMERS** - Coach DiCintio's Tuskers' commitment to defense is second to none when they put the pedal to the medal and knocked off a slew of locals to win the DePaoli tourney title, which is why Somers will be a tough out



Somers G Declan Talleur charge rack in Tuskers' tourney win over Yorktown last Friday.

for anyone in Class A, which is a loaded lot, including Poughkeepsie (ranked No.2 in NYS among NYSPHSAA teams and No.10 overall in NYS), Tappan Zee (No.14), Byram Hills (No.17), Greeley, Rye, Eastchester, Lourdes, Lakeland and John Jay (in no particular order). Water gun to our head: Poughkeepsie vs. TZ for all the marbles right now.

**No.2 LAKELAND** - Yeah, hard to believe, right? But Coach Fallo's Class A Hornets have a win over Mahopac, which just beat Put Valley, so you do the math. Lakeland is 3-2 without howitzer-hoisting

bomber Jack Kruse, so we can guarantee the best is yet to come from this gang of greenhorns, but we wonder how long they can hang on without the Kruse Missile as the league slate heats up.

**No.3 MAHOPAC** - Stacked with athleticism, Coach Simone's Indians (2-3)



Putnam Valley F TJ Brescia has his shot contested by Mahopac F Rheel Allen in Tigers' 47-43 tourney loss to Indians Friday.

will be the first to admit they need to play a full 32 minutes before we can consider them anything more than an also-ran in Class AA. Still, I count three next-level freaks in Allen (football), Cegielski (football) and Argila (lax), plus a handful of other solid athletes led by Matt McMahon, who were making the most of their current situation while placing a respectable 2nd at Somers tourney last weekend.

continued on page 23



Putnam Valley G Ivan Caposito's shot is challenged by Mahopac's Vin Bastone in Tigers' 47-43 tourney loss to Indians Friday.

## Sports

## Girl's Hoops Notebook

# Panas, Put Valley, Somers, Ossining All Winning, Grinning

By Tony Pinciario

As the WALTER PANAS girls' basketball team prepared for the 2018-19 season, Julia Araujo didn't view being the lone senior as a concern.

"We have a lot of talent on the team and, while we are a predominantly young team, we play with the composure of an older, experienced team," Araujo said. "Although, I wish I had someone my age to share the senior experience with I am more than content with being the only senior."

Araujo and her teammates are off to a flying start under the guidance of veteran Coach Matt Evangelista. Panas handled league foe, Brewster, 52-33, improving to 4-0 going into the final week before the Christmas break.

Even though Araujo was the lone senior returning, Panas did have five experienced underclassmen back -- juniors Katherine Reynoso and Kristen Scrobola and sophomores Kristen Cinquina, Cailean Nolan and Alex Sudol. Panas had to re-acclimate themselves during preseason, but were ready for the season-opener.

"We really didn't come together until the preseason ended," Araujo said. "During preseason, we had a few rough scrimmages. We knew we weren't playing up to our potential and that something had to change. It wasn't until our first game against Nanuet that things started to click."

Panas had a character-building win when it outscored Mahopac, 15-6, to win its tournament title going into the final quarter.

"We talked about winning our own holiday tournament, which would be our first time doing so, and that lit a fire inside

of us," Araujo said. "Before the fourth quarter, we knew we had a good chance to win the game, but we had to work hard for it."

The victory over BREWSTER gave Panas an early league advantage. Panas' defense held the high-scoring Bears and its explosive guard, Maggie DePaoli, to just nine points in the first half. Panas made sure of one thing regarding DePaoli.

"We had to be aware of where DePaoli was at all times, but we didn't faceguard her or put anyone special on her," Araujo said. "Again, we just played team defense and made sure to box out in order to avoid having to defend and watch her for another 30 seconds."

Panas will play Peekskill and Eastchester this week, looking to make its record 6-0.

"During our first four games we've really just played team basketball," Araujo said. "We've hustled to every ball, made the extra pass to get a teammate open, rather than try to score ourselves, and played team defense all while keeping positive attitudes. Our 4-0 start has motivated us to keep working hard in practice and hopefully achieve our goal of going 6-0 into the winter break. Starting out 4-0 has made our early-season jitters go away so we can start playing up to our potential."

Nolan paced the Panthers with 18 points, all in the first half,



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Somers G Taylor Penzo steps up for shot against Mahopac F Caitlyn O'Boyle in Tuskers' 52-32 win over Indians in 23rd annual Michael DePaoli tourney Thursday.



Somers senior G Hannah Angelini goes up for two in 52-32 win over Mahopac.

against Brewster. Cinquina and Scrobola each had 10 points.

"Emma Anderson, Alex Sudol, and Kat Reynoso all played amazing defense and moved the ball beautifully," Evangelista said. "Panas had 17 assists on 19 baskets in the game."

SOMERS completed a 3-0 week by winning its own tournament, the 23rd annual Michael DePaoli Memorial Tournament.

The Tuskers opened the week with a victory Beacon then handled Mahopac, 52-32 in a first-round game of the tournament. Somers brought the championship trophy home with a 52-45 triumph over Ursuline in the final.

"It was probably our biggest regular-season win in my three years at Somers," Coach Marc Hattem said. "Hannah and Dani played like the best backcourt in the section. Pooja Rao hit monster shots and started showing signs of becoming a break-out player. Taylor Penzo and Isabella Rukaj were fantastic on the defensive end. It was a complete team win.

*continued on next page*



Members of the Putnam Valley girls' hoops team pose with championship hardware after beating the host Huskies, 59-31, in Harrison Holiday Classic Saturday.



Somers junior F Pooja Rao goes baselines in Tuskers' 52-32 win over Mahopac.

# Sports

## Girls' Hoops Notebook

continued from previous page



Mahopac sophomore G Mia Klammer tries to beat Somers senior G Hannah Angelini off dribble in Indians' 52-32 loss to Tuskers last Thursday.



Mahopac's Natalie Scanlon is surrounded by three Somers players - Hannah Angelini, Isabella Rukaj and Emily Arena (10) - who took the worst of the triple team.



Mahopac's Caitlyn O'Boyle goes up for block on Somers' Pooja Rao in Indians' tourney loss to eventual champion Tuskers last Thursday.



Mahopac freshman G Melanie DeMeo goes baseline against Somers junior F Pooja Rao in Indians' 52-32 loss to Tuskers.

"And so was Mahopac," he added. "They are big, strong and well-coached. We needed to match that and we came out and played well, as a team. This is what I've been most proud of, so far. We have been selfless. We have been together and we have done things the right way during practice and games."

Somers senior G Hannah Angelini had a game-high 20 points in the title game and earned an All-Tournament selection. Tusker junior G Dani DiCintio limited Ursuline's best player, Jane McCauley, to just four points, and secured an MVP by dropping seven of her 10 points in the pivotal fourth quarter.

**PUTNAM VALLEY** dialed up the defense and came away with three wins, including the Harrison Tournament

championship.

The Tigers beat Dobbs Ferry in a defensive struggle, 26-24. They opened the Harrison Tournament with a 44-30 victory over Class A **HEN HUD** and followed it up with a 59-31 win over Harrison in the final.

PV sophomore G Arianna Stockinger scored a team-leading nine points against Dobbs Ferry.

Junior G Kelli Venezia, who would be named tournament most valuable player, scored a game-high 21 points against Hen Hud and Stockinger had 12.

Eva DeChent, an all-tournament pick, led the Tigers with 16 points in the final and Venezia added 13 points for the surging Tigers.

**OSSINING** improved to 4-1 with victories over Mount Vernon, 87-69, and White Plains. The Pride won without Aubrey Griffin, who is injured. Senior C Kailah Harris stepped forward in her classmate's absence and had two huge games and simply accelerated her milestone 1,000th career point.

Harris scored a career-high 53 points and added 11 rebounds and four assists against Mount Vernon. Jaida Strippoli added 16 points, 11 assists and nine rebounds and Amber McFadden grabbed 12 rebounds to go along with eight points.

Harris poured in 44 points and amassed

17 rebounds against White Plains. Julia Iorio finished with 15 points and Strippoli contributed 10 points, eight rebounds, seven assists and five steals.

Ossining will play in annual Slam Dunk Tournament this week at the Westchester County Center. The Pride play fellow perennial Section 1 power, Albertus Magnus, Thursday, 4:30 p.m.

**BREWSTER** won two of the three last week, improving to 4-2 this season.

After a 54-33 loss to undefeated Panas, Brewster won its tournament with victories over Nanuet, 55-38, and Pelham, 46-35, in the final.

"It was a very disappointing game in terms off we had no energy and did not play a lick of defense," said Brewster Coach Mike Castaldo of the Panas game. "We understand there are games where we may not shoot well, but not playing defense was unacceptable. Panas beat us in every aspect of the game. Their girls wanted it more and played like they had something to prove."

Grace Galgano led the Bears against Nanuet with 15 points and 16 rebounds. Maggie DePaoli scored her 15 points in the second half.

"We got off to a very slow start because the girls were playing tight," Castaldo said. "We did a great job of rebounding

continued on page 23

# Fox Lane Pins Mahopac, Snags Section 1 Dual-Meet Title

By Tony Pinciario

So much for the notion that Fox Lane will be down this year without the graduated Matt Grippi and Johnny Santos, two sectional champs and state placefinishers in 2018. Fox Lane has proven, through the first two weeks of December that the road to a Section 1 team title goes through the Foxes.

One week after winning the Mike Nardone (Ossining) Dual-Meet Tournament, Fox Lane stepped up and won the Section 1 Division I Dual-Meet Championship. And the Foxes did it with a thrilling semifinal win over third-seeded and host North Rockland.

The Foxes won the last three matches, including a Quincy Downes pin in the final bout, to overcome North Rockland, 34-33. Fox Lane, seeded seventh, then beat No. 12 Mahopac, 49-21, in the final. Mahopac reached the final with a 42-36 win over top-seeded Suffern in the other semifinal. It was Mahopac's first trip to the Section 1 Division I Dual-Meet final.

Fox Lane advances to the New York State Division I Dual-Meet Championship, Saturday, Jan. 26, at Onondaga Community College.

"The match was very intense, every point was fought for by both teams and both teams competed really hard," Fox Lane Coach Anthony Rodrigues said.

Senior Amos Rivera and the team were confident Lucas Friedman, R.J. Gierum and Downes would seal the deal.

Friedman registered a major decision and Gierum a decision, making the score, 33-28. In order for Fox Lane to win, Downes had to pin his opponent and the veteran wrestler added the exclamation point.

"The match was very exciting and emotional," Amos Rivera said. "Everyone went out with the intention of winning, but, more importantly, scoring bonus points. It was a repeat of last year's final so we knew North Rockland was determined to wrestle hard and beat us."

Fox Lane followed up its Dual-Meet title with a third-place finish at the Tony Carlucci Dual-Meet Tournament. The young Foxes are currently 14-1 and proving the program's tradition is still on display.

"The goal always remains the same no matter who is in the room," said Rivera, the 2018 Section 1 Division I 120-pound runner-up. "Being number 1 is always what people look at it and although we lost some great wrestlers, I'm very impressed with how everyone on the team is looking to not only make a name for themselves, but continue to come out and wrestle their heart out. Repeating as dual-meet champs feels amazing. It shows our program can still thrive even though we graduated some very good wrestlers.



Brewster's 138-pounder Lewis Grana was honored as Most Outstanding Wrestler at the Carlucci Duals last Saturday.

To us, we consider this a 'coming-out party' in that it shows us that we are better than we think we are and that we can do extremely well this season."

Fox Lane finished 6-1 at the Carlucci with the loss to Springfield (Ma.)

Victor Perleshi and his PLEASANTVILLE teammates were inching closer and closer, annually, to beating Pearl River.

"They always would end up getting the upper hand on us," said the two-time Section 1 Division II champion and senior.

This time, Pleasantville grabbed the upper hand and the result was a 45-39 victory to win the Section 1 Division II Dual-Meet Tournament for the first time in program history. It also allowed Pleasantville to exact some revenge after Pearl River beat the Panthers in the 2017 Division II Dual-Meet final.

Pleasantville advances to the New York State Division II Dual-Meet Championship, Saturday, Jan. 26, at Onondaga Community College.

"We were all working extremely hard leading up to this match to avoid another loss to them," Perleshi said. "This is the first time Pleasantville won the dual-meet and most certainly not the last."

Veteran Pleasantville Coach Bob Bernarducci cited 170-pounder Jon Albaum as providing an early momentum-changer. He also credited 106-pounder Quinn Egan with a pivotal win.

"Jon had a first-period pin after Jack Chesman had opened the match with a pin at 160," Bernarducci said. "We knew our lightweights had to come through and Quinn Egan a huge victory over Matthew Shaw, who had pinned him twice last year."

Christian Perleshi (99 pounds) and Julio Barco (120) provided Pleasantville with a lift.



Fox Lane wrestler Quincy Downes is undoubtedly among the top grapplers in NYS with more than 100 wins to his credit.

Along with winning the dual-meet championship, Pleasantville has wrestled in the Mike Nardone and Tony Carlucci Dual-Meet Tournaments against high-caliber Division I teams. Pleasantville is currently 14-3.

The Panthers went 4-1 at the Nardone and 5-2 at the Carlucci. Two of those combined three losses were to Fox Lane and the other to Section 9 power Monroe-Woodbury.

"Our team has wrestled in two very tough tournaments with many large-school powerhouses such as Fox Lane," Perleshi said. "We've done pretty well at these tournaments and it really gives the guys on the team a taste of what top competition looks like. It's a big step in the dual-meet state championship.

"The team has also been making big jumps by having many guys step up such as Chris May, Eli Cunniffe and Jon Albaum."

MAHOPAC registered a program-first recently when the Indians wrestled in the Section 1 Division I Dual-Meet final. Even though defending champion Fox Lane defeated the Indians, 49-21, it was another positive step in what is becoming an excellent season. Mahopac is currently, 18-4, and NYS Hall of Fame Coach Dennis DiSanto won his 400th match earlier this season.

Mahopac entered the tournament seeded 12th. The Indians defeated Roy C. Ketcham and fifth-seeded New Rochelle on day one of the tournament. Mahopac dispatched Mamaroneck then beat top-seeded Suffern in a semifinal, 42-36.

Pins were registered by Londrim Hasanmarah (220 pounds), Joe Harney (285), Angelo Centrone (106), Aidan Mulddon (113), Andi Berisha (132), Tyler Roa (145) and Charlie Nicosia (160).

"In our quarterfinal match against Mamaroneck I didn't feel we were wrestling our best match and it came down to our

160 pounder, Charlie Nicosia," DiSanto said. "Charlie ignited the crowd and the team with a 6-2 decision which brought us to victory. That pumped the team up so much that the momentum followed us into the semi-final match against Suffern.

"In the semis, we showed up to wrestle and every wrestler stepped up, but once again Charlie's match, at 160, clinched it for us and sent us to the finals for the first time ever."

DiSanto is quick to credit his wrestlers, considering many of them did not start wrestling until high school.

"In my 35 years of coaching, making the finals was, without a doubt, one of the highlights," DiSanto said. "Mahopac has not had a modified program for nine years now and of my 15 starters, nine of them didn't start wrestling until ninth grade. Considering this, it's amazing that we were able to make it this far. The tournament starts with 36 teams and there are only a few that don't have a modified program. The wrestlers I have stuck together through some very trying times and went from never having stepped on a mat to the Section 1 dual-meet finals in four years. It's an incredible accomplishment."



Mahopac freshman 106-pounder Angelo Centrone went 5-0 at the Yorktown tournament and continues to make a name for himself.

## Somers Upends Yorktown, Mahopac for DePaoli Tourney Title

continued from page 19



Carmel's Mike Calcagno earned All-Tournament honors in the Robert E. Mayclim Tournament after dropping six 3's in consy win.

**No.4 PUTNAM VALLEY** – We can be frank, collectively, with this group on account of our relationships with Coach McDonnell's state-ranked (No.17) Tigers (4-2), so here's what I'm gonna say: When shortcomings are glaringly obvious, it's time to restructure via the internal God-given virtues; heart, soul, and, most of all, 'efforting'! Loose ball is my ball, all-out 'basketbrawl'... without that mentality, the overall deficiencies of this unit and its subsequent inability to adapt -- from a coaching perspective, too -- will cripple this two-year championship dream and deny the title-starved hopes of the Valley. Ramp it up defensively like Somers does on another level, because that's your best hope. Exploit pick-and-roll between Brescia and Shillingford all day, every day. And understand that you are the hunted and won't survive without a killer instinct



Putnam Valley F Darnel Shillingford soars for two points, splitting Mahopac's Drew Riolo and Matt McMahon in Tigers' 47-43 tourney loss to Indians Friday.

(done lecturing!). P.S. State-ranked (No.8) Briarcliff lives rent-free in your heads, evict them.

**No.5 CROTON** – Coach Martucci's club (4-1 overall) placed 2nd to Dobbs Ferry in the Tigers' 38th annual Mayclim tournament, which also included a disappointing Class AA Carmel club that got clobbered, 47-25, by Dobbs in the opening round. Senior F Sean Reynolds earned an All-Tourney nod for the Tigers.

**No.6 YORKTOWN** – Coach Pavella's Huskers (1-3) had a good Somers club on the ropes through two-plus quarters before Yorktown's seemingly limited offense fell victim to the Tuskers' unrelenting defensive pressure. Weaver, Sgobbo and company will have to grind out wins this season.

**No.7 CARMEL** – We'll let your mommas and poppas placate you at home, but here -- in this space -- we'll tell Coach Brennan's Rams straight up how it is: We can live with the 2-3 start (barely) but the paltry scoring effort in a 49-23 loss to a solid Class B Dobbs Ferry outfit is flat-out unacceptable for a team that fancied itself a League I-A title contender, and still does. #FigureItOut! You're better than this.

## Panas, Put Valley, Somers, Ossining All Winning, Grinning

continued from page 21

and getting good looks, but we could not finish in the first half."

Castaldo pointed out that his team played excellent for the full 32 minutes and executed the game plan, perfectly.

"We limited Pelham to eight points in the first half by getting their best player, Sam Volpe, in foul trouble." Castaldo said. "Grace (Galgano) was huge defensively, all game, blocking shots and grabbing boards.

"Sophomore Carly DeLanoy had her best game of her career. She handled the press well, hit her shots and kept her composure all night.

DePaoli, the tournament MVP, had a team-leading 14 points. Galgano, an All-Tournament selection, finished with six points, eight rebounds and four blocks. DeLanoy added eight points, four rebounds and three steals.

"Maggie did a great job of controlling the offense, hitting big shots and knocking down free throws late in the game," Castaldo said. "This was a huge win against a top team in Class A. I couldn't be prouder of this group."

**YORKTOWN** bounced Poughkeepsie, 65-46, behind a game-high 20 points from Amber Boden, including five 3-pointers. Kat Severino added 17 points as the Cornhuskers improved to 4-0.

"We scored a lot of points off turnovers," Yorktown Coach Brian Mundy said. "We did a good job on the press. It was nice to see all 13 girls make contributions in the win."

**HEN HUD** went 1-1 in the Harrison Tournament, dropping a 44-30 verdict to

eventual champion, Putnam Valley, in the first round. The Sailors rebounded to beat Valhalla, 53-30, in the consolation game.

Sailor F/C Caitlin Weimar finished with a game-best 25 points and 15 rebounds against Putnam Valley. Kira Varada had six steals, five rebounds and two assists.

The Sailors, now 2-2 this season, trailed by six at halftime, but Putnam Valley held Hen Hud to four points in the third quarter.

Weimar led the Sailors against the Vikings with 20 points and 20 rebounds. She also had four steals. Thalia Oliveira finished with nine points, Aniyah Thomas had eight points and Alex Figueroa collected a team-high five steals.

Hen Hud led Valhalla by eight at the break, then outscored the Vikings, 20-6, in the third quarter.

"We had too many turnovers, for us, as a team, against Putnam Valley and we still have to find some scoring other than Caitlin," Hen Hud Coach Ken Sherman said. "Caitlin had a monster game against Valhalla, but we had a much better balance of scoring. Going forward, we need to play better against better teams. We have a tough week coming up with John Jay-Cross River, Hastings and Yonkers."

**MAHOPAC** lost to Somers, 52-32, and then a tough game with Kennedy Catholic, 52-48.

"We got to within six points late in the third quarter, but we got looks and couldn't buy a basket," said Mahopac Coach Chuck Scozzafava of the Somers' game. "Kennedy was a back-and-forth game. We had opportunities late, but couldn't hit the big shot. Give Kennedy

credit, they made the shots they had to late in the game. We played a good game and I feel that our overall play is getting better."

All-Tourney choice Caitlyn O'Boyle paced Mahopac with 19 points against Kennedy and Mia Klammer led the Indians with 11 points against Somers.

### Putnam Hoops Challenge

#### 12th Annual





**WHO:**  
Walter Panas vs. Mahopac (2:00 p.m.)  
North Salem vs. Haldane (4:00 p.m.)  
Somers vs. Carmel (6:00 p.m.)

**WHAT:**  
3 Varsity Boys' Basketball Games, pitting Putnam vs. Northern Westchester

**WHY:**  
Because IAABO Board 161 gives back; a scholarship is awarded to a Putnam County varsity boys' basketball player after each game, whose team participated in the Putnam Challenge, and exhibited hard work, fair play, cohesiveness, team spirit and sportsmanship. Scholarships are given to worthy student athletes from all participating teams.

**WHERE:**  
Carmel High School

**WHEN:**  
Saturday, January 5

**Examiner** MEDIA  
is the proud sponsor of the Putnam Hoops Challenge!

# McMahon Eater!

## Mahopac Powers Past Put Valley, Settles for 2nd at Somers Tourney

Mahopac junior G Matt McMahon looks like he's about to be swallowed whole by Putnam Valley senior F TJ Brescia, but it was McMahon's Indians, who despite this blocked shot, grazed on fresh Tiger meat in Mahopac's 47-43 win in the opening round of the 23rd annual Mike DePaoli Memorial Basketball Tournament at Somers High School last Friday night when McMahon dropped two clutch free throws in the waning seconds. Mahopac would fall to the host Tuskers, 43-39, in Saturday's title tilt but looked like a much-improved outfit from a week ago... see Boys' Hoops Notebook

