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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

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PUTNAM PULVERIZED

County Looks to Recover From Powerful Storms

By David Propper

Living in Putnam County most of his life, Putnam Valley Supervisor Sam Oliverio believes without question the winter storms that have battered the county over the last week have caused the most destruction he's ever witnessed.

"Horrendous," Oliverio said emphatically. "I don't know any other word for it."

Starting on March 2 when Winter Storm Riley hit and then continuing last Wednesday when another nasty storm came barreling in, thousands of residents across the county faced downed trees and electrical wires and days without power that left New York State Electric and Gas Corporation (NYSEG) scrambling to

restore power. The first storm also had tragic consequences when a downed tree killed 11-year-old Carmelo Singleton, of Putnam Valley, inside his home.

Heavy snow also covered the region both times, making the recovery harder.

While the county seems to be in the clear (though another nor'easter was predicted Tuesday, March 13) the aftershocks are still being felt.

County Executive MaryEllen Odell called the back-to-back winter storms a "one-two punch." The first storm led to massive emergencies throughout the county with the 911 center in Carmel facing a high volume of calls, Odell said. In some towns in the county, close to 90

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A large tree blocks a street in Mohegan Lake.

COURTESY OF NICK BARREIRA OF SHRUB OAK'S LANDSCAPING BY NICK



One of the many trees that fell over during one of the two winter storms in Putnam County. NYS Assemblyman Kevin Byrne took this photo in Mahopac outside his home.



ANNA YOUNG PHOTO

At least seven trucks from Asplundh Tree Expert going to work in the storm during the second nor'easter on March 7.

Kent Supervisor Enters County Executive Race

By David Propper

With Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell up for reelection this year, Democrat and Kent Supervisor Maureen Fleming confirmed she plans on running against the Republican office holder in what will surely be the marquee race in Putnam in 2018.

Fleming announced her intention to run for the top seat in the county against Odell last week in a press release sent out by the Putnam Democratic Committee. Arguing she's supported by "Democrats, Republicans, and people of every political stripe," Fleming touted herself as a "fiscal conservative and strong collaborative leader."

In the press release announcing Fleming's run, it pointed out Fleming hasn't increased taxes in the four years she's been Kent supervisor and has been able to improve town services while increasing the town's general fund balance.

"I've shown that when we work hard together, we get the job done. I want to bring that kind of cooperation and respect back to County government," Fleming stated. "Every day, I am mindful that our government belongs to the citizens, not me--down to every pencil and piece of paper in Town Hall. The money government spends is citizens' money. I'm accountable to them--I am responsible, I

am responsive, and I deliver."

Fleming jumpstarted her political and public service career when she pulled off an upset victory over former Kent supervisor and Republican Kathy Doherty in 2013. Since then, she's earned reelection twice, once against a challenger that was only on lesser political lines and then she beat Republican and former Kent councilwoman Patricia Madigan last year. She's been endorsed by the Conservative Party twice in her runs for supervisor.

Democratic Committee chairman Jim Borkowski said, according to the press release, Fleming would return the county executive's office to the proper roles of government. Democrats are fresh

off a countywide win after clinching the sheriff's seat.

"She is clear, intelligent, and fiscally responsible," Borkowski said of Fleming. "She has performed exceptionally as Town of Kent Supervisor."

In a press release issued the day after Fleming announced, Odell said she welcomed Fleming into the race and looked forward to a "substantive campaign on the issues." Odell said she was proud of her record as county executive, highlighting key investments made at the Putnam County Golf Course and Tilly Foster Farm. Odell noted her

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Mahopac Community Comes out for Community Cares

About 100 people showed their support to the nonprofit Community Cares on Tuesday, Feb. 20, by attending the Drink for Pink event held at Patrick's Pub and Grill in Mahopac.

"We are fortunate to have the continued love and support of the Mahopac community," said Community Cares Founder and President Amy Sayegh. "Your donations make it possible for us to provide services at no cost to local families, with school-aged children, that are going through medical crisis."

The mission of Community Cares is to help families manage normal daily routines while a parent is dealing with cancer or another medical diagnosis. It provides families with free meals, laundry service, and house cleaning as well as a network of support to moms and dads faced with major medical illnesses while trying to raise children. Community Cares serves families in Putnam County, Northern Westchester and Southern Dutchess.

Raffle prizes were donated by local businesses such as Play Connection, Sarah's House of Health and Krav Maga of Mahopac, Tilly's Table and Trustco Bank. Community Cares is a registered 501(c)3 organization. For more information about Community Cares visit communitycares.org or call 845-621-CARE (2273).



PROVIDED PHOTO

Teachers from Austin Road Elementary School attended the Drink for Pink event at Patrick's Pub and Grill in Mahopac to support.

Kent Supervisor Enters County Executive Race

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office is pursuing sewer in both Mahopac along Route 6 and in Brewster near Danbury, Ct.

The county tax bill is also the lowest in the entire state, Odell noted, and the county's been able to reduce long term debt and get rid of all short term debt

during her years in office.

Odell, who was grand marshal of the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Mahopac this year, has handled her Democratic opponents for the county executive's office with relative ease during her previous two runs as the Republican nominated candidate. She topped the late

Alan Schneider in 2011 and then she beat former county legislator (and current Putnam Valley Supervisor) Sam Oliverio in 2014.

Both Fleming and Odell avoided sharp and direct criticism of each other with campaign season in the nascent stages. The Democrat and Republican seemingly

have had a decent relationship since Fleming took office in Kent.

"There is still much more work to be done, but I'm proud to say that Putnam County is heading in the right direction and I'm more excited than ever for our future," Odell said.



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Could You Have A Kidney Stone?

Learn about symptoms, treatment and prevention...

Q: What are the symptoms of a kidney stone?

A: You might feel waves of severe pain in your back or side below the ribs. Pain might spread to your groin and lower abdomen. Nausea, vomiting and blood in the urine are possible. If you experience extreme pain, vomiting, or fever, go to an urgent care facility, or your hospital ER. Otherwise, have your symptoms evaluated by your primary care physician.

Q: What actually is a kidney stone?

A: A stone is rock-like material formed within the kidney. Most stones have a calcium component, and are caused by inadequate fluid intake, an overabundance of calories, and excessive salt intake. Stones with a uric acid component are caused by an excessive meat intake. When a stone passes out of the kidney and enters the ureter, the tube becomes blocked, urine backs up, the kidney swells and pain results.

Q: What are my treatment options?

A: A small stone may "pass" from your body naturally. If necessary, your physician can provide medication for pain and nausea and allow natural passage of the stone. Uric acid stones can sometimes be dissolved

with medication. A large stone blocking a kidney, or a stone associated with an infection, can be life-threatening and must be treated urgently. For stones that cannot pass on their own, a urologist may advise one of three outpatient procedures, depending on the size and location of the stone.

- (a) External shock waves to shatter the stone, turning it to smaller stones that can then pass on their own.
- (b) Inserting a small telescope to laser the stone into tiny fragments.
- (c) If the stone is very large, a telescope is passed directly into the kidney through ones back to fragment and remove the stone.

Q: Can I help prevent kidney stones from forming?

A: Yes, however, once a kidney stone is removed, if a person does not change his or her diet or fluid intake, there's a 70 percent chance another will form. Help prevent calcium stones by remaining well-hydrated. Avoid consuming large amounts of dark leafy vegetables, peanuts, Vitamin C tablets and chocolate. To avoid forming a uric acid-type stone, limit meat, including red meat, chicken or fish.

Congressman Maloney Holds Gun Violence Forum in Brewster

By Neal Rentz

The nationwide debate over gun violence came to Brewster on March 10 at a forum hosted by Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney.

Gun violence has become a hot topic of debate since the Feb. 14 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida.

One day before the Brewster event Florida Gov. Rick Scott signed legislation which includes measures to tighten gun control laws and permits some teachers to be armed. Maloney said he supported the Florida legislation.

Maloney supports banning assault weapons, raising the gun purchasing age, improving the National Instant Background Check System, implementing universal background checks and closing the gun show loophole for gun purchases, as well as repealing the Dickey Amendment, which he said Saturday has prevented research on gun violence from being done by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Dozens of residents in the region attended the forum this weekend at Sheet Metal Workers' Union 38 Craft Training Building. Various opinions on what should be done to curtail gun violence were expressed during the forum.

Peter Gross said his son was shot in the head that resulted in a severe brain



ANNA YOUNG PHOTOS
Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney held a Community Forum on Gun Violence on March 10 in Brewster.

injury by "a terrorist who got a hold of a semiautomatic in Florida" over 20 years ago. He demanded that Congress approve gun control measures. Over the past several years measures such as the federal assault weapons ban have been overturned. "We have gone backwards," he said. Gun control does not mean the violation of the Second Amendment, he said. "Nobody's proposing taking away guns from everybody," he said. Maloney said he agreed that there needed to be gun safety measures, but he added that to get gun legislation approved in Congress is "more than being passionate."

Gun control advocates try to convince

opponents "how wrong they are," Maloney said. "It's not working." Representing a congressional district that mostly supported President Donald Trump in 2016, Maloney said, "It's my responsibility to represent everybody and listen to everybody."

Members of Congress need to find common

ground on gun safety issues, Maloney said. This year's federal and state elections are also an opportunity to elect more advocates for gun safety measures, he said.

"The status quo is not working," Maloney said. Many other measures also need to be taken to reduce gun violence including additional school security and mental health assistance including preservation of health insurance. Maloney said he and his brothers shot .22 long rifles growing up.

Maloney said many of the gun measures that he support would also be agreed

upon by many Congressional Republicans but the legislation is not coming to the floor of the House of Representatives because a small group of Republicans are preventing consideration of the proposed laws and the influence of the National Rifle Association, Maloney said.

Daphne Olson said guns were not the cause of school shootings. Unlike the 1950's, too many students are misdiagnosed with conditions such as Attention Deficit Disorders and are given drugs. Maloney said he would read her research, but added later that many students do have mental disorders that require mediation.

Ed Sion, who was in law enforcement in the Bronx for 30 years, said banning AR-15 weapons would lead to the banning of other guns. "It's not going to stop there," he said. Many youths do not respect others and have no problem shooting someone. "They have no respect for each other. They have no respect for their parents," he said. Poverty and broken homes can lead youths to commit violent acts, he said.

A parent of three children said they regularly have emergency preparedness drills in school and said more must be done to protect children in schools from potential violence.

South Salem resident Robert Kesten, who has announced he is challenging state Sen. Terrence Murphy (R-Yorktown) in this year's election, said he did not want to turn schools and churches into prisons. "There are root causes, economics, drugs, family break ups" that lead individuals to commit violent acts, he said. No level of government is exploring how to prevent violence from taking place, he said.

Leslie Green asked Maloney what the public could do to fight gun violence as New Yorkers. Maloney said, "All of you can stop sending people to Congress who don't do anything, when they should do things."

Green said on March 24 as part of the national "March for Our Lives" gun control rallies, Hudson Valley residents will be marching across the Walkway over the Hudson in Dutchess County beginning at 11 a.m.



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County Looks to Recover From Powerful Storms

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percent of customers were in the dark without power, Odell noted.

She commended first responders, professional and volunteer, other county departments like senior resources, and state agencies for their assistance in cleaning up and helping residents in need after the storms were over.

"We kept moving," Odell said of county and state personnel.

She said the funding necessary to recover from the storms might even top the money spent after Hurricane Sandy, which caused considerable damage.

Carmel Supervisor Kenny Schmitt was unloading bottles of water and dry ice last Thursday, as 6,000 customers in the town still had no power. He called the entire ordeal "bedlam."

"Sheer bedlam and craziness going on," Schmitt said.

A week after Winter Storm Riley, which hit on March 2, NYSEG was close to full restoration in Carmel, but when another brutal winter storm slammed the region last Wednesday, many homes again lost power, Schmitt said.

Schmitt said lines crew working to get power back on came as far as Quebec, Canada. Personally, Schmitt said he's been outside more this past week than his office and town hall was even closed



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO
National Guard members were called in to help the county's recovery efforts.

a few days because it didn't have power. Two senior citizens that he knows of were trapped in their homes because of down wires so workers had to drive over there to deliver food and water.

Schmitt said while he thought the first winter storm was going to be bad, he did not think it would cause as much damage as it did. He said he thinks Winter Storm Riley caused more damage than Hurricane Sandy.



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO
Carmel Supervisor Kenny Schmitt hands out water last week at town hall to residents that don't have power.

"The magnitude of the event was much more serious," Schmitt said.

Many residents without power went to warming centers located throughout the county waiting for their power to return. They charged phones and computers there or hung out to stay warm and heat up some food.

One Carmel resident, Catherine, sat inside the Knights of Columbus headquarters Thursday watching

television coverage about the storm. She said many residents couldn't even get out of their homes to drive to warming stations.

Catherine, who is in her 80s, said she never thought the two storms would be as bad as they were. Luckily, she has a gas oven so she can still cook and has even slept in the frigid temperatures at night.

continued on next page

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Maryellen Odell
Putnam County Executive

Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell
with her son David and daughter Hope

Ad paid for by the Committee to Elect MaryEllen Odell



County Looks to Recover From Powerful Storms

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"The sleeping part isn't that bad because you do get comfortable under the covers," Catherine, who declined to give her last name, said.

The 50-year resident said she couldn't recall a storm that inflicted this much damage in the town. The only other storm that resulted in extended outages was Hurricane Sandy in 2012, Catherine said.

NYSEG's performance has been scrutinized at the state level with New York State Senators Terrence Murphy and Sue Serino calling for a hearing to investigate the storm preparedness and response by local utility companies.

Murphy, in a statement, said even before the subpar response to the latest storms, there were complaints about multiple blackouts and sudden winter

price hikes.

"Residents and our partners in government are beyond frustrated with the poor performance and deserve answers as to what steps were taken in preparation and what needs to be done in the future," Murphy said.

Serino, in a statement, said while local municipalities and the county worked tirelessly to clean up from the storm's aftermath, there was "an absolute disconnect" when it came to the utility company's role.

"Any delay in recovery is costing our municipalities significantly and the people of the Hudson Valley deserve answers," Serino said.

After the first storm, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo issued a State of Emergency for the counties in the region, including Putnam last week.

National Guard members were deployed to the region.

Cuomo also has called for an investigation into utilities and stressed customers are entitled to better service.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer went as far as to call on the heads of Consolidated Energy and NYSEG to resign over the woeful winter response.

In a press release issued March 10, NYSEG announced it restored power to nearly all of the 203,000 customers that were affected by the two winter storms that hit the region the last week. There were more than 3,000 downed wires and hundreds of broken poles in Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, and Sullivan counties, according to NYSEG.

"I want to thank our customers for their patience and understanding as our hard working men and women remained



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

A pole is blown over in Mahopac along Route 6 during one of the two heavy winter storms.

focused day and night to restore power..." said Carl A. Taylor, NYSEG President and CEO. "The safety and well-being of our customers as well as our employees will always be one of the company's core principles."

In Light of Powerful Storms, Caring for Damaged Trees

The howling winds and heavy snows of Winter Storm Riley broke branches and uprooted trees. Now that professional crews have cleared debris from utility lines, you may need to assess the damage to your landscape. How do you know which trees you can save, which you can remove, and when to call a professional?

If utility lines are involved, leave it to the professionals: utility crews and arborists certified to work on or around power lines have the training and equipment to handle these life-threatening situations.

You'll also want to contact a professional for large trees, limbs, or trunks that are hanging or leaning on another tree or structure, or split branches or trunks. How big is too big? A good rule of thumb is that if the tree requires a ladder or climbing equipment to prune, leave it to a professional. If you can prune it with both feet on the ground, you are probably safe.

If structural damage or damage to automobiles has occurred, talk to your insurance company. They may cover some of the removal.

If the tree is small enough to reach from the ground with a saw or pole pruner, the

first thing to do is assess the damage. If you remove the badly damaged branches, will your tree still serve its purpose in your landscape? Sometimes even badly misshapen trees can still provide shade or spring blooms. If there is enough left to work with, consider these steps. Re-prune rough and shredded branch wounds as soon as safely possible after damage: just like us, clean cuts heal faster. Do not leave branch stubs or stumps. Resist the temptation to use a wound sealant: they are no longer recommended as they may actually slow the healing of wounds. In spring, when the tree leafs out, inspect again for dead branches. Then prune as you normally would, removing dead, rubbing and crossing branches, and lastly pruning for shape.

Is your tree leaning over with half of its roots out of the ground? Though tempting, it is hard to save a partially uprooted tree. Resettling and guying a leaning tree works best with small trees (like fruit or flowering trees) and generally required heavy equipment. As soon as safely possible, cover the exposed roots with wet burlap sacks or wet mulch

to prevent them from drying. When weather conditions allow, dig a hole on the uprooted side of the tree large enough to accommodate all of the exposed roots. Pad the bark and use heavy equipment to lift the tree slowly back into position. After resettling the tree with soil, use padded guywires and stakes to stabilize the trunk. Mulch well and water throughout the growing season. In some cases, you may

need to leave the supports indefinitely, checking each year to be sure they do not chafe or "choke" the tree.

For more information on winter weather safety and salvaging storm damaged trees, visit Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County at putnam.cce.cornell.edu or call the Horticulture Hotline and Diagnostic Lab 9 a.m. to noon weekdays (845) 278-6738.



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Republican Nominated to Run in 18th District Against Maloney

By David Propper

A Republican challenger has been picked to take on Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney in this year's 18th district race.

Orange County Legislator James O'Donnell has emerged as the nominated Republican to face Maloney, a Democrat, this fall. O'Donnell unanimously earned the GOP endorsement from the four Republican committees that are part of the 18th district, including Putnam's, last month. O'Donnell went into the convention against two other Republicans hopefuls, Sakima Brown of Dutchess County and Jared Buchanan of Putnam Valley, but both took their names out of contention to clear the path for O'Donnell.

"We've got a united front to win back the 18th congressional district seat for a Republican and keep the Republican representatives in the majority," O'Donnell said in an interview. "It's very important to build on the successful 13 months of the Trump administration."

O'Donnell has an extensive background in law enforcement. He is a retired New York State police lieutenant colonel and was with the police agency for more than 20 years. He's also a former chief of the Metro Transportation Authority police, working in that position for five years.

As for governmental experience,



PROVIDED PHOTO

Orange County Legislator James O'Donnell will face Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney in November.

O'Donnell currently serves in the Orange County Legislature and before that he was the Orange deputy county executive. He said part of his duties, as deputy county executive, was to oversee economic development.

During a brief interview, O'Donnell was complimentary of President Trump, citing his tax plan that passed late last year as positive for the country. He noted Maloney voted against that tax plan. He also mentioned his experience in law enforcement that could help improve school safety.

'It's very important to build on the successful 13 months of the Trump administration.'—
candidate for
Congress James
O'Donnell

Despite predictions from pundits that Democrats could win back the House of Representatives this fall in a "blue wave," O'Donnell is undeterred.

He said, "the bigger the turnout, the better" because he plans on meeting as many voters as possible throughout the district. He noted many people are "fed up" with Congress.

"I have a pathway to victory," he said. "I'm going to follow it."

The district covers all of Putnam and Orange counties and parts of Dutchess and Westchester counties.

In 2016, Maloney easily topped Republican challenger Phil Oliva, of Somers. He was one of a dozen Democrats that won in congressional seats that were also won by Trump. He originally came onto the scene when he beat former congresswoman Nan Hayworth in 2012 and then he defeated her again in 2014 to retain his seat.

Maloney announced in January he has a campaign war chest of more than \$3 million. The Cold Spring resident doesn't appear to have to worry about a Democratic primary at this point.

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County Leg. Approves Revision to County Charter

By David Propper

The requirements to become the commissioner of planning, development, and public transportation in Putnam County were officially changed last week when the county Legislature voted through an amendment to the county charter.

In an 8-1 vote last week, legislators approved a change that would allow a candidate with a law degree instead of a person with at least eight years of experience in regional, state or local

Legislator Amy Sayegh said she supported the charter change because the original charter wording does not call for a degree or advanced degree in planning.

"The sticking point for people who oppose the change was not having a degree in planning. I felt adding the flexibility of a law degree would fit well as we do have planners on staff," Sayegh stated. "The Commissioner of Planning serves at the pleasure of the County Executive and it is important to have someone well qualified and able to fulfill the needs of the County. I feel adding

the qualification of a law degree is well founded and serves the county's best interest."

Scuccimarra, the sole voice of dissent on this vote, said her nay vote had nothing to do with Fusco's abilities, but rather changing the actual charter. She believes a "more open and transparent process" was necessary before the charter was amended, especially with a charter review coming up in 2020.

"The charter acts as our constitution and is up for review every ten years, in this case 2020," Scuccimarra said. "When

reviewed, a non-partisan citizen group will do fact finding, researching, and will then bring that information back to the legislature so we can then make an informed decision together."

County Executive MaryEllen Odell confirmed she would appoint Fusco to the commissioner position, pending approval from the legislature.

Odell said Fusco started out in the law department, but when the county began to pursue more grants, it was decided her legal expertise was needed in the planning department.



Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra was the only legislator to vote against the charter change last week.

planning to assume the commissioner's job, which is an appointed position. Now that the charter has been revised, deputy commissioner Sandra Fusco has the green light to become the head of the department she's essentially been running the last two years.

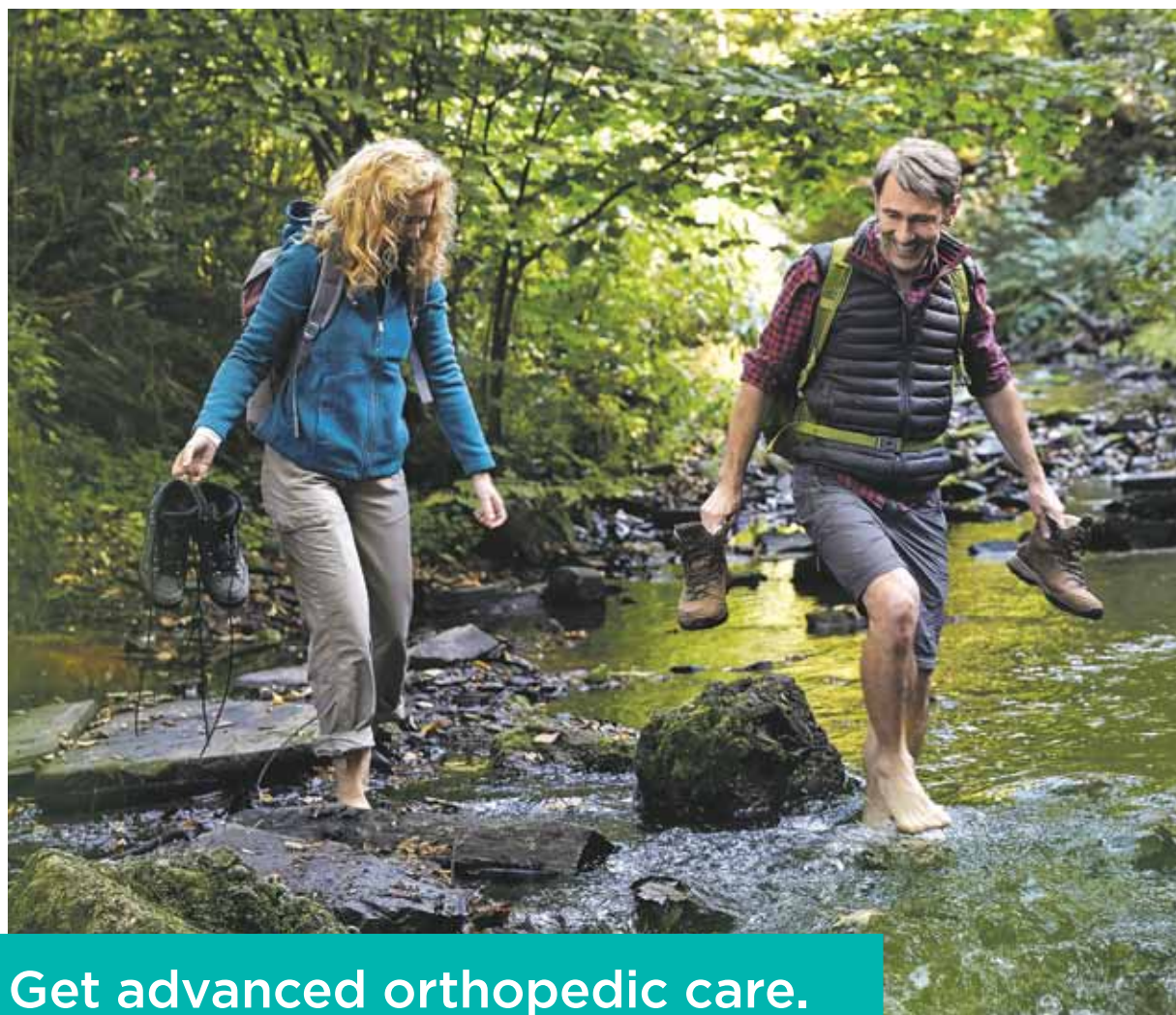
The sole no vote was Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra, who spoke passionately against the charter change at a rules committee meeting last month.

The county almost passed a similar charter change two years ago, but it failed because a supermajority of lawmakers didn't support it.

Legislature Chairman Joe Castellano, in a statement to The Putnam Examiner, said he believes having a person with a law degree would be a benefit to the department and county.

"Having an attorney who is able to negotiate contracts and apply for grant money would be in the best interest of the taxpayers of Putnam County," Castellano said.

Deputy Chairwoman Toni Addonizio, who voted against the charter change in 2016, said she supported it this time because she didn't realize back then the charter never required the commissioner to have a planning degree. Additionally, she commended Fusco for the job she's done in the department the last two years and noted the county executive makes this appointment.



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Principal Shakeup at Lakeland Copper Beech Middle School

By Rick Pezzullo

The principal at Lakeland Copper Beech Middle School has been replaced, but district officials are remaining tight-lipped about the circumstances surrounding his ouster.

In a statement on the district's website, which was posted Friday, no mention is made of what happened to Principal Robert Bergmann, who served in that role for the last four years. Superintendent of Schools Dr. George Stone also declined to comment on Bergmann's departure when reached by email Friday.

However, a district source told Examiner Media alleged inappropriate behavior with another district employee led to Bergmann's exit from the district, where he worked since 2004. Bergmann previously served as assistant principal at Van Cortlandtville Elementary School and as a teacher in the district.

On March 1, the Board of Education appointed Assistant Principal Frank Ruolo as Acting Principal at Copper Beech, while Samantha Shulman was named to fill Ruolo's shoes as assistant principal.

"The administrative team at the middle school will be working with central office administrators to ensure continuity and limit disruption to the learning environment at the middle



Former Lakeland Copper Beech Middle School principal Robert Bergmann.

school. Thank you for your continued support," the district stated on its website.

When asked if Bergmann, who earned an annual salary of \$156,704, was terminated or resigned, Stone stated in an email that "will only be answered when there is personnel action taken and posted publicly. Hopefully sometime in the very near future."

Bergmann is also the lead singer in the



Lakeland Superintendent of Schools Dr. George Stone

band Unfunded Mandate, comprised of district employees and sponsored by the Lakeland Education Foundation that has been in existence for about the last four years.

Other members of the band include Stone, who is the drummer, Lakeland High School Principal Chris Cummings, who plays lead guitar, Chris Ruggiero, director of math, who is on keyboards, and Rick Russo, music teacher at Copper

Beech, and Charlie Rhyner, music teacher at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School, who play guitar.

Stone said Unfunded Mandate had no comment on whether Bergmann would continue with the band.

Meanwhile, Stone said "there will be no repercussions for student participation" at either Lakeland or Walter Panas high schools during National Walkout Day on March 14.

"Student leaders at this both high schools have indicated a desire to schedule a short event that day. They are still working with principals on the plans that have not yet been finalized. Administration received and considered their request and did agree to assist them in making these safe, educational and meaningful events," Stone stated.

Women's March Youth EMPOWER has called for students, teachers, school administrators, parents and allies to take part in a #NationalSchoolWalkout for 17 minutes at 10 a.m. across every time zone on Wednesday, March 14 to protest Congress' inaction to do more than tweet thoughts and prayers in response to the gun violence plaguing the schools and neighborhoods, and to pay respect for the 17 students and faculty gunned down on Valentine's Day in a high school in Florida.

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EXAMINER

**Business
of the Week**

Mahopac Flower Shop Mahopac

By David Propper

From a young age, Michael Bothe has always had a passion for floral design and the flower business.

He's the owner of Mahopac Flower Shop along Route 6, which has become a household name in the community. Whether you need flowers for Valentine's Day or prom night, Bothe's flower shop, which he owns with his partner Bill Fitzgerald, has become a staple in Mahopac.

Bothe opened more than 28 years ago with his store outliving several other flower shops that were in the area around the same time. His motto that the customer is always right proved to be simple yet effective words to live by. Because the business is family oriented, patrons of the store can expect to be more than just another customer.

"We've always taken good care of everybody and just the customer is always right," Bothe said. "That's the bottom line."

The shop offers arrangements for everything, including weddings, funerals, holidays and different occasions. Bothe



Owner Michael Bothe with Heather Dominguez inside Mahopac Flower Shop.

DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

has been doing that work in Mahopac since the George H.W. Bush presidential days.

And Bothe has always been in the flower

business. His family, which was situated in the Michigan when he was growing up, owned a florist shop. He learned about what it took to run a good florist business from both his mother and uncle.

Bothe also took classes at a trade school to hone his craft. He worked in White Plains for many years before coming up

to Mahopac.

"It's just something you can do," he said. "And enjoy it."

He now lives in Carmel and has been involved in the community, donating to different causes in town.

The biggest challenge for the flower shop is hiring people that are competent in floral design and have the passion to work through the daily grind. Bothe said floral design requires a lot of work. It's more than just playing with flowers, he noted.

Bothe has always been confident throughout his tenure in Mahopac that his store sells a good product, which is why patrons keep coming back. A female customer who was pregnant when he first opened recently came back because she needed him to handle a flower arrangement for her daughter's wedding, who was the baby in the womb when he first opened.

His business will turn 29-years-old in May.

"We've always stuck to our guns and if anything's ever wrong, we fix it," Bothe said.

Mahopac Flower Shop is located at 603 Route 6 in Mahopac. Its phone number is 845-628-2949.



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

The quaint store along Route 6 has provided flowers to thousands of customers in the area.



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Letters to the Editor

Kesten is the Authentic Democrat Running in the 40th Senate District

Having read in your paper about Robert Spolzino considering a run for the 40th state Senate District seat as a Democrat, one can only ask why?

The longstanding declared candidate for state Senate to date is the highly qualified Robert Kesten, a progressive Democrat who has been working tirelessly and effectively since last fall. He has been speaking at multiple town halls, answering questions about local concerns, engaging at train stations and Westchester events, demonstrating in defense of people wronged by the prevailing system, clearly identifying problems of concern and offering pragmatic solutions.

Most importantly, Kesten has been

waging an aggressive and values-oriented campaign against the incumbent, Republican state Sen. Terrence Murphy, documenting the senator's inaction or opposition to progressive legislation and his reliance on opportunistic photo-ops at many events he had little or no hand in initiating.

Spolzino, by contrast, would be entering this race with a long history as a Republican, far exceeding his more recent registration as a Democrat. He is on record using familiar "red state" rhetoric, questioning Democrat opposition as "not being tough enough" on crime, taxes being "out of control," supporting the death penalty and more.

His longstanding cozy association with Nick Spano and the entire Yonkers political machine raises serious questions about his integrity, as does his 2016 financial contributions in support of Republican Congressman John Faso in the 19th Congressional District against Zephyr Teachout. Faso supports concealed gun legislation and the Trump tax law and opposes a woman's right to choose. We are known by the company we keep.

One might ask why Spolzino, who has switched parties and positions like someone changing his wardrobe, might be exploring an entry into a race which already has a viable Democratic candidate

with a proven track record of devotion to Democratic principles and service to the community.

By entering the race at this late date and forcing a primary, Spolzino would only create a drain on the finances and resources needed for the defeat of Trump buddy Murphy.

Let's make sure we support a candidate whose record makes winning that race a reality.

Jay Forbes
Croton-on-Hudson

Philipstown Proposed Gun Law Too Heavy Handed

The Philipstown Town Board is currently considering a local law that would impose unjust imprisonment and fines upon a civilian exercising his Second Amendment rights. There are very few laws like this that criminalize an honest citizen for innocent mistakes. Forgetting to place the firearm in a safe when leaving the residence should not constitute grounds for a misdemeanor charge, making that person a criminal for life.

The proposed law has an excessively severe penalty. The misdemeanor charge carries up to one year in prison, and a \$1,000 fine, for each firearm left unattended.

We believe this punishment is far too excessive, and is not proportional with the actions committed. Most crimes require some sort of injury, either physically or

financially, to justify a criminal charge. If we draft laws that do not require an injury, then it is quite likely the law would do more damage to the community than the activity the law intended to prohibit.

There has not been a single accidental firearm death in Putnam County for twenty years. From an objective standpoint, if this law arrested even one person, then it is quite likely the law itself would cause more damage than the prohibited activity.

For example, let us take a situation where a parent is called outside of the home to attend to an injured child in the yard. If that parent were to make an honest mistake, accidentally leave the firearm on a table, and exit the residence to attend to the child, then that parent would now be considered a criminal and

could be thrown in jail for up to a year. Even if no one touched the firearm, and nothing happened, the parent would still be held liable.

Whereas most misdemeanors consist of crimes like assault or domestic abuse, we do not believe a simple mistake of leaving a firearm unattended should be placed in the same category as these substantially more serious crimes.

What will happen if a police officer is called to the scene and observes the unattended firearm through a window in the injured child event I described above. Would the parents be arrested, prosecuted, and thrown in jail for up to a year? What would happen to the children? Would they be put into foster care? Could the children be permanently removed from the parents by child protective

services, never to be seen again? How many families will be torn apart by the proposed local law?

We believe this punishment is far too excessive, and is not proportional with the action. This law would jail honest parents for no reason. Is it worth passing a law that imprisons honest people for the stated goal of preventing accidental firearm deaths, when no such deaths have occurred for twenty years?

I encourage the town board to vote no on this proposed law. It would indeed cause more community damage than if we did not pass it at all.

Chris Turan
Mahopac

Safe Storage of Spent Fuel at Indian Point Needs to be Addressed

In attending Task Force meetings on Indian Point decommissioning, it seems to me that the most important Indian Point decommissioning important issue--Safety of our Region--appears to be on the back burner, whereas planning for make-up of revenue loss is the primary topic of discussion.

Clearly, revenue is very important, but it pales in comparison to the total devastation and inhabitability of this region that would result from a nuclear accident or act of terrorism that caused release of the radiation from the 45 years of highly radioactive spent fuel stored at Indian Point. For that reason, I am calling upon our elected leaders and government agencies to focus maximum attention to safety.

Indian Point is a primary terrorist target due to its proximity to New York City and the density of population in this region. In addition, the plant is sited next to two earthquake faults and three gas pipelines, the newest being the huge 42-

inch diameter AIM pipeline.

That is why we must act now to insure that Indian Point has the most secure, state of the art spent fuel storage! State of the art storage is not evident, at this time, in the current planning by the limited liability decommissioning corporations, who stand to profit from money left over in the decommissioning fund.

Currently, after it comes out of the overcrowded fuel pools, Indian Point's spent fuel is stored on-site in thin-walled metal canisters inside of concrete dry cask containers. Unlike the nuclear reactors, these dry casks are not in a secured building, but are placed side by side on a concrete pad in the open air. This is not state of the art storage, especially in these days of terrorism conspiracies.

In contrast, the Calloway Center in Missouri has contracted with Holtec Technology to build an ultra-secure underground configuration with a low profile and zero radiation for its spent fuel storage. This system was also chosen for

the spent fuel storage in the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) on the Southern California coast.

An alternative method for safer storage of spent fuel dry casks is Hardened On-Site Storage or HOSS, which utilizes the

following safeguards:

- Reinforced concrete and steel structures around each waste canister
- Protection of these structures with mounds of concrete, steel, and gravel

continued on page 20

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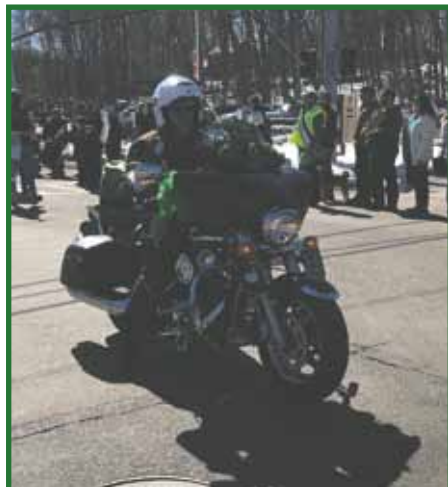
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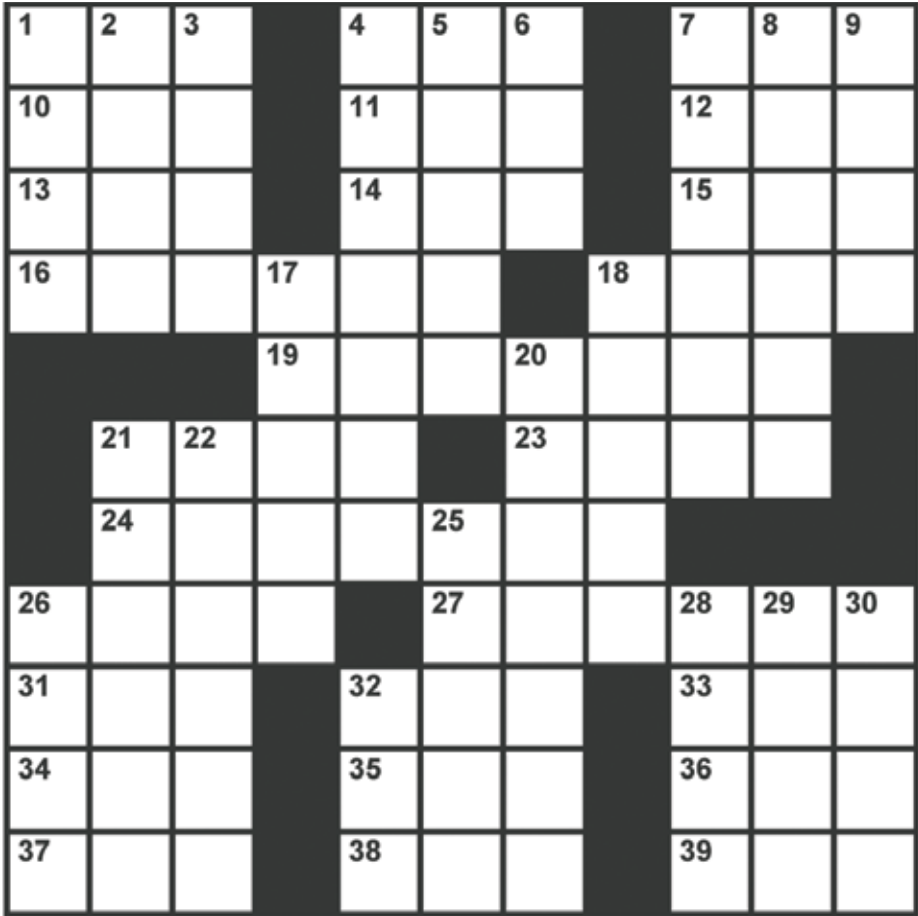
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Crossword Puzzle



Crossword by Myles Mellor

Answers on page 16

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- Across**
- 1. EPA concern
 - 4. CNBC's Cramer
 - 7. Fall back
 - 10. Wide shoe marking
 - 11. Long-eared beast
 - 12. 'Dr.' of rap music
 - 13. Cunning
 - 14. Let go
 - 15. Goal in Mexico
 - 16. Capital of Zambia
 - 18. Conveyed
 - 19. Alliterative Mahopac business to prepare for April fifteenth, ____ Tax
 - 21. England's Good Queen ____
 - 23. Silly idea
 - 24. Way back when
 - 26. See 27 across
 - 27. Baldwin Place studio to practice Hindu spiritual and ascetic disciplines, goes with 26 across
 - 31. The oldest Simpson
 - 32. Car club
 - 33. Brain scan, briefly
 - 34. What Wonder Woman wanted to end for ever
 - 35. TiVo precursor
 - 36. Shirt part
 - 37. Public TV network
 - 38. Educational certificate, abbr.

- Down**
- 1. Square ____
 - 2. Cuzco's country

- 3. Arrives at
- 4. Male donkey
- 5. Newton or Stern
- 6. Portal with a butterfly logo
- 7. Enter cautiously
- 8. Denver player
- 9. Safety precaution
- 17. On the Aegean, e.g.
- 18. Condescending one
- 20. Wary
- 21. Tree with gourdlike fruit
- 22. Some moths
- 25. Swiftly
- 26. Bark
- 28. Lowest tide
- 29. Sleek, in auto lingo
- 30. CEO, CFO, etc.
- 32. Student's stat.



Obituaries

Rose Marie Montana

Rose Marie Montana, 92, of Mahopac, died on March 4. Mrs. Montana was born on April 6, 1925 to the late Antonio and Antonette (Ducci) Floramo in the Bronx. She married the love of her life, Albert and together they were blessed with two children; Robert and Debra. Rose was a homemaker and dedicated her entire life to her family. She truly enjoyed life and it was always fun filled with activities such as, family gatherings, holidays and special times that were shared with family and friends. She is survived by her adoring daughter Debra as well as her three grandchildren) all of whom she adored and each child held a special place in her heart. She is predeceased by her loving husband Albert and her son Robert.

Ruth Ann Klein

Ruth Ann Klein, 87, of Carmel, died on March 4. Mrs. Klein was born on October 26, 1930 to the late, Albert and Helen (Quinn) Walsh in New York City. Before she retired, she was the proud Owner and operator of the Kent Cliffs General Store in Kent Cliffs. She truly enjoyed life and it was always fun filled with activities such as, family gatherings, holidays and special times that were shared with family and friends. Ruth is survived by her daughter Wendy Wiest, her daughter-

in-law Barbara Klein and four cherished grandchildren; all of whom she adored and each child held a special place in her heart. She is predeceased by her beloved son Edward who had passed in 2016.

Raymond G. Morelli

Raymond G. Morelli of Carmel, died on Wednesday, March 7, at the age of 78. He was born in Brooklyn on September 24, 1939, the son of Leonard and Trofemina Morelli. Raymond served in the US Navy. Raymond was an artist and retired as the art director at Sportacular Art in Weston, FL. He was also a member of the Artist Guild. On July 20, 1961 he married Bernadette Brennan at Our Lady of Grace Church in the Bronx. In addition to Bernadette, he is survived by his sons, Anthony and wife, Joan of Mahopac, Richard and wife, Danielle of Mahopac and Raymond of Harrison; his sisters, Agatha Shaw and Gloria Tylee and his grandsons, Justin and Christopher. He was predeceased by his brother, Vincent "Jimmy" Morelli.

Manuel Duran

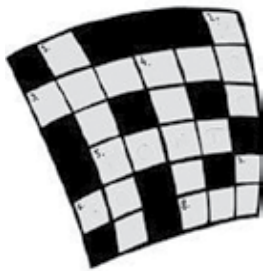
Manuel Duran, of Brewster, age 91, died at his home on March 8. Manuel was born in Havana, Cuba on April 18, 1926 to Jose Duran and Dolores(Wiley). Manuel is survived by his wife Alice and

his son Raymond(Eva) of Danbury, CT. He attended Metropolitan Vocational High School in New York City and later went to college for three years. Manuel served proudly in the U.S. Navy during World War II in the South Pacific. Later, he worked for Olivetti Corporation as a Customer Engineer, retiring in 1984. The family will hosting a celebration of life at Beecher Funeral Home on March 18, 2018, for family and friends, between the hours of 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Patricia A. O'Connor

Patricia A. O'Connor, a longtime resident of Carmel, died on Thursday, March 8, at the age of 78. She was born in Brooklyn on January 28, 1940, the daughter of Patrick and Marie Kilcoyne McAliney. Patricia was a Real Estate Broker with O'Connor Realty in Mahopac for many years. Family was most important to her, not just her immediate family but her extended family as well. Patricia was a very giving person who loved to spend her time with her children and grandchildren. She is survived by her son Brian and his wife Kristin of Hopewell Junction, her daughters, Karen O'Connor of Mt. Kisco and Marie Marek of Brewster, her brother Peter McAliney of Pennsylvania, her sister Catherine Purzner of Georgia, her seven grandchildren, Mariah, Michael, Ian,

Erin, Liam, Camryn and Aidan and her three great grandchildren, Fallon, Nora and Victoria. She was predeceased by her son, Raymond and six siblings of whom she loved all very much. Visiting will be held on Tuesday, March 13 from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. and 6 p.m.-8 p.m. at Joseph J. Smith Funeral Home. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, March 14 at 10 a.m. at St. John the Evangelist Church in Mahopac. Private entombment will be held at a later date at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Putnam Valley.



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Toilet Oddities, Manners and Etiquette

The bathroom. When you think about it, while it may not be the room you spend the most time in, it's probably the room you visit the most during the day.

My most memorable experience from my first day in my present digs at Trump Park in upper Westchester three years ago was my first visit to the bathroom. Mind you, this joint is outrageous, outfitted with the finest materials and fixtures you might imagine – granite, marble and brushed steel everywhere you look.

So, when it was time for me to visit the bathroom, and I started that slow descent, I realized I wasn't reaching my destination when I usually do. I kept bending lower and lower, convinced that I would be in a full Lotus position before I would finally come to rest. Why, I wondered, with all this luxury in a place originally built for the 55-plus crowd, would the builder, have installed such low-rise toilets?

As circumstance would have it, the next



By Bill Primavera

day, I had another bathroom experience, this time with a real estate listing client. When I visited the home to make my presentation and sign a contract, I was greeted at the door by the husband, a big guy with a hearty laugh. His wife had not yet arrived home from some errands, but his two sons were with him, both I would guess in either their late teens or early twenties.

The first thing I do when I go for a listing is ask for a tour of the house, and this one had three full baths. Each time we entered one, the wife would walk in and, seeing that the

toilet seat was up, would

immediately walk over, lower the seat and shut the lid. The first time she did it, she lowered them gently. In the second bathroom, she did it with less patience, and by the time we arrived at the third bathroom, she slammed down the lid in frustration, almost in meltdown mode.

"Oh these guys, why won't they ever learn to lower the seat and shut the lid!" she said. I suspect this is her biggest

frustration at home every day.

It's important to pay attention to the toilet's seat being down and the lid closed, not only so women won't fall into the bowl but also for health reasons. According to scientists at Leeds University, when a toilet is flushed with the lid open, bacteria sprays into the air around the toilet, causing sickness.

But the best reason for closing the lid is that it prevents anything and everything from falling in. Haven't you had the experience of not hearing from friends for several days, only to hear that their cell phones have taken the plunge?

I was quite impressed when, years ago, I first saw a bathroom where the toilet bowl was separated from the rest of the room and you could do your more private business in, well, private.

And what about something as simple as replacing the toilet paper roll when it's depleted? I am always in such a rush, I'm guilty of just

grabbing a new roll and leaving it on top, rather than going to the trouble of inserting it on the cylinder. Shame.

For those who do go through the trouble of replacing it, there's the question of positioning the roll for

"over" or "under" dispensing. One friend tells me that it must be "over" so that the last sheet can be "folded" as in a hotel.

"You fold your last toilet paper sheet?" I asked, astounded.

"Yes," she responded, not skipping a beat. "You never know when guests are going to stop by."

Oh, my God, where did I go wrong in learning good bathroom etiquette?

One other item about toilets: Did you notice that some are round and, in the past couple of decades, others are oblong? Nobody mentions the obvious, but designers finally figured out that the male anatomy had to be accommodated.

Thanks, guys! That's the equivalent of going from jockeys to boxers.

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

Going Rogue in Your Food and Wine Gustatory Adventures



By Nick Antonaccio

In our increasingly fast-paced, sometimes frenetic lives, there are few calls to "dial back" to a more traditional way of life. Technology reigns supreme, overtly and covertly, threatening to dehumanize many of the little things in life we used to enjoy. Sometimes I wonder if the matrix hasn't begun to seep into our lives.

This is not to say that we should all become Luddites, shunning the benefits and efficiencies of technology; it has clearly enhanced our lives in many ways. But there are certain quality-of-life issues that are being threatened, issues that should not be attempted to be "improved" by another iPhone or Android app. Do we really need more than 6,000,000 ways to be entertained, informed or otherwise dumbed down by smartphones?

One of the traditional ways of life I embrace is the enjoyment of food and wine. The more I rely on my smartphone and social media to objectify my way of life, the more I lose

my sensory appreciation of the finer elements of my meals. Everyday gustatory pleasures are becoming more standardized and sanitized as we immerse ourselves in growing bytes and growing bites.

What has happened to the sensory pleasures of savoring our food instead of simply ingesting it, of consuming natural foods and wine instead of industrialized, manipulated foods, of watching the roses grow instead of watching our screen size grow?

I'm not alone in my angst. There is something called the Slow Food movement that espouses this concept. Its stated vision: "to prevent the disappearance of local food cultures and traditions, counteract the rise of fast life and combat people's dwindling interest in the food they eat, where it comes from and how our food choices affect the world around us."

A subsidiary movement within Slow Food is Slow Wine, which strives for counterbalancing the industrialization of wine around the world and publishes a guide to sustainable wines.

Every year, 200 Slow Wine staffers roam Italy to seek out wines that are

You Heard It Through the Grapevine

representative of the precepts of the Slow Food movement; wines nurtured by nature rather than exploited by man. The staff reviewers visit each winery, speak to the individuals responsible

for producing the wines, gain an understanding of, and compile, the sustainable practices and evaluate the biodiversity of the winery. Another important factor to consumers: the quality-price ratio of the wines included in the annual guide.

Two weeks ago, I was invited to the United States release of the Slow Wine Guide 2018, which focuses on wines from more than 400 wineries in Italy, and for the first time, the United States. Over 100 producers poured their wines.

This is not another book about wine critiques. It is about wineries and the winemakers, describing the efforts of those committed to sustaining a life simpatico with nature. Reading the guide, I felt a connection to the history of each winery and winemaking family, adding a personal touch to appreciating their wines. The guide digs deep into the winery practices and enumerates six categories to provide readers with a deep understanding of vineyard practices, and in the process, differentiating one "natural" wine producer from the next. One overriding factor: none of the wineries utilize chemical pesticides.

I embraced the book's concept

immediately. I even found a few surprises in my walk-around tasting exploits, grapes and locales of which I was not previously aware – a red sparkling wine of the Emilia-Romagna region produced from Barbera and Croatina grapes and an Aglianico Vulture from my ancestral region of Basilicata.

Embracing the Slow Food and Slow Wine movements entices us to appreciate nature's bounty, which is often sidestepped by the objectivity of big business and our penchant for all things technological. I invite you to join me as a member of the Hudson Valley chapter of the movement at www.slowfoodusa.org.

Slow Wine Guide 2018 will be available in hardcover this month. Ironically, it will also be available as an iPhone app.

Is this "Slow App" the latest societal oxymoron, and one more step in the inexorable path to technological dominance?

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



Patterson Rotary's Annual Valentine's Giveaway Biggest Ever

The Rotary Club of Patterson presented 31 Putnam County and area charities with cash donations totaling \$30,000 - the largest amount ever donated by the Club at a Community Awards Giveaway.

The "Valentine's Giveaway" is one of two semi-annual Community Awards Giveaways held in February and June by the Rotary Club of Patterson. Different groups will receive donations in June.

Club members and award recipients gathered earlier this month at the Rotary Club's weekly meeting at the Patterson Recreation Center.



Past Club President and Presenter for the event, Anthony Molé, expressed how fortunate we are in our community, to have such organizations and charities who do their best to help those in need.

The Rotary Club of Patterson hosts three major fundraising events each year which fund the Community Awards Giveaways, beginning with Men Who Cook coming up on April 28th. The highly popular gastronomic event is helmed by amateur and professional chefs who serve a tasting, buffet-style, of their specialty ranging from appetizers to entrees, and of course, desserts! The Patterson Rotary Blues & BBQ Festival is a free must-attend two-day family/food/fun music

in September. The BBQ ribs are in such high demand that they often sell out early. And finally, the Club's newest fundraising event in October is Touch-A-Truck for Heroes, in which all funds raised go toward local veterans organizations. Kids of all ages, and kids-at-heart, get to climb up onto their favorite big trucks and maybe even honk a few horns. All three events contribute to the donations that were made to Tuesday's recipients.

Many of the charities receiving donations are all-volunteer, meaning no overhead costs ensure that all funds raised go directly to help those in need, such as The TJ Lobraico Foundation. Foundation Director and TJ's mom, Linda Rohatsch, noted that to date, the foundation has given \$48,000 of scholarships to young

adults who champion service before self.

Partnership was a dominant theme in the room. Many of the recipient charities work together to offer support to each other and those that they help. Recipient Judy Callahan of Putnam CAP (Community Action Partnership) said, "all these partnerships and collaborations that help people in need in our community, from all walks of life." Rob Gallacher is on the Board of Directors for Help Our Military Heroes (HOMH), an organization that provides adaptive minivans for veterans post 9-11. Just this week HOMH gave their 95th van. Gallacher says that his organization partners with some of the other recipients such as NY Riders and Semper Fi Odyssey.

Recipient Caren Mahar of Camp Sundown, a night camp for children with Xeroderma Pigmentosum (life-threatening sun sensitivity), noted that Camp Sundown helps not just the children; their families learn from each other how to live with this rare disease.

Patterson Rotarian, Dan Horkan, summed up the 2018 Valentine's Giveaway, "We heard from moms and grandmas, and lots of people who have taken a personal tragedy and turned it into hope, compassion, peace and comfort for others...The scope of people we are helping goes way beyond those in the room this morning."

Recipients of Valentine's Giveaway:

Brewster High School Semper Fi Club, Camp Herrlich, Carmel FBLA, CoveCare Center, Dentistry From the Heart - Putnam Dental Associates, George Fisher Middle School - to send 5 children to Camp Herrlich, Friends of the Great Swamp FrOGS, The Friends Network, Help Our Military Heroes, Hospice Care of Putnam/Visiting Nurses, Julia's Wings Foundation, Matthew Patterson Elementary School - to send 5 children to Camp Herrlich, Matthew's Hearts of Hope, My Brother Vinny, NY Riders of Putnam, Patterson Community Church Food Pantry, Patterson Historical Society, Patterson Interact Club, Patterson Library, Patterson Rotary Club's Senior Committee for initiatives at Putnam Veterans Home, PFC Joseph Dwyer Vet2Vet Program, Putnam CAP, Putnam County Humane Society, Putnam County Sheriff's Cadets, Putnam Family & Community Services, Putnam Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center, Putnam SPCA

Semper Fi Odyssey - Outdoor Odyssey, The TJ Lobraico Foundation, Village of Brewster Film Festival, Xeroderma Pigmentosum Society's Camp Sundown.

Michael J. Fox Foundation holds Parkinson's Program at PHC

Celebrated actor Michael J. Fox is known just as much for his starring roles in "Back to the Future" and "Spin City" as he is as a spokesperson and activist for Parkinson's research.

Fox, who was diagnosed with early-onset Parkinson's disease in 1991 at age 30, launched the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research in 2000 to both find a cure and develop therapies for those living with the neurodegenerative disorder.

The foundation's advancement officers, Nicole Prisco and Mary McQuillen, will give a presentation at Putnam Hospital Center at 3 p.m., Monday, March 19, in the Michael T. Weber Auditorium, 670 Stoneleigh Ave. They will provide an overview of the foundation, as well as an update on Parkinson's disease research in the pipeline and information on how people can get involved in online clinical trials.

The program is free and open to the public.

Parkinson's is a neurodegenerative brain disease that has no cure. The disease damages dopamine-producing cells affecting the brain's ability to control movements of the human body.

At Putnam Hospital Center, there is a robust Movement Disorders Support Group that meets once a month for families and patients with neurological disorders, including essential tremors, Huntington's or Parkinson's disease. The group is led by speech pathologist Jenny Kalanz and physical therapist Kirsi Vera from the hospital's Rehabilitation Department.

The Movement Disorders Support Group meets from 3 to 4 p.m. the third Monday of each month in the Michael T. Weber conference room 2 at Putnam Hospital Center, 670 Stoneleigh Ave. For more information on the support group, call 845-279-5711 ext. 2483 (TTY 1-800-421-1220).

Crossword Answers

1	M	2	P	3	G		4	J	5	I	6	M		7	E	8	B	9	B
10	E	E	E				11	A	S	S				12	D	R	E		
13	A	R	T				14	C	A	N				15	G	O	L		
16	L	U	S		17	A	K	A			18	S	E	N	T				
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		21	B	22	E	S	S			23	N	O	N	O					
		24	A	G	E	S		25	A	G	O								
26	Y	O	G	A				27	P	U	T		28	N	29	A	30	M	
31	A	B	E					32	A	A	A			33	E	E	G		
34	W	A	R					35	V	C	R			36	A	R	M		
37	P	B	S					38	G	E	D			39	P	O	T		

Estate and Elder Law Planning Topics You Shouldn't Neglect

We have all heard the saying “life is full of regrets”. I have compiled a list of the most common regrets that I often hear from clients, but more often, their family members, during my practicing as an elder law and special needs planning attorney. If you have neglected any of these topics, my hope is that you will take proper measures before it is too late.

1. Failing to prepare a proper power of attorney and statutory gifts rider.

I frequently explain to my clients that one of the most important documents I can prepare is a power of attorney (“POA”) and statutory gifts rider (“SGR”). Failing to have these documents, necessitates a guardianship proceeding, which is costly and burdensome on family members.

A good illustration of the impact of not having a POA and SGR usually involves a spouse who is incapacitated and requires care. Usually, we are planning to apply for Medicaid to cover the cost of such care and that planning might involve the transfer of assets from the ill spouse to the well spouse. If no POA and SGR exist, we must commence a guardianship proceeding to effectuate the planning. This results in the family having to privately pay not only for legal fees associated with the guardianship proceeding, but for the cost of care until the guardianship is completed.

2. Ignoring the five-year look-back period.

The five-year look-back period is the



Salvatore M. Di Costanzo

five-year period preceding the date you enter a nursing home. If you transferred assets during this period, you will be ineligible for Medicaid for a certain period based on the value of the assets transferred.

The five-year look-back period must be contemplated where clients intend to be proactive in preserving their assets. The optimal planning technique is to create a Medicaid Trust, usually for a house, and

in some cases other assets. If you create a Medicaid Trust and transfer your assets to the trust, the assets transferred to the trust cannot be counted as available assets for Medicaid planning purposes after five years from the date of the transfer. If you don't have long-term care insurance, it is borderline foolish not to consider this planning technique. Clearly, if you wait too long, the five-year look-back period becomes an issue as you age.

3. Excluding family members or other loved ones from financial and estate planning matters.

Finances can be complicated at any time of life, but an illness or cognitive impairment can cause financial matters to become overwhelming or even unmanageable. Discussing one's finances is commonly considered taboo, even within a family. Keeping one's financial information close to the vest, however, can have unforeseen consequences. Often it falls on family or loved ones to piece together the financial picture like a jigsaw puzzle, but without an image to follow. A missing piece can have dire implications. Being unaware of certain income and assets could, for example, delay eligibility for a spouse's or parent's Medicaid benefits or result in the denial of an application or affect distribution of a loved one's Estate pursuant to their final wishes.

4. Creating a team of professional advisors and counselors.

Professional advisors and counselors exist in many areas in part because it is nearly impossible to know everything about everything. One issue we often see are clients who are proficient at preparing their own income tax returns, but don't account for changed circumstances, for instance, their incapacity. When this happens, family members who may not be as experienced, struggle because they now have to form new relationships. I advise clients to form these relationships early in the lives so their family members have someone to turn to.

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

DEP Encourages College Students To Apply For Watershed Internships

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on Thursday encouraged college students to apply for one of 17 summer internships at its offices in the Hudson Valley and Catskill Mountains. These paid internships are in fields related to science and engineering. Those accepted into the summer internship program will have the chance to work alongside DEP scientists, engineers, planners and other professionals who operate, maintain and protect the largest municipal water supply in the United States.

“Summer internships at DEP can be a springboard to the start of a rewarding career for young people who are interested in science, engineering and public service,” said DEP Commissioner Vincent Sapienza, who started his career more than 30 years ago as an intern at the department. “Our interns in the watershed will be guided by world-class experts to pursue projects that focus on water quality testing, infrastructure planning, and operating the largest municipal water supply in the United States. We encourage college students from the watershed and surrounding regions to apply for these excellent learning opportunities.”

The intern positions available include summer work associated with upstate water quality laboratories, water system

modeling and research, natural resources management, wastewater collection and treatment, infrastructure planning, and reservoir operations. The internships are located at DEP's offices in Delaware, Greene, Putnam, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties. In addition to the watershed opportunities, DEP also offers many summer internship opportunities at its offices in New York City.

Information about these internships, including online applications, can be found on the DEP website at: http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/job_opportunities/internships.shtml.

Prospective interns are encouraged to carefully read the qualifications for each job to determine whether they meet the enrollment, GPA, coursework and other requirements. Candidates must submit applications by April 6.

DEP manages New York City's water supply, providing more than 1 billion gallons of high-quality water each day to more than 9.5 million New Yorkers. This includes more than 70 upstate communities and institutions in Ulster, Orange, Putnam and Westchester counties who consume an average of 110 million total gallons of drinking water daily from New York City's water supply system. This water comes from the Catskill, Delaware, and Croton watersheds that extend

more than 125 miles from the City, and the system comprises 19 reservoirs, three controlled lakes, and numerous tunnels and aqueducts. DEP has nearly 6,000 employees, including almost 1,000 scientists, engineers, surveyors, watershed maintainers and other professionals in the watershed. In addition to its \$70 million payroll and \$166 million in annual taxes paid in upstate counties, DEP has invested more than \$1.7 billion in watershed protection programs—including partnership organizations such as the Catskill Watershed Corporation

and the Watershed Agricultural Council—that support sustainable farming practices, environmentally sensitive economic development, and local economic opportunity. In addition, DEP has a robust capital program with \$18.9 billion in investments planned over the next decade that will create up to 3,000 construction-related jobs per year. For more information, visit nyc.gov/dep, like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/nycwater](https://www.facebook.com/nycwater), or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/nycwater.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF OHR NEW YORK LLC. Arts of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/21/17. Ofc. loc.: Westchester Cnty. SSNY design. agt. upon whom process may be served & shall mail copy of process against LLC to: **United Corporate Services, Inc 10 Bank St #560, White Plains, NY 10606. Purpose: any lawful act**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A&J PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICES LLC Arts of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 12/19/17. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **2 Gedney Esplanade, White Plains NY 10605. Purpose: any lawful activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SIMPLY SPEAKING LEP, LLC. Arts of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 1/10/18. Office location: Westchester

County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **611D Larchmont Acres East, Larchmont, NY 10538. Purpose: any lawful activity.**

NOTICE OF QUALIFICATION OF CRYPTO CAPITAL MANAGEMENT LLC. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 2/2/18. Office location: Westchester County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 1/5/18. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **14 Kensington Rd, Ardsley, NY 10502. DE address of LLC: 919 North Market Street, Suite 950, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, 401 Federal St, Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF PETE'S MEATS, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on (1/5/2018). Location: (Westchester). SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: **(United States Corporation Agents INC 7014 13th Avenue suite 202 Brooklyn NY 11228). Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF QUALIFICATION OF CRYPTO CAPITAL PARTNERS LP. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 2/2/18. Office location: Westchester County. LP formed in Delaware (DE) on 1/5/18. SSNY is designated as agent of LP upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 14 Kensington Rd, Ardsley, NY 10502. DE address of LP: **919 North Market Street, Suite 950, Wilmington, DE 19801. List of names and addresses of all general partners available from SSNY. Cert. of Limited Partnership filed with DE Secy of State, 401 Federal St, Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity.**

NOTICE OF APPLICATION OF AUTHORITY OF DIVERSITY MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS LLC, a foreign limited liability company (LLC), Application of Authority led with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 7/1/2008. LLC organized in NJ on 10/12/2006. NY office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: 256 Columbia Turnpike, North Tower, Suite 108A, Florham Park, NJ 07932. Office address in jurisdiction of organization: 256 Columbia Turnpike, North Tower, Suite 108A, Florham Park, NJ 07932. Copy of Articles of Organization on file with Secretary of State of NJ, **225 West State Street - 2nd Floor Trenton, NJ 08625-0307 Purpose of LLC: Any lawful purpose.**

continued on next page



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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF ART BOYKOFF, LLC filed with SSNY on 1/25/2018 located in Westchester County. United States Corporation Agents, Inc. designated as agent of LLC. Process may be served against LLC to above agent located at **7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, New York 11228. Purpose: Recreational art instructor**

FORMATION OF BROOKMONT MANAGEMENT, LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/9/18. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to **Penny Jackson, 45 Winchester Oval, New Rochelle, NY 10805. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF NEW LOOK DEVELOPERS, LLC filed with SSNY on 1/17/18. Office loc: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **20 Van Buren Pl., White Plains, NY 10603. Purpose: Buying and renovation of homes.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF DENNIS J. CAMPAGNA, ARBITRATOR, LLC Art. of Org. filed with Sec. of State 01/16/18. Off. loc.in Westchester CO. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to **Dennis J Campagna, 50 Main Street, Suite 1000, White Plains, NY 10606-1900 PURPOSE: Any lawful business.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF THE LAW & MEDIATION OFFICES OF LORI GREENE, PLLC. Arts of Org filed with SSNY 1/5/18. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Law & Mediation Offices of Lori Greene, PLLC, 75 S. Broadway, Suite 400, White

Plains, NY 10601. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CADEAU FRAGRANCE, LLC filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/13/2018. Office location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the principal business address: **11 Patriots Farm Place, Armonk NY 10504. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF MIDLAND AVE DELICATESSEN LLC filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/12/2018. Office location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the principal business address: **24 Cedar Place, Rye, NY 10580. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF BOWIE BROWS, LLC. ART OF ORG. filed with SSNY on 02/07/2018. Office in Westchester County, SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **128 Court Street White Plains, NY 10601. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF HAUS OF FUREY LLC. ARTS. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/22/18. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC at **36 Lee Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF ALM SPEECH THERAPY, PLLC. ART. OF ORG. filed with SSNY on February 13, 2018. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served, SSNY shall mail process to: **2810 Springhurst St, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF THE WEST HOLLOW GROUP LLC. Art of organization filed with the SSNY on 1/29/18. Office location is PUTNAM County NY. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **7 West Hollow Rd Brewster NY 10509. PURPOSE: any lawful activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SET IT IN STONES, LLC Art of organization filed with the Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/08/2017. Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to the principal business address: **71 Wheeler Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CG MEDICAL BILLING SERVICES, LLC Art of organization filed with the Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/22/2018. Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to the principal business address: **168 Douglas Ave., Yonkers, NY 10703. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.**

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Happenings

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

Park Advisory Board Meetings: The Park Advisory Board holds public meetings on the First Thursday of every month at the Putnam Lake Firehouse in Putnam Lake (72 Fairfield Drive) at 7 p.m. We encourage all Putnam Lake residents to attend for the latest information, and have any questions or concerns addressed.

Ongoing:

Tuesdays:

Spotlight Family Support Group: Mahopac Library, 3rd floor, 6:45 p.m.-8 p.m. March 13, 27. This is a guided recurring support group for family and friends suffering with the effects of a loved one that has a problem with drugs or alcohol. This is open to the public. For more information contact Drug Crisis in our Backyard 814-842-1212. No registration required.

Come to the Kent Library on Select Tuesdays in January through March from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Starting Tuesday, January 30th, if you're looking for a place to chat and craft? Working on a project? Want to start a project, or just need help with the finishing touches. Bring your own materials! Some knitting patterns will be available, and an instruction will be in attendance. Registration is required. You may register for the program by going to www.kentlibrary.org or calling the Kent Public Library at 845-225-8585. The library is located at 17 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes, NY 10512.

Wednesdays

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

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

In-Stitches Needlework Club at Reed Memorial Library meets Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. and Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Beginners and experienced knitters and crocheters are welcomed to drop-in to this fun and friendly group. Reed Library, 845-225-2439.

Thursdays

Brewster American Legion Meetings: The American Legion Argonne Post 71 holds its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at the Brewster Elks Club. If you are interested

in joining or would like more info, call Bill Miller at 845-406-2533.

Students in grades 5-8 are invited to join the **Brewster Library Middle School Book Group**; meetings will be held on the last Thursday of each month from 4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m., beginning January 25. Join other teens to discuss great books, socialize and enjoy fun activities. Snacks will be served. Registration is required. For additional information visit <https://tinyurl.com/ycbav6t4> or call 845-279-6421.

Fridays:

AARP Tax Help: The AARP Foundation is providing free tax help for low to middle income taxpayers at the library every Friday by appointment only from February 9 until April 13. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 211 or the library at 845-878-6121 ext. 15. You do not have to be a member of AARP to take advantage of this service.

Lenten Season Services at First Presbyterian Church of Mahopac: Palm Sunday- 3/25/18- 8:30 a.m./10:30 a.m. services Maundy Thursday- 3/29/18- 7:00pm service Good Friday- 3/30/18- 7:30 p.m. service Easter Sunday- 4/1/18- 8:30 a.m./10:30 a.m. services First Presbyterian Church is located at 411 Rt 6N (at Secor Rd) in Mahopac. For more information: presby411@verizon.net or 845-628-2365.

Tuesday, March 13

The Brewster Public Library will have a drop-in craft program for children. 5:00 p.m., -6:00 p.m., Stop by the library and make a creative craft to take home. For ages 5-10. Younger children are welcome if accompanied by an adult. For more information visit <https://tinyurl.com/y7jlbwt> or call 845-279-6421.

Thursday, March 15

Kelly-Oster School of Irish Dance: 6:30 p.m. In preparation of St. Patrick's day, the Desmond-Fish Library is delighted to once again host the dancers of the Kelly-Oster School of Irish Dance. This event is free and everyone is invited to attend. The Desmond-Fish Library is located at 472 Route 403 (at the corner of 9D) in Garrison, NY. For more information about any of the library's upcoming programs, please visit www.desmondfishlibrary.org

Ceramics: Children ages 7-10 are invited to decorate a ceramic fairy door at the Brewster Public Library 5 p.m., -6 p.m. Acrylic paints and permanent markers will be used; please dress accordingly. Space is limited. Registration is required. For more information visit <https://tinyurl.com/y83fanee> or call 845-279-6421.

Financial Planning for College. 7 p.m. Guest speaker: Michael Turner,

New York State High Education Services Corporation. Topic: New York's student aid programs available to college bound students. Join us for this informative program at Mahopac Library. To register visit www.mahopaclibrary.org, or call 845-628-2009, ext. 100.

Introduction to Calligraphy: 10 a.m. - noon at Reed Memorial Library. Learn about the time honored art of calligraphy and have the opportunity to try your hand at lettering your own bookmark. Registration required, please call the library to register 845-225-2439.

Thursday, March 16

High School Battle of the Books Meeting: 4:30 p.m. Battle of the Books is beginning again, and we want you to join the Patterson Library team! Check it out at our informational meeting where you will find out what titles we'll be reading, practice battle dates, and possible team members. For more information or to register contact the Patterson Library at 845-878-6121 x10 or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org and click Calendar.

Teen Movie Night: 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Teens 13 - 17 are invited to witness "The Ring," a horror/thriller classic that tells the story of Rachel, a reporter who investigates an urban legend after four teenagers mysteriously die after watching a video. Drinks and snacks will be served at this event. This movie is rated PG-13. For more information or to register contact the Patterson Library at 845-878-6121 x10 or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org and click Calendar

Saturday, March 17

Come by the Kent Library: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and make your own Leprechaun! All ages welcome! No registration required — as supplies last. The library is located at 17 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes.

A Defensive Driving Course will be offered at the Brewster Public Library:

Safe Storage of Spent Fuel at Indian Point Needs to be Addressed

continued from page 10

- Spreading out HOSS modules over a larger land area apart from each other, rather than storing dozens of vulnerable dry-casks next to each other.

Another more secure system is the AREVA TN dry shielded canisters and horizontal storage modules being installed for the Limerick Generating Station in Pennsylvania and in use in 30 U.S. plants.

Clearly, in view of our special risk factors, and our dense population, we MUST have a system as secure as or more secure than those in Missouri or

9 a.m. -3 p.m. Upon completion of the class you will be eligible to receive up to a 10% discount on your motor vehicle collision and liability insurance as well as up to a four-point reduction on your driving record. Class fee is \$40.00, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the library. The class is being offered by DigitalDefensiveDriving.com. Advance registration is required. For more information visit <https://tinyurl.com/y7kle9mq> or call 845-279-6421.

Stop by the Brewster Public Library: noon-1 p.m. and make a fun St. Patrick's Day craft. For ages 5-10. Registration is requested but walk-ins are welcome. For more information visit <https://tinyurl.com/ybf8l9nx> or call 845-279-6421.

Charity Poker Tournament - to support youth baseball and those with developmental disabilities will be held at the Starr Ridge Conference Center starting at 10:30 a.m. \$250 donation and registration in advance earns you additional chips. Register at www.3u3d.org and or email at donation@3u3d.org. 3 Up 3 Down is a 501(c)3 charitable organization and all donations will be fully tax deductible.

Sunday, March 18

The Music Cottage holds Instructor Showcase Fundraiser for Old Town Hall Theater. Instructors from Brewster's Music Cottage will treat their students and the community to an Instructor Showcase 2:00 pm at Studio Around the Corner 67 Main Street, Brewster. This is a family-friendly concert and a fundraiser for the renovation of the Old Town Hall Theater in Brewster. Suggested donation is \$10/person or \$20/family. Please RSVP to Lauren at 845.363.1456. For more information on Cultural Arts Coalition events, visit: www.CulturalArtsCo.com, call (845) 363 - 8330, email info@culturalartsco.com or find us on Facebook at "Cultural Arts Coalition".

Pennsylvania. At this time, we DO NOT. We must hold our elected officials and government agencies to the concept that their primary responsibility is the SAFETY of constituents – the residents of this area. They must act NOW to secure our future.

Lastly, citizens should be given the opportunity to speak at all Task Force meetings, which at this time they are not. This is too important an issue. This is our home and we have the right to speak out to keep it safe!

Paula Clair
Philipstown

The Putnam
Examiner
Sports
Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports

Ossining Takes Express to Troy!



**Pride Snag NYS
Region 1 Title,
Take Fast Track
to 7th-Straight
NYS Final 4**



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

The state-ranked (No.3) Elmira Express were a rough ride but Ossining junior Aubrey Griffin (44) and the Pride (22-3) rode out a hard-fought 90-78 NYS Region 1 championship win over the Section 4 champions and advanced to their seventh-straight NYSPHSAA Class AA Final 4 this Saturday against Section 3 champion West Genesee (No.10 in NYS). The state-ranked (No.4) Pride (inset) hopefully survived another scare when Griffin, who sticks two of her game-high 36 points above, left the game in the fourth quarter with a left knee injury. Monday's MRI would determine if the D-I prospect was good to go as Ossining seeks its fifth NYS title in six years... see Girls Hoops Notebook

Ossining Trio Spark Pride to 7th-Straight NYS Final 4

Veterans Griffin, Quain, Harris Explode in Region 1 Title Triumph of Elmira

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor
@Directrays

PLEASANTVILLE – Ossining Coach Dan Ricci has, traditionally, been a bit more euphoric when his Pride teams

have advanced to each of the past six NYSPHSAA Class AA Final 4's, but the seventh-straight advancement last Friday night at Pace University, which is unprecedented in state history, was a bit more subdued; on account of the massive bag of ice attached to junior star Aubrey Griffin's left knee.

The Class AA state regional final against Elmira went down in typical Ossining fashion, the Pride (22-3) hoisting yet another Region 1 championship plaque after the 90-78 win, which was comparable to last year's nip-and-tuck battle with the Express (20-3) in the 2017 regional final, and could play yet out again in 2019 with both teams returning the core of its stars.

Eight-time defending Section 1 champion Ossining, ranked No.4 in NYS, jumped out to an early 8-0 lead before Elmira finally found the nets, but the Pride got sloppy in the second quarter, allowed the state-ranked (No.3) Express back in the game and it was tight from there on out until Ossining senior sniper Kelsey Quain drained



Ossining senior G Kelsey Quain fights for two of her 23 points in Region 1 title win over Elmira.



What 34 (Kailah Harris) and 44 (Aubrey Griffin) bring to the table each game is a lethal combination for Ossining.



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

As much as they double-teamed her, Elmira could do little to stop the force that is Ossining C Kailah Harris.

back-to-back 3's in the waning moments.

"We knew they were a great team and we fully expect to see them again next year," Ricci said of Elmira, the Section 4 Class AA champions. "But Aubrey had another amazing game and put us on her back again down the stretch and Kelsey Quain was outstanding. She hit the two huge 3's to give us some breathing room and Kailah (Harris) was strong throughout."

The All-Section Griffin scored a game-high 36 points to go with 12 rebounds and four pivotal blocks. Griffin, who missed all of last season with an ACL tear in her right knee, left the game in the final minute with the left knee injury.

Harris (14 boards), an All-Section choice, stepped up and was key at the stripe when the Express had to foul, and Quain (7 caroms) found her stroke in the second half. Each finished with 23 points while Ossining trainer, Luis Iglesias, worked on Griffin's knee, hoping to keep her loose and ready to play this Friday when Ossining will face state-ranked (No.10) Section 3 champion West Genny

(20-4) in the New York State Public High School Athletic Final 4 at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy in the state semifinals Saturday (9 a.m.).

"Last year we let down against them and this year we didn't and that really helped us," said Quain, an All-Section guard, captain and four-year member of the program. "I felt really great to be able to come through for my team, especially since I'm a senior now and I won't have a bunch more chances to do this with them. I knew the team needed a leader to come up big and I wanted to be the one."

Ossining led 23-13 after the first, largely due to Griffin, who was a Jordan-like highlight reel with 12 points, five rebounds and two blocks out of the gate.

Elmira sophomore point guard Kiara Fisher (team-high 25 points) and freshman Zaria DeMember-Shazer (23 points, 11 rebounds, 6 blocks) gave the Pride fits. Th Express supplied 2017 NYS runner-up Ossining with a strong test as it readies for a looming showdown with Section 8 champion and reigning state

Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook

continued from previous page



Ossining bench erupts after a Kelsey Quain 3-ball all but clinches Region 1 title.

champ Baldwin (24-1), ranked No.2 in NYS, in the state finals. Ricci knows the

Pride, who already lost pivotal All-Section point guard Jaida Strippoli for the season, would be in trouble without Griffin, too.

"All we can do is hope and pray that we don't lose another special kid," Ricci said. "We hope it's only a little twist. But this is a special group, a great group of kids. It's a family and I love these kids."

The four-time NYS champion Pride will board the bus Friday morning, fully expecting a showdown with the same Baldwin outfit that gave them fits last season, minus Griffin, who was rehabbing her right knee. If the left knee passes the necessary MRI's on Monday, Ricci hopes that Griffin and her teammates are set to find the next level. Quain suspects and intense



Ossining Coach Dan Ricci deals with notion that star Aubrey Griffin might not be at 100% in NYS Final 4 after her injury in Region 1 title win.

week of preparation.

"Each time we go it gets greater," said Quain. "People don't realize how hard it is to do this once, never mind this much. It feels incredible each time we do it, and I'm just so grateful to be part of this program. We're going to push each other really hard this week to get ready for Troy. We need to get ready for the next level of intensity."

Not doing so will surely prevent Ossining from winning a fifth state title in

six years; also unprecedented...

MORE GRIFFINS - Not to be outdone by their sister, the Griffin brothers, Stepinac freshman Adrian Griffin Jr. and senior Alan, were named all-tournament team after the White Plains-based Crusaders beat Brooklyn/Queens champion Christ the King, 74-65, at Fordham University to claim their first CHSAA 'AA' title since 1960. Alan Griffin secured the MVP honors after recording

20 points, eight rebounds and three blocks and sent the crowd into a frenzy when he highlighted a 16-3 third-quarter run with a breakaway dunk. Adrian Jr. dropped 19 points, seven rebounds and five assists and splashed a pair of pivotal treys in the final quarter.

The Griffin family will be logging some serious miles on their cars this weekend with the boys heading to the CHSAA Final 4 at Glens Falls and Aubrey some 50 miles south down I-87 in Troy. Mom has some serious planning to do...

Shout out to my man, Eddie Sanchez, too! The junior wing from Putnam Valley snapped off 10 points for the Crusaders and continues his ascendance on the CHSAA circuit.



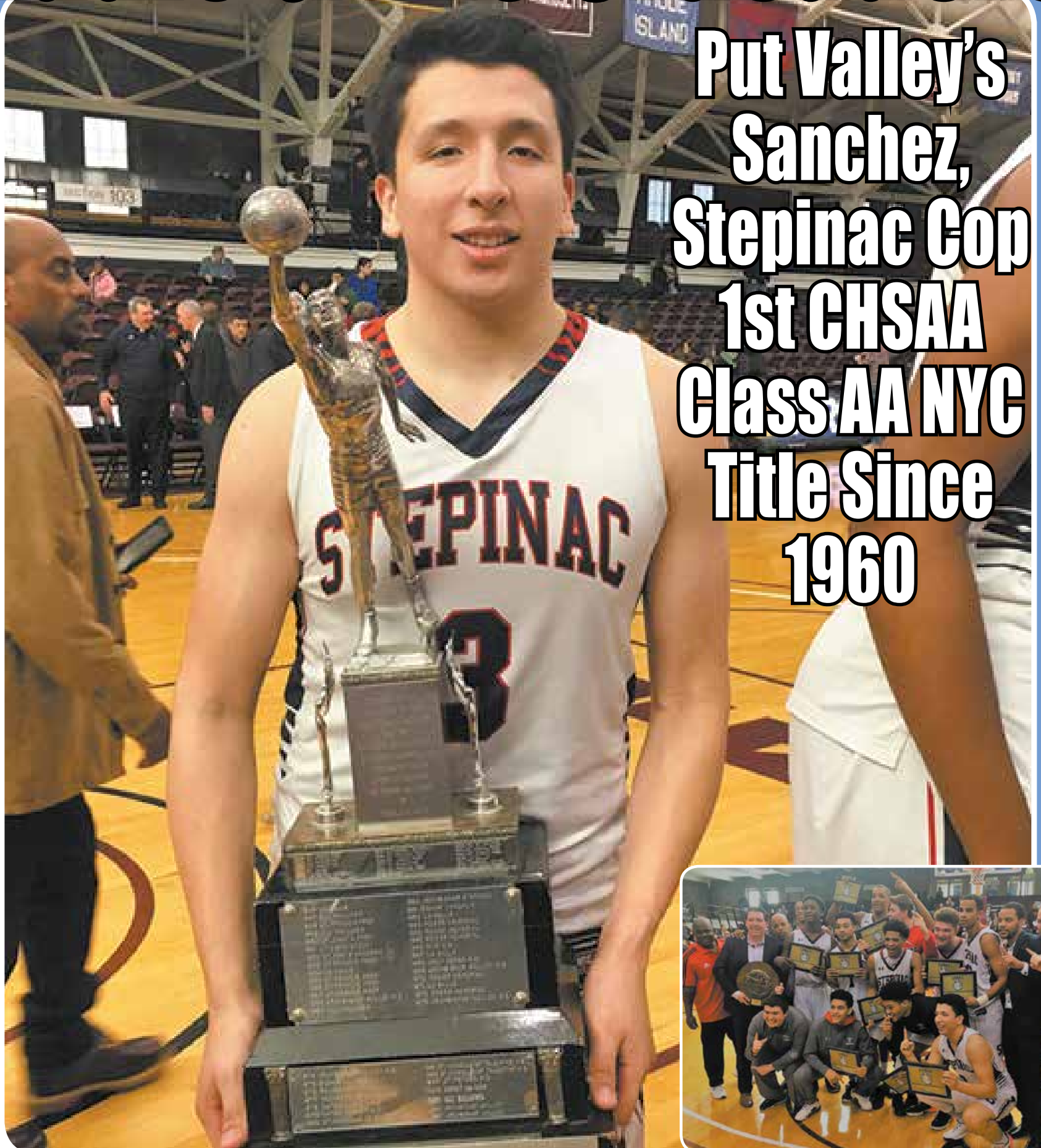
Ossining junior F Aubrey Griffin gains advantage in Pride's 90-78 NYS Region 1 title win over Elmira last Friday at Pace University.



Ossining G Julia Iorio sticks big-time 3-ball in Pride win over Elmira.

Eddie & The Crusaders

**Put Valley's
Sanchez,
Stepinac Cop
1st CHSAA
Class AA NYC
Title Since
1960**



KEVIN DEVANEY PHOTOS

Stepinac High School junior F Eddie Sanchez, a Putnam Valley resident, was a key figure in the Crusader's 74-65 New York City Class AA Catholic High School Athletic Association championship win over Christ the King last Sunday at Fordham University where Sanchez's Crusaders (inset, bottom far right) won their first NYC championship since 1960. "It's been a great year, especially to cap it off with a city chip, said the 6'3" Sanchez, who nailed a game-changing trey before the half and finished with 10 points. "A lot of people doubted us but we came together. I hope more kids from Putnam Valley see this and it makes them want to play basketball. We still got two more games up in Glen Falls for the state chip so it's not over yet, but the city chip is definitely a great accomplishment!" Ray Gallagher