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December 17 - December 23, 2019

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 11, Issue 560

Southeast Considers Scaled-Down Commercial Campus

By Neal Rentz

The developer of the project formerly known as Northeast Interstate Logistics is seeking approval from the Southeast Planning Board for a scaled-down project that is now known as the Commercial Campus at Fields Corner, which would be located off Route 312.

The project's draft environmental impact statement was discussed during the Dec. 9 Planning Board meeting.

The original distribution center project of roughly 1.1 million square feet on about 328 acres was sharply criticized by neighboring residents at previous Planning Board meetings for such concerns as potential truck traffic and pollution.

Daniel Richmond, an attorney

representing the developer, said the project has been changed from the original concept to address the concerns of the community.

"We heard the public," he said.

The new proposal calls for a 17 percent reduction in the size of the development, and two buildings are now being sought rather than the four included in the original concept, said Richmond. One building would be 630,000 square feet and the other would be 300,000 square feet, he said.

Under the new plan, 85 percent of the property will not be developed. The buildings would be situated further back from Route 31 and Tilly Foster Farm than the original project, explained Richmond.

Richard Pearson, a project engineer who is senior associate principal for the site

continued on page 2

Putnam Valley to Vote on Controversial De-icer Ban

Staff Reports

After a man plunged through the ice on Lake Oscawana early this year, Putnam Valley lawmakers have been considering enacting a ban that would restrict the use of equipment utilized to melt ice.

During a Dec. 11 Putnam Valley Town Board meeting, residents differed on how officials should proceed. Some asserted that homeowners who use de-icing gear to protect their docks are inevitably causing harm to anyone who steps onto the frozen lake, while others said regulations should be set to dictate how the equipment is utilized.

"This is about life or death, about whether someone might be able to continue enjoying the wintertime activities on the lake," said resident Art Tagnale during a public hearing at last week's meeting. "These devices are pure folly. They're beyond folly – they're deadly."

The proposed law, which will be voted on at the Dec. 18 Town Board meeting, would

prohibit the use of any ice retardant device or mechanism – de-icer, bubbler or aerator – along the shoreline within the entire Lake Oscawana water body. Violators would have their device confiscated and pay a \$1,000 fine.

Subsequent offenses would result in a doubling of the fine.

Resident Mark Tompkins said he's been using a de-icer under his dock for 25 years, leaving it on for about 16 minutes a day during the winter season, asserting that his device doesn't impact the entire lake. When the lake freezes over, he said it causes considerable damage to his dock that's costly to repair.

While his device is being used to protect his dock, Tompkins noted that other residents with similar devices are using them irresponsibly, suggesting that more ice is being melted than what's necessary. He said a law should be passed restricting residents from using their devices all day

continued on page 10

Putnam Participates in Wreaths Across America



PROVIDED PHOTOS

Volunteers from the New York Riders-Putnam County, the Putnam County Composite Squadron Civil Air Patrol, Veterans Service Agency and numerous other civic organizations, and individuals, participated in the national Wreaths Across America movement on Saturday by placing wreaths on the graves of local veterans in area cemeteries.



Volunteers place wreaths at Brewster cemeteries.

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Brewster Field Hockey Players Earn Section 1 Awards

Brewster High School's field hockey team was recognized in a big way at the recent Section 1 Awards Night.

Danielle Heintz and Meaghan Feehan received the Golden Dozen Award, which is given out to the top 12 senior field hockey players who have excelled on and off the field. Players applying for this award must have at least a 3.5 un-weighted grade-point average, above average standardized test scores, and be contributing players on their field hockey team.

Heintz earned All-League, All-Elite, All-Section and All-State awards; Feehan and Gabrielle Fragliossi each earned an All-League award and All-Elite honorable mention; Ashley Goodliffe earned an All-League award; and Nicole Cusanelli, Jennifer Russo, Nora Tuohy and Sasha Kulo earned All-League honorable mentions.

In addition, all eight of the team's seniors were selected to attend the All-Star senior game.

"I am proud of this group of athletes for their perseverance, teamwork, and all of their accomplishments," said Coach Jennifer Hershman. "We beat rivals, had seven shut-outs, turned away goals from top teams, scored whenever we could, and qualified for sectionals. Goalie Gabrielle Fragliossi had her 275th varsity save this season.

"The Brewster Bears field hockey



BHS senior field hockey players at the All-Star senior game.

program is on the road to success thanks to players who are devoted to this sport," she continued. The team was a group of friends

both on and off the field and I hope the connections the girls have last a lifetime."

PROVIDED PHOTO

Southeast Considers Scaled-Down Commercial Campus

continued from page 1

development consulting firm JMC, told the Planning Board the revised project would include a "significant reduction in traffic." He added that his client is seeking approval from the state Department of Transportation for construction of a "T" intersection at Route 312.

Richmond said the project would create 1,000 permanent jobs and 690 construction jobs, generate an annual economic impact of about \$73 million, add no school children to the community, and produce significant property tax revenues.

Planning Board member David Rush asked if the project would include an on-site cafeteria for employees, because he is concerned that employees leaving for lunch will create additional traffic.

Richmond said there was no plan to have an employee cafeteria on the site.

Planning Board Chairman Tom LaPerch said more information needs to be provided by the developer in the draft environmental impact statement, including land use, before the new proposal can move forward.

Town Planner Ashley Ley said once the Planning Board accepts the final environmental impact statement as complete, it may schedule a public hearing on the document.

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How does Obesity put Women's Health at Risk?

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Q: Why do people become obese?

A: Obesity is now recognized as an energy storage disease that's hormonally based. It can develop when we eat large quantities of simple carbohydrates that break down fast to sugar, such as bread, pasta and white rice. In response, your body produces excess insulin to keep the right level of glucose in the blood – a condition called insulin resistance.

Excess insulin production is a serious problem because insulin prevents fat breakdown, so more food converts to fat, promoting fat storage. High insulin also reduces the efficiency of the brain hormone, leptin that tells your brain you should eat less. In women, there's an extensive, complex interaction between the hormonally based reproductive cycles and insulin system, so subtle hormonal changes have a greater effect on women.

Q: Are obese women at risk for certain health problems?

A: Absolutely. Most problems revolve around excessive production of insulin. Obese women have more difficulty conceiving due to problems ovulating, and are more likely to have abnormalities during pregnancy,

such as high blood pressure. Obesity is the number one cause of female infertility in the U.S.

Obesity also increases the risk of irregular or painful periods, high-birth-weight babies, gestational diabetes, and miscarriages. There's a greater risk of breast cancer, especially post-menopause. Sixty percent of cancers of the uterine lining are caused by obesity, as are a significant number of uterine fibroids. Obese women with cancer have a higher rate of mortality and recurrence because treatments, typically tested on non-obese people, may not be as effective.

Q: What are the best remedies for obesity?

A: Weight-loss (bariatric) surgery can work because it helps establish a new weight set point, which is the weight range your body is genetically programmed for and that it tries to maintain. However, you must also eat more protein and vegetables – foods that break down more slowly. FDA-approved medications help some people lose weight. We now know that the best treatment for obesity is multi-pronged. Beside surgery, I use medications, behavioral therapy, and special exercise machines that make it possible for anyone to run. Exercise greatly improves insulin resistance.

MHS to Offer Course in Addiction with Counselor Certification

When students learn the facts about what's happening with substance abuse, addiction and recovery in their local environment, they have a stake in the vitality of it. This is what two Mahopac High School educators are determined to prove next semester.

In an unprecedented feat, Davia Bugge, MHS student assistance counselor, and Valarie Nierman, Mahopac Central School District health coordinator and high school health teacher, have designed a half-credit class, "Substance Abuse, Addiction and Recovery," for junior and senior students that not only provides an instructive immersion in substance abuse awareness, prevention and treatment, but also enables a viable career path opportunity.

"Our goal is to help students better understand the plight of those who have seen their lives thrown into chaos as a result of drugs and alcohol abuse and then offer a practical way for making a possible profession in helping with recovery," said Superintendent of Schools Anthony DiCarlo.

This elective debuts in the new year offering rigorous coursework focused around three core modules: basic knowledge of substance abuse disorders, overview of the addictions field, and diversity of intervention and treatment approaches.

The curriculum will include functional partnerships with local and state services, such as Arms Acres, Cove Care Center, Drug Crisis in Our Backyard, The Harris Project, the New York State Department of Education and NYS Department of Health.

"Twenty-seven students have already registered for this elective and will learn to view difficult situations from a new perspective," said Nierman. "Students may or may not have a personal connection to substance abuse and addiction issues. Regardless, this course will help them gain the knowledge and skills for challenges they may face."

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, nearly 50 percent of all high school seniors nationwide have used some sort of illicit drugs in their lifetime. Furthermore, 60 percent of them had consumed alcohol

within their last year of school.

"This is why we included the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports certification component to the elective, which will provide each student the first level of becoming a certified substance abuse counselor," said Bugge.

Mahopac High School is the first school in the state to request and be granted approval as an OASAS Education and Training Provider. The Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor is the sole NYS credential to require the specialized addiction training needed to fully understand and treat the intricacies of addiction and at the completion

of this elective, participants will earn their first-tier (85 hours) of certification toward the 350 hours required to be credentialed a substance abuse counselor.

The certified substance abuse counselor has a wide variety of employment options and is in high demand. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, substance abuse, behavioral disorders and mental health counselor employment is projected to grow 22 percent from 2018 to 2028 – much faster than the average for all occupations.

Falling fourth to California, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, New York has the highest employment level in this occupation

in the nation. Furthermore, the bureau reports that the New York-New Jersey-Pennsylvania metropolitan area has the highest employment level in this occupation and the highest annual mean wage of \$56,400.

With just a prerequisite of successfully completing a required NYS health education class, any Mahopac junior or senior may register for this elective that offers the potential for a bright career path.

In learning the reality of substance abuse, addiction and recovery together, MHS students will likely transform it. And that is promising.

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Putnam Welcomes New Citizens at Naturalization Ceremony

By Holly Crocco

When Putnam County Legislature Chairman Joseph Castellano was asked to speak at the Dec. 11 naturalization ceremony at the Historic Courthouse in Carmel, he jumped at the opportunity.

"Without a doubt my favorite day of the month, the year, is naturalization day," said Castellano, who works in the Westchester County Clerk's Office by day. "It is always thrilling to watch all the new citizens join us in the greatest nation on the planet."

The ceremony welcomed 49 new U.S. citizens, as individuals took the oath of allegiance to a resounding applause from friends and family. They join those of us – like Castellano – who are citizens by birthright, and those of us – like his parents – who worked hard to earn their citizenship.

Both Castellano's parents were born in Italy during World War II. At an early age, his father decided he wanted to move to America. He emigrated through Argentina, where he lived for 12 years before he was able to come to White Plains in 1960.

Castellano's mother's family came directly to Westchester from Italy.

In the 1960s the two met, "and 51 years ago today I was born in White Plains," he said.

Castellano recalled a cherished upbringing. "We were a multi-cultural family before there were multi-cultural families, and it was a great childhood," he said, noting that one parent spoke Spanish while the other spoke



PROVIDED PHOTO

A new U.S. citizen displays her certificate of citizenship, joined by her family and lawmakers at the Dec. 11 naturalization ceremony at the Historic Courthouse in Carmel.

Italian.

"My father would tell me to be very proud of where we came from, to honor and remember the traditions of where you came from, honor your family's past and realize that this nation will provide incredible opportunities for the future – and he would tell me not to screw it up. He loved this country, he really did."

Castellano said that looking out at all the candidates for citizenship was emotional and personal for him.

"On March 10, 1993 in White Plains, my parents sat in the same seats you sit in today; they became citizens of the United States of America, and I am very proud of that," he said. "They came here with little, and they made a great life for me and my family."

The legislator said he is confident all the people sitting before him would do the same. "I thank you for immigrating to this nation," he said. "Please help us make it better. It's a great nation; it's in good hands."

Putnam County Clerk Michael Bartolotti

brought naturalization ceremonies back to Putnam County his first year in office.

"I can't tell you how proud I am to see all the candidates here who have gone through this long and arduous journey," he said. "I am so honored to stand before a room full of candidates a few times a year and administer the oath of allegiance as they become citizens. In my life it is just the most humbling experience I have ever had."

The Hon. Thomas Zugibe of the Ninth Judicial District served as the officiating Supreme Court justice for the occasion.

"Many Americans take citizenship for granted, and that's because it came easy for many of us," he said.

Zugibe is a third-generation American.

"We didn't have to pass a test, we didn't have to study the Constitution, we didn't have to demonstrate that we could speak English," he said. "But this is your dream. You've planned, you worked hard, you studied, you earned it... From now on, when someone asks you what your nationality is, smile and say those wonderful words: 'I'm an American.'"



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Daniel Miller Appointed Carmel Town Justice

By Holly Crocco

By a unanimous vote "with pleasure," the Carmel Town Board appointed Daniel Miller as the new Carmel town justice effective Dec. 24.

"It's really an honor and a privilege to be here tonight doing this, Dan, because of your background and your skills as an attorney," said Carmel Town Supervisor Kenneth Schmitt just before swearing in the new judge.

Miller, a Republican, fills the seat left vacant by Judge Joseph Spofford who was elected County Court judge in the November election. It is also a seat that his father, Judge Robert Miller, once held.

"With no exaggeration, it was one of the best nights of my life," Daniel Miller said of being sworn in. "I feel very humbled to be able to do this in a great community, and one that I love."

A longtime resident of Mahopac, Miller graduated from Mahopac High School in 1985, earning the title of valedictorian. He went on to the University of North Carolina where in 1993 he graduated with a Doctor of Jurisprudence.

Miller was admitted to the New York State Bar Association for the Southern and Eastern District Courts in 1994.

In 2009, he opened a private practice in Mahopac, specializing in civil litigation, criminal matters, landlord-tenant disputes, estate planning, business and technology transactions and real estate matters. He

has conducted numerous trials at all court levels, including arguments at the Appellate Division.

In addition, Miller has coached basketball for the Mahopac Sports Association, has been a member of the Board of Directors for Putnam Family and Community Services, and served as a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity.

When Spofford announced his intention to run for the County Court judge seat that was left vacant by the untimely passing of the Hon. James Reitz, Miller said he knew he was interested in the Carmel Town Court seat.

"He was encouraging and super supportive," Miller said of his predecessor.

Since the town justice position is a part-time gig, Miller will be maintaining his private practice.

"Dan, you have quite a history and quite a career as an attorney and now you're going to the next level," said Schmitt. "I know your family is very proud of you... We all are, too."

Miller will serve out the remainder of the term left vacant by Spofford, which ends next year. He will need to run for election next November if he wishes to maintain the seat.



PROVIDED PHOTO

From left are Carmel Town Councilmembers Susie McDonough and Mike Barile, Town Justice Daniel Miller, Town Supervisor Ken Schmitt, and Councilmembers John Lupinacci and Jonathon Schneider.

Pedestrian Hit and Killed in Carmel

Barrington Thomas, 44, of Patterson, was killed last week when he was struck by a vehicle while walking along Old Route 6 in Carmel, according to news reports.

The incident took place at about 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9 near Spins Bowl, when Thomas was struck by a 37-year-old Stormville man driving a Hyundai Elantra. He was transported to Putnam Hospital Center, then transferred to Westchester Medical Center due to the severity of his

injuries.

Thomas was pronounced dead at about 2:20 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10, said Carmel police.

The operator of the vehicle was reportedly tested at the scene and displayed no signs of alcohol or drug impairment.

Carmel police, Putnam County sheriff's deputies, EMstar paramedics, Carmel ambulance and Carmel firefighters all responded to the scene.

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Pet Valu Mahopac

Retailer Celebrates First Anniversary

By Holly Crocco

Pet Valu, a specialty retailer of premium pet food, treats, toys and accessories, recently celebrated its one year of business in Mahopac.

"We just had our first birthday," said Store Manager Tara Cucinella earlier this month.

Pet Valu is known for its signature pet products and services, such as its \$10 self-serve dog wash stations, where customers are provided with all the amenities needed to wash their pups in-store, and don't have to work about cleaning up.

Also popular are its lines of toys, gourmet treats, fashionable accessories, cozy furnishings and everyday pet supplies. Brands carried in-store include Blue Buffalo, Royal Canin and Fussie Cat.

Cucinella explained that Pet Valu took advantage of the renovated Lake Plaza Shopping Center, which is anchored by a new Stop & Shop, to bring a second Pet Valu location to Putnam. The Mahopac site opened shortly after Patterson Pet Valu opened its doors, and a Chappaqua store opened shortly thereafter.

"It's been good," she said of business. "Customers are definitely coming in. They

are drawn to the dog baths."

Another popular attraction are the cats that are available at the store for adoption from a rescue center. Rescue dogs are featured during adoption events, which Mahopac Pet Valu hosts about once a month, when Happy Life Animal Shelter visits with available dogs and puppies.

Cucinella noted that none of the cats or dogs comes from a puppy mill. "All these pets were rescued," she said. As an animal lover, Cucinella said that's an important distinction.

"I've always had dogs and cats," she said. "We also have snakes at home."

Cucinella comes to Mahopac Pet Valu after spending 13 years as manager of Edible Arrangements in Carmel, which closed its doors last year.

She noted that while Pet Valu was started in Canada and eventually made its way to the states, many of the products in the store were made in the U.S.A.

Looking forward, Cucinella said the store is looking to add live plants and catnip to its inventory, for which it has to get special certification.

Mahopac Pet Valu is located at 987 Route 6. For more information, visit <https://us.petvalu.com/location/5618> or call 845-260-7882.



HOLLY CROCCO PHOTO

From left are Mahopac Pet Valu Store Manager Tara Cucinella and her daughter, Matty Cucinella, who as volunteering at a recent pet adoption event, and Bethel Pet Valu Store Manager Taylor Bleakley, who stopped by to show her support.



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Obituaries

Barbara DiDomizio

Barbara DiDomizio, 81, of Mahopac, died peacefully Dec. 6 surrounded by her loving family.

Barbara was born Aug. 13, 1938, in Mt. Vernon to the late Vincent and Mary (Knob) Azzinaro. She married the love of her life, Natale DiDomizio, and they were blessed with five children.

Barbara worked as a homemaker and never tired of taking care of her family. She loved to bake cookies almost as much as everyone loved to eat them. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren brought her joy and pride.

Barbara is survived by her husband, Natale, and her children Dom DiDomizio and daughter-in-law Lisa, Barbara Occhiogrosso and son-in-law Anthony, and Natalie Cervera and son-in-law Jeff. She also leaves behind 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

She is survived by her brother Vinny Azzinaro, her son-in-law Joseph Paglia, daughter-in-law Arlene DiDomizio, brother-in-law Ronnie Bryant, and sister-in-law Janet Azzinaro.

Barbara is predeceased by two children, Tina Paglia and Michael DiDomizio; as well as two siblings, Danny Azzinaro and Margie Bryant.

A visitation was held Dec. 10 at Cargain Funeral Homes, Inc., in Mahopac. A Mass of Christian Burial followed at St. Columbanus Roman Catholic Church in Cortlandt Manor. Entombment was at Hillside Cemetery Mausoleum in Cortlandt Manor.

Rose Marie Kester (Arra)

Rose Marie was born Sept. 25, 1914 in Chicago, Ill. Her parents were Maria Ficano Arra and Michael Arra, and she had two brothers and three sisters.

Rose Marie was a longtime resident of Brewster, before retiring to South Pasadena, Fla. She and her husband, Andrew, were the proprietors of the Patio Inn Restaurant on Route 22 in Brewster for many years and were active members of the Brewster Chamber of Commerce, Rotary and Lions Club.

She is pre-deceased by her husband Andrew, son Michael, and granddaughter Suzanne. She is survived by many, including her daughter Joyce Durkin (William) of New Fairfield, Conn., with whom she has resided for the past 23 years. Rose Marie is also survived by her three granddaughters, Dawn Cleary (TJ), Rosebeth Holliday (Colin) and Andrea Milano (Christopher).

She adored and enjoyed the company of her great-grandchildren: TJ Cleary, Adam Cleary (Miranda), Storm Tentler (Wayne), Paris Knibbe (Colton), Tom Holliday and Jaden Milano. Rose is also survived by several great-great grandchildren: Hudson, Harper, Briggs, Griffin and Bennett.

Visitation took place Dec. 14 at Beecher Funeral Home in Brewster, with a Mass of Christian burial celebrated the same day at St. Lawrence O'Toole Church in Brewster. Interment followed at Milltown Rural Cemetery in Brewster.

Police Blotter

Dec. 6: Thomas King, 26, of Waterbury, Conn., was arrested by NYSP from Brewster and charged with third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance and third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell, felonies, after the car he was riding in was stopped on Interstate 684 and a search of the vehicle reportedly led to the discovery of about 95 decks of heroine that belonged to him. King was arraigned before Judge Anthony Mole in Patterson Town Court and remanded to the Putnam County Correctional Facility in lieu of \$1,500 cash bail or \$3,000 bond, with a future court date.

Dec. 7: Herber Gonzalez Salazar, 36, of

Brewster, was charged with driving while intoxicated after being stopped on North Main Street in the Village.

Dec. 8: Joseph Dilascio, 21, of Brookfield, Conn., was charged with DWI after being stopped on Route 6 in Southeast.

Dec. 8: Arielle Kaufman, 30 of Carmel, was charged with DWI after being stopped on Route 9 in Peekskill.

Dec. 8: Jhon Penaherrera, 19, of Danbury, was charged with DWI after being stopped on Route 6 in Southeast.

Dec. 8: Sergio Castro Torres, 45, of Danbury, was charged with DWI after being stopped on North Salem Road in Southeast.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF PUTNAM

The Bank of New York Mellon FKA The Bank of New York, as Trustee (CWALT 2007-4CB) Plaintiff, - against - **David Rivera, Pedro Veras** if living and if any be dead, any and all persons who are spouses, widows, grantees, mortgagees, lienor, heirs, devisees, distributees, or successors in interest of such of the above as may be dead, and their spouses, heirs, devisees, distributees and successors in interest, all of whom and whose names and places of residences are unknown to Plaintiff, Bank of America, N.A., United States of America-Internal Revenue Service, New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, Georgine Bagnato,, Defendants.

Index No. 500974/2019 • Filed: 11/19/2019 SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS

Plaintiff designates Putnam County as the place of trial. Venue is based upon the County in which the Mortgage premises is situated.

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT(S): YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your Answer or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the attorneys for the plaintiff within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within thirty (30) days after service is complete if this Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York). In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT

THE OBJECT of the above captioned action is to foreclose a Mortgage to secure \$304,000.00 and interest, recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County of PUTNAM on January 02, 2007, in Book 5004, Page 0105, covering premises known as 13 Sylvan Road, Lake Peekskill, NY 10537.

The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the Mortgage described above.

NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this Summons and Complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the Mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home.

Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the Summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your Mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action.

YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.

Dated: Bayshore, New York, November 15, 2019 **By:** Linda P. Manfredi, Esq.
Frenkel, Lambert, Weiss, Weisman & Gordon, LLP

Attorneys for Plaintiff
53 Gibson Street
Bay Shore, New York 11706
(631) 969-3100
Our File No.:01-041245-F00

Correction

In the article titled "A Less Congested, More Scenic Downtown Mahopac?" in last week's issue, it was erroneously reported that the drive-thru to Tompkins Mahopac Bank would be sealed off and closed as part of the Swan Cove project. The drive-thru will remain open. The Putnam Examiner regrets the error.



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Mahopac Woman Earns AARP Award

A Putnam woman has won the prestigious AARP Purpose Prize for her work leading Latino U College Access, which helps first-generation-to-college Latino students enroll in and graduate from college

Shirley Acevedo Buontempo, 56, of Mahopac, was honored Nov. 12 at the AARP Purpose Prize National Gala in Washington, D.C., where she was presented with \$60,000 from AARP to help further her organization's mission. She is one of five seniors across the country to receive the award.

Inspired after working in local nonprofit organizations and helping her own children apply to college, Buontempo said she saw a need for bilingual support to resource-challenged, Spanish-speaking families and students in making their dreams of a college education a reality.

The AARP Purpose Prize is the only national award that celebrates people age 50 and older who are using their life experience to create social change.

"AARP Purpose Prize winners and fellows have spent decades accumulating a wealth of knowledge that only life experience can bring," said AARP CEO Jo Ann Jenkins. "Armed with this wisdom, they tackle some of the greatest societal challenges of our time and are making a difference in their communities and further afield. We are proud to highlight their work with the AARP Purpose Prize award and to celebrate a new



Shirley Acevedo Buontempo

story of aging – one full of meaningful impact and limitless possibilities."

Putnam Valley to Vote on Controversial De-icer Ban

continued from page 1
long.

"There's a few people who have used them that didn't know how to use them," he said. "I think a law should be passed in favor of regulating the use of the melters."

John Powers, who put a bubbler in place for the first time last year to protect his dock, agreed the town should regulate how de-icers are used and provide guidelines specifying how to use the device properly, explaining that he sought the advice of neighbors and contractors prior to use to ensure it was being operated safely.

While some agreed, others questioned how the town could properly regulate every homeowner who uses this equipment.

"Who's to regulate if you're doing it wrong?" questioned Eric Klein. "Someone almost died. We're going to risk losing a life on this lake because of a dock."

Some residents also speculated what truly caused the ice to break when Brendan Foran fell through it Jan. 24. Some believe the cause was a high temperature that day, or global warming, while Foran and his

supporters blame de-icers weakening the frozen lake.

Foran had been riding an ATV across the lake when the ice gave way and the vehicle fell into the freezing water. Foran had been in the water for about 10 minutes, clinging to a rock, before first responders pulled him out.

"I made it out because I was heavier in weight," said Foran. "If a kid chases a hockey puck, he's not going to make it. Just ban aerators altogether."

Following the roughly 90-minute public hearing, Town Supervisor Sam Oliverio acknowledged the board has a tough decision to make moving forward.

"We see that there is division," he said. "We don't want to foster that division, but we also want to be fair and do the right and just thing."

Town officials will reconvene at Town Hall on Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 6 p.m., where they are scheduled to vote on the proposed law. The public hearing will remain open until then for residents who want to submit written comment.



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Why the Holidays Can Be the Best Time to Be a Homeowner

As a homeowner, that magic time between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day is my favorite time of year, each and every year.

Others may prefer spring when the garden is awakening and we may spend most of our time outside, or mid- or late summer when the flower and vegetable gardens are in full bloom, or perhaps the fall when the rich colors of nature can take our breath away.

But for me, I'm most grateful for my home and the pleasures it affords in the dead of winter. That is the time when, finally, that stubborn grout weed that plagued my former property of some 40 years is in remission for the season, the leaves have been raked and composted, and my time suddenly expands exponentially for other duties inside the house.

Those duties could include anything as big as finally summoning help to refinish that horrible guest room floor that has been hidden by a rug for decades, or tiny chores like gluing on the knob to that antique chest that fell off 10 or 12 years ago, or disguising all those furniture scratches with Old English Scratch Cover.

When my wife and I had an antiques shop as a part-time avocation, Old English was the single-most important defense mechanism in our bag of tricks – short

of refinishing – to make our furniture inventory look twice as good as when we bought it at auction.

The holiday season is also the time when our homes never looked cleaner or better with decorations, ready to receive guests.

As with every Christmas, my wife, Margaret, and I put up and decorate a tree, centered in front of a gorgeous Palladian-style window on the fifth floor of our building where passersby can see it – like a beacon that we're there, welcoming in the holiday season.

For some years, I have written about my journey as the owner of an antique house planning to sell my home and all the preparations that went into it. It gave me a lot of material to write about. Now, I enjoy the maintenance-free habitat of Trump Park Residences, where all I have to do is enjoy our beautiful surroundings and have someone else do the grunt work outside. (And they do it so beautifully!)

The nicest thing I enjoy about my current living arrangement is being able to stay within the same community where, basically, I grew up (grew old, actually) – and having friends I've known for decades.

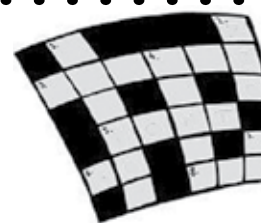
Especially this season, which becomes

more precious as I get older, I'm looking forward to using my extra holiday time to toast in the new year, once again singing "Auld Lang Syne" and trying to remember what the heck those words mean. It's much like trying to remember where I've placed the remote control for the building's garage door opener.

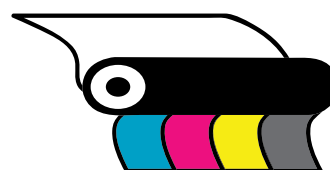
Bill Primavera is a realtor associated with William Raveis Real Estate and founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc., the longest-running public relations agency in Westchester (www.PrimaveraPR.com), specializing in lifestyles, real estate and development. To engage the services of Primavera and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.



By Bill Primavera



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A Cheese and Wine Primer at Our Local Cheese Shop



By Nick Antonaccio

Last week's column focused on Second Mouse Cheese Shop in Pleasantville. I interviewed the proprietor, Ivy Ronquillo, and gained a unique perspective of her mission for the shop which, coupled with her exuberance and passion, bode well for her success and our enhanced enjoyment of the vast world of artisanal cheeses.

Several readers requested a further drill-down into specific pairings of cheeses and wines. I returned to Ronquillo's shop this week to focus and report on several of her offerings.

But first, a brief primer on the vast and varied world of cheese.

The production of cheese is highly parallel to the production of wine. First, just as there are numerous grapes from which wines are crafted, cheeses are also made from different base products: cow, sheep and goat milk.

Second, fermentation is necessary to transform each base product into a unique end product. Likewise, cheese and wine are constantly changing during the aging process.

Third, the length of aging greatly influences the final product. A young wine or cheese tends to be soft in texture and simple in structure; an aged wine or cheese tends to be structured and complex.

Fourth, a winemaker or fromager may choose to influence their crafted results with external agents: oak for wine; molds, washes for cheese.

Fifth, terroir plays an important role in both wine and cheese making. I've covered the impacts of terroir extensively for wines. Similarly, locale and grass diet impart particular flavors or aromas to cheese.

Each of the above factors, when applied by a skilled fromager, result in a unique cheese. Generally speaking, I categorize the character of cheese into six broad texture groupings:

1. Soft-ripened, bloomy rind cheese. Examples: Brie, Camembert.
2. Semi-soft cheese. Aged a bit longer than bloomy rind, with a high moisture content. Examples: Morbier, Tallegio.
3. Washed-rind cheese. Washed to kill the rind mold, thereby imparting new flavors to the rind and cheese. Examples: Epoisses, Tomme.
4. Semi-hard cheese. Influenced by the type of bacteria and the

You Heard It Through the Grapevine

length of aging. Examples: Gouda, Comte.

5. Hard cheese. Influenced by bacteria and the length of the aging period, much longer than semi-hard cheeses, thereby accounting for the low moisture (hardness) of the

cheeses. Examples: Parmigiano-Reggiano, Manchego.

6. Blue cheese. Here, bacteria does its job when injected into a cheese, unlike other cheeses for which bacteria works externally. Examples: Roquefort, Stilton, and a rising number of American blue cheeses.

There are no strict rules for matching cheese with wine; it's a matter of your individual palate. Experiment with different combinations. What you'll likely discover is that white wines, especially those with high acid levels, will counter the creamy texture and flavor of many cheeses, whereby red wines tend to pair well with semi-hard and hard cheeses.

Approaching the cheese display case at Second Mouse for the first time can be overwhelming and daunting – but fear not, Ronquillo and her staff quickly dispel any trepidation. On any given visit, up to 75 cheeses are on display, each replete with a detailed and informative card. And samples are eagerly offered to educate your palate.

The cheeses are sourced from most Western European countries and close to 20 American states. Her favorites right now

are Swiss, Spanish and Portuguese.

On to Ronquillo's suggestions for pairings with a broad selection of her favorite cheeses.

Narragansett Burrata (Rhode Island; fresh cow): Sauvignon Blanc.

Lazy Lady Bonaparte (Vermont; fresh goat): Cotes du Rhone Rouge.

Von Trapp Farmstead Mt. Alice (Vermont; blooming rind cow): Chardonnay (Unoaked).

Jacobs & Brichford Ameribella (Indiana; washed rind cow): Sancerre.

Arethusa Farms Tapping Reeve (Connecticut; hard cow): Cabernet Franc.

Kaserei Tufertschwil Challerhocker (Switzerland; semi-hard): Pinot Noir.

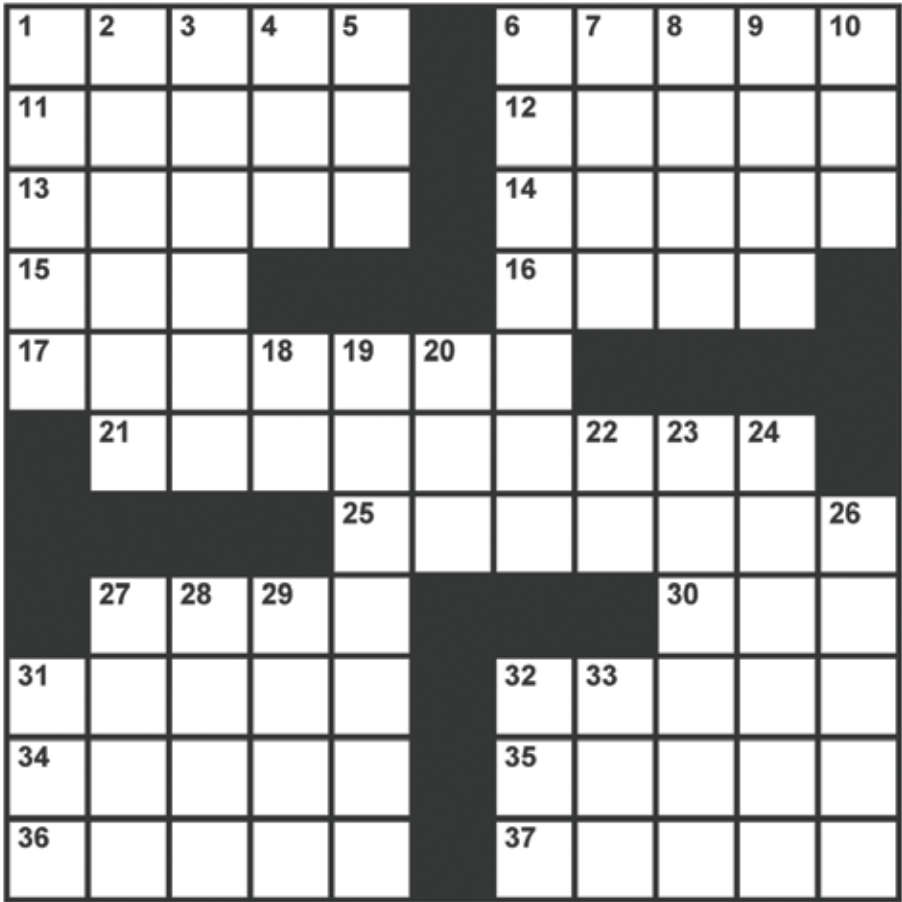
Reyepnaer Reserve XO (Netherlands; semi-hard cow): Cognac or Chianti Classico.

Point Reyes Farmstead Pt Reyes Original Blue (California; semi-soft cow): Syrah.

With so many choices of high-quality cheeses available, selecting and pairing them with wine may seem daunting at first. My advice: just as you vetted local wine merchants to educate your palate, do the same with cheese. I have found my favorite, right here in Pleasantville.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For more than 25 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. He is a member of the Wine Media Guild of wine writers and offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Antonaccio's credo: Continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. Reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.

Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. Engine type
6. One who questions
11. Surrealist painter Max
12. Loops
13. Judge's gowns
14. Pirate's treasure box
15. Laid up
16. Hendrix song, "Bold as ____"
17. Eastern snowbird's destination
21. "One day at a time" handyman or Mahopac financial and accounting group
25. Big name in pizza
27. Marc Antony's love
30. Mt. Kisco wood fired pizza and beer truck, Ash and ____
31. Single-celled organism
32. "No more!"
34. "Black ____" 1987 detective thriller with Dennis Hopper
35. Truck part
36. Industrial city in Dusseldorf district
37. Clubs, abbr.

Down

1. Printing flourish
2. Lord of the Rings bad guys
3. All together
4. Enzyme suffix
5. Whitney and others, abbr.
6. Approve
7. Part of London or Manhattan

8. Ukraine city
9. "When all ____ fails . . ."
10. Q followers
18. Atomic number
19. Introspective
20. ____ gratias
22. English princess
23. Passes
24. Deodorant type
26. Wise men
27. French friends
28. Pills from docs
29. Woodwind
31. Wonder or admiration
32. "Pulp Fiction" star, Thurman
33. Rejections



Happenings

Become a Library Trustee: Mahopac Public Library is hosting three information sessions for Mahopac residents who might be interested in serving on the Board of Trustees, on Monday, Jan. 13 at 6:30 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 8 at 10 a.m.; and Monday, March 9 at 6:30 p.m. Register at www.mahopaclibrary.org or call 845-628-2009, ext. 100.

Tuesday, Dec. 17

Virtual Reality Games: 3 p.m. at Mahopac Public Library. Those age 14 to 17 may play games on the Oculus Rifts. Registration is required at www.mahopaclibrary.org or by calling 845-628-2009, ext. 100.

Movie Matinee: "The Man Who Invented Christmas" will be shown at 1 p.m. at Patterson Library. Rated PG for thematic elements and mild language.

Wednesday, Dec. 18

Cancer Support: A breast and ovarian cancer support group will take place at 7 p.m. at Putnam Hospital Center. Advanced registration is required at www.supportconnection.org or by calling 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

Story Time: 11:15 a.m. to noon at Patterson Library. Celebrate winter with snowflake-themed story time. Sing songs, play games and create a craft to take home.

For ages 3 to 5 years. Register by calling 845-878-6121, ext. 10, or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org.

Foreign Film: 6:30 p.m. at Mahopac Public Library. "IDA," a film from Poland is 80 minutes long and rated PG-13. It will be screened in Polish with English subtitles. Popcorn will be provided. Registration is requested at www.mahopaclibrary.org or by calling 845-628-2009, ext. 100.

Cookie Decorating: 4:30 p.m. at Patterson Library. In addition to festive cookie shapes that can be chosen from, make fun crafts and enjoy hot cocoa included in this holiday celebration. Children younger than 5 must be accompanied by an adult. To register, call 845-878-6121, ext. 10, or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org.

Still-Life Watercolor: 10 a.m. at Reed Memorial Library in Carmel. Register at www.carmellibrary.org or call 845-225-2439.

"Polar Express:" 6 to 8 p.m., at Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served as participants watch the film in front of the fire in the Children's Room. Rated G.

Friday, Dec. 20

Hanukkah Festival: Reform Temple of Putnam Valley, 362 Church Road, Putnam Valley. Shabbat Service at 6:30 p.m., followed by holiday festivities at 7:15 p.m. Feature activities for children and teens, Hanukkah

music and a pizza dinner. Admission is \$5 per person, but no more than \$20 per family. Kids age 4 and older can enter the menorah building contest. A latke cook-off is open to all adults; bring 20 to 25 latkes, cut in half, in a disposable pan ready to heat, along with a list of ingredients. For more information, call 845-528-4774 or visit www.rtpv.org. RSVP to RTPVinfo@gmail.com.

Sunday, Dec. 22

Menorah Workshop: 2 to 3 p.m. at Brewster Home Depot. Create your own menorahs with Chabad of Putnam. Free. Register at www.PutnamChabad.org or call 845-225-4770.

Menorah Lighting: 4 p.m. at the corner of Route 312 and North Brewster Road, Brewster. Chabad of Putnam will host the festivities, which include hot latkes and cider. For more local Chanukah activities,

visit: www.PutnamChabad.org.

Monday, Dec. 23

Menorah Lighting: 5 p.m. on the shore of Lake Gleneida, near the Reed Memorial Library, Carmel. Rabbi Avi Korer of Chabad of Putnam County will preside over this ceremony, featuring singing and refreshments. A concert will begin at 5 p.m., and the menorah lighting ceremony will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 25

Menorah Lighting: 5 p.m. at the end of Main Street in Cold Spring, near the Cold Spring Depot. Chabad of Putnam will host the festivities, which include hot latkes and cider. For more local Chanukah activities, visit www.PutnamChabad.org.

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DEC. 30, '20 - JAN. 24, '21

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Crossword Answers

1	S	2	T	3	E	4	A	5	M	6	A	7	S	8	K	9	E	10	R
11	E	R	N	S	T	12	C	O	I	L	S								
13	R	O	B	E	S	14	C	H	E	S	T								
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36	E	S	S	E	N					37	A	S	S	N	S				

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LEGALS

Town of Putnam Valley Town Board Meeting December 18, 2019 6 PM Pledge of Allegiance 1. Departmental

Reports. 2. Supervisor's Comments. 3. Legislative Report. 4. School Report 5. Vote on Ban of Ice Retardant Devices on Lake Oscawana 6. Authorize the Supervisor to accept the Town Board minutes from November 6, November 13th, November 20th and December 4th. 7. Authorize the expenditure of \$200. for Town Board member-elect Ralph Smith to attend the Newly Elected Officials 2020 Training School sponsored by the Association of Towns, and authorize the reimbursement of associated travel and lodging expenses. Building Department 8. Daily Fee Report Parks & Recreation 9. Refunds Building Department 10. Daily Fee Report Districts 11. Mill Pond Water District Year End Revenue Report Finance Department 12. Budget Transfers 13. Public Comment 14. Audit of Monthly Bills

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Prosperity in Goal Leads Carmel to 8-2 Win over Mahopac on Hockey Fights Cancer Night

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Behind a sterling effort from eighth-grade goalie Nicco Positano (20 saves), Carmel defeated Mahopac, 8-2, for the first time in seven tries last Friday at the Brewster Ice Arena where Positano stopped this penalty shot by Indian Nick Biagini and the two rivals fought against cancer in pink and purple uniforms and raised over \$1,000 for Community Cares. Carmel F Brendan Murphy notched a hat trick while Luke Golisano set up three goals for the Rams (3-2). Noah Richardson and Zach Rubin each scored their first varsity goal while Graham Ludwig, Jack Lagan (A) and Steven Mount (2A) also scored for the Rams. Mahopac goals were score by Matt Luczkowski and Ryan Caraher.

Sports

Grapplin' Notebook

Put Valley's Carano Headlines List of Local Grapplers

By Tony Pinciario

The last two years veteran **PUTNAM VALLEY** wrestling Coach Will Carano has graduated core groups of excellent wrestlers.

Despite the graduation of Section 1 Division II (small school) champs – Rolando Lopez (285), Dustin Koskinen-Falls (195) and Dean Appell (152), Carano and his wrestlers will still be among the Section 1 elite.

Putnam Valley will be led by the returning trio of Will Carano (2019 Section 1 Division II 145-pound champion), Hunter Lundberg (second in the section) and Shane Appell (fourth in the section). They were instrumental in leading Putnam Valley to a third-place finish in the Section 1 Division II team championships.

Carano joined his father as a Section 1 champion. Coach Carano was a sectional champion for Mahopac.

Coach Carano said he will be welcoming numerous new wrestlers to the team.

"The returners comprise the core of a team that is roughly three-quarters coming from either modified or new to the sport," said Carano, who created the program and is in his 21st year. "We have no egos, and overall this could be one of the most tight-knit groups we have had in years that is buying in and recognizing the importance of the process and long-term outlook. So, our goal as always is this will be a very different team come February than we have now."

Carano is referring to having his team wrestling at its best for sectionals and the New York State Championships.

MAHOPAC welcomes new Coach Steven Tornambe as veteran leader Dennis DiSanto retired following the 2018-19 season.

DiSanto surpassed 400 career wins last year and guided Mahopac to a fourth-place finish in the Section 1 Division I (large school) Championships and the Indians were the Section 1 Division Dual-Meet Tournament runners-up to Fox Lane.

Tornambe comes to Mahopac after a successful tenure as Bob Bernarducci's assistant coach at Pleasantville. Tornambe is also a two-time Section 1 champion, for Ossining, and finished fifth in the state his senior year.

Tornambe inherits a team that graduated 12 starters. Even with the large graduating class, Mahopac does have a deep returning nucleus.

Senior Tyler Roa (third-place sectional finisher) and sophomore Angelo Centrone (sectional runner-up and fourth-place at states) highlight this group. Tornambe has named both captains.

The veteran core also includes seniors Xander Smith, Dylan Smith, A.J. Watts, Larry Nardecchia and Londrim Hasanramaj as well as juniors Aiden Muldoon, Ryan Kick and James Russo.

"Our team goals will always be the same as long as I am head coach," Tornambe said. "We will be working towards a section championship, along with league champs and getting as many wrestlers to the sections, as possible."

Mahopac will host the annual Peter Caruso Memorial Tournament, Saturday, Jan. 25.



Putnam Valley wrestler Will Carano Jr. (L) and Coach Will Carano hope to continue the winning culture the Tigers have built last two decades.

Sixth-year **YORKTOWN** Coach Eric Fama has quietly re-established Yorktown as a high-quality wrestling program.

Fama, a Section 1 wrestling champion for retired New Rochelle Coach Jim Guccione, inherited a program that graduated an outstanding senior class, including two sectional champions/state place-finishers and other sectional placefinishers.

Fama, along with assistant coaches and former Roy C. Ketcham standouts, Andrew and Frank Cabibbo, return a nucleus that includes four Section 1 Division I placefinishers.

Ben Robinson was the 220-pound runner-up, last year. He is joined by Andrew Finateri, who placed fifth last year, and Dean Patierno and Christian Sinagra, both sixth-place finishers.

Fama adds a familiar name to the lineup in eighth-grader Joseph Tornambe, the son of former Yorktown coach and Ossining wrestler, John Tornambe and nephew of Mahopac coach and two-time sectional champion, Steve Tornambe. The second generation Tornambe finished third, at 99 pounds, last year in the Middle School Youth States Championship.

Fama is looking forward to having Tornambe in the lineup as well as having a full order.

"This is the first year in the six years that I have been here that we have depth in multiple weight classes," Fama said. "We usually do not fill out a full lineup. We are looking to finish inside the top five at sectionals this year."

Fama will be taking Yorktown to the Eastern States along with the Westchester County Championships, Peter Caruso Memorial Tournament and a return to his alma mater for the Ted Murphy Shoreline Classic.

Yorktown hosted its annual dual-meet tournament, Saturday, and finished fourth.

Finateri went 5-0 for the tournament and

was named the most valuable wrestler. **LAKELAND/PANAS'** Nick DeSantis also was 5-0 and was selected for the sportsmanship award.

BREWSTER continued its strong run last year under Coach Tom Looby. The Bears finished with an 11-8 record, including Looby's 200th career win in his 16th year.

Five starters graduated, but Looby has seven experienced returnees – four seniors and three juniors.

The seniors are Brendan Lennon, Passang Sherpa, Owen Downey and Jackson Mahoney, and the junior trio is Jacob Hamblin, Matt Henry and Austin Mantra.

"We have a good mix of experience and a tough group of underclassmen," Looby said. "This group has had an excellent preseason and are ready to compete."

One newcomer is freshman Massimo Parrello. His father, Joe, was an All-Section wrestler for Harrison.

Fourth-year **HEN HUD** Coach Shane Turrone and his team have every reason to be optimistic about the 2019-20 season.

The Sailors return nine starters, led by seniors Michael Tosi and Beckett Herman. Both finished fourth in the section (large school) at their respective weight classes. Classmates Ethan Romero, Alex Garcia and Paul Williams are also back.

Nick Cepeda and Sean McIntyre, both sectional qualifier last years, along with Kerann Belvu and Cameron Curley comprise the junior group.

Turrone has some young talent ready to step into starting roles. Freshmen Ryan Clark and Connor Harbolic and eighth-graders Ismael Andrade and Shane Merchant, are among the promising wrestlers.

"My four captains really help motivate the team and we are looking to have one of our better seasons, this year," Turrone said. "Everyone is very focused and determined to give everything they have on the mats. Our goal, for the season, is to get as many kids through to sectionals as possible and have multiple wrestlers place this season."

Turrone will look to Tosi and Herman for leadership.

"Michael and Beckett have been leading the team since sophomore year and they continue to impress on a daily basis," Turrone said.

Hen Hud will host its annual tournament, Saturday, Jan. 11. The tournament has an average field of 24 teams.

Hen Hud wrestled in the Michael Tarulli (Irvington) Tournament, Saturday, and finished third as all 11 wrestlers placed in the top six.

Belvu was a champion while Tosi, Herman and Curley were runners-up. McIntyre, Cepeda and Garcia all finished third.

Herman surpassed Turrone on Hen Hud's career-wins' list. The senior co-captain now owns 111 varsity wins, moving ahead of Turrone's 108.

"I am happy for Beckett," Turrone said. "He works incredibly hard. I had to injury default him in the finals because he had fluid on his knee. He was not happy."

In Coach Dave Bergen's first two years,

LAKELAND/PANAS has taken progressive steps forward. Last year, the Rebels finished with an 11-10 record, including 3-3 in the league.

A veteran returning nucleus has Bergen feeling good about what the season holds.

Senior Nick DeSantis and juniors, Gio Russo and Austin Bergen, were all-league selections. DeSantis recently went 5-0 for the Rebels in the Yorktown Dual-Meet Tournament and earned the sportsmanship award. Seniors Declan Fullerton and Pat Hickey, along with junior Shane Coster and sophomore Connor McGannon complete the returning core. There is a host of newcomers to varsity, which should enable the Rebels to fill all 15 weight classes.

The newcomers include juniors Tyler Carter, Charlie Dubrawski and Niko Reza. The numerous sophomores are Spencer Maja, Hunter Dagnino, Ryan Deitrick, Steven Santalisa and Chris Ciraco.

"I like the athleticism and work ethic that or team has," said Bergen, who coached the White Plains' varsity team before coming to Lakeland/Panas. "We have a lot of natural athletes that work hard every day. As they gain experience they will improve quickly."

Our goal as always is to do better than last season. We will look to improve on that. Winning the league would be great, but we will have to beat some tough teams."

OSSINING has a new, but familiar coach in Tom Larm. The Brewster graduate and former All-Section wrestler was former Coach Larry McRae's assistant for seven years.

The Pride do return three sectional qualifiers, led by senior Joe Nolan, the Section 1 285-pound runner-up and Westchester County champion. Sophomore Jonathan Benitez and Tristan Robinson-July will complete the threesome.

Starting spots are open and Larm is hoping that his new wrestlers accept the challenge.

"Our team has a lot of newcomers so we're excited for some of them to step up and establish themselves in the starting lineup," Larm said. "Sophomores Kwabena Boateng and Amaury Castro are not new to the sport, but are looking for breakout seasons. Overall, we're looking to grow each week, as a team and as individuals. If we can do this we will achieve our team goals and individual goals along the way."

SOMERS was ahead of schedule before the 2019-20 preseason began.

The Tuskers did not graduate any wrestlers, so sixth-year Coach Ron DiSanto, Jr., came into preseason with an experienced returning core and numerous underclassmen.

His three returning seniors are Zach Lupinacci, Peter Kim and Thomas Gall, all 2019 sectional qualifiers. Juniors A.J. D'Orazio, a sectional qualifier, and Michael Rivera are also back.

DiSanto, who wrestled for Somers and his uncle, Dennis DiSanto, has 15 freshmen and two eighth-graders competing for varsity positions.

"From 99 to 145, we have either freshmen or eighth-graders," DiSanto said. "They are

continued on page 23

Sports

Boys' Hoops Notebook

Heart & Soul Required to Make up for Scoring Death

Mahopac Takes Somers Tourney, Panas Finds its Point Guard

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor@Directrays

Somebody has to tell it like it is in this neck of the woods, and for the better part of three decades, that task has fallen right in the lap of this scribe when it comes to local athletics.

So, what I'm about to say shouldn't be taken personally, it's just like they said in Hollywood's version of 'The Irishman': It is what it is.

The fortunes of boys' basketball fanatics in and about the Northern Westchester/Putnam County region may rely on something other than talent this season. There may be a shortage of pure scorers, which is often cyclical, so it appears as though heart and soul will be the determining factors this winter, so the team that brings the most of those two intangibles will likely be the unit that makes the most noise.

Heart and soul: The utmost of one's energy, enthusiasm and determination could decide the League II-C title; where teams like Panas, Yorktown, Brewster and Somers will take a run at Lakeland. With senior swingman Jack Kruse leading the way, Coach Steve Fallo's Hornets could be one of the few teams in these parts to average more than 55-60 points per game this winter while many of the others, including Class AA clubs like Ossining, Mahopac and Carmel, plus Class B's Putnam Valley, may struggle to hit 50 on occasion.

The early indicators tell us that points will



RAY GALLAGHER/RICK KUPERBERG/BOB CASTNER PHOTOS

Mahopac junior MVP Luke Syku pulls up for jumper in Indians' win over Kennedy in Somers tourney Thursday.



Mahopac junior Vin Bastone gains lane in Indians win over Kennedy and Gaels Jaden Wilson and Connor O'Reilly in Somers tourney.

be at a premium this season, so you best be ready to defend the rim, get after every loose ball and drain clutch shots down the stretch...

The 24th annual Michael DePaoli/Somers Basketball Tournament was a perfect example of heart and soul on full display. With host **SOMERS** (2-4) and **MAHOPAC** (2-2) battling it out for tourney bragging rights on Saturday, neither could score the ball consistently, but it was Coach Tom McMahon's Indians who gutted out the 42-39 double overtime victory. Mahopac swingman Luke Syku (11 points) secured tournament MVP honors and the McMahon boys delivered the points; with Matthew McMahon (11 points) and All-Tournament selection Patrick McMahon (10 points) leading the way. Pat McMahon's baseline trey with :11 left in the second OT was a difference-making shot.

That said, the teams combined for just 81 points, including the two ex-

tra sessions, so it wasn't pretty, but the Indians gutted out a close one.

"I was very happy with the mental toughness our guys showed," Coach McMahon said.

Mahopac reached the finals after knocking off Kennedy Catholic, 56-45, in the opening round behind 14 points from Syku, including a big 3.

Tuskers Dylan Berliner and Henry Gilroy were named to the All-Tournament team for Somers, which knocked off **YORKTOWN** 47-30 in the opening round Friday.

Kennedy knocked off Yorktown (1-5) in the consy, 72-58, despite 17 points from Eddie Brucaj.

LAKELAND (2-2) has won its last two, including an 82-68 win over Bronxville be-



Panas' Lukas Velez and Byram Hills' Benji Hammond give 110% for loose ball in Panthers' tourney final loss to Bobcats Saturday.



Panas G Alex Tavaréz opened eyes against Nic Picca and Byram Hills in Panthers' tourney loss to Bobcats.

hind Augie Karaqi's career-high 28 points. Kruse added 13 points and 15 boards. Michael Arcure chipped in 12 points for the Hornets while Aidan Welcome and Rob Nardelli each dropped a dime. Lakeland's problem isn't scoring points, it's stopping the opposition. The height-challenged Hornets can run-and-gun, but finding a defensive scheme that works for them will be the challenge.

"That's our challenge, to get better defensively," Kruse admitted. "All we've been focusing on is defense and rebounding."

Byram Hills handled **PANAS**, 88-38 to win the Panthers' holiday title, outscoring Panas by 51 points over the final three quarters. Lorenzo Santucci paced the Panthers (4-1) with 16 points, including four pulls

continued on page 23

Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook

Panas, Brewster, Croton Win Tournament Titles

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor@Directrays

The 2020 season is shaping up nicely in the early stages for several of the local clubs.

WALTER PANAS is going through a prime period in its history, having reached the County Center in two of the last three seasons, and, seemingly, having more than enough to get back there in 2020 should the Panthers cash in their chips in late February.

Panas (3-1) won its holiday tournament in convincing fashion Saturday, taking out Peekskill, 75-25, behind 22 points and an MVP effort from G Cailan Nolan. Panther G Kristen Cinquina provided a solid second scoring option and went for 18 points and was named to the all-tournament team.

"Both of them were excellent last year, but both have added new dimensions to their games," Panas Coach Matt Evangelista said. "They both worked very hard in the offseason to improve their strengths like shooting, but also added things like driving floaters and pull-up jumpers to make them even more dangerous offensively. Both have really committed to their defense as well; each is averaging four steals per game."

The Red Devils placed seventh-grader Bethany Overby (8 points) and Takyla Cowan-Hongach (6) on the All-Tourney team. Overby is legit #EyesOn.

In the opening round of the Panas tournament, Peekskill (1-4) beat Keio 42-36 when Cowan-Hongach dropped 18 points, dished five assists and notched five steals. Overby had nine points.

Panas took care of business with a 51-29 win over Beacon when Cinquina (13 points) nailed three 3's in the third quarter. Nolan finished with a game-high 15. Panas played suffocating defense throughout the tournament...

Down 17-2 in the opening round of the Somers tournament, **KENNEDY** Coach Len Yearwood kept the Gaels focused on the big picture; four quarters of basketball.



Mahopac freshman G Lauren Beberman is checked by Kennedy junior G Taylor Brenneman in Indians' 59-55 loss to Gaels.



RAY GALLAGHER/RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

Mahopac freshman G Kristina Rush is chased by Kennedy junior G Julia Apap in Indians' 59-55 loss to Gaels in Somers tourney last Thursday.



Mahopac junior F Caitlyn O'Boyle runs through Kennedy junior G Taylor Brenneman in Indians' 59-55 loss to Gaels last Thursday.



Mahopac sophomore G Melanie DeMaio goes up for two in Indians' loss to Julia Apap and Kennedy Gaels. (2)

After one of their worst quarters of the young season, Kennedy rode the efforts of Taylor Brenneman (24 points, 6 rebounds) and Erin Brann (16 points, 12 boards) to a 59-55 come-from-behind win over Section 1 Class AA **MAHOPAC** last Thursday.

"We just stayed focused on the things we knew we could control," Yearwood said. "We knew we started with no energy. I just kept telling them to flip that switch and give yourselves a chance, and they did. They showed great heart!"

Kennedy did not sustain that momentum in the finals, losing to Horace Mann...

Mahopac (2-1) managed to bounce back in the consy round against **SOMERS**, defeating the Tuskers 51-46. Indian sophomore Melanie DeMeo (6 points) ran the point and was named to the All-Tourney team

while F Caitlin O'Boyle (14 points), Kristina Rush (9 points) and Lauren Beberman (9), who drained a 3 with 6:39 to play and gave the Indians a 42-29 lead, balanced the score sheet.

Somers senior G Dani DiCintio made things very dicey when she hit from behind the arc, made a steal and converted the layup to bring the Tuskers (0-4) within a point (47-46) with under a minute left. DeMeo, Rush and Beberman combined to go 5 for 8 from the stripe down the stretch to seal the deal.

DiCintio, the lone holdover from the Somers team that reached the state Final 4 back in 2017, hit five bombs from distance and scored 11 points in the fourth, 25 overall, to make the All-Tournament team...

In Class C **HALDANE's** 55-54 win over Class AA **CARMEL** in the opening round of Croton's Mayclim Tournament, Blue Devil Bela Monteleone knocked down a career-high 28 points, collared seven rebounds and grabbed four steals to propel the Blue Devils (2-2) to the championship game. Olivia McDermott (nine points, five steals and two assists) and Molly Siegel (eight points and four rebounds) each stepped up. Daniella Bello put up 14 points while Caroline McIntyre added 12 points for the Rams (2-3), who erased an 11-point halftime deficit and were up by one heading into the fourth quarter.

Haldane could not keep the good time roll-

continued on next page

Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook

Panas, Brewster, Croton Win Tournament Titles

continued from previous page

ing in the finals of the Mayclim Tournament where the Blue Devils lost to the host Tigers, 69-32.

As she is on many nights, **CROTON's** Anna Eng, the tourney MVP, was the best player on the court, going for a game-high 25 points. Tigers Erin Reynolds (14 points, All-Tourney) and Tamera Taylor-Moore (13 points) led a vastly improved Croton (5-1) club...

Marist-bound Caitlin Weimar led the Sailors with 28 points in **HEN HUD's** 61-56 loss to Harrison, but the Sailors (4-1) will look to rebound this weekend when they host a doozy of a local tournament. Mahopac opens against Panas on Tuesday, Dec. 17th at 4:30 p.m. while the host Sailors take on Class C heavyweight Haldane (6:30 p.m.). The conso and finals will be played on the 18th at 4:30 and 6:30 p.m., respectively...

Apparently, Byram Hills is going to be a factor in Class A this season after its 62-55 win over **LAKELAND**. Hornet Hannah Devane scored 25 points, hauled in eight caroms and continues to be a solid contributor for Lakeland (2-3), which held a 28-22 lead at the half. Taylor Hormazabal added 12 points while S. Pinkowski went for eight...

YORKTOWN was impressive in several ways during its 54-18 win over host Roosevelt.

While Melissa Severino had 11 points and five rebounds for the Huskers (3-1), who opened with a 22-2 run, Alyssa Perrino added eight points and six rebounds. All 11 Huskers scored, including Alyssa Giannasca (7 points) and Lindsey Townes (6 points). Yorktown 30-5 at the half and showed some class.

"We were complimented by many people at Roosevelt on our good sportsmanship," Husker boss Brian Mundy said. "That means a lot to me."...

In the opening round of the **BREWSTER** Tournament the Bears defeated Nanuet, 60-57, behind a pair of dynamic double-doubles from Alexis Mark (13 points and 10 re-



Panas' Alexis Turner takes run at Peekskill's Afua Yeboar in Panthers' 75-25 rout of Red Devils Saturday.

bounds) and Grace Galgano (12 points, 13 rebounds and six blocks). Carly DeLanoy and Madison Dakin added 11 points apiece for the youthful Bears (5-0), who are well ahead of schedule.

In the finals, the dynamic duo of Mark and Galgano were back at it as the Bears trimmed Pelham, 33-28, to claim the championship. Mark, the tourney MVP, had another double-double (13 points and 12 rebounds) while Galgano was named all-tournament with nine points and 14 rebounds...

PUTNAM VALLEY is off to a hot start at 5-1, but getting over the hump is never easy. If it were, there wouldn't be a saying about it. Getting over the hump requires grind, the kind of grind that isn't in everyone. Reigning Class B NYS and Federation champion Irvington is more than just a hump for Section 1 basketball foes. The Bulldogs – winners of five NYS Federation titles and 18 Section 1 crowns -- are the monkey on your back, the team you circle on the schedule, and every other cliché in sports... for good reason.

Putnam Valley was as close as it's ever been to getting over that hump until Bulldog Grace Thybulle reminded everyone why Irvington is usually the team to beat in Class B.

On the game's final possession, the Irvington center used her height, which is Putnam valley's kryptonite, to seal a 47-45 win over the visiting Tigers. Thybulle denied a baseline drive with a clean steal, preventing PV's last-ditch attempt at getting over the hump.

Putnam Valley G Kelli Venezia stroked four 3's and scored 14 points to lead the Tigers, along with promising freshman Eva



Peekskill's Sage North tries to gain baseline on Panas' Kristen Cinquina in Red Devils' 75-25 loss to Panthers in Panas tourney final.

Heart & Soul Required to Make up for Scoring Death

continued from page 21

from downtown.

Panas point guard Alex Tavarez burst onto the scene in the Panthers' 57-31 opening-round win over Woodlands, going for three and-one finishes in the second quarter alone and scoring a career-high 17 points. The freshman showed major handles, the ability to create his own shot and finish. Panas Coach Mike Auerbach might have been easing him in, but the cat is out of the bag on this kid.

"He's a very good ball handler and can get to the basket," Auerbach said. "He's got a good mid-range game, floaters, and he finds a way to get a good shot off in traffic. His outside shot has improved a ton too since last year. He's good enough from 3 to keep teams honest. He's very lanky for a ninth grader. He can be disruptive defensively with his length. He anticipates well, too. He can get you two or three steals a game guy right now."

Caleb Evans (12) and Arturo Macchia (10) were also in double figures.

You know what oughta be a lot of fun this winter? Each time Lakeland and Panas square off...

CARMEL (3-3) knocked off host **BREWSTER** (0-3) Saturday, 51-48, behind some clutch shots down the stretch. Drew Fiore went for a career-high 18 points while Jared Garcia added 14, including the go-ahead hoop...

PEEKSKILL (2-3) finished a disappointing fourth place in the Fox Lane tournament, losing to both Fox Lane and John Jay. Anto-

Dechent (14 points). Tiger Arriana Stockinger finished with 11. Putnam Valley shot poorly from the field (8 for 29) in the first half and played without the services of veteran Cyera Daughtry (head trauma); two keys they hope to improve upon should the Tigers and Bulldogs meet again.

The undermanned Tigers finished the game with nine 3-pointers, which kept them afloat.

PV posted a 40-30 bounce-back win over Harrison. DeChent led the Tigers with 12 points. Venezia (9 points) and Amanda Orlando (8 points) were big contributors.

In Putnam Valley's 48-18 trouncing of Westlake, DeChent led all scorers with 20 while Venezia, who is inching close to 1,000 career points, added 13 for the Tigers.



Put Valley's Carano Headlines List of Local Grapplers

continued from page 20

all unproven, but have a lot of potential. We will get them some JV experience and we need to have some wrestle-offs before we know who will make the varsity lineup."

DiSanto will rely on his returning wrestlers to provide leadership and guidance to their younger teammates.

"I expect our experienced middle to upper weights to provide a solid core and set the tone," DiSanto said. "I expect some growing pains from our younger, light to middleweights but I believe that many of our young guys are ready to make an impact on varsity and I cannot wait to see who steps up and how much they improve throughout the season."

Somers will host its annual Eric D'Agness Memorial Somers Tournament (41st year), Saturday, January 4th.

nio Taylor finished with 20 points against both Jay and the Foxes, who held the Red Devils to just 45 points...

OSSINING lost to Ramapo, 61-56, and fell to 2-3. The Pride saw Khy'Leil Hawkins play a well-rounded game with 23 points, four rebounds and four assist while Jaden Carr added 16 points and dished five assists.



Somers G Matt Lipski pulls down rebound in Tuskers' opening-round tourney win over Yorktown.

Benefits of Brann!



Kennedy Senior Provides Essential Elements in Tourney Win over Mahopac



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Kennedy Catholic C Erin Brann, a 6'1" senior who hails from Brewster, denies -- then hammers (inset) -- Mahopac junior F Shannon Becker in the Gaels' 59-55 come-from-behind triumph of the Indians last Thursday in the opening round of the 24th annual Michael DePaoli Tournament at Somers High School. Brann's double-double (16 points, 12 boards) helped the Gaels advance to Saturday's title tilt against Horace Mann who defeated the Gaels 65-51 in Saturday's title tilt despite another solid effort from Brann (10 points, 9 boards)... see Girls' Hoops Notebook