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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 11, Issue 561

Haldane School Board Terminates Coach Searight

Students, Parents Beg District to Reconsider

By Holly Crocco

Despite impassioned pleas from student, parents and other community members during the Dec. 18 Haldane School Board meeting, the board voted unanimously to terminate longtime girls' varsity basketball coach Tyrone Searight.

Searight, 49, of Peekskill, who has coached the Haldane girls – as well as other sports – for the past 11 seasons, was arrested in October on charges that he defrauded the state of more than \$16,000 in worker's compensation. After a work-related knee injury that occurred while he was an MTA bus driver, he was accused of collecting worker's compensation from November 2016 until May 2017, during which time he continued coaching.

Searight pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct, a violation, in November and was sentenced to a one-year conditional discharge and paid full restitution of \$16,900 to the MTA Bus Company. He took a leave of

absence from Haldane while the legal matter was being resolved.

During the recent meeting, Searight said the charges stemmed from a paperwork error. "It was a mistake that I filled out," he said. "I did everything in my power to get this situation resolved."

The coach said his legal problems have nothing to do with his commitment to the students. "I'm invested here in the community with most of these parents and the young kids and the families out here," he said. "This is what I love to do – coach these girls and be around these kids."

Searight also said he would not be voluntarily giving up his position. "I'm not going to resign," he said prior to the board's vote to fire him. "I want to know why I'm getting terminated."

Cold Spring resident Mike Meeropol, whose grandsons were coached by Searight, spoke of his enthusiasm for the students.

"I was able to see for myself his style as

continued on page 10



HALDANE SCHOOL BOARD VIDEO

Tyrone Searight addresses the Haldane School Board on Dec. 18 before it voted to terminate his employment as the girls' varsity basketball coach.

Former Cold Spring Trustee Arrested for Attempting to Lure Teen

By Holly Crocco

A former educator and public official in Cold Spring was arrested last week after allegedly attempting to entice a minor to engage in sexual activity.

Charles Hustis, 36, was arrested Dec. 16 following an investigation by the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigations and the Putnam County Sheriff's Office.

According to a report filed Dec. 16 by FBI Special Agent Pao Mei Fisher and presented to U.S. Magistrate Judge Lisa Margaret Smith, Hustis used his Facebook Messenger account to send sexual images, including photographs of himself, to a 16-year-old male between Dec. 8 and 16, and arranging a meeting with the victim to "perform various sexual acts."

Hustis is charged with one count of attempted enticement of a minor, which carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison and a maximum sentence of life in prison.

According to Fisher's report, the sheriff's office notified the FBI earlier this month that it had information that a 16-year-old male had been contacted via Facebook Messenger by Hustis, who had previously served as the teen's substitute teacher at Haldane Schools.

Hustis told the teen he was "getting hit



PROVIDED PHOTO

Charles Hustis

on by sugar daddies all the time" while working at Foodtown, where he claimed to be a manager, states the report. He also indicated that he had seen the teen running on the school track team.

Subsequent communication from Hustis

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Study of Southeast-Danbury Rail Line Chugging Along

By Neal Rentz

The creation of a Town of Southeast-City of Danbury rail line was revisited during the Dec. 17 meeting of the Putnam County Legislature's Audit and Administration Committee meeting.

Committee Chairman Bill Gouldman, R-Putnam Valley, said there will be no financial impact for the county in 2019 or 2020 for participating in an \$800,000 study, which is being funded by the federal government.

"I think we have an incredible opportunity," said Putnam Transportation Manager Vincent Tamagna. "We have this rail line that's been dead since at least 2007. And I think we really need to explore all possible options. I think there's great potential for Putnam County and also Danbury."

Although Legislator Nancy Montgomery, D-Philpstown, said she supports the concept of the rail link, Montgomery noted that she is concerned about an annual \$15,000 stipend for project management, saying "not a lot of information" has been given about the project.

For example, she said she wants to know how the job description for the project manager – Tamagna – will be decided.

The county's Physical Services Committee also discussed the study last week, with committee Chairman Carl

Albano, R-Carmel, explaining "this is a very complicated study."

The county will be working with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the City of Danbury on the study, and the county needs a project manager to represent the interests of Putnam, he told Montgomery.

Albano said the \$15,000 stipend was prorated for \$5,000 for this year for the study, which was approved by the MTA in the fall. The stipend, which will be the full \$15,000 in 2020, will be spent on Tamagna's continuing work on the study, as well as another \$45,000 spent this year for in-kind services related to the study.

County Commissioner of Planning, Development and Public Transportation Sandra Fusco told the committee that Putnam is "just one player for this major project." As project manager, she said Tamagna will be bringing all the parties together.

"It's a very good fit and a necessary fit," she said.

County Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. said the new rail line would open up additional parking spaces at the Southeast Metro-North station parking lot, and would reduce traffic and traffic accidents in the area.

"I'd love to see this project go through," he said. "It would be a benefit to the community."

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Former Cold Spring Trustee Arrested for Attempting to Lure Teen

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to the teen included “sexy boy” and “what do you wear under your running shorts? I wear thongs,” as well as explicit language asking the teen about sexual performance.

“I’m looking to find a hot boy to serve me and settle down with,” Hustis wrote the teen, according to Fisher.

After the teen alerted law enforcement to the communications, Fisher began messaging Hustis, posing as the teen. Hustis continued to send photos of himself and “described a variety of sexual acts he wanted to engage in” with the teen, and “acknowledged his understanding” that the teen was a minor, according to the report.

Fisher arranged to meet Hustis in the Foodtown parking lot, where he was instead approached by law enforcement officers and admitted to his actions, according to the report.

Putnam Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. said this is another example of why all law enforcement agencies should continue to work together at the local and federal levels to better serve their communities.

“The Putnam County Sheriff’s Department looks forward to continuing our already good working relationship with the FBI and other federal agencies,” he said.

Hustis served on the Cold Spring Village Board for two terms, from 2010 to 2014,

and ran for Haldane School Board in 2015 and for Cold Spring mayor this November. Although unsuccessful this year, Hustis apparently planned to continue to pursue a political career.

On Nov. 7 he posted the following message on a Facebook page called Charles E. Hustis III for Mayor:

“... I am in process of resting myself and beginning process of a much stronger and well funded mayoral campaign for 2021. I believe I’ve tapped into an electorate, even though I gathered 286 votes before absentees and the constructive criticism I’ve received has helped me see where I need to be stronger. Please keep on believing in a small village government where people look out for each other and I believe we will get to the promised Land.”

Anyone in the community who believes their child may have fallen victim to Hustis is asked to call 1-800-CALL-FBI.

The investigation is ongoing.



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Put Valley School Board Hears Update on Capital Project Costs

By Holly Crocco

Anticipating higher-than-expected construction costs related to the \$14.8 million capital project that was approved by Putnam Valley Central School District voters last year, architects presented the school board with some alternative plans during its Dec. 12 meeting.

As part of the project, upgrades are planned at the middle school cafeteria/auditorium, including an expanded kitchen and additional multipurpose space to host larger functions and meetings. In addition, a modern learning commons is planned at the school, as well as a modernized entrance, more flexible classroom space, and upgrades to bathrooms.

At the elementary school, HVAC and seating upgrades are planned in the auditorium, and two active learning spaces will be created.

In addition, a new health and wellness center at the high school/middle school campus to accommodate physical education and health classes, sports teams, and outside groups is being designed.

Walter Houser of KG+D Architects in Mount Kisco notified the board that, based on nearby school district projects, when the Putnam Valley project goes out to bid in January, the response may come in higher than anticipated.

"We've seen some recent cost escalation," said Houser.

He explained that KG+D uses historical information and a cost escalation index to come up with estimates, and at each stage of the design, they compare the actual costs to the cost projections and see where changes are needed to keep the project on track.

Estimates include "direct costs" such as equipment and materials, a contractor's overhead and profit, and escalation.

While escalation has been calculated at about 4.5 percent, KG+D figured it at 6 percent when doing its projections, based on a number of factors. However, "very recently, we've seen on some of our projects, as well as antidotally on other projects, some recent spikes in bid results," said Houser.

In the past six to eight weeks, Pelham received bids for a project that came in 15 to 18 percent higher than anticipated, with Rye Neck and Scarsdale having similar experiences, he said. However, Yorktown opened bids this month that were within the district's project scope, as well as Brewster and Mount Pleasant.

"I want to stress it's a small sample size, so it's not statistically significant, but it's anecdotally significant," said Houser. "So it's a little difficult to make heads or tails of this, but it's important to be prepared..."

We're seeing significant increases in steel, concrete, masonry and windows."

He said this could be due to demand, an influx in available work, or even uncertainty regarding tariffs.

To get ahead of the curve, KG+D is digging deeper into parts of the project that could result in unexpected findings, such as asbestos testing, and looking at different strategies with regard to awarding contracts, such as combining work or separating work so some aspects could potentially be postponed, or eliminated, if need be.

Houser also said KG+D is looking at "value engineering," which is not cutting the scope of the project, but "doing the same for less." For example, he suggested swapping the felt that is planned for the cafeteria ceiling in the middle school for acoustic ceiling tiles, and reducing some wood paneling.

"So we still have a very handsome look to the space, a very exciting look, but it's actually a very significant cost savings," he said.

Architects are also taking "a hard look" at the wellness center. "This building is the piece of the project that is most subject to the dynamic market changes we're talking about," said Houser, because it has the most steel, concrete, wall construction and windows.

Specifically, Houser said KG+D is looking at options to reduce the square footage and configuration of polycarbonate windows that are planned for the building

– "which are pretty expensive" – while keeping the same amount of natural light coming in.

In addition, he suggested changing the way the exterior wall is designed to reduce masonry costs and foundation wall thickness – while making sure it still blends in with the other buildings.

"We'll still deliver a building that looks like it matches the rest of the facility and fits in with your campus," said Houser. "It can't look like a spaceship landed next to your high school."

Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Luft said he understands that the district is vested the project and may be hesitant to changing certain aspects of the project, but noted it is important that the district react to the changing market.

"So were trying to be as reactive as we can without overreacting and decimating our project, and we're going to have to go out and see what the market will bear," he said. "If we end up falling in that first bucket of schools that came in at 30 percent overbudget, well, we've got some decisions to make and we're going to have to go back to the drawing table."

Board member Barbara Parmly reminded her colleagues, and board members, that the district can't go over the amount of money the taxpayers allocated for the project.

"So the only thing we can do is try to use all of these options to try to minimize the costs," she said.

Study of Southeast-Danbury Rail Line Chugging Along

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"This is an exciting project for the people of the Town of Southeast," added Legislator Paul Jonke, R-Southeast. One of the benefits will be a reduction of traffic in the Route 6 area, he said.

Langley asked for a timetable for the completion of the study, to which Fusco

said the feasibility study is expected to take between two and three years to complete.

The committee voted unanimously to submit to the full Legislature the budget transfer to pay for the \$5,000 stipend for 2019 and the acceptance of the \$800,000 federal grant for the study in the revenue line of the budget.

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Putnam Valley Bans Ice-Retardant Devices on Lake Oscawana

By Holly Crocco

The Putnam Valley Town Board voted Dec. 18 to ban the use of ice-retardant devices and chemicals on the Lake Oscawana shoreline or water body.

Councilmembers Louie Luongo, Jackie Annabi and Wendy Whetsel, as well as Supervisor Sam Oliverio voted in favor of the ban. Councilman Steven Mackay was absent.

"We have discussed this matter for the past three months," said Oliverio prior to the vote. "We have studied it since last winter when that terrible incident occurred where the individual fell through the ice on an ATV."

The supervisor was referring to last January when Brendan Foran was rescued from frigid waters after he fell through the ice.

"My bottom line has always been life over property," said Oliverio. "It is that simple, and I've been an advocate since I've been in government, 27 years now, with the belief that government was established for the health and safety of its residents. That is the reason why government exists."

The supervisor explained that Lake Oscawana lakefront property owners will soon receive correspondence in the mail describing the ban, and that it will go into effect Jan. 1.

"From that point on, Jan. 1, the use of any type of ice-retardant device will be prohibited," said Oliverio. "If it is reported to us that one is in use, we will send our building inspector down, confiscate the device, and you will be fined \$1,000."

He acknowledged that some residents are upset about ban, but said the board thought about the topic at great lengths.

"The bottom line is that when we're confronted with a life-over-property situation, we have to go with the life end of it, and this way we can ensure the safety of our children, our pets, our residents on that lake at all times."

Annabi noted that just because de-icers have been banned on the lake, it doesn't mean people are any safer going out on the ice.

"We need to make it clear that we don't condone any activity on the ice," she said. "That has to be clear, because it's just not safe... There is still a lot of natural waterflow. You've still got to use common sense."



Residents Escape House Fire in Brewster



PUTNAM LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT PHOTO

A two-alarm structure fire Dec. 13 on Fox Hollow Road in Brewster drew a response from the Brewster, Putnam Lake, Lake Carmel and New Fairfield fire departments. First-responders assisted residents out of the house while firefighters worked to extinguish the fire, according to BFD. The Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services Fire Investigation Team is working to determine the cause of the fire.

Florida Man Arrested in September Rape Case in Kent

A Florida man has been arrested by New York State Police after allegedly raping a victim in the woods near the Taconic State Parkway in the Town of Kent back in September.

According to NYSP from Cortlandt, troopers were called to a report of a sexual assault Sept. 2. It was determined that Orlando Martinez Morales, 34, of Jacksonville, Fla., operating as a taxi driver, agreed to drive the victim from New York City to a location north of Albany.

While en route, Morales stopped the vehicle on the shoulder of the Taconic State Parkway, entered the back seat and began sexually assaulting the victim, according to

NYSP. He then brought the victim into the nearby woods and raped the victim.

On Dec. 5, with the help of Jacksonville sheriff's deputies and NYSP investigators assigned to the U.S. Marshall's Fugitive Task Force, Morales was located and taken into custody in Jacksonville for extradition to New York.

He was charged with first-degree rape and first-degree criminal sexual act, felonies; and forcible touching, a misdemeanor.

Morales was arraigned in Putnam County Supreme Court and remanded by the Hon. Judge James Rooney to the Putnam County Correctional Facility in lieu of \$250,000 bail or \$500,000 bond.

Police Blotter

Sheriff's Investigator Hit by Car

A Putnam County sheriff's investigator sustained "serious but non-life-threatening" injuries after being struck by an SUV at about 7:40 p.m. Dec. 14 while directing traffic on Route 6 in Mahopac, according to the sheriff's department.

"Due to the injuries and the mechanism of injury, the investigator was transported to Danbury Hospital by the Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department's ambulance," reads a press release from the sheriff's department.

The accident was investigated by the Carmel Police Department and the driver of the SUV was issued summons for disobeying a lawful order of a police officer, failure to exercise due care when approaching an emergency vehicle, and speeding.

DWI Arrests

Dec. 14: Kiani Lopez Alvarez, 33, of Southeast, was arrested by New York State Police from Brewster and charged with driving while intoxicated after being stopped on Route 22 in Southeast.

Dec. 14: Kevin Schutz, 33, of Pawling, was arrested by NYSP from East Fishkill and charged with driving while ability impaired by drugs with a prior conviction within 10 years, a felony, after his involvement in a two-car crash on Interstate 84 in Fishkill.

Dec. 15: Jorge Alfredo Giron, 45, of Brewster, was arrested by NYSP from Somers and charged with DWI after his involvement in a two-car crash on Route 100 in Somers.

Dec. 16: Esvin Perez, 35, of Pawling, was arrested by NYSP from Dover Plains and charged with DWI after being stopped on Route 55 in Dover.

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Somers School Bus Driver Charged with DWI

Under Further Investigation for Inappropriate Conduct with Students

By Rick Pezzullo

A bus driver assigned to Somers Intermediate School who was charged Dec. 18 with felony DWI while operating a school bus with children under the age of 16 old is now under investigation for inappropriate conduct with students.

During a meeting with Somers parents Dec. 19, it was revealed that the General Investigations Unit of the Westchester County Police Department is probing an allegation of inappropriate contact with students by William Mendez. Anyone with questions or concerns can call that unit at 914-864-7916.

Earlier this week, it was learned that New York State Police on Dec. 9 responded to the Somers School District bus garage to assist emergency medical service personnel on a report of an individual suffering a possible stroke. The district had been notified by a parent that a bus driver, later identified as Mendez, 61, of Somers, was acting strange.

The district's director of transportation immediately called Royal Coach Lines' Somers Dispatch to have Mendez cease operations and drove to the location, where he was met by two Royal Coach employees. Mendez was relieved of his duties, and later transported to Northern Westchester Hospital for evaluation by the Somers Volunteer Fire Department Ambulance

Corps.

NYSP began investigating the incident, with the cooperation of the district. With assistance from the Westchester County District Attorney's Office, a search warrant was issued by Somers Town Court to obtain a biological sample from Mendez. Lab analysis was completed and revealed that his blood-alcohol content was 0.22 percent.

Mendez was charged last week with aggravated DWI under Leandra's Law, a class E felony. He was arraigned in Somers Town Court and released on his own recognizance with a January court date.

Somers Superintendent of Schools Dr. Raymond Blanch informed families about the incident.

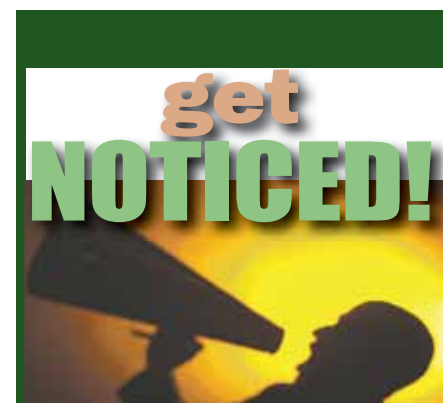
"I am so very sorry that our children and families in this community have been impacted by the unfathomable actions of one person," he said. "While it is impossible to prevent all criminal acts against our district, our administrative team and the district's safety and security consultant, Altaris, have already initiated an internal investigation into the incident to verify compliance with safety regulations and to determine what opportunities exist for improvement to our procedures."

Blanch said it is always the district's goal to be transparent. "We will follow the lead of the District Attorney's Office in sharing information without compromising

the ongoing investigation and its potential prosecution," he said.

"As superintendent, and more importantly as a parent, I fully understand the emotional impact this incident has had on our students, families and staff," continued Blanch. "We are committed to providing any and all resources to assist our school community in dealing with this incident and ensuring the safety and security of our students and staff."

Blanch also stated that the district is obtaining files from Royal Coach to further review an October 2018 bus accident apparently involving Mendez that was discussed last week.



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Koala Center for Sleep & TMJ Disorders Brewster

By Neal Rentz

Brewster resident Dr. Carl Ern, owner of the Koala Center for Sleep and TMJ Disorders, knows sleep disorders firsthand.

"I snore and before I even had the sleep center here, I've been wearing an oral appliance for sleep apnea," he said. "I was not diagnosed as actually having sleep apnea, so I started this business."

Sleep apnea is when you stop breathing during the night, explained Ern.

"What we're treating is what's called obstructive sleep apnea," he said. "That's where the airway gets blocked by the muscles of the throat."

Ern said when someone sleeps, the muscles relax and fall to the back of the throat, and people with sleep apnea cannot breathe. "The brain can either let you suffocate or wake you up," he said. "It has a lot of health implications."

People with sleep apnea can have heart problems, with many being forced to wake up during the night to urinate frequently, others experiencing a lack of restful sleep that can hamper them during the day and while operating vehicles, and some even die from heart attacks in their sleep, said Ern.

"It's a public health issue in terms of having sleepy people out on the road," he said. "It's very common, and the scary part



PROVIDED PHOTO

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held Dec. 12 for the Koala Center for Sleep and TMJ Disorders in Brewster. From left are Janel Sass-Pollard, a Putnam Dental Wellness staff member; Christine Kolor, manager of the Koala Center; Rose Aglieco, executive director of the Brewster Chamber of Commerce; Dr. Carl Ern, owner of the Koala Center; and Kevin Callahan, a member of the Board of Directors of the Brewster Chamber.

is it's so underdiagnosed."

Ern also practices general dentistry at Putnam Dental Wellness, which is located

in the same Route 6 building that houses the Koala Center.

He said patients at Putnam Dental

Wellness can complete screenings and questionnaires and may be referred to the Koala Center, while others come directly to center. Some patients are referred from sleep specialists.

Because he is a dentist, Ern said a doctor must order a sleep study and prescribe the oral top and bottom mouth guard appliance used by his patients.

"It just repositions your jaw forward so that you can breathe better," he said, noting that a companion appliance is used by his patients during the day to reset their bite.

Ern also works with patients with TMJ disorders. "There's a huge overlap with TMJ and sleep," he said. "The treatment for both things usually has to do with the repositioning of the bottom jaw. A lot of the TMJ problems are muscular."

The appliance for patients with TMJ problems allows muscles to be where they are most comfortable functioning, he said.

Where did the name of the Koala Center come from?

"We call it Koala because Koalas are known for sleeping really well, and sometimes they sleep so well they fall out of the trees," quipped Ern.

The Koala Center for Sleep and TMJ Disorders is located at 2435 Route 6, Brewster. For more information, call 845-377-2025 or visit www.koalasleepcenters.com/locations-brewster-ny.

Volunteers Sought to Help Maintain Trail

Concerned Residents of Southeast and the Putnam County Land Trust are seeking volunteers to help with the ongoing maintenance of the Diverting Reservoir Trail in Brewster.

The two organizations have maintained the trail since it opened six years ago in partnership with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, which owns the land and the adjacent reservoir.

The local nonprofits are seeking volunteers to remove invasive plants along the trail and improve habitat for the benefit of birds, butterflies and bees along the Diverting Reservoir Trail. While invasive plants have been removed in the past, keeping them away requires a sustained

effort to restore and maintain native vegetation, including those that benefit pollinators.

Some work to support pollinators has already happened. The East of Hudson Watershed Corporation is responsible for the stormwater detention basins at the beginning of the trail. That area was mowed in 2019, and many of the native shrubs that were planted around the basins have been identified and marked.

Areas in the basin that once had native perennials will be solarized in 2020 to reduce weed growth. Re-seeding will follow with plants that support pollinators.

Volunteers who are interested in assisting with these efforts next year may email info@pclt.net or call 914-621-8466.

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also publishes

The Examiner

The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER
Examiner

The WHITE PLAINS
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Letter to the Editor

Sheriff's Department Needs Adequate Funding

Dear Editor:

The Putnam County Legislature's refusal to cover overtime for sheriff's deputies is a dangerous, politically-motivated action. They started the year by refusing to hire new deputies and were warned straight out that it would result in a shortfall. The refusal to approve more deputies put Sheriff Langley in an impossible position and intentionally created a condition that would result in the existing staff of deputies having to work overtime.

Anyone who knows Sheriff Langley can attest to his even temperament and straightforward approach to law enforcement in Putnam County. He has used excellent

judgement in appointing his captains and staffed the entire force with seasoned professionals.

Under Sheriff Langley's leadership, Putnam County remains among the safest counties in New York State.

Sheriff Langley is an honest and openminded man who puts the safety of the residents of our county first and refuses to play politics where the public welfare is concerned.

There were no questions from the legislative members except from Legislator Nancy Montgomery when it came to budget transfers for the Highway Department. Why is Sheriff Langley being held to a different

standard while being asked to do so much more with a limited staff?

Maybe the Legislature should approve the release of some of our sales tax overage for use in law enforcement rather than playing politics in an upcoming election year. The public doesn't want to take a page from the national political scene; they want efficient, fair and transparent law enforcement. With Sheriff Robert Langley that's just what we have.

Richard Shea
Philipstown Town Supervisor

Obituaries

Victor James Amicucci

Victor James "Jimmy" Amicucci, 58, passed away Dec. 11.

Jim was born April 5, 1961 the son of Barbara Amicucci and the late Victor Amicucci. He was the father to Michael and Jaimianne Amicucci and brother to Bobby, Beverly, and the late John Amicucci.

He was a longtime resident of Mahopac, graduating from Mahopac High School in 1979. A visitation was held recently at Joseph J Smith Funeral Home.

Jim will be reunited with his father, Victor, and his brother Johnny in heaven.

Diane M. Forster Higgins

Diane Marie Forster Higgins, 72, died Dec. 12. Diane, a 26-year resident of Carmel, has been residing in Little River, S.C., for the last 18 years.

Diane was born Dec. 9, 1947 in the Bronx to William A. and Catherine M. (Clayton) Forster. She married Edward J. Higgins on April 18, 1970 at St. John the Baptist Church in Yonkers. The two were blessed with three children.

Diane served as a nurse at Jacobi Burn Center, Kent Nursing Home, Putnam Hospital Center, Putnam County Office for the Aging, Bethel Nursing and Rehab Center, and was a nursing supervisor at the VNA of Northern Westchester.

She is survived by her husband, as well as children Christopher Higgins and daughter-in-law Cynthia (Meyer) of Yonkers, Beth (Cornell) and son-in-law Andrew of Carmel, and Matthew Higgins and daughter-in-law Caryn (Brogan) of Stormville. She also leaves behind grandchildren Aiden, Audrey

and Brian Higgins; Gillian and Libby-Jane Cornell; and Colten and Keegan Higgins.

She is also survived by brother William P. Forster and wife Ann of Jefferson, Va.

Visitation was Dec. 16 and 17 at Cargain Funeral Homes, Inc., in Carmel. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 18 at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Lake Carmel, followed by private cremation.

James G. Paustian Jr.

James G. Paustian Jr. of Mahopac passed away Friday, Dec. 13 at the age of 82. He was born in Granite Springs on Jan. 11, 1937, the son of James G. and Marion (Dexter) Paustian.

A lifelong area resident, Jim had a 29-year career at Fisher Brothers Chevrolet in Mahopac until it closed.

James was a lifelong bowler who bowled more than five "300" games. He most recently bowled with the Carmel Playmates, but had bowled regularly at Jefferson Valley Lanes and was a manager at the old Yorktown Lanes.

On April 13, 1958, he married Irinita "Anita" Kiernan, who survives. In addition, he is survived by daughter Cheri Paustian (Janine Romeo) of Wappingers Falls, and son Charles (Sue) Paustian of Mahopac; sisters Beverly Strang of Shrub Oak and Marjorie Tice of Ghent; grandsons James III (Tattiana), Chad and Tyler; and great-granddaughter Aliana. James is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by brother Donald in 2012.

Family and friends are invited to a Celebration of Life honoring James on Jan. 11 at 1 p.m. at the Parish Hall of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Granite Springs.

Theodore F. Shafran Jr.

Theodore "Ted" F. Shafran Jr., a Garrison resident for more than 50 years, passed away Dec. 15, 2019. He was 75. Ted was born Nov. 14, 1944 in the Bronx to the late Theodore F. Shafran Sr. and Margaret Helmi Shafran.

Ted was the retired owner of Ted's Rubish Removal in Garrison for many years.

He is survived by his children Richard Shafran, Theodore F. Shafran III, Dawn Marie

Lyman, Debra Jean Robertazzi and Ruth Ann Felice; as well as numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Ted was predeceased by his wife, Mary Curry Shafran, in 2002.

Funeral Services, under the direction of Clinton Funeral Home, Inc., in Cold Spring, will be private at Ted's request, with burial in Hillside Cemetery.

Charles P. Smyth

Charles P. Smyth of Patterson died peacefully Dec. 19 at Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla. He was 78 years old.

Born March 15, 1941 in Manhattan, he was the son of Michael Francis and Mary (McNamara) Smyth. Charlie was a graduate of St. Simon Stock High School in the Bronx and the Iron Worker Apprentice Program.

On April 25, 1970, he married Eileen Callahan at the Good Shepard Church in Manhattan.

Charlie was an accomplished iron worker and welder for the Iron Workers Local 40 out of Manhattan for 45 years, retiring in 2011. He lived in Patterson since 1974 and the Bronx prior.

Charlie was past president and member of the Patterson Volunteer Fire Department since 1975, a member of the Charles Bajart Jr. Post 1122 of the American Legion in Yonkers, the Purple Heart Association, and the Fr. Breen Council of the Knights of Columbus in Putnam Lake.

In addition to his wife, Eileen, of 49 years, Charlie is also survived by sons Michael Smyth of New Rochelle and Timothy Smyth (Antoinette) of the Bronx, sister Rosemary Ward (William) of Haworth, grandson Kieran and great-granddaughter Alejandra (Ale).

Visitation was Dec. 22 at Beecher Funeral Home in Brewster, and a Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 23 at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Lake Carmel. A private cremation followed.

Marie A. Stevens

Marie A. Stevens, a 52-year resident of Putnam Lake, died Dec. 17 at Danbury Regional Hospice. She was 88 years old. Marie was born Dec. 4, 1931 in Mt. Kisco,
continued on next page

Correction

In the Sept. 24 – Sept. 30 edition of The Putnam Examiner, a Business of the Week article about Marine Diving Service misidentified the photographer of a picture accompanying the article. The photo of business owner Zdenek Ulman was taken by Maria Bele, not Neal Rentz. The Putnam Examiner regrets the error.

Digging Deep into the Wine Tariff Wars With the EU



By Nick Antonaccio

We all deal with uncertainty in our lives and we all like to think we can overcome it.

When facing financial uncertainty, we tighten our belts and attempt to weather the storm. And a glass of Chianti Classico helps

mellow our stress and tension.

When facing health uncertainty, we heed our physician's medical advice to minimize or eliminate the potential consequences. And a glass of Sancerre helps mellow our stress and tension.

When facing social uncertainty, we strive to interact with others to reduce family friction, mitigate career crises or minimize political upheaval. And a glass of Champagne helps mellow our stress and tension.

But what happens if wine is no longer the readily accessible crutch that gets us through uncertainty? How do we deal with uncertainty if wine becomes the uncertainty, not the comfort resource on which we rely?

Such an uncertainty has been in the news for several months, and the situation now seems to be escalating.

In October, in response to a murky dispute over the European Nation's (EU) role in the Boeing/Airbus matter before the World Trade Organization (WTO), the United States imposed 25 percent tariffs on select products, principally wine, exported to the United States from EU countries that historically have been subsidizing Airbus. Affected wines include those under 14

percent alcohol by volume from France, Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom. Higher alcohol wines and sparkling wines were inexplicably excluded from tariffs.

On Dec. 2, in response to a French tax imposed on the largest American technology companies, the United States threatened to increase the October tariffs to 100 percent on all French wines, cheeses and numerous consumer goods.

Then, on Dec. 12, in response to a WTO report stating the EU was not in compliance with a provision of a Boeing/Airbus dispute, the U.S. threatened to expand and increase tariffs on EU exported products. The potential 100 percent tariffs, which are slated for mid-January, affect all wines from all 28 EU members and are expanded to all of its produced cheeses, olive oil, whiskey and other consumer products.

What does this convoluted, somewhat arbitrary, set of import taxes looming on the horizon portend for the American wine industry and ultimately the American consumer?

Plenty.

Impact on the wine industry

The impacts of the 25 percent tariffs were borne by the wine distribution chain.

Importers, distributors and retailers absorbed the costs without impacting retail prices in the hopes of maintaining market share. This is shielding the American consumers – for the time being.

The immediate uncertainty of the tariffs and their duration will strain the

You Heard It Through the Grapevine

financial wherewithal of those in the wholesale chain. Consumer resistance to price increases, made inevitable by prolonged tariffs, may drive many wineries, importers and retailers out of business.

American producers might seize on this change in pricing dynamics. Increased prices, without commensurate cost increases, would result in a boon for them. But would consumers resist the new price points for American wines?

Impact on consumers

There is just so much the wholesale and retail chain can absorb. Imposing 100 percent tariffs are a game changer.

If they are imposed, all bets are off. Prices on European Union wines will increase exponentially. Consumers will be forced to make difficult choices. Pay prices beyond their comfort level? Beyond their resistance point? Or revert to lower priced wines they previously avoided? Seemingly, this would make certain American wines more attractive.

Or maybe not.

Consumers tend to be creatures of habit. Finding a wine they enjoy, they typically become loyalists. But price-point resistance is a powerful purchasing dynamic. Gravitating from EU wines, will they invest in inflated American wines or seek out lower tier wines to the detriment of their (previously) favorite wines? Or join the

'Consumers tend to be creatures of habit'

growing wave of alcohol abstainers?

If you feel strongly about the tariff issue, I encourage you to communicate with the U.S. Trade Representative's office (<https://tinyurl.com/wtpw2q4>) and/or your congressional representatives (www.usa.gov/elected-officials).

We face uncertain situations each day of our lives. And each face unpredictable impacts.

What will the outcome be? Only time – and fractious international relations – will tell.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 25 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.



Obituaries

continued from previous page

daughter of the late Nicholas and Grace Gallodoro.

Marie met her husband at her parents' restaurant, Nick's, in Putnam Lake. She married Daniel H. Stevens on June 18, 1950 at the United Methodist Church in Brewster. Daniel predeceased her Nov. 23, 1967.

Marie is survived by children Richard L. Stevens and his wife Donna, Barbara L. Stevens, Daniel H. Stevens Jr. and his wife Lora, and Kevin N. Stevens and his wife Trish, as well as six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by siblings Nicky, Sam and Patricia.

Visitation was Dec. 20 at Beecher Funeral Home in Brewster, and a Mass of Christian burial was celebrated Dec. 21 at St. Lawrence O'Toole Church. Interment followed at Milltown Rural Cemetery in Brewster.

Emma Wolfe

Emma Wolfe, 82, of Carmel, died Dec. 10. Emma was born Jan. 17, 1937 in Queens to Lawrence and Emma (Carmen) Weiser.

She married Myles Frances Wolfe on Aug. 18, 1967, and they were blessed with three children.

Emma and her husband opened their home and their hearts to many foster children over the years. She also ran the local chapter of the 4H Club for many years.

Emma is survived by children Lorrie Wolfe, Myles Wolfe and daughter-in-law Nandini, and Anne Noyes and son-in-law Dave. She also leaves behind grandchildren Rose JeanJules, Travis Wolfe and wife Brittany, George Wolfe (Nicole), Stephen Wolfe (Briana), Asha Wolfe, Myles Wolfe, Emma Noyes, Henry Noyes, Elliot Noyes and Adelaide Noyes; and great-grandchildren Kyla JeanJules, Ayden JeanJules and Tyler JeanJules.

Her brother-in-law Joseph Gasser survives her, as well.

Her husband, Myles, predeceased her in 1991. Emma is also predeceased by sister Eleanor Gasser and brother Joseph Barget.

A memorial visitation was Dec. 15 at Cargain Funeral Homes, Inc., in Carmel.

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5 Things I Was So Happy to Have When I Gave Birth at NW Hospital

By Hannah R.

My birth plan was simple. I expected to have a natural birth in the hospital with which my doctor was affiliated, without any real complications. After all, my pregnancy had been smooth. I was healthy, worked out five times a week, and hadn't experienced any unexpected symptoms or concerns. But if there's one thing I learned from my pregnancy experience, it's that childbirth is unpredictable.

When I reached a week past my due date, a surprising reality hit me: I was most likely going to be induced. Now I started to grow concerned: What if there are complications during delivery? How can I get the best possible care for my baby? How can I make sure I am there for my child every step of the way?

That's how I found myself contemplating something that was definitely not in my birth plan: switching hospitals at 41 weeks pregnant.

As I faced induction, and the possibility of a cesarean section, it became increasingly important for me to be in a place where my baby and I could receive the best care should we need it. For me, that meant giving birth in a facility with a Level III NICU – a facility capable of caring for high-risk infants.

A friend recommended Northern Westchester Hospital, and I reached out to Lorraine Owens, mother-baby navigator for the labor and delivery team. Lorraine walked me through the induction process and gave me a tour of the hospital.

In the process, Lorraine introduced me to several things I hadn't thought about, but which made all the difference in my childbirth experience:

1. A Level III NICU

When my doctor began talking to me about induction, I was scared. However, knowing that I was at a facility with a state-of-the-art Level III NICU – the highest



PROVIDED PHOTO

level NICU a community hospital can offer – gave me a sense of comfort as I faced the unknown. I knew that whatever happened, my baby would have access to board-certified neonatologists and highly trained nurses who could provide 24-hour care if needed.

It was also meaningful to me that, should my baby require medical assistance, my husband and I could be right by my baby's side every step of the way.

2. A Guiding Hand

Before contacting Northern Westchester Hospital, I had never heard of a mother-baby navigator. I had no idea how much support Lorraine would provide. She prepared me for admission, delivery, and bringing little Henry home. She explained everything, from how my induction would work, and the security procedures the hospital uses to keep infants safe, to the hospital's newborn

classes and all the other resources available to us for support after discharge.

After meeting with Lorraine, I went from feeling frightened about my potential induction to feeling informed about the process. I began to relax and focus on the excitement of meeting my baby boy.

3. A Private Affair

Having a private hospital room gave my family time to bond after birth. I found this privacy especially important during breastfeeding. For a first-time mother, nursing can be difficult, and I appreciated the space to focus on feeding Henry. As my son and I adjusted to this new – and sometimes challenging – process, the peace offered by a private room helped ease my nerves and make the transition into parenthood as smooth as possible.

The room was so relaxing, in fact, that my

husband and I often joked that we felt like we were staying at a hotel instead of a hospital!

4. Boarding with Baby

I appreciated the options of having Henry stay in the room with us or be cared for in the nursery. Since I planned to breastfeed, I preferred my son to stay in the room. I also wanted him there so he could receive all the benefits of skin-to-skin contact, which is so important in those early days after birth. That said, it meant a lot to me to know that, if I were to experience any complications with my own recovery, he could go to the nursery and receive excellent care there, as well.

Fortunately, we were able to keep our son in the room with us, and the nurses repeatedly checked in to make sure we were all doing well.

5. Friendly Faces All Around

Perhaps the best part of my experience at NWH was the great care I received from the nursing staff. Not only did they do all they could to put me at ease and tend to me and Henry, but they also helped my husband. After almost 12 hours of labor and delivery, I was so exhausted that I fell asleep shortly after our son was born.

Left alone to care for our hours-old infant, my husband was understandably nervous. The nurses continually checked on him and helped him adapt to his first daddy moments. They showed my husband how to change our baby's diapers and, later, how to assist with breastfeeding and rock Henry to sleep. As we cared for our newborn, the nurses made sure my husband and I didn't forget to care for ourselves, as well, reminding us to eat, rest, and stay hydrated.

We couldn't have asked for better care as we adjusted to our first days as a new and happily growing family.

My family and I couldn't be happier!

To learn more about the maternity experience at NWH, visit nwhc.net/maternity.

Haldane School Board Terminates Coach Searight

continued from page 1

both a basketball mentor and a caring adult entrusted with educating the young men on his team in more than basketball skills," said Meeropol. "I believe he's an extraordinary coach and that Philipstown and Haldane athletics have been fortunate to have him as girls' basketball coach, as well as in AAU programs."

He echoed Searight's sentiment that his legal troubles have nothing to do with his ability to coach and mentor students.

"His difference with his former employer should, in my opinion, have no bearing on his status within the Haldane Athletics Department," said Meeropol.

John Bradley, who works in law enforcement, has three sons in the Haldane School District. He explained that Searight could have went to trial but instead accepted a plea deal.

"So, he kind of gave away the benefit of going to trial to clear his name completely," said Bradley. "I think he did that so that he could get back out on the court as soon as possible."

Bradley also spoke of Searight's "unmatched dedication" to the student-athletes. "I've known him for about five years... he's a fantastic coach, he's taught (my kids) to be better men, better students, better players," said Bradley. "I completely trust him with my kids."

Sophia Viggiano said Searight has been her coach for as long as she can remember.

"He's always been such a strong mentor and authority figure in my life, which is why hearing that he's not my coach any more – especially senior year – I was heartbroken," she said. "When you take someone who is so important and who has so much value to the team, you're taking a huge piece of the basketball program at Haldane... He brought so much to Haldane and basketball. Taking him away, it just does more damage than you think."

Olivia McDermott, who has been coached by Searight for five years, said firing him is "a grave mistake."

"He's made a genuine impact in my life on and off the court," said McDermott. "His enthusiasm as a coach and a mentor has

helped me learn the values of discipline and hard work."

After hearing community members plea for the board to reconsider firing Searight, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Philip Benante said that his recommendation to the school board to terminate the coach was not done in haste.

"This was an issue that came up in late October, early November," he said. "It's mid-December, and I just feel a responsibility to our community to make a recommendation so we can move forward, and I understand it's an unpopular one that we've made."

"I don't think anyone who has spoken this evening is being at all unreasonable," continued Benante. "I can empathize and appreciate where you're coming from. That being said, it's just something I see differently and I hope that over the long term this doesn't come as a consequence to my relationship with our community... I still hope to see Tyrone here."

The board unanimously approved the evening's consent agenda, which included Benante's termination.

After questions arose from the audience as to why the matter wasn't voted on separately, School Board President Jen Daly explained that while an item can be pulled off the consent agenda and voted on separately, no board members made a motion to do so.

Parent Jennifer Gordineer called Searight's termination "absolutely unjust."

"I know Tyrone is going to have a bright future because any school district in the Hudson Valley would be lucky to have him," she said.

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There's Good Reason to Be Particular About Mattresses

During the holiday season, my workload as a realtor slows down a bit and I get to spend more time cuddled up in my wonderful bed – featuring the most comfortable of mattresses.

That's exactly what I've been doing the past few days as I stretch my time in bed past my usual 6 a.m. wake-up call.

One of my favorite television commercials of all time, featured some years ago, was for Sealy, the world's largest mattress manufacturer. Its slogan was "No Matter What You Do in Bed, Sealy Supports It."

It reminded me of the first story I heard about mattresses, that of the princess and the pea. Even as a naïve child, I thought, "Yeah, right, she could feel that pea under 20 mattresses!"

But during my lifelong experimentation with mattresses – some delightfully comfortable and others deplorably torturous – I fashion myself somewhat an expert on them, and today I might run a close second to the princess about being finicky.

And why not?

Our relationships with our mattresses vie with any kind of personal liaisons we might ever have, considering that if you reach the average life expectancy, you will have spent close to 30,000 nights with your body snuggled up to your most supportive companion.



By Bill Primavera

When it came time for me to buy my first mattress as a young college student, however, I found that I was far from sensitive about comfort. To create both a modern sofa and a bed, I bought a six-foot long piece of foam rubber and laid it over a hollow door, supported by four cinder blocks. To keep my handyman special from looking primitive, I attached a pleated skirt to hide the cinder blocks.

As a bed, it was torturous.

For my first apartment in New York City, I bought an inexpensive mattress from Macy's and, as I recall, it was the superstore's own brand. Even though it was inexpensive, it was dreamily comfortable. When my girlfriend

– now my wife – came to my apartment for the first time, I showed her my antique sleigh bed, bragging that I probably had the most comfortable mattress ever.

"Why don't you give it a try?" I asked. She refused. Things were different in those days.

There is evidence that people have been seeking softer sleeping surfaces for more than 10,000 years. Since the Egyptian pharaohs had beds of ebony and gold, it is assumed they devised something soft to place in them, but common people simply slept on palm bows heaped in a corner.

By Roman times, mattresses were stuffed with reeds, hay, wool or feathers. During the Renaissance, mattresses were made of pea

shucks or straw and covered with sumptuous velvets, brocades and silks. Their filling, however, became a banquet for bugs.

In the 16th and 17th centuries, the term "sleep tight" was coined when mattresses were placed on a web of ropes that needed regular tightening to prevent sagging. The second part of that phrase, "don't let the bedbugs bite," expressed a condition that was common then and seems to have recently returned with a vengeance.

By the late 19th century, cotton mattresses dominated, which were less attractive to vermin.

In 1900, James Marshall invented and patented the pocket coil. A coil was placed inside a pocket made of cotton and individually suspended, with materials placed on top that provided comfort. By the 1930s, innerspring mattresses with upholstered foundations gained the prominent position they still enjoy.

Futons were introduced in the 1940s, foam rubber mattresses appeared in the 1950s, followed by waterbeds in the 1960s and airbeds in the 1980s. But most of us still rely on innerspring mattresses to get our sleep.

In selecting a mattress, you might consider the suggestion of the International Sleep Products Association that you spend at least 15 minutes lying on it. The last time I bought a mattress I tried six different models, but can't imagine that I would have

spent an hour-and-a-half dozing off at the mattress store.

The primary choices in selecting a mattress are the degrees of firmness and the size. Much of the firmness debate is solved by the new options for adjustability, even for each side of the bed.

Then there is the question of how big the mattress should be. Widths range from 39 inches for a twin to 76 inches for a king, and lengths range from 75 to 84 inches.

While the square footage of homes and the size of bedrooms is shrinking, anyone sharing a bed may think twice about diminishing the size of the bed proportionately. Did you know that if you share your bed with a partner and it is a simple double bed, you have only as much personal sleeping space as a baby in a crib?

When my wife took her 88-year-old mother to buy a new mattress and the salesman noted that it came with a 20-year guarantee, her mother said: "At my age, I only need a five-year guarantee. Can I get a better price for that?"

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.

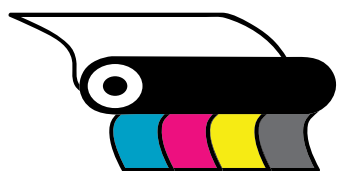
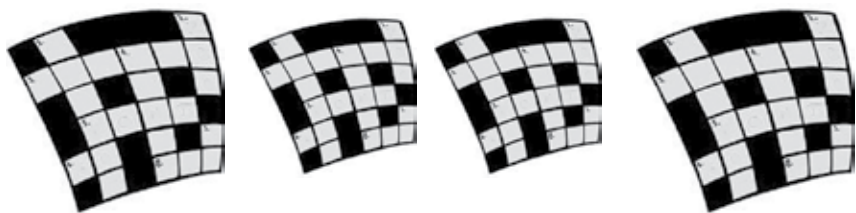
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Putnam Valley Parks & Rec Chairman Honored



NIKKI GALLAGHER PHOTO

Members of the Putnam Valley Parks & Recreation Department, along with Town Supervisor Sam Oliverio and Town Clerk Sherry Howard, recently celebrated the final days of Parks & Rec Commission Chairman Phil Keating's final days. Keating (center) and Commission Member James LaPorte (left) retired after many years of dedicated service to the Putnam Valley community. Keating spent a quarter-century on the recreation board, spearheading the continued development of the Leonard Wagner Memorial Town Park and the purchase of the former Catholic Youth Organization camp property for the town.

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

Wednesday, Dec. 25
Menorah Lighting: 5 p.m. Chabad of Putnam will host a menorah lighting in Cold Spring at the end of Main Street, near the Cold Spring Depot. Festivities will include hot latkes and cider.

Thursday & Friday, Dec. 26-27
Winter Break Fun: 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Boscobel House & Gardens in Garrison. Includes a flashlight tour of the mansion, and kids of all ages may hunt for gingerbread kids throughout the Historic House Museum, then join in a craft activity. Thursday's craft is candle dipping; Friday's craft is "pomander ball creations." The cost is \$8 per person for members or \$12 for non-members. Advance reservations are recommended.

Sunday, Dec. 29
Fundraiser: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Carmel Sports Club, 111 Old Route 6. Admission is \$10 for ages 2 to 5 and \$20 for ages 5 and older; parents and tots younger than 2 are admitted free. Includes games, activities, inflatables, face painting, crafts, a food truck and more. A 4-on-4 high school Co-Ed soccer

game is scheduled at 3 p.m. The cost is \$100 per team. A 6-on-6 alumni Co-Ed game is a 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$150 per team. Pre-register your team by emailing lwong@carmelsportsclub.com. Proceeds to benefit Carmel ninth-grader Danny Thut, who was recently diagnosed with Osteosarcoma, a type of bone cancer.

Tuesday, Dec. 31
New Year's Eve Bash: 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Lake Carmel Community Center, 10 Huguenot Road, Lake Carmel. Includes appetizers and dinner buffet (BYOB), DJ music and dancing. Admission is \$25 per person. Open to any age 21 and older. For tickets, email lcpdclerk@townofkentny.gov or call 845 306-5602.

Noon Years' Eve: 11 a.m. at Patterson Library. Get dressed up and enjoy dancing and tasty treats with games and more as you ring in the "noon" year. For ages 5 and older. For more information or to register, call 845-878-6121, ext. 10, or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org.

Thursday, Jan. 2
Watercolor: 10 a.m. to noon at Reed

Memorial Library in Carmel. Class repeats Thursdays through Jan. 30. Register at carmellibrary.org/calendar.
Reading Puppies: 10:30 a.m. at Patterson Library. Kids in kindergarten through grade five are invited to read to a Putnam Service Dog, which is a rescue dog in training to help a person with physical disabilities other than blindness. Schedule your 15-minute reading spot with Miss Jenn by calling 845-878-6121, ext. 10, or at www.pattersonlibrary.org.

Friday, Jan. 3
Shabbat Service: 6:30 p.m. at Hebrew Congregation of Somers Family. A family Shabbat service followed by a potluck dinner. The service will be led by Rabbi Shoshana Leis and Hebrew School Director Jill Liflander. Email questions@hebrewcongregationofsomers.org or call 914-248-9532 for more information.
Mahjong Drop: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Patterson Library. Participants will split themselves into tables of new players and experienced players during this drop-in program, which repeats Fridays, Jan. 10, 17, 24 and 31. To register, call 845-878-6121, ext. 10, or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org.
Movies: 2 p.m. at Reed Memorial Library

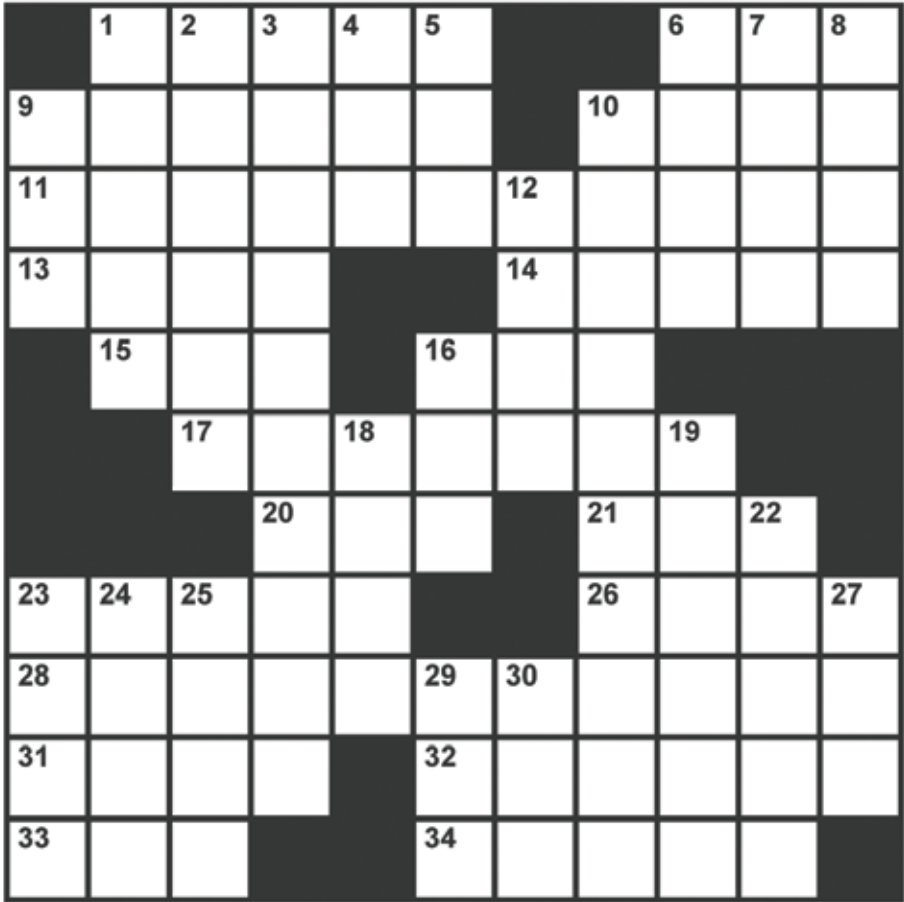
in Carmel. Every Friday through Feb. 7. Register at carmellibrary.org/calendar to register.

Saturday, Jan. 4
Oil Painting: 10:30 a.m. at Reed Memorial Library in Carmel. Repeats Saturdays, Jan. 18 and Feb. 1, 22 and 29. Register at carmellibrary.org/calendar.

Monday, Jan. 6
Chair Yoga: 10:30 a.m. at Reed Memorial Library in Carmel. Repeats Mondays through Feb. 24. Register at carmellibrary.org/calendar.
Horror Film: 6:30 p.m. at Mahopac Public Library. "Shaun of the Dead," rated R; running time 99 minutes. Drop-in program.
Musical Munchkins: 10:30 a.m. at Patterson Library. Continues Monday, Jan. 13. Children may have a blast while they sing and dance with Miss Tara, encouraging muscle development and strength all while enhancing their love of music. For ages 2 to 3 years. Caregiver must remain in the program. Register by calling 845-878-6121, ext. 10, or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org.

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Crossword Puzzle



Across
1. "Who's there?" response
6. Drone or worker
9. El Greco, for one
10. Female deer
11. Concur
13. Knowing, as a secret
14. New Mohegan Lake Chinese Buffet, _____ House
15. Propeller position
16. Clear tables
17. Concentrates
20. Traitor
21. The gods, to Cicero
23. Forest lane
26. Gave a buzz
28. Bun toppers
31. You will get no "wrath" visiting this Yorktown dentist, Mitchell L. _____
32. Declare
33. "Rocky" actor
34. Electric car maker

Down
1. Woman's name derived from peace in Greek
2. Irritate
3. Loud
4. Spring month
5. Ship's hdg.
6. "Très ____!"
7. Lord of the Rings singer

8. Tree of knowledge setting
9. Evidence collectors
10. It's work for chores
12. Suitably
16. On the other hand
18. Serene
19. Sushi offering
22. Chief of the Vedic gods
23. Sounds of disapproval
24. Factual
25. Whitish
27. Prime meridian std.
29. Chow down
30. Compass point



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The Putnam,
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Sports
Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports

As Luke Would Have It!



Carmel Completes Sweep of Rival Mahopac, 7-4

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Carmel sophomore Luke Golisano (stick high) had his way last Friday afternoon at the Brewster Ice Arena where the budding center notched a hat trick and set up another goal in the Rams' 7-4 win over rival Mahopac. Rams Brendan Murphy (1G, 3A) Chris Cieciera (2G, 2A), Steven Mount (2A), Jack Lagan (G, A), Gavin Golisano (A), Noah Richardson (2A), Rob Paradiso (A) and goalie Nico Positano (24 saves) aided the cause for the Rams (4-3). Mahopac sophomore F Matthew Luczkowski and Jordan Donatone each scored to bring Mahopac back from a 2-0 deficit. Ryan Caraher had a goal and two assists for Mahopac.

Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook

Weimar Leads Hen Hud to Tourney Title over Mahopac

By Tony Pinciario

Caitlin Weimar had a late start to the **HEN HUD** varsity basketball preseason, but with good reason.

The senior was in the midst of the volleyball team's state-title run as the Diane Swertfager-coached Sailors reached the NYSPHSAA final four.

Weimar, who will attend Marist next fall and play basketball, made the quick transition to basketball season and has been instrumental in leading the Sailors to a 7-1 start.

Hen Hud raised its victory total to seven after winning its own Jack McGuire Tournament Saturday.

The Class A Sailors defeated **HALDANE**, 62-23, in the first round, then beat class AA **MAHOPAC**, 63-51, in the title game.

Weimar had a combined 56 points and 23 rebounds to earn Most Valuable Player honors. Teammate Grace Moretti, who scored a combined 23 points, was selected to the all-tournament team.

"I did try to practice every once in a while,

but since volleyball took up so much of my time and went longer than usual with states, I wasn't able to practice as much as I would have liked to," said Weimar, who is averaging 23 points, 14 rebounds and four blocks per game. "I think I was able to acclimate quickly to basketball practice because I train year-round and have been playing for so long that I'm always ready for basketball season. It's my favorite season so I'm always eager to start it."

Hen Hud came into preseason with a young team, but Weimar and classmates – Mylene Smith, Jacky Kenny, Faith Pugh and Heather Reifenhauer – were quick to help their younger teammates.

"It's always hard, at first, having a younger and less-experienced team, but the key is to communicate and help each other learn as we go," Weimar said. "We play with a lot of energy and effort, especially on defense, helping us keep teams from scoring easy points."

Teams always strive to win their own tournament. Weimar said the team was happy, especially beating a Class AA team in the final.



Hen Hud's Caitlin Weimar takes a swipe to the kisser from Mahopac's Lauren Beberman in Sailors' tourney win over Indians Saturday.



RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

Hen Hud's Kira Varada and Mahopac's Caitlyn O'Boyle mix it up in Sailors' tourney title win over Indians Saturday.

"It is amazing winning our own tournament, especially against a bigger team like Mahopac," Weimar said. "We set that goal, of winning our tournament, at the beginning of the season so being able to achieve it was a big step for our team."

Hen Hud will enjoy the holiday break before returning to action, Jan. 8, at Ardsley. The Sailors could not have asked for a better start.

"Going into Christmas break our goals were to win both the Sleepy Hollow tournament and our own tournament," Weimar said. "Doing this helped us feel accomplished and created a good feeling to keep on working hard during this break so we continue to win and get better. This year has been a lot of fun, so far, and the team is looking stronger every day. I'm very excited to see how far we can go this year."

In the victory over Mahopac, Smith added six points and five rebounds and Kira Varada grabbed seven rebounds.

Varada added 10 points and six steals against Haldane. Smith contributed eight points and Colleen Ryan finished with a team-best five assists.

A young **BREWSTER** team is coming of age after wins over Nyack (56-40) and East-

chester (49-44) gave the Bears a 7-0 record going into holiday break.

Grace Galgano was ferocious against Nyack with 21 points, 15 rebounds and seven rejections while Alexis Mark added 15 points, eight rebounds and three blocked shots.

"We did a great job of jumping out from the start and never letting up," Brewster Coach Mike Castaldo said. "This was our first complete game of the year where we played for four quarters and everyone that stepped on the floor contributed. We did a great job of rebounding, taking care of the ball and taking quality shots."

There was no letdown against Eastchester as the Bears surged in the second half, fueled by Carly DeLanoy's hot shooting.

"The first quarter Eastchester outworked us and brought more energy," Castaldo said. "We were sleepwalking through the first 12 minutes of the game, taking poor shots and not playing smart basketball. Sophia (Alzugaray) did a great job of keeping us in the game with her shooting. She was on fire from the outside and was the spark that we needed. Carly DeLanoy continued the hot

continued on next page

Sports

continued from previous page

shooting in the second half. We were able to build a lead and hold on to it. Eastchester did a great job of making us work for everything. Leaving there with a win was a huge accomplishment for our team.”

Alzugaray led Brewster with 14 points and DeLanoy contributed 11 points.

MAHOPAC went 2 for 3 on the week, beating **PANAS**, in overtime, 73-68 in the first round of the Jack McGuire (Hen Hud) Tournament, and followed it with a 63-29 win over Mamaroneck.

Hen Hud got the best of Mahopac in the McGuire championship game, 63-51.

The overtime victory was forged with Mahopac making nine free throws after Panas' Cailean Nolan sent the game into extra time. Mahopac Coach Chuck Scozzafava said the combined 13 overtime points all came via free throws.

“It was a tight game with multiple lead changes,” Scozzafava said.

Mia Klammer led Mahopac with 19 points and eight steals, Caitlyn O'Boyle added 15 points and eight rebounds and Kristina Rush chipped in 14 points.

O'Boyle led the way with 17 points against Mamaroneck and Rush added 11 points as the Indians surged to a 16-point lead after the first quarter.

In the Jack McGuire Tournament final, Mahopac found itself trailing Hen Hud by 17 at halftime.

“We were just unable to fully recover from

the 17-point hole in the first half,” Scozzafava said.

Rush led Mahopac with 18 points and Klammer finished with 11 points. Both were named to the all-tournament team.

LAKELAND won its only game of the week, 65-42 over Peekskill. The Hornets are 3-3 going into the new year.

Sophomore Tyler Hormazabal poured in a game-high 25 points and Hannah Devane added nine points.

“Tyler stepped up big time and led us offensively and defensively,” Lakeland Coach Miranda Mangan said. “As a team, we didn't play our best game, but it is always nice to go into the new year with a win. We are currently 3-3 and are looking forward to reflecting on the first few weeks of the season, and putting in the work over vacation to get better.”

SOMERS broke its four-game losing streak to open the season with its first win -- a 41-39 victory over Pelham.

Jordan May finished with 11 points and nine rebounds and Pooja Rao also collared nine rebounds.

“We came out and played great, going up 15 in the first half,” Somers Coach Marc Hattem said. “We struggled in the second half. It's the same thing we did against Pearl River. We need to put full games together.”

Hattem is taking Somers to the Amsterdam (Section 2) Holiday Tournament this weekend. The Tuskers are scheduled to play



Mahopac G Lauren Beberman is checked by Hen Hud G Jacklyn Kenny in Indians' tourney loss to host Sailors Saturday.



Mahopac junior D Caitlyn O'Boyle and Hen Hud senior F Caitlin Weimar get tangled up in in Indians' tourney loss to host Sailors Saturday.

Shenendehowa (Section 2), Friday, 1 p.m., and Curtis (NYC-Public School Athletic League), Saturday, 11:30 a.m.

OSSINING opened the season with two wins, then followed with an uncharacteristic five-game losing streak.

The defending NYS champion Pride don't lose five games in a season, let alone five consecutive so it was a shock to the team.

“It was different for us, but we are continuing to figure out who we are as a team and how we work best together,” senior Julia Iorio said.

Ossining regrouped against Northport, with a 73-59 victory at the KSA Tournament at Universal Studio (Orlando).

Iorio finished with a game-high 25 points. She also collected six steals and five rebounds. Brooke Weeks added 14 points, five rebounds and three assists and Adriana McFadden also had 14 points along with six rebound, six steals and three assists.

“Every game, whether it's a win or loss, is important to us because we are always learning and improving our skills,” Iorio said. “In the game against Northport, we worked together, played with intensity and, most importantly, had fun doing it.”

PANAS had a difficult week, dropping games to Mahopac (73-68 in overtime) and Byram Hills (49-44). Cailean Nolan forced

the overtime in the Jack McGuire Tournament first-round game with a basket in the final seconds. She finished with a career-high 32 points, including eight 3-pointers. Nolan scored 14 points in the fourth quarter, enabling Panas to rally from a 13-point deficit.

Kristen Cinquina added 18 points, six assists and five steals and Erijona Rraci contributed 12 points and nine rebounds.

Nolan had a team-leading 13 points against Byram Hills in the Slam Dunk Tournament challenge game.

Kristen Scrobola added 12 points and seven rebounds. Scrobola sparked a Panas comeback. Rraci had eight points and six rebounds.

PUTNAM VALLEY is yet to find its groove for four quarters against top-flight competition. The streaky Tigers (5-2) squandered a 29-13 lead and lost 49-44 to Dobbs Ferry in a Slam Dunk Challenge game Friday at the County Center. PV freshman swingman Eva DeChent had 23 first-half points, but the Eagles adjusted after the break. She finished with 25 on 9-of-18 shooting, including five 3's. Kelli Venezia added 10 points while Arianna Stockinger had five points and eight rebounds for the Tigers, who, uncharacteristically failed to make the big stops down the stretch.

Sports

Boys' Hoops Notebook

Lakeland's Karaqi Combines for 50 in Pair of Hornet Wins

Haldane Hammers Tuckahoe

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor@Directrays

Just about a full month in to the 2020 campaign and one thing is certain: **LAKELAND** is flat-out fun to watch. Playing with a frenetic pace last Wednesday, Coach Steve Fallo's Class A Hornets blew away visiting Lincoln, 93-65, behind 24 points from senior G Augie Karaqi. Senior swingman Jack Kruse and senior G Rob Nardelli each put up 14 points while senior G Jeffery Owusu added 11. That victory preceded a 76-72 win over host Albertus Magnus, which had no answer for Lakeland's perimeter game (15 3's for the Hornets). Karaqi (26 points), Nardelli (career-high 23 points) and Kruse (17 points, 15 caroms) were stroking.

When you come to play Lakeland this season, you best bring your best defensive effort. The Hornets push the ball and score in transition better than any team in League II-C, and that action will heat up after the holidays when the Hornets host rival **WALTER PANAS** on Tuesday, January 7th (4:30 p.m.), in what should/could be a doozy if the Panthers (4-2) come to play.

The Panthers suffered a disappointing 48-44 setback to Nanuet, which held Panas to a dreadful five-point second quarter while building a 26-18 halftime lead. Panas fresh-

man G Alex Tavarez continued his ascent with a team-high 13 points. Caleb Evans added seven points, all in the fourth quarter, but he needs to show up sooner if the Panthers are going to hang with Lakeland...

SOMERS is tough to figure right now. Coach Chris DiCintio's Tuskers (2-6) gave Class A powerhouse Tappan Zee fits one day – in a 44-40 loss – then lost to Class B host Briarcliff, 41-33, the next...

HEN HUD's Nick Hiltzley can be a scoring machine when he gets going and get going he did with a double-double (30 points, 10 rebounds) in the Sailors' 65-43 win over visiting Roosevelt last Thursday. Josh Gillison added a second double-double for good measure (19 points, 10 boards), propelling Hen Hud to Saturday's championship round of the Jack McGuire Tournament where the Sailors would fall 57-45 to Pearl River. Hiltzley led the Sailors (1-3) with 14 points and Tommy Fuchek added 11.

"I was very proud of the inspired brand of ball our guys played," Sailor Coach Jordan Hirsch said...

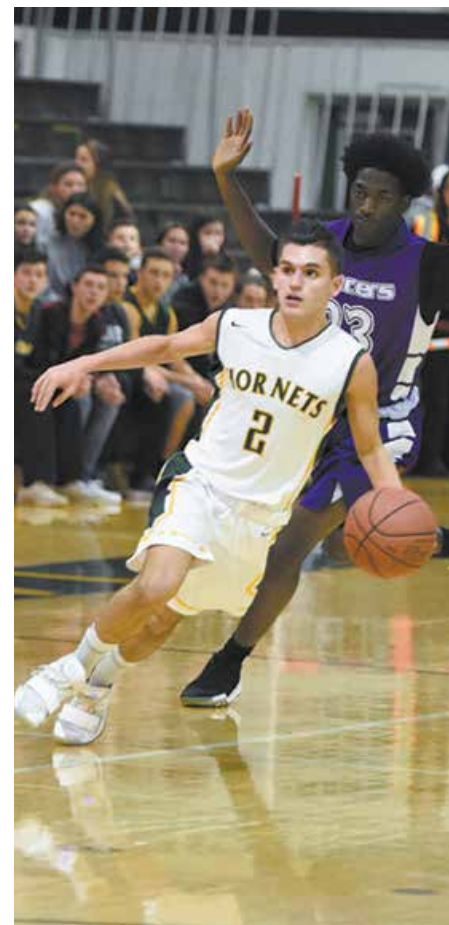
YORKTOWN chalked up a second win in a row after a 52-45 win over Pelham behind the Brucaj brothers. Roni Brucaj dropped 16 points, snagged six boards and dished four assists while Eddie Brucaj added 11 points and five rebounds for the Huskers (3-6).



Lakeland swingman Rob Nardelli gains lane in Hornets' 93-65 win over visiting Lincoln Wednesday.



Lakeland G Jeffrey Owusu hauls in rebound in Hornets' 93-65 win over visiting Lincoln Wednesday.



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Lakeland G Augie Karaqi blows past his man in Hornets' 93-65 win over visiting Lincoln Wednesday.

go down (Cole Durocher) with an injury and it was my turn to step up." PV will need to step up big time upon its return from the holidays as the Tigers will take on Class B heavyweight Valhalla out of the break...

CLASS C

HALDANE made a major statement last Friday in the Blue Devils' 80-65 road win over rival Tuckahoe, doing so behind 25 points apiece from swingman Matt Champlin and G Daniel Santos. Mame Diba added 14 points for Haldane (4-1).

"It was awesome," Champlin said. "The energy in the gym was unreal. I feel like my team and I play better when both the opposing crowd are into it along with ours. Feeding the hot hand was something we emphasized in practice, and that's what we did getting the ball to Daniel and myself. This was a great team win."...

CLASS AA

MAHOPAC notched a quality win against Scarsdale, taking a 55-39 decision at home Friday. The Indians (3-3) were led by John Cosentino, who dropped a career-high 21 points. Indian G Matt McMahon added 16.

OSSINING was defeated by Clarkstown South, 55-49, despite a solid effort from Khy Hawkins (22 points). Zay Goodson (12 points, 7 boards), Jaeden Carr (11 points, 5 assists) and Griffin Dahle (4 points, 9 re-

continued on next page

Tony Granitton chipped in with eight points for the Huskers...

PEEKSKILL's Brennan Heaven went off for a career-high 23 points, including five 3's in the Red Devils' 77-39 win over Yonkers. Antonio Taylor (16 points) and Jayson Tinsley (15) were equally effective for the Red Devils (3-3), who saw eight different players score...

CLASS B

CROTON-HARMON is quietly going about its business at 4-1, including a 48-41 win over Class AA Fox Lane. Ryan Windrum led the Tigers with a solid all-around game, scoring 18 points (5 3's) and snagging six boards. Coach Dave Boykin has the Tigers roaring in his first season...

PUTNAM VALLEY (1-1) notched its first win of the season, a 52-39 League III-E win over visiting Pawling. Sophomore G Tommy Calicchio dropped a career-high 20 while junior F Mike Doebbler with tossed in 11 and snagged seven boards.

"I just came off the bench and did what I had to do," Calicchio said. "We had a guy

Golisano Scores Thrice, Carmel Completes Sweep of Rival Mahopac, 7-4

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS



Mahopac's Ryan Caraher (L) gives chase to Carmel's Gavin Golisano (1 A) in Indians' 7-4 loss to Rams Friday at BIA.



Carmel sophomore F Luke Golisano gains zone against Mahopac's Danny Schum in Rams' 7-4 win over Indians Friday at BIA.



Mahopac's Matt Luczkowski (1G) and Carmel's Brendan Murphy (1G, 1A) battle for 50-50 puck in Indians' 7-4 loss to Rams Friday at BIA.



Mahopac's Matthew Luczkowski (1G) and Carmel's Chris Frey exchange pleasantries in Indians' 7-4 loss to Rams Friday.



Carmel's Steven Mount (1A) is denied by Mahopac G Mike Horan (34 saves) in Rams' 7-4 win over Indians Friday.

continued from previous page



Mahopac junior G Vin Bastone led Indians with 15 points in 59-38 loss to visiting North Rockland

bounds) were also big factors for the Pride (2-4).

CARME (3-4) did not defend well in its 83-56 loss to visiting Ramapo, which ended the Rams' three-game win streak.

Tip of the cap to Lou DeMello, one of the nicest guys you'll ever meet, on his forthcoming induction into the NYS Basketball Hall of Fame this coming March. DeMello's basketball IQ is off the charts, and



BOB CASTNER PHOTO

Yorktown G Sam Pincus goes strong to hoop in Huskers' non-league win over Pelham Friday.

thousands of players across Westchester and Putnam County, the Bronx and Manhattan have benefitted from this hoops genius.

Mahopac's Roa Records 100th Career Win



Mahopac wrestler Tyler Roa is flanked by family, coaches and administrators after recording his 100th career win Thursday against Fox Lane.

Rush Hour!

Mahopac Gets Jammed up in Hen Hud Tourney Final

Mahopac freshman G Kristina Rush lets fly a jumper that helped her secure All-Tournament honors in the Indians' somewhat surprising 63-51 tournament championship loss to Grace Moretti and host Hendrick Hudson Saturday... see Girls' Hoops Notebook

