



## Arrest Made in Nelsonville Hate Crime

By David Propper

A suspect in an anti-Semitic crime that unnerved the Village of Nelsonville has been charged months after the incident took place, the Putnam County Sheriff's Office announced Thursday.

Louis Weber, 18, of Philipstown, was charged with several hate crimes, the sheriff's office said, including two felonies, dating back to an incident that occurred last Halloween. Weber was hit with hate crimes of burglary in the 3rd degree, criminal mischief in the 4th degree, both felonies, and criminal trespass in the 3rd degree, a misdemeanor. He is also facing charges of making graffiti and possession of graffiti instruments, both misdemeanors.

On Oct. 31, at about 8:07 a.m., sheriff deputies responded to a house that was under construction in Nelsonville, where several swastika symbols were spray painted on the walls and windows and the word "kike" was spray painted on a window.

Two arrests connected to the vandalism were made within less than two weeks of the crime when a 17-year-old Garrison resident and 18-year-old Highland resident were charged with burglary in the 3rd degree, criminal mischief in the 4th degree, criminal trespass in the 3rd degree, making graffiti and possession



PROVIDED PHOTO

Louis Weber of Philipstown was arrested by the Putnam County Sheriff's Office last week for a crime he is alleged to have committed in Nelsonville.

of graffiti instruments. Both of those suspects were not named by the sheriff's office and are eligible for youthful offender adjudication.

The anti-Semitic crime led to outrage throughout the community and county, with several elected officials deploring the vandalism. A vigil was even held in the aftermath of the crime with the community standing against hate.

## Judge Strikes Down Kent's Concrete Law

By David Propper

A law in the Town of Kent meant to severely curb concrete plants was struck down by a New York State Supreme Court judge earlier this month after it was ruled a conflict of interest occurred on the town board.

Justice Victor Grossman in his Feb. 8 ruling stated that Supervisor Maureen Fleming, who had recused herself from any decision regarding the legislation, did not entirely remove herself from the work leading up to the creation of the law, which marred the entire process. The law, which was passed 4-0, would prohibit the production of

concrete, the operation of a concrete products plant, or the manufacture in any form of concrete in town except in the Industrial-Office-Commercial District. Any business currently and lawfully producing concrete prior to the law being passed would have two years to cease its business, according to the proposal.

The law, passed in 2017, put the Kent town board at odds with an unpopular business in town, Titan Concrete on Route 52, because it would effectively put Titan out of business at that location. Titan sued the town as a result. Because

*continued on page 3*

## HVFCU Celebrates Grand Opening in Mahopac



Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union (HVFCU) celebrated the grand opening of its new branch in Mahopac located at 152 Route 6 with a ribbon cutting ceremony on February 19. During the ribbon cutting ceremony, HVFCU Chairman of the Board Noreen Hennessy presented a donation to the Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department to thank them for their important work in the community. This branch features a state of the art model designed to deliver a new type of banking experience combining personalized service and technology. Inside are HVFCU Integrated Teller Machines (ITMs) that can perform functions beyond those of a typical ATM, offering members access to all their accounts with or without staff assistance. In addition, staff at the new branch are universally trained in all areas of products and services so that they can better assist members. Like most HVFCU branches, the Mahopac location will be open 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Samantha Juan is the Branch Manager. With \$4.9 billion in assets, Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union (HVFCU) has been a community partner in the region for more than 50 years. They serve individuals and businesses in Putnam, Dutchess, Ulster, and Orange counties with a wide variety of financial services, including investments and insurance. To learn more about the credit union, stop by the new branch or any location in the Hudson Valley, visit [hvfcu.org](http://hvfcu.org) or call 845-463-3011. HVFCU is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration and is an Equal Housing Lender.



PROVIDED PHOTOS

# Kreps Readies for Run Against Fleming for Kent Supervisor

By David Propper

In what could shape up to be one of the most closely watched races this year, Carmel Board of Education vice president Richard Kreps confirmed his intention to run against Supervisor Maureen Fleming for the top post in the Town of Kent last week.

Kreps, in an interview, said after being approached by the local GOP committee about the seat he decided to throw his hat into the ring as he looks to knock off Fleming, who has served for almost six years. Kreps has been on the Carmel school board since 1999, serving as president or vice president for many of those years. If he became supervisor, he would need to resign from the school board, as per education law.

"I think the Town of Kent--it needs a little vitality, it needs a little pick-me-up," Kreps said. "This is probably a good time to throw my hat in."

There is a good town board in place, Kreps said, but he doesn't see the council members working together to get positive things done. He believes the town board needs a little help in direction and leadership to move forward.

Encouraging businesses into the community would be imperative, Kreps said, but in a way where the town would



Carmel BOE vice president Richard Kreps

not lose its rural character. He floated the idea of putting in more sidewalks to make the town more attractive.

"We're ripe for growth," Kreps said.

Fleming said she is "absolutely" running for reelection as she touted the town not raising taxes during her tenure in office. While taxes have remained level, Fleming said there have been improvements throughout the town, including at the highway department



Supervisor Maureen Fleming

with more equipment and upgraded facilities. The town also built a park at town center with the help of grant money and donations, Fleming noted and a law was also passed to help businesses pay less in taxes over a ten-year span to draw more economic growth.

"We're really moving forward and I think people are happy to have a government that works together and that doesn't make things about politics,"

she said. "That makes things about the residents."

Fleming, a Democrat, has proven to be a formidable adversary for the Republicans she's faced in Kent. In a stunning upset, she disposed of former supervisor Kathy Doherty in 2013 and then easily triumphed over Dennis Illuminate and Patricia Madigan in the subsequent two elections. She ran for Putnam County executive last year, losing to Republican MaryEllen Odell.

Fleming questioned how Kreps would usher in more businesses, noting the town has done its best even though it must deal with an abundance of watershed land in Kent. She said smaller businesses have opened recently, but also pointed to a proposed hotel and waterpark that is being reviewed by the planning board that could be a boon for the community if it were approved.

Fleming said while town taxes have remained at bay, school taxes have increased every year with budgets that Kreps helped craft and approve.

The history between Kreps and Fleming hasn't been friendly. Kreps lambasted Fleming last year following a failed bond vote in the Carmel school system, arguing Fleming was wrong

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# Judge Strikes Down Kent's Concrete Law

*continued from page 1*

Fleming is part of a neighborhood association, Hill and Dale, which is suing the town in another lawsuit over a zoning board of appeals ruling that gave Titan the OK to operate, she did not cast a vote on the law, but Grossman ruled she was too involved regardless.

"In light of the fact that Supervisor Fleming did not properly and completely recuse herself from any discussion with respect Local Law No. 4, the Court finds that the entire process was tainted, rendering Local Law No. 4 invalid," Grossman stated.

Grossman, a Putnam resident and even a former chairman of the county Democratic committee, spent much of

his ruling pointing out ways Fleming, a Democrat, failed to separate herself from the process.

Grossman stated Fleming engaged with residents during public meetings and voted on aspects of the law, including referring it to the planning board and adding it to the agenda. Fleming also mentioned that she spoke with residents outside of formal meetings about the law and was in several executive sessions where the Hill and Dale lawsuit against the ZBA could've been discussed.

"Her mere presence, in front of her neighbors and the public, where it was well known that her homeowner association's lawsuit was pending, could have influenced her fellow Town Board members," Grossman stated. "And even

if it did not, it had the appearance of doing so."

Grossman stated there was no evidence that Fleming sought an opinion from a local board of ethics about how she should handle herself with regards to the law on banning concrete plants in most of town.

Fleming declined comment because of her recusal regarding the concrete law.

The attorney representing the town, Mark Radi, said the town has filed a notice of appeal in hopes of getting the ruling overturned.

"We disagree with the decision," Radi said. "The town is considering all other available options that they might have."

Councilman Paul Denbaum, who spearheaded the now-defunct law as

a result of Titan Concrete's strained relationship with nearby residents, said it was unfortunate after all the work the town board did to pass "this important piece of legislation," that Fleming's actions have caused the law to be invalidated. Denbaum, who is an attorney, said anytime he has had a conflict of interest in front of the town board, he has totally recused himself, including, but not limited to, not joining executive sessions on the topic.

"I won't speak for Maureen or how she views her conduct on this matter, but it not is how I would have proceeded," Denbaum stated. "This decision did reach the merits of the law, and I'm confident that if, or when it is judged on its merits it will be declared proper."

## Kreps Readies for Run Against Fleming for Kent Supervisor

*continued from previous page*

to speak out against an aspect of the bond—a new bus garage that would be located in Kent. During a ten minute interview, Kreps took a softer tone and said he wasn't running as a result of the

bad blood from the failed bond. ("It's just a disagreement we had," Kreps noted.)

He mentioned he's heard Fleming, an attorney, is not in the supervisor's office enough because she also focuses on her legal work. The town should have a "full-

time supervisor," Kreps, who is a retired NYPD detective, said.

Fleming scoffed at that notion, arguing she is always accessible to residents and spends a portion of her time traveling to different meetings and events connected

to the town. When the town dealt with tornadoes and massive snowstorms last year, Fleming said she constantly sent out information about those situations.

She called the attack, "kind of desperate."

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# Life Saving NARCAN Training Offered in PV

By Neal Rentz

Dozens of local residents came to the Putnam Valley Ambulance Corps building on Feb. 21 with a mission--to save lives.

The Putnam Valley Business Network, in a coalition with Arms Acres and Drug Crisis in Our Backyard, provided NARCAN training to residents as the county, region and country continue to fight a brutal war against dangerous drug use.

Arms Acres, which has several locations, including Carmel, provides inpatient and outpatient services for the treatment of substance abuse and chemical dependency. Drug Crisis in Our Backyard is a non-profit, community-based organization that offers "education and action-oriented opportunities for families and individuals struggling with addiction."

NARCAN is a nasal spray form of naloxone used in the event of a suspected drug overdose to hopefully revive that person that has used drugs.

Nora Slivinsky, director of community relations for Arms Acres, said, "Many, many lives have been saved because of NARCAN."

NARCAN is effective for up to 90 minutes after it is administered. "It is not a treatment," she said, adding that individuals who receive NARCAN should



Dozens of local residents came to the Putnam Valley Ambulance Corps building on Feb. 21 to receive training on how to administer NARCAN.

NEAL RENTZ PHOTOS



Tammy Bender, a certified addiction recovery coach employed by Arms Acres, instructed local residents on how to administer NARCAN during a program conducted at the Putnam Valley Ambulance Corps building on Feb. 21.

go to a hospital for additional treatment.

Marie O'Connor, project coordinator for Partners for Success, Putnam Communities that Care, said drug overdose deaths are a serious problem both nationally and in Putnam County. In 2014, there were 12 drug related deaths in the county; there were 14 in 2015; 15 in

*continued on page 6*

## Putnam Lawmakers Explore Becoming 'Climate Smart'

By David Propper

With climate change becoming a concern to millions of Americans, Putnam County is looking to do its part to be more environmentally sound.

During an economic committee meeting last week, lawmakers looked into turning Putnam into a Climate Smart Community, which is a program aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving climate resistance. The program is run by the state Department of Environmental Conservation and helps municipalities have the best practices to combat climate change.

Legislator Nancy Montgomery, a Democrat, brought the idea forward during the Feb. 21 meeting.

The concept has been brought up a couple times prior to Montgomery coming onto the legislative body. It was first introduced in 2015 by Legislator Ginny Nacerino and then later on by former lawmaker Barbara Scuccimarra. Currently, Philipstown is the only town in the county striving to become a Climate

Smart Community.

Touring different facilities and speaking with different department heads, Montgomery said the county is already working toward tasks that would make Putnam eligible to be a Climate Smart Community. There are several pledges the county would need to work toward in order to be fully certified.

"It was clear to me that we're well on our way to accomplishing this so why not take advantage of this resource," she said.

With lawmakers expressing enough interest, Montgomery said she would tap into the regional network of the DEC for assistance and noted Philipstown residents would be willing to offer more guidance.

Once the county becomes "climate smart," grant funding would then be available. Philipstown received \$6,000 for its informational campaign, Montgomery said.

"It's a really great way to get your

*continued on page 6*



Legislators Paul Jonke and Ginny Nacerino at last week's committee meeting.

DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

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# Putnam Pushes Back Against Cuomo's Cuts to Vets Program

By David Propper

For the second time in as many years, Gov. Andrew Cuomo has failed to include the Dwyer Vet-to-Vet program in the state budget, which could mean the end of the program that has helped hundreds of veterans in the Putnam County since its inception.

Last year, intense lobbying was able to get the funds restored, but now veterans and their advocates need to make noise again. The funding was originally in Cuomo's proposal, but later taken out, veteran affairs director Karl Rohde told lawmakers at a committee meeting last week. The funding would last until June 30 and the county would only be able to sustain a much smaller program after that date.

The program is made up of veterans that get special training to help other veterans that are in need through counseling and speaking with them. The program also sets up events for veterans and their families like going to baseball games. The county received \$185,000 from the state for the program last budget season.

"This should not be an annual burden for the veterans community," Rohde said of fighting to keep the program. "It's a great program."

Currently, 16 counties use the vet-to-vet program. Rohde stressed Putnam has a "track record" of helping veterans with

the peer program.

Rohde said there was a veteran who sought vet-to-vet services in January during the evening hours, which was newly implemented this year, in need of help. The veteran had been homeless and living in his car or a storage unit, but that changed with the help of the peer program. He now has a room at the county's veterans residence.

"We might've been able to reach this veteran without Dwyer Vet-to-Vet, but it might've taken longer," Rohde said.

Mental Health Association in Putnam executive director Megan Castellano said the program is invaluable and peer support can significantly help veterans going through a hard time. Vet-to-vet program director John Burgess added 22 veterans commit suicide per day, which makes a program helping veterans even more important.

A letter was sent from Senator Sue Serino's office to the committee that the Republican posted on her Facebook page, pushing the governor to reinstate the funding.

"This year, we were encouraged when the Governor referenced this profoundly impactful program in his State of the State Address and signaled his support for expanding it across NY. However, despite that rhetoric, the Governor failed to include funding to support

the program in his Executive Budget Proposal," Serino stated. "The Senate has always worked to ensure that funding is included in the budget for this important program which helps our servicemen and women struggling with PTSD, TBI, and other mental health challenges. While leadership in Albany has changed, I will continue to be a vocal advocate for this critically important program."

When Legislator Neal Sullivan asked how much the state would be saving, Castellano said about \$3.4 million out of a \$175 billion budget. The county Legislature plans to write a

letter to Cuomo and Putnam's state representatives about reinstating the program.

"It's a disgraceful," Sullivan said, with Legislator Ginny Nacerino adding the cuts are "disheartening."

Legislator Amy Sayegh said veterans face a unique set of challenges because not many people can relate to what a veteran is dealing with.

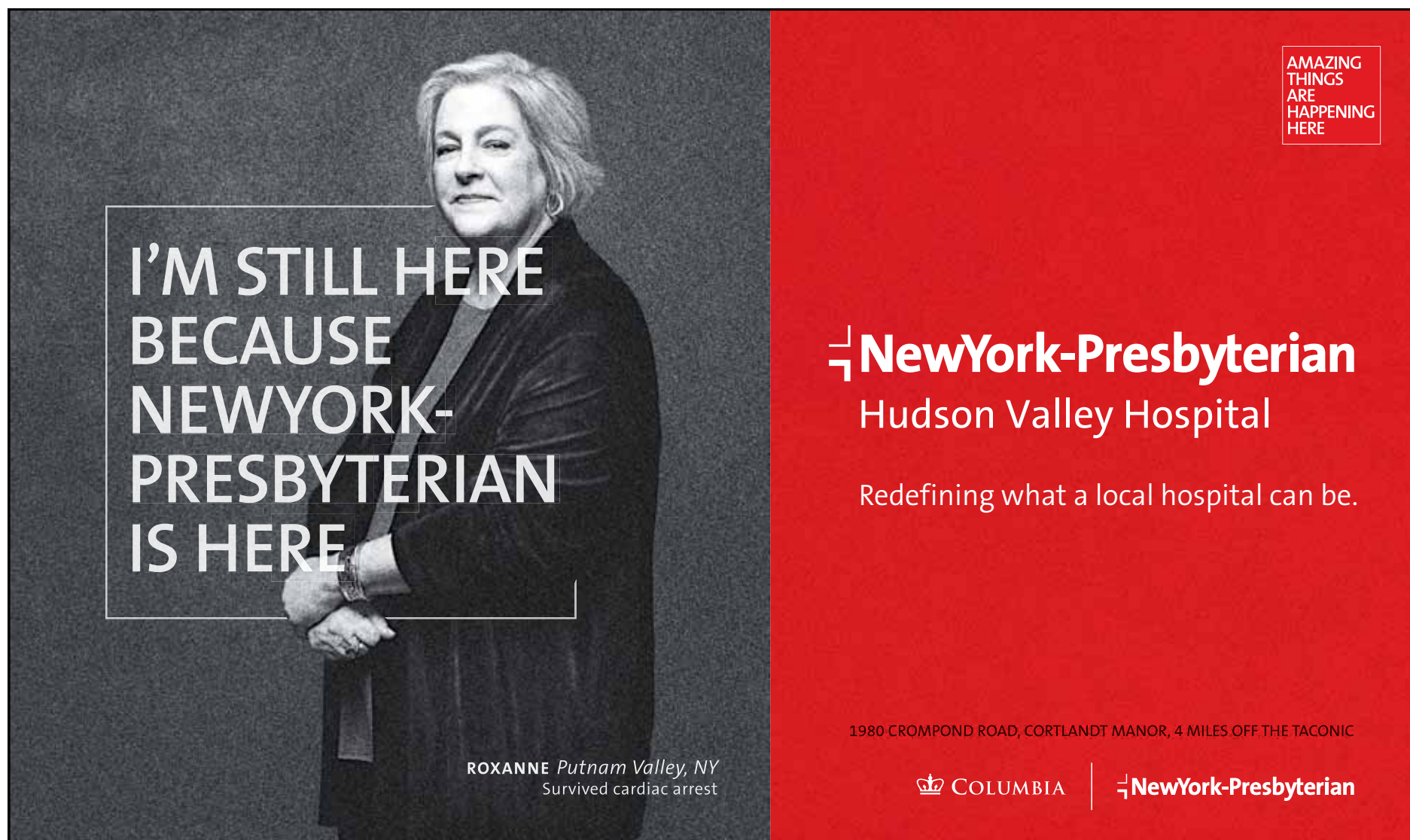
"That's why these programs are so important because their needs are so specific and we owe it to those that are fighting for our freedoms everyday," Sayegh said.



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# Merger Planned for Dispatch Centers in Putnam

By David Propper

A move could be made by Putnam County later this year that would house the dispatch center at the sheriff's office with the 911 call center at the Bureau of Emergency Services headquarters as discussions about the consolidation plan continued earlier this month.

Sheriff dispatchers would move to the TOPS building in Carmel, allowing sheriff and BES personnel to work more collaboratively when responding to incidents and emergencies within the county. The hope is to get the merger jumpstarted by the fall, BES commissioner Ken Clair told lawmakers at a protective services committee meeting on Feb. 13.

Bureau officials met with sheriff department officials earlier this month to discuss logistics for the merger going forward. The county would need to purchase six more consoles that would be in addition to the six that the bureau already has.

Right now the 911 call center transfers calls to the appropriate entity, whether that be police, fire, or ambulance.

Sheriff Robert Langley said the first phase would be getting all the new equipment inside the TOPS building, then having dispatchers currently stationed at the sheriff's headquarters moved to the TOPS building. Cross training would also be necessary so everyone is on the same



Sheriff dispatchers and 911 call center workers would work at the TOPS building if a merger is complete some time this year.

DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

page, Langley noted.

"These are people who share a title and not more," Sgt. Matthew Monroe said at the meeting. The sheriff dispatchers don't have the same level of training as the 911 call personnel has, he added.

Legislator Neal Sullivan, who noted it was a highly technical merger, said it would be helpful for lawmakers to see the pros and cons of a possible merger. He called for more information including the possible cost savings and any possible

expenses.

Legislator Ginny Nacerino said after the arduous work is done to complete the merger, it appears efficiencies will be accomplished.

To better understand how the two entities can work together, Langley even suggested sending Clair and Monroe to Charleston, South Carolina, which has a leading 911 dispatch center.

Right now, when the two agencies need to work together when an emergency call comes in, Langley said the 911 center needs to call the sheriff's office for updates. Under the proposed merger, the sheriff dispatchers and 911 dispatchers would be able to work together quicker.

"By being under the same roof, there's a better line of communication to better serve the community," Langley said, adding, "There's a lot to learn."

## Putnam Lawmakers Explores Becoming 'Climate Smart'

*continued from page 4*

community together," Montgomery said.

Nacerino once again showed support for the initiative and Legislator Amy Sayegh also noted the county is striving toward these climate smart goals. Grants should be pursued if possible, Sayegh said. A task force would need to be formed and a formal resolution would need to be passed.

Legislator Toni Addonizio said the pledge would require workshops and the distribution of information through mailings and local media. She wanted more information before signing off on anything official.

"There's a lot of moving parts to this," Addonizio, who was more skeptical of the proposal, said.

## Life Saving NARCAN Training Offered in PV

*continued from page 4*

2016 and 24 in 2017, she said. The number of overdose deaths decreased in 2018.

Putnam County has taken several steps to deal with drug abuse including setting up a Drug Court that offers alternatives to jail time for those who abuse drugs, O'Connor said.

Susan Salamone, a member of the Executive Board of Drug Crisis in Our Backyard, said she and her husband Steve created the organization in 2012 following the death of their son due to heroin use at the age of 29. "We were so angry," she said. Interest in the efforts of Drug Crisis in Our Backyard has grown significantly since its first meeting in August 2012, she said.

Families must be honest with themselves about the problem of drug abuse, Salamone said. "Families are in denial about this," she said.

The ability to be certified to administer NARCAN is important, Salamone said. "You are getting a lifesaving" skill, she told the audience.

Tammy Bender, a certified addiction recovery coach employed by Arms Acres, said even if a person is prepared to provide NARCAN, someone present should be assigned to call 911 for additional assistance.

NARCAN boxes include two doses and both should be administered to a person suspected of having overdosed, Bender said. After the person who has received NARCAN has become conscious he or she should be told what happened, she said. "It's really important to not leave them alone," she said. A person who has received NARCAN should be taken to a hospital, she said.

NARCAN instructions are provided on the outside of the box and inside the box, Bender said. There are many YouTube videos on how to administer NARCAN, she said.

Those in attendance last week filled out the appropriate paperwork and answered questions about NARCAN orally as a group to receive certification to administer NARCAN.

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# Protestors Rally Against Trump National Emergency

By Rick Pezzullo

A President's Day message to President Donald Trump was sent loud and clear on Feb. 18 by approximately 100 protestors who gathered outside Senator Chuck Schumer's district office in Peekskill.

Waving signs that read "Fake National Emergency," "Make America Sane Again," "The Real Crisis is in the White House," and "America is Not Reality TV," among others, the peaceful crowd denounced

Trump declaring a national emergency Friday in order to use more than one billion dollars to extend a wall on the southern border.

The demonstration was part of a nationwide effort to oppose Trump and what some feel are his dangerous and racist policies.

"Why do we need this wall? Because Trump is racist," said Courtney Williams, a resident of Peekskill and co-founder of

the Safe Energy Rights Group "We have many real emergencies in the United States right now. We are wasting our time on fake emergencies like building a wall. This is all one fight."

Among those at the protest were State Senator Peter Harckham (D) and Peekskill Councilwoman Vanessa Agudelo, both of whom criticized Trump for his actions.

"His emergency declaration is an abuse of power. It's repugnant because it's a power grab in an un-American way," Harckham said. "This is a humanitarian crisis brought up by the President of the United States. We stand with the immigrant community. We all came from somewhere. 9/11 was a national emergency. Superstorm Sandy was a national emergency. He himself said he didn't have to do this."

Agudelo, who works as manager of Member Engagement Hudson Valley The New York Immigration Coalition, called the border wall Trump seeks to construct "inhumane" and "unwanted."

"We need to be able to have a conversation about immigration," Agudelo said. "We all come from families of immigrants. Every day we are coming

closer to becoming a fascist nation. We cannot allow this to happen. It's not going to end with Trump."

Speakers were interrupted at times with chants of "No way, no wall," "Dump Trump," and "The people united will never be defeated."

Robert Kesten, a human rights activist who lost the Democratic nod to Harckham last year to challenge former State Senator Terrence Murphy, talked about another threat with Trump's declaration.

"The most important thing we face is the fact we have a government that is allowing the Constitution to be torn apart," Kesten said. "This is about the destruction of the American Constitution."

A statement from Schumer was read at the demonstration, in which he stated, "This is plainly a power grab by a disappointed president who has gone outside the boundaries of the law. The president is not above the law. The Congress cannot let the president shred the Constitution."

However, Schumer wasn't spared criticism at the rally, which some, such as Williams, charging the minority leader wasn't doing enough to protect the people.



RICK PEZZULLO PHOTOS

Protestors feelings were on display at demonstration in Peekskill Monday.



Signs opposing Trump's actions were plentiful by the 100 or so protestors on hand.



The protest took place outside Senator Schumer's office in Peekskill.

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## Business of the Week

# Orangetheory Fitness Jefferson Valley

By Neal Rentz

It is not difficult to understand one of the reasons Orangetheory Fitness has its name.

Mount Kisco resident Fior Delacruz, assistant studio manager at the Orangetheory facility in the Jefferson Valley Mall, said last week that the studios all use orange light. "It's just to have the ambiance," she said.

Delacruz began her career with Orangetheory Fitness at the national chain's Mount Kisco location when it opened two years ago, working at the front desk. She was promoted and moved to the new Jefferson Valley Mall location, which opened on December 28.

"My job responsibilities are to manage the club. To make sure everything is going smoothly, marketing and always having fun too," Delacruz said last week. "I'm here to make sure everyone is inspired. I'm here to change people's lives. But I'm also here to create a fun atmosphere as well."

The Mount Kisco location was Orangetheory's first in Westchester County, Delacruz noted. Orangetheory is a group of privately owned franchises with more than 1,000 studios in 47 states and in 19 countries, Delacruz said.

Workouts are one-hour, full body



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Mount Kisco resident Fior Delacruz, assistant studio manager at Orangetheory Fitness at the Jefferson Valley Mall, is joined in front of the national chain's logo by Brewster resident Christina Tassi, studio manager and marketing director.

sessions, Delacruz said. All customers wear heart rate monitors, she said. "We focus on heart rate base interval training," she said. "There's five different heart rates that we focus on. Orange is 84 percent of our maximum heart rate. It's proven that if you're in the orange zone for at least 12 minutes in that hour you get the after burn effect of the workout. So that's where the orange and the theory came in. You'll

be burning calories post-workout."

Every class is overseen by a certified coach, Delacruz said. The coaches "motivate you, push you, make sure you're okay and prevent you from over or under training," she said.

There are various apparatuses used in the Orangetheory workouts, including Freemotion brand treadmills, which Delacruz said have shock absorbent

that do not hurt people who use them. Orangetheory patrons can power walk, jog or run on the treadmills, she said.


Training sessions also include water rower machines in which people row with actually water, Delacruz said. "It's smoother on your body," she said. "It's less of an impact."

Weights and other equipment are also used in the workouts. "The workouts are different every day," Delacruz said.

Customers typically do the one-hour workouts three times a week. The Jefferson Valley studio has an eclectic mix of clients, Delacruz said. "I've seen everything," she said. "I've seen from 14-year-olds to 72-year-olds. I've seen people who have pacemakers."

"Everyone's working at their own pace. That's the beautiful thing about Orangetheory because you are wearing that heartbeat monitor and that's what sets you apart from every single person in this room," Delacruz said.

*Orangetheory Fitness is located in the Jefferson Valley Mall (near Sears) at 650 Lee Blvd. in Yorktown. For more information, call 914-359-5515 or send an e-mail to [masm0993@orangetheoryfitness.com](mailto:masm0993@orangetheoryfitness.com). The national Orangetheory Fitness Web site is <https://www.orangetheoryfitness.com/>.*



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## Letter to the Editor

# Byrne Opposes Gov. Cuomo's Proposal To Hike Local Taxes

Gov. Cuomo's 30-day amendments to his proposed budget demonstrate he is not serious about reducing property taxes. Rather than restoring state aid to localities, the governor now proposes that the state mandate county governments to pay for the cut by sharing a projected increase in revenue from local sales taxes, and perhaps recreational marijuana. This does not restore the state's cut to Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM). It just shifts more of the burden to local taxpayers.

The governor proposed a massive \$175

billion budget to the Legislature- one of the largest state budgets in the nation. There are plenty of opportunities to right-size government and control government spending, but cutting AIM and adding to our already crushing property tax burden is not one of them.

To make matters worse, Gov. Cuomo and the Democrat-controlled Legislature have already added to the long list of unfunded mandates our county and local governments must pay for. Most notably is the recent passage of early voting and the rising cost of implementing the new

minimum wage, all while cutting state funding for programs to support our local municipalities, fix our roads and care for our veterans. The governor's budget not only cuts AIM, but also zeroes out Extreme Winter Recovery funds to assist local governments with transportation infrastructure, as well as the Joseph P. Dwyer Vet to Vet Program funding for county governments."

If Gov. Cuomo truly cared about the effects of the federal limitation on state and local taxes (SALT), he wouldn't try to solve the issue with state cuts and

more unfunded mandates that force our property taxes to rise. It's unacceptable to simply pass the buck to the local level. I remain eager and ready to work with the governor and colleagues from both sides of the aisle to reduce the property and local tax burden. The very first step is for the state to take ownership of the rising cost of local government and restore these cuts in the state budget.

Kevin Byrne  
NYS Assemblyman for the 94th district  
Mahopac

## Knights of Columbus Come to the Aid of the Kozloski Family

Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell thanked the Our Lady of the Lakes Knights of Columbus Council 6318 for their generous efforts on behalf of fallen Mahopac native and Coast Guard member Michael Kozloski.

Kozloski was stationed in Alaska when he was tragically killed in a crane accident on January 31, 2019. He is survived by his wife, Brie, and their four children. The Knights of Columbus stepped up and collected donations

amounting to more than \$3,000 for the Kozloski family.

"Putnam County has always been a community that gives back," Odell said. "Michael Kozloski served his country with honor, and now our community

is giving back to his family during this difficult time."

Odell also credited Knights Director Richard Keating for spearheading the fundraising efforts.

## A Local Photographer's Perspective of the New Tappan Zee Bridge

Photographer, historian and author David Rocco will present a pictorial essay of the ongoing construction of the New Tappan Zee / Gov. Cuomo Bridges. As a photographer of the scenic Hudson Valley and beyond, Mr. Rocco has photographed

some of the most important and historic restoration projects in the Hudson Valley Region. He is currently known for his stunning photographs documenting the construction and completion of the new Tappan Zee/ Gov. Cuomo Bridge. These

photos have been exhibited recently at the Shrub Oak Library in Yorktown, the Warner Library in Tarrytown, and street festivals in Sleepy Hollow and Nyack. In addition to the White Plains Public Library display, exhibitions are also scheduled for this year at a variety of locations, and Rocco continued his unique photo coverage---on land and by air --- by photographing the implosion of the remains of the original east anchor span pier on Tuesday January 15.

A number of Rocco's photos that were published in 2016 were considered for a Pulitzer Prize in Photography. A photograph taken by Rocco in March of 2018 of a trio of tug boats trying to recover two barges that held two separate lengthy steel deck assembled girders sections that floated eight miles down the Hudson River is being considered for a Pulitzer Prize in the photography category of "Local News." Winning nominations will be announced in April.

Over the years, his photo work has been published in a wide variety of noted publications, and his photo images on the "Damage and Destruction of Hurricane Sandy" have been exhibited at the Arts Westchester Gallery in White Plains and The Museum of the City of New York. Some of these photos have been entered into the New York City permanent records.

As a self-taught photographer, Rocco has captured the images of historic restoration projects throughout the Hudson Valley for almost two decades. Since 2013, his prized photos have focused on the New Tappan Zee Bridge, and his vantage points of it are unlike any others. Rocco has travelled aboard



Photographer, historian and author David Rocco.

helicopters, trains, and boats to capture the new bridge's construction and the original bridge's demolition in over 10,000 action and progression shots. The results of his relentless efforts include numerous aerial- photo close-ups of the emerging bridge towers, which topped off at 419 feet, as well as waterfront views of tug boat teams at work throughout the seasons.

With a passion for both construction and history, Rocco knows that "once the moment is over, it's over." Some of his shots were taken within a few minutes after waiting hours and in some cases, days on location for a specific event.

*continued on page 18*

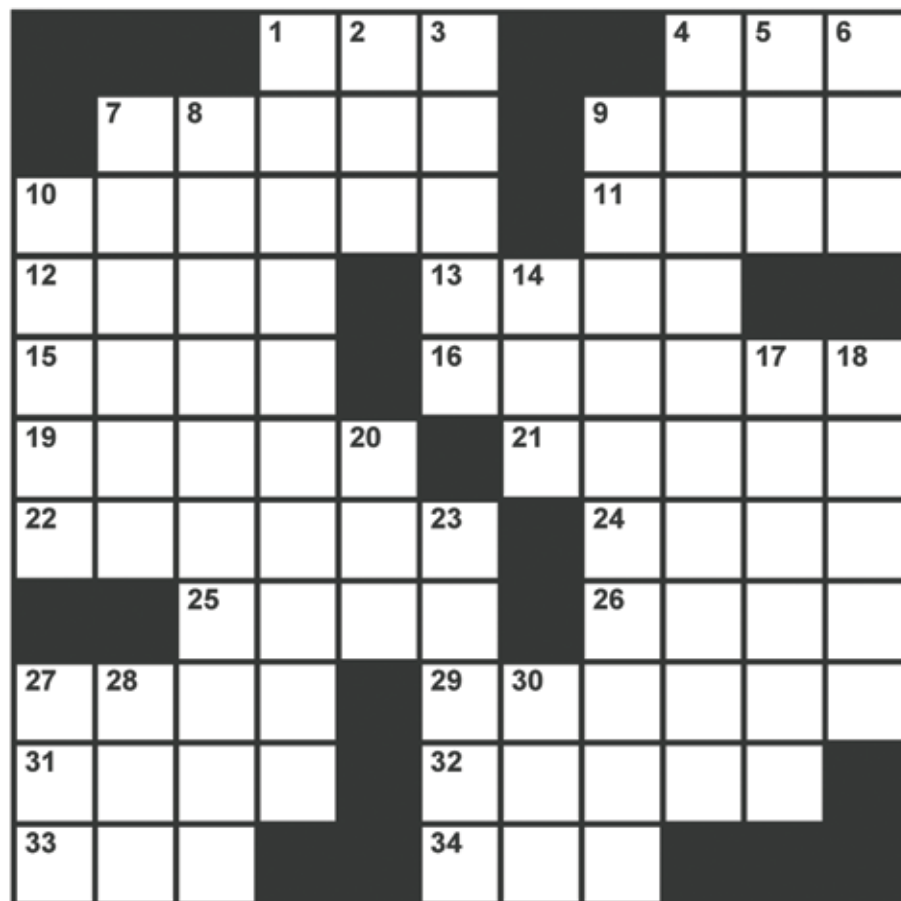


DAVID ROCCO PHOTO CREDIT

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# Crossword Puzzle



Crossword by Myles Mellor

Answers on page 17

## Across

1. Univ. URL ender
4. Middle grade
7. Jordan capital
9. Wander
10. Mahopac confectioner, Lynne's Sweet \_\_\_\_\_
11. Millinery supply
12. Middle-eastern kingdom
13. Writer Kingsley
15. Paula Creamer's org.
16. Gossips at shul
19. Be stationary, at sea
21. One kind of elephant
22. Narrow ridges
24. Transitional time
25. Hall-of-Fame college swimming coach \_\_\_\_\_ Thornton
26. Right on the map
27. Definitely!
29. Legendary Ontario Premier
31. Low pitch
32. Sap
33. Superman's emblem
34. CD predecessors

## Down

1. Issuances
2. "Gimme \_\_ thing!"
3. Take back, in a way
4. Maritime police
5. "Mangia!"
6. North Sea feeder
7. Deodorant's target
8. Leanness
9. One with a thick skin
10. Tributes
14. French sea
17. Bondi bloke
18. Back to school mos.
20. Paddle
23. Jazz singer Waters
27. Civil War prez
28. More (Sp.)
30. French artist Jean



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# Obituaries

## Alfred J. Del Bianco

Alfred J. Del Bianco, age 68, of Ponce Inlet Florida, formerly Mahopac died on February 13, with his loving family at his side. Alfred was born on May 30, 1950 to the late Josephine (Cappelli) and Fortunato Del Bianco in Harlem. He would go on to marry the love of his life Patricia "Pat" Baliga, in a beautiful spring wedding on April 22, 1989, that was a day to be remembered and bringing them over 29 years of wedded happiness. Together they were blessed with their greatest joy in life their son Michael. Mr. Del Bianco was a decorated and proud United States Veteran and Marine. Alfred was a self-made man who worked hard for God, his Country and his family. He ran a successful Home Improvement Company called the Elliot Company, for over 33 years based in Mahopac, servicing Westchester and Putnam counties. Just as hard as he worked for his business, he worked for his family. Alfred was a dependable loving family man, who was a loving husband, always present and kind father, respected brother and beloved uncle. He was so many wonderful things to so many people who cherished and loved him. You can measure the strength of a man by the smiles he gave to those around him and there was not a single person in the presence of Alfred who wasn't smiling. Alfred and Pat moved to Florida, while they might not have been blessed with all the time they had hoped for, they were blessed with great happiness and love during the time in Florida that they had. Alfred although living in Florida was always a New Yorker at heart cheering for his beloved Yankees from his favorite chair, continuing to collect his baseball memorabilia. Always staying in touch with his family in New York, his sister Donna who was a best friend to him, his nieces and nephews, whom he loved as if they were his own children and his many cousins. Alfred was the glue that kept his family together and in his memory and honor his family will continue to keep his legacy of love and devotion to one another. Alfred is survived by his loving wife of over 29 years Pat, their son Michael who was Alfred's joy in this world. He is also survived by his sister Donna and his brother-in-law Paul, their two daughters Joanna and Paula who both, were Alfred's God Children. As well as being survived by his beloved beagle Chloe. He is also survived by an extended family and many cousins who will dearly miss him. He is predeceased by his adoring parents his mother Josephine in 2016 and his father Fortunato in 2008.

## Barbara E. Cleary

Barbara E. Cleary of Carmel, died on February 16, at the age of 74. She was born in Ossining, on September 20, 1944, the daughter of Harry and Dorothy (né

Metz) Benz. Barbara lived to sing. Along with singing in different church choirs, she sang with the Westchester Chorale Society, and the music commuters. She also performed at various nursing homes, and senior communities, at funeral services and masses. She also loved to act, and enjoyed similar success on stage. Most of all she loved her kids, and grandkids, and cherished every moment they spent together. In the last few years before Barbara's passing, she lived her life more than some do in a lifetime. May she rest in peace, singing in a heavenly choir. Barbara is survived by her children Don Santoro and Bonnie Woodhouse, and three grandchildren. Services for Ms. Cleary will be held at a later date.

## Mary H. Scalzo

Mary H. Scalzo (nee Auriemma) of Carmel. Beloved wife, mother, sister, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend, left us on February 16, at age 89. Mary was born on April 3, 1929 in Brooklyn, New York during the Great Depression, to Luisa (nee Colucci) and John Auriemma. On December 24, 1950, Mary married Thomas Scalzo at St. Francis DePaolo Church in Brooklyn, New York. This past December, they celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary. We will always remember Mary's devotion and love for her husband and family. She put her life and whole heart into nurturing them for nearly seven decades. We who are the recipients of that love and dedication are deeply grateful to her and hope that we may always be worthy of her endless gift, which was herself. She was small in stature, but had boundless energy. Her cooking, and greatly anticipated preparation of traditional neopolitan holiday foods, delighted us all. Her warmth and friendliness charmed everyone. She was a homemaker in the truest sense of the word. She made a loving home for her family; an ideal of what home really means, that we will always cherish and carry in our hearts. Mary is survived by her husband Thomas, her children Nicholas (wife Jeanette) of Meriden, Connecticut; John (wife Sally) of Florida; Veronica ("Ronnie") (husband Michael) of Mahopac, New York; her grandchildren, Carey Ann Scalzo, Marissa Couch (husband Jeremy), Lynn Scalzo, Jason Scalzo, Michael Zunno and Annalisa Zunno; and great-grandchildren Jeremy Scalzo and Easton Couch.

## Diane L. Whelan

Diane L. Whelan of Carmel, died at the age of 63 on February 17. Diane Lynn Whelan was born on March 10, 1955 in White Plains, to the late James "Fred" Clarke, an engineer, and Evelah Ursula Mott, a housewife, who sadly passed with Diane only being three years old. Her

father remarried the late Vera McCarthy Clarke "Mema" to all of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren she became Diane's second mother. Diane was a lovely, titian-haired person, always smiling, always optimistic and someone who always put the concerns of others before her own. Diane worked the majority of her adult life at the Lake Carmel Pharmacy, where she was the manager at the time of her passing. She was loved by all her customers many whom she had been helping for over 40 years. She is survived by her husband of over 40 years, Michael V. Whelan. As well as being survived by her daughter Meaghan A. See (Robert) and her two grandchildren Jeremy and Gabriel. She is also survived by her son Timothy P. Whelan (Hali). Also surviving Diane are her siblings Douglas Clarke, Bill Clarke, Keiren Farquhar and Kathy Curry. Diane was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister and aunt to all of them.

## Stephanie C. Acton

It is with our family's deep sadness that we announce the passing of Stephanie C. Acton, 69, of Carmel, on February 19. Our beloved Stephanie was born on July 14, 1949 to Joseph and Carmen (Ramirez) Acton in White Plains. Before her retirement, Stephanie worked as an administrative secretary for SUNY Purchase in Purchase. She was best known for her love and devotion to all animals. Stephanie also enjoyed baking, reading and discussing characters and plots from the many movies she had watched. For those who knew her, Stephanie was a loving daughter, sister, aunt and a friend to many. Stephanie is survived by her brother Kevan Acton and his wife Carol, as well as several nieces and nephews. In addition, she is survived by her lifelong cherished friend, Holly Maggio and Ed Snyder, her former husband and loving, supportive friend. She is also survived by her dear friends Denise and Jack Knight, Elizabeth Wollenberg and Susan Early as well as many others whose lives she has touched.

## Irene Gartner

Irene Gartner died peacefully, with her family at her side, on February 21. She was born in the Bronx on January 22, 1947 the daughter of Leo and Freda Maisel. Irene was a former teacher with the NYC Department of Education. She moved to Mahopac where she built an amazing network of friends and raised her family. Irene is survived by her husband Dennis, son Matthew, daughter Rachel, daughter in law Michelle, son in law Kyle, and grandson Maxwell. Memorial contributions can be made in Irene's name to Cycle for Survival, where 100% of all proceeds benefit Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

## Randolph R. Delong

Randolph R. Delong of Mahopac, died on February 21, after a courageous three year battle against brain cancer; he was 68 years old. He was born in Ossining, on November 10, 1950, the son of Walter and Vivian (née Palmer) Delong and stepson of Alfred Cronin. On February 4, 1970 he married Mary Wilke and they were blessed with 3 daughters. Randy (Gpa) worked for the NY Telephone Company as a lineman before retiring. In addition to being a devoted husband, father, and grandfather with a great love for his family, Randy also had a love for motorcycles, classic cars, as well as rock and roll music. He loved spending his free time attending car club meetings and showing off his prized cars at various car shows. He also took great pride in his extensive collection of music and enjoyed playing his hundreds of records and cd's. Randy loved spending time with his "Best friend" Max (his dog), until Max passed away in 2013. Per Randy's request he will be taking his best friend with him as Max's ashes and Randy will be laid to rest together. Randy was a genuine, honest man with a huge heart, and an encyclopedia for a brain. He was great at giving advice and knew everything about anything and then some. Randy was the one everyone called when they had questions about everything from cars to medical advice, and anything in between. He was full of humor and would tell jokes and stories that would leave a smile on everyone's face. Even during his illness, he kept his witty, sarcastic sense of humor, which helped him and his family through that difficult time. He will be greatly missed. Randy is survived by his loving wife Mary of 49 years, daughter Heather Dzubak and her husband Edward, daughter Dawn Delong, and daughter Randi Ruocco and her husband Albert. He is also survived by his sister Kelly Cronin Mancini and his grandchildren Leah, Dominique, A.J., Alexa, Nicholas, Jenna, Aidan, Ryan, Anthony, and Kaylee.

## Richard Fornander

Richard Fornander of Dover Plains, formerly of Brewster, died peacefully at New York-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital on February 22, in Cortlandt, NY. He was 57 years old. Born on January 24, 1962 in Mt. Kisco to John and Muriel Fornander, Rick graduated from Brewster High School. He was president of Laser Tech Fabricators, Inc., in Cold Spring, New York. Rick had a passion for riding – his motorcycle in nice weather, or snowmobiling in the cold. He was a member of the Brewster Fire Department from 1982 to 1995 and attained the rank of captain. Rick is by his father and stepmother, Beverly Fornander, his stepfather, George Smith, and his brother Rob Fornander.

*continued on page 17*



# Brewster Chapter of Mu Alpha Theta Uses Grant to Improve Service Projects

By Jane Scinta

In 2017, Brewster High School's chapter of Mu Alpha Theta was recognized for its dedication to serving the community with the Diane Rubin Service Award. With the grant money the chapter received, Brewster students are continuing to give back to their community, increasing the scope of their community service projects throughout the year.

This fall, the Brewster chapter collected pajamas and children's books on behalf of the Pajama Program. In addition to bringing in donations from its 150 members, the club also used a portion of the grant money to supplement what was donated by the school community.

Brewster students also took their community service outside of school to a local supermarket, where they collected food donations to ensure that numerous families in need could have a full Thanksgiving dinner.

As the winter holidays approached, Brewster students took initiative in "adopting" three families in need, buying gifts for each family member to spread holiday spirit in the community. As students worked together to cross off all of the items on every family member's wish list, they were able to make a difference for multiple Brewster families.

In the new year, Brewster students are beginning to prepare for their largest service project: the annual Math-a-Thon. Each year, third-grade students from the district are welcomed into the high school to participate in math activities. The students gain sponsorships from their friends and families to raise money for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. High school students from Mu Alpha Theta guide the young students through math challenges at a variety of stations, encouraging their love of mathematics and raising money for a worthy cause.

With the grant money received from winning the Diane Rubin Service Award, the Brewster chapter of Mu Alpha Theta is continuing to give back to the community. No matter what service project is currently underway, Brewster students have proven their dedication to service time and time again.



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# Mahopac Middle School: Carnival of Health

From spin-the-wheel trivia to High-Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) challenges, the Mahopac Middle School cafeterias and hallways were buzzing with games, contests and activities relating health topics that impact middle school students.

The annual "Carnival of Health" included school and community organizations offering fun fair-themed ways to present serious health subjects such as vaping, depression, sugar intake and managing stress.

Organized by Valarie Nierman, Mahopac High School health teacher and coordinator for health education for K-12 and the Mahopac Health Education team, the theme of this year's fair is "Be a Pineapple" in memory Anne Tuite. When Mrs. Tuite was diagnosed with cancer in the winter of 2017, she created t-shirts with a pineapple and the quote: "Be a Pineapple: Stand Tall, Wear a Crown, and Be Sweet on the Inside."

"Anne brought the concept of the health fair to our schools when she made the jump from corporate wellness to health education here in Mahopac 19 years ago. In her honor and loving memory, we made a point to have pineapple-themed decorations, table signs, and give-aways to reflect Anne's positive spirit and her ability to connect our students to our community's health partners," said



PROVIDED PHOTOS

Nierman.

"Carnival of Health" participants include:

1. AON PT and Wellness
2. Biofeedback Resources International
3. Cove Care Center
4. Drug Crisis in our Backyard
5. MHS STAGE Club: Student Teacher Association for Gender Equality
6. MHS Student Assistance Counselor
7. MMS Health Education Department
8. MMS Physical Education Department
9. POW'R Against Tobacco
10. Putnam County Department of

Health

11. Putnam County Youth Bureau
12. Putnam Hospital Center
13. Putnam/Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center

"Our hope for the Carnival of Health was to create a fun and open environment for our students to ask questions and learn more about important health issues that impact their age group. We also want them to know all the amazing support organizations in our school and community," says Tom Cozzocrea, Mahopac Middle School Principal.



## Law Book: Do You Have a Powerless Power of Attorney?

By Salvatore M. Di Costanzo

The Power of Attorney ("POA") and Statutory Gifts Rider ("SGR") are two of the most important documents drafted by an elder law attorney. Deficiencies in these documents increases the likelihood of the need to commence a costly guardianship proceeding to be able to implement many common elder law planning techniques necessary to preserve assets. While New York law provides for a statutory short form POA, the powers included in the statutory form are, unfortunately, insufficient when it comes to common elder law and estate planning techniques. Even where the POA is prepared by an attorney, if that attorney is not an elder law or estate planning attorney, it likely that the form has not been properly drafted to include powers necessary to allow for the implementation of proper estate and Medicaid planning techniques.

### The Purpose of the POA and SGR

In 2009 and again in 2010, the New York State legislature entirely revamped the statute that governs the POA. While the revisions are too numerous to discuss in this article, the most recognizable changes were the appearance of the POA form and the addition of the SGR.

The purpose of a POA is to give another person (an "agent") the authority to handle your financial and property affairs. The POA is effective immediately



Salvatore M. Di Costanzo

upon signing. The agent does not have to wait until you become incapacitated to act; rather, their authority and ability to act is immediate. The powers found in a POA are largely administrative powers (i.e., the power to pay your bills and the power to open a bank account).

The purpose of the SGR is to authorize your agent to enter into transactions that are considered "changes in beneficial interest" (i.e., the power to make gifts in excess of \$500, the power to transfer assets to trusts, and the power to change beneficiary designations.) An SGR is a completely separate document that needs to be signed at the same time as the

POA. Many people are unaware that an SGR exists, and some erroneously have executed an SGR years after executing the POA, rendering the SGR ineffective.

### Modifications to the POA

New York State law permits modifying the POA and SGR, and the key to a properly drafted and protective POA and SGR lies in the modifications added by an elder law or estate planning attorney.

A POA should be modified. The primary modification is adding the power to create, amend, revoke, or terminate revocable or irrevocable trusts. This power becomes imperative where an elder law attorney seeks to protect the value of a client's home and other assets when planning for Medicaid. There are many other modifications that an elder law attorney will use.

### Modifications to the SGR

It is important to reiterate that the single most common oversight is the failure to prepare an SGR. With that being said, the most common oversights in preparing an SGR is the failure to add modifications allowing the agent to (i) transfer assets in unlimited amounts and (ii) transfer assets to himself.

Both of the above modifications enable the elder law attorney to implement many techniques that create Medicaid eligibility. If you lose your capacity and the SGR does not allow the agent to transfer your assets,

the SGR is relatively useless. Moreover, since your agent is usually the person that would be the recipient of the transfer (i.e., a spouse or child), not permitting the agent to make transfers to himself might necessitate using another family member or non-relative to receive your assets.

### Conclusion

The failure to recognize the necessity of a POA and SGR is common. Once you commit yourself to an estate plan, however, having a deficient POA and SGR is unacceptable. If you do not have a POA and SGR or have documents that do not include the modifications discussed herein, please contact us.

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



# Noise at Home: Options to Consider for a Peaceful Existence

Frequently I've been asked by buyer clients to show them homes in a quiet neighborhood or homes that are far from a busy road.

The most important thing they seek in their home life is peace and quiet. While some people can live happily with the most extraordinary noise surrounding them, others seem to be more sensitive to lesser extraneous sounds, such as passing cars.

And if you live in an apartment or condo, there are the sounds that come through ceilings and walls that can be an issue to the more sensitive

ear. Some noise you can do something about, some you grin and bear it and some you just get used to.

My first apartment in New York was in a new building that wasn't soundproofed. Upstairs there was a young child who would run back and forth on uncarpeted floors. I complained to the mother bitterly every time it got out of hand. That neighbor, whose name I still recall, got so sick of my complaints that she sent her tough boyfriend down to threaten me. The only real solution to the problem was to walk out on my lease and find an



By Bill Primavera

apartment with no one above.

When I bought my first home in Brooklyn Heights, I found that it sat directly over the A train subway line. Visiting dinner guests would sometimes have a look of mild panic when the rumbling train barreled through below. We loved the house and learned to accept the noise. In fact, when the transit workers went on strike for a week, we missed the sound that lulled and vibrated us to sleep at night.

When I moved to Westchester, it was late summer and I couldn't fall asleep the first night because

of noise that one would never find in the city: the drone of katydids. By my second season here, I was welcoming the sound like a lullaby.

Those of us who live in a single-family home expect to be spared the kind of noise pollution that one might face in an apartment, co-op or condo with common walls. But we have all of the outdoors to carry annoying sound waves: lawn mowers, leaf blowers, cars and trucks.

If the whoosh of cars annoys you, it can be abated by installing a solid fence along the street. The regular four-foot fence will

help deflect some of the sound. Also, thick evergreen bushes help. Another device is outdoor water, either in a fountain or a waterfall incorporated into a swimming pool.

Another effective technique to lessen noise from a busy road, often used in apartment and condo developments, is the creation of a high dirt berm with plantings.

It is estimated that as much as 90 percent of outdoor noise comes through windows and doors. Good insulated windows are the best defense to prevent outdoor noise from becoming indoor noise. As much as 75 to 95 percent of extreme outdoor noise, such as living next to a major traffic artery, can be eliminated through the use of soundproof windows that are added as an extra layer inside of a regular window.

The noise outside that had always annoyed me most was the persistent barking of dogs. If you live in a neighborhood long enough this annoyance can come in waves, depending on the dogs that come into and out of the lives of nearby neighbors.

In Yorktown, we have a code that invites us to complain to the code enforcement officer if barking lasts more than 15 minutes. I have taken advantage of that code rather than having a face-to-face confrontation.

If you live in an apartment, co-op or condo, the concern is whether the ceiling and floor insulation are sufficient. There's a reason why many units for sale are promoted with such phrases as "no one above or below" or "end unit with only one shared wall." But if you find that you're sharing too much of your neighbors' personal lives, there are companies that sell soundproofing wallboard for more privacy.

Another option is to create white noise or more pleasant distracting noise to take the edge off the irritating noise. I have a sound effects device that I would take with me on road trips when I had to stay in hotels near busy highways. It creates the sound of ocean waves, waterfalls, rain and a variety of other sounds that soothe my environment.

Instead of covering your ears, you can make your own privacy by addressing sound pollution creatively.

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

## What to Do When You Have an Unfinished Bottle of Wine



By Nick Antonaccio

"What can I do with an opened bottle of wine if I don't finish it?"

I am (very) frequently asked this question. We all have encountered this dilemma (some less often than

others). The good news is that you have several viable, reliable choices.

First, a bit of background. Wine begins to change as soon as the cork is removed from the bottle. Many wines improve when exposed to air; the aromas and flavors that have been tightly confined since bottling are released when they come in contact with oxygen. But most do not; they begin to deteriorate quickly.

Wine, in its most elemental form, is a fruit derivative and is perishable. It's just a question of time before oxygen accomplishes its dastardly deeds – oxidation and spoilage. Generally speaking, red wines will last longer than white and sparkling

wines, wines with higher acid and tannins will last longer than softer wines and wines with higher alcohol will last longer than those with lower alcohol.

Preserving wine is a worthy endeavor. The longer you can forestall or slow down the oxidation process, the longer the wine will retain its freshness. Here are three things you can do with an open bottle of wine: ditch it, preserve it or recycle it.

1. Ditch the wine. Stop. Pouring it down the drain is the least palatable, even though it may seem like the most expeditious. I never recommend this course of action. Instead, tightly cork the unfinished bottle and place it in the refrigerator. Cold temperatures induce a wine coma, slowing oxidation. Take the bottle out about 20 minutes before consuming to reach the proper drinking temperature.

When faced with an unfinished bottle at a restaurant, do not leave it behind.

Instead, take advantage of New York's "cork-and-carry" law

*You Heard It Through the Grapevine*

and bring it home for a nightcap or for the next day's meal. Carry it home side by side with your food doggy bag and voila, you can repeat your entire dining experience at home the next day.

2. Preserve it. Remove the oxygen that resides in the empty portion of the bottle. There are several ways to accomplish this.

One is to transfer the wine into a smaller vessel – less area for oxygen to reside equals slower oxidation. An empty 375-ml, half-size wine bottle is ideal. Better yet, if you know you're not going to finish a bottle at a single sitting, decant a portion of the wine into the 375-ml bottle before, not after, you consume it. This method will preserve wine for up to a week.

A second is to utilize modern technology. Several gadgets on the market successfully remove oxygen from an open bottle. One is Vacu-Vin. It consists of a reusable rubber stopper and a pump; simply place the stopper in the bottle neck and work the pump until you feel resistance. You've created a vacuum seal. I've used it and can confirm it works. It sells for \$10 to \$12.

A more esoteric preserver is Private Reserve, an aerosol dispenser containing inert gases that replace the

oxygen in the bottle. A few squirts into the bottle and presto, a layer of gas sits over the wine. Perfectly safe, this gadget lasts for 120 applications and costs about \$10.

Beware of one thing: these wine preservation methods all work and will enhance the life of your wine – generally for one to two days. Don't wait too long; the oxidation clock starts ticking as soon as the cork is removed.

3. Recycle it. Simply incorporate the wine into a favorite recipe as a marinade or use it to infuse rich flavors into sauces and soups. Wine can also be used as the base for a vinaigrette salad dressing. Let your imagination be your guide.

The next time you're tempted to force yourself to consume that last drop of wine in a bottle – stop. Cork it. There are many ways to enjoy that wine without compromising your first experience with it.

*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.*



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## LEGAL NOTICES

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CASA CORDOVA, LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/16/19. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 1251 Wilson Road, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF NEWCASTLE BUILDING INSPECTORS, LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/7/2019. Office Location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC at: P.O. Box 99 Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF THUMBS UP! ENTERPRISES, LLC.** Articles of Organization were filed with the SSNY on 1/24/19. Office location is Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to principal business address: 420 South Riverside Ave, Croton on Hudson, NY 10520. Purpose: Youtube Channel.

**FORMATION OF ETNA CAPITAL ADVISORS LLC FILED WITH THE SECY. OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) ON 1/25/19.** Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Richard Imprescia, 1821 Casey Ct., Mohegan Lake, NY 10547. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF DISTINGUISHED DESTINATIONS LLC** Filed with SSNY on 9/12/2018, Office: Westchester County, SSNY Designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Elli Travel Group, 1967 Palmer Avenue, Larchmont, NY 10538. Purpose: any lawful purpose. *continued on next page*



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continued from previous page

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF REID & LEIVA MULTISERVICES LLC** Filed with SSNY on 01/14/2019, Office Westchester, SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 506 Van Cortlandt Park Ave, Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**LEGAL NOTICE: NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY:** The name of the Limited Liability Company is Palmyra Holdings LLC. The Articles of Organization were filed with the New York Secretary of State on February 19, 2019. The office of the Company is located in the County of Westchester,

State of New York. The New York Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the Company upon whom process in any action or proceeding against it may be served, and the address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of process in any action or proceeding against the Company served upon him or her is **110 Marquand Avenue, Bronxville, New York 10708. The purpose of the business is any lawful business.**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PLEASE TAKE NOTICE,** the Putnam Valley Town Board will conduct a public hearing on Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 6:00 pm. to hear comments on a proposed local law to adopt the Natural Resources Inventory thereby enabling management

and use of natural resources for present and future residents. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING the Putnam Valley Town Board will be conducting the regular work session Town Board Meeting. **BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD** Sherry Howard Town Clerk Dated: 02-14-2019

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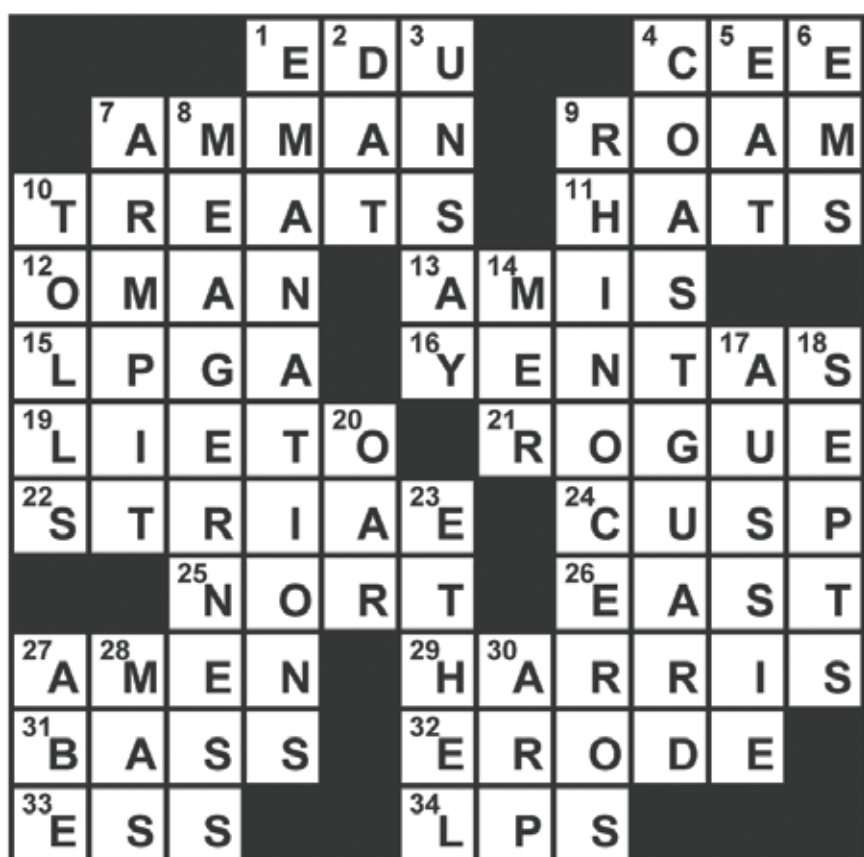
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# Crossword Answers



# Obituaries

continued from page 12

Visitation will be held on Wednesday February 27, 2019 at Beecher Funeral Home, 1 Putnam Avenue, Brewster, NY from 4pm-8pm. A private cremation will follow.

## Bartholomew Mahon

Bartholomew J. Mahon "Bart", of Danbury, CT formerly of Brewster, died peacefully on February 22, surrounded by his family. He was 91 years old. Bart was born on January 10, 1928 in Elmhurst, Queens, New York, son of the late Bartholomew and Elizabeth (Brady) Mahon. He graduated from Newtown High School in Queens, NY and honorably served in the US Airforce in Germany during WWII. Bart married the love of his life, Maureen T. O'Connor on February 4, 1956 in Yonkers. She predeceased him on September 16, 1971. Mr. Mahon was a detective with the NYPD- homicide squad for 25 years in Manhattan before retiring in 1977. Following his career with the NYPD he worked security for Emery Air Freight in Wilton, CT for 6 years. Bart enjoyed playing the banjo and the ukulele and was an avid golfer and card player. He was a member of the Detective Endowment Association

(DEA), the Police Benevolent Association (PBA) and an active parishioner of St. Lawrence O'Toole Church before moving to Danbury. Bart is survived by his loving children; Barbara Flanagan and her husband John of Brewster, NY, Dennis Mahon of Brewster, NY, Terrance Mahon and his wife Lisa of Kingsport, TN, Kathleen Mulvihill of Danbury, CT, Shelagh Bisceglia and her husband James of Hopedale, MA, his 12 grandchildren; Maureen (Bill), Michael (Jamie), Matthew (Mel), Mark, Brendan (Michelle), Kevin, Jack, Gillian, Tyler, Tara, Erica, and Alyssa, his 6 great grandchildren; Kaitlyn, Connor, James, Alison, Luke, and Jackson and his brother Eugene Mahon and his wife Pat of Flushing, NY. He was predeceased by his Brother Peter Mahon. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, February 27, 10 a.m. at St. Lawrence O'Toole Church, Brewster. Internment will follow at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Hawthorne. Friends may call at the Beecher Funeral Home, 1 Putnam Avenue, Brewster, on Tuesday from 4 p.m.-8 p.m. In Lieu of flowers, Bart's family has asked that you consider making a donation in his memory to the Regional Hospice and Palliative Care Center, 30 Milestone Rd, Danbury, CT 06810.



# Happenings

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

**2019 Lenten Non-Food Drive For Putnam CAP** Please help supply CAP (Putnam Community in Action) families with non-food, essential living items- like toiletries and household products on the following Sundays: March 10-- Shampoo/conditioner, bar soap, deodorant March 17, 2019-- Shaving cream, feminine hygiene products March 24-- Toothbrushes and toothpaste March 31-- Baby wipes, diapers and pull-ups in sizes 4-5-6 April 7-- Laundry detergent and cleaning products April 14-- Toilet paper, napkins, and paper towels. You may drop off your donations during coffee hour (11 a.m.) and enjoy a cup of coffee with us, or come earlier at 10am for church and stay for coffee hour. Drop off Location: Church Library (on Secor Road-Single Door Entrance on Left) First Presbyterian Church of Mahopac 411 Route 6N Mahopac, For more information please call 845-628-2365 or email [presby411@verizon.net](mailto:presby411@verizon.net) Tax Donation receipts available upon request. Thank you for helping us help CAP!

**Putnam Valley Monthly Commission Meeting:** Monday February 28th at 7 p.m. Parks and rec office 265 Oscawana Lake Road FMI: 845-526-3292.

**4-H Youth Development Opportunities:** For more information on programs contact Cornell Cooperative Ext. of Putnam County at <http://putnam.cce.cornell.edu/events> or email [dla25@cornell.edu](mailto:dla25@cornell.edu) or call 845 278-6738.

**Summer Camp At The Boces Tech Center At Yorktown:** Programs for students 12-15 years old. Four one-week sessions in July. Registration is now open. Visit the website for more information or call Gerry Battista at 914 248-2220.

## Photographer's Perspective of the New Tappan Zee Bridge

*continued from page 10*

His photos of the overnight removal of the original Tappan Zee Bridge's truss section, for example, were taken at 3am as the Left Coast Lifter (LCL) (a \$50 million floating crane built to assist in the eastern span replacement of the San Francisco - Oakland Bay Bridge before being transported to the TZB project) moved the section across the Hudson Line railroad tracks in November 2017.

Rocco has been a longtime volunteer and organizer of many charitable, cultural, historical and environmental initiatives in the local and regional area. Shortly after retiring from his career as a carpenter with the NYC Housing Authority, he volunteered his time in the recovery efforts for the World Trade Center. He then played a seminal role in the successful development and highly popular Walkway Over the Hudson project, the restoration of the historic

**Annual Seedling Sale:** Annual sale of trees, shrubs, groundcovers, ferns, flowers, grasses and more. Sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension and Putnam County Soil & Water Conservation District. Order online at [www.putnamcountyny.com/keepputnamgreen](http://www.putnamcountyny.com/keepputnamgreen) Selections must be ordered by Wednesday, March 27. Pick-up is scheduled for Friday, April 26 and/or Saturday, April 27 at the Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park. For info call 845 878-7918.

**Carmel Recreation:** For more information on programs or Summer Camp please visit [www.carmelny.org/recreation](http://www.carmelny.org/recreation) or call 845 628-7888. Spring Class registration will begin on March 4 at 9 a.m. Go to [www.carmelny.org/recreation](http://www.carmelny.org/recreation) and register online. Summer class registration including kayaking and SUP for ages 13 and up will begin on May 1 at 9am.

**Seeking Gardens: Brewster-Carmel Garden Club Seeks Gardens** Our Club is seeking fine gardens for our first showcase tour scheduled Saturday, June 8th from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. If you are willing to share your fine garden with the public for a worthy cause, please contact our Brewster-Carmel Garden Club Fine Gardening Tour Chair, Mary Bomba at 845-363-1796, or email at [mbomba111@gmail.com](mailto:mbomba111@gmail.com). We would love to include your fine garden on our exclusive tour.

**Putnam Valley Central School District Board of Education:** The full 2018-19 meeting list and the proposed meeting agendas can be found on the district website at: [www.pvcsd.org](http://www.pvcsd.org) prior to each meeting.

**The Putnam County Computer**

Mt. Beacon Fire Tower, the War of 1812 memorial bust project at Lasdon Park, and the creation of the Yorktown Community Dog Park. Rocco is also a long time volunteer at Westchester County's SPCA. He has successfully completed the "Fellows" program at the Hudson Valley Patterns for Progress "Think Tank" organization. A consistent blood donor for the past 30 years, he has been organizing blood, bone marrow and organ donor drives at the popular Yorktown Community Street Festival since 2015. A native of both, Yonkers and Mt. Vernon, Rocco has resided in Yorktown Heights, with his wife, Ruby, since 1995. They have three grown children and four grandchildren.

The White Plains Public Library is located at 100 Martine Ave., White Plains, NY 10601.

For more information, call (914) 819-8792, or email: [coyoteroc@verizon.net](mailto:coyoteroc@verizon.net)

**Learning Center Class Registration:** The first Thursday of every month from 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m., A description of the classes can be found at: [www.putnamrsvp.com/clc/](http://www.putnamrsvp.com/clc/) Registration must be in person. FMI, call Judy Kolt (845)-277-5422

**Registration for Kindergarten:** Brewster School District: Class of 2032 takes place the week of March 4- March 8. Children who will be five years of age on or before December 1, 2019, are eligible to register for September classes. Families residing within the Brewster School District are asked to call John F. Kennedy Elementary School at 279-2087 x 4111 for registration information.

**Seeking Vendors:** Brewster Music Festival: For more information and to apply for a booth space, call (845) 363 - 8330, email [brewstermusicfestival@gmail.com](mailto:brewstermusicfestival@gmail.com) or visit: [www.BrewsterMusicFestival.com](http://www.BrewsterMusicFestival.com).

**Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc., Xi Chi Omega Chapter, Cortlandt, New York. Xi Chi Omega Chapter Scholarship Committee** is presently accepting applications for their 2019 High School Scholarship Awards. The deadline for the application is Friday, March 22, 2019. Application and criteria may be downloaded at [www.akaxichiomega.org](http://www.akaxichiomega.org). Contact person: Dr. Lucinda Johnson, Ivy Leaf Reporter, Xi Chi Omega Chapter. (845) 270-1029.

### Ongoing:

**Fridays: AARP Tax Help** through April 12: The Patterson Library is hosting free AARP Tax Help for Seniors and other qualifying individuals. AARP volunteer tax aid counselors will be available by appointment on Fridays from 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Appointments will be filled on a first come-first served basis beginning January 15, appointments can be made by calling 211 or 845-878-6121 x15.

**Saturdays: Kent Library Tech Help** Saturdays and Thursdays: Kent Library Tech Help Saturdays and Thursdays Are you sure that there are many more wonderful things you could do with your smartphone or tablet if you could just figure out how? Does your laptop have a nagging problem you don't know how to fix? The Kent Is now offering free technical help twice a week, on Saturday mornings from 10 to 12 with Chris also on Thursdays from 11 to 1 on February 21, 28, and March 7.

**Register to Attend:** The Emerald Association of Putnam County 45th Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance Friday, March 15, 2019 Vails Pavilion 5 Vails Blvd, Brewster, Music provided by Mike & Noreen Sherry O'Rourke Irish Dancers will perform, Doors open at 6 p.m. Appetizers served from 6 p.m. -7 p.m. Buffet Dinner from 7:00 p.m., -8:00 p.m.; Dancing from 7 p.m. -11 p.m. The

Emerald Association will honor Eileen Weir as "Emerald of the Year" Donation: \$60 per person; BYOB (includes: appetizers, dinner, beer, wine, soda, coffee, tea, Irish soda bread and assorted desserts) Reservations & info contact: Dympna Zazzero - Chairperson 845-278-8271 or email [dympnaz@aol.com](mailto:dympnaz@aol.com) Checks payable to: Emerald Association of Putnam County mail to: Dympna Zazzaro 280 Farm to Market Rd Brewster, NY 10509

### Wednesday, February 27

**3D Draw a Bobblehead** for grades 3-5. Mahopac Library. 4:30 p.m. Use 3D pens to create your own bobblehead! Registration requested; register online at [www.mahopaclibrary.org](http://www.mahopaclibrary.org), or call 845-628-2009, ext 100.

### Thursday, February 28

**Foreign Film Screening - Renoir**, a film from France. 6:30 p.m. Set on the French Riviera in the summer of 1915, Gilles Bourdo's lushly atmospheric drama, Renoir, tells the story of celebrated Impressionist painter Pierre-Auguste Renoir, in declining health at age 74, and his son Jean, who returns home to convalesce after being wounded in World War 1. Rated R, screening in French with English subtitles. Registration requested; register online at [www.mahopaclibrary.org](http://www.mahopaclibrary.org), or call 845-628-2009, ext. 100.

**The Reed Memorial Library** is now registering for the Spring Children's Programs: Programs run from March 4th - April 11th. The schedule is as follows: Babies in the Library 8-14 months old Mon at 10:30 a.m. Babies in the Library 14-24 months old Mon at 11:15 a.m. Time for Twos 24-35 months old Tues or Wed at 10:15 a.m. Preschool Storytime 3-5 years old Tues or Wed at 11:15am or Thurs at 1:30pm 1733 Route 6, Carmel. Contact 845-225-2439 to register.

**Heart Health Fair at Bethel Springvale Inn:** In recognition of February being American Heart Month, Bethel Springvale Inn is presenting a Heart Health Fair 9 a.m.- 11 a.m. at 2042 Albany Post Road, Croton-on-Hudson. The morning will include Free Blood Pressure Screenings, discussions on Nutrition and Healthy Food Choices, Managing Stress, American Heart Association Information and Creating a Realistic Exercise Plan. Giveaways and Refreshments will be featured as well. To RSVP, please call 914-739-4404 x2204.

**The Tri-State IBM Retirees:** United Methodist Church Hall, 1176 E Main St, Shrub Oak. Bob McNamara, an AARP Tax Advisor, will discuss the changes in the tax law for 2018 filing. Set up at 12:30pm; coffee and light refreshments at 1pm; meeting begins at 1:30 p.m. Info: Peg Ryan at (914) 528-5916.



# The Putnam Examiner Sports

Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports

## Stocks Crash at Put Valley!

### Volatile Hoops Market Denies Tigers Girls', Boys' Final 4 Entrance



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Despite this late glimmer of hope for Putnam Valley sophomore Arianna Stockinger (5) and her wide-eyed teammates, the host third-seeded Tigers were denied entrance into the Section 1 Class B Final 4 after suffering a 60-59 quarterfinal setback to No.6 Woodlands last Thursday when Falcons hotshot Teisha Hyman dropped 44 points on the Tigers to survive and advance. Similarly, the top-seeded PV boys were defeated by No.8 Woodlands, 46-41, in stunning fashion, sending home a packed house in full despair... see Girls'/Boys' Hoops Notebook



# Sports

## Girls' Hoops Notebook

# Somers vs. Panas Class A Final 4; Ossining Cruises to AA Semis

By Tony Pinciario

The last two years, **SOMERS** has won the Section 1 Class A Girls' Basketball title in 2017 and advanced to the Final 4 last year.

The Tuskers, who battled health issues all year, had a solid 2018-19 regular season, but it only translated into a sixth seed for Somers in this year's playoffs. Not that Somers needed any more motivation, but the Tuskers, once again, have raised their level of play for sectionals as they begin to regain full health. Somers handled No.11 **HEN HUD**, 48-34, in the first round, then eliminated third-seeded Byram Hills, 55-38.

As a result, Somers will play second-seeded **WALTER PANAS** in a semifinal, today, 3 p.m., at the Westchester County Center. The winner advances to meet the victor of the No.5 Pearl River/No.1 Tappan Zee semifinal in Saturday's title game. Somers and Panas are playing for a third time; Panas prevailing twice in tight games.

Hen Hud was good preparation for the Tuskers.

"Somers played very good defense and forced 20 turnovers, which was a key to the game," Hen Hud Coach Ken Sherman said.

Despite the loss, Hen Hud finished over .500 and won its first league title in quite some time.

"I am very pleased to win the Sailors' first league championship in 40 years, but we have a lot of work to do if we want to get to the County Center next year."

Hen Hud junior Caitlin Weimar finished with 20 points and 13 rebounds. On the season, Weimar averaged 21 points, 16 rebounds and 6.5 blocked shots a game; the kinds of overall numbers that have never been posted at Hen Hud. Sophomore Kira Varada added six points



RAY GALLAGHER/RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

Panas players and coaches celebrate their Section 1 Class A quarterfinal playoff win over Pelham & 2nd Final 4 appearance in 3 years last Saturday.

and five rebounds against Somers.

Somers senior G Hannah Angelini, who helped guide the Tuskers to the NYS Final 4 in 2017 as a game-changing sophomore, feels the sixth seed is deceiving because the Tuskers played a tough schedule and were plagued by injuries this season. Despite this, Somers has persevered and is on task.

"A lot of us have experience in these sectional games as well as all the new girls really buying in and focusing on the task at hand," Angelini said. "We've been down this road before and it's familiar to a lot of us, the physicality, the need for execution in offense and the need for everyone to be mentally engaged. We know what it takes to win and so does our coach, so by just working together and doing all the little things we're able to keep it rolling in sectional play."

Angelini pointed out both Panas games were two-point losses for Somers.

"Both games against Panas were dog fights," Angelini said. "The first game I

was unable to play in due to my concussion and the second game I would argue was one of our worst offensive games as a team. I give a lot of credit to the Panas girls, though. They always play hard and they hit some incredible shots. They're a great team. This game is going to be another dog fight, and as long as we can match their intensity and come out on a good note, I

think we will be alright."

Panas earned the second seed in the Section 1 Class A tournament and opened with a 73-48 win over Nanuet, then fended off an upset-driven and 10th-seeded Pelham, 42-35, in a quarterfinal game.

"Pelham put up a good fight, but in the end it was the little things that pushed us over the top," Panas senior Julia Araujo said. "Playing Pelham definitely helped us to get back into the swing of things. After a week off, we opened sectionals with a big win over Nanuet and playing a tight game against Pelham helped us to refocus and prepare for the tough game that lays ahead of us."

Kristen Cinquina led a balanced

scoring effort with 12 points, followed by 11 points from Kristen Scrobola and 10 points from Araujo.

Panas and Somers know each other well so the semifinal should be another excellent game.

"Somers possesses extreme intensity and determination year-round," Araujo said. "They are an excellent team that gives everything they have during every game they play."

Araujo said the team is 'beyond stoked' to play at the County Center this year, the second time in three years for a surging Panas program under Coach Matt Evangelista.

"The County Center is a special place and there truly is no other place like it," she said. "Every basketball player, boy or girl, strives to reach the county center annually and we are extremely proud to have been able to accomplish that this year."

If anyone knows how special the County Center is, it's **OSSINING**. The eight-time reigning champion Pride, seeded second, opened with the Section 1 Class AA Girls' Basketball Championship with a 102-41 victory over New Rochelle, then handled No.7 Arlington, 97-61, in a quarterfinal game.

Ossining played third-seeded Albertus Magnus, Monday in a semifinal at the Westchester County Center. The winner will face the No.1 Ursuline/No.4 Our Lady of Lourdes victor in the championship game at Pace University this Saturday.

In the New Rochelle game, Seton Hall-bound Kailah Harris continued her outstanding senior year by becoming the program's career-rebounding leader.

*continued on next page*



Panas junior F Kristen Scrobola kicked things up a notch for playoffs, including huge quarterfinal win over Pelham last Saturday.



Ossining's Aubrey Griffin, her mom and Coach Dan Ricci pose with Griffin's McDonald's All-American jersey before Class AA quarterfinal win.



Panas G Cailan Nolan makes strong run at rack in Panthers' Class A quarterfinal playoff win over Pelham Saturday.



Panas senior Julia Araujo goes up for two points in Panthers' Class A quarterfinal playoff win over Pelham Saturday.



# Sports

## Girls' Hoops Notebook



Hen Hud's Kira Varada takes the brunt of Somers' G Emily Arena's tough defensive play in Sailors' Class A playoff loss to Tuskers last Thursday.



Put Valley 8th-grader Eva DeChent soars for two points in Tigers' Section 1 Class B quarterfinal loss to Woodlands.



Putnam Valley sophomore G Arianna Stockinger drives for two points in Tigers' Section 1 Class B quarterfinal loss to Woodlands.

Harris, who grabbed nine rebounds, surpassed Jalay Knowles (her mentor), who amassed 1,078.

"Kailah is a hard worker and she idolized Jalay, so it was very special for her," Ossining Coach Dan Ricci said.

Aubrey Griffin led Ossining with 22 points and also had nine rebounds against New Rochelle. Julia Iorio was deadly from distance added 21 points, Harris contributed 13 points as well as five assists and six steals. Ashley McFadden added 10 points and six rebounds.

Harris and Griffin each had 25 points against Arlington. Harris also had a game-high 15 boards. Griffin added six

rebounds, eight assists and six steals. Iorio scored 21 points for a second consecutive game and Jaida Strippoli finished with 10 points and 10 assists.

**PUTNAM VALLEY** finished the regular season with an 18-1 record, a league title and the third seed in the Section 1 Class B Championship.

After opening with a decisive victory over Bronxville in which Arianna Stockinger and Eva DeChent each had 11 points and Amanda Orlando had 10 points, the Tigers were shocked by sixth-seeded Woodlands last Thursday night.

Teisha Hyman, who will be playing basketball at Syracuse next year, scored a game-high 44 points in a 60-59 upset of the Tigers, who had visions of the Final 4 dancing in their heads.

The 60 points is the most points allowed by Putnam Valley this season, but Hyman was a one-woman show all nights, stepping back for space like Kobe, following missed shots like Rodman and stroking daggers like Jordan. When PV sophomore and key defensive player Arianna Stockinger fouled out early in the second half, Hyman had her way, but Coach Kristi Dini's Tigers should return at full strength next year with every key player returning with another year of experience under the belts. 2020 is looking good.

**BREWSTER** faced a tough game going in to No. 5 Pearl River, but the 12th-seeded Bears suffered a major blow when Meagan Beal -- four minutes into the game -- sustained a sprained ankle.

The result was a 50-33 defeat.

"On the road against Pearl River is always a challenge whether they are the five seed or 20 seed," Brewster Coach Mike Castaldo said. "Nobody scouts and prepares their team better than Chris (Woolgar). We've played for over a month

without Grace Galgano, our starting center, and the girls did a great job adjusting without her on the floor. However, when Meagan went down we knew it was going to be a tough battle. Nobody works harder than Meagan Beal. She does everything for us. We really could have felt sorry for ourselves and let Pearl River run away with the game. We were down, 7-8 points, the whole game and the girls off the bench really stepped up. I couldn't be prouder of Nicole Olszewski, Sadie Fischer-Diotte and Lauren Becker. Those three gave us tremendous minutes off the bench in a really tough environment."

Kristen Stefanick led Brewster with 13 points and Maggie DePaoli added 10 points. Castaldo is now planning for the 2019-20 season without seniors -- DePaoli, Beal and Stefanick.

"These three girls have been with the program a very long time," Castaldo said. "Anytime the season comes to an end it's extremely difficult, but graduating those three will be a major loss. I can't express how much our seniors have done for our program. They will be greatly missed."

**YORKTOWN** had an excellent first season under rookie Coach Brian Mundy, registering 13 wins and earning the seventh seed in the Section 1 Class A Championship. However, the Cornhuskers were upset by No.10 Pelham, 44-35 as the Pelicans led 21-5 at halftime.

"How many teams win games making one shot in the first half," Mundy said. "That was the story of the game. Yes, we made a few runs and got the game to within five points twice in the second half, but it was just so difficult to recover. I will say despite the struggles, the girls did continue to fight, and we outscored them, 30-23, in the second half, but it just wasn't enough. Pelham played well and did what they had to do to advance. My hat goes off to them."

Husker senior Kat Severino concluded her sterling career with 12 points, eight rebound and three steals, and Melissa Severino, who bears the torch, had 10 points. Kat Severino, who will attend Michigan State in September, did score her 1,000th varsity point earlier this month.

"Coming into the season, I really didn't know what to expect and I didn't want to put any unrealistic goals on the girls, so we just played every day for the next game on the schedule," Mundy said. "Even though I have known these girls for a long time, I was pleasantly surprised how we were able to get as a team with a new coach. I told them after the last game that I couldn't be more pleased with the way things played out this season in terms of their effort, their willingness to compete at a high level every night and their attitude of never being out of a game. This was such a fun group of kids to be around every day."

"There is a lot of talent coming up through the system, all the way down to

the middle school level," he added, "and there are a lot of good people coaching these kids that are going to prepare them well as they advance."

**LAKELAND** won its sectional opener against Saunders, but No.3 Byram Hills eliminated the 14th-seeded Hornets with a 67-34 victory.

"It was not the outcome we were hoping for, but overall, we had a good season with a lot of exciting moments and milestones for our program," Lakeland Coach Miranda Lustig said.

Alexa Cole finished with a team-leading 14 points and Amanda Cole added seven points. One milestone Lustig was referring to was Alexa Cole surpassing 1,000 varsity points.

**MAHOPAC** had the unfortunate circumstance of playing third-seeded Albertus Magnus in the first round and the Falcons prevailed, 70-56, ending a season, in which the Indians were never an easy out.

"The girls played very well in the second half and got to within four points in the fourth quarter, but we had a couple of turnovers and we got down by 10," Mahopac Coach Chuck Scozzafava said. "We fouled at the end and they made their



Somers' Emily Arena (L) and Hannah Angelini put up a wall around Hen Hud's Caitlin Weimar in Tuskers' opening-round playoff win over Sailors last Thursday.

foul shots."

Senior G Zina McInerney led Mahopac with 18 points and she, along with fellow seniors Katie McDonough, Katrina Klammer and Nat Scanlon held their heads high while leaving the budding program in a good place, loaded with budding multi-sport underclassmen who expect to commit to an off-season regiment where possible.

*Ray Gallagher contributed to this story*



# And Then There Were None. Playoffs Cruel to Locals

By RAY GALLAGHER  
Examiner Sports Editor  
@Directrays

And Then There Were None. English writer Agatha Christie said her best-selling novel was the most difficult of her books to write, and this season-ending boys' hoops piece is always challenging for this particular scribe when there are no gold balls at the end of the rainbow. Such was the case last week when five of the six local contenders were eliminated by mid-week, and the sixth and final program dropped out Saturday.

Realistic hopes were always highest at **PUTNAM VALLEY** where Coach Mike McDonnell's top-seeded Tigers (18-4) expected to reach their sixth Final 4 in seven seasons and challenge for the first Section 1 title in school history, but a 46-41 Class B quarterfinal setback at the hands of visiting eighth-seeded Woodlands – a quantifiable post-season beast – quashed those expectations in sudden, stunning fashion last Thursday.

"We knew when we saw the brackets come out that it wasn't going to be easy," McDonnell said of the path to a title, including Woodlands, Dobbs Ferry and the Blind Brook Valhalla winner (on the other side of the bracket), "and to be honest I thought Woodlands was the



RAY GALLAGHER/RICK KUPERBERG/BILL KENNEDY PHOTOS

Put Valley's Darnel Shillingford, Charlie Gatewood and Anthony Williams try to shake off 46-41 season-ending loss to Woodlands last Thursday.



Mahopac F Zach Puckhaber drives for two points in Indians' 79-69 Class AA playoff win over Spring Valley last Thursday.



Mahopac senior G Drew Riolo goes for two points in Indians' 79-69 Class AA playoff win over Spring Valley last Thursday.



Somers G Lucas Fecci is met by pair of Bulldogs in Tuskers' 75-70 opening-round Class A playoff loss to Beacon last Thursday.

toughest draw of all. I thought if we could get past them, I liked our chances to win it all, but we didn't match up well with them and we didn't get enough from our guys on the offensive side of the ball."

They did match up for three-plus quarters before the balanced Falcons (14-

8) went ahead with just under 6:00 to play for the first time since the early going. The Tigers came unglued down the stretch: A combination of open looks that were passed over, some sub-par foul shooting and several untimely turnovers were their undoing.

"We didn't execute down the stretch," McDonnell admitted. "We gave the ball away on a couple of key possessions."

McDonnell also admitted that he has truly enjoyed his tenure at PV and hoped to return next season, despite speculation to the contrary...

Class A **SOMERS**, the No.6 seed, also met its match sooner than expected when Coach Chris DiCintio's Tuskers (16-5) fell to visiting No.11 Beacon, 75-70, last Thursday, allowing Dayion Thompson to torch them for 32 points. Tuskers Lucas

Fecci and Declan Talleur paced Somers with 19 points apiece, but the Bulldogs broke down what was supposed to be the Somers' strong point; defense. The 75 points allowed was the most the Tuskers allowed all season, after holding teams to 52 PPG this year.

Word on the street is that Somers was handcuffed by some questionable officiating in this one, which led to Fecci – among the best on-ball defenders in the section – being in foul trouble throughout the game.

"One official (from Dutchess County) called three fouls on Fecci in the first quarter," DiCintio said. "I sat him the whole second quarter. I started him in the third quarter and on the first possession of the half, the official called him for his fourth foul, so not only was he delegated

to the bench for most of the first half, but we couldn't press the same way and play our style of ball."

That style is a rugged, in-your-grill fashion, which officials weren't having that day. Without allowing for it, Somers was just ordinary on this day.

No.15 **LAKELAND**, when you get right down to it, deserves high praise for its effort against No.2 Tappan Zee (ranked No.4 in NYS), perhaps the toughest place to play in Section 1. Coach Steve Fallo's Hornets (11-11) lost an 80-70 decision last Thursday when five Dutchmen starters reached double digits. Hornet hotshot Jack Kruse led all scorers with 26 points while Augie Karaqi added 11. Certainly, Fallo has something to build on here with these two juniors, plus F Joe Vetrano, and several other solid contributors, returning next season.

Class AA No.8 **MAHOPAC** made itself relevant for the first time since 2014 after winning a share of the League I-A title and taking a 79-69 opening-round win over visiting No.9 Spring Valley last Thursday.

Mahopac (13-9) saw senior C Reahl Allen post a prolific double-double with 25 points and 12 boards. Senior Mike Argila had 16 points, five steals and an alley-oop slam-dunk dish to Allen that brought the house down. Indian F Zack Puckhaber added 14 points and a massive third double-digit scoring option.

The run came to an end against second-seeded, state-ranked (No.17) Suffern in Saturday's 54-39 setback despite another quality double-double from Allen (20 points, 13 boards).

"This year was my most successful season as a coach here at Mahopac," Coach Matt Simone said. With nine seniors, and three of them three-year varsity players, it was the experience and toughness we brought that helped us have the success we did. Having a ton of multi-sport athletes was a huge reason for our ability to compete on a daily basis with any team we played. This group was always ready to play, and never shied away from a challenge. They brought back the toughness and old-school style of Mahopac basketball that had much success in past years."

Class A No.14 **PEEKSKILL** (10-12) simply didn't play enough defense in its 87-60 loss to No.3 Horace Greeley, ranked No.12 in NYS. The Quakers' "bigs" were uncontrollable. Peekskill senior G Shion Darby tallied 31 points in a losing effort and did his best to bring back the respect Peekskill had been so accustomed to, dating back to 2010.

Class AA **CARMEL** (6-15), seeded No.15, was simply no match for Suffern in a 74-36 season-ending setback.

*continued on next page*



## Sports

## Ice Hockey Notebook

# Mahopac's Best Effort Comes up Short vs. Suffern

By Alex Wendling

Mahopac High fell to the top-seeded Suffern, 3-1, in the Section 1 Division 1 semifinals last Thursday night at Sport-O-Rama, ending Mahopac's unyielding championship hopes. Mahopac's season was, nonetheless, historical and amazing, as the Indians ended the season with 15 wins and got all the way to the semifinals for the second time in three years. A big reason for Mahopac's success this year was its senior leadership.

When asked about how vital the seniors have been throughout the season, Mahopac Coach Tim Donaghy said: "This group of seniors was a great group of players along with individually being great young men. TJ McKee and Brian O'Shea both broke the career scoring record for Mahopac. Nick Bricker, Mike Sottile, John Dundon and Nico DeCola all scored more points this season than they had in their career. Logan MacDougall (35 saves) was the goalie most of this season and won 14 games. I couldn't be any prouder of them."

Eventual Section 1 champion Suffern High, considered to be one of the best hockey programs in New York State the last 20 years, was in a game from the get-go when Mahopac pulled up with two bus-loads of Mahopac Maniacs in full throat. These

*continued from previous page*



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Mahopac Captains Brian O'Shea and TJ McKee were primary reasons why the Indians reached first Final 4 in several seasons.

Mahopac students, who enthusiastically cheered on their hockey team till nearly 10 p.m. -- and got home shortly before midnight -- were fully appreciated by the players and coaches alike.

Danny Schum scored Mahopac's lone goal at the foot of the crease to make it a 2-1 game, sending the crowd into a frenzy and fueling some hope, but the Indians had a tough time maintaining possession throughout. Suffern ran three effective lines at the Indians, who had a tough time generating transition and scoring opportunities.

"The Maniacs were incredible all season," the coach said. "The support we received from the student body gave us so much energy in sectionals. The team and I were very thankful for all the support we received from the Mahopac Maniacs, the teachers and the administration this season."

While Suffern made 10 consecutive title game appearances, they haven't celebrated a championship since 2013, but a 4-1 win over Mamaroneck last Sunday ended the Mounties' drought.

Coach Donaghy added that despite the loss of these key seniors he is looking forward to next season with a positive mindset. He thanked his seniors for paving the way.

*Ray Gallagher contributed to this story*



Putnam Valley senior Brandon Guerra is consoled by Woodlands coaches after suffering difficult quarterfinal playoff loss.

## NWE/Putnam County Super 7 Hoops Poll

**No.1A SOMERS** – Coach DiCintio's sixth-seeded Class A Tuskers (16-5) took care of Mahopac twice and won the tournament that had No.1-2-3 in the field, and that's all we got to go one when it comes to No.1. Still, the goal was quarters or bust soooooo....



Lucas Fecci and the Tuskers were clearly frustrated in season-ending Class A playoff loss to Beacon last Thursday.

**No.2 MAHOPAC** – Coach Simone's Class AA Indians (13-9) defeated Put Valley head-to-head and that's all we've got to go on when it comes to No.2, and reaching the quarterfinals was pretty much what we pundits had hoped for and expected.

**No.3 PUTNAM VALLEY** – Coach McDonnell's Tigers (18-4) did not live up

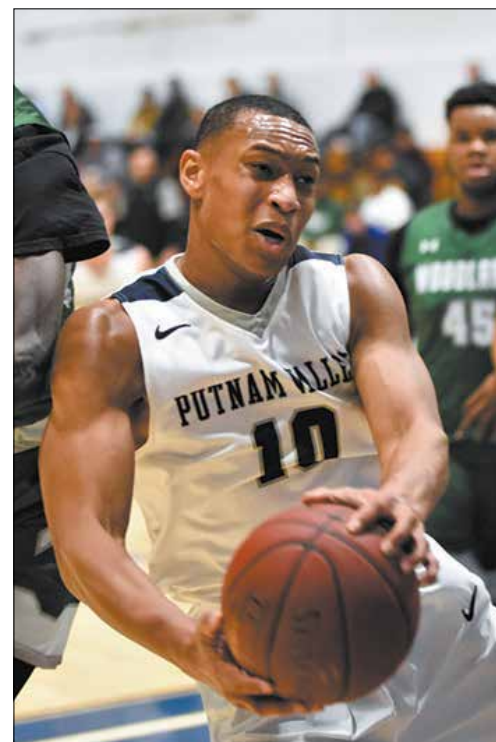
to the hype and could not survive one of the toughest draws I can recall for a top seed. That said, it could be a couple of years before we see the sustained success the community has gotten used to the last 6-7 years.

**No.4 PEEKSKILL** – Coach Turner's Red Devils (10-12) made some major gains in a second half that saved a ton of face. Still, I've been spoiled by the likes of athletes like Elton Brand, Hilton Armstrong, Todd Scott and Derek 'Bonecrusher' Dennis, so we expect a lot more from the riverside hardwood heroes.

**No.5 LAKELAND** – Coach Fallo's Class A Hornets (11-11) have legit chance to make a quantum Final 4-type leap next season should they really get after it this off-season #That'sMYGoalForYouGuys

**No.6 PANAS** – Coach Auerbach's Class A Panthers (5-16) beat Lakeland once, split with Yorktown and swept Brewster, so they get the No.6 spot based on the quality W over Lakeland, which Yorktown did not have. Still, 5 wins is tough for any longtime Panther fan to swallow.

**No.7 YORKTOWN** – Coach Pavella's Huskers (7-14) were the best of the rest of the 12 teams we attempt to cover in this space, including Brewster, Carmel, Ossining, Haldane and Croton. As



Put Valley senior F Darnel Shillingford gave his all but it wasn't enough in 46-41 season-ending loss to Woodlands.

noted back in early December: 2019 wasn't going to be a banner campaign for the vast majority of the region, and sometimes we hate when we're right, right? #CantWaitTillNextYear #DoWork! #OnToLaxBaseballSeason.



# Rheal Slim Shady Stands Up!



**Mahopac Advances  
to Quarters, But Denied Final 4**

BILL KENNEDY PHOTOS

High-flying Mahopac senior C Rheal Allen brought the house down with this thunderous dunk off an alley-oop feed from senior G Mike Argila (inset) in the 8th-seeded Indians' 79-69 opening-round Class AA playoff win over visiting No.9 Spring Valley last Thursday when Mahopac advanced to Saturday's quarterfinal and finally met its match in a 54-39 loss at No.2 Suffern last Saturday... see Boys' Hoops Notebook