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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

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Local Republicans Fight Back Against State Abortion Laws

By David Propper

Conservative backlash was swift following a set of abortion laws passed by the New York State Legislature earlier this year. Now, Republicans in Putnam County are beginning a battle to see the law overturned.

The Carmel town board waded into the controversial topic at its meeting last week, drawing up a resolution that would rescind the law and "protect the life of the unborn while also caring for the health and well-being of the mother." The state legislation, the Reproductive Health Act (RHA), states an abortion is legal within the first 24 weeks of the start of a pregnancy or anytime after that if a woman's life or health is at risk or if the fetus isn't viable. Abortions could also now be done by other healthcare

professionals, not just physicians.

The Senate voted in favor 38-24, while the Assembly approved it by a 92-47 margin, mostly along party lines, to codify Roe v. Wade even if the federal law is struck down by the Supreme Court, which is a concern some Democratic lawmakers have with the highest court in the country holding a 5-4 conservative majority.

Councilwoman Suzi McDonough, who unsuccessfully ran for the state assembly a few years ago, introduced the legislation.

"It is a serious thing, I am against it 100 percent," McDonough said of the state legislation.

Town board members, all Republicans, passed the resolution unanimously at last week's meeting to a round of applause.

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Putnam Residents Blast Post Office Over Ongoing Screwups



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Carmel Post Office Postmaster Zareh Guekjian met with local residents during "Meet Your Postmaster" on Feb. 27.

Carmel High School Students Sing for Donations



PROVIDED PHOTO

Carmel High School students from the Bella Voce choir, the Chamber choir and the Jazz band, dubbed the "Carmel Caballeros" travelled from class to class to serenade students and staff on Valentine's Day. Conducting was CHS music teacher Bryan Lynch. The group performed music from Mexico, the United States, Spain and Italy. This has been a yearly tradition for the past five years or so. This year for the first time, the Carmel Caballeros collected canned goods and other non-perishable food items along the way. These items were donated last week to the Gilead Food Pantry in Carmel. Over 160 items were collected and donated. "It was so great to see the students not only use their talents to make Valentine's Day special at Carmel High School, but also, by collecting cans for the food pantry, to enrich their community as well. We are so proud of their compassion, collaboration, and citizenship...three of the qualities that we have been working to develop in all students throughout the district," said District Director of Music Joseph Phillips. Marjorie Williams of the Gilead Food Pantry accepted the donation on behalf of the food pantry (front row, fourth from the left).

By Neal Rentz

There were several horror stories related to difficulties with mail service last week at the Carmel Post Office.

The complaints included late or no deliveries and deliveries of mail to wrong addresses, which were aired during a meet and greet that indicated the Post Office could be doing a better job. In an effort to address the problems, Carmel Post Office Postmaster Zareh Guekjian held "Meet Your Postmaster," which provided residents with the chance to have one-on-

one discussions with him.

Residents had many issues to discuss with Guekjian, who declined to comment to the press.

Residents expressed their frustrations in interviews last week.

"For instance, on Feb. 26, which was two days ago, I got my AT&T bill that was due on Feb. 19," Mike Capra of Glenbrook Road said. "I'm missing two or three pieces of mail on a daily basis. This has

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Open Judgeship Seat in PV Leads to Contested Race

By David Propper

With a current town justice in Putnam Valley not running this year, two community fixtures are facing off in hopes of replacing Judge Louis DiCarlo.

DiCarlo, a Republican, will retire from the bench at the end of this year, leaving one of the two town judgeship seats open for either attorney Clement Van Ross or attorney Terry Raskyn to fill as they begin to collect signatures to get on the ballot.

Running with the GOP behind him is Van Ross, who is the former counsel for the Putnam County Legislature before his departure in 2017 after giving legal opinions to lawmakers for almost four decades. He decided to run for this post when a few members of the GOP committee, which Van Ross is still active in, asked him to throw his hat in the ring.

Van Ross listed his numerous credentials, noting he has done legal work in town court for years and also worked at the county and state level. He's currently on the town's ethics board.

"I think I certainly have a better background than anybody else that's come along in a long time," Van Ross said. "I've got a good background for it."

This is Van Ross' second time running for town justice, the first time about 40 years ago when he lost by just 11 votes.

"I always thought at the end of my



Terry Raskyn

career that I'd run for town justice once more," Van Ross said.

Van Ross was unscrupulously let go by the county Legislature at the start of 2017 when lawmakers in an 8-1 vote rescinded a three-year deal they passed two years earlier, ending his run in county government. Van Ross believed it was because some lawmakers did not like his legal determinations regarding Freedom of Information Act requests and Open Meetings Law. No one from the legislature ever offered a reason Van Ross was forced out.

In the aftermath, Van Ross threatened



Clement Van Ross

to sue the county and even floated the idea of running against Legislator Bill Gouldman, who is the Putnam Valley GOP chair, but he did not follow through with either idea.

Asked if he missed his time working for the legislature, Van Ross said, "not really."

Raskyn, endorsed by the local Democratic committee, said she is running because she cares about serving justice and people's safety and security. She believes she understands the community and stressed she would like to promote sensible solutions to combat the drug epidemic in the town and county.

Raskyn has recently been working as a mediator in local courts in the county (not Putnam Valley because it'd be a conflict of interest), which she said gives her a unique experience as she runs for a local court position.

Starting out in the journalism field, Raskyn then got a law degree and was admitted to the bar in 1982. She specializes in elder law and guardianship and mortgage foreclosure referring. She also worked in the Bronx district attorney's office as the director of public information for a few years, which opened her eyes to different drug addiction programs and re-entry programs.

"I don't back down from difficult situations," Raskyn said. "The kinds of things that I'm doing are always with an eye on helping people."

Growing up in a Bronx housing projects, Raskyn moved to Putnam Valley almost 30 years ago. She is currently the library board of trustees president.

This is Raskyn's first time running for public office (besides when she ran unsuccessfully for class president in high school, she noted.)

"I would like to see everybody have the kind of opportunities I did," she said. "Which came through education, which came through a strong family connection."

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Appointed PV School Chief Comes ‘Full Circle’

By David Propper

When Jeremy Luft first began his career in the education field, he was a substitute teacher in the Putnam Valley school system during college breaks. He was then a teaching assistant at the high school after graduating college.

Considering he grew up in Putnam Valley and went through the school system until high school (the town didn't have a high school until he went off to college) coming home to work in the local schools was a unique opportunity. Now, he's back home again, but this time as the district's next superintendent of schools.

"Never through any of those steps did I expect the opportunity to be the superintendent of schools in the district where I attended and the district where I grew up," Luft said. "I'm thankful for the opportunity."

Last Thursday Dr. Luft was officially and unanimously appointed to serve as superintendent of schools by the Putnam Valley Board of Education, with his term starting on July 1 once current school chief Dr. Fran Wills retires. The deal is for three years and the pay is \$235,000 annually.

Luft called the appointment a "humbling and surreal" experience after he came to the Putnam Valley school system a



PROVIDED PHOTO
Dr. Jeremy Luft will take over for Dr. Fran Wills as Putnam Valley school chief at the end of the school year. Luft actually grew up in Putnam Valley and went through the school system.

couple years ago to serve as director of curriculum and innovative instruction and then as deputy superintendent.

Luft said it's an exciting period of time for Putnam Valley schools with

all the growth and initiatives that have been occurring over the past several years under Wills. Many initiatives that Wills started will now fall into the hands of Luft as he takes the baton from a person he said he learned an immense amount from.

"There's been a real focus on addressing the needs of the whole child," Luft said.

Luft knows many people in the community to this day and his mother still lives in town. He said it's nice to see those familiar faces at different athletic and cultural events in town.

"I'm very appreciative of all I've taken from the community and I'm looking forward to this being an opportunity to give back to a community that has taken such good care

of my family and myself," Luft said.

Putnam Valley has been part of his life for the last 40 years. His father coached youth sports for many years and his name is even memorialized on the dugout of the baseball field at town park.

For those who knew Luft growing up, there is nothing but glowing words for him.

"I coached Dr. Luft when he was a youngster in PV, and I've watched him grow in to a highly respected, model citizen," said Mahopac resident and Town of Putnam Valley employee Ray Gallagher, who works with Luft on behalf of the town's youth. "Jeremy Luft has put his roots down here in our community and will serve the district well. He's not above asking for assistance and guidance, which is critical when it comes to overseeing the youth of the community. He's the right choice at this point in time."

Reflecting on his childhood and now his career, Luft knows he's come "full circle."

"As a student, as a substitute teacher, as a teaching assistant, as an intern, then back as an administrator and eventually as superintendent of schools," Luft said. "Certainly come full circle and no one could've imagined, especially myself, that happening."

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JEFFERSON VALLEY MALL

Local Republicans Fight Back Against State Abortion Laws

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Several residents spoke up in support of the town board's resolution, slamming Democrats at the state level that pushed the law through.

Mahopac resident Peg Doherty said non-board certified doctors like physician assistants and nurse practitioners are not qualified to handle abortions, calling their involvement "dangerous to the health of the woman." She called the celebration

of the law by state lawmakers once Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed it, "revolting."

"Is this humane to treat a viable, innocent baby this way," Doherty said. "I certainly don't think it is."

Mahopac resident Ann Gerbeth said she was 31 when Roe v. Wade became settled law in the nation. The thought back then was it would make abortions legal, safe and rare, Gerbeth said, but this new state law puts the safety issue into question and

will result in more abortions.

"I have lost sleep thinking how barbaric this is," she said.

Former Carmel supervisor Frank Del Campo, a Republican, said while the town board can't change state laws, advocacy can go a long way to effecting change at a larger level. Residents and town board members would be wrong to think the resolution is only symbolic. He commended the town board for having

the "guts" to put the measure forward.

Putnam County Legislator Amy Sayegh, a Republican, said the legislature is also looking to draw up a resolution admonishing the RHA because lawmakers should speak up for those that cannot speak for themselves. Legislator Ginny Nacerino, a Republican, is working with legislative counsel to craft a resolution that will be on a future agenda, Sayegh

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Putnam Residents Blast Post Office Over Ongoing Screwups

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been going on for well over a year. In fact, a year and a half ago I complained to the prior postmaster, which I didn't want to do because I used to work for the Post Office from 1982 to 1989 and felt really funny about coming in to complain. But I was receiving so many bills late, past due dates and in most cases not receiving them at all it got to the point where I actually had to take each one of my credit cards and go online and set up accounts so that I'm notified so I'm not late. And I'm still missing bills. It's constant."

Capra also said he has received the wrong mail. One delivery person recently told him, "I don't know what I'm doing," Capra said. "I didn't even know how to

respond to that."

Capra's wife, Janice, also shared frustration with the mail service. "I've lived in the area for 35 years and the last year and a half it's been horrible," she said. "Sometimes on Saturdays we get no mail at all and then we'll get a delivery Sunday at 7:30 in the morning. The mail is late."

Ms. Capra also said there have been times when she has expected registered mail but the delivery person does not come to the door to allow her to sign for it. "The slip says sorry, no one was home. Please pick up your registered mail," she said, adding she hoped the outreach from the Post Office would improve service.

Another resident, who lives on Worthington Drive and declined to be

identified, said, "My problem with the mail is I either I don't get mail or when I do get mail it's everybody's mail in the neighborhood or it's mail that belongs on the other side of town, not even two streets away."

When she told the Post Office about her difficulties with the mail, "They just ignore it," she said. "There's all kinds of excuses, but it doesn't seem that they're doing anything."

As for the meeting with the postmaster, she said, "I hope it does something. People are getting late charges for bills. This isn't our problem. This is the Post Office. They should be responsible."

Guekjian referred questions from the media about the residents' concerns to

the press office of the US Postal Service. "We are committed to providing the best possible customer experience and care about what our customers have to say," spokesman George Flood said last week.

An example of the Postal Service outreach was last week's program in Carmel, Flood said.

"The February 28 Meet Your Postmaster outreach event at the Carmel Post Office was designed to solicit community feedback to find out what we are doing right and to identify the opportunities for improvement," Flood said. "Carmel Postmaster Zareh Guekjian got a lot of good feedback and continues to encourage residents to share their thoughts about service."



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Mahopac School Board Puts Forth \$54 Million Bond

By David Propper

When voters within the Mahopac school system go to the polls this May to decide on school board candidates and a proposed budget, they'll also determine whether the district should invest in capital improvements.

Last Thursday, the Mahopac Board of Education unanimously approved a bond proposal in hopes of upgrading facilities across the district. The plan calls for more safety and security measures including becoming ADA compliant and enhancing security vestibules and building access controls; modernizing science and

engineering labs, music rooms, and media centers; upgrading building efficiencies with a new HVAC system, roofs and lighting; improving athletic facilities; and building a new water treatment plan that will serve across the district.

"We are grateful the Board of Education's approval. This reflects of the diligence that went into developing a tax-neutral capital project that provides strong and safe schools. It's been quite some time since the district underwent a capital project and there are areas throughout the district that need updating," said Anthony DiCarlo,

Superintendent of Mahopac Schools in a statement.

The bond proposal is tax neutral, Mahopac school officials stated, because older debt has been paid off this year. The overall plan calls for \$53,960,096 over the next few years, assistant superintendent

of business Harvey Sotland said.

If the plan is approved by voters, final architectural plans would need to be approved by the state department of education. The district can then request and accept bids for contracts for the necessary work.

Tip Leads to Carmel Man's Arrest on Child Porn

By David Propper

A Carmel man was nabbed for child pornography last week after New York State Police received a tip from a computer repair service that the man might have illicit material on his computer.

Mark Treulieb, 52, was charged with three counts of possession of a sexual performance by a child, class E felonies last week. The investigation got underway when authorities received a tip of possible child porn from a computer service store that Treulieb was using. Investigators and the Troop K computer crimes unit, after the execution of a search warrant granted by Carmel Justice Court, discovered multiple illegal images on his computer, according to state police.

Treulieb was arraigned in Carmel Court before the Judge Thomas Jacobellis,



and released on his own recognizance to return on March 26.

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Trump Supporters Won't Remove Flag With Obscenity Near P'ville School

By Martin Wilbur

A Pleasantville couple has refused a request to remove a flag supportive of President Donald Trump that contains a vulgarity from the front of their house even though it's directly across the street from Bedford Road School.

Academy Street residents Gina and Mike Casarella rebuffed an appeal earlier last week from Pleasantville Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter, who spoke with them individually in hopes of convincing them to take down the flag with the obscenity. There had been complaints lodged by parents to the district and on social media, stating that it was inappropriate for it to be so close to the K-4 school.

The flag reads "Donald Trump 2020 Stop the Bull—."

"We always had a Trump flag," Gina Casarella said last Thursday afternoon while outside the house with her husband. "We just happened to find this one on Amazon because there's a lot of bull— going on. We have four kids altogether. So for anyone to imply that we're bad parents or anything, we've been in the school system for years."

She said they displayed the flag starting a week ago Sunday.

Mike Casarella said he found it hard to believe that anyone would be offended by the word in question. He said he suspects



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

The flag flying outside the home of Gina and Mike Casarella that caused a stir earlier last week in Pleasantville.

parents decided to complain because it's a pro-Trump flag.

"These kids know worse words than that. Come on," he said. "YouTube, the internet. They hand condoms out in the school. You know what I'm saying?"

Fox-Alter said she appealed to the

Casarellas because their new flag is in full view of the elementary school, not because of their political beliefs. The family has had a Trump flag flying outside their house for more than two years and it hasn't been an issue until now, Fox-Alter said.

She said she reached out to the family "in the spirit of being a good neighbor, in the spirit of community, in the spirit of being a partner and in the spirit of helping to educate young children."

"Because that's against the kids' code of conduct, it's inappropriate language, it's vulgar language and we want our kids to model good behavior, and as adults you could help us by taking down the flag with the vulgarity," Fox-Alter recalled telling the Casarellas.

Pleasantville Mayor Peter Scherer said he agreed with Fox-Alter and found it regrettable that someone would display profanity so close to the elementary school. He said he would also speak to the couple in hopes of getting them to reconsider as village officials research if they have any recourse.

The Casarellas contended that the matter has been overblown. Following Trump's election, Gina Casarella said she heard comments that were far worse, including some from Pleasantville students directed at their 13-year-old daughter.

"It's really a common word now," she said. "I don't find it offensive. It's less offensive than other signs I see around town. No one's going around checking out those signs because they're not in front of a school."

JFK's Student Chosen as Honoree at the 2019 Putnam Heart Walk

On Valentine's Day, first-grader Landon Perez and his teacher, Lauren Mahon, wore matching red t-shirts with the words "Hearts Beating for Landon" across the chest.

"My t-shirt's special," Landon explained. "I had heart surgery when I was a baby because something was wrong with my heart."

His best friend, Cesar Perez, added, "His heart's special."

Landon is one of three honorees who will be celebrated at the 2019 Putnam Heart Walk at Brewster High School on April 28. His team, Hearts Beating for Landon, is raising money for the American Heart Association.

Born in September 2012, Landon and his twin sister Lucia seemed perfectly healthy at birth.

"He never cried. He was just the easiest baby ever," explained Landon's mom, Hannah Perez. "Then, suddenly, at 28 days old, I was getting him ready to go to his one-month checkup and he would not stop crying." Perez took her children to their appointment early, demanding a room. When the doctor came in, her son was gray and having trouble breathing. An ambulance was called and Landon was eventually transferred to Maria Fareri Children's Hospital in Valhalla where it was determined that he had a rare heart defect: anomalous aortic



PROVIDED PHOTO

origin of the left coronary artery.

"A coronary artery in his heart is taking the wrong path," Perez explained. Landon is unable to play competitive sports because the path his heart takes could cause the stop of blood flow if he was to get hit. When he's 8 or 9 years old, Landon will undergo open heart surgery to try to rearrange the path his coronary

artery takes.

To prepare Landon and his friends for his upcoming surgery, Perez explains that Landon's heart defect is being spoken about more at school. On Valentine's Day, for instance, many of the students in Landon's class were wearing glittery red heart pins in support of their classmate.

"They're going to start bringing in

more heart education units in health class and in gym," Perez explained. "And they're going to start teaching kids a little bit about Landon so that when he needs surgery again, his classmates are not surprised that he's missing and they're all there to support him and show him love."

Another way to support Landon is to come out to the Putnam Heart Walk in April and to support his team. Donations can be made at Topp's Grocery store in Carmel and through the Putnam Heart Walk website. Hearts Beating for Landon t-shirts can be obtained by emailing Hannah Perez at hpperez427@gmail.com.

"We're raising money for the American Heart Association because they're the ones who are funding the research into making advances in medicine. They're backed by scientists and cardiologists," Perez said.

As for Landon, Perez just lights up when it comes to talking about him.

"He is just the most amazing boy ever," she beamed. "He has big dreams. Just today I was going through his folder from school. They had to write goals for 2019 and Landon's goal is to feed homeless people. He has the biggest heart ever. He just wants what's best for everybody, always. He's a very special boy who is going to go so far in life."

Entergy Working to Sell Indian Point Nuclear Power Plants

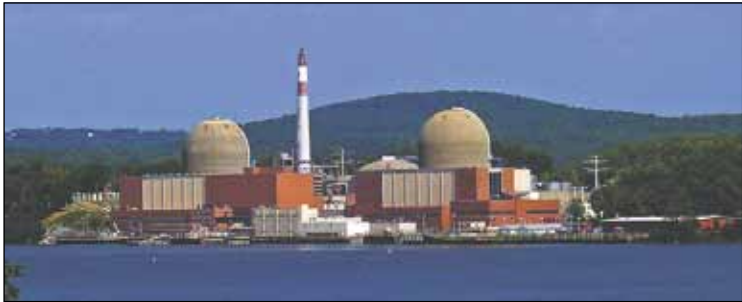
By Rick Pezzullo

Entergy, which has owned the Indian Point nuclear power plants in the Village of Buchanan for the last 17 years, is planning to sell the facility once it ceases operations of Unit 3 in April 2021.

Entergy CEO Leo Denault said during an earning conference call last month the company is “actively working toward a post shutdown sale of Indian Point,” which was reiterated by Entergy spokesman Jerry Nappi.

“Entergy is actively working on a post-shutdown transaction for Indian Point that we could announce any time between now and the end of the year,” Nappi said “This is consistent with our previous statements that we expected to pursue a transaction at Indian Point similar to what we’ve announced at the Vermont Yankee, Pilgrim, and Palisades nuclear power plants. The transaction would not close until after the plants shut down.”

An agreement to shut down the plants was worked out between Entergy, several New York State offices and agencies and Riverkeeper and revealed to local officials in January 2017. Under the pact, Indian Point Unit 2 will cease operations as early as April 2020 and Unit 3 in April 2021. However, an emergency provision is included that could give Entergy an additional four years of service in



the event of war, a sudden increase in electrical demand or a sudden shortage of electric energy.

The agreement calls on Entergy to annually move a set number of spent fuel rods from its storage pools to dry cast storage on site and have annual inspections by state designated representatives through 2021. Entergy will also establish a \$15 million fund for river restoration and remediation, as well as projects providing public benefits to the community.

At the time of the announcement, which caught all area elected officials off guard, Entergy had been seeking a 20-year license renewal from the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission since 2007 to continue operating the facility.

The Indian Point nuclear power plants have been a fixture in Buchanan for more than 50 years and help provide electricity

to several million homes and businesses in Westchester and the five boroughs of New York City.

“Key considerations in our decision to shut down Indian Point ahead of schedule include sustained low current and projected wholesale energy prices that have reduced revenues, as well as increased operating costs,” Bill Mohl, president of Entergy Wholesale Commodities, said in January 2017. “In addition, we foresee continuing costs for license renewal beyond the more than \$200 million and 10 years we have already invested.”

Westchester County Executive George Latimer reacted to last week’s latest news from Entergy.

“As anticipated, Entergy announced that it will be selling Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant sometime in 2019 with the deal anticipated to close in 2021. The new entity will be charged with decommissioning the Plant, similar to what Entergy did with the Vermont Yankee Plant,” Latimer said. “I am

concerned that selling the Plant for the decommissioning process will impact labor at the plant, and I want to ensure that the cleanup be done abiding by the highest environmental standards.”

“The decommissioning process is a delicate one. I urge Entergy to require that the new decommissioning company brought in be required to keep the current labor at the plant and keep them at the pay level they currently are,” Latimer added. “Additionally, I am asking that the environment not come second to speed and cost. We must remember that Indian Point is on the banks of our cherished Hudson River, and in the heart of our treasured County. We must protect these riches at all costs.”

Communities continue to plan for ways to replace \$32 million in collective revenue that will be lost annually when Indian Point stops operating.

Buchanan is set to lose \$4 million, or 46% of its operating funds, while the Hendrick Hudson School District will be suffering a \$24 million hit, or 33% of its budget. Cortlandt will lose \$800,000 annually, which represents two percent of its budget. In addition, the Verplanck Fire Department will lose 64% of its budget and the Hendrick Hudson Free Library will be shortchanged 28%.

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Letters to the Editor

Voters Should Approve Carmel School Bond Props

On March 26, I encourage all residents of the Carmel Central School District to join me in voting yes and yes for the two bond referendums that will be up for public decision.

Our schools and its students desperately need our help! The first referendum covers significant roof replacement and repair for all schools in the district. The current roofs have reached the end of their lifespan. Whenever there is heavy rain, there is ample leaking and damage to school infrastructure and materials. Students often need to be moved out of their classrooms to neighboring

areas due to water damage, and this is distracting and disruptive to the school day. Referendum A also includes much needed ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance and library media center upgrades for George Fischer Middle School.

The second referendum covers transportation facility upgrades, which are long overdue. Our current facility is located on the Kent Elementary School property. This causes much distraction and pollution for the students and staff of that school. The facility was also constructed with a single 'bay' to work

on buses, and was designed for a time when we had less than twenty vehicles in our fleet. We now have over 120 vehicles, and we are replacing/repairing them at a faster rate than we should be due to a lack of proper place to maintain and store them. Moving the transportation facility to a new area is not only morally proper and meets the needs of our children, it is financially wise in the long term.

Approving the bonds will also include significant state aid, nearly 60% of the costs including the interest will be subsidized by the state. Putting these items in the yearly operating budget

would result in catastrophic and severe cuts to programs, staff, activities, and opportunities for our students. The cost of the two bonds together at the height of repayment is approximately \$11 per year for home assessed at \$350,000 in our district. Homes assessed under \$350,000 would pay even less than that amount.

Please join me and do the right thing for our children, and for the long-term financial health of the residents in our district. Vote yes and yes on March 26.

Matt Vanacoro
Lake Carmel

Local Republicans Fight Back Against State Abortion Laws

continued from page 4

said.

But not everyone in town believes this resolution was a worthwhile endeavor. Carmel Democratic committee chairwoman Jennifer Colamonico said there has been a deliberate misinformation campaign by conservatives about the new set of abortion laws, calling it "outrageous."

That Democrats support infanticide is "completely untrue" and late term abortions occur because the life of the mother or baby is at risk she stressed. Colamonico said many healthcare providers are allowed to participate in the birth of a child besides a doctor, which makes it safe for a nurse practitioner or physician assistant to participate in an abortion.

She also stressed no baby is left to die by a doctor, but noted there are births in which the baby cannot survive and a parent can choose to deny intervention for a baby that is going to die with or without medical assistance.

"We're not talking about live babies that are just being randomly killed," Colamonico said. "It's absolutely outrageous."

She slammed the Carmel town board for pushing a repeal of the state law considering town government has no jurisdiction over the issue of abortion, arguing this is all just a political ploy.

"It's a very convenient distraction for the town board who should be dealing with real issues," Colamonico said. "This is just a sensational distraction that does nothing to help the taxpayers of Carmel."

Proposed Carmel Transportation Garage Wasteful Spending

As a longtime resident of the Carmel school district, I am strongly opposed to the so called "new" transportation facility component of the capital project and the high tax increase that accompanies it. The multiple millions of dollars in new taxing and spending is outrageous and will surely lead to more residents fleeing our already overtaxed district. This project has already been twice overwhelmingly defeated by the voters and the Carmel school board refuses to take no for an answer. For the Carmel school board to put this back up for a third time is a complete display of disrespect and scorn for the voters of our district. The school board tells us that the tax increase will be negligible. I ask, how do you spend multiple millions of dollars and not have a substantial tax increase? We have heard this argument before, that it's only going to cost so little. All of their "so little's" over the years have brought us to being one of the highest taxed school districts in the nation. Whenever we finance a project, we lose the opportunity to finance a different project. This is

called opportunity cost. Also, people of the Carmel school district, ask yourselves, just why is the Carmel school board so adamant about the land purchase for the transportation facility, that they are arrogantly attempting to ram this project down the throats of the taxpayers, by always trying to sneak it in, no matter how many times we tell them no? Why should the taxpayers pay for pork to line someone's pockets with a bond that becomes our children's expense? We the taxpayers deserve an honest answer, and not their usual stock answer that it's what's best for the kids. I urge the taxpayers of our district to once again, rise up and defeat this unnecessary and clearly suspect transportation component of the bond referendum on Tuesday March 26, 2019.

Greg Purdy Sr.
Carmel



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**Business
of the Week**

Feehan Insurance Agency Inc. Brewster

By David Propper

Inside Feehan Insurance Agency, it's all about family and community.

Over the course of 25 years, four brothers, though not all at the same time, have worked together to make Feehan an agency where people from the surrounding area can go for quality insurance and can talk to people they can rely on.

The agency is an independent family owned and run business in which the three principals—all brothers—live locally. The insurance offered is homeowners, auto, life and business. Feehan Insurance began in 1986 after Terry and John Feehan were working for a bigger insurance company and Matt Feehan was working for another company. They decided to finally open up their own place together. Now, John is retired and Chris Feehan is working for the family business.

"It's a very busy agency," Matt said. "Things have changed a lot in our industry."

While many smaller agencies have sold to bigger agencies, Feehan has remained steadfast in its independence. It's big enough to compete against the larger companies, but still localized enough where a customers could walk and speak with the owner. Feehan mentioned there



PROVIDED PHOTOS

From left to right, brothers Terry, Matt, and Chris Feehan have all worked together to make Feehan Insurance Inc. a well established business in Brewster. A fourth brother, John, also contributed, but is now retired.

are many customers he's grown to know well and have even become friends with.

While the Internet can make things more corporate, Matt stressed the importance of face-to-face communication. When an agent knows their customers, it provides a sense of comfort when bad things happen like a flooded basement or damaged car.

"It's nice to know the person," Matt said when a customer needs to file an insurance claim. "It's a stressful time."

When two mini tornadoes hit last year, Matt said it was rewarding helping

so many people going through a tough time when they needed their insurance to kick in. Residents in the area needed to put their entire lives back together in the wake of those extreme weather events.

Feehan said while some of his friends growing up now have what he calls "more exciting" careers, nothing is better than being local and having more time to get involved in the community. Feehan and his brothers are part of several different charities and are able to coach their sons and daughters as they grow up. Working

in New York City would make that difficult.

Chris Feehan said it's been great working day-to-day with his family. While there are stories of brothers that can't get along, Chris called the experience wonderful.

"It hit a lot of what we like to do," Matt said of the insurance business. "It's a people business."

Feehan Insurance Agency Inc. is located at 2350 Route 6 in Brewster and its phone number is 845-278-7070 and email address is service@fehaninsurance.com.



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

Feehan Insurance is located along Route 22 and handles a multitude of insurance needs.

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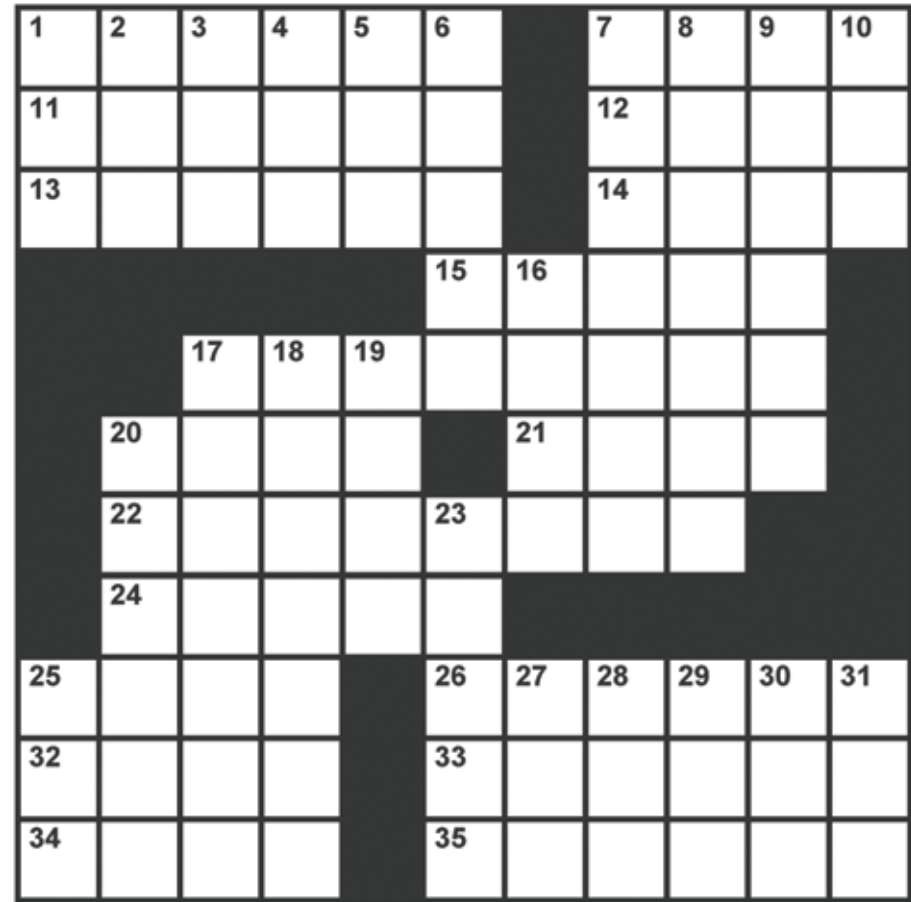
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Crossword Puzzle



Crossword by Myles Mellor

Answers on page 17

Across

- 1. Homes with domes
- 7. A piece of a three-piece
- 11. Vitality
- 12. Obsessively absorbed in
- 13. Mixture of many spices
- 14. Oktoberfest draft
- 15. Dreary sound
- 17. Basic training for recruits or new Yorktown fitness center, Fit Body ____
- 20. Reindeer herder
- 21. Seventh letters of the Greek alphabet
- 22. Mahopac trattoria
- 24. "Holy smokes!"
- 25. Birth certificate item
- 26. Giving out
- 32. Rate ____ (be perfect)
- 33. Marries in haste
- 34. Rant and rave
- 35. Start up the computer again

Down

- 1. Credo
- 2. Student score
- 3. Sue Grafton's "____ for Lawless" (2 words)
- 4. Torino time period
- 5. Refined or crude
- 6. Köln or Nürnberg
- 7. Pulsating effect, in music

- 8. Puzzling occurrences
- 9. Prepares, as a morning pot
- 10. Small hill
- 16. Topped with frosting
- 17. Sign of trouble
- 18. Wealthy
- 19. White gemstone
- 20. Emissary
- 23. Golfing cup
- 25. Part of U.S.N.A., abbr.
- 27. "Bravo!"
- 28. High ball in tennis
- 29. Company going public
- 30. Conservative beginning
- 31. Prime meridian std.

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BURDICK**
**The Final Verdict
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HIGHWAY
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Carmel High Students Receive IT Awards

Carmel High School senior Hailey Sango and freshman Kathleen O'Sullivan are recipients of the 2019 Hudson Valley Affiliate Winners of the National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT) Award for Aspirations in Computing (AiC). This is the second year that Sango has received this award. She has also been named as a 2019 Honorable Mention at the National level.

Both were endorsed by technology teacher Don Saldicco. "Hailey is an exceptional young woman who is a wonderful representative of the current culture shift of young women pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and math," said Saldicco. "As a student and a member of Carmel's FIRST FRC Robotics Team, she is driven by passion, determination, persistence, and high expectations for herself."

Saldicco also praised O'Sullivan and said, "Even at a young age, Kathleen is highly driven and self-motivated. She has already developed several projects which extend the capabilities of severely disabled children. She is an inventor/engineer who has made a positive contribution that impacts the community."

The NCWIT Award for AiC honors women in grades 9 through 12 who are active and interested in computing and technology, and encourages them to pursue their passions. Award for



Kathleen O'Sullivan

AiC recipients are chosen for their demonstrated interest and achievements in computing, proven leadership ability, academic performance, and plans for post secondary education. To date, more than 12,000 women have been honored with the Award for AiC.

The multi-tiered award structure includes winner, honorable mention, and certificate of distinction designations at national and regional levels, serving all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and all U.S. overseas military bases. Regional



Hailey Sango

Affiliate Award programs are hosted in 79 locations nationwide by NCWIT Alliance member organizations -- a powerful, national network of universities, companies, non-profits, and government organizations working to increase the meaningful participation of girls and women in computing.

Each National and Regional Affiliate Award winner, as well as each honorable mention, receives:

- recognition at a Regional Affiliate Award event (at the discretion of the Regional Affiliate Award program)

- an engraved award for both students and their school
 - scholarship opportunity at Mercy College
 - internship opportunities
 - entry to a peer-network of technical women in the NCWIT AiC Community
 - various prizes, such as computing resources, gadgets, swag, and more
- Sango and O'Sullivan will be recognized at a ceremony at Mercy College in May.

About Hailey Sango

Hailey was introduced into STEM at a young age and it has impacted her substantially; without STEM, she wouldn't be the creative individual she is today. Her curiosity has motivated her to figure out how things function, how their inner mechanisms make them do what they do. Her love for technology has granted her the ability to show who she truly is. It allowed her to meet other people who share the same or similar interests as she does.

When she moved from Queens to Carmel, her exposure to technology and curiosity grew through robotics club in 8th grade. Since then, she has been a part of robotics and is still a member today with support and influence from her parents, coaches, teachers, and mentors.

She has been a member of Carmel High

continued on page 17



The 43rd Annual Northern Westchester-Putnam St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held Sunday March 10



Step off time is 2 p.m. beginning at Mt. Hope Road, marching east and ending at the Lake Plaza Shopping Center

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Northern Westchester & Putnam 43rd Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade 2019



Grand Marshal Active Member of Lake Carmel

William "Bill" Dowling was born in Saint Francis Xavier Parish in the Morris Park section of the Bronx, the son of Edward and Mary (Finegan). Bill's brother, Reverend Edward T. Dowling S.J., is a member of the Jesuit community of Fordham University.

Bill grew up in the Throggs Neck / Silver Beach section of the Bronx and was educated by the Sisters of Mercy and the

Marist Brothers. He enjoyed playing all sports, especially football and coached local football and basketball teams.

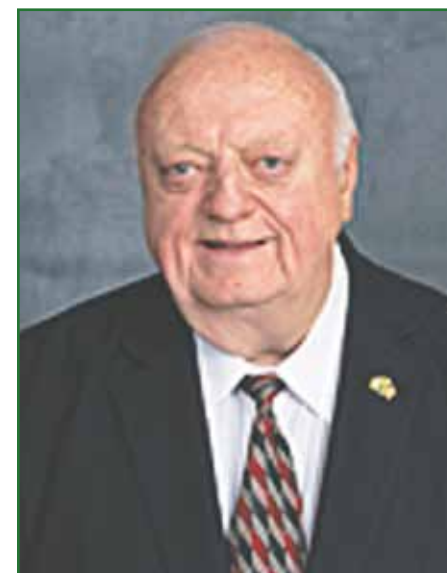
He married his childhood sweetheart, Mary Rush, in 1964 and they are the proud parents of four children: Katie, John, Christine and Billy. They have lived in Lake Carmel since 1971, where Bill coached Little League baseball and Flag Football for Kent Recreation. Bill has

been a member of Local 28 Sheet Metal Workers Union for 55 years.

Endowed with a natural love and respect for his Irish heritage, Bill was an active member of the Emerald Association of Putnam County and the West-Put Gaels, where he was selected Gael of the Year for 1995. He also served on the Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee for several years.

Bill was a member of the Holy Name Society at Saint Francis de Chantal Parish in Throggs Neck and served as an usher in Our Lady of the Lake Church in Carmel. He has been an active member of the Knights of Columbus 6318 since 1975, where he served as Inside Guard, Outside Guard, Lector and Sergeant-at-Arms; he also served on the Board of Directors for many years. He has devoted many years to the Schmidt-Tangredi Squires, our local chapter of the Knights of Columbus youth group, involving boys 13 to 17 years of age.

Bill has been proud to march in the Northern Westchester-Putnam Saint Patrick's Day Parade for many years, first pushing his young children in a stroller, and in later years, carrying his young grandson in his arms. He now



*Grand Marshal
William "Bill"
Dowling*

proudly marches with all seven of his grandchildren.



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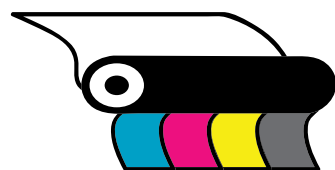
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Obituaries

Lillian Cacavio

Lillian Cacavio of Carmel, died on February 23, with her loving family at her side. She was 102-years-old. The daughter of Victoria (Botti) and John (Talamo) she was born in the Bronx on September 28, 1916. She would go on to marry Frank Casola in 1938 she was married for 23 years and had two daughters she later married Dominick Cacavio in 1963 until his death in 1987. Lillian lived a beautiful, long and fulfilled life. Few people are given the blessing of 102 years but when you have the spirit Lillian had 102 years doesn't seem nearly long enough. She was the heart of her family as well as the life of the party. Lillian had an amazing quick-witted sense of humor and the most beautiful of laughs. She loved to be the first one of the dance floor and the last one to leave a party. Her family has many memories of Lillian dancing her little heart out to her favorite Italian Music. She lived a life of great strength, seeing some of the toughest times in history, a life of great love which she gifted to family and friends and a life of laughter. During a particularly tough time in American history Lillian joined the defense department and worked tirelessly alongside her fellow women making bullets for the troops during war. She was always eager to help people and lend a hand. She had the best of all things that make someone an amazing person. Her spunky spirit and tenacity for life would keep her spirit forever young and keep her joking into her 100's! Family and friends will miss her dearly. Lillian is survived by her two adoring daughters. Her daughter Denise and son in law John Blecker of Yonkers, and her daughter Victoria and son in law Vincent of Carmel. She is also survived by her loving grandchildren Jimmy, Kristina Lille and Vicky as well as her great grandchildren Elias, Cole Collette and Alexandra who were all her greatest blessing in life. She is predeceased by her sibling as well as her husband.

Anthony L. DiNardo

Anthony L. DiNardo, 89, decided that on February 23, he would join the love of his life in his forever home where they will now watch over their family together. Anthony was born on April 28, 1929 and was one of Antonio and Rose DiNardo's seven children. Born in the Bronx, Anthony met Anne Squeo on a blind date and married her on February 4, 1953. His love for Anne was enormous and his dedication and commitment to her was evident in how he lived his daily life. In November 1963, Anthony and Anne moved their family from Mount Vernon to "upstate" Brewster. Anthony was a dedicated employee for the General Motors Company for 35 years. He wasn't the type to slow down upon retirement. Always remaining active, he enjoyed golfing, fishing and tending to his yard

and most recently walking and spoiling his dog, Jeter. Nothing, however, gave him more joy than the time he spent with his grandchildren. A fixture in their lives during the most common of days as well as the most critical events. Gramps simply made everything better. Anthony lived an ordinary and extraordinary life at the same time. He was a United States Army Veteran who served his country during the Korean War. Anthony bestowed unconditional love and wisdom on all who knew him. He was a man of high integrity who lived by example leading his family through many challenges and always coming out stronger on the other side. A true survivor and hero. He was "Grampa Tony" and influenced, supported and entertained countless people who didn't share his bloodline. Anthony was predeceased by his wife Anne and his two children, Robert Paul DiNardo and Toni DiNardo. He is survived by his son Paul DiNardo and his wife Nina, his daughters Roseanne Galante and Mariellen DiNardo and daughter in law, Jackie Swaim DiNardo as well as his pride and joys, his grandchildren Pamela Anne Badoud, Amanda Rachel DiNardo, Anthony Armand DiNardo, Anthony James Galante, Robert Paul DiNardo Jr., Annemarie Blanchette, Candace Nicole Galante, Nicholas Anthony DiNardo and Jordon Mekhi Brown and his great grandsons Digger Morris Badoud and Jameson Paul Blanchette.

Mary Rogers

Mary Rogers of Brewster, died on February 24 after a brief illness. She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Raymond Rogers; her daughters Kelly Pedersen, Juliette Rogers and Noelle Wyble; seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She is deeply loved by her family and the many, many friends she has made during her lifetime. Mary travelled extensively with her husband, enjoyed playing tennis and quilting. She especially loved every holiday visit and celebrations with her family. Mary was born April 9, 1934 in Pawhuska, OK to Harry Garfield and Louella (Parrot) Benson. In 1956, she graduated from Northwestern University as a Music major, specializing in piano. Her music career began at Green Chimneys School in 1967, followed by teaching general music and chorus at Pawling, elementary school for 27 years. After playing the pipe organ as a substitute in several area churches, she became the organist and the Senior and Junior choir director at the First United Methodist Church on Main St, Brewster. She added an hand-bell choir to further enhance Sunday worship with music. After retiring from her teaching position at Pawling Elementary, Mary became a private-lesson piano teacher in her home studio. Her interests and activities were extensive. She was a long-time member

of the Putnam Chorale, serving on its Board, as well as serving on the Board of the Landmarks Preservation Society in Brewster. Her efforts on behalf of the Old Southeast Church included writing grant proposals and organizing an annual summer music concert series. The funds she raised resulted in the restoration of this historical building located on Route 22, Brewster.

John A Viniello

John A Viniello of Brewster, died on February 26, peacefully at home, surrounded by his family. John graduated Brewster High School in 1959 and from Fordham University in 1963. John was a career coach and teacher, including John F. Kennedy High School in Somers, where in 1967 the cross-country team he coached earned best in the East and John was named coach of the year, and in 2003 was inducted into the JFK Hall of Fame. John was Chairman of Admissions of Fordham University between 1969-1973 and joined National Fire Sprinkler Association, serving as President from 1984 until his retirement in 2012, receiving the industry's highest honor, the Golden Sprinkler Award, in 2005. John was a dedicated and charitable member of his community. John founded a charity golf tournament, raising over \$250,000 for St. Lawrence O'Toole Elementary School. John was an avid golfer with three career hole-in-ones, most recently a perfect 175-yard hybrid in 2017. John is predeceased by his first wife, Elizabeth Schuchman, and is survived by his wife, Mary Viniello (Casey), whom he married on August 1, 1979. John is survived by his son, Mark Viniello (Tristy) and daughter Stacy McGratty (Chris) and 6 grandchildren, Ava, Katie, Abby, Madison, Caitlin, and Colin. John is also survived by his twin brother, Mario Viniello (Roberta) and was a beloved uncle and great uncle.

Rachel A. Morrissey

Rachel A. Morrissey, of New York City, formerly Putnam Lake, died on Tuesday February 26, at her home. She was 40-years-old. Born on June 11, 1978 in Englewood, NJ, daughter of Margaret (Revellino) Morrissey of Putnam Lake and the late Joseph Morrissey. Rachel was a 1997 graduate of Brewster High School and continued her education at Syracuse University receiving her bachelor's degree and her law degree. Since passing her bar exams in 2005 she has been an attorney in NYC, most recently with Akerman LLP. She was a sports enthusiast and loved playing softball both in high school and college. Rachel was a member of the VFW Post 9257 Auxiliary. Rachel is not only survived by her mother, Margaret, but also her brother Joseph Morrissey of Holmes, NY, her aunts; Maria Milyko and Maureen Galvin, her uncle and aunt Dominick & Janice Revellino, her great

uncle and aunt Jack & Frances Nash and many cousins. Visitation will be held on Saturday March 9, at Beecher Funeral Home, 1 Putnam Avenue, Brewster, from 1 p.m.-5 p.m. A private cremation will follow.

Josephine Caputo

Josephine Caputo, age 97 of Carmel, died peacefully on the evening of February 28, with her loving family at her side. Born to the late Angelina and Gerardo Barbaro on June 12, 1921 in Brooklyn. Josephine grew up one of eight children; she was sixth in line with two brothers and five sisters. She married her childhood sweet heart Nicholas Caputo. They had six beautiful children; Francis, Rose, Nicholas, Kimberly, William and John. Josephine cared dearly for all her seventeen (17) grandchildren and fourteen (14) great-grandchildren. Josephine volunteered at the Kent Library Story Hour for many years, even after her grandchildren started school. She stood outside many cold holiday seasons to ring the bells at Christmas time for the Salvation Army. Josephine was also a member of the Kent Seniors, St. James Our Lady of the Lake Parish and the Altar Rosary Society where she helped organize and run the White Elephant table for more than 28 years at the annual holiday bazaar. Josephine touched so many lives. Her friendly smile brought light and joy to all who knew her. She made everyone she ever met a better person just from being around her. There is no way to ever measure how much Josephine made everyone and the world around her better, but her family, friends and anyone who knew Josephine, knows now that heaven truly regained a true angel. The heavens from now on will shine a little brighter. Josephine is survived by her children, her daughter Rose Brainard, her son Nicholas Caputo, her son William "Billy" Caputo, her son John Caputo and her daughter Kimberly Bowman. As well she is survived by her 17 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren; all of whom held a special piece of her heart as well as severely nieces and nephews who she loved as if they were her own children. Mrs. Caputo is predeceased by her husband Nicolas, her son Francis and her two brothers and five sisters.



All Sorts of Things Can Hang from the Ceiling – But Carefully

As a realtor, I always make special note of lighting fixtures and other objects hanging from the ceiling when showing homes. I have a couple of good stories to explain why.

The essence of the first incident may get lost in translation when cleaned up, but I am assured first hand that it's true. A woman who owned a condo locally was in bed for the very first time with a new boyfriend when suddenly the ceiling fan/light fixture disengaged from its mooring and plunged down, hitting the poor fellow squarely in the backside at a critical moment. **He literally screamed out, and the woman, who said she was in her own world at the moment, initially thought that it was in ecstasy, rather than agony.**

Within that same year, the couple, then married, were having dinner one evening when suddenly the chandelier in the dining room plummeted to the center of the table, again hitting the woman's husband, this time grazing the side of his head.

What are the chances? In the case of the bedroom ceiling fan, the action of the fan had loosened the screws that held it



By Bill Primavera

to its box. With the dining room chandelier, it seems that the holding box itself was defective.

By this time, the couple decided it was time to buy a single-family house – and the one they selected didn't offer a single chandelier.

My wife Margaret and I have had our own little experience with falling missiles from the ceiling when her parents had their 50th wedding anniversary. It affected us for the rest of our lives. We were in the ballroom of a famous hotel in Cape Cod and Margaret was seated on a raised dais

with the family. Without warning, a large, recessed high hat almost directly above her head plunged down and landed on the table between her and her uncle with a horrible, ear-splitting crash. It certainly put a damper on the evening.

Ever since then, wherever we go together, we look above and see if we would be sitting under any kind of fixture. If we are, we either move if we can or make a little mental notation just in case we have to make a dash for it. It's neurotic, I know. Or is it?

For the less threatening creative things

that we can hang from our ceilings at home, make sure that you're securing them correctly.

To hang things properly, here are the basic rules.

The first rule of thumb is to always check your walls and ceiling for electrical wires or pipes that can be damaged by drilling and cost you thousands in repairs.

There are two basic types of mechanisms to secure objects safely to a ceiling or wall. One is a plaster anchor, which is an insert designed for hanging objects from walls, either plaster or drywall, by using pressure to keep the screw in place. To install, you simply drill a hole into the wall, based on the size of the anchor, and push the anchor into the hole. Next, you take a screw and drill it into the hole in the anchor, allowing it to protrude slightly to hang your desired object. Plastic anchors are effective because they expand once inside the wall and hold everything in place with pressure.

A toggle/snap bolt is used to hang objects from plaster/drywall safely using pressure. The bolt works by having two spring-loaded arms that go onto the screw. After drilling a hole where you want the bolt to go, you slide it in. Once inside, the arms will spring open and allow you to pull on the screw. You then take a screwdriver or drill gun and tighten

the bolt until it locks in place.

Once you have a secure anchor, the sky's the limit in how creatively you can approach hanging art. Typically we go for lighting fixtures or plants, tapestries, mobiles or stabiles. Another idea is to take panels of stained glass and hang them in front of windows. Or how about a statuette, perhaps supported by more than one wire?

One of the most creative minds I've ever encountered planned an entire restaurant dining room – tables and chairs – that hung from the ceiling because of a very uneven brick floor.

Ever since I read the story of the famous architect Stanford White who installed a red velvet swing from his ceiling for the amusement of his mistress Evelyn Nesbit Thaw, I harbored the thought of designing a room interior with a red velvet swing as its central theme. That's where my wife has put her foot down – and not particularly delicately.

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.

Understanding That Off-putting Aroma or Taste in Wine



By Nick Antonaccio

Remember the old quip about a customer in a restaurant? "Waiter, there's a fly in my soup."

"That's all right. We won't charge you for it."

The modern version of this seemingly trite joke could easily take place in the surroundings of a wine bar or high-end restaurant.

"Waiter, there's black gunk in my glass of wine."

"That's all right. It's our house special."

We've all experienced some form of adulteration in a glass of wine. While at times off-putting and unsavory, often these anomalies in the expected purity and clarity of such a revered product are harmless.

Wine is an agricultural product and, as such, is a living, breathing organism with a sometimes-volatile life cycle. After fermenting in vats, wine is transferred in bulk into bottles. During this process, vestiges of sediment, yeast, bacteria and other microbes may be transferred into the bottle, which may influence our

sensory perception of the wine. At times, this may result in off-putting tastes, aromas or appearances – or a combination of all three.

Many winemakers make painstaking efforts to eliminate these particles and natural compounds from the wine before bottling. Others endeavor to produce the most natural wines possible, just as they feel nature intended them. If there is any residue, it is a sign of the natural order, in which imperfection can be viewed as an indication of perfection, the perfect balance between a winemaker as alchemist and conduit of nature.

Here are several examples, in two categories that, on the surface, might be considered reasons for rejecting a glass of wine that is served to you. In most instances, they are not cause for concern.

No need to be concerned, it's just the natural order

1. Black gunk. What is more pleasurable than anticipating the last drop of particularly enjoyable red wine? What is more disconcerting than ingesting a mouthful of black, tart-tasting sediment instead? While disconcerting

You Heard It Through the Grapevine

and a palate-killer, this sediment is generally harmless. Sediment is a natural byproduct in the production of wine. Many winemakers will filter out this sediment using

elaborate mechanical technology before bottling. Others prefer to produce the most natural product possible, proudly labeling their wines as "unfined and unfiltered."

2. Barnyard smell. Phew, no fine wine should emit aromas of a steamy pigsty. Yet I've experienced this phenomenon several times. The cause? Brettanomyces, or Brett, a yeast that may linger in a bottle of wine in spite of a winemaker's efforts to eliminate it. While totally harmless and often fading after exposed to air, many consumers find it quite off-putting – unless you're a fan of the barnyard.

3. Partly cloudy or partly sunny? Particles of the byproducts of fermentation may remain in suspension when wine is bottled. This may result in a cloudy or hazy hue in a bottle of white wine. While naturally occurring and not harmful, it may be off-putting to certain wine drinkers. Many winemakers will filter out these elements before final bottling. It is rarely a reason to reject a wine being served.

4. Crystal treasure. If kept below 40 degrees for a prolonged period, what

appear to be tiny precious stones or shards of glass may appear at the bottom of a bottle of white wine. Neither valuable nor harmful, these tartrate crystals are tasteless and do not detract from the taste of the wine.

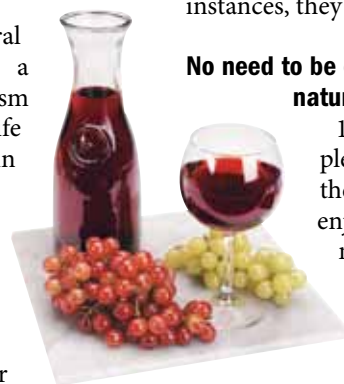
Cause for concern

1. Cork taint. The chemicals used to clean corks may infiltrate a bottle of wine. If your wine smells like your dog just in from a rainstorm or a wet newspaper left in your driveway, be concerned. Your waiter will replace it.

2. Residual sulfur. To prevent wine from early oxidization, sulfur compounds are added by law. Too much will result in odors of rotten eggs or just-struck matches. If overpowering and long lasting, reject the glass or bottle.

Wine is an evolving product of nature. As such, it is imperfect and highly variable. Winemakers may attempt to control its evolution and influence the outcome. Nature doesn't always cooperate.

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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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF NEW-CASTLE 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

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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.**

TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY SPECIAL MEETING MARCH 6, 2019 6 PM 1.Pledge of allegiance. 2.Appoint Raymond Gambichler Back-up Sewer Custodian 3.Amend Resolution # R19-99

appointing Daniel Gibbs as Bulk Drop-off Attendant. 4.Continued discussion of Airbnb 5.Discussion banning recreational marijuana stores. 6.Update Horton Hollow Road. 7.Update snow districts.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, pending for beer, wine and cider has been applied for by the undersigned to sell beer, wine and cider at retail in a restaurant under the Alcohol Beverage Control Law at **30 Wheeler Ave., Pleasantville, NY in Westchester County for on premises consumption. Potayto Potayto LLC DBA FALAFEL TACO**

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Crossword Answers



Carmel High Students Receive IT Awards

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School's FIRST Robotics Teams: FTC and FRC. In September 2017, Carmel High School Team 5943 showcased their robot at the World Makerfaire located in the New York Hall of Science. There, she was able to share her passion for robotics and technology and truly express how it motivated her. She will have another opportunity to do this when the team makes an appearance once again at this year's Makerfaire in September 2018.

During the summer of 2018, she entered in the Bi-Annual F4 CADathon, placing 53rd out of 76th. She has taught herself Java, Python, and is now in the process of teaching herself Kotlin. Her skills have allowed her to create personal bots on a social media application called 'Discord' that uses The Blue Alliance API's to pull data into whichever robotics server she needs.

As well as working on bots for her own use, she has been creating an application for her robotics team to use when collecting data about other teams. In the process of doing all of this, she has made it her personal mission to influence more girls into the STEM field. In response to the National Guard's high demand for

people in Cyber Security, after her senior year of high school, she plans on attending New England Institute of Technology to get her degree in this field.

About Kathleen O'Sullivan

Kathleen has competed in science fairs since she was in 5th grade. She has won first in the technology category locally each year of middle school. Kathleen advanced to the Tri-county science fair and won second twice and third once.

In 7th grade, Kathleen was a Broadcom Master's Nominee. In 8th grade, Kathleen participated in the Connecticut Invention Convention and won the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering Fair (CASE) award and the Connecticut Science and Engineering Fair award. Then Kathleen moved on to Nationals where she won 2nd place for her grade.

Kathleen hopes to study Electronics engineering, aerospace engineering, and computer software in college. Kathleen, in her free time helps out in a local elementary school enrichment program, with a focus to expose young children to STEM and STEAM. Kathleen will have one of her inventions on Henry Ford's Innovation Nation this fall.

Kathleen then hopes to pursue a job in engineering.

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

Mahopac Public Library Seeks Board Candidates: On Tuesday, June 4, Mahopac Public Library will hold elections for four (4) open seats on its Board of Trustees. Individuals interested in running for election to the Library Board must be residents of the Mahopac Central School District. Petitions for the nomination of candidates are available at the Library beginning Tuesday, March 5, 2019. The petitions must be signed by at least twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the District, shall state the name and residence of each signer, state the name and residence of the candidate, and must be filed with the Election Clerk of the Library no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 17. The election will be held at Mahopac Public Library on Tuesday, June 4, from 7 a.m. until 9 p.m. Three candidates will each serve a three-year term on the Board, beginning July 1, 2019.

Reservations are now being taken for our annual Spring Dinner Dance/Veterans Benefit. Saturday, April 13, starting at 6 p.m., Complete Bavarian Schnitzel dinner. Music will be provided by the ever popular Joe Unger. The cost remains only \$50 per person. Since this affair is open to the public, and is limited to the first 100 paid people, reservations are now being taken by calling Anna Schramek at (845) 224-5855. Remember, all net proceeds generated by this dinner dance go to a worthwhile veterans organization. This year the money will benefit the Dwyer Vet to Vet Program of Putnam County. This organization helps

local veterans in time of need.

First Presbyterian Church of Mahopac: 2019 Lenten Non-Food Drive For Putnam Cap Please help supply CAP (Putnam Community in Action). For more information please call 845-628-2365 or email presby411@verizon.net Tax Donation receipts available upon request.

CareMount Medical Hosts free educational Medicare meetings: Each seminar will discuss the basics of Medicare and your coverage options. If you need help understanding your Medicare options, come join us at a meeting! You'll learn about the choices you have such as: Medicare Prescription Drug Plans, Original Medicare, Medicare Supplement Insurance Plans, Medicare Advantage Plans Carmel. Nelson's Tavern at Centennial Golf Club (185 John Simpson Road, Carmel) 3/19, 4/16, 5/21 (10 a.m. - noon)

The Putnam Valley Central School District Board of Education will hold the following upcoming meetings: The full 2018-19 meeting list and the proposed meeting agendas can be found on the district website at: www.pvcsd.org prior to each meeting.

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 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.

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 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.

The Putnam County Computer 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/ Registration must be in person. FMI, call Judy Kolt (845)-277-5422

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.

Tuesday, March 5

The Reads at Reed Book Club: 7 p.m. to discuss the book "The Accidental Tourist" by Anne Tyler. The meeting will be held at Reed Memorial Library, 1733 Route 6, Carmel. Contact 845-225-2439 with any questions."

Thursday, March 7

Teen Balloon Club: 3:30 p.m. Learn how to make balloon animals, then go out into the community to make balloon animals at special local events. This is an opportunity to earn community service credit; pick up a Teen Volunteer application at the Library or download one from the Library website. For more information visit www.mahopaclibrary.org, or call 845-628-2009, ext. 136.

A Cognitive Approach to Autism: 6:30 p.m. Mahopac Public Library. A talk by Rob Bernstein, author of "Uniquely Normal: Tapping the Reservoir of Normalcy to Treat Autism". Rob Bernstein uses a cognitive approach to help children on the autism spectrum by teaching underlying concepts that are necessary for language. Bernstein's method mirrors the neurotypical world in which meaningful situations elicit language from the child. The child's speech helps to organize thoughts and to emotionally regulate and address his/her behavior issues. Registration for this workshop is requested. 845-628-2009, ext. 100.

Friday, March 8

Stuffed Animal Sleepover: 6 p.m., - 7

p.m. Bring your favorite stuffed friend to the library for a sleepover! Don't worry, you won't be lonely at home because you will build a new friend and take them home with you. Your friend who spends the night will be very well taken care of and won't get into ANY mischief! Come back on Saturday to pick them up, and find out what happens when the library closes at night. For ages 4 to 7. For more information or to register, contact the Patterson Library at 845-878-6121 x10 or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org and click Calendar.

Saturday, March 9

Middle School Battle of the Books Info Meeting: 10 a.m. Battle of the Books is starting again. Come to this info meeting to find out more! You'll meet your team members and coaches and find out what books you'll be reading. Must be entering 6th grade to 9th grade in September 2019. For more information or to register, contact the Patterson Library at 845-878-6121 x10 or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org and click Calendar.

Irish Songs and Folktale: 1 p.m. Get ready for the wearin' o' the green as Tom O'Carroll entertains us with Irish songs, stories, and humor. For more information or to register, contact the Patterson Library at 845-878-6121 x10 or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org and click Calendar.

Murder Mystery Dinner: The Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting a Murder Mystery Dinner on Saturday, March 9th 2019 at the Knights of Columbus, 10 Fair Street Carmel, NY. Cost of admission is \$50 - Includes Show - Buffet Dinner & 1 drink. This is a prepaid event Tables of 8 \$5 discount per person. Starts at 6:30 p.m. Proceeds to local charities. Questions & Payment Info ladieskofc@gmail.com

Sunday, March 10

Poets' Corner Open MicL 3 p.m. \$5 Suggested Donation. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center will present its inaugural open mic for poetry and spoken word event, open to the public. As part of TCCC's ongoing community outreach, "Poets' Corner" will be a new local venue and welcoming home for writers of all types. Professionals and new writers alike will have a venue and audience to hear their work. On the second Sunday of each month, featured poets will open the event by reading their work. Following our feature, we will open the mic for poets in attendance who have come to read. Light refreshments will be served, and contributions encouraged. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center is located at 729 Peekskill Hollow Road, in Putnam Valley. Info on other upcoming events at www.tompkinscorners.org or by phone at 845-528-7280. For further information, email info@tompkinscorners.org.

Million-Selling Singer/Songwriter to Lecture at DCC

Dar Williams, a singer/songwriter who has sold over one million albums in her almost 30 years as a musician, will give a Lyceum talk at Dutchess Community College on March 5 at 12:30 p.m. in the James and Betty Hall Theatre.

Williams will share how she gained media literacy and cultural awareness while building a career that has included 10 folk-pop studio albums and over 2,000 shows. She has been called "one of America's very best singer-songwriters" by The New Yorker magazine.

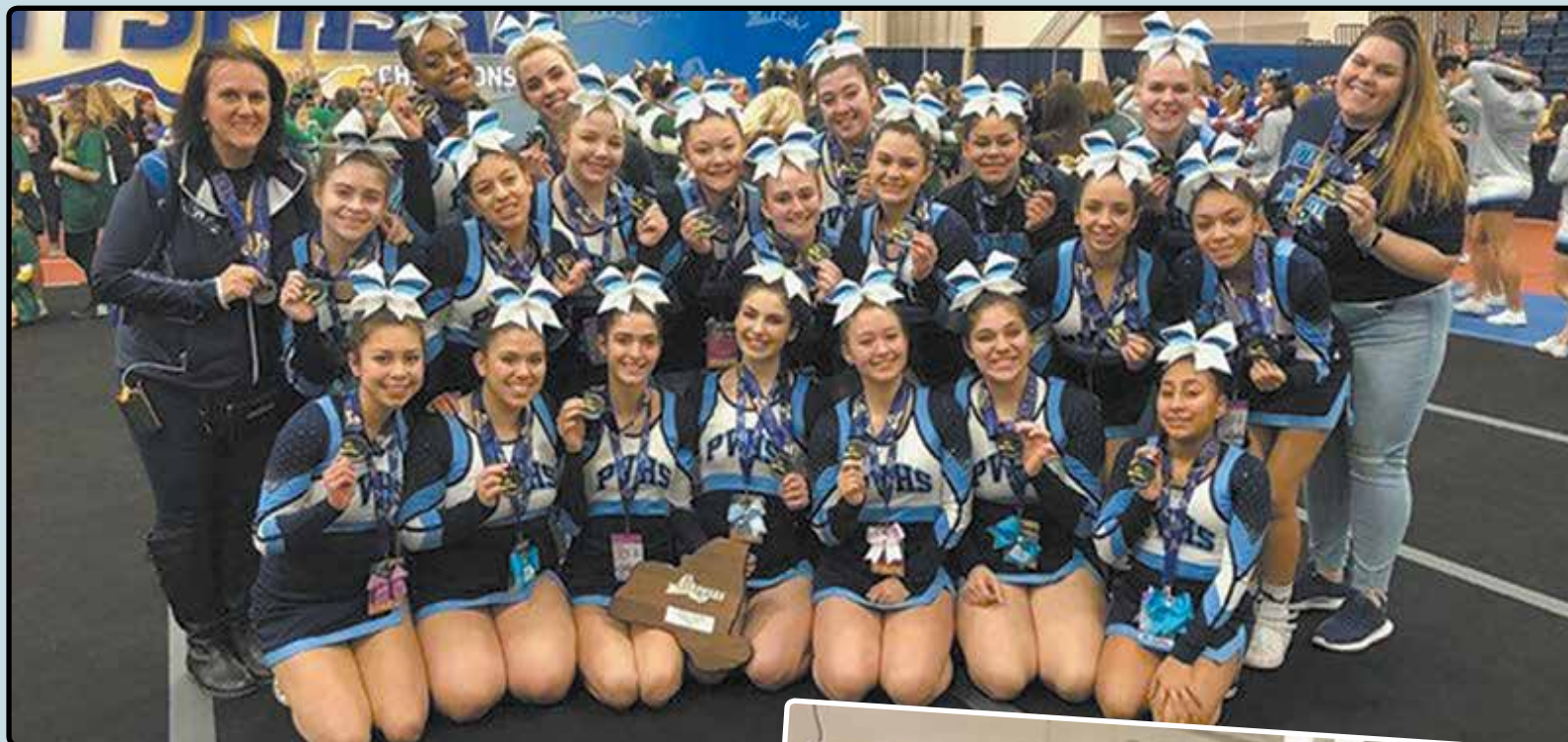
The presentation, part of DCC's celebration of Women's History Month, is a free community event.

Founded in 1957, Dutchess Community College has earned a reputation for providing an outstanding education at the lowest tuition in New York state. Its main campus is in Poughkeepsie, with a satellite campus in Wappingers Falls. For more information visit www.sunydutchess.edu.



The Putnam Examiner Sports

Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports



Stunting & Fronting! Putnam Valley Takes 2nd in NYS Cheer Tourney, Again



For the second time in three years, members of the Putnam Valley Cheerleading team posed with the Tigers' second-place NYSPHSAA tournament plaque and medals in the small-school, large-team division at the Rochester Institute of Technology last Saturday when Coaches Regina Albano and Kelly Wilson led the super-talented unit of Abigail Alvarez, Emily Casey, Rose Gencarelli, Nia Givan, Jennifer Hernandez, Alexandria Jacobs, Shannon Lee, Rebecca Mosny, Megan O'Leary, Lauren Pateman, Makenzie Quick, Adrianna Raus, Jillian Rooney, Nicole Shocker, Caitlin Sigmund, Teresa Sigmund, Ashley Stockinger, Cassie Tenesaca, Kianna Thompson and Keiko Waters. "Their goal was to make it to finals this year knowing going in the competition in our division was fierce," Albano said. "They knew they had nothing to lose after making to finals. While on deck they were saying, 'We accomplished our goal today, now let's go have fun and leave it all on the mat', and that they did! They gave it their all. It was the best-performed routine they had all season. We are beyond proud of them!"

Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook

Ossining Wins 9th-Straight Title; Somers Denied in Final Seconds

By Tony Pinciario

One month into the 2018-19 season, **OSSINING** High faced serious adversity.

The Pride first lost senior All-American Aubrey Griffin to an injury, then classmate Jaida Strippoli was sidelined. Not many teams can lose two Division 1 players to injuries, but Seton Hall-bound senior C Kailah Harris asserted herself and this enabled to Pride to continue winning.

However, an uncharacteristic three-game losing streak in January made the eight-time reigning champion Pride appear vulnerable. That would all change once Griffin and Strippoli returned to the lineup.

The defending Section 1 Class AA champions closed the season with a surge only to be derailed by Ursuline in the regular-season finale. This resulted in a second seed for the Pride in the Section 1 Class AA tournament.

Ossining ripped through its first three sectional games and it led to another

matchup with No.1 seed Ursuline in the final. This time, though, Ossining would have the final word.

Griffin scored a game-high 35 points and grabbed 16 rebounds as the Pride defeated Ursuline, 78-67, at Pace University's Goldstein Center. It was Ossining's ninth consecutive sectional title.

Ossining, now 18-6 this season, will host the Section 4 champion in a regional semifinal, Tuesday, 5 p.m. The winner advances to play the Section 9 representative in a regional final, Saturday, noon, at SUNY-New Paltz, for a berth in the New York State Final 4, Saturday-Sunday, March 16-17, at Hudson Valley Community College.

The Class AA semifinals are scheduled for Saturday, March 16, at 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. The championship game is slated for Sunday, March 17, at 11:45 a.m.

"Every year is special," said Harris of winning another gold ball. "The injuries to Aubrey and Jaida made us dig a little deeper this year. Basketball is a team sport so we were able to pick each other up, come together as a team, even more so, and everyone stepped up."

Once the seeds were released for the Section 1 Class AA Championship, Ossining was hoping for another game with Ursuline. In the loss to close out the regular season, the Pride were in foul trouble and felt it did not play to its capability.

"Losing and playing as bad as we did, we were 1-1 with them so we wanted to get a chance to redeem ourselves," said Harris, who finished with 14 points and nine rebounds.

Ossining seized command of the title game, immediately and built a 37-17 lead. However, Ursuline came charging back and drew within three points, 54-51, entering the fourth quarter. Even with the momentum change, Ossining remained composed.

"When they made their run, we kind of lost our composure," Harris said. "We didn't panic because we have been in these situations like



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Ossining players hoist the hardware after posting 78-67 Section 1 Class AA title win over Ursuline Saturday at Pace Univ.

this before. We had to get back to what we were doing in the beginning of the game and we had to keep the younger girls in the same mindset as us. Once the fourth quarter started, we listened to our coaches and everyone's confidence rose back up."

As a result of the win, Ossining received a bonus and will host the regionals semifinal. Harris and her fellow seniors are excited about one last home game.

"For the seniors this means everything because you don't usually host a regional game at your gym," Harris said. "We're fortunate that we will step on our court in front of our fans."

HALDANE, which beat Keio for the Section 1 Class C title, begins its quest for

a state title, Tuesday.

The Blue Devils play Section 9 champion and nemesis Millbrook in a regional semifinal, 5 p.m., at Mount St. Mary's College in Newburgh. The winner will play the Section 4 victor, Saturday, at a time and site to be determined.

"It all came together when it had to," Haldane Coach Tyrone Searight said. "The next step has been our biggest obstacle in recent years, but we're ready to get over that hurdle."

SOMERS has had an outstanding three-year run, beginning with the Section 1 Class A title in 2017. Last year, Somers returned to the Final 4, only to be upset in

continued on next page



Ossining Coach Dan Ricci works refs during Pride's 78-67 Section 1 Class AA title triumph, Ricci's 9th in a row and 10th overall.



Ossining senior Aubrey Griffin scored 35 points and earned an MVP nod in Pride's 87-76 Section 1 Class AA title triumph of Ursuline.



Ossining Pride players bask in glow of their 78-67 Section 1 Class AA title win over Ursuline Saturday at Pace Univ.

Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook



Somers junior G Dani DiCintio drives lane for two of her team-high 22 points in Tuskers' 45-44 Class A title loss to Tappan Zee Saturday at Pace Univ.

a semifinal on a last-second shot by Rye. Somers made it three consecutive final fours and a second title-game appearance in three years as the sixth-seeded Tuskers advanced to face top-seeded Tappan Zee after a semifinal triumph of No.2 Panas at the Westchester County Center.

In a memorable game, the TZ Dutchies overcame the Tuskers, 45-44, to win their first sectional title ever. Somers, which was hampered by injuries all season, finished with a 17-7 record. Tappan Zee

Panas is going to be a force next year."

Somers will be among the elite, once again, next year as the Tuskers graduate two players – Hannah Angelini and Isabella Rukaj. Angelini, who scored 17 points, was named to the Section 1 Class A All-tournament team, along with Dani DiCintio, who dropped 22.

"Hannah is the most complete, smartest player I have ever coached," Hattem said. "Her graduating will have a major impact on what we do and how we do it.

"Isabella played varsity basketball for three years and was a wonderful teammate who started every game of her senior year and did so much for us. The two of them are so well respected by their teammates, teachers and other coaches, which speak volumes about their character."

Hattem is excited about the 2019-20 season, but it's too soon to look ahead even after this successful season, which ended on a 16-7 fourth-quarter dry spell.

"I expect to compete next year, though the challenge will be great," he said. "We will be a different team, focusing more on our ability to

forced a controversial shot-clock violation with 20.1 seconds left and the game tied at 44-44. Kaleigh Bierne drew a foul that led to the game-winning free throw on the ensuing Dutchies possession, ending Somers' late-season run for glory.

"The girls played their hearts out," said third-year Somers' Coach Marc Hattem. "The game was what we thought it would be, a game that came down to the wire. It was an awesome game to be part of. I'm proud of my girls."

Somers earned a berth in the final with a 39-27 win over second-seeded Panas in a semifinal. The victory avenged two regular-season losses to the Panthers.

"The two teams were so evenly matched," Hattem said. "I think at the end of the day we just made a few more shots than them.



Dejected Panas players leave court after Panthers' 39-27 Class A semifinal loss to Somers at County Center last Wednesday.



Panas junior Kristen Scrobola splits Somers defense in Panthers' 39-27 Class A semifinal loss to Tuskers at County Center last Wednesday.

score in the paint. I'm going to take some time to digest the past few months and move forward to next year."

PANAS had a memorable season and came within a victory of playing for the Section 1 Class A title.

The Panthers came into sectional play seeded second and appeared on course to play top-seeded Tappan Zee in the final, but Somers did not allow it. The sixth-seeded Tuskers, who lost twice to the Panthers in the regular season, shocked the second seed, 39-27, in a semifinal.

Panas, which was making its second final-four trip in three years, finished with a 19-4 record.

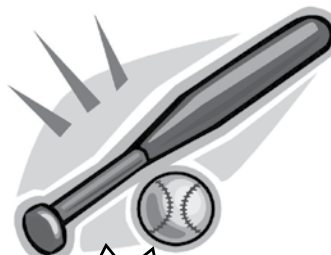
"Somers changed the way they defended by blitzing our point guard, Kristen Cinquina, with two defenders every time

continued on next page



An energetic Somers bench reacts to a big moment in Tuskers' 45-44 Class A title loss to Tappan Zee Saturday at Pace Univ.

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Somers' Taylor Penzo and Dani DiCintio celebrate Tuskers' 39-27 Class A semifinal win over Panas' Emma Andersen and Kristen Scrobola at County Center.



An engaged bench was also key to Ossining's 78-67 Section 1 Class AA title win over Ursuline.



Panas' Cailean Nolan (L) tries to catch up with Somers G Taylor Penzo in Panthers' 39-27 Class A semifinal loss to Tuskers at County Center last Wednesday.

she got the ball," Panas Coach Matt Evangelista said. "She did a good job of getting the ball out of the trap, but we could not capitalize on the momentary advantage that we had on the rest of the floor. Also, we missed shots that we had consistently made throughout the season."

The Panthers will be a major contender next year as only one player graduates. However, Panas will miss senior Julia Araujo, who was selected to the Section 1 Class A All-Tournament team.

"Julia has personified what you would want out of a senior captain," Evangelista said. "Julia set the tone in terms of work

ethic during games and practice. She was constantly communicating while on the court with the other players. Julia led the team in rebounds, assists and charges this year. She made many free throws down the stretch of games to ice victories for us. The girls all respected her and she deserved it. Julia was also one of the team's best defenders and usually guarded girls who were much bigger than her. It will take contributions from many players to make up for all of the things that Julia did for us this year."

Evangelista credited his team with its work ethic and determination during the offseason in preparation for this season.

"I began to be excited about this group when I saw how they moved the ball and worked together in the summer and fall leagues we participated in," Evangelista said. "I thought we were doing well in the preseason and then our scrimmages came we played terribly. I honestly did not know what to expect when the first game started. We began the season 10-0, but I think when we beat Brewster by a wide margin, and I saw how the girls were locked in and focused, that was when I knew that we could really have a great year."

Expect to see the Panthers back here next year.



There was much respect show by Coach Matt Evangelista's Panas squad and Mark Hattem's Somers club in Isabella Rukaj's Tuskers' Final 4 win over Julia Araujo's Panthers.

Sports

With Their Legacy on the Line, Ossining Trio, Coach Delivers



By Ray Gallagher
Examiner
Sports Editor
@Directrays

PLEASANTVILLE -- After two-plus decades along the Ossining girls' basketball sidelines, Coach Dan Ricci has, at the very least, contemplated retirement, though he shows no signs of slowing down. If and when he does eventually call it quits, he's sure to go down as a Section 1 coaching giant, perhaps the greatest coach in Ossining sports history.

IMO, It's not even debatable after Ricci led the second-seeded, state-ranked (No.8) Pride to its ninth consecutive Section 1 Class AA title, a 78-67 triumph of top-seeded, state-ranked (No.6) Ursuline last Saturday at the Goldstein Center on the campus of Pace University.

Having developed most ridiculous

dry at the conclusion of the 2019 season with the UConn-bound Griffin, who is neck-and-neck with WNBA professional Chong, Seton Hall-bound Harris and West Point-bound Strippoli set to graduate this spring. Ossining's biggest tests this season will come within the next two weeks with, potentially, the likes of two-time defending state champion and nemesis Baldwin (Section 8) in the semis and state-ranked (No.4) Bishop Kearney (Section 5) in the finals, but the ultimate test for this program will come next year when the bulls-eye remains on the back of the former four-time NYS champion (2013-16) Pride and the bulk of the unit is gone.

Ricci ran the "Legacy" speech up the

zone to man-to-man, which we didn't expect and it threw us off. It got them back in the game, but our kids persevered in the end. I put in on them, I said 'What's your legacy gonna be? Are you going

to be four-time section champs or are you going to be the ones that let go of the ropes'. It's their time and they showed us what they got. All three of them – Aubrey, Kailah and Jaida – all played hurt.

They played through injuries and they suck it up. This was supposed to be the easiest gold ball ever, but it was the hardest because of their injuries, and it's going to be harder after this, that's for sure."

There's not much time to heal up, but there's a legacy out there in a cement mixer waiting to take form...

Well, I'm kind of glad Somers senior Hannah Angelini is graduating this spring because I'm not sure I could bear another sectional championship setback in her life. It's torturous for me to see kids I root for lose, and I've rooted for Angelini and junior teammate Dani DiCintio since they first burst on to the Section 1 circuit four years ago, full of vim and vigor. Both were named to the All-Tournament team after Somers suffered a gut-wrenching 45-44 setback to Tappan Zee in last Saturday's Section 1 Class A championship at Pace, but pain

Direct Rays



Ossining's Aubrey Griffin and Kailah Harris share a hug after winning their 4th Section 1 Class AA title together last Saturday at Pace Univ.



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Somers' Dani DiCintio, Isabella Rukaj and the Tuskers converge on Hannah Angelini after a big 3 in Tuskers' 45-44 Class A title loss to Tappan Zee.

herd of Division I talent – Saniya Chong, Jaylay Knowles, Shadeen Samuels, Andra Espinoza-Hunter, Jaida Strippoli, Kailah Harris and Aubrey Griffin – over the last nine years, Ricci has compiled a ludicrous 204-33 overall mark, the kind of winning percentage that may never be replicated by a large public school in the NYSPHSAA hoops system. The guy has actually gone 166-12 vs. NYSPHSAA opponents and

134-6 vs. Section 1 foes the last nine year years, and what makes that all the more remarkable is that just about every large school in the state has a basketball program. Basketball is a different breed when it comes to competition because everybody plays.

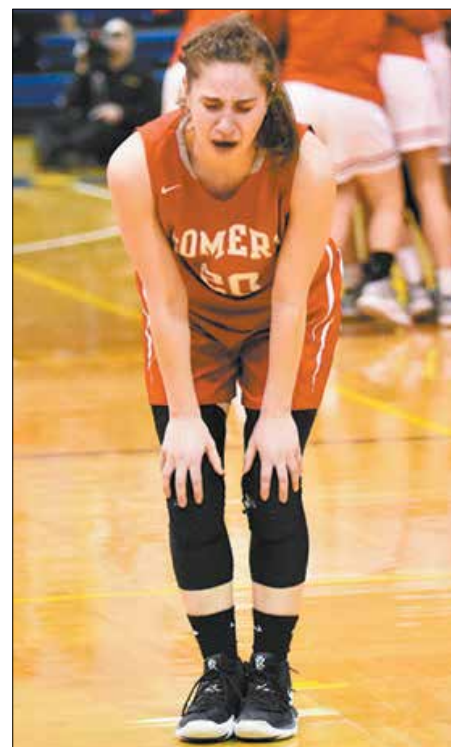
That well of distinction is due to run

flagpole last Saturday and it sunk in pretty good with the veterans, but Ossining hasn't been about sectional championships since they turned that corner back in 2011.

"It never gets old," said Griffin, the game's MVP after dropping 35 points. "It's our senior year and each time we come out here we want to end on a win. Everyone's mindset is win or go home, and none of us want to go home."

The legacy of Griffin, Harris and Strippoli will always be about the Section 1 and Region 1 titles they procured, but the second state jewel -- under their command -- would cement it.

"Kailah played hurt and was crying half the game due to the pain," Ricci said. "Ursuline, give them credit, went from



Very few people in the history of Somers basketball have meant more to the program than Tusker senior G Hannah Angelini.

in their eyes should only be measured against the greatness of their careers for actual perspective. This dynamic duo, which produced a sectional title and state Final 4 run in 2017, a sectional Final 4 in 2018 and a runner-up status in 2019, will likely go down in Somers history as its finest backcourt tandem, and that's saying something given the history of former recent guards like Gabby Rosenzweig and Liv Lipski, among others.

"They're hurting right now, upset and bummed out, but when I get the chance to sit down with them they only thing I can tell them is thank you and love you and give them a hug," Somers Coach Marc Hattem said after the toughest loss of his coaching career, which included a very controversial shot-clock/jump ball violation that went against the Tuskers in the waning seconds. "I hope those words will mean a lot. It was a tough call in the end, and we're not supposed to complain about the officials, so we won't do it."

It left one to wonder if the better team actually won after Somers squandered and eight-point, fourth-quarter lead without several players at full health.

"I think you're right," Hattem said. "It's tough. We made a couple of mistakes at the end and they beat us up on the boards a little bit and I feel like things just unraveled on us at the end; not having Taylor (injured in the first half) and Dani going down in the fourth really hurt our chances."

Little more than five years ago, Somers didn't have a prayer, much less a chance. Angelini will pass the torch to DiCintio now, but their chances are cut in half without her. Here's to a great career...

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