



Putnam County Swears In Elected Officials

By Holly Crocco

Putnam County celebrated newly elected and re-elected officials during a Dec. 31 swearing-in ceremony at the Historic Courthouse in Carmel.

"We know here in Putnam that your local government is really the backbone – it's really where the people we represent are here to interact with us," said County Clerk Michael Bartolotti in his opening remarks.

"The folks who we serve are like our customers, and we have to make sure we do the best we can to ensure that their needs are met. All the public officials here really abide by that and really make sure we all do our very best to make sure we take care of the citizens who have elected us, that have trusted us to serve as their public servants."

Three legislators took the oath of office

after being re-elected in November.

Legislator Carl Albano, R-Carmel, expressed gratitude for being re-elected. "I'm fortunate – I never imagined that after this many years I'd still be a legislator," he said.

Legislator Paul Jonke, R-Southeast, thanked his colleagues for their support and guidance, as well as their hard work.

"And thank you to the voters in the sixth district in the Town of Southeast for your confidence," he said. "I look forward to exciting jobs going into the future. I pledge to continue my efforts to deliver quality services while minding the tax cap and respecting the taxpayers."

Neal Sullivan, R-Carmel, thanked the Republican, Conservative and Independence parties, and their members, for their support and confidence in choosing him as their representative.

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PROVIDED PHOTO

From left are Putnam County Legislators Carl Albano, Neal Sullivan and Paul Jonke, with Putnam County Court Judge Joseph Spofford, District Attorney Robert Tendy, and County Executive MaryEllen Odell.

Carmel Rotary Sets \$65,000 Goal for B-Ball Challenge

The Carmel Rotary Club has set a whopping \$65,000 fundraising goal for its 13th annual Community Basketball Challenge, which is scheduled Saturday, Feb. 29 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Carmel High School gymnasium, 14 Fair St.

This popular event organized by the Carmel Rotary Club and CHS Interact Club offers non-profit organizations the opportunity to raise funds to support their organizations.

This year's event is dedicated to the memory of Carmel Rotarian, the late Hon. James Reitz, who passed away unexpectedly in June.

"Reitz epitomized Rotary's motto of 'Service Above Self,'" stated the club.

The judge volunteered much of his time to the community, in addition to presiding over the Putnam County Criminal, Surrogate and Family Courts, as well as being an acting

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PROVIDED PHOTO

The Carmel Rotary Club's 2020 Community Basketball Challenge Committee celebrates during a kickoff lunch last week at George's Restaurant in Carmel. This year's honoree is the late Rotarian, Judge James Reitz.

Safe Harbour Fights Human Trafficking With Free App

Safe Harbour, Putnam County's anti-human trafficking program, recently announced the launch of its free mobile app Safe Harbour Putnam County, which is available at the App Store for iOS/iPhone/iPad, and Google Play Store for Android devices.

"Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery where victims are sold for

sex or labor," said Michael Piazza Jr., commissioner of the Departments of Mental Health, Social Services and Youth Bureau. "It exists everywhere, and that includes Putnam County. This app not only helps us educate the community about trafficking and what to look for, but provides information to at-risk youth and

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Putnam County Swears In Safe Harbour Fights Human Trafficking With Free App

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"I'd like to thank the county executive and her staff and all the department heads for working with the Legislature during the year to get things done, working together, focusing on getting the right things done for our constituents," he said. "Not spending a lot of time on bartering back and forth, but focusing on pushing the ball forward and getting things done in Putnam County."

District Attorney Robert Tendy, who was also re-elected in November, said he loves going to work every day, in part due to the dedication and hard work of his staff.

"Four years ago I said I wanted to make it the best District Attorney's Office in the state, and we're pretty damn close," he said. "It's great to be part of this legal system, and now for the next four years, our job is to continue to safeguard our community."

Before swearing in newly-elected County Court Judge Joseph Spofford, Carmel Town Justice Tomas Jacobellis said the occasion was "bittersweet."

"We've worked together the last 13 years," Jacobellis said of his relationship with Spofford, who previously served the Carmel Town Court. "We've gone from co-judges and you being a mentor to me, to being a loyal and trusted friend. I just truly know how much you wanted this. I'm proud of you and I just know you're going to be a great County Court judge."

Spofford thanked the Republican and Conservative Party chairmen for their support, as well as Supervising Family Court Judge Joseph Egitto of the Ninth Judicial District. "It's going to be a pleasure for me to serve under you," he said.

Spofford also said he looks forward to serving alongside fellow Putnam County Court Judge James Rooney.

"The public must be confident that their judges not only have a command of the law, but that justice is blind," said Spofford. "In Putnam County, we are blessed to have a judge who maintains the highest standard of judicial integrity, in judge Rooney."

In closing out the ceremony, County Executive MaryEllen Odell acknowledged newly-elected New York State Supreme Court Judge Gina Capone, from Putnam Valley, and re-elected NYS Supreme Court Judge Lewis Lubell, who could not attend the ceremony.

She also recognized the late, and beloved, Putnam County Court Judge James Reitz, who passed away unexpectedly in June.

"Because he was a true public servant, but he also believed very strongly in citizenship, he would say to us, 'Let our New Year's resolution be this: That we will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity in the finest sense of the word,'" said Odell of Reitz. "That, I believe, describes who our honor was."

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youth being trafficked about where they can go for help."

The app is designed for easy use and includes in-depth definitions of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children, indicators to assess a youth's risk of trafficking, tips on how to help if a youth is a victim of trafficking, and resources and programs in Putnam County that are available to trafficked youth and those at risk of trafficking.

In order to raise awareness of this crime, and in recognition of January as National Slavery & Human Trafficking Prevention Month, the Putnam County Courthouse will be illuminated in blue.

"Human Trafficking is everywhere, including Putnam County," said County Executive MaryEllen Odell. "By lighting the courthouse blue, we show our support for victims and survivors. Every business, community organization, faith community, school, family and individual can make a difference. I urge everyone to learn the signs of human trafficking."

It is estimated that 300,000 domestic

youth are at risk for commercial sexual exploitation, and that 100,000 children are the victims of sex trafficking every year. The average age of youth being forced into the commercial sex trade is 12 to 14 years old.

However, all youth are at risk for trafficking, regardless of socio-economic class, race and gender, according to county officials. Runaway and homeless youth, those who have been in foster care, and LGBTQ youth are at higher risk, they say.

Warning signs of human trafficking can include a history of multiple runaways or homelessness, frequent absences from school, unexplained changes in lifestyle such as excessive amounts of cash or items that a youth cannot reasonably afford, a controlling relationship with an older partner or adult, signs of physical abuse, and/or a lack of documentation.

For more information on how you can help prevent human trafficking, contact Safe Harbour at 845-808-1500, or call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888.



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Q: What motivates women to want breast reduction surgery?

A: The reasons women want breast reduction surgery are physical, emotional and cosmetic. Because breast tissue isn't held back by muscle or bone, its weight sits on the upper back, neck, and shoulders, often causing chronic pain. Exercise may be painful and difficult, and decreased activity can lead to weight gain. Large breasts often droop, causing breast tissue to sit on the upper chest skin, creating a moist, covered area prone to infection and undesirable skin changes. Young women with large breasts often feel they don't fit in. Heavy breasts that droop can make it difficult for you to wear the clothes you like.

Q: Who is a good candidate for breast reduction surgery?

A: A woman who's in general good health with realistic expectations. She must be a non-smoker, because smoking constricts the blood vessels, which can cause poor healing and bad scarring. She should be true to herself – the decision to reduce breast size should not be driven by a partner, friends or family.

Q: What happens during surgery?

A: The three basic components are: lifting of the nipple/areolar complex; removal of breast tissue to reduce size; and tightening of the skin envelope. Breast reduction surgery takes two-and-a-half to three hours. You go home the same day or the next morning.

Q: How should I choose a surgeon?

A: Look for a board-certified plastic surgeon highly experienced in this particular surgery. At NWH, we take careful measurements, drawing out a plan before we start surgery because dimensions change when a woman is lying down.

Q: What should I expect right after surgery – and long term?

A: At NWH, just before completing surgery, we do something special: Just before completing the procedure, we inject a long-acting local anesthetic for good pain control for the first one or two days. Scars are hidden and fade with time. Three to four percent of women initially experience some loss of sensitivity in the breast, though some women have a degree of permanent loss. About 80 percent of women who've had the surgery are able to successfully breastfeed.



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Gingerbread House Auction to Benefit Green Chimneys Continues

A tradition that gifts a hand-crafted gingerbread house and accompanying donation to the children of Green Chimneys each December was carried on this year by a Greenwich company.

Started by Brewster residents Stefani and Robert Gosselink, a former W.R. Berkley Corp executive, the annual gift has been comprised of a magnificent gingerbread structure created by Stefani as part of a holiday luncheon for W.R. Berkley employees, in which the creation is auctioned off for an amount, then matched by the company's charitable foundation.

Stefani passed away in 2018, but her kindness and talent live on for the students and staff at Green Chimneys. W.R. Berkley Executive Vice President Jeffrey Hafter has picked up the torch and, this year, delivered a stately pagoda created by he and his wife,

Elizabeth.

Robert Gosselink continues his involvement with the renowned nonprofit as an active member of its Board of Directors.

"Each year we are awed by the amazing gingerbread houses and we are so grateful to Jeffrey and Elizabeth for sharing their talent and continuing a truly heartwarming tradition," said Green Chimneys Executive Director Ed Placke. "And we are truly overwhelmed by the generosity of our friends at W.R. Berkley Corp for their generous support of programs that help so many children and their families."

Green Chimneys is a nonprofit organization that helps young people maximize their full potential by providing residential, educational, clinical and recreational services on a farm and wildlife center located in Brewster.

Carmel Rotary Sets \$65,000 Goal for B-Ball Challenge

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New York State Supreme Court justice for the Ninth Judicial District.

"He worked passionately to support the Putnam community from our youth to senior citizens, and Scouts to veterans," said the Rotary Club.

One of Reitz' utmost judicial achievements was presiding over Putnam County Treatment Court, where he changed hundreds of lives.

"Through his successful and compassionate dedication to this court, many citizens avoided being incarcerated and became productive and involved members of our society," said the Rotary Club. "His passion and compassion were recognized nationwide as an example and inspiration for other treatment courts in the United States."

Last year's Community Basketball Challenge raised more than \$60,000,

benefitting 65 local, regional and national organizations.

Basketball Challenge Chairman Sal Gambino and the club invites organizations, as well as individuals – adults and youth – to take advantage of this fun and easy fundraiser.

"This year we've set our goal to raise \$65,000 at the Basketball Challenge," he said. "We are confident this goal is attainable with our nonprofit organizations and community's participation, and will help provide a wide variety of vital programs and services in Putnam County and beyond. It's a very easy way to raise money for your organization and you don't have to be a basketball player to participate."

For information on how to participate in the Community Basketball Challenge, call the Carmel Rotary Club at 845-225-2122, or visit www.carmelrotary.org.

Baby New Year Arrives in Putnam



PROVIDED PHOTO

Clara Hooper of Carmel holds Peyton Mallon, who was the first baby born at Putnam Hospital Center in 2020.

It was a touchdown of a very special kind for Clara Hooper and her fiancée, Michael Mallon.

The couple welcomed their first baby, Peyton Mallon, at 5:13 p.m. Jan. 1 at Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel. The New Year's Day baby – the first born in Putnam County in 2020 – was named after football legend Peyton Manning, said Hooper, a Carmel resident.

"I'm not into football but his father is, so I let him name the baby," she said, explaining that her son is named after the retired quarterback who played for the Indianapolis Colts and Denver

Broncos.

Little Peyton came a few weeks early, weighing in at 5 pounds, 4 ounces, and measuring 18 inches long.

The newborn's due date was Jan. 28, but after visiting the doctor Jan. 1, Hooper said she was told she had to have the baby that day.

"I'm kind of surprised," she said. "I didn't think it was going to happen on New Year's Day."

As is tradition, the Putnam Hospital Center Auxiliary gifted mom and baby with a teddy bear and other items for being the first baby born in the new year.

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Putnam Dispatcher Awarded Industry Honor

By Jessica Ladlee
CSEANY.org

Imagine a job where your actions in the first few seconds after you pick up the phone can impact lives.

That's the reality our members working as emergency dispatchers face each day they report to work, sit down at their consoles and prepare to answer the public's calls for help.

"We have to find common ground with the person calling right away," said CSEA member Heather Fox, a dispatcher at Putnam County 911. "You have to build that rapport quickly, because you have to gain the caller's trust to get them to do what you need them to do, whether it's a CPR or choking call, instructing a caller on how to use Narcan, or another emergency."

Her expertise in doing that recently earned Fox a prestigious honor, the Dispatcher of the Year Award from the Atlantic Chapter of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials. Fox was chosen for the award from a pool of nominees across eight states.

"I am very humbled," said Fox. "This is really a reflection on our entire team at the Putnam 911 Center. My mentor from my first dispatching job used to say, 'we swim as a team, we sink as a team.' As dispatchers, we work as a team, and we are also part of a greater team working with our police, fire and ambulance personnel."

While dispatchers' work is done primarily



JESSICA LADLEE PHOTO

CSEA Putnam County Unit member Heather Fox at her work station as a dispatcher for Putnam County 911. Fox received the APCO Atlantic Chapter Dispatcher of the Year Award at the organization's 2019 conference in Falmouth, Mass.

behind the scenes, Fox has made it her mission both to educate the public and help fellow dispatchers sharpen their skills through training.

Fox presents the national 911 for Kids program in Putnam County, which features mascot Red E. Fox teaching children when they should and shouldn't dial 911.

She also serves as a trainer for new dispatchers at Putnam County 911, in addition to writing curriculum for continuing education classes there. After attending the

APCO conference this past November in Falmouth, Mass., where she received her award, Fox returned with new information and data she hopes to draw upon for future classes.

While she prefers to emphasize the teamwork at the Putnam 911 Center rather than the award she received, Fox said she appreciates the chance to highlight what the job of a dispatcher actually entails.

"I think some people have the perception that we're just answering the phone, but

the reality is we do a lot of multi-tasking," said Fox. "The job requires very good communication skills because you have a lot thrown at you at once. It's not for everyone, but the job is an important part of public safety in our communities. No matter how busy we get, knowing we're helping people is extremely rewarding."

As a result of her job in Putnam County, Fox has become active with Team Rubicon, a non-profit organization that sends veterans to areas stricken by natural disaster, where they assist with relief and recovery at no cost to the people they help. A group of volunteers from Team Rubicon came to Putnam County after tornadoes struck several years ago, during which they stayed at the 911 Center.

"I signed up while they were still here in Putnam County," said Fox, noting that the organization also accepts civilians. "I deployed to Panama City, Fla., after a hurricane, and did two deployments down there. I ended up doing knockouts, where we would clean out a flooded house, taking the wall down to the studs. It was amazing."

The chance to help the public outside the walls of the 911 center was a transformational experience for Fox.

"As dispatchers, we don't see things, but we hear them and we're a part of them," she said. "For me to actually go on an operation, it was very different for me and rewarding."

Jessica Ladlee is the communications specialist for CSEA's Southern Region.

Kevin Cheverko is Putnam's New Undersheriff

Kevin Cheverko was sworn in as Putnam County undersheriff Jan. 1, after spending 32 years with the Westchester County Department of Corrections and serving as its commissioner of corrections since 2010.

"I cannot think of anyone more qualified and experienced to promote to this position and am honored to have Undersheriff Kevin Cheverko serving with me and serving the people of Putnam County," said Sheriff Robert Langley Jr.

Cheverko replaces Michael Corrigan, who retired from the Putnam County Sheriff's Department on Dec. 31 after 36 years in law enforcement. "I would like to wish Mike well in his retirement and thank him for his service to the people of Putnam County and for being my undersheriff," said Langley.

As a result of this retirement, the sheriff said "a lot of movement for promotions was generated within the department."

James Greenough, who has more than 30 years of experience with the sheriff's department, has been promoted to captain. He began his career as a corrections officer, rising through the ranks over the years.

Michael Villani, who has been a member of the department since 2002, was promoted to lieutenant.

Corrections officer Richard Bartley, who is a veteran member of the department with more than 21 years of experience in corrections, was promoted to sergeant.

Corrections officer Travis Bjorkander, who has been with the department for more than six years, was promoted to sergeant.



PUTNAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT PHOTO

New Putnam County Undersheriff Kevin Cheverko, left, with Sheriff Robert Langley Jr.

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Carmel's New and Re-Elected Officials Sworn In

By Abby Luby

Seven Town of Carmel public servants began the new decade by being sworn into office, including two new police officers and two new councilmen.

Supervisor Kenneth Schmitt on Jan. 2 welcomed a packed town hall and wished everyone a happy New Year. "This is probably the most people we've had at a town board meeting since the re-val a couple of years ago," he said, referring to the 2016 town-wide property revaluation.

Schmitt swore in Police Officer Vincent Desantola, 24, a former Marine currently working toward his bachelor's degree in criminal justice at Marist College; and Police Officer Arthur Klosowski, 24, a Mahopac High School and Pace University graduate with a degree in accounting.

Desantola will train at the Westchester Police Academy.

"You're joining an awesome police department," said Schmitt, a former member of the Carmel P.D. "We will give you the tools and training you need and I know you guys will make us proud."

Lt. Stephen Kunze was also sworn in. "He is an exemplary police officer and is very conscientious and serious about the duties of law enforcement," said the supervisor.

Schmitt stood with his two sons, Brett and Chris, and their wives, Emily and Kate, while being sworn in by Town Judge Daniel

Miller.

"I'm very honored and humbled to be taking my oath of office for what will be my seventh term," said Schmitt. "I'm proud of what I do and I come to work every day to see what I can do to better the Town of Carmel. We've accomplished a lot over the years, but there's still a lot of work to do."

Newly-minted County Court Judge Joseph Spofford, a former Carmel town judge, issued the oaths of office to newly-elected Councilmen Frank Lombardi and Robert Schanil.

While Schanil, a former police officer, is a political newcomer, Lombardi previously served on the town board and as deputy supervisor. The two are replacing councilmen Jonathan Schneider and John Lupinacci who did not seek re-election.

Spofford said he has known Lombardi for years and has always had confidence in him.

"Frank served as a councilman for two terms with honor, integrity and distinction, and rose to the level of deputy supervisor and he earned that," said Spofford. "The people of Carmel trust you, they have confidence in you."

Lombardi thanked his family for being with him at the swearing in ceremony. "We're here to do a job, to serve the Town of Carmel – all 37,000 of the residents who are dependent on us," he said. "I hope to bring my professionalism back, along with my experience in government and my



ABBY LUBY PHOTOS
Carmel Town Supervisor Kenneth Schmitt, with his sons by his side, is sworn in by Judge Daniel Miller.

experience in law. I am looking forward to working with my colleagues for the next four years."

Spofford told Schanil he has great expectations for the new councilman.

Schanil recalled how he ended up running for councilman. "This all came together about a year ago," he said. "Today, I have a lot of respect for our public officials. I'm here to do the best job I can possibly do."

After Highway Superintendent Michael Simone was sworn in by Miller, he praised his staff. "The workers at the highway department are unbelievable," said Simone. "They make me look good."

Also re-elected in November were Town Clerk Ann Spofford and Receiver of Taxes Kathleen Kraus, who were sworn in prior to the ceremony.



Councilman Frank Lombardi is surrounded by family as he is sworn in by Putnam County Judge Joseph Spofford.



Councilmen Robert Schanil is sworn in by Spofford, with loved ones standing by.



Highway Superintendent Michael Simone is joined by family as he is sworn in by Miller.

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Challenge Your Limits Fitness

Mahopac, Yorktown

By Neal Rentz

Somers resident Mark Bartelini says athletics saved his life.

"I fell in love with working out when I was 13," said Bartelini, who is now using his passion for physical training to help youth.

As a high school student, he regularly worked out at Premier Athletic Club in Montrose, and was later employed there. At the club, he worked his way up from a waiter to a lifeguard to a camp counselor. "Everything I do, I've learned in life from somewhere else," he said.

Bartelini is also a motivational speaker who addresses the football team at Springfield College in Massachusetts every year, speaking about life and life choices.

"At one point in college I got injured and I started battling my own personal demons with addition with opioids," he said. "That went on and off for about 10 years.

"Every time I would come back from my substance abuse, the gym saved me," said Bartelini. "I always said if I didn't like working out, I wouldn't be alive."

About three and a half years ago, Bartelini overdosed and was legally dead before Yonkers police resuscitated him. "I was gone. By the grace of God I lived," he said.

"I try to do more speaking, as much as I can," continued Bartelini. "I don't preach about anything. I just tell a little bit about



Physical trainer Mark Bartelini, owner of Challenge Your Limit Fitness, with one of his clients, South Salem resident Cyrus Greene.

my story. And I try to teach people that no matter what happens you've got to get back up. That's the biggest thing with my kids."

Bartelini is a physical trainer who works out of facilities in Mahopac and Yorktown as

the owner of Challenge Your Limit Fitness. "I work with everybody," he said, noting that he has worked with "superstar athletes," as well as those with lesser capabilities.

"I have some top-notch athletes, but the greatest thing I do is I work with kids with special needs," said Bartelini, who works with youth with various disabilities and needs through the New York State-funded Self Direction program.

"We work out. We hang out. It's kind of like a Big Brother thing," he said. "Everything I do with the kids is more than a workout."

Bartelini throws end-of-the-year parties for his trainees, and has even set up a college scholarship fund. He also provides free hooded sweatshirts, socks, and headbands

for his athletes. "It's one big team," he said. "To be on the team you just have to be willing to work."

The trainer works with 73 youth and sets aside a day every week to attend their games.

Bartelini works with children as young as 5 who need occupational or physical therapy to strengthen their muscles with age-appropriate exercises. "Someone might say, 'Why is a 5- or 6-year-old in the gym?' he said. "They're not in the gym. We're doing activities."

For someone with stomach muscle issues, like South Salem resident Cyrus Greene, that person is trained to sit up on pieces of apparatus. "The progression happens really fast," said Bartelini.

The trainer can identify with those who need physical therapy, as Bartelini recently injured both his knees while filming a promotional video with his athletes, resulting in emergency surgery. "I got to go through it," he said. "It's tough."

"I thought I was down and out," continued Bartelini. But his spirits at the hospital were raised by visits from family, friends, and the youth he works with.

The trainer said he is especially inspired by his special-needs youth trainees.

"They're here every day on time," he said. "They're early. They give 110 percent. I have some who are non-verbal. I have some who can barely stand up. I have some who can drive. I have all different spectrums..."

"It's been magical," continued Bartelini. "It was never part of my plan. It just happened. The biggest thing I do with kids is build their confidence. It's gone better than I could ever have imagined."

For more information about Challenge Your Limits Fitness, call Mark Bartelini at 914-863-4365, e-mail MarkBartelini97@gmail.com, or visit <https://picpanzee.com/challengeyourlimitfitness> or Facebook.



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Desmond-Fish Library Eliminates Fees, Offers Mobile Hot Spots for Checkout

As part of a national trend in keeping with the core mission of libraries to ensure equitable access to resources for everyone, the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison has eliminated overdue fines for materials.

According to the library, studies have shown that fines disproportionately impact low-income households – often the patrons who depend on libraries the most.

"Doing away with late fines is a simple way to break down barriers and bring patrons who need our services back to the library," said Library Director Jen McCreery. "We will still have due dates, and we encourage patrons to try to return their items on time. Lost item fees may be applied to a patron's account if items aren't returned in a timely manner, but those fees will be waived once the items have been returned."

As libraries adopt fine-free models across the nation, return rates have been shown to remain the same, and many libraries

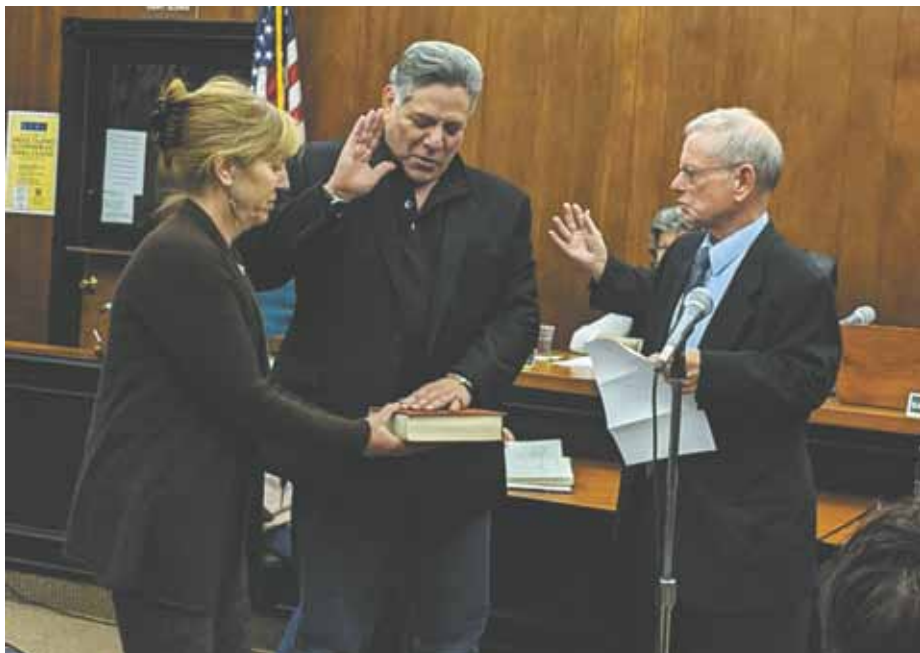
are seeing increases in circulation, card holders, and return of materials, according to McCreery.

In addition, the Desmond-Fish Public Library has extended its hours. While it previously opened late on Tuesdays and Thursdays, the library is now open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays; and 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays.

The library has also added an important service for patrons without home internet access by offering mobile hotspots and laptops available for check out from its circulation desk. The digital collections are also being expanded to allow community members to stream videos and online courses 24/7 from home.

All of these changes were made possible by increased tax revenue support from Garrison residents, noted McCreery.

Putnam Valley Officials Take Oath of Office



Putnam Valley elected officials were sworn in Jan. 2, including Supervisor Sam Oliverio. Earlier in the day, Town Clerk Sherry Howard and Town Justice Clem Van Ross were sworn in.



Town Board member Louie Luongo is sworn in.

BILL GOULDMAN PHOTOS

Florke & Waltz to Discuss Gay Rights Movement

Randy Florke's "Personal History of the Gay Civil Rights Movement" will be moderated by Gwen Walz, the wife of Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, on Jan. 15 at the historic landmark St. Mary in-the-Highlands Episcopal Church, 1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the discussion starts at 7 p.m.

Florke will speak about the gay rights movement in a conversation with Walz, an advocate in her own right for equality, public education and prison education. Walz and Florke are both congressional spouses.

Florke is married to Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, D-Cold Spring, and has worked throughout his adult life on behalf of

equality. He traveled to Washington, D.C., in March 2014 to hear the arguments before the Supreme Court in the case of U.S. v. Windsor, which led to his own nuptials to Maloney – New York's first openly gay congressman.

Walz, the first lady of Minnesota and a former high school teacher who has also dedicated her life to public service, will moderate the discussion.

This is the first time this lecture is being presented in a church, as St. Mary's demonstrates an inclusive and radical hospitality for all. There is no charge to attend this event, but donations are encouraged to St. Mary's to support the preservation of this historic landmark.



Highway Superintendent Larry Cobb takes the oath of office.



Town Board member Ralph Smith takes the oath of office.

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Letters Policy

We invite readers to share their thoughts by sending letters to the editor. Please limit comments to 250 words. We will do our best to print all letters, but are limited by space constraints. Letters are subject to editing and may be withheld from publication on the discretion of the editor. Please refrain from personal attacks. Email letters to Editor-in-Chief hcrocco@theexaminernews.com. The Putnam Examiner requires all letter writers provide their name, address and contact information.

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Obituaries

Ronald J. Bregante

Ronald J. Bregante, 90, of Hawthorne, died Dec. 26 at his residence.

He was born Jan. 12, 1929 to the late Joseph and Theresa (nee Valercinti) Bregante in Brooklyn. Ronald proudly served in the U.S. Navy during WWII. He was a retired production manager with Coltene Whaledente Dental Manufacturer in NYC.

Ronald is survived by his wife, Dolores (nee DeTomasso) Bregante of Hawthorne; son Joseph R. (Audrey) Bregante of Valhalla; grandchildren Nicole and Jenna Bregante; and nieces Jerene Nitka, Dawn Trusewicz and Kim Nitka.

He was predeceased by his sister Lucille Nitka.

Arrangements were handled by Hawthorne Funeral Home, with a funeral Mass on Dec. 30 at Holy Rosary Church in Hawthorne. Interment took place at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne.

Phil Canapini

Phil Canapini, 97, of Putnam Lake died Dec. 30.

He was born in Sina Lunga, Italy, son of the late Sestillo and Maria (Burricio) Canapini. When he was in high school, Phil was drafted into the Italian Army. While serving, he became a prisoner of war and was sent to the United States where he met the love of his life, Maria Terruli.

Phil returned to Italy, only to come back to the U.S. in 1946 to marry Maria on Feb. 18, 1947. He was a devoted husband to Maria until her death July 13, 1997.

Phil was a cement mason with Joe Kelly Construction for many years before retiring in 1969. He was a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church and never missed an opportunity to be out and about with the Putnam Lake Seniors.

Phil is survived by his son Raymond and his spouse, Sharon, of Little River, S.C.; grandsons Philip and his wife Joanne, and Raymond and wife Katie; and great-grandchildren Pearl, Simon and Felix.

Visitation was at Beecher Funeral Home in Brewster, and a Mass of Christian burial was celebrated Jan. 3 at Sacred Heart Church in Patterson. Interment was private.

Margaret Mary Degano

Margaret Mary Degano, 77, of Carmel and formerly of the Bronx and Ireland, died Dec. 28.

She is survived by her husband Frank, daughter and son-in-law Marie and Nelson Sahle, son and daughter-in-law Brian and Amy Degano, and grandchildren Ryan, Lexi, Matthew, Nelson, Patrick, Claire and Liam.

Margaret was preceded by her parents, Timothy and Mary Anne; brother Dan; sister and brother-in-law Mary and John Joe; sister-in-law Joan; and nephews and nieces Margaret, Martina, David and Padraig. She is also survived by many other nieces, nephews and cousins.

Margaret was originally from County Kerry, Ireland. She immigrated to the Bronx, where she met her husband Frank. They were married Jan. 28, 1967.

Raymonde Lesenger

Raymonde Lesenger, 70, died suddenly Jan. 1.

She was born Feb. 22, 1949 in La Malbaie, PQ, Canada, and moved to Cold Spring in 1965. She was a longtime resident of Putnam Valley before moving to Wappingers Falls.

Raymonde was predeceased by her husband, Trevor (Scotty) Lesenger. She will be missed by her daughters

Jane Emery of Putnam Valley and Lynn (Shannon) Alpert of Wappingers Falls; and grandchildren Aidan, Erin, Camryn, Sarah and Reece.

The family will receive friends Saturday, Jan. 11 from 10 a.m. to noon at Heritage Funeral Home on Morrissey Drive in Putnam Valley. A service will immediately follow at Rose Hills Cemetery.

Matthew Patrick Murphy

Matthew Patrick Murphy died Dec. 29 in Brewster. He had recently celebrated his 90th birthday with daughters and cousins from Dublin, Ireland.

Graveside services are to be held at the Quaker Hill Burial Ground in Pawling, with the Rev. Sibi Thomas Kuttipala officiating. Arrangements are with Horn & Thomes, Inc., Funeral Home in Pawling.

Matthew was born in New York City on Nov. 20, 1929. He was the only child of the late Irish Chargé d'Affaires to Argentina Matthew P. Murphy of Ireland, and Baroness Olinda von Kap-Herr of Germany, a renowned violinist. He grew up in NYC and San Francisco, and throughout his late teens and 20s was based in Buenos Aires, Argentina, while he traveled the world to play international tennis with the Davis Cup team for Ireland.

Matthew served in the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1953 with the HSC in Japan.

In recent years due to poor health, he moved to the Putnam Ridge care facility in Brewster, near his daughter Laurie.

He is survived by daughters Catherine Ziengs and husband Dennis, in Hong Kong; and Laurie Whitworth of Pawling; grandchildren Julia Maud and Matthew Robert Whitworth, and Jacobus Daniel Ziengs; and Sheila Sanders, former wife, mother of their two daughters and a good friend.

Letter to the Editor

The Real Collusion in Our American Democracy

Dear Editor:

It is obvious to most observers that for nearly three and a half years, the Democrats and a few but vocal "never Trumpers" establishment Republicans have shown their unwillingness to accept the results of the 2016 election.

As we have seen, this reaction took the form of the debunked "Russian Conspiracy" and the deliberate and sinister attempt to remove and personally defame the character of President (Donald) Trump by a few high-placed FBI

and Department of Justice personnel.

Perhaps even more disturbing could be the ongoing "Durham investigation" that may show criminal activity involving both the intelligence agencies and the State Department in this effort.

As a former Republican and Conservative elected official in Carmel for 17 years and deputy county executive of Putnam County for three years, I try to direct my attention to our democratic process and find the above partisan division within our country to be very

dangerous and unsustainable for any good to come for the American people.

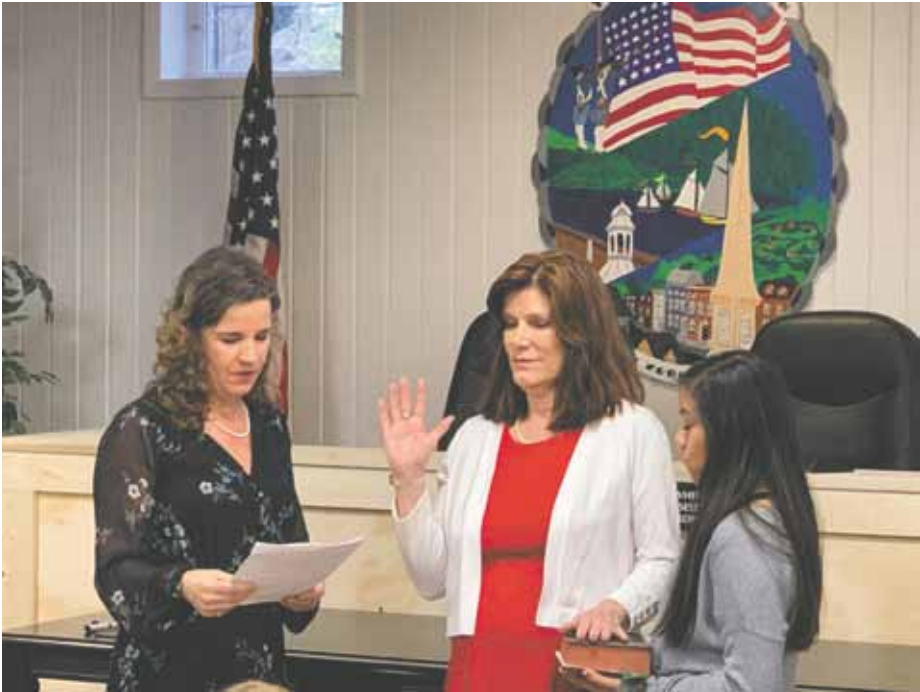
I believe a very desperate movement is under way by these same "never Trumper" Republican elites to seek out the frontrunning Democratic challenger, Joe Biden, and convince him to select a Republican running mate as the ultimate strategy to defeat President Trump in November.

All citizens of both parties should watch for this development and let your party know that tactics of this type, done for the wrong reasons, can never be good for our democracy. If this happens, it will bring about "the real collusion" in our American democracy.

Frank Del Campo
Mahopac



Philipstown Leaders Take Their Seats for 2020



PROVIDED PHOTOS

Philipstown hosted its swearing-in ceremony Jan. 1, where Town Clerk Tara Percacciolo, Highway Superintendent Carl Frisenda and Councilwoman Judy Farrell were sworn in by Legislator Nancy Montgomery. Supervisor Richard Shea and Councilman Bob Flaherty were sworn in at a later date.

Letter to the Editor

Study Rail Line from Dutchess, Not Danbury

Dear Editor:

I recently read your article about the study of a Danbury to Southeast rail line. It seems that such a study, costing taxpayers almost a million dollars, is truly a waste of money. I wonder if the study is related to a campaign proposal to decrease the travel time for commuters traveling from Danbury to Grand Central Terminal. It sounds like a great idea, but, in reality, makes it foolish for a number of reasons.

The current bus route is about 20 percent shorter than the rail route between Danbury and Brewster. The travel time by rail will be much longer, due in part to the two times the train would have to stop and change direction. Other factors include the many grade crossings, connecting to the Harlem Line at Dykemans, and speed restrictions

along the route – not to mention the Croton River bridge, which is considered unsafe even for a bike path.

All the money to study this plan would be better spent to study the rail route from Hopewell Junction to Southeast. This would be to the advantage of Putnam and Dutchess counties. One of the benefits is a much needed reduction of traffic on Route 22 and the Taconic State Parkway.

Re-electrifying the Danbury line would reduce the travel time from Danbury, as well as other stations on the Danbury line to GCT.

Alan Gruber
Brewster



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Explaining the Dichotomy of Discerning Palates



By Nick Antonaccio

It's happened to all of us.

We're out to dinner with friends and one of them orders a bottle of red wine. When served, everyone at the table compliments your friend for his or her selection. But not you. Even as it is poured into your glass, your senses relay a message to your brain: This wine is not pleasing. The color is too light, the aromas are off-putting, and the temperature is too warm.

Worse, the wine tastes like cherry vanilla cola.

You think you have a reasonable palate, able to discern good wine from plonk; what's wrong with these friends?

Conversely, when I order the wine, I look forward to opening friends' palates to a new experience, leveraging off the seasoned (refined?) palate I've developed over the years.

I anxiously pre-taste a favorite wine. Ahh... sublime. All of my senses reverberate in a crescendo of color, aroma, taste and terroir. I wait for the reactions of my guests, expecting similar responses.

But it's not to be. A tepid response at best, as each one patronizes me with terse comments. Someone corrals the wine server and offers to order the second bottle.

Ouch. Here comes another pedestrian bottle to the table.

How is it that our palates are so discerning and unique? I've addressed this phenomenon multiple times at wine events I've conducted and in several Grapevine columns.

When we savor a glass of wine it is our senses of taste, aroma and – to a lesser extent – sight and touch that create a learned memory that is then triggered each time we approach a glass of wine. The science of this process is rather ethereal to me. However, a few months ago I came across a TED Talk that pulled this all together.

Camilla Arndal Andersen, a neuroscientist with Danish company DuPont Nutrition and Biosciences, presented her research in a precise, concise manner, transforming a rather subjective

phenomenon

You Heard It Through the Grapevine

into an objective discourse. While her point of reference was coffee, it applies equally well to wine.

Here are my heavily redacted quotes from her transcript. For the unexpurgated version, contact me.

"When I drink a cup of coffee, I detect this cup of coffee by receptors on my body, information which is then turned into activated neurons in my brain. Wavelengths of light are converted to colors. Molecules in the liquid are detected by receptors in my mouth, and categorized as one of five basic tastes. That's salty, sour, bitter, sweet and umami. Molecules in the air are detected by receptors in my nose and converted to odors. And ditto for touch, for temperature, for sound and more."

"All this information is detected by my receptors and converted into signals between neurons in my brain. Information which is then woven together and integrated, so that my brain recognizes that, yes, I just had a cup of coffee and, yes, I liked it. And only then, after all this neuron heavy lifting, do we consciously experience this cup of coffee. And this is now where we have a very common misconception."

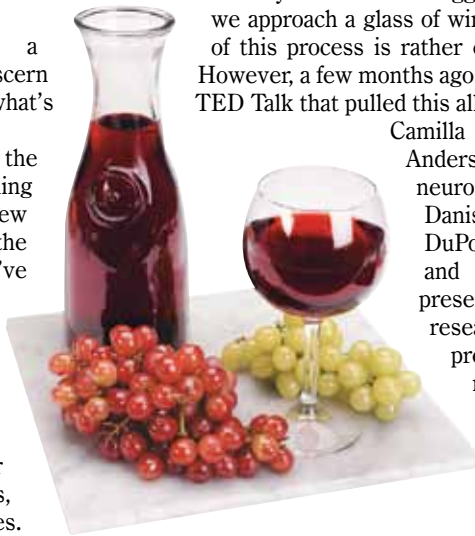
"People tend to think that what we experience consciously must then be an absolute true reflection of reality. But there are many stages of neural interpretation in between the physical item and the conscious experience of it, which means

'wine is to be savored on many levels'

that sometimes this conscious experience is not really reflecting that reality at all. That's because some physical stimuli may just be so weak that they just can't break that barrier to enter our conscious mind, while the information that does may get twisted on its way there by our hidden biases."

The next time you have a conflicting opinion with a friend on a particular wine and your reality is his or her perception, or vice versa, don't fret – wine is to be savored on many levels, both subjective and objective. Enjoy each experience.

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



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County Accepting Applications for Internship Program

Putnam students may apply for paid and unpaid summer internships in county government through the Putnam Invests in Leaders of Tomorrow Program. Accepted students gain hands-on professional experience in areas such as finance, criminal justice, engineering, communications, information technology, law, health, psychology and more.

The concept of the PILOT Program was first introduced by County Executive MaryEllen Odell in 2013, with support of the Putnam County Legislature.

"The PILOT program is one of the most important investments that Putnam County makes in its future," said Odell. "We are introducing the workings of county government to the next generation and

giving our youth a professional experience that may impact the career they choose to pursue."

Eligible participants must be Putnam County residents who are graduate, college or high school students in their junior or senior year. For college students, a grade-point average of 3.0 or higher is recommended.

Applicants must complete and submit all application materials online by Jan. 31. Filing instructions are posted at www.putnamcountynyny.com/internapply.

For more information, contact Adriene Iasoni at the Putnam County Personnel Department at 845-808-1650, ext. 46625, or adriene.iasoni@putnamcountynyny.gov.

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Is it Okay to Fall in Love With a Realtor?

Have you ever fallen in love with a realtor? It's very possible, you know.

As a longtime realtor, I am reminded of the time when I was sitting in my office near the desk of a colleague who was talking with a client on the phone. After she related all the hurdles she had managed to negotiate that day in assuring a successful transaction for her client, she asked, "So, do you love me, yet?"

Surely, all of us realtors want our clients to love us, not just for the money we can help make for them, but the satisfaction that comes from knowing we've negotiated a minefield in a process where almost anything can go wrong. Finding the right house or the right buyer, marketing a property that may need work, negotiating the selling price, getting an accepted deal, clearing the inspection, the title search, the more stringent mortgage requirements and the closing itself can be riddled with peril.

If there were to be a Match.com kind of service linking clients with realtors, the client would find that psychological profile of realtors would make them a likely catch – at least from a business point of view. They tend to be hardy in nature, outgoing and capable of responding to any kind of situation. In both ragingly good markets and those that are depressed and depressing,



By Bill Primavera

realtors can be a homeowner or buyer's best friend.

It's both the trying times and the moments of glory that bond realtors with their clients, and vice versa. After all, there's a lot at stake, considering that a home is the biggest purchase most of us ever make. In that process, the realtor can come to know the most intimate details about their clients, their familial relationships and their financial status, as well as their preferences about how they want to live.

Clients usually share with their realtors all the hard truths of their past and the eager hopes of their future life. And in the present, they spend a lot of time

together.

If realtors are representing sellers, they share the creative process of marketing a home and the debriefings that follow every showing. If they represent buyers, they travel all over the countryside with them. The glue of either relationship is a lot of hand holding.

These relationships can be extremely loyal and long-term, with case histories lasting from the purchase of a young couple's first home to that same couple making a transition from their last home to assisted living – all with the same realtor who has grown old with them.

So it is no wonder that after a successful transaction we will see an agent agonizing over an appropriate closing gift to give the client, or a special delivery package will arrive at the realtor's office from clients to their special hero or heroine.

Yes, occasionally there can be a spat. Looking at both sides of that possibility, when a relationship goes bad between a realtor and a client, polls have shown the killer of the love affair is usually related to communication. Most frequently, complaints among sellers come when they don't hear from their realtors as often as they would like.

When realtors complain about their seller clients, it is usually about their refusal to price a house according to its market value. The realtor in this case feels that they will put in all the work and not get the expected result of a sale.

There's even the scenario of unrequited love, and that would be when sellers attempt to sell a home on their own (called a FSBO). Most realtors will say that is tantamount to representing one's self in court or removing one's own appendix.

More specifically, lack of a realtor can deprive a seller of this kind of relationship where essential guidance and expertise is offered, resulting in a better offering price – even with the realtor's commission factored in – as statistics confirm.

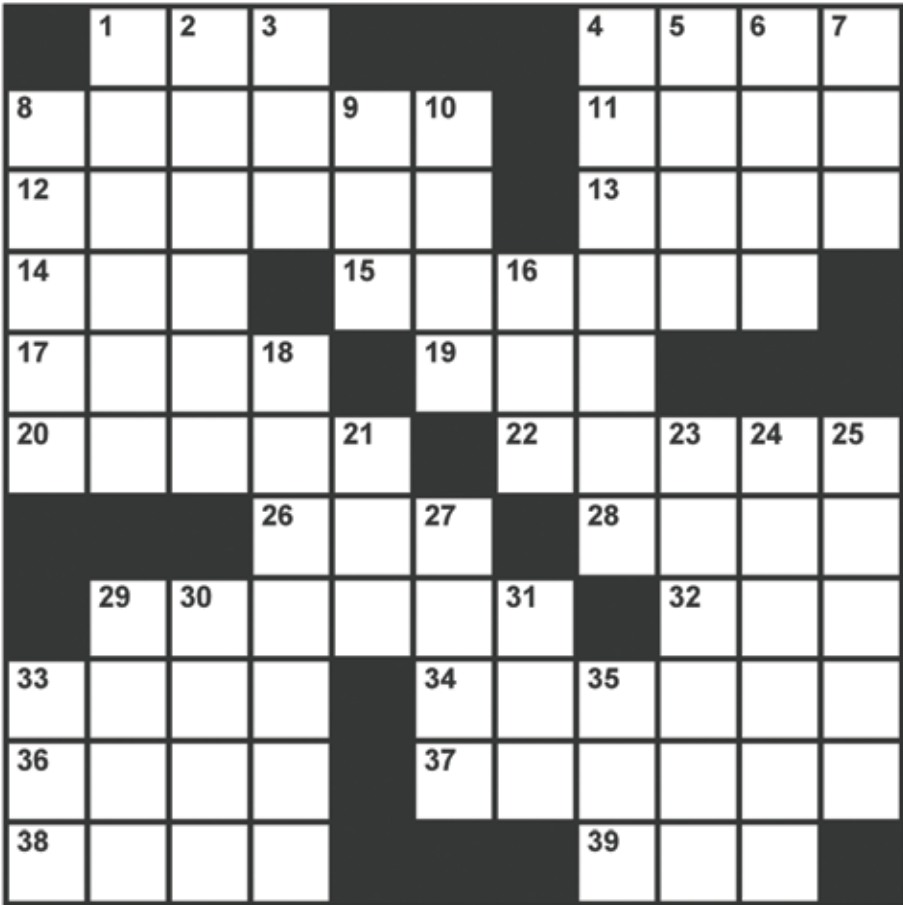
But there are some very special moments in the client-realtor relationship that are just incredibly sweet. In one such case, a young

'lack of a realtor can deprive a seller of this kind of relationship where essential guidance and expertise is offered'

couple with whom I had been working for a full year in finding their ideal first home asked if they could stop by my house to show me their newborn baby. I felt as happy and pleased as if I had just become a new grandfather!

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

Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1. Maker of the Royale 8
- 4. Final Four grp.
- 8. Dos, e.g.
- 11. Effortless
- 12. Snow parka
- 13. Auspices
- 14. Clothing company, __ Taylor
- 15. Disintegrates
- 17. So-so grades
- 19. Legal departure
- 20. Comedian Richard
- 22. Long-tailed primate
- 26. Throw
- 28. Short-billed rail
- 29. Pawling monuments, _____ Memorials
- 32. Twin of Bert Bobbsey
- 33. Beat setter
- 34. At the table
- 36. NASA scrub
- 37. Liberate
- 38. Any minute
- 39. Swan Lake steps

Down

- 1. Turn red, perhaps
- 1. Messenger
- 2. Pay-Pal currency
- 3. The Who song "Love, Reign __ Me"
- 4. Sensation when a foot falls asleep, or Mt. Kisco fabric store, Pins and _____
- 5. Baseball practice pen
- 6. Condition in which goods are often sold
- 7. Cries of regret

- 8. Anti-discrimination org.
- 9. Corinne Bailey ____ 2007 Grammy nominee
- 10. Gumbo
- 16. Hooter
- 18. Wise Biblical king
- 21. Neighbor of Bulg.
- 23. "Friends" role
- 24. Seventh planet
- 25. Extent
- 27. Oktoberfest serving
- 29. 1982 film set in cyberspace
- 30. Batman nemesis, __ Strange
- 31. Return envelope abbreviation
- 33. CSI stuff
- 35. Cooking abbr.



Happenings

Art on Display: Baldwin Place resident Seema Varma is currently exhibiting more than 30 paintings in the Third Floor Gallery at Mahopac Public Library.

Wednesday, Jan. 8

Poetry Writing: 6:30 p.m. at Mahopac Public Library. Create new poems to share and receive feedback from others. Each monthly session will feature poetry readings and discussion in a format that is aimed to be helpful to each poet. Registration is requested at www.mahopaclibrary.org, or 845-628-2009, ext. 100.

Pre-K Yoga: 10 a.m. at Patterson Library. Repeats Wednesdays, Jan. 15 and 22. Get your little ones stretching and moving in this relaxing yoga class for preschoolers with Yoga in the Trees! For age 3 to 5 years. To register, call 845-878-6121, ext. 10 or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org.

Thursday, Jan. 9

School Board: The Putnam Valley Central School District Board of Education will hold a work session and business meeting Jan. 9, and business meetings Jan. 23 and Feb. 13, at 7 p.m. in the high school library, 146 Peekskill Hollow Road.

Friday, Jan. 10

Open Mic: 6 p.m. Libraries across Putnam and beyond will get together at Patterson Library to see what kind of talent we have in our community. For age 8 to 19 years. To register, call 845-878-6121, ext. 10, or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org.

Hike or Snowshoe: at Fahnestock State Park in Putnam Valley. A moderate 4.5-mile hike or snowshoe program led by Georgette Weir. Start from Route 301 and head up Round Hill on the Green Trail to the Fahnestock Trail, then head north to

descend on the Perkins trail and complete the loop on the Perkins Access trail. Wear proper clothing and bring water and snacks. Confirm attendance and time with Weir at georgette.weir@gmail.com.

Saturday, Jan. 11

Responding to Antisemitism: Noon to 1:30 p.m. at Reform Temple of Putnam Valley, 362 Church Road. An adult education lunch-and-learn. Free. Bring a bagged lunch; drinks and snacks will be provided. For more information, call 845-528-4774 or visit www.rtpv.org. RSVP to RTPVinfo@gmail.com.

Gardening in Winter: 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Desmond-Fish Public Library, 472 Route 403, Garrison. Sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners, learn to plant your own microgreens tray and grow your own pollinator plants from seed. Explore what important critters call your yard home and how you can help them. There is a \$15 materials fee for adults, or \$5 for kids. Register at Putnam.cce.cornell.edu/events. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. For information, call 845-278-673.

Hike: At Fahnestock State Park on Dennytown Road. A 6- to 7-mile hike or snowshoe for experienced persons in the Carmel area led by Barry Skura. Wear proper clothing, and bring water and snacks. Contact Skura for time and additional information at barry.skura@gmail.com.

Ayurvedic Medicine: 1 p.m. at Patterson Library. Learn how Ayurveda epitomizes a true body-mind approach to health and wellness. Dr. Somesh Kaushik will explain how Ayurveda defines health as a balance of body, mind and spirit and how imbalance results in disharmony and may cause illness. To register, call 845-878-6121, ext. 10, or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org.

Sunday, Jan. 13

Info. Session: 6:30 p.m. at Mahopac Public Library. Discover the rewards and responsibilities of being a library trustee, meet current board members and staff, and enjoy a light meal. Reserve your spot by calling 845-628-2009, ext. 100, or at www.mahopaclibrary.org.

Wednesday, Jan. 15

Cancer Support: 7 p.m. at Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel. Support Connection, Inc., a not-for profit organization that provides free, confidential support services for people affected by breast and ovarian cancer, offers a wide range of free support groups that focus on topics pertaining to living with cancer through all stages of diagnosis, treatment and post-treatment. Advance registration is required by calling 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290, or at www.supportconnection.org.

"Hampstead:" 1 p.m. at Patterson Library. Watch the story of an American widow who finds unexpected love while working to help a man living in Hampstead when developers seek to destroy his home. Rated PG-13. Register by calling 845-878-6121, ext. 10, or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org.

Thursday, Jan. 16

"Annie:" Drama Discovery will present

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

"Annie," for students in kindergarten through grade nine. Rehearsals are at Matthew Paterson Elementary School in Kent and start Jan. 16. They take place from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. for kids in kindergarten through third grade, and 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. for kids in grades four through nine. Visit www.dramadiscovery.com for more information, or call 203-244-5828.

Friday, Jan. 17

Mahjong: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Patterson Library. Repeats Jan. 24 and 31. In this drop-in program, participants split themselves into tables of new and experienced players. The library has two sets of Mahjong tiles and asks that any participants with tiles bring them in case there are more than two tables ready to play. For information, call 845-878-6121, ext. 10, or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org.

Saturday, Jan. 18

Teen Leadership Council: 10 a.m. at Patterson Library. Earn community service hours, plan programs for your peers, and mentor younger kids in children's programs. Go out into the community and volunteer with your adult advisor helping you along the way. For teens in grade seven and older. Group meets the third Saturday of every month. For more information or to register, contact Miss Jenn at 845-878-6121, ext. 10, or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org.

Crossword Answers

1	R	2	E	3	O					4	N	5	C	6	A	7	A
8	N	U	M	E	R	O				11	E	A	S	Y			
12	A	N	O	R	A	K				13	E	G	I	S			
14	A	N	N		15	E	R	O	D	E	S						
17	C	E	E	18	S			19	A	W	L						
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36	N	O	G	O				37	R	E	S	C	U	E			
38	A	N	O	N							39	P	A	S			

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LEGAL NOTICES

Please be advised that the next meeting of the Planning Board will be held at Town Hall, 265 Oscawana

continued on next page

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Lake Road on Monday January 13, 2019 for the purpose of considering the following applications: Regular Meeting Start Time: 6:00pm **AGENDA REVIEW**

1. Bryant Taconic Corp., 157 Bryant Pond Road (TM#74.-1-60/File 2018-0179) The subject property is comprised of +/- 2.817 acres and is located on 157 Bryant Pond Road within the CC-2 Zoning District. The applicant is proposing to construct a pervious paver patio, outdoor freezer, relocation of refuse enclosure, landscape waterfall and signage for gas dispenser. The applicant requires an Amended Site Plan. **2. Gan, Roy, - 560 Oscawana Lake Road (TM# 62.-1-37&38/File: 2019-0206)** The subject property consists of + 3.58 acres of land and is located on 560 Oscawana Lake Road and within the R-3 Zoning District. The applicant is proposing to construct a single family residence on an existing parcel where a dilapidated residence will be removed. A Site Development Plan and Major Grading permit is required. **3. Orentreich, David, 855 Route 301 (TM#39.-1-9/File 2019-0189)** The subject property consists of + 73.94 acres of land and is located on 855 Route 301 and within the PC Zoning District. The applicant is proposing to construct a 2,200 sq.ft. improvement to be utilized for equipment storage. Amended Site Plan approval and Major Grading Permit are required. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES 4. Approve Minutes of December 16, 2019**

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**Putnam Valley Senior
G Venezia is 2nd Female
in School History to
Score 1,000 Points**



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Putnam Valley senior G Kelli Venezia beats the double-team by Brewster's Carly DeLanoy and Alexis Mark as she nets the 1,000 point of her stellar four-year varsity career in the host Tigers' 64-43 triumph of the previously unbeaten Bears last Friday when Venezia joined Coach Kristi Dini (inset photo) as the second female in school history to hit the milestone... see Girls' Hoops Notebook

Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook

Venezia Nets 1,000th Point in Put Valley Win vs. Brewster

By Ray Gallagher & Tony Pinciario

Following a 7-0 start, Brewster lost its first game of the season, 64-43, to Putnam Valley as the Tigers' Kelli Venezia reached a milestone -- 1,000 varsity points. Venezia joined her coach, Kristi Dini, as just the second female in school history to do so, beating a double-team early in the first quarter.

Teammates, coaches, fans, parents and administrators paid homage. Dini and Venezia have been hand-in-hand, first with her development in AAU with the NY Extreme, all the way to the milestone moment.

"If anybody deserves this, it's Kelli," Dini said. "She's worked very hard to get to this point, she's a special player. She's put in the time. We all know what she's meant to this program. I've known her since she was born and have been on school trips with her, and she's the first kid I ever coached. Her contributions to the team's success, my success and this program makes this so cool to be on the sidelines as her coach. It was special watching that happen."

Venezia was under the impression that she needed to score 31 points to hit the milestone, so she was taken aback at first when she saw the big crowd on hand.

"Honestly, I thought I was a ways off," said Venezia, who finished with 15 points in



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Putnam Valley senior Kelli Venezia is presented her ceremonial 1,000th-point ball by assistant Coach Charlie Stockinger last Friday.



Brewster junior Alexis Mark is met by Put Valley's Arianna Stockinger in Bears' 64-43 loss to host Tigers Friday.



Putnam Valley sophomore Amanda Orlando soars for two points in Tigers' 64-43 romp of visiting Brewster last Friday.

a 64-43 win over the Bears. "I didn't want to let anybody down. I didn't know it happened at first. My teammates were like, 'You did it.' I'm going, 'No, no, I didn't get it yet.' I'm glad it happened like this though, stress free, and I want to thank the entire PV com-



Putnam Valley F Arianna Stockinger runs the paint in Tigers' 64-43 win over visiting Brewster last Friday.

munity for coming out. They were behind me, and that's the best part. This has been on my mind for most of my senior year, so I'm excited and happy to become somebody to get 1,000 points. Not many people get to do it, and I'm very grateful to everyone who's been a part of it."

PV freshman Eva DeChent dazzled, scoring 15 of her 22 points in the opening half.

"She's a beast," Dini said.

PV senior Cyera Daughtry added 10 points and lock-down defense. Tiger junior F Arianna Stockinger had eight points and five blocks while freshman Amanda Orlando added seven points.

"It's been an offensive struggle for us, so every defensive mistake is exposed," Dini said. "That becomes an issue when the games are tight and they can go either way then. We haven't played a really good game, four quarters, until today. We had to play Irvington without Cyera, and against Dobbs Arianna was only half there with a 103 fever, but I told the girls that's life. We need to learn to play through adversity. That's our goal: To be a good team when things are going our way and to find a way to play through adversity."

Youthful Brewster (7-1) had sliced a

continued on next page

Venezia Nets 1,000th Point in Put Valley Win vs. Brewster

continued from previous page

20-point deficit to 10, but the Valley (6-2) closed on a 9-0 run for a 34-15 half-time lead.

“Putnam Valley is a very good team,” Brewster Coach Mike Castaldo said. “Putnam Valley is fast, athletic and they have several unbelievable players. They killed us in transition and we got down big, early. We were able to go on a 10-0 run to pull within 25-15 with three minutes to go in the second quarter. It was a great environment against a top-flight team. If we want to make a run in sectionals we need to learn from our mistakes and get better.”

Sophia Alzugaray led Brewster with 14 points and Alexis Mark added 13 points and eight rebounds.

YORKTOWN closed out the 2019 calendar year with a 54-29 victory over Yonkers, then began 2020 with a 58-17 triumph over Riverside.

The Cornhuskers are 5-2 as they prepare for their difficult league schedule.

“It’s nice to win these games, but the league games are what will truly show us who we are as a team,” Yorktown coach Brian Mundy said. “If we defend the way we know how, we will have the ability to be in a lot of competitive games during the heart

of the season.”

Melissa Severino led Yorktown with 17 points, including 13 in the first half, against Yonkers. Alyssa Giannasca added 10 points.

Emily Ward scored 10 of her team-leading



RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

Brewster G Carly DeLanoy takes a run at Put Valley’s Eva DeChent in Bears’ 64-43 loss to host Tigers Friday.



Lakeland’s Amanda Cole looks for open teammate in Hornets’ loss to Clarkstown South Friday.



Lakeland 8th-grader Nichole Ljuljic will be one to keep an eye for years to come.



Lakeland’s Nancy Pagliaroli and Sarah Pinkowsky collapse on Clarkstown South player in Friday’s loss to Vikings.

16 points in the first quarter against Riverside. She also had seven steals.

Jesse Barer added nine points, five rebounds and four assists and Erisa Krasniqi finished with eight points and seven rebounds. Artesa Gashi also had eight points and Alyssa Perrino grabbed 12 rebounds.

LAKELAND lost its first game of the new year, 60-34 to Clarkstown South as Hannah Devane led the Hornets with 14 points. Lakeland is 3-4 this season.

HALDANE saw Bela Monteleone scored 14 points while Liv Monteleone notched eight points and 12 rebounds. The Blue Devils erased a double-digit deficit in the fourth quarter of their 41-37 win over Valhalla. Molly Siegel had four points, eight rebounds and two blocks for the winners. Shianne Twoguns added eight points and four assists for the Blue Devils (5-3).

Sports

Boys' Hoops Notebook

Lakeland Gets Highest Grade for Quarterly Report

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor@Directrays

So, the metaphorical first-quarter report cards came in over the holiday break, and while nobody is failing just yet, the boys' hoops grades aren't what we have come to expect in this neck of the woods. Nobody will get below a C because everyone is still giving their all, and in this politically correct world we live in nowadays, that's all that matters, right? Wrong! Not everybody gets a trophy. Trying hard is often rewarded with a pat on the back, not a trophy, and the sooner we get back to that line of thinking, the tougher our kids will be. That said, here's the quarterly report, and remember: There's no slacking in the New Year.

No.1 Lakeland (A-) -- Coach Fallo's Hornets (4-2) would be the team to beat if we lined up all the squads from Northern Westchester/Putnam County, which is still my vision for the Putnam Challenge, if we can ever get everyone on the same dang page. We all see what they're doing in Dutchess County, with their tournament, yes? Five Putnam teams vs. five Northern Westchester teams would equal one day of massive fun. Lakeland would be the team to beat this year, with its multiple scoring options and solid start.

No.2 Panas (B) -- I can't be the only one stoked for this today's Panas vs. Lakeland matchup, can I? Coach Auerbach's Panthers (5-3) are in the midst of finding themselves,



AMY KUBIK PHOTO

Haldane's Mame Diba has been a force all season, including the Blue Devils win over North Salem Saturday's Putnam Challenge.



AMY KUBIK PHOTO

Keep an eye on Haldane freshman Matteo Cervone, who was sharp in Blue Devils win over North Salem Saturday.

and when they do they can figure out a way to challenge Lakeland for League II-C bragging rights: Sooner the better, because we're down with the sickness over here. Friday's 55-41 win over Gorton was preparation for the big game, and the Panthers will need another big game from Lorenzo Santucci (16 points) and Alex Tavares (10 points). They will also need FOUR strong quarters from F Caleb Evans.

No.3 Haldane (B+) -- Coach Tom Virgadamo's Blue Devils (5-2) rocked the Putnam Challenge with a 48-39 win over rival North Salem, doing so behind a solid effort from Mame Diba, who went for 19 points and has played superbly all season, according to my moles. The Loss to Chester keeps Haldane from getting the A on the report card, but this team could challenge for the Class C crown if it comes together.

No.4 Peekskill (B-) -- Coach Turner's Red Devils (3-3) come out of the break with a pair of League II-E tests against Beacon and Lourdes this week. Prior losses to John Jay CR and Fox Lane have put a damper on some of our enthusiasm.

No.5 Ossining (B) -- Coach Casey's Pride (2-5) are way better than their record would indicate, given the fact that their recent five-game skid have against teams with a combined record of 33-8, including Mamaroneck, Clarkstown South, New Ro', Ramapo and Rye. Those teams have better prepped the Pride for the forthcoming rigors of League I-D.

HM Carmel (B) Coach Ross' Rams (4-4) saw sophomore Andrew Fiore go for a career-high with 20 points and senior G Jarid Garcia added 13 in a 55-40 win over Brewster in the Putnam Challenge.

HM Mahopac (B-) -- Pretty sure first-year Coach Tom McMahon would have taken the 3-4 start and run with it, but the 63-45 loss to Arlington in the Putnam Challenge does suggest their chances of challenging for the League I-A title are slim. Indian G Matthew McMahon led the way with 15 points and G Vin Bastone added eight. League play continues Thursday at home against Ketcham and second place in the league is up for grabs while the Admirals remain the clear favorites.

HM Hen Hud (B-) -- Coach Hirsch's Sailors (2-3) worked a 70-60 win over Sleepy Hollow behind 23 points from Nick Hiltley. Josh Gillison (18 points), Dean Hiltley (14) and Tommy Fuchek (10) were also in double figures for Hen Hud, who will need to ratchet up the intensity with the League II-E slate beginning this week.



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Panas will need a big game from Lorenzo Santucci and the rest of the Panthers in this week's big test against rival Lakeland.

Sports

Grappling Notebook

Brewster, Mahopac Bring Home Tournament Titles

By Tony Pinciario

Brewster opened the 2020 calendar year with an excellent showing at the Chris Hernandez Memorial Wrestling (Yonkers) Tournament.

The Bears had 12 top-six placefinishers, highlighted by champions Owne Downey (170 pounds), Jacob Hamblin (138) and Nick DiFabbio (106). Chris Bisignano (120), Massimo Parrello (126) and Brendan Lennon (195) finished third.

"Owen (Downey) has been having a great year," Brewster Coach Tom Looby said. "He won the MOW award for the team at the Carlucci Duals. Owen has been solid on his feet, which has contributed to his success."

"Jacob has impressed this season. He's a leader in the room, his conditioning is excellent and his work ethic is where it needs to be."

Bisignano and Parrello are two promising young wrestlers for Looby.

"Massimo has three traits that are going to take him far in any aspect of life," Looby said. "He's a hard worker, coachable and never quits. Very happy to have him on the team."

"Chris was plagued with some injuries, last season, but he remained focused, continued lifting and training in the offseason and has been putting lots of work which is



Members of the Mahopac wrestling team pose with first place trophy after winning the Somers Tournament Saturday.

paying off this season."

MAHOPAC, led by champions Angelo Centrone (113), Aiden Muldoon (120) and Tyler Roa (152), won the 41st Eric D'Agnese (Somers) Tournament.

Larry Nardecchia (145) and Londrim

Hasanramaj (220) were runners-up and eight other wrestlers finished fourth through sixth.

"It's nice to see the guys working hard in the room and it's showing on the mat," Mahopac first-year Coach Steven Tornam-

be said. "We have a certain reputation at Mahopac that my assistant, Joe Srednicki, knows about and is bringing it to our practices. Having a home-town assistant who had a lot of success wearing the Mahopac singlet is a huge asset. Along with the winningest coach in Section 1, Dennis DiSanto, sitting next to you makes my job easy. I'm used to looking over and seeing Bob Bernarducci, when I was at Pleasantville, and he taught me a lot about being a coach and who I respect a lot."

Srednicki was the 2002 Section 1 152-pound champion and state runner-up his senior year. That was prior to the large-school, small-school format.

SOMERS had two champions – Zach Lupinacci (145) and Thomas Gall (220) – and Peter Kim (160) was second.

"Every Somers' wrestler has a goal to win the Somers Tournament," Somers Coach Ron DiSanto, Jr. said. "With their goals in mind, they remained calm and focused throughout the day. It was a special day for Zach and Thomas to both win it together their senior year after coming close in previous years. Zach had to wrestle smart and methodically to win those close matches against tough opponents in the semis and final. Thomas pulled an upset in the final with a pin against Londrim (Hasanramaj), who is ranked in the section."

Lakeland Gets Highest Grade for Quarterly Report

continued from previous page



Lakeland G Jeffrey Owusu and the Hornets have a big week ahead as they attempt to get a leg up in League II-C.

HM Somers (B-) Luckily, it's not how ya start but how ya finish that matters, and Coach DiCintio's Tuskies can only hope to build upon a 44-40 loss to powerhouse Tappan Zee (7-1), which proves Somers can still defend the hell out of the ball.

HM Yorktown (C+) -- Coach Pavella's Huskers (3-6) average 53 PPG and allow 54 PPG, so we suspect they will continue to be in some close, low-scoring battles as League II-C slate heats up, and we'd like to see if Huskers can slow down Lakeland on the 17th.

HM Putnam Valley (C) -- Coach Morales' Tigers (1-4) are experiencing the pain of a graduating five starters and losing more than 10 key players, so this was expected, but all things being cyclical 2020 is about rebuilding and reestablishing the base for the future. Tiger sophomore Cole Durocher led PV with a career-high 24 points in Saturday's 64-55 loss to reigning Class B champion Dobbs Ferry while junior C Mike Doeblber added eight points and eight rebounds.

HM Brewster (C) -- Coach Nelly's Bears (0-4) have yet to crack 50 points in a game this season, and the defensive battles should be equally tough as they ready for League II-C play this week.

P.S. We should all give a huge thank you to IAABO Board 161 for another terrific day of basketball at the annual Putnam Challenge. Remember, these basketball officials donate their time and services for the student athletes in the region and should be commended for doing so.



Carmel sophomore Andrew Fiore dropped a career-high 20 in Rams' 55-40 win over Brewster in Putnam Challenge Saturday.



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