



## Affordable Housing Crisis *Population Growth Plus Limited Housing Equals Perfect Storm*

By Holly Crocco

The quest to provide affordable housing in Putnam County has not been put on the back burner.

That was the message Ashley Brody, CEO of Search for Change, Inc., delivered to Putnam County legislators during the Feb. 18 Health Committee meeting.

"We know that many people are vulnerable, especially in this economy, especially in this housing market," he said. "Even people of modest means, even people who might have been classified as middle-income in previous years have a hard time finding and securing affordable housing in this community – and others – just because housing has become so unaffordable."

Search for Change, of Valhalla, has been operating in Putnam and Westchester counties for more than 40 years. It is one of many nonprofits in New York State that works to provide affordable housing for people with varying needs. The organization serves people with mental illness, substance use disorders and chronic physical health conditions.

According to Brody, in 2016 the state developed the Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative, which included grant

funding for the creation of 50 units of affordable and supportive housing in Putnam County – half of which would be available for people with special needs.

However, Brody and his partners have not been able to find a viable location.

"As we know, space for housing development is limited in all communities, and Putnam County is no exception in that regard," he said, pointing out that Putnam has stringent watershed protections and other zoning regulations.

Brody said Putnam is unique in that it is semirural in nature, and although its population density is the same as surrounding areas, its housing stock has been relatively stagnant in recent years.

"In fact, Putnam County – despite its relatively small size and limited population density – has had the largest population growth, or I should say the fastest population growth, of any county in the Hudson Valley over the last few decades," he said.

This has placed pressure on housing prices. "It comes down to a simple supply and demand equation," said Brody.

Data from the Putnam County Housing Corporation's "Housing Needs Assessment" in 2014 showed that a majority of Putnam

*continued on page 2*



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## Art and Italian Culture Come Together at Brewster Schools

Surrounded by brightly colored masks, Henry H. Wells art students recently stood before Deborah Velazquez's Italian class, sharing the inspiration behind the Venetian Carnevale masks they had created. The presentation was a celebration of Italian culture and a collaboration between Velazquez's students, and art students taught by Irene Othmer and Angela Spreter. For the Italian students, the collaboration is part of a larger lesson on travel. Students are working on organizing a trip to Venice in which they have to buy a ticket, book a hotel, decide on activities and more.

## Putnam Struggles to Embrace Airbnb 'Homestay' Services

### *County Would Like to Implement Hotel Tax*

By Holly Crocco

With the growing popularity of "homestay" services such as Airbnb, lawmakers in Putnam County are looking for ways to embrace visitors and tourists while making sure neighborhoods aren't disrupted – and possibly get a piece of the profits via a room occupancy tax.

Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce President Eliza Starbuck told legislators at the county's Feb. 18 Economic Development Committee meeting that the issue of homeowners renting out their property to virtual strangers via an online marketplace is a contentious one.

"It's a hot topic in that many citizens feel very polarized by it," she said. "People are really for it or really against it."

According to Starbuck, Hudson Valley Patterns For Progress reported last year that Airbnb ranked the Hudson Valley and Catskill Mountains region, grouped

together, as 11th out of the 19 most popular destinations for guests around the world... Yes, the world.

In 2018, Putnam County had 19 Airbnb hosts that lodged at total of 8,700 guests, and each earned about \$8,700 in Airbnb income, according to data provided by the company, said Starbuck.

In Cold Spring, which likely sees the most tourists in the county, the Chamber of Commerce supports municipal regulations of short-term rentals "if they are clearly defined in applicable zoning codes regulated to protect public health and safety, and the environment, and fairly taxed so they contribute to the region's economic growth," said Starbuck.

She said the chamber is particularly concerned that steps are taken to protect residential property used as short-term rentals, as "such conversions deplete the residential building stock, erode neighborhoods, and compete unfairly with

the hotel industry."

In addition, Starbuck said the chamber would like to see a tax collected at the county level on property rentals, consistent to neighboring counties that impose a room occupancy tax between 2 and 6 percent "without seeing a major drop in tourism."

Putnam Valley Town Supervisor Sam Oliverio said he'd like to find a way to limit the number of Airbnb and other homestay rentals in town.

"What's happening is that quite a few very wealthy individuals from the New York City area are buying up homes, not living in them, and using them as rentals," he said. "And that destroys neighborhoods; it increases the prices of the houses."

Oliverio said he was flabbergasted that a 700-square-foot house on Lake Oscawana recently sold for \$1.5 million. "It was a cottage... and yet the individual paid that much money to have that property and the rights to it to rent it out as Airbnb because they're going to make their money back in a few years," he said.

Oliverio said individuals rent these properties to host parties and other gatherings, and are not concerned about maintaining the quality of life in the neighborhood.

The supervisor recognized that this particular rental business could be a revenue producer for the town if the town could implement a permitting process with, say, a \$1,000 charge per room, inspection fees, and other associated costs, but the owners of these rental properties threatened to sue – claiming they are simply offering up their properties to friends and family.

"Enforcement is the toughest thing," said Oliverio, noting that the town cannot employ someone to patrol the internet for listings in town. "It's a mess, and I wish there was some way to control it... And they're not our local residents, and that's the thing that fires me up the most. They do not live in the Town of Putnam Valley. They are outsiders buying these homes and renting them."

Starbuck acknowledged that enforcement

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# Affordable Housing Crisis

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residents apply more than 30 percent of their income toward housing.

"A whopping 88 percent reside in unaffordable or severely cost-burdened households," meaning they apply more than 50 percent of their income toward housing costs, said Brody.

Since the 2016 initiative was announced, Search for Change has been working with a development partner and sister agencies to seek out a location for an affordable housing development in Putnam.

"We've made some headway here and there, but it remains an ongoing challenge because in order to develop housing for 50 units, which would have an appreciable impact on the affordable housing crisis, we also have to find a site that's suitable, and there aren't too many," said Brody.

An appropriate site would be close to stores, restaurants and other amenities, and would be in an area properly zoned for such a development, he said.

The project could be split into two different developments if a site large enough to accommodate units cannot be found, explained Brody.

Also, the site doesn't necessarily need to have water and sewer hookup. "We've gained a little bit of tracking from funding agencies around that issue," said Brody. "They're coming to recognize that's a reality in Putnam, and also some other rural communities, as well."

Legislator Nancy Montgomery, R-Philipstown, welcomed a new affordable housing development to the community. "I would think if we reach a certain threshold when the census is complete, by law, we would have to provide affordable housing," she said.

Putnam County Department of Social Services and Mental Health Commissioner Michael Piazza thanked all those involved in the initiative. "This project is a very important part of the continuum of need," he said.

Legislator Amy Sayegh, R-Mahopac Falls, added that anyone in Putnam County who has trouble with housing costs has no place to go.

"I think we should be taking care of the people in Putnam County and I hope you're able to find a facility and a municipality," she told Brody.

# Putnam Struggles to Embrace Airbnb 'Homestay' Services

*continued from page 1*

is a problem, and suggested a lesser financial burden to encourage compliance.

"The more reasonable the fees are for your permitting, the more likely it is that people will actually permit," she said. "So \$1,000 per room – that almost makes it not worth it to do the Airbnb. If you make it a lower fee, at least that allows you to track it so they are on your radar."

Legislator Amy Sayegh, R-Mahopac Falls, said the decision to try to regulate home rental properties should be left to the local municipalities.

"I think the towns need to decide whether or not they want Airbnb in there and I don't think the county should have any say in it whatsoever," she said. "That said, I think the county should have some sort of room tax so they can be regulated."

Legislator Nancy Montgomery, D-Philipstown, said she would embrace a room tax at the town level, because as it is the county doesn't share sales tax with the towns.

"I don't know that the towns would favor the county taxing it before we let the towns exhaust what they need to exhaust before we enforce that," she said.

Starbuck, however, said towns and villages can only collect permitting and other fees; taxing can only be imposed at the city, county and state level.

Oliverio said that if the county

established a tax, the towns could then go through the booking information and see which homeowners are renting out their properties, and then go after them for the proper permitting.

"I'm not even asking to have that tax shared with us," he said. "All we need is the information."

Bill Nulk, chairman of the Putnam County Industrial Development Agency and president of the Putnam County Business Council, said the county – and the towns – need to accept that people are going to continue renting out their homes.

"Airbnb is here to stay – it's already happening," he said.

Nulk also said it makes sense for the county to impose a tax on rental property, and designate where the funds go. "It could be well designated so there could be significant fairness to the way it is doled out," he said.

## The Room Occupancy Tax Conundrum

With the opening of Putnam's first major hotel on the horizon – a Comfort Inn located on Route 121 at Route 6 in Southeast, just off Interstate 84 at the Connecticut state line – county lawmakers are thinking now may be the time to implement a room occupancy tax.

According to Putnam County IDA Chairman Bill Nulk, the hotel is only weeks

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# Southeast Town Board OKs Early Land Swap Steps

By Neal Rentz

Over the objection of one councilman and a resident, the Southeast Town Board voted 4-1 on Feb. 22 to take the initial steps in a potential land swap with ProSwing Sports of North Salem, which is looking to construct a recreational and training facility in town.

The owners of ProSwing purchased about 95 acres of property on Starr Ridge Road to construct a baseball and softball training facility. However, that property is zoned residential. They are now seeking to "swap" the Starr Ridge Road property with about 82 acres of land the town owns on Pugsley Road, which is commercially zoned and will allow both passive and active recreational use.

While ProSwing would develop about 10 acres of the Pugsley Road property, the remaining 72 acres would continue to be

dedicated open space, say developers.

However, the land on Pugsley Road was originally purchased by the town for the purpose of preserving open space, and both houses of the State Legislature would have to approve the swap and the legislation, which would need to be signed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

Councilman John Lord voted against both pieces of town legislation related to the state home rule request last week. The board passed a resolution stating that the land swap would not have a significant adverse impact on the environment, and a second resolution to allow the Pugsley Road land to potentially be transferred to the developer.

"I believe there will be significant adverse impacts," said Lord.

Supervisor Tony Hay told Lord there is not yet a formal project proposal before

the town and that the board is just seeking a home rule request for the potential land swap. There is no guarantee the State Legislature will even act on the home rule request this year, he said.

None of Lord's colleagues seconded his motion to add language to the second piece of legislation stating that if the home rule request is approved by the State Legislature, town residents would ultimately decide the fate of the land swap via a referendum.

Resident Ann Fanizzi repeated her strong opposition to the plan.

Regarding the resolution stating that a potential land swap would have no adverse environmental impacts, Fanizzi asked why the board determined that the possible land swap would be a "type one" action, to which Hay responded that Town Planner Ashley Ley made the determination to the Town Board.

Fanizzi said a type one action indicates there is an environmental impact. "That is why you have a type one action," she said, noting that the board also agreed on a negative declaration, which indicates there would be no negative impact on the environment if the town land was transferred to the developer.

Ley said the State Environmental Quality Review Act established that a type one action indicates a project could have a potential impact on the environment, and the negative declaration determined there would be no negative impacts from the potential swap. So far, there is no project proposal for the town to review, she said – the Town Board is just seeking the right to make the land swap.

If there was a project being proposed there would be a SEQR review, said Ley.

# Patterson Concerned About Southeast Proposal

By Holly Crocco

The Patterson Town Board is weighing in on its neighbor's consideration of the development of a recreational facility on Pugsley Road – which is still in a conceptual stage – and which Patterson lawmakers say may lead to an increase in traffic on town roads. (See "Southeast Town Board OKs Early Land Swap Steps," this page.)

"We have an interest, in that I would say that we probably are opposed to this taking place because it is going to affect this side of Fields Corner (Road) and it is going to impact our town negatively, as far as the traffic goes," said Councilwoman Mary Smith at the Feb. 12 Patterson Town Board meeting.

"This just puts potentially more traffic on Pugsley and Fields Corner," added Deputy Supervisor Charles Cook.

He noted that the golf dome that was located on Route 22 closed a few years back. "There's all that property there... They could put the sports complex there," he said. "That's been sitting vacant for God knows how long."

Cook added that "the second failure, commercial wise," was the Brewster Sports Center, which closed last year. "They have these properties that they could use," he

said.

Town Supervisor Richard Williams said the project would significantly impact traffic.

"And what I find a little bit disingenuous on everybody's part is they are basically saying 'We have no idea what we're doing so there's not going to be any impact...'" He accused Southeast town officials of seeking the land swap, and when it comes to the project proposal, they'll "figure it out later."

"We don't believe, at least some of us in Patterson, that all that traffic is going to want to go down to (Route) 312 and sit there for an extended period of time trying to get out through the intersection back to (Interstate) 84," said Williams. "They're going to be coming back through Patterson on an unapproved road. So the Town of Southeast needs to commit to substantial improvements to Fields Corners Road – i.e. widening it to 24 feet wide, paved, without the restriction on the road, all the curves, everything. Or, the easiest solution, put up a crash gate. Stop the road, block it off so people can't go though."

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This way, if there's an emergency, first-responders can still get through, he said.

"To have the constant flow of traffic on a road that really is not suitable for that volume of traffic is inappropriate," continued Williams. "What would ultimately happen is, if this continues and we do nothing, over time, the taxpayers of the Town of Patterson are going to have to pay to upgrade that road, solely for the activities going on in the Town of Southeast because they have their head in the sand."

Councilman Peter Dandreaano said he appreciates the desire for additional recreational facilities in town, but acknowledged the traffic nightmare it could pose.

"Dropping them (his kids) off and driving them to these facilities... the traffic is crazy – it's hard to get in and out, you're going through residential areas to get there," he said. "You're going to increase traffic with people just cutting through to get over to 84."



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# County Lawmakers Split Over Proposed School Bus Cameras

By Abby Luby

A proposal to install stop-arm cameras on school buses in Putnam County prompted an extensive and contentious discussion during the County Legislature's Feb. 20 Rules Committee meeting.

In September, Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed a law enabling municipalities to create local laws to catch people passing stopped school buses by using stop-arm cameras to record the violation. The cameras, also known as license plate readers, are equipped with technology that can automatically ticket drivers who illegally pass school buses.

The plan involves the county having an agreement with local school districts to install the cameras on specific school buses that travel routes where violations frequently occur.

At last week's meeting, Senior Deputy County Attorney Dina DeBlasi gave a preliminary explanation of how the law would work. "There would be no upfront costs to the county nor to the school districts, and the installation would be done through a third party," she said.

DeBlasi said she spoke to attorneys in Dutchess and Broome counties, where a local law has been passed. Both counties have issued requests for proposals for vendors to install the cameras. "It's similar to the red-light camera laws that many municipalities have," she said. "It would be a civil law and be part of the county code."

The camera would record the violation and the data would be monitored by the installer



PROVIDED PHOTO

School buses in Putnam County may soon have cameras on them to catch cars that illegally pass stopped school buses.

and submitted as evidence to the local court prosecuting the driver. Revenue from fines would be collected by the state comptroller, who would give 90 percent of the fine to the county and 10 percent to the town where the violation occurred.

The county would share part of the revenue with the installer.

According to the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles, current fines for passing a stopped school bus range from \$250 for a first violation to \$1,000 for three violations in three years. If a driver is convicted of three violations in three years, their driver's license can be revoked for at least six months.

The New York Association for Pupil Transportation estimates there are 50,000 or more incidences of cars illegally passing a stopped school bus every school day in the State of New York.

Legislator Neal Sullivan, R-Mahopac, said the county executive has talked to some school districts and there is interest to move forward with the proposal. "They are concerned about the problem of people passing the school buses," he said. "We want to prevent, at all costs, the danger of kids crossing the street and people not stopping for the bus."

Legislator Nancy Montgomery, D-Philpstown, voiced support for the proposed law, but said she is concerned with what happens to the driver's data that is collected by the license plate readers.

"I think this is a great program that can

keep our kids safe," she said. "But I just want to be clear what we're talking about here. Is the data kept with the vender? And what are we doing with that data? It's a slippery slope that violation fees would be going to a vender."

Legislator Paul Jonke, R-Brewster, added: "I'm uncomfortable with the license plate readers. The agreement that I see here shows there is a privacy policy built into it, which we don't have for our law enforcement. The privacy of our constituents is a concern to me."

Montgomery noted that part of the law requires signage for those crossing county lines, informing drivers that school buses in the county use license plate readers. "Who is going to provide the funding to create those signs?" she asked.

Kathleen Foley from Cold Spring also expressed concern over the license plate readers.

"I've read this model law from the state and it is not clear who holds the data and who can maintain it," she said. "It appears the vender holds the data, the sheriff's department holds data, and now a third party will hold the data. That is a concern."

Legislator Carl Albano, R-Carmel, said many of the questions being asked can't, at this stage, be answered.

"I think we are spending too much time on this – it's just a conceptual idea, which sounds good," he said. "We don't even know if we're going to do it. Let's get all the facts in and then jump into it with full force... To have questions we don't have the answers to wastes a lot of time, and these meetings are very long. This is a preliminary discussion that we are going to explore."

Albano said that when the plan for becomes a reality, that will be the time to address all the questions.

Judie Mirra, liaison/coordinator for the Putnam County Traffic Safety Board, said she has been pursuing this particular issue for the better part of a year.

"The reports coming from the school districts and the supervisors are unbelievable," she said. "As much as I favor cameras being part of the investigating, they do not physically stop a car passing a stopped bus. What is important is having something that would physically stop a car from passing a stopped school bus. Collecting money for this is not the message – it's all about saving a child's life."

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## Putnam Struggles to Embrace Airbnb 'Homestay' Services

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away from a potential opening.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Conrad Pasquale said at least 48 out of the state's 62 counties have some sort of room occupancy tax. "So it's not unusual," he said at the county's Feb. 18 Economic Development Committee meeting. "Four percent seems to be about the average."

However, Pasquale cautioned lawmakers that imposing a room tax may not be as simple as they think, as it is subject to state approval. "It's not something that we are

innately given the authority to have," he said.

Pasquale explained that the county sought approval for a 4 percent occupancy tax in 2012, which was vetoed by the State Legislature, possibly because there was not enough information as to how the funds would be used, uncertainty as to the practical and fiscal impact of hotels/motels on the county, and a lack of information and support from towns, Chambers of Commerce, and the county executive.

When it comes to whether Airbnb and  
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# Frاندoodles

## Brewster

By Holly Crocco

Frances Ballard is living the dream – she turned a hobby into an occupation.

“I grew up drawing my whole life,” said the Brewster native who sells home décor, clothing and other personalized items that she creates at home.

Ballard used to work at a local pottery shop, but wanted to expand her artistic expertise. In 2016 she started making art to make a living, and about two years ago she really started to build up the business.

She specializes in custom and special-order items – including clothing, drinkware, wood pieces, keychains, vinyl decals, bath and body items, and more – using family names and photos to personalize orders.

While the traditional mugs, ornaments and T-shirts are popular, Ballard said newer fads are always influencing her work. Recently she was working on placing personalized imagery on reusable bags that were ordered as a gift.

Wooden clocks and doormats are also currently gaining popularity.

“I get a lot of party favor orders,” said Ballard, who noted that Frاندoodles can accommodate orders large and small. While the average order for party favors is about 200, she has taken orders as large as 300.

Orders generally take three to five



PROVIDED PHOTO

With the plastic bag ban soon to take effect in New York State, Frاندoodles is busy making custom canvas bags.

business days to fulfill, as long as all the materials are in stock. At most, Ballard said an order could take up to two weeks, which the customer would know ahead of time.

Ballard also offers pre-made items that she sells at vendor fairs and farm markets, including centerpiece boxes, wine racks and lazy Susans – which can all be personalized.

“I get a lot of repeat customers,” she the artist, who is also fully insured to lead workshops and parties.

In the past, Ballard has hosted workshops at Iron & Wine Restaurant in Patterson and at Moonlight Café and Caterers in Brewster, where attendees enjoy refreshments while making their own artwork to take home – under Ballard’s tutelage. Participants have made cheeseboards, serving trays, soaps and more.

While Ballard is currently making her masterpieces out of her family’s home in Brewster and her new home in New Fairfield, Conn., she said she hopes to one day have a storefront.

“I’ve had many manager jobs, but I like being my own boss,” she said. “And I love doing the events.”

For more information about Frاندoodles, visit [shopfrاندoodles.com](http://shopfrاندoodles.com) or Facebook, call 845-458-1080, or email [frاندoodlesgiftshop@gmail.com](mailto:frاندoodlesgiftshop@gmail.com).

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## Carmel Man Recognized for Contributions to Rotary



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Lake Mahopac Rotary member and past president Greg Amato, center, has become a Paul Harris Fellow for the fifth time. The Paul Harris Fellow recognition acknowledges individuals who contribute, or who have contributions made in their name, of \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation. Club President Lillian Jones and Treasurer Bill Carlin said they are proud to recognize Amato’s exceptional service with the presentation of a commemorative “PHF + 4” sapphires pin, as his “service above self” accomplishments represent the true meaning of being a Rotarian.



## Kent Development Proposal Now Includes 'Box' Retail Space

By Holly Crocco

Developers who are seeking to build a hotel and conference center in Kent have amended their proposal to include about 60,000 square feet of retail space, including a "box" store, in lieu of a truck stop/gas station that was part of the original plan but nixed due to heavy criticism from residents.

During the Feb. 13 Kent Planning Board meeting, architect and engineer Peter Scott presented the new proposal.

"The plan has been amended now to include box retail of about 30,000 square feet, with (additional) 30,000 square feet of mixed-retail, with one restaurant, basically following the frontage along Route 52," he said.

The building would be about 500 feet long and about 100 feet deep along the stretch of mixed-use retail space, with the "box" space about 180 feet by 170 feet, according to Scott. The façade would be similar to the Trader Joe's building in Danbury, he said.

The retail building would be at the forefront of the property, with a 100-foot buffer in front, with a water treatment basin and appropriate landscaping – all of which is unchanged from the original proposal, said Scott.

"What this is planned on is a transition between the Route 52 frontage and the remaining portion of the site," he said.

Because of height limits and the front store segments of the retail building, "we're able to bring the scale down to more of a

common, colonial – simplified colonial – façade extending along the corridor itself," said Scott.

In the rear of the property is where a Radisson hotel and convention center will be built, which will have a more modern look "because of their scale," according to the architect.

He said one way in which developers plan to "mask the development of the project" is having the front retail building raised about 15 feet higher than the rest of the property, and having the road drop down a 1 percent slope to the buildings in the rear, moving more toward the Interstate 84 corridor.

"The viewshed of this entire project is to the north, toward the highway," he said. "And to the south we're over the crest of the hill, so none of this is visible from the south... We want to nestle this project into a hill facing 84... to show the hotel for destinations for 84."

Ponds, plantings and "extensive treescapes" will also be included along the boulevard and throughout the site. "Whenever you do a project like this, we like to break up the massing of the parking spots," said Scott.

Of the entire 136-acre property, he said about 54 acres will be disturbed.

"We really have no plans for the rest of the property," said Scott, noting that the developers are considering the potential for "passive recreation," and plan on leaving much of the remainder of the property wooded.

## Alleged Stalker Re-Arrested

An out-of-state man who was arrested last month after allegedly stalking a Putnam woman, but was released under the new bail reform laws in New York State, has again been arrested and released after he reportedly attempted to contact the same woman more than five times, in violation of a court protection order.

According to Putnam County Sheriff Robert Langley Jr., on Jan. 18, New Hampshire resident Rattana Phimmavongsa was arrested and charged with fourth-degree stalking after continuously harassing a Town of Southeast woman.

The victim said she and the man used to play an online game together but she stopped having contact with him years ago. On Jan. 18, he allegedly showed up at her home after hacking into her online gaming account and finding out where she lived.

After Phimmavongsa was arrested, he was arraigned in Patterson Town Court and released on his own recognizance, as

mandated by the newly implemented bail reform laws. At the time of the arraignment, an order of protection was issued by the court, ordering Phimmavongsa not to contact the victim.

Despite the court order, he reportedly called the victim at least five times Feb. 11 – the same day he was scheduled to appear in Southeast Town Court to answer to the stalking charges, according to Langley.

On Feb. 11, the victim called to report the violation of the court order, and members of the Putnam County Sheriff's Office were able to locate Phimmavongsa, who was staying at Heidi's Inn in Southeast. He was arrested and charged with several counts of criminal contempt and transported to Southeast Town Court for arraignment on the new charges.

Then, he was once again released, pursuant to the mandatory new bail reform laws.

## Fire Destroys House in Mahopac Falls

Just before 1a.m. Feb. 18, Mahopac Falls firefighters were dispatched to the area of Orchard Road and Oak Road West in the Secor section of Carmel for a structure fire.

According to Public Information Officer Jack Casey, while Chief Jeff Boyle was on route he was notified that 911 was receiving numerous calls regarding the fire. He arrived shortly thereafter, finding a single-story house well involved with all occupants outside.

Members of the Firefighter Assist and Search Team from Putnam Valley F.D., New York State Energy and Gas, and the Putnam County Fire Investigation Team also responded. Due to Secor being a hydrated area, firefighters were able to bring the blaze under control with the apparatus on scene, said Casey.

The residents were transported to a nearby hospital for evaluation.



JACK CASEY PHOTO

Firefighters battle a house fire in the Secor area of Mahopac Falls.

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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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## Letter to the Editor

### Proud to Support Freedom in Putnam Valley

In response to the Feb. 18 letter to the editor from Linda Cebrian, I have a very short reply:

The First Amendment is not an item to ever be taken lightly, nor is it an item that one should ever feel the need to "hide behind." The First Amendment is our guarantee that whatever our beliefs might be, they are allowed and should never be suppressed. It is the basic premise of these United States and why so many individuals from other countries wish to live here.

No adult, no child was at the Drag Queen

Story Hour under duress. All attendees were there because they wanted to be there. It was a huge success and I am definitely proud of library staff for having the courage to allow a different point of view to be expressed to those who wished to hear that point of view.

I am also proud of those peaceful demonstrators who felt the program was not appropriate. Both sides had the full protection of the right to free speech in this town.

To those who think that only their point of view should be expressed, you should know

that is the first step to a dictatorship. In this country and especially in this town (I can't speak for Rhinebeck), we embrace the First Amendment for the protections it provides to all of our citizens.

Perhaps you might want to attend our next DQSH in the near future to understand exactly what the program is all about. But please know, you must pre-register and have a child with you.

Sam Oliverio  
Putnam Valley Town Supervisor

## Obituaries

### Kenneth T. Ciralli

After a long fight with cancer, Kenneth T. Ciralli (aka K.C. "Billy Goat") lost his battle Feb. 4.

K.C. was born in Yonkers on July 18, 1953 to Francis Ciralli and Lorraine Byrne Ciralli. He later moved and settled in the Brewster-Patterson area.

His true love was his Harley Davidson, taking him to charitable missions with his brothers of the Iron Order Motorcycle Club of Putnam County, where he held the rank of president and other positions during his 10 years with the Cross Roads Crew.

K.C. is survived by his son Kenneth Ciralli Jr. of Wingdale, younger sister Terry Grogan, brother-in-law Michael Grogan, and niece Ashley Grogan, all of Pawling. He is also survived by his older sister Fran Rutledge, niece Amanda Rutledge, and nephews Wayne Rutledge and Jarrod Rutledge, as well as many cousins.

A celebration of his life will be held Saturday, March 21 at the Patterson firehouse at 1 p.m. Arrangements are under the direction of the Horn & Thomes, Inc., Funeral Home in Pawling.

### Andrew Citrone

Andrew Citrone, 61, of Putnam Valley, passed away Feb. 16 after a battle with cancer. He was born Feb. 19, 1958 in NYC, the son of Saul and Billee Dawn (Anderson) Citrone. On April 17, 1988, he married Lorraine Castellano in Dobbs Ferry.

Andy worked in the information

technology industry and joined IBM in Armonk. Local community service included becoming an Eagle Scout, a volunteer fireman in Larchmont where he grew up, and president of the Society Hill Condominium Board in Mahopac for nine years.

Andy is survived by his wife Lorraine, sister Robin Citrone, brother Neil and his wife Lori, and nieces Sydney, Haley and Marley.

Visitation was Feb. 20 at the Joseph J. Smith Funeral Home in Mahopac, with a Mass of Christian Burial the following day at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Shrub Oak. Private cremation followed, with interment of remains at a later date.

### Joseph A. Greco

Sir Knight Joseph A. Greco died Feb. 13 at the age of 78. He was involved in a serious car accident on the Bronx River Parkway and succumbed to his injuries.

Joey was a 12-year member of the Order and Council, as well as a Fourth Degree member of Mother Cabrini Assembly 1572.

Joey was known locally as the owner and president of Carmel Airport and Limousine since 1994, but he was also a talented singer and musician, well-known both across the U.S. and in France.

His most recent band, Joey Greco's Music Connection, frequently performed in the area.

### Christopher J. Head Sr.

Christopher J. Head Sr., 47, died Feb. 15.

Christopher was a lifelong resident of Carmel. He was born at Putnam Hospital on Oct. 2, 1972 to James and Janice (Brassel) Head. He married Tammy Williams on Sept. 26, 2005 and they were blessed with four children.

Christopher worked as a truck driver for the Carmel Highway Department.

He is survived by his wife Tammy and their children, Christopher, Karlie, Curtis and Chuckie; as well as siblings Patricia Spock and Denise Head. He was predeceased by his parents, James and Janice Head.

Visitation was Feb. 18 at Cargain Funeral Homes in Mahopac, with private cremation the following day.

### Eileen P. D'Imperio

Eileen P. D'Imperio, a 54-year resident of Brewster, died Feb. 16. She was 71 years old.

She was born March 12, 1948 in Manhattan, daughter of the late Richard S. and Marjorie (Nash) Keenan. On July 31, 1966 she married Joseph J. D'Imperio in Poughkeepsie.

Eileen was a former member of the Brewster BPO Elks Lodge 2101 Ladies Auxiliary.

She is survived by her husband of 54 years Joe; daughter Lois D'Imperio (Holly) of Danbury; son Joseph D'Imperio (Dawn) of Patterson; grandchildren Joseph, Merissa, Nicholas, Andrew, Dylan and Michael; great-granddaughter Madison; and siblings Sean Keenan of the Bronx and Michael Keenan of Mineola.

Visitation was Feb. 20 at Beecher Funeral Home in Brewster, with a graveside service Feb. 21 at Milltown Rural Cemetery in Brewster.

### Anthony Piccolo

Antonio Piccolo, 61, died Feb. 17.

Antonio was born Jan. 19, 1959 in Pomigliano D'Arco, Italy, to Angelo and Teresa (DeFalco) Piccolo. He married Tina Ionta on Sept. 2, 1989 in White Plains and they were blessed with two children, Angelo Piccolo and Teresa Piccolo, all of whom survive him.

Antonio is also survived by his father Angelo and his siblings Andrea Piccolo, Carmelina Cannaro, Ralph Piccolo and Anna Bongiorno. He was predeceased by his mother Teresa Piccolo.

continued on next page



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# The Latest on the Tariff Wars Threatening Wine Imports



By Nick Antonaccio

"The world we live in is changing. The old order is transitioning; welcome to the new reality."

Whether we are proponents or opponents of the entwined economic, social, technological and political new order of the 21st century, one thing is clear. Each waking day brings new discoveries, economic change and political upheaval around the world.

One of the areas I tend to focus on, perhaps more than others, is the changing world of wine. And recent European Union (EU) political skirmishes have created an uncertain future for the United States wine market over tariffs.

"Who cares about European wines? Buy American," might seem a reasonable response.

If the prices of Italian, French, Spanish, English and German wines increase significantly, won't American wines, typically more expensive than a number of European wines, gain a windfall profit? Won't American wineries benefit from greater profit margins at the expense of their European

rivals?

All politics aside (as difficult as that may be in today's hotbed of opposing ideologies around the globe), the economic impact of the recent wine tariffs imposed and/or threatened by the United States is casting a doomsday spell over a wide swath of the domestic wine industry. From producers, to importers, to distributors, to restaurants, to retail shops and to consumers, the financial impacts threaten the livelihoods of business owners and the wallets of consumers. The magnitude and breadth of the latest round of tariff threats has the potential of causing grievous economic and financial damage to the wine industry in the United States.

The backdrop: In November 2019, the United States imposed 25 percent tariffs on select products, principally wine, exported from select EU countries that historically have been subsidizing Airbus. Affected wines include those under 14 percent alcohol by volume from France, Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom.

The immediate impact: In the first month the 25 percent tariffs were implemented, French sales to the United States fell by 42 percent compared to

the prior November.

Fighting for their economic lives, and to preserve their otherwise unsold wines, French producers turned to new markets. French wine sales to China last November surged 35 percent. Willy

French winemakers have found a way to deflect the intended punishment of United States tariffs. Is this a portent of a long-term loss of access to French wine in favor of China, our arch-tariff war adversary?

The economic and financial impact of the November drop in French imports was exponential.

It is estimated the ultimate cost up and down the import, distribution and retail chain was as much as \$148 million in lost cash profit and taxes. This loss of volume is not readily compensated for by increased sales of United States wines. The supply chain disruption will affect sales by reducing the channels available to American wineries.

In December, the United States tentatively set new tariffs on select goods imported from all 28 EU countries. Unless otherwise withdrawn before a Feb. 17 deadline (after this column was penned), a 100 percent tax will be imposed on all wines, cheeses, olive oil, whiskey and other consumer products.

Enactment of the threatened 100 percent tariffs would further reduce EU imports. Increased costs and reduced imports would

cause employee layoffs and even small business closings at each of the layers of American support chains. Restaurants and retail stores would not have American substitutes for a number of their best-selling wines, thereby losing a significant portion of the profit margins that sustain their overall success.

Overall, it is estimated that the wine industry could lose 11,000 to 80,000 jobs as a result of 100 percent tariffs.

The United States has won the World Trade Organization court case, entitling it to \$7.5 billion in tariffs from Airbus and EU countries. It would seem reasonable to collect such tariffs to the minimal detriment of the American economy.

Will the current tariff wars have a short-term effect on the domestic wine industry, or will the fallout of these tariffs have a more lasting, permanent impact? The ability to fully assess this seems to change every hour, day, week and month, as battle lines become clearer and conflict resolution more cogent.

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](mailto:nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com) or on Twitter @sharingwine.



You Heard It Through the Grapevine

## Obituaries

continued from previous page

Antonio owned and operated Café Piccolo in Mahopac.

Visitation was Feb. 23 at Cargain Funeral Homes in Mahopac, followed by a prayer service. A blessing took place the next day at the funeral home, followed by interment at Ferncliff Cemetery and Mausoleum in Hartsdale.

### Francis X. Rettus

Francis X. Rettus, 88, died Feb. 20.

Francis was born June 13, 1931 in New York City to Francis and Margaret (Kuryan) Rettus, and served his country in the U.S. Navy during the Korean Conflict. He married Josephine Modrovsky, and they were blessed with two children.

Francis was a custodian and bus driver for Brewster Central Schools.

He is survived by his wife Josephine, and their two children Michael Rettus of Carmel and David Rettus and his wife Suzanne of Poughquag, and granddaughter Laura Rettus.

Visitation was Feb. 24 at Cargain Funeral Homes in Carmel. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25 at St. James the Apostle Church in Carmel. Interment will take place Wednesday, Feb. 26 at Evergreen Cemetery in Gettysburg, Penn.

### Ethel Roman

Ethel Roman of Mahopac passed away

Feb. 18 at the age of 66. She was born in NYC on June 4, 1953, the daughter of the late Miguel Angel and Adelaida Roman.

Ethel is survived by her brothers Edgar Roman and Elliot Roman; niece Liza Perez; and sisters Lavinia Roman, Diana Roman, Dina Damaris Roman and Denise Pabey. She was predeceased by her brothers Miguel Angel Roman and Alberto Roman.

Visitation was Feb. 22 at Joseph J. Smith Funeral Home in Mahopac.

### Catherine Wright

Catherine Wright of Mahopac passed away at home in Kirk Lake on Feb. 14 at the age of 89. She was born in NYC on Sept. 29, 1930, the daughter of Jeremiah and Bridget (O'Connell) Hartnett.

Catherine is survived by her daughter Deborah O'Donnell and her husband Bob, son Robert Wright and his wife Mary, daughter Doreen Cazzari and her husband Mike, daughter Laura Irwin and fiancé Tim Sprance, and 14 grandchildren: Susan, Robert, Mikey, Kelley, Devin, Kayleen, Catherine, Elizabeth, Michael, Juliette, Gabrielle, Christopher, Jonathan and Thomas. She was predeceased by her husband Donald and her son Donald Jr.

Visitation was Feb. 17 at Joseph J. Smith Funeral Home in Mahopac. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 18 at St. John The Evangelist Church in Mahopac. Interment followed at Ballard-Barrett Cemetery in Mahopac Falls.



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# Getting Ready for Early Spring Garden Chores

As a realtor who frequently has sold to first-time home buyers, I always try to remember to advise them about the responsibilities of maintaining the property's outdoor landscape. When I first moved to "the country" from New York City, I had no clue and not so much as a rake or a hand spade to help me.

But after the shock of that first year's garden chores, I grew to love digging in the dirt and watching things grow.

After a while, I would experience the feeling of near euphoria as I anticipated my first days in the garden, but since moving to Trump Park in Yorktown, where all the gardening is done for me, all I can do now is reminisce about how special this welcome chore was.

Whenever I got down on my knees for the first time to accomplish some garden task, I would be thinking about the growth and color I'd enjoy in just a short time. But invariably I also would think of my mother.

Frequently my mother gave me advice without telling me any good reason for complying. One of those advisories was to avoid kneeling, instead of bending over, for garden chores that required closer



By Bill Primavera

proximity to the ground. Why, I don't know. I do know that my mother was very pleased with her agility into later life and wanted to demonstrate that ability. Or maybe she had heard of "gardener's knee."

As I grew older, I became aware that my back seemed to go awry more often than my knees. So, with no small amount of guilt, I did kneel to plant those first seedlings that I would buy from my local supplier. But I protected myself with either a garden kneeler or knee pads, which I don't remember being around when I was a child.

Of course, squatting is a good in-between measure, but I find that more taxing than either bending or kneeling.

Because I didn't have the time I used to when I was younger to plan and plant my garden, every step I took was orchestrated to reduce labor and maximize enjoyment of color and greenery from early spring to late fall.

For instance, while I envy those people who can build outdoor frames for planting seeds early or do it inside, I rely on one of the garden centers for my annual seedlings that are all ready for popping in the ground.

Vicariously I can enjoy the planting from seed activity by watching my young grandson proudly nurture his own vegetable garden.

This was my earliest spring garden routine:

I would first clean up all that nasty debris that I left the preceding fall that kept the ground from heaving and, at the same time, feed the birds, but would then lie in a state of rot in my annual and perennial beds.

Then, if I was quick about it, I would still prune my apple and cherry trees before they develop buds.

After my first year, I quickly got out of vegetable gardening (too much work for harvesting too little product), but if you still are, you can put lettuce seeds in the ground early in March. Then, every couple of weeks, start a new row to get results throughout the summer. If you're into planting onions and other hardy vegetables, now is the time to do it.

I would redefine my beds with a slight new edging around all of them.

Light thinning can be done in April to any shrub or tree except lilacs. Lilacs should have been done after blooming last year; if you do it now, there will be no bloom this year.

Prepare your flower beds by adding compost or fertilizer right now. I kept a natural compost pile that I had cultivated for a long time, and each year, I would rob this

black gold to enrich the soil, depleted from last year's growth.

Mulch now for a weed-resistant summer. Each spring, I would ask my trusty tree man to drop off a load of finely chopped chips. One load served my entire property for a season.

As you are preparing for planting your annual and perennial beds, the earliest spring bulbs will be blooming. Afterwards, be sure to deadhead them (remove the remains of the blossoms) but don't remove the leaves. Let them die back naturally so that they can feed the bulbs for next year.

Also, remember to schedule the time needed to trim spring-flowering shrubs, everything from forsythia to azalea, right after blooming for thicker growth and more blooms next year.

And, for anyone who gardens like I did kneeling rather than bending, remember to protect your knees with those knee pads or kneelers. Sorry, Mom.

*Bill Primavera is either a realtor who writes or a writer who sells houses. As a realtor, he is associated with William Raveis Real Estate in Yorktown. Also, as founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc., the longest running public relations agency in Westchester (www.PrimaveraPR.com), his promotional endeavors focus on lifestyles, real estate and development. To engage the services of The Home Guru and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.*

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## Elder Law and Estate Planning: A Series of Defined Terms

By Salvatore M. Di Costanzo

As an elder law attorney, I am frequently asked questions, the answers of which have been taken for granted during the ordinary course of business. The common denominator among these questions surfaces from a misunderstanding of words and phrases used daily. I thought it would be a good idea to write a piece explaining some of the words and terms we use that generate questions, ultimately assisting you in moving forward with your estate planning, or perhaps, reviewing the plan you have already put in place.

**Agent:** The person you name to act on your behalf under the terms of your power of attorney or health care proxy is your agent. Your agent generally must act in your best interests.

**Basis:** Your basis is what you paid for an asset. Basis is the value that is used to determine gain or loss for income tax purposes.

**Distributee:** A distributee is a person entitled to take or share in the property of a decedent under the statutes governing descent and distribution. For instance, you may draft a Last Will and Testament ("will") leaving everything to your spouse. Under New York State law, however, your spouse and children are your distributees, because they would all inherit your property if you had no Will.

**Executor:** An executor is a person you nominate in a Will, later approved by the Court, to carry out the terms of the Will and to administer your estate.



Salvatore M. Di Costanzo

**Fiduciary:** A fiduciary is a person or entity, usually an Executor or Trustee, designated to manage money or property for beneficiaries, and required to exercise the standard of care set forth in the governing document under which the fiduciary acts.

**Guardianship:** A guardianship is a court-controlled program for persons who are unable to manage their own affairs due to mental or physical incapacity.

**Issue:** Issue includes an individual's children, grandchildren, and more remote persons who are related by blood or because of legal adoption. An individual's spouse, stepchildren, parents, grandparents, brothers, or sisters are not included. The term "descendants" and "issue" have the same meaning and includes posthumously born children.

**Operation of Law:** In this context, the phrase "by operation of law" means the way some assets will pass at death, based on state law or the ownership of the asset, rather than under the terms of a will or trust.

**Pour Over Will:** A will used in conjunction with a Revocable Trust is called a "Pour Over Will" and passes title at your death to property not transferred to the Revocable Trust during lifetime.

**Power of Attorney:** A Power of Attorney is a document that authorizes one or more individuals to act in your place as agent (see above) with respect to some or all legal and financial matters. The scope of authority granted is specified in the document. It is important to take the time necessary to work with an elder law/estate planning attorney to modify the terms of your power of attorney.

**Probate:** Probate is the Court's supervised process of proving the validity of a will.

**Revocable Trust:** A Revocable Trust is a trust created during one's lifetime over which the creator reserves the right to terminate, revoke, modify, or amend the trust. Revocable Trusts are becoming increasingly popular.

**Special Needs Trust:** A Special Needs Trust is a trust established for the benefit of a disabled individual that is designed to allow him or her to be eligible for government financial aid (usually Medicaid) by limiting the use of trust assets.

**Stepped-Up Basis:** Assets are given a new basis when transferred by inheritance (through a will or trust) and are re-valued as of the date of the owner's death. If an asset has appreciated above its basis (what the owner paid for it), the new basis is called a Stepped-Up Basis.

**Transfer on Death:** Transfer on Death is a beneficiary designation for a financial account that automatically passes title to the assets at death to a named individual without probate. Frequently referred to as a TOD (transfer on death) or POD (payable on death) designation.

**Trust:** A trust is a legal entity created by a creator (generally, you), for the benefit of designated beneficiaries under the laws of a state. The trustee holds a fiduciary responsibility to manage the trust property for the economic benefit of all the beneficiaries. A trust can be irrevocable or revocable.

**Trustee:** A trustee is the individual or bank or trust company designated to hold and administer trust property (also generally referred to as a "fiduciary"). A trustee has the duty to act in the best interests of the trust and its beneficiaries and in accordance with the terms of the trust instrument.

Contact Sal Di Costanzo at 914-245-2440 or [smd@mfd-law.com](mailto:smd@mfd-law.com) if you would like to discuss your estate planning.



# Happenings

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

## Wednesday, Feb. 26

**First Presbyterian Church of Mahopac:** 411 Rt 6N (at Secor Rd.) Mahopac, NY Presby411@verizon.net Ash Wednesday Ashes, Prayers and Blessings Given by Rev. Casey in the Church Parking Lot: 6:30am-9:00am. Church Service- 7:00pm

**1970: Reed Library.** 11:00 a.m., Revisit 1970 - Nixon meets hippies and Elvis. Kent State, Cambodia, Apollo13. Register: [www.carmellibrary.org/calendar](http://www.carmellibrary.org/calendar).

**Health Care Consumer:** The LWV of Putnam County, in cooperation with the Mahopac Public Library, will be hosting a workshop. During this 1+1/2hour presentation, both 'We the People and 'Say Ah!', will help attendees develop tactical skills for enhancing their doctor, ER, inpatient hospital visits and follow-up experiences. Participants will receive an Advocacy 101, on how they can lend their voices to changing the current health care environment. 1:00 p.m., -2:30 p.m., Mahopac Public Library. Registration for this free presentation can be made online at: [WWW.MAHOPACLIBRARY.ORG](http://WWW.MAHOPACLIBRARY.ORG) or by calling 845-628-2009 EXT 100.

## Thursday, Feb. 27

**Tri-State IBM Retirees:** United Methodist Church Hall, E Main St, Shrub Oak, NY. Tama Goodstein, NYP/Hudson Valley Hospital Physical Therapist, will speak on Fall Prevention: How to Increase

Strength & Tips for Exercise. Social and coffee at 1:00 p.m., Meeting at 1:30 p.m., Club 2020 dues will be collected. Contact info: Peg Ryan (914) 528-5916.

**Heart Health:** PHC will lead a community discussion on cardiovascular disease focusing on prevention, detection and treatment during a heart-healthy lunch-and-learn event. Noon to 2:00 p.m. in the hospital's Michael T. Weber Conference Rooms, 670 Stoneleigh Ave., Carmel. Featuring cardiologist Dr. Lawrence Solomon and registered dietitian Jenna Godfrey. Registration is required at [www.healthquest.org/heartlunch](http://www.healthquest.org/heartlunch) or by calling 845-230-4773.

**Teen Balloon Club:** 3:15 p.m., Have fun while earning community service credit! Earn double community service hours at special balloon events. Learn to make balloon animals and take those skills on the road. Registration is requested; register online at [www.mahopaclibrary.org](http://www.mahopaclibrary.org), or call 845-628-2009, ext. 139.

## Friday, Feb. 28

**Build Your Own Burger:** 6:00 p.m., - 9:00 p.m., VFW Post 672, 262 Peaceable Hill Rd, Brewster To raise money for Andrew DiFabbio's eagle scout service project in conjunction with the Southeast Museum Tickets are \$10 for those 13+ and \$5 for those <13. There will be a vegetarian option as well. Email [avdifabbio@gmail.com](mailto:avdifabbio@gmail.com) to purchase tickets.

**Open Mic Night:** 18 and older. Brought to you by the Brewster Library and Southeast Museum. 7:30 p.m., - 9:00 p.m., At Brewster Public Library 79 Main Street Brewster.

**Defensive Driving:** 9:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m., This class provides practical information on how to avoid collisions and violations. After completing this class, you will be eligible for a 10% discount on your insurance. This class is \$40 a portion of which will go to support the library. If you have any questions about this or other events happening at the Brewster Library contact: 845-279-6421

**Teen Nerf Battle:** Grades 6-12. 6:45 p.m., After the library closes teens will battle between the stacks in teams and in free-for-all mode in this Nerf Gun war; please bring your own Nerf gun. Extra ammo and snacks provided. "Elite" dart-style NERF guns only, please. All participants must be at the library at 6:45 pm and must have eye protection. The game will start at 7:00 p.m., Signed Permission Form required; register online and download the form at [www.mahopaclibrary.org](http://www.mahopaclibrary.org).

## Saturday, Feb. 29

**Frozen:** The Brewster High School Habitat for Humanity Club is hosting a fundraiser at the Empire Movie theater on RT. 22 In Brewster. The Movie Frozen I will be shown at 10:30 a.m., \$12.00 you get the movie, a drink and popcorn PLUS you will meet Elsa and Anna. You will be able to get photographs with them if you'd like, for free.

### Across

1. Tops
6. You won't need a dromedary to find this Yorktown video transfer service \_\_\_\_
11. Flat Indian breads
12. Hemp plant
13. City on the Ruhr
14. Letter-shaped opening
15. Basketball org.
16. Drudgery
17. Painter of limp watches
19. Camera type, briefly
20. Steering bar of a bicycle, or new men's barbering establishment in White Plains - \_\_\_\_
24. Lock opener
25. Takes down a tree
27. Trumpet sound
29. Ludacris music
30. Let go
31. Cultural, in combinations
33. Practice handling something
34. Gulf War ally
35. Displaying rosy color
36. Rope fiber

### Down

1. Put \_\_\_\_ to
2. "Rock the \_\_\_\_" (hit song for The Clash)
3. Mixture of many spices
4. Chemical suffix
5. Common ID

Dress like your favorite character.

## Sunday, March 1

**Irish Soda Bread Fundraiser:** VFW Post 672 Auxiliary. Med \$10 Large \$15. Orders must be placed before March 1 & picked up March 8., To order call: Christine Tegmeir 914-276-2050.

## Tuesday, March 3

**Blood Drive:** New York Blood Center hosts at Trinity Lutheran Church from 2:00 p.m., - 8:00 p.m., 2103 Route 6, Brewster Call Carol Fendt at 845-277-5126 for questions.

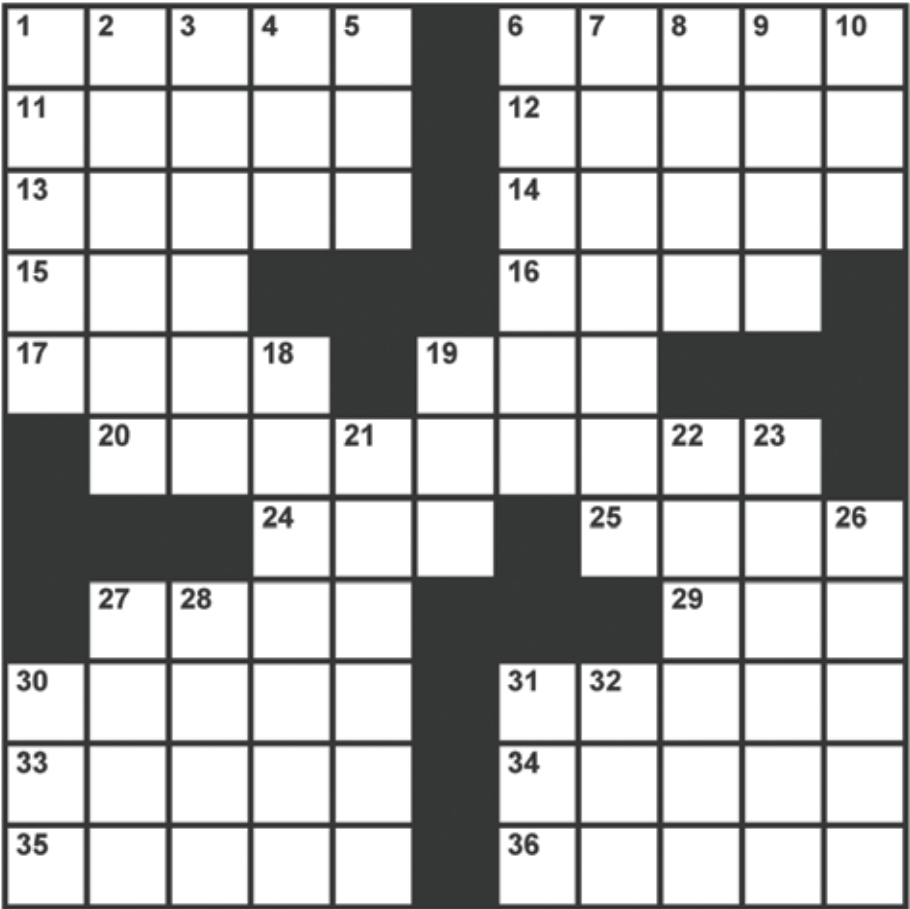
The World of St. Patrick: Reed Library. 11:00 a.m., Through art and archaeology, examine the ancient Britain that was ruled by Rome for centuries and meet one of its most famous citizens: Patrick. Register at [www.carmellibrary.org/calendar](http://www.carmellibrary.org/calendar).

## Sunday, March 8

**Northern Westchester-Putnam St. Patrick's Day Parade:** Route 6. Beginning at Mt. Hope Road, marching east and ending at the Lake Plaza Shopping Center. Step Off Time: 2:00 p.m., Come join us before the parade for the Pledge of Allegiance at the Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department 911 Memorial (corner of Route 6 and Croton Falls Road) at 1:30 p.m.,

6. Very numerous in Nebraska
7. Takes in
8. French Sudan, today
9. Earth Day subj.
10. Directional abbreviation
18. Old-school desk feature
19. Sharp
21. Kind of sins
22. Port city of Denmark
23. African nation
26. Pamper
27. "Bird on a \_\_\_\_" Goldie Hawn movie
28. Like the Gobi Desert
30. New Deal pres.
31. Symbol on Superman's chest
32. Skater Babilonia

# Crossword Puzzle



Crossword by Myles Mellor

Answers on page 12





Legal Notice

STATE OF NEW YORK  
SUPREME COURT  
COUNTY OF PUTNAM  
SUPPLEMENTAL  
SUMMONS  
Index No. 500006/2018

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR VRMTG ASSET TRUST, Plaintiff, v. DEBRA A. SARICH A/K/A DEBRA ANN SARICH, NEW YORK COMMUNITY BANK, BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF HIGH RIDGE PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT, FIA CARD SERVICES, NA, DISCOVER BANK, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE, Defendants. To the above named Defendants:

You are hereby summoned to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of ap-

pearance on the Plaintiff's attorneys within thirty days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service, and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

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If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action.

YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE

COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.

This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of Honorable Victor G. Grossman, Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, signed the 29th day of January, 2020 at Carmel, New York. The object of this action is to foreclose a mortgage on the following property: **Tax I.D. No. 92-1-28 & 51** ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Town of Putnam Valley, County of Putnam and State of New York known and designated as Lot Nos. 37 and 83 as shown on a certain map entitled, "Amended Phase Two Subdivision Map known as Highfields", filed in the Office of the Putnam County Clerk on January 5, 1995 as Map No. 2597-B bounded and described as follows:

**BEGINNING** in the most easterly corner of parcel described herein, where the parcel herein intersects with the westerly side of Lot 38, and

running the following courses and distances:

- (1) South 71 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West 53.50 feet;
- (2) North 18 degrees 59 minutes 10 seconds West 32.50 feet;
- (3) THENCE Along a party wall parallel to the course in Item# 1 herein for a distance of 53.50 feet;
- (4) THENCE along a party wall parallel to the course in Item# 2 herein, for a distance of 32.50 feet, back to the point or place of BEGINNING. TOGETHER with a right of way in common with others for ingress and egress by foot and/or by vehicle over Pembroke Court to the nearest public highway. Subject to easements, covenants, and restriction of record.

These premises are also known as **35 Pembroke Court, Putnam Valley, NY 10579.**

**WOODS OVIATT GILMAN LLP**  
**Attorney for Plaintiff**  
**500 Bausch & Lomb Place**  
**Rochester, NY 14604**

Putnam Struggles to Embrace  
Airbnb “Homestay” Services

continued from page 4

other home rental arrangements would be subject to an occupancy tax, Pasquale said they would be. However, the homeowner is considered the “hotel operator” and is the one responsible for remitting the tax, not Airbnb.

This is different than “room remarketers,” such as Travelocity, Expedia and other online booking websites, which are now considered the same as the hotel operator because they purchase rooms at wholesale prices then remarket and resell them at a markup.

“So they are required and authorized to collect the tax for the county and then they have to remit that to us,” said Pasquale. “The problem then becomes, what do we do with the intermediaries,” which is Airbnb.

There is no statute requiring them to collect a room tax because they are not the hotel owners, he said.

Pasquale said most counties with a room tax have entered into a voluntary tax collection agreement with Airbnb, which is likely what Putnam would do. This involves Airbnb adding the tax as one of the charges during checkout, which the company would remit to the county on an “honor system.”

“There’s not going to be a whole lot of

oversight,” he warned lawmakers. “We’re going to have to be taking them at their word that we are receiving the proper amount of tax dollars.”

However, Airbnb likely won’t disclose any additional information about property owners.

“Airbnb – and I’m using them as an example because they’re the big one – they’re very, very protective of their clients’ data,” said Pasquale. “So the people who are renting out these properties, they are the ones who are actually paying the tax, so while they (Airbnb) will technically have all this relevant information, they will not be disclosing it to the county.”

The other route the county can take – which Pasquale doesn’t recommend – is to follow Ulster County’s example and try to keep track of all the rental properties itself. He explained that Ulster has either purchased the technology to “scrape” all of the online homestay sites, or is outsourcing the work, to see who’s renting out properties and who’s filing returns – a task that is very daunting, and costly.

“I don’t think anybody wants that to happen here,” he said.

Crossword  
Answers

A	C	M	E	S		C	A	M	E	L
N	A	A	N	S		A	B	A	C	A
E	S	S	E	N		T	S	L	O	T
N	B	A				T	O	I	L	
D	A	L	I		S	L	R			
	H	A	N	D	L	E	B	A	R	
			K	E	Y		S	A	W	S
	W	A	W	A			R	A	P	
F	I	R	E	D		E	T	H	N	O
D	R	I	L	L		S	A	U	D	I
R	E	D	L	Y		S	I	S	A	L

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*continued on next page*

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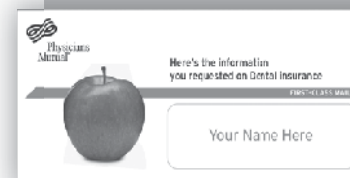
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continued from previous page

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# The Putnam Examiner Sports

Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports

## Hot Stock Tip!

**No.2 Putnam Valley  
Bullish on Section 1  
Hoop Market; Tigers  
Rout No.15 Valhalla,  
Face No.10 Dobbs Next**

Fiery Putnam Valley junior F Arianna Stockinger, a staple of the PV hoops diet, takes a run at the rack in the second-seeded Tigers' 66-27 Section 1 Class B opening-round playoff win over visiting No.15 Valhalla last Thursday. The Tigers advanced to last night's quarterfinal round against No.10 Dobbs Ferry, who defeated the Tigers 49-44 when they met in a Slam Dunk challenge back in December, with a Final 4 berth and a trip to the Westchester County Center on the line... see Girls' Hoops Notebook





# Sports

## Boys' Hoops Notebook

# Class A Lakeland Lone Local to Advance to Quarters

*Panas Falls in 2OT, Peekskill Ousted at Byram; Class AA Mahopac Nipped at Mt. Vernon*

By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports Editor@Directrays

We mentioned way back in our hoops preview section in early December that the 2020 basketball campaign -- much like 2019 -- would be a rough one for the local clubs in and about Northern Westchester/Putnam County, and sometimes it's just awful when you're right about something you truly wish you were wrong about.

Well, the opening round of the Section 1 tournament came and went last weekend, and Class A **LAKELAND** was the lone boys' team from this region to advance to the quarterfinals last Friday in a 59-41 win over visiting No.12 Clarkstown South. The fifth-seeded, height-challenged Hornets (17-4) committed to defense and crashed the boards on one end while senior guards Augie Karaqi (18 points), Jeff Owusu (10) and Jack Kruse (10) each went for double digits on the other.

"Our defense wasn't too good early in the year, but we committed to it in practice and we've emphasized defense more and it showed tonight," said Lakeland senior G Rob Nardelli, who added nine points, including two big treys in key spots. "We've got playmakers, not just one or two, more like six-seven of them, and we all trust each other."

As he always is, Owusu was a royal pain, collaring 10 rebounds, dishing three as-



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Lakeland F Aidan Welcome gets easy two in Hornets' 59-41 Class A playoff win over Clarkstown South Friday.



Lakeland senior G Augie Karaqi goes for two of 18 points in Hornets' 59-41 Class A playoff win over Clarkstown South Friday.



Lakeland G Rob Nardelli drops two of his nine points in Hornets' 59-41 Class A playoff win over Clarkstown North.

sists and adding four steals for the Hornets, who won an opening-round game for the first time since 2009 under former Coach Henry Weltman and advanced to face No.4 Poughkeepsie, the reigning state champs, Wednesday.

"Coach talked about it all year, if we can play defense, this team can be the best in the section, no doubt," said Karaqi, the All-Section senior. "Poughkeepsie will be a tough team to beat, but if we play the way we did today we get the 'dub'."

If Lakeland can display that type of two-way commitment against the Pioneers (15-6) with a Final 4 berth on the line, the Hornets could be back at the County Center for the first time since 2009. Lakeland went to the sectional finals in 2006-07 (the infamous shot clock game vs Peekskill) and then again in 2008-09 (during the Ralph Watts-to-Peekskill transfer season) but has never won the section. Previously, the 2002 Hornets reached the Final 4 but were defeated

by Nyack in the semis.

Kruse is looking to end the County Center drought at Lakeland.

"We know we can score," the All-Section swingman said. "We're ready for Poughkeepsie. It's what we want. We're ready."

Lakeland Coach Steve Fallo knows what's at stake and likes what he saw against the Vikings, who were run out of the gym in the second quarter.

"We went from giving up 66 points per game to 56, and that's just a credit to them," Fallo said. "They know they can put up points with anyone but in playoff basketball that doesn't matter. You have to play defense and they made that commitment. We're ready to go. They'll play anybody right now. They think they can go up there and score with anybody, but now we have that other side of the ball working defensively. We think we can shut people down."

Poughkeepsie, the League II-E champion, features two solid players in All-Section Ja-

vel Cherry and All-Conference Shaun Johnson and has won 13 of its last 14, including nine in a row. Clearly, shutting them down won't be easy...

**PANAS** turned around a sub-par 2019 season and deserves props for doing so, not to mention the effort given by Coach Mike Auerbach's ninth-seeded Panthers (13-8) in their 70-67 double-OT loss to No.8 host Harrison last Friday.

Panas senior Tom Palmaffy, a workhorse all season, finished with 18 points and six rebounds while senior Robert Ennis, a two-sport star at Panas, added 16 points, including a game-tying hoop to send the game to the second overtime session. His last-ditch attempt from distance to force a third OT came up short.

"Certainly, a tough way to end the season, to say the least," Coach Auerbach said. "I'm really proud of the way our guys competed and battled until the end. "We jumped out

*continued on next page*



# Sports

# Boys' Hoops Notebook

continued from previous page



Lakeland G Mike Arcure sinks two in Hornets' 59-41 Class A playoff win over Clarkstown South Friday.

on them early then had some trouble scoring in the second. We played one of our best quarters of the season in the third to take a five-point lead into the fourth. We were up a few late and just couldn't do enough to close them out. Both overtimes were very competitive, and we had our chances. Tom Palmaffy was great before fouling out with about a minute and half remaining in regulation. Robert Ennis was very good, as he's been all year. Josh Nnadiri hit some big shots as did Caleb Evans. Lorenzo Santucci was really good off the bench. He provided a big spark for us offensively.

"All in all, we're really pleased with how the season went," he added. "Obviously, we would have loved the opportunity to move on and take a run at Tappan Zee but with all the ups and downs we had, different guys in and out of the lineup all year, we really feel our kids did a terrific job piecing it together to give us a good chance to win each night."

More than that, Panas, which seems to always have a puncher's chance to compete, stayed relevant...

No.15 **PEEKSKILL** gave No.2 Byram Hills fits, making a valiant run in the fourth quarter of the Red Devils' (11-11) 69-58 season-ending loss to state-ranked (No.23) Bobcats. Peekskill senior Antonio Taylor dropped 26 points to conclude a solid All-

Section campaign while junior G Brennan Heaven added 16 for the vastly improving Red Devils, who are hopeful for a return to past greatness in the near future.

"We have seven returning juniors, which is a great start," Peekskill Coach Tim Turner said. "In addition, we have some JV and freshman players who can contribute at the varsity level next season."

Imagine Section 1 basketball with a competitive Peekskill, the 17-time Section 1 champs, back in contention again...

**YORKTOWN'S** Brucaj brothers did all they could (Roni Brucaj had 14 points and Eddie Brucaj added 11 points and 10 rebounds) in the 16th-seeded Huskers' 60-35 loss to top-seeded, state-ranked (No.19) host Tappan Zee last Friday, but the 2019 Class A runner-up Dutchmen were too much to handle in their Red Sea environment. Yorktown (11-11) had won seven of its last nine going into the field of 16, thus turning its season around while becoming relevant and building hope for the future under Coach Mark Pavella...

## CLASS AA

**MAHOPAC** truly built upon its future in a 57-44 loss to host Mount Vernon last Saturday. Not only did the 13th-seeded Indians (10-11) give the three-time defending Section 1 champions fits, trailing by one at the half, and they were in it to win it for three-plus quarters until the fourth-seeded Knights finished with a typical fury. Seniors Matthew McMahon (13 points) and John Cosentino (11) led the Indians while sophomore G Patrick McMahon added nine points. Ryan Reilly and Vin Bastone provided great effort, according to Coach Tom McMahon.

"Mount Vernon was the culmination of a season of hard work and building a culture," the first-year coach said. We showed up and played extremely hard and competed for 32 minutes. As a coach, that's all you can ask for. We are a young team, so it is definitely something to build on for the juniors and sophomores coming back. We will miss the leadership of our senior class and will need new leaders to emerge this off-season to continue what they started."

No.15 **OSSINING** received an incredible individual effort from sophomore G Jaeden Carr in an 80-64 opening-round loss at No. Horace Greeley. Carr, who is worth building the program around, went for 29 points while dishing four assists and snagging five caroms. He missed nine games this season due to injury, but showed significant ability when in the lineup.

"Jaeden is a very special player," Pride Coach Mike Casey said. "He's one of the top point guards in the section... born and raised in the O."



ANDY JACOBS PHOTO

Ossining sophomore Jaeden Carr went for 29 points in Class AA playoff loss to Greeley but will be among finest point guards in Section 1 next year.



DOM DEMATTEO PHOTO

The McMahon brothers, soph Patrick and senior Matt (R) share one last moment on court while dad-coach, Tom, does his thing in 57-44 Class AA playoff loss to Mount Vernon Saturday.

Senior Mark DeAngelis (14 points) and junior Khy'Leil Hawkins (9 points, 5 assists) were solid contributors, but Coach Matt Simone's state-ranked (No.15) Quakers -- the team to beat, many believe -- were simply too much for the Pride to handle, having lost to them for the third time this season.

## CLASS B

No.9 **CROTON-HARMON** picked a bad time for a rough start when No. 8 Bronxville held the Tigers (11-10) without a field goal in the first quarter while assuming a 14-1 lead that Croton would never overcome in a season-ending 60-38 opening-round setback.

## Mount(ain) Do!

### Carmel Senior Propels Rams to 2nd Playoff Win in 20 Years



ROB DIANTONIO PHOTO

Carmel senior F Steven Mount (17) leads a charge of Rams, including Gavin Golisano (L) and Graham Ludwig (2), toward a raucous dogpile at the Brewster Ice Arena last Saturday night when the fourth-seeded celebratory Rams won their 2nd playoff game in 20 years in epic fashion, a 7-6 overtime triumph of No.13 White Plains on one of two goals by Mount. Rams Chris Cieciora (2G), 2A, Ludwig (1G), Golisano (1G), Luke Golisano (1G, 2A), Brendan Murphy (5A), Noah Richardson (2A), Jack Lagan (2A), Rob Paradiso (1A) and goalie Breandan Richardson (29 saves on 35 shots) all filled the stat sheet on a historic night for the program. Carmel (14-6-1) hosts the Rivertowns Legends today at 8:15 pm at the BIA.



# Sports

## Girls' Hoops Notebook

# Panas vs. Hen Hud: One Goes Home, One to County Center

## Class AA Mahopac, Ossining, Class B Put Valley, Class A Somers Advance to Quarters

By Tony Pinciario

Panas, along with Somers, Lakeland, Brewster, John Jay-Cross River and Yorktown, form one of the deepest, toughest leagues. Every League II-C game is like playing a sectional game.

As a result of this difficult, grueling league schedule the teams knock off each other and it leads to lower seeds.

Panas persevered and earned a seventh seed, while Somers was an eighth seed, John Jay the 12th seed and Brewster and Yorktown had play-in games.

"We played a pretty tough schedule this season," Panas senior Kristen Scrobola said. "There weren't really any games we walked into saying we will beat this team, no problem. We had five of the seven other teams still playing on our schedule. We knew every game we would have to give it our all. I think playing as many good teams as we did helped us prepare for sectionals."

Panas opened the Section 1 Class A Girls' Basketball Tournament with a 50-48 victory Clarkstown South on a Kristen Cinquina basket with 10 seconds remaining.

Panas (16-5) will now play at No. 2 Hen Hud, in a quarterfinal, 5p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 26. The winner of this game will face the No. 3 Tappan Zee-No. 6 Pearl River victor in a semifinal, Thursday, March 5, at the Westchester County Center.

Cailean Nolan led Panas with 18 points and also had eight rebounds and five assists. Cinquina added 16 points and five assists, freshman Kelsey Cregan grabbed 10 rebounds and Erijona Rraci contributed eight points and six rebounds. Panas Coach Matt Evangelista credited Kat Reynoso with playing excellent defense.

Scrobola is very familiar with Hen Hud's dominant player, Caitlin Weimar.

"Caitlin is a very good player," Scrobola said. "I had the pleasure of playing with her

for a few years, as well as a few of the other girls on the team. Although we will be putting a lot of focus on Caitlin, we are aware of some of the things the other girls can do, and will do our best to be prepared."

One thing Weimar excels at is controlling the boards, so Panas knows they will have to be relentless rebounding.

"Rebounding is a huge part of this game, as well as every game," Scrobola said. "The best way is to put it is all five of us need to put a body on someone, and pursue the ball. Rebounding can make or break this game for us. Hen Hud has a little bit of a size advantage, but I can promise you we will do everything we can to get as many rebounds as possible."

Panas, like the remaining seven teams, has one goal in mind – the gold ball.

"Every year we are determined to get to the county center, but who isn't?" Scrobola said. "This year we want more than just the county center. We want a gold ball and we are determined to get it."

### CLASS A

**HEN HUD**, seeded second, received a scare from No. 15 Yorktown, before rallying to a 45-42 victory in a Section 1 Class A Girls' Basketball Championship first-round game.

Yorktown led, 37-34, entering the fourth quarter. Hen Hud (20-1) will host No. 7 Panas, Wednesday, in a quarterfinal. The winner faces the No. 3 Tappan Zee-No. 6 Pearl River victor in a semifinal, Thursday, March 5, at the Westchester County Center.

"It was a very intense game," Hen Hud senior Weimar said. "They came out hitting lots of 3s, which we didn't expect, but we had to adjust and step up on defense. We played together and it was a great team win."

Weimar finished with 18 points and 19 rebounds. Mylene Smith added 13 points and Grace Moretti chipped in 12 points, six steals and four rebounds. Weimar cited Hen Hud's victory, in a close game with Clarkstown South, as beneficial.

"That helped us because we didn't have a lot of games this year that were close in the fourth quarter," Weimar said. "Having that game helped prepare us and gave us some experience on what to do, how to play and how to keep our composure."

**SOMERS** drew the eighth seed in the Section 1 Class A Girls' Basketball Championship and began with a 63-33 win over No.



Hen Hud's Colleen Ryan cuts off Yorktown's Melissa Severino in Sailors' 45-42 opening-round Class A win over Huskers Friday.

RAY GALLAGHER/BOB CASTNER PHOTOS

9 Yonkers. The Tuskers (14-7) reward is to play at No. 1 Rye (18-3) in a quarterfinal, 5 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 26.

Somers' Coach Marc Hattem noted that his team opened the 2019-20 season with a 54-35 loss to Rye.

"We are excited to play them again," Hattem said. "They are really good. They are the best team in Class A, in my opinion."



Mahopac junior G Mia Klammer gets up for two points in Indians' 57-35 Class AA playoff win over visiting RCK Saturday.



Mahopac sophomore G Julie DeBrocky fires trey for two of her 13 points in Indians' 57-35 Class AA playoff win over visiting RCK Saturday.

They are big and skilled. When we saw them the first time we weren't healthy, so we look forward to battling them with a full squad."

Dani DiCintio scored a game-high 24 points and Pooja Rao added 17 points against Yonkers.

**BREWSTER** drew the 14th seed, but was forced to play an out-bracket game against No. 19 Eastchester. The Bears rallied from a 15-point deficit in the third quarter and go overtime for a 55-47 win. Brewster then faced No. 3 Tappan Zee and dropped a 55-30 verdict, finishing the season with a 12-10 record.

In the Eastchester game, Adrianna Calicchia was 4 for 4 from the free-throw line in overtime and finished with nine points. Alexis Mark had a team-high 20 points and also grabbed 10 rebounds. Grace Galgano had 18 points, 14 rebounds and nine blocked shots.

Brewster was within five points of Tappan Zee, 26-21, with four minutes remaining in the third quarter. Brewster Coach Mike Castaldo said Tappan Zee closed the third with an 11-1 run. Galgano led the Bears with 10 points, 14 rebounds and seven blocks.

"I couldn't be prouder of how the girls played," Castaldo said. "I told them they needed to rebound, sprint back on defense and contest every three-point shot to be in the game, and to win it, we needed to make shots. Unfortunately we just didn't make shots."

**YORKTOWN**, like Brewster, had to play its way into the tournament and did so with a victory over No. 18 Nanuet. The youthful Cornhuskers (they started 2 freshmen, 1 soph, 1 junior, 1 senior), seeded 15th, had No. 2 Hen Hud on the ropes after three quarters, holding a three-point lead. However,

*continued on next page*



Hen Hud's Caitlin Weimar (R) and Yorktown's Ashley Zeolla get after rebound in Sailors' 45-42 Class A playoff win over Huskers Friday.



# Sports

continued from previous page



Mahopac G Julia Paolicelli coolly gains lane for shot in Indians' 57-35 Class AA playoff win over visiting RCK Saturday.



Mahopac sophomore G Melanie DeMeo drops two of her 15 points in Indians' 57-35 Class AA playoff win over visiting RCK Saturday.

Hen Hud limited Yorktown (10-12) to five points in the fourth quarter of a 45-42 win. Sophomore Melissa Severino had 16 points.

"I think Melissa (Severino) was helped by the fact that we had three other kids hit two 3s each and that kind of opened it up a little," Yorktown Coach Brian Mundy said. "They couldn't just key on her on the perimeter with other kids shooting well. She did a good job moving without the ball and was able to hit four threes. 'We knew we were going to have to live with giving up some open looks outside in order to protect the paint. Unfortunately, they ended up hitting the one more



Putnam Valley senior G Cyera Daughtry goes for two points in Tigers' 66-27 Section 1 Class B playoff win over Valhalla Thursday.



Putnam Valley freshman Eva DeChent skies for two of her 18 points in Tigers' 66-27 Section 1 Class B playoff win over Valhalla Thursday.

outside shot they needed. From where we were the first week of the season to where we ended up, I actually think we outperformed, a little."

## CLASS AA

**MAHOPAC** was even with R.C. Ketcham at halftime, but dominated the second half in a 57-35 first-round win in the Section 1 Class AA tourney.

The fifth-seeded Indians (15-6) play No. 4 Albertus Magnus in a quarterfinal, Friday, Feb. 28. The winner moves on to face the victory of No. 8 White Plains-No. 1 Ursuline in a semifinal, Thursday, March 5, at the Westchester County Center.

Mahopac limited Ketcham to just 12 points in the second half behind stifling full-court pressure.

"Mia Klammer was instrumental in the win with six steals and she did a great job defensively," Mahopac coach Chuck Scozzafava said. "She caused havoc all over the floor."

Caitlin O'Boyle led Mahopac with 18 points and 20 rebounds. Melanie DeMeo added 15 points and Julie DeBrocky finished with 13 points.

"As for Magnus, it's going to be challenging, but like they say 'On any given day'," Coach Scozzafava said.

**OSSINING**, seeded sixth, beat No. 11 Fox Lane, 77-49 in the first round. The Pride (13-8) will play at No. 3 Our Lady of Lourdes (16-5), Friday, 5 p.m., in a quarterfinal-round game. Lourdes defeated Ossining, 83-50, Dec. 13, but that was a Pride team still learning about itself.

"The difference between our team then and now is tremendous," senior Julia Iorio said. "We have come a very long way and took a turn for the best. We have been working very hard to become the team the public us used to seeing."

The winner of this game will face the No. 2 Arlington-No. 10 John Jay-East Fishkill winner in a semifinal, Thursday, March 5, at the Westchester County Center.

It's ironic that Ossining and Lourdes are playing in the quarters when these teams have played in the Section 1 Class AA championship game numerous times.

During Iorio's career, Ossining has never been anything but a No. 1 seed so the sixth seed is something new.

"We understand that we are usually the top dogs and now we aren't, but it actually takes a lot of pressure off us and now puts it on the top seeds," Iorio said. "We just have to go out there and play with maximum effort because we now don't have to worry about satisfying the section."

Iorio and her teammates were prepared for the postseason, and the victory over Fox Lane proved it.

"Our team was ready for sectionals," Iorio said. "We have all been putting 100 percent into this sports. We have worked

# Girls' Hoops Notebook



Mahopac freshman G Lauren Beberman is hounded by RCK defender in Indians' 57-35 Class AA playoff win over visiting RCK Saturday.

hard every day over break and are ready for whatever comes our way."

## CLASS B

Putnam Valley are the second seed in the Section 1 tournament and opened with a convincing 66-27 win over No. 15 Valhalla. Kelli Venezia poured in a game-high 24 points and Eva DeChent added 18 points.

Putnam Valley (17-3) hosted No. 10 Dobbs Ferry (10-11), in a quarterfinal, Monday. A victory would send the Tigers to the semifinals, Tuesday, March 3, at the Westchester County Center to face the winner of No. 3 Hastings-No. 6 Pleasantville.



Putnam Valley senior G Kelli Venezia goes for two of her game-high 24 points in Tigers' 66-27 Section 1 Class B playoff win over Valhalla Thursday.



# O'Boyle(d) Alive!

No.5 Mahopac  
Turns Up Heat,

Knocks off No.12  
RCK in  
Class AA Opener

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Mighty Mahopac junior F Caitlin O'Boyle takes its straight through the heart of the Roy C. Ketcham defense for two of her game-high 18 points -- to go with a game-high 20 boards -- as she assumed domination in the 5th-seeded host Indians' 57-35 Section 1 Class AA opening round playoff win over No.12 RCK last Saturday when Mahopac advanced to this Friday's quarterfinal round against No.4 Albertus Magnus, ranked No.11 in NYS... see Girls' Hoops Notebook