



Putnam Valley Threatens Legal Action Against County *Says Peekskill Hollow Road Weight Limit Should Remain*

By Holly Crocco

Putnam Valley is prepared to take legal action against the county if it lifts the temporary weight restriction on Peekskill Hollow Road.

"If the (county's highway) commissioner proceeds with lifting the weight limit, there would be what is known as an Article 78 proceeding that the town would bring, challenging that act," said Town Counsel Robert Lusardi at the Feb. 19 Putnam Valley Town Board meeting.

A weight limit on Peekskill Hollow Road was implemented in 2013 to prevent tractor-trailers from regularly using the roadway, after residents expressed concern over the dangers of having such large vehicles on that thoroughfare.

However, Putnam County Highway Commissioner Fred Pena recently suggested removing the weight restriction.

Resident Victor Tishop, who led the charge several years ago to get the weight

limit implemented, said the roadway is not a commercial through-truck route.

"It is a rural, residential, community road," he said. "Peekskill Hollow Road began as a Native American trail meant for wagons during Colonial times, and now for cars. It is not an engineered road capable of safely handling large, heavy through-truck traffic due to its natural historic limitations and configurations."

Tishop suggested that the reason for allowing unrestricted through-trucks on Peekskill Hollow Road is to evade the traffic on Routes 6 and 9.

"There is no commercial destination on Peekskill Hollow Road, or even in Putnam Valley," he said, noting that local deliveries are already exempt from the weight limit, for any size truck. "The only benefit to unrestricted through-trucks is to other municipalities, with Putnam Valley paying the price."

Lusardi said that while Peekskill Hollow

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Kent Town Board to Vote on Mining Moratorium

By Abby Luby

Kent residents showed strong support for the town's proposed temporary mining moratorium during a Feb. 18 Town Board meeting, when the first of two public hearings was held.

Mining in the town has been going on for decades, but residents became especially provoked when Kent Country Square LLC proposed building a truck stop – along with a hotel and conference center – on a 137-acre parcel near Ludingtonville Road on Route 52. The project would have entailed blasting 54 acres of rock and mining down 180 feet; that part of the development has been withdrawn.

Town Board members have drafted a temporary moratorium that would pause any excavation of sand, gravel, topsoil, rock or other natural material. Supervisor Maureen Fleming said the town code doesn't specifically address mining and that a moratorium would give the town time to consult with zoning and planning experts.

"This would be a six-month moratorium, which could be renewed for an additional six months if we are unable to come up with a code section that is appropriate," she said.

Kent resident Louis Epstein suggested the town differentiate between commercial mining and a resident who wants to put in a swimming pool. "Scale is what we need to be regulated," he said. "Beyond that we shouldn't be stepping on potential for mineral rights and values, but make the town a better place for what we are doing."

Mining land in Kent has yielded many adverse impacts over the years, according to Maureen Galway-Perotti.

"Without the proper regulations in place, our town is at the mercy of all corporations that seek to exploit our natural resources and pollute our environment," she said. "I urge the Town Board to pass and make use of the moratorium as the tool of choice."

Developers apply for mining permits only from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, in effect

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Participants had the opportunity to shoot hoops and raise money for various causes during the Basketball Challenge, which is the Carmel Rotary Club's biggest fundraiser of the year.



J.J. and Jackson Ortiz, ages 8 and 6, participated in the event.

Rotary Fundraiser a Slam Dunk for Area Non-Profits!

HOLLY CROCCO PHOTOS



Members of the Brewster-Carmel Garden Club cheered on Jim McKeon, who volunteered to shoot hoops for them at the annual Carmel Rotary Club/Carmel High School Interact Club Basketball Challenge on Saturday at CHS.

Putnam Valley Threatens Legal Action Against County

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Road is a county road, the town has rights to challenge Pena's decision.

"The commissioner does have authority under the Vehicle and Traffic Law to change the weight limit," said Lusardi. "But that said, he has a couple of serious problems."

The attorney said there is a set of standards maintained by the American Society of State Highway and Traffic Officials regarding truck safety, which Peekskill Hollow Road does not meet. And since it is declared a historic highway in Putnam County, widening or alteration of the "travel portion" of the roadway is limited, so it cannot be brought up to the current safety standards.

"There's a political side to this whole thing, too," added Lusardi. "While it's Commissioner Pena (who is making the recommendation), Commissioner Pena is an appointed officer of the county, and so you really have to ask yourself... Is there somebody in county government who is advising Commissioner Pena to take this action?"

"I do believe there is some pressure that may be brought to bear by another town in the county that may be behind all this," said Lusardi.

He added that the best course of action would be to stop the weight limit from being rescinded, so the town wouldn't have to take legal action.

"It is a county highway, we have to keep that in mind," said Lusardi. "The county

controls it to a great extent, (but) we have certain rights. But I think the best approach right now is to just stop the act."

Mike Busman said the issue is not only a concern for residents like himself who live on the road, but all who use it. "Everyone here is well aware of the characteristics of Peekskill Hollow Road," he said. "It's narrow, it's twisty, it has blind curves."

Busman said he is concerned that if the weight limit is rescinded, the road will become a regular pathway for trucks as an alternative to the Taconic State Parkway or other roads they are not allowed on.

"Given the nature of Peekskill Hollow Road, heavy truck traffic poses a danger to small vehicles, bicyclists, joggers, pedestrians, and school buses that use it regularly," he said.

Town Supervisor Sam Oliverio said he suspects there is pressure from other municipalities to reduce traffic along Route 6 by using Peekskill Hollow Road.

"Putnam Valley has nothing but our delis and a couple of restaurants, and I love our town for that," he said. "We don't need 18-wheel vehicles traveling here. There's no destination. They're going to Westchester."

Resident Barbara Boughton agreed.

"I believe the situation is Route 6," she said. "All the towns along Route 6 have allowed for all the building of all the shopping centers. They've increased the housing from Mahopac to Cortlandt 40 percent with

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Kent Town Board to Vote on Mining Moratorium

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creating a regulatory override of most towns. While the proposed moratorium is in effect, the town's goal would be to adopt zoning and land use regulations for local mining.

William Volckmann, chairman of the Town of Kent Conservation and Advisory Committee, shared his discussion with DEC Section Chief of Mining Chris McKelvey.

"The DEC cannot make recommendations on municipal land ordinances because that would conflict with their purpose, which is to regulate mining activity," said Volckmann. "The town cannot regulate the mining activity, but the town can regulate the land use of mining and how it fits in with the characteristics of the town."

Reading a letter of support from Carmel-Kent Chamber of Commerce President Henry Boyd was chamber board member Kathy Doherty. In his letter, Boyd suggested land use experts, the town planner and concerned citizens revise the town code "to reflect more accurately the amount of rock and soil removal necessary for responsible development in the Town of Kent."

"The DEC's application for mining is very one-sided," added resident John Neff. "But the DEC application does have a space asking if there is a town code about mining. If the DEC is concerned about local laws and mining, they will look at that law and you'll want to have a good one."

Galway-Perotti cited the DEC threshold

for a mining permit as a guide for the moratorium. "The threshold is greater than 750 cubic yards, or 1,000 tons, to be removed within 12 months," she said.

Bill Arm of Lake Carmel asked what would happen after the proposed six-month moratorium is over. "What reason do the people of this town have to believe that developers may show up on day 181 (one day after a six-month moratorium is over) with their plan to go forward?" he asked.

Councilman Christopher Ruthven told Arm, "If we are not ready on day 181, we would renew and extend the moratorium."

Arm seemed skeptical that Kent Country Square LLC would be deterred from moving forward. "They already have what they need to start mining," he said. "They've already invested too much time and money in it to just let it all slide."

Councilman Paul Denbaum said he is concerned about exceptions for residential situations and suggested adding one sentence to the draft moratorium allowing a certain amount of soil removal specific to residential purposes.

The revised moratorium can be viewed in the town clerk's office.

Another public hearing is scheduled Tuesday, March 3 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall. Comments are also being accepted in writing or via email. A vote on the temporary mining moratorium is expected at the March 3 meeting.



Lung Cancer is a Silent Killer

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Q: Why is it important to be screened for lung cancer?

A: Lung cancer is a silent killer. In its early stages, it has no symptoms and can spread without warning. That's why lung cancer screening for people who are high-risk is so important: They often feel perfectly healthy. Often, people don't develop symptoms until the disease has either spread or grown too large to cure. Research shows that if a person's lung cancer is detected at an earlier stage, their five-year survival rate can increase from four percent to fifty-five percent, according to the American Lung Association.

Q: Who is considered high-risk?

A: If you currently smoke or have a long history of smoking, you may be considered high-risk. Of course, even lifetime non-smokers sometimes get lung cancer. Exposure to second-hand smoke, asbestos, or a family history of lung cancer can all increase risk. For the safest approach, speak to your doctor about any of the above risk factors. If your physician recommends a lung cancer screening, don't delay.

Q: How are patients screened and treated?

A: Patients are screened with a noninvasive low-dose CT scan, which only takes a minute. It's a very sensitive test for diagnosing lung cancer. If the cancer is in the early stages, the most advanced treatment option is minimally invasive robotic surgery, which enables me

to move surgical instruments more precisely, so I'm not damaging healthy surrounding tissue. In addition, I'm able to make tiny incisions, so there's less bleeding and pain for the patient. At NWH, we also offer advanced ablation techniques, which use image guidance to insert a needle through the skin into the tumor. Other options include burning or freezing the tumor; or stereotactic radiosurgery, which uses radiation without an incision.

Q: What if surgery is too risky for the patient?

A: Some patients have advanced lung disease, very bad emphysema, or heart disease, and surgery is too risky. If the patient is too high-risk, the cancer is too advanced or the patient doesn't want surgery, an option is immunotherapy, a newer treatment. Immunotherapy is a targeted treatment that revs up the immune system so it's better able to fight the cancer. It's been remarkably effective. I have patients who are in complete remission. It's a wonderful advancement in the treatment of lung cancer. As part of the Northwell Health Cancer Institute, we're able to expand our ability to bring top-rated cancer specialists, state-of-the-art technology, leading-edge clinical trials and a full range of support programs so community members can get the best cancer care right near home, in Westchester. Patients who want the most advanced cancer care don't need to travel to New York City.

Student Essay Contest: Why a Free Press Matters in Democracy

Examiner Media joins news outlets across the United States in supporting the National Student Essay Competition designed to deepen a recognition of the First Amendment, strengthen freedom of the press and bolster trust between readers and the organizations who serve them.

We believe there is no more important time than now to focus conversation and critical reflection on understanding the crucial relationship between the First Amendment, a free press, and the foundations of democracy.

Students in grades six through eight, grades nine through 12, and those at universities and colleges are invited to submit essays to their participating local newspaper examining the state of freedom of the press in the U.S. today and the importance of the First Amendment to our Constitution.

Examiner Publisher Adam Stone noted how critical it is for young Americans to understand the unique and critical role independent media plays in a democratic society.

"It's vital for the next generation to have not just general knowledge but also a deep understanding and appreciation for the inseparable connection between a free press and the ability to maintain a healthy democracy," he said. "From the local and state level and all the way to national news reporting, our country can only function as a free society when we have a robust free press and citizens and leaders who

believe in and defend our cherished First Amendment rights."

Students served by the Examiner group of newspapers in Westchester and Putnam counties may submit essays to Stone through Friday, April 17. Email submissions to astone@theexaminernews.com. Winners in each category selected by Examiner Media will then be submitted to a national jury who will select the semi-finalists, and then the finalists by early September 2020.

Examiner Media will announce local winners the first week in June.

The national winner in every category (grades six through eight, nine through

12, and university/college) will each receive a \$5,000 check from the Boston Globe Foundation. The winning essayist with the highest ranking among the three categories will also receive a full four-year scholarship, currently valued at \$38,000 a year, to Westminster College in Salt Lake City.

Prizes will be awarded in late fall at the 15th annual McCarthy Family Foundation Lecture Series: "In Praise of Independent Journalism."

"The competition is designed to engage the important voices of our students – voices that are vital to the future of a robust democracy – and to expand

national dialogue about press freedom by encouraging discussion at home and in school," said National Student Essay Competition Director Mary Kay Lazarus.

More information can be found at <https://mklpr.com/national-student-essay-competition>.

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Spotless Cleaning Systems

Mahopac

By Holly Crocco

Bill Pope always wanted to work for himself. So when found that a crew was doing an unsatisfactory job cleaning the Elmsford office he worked out of back in 1985, he figured he'd give the home and office cleaning industry a shot.

Thirty-five years later, Spotless Cleaning Systems of Mahopac is still going strong.

"People get very bored with their own house, and they have other things to do," explained Pope.

He started out cleaning homes and offices, but soon a contractor reached out to him because he needed someone to clean new condominiums and houses before they were ready to be shown. This led to him working with other contractors, and before he knew it he spent 20 years exclusively cleaning new homes for viewing.

But then things changed.

"In 2006-07, when the economy tanked, my phone stopped ringing," said Pope. "Nobody was building anymore."

So he went back to his roots and again started providing home cleaning services. "Most of my work now - 95 percent - is residential," he said.

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"So if somebody had flooding in their home, we can come in and dry it out and make it look like it never happened," said Pope.

"The majority of house cleaning is repetitious," he explained, meaning

customers have a crew come weekly, bi-weekly or every four weeks.

Then there are the customers who request a cleaning crew when they are moving in or out of a home, or simply seek someone to come to a spring cleaning, post-renovation cleaning, or another one-time "deep clean."

"People are wowed by the one-time deep clean," said Pope.

Spotless Cleaning Systems typically sends a team of three or four people to each job. If it is a repeat client, it make take the crew four to six hours to clean a 1,500- to 3,000-square-foot home. However, if it's a first or one-time cleaning, it could take much longer.

"It can take up to 40 hours to do a deep cleaning on a 3,000-square-foot home," said Pope.

He said the benefit of hiring a cleaning company, as opposed to a single cleaning person, is that a client isn't at the mercy of one person's schedule. He said if a cleaning person gets sick or schedules a vacation, the client simply has to wait.

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County Emphasizes Privacy When Using License Plate Readers

Putnam Awarded State Funds

By Holly Crocco

As county lawmakers work on drafting a policy to protect information collected by law enforcement's use of automated license plate readers, State Sen. Peter Harchuk announced last week that the Putnam County Sheriff's Department has been awarded \$50,000 in state grant funding for the purchase of additional LPRs.

License plate readers, whether mounted in vehicles or on stationary poles, are specialized digital cameras and computers that scan the license plates of vehicles passing by, and note the date, time and location. The accompanying software then

quickly compares the uploaded license plate information with data from law enforcement agencies and offers near-instant notifications of whether the vehicle has been stolen or is linked to an investigation.

"Automated license plate readers are an instrumental tool for law enforcement and increase the solvability of crimes that may go unsolved," said Putnam Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. "The data collected by an LPR has proven itself repeatedly in solving crimes, locating missing persons, locating stolen vehicles and saving lives."

There are already numerous LPRs in use in Putnam, with the sheriff's department, New York State Police, and Cold Spring,

Brewster and Kent police departments all using them.

Due to concerns about the collection and storage of residents' data from these LPRs, the Putnam County Legislature is in the process of drafting a policy that will protect this information and ensure it is only used for law enforcement purposes.

During the county's February Protective Services Committee meeting, Legislator Paul Jonke, R-Brewster, said he is in favor of law enforcement using LPRs and the county having a privacy policy. "I'm in support of this technology and I think it's a great tool for crimefighting," he said.

Legislator Neal Sullivan, R-Mahopac, echoed those sentiments. He said lawmakers are looking to have policy and procedures in place to protect the county in case there are instances where people say the information is used improperly.

"We're in favor of LPRs, but we're not in favor of doing it without the policy and procedures in place first," he said.

Sheriff's Department Captain James Babcock said most law enforcement agencies are starting to use LPRs.

"When LPRs first came out, they really were focused on suspended driver's licenses, suspended registrations and stolen vehicles," he said. "But as technology developed... that data has become valuable to us in criminal investigations, more so than finding a stolen car."

He also noted that the data collected is not available to the public. "We have controls in

place to address those concerns that they will be used for law enforcement purposes only," said Babcock.

He explained that unless you are under investigation and there has been a police inquiry, the average resident is unimpacted, and essentially unaware of the use of these license plate readers.

"If you're a law-abiding citizen, you have probably a 99.9 percent chance that your data is never going to be looked at because you've never committed any crime," said Babcock. "You'd have to do something to initiate someone to look at it."

District Attorney Robert Tendy said the license plate readers are invaluable to law enforcement. "LPRs actually help exonerate people, as well," he said. "They are very, very useful tools from both sides."

He also said there are many situations where crimes are discovered many years after they have occurred, and information collected today may help solve a crime next year. "In 2027, it may be very important to see what was going on in 2020," said Tendy.

In addition, he said the data collected from LPRs is just like any other information collected during a police investigation and may only be used for certain purposes. It is subject to the restraints of the Constitution, Fourth Amendment restrictions, and a judge's discretion, said Tendy.

The draft policy is currently in the hands of the county's law department and will likely be presented to the County Legislature this month for approval.

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Carmel Schools Works to Eliminate Budget Gap

By Holly Crocco

The Carmel School Board is digging into the district's 2020-21 budget development, looking at reductions that have been made to close the budget gap and questioning some of the processes used to construct the spending plan.

During the Feb. 25 board meeting, Assistant Superintendent for Business Eric Stark told trustees that his team has been working to reduce the originally proposed budget of \$135.6 million, which is about \$5 million more than what is allowed under the state-mandated property tax cap.

About \$500,000 was saved by moving some staffing positions to grant lines, and another \$819,000 was saved through instructional cuts. About \$600,000 was saved through retirements/attrition and class size reductions.

Additionally, about \$218,000 was reduced in program reductions, including cuts to supplies for music, physical education and art programs; reduced field trip spending; cuts to equipment; reductions to summer curriculum; and more. And about \$243,5000 was reduced in non-instructional cuts, including in the clerical, facilities and transportation lines, as well as technology leasing.

But the biggest reductions came from about \$1.5 million being realized in changes

to the way employee health insurance expenses are budgeted, and about \$1 million reduced from the buildings and grounds budget.

Trustee Eric Mittelstadt took issue with administrators claiming they were able to "cut" about \$1 million from the buildings and grounds budget.

"There's \$1 million more than should reasonably be asked for," he said. "To say that we saved it, he (the facilities director) is looking for a 67 percent increase in buildings and grounds, and we know year after year we have to scrape by."

Mittelstadt said it's "irresponsible" to ask for that much more in your department's budget when you know the district's budget can only grow by about 2 percent, per the state tax cap.

"That's a discussion for a bond issue – if we're \$1 million behind with stuff we have to do, we have to discuss that," he said. "But to put it up here as savings, I think that when people take a look at this and see we 'cut' a million dollars out of it – we weren't really even looking for it. So the first number was artificially inflated, and then it was artificially deflated."

"I just don't see the transparency in looking for money you don't need," he said.

Stark, however, explained that department heads are asked to provide a

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What is a Health Care Proxy and How Does it Work?

There are feelings of hope and fear when visiting a loved one in a hospital. Hope is the expectation that medical intervention will lead to a recovery. Fear is understanding the realities of how an illness adversely impacts a person's body.

Hospitalizations are exercises in coordination and task management. Health care decision-making may not solely reside with the patient, especially if the patient is compromised or not communicative. A health care proxy is a person authorized to make health care decisions on behalf of another. Health care proxies can consent to medical procedures or withhold consent. Proxies are entitled to the complete medical record of the patient.

Discharge planning is also arranged with the health care proxy.

A health care proxy form is signed by the document creator and witnessed by two individuals. A single proxy serves at a time, with alternates allowed to be named in case the current proxy can no longer act. The executed health care proxy form should be copied and handed to all the medical practitioners who work with the form creator. The proxy can also be prominently displayed on a refrigerator for EMT's to access.

Health care proxy forms will name the proxy and show their phone number and address for easy communication.

Hospitals will routinely ask a family

member if they are the health care proxy before releasing medical information by phone or in person. Not having a proxy in place complicates the decision-making process, but there is procedure in New York that offers a solution.

Before 2010, an Article 81 Guardianship of the Person was required to appoint a health care decisionmaker if no proxy existed. Besides being costly, the proceeding took up valuable time.

In 2010, the Family Health Care Decisions Act in New York allowed for a nursing home patient or hospital patient to have a health care decisionmaker designated without an executed health care proxy form. The order of priority, according to the law, is: legal guardian, spouse/domestic partner, adult child, parent, sibling, close friend.

Being a health care proxy means you are directing the care of someone very close to you. Sometimes the decisions are minor in scope, and other times your answers will chart an impactful course in the patient's treatment. Your decisions should be based on your knowledge of the patient, their wishes, and the most up-to-date medical information for the patient.

When a person is very sick, the health care proxy can be a voice of compassion and protection. We encourage people to complete a health care proxy so their care can be trusted to the people in their lives



Alan Feller, Esq.

who will take that responsibility to heart. Please reach out to the professionals at Sloan and Feller for more information.

Alan D. Feller, Esq., is managing partner of Sloan and Feller Attorneys at Law, located at 625 Route 6, Mahopac. He can be reached at alandfeller@sloanandfeller.com.

Letter to the Editor

When Will We Learn That Hatred Causes Disputes?

King Solomon warned in the Bible how "hatred stirs up disputes."

My wise and wonderful fourth-grade nun once rebuked my classmate for shouting his hatred for a fellow classmate. She exclaimed, "When you hate you just don't think straight." This admonition is so true today with our politics, particularly on the national level.

The Democrat Party and the "never-Trumper" Republicans are so consumed with hate for Trump that little, if anything, can be achieved in a bipartisan manner. The American voter spoke in 2016 and elected President Donald Trump through a legitimate electoral process. No amount of rationalization or unintelligent logic can

change this fact. The American people want both parties to work together, but this hatred for our president has become an easy emotional reaction to discredit the election and his legitimacy.

Again, King Solomon warned, "as the dog returns to vomit, so the fool repeats his folly." Yet again, the Democrat Party and the "never-Trumper" Republicans refuse to accept this president and are creating the same discredited narrative of Russian collusion for the 2020 election. How convenient a narrative when hate drives your response. More and more American voters – Democrat, Independent and Republican – are disgusted with this continued obsession with all that is "Trump."

On Election Day, Nov. 3, the American people will speak again. Despite the false narratives that our media puts forth, my hope is that when the votes are counted we will once and for all discard this hatred and ill-conceived negative reactions to our president.

My further hope is that we will never return to the divisive rhetoric that can only challenge and harm our democratic institutions that we ought to cherish now and for the future.

Frank Del Campo
Mahopac



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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Carmel Schools Works to Eliminate Budget Gap

continued from page 7

list of items that need to be addressed each year – even though they will undoubtedly be stricken from that year's budget – as part of the process.

"I actually think it's very transparent in showing exactly what it is that he thinks we need to do, and saying we just can't afford to do it," said Stark.

Superintendent Andy Irvin added that the facilities director is just bringing certain needs to the board and administration's attention.

"There are things about our buildings that will have to go to a capital project at

some point because we cannot afford to do them in our budgets," he said. "But it is not responsible for us to not say that this is what we think we should be doing."

Therefore, when the district does eventually ask taxpayers to approve a capital project, it has documented the needs, he said.

Trustee Matt Vanacoro agreed with his fellow board member that the process, or at least the language, is misleading.

"So I kind of understand his (Mittelstadt's) point," said Vanacoro. "Where are we going to get \$1 million? And if we did – although it would be amazing

to spend it on buildings and grounds – there are a lot of other things... So it's a little weird for me to kind of view that as a savings or reduction. It really isn't; he asked for another million dollars and we said no."

Administrators, however, noted that the \$1 million in "needs" is something that has been requested in the buildings and facilities budget for many of the last several years, and disregarded.

"These things didn't just come up this year," explained Stark. "A lot of the items in there were part of the budget conversation last year and were cut..."

They may continually be cut and may never be addressed until we do another capital project, but it's important to have the conversation in order to keep our facilities up to date."

Public conversations about the budget will continue March 3 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., and March 31 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., at the Carmel High School library, as well as at upcoming board meetings.

For more information about the development of the 2020-21 budget, and dates and times of upcoming meetings, visit carmelschools.org.

Putnam Valley Threatens Legal Action Against County

continued from page 2

condos and townhouses...They've created the situation, they need to figure it out for themselves," said Boughton. "That's not our problem."

Councilwoman Jackie Annabi said the town will not be backing down on this issue.

"We're not going down without a fight," she said. "That's the first and most

important thing. Carmel and Mahopac, they like the box boxes (stores), they like all those big businesses, but we have to pay the price for it by having all the big trucks, and we're not going to accept that."

Oliverio said the town will use every resource possible to stop the weight limit from being lifted.

"We will fight it with every resource we have," he said.

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The 44th Annual Northern Westchester-Putnam St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held Sunday, March 8



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



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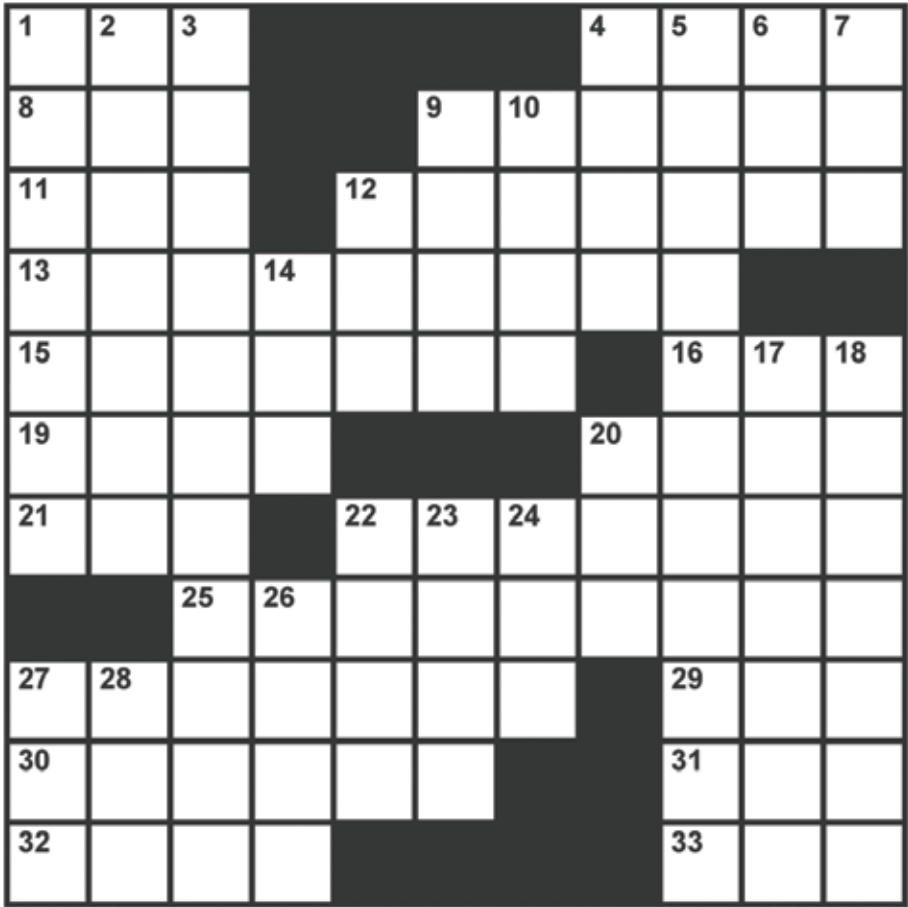
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Crossword Puzzle



Crossword by Myles Mellor

Answers on page 13

Across

- 1. L.A. clock setting
- 4. Sediment
- 8. Propel a boat, manually
- 9. "8 Mile" Rapper
- 11. Different from many
- 12. Optician's product
- 13. Upscale retail shop in Chappaqua, _____ Finds
- 15. Costumes
- 16. Gun an engine
- 19. Those opposed
- 20. Microwave, slangily
- 21. The letter "s"
- 22. Restraint
- 25. Mica in thin sheets
- 27. The experts to see before the Ides of April, Taconic _____
- 29. Snake pet
- 30. Passed up
- 31. Director Jean-___ Godard
- 32. Looking pale
- 33. Summer, in Cannes

Down

- 1. Blasphemous
- 2. Recital numbers
- 3. Zee's place
- 4. No-no's opposite?
- 5. Mystic
- 6. "Men in Black" costar Tommy ___ Jones

- 7. Trademarks, abbr.
- 9. "Or ___!"
- 10. Floor protectors
- 12. Predatory fish
- 14. It is, old way
- 17. Manages
- 18. Italian fashion designer
- 20. Naught
- 22. Capri coin, once
- 23. Appraised about
- 24. Some old Brit. sports cars
- 26. Limber
- 27. ___ fault
- 28. Hung. neighbor



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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

Purchase Tickets Now: Saturday, March 28. The Emerald Association of Putnam County will host its 46th annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance at the Mahopac Fire House, 741 Route 6 Mahopac. Honoring Tom Brady as "Emerald of the Year". Music provided by Mike & Noreen Sherry. 6 to 11 p.m. O'Sullivan School of Irish Dancing will perform. \$60.00 pp includes drinks, appetizers, dinner, dessert, tea, & coffee. Reserve with Dymna Zazzero. 845-278-8271 or e-mail dympnaz@aol.com

Tuesday, March 3

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.

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.

Wednesday, March 4

Movie Matinee: The Peanut Butter Falcon. 1:00 p.m., This month's Movie Matinee at the Patterson Library is "The Peanut Butter Falcon." Experience the heartwarming story of friendship that starts when Zak, a young man with Down Syndrome, runs away from his nursing home to fulfill his dream of becoming a professional wrestler, when his path crosses with Tyler, an outlaw on the run who agrees to help him. Rated PG-13. For more information or to register, contact the Patterson Library at 845-878-6121 x10 or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org and click Calendar.

Thursday, March 5

LEGO Family Event. 4:30 p.m.,

Parents are encouraged to attend & build with LEGO® bricks alongside their kids! Registration required! Register online at www.mahopaclibrary.org, or call 845-628-2009, ext. 139.

Relay for Life of Brewster: Bull and Barrel Brewery and Restaurant. Join Us As We Attack Cancer From Every Angle., It's time to get excited about Giving Cancer the Boot! It wouldn't be Relay For Life without a celebration, so we're marking the start of our Relay season with a kickoff event. Guests will hear how the community has benefited from funds raised, honor cancer survivors, and learn how to save lives from cancer. Come to the Kickoff and learn more about this community event. Leave inspired and ready to form your own Relay for Life team. Teams can register at relayforlife.org/brewsterny

Saturday, March 7

Shamrock Shacks: Reed Library. 1:00 p.m., Decorate a gingerbread house for leprechauns! Program for ages 12 and up. Participants are asked to bring green, rainbow or gold candies to share. Registration required. Please visit www.carmellibrary.org/calendar to register

Moravian Love Feast: Trinity Lutheran Church 2103 Route 6, Brewster. 5:00 p.m., Join us for a special Lenten worship opportunity to gather in prayer song and fellowship. Special music by Trinity Brass and Senior Choir

Monday, March 9

Lake Carmel Park District Advisory Board: 7:00 p.m., -9:00 p.m., at the Lake Carmel Community Center on 10 Huguenot Rd., Lake Carmel. All Lake Carmel residents are invited to this forum, to engage in conversation on important developments and plans to improve the lake community. For

more information visit www.townofkentny.gov/lake-carmel-park-district

Information Session: 6:30 p.m., Discover the rewards and responsibilities of being a Library Trustee. Meet current Board members and staff, and enjoy a light breakfast. Call the Library to reserve your spot: 845-628-2009, ext. 100, or sign up online at www.mahopaclibrary.org

Wednesday, March 11

Tibetan Singing Bowls Workshop: 7:00 p.m., Michelle Clifton will explain the use of Tibetan Singing Bowls which have been used for centuries for healing and meditation in this hands-on workshop. The range of sounds the bowls create restores the normal vibratory frequencies of the body, mind and soul. For more information or to register, contact the Patterson Library at 845-878-6121 x10 or go to www.pattersonlibrary.org and click Calendar

Celebrate Pi Day: Reed Library. 11:00 a.m., Join us to learn about Pi and eat Pie! A delicious learning opportunity presented by John DeJulio. Please visit www.carmellibrary.org/calendar to register

Saturday, March 14

Drug Crisis in Our Backyard: 9:30 a.m., - 3:00 p.m., 24 Smith Rd., Mt. Kisco. Suggested donation: \$20/pp, \$25/couple. Refreshments served. Better understand

what drives substance use in your loved one. Apply techniques to take better care of yourself. Learn how to use tools that help your loved one move away from substance use and towards change with hope. To register visit cmccfc.org/events/drug-crisis-in-our-backyard or text/call Jean Cooney at 914 815-0034

Sunday, March 15

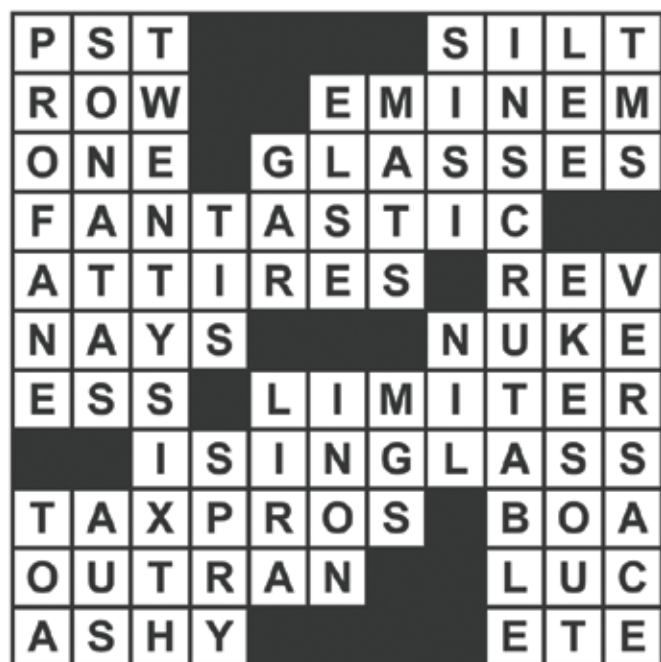
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VFW Post 672 St Patrick's Dinner: 262 Peaceable Hill Rd. Brewster. St Patricks Day dinner: 2:00 p.m., - 6:00p.m., \$12 adults, \$8 kids .Info contact Lisa 845-278-8879

Tuesday, March 17

Patterson Library Meeting: Held every third Tuesday of the Month. 6:30 p.m., The Patterson Library Board of Trustees meets at the library on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. The meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the Patterson Library at 845-878-6121.

Crossword Answers



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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING The Board of Trustees of the Village of Pleasantville will hold a Public Hearing on Monday March 23, 2020, 8:00pm, prevailing time, 80 Wheeler Avenue, Pleasantville, New York to hear comments as it pertains

to Introductory Local Law No. 2 of 2020 pursuant to subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law Section 3-c which expressly authorizes a local government's governing body to override the property tax cap for the coming fiscal year by the adoption of a local law approved by a vote of sixty percent of said governing body. Eric Morrissey Village Administrator/Clerk, Village of Pleasantville

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continued from previous page



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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.

NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME

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**

Legal Notice

**STATE OF NEW YORK
SUPREME COURT COUNTY
OF PUTNAM
SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS
Index No.: 501323/2019**

BAYVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC, Plaintiff, v. ANY UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, DISTRIBUTEES OR SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST OF THE LATE CHRISTOPHER STEWART A/K/A CHRISTOPHER M. STEWART, IF LIVING, AND IF ANY BE DEAD, ANY AND ALL PERSONS WHO ARE SPOUSES, WIDOWS, GRANTEEES, MORTGAGEES, LIENORS, HEIRS, DEVISEES, DISTRIBUTEES, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS OR SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST OF SUCH OF THEM AS MAY BE DEAD, AND THEIR SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, DISTRIBUTEES AND SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST, ALL OF WHOM AND WHOSE NAMES AND PLACES OF RESIDENCE ARE UNKNOWN TO PLAINTIFF, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE, JACQUELINE M. STEWART, JENNIFER ANN STEWART, 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 appearance 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.

NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME

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 14 day of February, 2020 at Carmel, New York.

The object of this action is to foreclose a mortgage on the following property: **Tax I.D. No. 33.57-1-23**

ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Town of Kent, Putnam County, New York, more fully described as being Lots numbered 13568 through 13572 both inclusive as shown and delineated on a map entitled, "Twelfth Map of Lake Carmel, Town of Kent, Putnam County, New York," filed in Putnam County Clerk's Office the 18th day of August 1930, as Filed Number 130KK being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at the corner formed by the intersection of the easterly side of Lincoln Drive and the southerly side of Mamanasco Road;

THENCE along the southerly side of Mamanasco Road, South 77 degrees 15 minutes 20 seconds East, 103.18 feet;

THENCE South 12 degrees 44 minutes 40 seconds West, 100.00 feet to the division line between Lot Numbers 13567 and 13568 on the above mentioned filed map;

THENCE along the last mentioned division line North 77 degrees 15 minutes 20 seconds West, 91.57 feet to the easterly side of Lincoln Drive;

THENCE North 06 degrees 07 minutes 20 seconds East along the easterly side of Lincoln Drive, 100.65 feet to the point or place of **BEGINNING**.

These premises are also known as **44 Lincoln Drive, Carmel, NY 10512.**

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

The Putnam Examiner Sports

Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports

Slip Them Five!



**Putnam Valley Wins 5th-
Straight Section 1 Cheer Title**



Members of the Putnam Valley High cheerleading squad pose with the program's fifth consecutive Section 1 Small School Division (Large Team) championship last Saturday afternoon at Arlington High School where the Tigers edged Pearl River and advanced to the NYSPHSAA championship in Rochester on March 7th. Members of the team include, seven All-Leaguers, four All-Section winners, including Gabriela Alvarez, Brianna Candiotti, Shannon Cottrell, Nia Givan, Ilyanna Garcia-Alicea, Alexandra Jacobs, Laura Jones, Shannon Lee, Leah Lundberg, Jianna Melikian, Angelica Ordonez, Caitlin Quinn, Makenzie Quick, Adriana Raus, Francesca Reyes, Megan Stephens, Keiko Waters, Coach Kelly Wilson and Asst. Coach Regina Albano.

Duke Crowned a King!

**Carmel 7th-Grader Makes History,
Wins NYS 99-Pound Title**



SUSAN DULLEA PHOTO

Carmel seventh-grader P.J. Duke became the youngest New York State Division I champion in history last Saturday at the Times Union Center in Albany where he capped a perfect 49-0 season with a state title triumph -- the first ever by a Carmel wrestler -- doing so by tech fall over Joseph Manfredi of Section 9's Herricks High School for the 99-pound title. The 13-year-old Duke, who started grappling at the age of four, became the youngest wrestler in history to win the prestigious Eastern States title, a Section 1 and NYS crown this winter... see Grappling Notebook

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Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook

Hendrick Hudson, Putnan Valley are Final 4-Bound *Mahopac, Ossining, Panas, Somers Picked off in Quarters*

By Tony Pinciario

It has been a memorable season for the **HENDRICK HUDSON** varsity girls' basketball team and it became more special when it defeated PANAS in a Section 1 Class A quarterfinal.

The 44-30 victory sent Hen Hud to the Section 1 Class A Girls' Basketball Championship Final 4 at the Westchester County Center, the state-ranked (No.18) Sailors first semifinal since 2005 and first ever trip to the fabled Mecca.

The second-seeded Sailors (21-1) will play sixth-seeded Pearl River in a semifinal, Thursday, March 5. The other semifinal has

archrivals No. 4 Harrison playing No. 1 Rye. The semifinal winners will play for the title and a berth in the NYSPHSAA tournament.

"This season has been incredible and every single player on our team has put in 110% since the first day of practice," Sailor G Grace Moretti said. "Going to the County Center was one of our goals at the beginning of the season and I am extremely excited to be crossing it off the list. It is a dream come true for me and my team and I can't wait for the game."

Hen Hud earned its trip with a strong second half. The Sailors trailed seventh-seeded Panas, 16-11, at the half, grabbed a 27-23 lead after three quarters.

"This season has been filled with excitement and the feeling of accomplishment," Sailor senior Caitlin Weimar said. "It's been so much fun to make it this far and do so well. It's a huge deal in our community and school so we want to do our best and be the first section champs in Hen Hud girls' basketball."

Weimar, who finished with 22 points, 17 rebounds and four steals and Moretti agree that familiarity with some of Panas' players aided them, defensively.

"I think it is helpful playing against people you know like Kristen (Scrobola)," Weimar said. "I think we keep our pressure and energy up. We deflect passes, drop and switch on players very well to make people feel



Hen Hud's Colleen Ryan and Kira Varada celebrate Sailors' 44-30 Section 1 Class A playoff win over Panthers last Wednesday.



Hen Hud players and coaches react to big shot in Sailors' 44-30 Section 1 Class A playoff win over Panas last Wednesday.



RAY GALLAGHER/GIL MCMAHON/TONY HUMBERTO PHOTOS

Hen Hud F Caitlin Weimar goes up for shot against defense from Panas F Erijona Rraci in Sailors' 44-30 Section 1 Class A playoff win over Panthers last Wednesday.

rushed and make mistakes."

Moretti agreed and took it one step further.

"Throughout our entire season, our defense has been one of the key reasons we are 21-1," Moretti said. "Thanks to our coach, we are always prepared for the type of offense our opponents play and the players that we have to watch out for. I believe that putting our top defenders on their best player was the reason we kept the Panthers to only 30 points."

Hen Hud will face a Pearl River team that eliminated archrival and third-seeded Tappan Zee. Pearl River has a history of final four appearances and success, but the Sailors will be ready, especially when it comes to the Pirates' defensive approach.

"From an offensive standpoint, the only way that we will win this game is if every player on our team steps up and contributes

to the offense," Moretti said. "Caitlin is the key to our offense, but I believe that if Pearl River is locking her off, that other players will be able to step up and put us on the board."

In the victory over Panas, Kira Varada had seven points, nine rebounds three assists and three steals and Moretti added nine points and seven rebounds.

While Weimar is averaging 24 points a game, Moretti is at 10 points a game, and Mylene Smith and Varada are both scoring seven points per game.

Hen Hud has been studying film and it sees many similarities between Pearl River and Panas.

"We've concluded that Pearl River has a strong offense and they are very good shooters so this means we will approach them with a very similar defensive attack as we

continued on next page

Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook

continued from previous page

did against Panas," Moretti said. "The key to our defense will be locking off their key players and making them as uncomfortable as possible."

CLASS A

Seventh-seeded **PANAS** held a five-point halftime lead against second-seeded Hen Hud in its Section 1 Class A quarterfinal game before a second-half cold spell cost the Panthers in a 44-30 loss.

"We were up by eight points in the third quarter and then went nine minutes without scoring," Panas Coach Matt Evangelista said.

Panas, which received 10 points from Kristen Cinquina and eight points from Caileen Nolan, finished with a 15-7 record.

Evangelista is looking ahead to the 2020-21 season, but will miss his seniors, especially Kat Reynoso and Kristen Scrobola.

"We have many important pieces back next year," Evangelista said. "Kat Reynoso was our defensive stopper and a great team player. She will be missed next year. Kristen Scrobola will be sorely missed. Although she was nursing a sore ankle and didn't have her best game, she was hugely important to our success. She averaged 10 points, eight rebounds and five assists this year. She was a three-year starter and the heart and soul of our team."

SOMERS had perhaps the most gut-wrenching loss of the tournament, falling 61-59 at top-seeded, state-ranked (No.24) Rye last Wednesday off an improbable buzzer-beater. Four-year veteran Dani DiCintio paced the Tuskers (14-8) with 20 points while Jordan May dropped 14. Somers has had an incredible amount of success the last five seasons and will get back to work quickly under Coach Marc Hattem in the hopes of maintaining its status as a Class A power.

CLASS AA

MAHOPAC's excellent year came to a



Mahopac junior G Mia Klammer makes strong scoring move in Indians' 65-45 Section 1 Class AA playoff loss to Magnus Friday.



Mahopac junior F Caitlyn O'Boyle goes up for two in Indians' 65-45 Section 1 Class AA playoff loss to Magnus Friday.

premature close as the fifth seed dropped a 65-45 verdict to fourth-seeded and perennial final-four participant Albertus Magnus in a Class AA quarterfinal game last Friday.

"We were down six at the half and an anemic offense in the third quarter hurt," Ma-



Mahopac freshman G Lauren Beberman goes up for two points in Indians' 65-45 Section 1 Class AA playoff loss to Magnus Friday.



Somers freshman G Ava Giudice takes contested shot in Tuskers' 61-59 Section 1 Class A quarterfinal loss to Rye last Wednesday.

hopac Coach Chuck Scozzafava said. "We were outscored, 20-7, in the third. It was a bad day to have a bad day. The girls worked hard and hustled, but we just couldn't hit from the outside."

Junior Mia Klammer and freshman Lauren Beberman each scored 14 points for Mahopac. The Indians finished 15-7 overall and 7-3 in the league. Two league losses were to second-seeded and final-four-bound Arlington, the No.2 seed.

"Being a young team and going 15-7 and 7-3 in league, I would say we had a great season," Scozzafava said. "I'm really proud of the girls and the hard work they put in during the season. With all of my starters back, I'm excited for next season."

The 2020 off-season will determine whether the Indians are committed to establishing themselves as contenders in 2021, but a good chunk of the returnees are year-round hoopers.

OSSINING had its nine-year run as sectional champions come to a conclusion as third-seeded Our Lady of Lourdes defeated the sixth seed, 63-56 in a Section 1 Class AA quarterfinal. The Pride, who finished 13-9 this season, had three of its starting five foul out of the game, but the nine-year run by Coach Dan Ricci's Pride is unprecedented and will be extremely difficult to top.

"I think if we didn't foul out the outcome

of the game would have been different," said senior Julia Iorio, who was among the three. "I think at the end of the day we all played really hard, but what it came down to was free throws and layups. We missed way too many while Lourdes made their shots."

Brooke Weeks led Ossining with 19 points. Ashley McFadden finished with nine points, eight rebounds, six assists and four steals and Iorio also had nine points.

Even though the season ended prematurely for Ossining, Iorio leave with lasting memories.

"Playing for Ossining has shaped my life in so many ways it's difficult to express it," Iorio said. "It gives you a second family in that we see each other 11 out of the 12 months and five of those months we see each other six days a week."

"We travel together, we laugh together and we play together. This is something very few people will ever get to enjoy through their life. Winning all these titles is something special to me. It makes me feel like I'm on top of the world and can do anything. Being a state champion is just a very high honor that's hard to beat, in my eyes."

CLASS B

PUTNAM VALLEY is returning to the Westchester County Center, after a one-year hiatus, for the Section 1 Class B Final Four.

continued on next page

Sports

continued from previous page

Girls' Hoops Notebook



Putnam Valley will need a confident stroke from senior G Kelli Venezia to change their County Center fortunes.

The second-seeded Tigers (18-3) advanced with a 73-28 win over Dobbs Ferry in a quarterfinal game as senior Kelli Venezia finished with 26 points.

Eva DeChent added 15 points, Amanda Orlando had 13 points and Arianna Stockinger netted 11 points for the state-ranked (No.9) Tigers.

Putnam Valley played No. 3 Hastings in a semifinal, Tuesday. The other semifinal was No. 1 Briarcliff vs. No. 4 Irvington.

Last year, Woodlands upset Putnam Valley in the quarterfinal round.

"We took a tough loss to Briarcliff in the



Every loose ball was a battle in Sailors' 44-30 Section 1 Class A playoff win over Panthers last Wednesday.

semis," said Venezia of 2019. "We have been determined to get back to the County Center since the season started.

"After getting upset in the quarterfinals last year, everyone was ready to get back at it. We have the talent and are hungry for this win. And, as for me and my fellow seniors, Cyera Daughtry and Alex Waters, this is our last shot and we don't want to go home without that gold ball."

Putnam Valley is having another excellent year after battling through a host of injuries, which left Coach Kristi Dini's Tigers short-handed in December.

"December was definitely a wake-up call



Panas G Caileen Nolan tries to gain lane on Hen Hud's Caitlin Weimar in Panthers' 44-30 Section 1 Class A playoff loss to Sailors last Wednesday.

for all of us," Venezia said. "We had subs step up and help make a difference on the court. Once we were back in full health, we were such a strong unit that we knew we were capable of going far."

Putnam Valley is familiar with Hastings, having beaten the Yellow Jackets in early January. Out of nowhere last week, though, Hastings dismissed its head coach, so the Yellow Jackets are under some duress as game-day approaches.

"We were prepared and knew that win



Versatile Hen Hud G Grace Moretti gains lane against defense from Panas' Erijona Rraci in Sailors' 44-30 Section 1 Class A playoff win over Panthers last Wednesday

was important," Venezia said. "We know what we have to do and are ready to get it done, again."

—Ray Gallagher contributed to this story

Boys' Hoops Notebook

Lakeland Falls to Reigning State Champ Poughkeepsie

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor@Directrays

And then there were none; as in large schools alive in the Section 1 basketball tournament. Fifth-seeded **LAKELAND's** 65-56 Class A quarterfinal loss to No.4 Poughkeepsie, the reigning state champs, last Wednesday left Class C **HALDANE** as the lone survivor among the local boys' hoops teams.

Coach Joe Virgadamo's second-seeded Blue Devils (15-5) were set for a semifinal tangle with No.3 Tuckahoe last night at the Westchester County Center for the right to face top-seeded Hamilton, the No.3 team in NYS, in the finals on March 7th.

Lakeland's County Center dreams were dashed when the fourth-seeded Pioneers (16-6) snapped a fourth-quarter tie, made big shots down the stretch and were set face No.1 Tappan Zee in Wednesday's semifinal at the County Center.

"Take away a few crucial mistakes and I think we're playing in the county center Wednesday," All-Section Lakeland swingman Jack Kruse said. "We had a couple of turnovers late in the game and it got away from us. Hopefully, we left the program in a better spot than before we got there."



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Lakeland senior G Augie Karaqi Karaqi scored 29 points in Hornets' season-ending 65-56 Class A quarterfinal loss to Poughkeepsie Wednesday.



Lakeland senior swingman Jack Kruse scored 13 points in Hornets' season-ending 65-56 Class A quarterfinal loss to Poughkeepsie Wednesday.



Sports

Grappling Notebook

Carmel's Duke, Iona Prep's Kelly Crowned State Champs

By Tony Pinciario

Seventh-grader PJ. Duke earned the starting 99-pound weight class spot for the Carmel wrestling team from day one of pre-season and immediately established himself as an impact wrestler. Teams would learn quickly, that Duke was a force to be reckoned with, especially after he became the first seventh-grader to ever win the prestigious Eastern States Wrestling Classic.

Duke dominated the regular season, proceeded to continue in winning the Section 1 Division I (large school) 99-pound title and capped his perfect season, 49-0, at the New York State Championships with two technical falls and two pins. In the process, Duke became the first seventh-grader to win a Section 1 wrestling title and first to win a state championship.

Duke was one of two state champions from the Putnam Examiner coverage area as Iona Prep senior and Somers' resident Matt Kelly won the 195-pound title. Mahopac sophomore Angelo Centrone, the Section 1 Division I champion, finished seventh at 113 pounds, making it consecutive state-place finishes for him. Last year, Centrone placed fifth at 99 pounds.

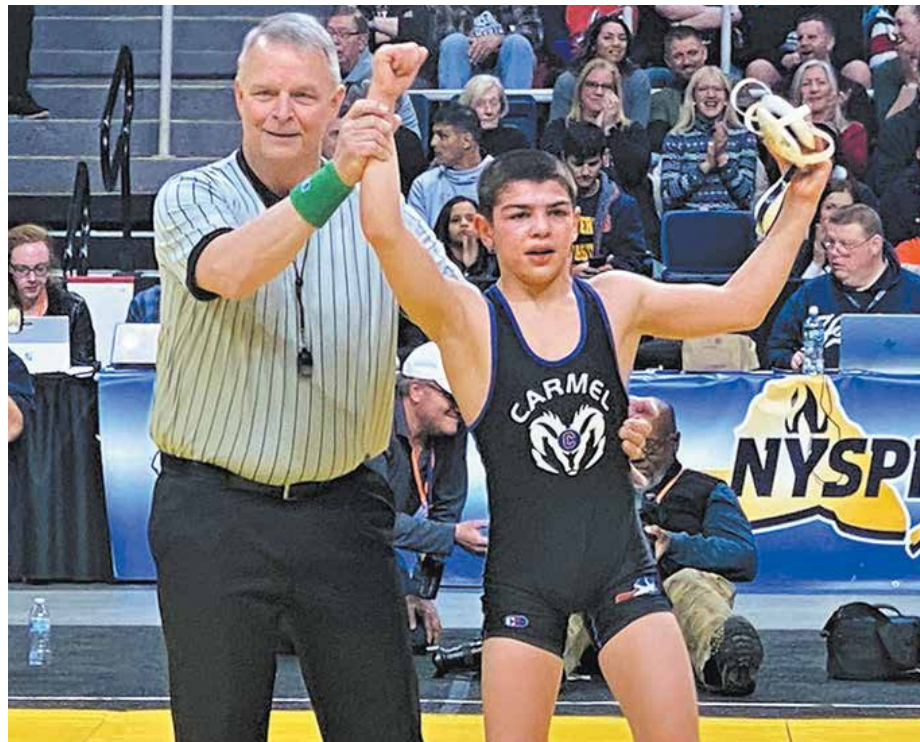
Coming into the season, Duke said he wanted to wrestle his best.

"I knew it was going to be a tough season, but it would be fun," said Duke, who pointed out he was going to a weight-lifting session later in the day.

While Duke was off to an outstanding first month, he kept everything in perspective. Once he won the Eastern States in early January, Duke began thinking.

"It came to a realization during Eastern States that if I could win this I thought maybe I could win sections and states," Duke said.

He also understood that he was no longer an unknown and opponents would wrestle



Carmel 7th-grader PJ Duke made history with his 99-pound championship performance at the NYS tournament Saturday.

their best against him. This drove Duke to work even harder.

"You can never take breaks because it's hard to stay on top, once you get there," said the George Fisher Middle School student.

Carmel Coach Seth Harrison, himself a Section 1 champion, marveled at Duke's accomplishments.

"PJ. had a lot of firsts this season," Harrison said. "He was the first seventh-grader to be a Section 1 champ. The first seventh-grade state champ and youngest state champ, as well as Carmel's first state champ and undefeated wrestler in program history. And with all of his success this year, he still

managed to reach another level in terms of his performance this weekend at states. The fact that he didn't allow any offensive points to be scored on him, demonstrates this. In fact, he actually pitched a shutout through the entire postseason.

"There's good, better and best. All three have talent, but what defines the best is when that talent is combined with a continued commitment to being the best. Being the first one in and the last one out. And maintaining that mindset and focus day in and day out. Not only does he elevate the room he's in, he's the hardest-working one there."

Iona Prep senior Matt Kelly began wrestling as a nine-year old and dreamt of becoming a state champion. Kelly won the 2019 New York State Catholic High School title and went on to finish third, at 195 pounds, in the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Wrestling Championships. While third place was an excellent showing in his first New York State Championships, Kelly would get another chance in 2020.

Kelly won a second consecutive Catholic title and this year, left no doubt as to who was New York State's best 195-pounder as he did not allow a point in his four matches to win the Public High School title. Kelly outscored his four opponents, 50-0, including an 11-0 major decision of Nicholas Franco (Farmingdale-Section 8) in the title match. Kelly went 51-3 this season.

"Going in, I knew the venue and the crowd and how overwhelming it could be," Kelly said. "I felt more calm and collected in myself. I also did a lot of training in the off-season at Empire Wrestling Academy, working on my technique and I felt I got a lot better."

Kelly was seeded first, but unlike at Eastern States, where he was also the top seed, he did not allow the pressure to affect him.

"The pressure got me, I lost in the semis and finished third," said Kelly of Eastern States. "This time, I wrestled every match the same way, hard. You also have to wrestle, keep your hands and feet going and execute your moves on top and bottom. In the state final, I treated it like it was my first match."

Kelly, who will attend Binghamton University in September and continue wrestling, plans on wrestling in the Senior High School Nationals as well as training hard. However, he will always remember his final high school match.

"It feels great, like a dream come true," said Kelly of his state championship.



No.4 Carmel Sets School Record for Wins (14)



Fourth-seeded Carmel suffered a 9-4 season-ending D-I quarterfinal loss to the Rivertown Legends in last week's sectional tournament at the Brewster Ice Arena, but not before the Rams (14-6-1) posted a school record 14-win season and celebrated a wild 7-6 overtime win over White Plains in the opening round. "Though our ultimate goal was not reached, I can't help but step back and be extremely proud of this group" Carmel Coach Mike Chiacchia said. "They continued to grow as the season went on and we accomplished some pretty great things. As our season ended the other night, I found myself thinking that time is an interesting thing -- because I saw sad faces all around the room that it was over, but if we went back in time a few years, we were not winning games and not in the conversation. However, fast forwarding to present time on the hard work and backs of this current team, I think we showed the world that Carmel is a hockey school and we are here to stay. I hope they are as proud of that as I am." **By Ray Gallagher**



Sports

When One Door Closes, Another Usually Opens



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For every senior that walks off the court a winner in their last game, there are 100 times that amount that walk away from the game having lost their last hurrah. Sometimes, we get to witness some of the greatest endings in high school sports; like when Somers and Yorktown High won their NYS football titles in 2016 and 1993-94, respectively, or when Lakeland field hockey puts away one of their 13 NYS titles, or the great runs of the Ossining girls' basketball teams, the Yorktown lax programs, or the Peekskill basketball juggernauts of Elton Brand, Hilton Armstrong and Mookie Jones.

Good times, for sure, but I've witnessed more heartache over the course of the last three decades than I care to recall. And while last Wednesday's visit to Hendrick Hudson High produced a thrilling outcome for Coach Ken Sherman's Sailors -- a 44-30

Class A quarterfinal win over rival Walter Panas, which punched Hen Hud's ticket to its first Final 4 since 2005 and only County Center visit in program history -- it was also the end of the line for Coach Matt Evangelista's Panthers and Manhattanville-bound senior stalwart Kristen Scrobola, the heart and soul of the program the past couple years.

Hell, watching Scrobola foul out in the waning seconds only to walk off into Evangelista's arms was as tough as watching Brand walk off the County Center floor after a stunning Class A semifinal loss to Poughkeepsie in March of 1997; to this day the most improbable high school sports upset I think I've ever personally witnessed. Brand's loss to the Pioneers opened the door to the first Section 1 hoops title in Panas history; to this day one of the terrific memories I've had in this profession.

I imagine it was just as tough last Wednesday for four-year Somers senior Dani DiCintio, who lost her last game on a buzzer-beater in the Class A quarters to Rye, and for Lakeland's All-Section seniors Jack Kruse and Augie Karaqi, who went up to Poughkeepsie and lost to the reigning state champs. The end of the line sucks, no two ways about it.

But when one door closes, another often opens; that's life. So, when Hen Hud's Marist-bound senior Caitlin Weimar drops that contested three on Panas from the top of the key midway through the fourth quarter, the doors to the County Center were opened to the Lady Sailor for the first time ever, and that was a sight for sore eyes... something I'll carry with me for quite some time. Congrats to Coach Sherman, who began to build a culture 11 years ago, and the Sailors.

"This group is special," Sherman said. "They had to prove that we are more than just Caitlin. I believe they did that by winning our league and getting to County Center. I also feel like I have always had a 'special' group of kids in all of my 11 years of coaching. I have had many well wishes from alumni that helped us get here."

And they're not done yet: No.6 Pearl River lies in wait...

Something tells me that the Mahopac girls' hoop team, which was knocked off in Friday's quarterfinals, might be in the same boat in Class AA next year, with all the Indians will return. But that's not going to be easy

since Section 1 refuses to fully address the elephant in the room -- the Catholic powerhouses Ursuline, Our Lady of Lourdes and Albertus Magnus. Once again, the Catholics dominate the Section 1 chapter of the NYSPHSAA Class AA girls' hoops tournament, as all three head to County Center this week. The P, the H and the S

in NYSPHSAA stand for Public High School, but Section 1 and NYS continue to allow the Catholics to enter the Section 1 and state playoff tournaments under these non-binding geographic guidelines that allow the Catholic schools to retain star recruits from anywhere on the planet while the publics have stringent geographic guidelines.

will rarely be able to compete at their level.

Section 1 brass will point out that Ossining won nine consecutive Section 1 Class AA titles from 2011 to 2019, but Coach Dan Ricci's Pride were an outlier, an aberration, something we may never see again with their unprecedented slew of D-I talents. That said, if it weren't for No.3 Lourdes, No.1 Ursuline and No.4 Magnus, my money is on No.6 Ossining to challenge for a 10th Section 1 crown on March 8th.

But Ossining lost to the Dutchess All-Stars (Lourdes) Friday, and Mahopac lost to the Rockland All-Stars (Magnus), and White Plains was defeated by the Bronx/Westchester All-Stars (Ursuline). Thus, three public schools were denied a chance to play in the Class AA public school Final 4 tournament at the Westchester County Center, just like

Direct Rays



This Caitlin Weimar 3-ball clinched Hen Hud's 44-30 Section 1 Class A playoff win over Panas last Friday and sent Sailors to Final 4 for first time since 2005.



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS
Panas senior Kristen Scrobola shares one last hug with Coach Matt Evangelista in Panthers' 44-30 Section 1 Class A playoff loss to Hen Hud last Wednesday.

Look, I'm Catholic and it's possible I'll be one of those three sheets in the wind on March 17th, so I've got nothing against the Irish, Italian, black or brown, nor these Catholic schools having mighty basketball programs. I simply maintain they belong in the Catholic High School Athletic Association come playoffs, no matter how much that irks them. Basketball is a different animal and should be treated as such.

So, Section 1 thought they handled the situation when they moved Magnus and Lourdes from Class B to Class A and then finally shuffled them off to Class AA due to their domination in the lower classifications. But in reality, the only thing they've done is sweep the issue under a larger rug and pissed off bigger districts like Mahopac and White Plains, who

last year.

"It is what it is," Ricci conceded, not wanting to beat a dead horse.

Arlington, which drew the long straw as the No.2 seed, is the lone public school to attend the Class AA dance, having avoided the Catholics along the way; until now. Mahopac, which returns every single starter from a team that posted 15 wins, can only hope for a similar draw next year.

It's really a damn shame, but, unfortunately, it may never change until someone with more pull than me challenges the powers that be. With all the negative parental influence we see these days, you would think a group of "concerned parents" would stand up and demand change for the student athletes.



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