After Losing Daughter to Cancer, Putnam Valley Father Pens Book

By David Propper

After the courageous bout her daughter had with cancer to the very end, Joe Bagnato believes in miracles. His late daughter, Caitlyn, was given a short life expectancy by doctors once it was determined she had a rare and lethal form of cancer, which would be distraught news for any set of parents, including Bagnato and his wife. But the miracle is the amount of time the Bagnatos, Putnam Valley residents, actually got with their late daughter before she ultimately died at 15 and that experience was the motivation for Bagnato’s first ever book in memory of Caitlyn.

The title of the book, “Family Inspires Great Hope Together—How We Fight,” is scheduled to be published on Nov. 3 by Electio Publishing in paperback. The book details the inspiring story, through the eyes of a father whose daughter is battling a life-ending cancer.

When Caitlyn, who died October 12, 2009 (Columbus Day of that year), was diagnosed with Fibrolamellar Hepatocellular Carcinoma, a rare form of liver cancer, doctors “gave her no chance,” Bagnato said. He noted those doctors didn’t think she would make it.

“As the investigation is ongoing, it would be premature to state specifics, such as the person or persons involved, the amount of funds involved or the prospects of restitution or recovery,” the department stated. “The Board of Fire Commissioners is working with law enforcement officials and the fire departments outside legal and insurance consultants, to see it that all appropriate action is taken to safeguard the assets of the fire department.”

The department’s now-former treasurer, Michael Klein, resigned on Sep. 25 as the probe dragged on, according to a report in The Journal News. He had been the treasurer since 2003 and owns Buckshollow Emergency Equipment in Mahopac. His company sold equipment to the Mahopac Fire Department, according to the report, despite he also being the department’s treasurer.

“This is by far the largest issue involving finances that I’ve been involved with,”
Carmel Supervisor Ken Schmitt said.

During a board meeting last week, Schmitt said he was a "very proud" life member of the Mahopac Fire Department, joining when he was 16-years-old. He stressed residents to not throw an avalanche of criticism on the entire department and its services because of "one bad apple."

"We're talking about one individual right now who decided to do what he did, please do not lump all the members of the fire department," Schmitt said. "Don't paint them with one broad paint brush. That is wrong to do that."

Schmitt went on to say, "The one bad apple that they had, he will pay. There will be consequences for him...it's disgraceful what this individual did and he will pay for his crimes"

After the meeting, Schmitt reiterated the focus of the investigation is on one individual. When asked if others could be culpable, he said, "we all need to let the investigation run and work itself out."

"Every stone is being turned over, every account is being looked at, every file is being examined," Schmitt said. "There's a forensic audit going on with the state comptroller."

He noted the town board is limited in what information they can request from the fire department--a non-profit organization--when weighing what monies they deserve for the next fiscal year. Schmitt said while the fire department files financials each year, those finances are only associated with the funding allocated from the town to the department.

"It doesn't mean that there are other accounts that we haven't reviewed," Schmitt said.

A couple of residents spoke at last week's meeting, urging the town to explore ways to make the fire department more accountable and transparent. Resident and business owner Michael Barile said he believes the town board should take out at least $525,000 allotted for the fire department, which would result in a zero percent increase.

"I don't remember the last time we had zero," Barile said. "It's quite obvious they don't need that $525,000."

Resident Robert Buckley suggested the town board potentially designate the department as a fire district, rather than its current status as a fire protection agency, which would allow for "full transparency" akin to the school district and library budgets.

Buckley, like Barile, encouraged the town board to hold some of the money the department is requesting back and "make them really be transparent before you start giving it away because it is our tax dollars."

Councilman Jonathan Schneider, who was past treasurer and currently assistant treasurer for a fire district in Westchester County, said "everything we did as a fire district was transparent to the public."

Schneider stressed the town has a "great group of volunteers in our community that we need to acknowledge and they need to understand that they're appreciated, especially through times like this."

He noted that gratitude would help convince "rank and file" firefighters to go along with a fire district. A fire district allows the public to vote on board of commissioners, but not the actual budget. It does though, allow residents to make freedom of information requests, and attend and speak at open meetings.

Schneider said he's voiced privately for several years the need for a fire district and noted some fire department officials have even agreed with him. With this latest scandal rocking the community, the creation of a fire district should be the first thing that comes to residents' minds.

"What has transpired here, obviously can't be changed," Schneider said. "Whatever comes to fruition during the investigation comes to fruition. That can't be changed. That's the past."

Schmitt said the board would be discussing up until Nov. 20 if the department would get the full amount of money it requested, which is $2.1 million.

When asked what he personally thought of the budget request, Schmitt said, "I'm not going to venture into an opinion on that at this time."

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**BURNED: Probe Ongoing for Missing Millions in Mahopac VFD**

continued from page 1

David Propper Photo

The Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department last week.
Patterson Explores Possible Action Against MTA Pole

By Neal Rentz

The town of Patterson is exploring potential legal action to stop the Metropolitan Transportation Authority’s plan to erect a 180-foot tall telecommunications pole.

At its Oct. 7 meeting, the town board instructed Town Counsel Don Rossi to research if the MTA’s plan to construct the monopole in the middle of town in a residential area could be legally challenged. The pole, which would easily be the highest point in town, would be constructed along the tracks on Route 164 on MTA property.

Because the pole would be located on MTA land, it would not be subject to town approvals. The MTA has said the pole is needed because it has poor radio communication with its police department and it chose the location and size because of its cost effectiveness.

Town and county officials have said the pole would be an eyesore.

Town Supervisor Michael Griffin said at last week’s meeting the MTA recently sent a letter to the town stating it was going ahead with its original proposal. Part of the pole is planned to be leased to private cell phone carriers, which the MTA has said would earn it $25,000 annually, he said. Griffin also noted without the commercial carriers, the pole could be shorter.

The proposal would have “a huge impact” on the town and the MTA did not need the $25,000 that would be paid by cell phone companies, Griffin said. The pole would sharply reduce the property values in the area, he said.

Rossi said a potential legal challenge would be for the town to hire a radio frequency engineer to find out if the MTA needed all 180 feet of the pole or if it could be located elsewhere.

“We’ll do what we can” to challenge the MTA, Griffin said.
Patterson Convenience Store Robbed, Leads to Manhunt

By David Propper

The town of Patterson heard sirens blaring and saw bright lights blazing Wednesday night after a convenience store in the center of town was robbed by an alleged masked man.

Authorities are seeking help from the public to find the perpetrator that entered Betzi’s Mini Mart located on Center Street in town and took an undisclosed sum of money after showing a handgun, according to the Putnam County Sheriff’s Office. No one was injured in the robbery.

The man was reportedly wearing a black hooded jacket, dark pants and a white mask, according to the sheriff’s release. A witness, the sheriff’s office said, stated the suspect got into a small automobile, though the make and model are unknown at this time. He allegedly drove away on Route 311 with his headlights off and was last seen turning onto Route 292.

One Patterson resident, who witnessed some of the aftermath, was Andy Falk who said he had just left a town hall meeting when a sheriff deputy approached him and a couple of other residents to ask if they saw a man in a mask drive by and then another deputy asked some time after. In between, two New York State Police cars also came through and asked the same question, but Falk and the other residents hadn’t seen anything.

As Falk was going home and making a left on Route 311, he saw all of Front Street and South Street was blocked off by a deputies with an assault rifles.

“I hope they catch this guy and I hope it turns out that he’s not from here,” Falk, who happens to be running for town supervisor, said.

Anyone with information can contact the sheriff’s office at 845-225-4300. All calls are kept confidential.

Lakeland to Hold Hearing on Veterans Tax Exemption

By Rick Pezzullo

The Lakeland Board of Education is scheduled to hold a public hearing on Thursday, October 15 to consider adopting a tax exemption for veterans who served during wartime or in a combat zone or have a service-related disability.

The tax savings for Lakeland veterans in approximately 1,500 households would range from $317 to $1,583 annually, while non-veteran homeowners would experience a tax increase of .75% to 1% since the exemption would redistribute the tax levy in the district.

The hearing will take place at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of Walter Panas High School on Croton Avenue.

The veterans’ exemption, which was signed by Governor Andrew Cuomo in 2013, would also provide a tax break for certain family members of veterans, including spouses and un-remarried surviving spouses. Gold Star parents, who lost a child who was serving in the line of duty, may also qualify.

The Board of Education must adopt the exemption and vote on the exemption limits no later than March 1, 2016 for it to be effective for the tax levy in the 2017-18 school year.
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By Martin Wilbur

Anthony Rispo knows what it's like to overcome a rough patch in life.

Like many other young adults over the generations, he found expectations difficult to manage, especially external pressures concerning college and career.

Fortunately for Rispo, 25, he has had music and songwriting to fall back on, not only to help pay the bills through being a church organist and teaching music lessons, but also as an avenue to express himself.

"All my life I was in the classical music scene playing the organ, and I assumed my role in that scene, like unintentionally, just by default," said Rispo, a Mahopac resident since he and his family moved from Yonkers when he was 15.

"Basically, it all kind of came to a head. I feel like I repressed a lot of it when all this stuff came to a head and I realized on my own there's a person behind all of this," he added.

At about 21 years old, after having been forced to leave the Cleveland Institute of Music following a year and a half of study because of a prohibitive tuition increase, Rispo experienced feelings of anxiety and being emotionally trapped.

He said he also didn't get much solace from the cathedral and classical music communities.

"As I got older, I've been around people that were in it for the competition or recognition, and I fell into that a little bit, but in a distant way," said Rispo.

On Sunday, Oct. 18, he will help celebrate overcoming his darker periods through a performance at the Winery at St. George on Route 6 in Mohegan Lake.

The program, called Music for Tomorrow, will feature Rispo performing about 10 of his original songs, mainly in the pop music/singer-songwriter genre. He will be on keyboard and be accompanied by two guitarists, a drummer, a string quartet and backup singers.

The concept behind the program, which Rispo describes as more of a movement or cause, was to write and perform music that makes people feel good about themselves.

"Music for Tomorrow was an idea where I wrote music that would inspire people and give hope," Rispo said. "It was a simple idea to use songwriting to inspire people. And I was drawing on my own experience."

Originally, Rispo had planned on focusing the performance to spotlight mental health issues. However, he concluded that there are plenty of young people who have insecurities and anxiety and wonder about their place in the world, but are not diagnosed with a specific condition.

Rispo picked up music while going to church as a young child with his parents at St. Bartholomew's Church in Yonkers. At about nine years old, he would practice on a keyboard that was at home. He took organ lessons from the church's music director and progressed rapidly, to the point where he was playing at church in his early teens.

While Rispo has had opportunities to play cathedral music professionally on a full-time basis – something he has resumed doing – he also wants to explore other musical possibilities.

Recently, a family friend listened to his original music and through a contact put him in touch with a Los Angeles music producer. He plans on raising money to head out to California. The upcoming concert at St. George's is free, but for those patrons who like Rispo's music, there will be a crowdfunding website set up at www.indiegogo.com to help him meet some of his expenses.

For more information about Rispo and the Oct. 18 concert, scheduled for 6 to 7:30 p.m., visit www.anthonyrispo.com. The Winery at St. George's is located at 1715 E. Main St. in Mohegan Lake.

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By Arthur Cusano

Opiate abuse continues to skyrocket across the nation, but there is help for Hudson Valley families in need of support.

That was the message for the several dozen people who attended a forum held Thursday night at the Mahopac Public Library sponsored by Drug Crisis In Our Backyard, a local organization founded by two families after losing children to drug addiction.

The organization was founded by Steve and Susan Salomone and Carol Christiansen and her now-deceased husband Lou, in 2012 when their sons passed away.

Salomone called Thursday’s event a call to action, and said the biggest obstacle to their work was denial and passivity.

“Someone else is not gonna solve this,” he said. “The government is not going to solve this. We’re gonna solve this. We’re a grassroots organization and that’s what we’re all about.”

The organization talks to area families regularly and offers advice and counseling, and members also appear at community events and area schools.

The organization has begun doing interventions, and now offers weekly open support groups in Putnam, Westchester and Dutchess counties. They are also developing a martial arts program aimed at self-confidence, discipline and combating bullying.

The forum, entitled Breaking the Silence, brought together local addiction experts and treatment professionals.

Among them was Dennis Creedon, the Mahopac Central School District superintendent. Creedon said young people are more prone to make bad decision and try both prescription and illegal drugs.

“A medicine cabinet that is not locked is an invitation to a teenager,” he said. “Not that they want to disobey, they are curious by nature.”

Creedon said adverse childhood risk studies had showed that teenage boys dealing with several types of trauma in their life, such as living with an abusive parent, have a 3,000 percent increase in likelihood that they will be an intravenous drug abuser.

Boredom is another trigger that studies show leads to drug abuse, Creedon said. “If they are smart and they are bored, they are going to snap,” Creedon said. “In school they may be inappropriate and asked to leave the room. But if they’re also smart and bored, they may look for escapism.”

Creedon said parents must maintain a close eye on their children, and do whatever they can to keep drugs out of the community, including teaching their children to snitch on other students.

“Love doesn’t mean kids get to slide,” Creedon said. “It doesn’t mean you look the other way. And if you have love in your home and in your community you don’t let someone else’s kid get in trouble. Make a phone call.”

Executive Director Susan Salomone said she wanted a support group member to talk about the program, and introduced Elyssa Kopf, who talked about her son’s issues with substance abuse and her struggle to come to grips with his problem as a mother, wife and registered nurse.

“Eighteen months ago I was living a false reality, today I can tell you that although those things are still true, I am the parent of a drug addict. And today after months of partaking in Drug Crisis in our Backyard support group, I can say I’m slowly learning to once again be proud of myself as a person, parent and grandparent.”

Kopfe said her son was 15 months clean and sober. She said support meetings showed her drug addiction could happen to anyone, including those from good homes with no history of drug abuse.

“As we quickly learned at our meetings, my story is no different than anyone else’s. The people in this group are professional, hard working, intelligent, caring, loving, high-quality people whose family members suffer from a horrible disease.”

The event’s guest speaker was Dr. Frederick Hesse, the medical director at Arms Acres drug rehab center in Carmel.

Hesse told those on hand that they were living through an Opiate pandemic, with 43,000 deaths in 2014 alone. In 2011, drug deaths overtook vehicle fatalities as the largest cause of death. At the same

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Letters to the Editor

Traveling Wall Success Due to Wide Net of Residents

It has been over a week since the Traveling Vietnam Veterans Wall made Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park an even more hallowed location than we can even imagine. Not a day has gone by that I have not been stopped and thanked for my part in helping bring the Wall to Putnam County. It is my intention to offer thanks to those who so deserve thanks.

The outstanding Traveling Wall Committee is without equal. They deserve the lion’s share of the thanks that will be bestowed in this letter. There are not enough adjectives in the English language to praise them and to thank them. The County Government at all levels deserves thanks for the herculean tasks they performed. Sure they were paid but what they did was above and beyond the call of duty. They further helped prove that this is the most Patriotic County in the United States. The press deserves a robust thank you. The message about the Wall was read in virtually every home in the county. The Putnam County Joint Veterans Council needs to receive thanks. If it were not for this organization there simply would not have been a Traveling Wall in Putnam County this year or any other year.

The people who attended need to be thanked. Perhaps you were a Veteran or a family member of a Veteran or a Gold Star relative or someone with no attachment to Veterans at all. You may have been a student who was inquisitive or a citizen who was just curious. You may have read names or helped visitors search for names and then assisted in taking a rubbing. You may have helped erect the Wall or taken the Wall down or simply stood in awe of the presence of the Wall. You may have dropped of food or sang or played an instrument. You may have said a prayer out loud or silently to yourself. You may have cried. Each of you deserves thanks.

There are those who must be thanked because that callous action reminds us that we have a long way to go to teach people respect for those who died to keep them free.

So thank you Putnam County and those who traveled to Putnam to view the Wall. Thanks and a salute to all.

Karl Rohde
Chairman, Traveling Wall Committee

Southeast Needs Eckardt and Lord on Town Board

In the final weeks approaching the Town of Southeast election on November 3rd, I’m anxious to express my overwhelming enthusiasm and support for Town Board candidates John Lord and incumbent Councilwoman Lynne Eckardt. Anyone who has paid attention to the issues facing Southeast for any length of time is well aware that these are two of the most consistently involved, hardworking, and conscientious people in our community. Both are extraordinarily competent and well equipped for the job!

Long before either decided to run for public office, they took a genuine interest in town issues, attended meetings regularly, and initiated positive dialogue. During her first term, Lynne proved her ability to work cooperatively in a nonpartisan way with Supervisor Tony Hay to increase Southeast’s fund balance from $98,000 to over $1.3 million, while keeping local tax increases to less than 2%. She also led the initiative to open the Diverting Reservoir Trail, at zero cost to taxpayers. John is a nearly lifelong resident with deep roots in the community. He is the current treasurer of Concerned Residents of Southeast (CRSE), which focuses on nonpartisan research regarding commercial and residential development in the town and educates residents about the benefits and drawbacks of various projects. John is also a steward of the Diverting Reservoir Trail. John and Lynne are people of the highest integrity who will make intelligent decisions based on an objective and thorough understanding of the issues. I strongly urge all to please vote for John Lord and Lynne Eckardt!

Jon Bates
Southeast

Eckardt and Lord Well Suited to Represent Southeast

With Election Day a month away, I wanted to express my support for Lynne Eckardt and John Lord for the Southeast Town Board. My husband and I have lived in Southeast for 28 years, and since we are both Independents, our voting patterns have been varied. Having no party affiliation, we vote on issues and support candidates we feel have done or will do what we believe to be in the long-term interests of Southeast.

This year we are supporting the re-election of Lynne Eckardt for several reasons. Her tireless efforts on behalf of Southeast’s residents in researching all issues that come before the Board, and her eagerness to share information and listen to the opinions of others make her well-suited to represent us.

When the issue arose over the change of zoning of the “312 Crossroads Project” from Rural/Commercial to Highway/Commercial earlier this year, Lynne was a staunch advocate for keeping the zoning Rural/Commercial and explicit in her reasoning. At the Public Hearings that I attended, the majority of the audience agreed with her.

We are also supporting John Lord for the Town Board. John’s long-term involvement with the people, sports, and activities of Southeast have led to the admiration and respect of many people. His knowledge and love of the town and his ability to connect with people would make him a welcome addition.

Let’s all vote on November 3!

Margi Vazquez
Southeast

Letters Policy

We invite readers to share their thoughts by sending letters to the editor. Please limit comments to 250 words. We will do our best to print all letters, but are limited by space constraints. Letters are subject to editing and may be withheld from publication on the discretion of the editor. Please refrain from personal attacks. Email letters to Editor David Propper at dpropper@theexaminernews.com.

The Putnam Examiner requires all letter writers provide their name, address and contact information.
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A sales person will be present with information and applications. For accommodation of persons with special needs at sales meetings, call 1-888-713-5536.

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When Chip Rahe does carpentry work, he doesn’t want to be limited to a certain mold or design.

After 20 years as a carpenter in which he would mostly board up homes and other cut and dry tasks, Rahe decided to open his own store that would lead to a more innovative side to him. For the past month, Unique Interpretations in Mahopac has been offering furniture, lighting, and other home décor with a twist.

“It’s a more creative outlet,” Rahe said. “So I’ve always been kind of artsy and taken some art classes in the past so this is more geared toward that.”

Rahe had an artistic side to him dating back to his teenage years, taking commercial art in high school and stating he’s a better drawer “than the average Joe.” For years, he worked for himself or others doing typical housing work, waiting for an opportunity to change gears.

During those years, he would put together creative furnishing pieces when he had the time for his own enjoyment and friends would always encourage him to sell them. Once he stocked up enough, and friends would always encourage him to sell them. Once he stocked up enough

creations, including a wide variety of road signs and license plates. Customers and friends will ask if the signs he acquired were done so legally, but Rahe pointed out house tag sales, flea markets, auction, or acquaintances, not dealers.

“Instead of settling for a piece that you want, you actually get the piece you want because you’re getting your input on it,” Rahe said. “You’re limited by nothing but your imagination and wallet as far as I’m concerned.”

Unique Interpretations is located at 54 Miller Road in Mahopac. Its phone number is 845-803-7279.

Besides signs, vintage comic books, and multiple beer and soda caps can be framed, and lamps with different interesting bases attached to them are also a trademark of his. Run of the mill antiques are also available.

Right now, Unique Interpretations has a tiny storefront, perhaps one of the smallest in town, but it works well for Rahe because much of his work is custom that isn’t created yet. Many of the items on display spur on other ideas for people visiting the store.

Customers can bring Rahe an idea and from there, the creation comes to life. He’s willing to install certain furnishing at a person’s home or deliver an item if the customer can’t fit it in their vehicle.

Customers can pick what they’d like the picture frame to be and how wide, the stain color and base color and type of base. It’s completely up to them, with Rahe as the ultimate creator.

“Instead of settling for a piece that you want, you actually get the piece you want because you’re getting your input on it,” Rahe said. “You’re limited by nothing but your imagination and wallet as far as I’m concerned.”

“Heroin is pure, and it’s cheaper than it has been,” Hesse said.

“Heroin is pure, and it’s cheaper than it has been,” Hesse said.

Painkiller overdose was the fastest growing problem until 2010, when new regulations began being implemented. People hooked on prescription painkillers such as Oxycontin then turn to other painkillers, including heroin, Hesse said. Heroin use continues to go up in time, opioid production was increasing every year, and in 2011 it set a new record for production. Every year since then, the BBC has reported they have met a new high point for heroin production.

“Heroin is pure, and it’s cheaper than it has been,” Hesse said.

Painkillers overdose was the fastest growing problem until 2010, when new regulations began being implemented. People hooked on prescription painkillers such as Oxycontin then turn to other painkillers, including heroin, Hesse said. Heroin use continues to go up in response.

“If they are cut off from their supplier, the doctor, what other logical choice is there, other than to look for a friend or someone that supplies heroin?” Hesse said. “The alternative is to go into severe pain and withdrawal symptoms that include vomiting, diarrhea, severe abdominal cramps and restlessness that go on for a week or two. It’s not to get high – it’s to not get sick.”

Those in the 40-49 year old demographic are the largest overdose group, Hesse said. Drugs involved are usually acquired from doctors, relatives or acquaintances, not dealers.

Most overdoses are caused by mixing drugs, such as using sedatives, stimulants or alcohol with heroin, Hesse said.

Hesse said many doctors are recommend drugs like Suboxone, which is used to treat opiate addiction by binding to neural receptors to preventing withdrawal symptoms and cravings.

Another bright spot on the horizon is the use of Narcan, a drug used to revive people who are overdosing on an opiate. The drug can be administered through a needle or a nasal spray to an overdosing person and has been hugely successful in some places, Hesse said. Overdose training using the Narcan kit is offered at Arts Acres and through Drug Crisis In Our Backyard.

Putnam County support meetings are held on Tuesdays at the Mahopac Library at 668 Route 6 in Mahopac in the Land Use Room from 6:45 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Meetings in Westchester County are held on Tuesdays at the Yorktown Counseling Center at 2000 Maple Hill St. Suite 101 in Yorktown Heights from 6:45 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Anyone interested in attending a group should contact Salomone at 914-582-8384 or by email at ssal@drugcrisisinourbackyard.com.
Murphy, Serino and Odell to Host Veterans Chow Down Dinner

Honoring the men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, Senator Terrence Murphy, Senator Sue Serino and Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell are teaming up with the PFC. Joseph P. Dwyer Vet2Vet Program to offer the 2015 Veterans’ Chow Down, a complimentary appreciation dinner, on Sunday, Nov. 1 at Putnam County Golf Course, located at 187 Hill Street in Mahopac. There are two seating times, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. for veterans and their guest to choose between.

In addition to the meal and fellowship, the Chow Down provides an opportunity for the Veterans to learn about local services that are available to them.

“Providing a complimentary meal to local veterans from the Putnam and Northern Westchester area is a simple gesture to show the men and women, who has served in the U.S. Armed Forces, how much we appreciate the sacrifices they made defending our freedoms,” said Odell. “The 2015 Veterans’ Chow Downs also gives us an opportunity to support the work of the Putnam County Veterans Service Agency through the Joseph P. Dwyer Vet2Vet Program.”

The Joseph P. Dwyer Vet2Vet Program, which is staffed by Veterans, provides a place for peers (fellow Veterans, members of the Armed Forces and their families) to connect with and support one another in a safe and nonjudgmental environment. It is a free, anonymous and confidential program that provides support, lunch-and-learn workshops, mentoring opportunities as well as training and development options.

“It is rare that Veterans have an opportunity to be recognized and thanked by the public and by elected officials,” said Karl Rohde, Director of Putnam County’s Veterans Service Agency. “What better way to do this than with a family style meal where they can share the comradeship they cherished during their service.”

Attendance is limited. Veterans are asked to RSVP for the Chow Down on Senator Murphy’s website, murphy.nysenate.gov or call 914-962-2624.

4-H Junior Vet Program Seeking Participants

In a joint partnership with South Putnam Animal Hospital’s Veterinarians in Mahopac, Cornell Cooperative Extension’s 4-H Youth Development Program is sponsoring a 6 week Junior Vet Program Series. This exciting opportunity is open to Putnam County youth 9 -14 years old, membership in 4-H is not required.

This program will be an introduction to explore a career in the Vet Sciences with hands-on-learning and a chance to shadow local Veterinarians. A session of continuous Mondays, 6:30 pm to 7:45 pm will begin on October 26th and conclude November 30th with a field trip to Northfolk Stables in Putnam Valley.

A tentative schedule will include a tour of the animal hospital, hands-on explanation of the equipment, review requirements on how to keep pets healthy, discuss the heart and other vital organs and how they work, learn how to read animal body language, about animal restraint and safety, and the basics of dog training.

The registration fee of $100 for non-4-H members, or $70 for 4-H members, will include enrollment and workbook materials. Prior participants are not eligible. Space is limited to 12 youth on a first come, first serve basis. Early registration is advised. Only a non-refundable, paid registration will reserve space in the workshop.

A registration form is available at Putnam.cce.cornell.edu. For additional information please contact Cornell Cooperative Extension at 845-278-6738.
After Losing Daughter to Cancer, Putnam Valley Father Pens Book

continued from page 1

to the next holiday.

The life-shattering news came two
days after Christmas.

It's a form of cancer that even
chemotherapy would do no good against
and the cancer eventually spread from
her pelvis up to her neck.

“She could have gone at anytime,”
Bagnato said.

And shortly before Easter, it appeared
Caitlyn's fight was coming to an end. On
the Thursday before Easter in 2009, she
started acting funny and by Saturday,
she slipped into a coma. But on Easter
Sunday, Caitlyn came out of it and
awoke.

“That's when I realized the miracle
that we got was that she was still here,”
Bagnato said. “That she didn't pass
away before we even knew it. We had
this extra time where she was fighting
all along.”

This is the first time Bagnato ever
tackled writing a novel. He considers
the writing process “emotional healing.”
He said while a person expects to bury
their parents, they certainly never think
they would have to bury their own child.
He described out of order grief
as something that isn't curable, but
“something that stays with you and how
you move on from that--it defines you.”
But by penning this book and in fact,
already started on his second one, it has
given Bagnato a chance to mend, even
only slightly, the pain of losing a child.
“It's something that sticks with you
every minute of the day,” Bagnato
said of losing a daughter or son. “It's
indescribable.”

Besides the book, Bagnato and the rest
of the family have undergone several
different endeavors to help families that
face similar struggles and tribulations.
They raise funds for people who have
rare forms of pediatric cancer and
blood disorders and have a scholarship
at Putnam Valley High School and
Brewster High School in Caitlyn's name.
The help the Bagnato family provides
others helps them continue to grieve
Caitlyn and let her legacy live on.

Bagnato stressed his family's battle
cry from the beginning of Caitlyn's
diagnosis was FIGHT, the acronym for
Family Inspires Great Hope Together
“and that's what kept her going.”
“I'm blessed because I see what a true
miracle really is. I recognize them, I
know what they are,” Bagnato said. “And
the way that she fought, she inspired
everyone around her.”
Being a local favorite since the roaring 20's is something to talk about! Our famous Muscoot Mussels, Tender Bone-In Rib Eye, Thin Crust Pizza’s and Juicy Burgers, has kept our customers coming back time and time again. We use the freshest, locally sourced ingredients, grass fed beef and our seafood comes fresh off the boat everyday! Stop in and experience our cozy tavern, and be part of what everyone is talking about.

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Fall is the ideal season to tick items off your home exterior to-do list. The weather is finally cooler, making the work more enjoyable and a thorough fall clean-up will give you peace of mind all winter.

Your MVP during home maintenance season can be the pressure washer. Up to 75 times more powerful than a garden hose, a pressure washer is a versatile tool that offers an efficient way to get a variety of cleaning tasks done.

Deck
Once you’re ready to stash away outdoor furniture for the season, remember to wash it down first for a deeper clean than a garden hose can provide. Before moving these items into storage, first let them dry completely.

Ensure your deck is free of mold and debris. A thorough cleaning will also serve to prep your deck for weatherproofing with a stain or sealant. (Another useful task to include on your fall checklist.)

Outdoor Surfaces
Rejuvenate driveways, patios, sidewalks and other large, flat surfaces quickly and with no streaking using accessories like the Briggs & Stratton Surface Cleaner that works on a 14-inch diameter in one stroke. It features a dome shape to control overspray to protect walls and flower beds.

Grill
Cleaning your grill is a breeze with a pressure washer. First, disconnect the propane tank and move it away from the area. Disconnect any electrical lines. Prop up the hood and remove the grates. Treat the entire grill with a degreasing solution, working from the bottom of the cart up to the grill bed. Let the degreaser work for a few minutes. Be careful around gas hoses, connections, electrical components or heating elements.

Using a general medium-pressure spray pattern, flush detergent and rinse any residue, working from the top down. Let the grill dry thoroughly, then coat with nonstick oil to help reduce future build-up.

Safety
Operate a pressure washer only outside, far away from windows, doors and vents to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide gas from accumulating and potentially being drawn toward occupied spaces. Always wear goggles and closed-toe footwear when operating a pressure washer. Don’t spray near children, pets, electrical wires or power lines. After use, allow the unit to cool down before storing.

Efficiency
To switch between jobs more efficiently, consider a unit that offers versatility in its function. For example, The POWERflow+ model from Briggs & Stratton has a high pressure mode – ideal for cleaning tough grime – and a high flow mode, which delivers up to five gallons of water per minute to rinse away soap and debris on delicate surfaces like patio furniture, vehicles and second-story windows.

For more outdoor fall cleaning tips and for resources on choosing a pressure washer right for your home’s needs, visit www.briggsandstratton.com.

This fall, get ready for winter with quick and simple outdoor clean-up tasks. This article is reprinted by permission of statepoint.net.
Quick, Inexpensive Ways to Give Your Home a Fall Facelift

A seasonal home makeover doesn't need to cost a fortune or be difficult to execute. Quick, easy and innovative ideas can give your home the fall flair needed to celebrate the season.

“Seasonal décor updates should jibe with your home’s style, while also adding something extra to the mix,” said Eric Cohler, who has been listed as a top international designer by House Beautiful and Elle Décor magazines. “Keep it easy though, so that when the season is over, you won't end up with a lack of motivation to refresh and a space that feels passé.”

To add autumn elements to your home without completely revamping your interior, consider these ideas.

Rotating Gallery
A digital photo display is the easiest way to showcase seasonally suitable photos of friends and family. In fall, that means Halloween portraits, autumn picnics, trips to the pumpkin patch and back-to-school photos.

Consider rotating the artwork displayed in your home to highlight seasonal colors. Whether you want to get spooky for Halloween or focus on fall’s natural hues, this task won’t take long to do and will greatly impact the look and feel of each room.

Pops of Color
“With relatively little effort, you can add bright, bold colors to your home by swapping out the knobs and handles on your cabinets, credenzas and other furniture,” Cohler said.

Seasonal sets of cabinet hardware can keep the look fresh in your home. All you need is a screwdriver and a few hours. A free web-based application, Splash by Amerock, offers a new interactive design and shopping experience by allowing you to truly customize hardware for cabinets and furniture. The interactive site and first-of-its-kind product line allows you to test various colors and shapes of cabinetry hardware and view the different looks on different style and color cabinets.

From kitchens to bathrooms to bedrooms and living areas, you can make your rooms pop with bold colors. Think orange, purple and black for Halloween flair, or greens, reds and browns for a natural effect.

Hardware is easy to swap out and you can give your home a fun, fresh fall makeover inexpensively and without much hassle. To check out 20 unique color options, visit www.Amerock.com.

Curtains
Another easy way to make a quick look-and-feel change to a room is by swapping out curtains. It’s a great way to customize a space to better fit the mood of the season. What’s more, a quarterly rotation of window treatments presents a much-needed opportunity for a good cleaning. Be sure to store your freshly laundered linens in a sealed bag so they don't collect dust. When they make their appearance the following year, they will be vibrant and fresh.

Fall can be a particularly busy time of year; however, a few easily implemented ideas can go a long way to add a festive vibe to your home.

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For the past 10 years, The Community Crafters have met monthly at Mahopac Public Library to create handmade items that are donated to local senior centers, hospitals, veterans groups, and non-profit community organizations. Library staff and Board members were delighted to see the Crafters recognized at this year’s Putnam Community Service Network breakfast as recipients of the Ruth Dain Voluntary Service Award. Many of the organizations that Ms. Dain was instrumental in establishing benefit from the generosity of The Community Crafters. The thirty-six members of this group have formed a network of giving to provide warmth and comfort to many of our local residents. Their gifts help to diminish the feeling of loneliness and isolation, and engender hope and connectedness to others in the community. More specifically, the group knits shawls for seniors at local nursing homes, and provides baby items – including caps, blankets, sweaters and cocoons – to area hospitals. Each November they knit scarves for Putnam CAP to provide to their clients. They have produced teddy bear clothes for the children at Ronald McDonald House, shawls for men and women going through chemotherapy, and lap robes and walker tote bags for our veterans. The Crafters have maintained a commitment to improve the quality of life for those who are struggling, handicapped, infirmed, isolated, or less fortunate.
Law Book: Benefits of a Revocable Trust

By Salvatore M. DiCostanzo

A revocable trust is an efficient and effective tool that can be utilized for asset management, asset protection and estate planning purposes. It is often used as an alternative to a Last Will and Testament ("Will") for purposes of avoiding probate but it has many other uses. Conversely, it can be overused at times and implemented for the wrong reasons.

The person who establishes the trust is the creator and the person in control of the trust's assets is the trustee. Usually, the creator and the trustee are initially the same person. A revocable trust is just that – revocable. Do not confuse it with the irrevocable Medicaid trust which is useful for different reasons. Since the trust is revocable, the creator maintains complete control over the use and enjoyment of the trust assets and can change or revoke the trust at any time.

There are many advantages to creating a revocable trust. First, a revocable trust ensures the continuous management of your assets if, unfortunately, you become physically or mentally disabled. In essence, it replaces a power of attorney. Even though a power of attorney is a necessary planning document, third-parties such as banks, brokers, and transfer agents may have more difficulty in dealing with a power of attorney.

Second, a revocable trust avoids the commencement of a guardianship proceeding if you become incapacitated without a power of attorney. If you become disabled without a power of attorney or revocable trust, a court proceeding is held to determine your ability to manage your own finances and health care decisions. If the court decides that you are unable to do so, it will appoint someone (a guardian) to make those decisions for you. This procedure can be time consuming and involves constant court intervention and supervision.

A third advantage of creating a revocable trust is to avoid probate. The benefits of avoiding probate are two-fold. First, your beneficiaries have immediate access to the money in your estate, which is useful to pay estate taxes, administration expenses, debts, and funeral costs. Second, if you own property in more than one state, it avoids the headache of hiring multiple attorneys to probate your Will in each state where your property is located. Upon death, a revocable trust simply becomes irrevocable, and your assets will be distributed immediately according to the plan that you have created.

Finally, a revocable trust can actually be used to avoid a Medicaid estate recovery. In my prior article I wrote about Medicaid liens and recoveries and noted that Medicaid can file a claim against your probate estate for benefits paid during your lifetime. The operative words here are “probate estate”. Since a revocable trust avoids probate, Medicaid cannot file an estate claim against the assets of a revocable trust. If you know someone who is on Medicaid with a house, co-op or other residence in their individual name – you should contact us promptly to help avoid a Medicaid estate claim.

Please don’t procrastinate to protect your wealth and memories for the next generation. Contact us to discuss your options. I can be reached at 914-245-2440 or by e-mail at smd@mfd-law.com.
Report: Real Estate Market Robust in W’chester, Putnam

During the last quarter of the year, any prospective homebuyer can tell you that it hasn’t been a sure thing that you can get the house you’ve set your cap on.

In today’s market, if a house is priced right and is in good condition, it doesn’t last long on the market. Further, we’ve seen the return of multiple offers and bidding wars as buyers have returned to the game and inventory has remained tight.

According to a report released last Thursday by the Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors (HGAR), which reports on real estate sales in Westchester, Putnam, Rockland and Orange counties, home sale volume in this region continued to be rigorous. There were moderate price changes through the third quarter, representing an increase of 15.2 percent in home sales over last year’s third quarter results.

Specifically in Westchester, the sales of single-family homes increased during this period from 1,935 units to 2,065, or 6.7 percent. Sales of condos jumped significantly from 330 units to 403, a 22.1 percent increase, while co-ops jumped 13.5 percent, from 481 to 546 units.

In Putnam, sales were more dramatic with single-family homes increasing 18 percent (233 to 275) and condos increasing 51.9 percent (27 to 41).

The rapid pace of sales all year long and into the third quarter put some downward pressure on the supply of available properties posted with the Multiple Listing Service (MLS). Westchester experienced a 4.3 percent decrease in inventory while Putnam declined 2.1 percent.

Leah Caro, president of the Hudson Gateway Multiple Listing Service and Bronxville Real Estate, commented on the last quarter as “holding steady with the modest increase in sales in Westchester and with prices not becoming too overbearing for purchasers to stay in the marketplace.”

Of particular interest to Caro was the significant increase in condominium sales.

“Condos and particularly co-ops took the hardest hit during the recession, in the double digits,” she said, “and the fact that they’ve rebounded now is indicative that there are first-time purchasers moving out of rentals and jumping into ownership. At the same time, those condo sellers can be buying into a single-family home.

“When we see that all segments of the marketplace (are) showing an improvement, it means health in the real estate market,” she continued.

“When one segment over-performs or underperforms another, it shows that something is out of balance.”

“As in the last quarter, I talked about the ‘tale of two inventories.’ Homes that were priced well got multiple offers and sold well, while homes that were overly ambitious in their pricing did not sell and are coming off the market. Maybe those owners had the luxury of time to have the market catch up to the price they’re seeking. Because of that, we are seeing inventory levels that are pretty stable. I think the number of sales looks good.”

Although the region’s inventory has been trending downward as a result of strong market activity, it has not shrunk so much or so rapidly as to put a crimp in the continuing market improvement, according to the HGAR report. Further, there doesn’t appear to be so much of a decrease as to generate significant upward pressures on prices. In fact, there were price decreases in some market sectors.

In Westchester, for instance, the third quarter median sale price of a single-family house was $676,500, representing a price decrease of $6,000, or nearly 1 percent, from last year. In contrast, Putnam’s $335,000 median price rose $15,000, a 4.7 percent increase.

The closed real estate sales reported here largely reflect successful marketing and showing activity that took place during the spring and early summer months of 2015. At that time there were favorable conditions for a healthy market, including stable mortgage interest rates in a tight range around an average 4 percent for a 30-year conventional loan. Rates were even lower from other mortgage products.

Also, in that period, acting as a confidence-building factor for prospective homebuyers, unemployment rates were decreasing and new jobs were generally increasing. HGAR’s overall assessment of the report was that “our local regional real estate market has had a good run and remains poised for more as conditions permit.”

Caro projects that there may be sustained momentum through the fourth quarter and advises sellers that anyone coming out to view homes between Thanksgiving and New Year’s “are not folks who have nothing to do. I would advise sellers to keep their homes on the market during the fourth quarter,” she said, “because they’ll be inconvenienced less in that there are fewer buyers out there, but those folks who come out tend to be real buyers rather than lookers.”


The 2015 Wine Harvest: Early Reports From Around the World

Last week’s column focused on the threat of climate change on wine harvests. Regardless of which side of the argument one espouses — the reality versus the perception of global warming — it is clear that recent harvests have been impacted by warming weather patterns in most of the grape-growing regions.

Over the past decade, growing seasons have generally lengthened, providing longer hang-times for grapes once they reach maturity. The end result is bountiful harvests and ripper fruit. My empirical mind has attempted to deal with the effects of recent weather patterns. My aesthetic mind has dealt with the comparative quality of recent wine vintages. My conclusions? Let’s peek into the 2015 harvest across the major wine regions of the world to assess the impact of weather on this vintage. There is talk that 2015 will be a classic wine year.

In the United States, the focus at harvest-time is invariably California. Accounting for over 90 percent of domestic production, it is understandable that, as the California season goes, so goes the entire domestic wine industry.

In spite of a warm season, the yields in California’s vineyards have decreased from previous years. That other factor in climate change, available water for irrigation of crops, has loomed large. However, this appears to be a boon for this year’s vintage. Yields are estimated to be a whopping 30 percent lower than in each of the last three years.

As water became scarcer during the growing season, grapevines struggled to grow and manufacture essentials. This, combined with historically high concentrations of fruit and tannin is expected to result in a stellar vintage.

Last quarter, one percent of wine produced in the United States, harvested in two of the larger wine producing regions, Washington and Oregon, look promising.

In Washington, yields and quality of its signature grape, Cabernet Sauvignon, are at historic peaks. A warm late summer allowed grapes to be harvested a full month earlier in some cases, escaping the annual threat of overnight frosts at harvest time that can wreak havoc on grape yields.

In Oregon, 58 percent of vineyard plantings are Pinot Noir, a notoriously fickle and weather-sensitive grape. The hottest year on record in 2015 resulted in earlier-ripening grapes, with high yields and historically high concentrations of fruit and tannin. If you’re a Pinot Noir fan, get ready to enjoy world-class wine from this vintage.

Closer to home, a warm, sunny summer with very few rainy days has made for pleasant vacationing on Long Island and in the Hudson Valley — and the potential for one of the best harvests in recent history.

In Europe, the 2015 vintage has the potential to be one of the best vintages of the past 50 years, perhaps matching the much heralded 1990 and 1982 vintages. After a disastrous 2014, Italian winemakers are reveling in high yields and excellent quality due to a warm summer and ideal levels of rainfall. Prosecco sales are at all-time highs in the United States, severely straining available supplies and causing winemakers to tap the mandatory “Harvest Reserves” from prior years.

France is experiencing mixed results. Mother Nature has wielded a double-edged sword. The weather has been generally favorable, but the Burgundy and Champagne regions have been punished with summer hailstorms at the peak growing periods, destroying significant portions of maturing crops.

Bountiful yields and high quality are the hallmarks for many wine regions in 2015. Is this the result of several favorable years of excellent weather or the portent of wines exceedingly high in fruit, but unimpressive complexity and structure? Stay tuned as we build a trend line over a 20-year continuum.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 20 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick’s credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.
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NOTICE OF FORMATION THE DIVINE ACRES, LLC Notice of Formation of THE DIVINE ACRES, LLC, a domestic Limited Liability Company ("LLC"). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY on July 20, 2015. NY office location: WESTCHESTER County. Secretary of State is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him/her to The Divine Acres, LLC, 1 John Brown, Katonah, NY 10536. Purpose: To engage in any lawful act or activity. ERIKA SELLAR RYAN, ESQ., Kelly & Sellar Ryan PLLC, 4 Fisher Street, Greenwich, NY 12834

NOTICE OF KAJ DESIGNS LLC filed with Sect’ry of NYS (SSNY) on 6/29/2015 Office of UNITED State Corporation Agents,Inc. 7014 13th Ave,STE. 202,Brooklyn NY 11228, designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against may be served SSNY shall mail process to US Corp. Agents,Inc, 7014 13th Ave., STE.202, Brooklyn NY 11228

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CHEF TBD CONSULTING, LLC ARTS, of Org. filed with SSNY on 06/16/15. Office location: Westchester County. U.S. Corp. Agents, Inc. designated agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to U.S. Corp. Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Ave, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful act or activity

LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF FORMATION OF THE READY NETWORK LLC filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/11/2015. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY is the designated agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 15 Winslow Rd, White Plains, NY 10060. Purpose: any lawful act.

Notice of Formation of DStrength LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sect’y of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/26/2015. Office in Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 234 Bedford Rd. Unit # 4, Pleasantville, NY 10570. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Adler & Adler, LLP. Arts of Org filed with Sec’y of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/18/2015. Office location: WESTCHESTER County. SSNY designated agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLP to principal business address: 800 Westchester Avenue, Suite N-641, Rye Brook, NY 10573. Purpose: any lawful act. 0000032823 w.o.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF Joseph G. Del Toro, LLC. Arts of Org filed with Sect’y of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/24/2015. Office location: WESTCHESTER County. SSNY designated agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLP to principal business address: 78 Paulding Drive Ste A, Chappaqua, NY 10514. Purpose: any lawful act. 0000034875 w.o.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CHEF TBD CONSULTING, LLC ARTS, of Org. filed with SSNY on 06/16/15. Office location: Westchester County. U.S. Corp. Agents, Inc. designated agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to U.S. Corp. Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Ave, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful act or activity

LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF FORMATION OF THE READY NETWORK LLC filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/11/2015. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY is the designated agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 15 Winslow Rd, White Plains, NY 10060. Purpose: any lawful act.

Notice of Formation of DStrength LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sect’y of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/26/2015. Office in Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 234 Bedford Rd. Unit # 4, Pleasantville, NY 10570. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Adler & Adler, LLP. Arts of Org filed with Sec’y of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/18/2015. Office location: WESTCHESTER County. SSNY designated agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLP to principal business address: 800 Westchester Avenue, Suite N-641, Rye Brook, NY 10573. Purpose: any lawful act. 0000032823 w.o.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF Joseph G. Del Toro, LLC. Arts of Org filed with Sect’y of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/24/2015. Office location: WESTCHESTER County. SSNY designated agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLP to principal business address: 78 Paulding Drive Ste A, Chappaqua, NY 10514. Purpose: any lawful act. 0000034875 w.o.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF FIRST PRINTING PRODUCTIONS, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 9/16/2015. Office location: WESTCHESTER County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. The Post Office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him/her is: 250 Bronxville Road #3H Bronxville NY 10708 The principal business address of the LLC is: 250 Bronxville Road #3H Bronxville NY 10708 Purpose: any lawful act or activity

NOTICE OF QUALIFICATION OF Corporate Jet Support, LLC d/b/a Wolfgang Jet Support. Application for Authority filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNT) on 10/01/15. Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC. SSNY shall mail process to: Corporate Jet Support, LLC d/b/a Wolfgang Jet Support, 1111 11th Street, FL10, NY 10036 Attn: Harry Beatty. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORKCOUNTY OF PUTNAM-RABBI ISRAEL MEYER HACOHEN RABBINICAL: SEMINARY OF AMERICAN, Plaintiff, -against- LARKSBURG CEMETERY CORPORATION, Defendant. Index No. 1425/2015 SUMMONS WITH NOTICE Plaintiff designates Putnam County as the place of Trial The basis of venue is: Location of the real property subject to judgment in this action To the above named Defendant: 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 Attorney within 20 days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); 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.Dated: July 22, 2014 White Plains, New York NOTICE: The nature of this action and relief sought is: (i) Quiet title, pursuant to Article 15 of the New York State Real Property Actions & Proceedings Law (“RPAPL”), to: (a) a ±4.68 acre parcel of land, located in the Town of Putnam Valley, County of Putnam, State of New York, also identified on the Town of Putnam Valley’s Tax Map as Parcel 85.13-1-29, and commonly known as the Nathan Property (“Lot 29”); and (b) a ±2.0 acre parcel of land, located in the Town of Putnam Valley, County of Putnam, State of New York, also identified on the Town of Putnam Valley’s Tax Map as Parcel 85.13-1-33, and commonly known as the Larksburg Cemetery (“Lot 33,” collectively with Lot 29, the “Subject Property”); and (ii) Damages, as a result of Defendant’s tortious slander of Plaintiff’s title to the Subject Property, including, but not limited to: (a) special and actual damages, including reasonable attorney’s fees expended in order to clear title, as well as additional future expenses and damages not ascertainable at this time, and will be proven at trial, which Plaintiff will continue to incur until such time as the cloud on Plaintiff’s title to the Subject Property has been removed; and (b) punitive damages in such amount as will sufficiently punish Defendant for Defendant’s willful and malicious conduct and as will serve as an example to prevent a repetition of such conduct in the future. If you do not serve a notice of appearance or demand for a
Louis Hansen

Louis Hansen died on October 5. He was born December 8, 1953, in the Bronx, to Robert and Petrina Hansen. He grew up in the Bronx, attending High School as well as St. John's University in Queens for 2 years. While living in the Bronx, he met and married Helena Carucci. They later had two children, Melissa and Robert.

Louis was a self-employed contractor who moved the family to Idaho for several years and later moved back East to settle in Mahopac where they have lived ever since. Louis is survived by his wife, two children and a sister Joanne Hansen of Mahopac.

Evelyn N. Sheridan

Evelyn N. Sheridan, of Brewster, died October 7, at Salem Hills Nursing Home. She was 87 years old. Evelyn was born on February 6, 1928 in NYC, NY. She was the daughter to the late Edwin G. Beierlein and Eleanor (Farr) Wright.

On August 29, 1948 she married Charles J. Sheridan in West Hempstead, NY. Charles predeceased her on August 21, 2010. Evelyn enjoyed golfing and fishing. She was an avid Bingo and card player. Evelyn is survived by her three daughters; Eileen Campanelli (Michael) of Naples, FL and Mahopac, NY, Laura Mayse (Robert) of Hyde Park, NY and Susan Costabile (Michael) of Williston Park, her sister Barbara Arcolesse of Little Egg Harbor, NJ, 6 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

Josephine M. Perez

Josephine M. Perez, a longtime resident of Mahopac died on Wednesday October 7, at the age of 104. She was born in New York City on April 13, 1911, the daughter of Angelo and Enrichetta Ferazzi Ronzi. Josephine attended Drakes Business School in NY City and was a retired accountant with the Patent Trader Newspaper in Mt. Kisco, NY. She was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Italian-American Club in Mahopac. On May 10, 1958 she married Jose Perez at the Church of Our Lady of Refuge in the Bronx. Jose passed away on July 23, 1960. She is survived by her step-daughter, Dolores Flanagan and her husband James of Roque Bluffs, ME and her step-son Augustus Perez and his wife Dolores of Mahopac, 8 step grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

John M. Fletcher

After a long and very courageous battle with cancer, John M. Fletcher of Mahopac entered into eternal life peacefully on October 7. He was 61 years old. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife Annette of 35 years and two extraordinary daughters, Katie and Christine who meant the world to him. It was so important to Jack to teach his girls many life lessons and he was the most loving father anyone could ever be. All who were close to Jack knew how much he loved his dog Cocoa. She was his “little buddy” who never left his side. Jack was predeceased by two brothers, David and Robert. Jack is survived by his two sisters, Debbie and Patty and his brother Jeff. Also, by his sisters and brothers-in-law and many nieces and nephews whom he loved dearly.

Jack's family would sincerely like to thank all the medical professionals who worked so hard to help him through his illness and give him peace and comfort.
Tuesday, October 13

Medicare Open 7 p.m. to 8 p.m at Reed Library. This workshop will explain all of the ins and outs of Medicare. Topics include: how one qualifies, the different options available, Part D prescription drug plans and more. Please call the library to register, 845-225-2439.

Wednesday, October 14

Kids Learn to Knit at the Kent Library: Come learn how to knit at the Kent Public Library. 4 p.m.-5 p.m. In this five-week series, learn a new skill and make fun items for your friends or family. You will learn the basics of knitting as well as other methods of creating items with yarn by finger knitting and even arm knitting. This program is for kids 7 years and up. Materials will be provided. Register early as space is limited. Registration is required. Attendance at all sessions is requested. You may register for the program by going to www.kentlibrary.org or calling the Kent Public Library at 845-225-4646. The library is located at 17 Sybil’s Crossing, Kent Lakes.

Thursday, October 15

The Brewster Public Library will hold a NYS Health Insurance Marketplace Info Session. 5:30 p.m. -6:30 p.m. Lourdes Seip, a Certified Application Counselor from the Putnam Community Action Program, will discuss how health insurance works, who can use the Insurance Marketplace, what your options are, and other information necessary to help you navigate the enrollment process. Registration is required for this presentation. Also, individuals can meet one-on-one with the counselor from 4:30-6:30 p.m. on Thursdays throughout the month of October. For more information call the library at 845-279-6421 or visit www.brewsterlibrary.org.

Play On! will be presented on October 15, 16 and 17 at 7:30 p.m.; October 16 at 2 p.m. at Bluestone Farm and Living Arts Center, 118 Federal Hill Road in Brewster. For more information call 845.444.4ARTS or visit www.SpotlightArtsInc.com.

Friday, October 16

The National Council on Alcoholism & Other Drug Dependencies/ Putnam (NCADD) will be honoring Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell at their 9th Annual Luncheon. County Executive Odell will receive the NCADD Bronze Key, which is a national recognition award granted by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency organization to an individual or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to the field of substance abuse prevention. 12:30 p.m. at Arms Acres, 75 Seminary Hill Road, Carmel, NY, and feature a silent auction and an awards presentation. The Master of Ceremony will be Joseph A. DeMarzo, Deputy Commissioner of the Putnam County Department of Mental Health/ Social Services/Youth Bureau. Seating is limited and RSVP is preferred. Cost is $25 per person. For more event details, please call 845-225-4646.

Putnam Family and Community Services’ Dinner Dance Benefit, IMAGINE!, will be held at Salem Golf Club (18 Bloomer Rd., North Salem) at 6:30 p.m. The Annual PFCs Sid Gibson 'IMAGINE’ Award will be presented to Master Paul Meella of the United Martial Arts Center, Carmel for his dedicated service to the youth of our area, fostering leadership, confidence and the skills to live life to the fullest. Featuring a silent auction and music by Tony Merando and The Crossroads Band, all proceeds benefit the mental/behavioral health, substance abuse and family/children support programs of Putnam Family & Community Services. Contact Debbie Levin at 845-225-2700, x136 or dlevin@PFCSc.org to make your reservation ($125 per person) or inquire about sponsorship and advertising opportunities. Visit www.PFCSc.org/Events.html for more. 845-284-5791, www.pfsc.org.

Ladies Auxiliary of The Knights of Columbus #6318, 10 Fair Street, Carmel, NY will be hosting another evening of painting and fun. 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. so our guests will be able to meet new people while snacking on cheese and crackers. Admission includes (1) free drink of choice of wine, draft beer or soda. All monies collected will go to local charities. The cost is $45 per person. This also makes for a great gift. Please make your online reservation and payment - www.Artonthevinellc.com.

The Catholic Daughters of America Court #2585 will be holding a Fall Tag Sale: Admission is free. The Tag Sale will be held at Sacred Heart Church Hall 414 Haviland Drive, Patterson. 12:56 am. On Friday, October 16 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Saturday, October 17 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. and Sunday, October 18 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 17

Pumpkin Painting and Costume Parade: Putnam Valley Town Park. 11 a.m. All welcome registration is recommended. $5 fee. FMI: www.pvpr.com or call 845-526-3292.

Food, Coat and Undergarment Drive for Veterans also Oct 18, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Putnam Lake Market. 74 Fairfield Dr Patterson. FMI: VFW9225@gmail. com or (845) 721-4762 Sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Post 9257 Putnam Lake.

Carmel Fire Dept. Auxiliary Annual Harvest Dinner: 5 p.m.-7 p.m. at the Carmel Fire House. $10adults Seniors $9 children 10 and under $5

The Patterson Recreation Center will host a Giant Tag Sale: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rain or Shine. Refreshments will be available. Vendor wanted. Spaces are $25 each. Vendor set up at 7 a.m. Call 845-878-2700 for info.

Carmel High School 1980 Class Reunion: 1980 CHS 35th class reunion. 6 p.m-10 p.m.at The Inn at Arbor Ridge, in Hopewell Junction. Come enjoy an evening with old friends, great music and wonderful food at this special event. $83.00 for single, $160.00 per couple. To purchase tickets send check payable to Jean McEickson (in memo at bottom of check note: CHS Class of 80 Reunion to, PO Box 484, Patterson, NY 12563 or purchase online at www.evencubrite.com (CHS Class of 80 Reunion - additional fee with online purchase) for additional info call 845.842.0116.

Puppet Show at Kent Library: 4-H Puppeteers Players visit 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. They will be at the library to perform a professional puppet-style puppet show! This show is geared towards young children, but all ages are welcome. Registration is required and space is limited. You may register for the program by going to www.kentlibrary.org or calling the Kent Public Library at 845-225-8585. The library is located at 17 Sybil’s Crossing, Kent Lakes.

Used Clothing Drive: 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. George Fischer Middle School soccer field entrance. More information. Contact Laura Wong for info: 914 490-6807, leongwong@verizon.net

Music: 4 p.m. beautiful art songs from Argentina, Iceland and Ukraine, with several from Brahms, The Chapel Restoration, 45 Market Street, Cold Spring. www.chapelrestoration.org

Monday, October 19

Chair Yoga at the Reed Library Mondays at 10:30 a.m. beginning October 19. Certified yoga instructor Mary Brennan will guide you in breathing, mindfulness, flexibility and balance during a delightful hour of chair yoga. Come learn breathing techniques to calm, relax and increase your energy. Everyone is welcome, no need to be fit, flexible or have prior yoga experience. Come, have fun and meet new friends! Registration required, 845-225-2439.

Monday Night Movie, Back to the Future at the Kent Library. 7 p.m. -9 p.m. Registration is required. You may register for the program by going to www.kentlibrary.org or calling the Kent Public Library at 845-225-8585. The library is located at 17 Sybil’s Crossing, Kent Lakes, NY 10512.

Feral Cats in the Community at the Kent Library: 7 p.m. Putnam County Legislator Toni Addinumio will sponsor a talk about “Feral Cats in the Community” at the Kent Public Library. At this free presentation you can learn more about how the Putnam County Department of Health can help you.

For a complete calendar of groups at all locations, visit www.supportconnection.org. Advance registration is required for all groups; call 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

Monday’s Paws to Read at Kent Library Join volunteers from Therapy Dogs International and their dogs at Kent Library, for the Paws for Reading Program, select Mondays in September through November. This program is designed to give children, ages 6-10, and the opportunity to gain confidence and improve reading skills by reading aloud to a therapy dog. This is a free event. One-on-one fifteen minute sessions are available by appointment only. Registration is required. Once you are registered, you will be called and an appointment will be made. To register call the library at 845-225-8585 or stop by the Kent Library.

5th Grade and Up Book Club: Every Third Monday 5:30 p.m. Enjoy reading books at home, then join Miss Jenn and Miss Kathleen to discuss the books and have fun with friends! Registration required. For more information or to register contact the Patterson Library at 845-878-6121 x10 or go to www.atersonlibrary.org and click Calendar.

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.
Putnam Valley G Ryan Basso glides the lane en route to a game-high 23 points for the Tigers in a decisive 68-49 victory over visiting Ossining last Tuesday night when the Tigers improved to 4-4 and the Pride fell to 1-4...

Putnam Valley junior WR Nick “Sing-Sing” Singer grabs a chunk of yards for the Tigers, who locked up the No.5 seed in the Section 1 playoffs after defeating fourth-seeded Pleasantville, 18-12, last Saturday on Senior Night in the Valley where the Tigers will host No.12 Croton in the opening round of the playoffs this Saturday (6:00 p.m.)...
DeLuca, Panas Fall Short in Upset Bid of Brewster

Unveiled Playoffs Seeds Reveal Juicy Tidbits Across Board

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sport Editor
@Directrays

It’s been that kind of year for Walter Panas senior RB Joey DeLuca, and not in a good way. The Panther captain, who missed all of training camp and the first four weeks of the season while rehabbing a leg injury, did his best to shake off the rust in last Friday’s 27-22 loss to host Brewster. With his second score of the game from five yards out and a successful two-point conversion with 1:48 left in the fourth, DeLuca had led Panas to what looked like an improbable 22-21 come-from-behind win.

But, what looked like a laugh at halftime, with Brewster in total command (21-0), soon turned into one of Class A’s finest regular season finales, as Bears HB Jack Guida scored his fourth TD of the night—from a yard out—with 1:04 left to play for the final margin of victory. Guida’s score was set up, part in parcel, by his own kick return to the Bears’ 38-yard line on the ensuing Panas kickoff, prior to Brewster QB Matt Catalano finding RB Kevin Blank for a 54-yard hookup to the one. Blank, as clutches a kid as the Bears have, finished with four catches for 108 yards.

"Oh, absolutely and we will need to play hard for all four quarters and play hard all game," Catalano said. "Panas is a good team and they play hard. We are going to have a good hard week of practice this week and leave everything on the field. This is playoffs, so records don’t matter, it’s all about winning game."

Guida, a slithery 15-year-old sensation who resists initial contact, did it all on both sides of the ball, ending the Panthers’ (0-6) upset bid of the Bears (5-1), who allowed Panas to get back into the game via a pair of successful on-sides kicks. Brewster had out-gained Panas 235-72 at the half, with Guida rushing nine times for 68 yards and three scores. Indeed, young Jackie was "The Man" out there. But Panas, who we said last week was better than their winless record would indicate, would not go quietly; nor would DeLuca. Having missed the better part of a senior year that had potential suitors like D-1 University of Buffalo checking in, DeLuca figured to get between 20-30 carries a game for the Panthers this season. When that didn’t pan out on account of a freak injury during a summer showcase, DeLuca hit the rehab trail as hard anyone could hit, hoping he could return to the gridiron and once again catch the eye of college scouts while salvaging Panas’ woebegotten season.

Should they check the Week 6 game film in Panas Coach Dan Patronick’s library, scouts might still see the burst and power that had them checking in on DeLuca in the first place. Certainly, he relishes another crack at the Bears Saturday.

"Being at practice and being with the guys every day was the only thing that kept pushing me through the rehab process," DeLuca admitted.

It’s time to shine now…

YORKTOWN won for the second week in a row, taking out visiting Beacon by a 34-19 count Saturday on Senior Day, thus securing a No.5 seed and a playoff date with visiting No.12 Beacon in yet another rematch from a week earlier.

"I think we on our way to doing big things in the post season if we continue to play as family and play football like we know how to," said All-Section senior RB Nick Santavicca, who had 25 carries for 190 yards and two touchdowns.

Huskur QB Jose Boyer had 10 carries for 170 yards and two scores and went 4 for 7 for 70 yards through the air, including two aerials to Scott Weaver (51 yards), who also returned a punt 85 yards for a touchdown.

"Our goal this whole year was on the ultimate prize, despite our two loses, nothing’s changed," Santavicca stated.

What Yorktown has to remember is that fourth-quarter lead the Huskers had on Rye back in Week 3.

SOMERS received a forfeit win over Sleepy Hollow after the tragic death of a Sleepy High student. The Tuskers earned the No.6 seed and will host No.11 Byram Hills Friday (7:00 p.m.) in the opening round.

HEN HUD found out the hard way that No.2 Eastchester means business this post season, as the Eagles manhandled the Sailors, 41-7, and completed their first undefeated regular season in eight years. The Sailors (2-4) drew the No.9 seed and will visit No.8 Nyack in the opening round this Friday (7:00 p.m.). Hen Hud was hoping to keep the momentum going from its two-game win streak, but the Sailors have not met the expectations we had hyped upon them in the pre-season.

LAKELAND fell to 3-3 after a 34-19 loss to host Nyack and the Hornets did not qualify for the playoffs; their Week 3 loss to Beacon having done them in in terms of the system in place. Fair or unfair, had Lakeland defeated one-win Beacon, they make the playoffs.

CLASS AA

MAHOPAC (3-3) fell on hard times last Friday when host New Rochelle choked off the Indians in every phase of the game on Homecoming Night, beating the Indians 34-7. Huguenot senior quarterback Greg Powell rushed for a pair of touchdowns and threw another. The Indians’ lone score came on RB Christian Donahoe’s second-half kick return. Down to its third-string QB, Mahopac was lacking the necessary punch to hang with one of the premier football programs in NYS history. Starting quarterback, Dan Foley, and backup,

Panas RB Nick Mlynar is hunted down by Brewster defenders Michael Buonadonna and Brian Milano (54) in Bears’ 27-22 win.

With enough time on the clock for one more Panas push, Catalano batted down a desperation pass as time expired to preserve a dramatic homecoming win and set the Bears up with a No.4 seed for the opening round of this week’s playoffs. Ironically, Brewster will host No.13 Panas this Saturday (6:00 p.m.) in one of several rematches we shall see in the playoffs. Expect another nail biter.

Big John Morris had a 100-yard day and two scores for Carmel in a 27-13 win over host Fox Lane.

Brewster HB Jack Guida leads the way for FB Jeremy Meissner (32) in win over Panthers.
with championship aspirations might be on the brink of elimination if the Indians don’t bring their A-game from this point forward; both mentally and personnel wise, as No.3 Clarkstown North would probably lie in wait the following weekend.

CARMEL was a humbled group as it went off to Fox Lane last Saturday after a week of soul searching on the heels of being crushed by Scarsdale a week prior. The Rams recovered and beat the Foxes, 27-13, and finished the regular season a stellar 5-1, drew the No.5 seed and will host No.12 Mamaroneck on Friday 7:00 p.m.

"It’s not going to be easy," Rams Coach Todd Cayea said. "Their record (5-1) is deceiving. They had Mahopac beat (p.m.)."

After Rudy Gonzalez broke a 60-yard punt return for an 18-point lead midway through the third quarter, the Panthers responded with 13 straight points and forced a nail-biter out of what was once a laugher. Tiger RB Mike Delabate and QB Zach Girvalo each broke off long first-half TD trots for the Tigers.

"Rudy is smooth on returns," PV boss Matt Mello said. "He never feels the pressure. Delabate had a big night for with 86 yards and a TD on 17 carries. And Girvalo is simply a man now."

The Tigers need to clean some things up (self-inflicted penalties) and get 100% healthy before they can consider themselves a Final 4 outfit, but they looked like a team that might produce an opening-round playoff win and possibly forge anquarterfinal upset with the No.5 seed they’ve drawn. PV will host No.12 Croton Saturday (6:00 p.m.) and should expect to see the No.4 Pleasantville the following week, which gives Coach Mello’s Tigers (4-2) a legit shot at their first Final 4 ever; where top-seeded and state-ranked (No.8) Nanuet (6-0) would surely await (barring a crazy upset).

"Hey, to be the best you have to be the best and we all know the road goes to NY; where top-seeded and state-ranked (No.8) Nanuet (6-0) would surely await (barring a crazy upset)."

SECTION 1 GRID PLAYOFFS
Qualifying Round Oct. 16-17

CLASS AA: No. 16 Ossining at No. 1 Rye; No. 15 Edgewood at No. 2 John Jay-EF

CLASS A: No. 16 Harrison at No. 1 Rye; No. 9 Hen Hud at No. 8 Nyack; No. 12 Beacon at No. 5 Yorktown; No. 13 Nanuet at No. 4 Brewster; No. 11 Byram Hills at No. 6 Somers; No. 14 Pearl River at No. 3 Lourdes; No. 10 Sleepy Hollow at No. 7 John Jay-CR; No. 13 Tappan Zee at No. 2 Eastchester

CLASS B: No. 16 Palisades Prep at No. 1 Nanuet No. 9 Edgemont at No. 8 Irvington No. 12 Croton-Harmon at No. 5 Putnam Valley No. 13 Yonkers Montessori at No. 4 Pleasantville No. 11 Valhalla at No. 6 Bronxville No. 14 Briarcliff/Hamilton at No. 2 North Rockland; No. 10 Blind Brook at No. 7 Albertus Magnus No. 15 Hastings at No. 2 Aurdley

1 New Rochelle; No. 9 Ketcham at No. 8 Arlington; No. 12 Mamaroneck at No. 5 Carmel; No. 13 White Plains at No. 4 Scarsdale; No. 11 Greeley at No.
Somers sophomore Amanda Brugger clears zone with head ball in 7-0 win over Brewster.

Top-Ranked Tuskers, Haldane Looking Like Potential Repeat Offenders

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor
@Directrays

In 2009, John Jay EF was the last Section 1 soccer team to repeat as NYS champions, but from 2010 to 2013, Section 1 drew a blank on state titles; until Class A Somers, Class B Bronxville and Class C Haldane each found their way to the mountaintop in 2014 while Class AA North Rockland was the state runner-up. It was, without question, Section 1’s golden year.

In 2008, Briarcliff won back-to-back NYS girls’ soccer championships, but that was in Class B where repeat offenders are more common. In fact, the Bears’ three-straight state titles single-handedly put Section 1 on the girls’ soccer map, beginning in 2007.

Before 2014, the words “Section 1” and “NYS girls’ soccer championships” did not often go in the same sentence, mostly due to the fact that Section 1 connected with the majority of the state played in the fall until 2005 when Section 1 connected with the rest of the state. In fact, Section 1 earned just one of the 20 state championships contested in the five classifications from 2010 (Bronxville) to 2013, before pulling off the trifecta last year.

But here we are in 2015 and all three of the 2014 NYS champions find themselves ranked in the top 10 in NYS; Somers No.1, Bronxville No.10 and Haldane No.5. Considering Section 1’s capabilities in other sports like field hockey, volleyball and basketball, it was just a matter of time before it began to assert itself as a soccer powerhouse.

Somers Tuskers (13-0) are looking like a team that might find itself back at SUNY Cortland for a second consecutive year, provided the Tuskers bring their A-game. With nine shutouts to their credit and a recent 5-2 overtime triumph of North Rockland, plus a 1-0 win over nationally-ranked NJ powerhouse Immaculate Heart, the Tuskers are looking like a cinch to repeat, though state-ranked (No.7) Pearl River might have something to say about that.

It was just another very gutty performance against a very tough North Rockland team,” Coach Saia said. “The girls stepped up and never let up. I’m very pleased with how we played and very proud of how we’ve competed this season.”

The Pirates and every other potential Class A foe will have to bring something nobody else has been able to bring; a defense that can counter Somers’ blink-quick attack, which features All-American striker Hannon Eberts, who has been nothing short of a two-time All-American this season with 21 goals and eight assists on the field, and a recent Con Ed Scholar Athlete honor off it. There is little doubt Eberts could have closer to 30 goals if Coach Saia didn’t show the kind of mercy he did in a 7-0 win over Brewster, whereby Eberts, and fellow co-stars Ciara Ostrander (14G, 11A), Melina Couzis (9G, 11A), Jenna Menta (3G, 8A), star D Claire Mensi and All-Section G Liz Hanley sat for more than half the game, including the entire first half. Eberts and Ostrander each chalked up a goal in Saturday’s 2-0 win over a solid Class B Valhalla club.

Somers has had its fair share of terrific talents in the past, including Melissa Menta, Beth Coppolecchia, Amanda DeCosta, Melissa Righetti, Hayley Bonner, Michelle Wiencke and Melissa Rodriguez among others, but this current unit may be its most talented; though the final measure of its merit lies in a second consecutive sectional, regional and state title.

Likewise, Haldane is the clear favorites to repeat in Class C as Section 1 champions, as Coach Gary Van Asselt’s club is reaping the benefits of Marina Martin, Julia Rotando, Bailey McCollum and Missy Lisikatos’ scoring prowess and the defense of Mary-Margaret Dwyer, Lila Osborne, Teresa Figueiras and G Sara Labriola.

“The girls are getting better each day but we still have some improving to do if we’re going to reach our goals,” Van Asselt said.

So if I’m a fan of either Somers or Haldane soccer, I’m keeping my weekends free throughout late October and November as the Section 1 and NYS titles go up for grabs.
Muniz, Hornets Hand Mam’neck, Pawling First Losses

By Tony Pinciario

In a recent Lakeland field hockey game, Lakeland High senior Brianna Muniz received the highest compliment from the opposing coach.

“Several times when Brianna had the ball, the opposing coach yelled ‘Double her,’” Lakeland coach Sharon Sarsen said.

For an opposing coach to have Muniz double-teamed points out how creative and dangerous the Siena-bound senior is.

Muniz is second on the team in scoring with 12 goals and a Section 1-leading 31 assists. A three-year varsity player and two-year starter, Muniz has developed into one of Section 1’s finest.

What’s scary to think is that Muniz is just rounding back into health after suffering a severe hamstring injury last June in a Lakeland/Panas girls’ lacrosse sectional quarterfinal.

“Brianna tried to come back once during the summer, but reinjured it,” Sarsen said. “She was finally ready a few days into our preseason, but it took a while for Brianna to gain strength and confidence back. It’s great to see her 100% again.”

Muniz began playing field hockey in seventh grade, but a broken wrist sidelined her for all but two games of her modified season. When Muniz returned in eighth grade, Sarsen promptly promoted her to junior varsity.

“When I first saw Brianna, I noticed her exceptional athletic ability,” Sarsen said. “She can play any sport and dominate. Her explosive speed is amazing.”

Muniz, along with fellow senior and captain, Dana Bozek, are an unstoppable duo. Add in Val Perkins and the trio combined for more than 115 points.

“Brianna has dedicated herself to her team and the sport of field hockey,” Sarsen said. “She is not just a great athlete, she is also a highly-skilled, field hockey player with exceptional physical tools.

Lakeland senior F Brianna Muniz has applied constant pressure up top for the 6-time defending NYS champs while refining her game to the next level.

“Brianna’s ability to break down defenses is uncanny. Brianna has great vision and keeps the play simple, moving the ball effortlessly and effectively to the right person/place. She is a playmaker on our attack.”

Muniz was front and center in Lakeland’s 3-0 win over Mamaroneck. It was a matchup of two undefeated teams and two of the top teams in the state. Lakeland improved to 14-0 on the season.

Lakeland also dealt Pawling its first loss of the season, 9-0, and defeated John Jay-Cross River, 8-1.

Bozek, Muniz and Perkins each had two goals against John Jay. Bozek added four assists and Muniz had three. Cali Cortese and Meghan Fahey also scored.

Pawling came into the Lakeland game at 11-0, as did Mamaroneck, but two goals by Bozek and a goal and three assists for Muniz ended the Tigers’ unblemished record.

Lakeland also received goals from Caroline Cahill, Kelsey McCrudden, Emily Kniss, Perkins, Cortese and Fahey.

Brewster

Brewster had a busy week and filled each column with a win (3-2 over Lourdes), a loss (2-1 to Fox Lane) and a tie (2-2 with Walter Panas). The Bears are currently 7-3-7.

Brewster opened the week with the win as Jackie Benvenuto had a hat trick for the decisive goal.

Benvenuto scored the first two goals, assisted by Teresa Butti and Emily Fego, respectively. Benvenuto then set up Butti for the decisive goal.

Somers’ goals were scored by Teagan Lucchese and Taylor Turchick.

Brewster coach Art Holzmann cited the defensive play of Kathleen Regan and Avery Palmuco as they enabled Brewster to hold off a Somers’ surge in the game’s final 12 minutes.

Brewster and Fox Lane played in a downpour the entire game, but it was a tight game. Fox Lane overcame the wet weather to score both its goals in the first half, including one with just 11 seconds on the clock.

The Bears answered in the second half with Butti scoring for the second time, in as many games, assisted by Lindsay McLaughlin.

Brewster outshot Fox Lane, 11-7.

Brewster closed out the week with a tie as Panas came back to score after each Bears’ goal.

Grace Pastore connected on a penalty stroke at the 15-minute mark of the first half for Panas, but two goals countered for Panas three minutes later. In the second half, McLaughlin restored Brewster's lead, but Danielle Merante evened the score for Panas.

Brewster had the advantage on the statistics' sheet with six penalty corners to Panas’ 3 and the Bears outshot the Panthers, 15-3.

Panas also secured a last-second 2-2 tie with Hen Hud to begin its busy week and finished it with a 4-3 victory over Putnam Valley. The Panthers sport a 5-4-3 record.

Putnam Valley

Putnam Valley was on the road for a 1-0 loss against Eastchester on Wednesday. The Tigers are playing well despite the absence of one of their impact players, Kotoe Abe, who is injured.

“Our game with Ossining was a very offensive game for us,” Gherardi said. “The girls played an unbelievable game against Lourdes. The Tigers are playing well despite the absence of one of their impact players, Kotoe Abe, who is injured.”

Caleigh Jacobs scored for Putnam Valley against Ossining.

Putnam Valley took a 1-0 lead into halftime against Lourdes, thanks to Stephanie Walker's goal with two minutes on the clock. Joanna Pelc had the assist. Cierra Espineira converted a penalty corner with Jamie Turner assisting. Ava Espineira closed out the scoring. Aurora Sopow-Allyne, who had just returned from an ankle injury, assisted.

Trailing 4-1 to Panas, Putnam Valley closed the gap to one on goals by Pelc and Susanna Granieri.
As he has all season, Brewster senior RB Kevin Blank continued to pay dividends for the 5-1 Bears last Friday in their 27-22 come-from-behind win over visiting Walter Panas and DB Eric Otero in the final moments of senior night. The Bears and Panthers (0-6), who are better than their record indicates, will have it again this Saturday (6:00 p.m.) when the two square off in the opening round of the Section 1 Class A playoffs... see Grid Notebook