By David Propper

The bickering between Putnam County Department of Health Commissioner Dr. Allen Beals and Putnam Valley Supervisor Bob Tendy that dates back almost a year exploded into an all-out war of words last week when Beals, a Putnam Valley resident, publicly accused Tendy of official misconduct.

In a shocking revelation, Beals acknowledged an ongoing lawsuit he filed against the Town of Putnam Valley last July that fights a dramatic spike in his property tax assessment for what he alleges is retribution by Tendy because the health department refused to open a town beach over safety concerns.

Beals, in a prepared statement, said after the county health department closed Spur Beach last summer, he was dealt a $500,000 tax assessment increase despite there being no changes, modifications, or additions to the property in 14 years. Not only did he divulge an ongoing legal matter against the town, but he admonished board members for not knowing anything about it.

“Since allegations within the lawsuit continued on page 8

Putnam County Health Commissioner Dr. Allen Beals (right) and Putnam Valley Supervisor Bob Tendy were nothing but smiles when the two ran for different offices in 2011, but that doesn’t seem to be the case anymore. Tendy won his reelection for supervisor while Beals lost in a legislative race.

Health Commish, PV Super Clash Over Claim of Misconduct

Carmel Schools to Introduce Full-Day Kindergarten Pending Budget Approval

By David Propper

With an additional windfall of funding coming from New York State, the Carmel Board of Education adopted a 2015-16 budget that includes full-day kindergarten, finally catching up with neighboring districts Mahopac and Brewster, as part of a painless budget process for district officials.

Staying under the mandated tax cap, district taxpayers can expect a levy increase of 2.12 percent resulting in an overall spending plan of $119.05 million for the next school year. A proposal is also going forward to voters that would set up a capital reserve fund that allows the district to pay for a project or part of a project with cash, rather than borrowing.

In a statement sent out by the district, Superintendent of Schools Dr. James Ryan was pleased with the budget going to voters, his final one before retirement.

“We weren’t able to do it previous years but this year it all came together for us in the budget.” - Carmel School Board President Richard Kreps

In a statement sent out by the district, Superintendent of Schools Dr. James Ryan was pleased with the budget going to voters, his final one before retirement.

“The 2015-2016 proposed budget continued on page 7

After Fire, Rite Aid Back Open in Mahopac

Rite Aid Store #1451, located on 159 Route 6, had its Grand Reopening Celebration on Friday, April 3rd. The store, which had been closed due to a fire in an adjacent business in the Putnam Square Shopping center since November, has come back in a big way. With a full-scale remodel into a “Wellness” store, the store will now offer a wider product selection, expanded health services, and more options for Health and Wellness. Public officials and community members were on hand to celebrate the store’s return.
State Sen. Terrence Murphy announced a plan to have school nurses trained in administering Narcan to try and help prevent an overdose in school. That school nurses trained and certified in administering the treatment will be added to that group at least in time for the start of the new school year in September. Judy Mezey, of Student Assistance Services, said while no student in Westchester has died from an overdose, having a kit available could mean the difference between life and death. During the Apr. 16 press conference, Mezey pointed to a photo of Justin Veatch, the Yorktown teenager who died from an overdose in 2008 at 17 years old, and said if there had been an episode in school, personnel would have been ill-equipped to handle the situation. "It could have happened in school and if it did Narcan could have saved his life," Mezey said. The likelihood of an overdose occurring in school is increasing because heroin use appears to be on the upswing, Murphy said. Last year, there were more deaths from heroin in New York City than murders, and two weeks ago Erie County reported 13 overdoses in one week, he said. Also, the five lower Hudson Valley counties of Westchester, Putnam, Rockland, Dutchess and Orange are considered high-intensity drug trafficking areas, Murphy said. Carol Bumbalow, a nurse at Walter Panas High School in Cortlandt, agreed with Murphy's plan, saying it makes sense for her and her colleagues to have the chance to save lives. Murphy said while this program isn’t the long-term solution to the area’s drug problems, it at least provides a way to prevent needless deaths. "Is this the answer to the solution? No. This is a band-aid to save lives until we can get to the root of the problem."

State Sen. Terrence Murphy appeals to the state Department of Health to allow school nurses to administer Narcan, a life-saving treatment often used to counter a heroin overdose. Murphy, co-chairman of the New York State Task Force on Heroin and Opioid Abuse, said that the recently approved 2015-16 state budget includes $272,000 for school districts statewide to obtain Narcan kits. Participation in the program is voluntary to avoid tacking on another unfunded mandate, he said. "We're not going to wait until our kids drop dead," Murphy said on April 16 while accompanied by school officials from throughout his district and representatives of anti-drug organizations at the Valhalla Ambulance Corps headquarters. "This has been a simple-to-work, common-sense piece of legislation and a funded piece of legislation that we have gotten through on this budget. It's extremely important to realize and control the epidemic that's going on here in the Hudson Valley." Murphy said the task force is going to meet with state health officials in the coming weeks to revise the parameters of who may administer Narcan, an antidote that is placed in the nose. He is optimistic that school nurses trained and certified in administering the treatment will be added to that group at least in time for the start of the new school year in September. Judy Mezey, of Student Assistance Services, said while no student in Westchester has died from an overdose while in school, having a kit available could mean the difference between life and death. During the Apr. 16 press conference, Mezey pointed to a photo of Justin Veatch, the Yorktown teenager who died from an overdose in 2008 at 17 years old, and said if there had been an episode in school, personnel would have been ill-equipped to handle the situation. "It could have happened in school and if it did Narcan could have saved his life," Mezey said. The likelihood of an overdose occurring in school is increasing because heroin use appears to be on the upswing, Murphy said. Last year, there were more deaths from heroin in New York City than murders and two weeks ago Erie County reported 13 overdoses in one week, he said. Also, the five lower Hudson Valley counties of Westchester, Putnam, Rockland, Dutchess and Orange are considered high-intensity drug trafficking areas, Murphy said. Carol Bumbalow, a nurse at Walter Panas High School in Cortlandt, agreed with Murphy's plan, saying it makes sense for her and her colleagues to have the chance to save lives. Murphy said while this program isn't the long-term solution to the area's drug problems, it at least provides a way to prevent needless deaths. "Is this the answer to the solution? No. This is a band-aid to save lives until we can get to the root of the problem," Murphy said.
Southeast Highway Superintendent to Decide on Maple Road Paving

By Neal Rentz

It will be up to Highway Superintendent Michael Bruen if a portion of Maple Road will be paved, Southeast Supervisor Tony Hay said at an April 23 town board meeting.

The question of whether to pave a half-mile portion of the unpaved road has divided residents and continued to do so at last week’s meeting.

The decision of whether or not to pave part of the road is “not up to the town board,” Hay said.

It will take Bruen, who did not attend the meeting, at least two months to provide a report to the town board on what he thinks should be done with the street. Hay said. If the highway superintendent decides to go forward with paving, the town board would need to vote on providing additional funding for the project if it would cost more than what is in the department’s budget, Hay said.

Hay asked residents to send an e-mail to the town to be informed when the highway superintendent will appear before the town board.

Enoch Crosby Road resident Mike Durante said he and his neighbors were upset with what Hay said because he thought at the previous town board meeting in which paving was discussed, the town board had agreed to pave a portion of Maple Road. “We were pretty happy when we left” the previous meeting, he said.

There are large rocks on his road that are potentially damaging to his and other vehicles, Durante said. The town needs to “come up with a solution,” he said.

Durante suggested that residents of the Maple Road area be allowed to vote on a referendum on whether to repave part of the road. But Town Attorney Willis Stephens Jr. said if there was a referendum, “the entire town” would vote on the issue. One of the residents opposed to paving a part of the road was David Cuomo. “Pave the end of the north road and it will become a raceway,” he said.

Cuomo said his car has been able to ride the north end of Maple Road without problems and it should remain unpaved. Resident Michael Cunningham said both sides of Maple Road should remain unpaved. The road is “not a disaster,” he said.
By Janine Bowen

The Brewster Central School District has adopted a budget for the upcoming year, ensuring that at least one position will remain intact following concerns voiced by residents.

During an April 21 Board of Education meeting, Brewster Superintendent of Schools Tim Conway stated that the librarian position will not be eliminated after several parents voiced concerns that the cut would negatively impact elementary and intermediate school students. The initial plan was to have one librarian split the day between CV Starr school and JFK school, but residents felt that the cut, which would have saved $83,000 according to Conway, would mean children were not receiving proper technology instruction.

Conway recommended that the board defer the decision about eliminating the position until next year, giving board members and administrators more time to analyze the situation.

“That will give us more time to study the relationship, if you will, that currently exists between library services and technology at the K-5 level,” said Conway. As for the other 16 staff cuts that were originally proposed, Conway stated the district is currently working on the issue. He explained that the district employs somewhere between 600 and 700 people, many workers that leave on their own accord for various reasons. Administrators are currently studying the situation and will get back to the board with a recommendation when the review is complete.

One resident at the meeting was concerned about the fact that the district will not have a person who conducts behavior analysis for the district next year, and wondered how the school will compensate. Conway explained that, as they have in the past, the district would use a private service, which is just as effective as having a dedicated hire for the position, when necessary.

The 2015-2016 budget, which was unanimously approved by the board, comes in at $89.9 million, which marks an increase of 2.36 percent over the previous year. The tax levy will increase by 2.18 percent, which marks the fourth consecutive year that the district has remained under the tax cap, according to School Business Administer, Victor Karlsson. A bus proposal to replace seven buses will also be on the ballot.

An informational budget hearing will be held on May 12.
By David Propper

Inspired by a touching Alicia Keys song, the dancers of Happy Feet Dance School wanted to do one more act that would bring them together as a group considering many are graduating high school and going off to different paths of life next year.

Many of the girls have been dancing together for more than ten years, starting when they were just 5 or 6, growing close over time and going through a lot together.

“The song, if you listen to the lyrics it talks about ‘we are here, we are here for each other, to love one another, to get through all the bad times,”’ Happy Feet Dance School instructor and organizer Nina Tocantins said. “It then brought me to doing something with a fundraiser and thinking about all those things and what they can do to help out.”

With hoping to help others and doing it as one group, Happy Feet Dance School is holding its first dance-a-thon this Saturday starting at 5 p.m. and lasting until 11 p.m. at Happy Feet Dance School along Route 52. With each girl choosing a charity of their choice, they will be dancing for six straight hours in order to raise money and awareness for that specific cause or foundation.

One girl picked a foundation that combats domestic violence, while another girl chose an organization that fights cancer because her mother has suffered from it. Each selection is usually a personal one.

“Some of them because of people that they know, they picked a family member or someone that they’re close to,” Tocantins said. “And some of them, they felt very strongly about.”

Tocantins has been teaching this group of girls for about six years, and described them as a really good group of girls, “which is why I kind of picked them as the group to do this.”

While the actual dancers must dance for six hours straight (with little breaks in between) other participants can dance for as much or as little as they want. Many of the parents of the students got involved by going to their places of work looking for sponsorships. Tocantins secured BMW in Mount Kisco in Westchester as a sponsor and Insite Engineering in Carmel.

“Six hours is pretty long,” Tocantins said. “But they are dancers.”

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Dancer from Happy Feet Dance School are ready to dance the night away Saturday for a good cause. The names from bottom(kneeling) left to right are: Gail Moran (teacher/Director) Sarah Cole, Kathleen Fennessy, Sarah Nole, Kristen Polgreen (teacher) Top left to right : Shannon Cunningham, Suzanne Meier, Maren Hogan, Nina Tocantins (teacher) Coleen Fennessy, Jessica Trombacco, Christa Pease.
Affordable Rental Units Proposed on 29-Acre Parcel in Southeast

By Neal Rentz

A proposal before the Town of Southeast would bring 168 rental units to an approximately 29-acre parcel on Mount Ebo Road North as representatives of the developer, Barrett Hill Associates LLC, addressed the town board on April 23.

The town board had previously approved the construction of 168 senior housing units on the property in 2006, but the project did not go forward.

The developer is seeking town approval from the town board for a zoning text change for the property to allow the building of 168 rental homes that would not be limited to seniors.

James Martabano, an attorney representing the developer, said his client is seeking to construct 42 affordable housing units, which would include 25 for military veterans and another 17 for others in categories to be determined by the town board, such as emergency responders.

Martabano said he wanted the approval process to begin by referring the text change request to the planning board, which would make a recommendation to the town board.

Supervisor Tony Hay said the town’s planning consultant stated in an April 20 memo that the environmental assessment form submitted to the town was not complete and must be resubmitted.

Several questions needed to be addressed in the form before it could be deemed to be complete and to forward the text change proposal to the planning board, Hay said. Martabano said his client could have the EAF resubmitted to the town and he hopes to be on the next town board agenda in May.

More than Two Dozen Putnam Residents Seek School Board Seats

By David Propper

With school budgets in Putnam County taking final shape before the proposed spending plan goes to voters in their respective district, Board of Education candidates were finally confirmed after petitions were submitted on April 20. Below are the 25 candidates from the six districts set to run.

Brewster: Three seats are open with five candidates running. Incumbents Dr. Stephen Jambor, who is board president, and Sonia Mesika, who is board vice president, are running again. Resident Daniel Armstrong, who is trying for a third consecutive year, is running again. Newcomers Lauren Harper and Mary Cay Nilsen are also on the ballot. Current board member Elyse Schajer is not running again.

Carmel: Four candidates running for two spots. Incumbent and board president Richard Kreps is running again. Resident Michelle Yorio, who ran last year and lost, is giving it another try. Kevin Price, a former board member from several years ago who often attends board meetings and speaks out, is running and rounding out the candidate pool is Ralph Fletchman, who is on the George Fischer Middle School Teachers Association Executive Board. Current board vice president James Reese is not running again.

Garrison: Three candidates are running in an unopposed race for three open seats. The two incumbents running again are Raymond O’Rourke and David Gelber. The newcomer posed to earn a seat is James Scott Hoch.

Haldane: With three seats open, six candidates intend to run making it the most competitive race in the county. District residents Margaret Parr, Koren Riesterer, Sarah Elizabeth Carnevale, Peggy Clements, and Charles Hustis III, who is a former Cold Spring trustee. The only incumbent running is Evan Schwartz, as board president Joe Curto and Jon Champlin won’t run.

Mahopac: Four candidates are running for four open and seemingly unopposed seats. Former board member Brian Mahoney is running again and resident Roger Bell is looking to attain a seat after losing a write-in campaign last year. Two new names are Carolann Lacoparra and Daniel Hunter. All three current board members opted not to run again.

Putnam Valley: With two open seats up, incumbents Guy Cohen and David Spittal are running again as resident Dan Vera hopes to unseat one of them.
Carmel Schools to Introduce Full-Day Kindergarten Pending Budget Approval

continued from page 1

retains our comprehensive range of offerings in our academic programs, athletic teams, and student clubs/activities,” Ryan said. “It also allows for the implementation of a full-day kindergarten program, yet the budget is below our maximum allowable tax levy increase.”

Board president Richard Kreps said during the meeting he was looking forward to welcoming full-day kindergarten into the district. With surrounding districts making the implementation previous years, parents had spoken up to see if full-day kindergarten was a possibility this year.

At this critical time for public education, Kreps said afterward, it was imperative to get younger students more educational opportunities. With additional classroom space and money, the board believed now was the best time to move forward.

“With all the news mandates, Common Core and everything that’s coming down the pipe, to get students interactive at a younger age is certainly a benefit,” Kreps said. “We weren’t able to do it previous years but this year it all came together for us in the budget.”

After there was a question over the amount of state aid Carmel schools would receive, it ended up getting a state aid increase of 3.9 percent, or $390,000. In addition to the money going toward an expanded kindergarten program, the money would be used for more Math RT support, ESL, technology elective courses, and clubs and activities. Additional facilities projects and bus replacements would also be used and the tax levy was lowered slightly.

As for the proposal for the capital fund, assistant superintendent Eric Stark said the idea originated from a capital project community committee a couple years ago when the district got a capital project referendum passed. When a turf field a couple years back had to be replaced, committee members questioned if it were possible to set up a fund for the next major project.

Even if the capital project fund were voted through, the district would always have to go to the voters before it takes from that fund, Stark said.

Stark said the district’s intention is to put excess fund balance money at the end of each school year into the proposed fund.

“This would be funded essentially over the course of time,” Stark said.
Health Commish, PV Super Clash Over Claim of Misconduct

claim that Mr. Tendy is using his position in an attempt to harass and intimidate me, why was the town board kept in the dark?” Beals said during the meeting.

In papers related to the tax protest, obtained by The Putnam Examiner, records indicate Beals' home was assessed for $1,033,100 in 2013, but then that assessment was changed to $1,525,100 in 2014, which has led to the dispute. In a Notice of Petition filed with the Putnam County Clerk's Office, defendants listed were the Board of Assessors, the Board of Assessment Review and Town Assessor Sheryl Luongo.

While the average Putnam Valley homeowner's assessment went down 1.2 percent, Beals couldn't explain why his assessment jumped 48 percent.

"It doesn't pass the smell test,” Beals said.

The notice claims the assessment was erroneous because it exceeds the full value of the property and that the assessment is of higher value compared to surrounding properties. The notice of claim also states Beals was selectively reassessed and in violation of the Real Property Tax Law. The assessment increase is described as "grossly discriminatory and without adequate cause."

But Tendy, who was not at the meeting last Wednesday because he was at a Putnam County Firearms Owner Association meeting, fired back against Beals, calling his comments "smear" and demanding an apology from Beals immediately.

"He accused my assessor and me of colluding to commit a crime," Tendy, a Republican who is running for district attorney against current office holder Adam Levy, said. “I don't mind people criticizing me, I'm a public figure, it goes with the territory but my assessor is not and as an attorney, Dr. Beals should know better than to make public statements when he doesn't know what he's talking about.”

Tendy also said it's not possible for the town to strike back against Beals because the assessment increase was delivered to Beals prior to Spur Beach closing. He said the work done related to the assessment on Beals' home was done months before the controversy with Spur Beach erupted on Memorial Day weekend when the health department didn't allow the beach to open.

Beals also tried to connect Tendy to the assessor's office because he is the official liaison to that office, but Tendy said as liaison, he deals with budgetary issues, personnel issues, matters connected to the state, among other menial matters. Tendy said he doesn't get involved in the day-to-day assessment claims.

Tendy also asserted Beals did not file a lawsuit as he claims at the meeting, but it was a Board of Assessment review claim that the town gets "by the boatload every year. State Supreme Court Justice Victor Grossman is now handling that assessment review claim.

Tendy plans on sending a formal letter to Beals, the county executive's office and the Putnam County Legislature's office.

"And he's totally, 100 percent wrong and the facts and the paperwork prove it,” Tendy said.

When asked to respond, Beals, who is an attorney that practiced law before taking his current post, clarified and said he personally warned Tendy over the winter last year that the town would receive no waivers and town beaches would not be issued permits if they did not follow proper code. Soon after, his increase assessment arrived.

"After I had warned him, it was several weeks after that warning that I received an increase in my assessment, that's a coincidence?” Beals questioned.

When asked if he plans on apologizing to Tendy, Beals laughed and replied no.

As for accusing town board members of not doing their job in having limited to no knowledge of the current legal fight and the accusation levied against the supervisor, Councilwoman and Deputy Supervisor Jackie Annabi said the town board knows about the assessment appeal by Beals but typically don't know the specifics of each tax claim case. Only three board members were at the meeting Wednesday, with Tendy absent and Councilman Louie Luongo also not present.

"I understand his frustration, but I think his frustration was in the wrong place," Annabi said.
By David Propper

When customers walk into the Putnam Diner, nothing makes owner Steve Hanziargriou happier than to hear those regular patrons say the diner is like “their home, away from home.”

For more than a decade, the Putnam Diner has served Patterson and the surrounding region, making both regular customers and those traveling through Putnam feel welcomed with homemade food and service that make patrons think they’re pulling up a chair at their own dining room table.

After Steve emigrated from Greece, he began working at a diner in 1971 washing dishes. Even as he was scrubbing away, his love for the fast pace work made him hope to one day own his own diner.

He worked his way up from a dishwasher, to a cook and continued to save money along the way, determined one day to never again have a boss to take orders from -- only hungry customers.

He talked with his brother and uncle, and finally decided to take the risk.

Steve and his brother opened both the Carmel Diner 22 years ago and the Putnam Diner 16 years ago. Steve recalls how good it felt to be in the front of the diner on the floor interacting with customers rather than in the back where the kitchen is located.

Now, Steve only focuses on the Putnam Diner with his daughter Rena in order to cut down on the workload and travel between Patterson and Carmel.

“It’s always been family oriented, family run, a family business,” Rena Hanziargriou, who came on board two years ago, said.

Father and daughter Steve and Rena Hanziargriou stand side-by-side inside the Putnam Diner, always greeting customers with a smile and ensuring they get a delicious meal.

One difficult part of the job is the long hours, but that exhaustion is erased when the two hear from complimentary customers how they always feel at home.

Steve said there’s a certain satisfaction when costumers tell him how great the food is and how well the entire staff treats them.

“We take pride in what we do,” Rena said. “We make everything homemade.”

Located on Route 22, Rena said the eatery gets plenty of travelers coming and going, especially during the holidays.

But the surrounding residents in the community are the hallmark that makes the diner special. There are regulars that come in most days or at certain times during the week. In fact, if a certain person or family doesn’t come in for a day or two, Steve and Rena feel like something is missing.

“We ask, ‘Where were you, you weren’t here yesterday, is everything OK?’” Rena said. “We are very close with the customers here.”

Steve, as is obvious from talking with him for a few minutes, is always appreciative of what the customers have done for him and his family. He knows this diner is going to continue to be a longtime establishment because of them.

“I want to thank all the customers that come to the Putnam Diner and enjoy their meal and from the bottom of my heart I want to say thank you to them,” Steve said. “And God willing, we’ll be here for a long, long time to serve them.”

The Putnam Diner is located on 2600 Route 22 in Patterson. Its phone number is 845-878-8000.

A pond outside the Putnam Diner is a unique aspect to the eatery located along Route 22.
Letter to the Editor
Tendy Responds to Public Accusation Against Him, Town Assessor

I just watched the video of Putnam Valley's town board meeting on April 22 wherein Dr. Allen Beals criticized me, my town board, and the Putnam Valley Assessor's office. I hope that when Dr. Beals reviews his paperwork, he will be big enough to issue an apology. The fact is that Dr. Beals' assessment came out weeks before his department closed Spur Beach—not after. He should check his mail and look at the dates. There was no retaliation for anything—though one could say it was Dr. Beals who closed the beach in retaliation for his assessment. But I am not doing that. I don't mind an angry citizen criticizing me—even if it is false. I'm a public official and it goes with the territory. However I do mind when a county official comes to one of my town board meetings when I am not present—and when my assessor is not present—and, in effect, accuses us of a crime. As an attorney he should know better. The employees in our assessor's office are honest, hard-working, and dedicated civil servants. It is sometimes difficult enough to work in the assessor's office without some wealthy county official accusing them of a crime. They are not public officials and don't deserve this abuse. I await an apology from Dr. Beals. If it is not forthcoming, I will have further comments in the near future.

Robert Tendy
Putnam Valley Supervisor

Editor's Note: An article regarding this issue appears on the front page of this week's issue.

Obituaries

Walter McKechnie
Walter McKechnie, 79, of Patterson, died peacefully on April 13, with his loving wife by his side. Mr. McKechnie was born on March 18, 1936 to Alexander and Agnes (Lumley) in Yonkers, NY. On November 15, 1964 he married the love of his life, Barbara Ann Lindeman in Elmsford. Mr. McKechnie was an Electrician and was employed by Local 3, in White Plains. Mr. McKechnie was very active in his community and was one of the founding members of the Carmel Ambulance Corp, a life long member of the Patterson/Putnam Valley Fire Department and a member of Catskills FireCats. In addition, he was also a member of the Masonic Lodge (32 nd Degree). He is survived by his devoted wife, Barbara Ann, his loving son; Adam and his two adoring grandchildren; Jillian and Addison McKechnie and many nieces, nephews, and great-grandnieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his beloved daughter; Debra and his four brothers; Richard, Alexander, William and John.

W. Paul Bruen
W. Paul Bruen, 86, died in Carmel, on April 14. He was born on June 5, 1928, to William H. and Harriet (Durkin) Bruen, and was a life-long resident of Brewster. A graduate of Brewster High School, Class of 1946, and Fordham University School of Business in 1950, he was a Certified Public Accountant for the firm of Frederick R. Robinson in Danbury for 41 years. Paul married Judith A. Kilcoyne on July 8, 1989, and with her he enjoyed his retirement years traveling to Ireland, Italy, England, the Caribbean, and the New England states, playing golf and cheering for the Philadelphia Phillies. His faith in in Christ was the center of his life. He was an active member of St. Lawrence O’Toole Church serving as a trustee, a member of the Finance Committee, a Lector, a Eucharistic Minister, a member of the San Damiano Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order, and a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus. He belonged to the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick and the Brewster Lodge of Elks, and had served on the Brewster Village Zoning Board of Appeals. Besides his wife, Paul is survived by a loving extended family, including first cousins Mary Lou Staffieri and Barbara O’Donnell of Danbury, and Robert Forger of Newtown, and many young Bruen cousins, who knew him affectionately as “Uncle Paul”.

David Lee Daniel
David Lee Daniel, of Mahopac, died suddenly on Sunday, April 19 at the age of 60. David was born to parents Hershel and Sonia Daniel on April 11, 1955 in the Bronx. He grew up in Mahopac, with his brother and three sisters. After attending Mahopac High School, David enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1974 serving as a rifleman. After leaving the service he began a career in telecommunications with Siemens, spanning 27 years. In recent years he’s worked side-by-side with his beautiful wife at the Mount Kisco Medical Group. In 1984, Dave married the love of his life, Patricia Conahan. After their union David and Trish moved back to Mahopac to raise their own family. The couple was blessed with four sons; David, a police officer in Danbury, Connecticut; Brian, a Gunnery Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps; Jason, a program manager in information technology; and Connor, is a graduate student at Syracuse University. Dave was a remarkable friend, a devoted son, a caring brother, a loving grandfather, an incredible father and an even better husband. He brought a smile to everyone’s face and he wouldn’t have had it any other way. Dave is survived by his wife, Patricia; his sons, David, Brian, Jason and Connor; his daughter-in-law, Jennifer; his granddaughter, Ellis Mae; his brother, Peter; and his sisters Melanie, Lauren and Stacey.

Jodi (Beyer) Peragallo
Jodi (Beyer) Peragallo of Mahopac, died on Thursday, April 23, at the age of 45. She was born in Newburgh, the daughter of Richard and Joan (Miranda) Beyer. Jodi was a pharmacist and worked for many years at CVS and K-Mart here in Mahopac. She is survived by her husband Ron and their three children Jenna, Stephen, and Jamie; her parents Richard and Joan Beyer, and her brothers Ken (Julie) and Scott (Jennifer).

James R. Wittmer
James R. Wittmer of Mahopac, died peacefully on April 24, at the age of 80. He was born on December 6, 1934 in Long Island City to Virginia and Thomas Wittmer. He Proudly served his country in the U.S. Army. James married the love of his life Ruth. They settled in Mahopac where James worked as a carpenter and was able to work with beautiful wood and create master pieces such as the cradles that were given to family members. He is survived by his loving wife Ruth, a brother Robert Tidler, and brother in-law John (Elise) Maduras. James also 7 leaves behind nieces and nephews Jennifer Bridges, Katherine Maduras, Christopher Jared, Jordan Jared, John Maduras, John Steven Maduras, and Matthew Tidler. Visiting will be on Tuesday April 28 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. (418 U.S. Route 6 Mahopac). A mass will be on Wednesday April 29 at St. John’s the Evangelist Church at 10 a.m. Intermment to follow at Oakwood Cemetery in Yonkers.
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Mary Ellen O’Dell,
Putnam County Executive

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Outdoor Lighting: Create an Outdoor Resort in Your Back Yard

This summer some of you may be spending more vacation time at home instead of traveling to a distant location. With a few updates to your outside lighting, you can be enjoying a mini vacation at home in your backyard. Believe it or not, transforming your existing patio, deck, or pool area into a retreat that you will love is easier and less expensive than you might imagine. It's an easy project that adds beauty, value and security, and doesn't take a lot of time.

Creating a beautiful landscape doesn't have to be expensive. A few well-placed, low-voltage path and accent lights can have a huge impact on a well-manicured landscape. Even modest homes or those with limited yards or gardens can benefit. Low-voltage landscape lighting is inexpensive, safe and relatively easy to install. A handy homeowner can put in a low-voltage lighting system over a weekend. The best way to begin is to clearly define your objectives. It's not necessary to illuminate everything in your yard, so decide which areas are the highest priorities. It is generally better to begin closest to the house since that is where most activities take place.

All that is needed are some basic tools, a transformer (which reduces standard 120-volt household current to the safe 12-volt level), outdoor low-voltage copper cable, and low-voltage lighting fixtures -- all of which you can find at your local lighting showroom. The best thing about using low-voltage lighting outdoors is you don't have to do everything at once. You can begin by purchasing a transformer that is just large enough for the deck, buy one that will operate two to three times that amount of wattage. You only pay for the energy consumed by the fixtures. In other words, a 600-watt transformer that only has 200 watts of fixtures on it, uses 200 watts of energy, not 600.

How do you choose what to illuminate? Select two or three items that are important to you during the daylight hours, such as an ornamental tree, a water feature, a sculpture, etc. A fixture or two trained on each of these features will make your backyard come to life after dark. You can go back and fill in with some additional lighting later, if the budget is tight this year. By adding three or four fixtures to that larger transformer you purchased for the deck, you still haven't used all the available power.

Another important tip is to buy the best quality and well-constructed fixtures you can afford. They will last for decades. There are a tremendous number of homeowners who purchase the least expensive fixtures they can find, only to discover that they need to replace them within a year or two. That actually ends up costing more over a 10-year period than if they had purchased better-quality products in the beginning. When laying out your project, remember a little light goes a long way at night outdoors. Consulting with a lighting professional at your local lighting showroom can help you avoid making the common mistake of too many fixtures in one area. With path lighting, place fixtures six to eight feet apart when lighting a sidewalk. These days there are many more decorative landscape lighting fixtures than the basic black path lights. Take inspiration from your home's interior or exterior architectural elements. The combination of form plus function is very important. The idea of enhancing your outdoor environment to reflect your personal style is very popular, especially as we look for more ways to extend the amount of time we spend outside. A visit to your local lighting showroom will reveal a multitude of styles that will create focal points for your garden or yard while making a decorative statement.

One of the simplest ways to save on electricity costs is to use a photocell. When it becomes dark or daylight, the photocell automatically turns the lights on and off. Photocells can be used either for complete outdoor lighting systems or for single fixtures, such as by the back door. Another common type of control is a timer that turns the lights on and off at specific times. It's particularly useful to have both a photocell and a timer. With that combination, the timer is set to turn the lights on in the late afternoon, but the photocell will override the timer if there is enough daylight available. Low-voltage halogen lighting is also a less-expensive alternative to a typical incandescent line-voltage system as well as easier to install. Low-voltage halogen operates very efficiently, and the amount of light (lumen output per watt) is much greater than with 120v incandescent bulb equivalents.

An even more efficient light source is LED. This developing lighting technology provides equivalent light output to that of halogen or incandescent, but at considerable energy savings of up to 75 percent less. The average lifespan of a well-made LED light source exceeds 30,000 hours or more than 12 years of average nightly use. If you install timers with the transformers to turn the system off during late night hours, you will not only cut down even further on energy costs, but will also increase the lifespan of the bulbs.

To learn more about lighting your home, inside and out, talk to the lighting salesmen at Mid-County Lighting & Electric Sales.
Make Your Home the Envy of the Neighborhood

Year after year, Americans from Tornado Alley to the Gulf Coast to the metropolises of the eastern seaboard witness storms that cause millions in damage and loss of life. However, no matter where you live, or what type of extreme weather you may face, there are things you can do to protect your home and family from the worst.

“When it comes to resilient design planning, the most important thing to remember is that it doesn't have to break the bank. A few quick and easy adjustments can keep you safe,” said Greg Beste, a member of the American Institute of Architects Disaster Assistance Committee and Project Management Director, IVI Assessment Services.

Best offers some storm season advice:

- Document your home -- before disaster strikes. Grab your smartphone and take photos of your home now, inside and out, covering the foundation and all interior and exterior spaces. At best, you’ll have a nice keepsake; at worst, a visual documentation that can be used for an insurance claim in case of disaster. You can also share the images with your insurance company right away, to add to their files for future reference.

- Be an expert on your house. How old is your home? What type of framing does it have? When was the roof last repaired or replaced? These are questions you should answer the questions to, as they will dictate what design changes should be made.

- Make fixes easy, inexpensive and relevant. For example, are high winds a major worry where you live? Add an extra layer of protection by swapping out the shingles on your roof for a heavier material, or secure the roof sheathing with a more wind-resistant nailing pattern, using an extra box or two of nails. Know where your home is weakest; those spots are the first places to shore up in defense.

- Communicate your building goals. If you're working with an architect to build or retrofit your home, make sure that he or she understands the importance of resiliency. Even more importantly, your contractor should feel comfortable executing these goals. Communication at every step is the key.

- Safe rooms are not a cause for panic. A safe room doesn't have to be high tech. It is said that the front door is the focal point of your home's curb appeal. When creating your entryway, customize a new front door with smaller side window panels or glass panels within the door itself. Look for an exterior remodeler that can custom design and install entry doors to match your exterior décor. If it’s not time for a door replacement, consider adding a splash of color to your exterior by painting or staining your existing door.

- Use a complimentary online design center, like the one on the Window World website, to help visualize color options for windows, siding and doors.

Choose Sleek Siding

If you are looking to boost your home's energy efficiency and attain a new look for your exterior, replacing your siding is a great investment that can achieve both of these goals. Just be sure you get a superior product to avoid maintenance down the line. For example, vinyl siding is an ideal product because of its low maintenance and longevity. No matter what color siding you opt for, you can make your entire home's exterior pop by choosing a distinct trim color.

With the right design and construction, your mud room, laundry area or even a powder room can be a safe haven in case of disaster.

A Grand Entry

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Living With Other Noisemakers: Liking or Lumping It

Lately I’ve been made aware that I’m probably a noisy person. Not to myself so much, but maybe to others. More and more, if I’m watching TV in one room and my wife is in another, she’ll say mine is too loud.

Just the other day, when I had driven into my property, which houses my PR business, and jumped out of the car without turning off the motor to unlock the place for my painters who are redecorating my offices, the realization really struck home. One of the painters who’s worked for me most accomplished musician.

When I moved into my first apartment in Brooklyn Heights, it was new, cheap apartments or condominiums. That can make us subject to noise we make to the intrusion of one person’s lifestyle, even when our property lines or walls of apartments or condominiums. That can create problems, sometimes big ones.

When I moved into my first apartment in Brooklyn Heights, it was new, cheap construction and the floor above me had no carpeting. Living there was a single mother who must have worn spiked heels every waking moment and had a child who could only have been possessed by a demon.

Across
1. Notable #4 with a stick
4. Jacuzzi
7. Unburdens
11. Pastry dessert
12. Juries non-decision
14. Wind up on stage?
15. Initiates on a rocket, perhaps
16. Say sorry
17. Mahopac Petroleum retailer
19. Computer buyer
20. Part of T.G.I.F.
21. Definite article
23. Blacken
26. Point of no return?
27. “Uh-huh”
30. Poet’s preposition
31. Greedy
33. Crew member
34. Find that’s mined
35. TV screen variety
36. NASCAR racer
37. “Later”
38. Kind of mother
40. Mix up
43. Apple variety
48. If good entertainment is of the utmost importance, you will go to this Peekskill theater
49. Pair
50. “___ reflection...”
51. Do some mothering
52. Dull in luster
53. Namesakes of Bert Bobsey’s twin
54. Uninteresting
55. Sow’s pen

Down
1. Artistic work
2. Computer architecture acronym
3. Genuine
4. Isaac Hayes soundtrack
5. Cocoon occupants
6. Briefly unknown?
7. One kind of elephant
8. Nile bird
9. Non-offending
10. One who looks forward
13. Slight snafu
18. Tank supply
22. “Get your hands off me!”
23. Fawn over
24. Girl
25. Exist
26. Perform
27. “That means ___!”
28. Polish off
29. Favoring
31. Bitterly cold
32. Sign of nervousness
36. Small queen
37. Healthy fiber foods
38. Jordanian money
39. Race participant
40. PR’ed
41. Polynesian cloth
42. It gets pumped
44. Reminded
45. Chances
46. Exec
47. Pleasantly comfortable

For those of us who share condo or apartment walls, we have the same issues that those in the city have. The other night at a dinner given by a social club I belong to, I discussed this subject with a fellow member who told me that he shares walls on either side of his unit with other retired people.

“I know most things about their lifestyles,” he said, “like when the nice woman on one side of me can’t sleep and I hear her TV go on in the middle of the night. We just adjust.”

Failing all else, there are always earplugs.

Bill Primavera is a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and Founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc., the longest running public relations agency in Westchester (www.PrimaveraPR.com). His real estate site is: www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com and his blog is: www.TheHomeGuru.com. To engage the services of The Home Guru and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

Crossword Puzzle

Crossword by Myles Mellor  Answers on page 17
Van Donated to Putnam’s Veterans Service Agency

The final wishes of a grateful World War II veteran came to pass today when his 2007 Honda Odyssey was donated to the Putnam County Veterans Service Agency. Thomas Hearn, the son of former Somers resident John W. “Jack” Hearn, flew in from his Maryland home to officially turn over the keys of his father’s van to Karl Rohde, director of the county’s Veterans Service Agency. County Executive MaryEllen Odell was also present for the event.

Odell, who has accompanied several WWII veterans on Honor Flights to Washington, DC, said this was just another example of very special individuals who were part of what has become known as the Greatest Generation.

“I have encountered this kind of thoughtfulness from so many of our World War II veterans,” Odell said. “They are such wonderful examples for the rest of us, always looking to see how they can help another veteran. It is indeed an honor for us to accept Jack Hearn’s gracious donation.”

Why did Jack Hearn choose to donate his vehicle to Putnam County?

“My father lived in Heritage Hills in Somers for 14 years before he relocated to Castle Point two years ago. He was most grateful for all the help he received from Brennan Mahoney of the New York State Department of Veterans Affairs and wanted to make sure that his van would be donated to an organization that could help veterans. Mr. Mahoney suggested I consider donating the van so that it could be used by Putnam County’s Department of Veterans Affairs,” said Thomas.

Also, while residing in Somers, Jack became close friends with Carmel residents Christine Venezia, her mother, Dee Softner and Steven Pirolo, all of whom, Thomas said, enriched his father’s life.

“Donating the van to Putnam County veterans is a way to recognize their friendship and support,” Thomas said.

Jack was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, better known as Lou Gerhig’s disease, and purchased the van which had been adapted to transport a passenger confined to a wheelchair in 2011. Jack made clear to his son that he wanted the van to be donated specifically for use by wheelchair-bound veterans like himself. Karl Rohde, Putnam’s director of Veterans Service Agency, was thrilled to learn of Jack’s decision.

World War II veteran John “Jack” Hearn in his wheelchair alongside his 2007 Honda Odyssey. Hearn’s van was donated to Putnam County Veterans Service Agency by his son, Thomas, according to his father’s final wishes. Jack Hearn passed away on October 14, 2014.

“We are so grateful to Jack and Thomas Hearn for this very thoughtful gesture. While we already have a bus that can easily carry about 15 veterans, it will be nice to have a smaller, more economical vehicle for those who need to transport one or two wheelchair-bound veterans,” Rohde said.

The timing of the donation is particularly relevant for the Veterans Service Agency as they are presently expanding their transportation services to make it easier for veterans to get to their medical appointments at Castle Point and Montrose VA facilities.

“Actually, we are looking for veterans to volunteer as drivers for us and assist us in getting our veterans to and from their doctor appointments at the VA,” said Rohde. “Anyone interested can contact our office at (845) 808-1620 or contact County Executive Odell at (845) 808-1001,” he said.

Once the Heritage Hills condo where his father lived was sold, donating the van became a priority for Thomas.

“So now I’m wrapping up the unfinished business of seeing to it that dad’s van gets donated to the Putnam County Veterans Service Agency,” he said.

According to his obituary, Jack Hearn was born on February 17, 1927 and died on October 14, 2014. As a young man, Jack served on the US Navy destroyer USS Otter from July 11, 1945 to Aug 11, 1946. In 1949, he married Theresa Dickson, who predeceased him in 1996. Following her death, Jack moved from White Plains where the couple raised their seven children and relocated to Heritage Hills. Jack is survived by his children, John Jr., Mary Ann, Andrew, Katherine, Thomas, Theresa, Margaret and seven grandchildren.
For the Women’s Resource Center, this is the premier event of the year and the agency is excited to announce that it has raised more than $35,000.

An estimated 375 people enjoyed a delightful tasting from restaurateur purveyors who generously donated their time and talents to contribute their best culinary creation for this event. Among the restaurants and caterers were Brooklyn Café & Organic Kitchen, The Chophouse Grille, Clock Tower Grill, Crabtree’s Kittle House, Gersky’s Catering, Northern Smoke, Peter Pratt’s Inn, Char Steakhouse, Rick’s Seafood & Gourmet Specialties, Traditions 118 Restaurant.

D. Bertoline & Sons, Dylan’s Wine Cellar, Palaia Vineyards, The Peekskill Brewery, Sterling Cellars Ltd., Warwick Valley Winery & Distillery and Yonkers Brewing Company provided an assortment of wine and beer for tasting throughout the evening.

To round out the evening splendid desserts and coffee were provided by Leaf & Java, Inc, G and K Sweet Foods, Johnny Gelato, Kathleen’s Tea Room, Sweet Chefs, Worldlings Pleasures.

The event is beautifully decorated with elegant floral arrangements provided by The Brewster Flower Garden, Flower Boutique, Forever Yours Flowers & Gifts, Mahopac Flower Shop, Putnam Valley Florist, Whispering Pine Garden Center & Florist. Light background music was provided by Northern Westchester/Putnam Youth Symphony Orchestra, a group of talented young string musicians from our local schools and led by music director, Anna Ostrofsky.

We would also like to thank our donors and contributors, Anthony & Rose Fabiano, Cartwright & Daughters and NYSEG for their support and donation.

The Women’s Resource Center operates with a very small but dedicated staff. Our team is very grateful for the commitment of our event volunteers: Wendy Greenberg, Elaine Jacobs, Gail Messina, Michelle Abate, Diane Shannon, Carmela Argent, Maria Castriota, Taylor Adams, Katherine Manna, Caitlin Schweigler and Jenna Schweigler.

The Women’s Resource Center is very grateful to all of the generous, talented individuals and businesses for making the Hudson Valley Food & Wine Experience a huge success. We encourage members of the community to support these businesses throughout the year, as they have supported the center in helping make our community a safer place for women, children and families.

The Women’s Resource Center’s mission is to provide advocacy, education and services to the community in order to create a safe, supportive environment that eliminates violence against women and children and promotes gender equality. The Women’s Resource Center provides educational programs and programs for victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse, including individual and group counseling, court advocacy, a sexual assault nurse-examiner program, a 24 hour hotline, and a shelter for victims of domestic violence.
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

Happenings

Register Now:

Vendors Needed for Indoor Community Tag Sale on May 16. Do a little Spring-cleaning and reserve a spot to sell your items. Patterson Recreation Center. 65 Front Street. Patterson, 845-878-7200

Ongoing:

Monday’s:

Crafts for Kids: The Kent Public Library will be presenting a series of free DIY (do it yourself) ages 8 to 11, on the first three Mondays in May from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Registration is required, and there is still room available for the programs on May 11 and 18. On May 11 kids will make their own pasta necklace and find out what other cool things they can create with uncooked food. On May 18 kids will create colorful bowls using yarns and their own creativity. Please register by calling the library at 845-225-8585 or going to the library’s website at WWW.KENTLIBRARY.ORG.

Artists’ Drop-in at Reed Library: 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Artists are invited to drop-in to the library on Monday afternoons with their pencils, pads and paints for a creative afternoon. This session will provide camaraderie but no instruction. Please call the library if interested, 845-225-2439.

Tuesday’s:

Certified Application Counselor from Open Door will be available to answer questions and make appointments for consumers to enroll in the Health Insurance Marketplace. 3 p.m.-7 p.m. Brewster Public Library. Walk-ins are welcome, but to schedule an appointment, please call 914-502-1478 or email insurancecoverage@odfmc.org. For more information about either of these services, call the Brewster Public Library at 845-279-6421

Wednesday’s:

Wednesday's is Ladies Day: Ladies will receive a round of golf and lunch at the Terrace Grill for $50. Special Menu Selections. Wednesday only. For more information/Questions please call 845-424-3604, or visit out website www.thegarrison.com.

In-Stitches Knitting Club at Reed Library (845-225-2439). Wednesday mornings 10:30 a.m. to noon and Thursday evenings 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Beginners and experienced knitters and crocheters are welcomed in this fun and friendly group.

Thursday’s:

Basic Drawing at Reed Library: 10 a.m. to noon. Learn basic watercolor techniques in a fun and supportive class perfect for beginners. Materials provided. Please call the library to register, 845-225-2439.

Foreclosure Counseling will be offered by Putnam County Housing Corporation (PCHC), 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. If you’re facing foreclosure, PCHC may be able to help. PCHC, a HUD-certified Housing Agency, offers free confidential counseling to assist you in negotiating with your mortgage company. Brewster Public Library. Walk-ins are welcome, or call 845-225-8493 ext.201 to schedule time.

Sunday’s:

Weekend Farm Market: Every Sunday until May 31, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Winter Market footprint will be located in the lower level of the HVCPA building (15 Mt. Ebo Road South, ) and we are proud and excited to showcase vendors including: Vegetables, fruit, meat, fish, jams, bread and baked goods (gluten free too!), eggs, mushrooms, food artisans and specialty items from local growers and producers.

Cancer Support:

Cancer Support Available: Support Connection, Inc., a not-for profit organization that provides free, confidential support services for people affected by breast and ovarian cancer, offers a wide range of free support groups women with breast and ovarian cancer. Groups focus on topics pertaining to living with cancer through all stages of diagnosis, treatment and post-treatment. They are offered in Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess, and by toll-free teleconference. 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.

Plant Sale:

Brewster-Carmel Garden Club Plant Sale: Spring is around the corner, the club is accepting pre-orders for their plant sale in May. Monies raised support their civic plantings in Brewster and Carmel.

For information, dates and order forms please contact Donna at 845-279-9012 or email doublehd@comcast.net

Thursday’s 30

The Tri-State IBM Retirees Club will hold the April Meeting; 1:30 p.m. in the meeting hall of the United Methodist Church, 1176 E. Main Street, Shrub Oak. The scheduled presentation will be by representatives from Guiding Eyes for the Blind together with their canine helpers. Members who are interested in attending the June/Summer luncheon are asked to sign up and make their $7 advance payment at this meeting. Refreshments and sign-in at 1 p.m. Dues will be collected. New members welcome. Information: (914) 528-5916.

Founder’s Day Cake and Comedy:


Friday, May 1

Putnam Dental Associates Presents The 4th Annual Dentistry from the Heart Event and Blood Drive for The Red Cross: Free Dental Care for patients over 18 in need, along with free goods and services provided by local churches and businesses, including breakfast and lunch, massages, chiropractic alignments, and medical insurance consultations, combined with fun activities for the whole family. Registration Starts at 8 a.m. and event runs until 4 p.m. First come, first served via on-site registrations only for one of the following treatments: cleaning, filling, or extraction. All appointments to donate blood to The American Red Cross must be made in advance by calling 845-279-3720, and all blood donors will receive FREE Whitening for Life from Putnam Dental Associates. 2435 Route 6, Brewster. Parking will be available at the Park and Ride down the street with continuous shuttle services throughout the day. For more information, please see our press release here: For a full list of sponsors, please go to www.putnamdental.com or click on Dentistry from the Heart (DFTH). For additional information on the Dentistry from the Heart (DFTH) event or to learn more on how you can help make a difference, please call 845-279-3720. www.PutnamDental.com

Saturday, May 2

Brewster FD Explorers will have their annual Spring Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's from 8 a.m. – 10 a.m. Please join this ever-growing group of young first-responders that morning as they are truly looking forward to serving you! Cost is only $8 per person and you can purchase your tickets in advance, in addition to a door prize! Support your local BFD Explorers personally or call 845-234-3127 for additional information and points of contact.

Ramp Fest 2015: Glyndwood is a sponsor of the fourth annual Ramp Fest. Basilica Hudson, where we will be providing information on harvesting ramps sustainably and tastings created by our own Executive Chef Jodi Cummings. noon – 4 p.m. 110 South Front Street. Hudson. 518-822-1050

Putnam County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day: 9 a.m. -noon at Fahnstock Park Canopus Beach Parking Lot, Route 301, Kent. Visit http://www.putnamcountyny.com/green.Putnam Pre-registration is required. Call the Putnam County Department of Health at 845-808-1390 ext. 43150 for more information and to register.

Blue Bell Festival: Blue Bells are the blue flowers that carpet the forest floor in spring – taking advantage of the fact that the trees are still leafless and sunlight still reaches the forest floor. Beginning at 7:30 a.m. with a limited space, reservation-only, “Breakfast with the Birds”. Guests will participate in a Guided Bird Hike in the Ice Pond Basin, followed by a hearty breakfast. From 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., join PCLT at the their headquarters, the Dorrie O’Brien House at 63 Cobb Road in Brewster to celebrate the beautiful Blue Bells that are in bloom on the property. Admission and activities are free, and will include Piped Piper Pony Rides and Petting Zoo, Face Painting and children’s craft activities prepared by the Chuckie Goodnight Foundation. There will also be two naturalist led guided walks. At 1 p.m. a Naturalist-Led Vernal Pool Hike will be offered where guests will be introduced to fairy shrimp, salamanders and frogs. At 3 p.m. there will be a guided woodland wildflower walk. Reservations are required for the breakfast, and space is limited. The cost for the breakfast is $25, but all other activities are free and open to all. For breakfast reservations or more info, contact PCLT at 914-621-8466 or e mail events@pcht.net.

10th Annual Children’s Expo & Public Safety Day: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Free event to raise awareness about many aspects of child and public safety. Highlights include Operation “Safe Child” ID cards, Fire Safety House, car seat and backpack checks, bike helmet fittings, fire engine tours, face painting, interactive games and activities, demonstrations, safety information, raffle prizes and much more. Location: Putnam County TOPS Building, 112 Old Route 6, Carmel. Rain or Shine. For more information, call: 845-808-1400, 44122.
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Putnam Valley junior Rachel Stockinger fired the first no-hitter of her career in the Tigers’ 3-0 win over Arlington B last Tuesday at Putnam Valley Elementary School where Stockinger struck out 14 Admirals and the improving Tigers won their third straight. Alex and Keiko Waters, and Emma Longden each had RBI for the winners.

Putnam Valley’s Stockinger Fires No-Hitter
Henry’s Arm, Fischer’s Bat Lead Yorktown to Sorrentino Win

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

At Yorktown High, the Sorrentino Cup is baseball’s equivalent to the cherished Murphy Cup in lacrosse. It means as much as anything to those competing in the name of Joseph Sorrentino, who tragically passed away in 1981 yet lived on eternally in the 34th annual Sorrentino Cup game between the host Huskers and rival Lakeland, which went home a 3-1 loser last Saturday afternoon.

Yorktown lefty Chris Henry scattered six-hits and whiffed eight and the Huskers (6-3) won the cup for a fourth consecutive year, making the event all the more special for the Sorrentinos, who were out in force to cheer on the Huskers and remember their son, who played three sports at Yorktown in the early ’80s. This game simply brings out the best in the Huskers.

“Henry was amped today,” Kennedy said. “Two years ago he told me he would pitch this game one day. Obviously, the game means a lot to our kids and they recognize what it means to the Sorrentino family. I can’t say enough about the work Henry has done to develop into what he is. Andy Greene had a big hit as did Will Fischer. Nick Belmonte, a senior pitcher, pinch hit and executed a big time squeeze. As I told you before, I love the makeup of these kids and they will go through a wall for you.”

The Huskers broke down the wall in a torrid 8-0 start, which ended after an 8-2 loss to Briarcliff last week. Tied 2-2 in the fifth with the big, bad Bears, the Tigers’ defense failed them for the first time all year.

“We made some mistakes that cost us,” said fourth-year Manager Eric Rosen, who played at Lakeland with his assistant Jay Tomasulo. Together, they are trying to change the culture at Croton with stability and Lakeland ingenuity. “Briarcliff had a five-run sixth and we couldn’t recover. When we took over the program our goal was to build one of the top programs in the area and the only way we knew how to do that was to mimic what our mentors created over in Shrub Oak (Dennis and Mike Robinson). The program was not in great shape when we took over. Specifically, interest in baseball was dying in Croton.”

Numbers were real low and the losses were mounting, and Rosen essentially fielded a JV team his first season, with a few good eighth-graders serving as trailblazers.

“Coincidentally those three eighth-graders are now the core of the program, with Scott Giordano now the ace of the staff, Mike Matalavage hitting over .500 for us and Mike Bello hitting over .300,” Rosen said. “We just figured we were going to come in with whatever we had, impose that blue-collar attitude into our players, win some games and then our numbers would grow as a result.”

But it was much harder than that the first two years. There were whispers that Rosen’s ship was sinking before the voyage began. Folks wondered if he was in over his head as the program continued to flounder. But the Tigers put up a dozen wins last season and won a sectional playoff game for the first time in years and have built on that this season.

“I think the reason for this start is because we have finally instilled into our student athletes what Jay and I know (the “Old” Lakeland way) and they have bought in,” Rosen said. “The guys we now have with us have been here since the beginning. We have a great group of guys who were just babies during the dark days of the first two years and now we finally have that “let’s-get-after-it attitude” and we’re having fun with it.”
With Class B contenders North Salem and another date with Briarcliff on the horizon, plus PUTNAM VALLEY on May 11th, Rosen was hoping his Tigers could match the grit of PV Manager Joe Natalie’s will prove it,” Natalie said. “We were due for a game like this but our pitching has been strong all year. Eddie Lent and Ryan Basso have been co-aces, but we’re really going to start to lean on some of the other guys down the stretch with the back-log of games. Nick Marro, Charlie Pagani, Dan McCann and Jake Reyes will all be needed down the stretch here. We’ve got the hardest schedule we’ve ever had in my time here, so we’ll be ready for the playoffs this year. Our schedule did not prepare us as well as we could have been prepared last year, but we really stepped it up this year. We’ve got a lot of games against quality AA and A programs. But we’ve got to start hitting to our potential and playing solid defense behind our pitchers.”

The Tigers defeated Arlington B in 10 innings earlier in the week, 7-5, behind a seven-inning effort from Basso, who whiffed five before yielding to relief. A groundout by Pagani scored Mike DellaBate and gave the Tigers Varsity the lead for good. C Eric Grimes was solid at the plate going 1-4 and scoring three runs. He singled in the ninth inning. Pagani got the win in relief.

LAKELAND (5-4) had been on the uptick until the meeting with Yorktown. P Joe Forenzi threw a six-hitter in Lakeland’s 7-1 win over Hen Hud (2-9) at Sunset Park, and the Hornets bats were coming around as the Class A runner-ups attempted to get back to prominence. P Kyle Peterson went six innings for the sweep of the Sailors Saturday and Trevor Mason went 2 for 3 with two RBI in Lakeland’s second game of the day, a 9-2 win over Hen Hud.

HEN HUD bounced back nicely when Jack “The Ripper” Attinelli stroked a walk-off double in a 4-3 win over Brewster where Jake Spitz fired a complete game for the Sailors.

Tigers (4-3-1), who took one on the chin in Sunday’s 11-9 loss to Arlington B in what was the Tigers’ second consecutive sub-par pitching effort; a seven-run fifth their undoing as three errors led to four unearned runs in the late innings.

Tiger senior Ryan Basso went 2 for 2 with three runs scored and three RBI in Putnam Valley’s 14-14 tie with Lourdes, which called on account of darkness. Chris Schroeder, Zack Girvalo and Charlie Pagani each knocked in a pair of runs for the Tigers, who failed to get a solid pitching effort for the first time this season.

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“We’re better than that and the staff

MAHOPAC saw RHP Cal Lawrence fire a one-hitter; that hit being a single off the bat of Brendan White.

James Curtian came through with a pair of RBI in the win over Arlington, but the day belonged to young Calvin Lawrence, the son of former Mahopac great and Detroit Tigers draftee Teddy Lawrence.

“We got up and excited for those Arlington games and we had a big letdown against north Salem,” Mahopac Coach Chris Miller said. “We made errors, had bad approaches at the plate and the energy was low. We weren’t ready to play and that is on me.

“Cal pitched awesome against Arlington, a great performance,” Miller added. “He pounded the zone all day and defense was sharp behind him. He has had three great outings in a row and I expect it to continue.”

After losing to north Salem, the Tigers are suddenly surging with three-straight wins.

After losing a pair to Fox Lane earlier in the week, SOMERS P Brendan Smith had a home run and three RBI in the Tuskers’ 7-4 win over Lakeland. The Tuskers also took a 5-4 win over Beacon Saturday when TJ Fiorino went 2 for 3 with a double, a run scored and an RBI. Smith allowed one just run on four hits and no walks over four innings with four strikeouts for his second win of the week.

“We are looking to build on the momentum of these last two games and make a run at a league title and eventually, a deep run in the playoffs,” Smith said of the Tuskers’ (4-3), who also swept Arlington games and we had a big letdown against north Salem,” Mahopac Coach Chris Miller said. “We made errors, had bad approaches at the plate and the energy was low. We weren’t ready to play and that is on me.

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Despite Loss of Concialdi, Unbeaten Yorktown Rolls On

By Tony Pinciaro

State-ranked (No.9) Yorktown is executing offensively, scoring in double digits each game, and the defense is proving to be quite stingy. The result, a perfect 8-0 start.

The Green and White improved to their current record with convincing victories over Ossining (17-3), Horace Greeley (15-2) and Fox Lane (10-5). In their eight wins the Cornhuskers have yet to allow an opponent in double digits.

“We had a solid week, with two good wins on the road at Fox Lane and Greeley,” Yorktown coach Ellen Mager said. “The defense continues to play well, giving up gave up three goals to Ossining, five to Fox Lane, and two to Greeley.”

That’s the good news. The bad news is the loss of USC-bound senior M Emily Concialdi for the remainder of the season, according to reports. Against the Foxes, junior sniper Casey Duff nailed two of her game-high four goals during the pivotal second-half. Jenna Gammer tallied all three of her goals in crunch time. Katie Comerford (2G, 1A), Michelle Seger (1G) and Rilea Fusco (1A) were also major contributors on the offensive end for the Huskers, who will need to step up their game to overcome the gritty two-way play of Concialdi and remain Class B favorites.

Yorktown looks to continue its undefeated ways with games against Brewster, which it beat, 18-8 earlier this season, according to reports. Against the Foxes, junior sniper Casey Duff nailed two of her game-high four goals during the pivotal second-half. Jenna Gammer tallied all three of her goals in crunch time. Katie Comerford (2G, 1A), Michelle Seger (1G) and Rilea Fusco (1A) were also major contributors on the offensive end for the Huskers, who will need to step up their game to overcome the gritty two-way play of Concialdi and remain Class B favorites.

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MAHOPAC ran its winning streak to four with victories over Putnam-County rival Brewster (13-4), Our Lady of Lourdes (19-3) and arch-rival Carmel (16-5).

All-American Kim Harker fueled Yorktown’s Mary Kate Murphy (9) and Katie Comerford (17) will need to turn it up a notch with the loss of Emily Concialdi to a season-ending knee injury.

Mahopac to the victory over Brewster with six goals and she also went 7 for 12 on draws. Kelly Maxwell added three goals and Brianna Corace netted two goals. Corace, along with Alyssa Kirby and Ali Korin each collected four ground balls.

“The defense was amazing,” Mahopac coach Jim Lieto said. “They held Brewster to only one goal in the first half even though Brewster controlled the time of possession. Our defense repeatedly made stops and kept us in the lead until our offense could get things going better in the second half.”

Mahopac followed up this impressive win with a dominant performance over Lourdes as Harker finished with five goals and two assists. Gabby Light added three goals and two assists and Maxwell finished with two goals and an assist. Harker also finished with 11 wins on 14 draws and Korin was outstanding, scooping up nine ground balls.

“We are a team that is well-rounded and capable of scoring in all areas,” Lieto said. “Our defense is a huge part of what we do, as we have a solid group of defensive players who are capable of holding opponents to low-scoring games. We are looking forward to continuing our strong play as we move forward in the season.”

LAKELAND/PANAS had a light week with one game – a 16-11 victory over Ossining. The Rebels won their fourth straight and are unbeaten in their last five.

All-Section senior Molly Fitzpatrick led the way for the Rebels with five goals, Dana Bozek chipped in with four goals and two assists and Katie Bradbury added three goals and an assist for the state-ranked (No.19) Rebels.

“As well as we played against Brewster, we did not have our A game vs. Ossining,” Lakeland/Panas coach Sharon Sarsen said. “Credit Ossining for coming to play in the rain. We struggled with offensive possession, however, we grinded it out and came up with the win. The key in the game for us was the defense, namely Ellie Dineen-Carey, Brianna Muniz, Courtney Araujo and Mia Lennon, who kept us in the game. Goalie Alex Halpin played a phenomenal second half, making key saves to keep us in the lead. And Molly Fitzpatrick and Dana Bozek won key draws, ground balls and helped us clear the ball successfully. Molly and Dana were instrumental in our scoring as well.”

OSSINING could lodge a complaint with the schedule-makers, if it so chooses as the Pride faced Yorktown and Lakeland/Panas in a three-day stretch, which is just brutal. The perennial Section 1 powers defeated Ossining, but the Pride closed its week with a 17-5 win over Pleasantville.

“We played Yorktown and they really took it to us,” Ossining coach Dan Ricci said. “We had a much-better showing against Lakeland. It was a game, throughout, and we cut the lead to two, twice.”

Abby Squirrell and Gabby Hagerman finished with four goals apiece against Lakeland/Panas. Squirrell erupted for a season-best eight goals in the win over Pleasantville. Stefanie Svoboda and Hagerman each had hat tricks and Meghan Hooley finished with two goals and two assists.

Following its loss to Mahopac, Brewster returned to action with a thrilling 13-12 victory over Fox Lane as Camryn Podgorski scored the decisive goal with seven seconds remaining.

“Against Mahopac, we too many unforced errors and a lack of finishing on scoring opportunities,” Brewster coach Gerry Walsh said. “We beat Fox Lane because we took advantage of man-up opportunities, made big plays at opportune times and freshman Lauren Craft had a career day scoring six goals.”

PUTNAM VALLEY’s Eva Rabson scored the 200th goal of her career in a 15-7 win over visiting Lourdes on Saturday. Rabson, the Siena-bound senior who bagged five goals, became the first player in Putnam Valley’s history to reach the 200-career-goal milestone.

Ray Gallagher contributed to this story
Yorktown Extends Wins Streak Against Section 1 Foes to 50
Murphy Cup on Tap Saturday; Mahopac, L/P Still an Enigma

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

1 championship season, defeated the Huskers, 12-11. The combination of tradition, skill and preparation far exceeds the rest of Section 1, which is why we're probably looking at the streak extending to 58 before the Huskers lace 'em up for the state playoffs in late May.

The combination of a budding attack, combined with a versatile midfield, a stingy close defense and a goalie – junior Liam Donnelly – coming of age quickly should set the Huskers up for a 38th Section 1 title, what would be their fifth in a row and 16th in the last 18 seasons.

It's business as usual for the Huskers, who might get a glimmer at their potential Class championship opponent when they faced John Jay CR last night. Additionally, Yorktown can expect a staunch test from defending Section 1 Class A champion Lakeland/Panas this Saturday in the 26th annual Murphy Cup game, in which the Huskers hold a decided 22-3 edge.

Here's the deal, though: We don't know what Lakeland/Panas team will show up for Section 1's biggest regular season lax bash – the one with inexplicable losses to Pelham, Wappingers and Briarcliff (yeah, we said Briarcliff) or the team that shocked Mahopac, 9-5, last Tuesday behind two goals and five assists from junior M Kevin Prunty, who scored his 100th goal in the game. Budding Sean Makar notched a hat trick and the Rebels snapped the sorriest six-game losing streak in program history. Dan Foley had three goals for Mahopac, which, quite frankly, is also enigmatic, as is all of Class A this season.

"We have a real young squad that is playing inconsistently and isn't aware of how much the Rebels have done in the past," junior captain Kevin Prunty said. "We're not good enough to take plays off or not play a full game, and that's why we have some horrible losses. It's tough as one of the captains to have this on us. The coaches are doing all they can with what we give them, but we just need to play with more heart and play hard-nosed lacrosse. Murphy Cup is going to be a big test for us against a very good Yorktown team, and we need our best lacrosse against them."

No.1 YORkTOWN – Coach Marr's state-ranked (No.1) Huskers (9-2) need to find four quarters of consistency against the state's premier powers if they are going to repeat as NYS champs for the first time since the 1993 three-peat.

No.2 MAHOPAC – Coach Haddeland's Indians (6-4) are here at No.2 by default, having wins over Hen Hud and Somers, but the loss to Lakeland/Panas clearly throws a monkey wrench into the Class A playoff plan. "Lakeland/Panas played great," Indian junior Dan Foley admitted. "Christian Donahoe breaking his hand is a huge blow for us, but I gotta give credit to their coaching staff; they face-guarded me and doubled me every time I touched the ball and their goalie made some amazing saves down the stretch."

No.3 HEN HUD – Coach Solly's Sailors (8-4) are gonna have to scratch and claw their way to the No.3 seed to avoid Yorktown in the semis, and that won't be easy with Harrison sitting pretty at 10-0, John Jay CR having (6-5) won six in a row and Rye (8-3) still in the mix, though Harrison and Rye lack the quality wins John Jay has (Mahopac, Bye, Fox Lane, Somers). A Hen Hud vs. Jay playoff would only be fitting.

No.4 LAKELAND/PANAS – Coach Lindsay's Rebels (3-7) may have turned around and Rye (8-3) still in the mix, though Harrison and Rye lack the quality wins John Jay has (Mahopac, Bye, Fox Lane, Somers). A Hen Hud vs. Jay playoff would only be fitting.

No.5 SOMERS – Coach DeGregorio's Tuskers (3-8) gave Bronxville fits in a 14-8 loss but then turned around and got spanked by John Jay CR, the most improved team in Section 1 from Day 1 till now.

HM PUT V ALLEY – Coach Ignatz's Tigers (6-4) don't have the two quality wins Lakeland/Panas has against John Jay CR and Mahopac, and neither does Somers.
Putnam Valley 1B Zack Girvalo (6) gets the put out and OF Mike Dellabate rounds second before heading home, but the Tigers came up short in Sunday’s 11-9 loss to Arlington B, whom they defeated, 7-5, in 10 innings earlier in the week. The Tigers also settled for a 14-14 tie with Poughkeepsie-based Our Lady of Lourdes during a three-game stand in which the Tigers allowed 30 runs and would rather forget if they plan on contending for the Section 1 Class B crown in late May. see Baseball Notebook