After Long Wait, New Mahopac School Chief to be Named

By David Propper

The Mahopac Board of Education announced it intends to approve the next permanent superintendent of schools for the Mahopac Central School District next week.

In a press release issued Monday afternoon, after almost a year of searching, the school board revealed Dr. Dennis Creedon, who is currently the deputy chief academic officer for the School District of Philadelphia, is set to become the next Mahopac school chief.

A “Meet the Candidate” night will take place this Thursday at 7:30 p.m. inside the Falls School Auditorium and a vote to approve Creedon will take place next Tuesday during the board’s monthly meeting.

Creedon has a Masters Degree in Curriculum Development from Goddard College and a Doctorate in continued on page 2

Carmel Becomes First Purple Heart Town in Putnam

Last Wednesday, the Town of Carmel became the first municipality in the veteran proud Putnam County to be designated as a Purple Heart Town, an honor for brave servicemen and servicewomen that fought defending the freedoms county residents enjoy today. One by one, veterans who were either injured in battle or who lead a veterans’ group in the county were recognized and applauded for their duty to their country. The first receive to recognition were commander Neil Gross (holding plaque) and vice-commander Eugene Lang of the Military Order of the Purple Heart as Carmel Supervisor Ken Schmitt and councilmembers Suzanne McDonough and Frank Lombardi look on. For more on the April 1 ceremony, please see page 5.

Letter of Leniency Written for Leibell Comes Under Question in DA’s Race

By David Propper

He’s been officially out of Putnam politics since 2010 and has gone to and come out of prison since then, but the name Vincent Leibell can still elicit a shiver of shame only reserved for some of New York’s most infamous political kingpins.

The former New York State senator’s name has recently popped up in the race for Putnam County District Attorney, in which a past letter of support for Leibell written by candidate Bob Tendy is under scrutiny. The 2011 letter written by Tendy, who is the Putnam Valley Supervisor, requested leniency for the longtime political fixture, before Leibell’s federal prison sentence was determined after he pled guilty to federal charges.

The two-page letter written on Town of Putnam Valley letterhead detailed how Leibell contributed to the town during Tendy’s tenure, describing Leibell as the “most energetic, decent, and caring continued on page 9

Disgraced former State senator Vincent Leibell
Butterfield Project Receives Approvals in Cold Spring

By Neal Rentz

After several years of review, the proposed Butterfield mixed use project received two major boosts by the Cold Spring Planning Board on April 1.

The board voted 4-1 to provide final site plan approval and unanimously provide preliminary plan approval for the project, which is being proposed by Butterfield Realty. The planning board will hold a joint meeting with the village board of trustees at a date to be announced to review the project’s proposed recreation easements. The planning board will also be required to provide final subdivision approval before the project can proceed.

Previously, the parcel of land where the project is set to be constructed was changed to B4A zoning and an environmental review was completed that indicated there were no significant adverse affects. The mixed-use site plan expects to bring a healthcare facility, commercial and retail space, office space, senior housing and three single-family residential lots. There are 207 parking spaces planned.

Prior to last week’s votes, the planning board reviewed the language of the two resolutions and a memorandum from Charles Voss, a consultant hired by the village to review the Butterfield project. Voss said the applicant answered most of his questions. “The applicant has done a pretty good job,” he said. The only questions that still needed to be addressed by the applicant are about storm water related issues, Voss said.

Following the votes, applicant Paul Guillaro thanked the planning board. “I just want to thank the board,” he said, adding “a lot of hard work” has been done on his project.

Putnam County Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra also praised the planning board. “You clearly have done your due diligence. You worked so hard. I’m thrilled,” she said.

Arne Saari was the only planning board member who voted against final site plan approval. Butterfield has several positive aspects, including the creation of a senior center, stores, a post office and county services that could be housed at the development, he said. “There are many good aspects to the project,” he said. However, there are also downsides to Butterfield, including inadequate parking, Saari said.

After Long Wait, New Mahopac School Chief to be Named

continued from page 1

Reading, Writing, and Literacy from the University of Pennsylvania. Since 1987, he also served as a teacher in the School District of Philadelphia, teacher on special assignment as director of education for the Opera Company of Philadelphia, curriculum specialist, director of arts education, and assistant superintendent.

He was the research director for a 5-year $1.3 million United States Department of Education Research Grant in collaboration with Philadelphia Arts in Education Partnership studying the impact of arts integrated projects on literacy outcomes. He has been an adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania in the Wharton Cultural Management Program and the Mid-Career Doctoral Program. He also has several accolades, including being recognized as a Leader to Learn From by Education Week in 2014.

Creedon will succeed interim superintendent Brian Monahan, who took over this school year after the retirement of former school leader Thomas Manko.

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MANAGING CHRONIC KNEE PAIN
What you need to know about symptoms and treatment options...

Ask the Doctor
Stuart T. Styles, MD, FAAOS
Co-Director, Joint Replacement Surgery
Orthopedic & Spine Institute
Northern Westchester Hospital
nwhorthoandspine.org/DrStyles

Q: I have knee pain all the time. What are some of my options?
A: There are a number of options to treat chronic knee pain: Pain medications, icing, stretching and strengthening. We can also try braces which support the knee and physical therapy to help you manage the pain and maintain mobility. If that doesn’t provide relief, before we consider surgery we may try cortisone shots, which relieve pain and reduce swelling, or a relatively new injectable treatment called viscosupplementation. The viscosupplement is injected into the joint where it performs a lubricating-like function that helps cushion the joint. Many of my patients with chronic knee pain find this effective enough to delay replacement surgery for years.

Q: How long does a replacement knee usually last?
A: While the longevity of replacement joints used to be of concern, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons has found that more than 85 percent of knee replacement joints will last 20 years. At Northern Westchester Hospital, we use leading-edge technology that allows the surgeon to tailor the surgery to each patient. We can create a 3D image of the joint and then make customized guides and replacement joints to fit each patient’s unique bone structure. Customization often results in better outcomes, quicker recovery and longer lasting replacement joints.

Did You Know? More than 85 percent of knee replacement joints will last 20 years.*

If knee replacement surgery is indicated, your orthopedic surgeon will determine the type of knee replacement based on your individual circumstances, amount of bone loss and the quality of supporting ligaments.

Q: How long does a replacement knee usually last?
A: While the longevity of replacement joints used to be of concern, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons has found that more than 85 percent of knee replacement joints will last 20 years. At Northern Westchester Hospital, we use leading-edge technology that allows the surgeon to tailor the surgery to each patient. We can create a 3D image of the joint and then make customized guides and replacement joints to fit each patient’s unique bone structure. Customization often results in better outcomes, quicker recovery and longer lasting replacement joints.

Learn more about Dr. Styles and customized knee replacement surgery at www.nwhorthoandspine.org/DrStyles
Shop Putnam Expo Set for April 19 at Mahopac High School

By Janine Bowen

Forget searching through Google results to find a good local company; the Shop Putnam Expo is the perfect place to meet large and small business owners of all kinds from Putnam and Northern Westchester.

Set for April 19, the event, which began in 2004, features more than 100 local businesses and non-profit companies showcasing their goods and services.

“It just makes sense to meet people that you’re going to want to hire before you hire them,” said CEO and Executive Director of the Greater Mahopac-Carmel Chamber of Commerce, Michael Bucci.

“In your local community, there are hundreds of trusted service people, professionals, advisors, and companies that deliver excellent service and excellent quality,” he continued to say.

This year, the Shop Putnam Expo will be held for the first time at Mahopac High School, which marks the first time in four years that the event is exclusively indoors. For the past several years, some vendors utilized outdoor booths, which caused issues when there was inclement weather.

Bucci noted that the Expo is not just a good opportunity for residents to familiarize themselves with local businesses but for business owners to connect or reconnect with past customers that they may not see on a regular basis.

In addition, he noted it provides a great forum for local companies to vie for customers amidst their competition.

Mahopac High School is located at 421 Baldwin Place Road. The event is scheduled to run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
State Budget Elicits Varied Reactions From Area Legislators

By Martin Wilbur and David Propper

Area state legislators and local education advocates gave mixed reviews to last week’s passage of New York State’s nearly $142 billion 2015-16 budget that linked controversial changes to education and ethics reform to the annual spending plan.

While local lawmakers were able to find positive aspects to the budget, completed in the wee hours of last Wednesday morning, some voiced concern over the heavy-handedness of the Education Transformation Act, which tied a $1.3 billion statewide increase in education funding to new rules for tenure and teacher evaluation.

Key education changes include extending the period for tenure from three years to at least four years and requiring that teachers be rated as effective or highly effective for at least three of those years. A redesigned evaluation plan is also in place combining student performance with teacher observations. Districts may use a standardized state measure or a state designed supplemental assessment. Observations will be done by principals and independent observers.

“This budget addresses two of the most fundamental and intractable issues that have vexed the state for generations—fundamental and intractable issues that we are focusing on the standards students, we are focusing on the standards teachers. He fears classrooms will become test prep academies.” McMahon, who teaches 8th grade ELA in the Mahopac school system, was wary of the local control removed from the evaluation process and the additional state tests that could be placed on students and teachers. He fears classrooms will become “test prep academies.”

“With the process rushed through, stating his initial reaction was “disgust and devastation.” McMahon, who teaches 8th grade ELA in the Mahopac school system, was wary of the local control removed from the evaluation process and the additional state tests that could be placed on students and teachers. He fears classrooms will become “test prep academies.”

As for education, Murphy said the Gap Elimination Adjustment was cut in half and there was an average of 5.9 percent increase in school funding. As for the controversial education bill Murphy voted in favor of, he said, “I joined my colleagues in rejecting the Governor’s evaluation proposals for our teachers and shifted this responsibility to professionals at the State Education Department with the goal of reducing standardized testing and returning local control to our schools.”

But many teachers and parents starkly disagreed with Murphy assessment. Tom McMahon, the president of Mahopac Teachers’ Association, blasted the new education reform pushed through, stating his initial reaction was “disgust and devastation.”

McMahon, who teaches 8th grade ELA in the Mahopac school system, was wary of the local control removed from the evaluation process and the additional state tests that could be placed on students and teachers. He fears classrooms will become “test prep academies.”

“We are no longer focusing on the students, we are focusing on the standards and the standardization of those students rather than their individualization,” McMahon said. “And that's very scary.”
By David Propper

Calling it a “momentous occasion for the Town of Carmel,” Supervisor Ken Schmitt and the rest of the town board officially designated Carmel as a Purple Heart Town, honoring local veterans in Putnam and the rest of the region.

In front of a modest yet proud crowd, town officials handed down proclamations and appreciation to about a dozen veterans from every era and every part of the military last Wednesday, a nod to veterans and their families for the sacrifices they endured.

If veterans and other local leaders don’t make the effort to educate a younger generation, “then shame on us,” Gross, who grew up in Putnam Valley, said.

“Freedom it not free,” Gross, now a Yorktown resident, said. “It’s costly.”

Richard Drago of Newburgh also noted how critical education plays in keeping citizens in the various towns throughout the region aware of the struggles some of their veteran neighbors experience regardless of which era they served.

“Freedom is costly. The guys who got wounded were in the right place at the wrong time.”

Kent resident Charlie Moore said it was very nice to receive honor from Carmel, considering when he came home from the Vietnam War, “we weren’t very well liked.”

“So the opportunity that was presented here tonight kind of makes up for that,” Moore said.

County officials like County Executive MaryEllen Odell, legislators Kevin Wright, Dini LoBue, and Joe Castellano were all on hand. Representatives from New York State Sen. Terrence Murphy and US Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney were also in attendance.

Odell said the county plans to host the “The Moving Wall,” which is a traveling half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, in September.

Near the end of the ceremony, Schmitt noted the town and Purple Hearts Homes, an organization committed to ensuring quality of life housing for veterans, are seeking a veteran that owns a home in Carmel or Mahopac and needs help with repairs and renovations.

Schmitt said he hopes other towns and villages in Putnam follow suit with Carmel and designate their municipalities as Purple Heart communities. When asked if he’d be reaching out to the other local governments, Gross said he certainly would.

“Why? When a kid drives by a town and sees a sign up there that they’re a Purple Heart town, they’re going to ask their mom and dad what does that mean,” Gross said. “Hopefully the parents will know enough and share with the kid.”
By David Propper

It may have taken two tries in the span of two weeks, but the Village of Nelsonville elected its first woman trustee last Tuesday in an historic election.

Danielle Pack McCarthy was able to fend off Thomas Robertson 126-104 in a re-vote after the first vote that took place on March 18 ended in a shocking tie where both candidates earned 90 votes. Pack McCarthy, who is a Mahopac high school 1994 graduate, called the victory "really exciting."

Pack McCarthy opted for a re-vote, while Robertson wanted lots drawn. Election law states the choice for a re-vote overrides lots being drawn if the candidates don't agree.

Because she called for another vote rather than leaving the next village trustee up to chance, Pack McCarthy said she thinks, "people got really behind me and my decision to re-vote brought out more people."

Overall, 230 registered residents came to cast their vote. Village clerk Pauline Minners said the re-vote election was one of the largest turnouts in the history of the village and easily the most since she's been the clerk dating back ten years ago.

Pack McCarthy said holding the vote on March 31 was a "tricky situation" because she knew many of her supporters were away for spring break with schools out of session. In turn, Pack McCarthy said absentee ballots became a factor, in which 27 of those ballots were sent to the village.

Minners said because the village was asking voters to come to the polls once again, she thought the turnout would actually be lighter. She called it "amazing" how many voters actually casted their ballot.

The last contested election before this year the village had 122 voters come out. During the original March 18 vote, the village had 184, Minners said.

"We don't get that many numbers, " Minners said. "So 230 is like 'wow."

Minners, who runs the village election, said many residents came in and said their vote actually counts. While the campaign season was a civil one, Minners said this one was more aggressive in each candidate getting their supporters out.

"Which is unusual," Minners said. "We don't usually have those campaigns here."

Although Minners or Pack McCarthy weren't completely sure, it is believed that Pack McCarthy is the first woman elected to the village board. In fact, Pack McCarthy ran on the platform of possibly making history.

"I think it opens up a lot of doors, ' Pack McCarthy said, noting she was a recent speaker at a local Girls Scout event. ‘Being able to tell those girls that Nelsonville has a female trustee is really empowering.'

Considering Nelsonville has been around for roughly 160 years, "that's just too long to not be represented by a female," Pack McCarthy added.

Danielle Pack McCarthy.
By David Propper

Before Margaret Carey and Stephanie Rubino started Spotlight Arts in Brewster, the two were both running separate programs at the same location.

One day though, it became clear to Carey and Rubino that working as one would be more effective than essentially competing against each other. With Rubino's musical background and Carey's theatre/acting background, the mix of expertise meshed perfectly.

“So the two of us independently could compete against each other,” Carey said. “Or we could join forces together for a common goal.”

As a result, Spotlight Arts was born, becoming an outlet for young students in the area looking to hone their acting, singing, and dancing skills. Offering classes, workshops and main stage performances, students at every level and with every schedule have a chance to not just become a successful performer, but also become a “comfortable performer,” as Rubino said.

And it’s not just about the tools picked up by students, but the other attributes they can pick up over time. Self-confidence, cooperation, team building, communication, and diction are all tools many students attain, Carey said when attending classes. It's why as a mother of three, she encouraged all her own children to go into theatre.

Carey even recalls a young girl who came in at first with trepidation, but by the end of the class she was talking and completely broke out of her shell.

“That’s the kind of thing as a teacher you love to see, as a mom, you’re ecstatic,” Carey said. “For a kid to gain that sort of confidence, that’s just gravy on top of everything else.”

Carey said a lot of theatre students don’t have many options to turn to outside of the school district, which puts on one play and one musical each year in the high school. The middle school only puts on one performance in the fall. She also noted some students aren’t even originally interested on getting on stage, but rather play “theatre games.” Eventually, after some practice, Carey said they have the confidence to perform in front of an audience.

Right now Spotlight Arts has two locations. One is the Studio Around the Corner on Main Street behind the Southeast Museum and for a bigger venue that can accommodate an audience, Carey and Rubino use the Melrose/Bluestone farm as the other option. The long-term goal, Rubino said, is to find a permanent location, something that can be considered home.

Going into the summer, Spotlight Arts, a Brewster Chamber member, will have day theatre camps and on alternating weeks, intensive camps in July and August. And there is also a summer main stage, where students will be performing Urinetown the Musical. There are early bird specials available and scholarships for the families of students who are financially strained.

Carey has lived in Brewster for almost 20 years and Rubino is lifetime resident, born and raised. For Rubino, she originally wanted to pursue performing, but since then her life as taken her to directing and teaching “and loving every bit of it.”

Both want to see the village become a hub for the arts that brings the community together.

“Both Stephanie and I are very big proponents of supporting the studio to try and build Brewster back to that kind of place where people can come down here, bring their kids, come see a show,” Carey said.

Spotlight Arts is located on 67 Main Street in Brewster. Its phone number is 845-444-ARTS and website is http://www.spotlightartsinc.com.
Putnam Recognizes National Child Abuse Prevention Month

The Child Advocacy Center (CAC) of Putnam County will promote Child Abuse Awareness throughout the month, with various activities including a public forum: “Protecting Our Children: Lessons Learned from Sex Offenders,” hosted by the Parent Teacher Associations of Brewster Central School District on Wednesday April 8th from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 pm at Henry Wells Middle School, Brewster. The presentation will be offered in Spanish on Tuesday April 14, from 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m., also at Henry Wells Middle School.

The CAC encourages all individuals and organizations to play a role in making Putnam County a better place for children and families. “By ensuring that parents have the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to care for their children, we can help promote children’s social and emotional well-being and prevent child maltreatment within families and communities,” said Marla Behler, CAC Program Coordinator. Research shows that one in ten children will be sexually abused by the age of 18 and 95% of these victims will know their offender! The “Protecting Our Children” workshop educates adults about the indicators of sexual abuse, how to recognize potential abusers and how to respond when a child is abused. In this, The Year of the Family, County Executive MaryEllen Odell emphasized the importance of keeping our children safe. “Protecting our children should be everyone’s top priority. The statistics we see on child abuse are truly heart-wrenching and totally unacceptable. The Child Advocacy Center does a remarkable job but we must all work together to save our children. We urge everyone to download our Putnam County Cares mobile phone app where police emergency contact information is available.”

Other events during the month include, the Dad’s Only Parenting Workshop offered on April 18th at Putnam Hospital Center from 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. The workshop teaches dads not only basic infant care but also how to bond with their baby and care for the mother. The Program also provides a vital opportunity to present new dads with safety information for their newborns and resources for the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Registration information is on our website (see below). Child Abuse Prevention exhibits will also be displayed at the following locations: Putnam County Health Department & Department of Motor Vehicles, April 1–10, Putnam Hospital Center from April 10–24.

For more information about child abuse prevention programs and activities during the month of April, and throughout the year, please visit http://www.putnamcountyny.com and under “Departments” select Child Advocacy Center, or visit www.nationalchildrenssalliance.org. Also visit our social media site on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/putnamcac.

Obituaries

Arleen D. Likar

Arleen D. Likar, a resident of Mahopac, since 1953 died on Tuesday March 31, at the age of 88. She was born in Queens on January 8, 1927, the daughter of Isadore and Marie Schenk Streck. Arleen had retired in 2001 after 35 years as a library aide at the Austin Road Elementary School in Mahopac, where the library is named for her. On January 22, 1955 she married Joseph Likar at St. John The Evangelist Church in Mahopac. Joseph died on July 24, 1994. She is survived by her daughter, Millicent Marrello and her husband Michael of Mahopac, her sons, Raymond and his wife Karen of Mahopac and Joseph Likar, her grandchildren, Melissa Zacharda and her husband Michael, Jeanmarie Sandford and her husband Ryan, Erika Likar and her fiancée Jess and Michael Marrello IV as well as her great grandchildren Ethan and Abigail Zacharda and Jack Sandford.

Frank Heitman Sr.

After a courageous battle with cancer, Frank Heitman Sr. (a.k.a Pop) passed away in his home on April 2, at the age of 69. He leaves behind his wife Margie; daughter Debra Cayea (Todd); his sons, Frank Jr. (Keri), Eric (Patricia); and nine grandchildren, Peyton, Trevor, Breleigh, Liam, Graham, Ella, Madison, Adrianna, Brayden and two step grandchildren, Devan and Justin Cayea. Frank was born on September 27, 1945 in the Bronx to father Francis and mother Julianna who predeceased him. He grew up in the Highbridge section of the Bronx. He enlisted in the US Navy in 1963 and upon his honorable discharge was hired by New York Central Railroad (which is now Metro North). In August of 1968 Frank married his wife of 46 years, Margie McNamara. They relocated to Putnam County where Frank built their home on Pudding Street and they raised their three children Debra, Frank and Eric. Frank was very active in the community where he coached a variety of sports teams and led the Carmel Chief Youth Football program for many years. Frank worked for Metro North Railroad for forty years and retired in 2005. He was a master craftsman who enjoyed building and construction as a hobby. He took pride in the house that he built as well as the houses that he built and refurbished for his three children. Frank had a love for boating on the Hudson (on his boat the Catherine Mac), fishing, golfing and spending time with his family; especially his grandchildren. He was a fighter in every sense of the word as he remained brave and battled the evils of brain cancer throughout his final moments with his family always by his side. Frank is survived by his wife, his three children, eleven grandchildren as well as his two sisters, Marion Keavney and Judith Geany Hirsch; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his father Francis and his mother Julianna; his fatherinlaw, Thomas McNamara and mother-in-law, Catherine McNamara (Coffey). Thomas requested to be laid to rest in the beautiful Hudson Valley a place where he found peace, tranquility and joy, fishing with family and friends for many years. Calling hours will be held at Cargain Funeral Home in Carmel on Tuesday, April 7th from 4 p.m.- 8 p.m. There will be a mass at St. James the Apostle R.C.mChurch in Carmel, on Wednesday, April 8th at 10 a.m. The family would especially like to thank family and friends for the amazing support over the past seven months; Dr. Omar Sayed, for his excellent work and care; Dr. A.K. Choudhury for his excellent care over the past 25+ years; the staff at Putnam Hospital for their attentive treatment; Hospice Care of Westchester and Putnam for their specialized care; Francis Nyamaiyki for his calm, gentle and loving way; and the Cargain Funeral Home, for making the arrangements. In lieu of flowers, please consider making donations to National Brain Tumor Society at www.braintumor.org.
Letter of Leniency Written for Leibell Comes Under Question in DA’s Race

continued from page 1

political representative I’ve ever had the pleasure of knowing.” Tendy noted how Leibell got the town funding for a town hall addition, repaired and upgraded a long neglected veterans’ monument, and helped orchestrate the prosecution of a resident who was causing a major environmental issue. As Tendy pointed out in the letter, “Senator Leibell worked, and he worked quickly.”

Tendy also wrote at the time “I don’t know anything about Senator Leibell’s case” and considered Leibell to be a “mentor to me in the very best sense of the word.”

“If Senator Leibell made a mistake, I know he is the kind of person who is agonizing over it because he let people down—not because it will affect him,” the letter concludes. “No good would be served by Senator Leibell being incarcerated. This is my opinion. Other may differ, but they are wrong.”

In an interview, Tendy didn’t defend penning the note to United States District Judge Eginston, but candidly admitted, “it was a dumb thing to do.”

Tendy accuses Leibell and his former chief of staff Ray Maguire of intentionally deceiving him. He said the three men met on three separate occasions; before an investigation was made public, when an investigation was ongoing and the final time when Leibell was indicted. The third time, Leibell and Maguire asked Tendy to write a letter of leniency.

“I was fooled by them,” Tendy said. “It was a stupid thing to do.”

“I’ve met with indicted criminals probably close to 1,000 times,” Tendy went on to say. “I should’ve known, I should’ve known and what really pisses me off the most and makes me the most angry about this is because I should’ve seen it coming and I didn’t.”

Described as the most popular man in the county prior to any known investigation, Tendy said Leibell did do an exemplary job, which made it even more shocking when news broke of his misdeeds.

On top of writing the letter at all, Tendy agrees the letter shouldn’t have been written on Town of Putnam Valley letterhead, calling it a “thoughtless thing to do.”

Details about the three conversations are sparse because Tendy believes he would be violating attorney-client privilege if he divulged information about what was discussed, even though Tendy didn’t do any paid legal work for them. But because they talked about legalities, Tendy said it matters to him not to disclose what was conferred.

Although the revelations aren’t anything new, Tendy also pointed out that incumbent District Attorney Adam Levy is connected to Leibell and Maguire. Levy, Tendy asserts, made a $75,000 payment to a consulting firm, WPD Concepts, that was run by Maguire, to ensure no one ran against Levy in 2008 and also made sizable contributions to Leibell’s campaign funds.

According to a Nov. 7, 2013 Journal News article, Levy made a $25,000 payment, a $16,000 payment, another $16,000 payment, and a $18,000 payment in 2007 to WPD Concepts. Also, according to The Journal News article, Levy contributed $8,500 to Leibell’s Senate campaign in 2006 and in 2010, Levy and his wife Lori donated a combined $7,500.

“Yeah, I was lied to and I fell for it, my fault, sorry it’s a stupid thing to do,” Tendy said referring to the letter. “But I never gave any of these guys money to use as political muscle.”

Levy has yet to officially announce his intention to seek reelection, but all signs point to him gearing up for a third run. A committee called Citizens for Adam Levy is now active, according to the New York State Board of Elections, which was registered on Feb. 9 of this year. A Cold Spring resident, Carol Powell, is listed as the committee’s treasurer.

A spokeswoman for Levy did not have any comment as of Monday afternoon before press time.

Tendy disagreed that this letter should make potential voters question his judgment, because everyone including district attorneys and lawyers make mistakes. He also said, “This is nothing on the level of the mistakes Mr. Levy have done.”

When asked if he’s in touch with Leibell anymore, Tendy’s response was short and swift.

“Hell no,” he said. “After I saw him, I crossed the street.”

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Putnam Hospital Center seminars
March 26th and April 23rd at 4:30 PM

Vassar Brothers Medical Center seminars
March 12th and April 9th at 5:00 PM

Putnam Hospital Center
HEALTHQUEST

BARIATRIC SURGERY SUPPORT GROUPS
Northern Dutchess Hospital March 3rd and April 7th at 7:00 PM — (845) 871-3600
Putnam Hospital Center March 26th and April 23rd at 6:00 PM — (845) 230-4797
Vassar Brothers Medical Center March 23rd and April 15th at 6:00 PM — (845) 454-8500 Ext. 73026
Crossword Puzzle

Across
1 Base of electrical current (abbr.)
4 Intersperse
7 Sounds from the meadow
11 Symbol of worthlessness
12 Gretzky’s milieu
13 Literary type
14 Flat fish with a dark complexion or Yorktown sun worshipper’s salon
16 Honey badger
17 Ambiguous SNL character
18 View from a helicopter perhaps
19 Actor Pacino
21 Garage start up that made billions
24 Hard work
26 Dormant volcano of Hawaii
31 Cousin of a bassoon
32 Street of Nightmares
33 Auction segments
34 Defense Department complex
36 Hose problem
37 Fruit
39 Oakland baseball guys
40 Single cells
44 Lord of the Rings good guy
46 Prophet-like
47 Belonging to former Yankee pitcher Pena or Mahopac Latin restaurant
51 Make joyful
52 Wordsworth creation
53 It’s a scream
54 Vex
55 Came in first
56 Crack, so to speak

Down
1 Donkey
2 Cow murmur
3 Cheap mag
4 “Likewise”
5 Andes tuber
6 Ring count
7 Grizzly
8 Voting nay
9 Space
10 Convince
13 Inexperienced
15 Young raptor
18 She has a degree
19 At the summit of
20 Place for a stud or hoop
22 Some fraternity members
23 Lively dance
25 It has a plus or minus, in chemistry class
27 Acid neutralizers
28 Carp
29 Noted lava maker
30 Grills
35 With speed
38 Midestland
40 Maintain
41 African country
42 Abbr. at the end of a list
43 Sample
45 Guitar part
47 Seating arrangement
48 Busy activity
49 Over, for Keats
50 Wild blue yonder

Crossword by Myles Mellor
Answers on page 17

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The Making of a Master Craftsman? Is It Learned or Innate?

One of the favorite pieces my wife and I retrieved from our antiques shop when we closed it some years ago was a Sheraton-style (not original) settee that is delicately made with three harp-like splats in the back. We’ve always had it in our central hall as though guests might linger there if they wanted to, but it was mainly for show and rarely ever sat on.

Somewhere along the way one of the splats’ spokes had broken away and because of that, the settee had lost much of its value. However, with a big throw pillow covering its flaw, it was still pretty to look at, but I had no idea or plan of ever getting it repaired.

Then I met Brad Goodman, the assistant building inspector in Yorktown. Lorin in my PR office had told me that he was an extraordinary craftsman and could “build and repair” anything made of wood. I was fascinated.

“Can you repair that broken splat so that it doesn’t show?” I asked.

Without missing a beat, he responded, “Yes, I have a workshop where I have all the tools I need to do all of that.”

I pressed him further asking “but how do you know how to do those things. Tell me.”

“I just picked it up along the way from the time my mother sent me to a YHMA woodworking class when I was eight years old,” he said modestly shrugged his shoulders.

“Did you see the movie ‘Amadeus?’” Goodman asked me, referring to the story of Mozart and archival Salieri. Both were talented, but Mozart’s work came naturally while Salieri had to work harder to get the same results. “I wouldn’t compare myself to Mozart, but building things all came easily and naturally to me.”

After that first woodworking class, other classes followed that helped cultivate Goodman’s practice of craftsmanship, including art and sculpture. He would then pursue two passions: making furniture and, as a musician (or “bluesician” as he calls himself), the making of guitars.

When he was as young as 20, Goodman purchased his first business, an antiques store in Scarsdale, with his mother and younger brother. That evolved into a kitchen sales business, and from there, his entrepreneurial pursuits brought him into the tiling, plumbing and electrical businesses until the physical labor took its toll. At that point, he transitioned to a building superintendent for a contractor until taking his current building inspector’s job.

Goodman took my settee for repair, and when I received the call that the job was done, I asked if I could visit his shop, which is in the lower level of his expanded raised ranch high on a hill in Brewster. There, the large space is filled with all of his automated equipment to which he oriented me: a machinist’s lathe, a jointer, planer, band saw, a BIG band saw, a pin router, a table saw and a panel saw. Then he revealed my repaired settee and, for the life of me, I could not determine which spoke of the splat had been broken off. This man should be a restorer in a museum and yet his talent is available at reasonable cost to any homeowner who needs repair, big or small.

As I explored Goodman’s journey to becoming a true craftsman, I kept asking myself the same question: Would it have been possible if I had applied myself that I too might have become a true craftsman? I really doubt it.

While Goodman modestly quoted Thomas Edison when he said that genius is 1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration, I believe there is definitely something innate, a special knack, a certain “eye” that some of us have and others don’t. Brad Goodman definitely has it, and I definitely don’t.

If you would like his brand of genius put to work for a special project, Goodman can be reached at 845-480-6840.

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.

The California Drought’s Effect on the Wine Industry

By Nick Antonaccio

The photos accompanied the report that Gov. Jerry Brown had mandated water use reductions for the first time in California’s history. His executive order imposed a 25 percent usage reduction, affecting about 90 percent of residents.

The three photos vividly present the dilemma facing the state: a depleted lake bed with dozens of stranded houseboats that proportionately seem the size of Matchbox toys from yesteryear; another lake bed that is completely dry, cracked and sprouting drought-hardy weeds; and skiers wending their way along small patches of snow on an otherwise brown ski slope.

With the sparse water surface reserves, the depletion of underground wells and, most important, the reduction of the water supply from a federal irrigation system, this year’s effects are anticipated to be more onerous to the state economy than any of the three previous years. For decades, the federal program has supplied water to the heartland of the California agriculture industry. Nearly three million acres – one-fifth of the agricultural land in the state -- have relied on this source.

As precious water resources dry up, so goes the economy. It is anticipated that the business loss in 2015 may approach $3 billion. The areas most affected are in the Central Valley, home to farms cultivating tomatoes, lettuce and other vegetables. Long a source to the rest of the U.S. food markets, such an impact would seriously affect local farmers’ revenues.

An increase in consumer prices would logically seem to be linked to short crop sizes with reduced crops of these staples. However, in the modern era of global food-sourcing and long-distance transportation logistics, this has not been the case. Neither the storyline nor the photos presented the effects of the drought on California’s vineyards, which in the continuing and future effect of the water shortage on the unique attributes of the California wine industry.

First, a severe lack of water for products with short life spans (several months), such as tomatoes, lettuce and peppers, is devastating. Root systems are shallow and dry out quickly. By contrast, grapesvines have typical lifespans of 40 to 50 years; Zinfandel vines over 100 years old are growing today in California. This long lifespan allows vines to send roots deep into the ground, some to a depth of 100 feet. Here they can tap into water supplies unavailable to other crops.

Second, as naturally drought-resistant plants, many varieties of grapesvines can tolerate reductions in available water of up to 40 percent, a survival edge unmatched in much of the agricultural industry.

Third, the lifecycle of any plant dictates that it ultimately must reproduce itself. Grapesvines produce clusters of grapes to achieve their immortality. When stressed, many vines begin to shut down production of leaves and grapes, focusing instead on producing stringer grapes. A grapevines, this fight for survival typically results in smaller yields with more concentrated fruit and greater potential for exceptional flavor and aging.

In fact, winemakers may intentionally stress the grapevines in their vineyards in order to produce concentrated wines that will command higher prices in the marketplace. In its extreme form, this is termed dry farming, wherein grapevines must sustain themselves solely on natural rainfall. A number of the most famous wines of California are produced in this manner.

What does the future hold for the California wine industry? In the short term, the economy seems resilient. The 2014 wine harvest was the third largest on record, receiving high acclaim for its quality. But is this sustainable? For that matter, what does the future hold for the water-stressed macro economy of California? NASA recently issued a report projecting that in the next several decades the Southwest and the Central Plains could suffer the worst droughts in 1,000 years. This is not very encouraging news to anyone – farmers or residents – living in that great swath of green America in 2015.

Nick Antonaccio is a 35-year Pleasantville resident. For over 15 years he has conducted wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick’s credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@thecareaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.
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Thousands Attend Tilly Foster Farm Egg-stravaganza in Brewster

The forecast called for rain all week, but the sun was out on Saturday, April 4 and thousands of people headed over to Tilly Foster Farm in Brewster, where Putnam County Tourism hosted its first Tilly Foster Farm Egg-stravaganza.

“The turnout for this event was amazing; so much more than we could have hoped to have to attend,” said Frank Smith, Deputy Director of Putnam County Tourism. “We are so fortunate to have the community come out and support our events here. The farm is centrally located and has so much space that we can offer an assortment of activities.”

In addition to the egg hunt which got underway a little early because of the gusty winds, the children were able to have their faces painted by the 4H club, do a gardening craft with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County, visit the Antique Farm Machinery Museum, listen to Mother Goose tell a story, see the animals on the farm and have their photo taken with the Easter Bunny.

“After the success of the Egg-stravaganza and the Pumpkin-palooza last fall, we can see that Tilly Foster Farm is set to be a regional destination,” said County Executive MaryEllen Odell. “People are coming from throughout Putnam as well as the surrounding counties and Connecticut to events at Tilly Foster Farm. As we continue working with Putnam County Tourism, and move forward with our partnerships with BOCES and Cornell Cooperative, the farm will be the perfect place for us to hold a variety of events, targeting different age groups and an array of interests. The farm has truly become a place for all the people of Putnam to enjoy.”

Putnam residents seem to agree.

“We were excited to hear that the County was holding such an event, so we made sure to arrive early,” said Daniel Stockfield of Brewster. “Our son Cyan was grateful to get a couple eggs. We think that perhaps more people attended than expected. Which is a good problem, correct? We’ll be looking forward to next year’s event.”
Carmel Woman Uplifted by Cancer Program at Putnam Hospital Center

Even though Jane Smith doesn’t wear a lot of makeup, she recently participated in a program at Putnam Hospital Center aimed at teaching beauty techniques to women undergoing cancer treatment.

“The experience, she said, was wonderful. “When you lose your hair it’s devastating,” Smith, of Carmel, said. “You want to look the best you can because you already feel awkward. It gives you an uplift.”

Look Good Feel Better is a two-hour, hands-on program that includes a 12-step skin care/makeup application lesson, demonstration of options for dealing with hair loss and nail care techniques, as well as advice on how to use wigs, scarves, hairpieces and other accessories. The program at Putnam Hospital Center is in collaboration with the American Cancer Society.

While the tips were useful, Smith (who is the wife of sheriff Don Smith) said the program also gave her an opportunity to meet other people in similar situations to hers. Smith has battled cancer for two years.

“It was nice to be with other people. It was almost like a support group,” Smith said. “It just makes you feel good and to do the best you can with what you got.”

The Look Good Feel Better program at Putnam Hospital Center meets next from 10 a.m. to noon May 6, Large Oncology Conference Room A, 670 Stoneleigh Ave.

Registration is required and space is limited. Call 1-800-227-2345 to register. You can find out more about the program by visiting www.lookgoodfeelbetter.org.

Carmel Woman Uplifted by Cancer Program at Putnam Hospital Center

Cornell Coop. Extension Gears up for Putnam County Youth Forum

On Monday April 13th, Cornell University’s Cooperative Extension will host approximately 150 youth collectively representing Brewster, Carmel, Haldane, Mahopac, and Putnam Valley High Schools at Clearpool Education Center in Carmel. This will be an unmatched opportunity for High School students to participate in open discussions on many of the issues that often concern youth. Some of the topics offered this year include: ‘A Story of Addiction’, ‘The College Transition’, ‘Racial Issues’, ‘If You Really Knew Me’, ‘Stress’, ‘Money’, ‘Is It Just Me?’, ‘Issues of the Earth’ and other choices. Facilitators, who bring an array of experience, knowledge and an ability to engage youth, will lead the discussions.

For instance the program – ‘A Story of Addiction’ will be facilitated by Susan and Steve Salomone of ‘Drug Crisis in Our Backyard’. Matthew Lattimer from the Department of Justice will address ‘Racial Issues’ and Jennifer Stengle will speak regarding the environment at ‘Issues of the Earth’. Confidentiality and respect for the opinion of others is expected during each 50-minute program. To ensure a free exchange of dialogue the workshops are open to only the facilitator and students. Interested high school students should contact their school administrator to apply for permission to attend the Forum. Transportation is provided by the individual school district. For additional information please contact Cornell Cooperative Extension: 845-278-6738 or www.cce.cornell.edu.
Auction: The Town of Patterson’s Putnam Lake Park District will hold a public auction of abandoned boats on Saturday, April 25, 2015 at 11 a.m., at the Boat House located at the corner of Fairfield and Lake Shore Drive, Patterson, NY. Boats will be available for inspection at 10 a.m. Cash only. All abandoned boats will be sold in “as is” condition and with no warranties as to the condition thereof or title thereto. Each purchaser of a boat will indemnify and save the Town of Patterson free and harmless from and against any claims, damages, causes of action, cost or expenses of whatever kind or nature regarding title to, or the condition or suitability of, such boat.

Register Now:
Art Classes @ Putnam Arts Council, Mahopac: Adult classes in the arts begin the week of April 20, with kids offerings beginning the first week in May. Classes are offered in Painting, Pottery, Drawing, Beginning and intermediate, on weekdays and weekends, after-school and weekends. Private piano, voice and acting lessons are also options for 16-adult. Register now details and forms @ putnamarts council.com.

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

Ongoing: 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 welcome, but to schedule an appointment, please call 914-502-1478 or email insurancecoverage@odinc.org.

more information about either of these services, call the Brewster Public Library at 845-279-4621

Wednesday’s:

Wednesdays 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 evenings 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:

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.

Reed Memorial Library presents:

Beginning Yoga and Crafts for children ages 3 - 5. Thursdays 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Feb. 5-March 5th. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a mat or large towel if you have one. Call to Register 845-225-2439

Sunday’s:

Winter Farm Market

This season, the Winter Market will be open 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.

Save the Date:

Wednesday, April 15

17th Annual Hudson Valley Food & Wine Experience. 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Benefiting the Putnam/Northern Westchester Women’s Resource Center April 19, 2015

Third Annual Bowling Tournament for Putnam Recreation Programs and Habilitation. noon-5 p.m. at Carmel Bowl, on Old Route 6. 9 pin no tap. 4 member team $120. Register by calling PRPH at 845-621-5594 or Sylvia Good at 845-228-2374. Includes 3 games, shoes, prizes, food. Come Out and enjoy this fun fundraiser with your family and friends.

April 25, 2015

The Kent Historical Society Meeting: noon at the Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park, 201 Gipsy Trail Rd., Carmel, for a walking tour of the lower park and a tour of the historical artifacts in the Museum. Free & open to the public. FMIL: kmehistorical society@gmail.com

Winter Farm Market

Brewster-Carmel Garden Club Plant Sale: Spring plants are 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 double1@comcast.net

Scholarships

Brewster-Carmel Garden Club is offering two scholarships. One each to a senior from Brewster and Carmel planning to study horticulture, floriculture, landscape design, botany, environmental studies, or a related field. Letter of recommendation from someone outside of the school of attendance is required. Award applicants will be interviewed by a garden club representative. Award applicant must be a resident of Brewster or Carmel. Please contact Emily at 845-279-6061 for more information and an application. The deadline for applying is April 14.

Tuesday, April 7

Golf & Lunch Package: For the month of April enjoy golf and lunch package $60 inclusive for a round of golf and lunch at the Terrace Grill. Special menu Selections. Weekdays only. For more information/questions please call 845-424-3604 or visit our website www.thegarrison.com.

The Reads at Reed Book Club. 7 p.m. to discuss the book “The Stepsister Scheme” by Jim C. Hines. The meeting will be held at Reed Memorial Library. Contact 845-225-2439 with any questions.

Thursday, April 9

Spring 2015 session of the Pegasus Program. The program will begin on will run on Thursday evenings from 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. for eight weeks. Sessions are held at the Putnam County Youth Bureau located at 110 Old Route 6 Carmel. Sponsored by the Putnam County Youth Bureau and the NYS Office of Children and Family Services, Pegasus is an educational support group for children, ages 6 to 14 and their guardian(s) who have a loved one suffering from alcoholism or other drug abuse. This program helps children and their families to learn about and understand the issues that surround alcoholism and other drug abuse. Pegasus is free and confidential. Pre-Registration is required. Please contact Marie O’Connor, Pegasus Coordinator at (845) 808-1600 Ext 46126 or Pegasus@putnamcountyny.org

Come Have Some Fun and Have Your Reading Done by Bob Buchanan, a Mentalist and others. The Sons of Italy’s Father Licata Lodge will be hosting this special event at the VFW Hall at 32 Gleneida Ave. in Carmel. A donation of $20 includes a reading and a buffet dinner. The fun begins at 7 p.m. For more information contact Michele at (845) 225-1144.

Saturday, April 11

Carmel Fire Dept. Auxiliary: Spring Flea Market, Carmel Fire House, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. - Come shop for Mother’s Day

Saturday, April 18

Book Talk with Retired Brewster Teacher and Senior Citizen Dorothy Killackey - Author Killackey will discuss her two books “Musing, Book 1” and “More Musings with Dot”. Killackey’s books each have over fifty short stories remembering past experiences, sometimes foolish choices made, and her thoughts and criticisms over our current culture. She promises to share and compare experiences with attendees. Her books will be available for purchase. 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Reservations are suggested: call 845-279-6421.

Library Trustee Meet and Greet at Reed Library. 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Library trustees will be on hand to meet you, listen to concerns, and answer questions.

Art Show & Reception at the Reed Library. 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. celebrating the work of participants in Reed’s drawing and watercolor classes. Refreshments served. Music by Midhat Serbati.

VA Hudson Valley Health Care System will be hosting an Information Fair. Carmel VA Outpatient Clinic located at 1875 Route Six Carmel, New York from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This will be an opportunity for Veterans to register for VA Health Care, take pictures for new VHIC LD. cards, receive blood pressure checks, and much more! There will be information about several of the VA’s programs. These programs include, but not limited to, the Women Veterans Program, Caregiver Program, Returning Combat Veteran Service, and Putnam County Veteran Service Agency. Additionally, Veterans should bring a copy of their DD-214. For more information, please contact Nicole Embry at (914) 737-4400, Ext. 3106 or visit www.hudsonvalley.va.gov.
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Putnam Valley junior P/3B Jake Reyes rakes a shot in the Tigers’ 10-1 win over reigning three-time Class C champion Haldane last Wednesday at Mayor’s Park in Cold Spring where PV took the field for the first time in what the Tigers expect to be a fruitful season on the Class B diamond... see Baseball Notebook
New Managers Take Stage in Carmel, Lakeland, Brewster

Put Valley Hoping This is Their Year; Mahopac Ready for Life After Kernan

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

The coaching carousel was in motion this off-season at some places where stability had once been the staple of their success, including Class A perennial power Lakeland and Class AA’s Carmel, always a playoff stalwart.

Longtime Carmel Coach Bob Shilling recently resigned, signaling the end of a career that spanned two-plus decades at Carmel where his patent-pending playoff runs were often epic. He will be replaced this season by his longtime assistant Ryan Dall, a pitching guru by trade with longstanding ties to Shilling, which should help smooth some of the transition. Shilling’s son, Ryan, a terrific three-sport athlete at Carmel (circa 2007-10), will run the junior varsity club.

Likewise, Lakeland will be going through a transitional period as its ushers in the Bill Casey era. Casey, the varsity assistant last season under former boss Joe Knapp, is a respected baseball man in Shrub Oak Athletic Club circles and should command the respect of his players. Knapp’s 2014 club reached the Class A finals in only his second season as head coach before falling to Rye, so the news of his departure in late March -- just before the team went to Florida -- was quite stunning, though it had been rumored for some time. Casey is expected to remain in the role in an effort to get back the stability that had under the Robinson brothers -- Dennis and Mike -- who coached at Lakeland for 40 years before their unceremonious departure in 2013.

Brewster Manager Ed Mulvihill has also stepped down as Bears coach this spring, though he will remain the varsity football coach next fall. He will be replaced by Matt Cunningham.

With that out of the way, here a look at some of the local clubs we suspect should have impactful seasons on the Section 1 circuit.

PUTNAM VALLEY (16-6) was right in the thick of the Class B title chase last season before losing a gut-wrenching, extra-inning quarterfinal affair to Keio, which, like the Tigers, returns just about everyone this season. Twelfth-year Coach Joe Natalie’s Tigers are ripe for a legitimate title run with as many as six competent pitchers, who are also versatile enough to spread around the diamond when not sensing the rubber.

The unit is deep with senior All-League ace RHP Eddie Lent leading the way. Senior RHP Ryan Basso, senior RHP Nick Marro, senior RHP Dan McCann, and junior RHPs Charlie Pagani and Jake Reyes give Natalie an explosive array of steady right-handed hurlers, who can all hit the ball and play other positions.

Senior 3B Elviz Belen has been cleared to return to the lineup after extensive rehab for a leg injury and he is chomping at the bit along with junior OF Zach Girvalo, who will spark the top of the order with pop and speed, as will OF Delaba. OF Chris Schroeder is a contact hitter.

“We are ready to make that run,” said Belen. “I know for sure if we put all of our strong aspects of our games together we can make that run and get the respect we deserve. Our goal is definitely the section title, but I know with the team we have we can go as far as our desire to win takes us. Our pitching staff is the strongest part; we have two aces and the younger guys are throwing well, too.”

The Tigers proved the Tigers on their way to an opening-day victory over the youthful Blue Devils, who seventh-year Coach Tom Virgadamo pledged would be stronger by May. PV pitcher Ryan Basso worked six innings, striking out five to pick up the win.

Bigger tests lie ahead, including traditional Class B powers like Keio, North Salem and Ardsley, but the Tigers are right there in the middle of that mix if they play to their potential.

HALDANE (13-10 last year) will struggle some early on as the Blue Devils attempt to rebuild upon their finest three-year run in history, which ended in last year’s regional final loss to Pierson. Justin Furdico (3B), David Rotando (SS), John Parr (2B), Aidan Siegel (C/P), Brian Haines (P/LF), Ryan Duffy (P), Jimmy Duffy (C/1B), Nick Chiara (P/OF), Miguel Toribio (OF/IF) and Justin Maldonado (OF) were all part of the...
the last 40-something years. It's hard to imagine they'll be anything but the same under Casey, a no-nonsense coach who should rein things in quickly and have the Hornets contending for a Final 4 berth or better.

**Lakeland** (12-8) is hoping for something similar despite losing a slew of its best players to graduation. Longtime Manager Anthony Fata hopes his defending league champs can muster another strong season despite its inexperience at this level with the likes of Brandon Castillo, Kevin Vlad, Matt Cannizzzo, Justin Lee and Cliff Soloway returning to the fold.

**SOMERS** (10-12) has two very reliable All-League starters in Takoda Sitar and Brendan Smith. Those fighting for innings behind the duo include Taylor Brown, Ryan Mullaly, Mike Lucadamo, Kris Swee, Bobby O'Leary and Rich Frommelt. The hitters Coach Joe Wootten hopes to pan out include Alex Buchholz, Anthony Maestri, Jimmy Morzillo, TJ Fiorino, Paul Franzese, Frank Bele and talented sophomores Matt Pires and Marc Maestri.

"I believe our offense will be more consistent 1-9," Wootten said. "Putting pressure on the defense will be a factor all year."

**CARMEL** (12-13) has been the one program that always seems to come up with some kind of post-season run, even if the Rams struggle throughout the regular season. IF Tim Menton, C Ryan Fay, ace P Chris Palmiero are some of the key returnees expecting to do likewise this season while eliminating some of the inconsistencies from a year ago.

Palmiero is the key, though, a junior with low 80s stuff, who isn’t afraid to attack the strike zone.

"We have high hopes this year," Palmiero said. "We’ve been playing together since freshman and JV years and we have great chemistry. Our hitting is our strong suit but we lack some pitching depth. If our pitching staff can keep us in games, I think our hitting will come through and win us games. We just came back from our yearly Florida trip and we did very well. Our hitters raked and we showed that we can hit good pitching. I’m hoping that we can repeat what we did last year, but go even further in sectionals. I’m excited to get the season started."

Junior SS Ryan Train, a late JV call-up last season, will be a player to monitor as he expands his role for the Rams, who hope to be among the Dutchess powers that be and/or perennial power Fox Lane in the end.

**MAHOPAC** (10-11) could be in for a rebuilding year as they struggle to replace ace lefty Kevin Kernan, who has taken his three-year varsity exploits to Stony Brook. The Indians did open the season with an impressive 4-3 win over White Plains. Mahopac’s Louie Nardella smoked a bases-loaded, two-out double in the top of the fifth, giving the Indians a 3-0 lead in their 4-3 win over host White Plains last Wednesday. Mahopac RHP John Reda (5+ IP, 1 R, 1 ER, 3 H, 2 BB, 1 K) looked like a reliable chucker, keeping White Plains scoreless for five innings. Between Reda and RHP Cal Lawrence, the Indians look to have at least two reliable starters. Junior Anthony Mirditaj is a solid No. 3.

"This was a nice win for Coach Chris Miller’s Indians, but even he’s not sure if his club has what it takes to compete in one of the toughest leagues in the state, which includes the Dutchess tribunal of Arlington, John Jay-East Fishkill and defending Class AA champ Ketcham, plus rival Carmel."

Reda, C J Sager, Greg Cavaliere and Nardella SR will carry the club on offense and Mirditaj Cavaliere and Brendan White will be newcomers that should impress.

**YORKTOWN** (13-8) will drop down to Class A this season after winning 13 in AA last year, and Coach Sean Kennedy, now in his 15th-season as the Huskers’ lead dog (21 years overall at Yorktown), is expecting the 2015 unit to contend in a very tough league that includes Class AA powerhouse Fox Lane, Class A fixture John Jay, one-time mighty Somers, Brewster and Horace Greeley.

Kennedy expects All-League lefty P Chris Henry, a senior who won five games last year, to prosper with batterymate Will Fischer, a senior who played well behind the plate a year ago. P Jan Klak showed major promise last year as well. Jack Kelly was a kid who showed promise at the hot corner during his sophomore season, as the he drove in 18 runs and made just two errors as a rookie, and SS Jake Bichler shores up the middle. Junior CF Matt Boccia sparked the offense last year with 24 runs scored. You’ll see a lot of new faces otherwise, but the Huskers are good enough on paper to make a run at Class A before they go back to AA next year.

"We should be pretty good," Coach Kennedy said. "We can definitely make a run in Class A. Losing (leading hitter) Ricky (Corrado) hurts but I think I am stronger 1-9 than last year."

The Huskers will need to figure out a way to scratch out a couple of runs on opening day against Palmiero and the Rams.

**BREWSTER** (6-15) has a great core of seniors this year coming back which should provide the all essential leadership and experience the Bears need behind a first-year coach.

"This group has worked very hard in the preseason and has developed some really good chemistry, which will hopefully translate once the season begins," Coach Cunningham said. "We have strong senior leadership and defensive capabilities."

Some players to watch include Dom Pintavalle 3B/P, Eddie Mead P/OF, Rob Chamberlain 1B/P, Matt Gargano CF and John Rock 2B/OF.

The Bears are a little pitching-thin, so they’ll need guys to step up in that area quickly. That said; the program may need another year or so before it seriously contends in a very tough league, but they have some help on the horizon if the younger levels pan out.

**CROTON** (12-10) has seen steady improvement under Coach Eric Rosen, including their finest effort in nearly a decade last season. The third-year boss hopes to continue that trend behind junior ace Scott Giordano, senior C Izaak Cohen (All-League), senior IF Kyle Rossini (All-League) and junior P-OF-1B Mike Matalavage.

**PEEKSKILL**’s sixth-year Coach Chris Salumn believes that the Red Devils could be “one of the most improved teams in the section.” He expects Anthony Murphy (All-League, All-Section HM), Connor Terrell, Chris Melendez, Ryan Germinaro, Lisandro Guzman and Jason Santana will improve upon their 4-16 campaign from a year ago.
Somers Set to Defend Title, Yorktown Wants it Back

By Tony Pinciaro

It was a history-making 2014 season for the Somers varsity girls’ lacrosse team as the Lady Tuskers won the program’s first Section 1 championship and advanced to the New York State Public High School Athletic Association regional final.

Even though Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake defeated Somers, 12-11, that June day, it did not take away anything from what the Lady Tuskers accomplished, including a 17-1-1 record.

“I couldn’t have asked for a better season,” said Somers’ fifth-year coach Jaime Irving. “We had been building on our success each year and to finally reach the Section finals was amazing. None of the girls had ever played in a section final game and when we finally reached that goal we knew there was one thing to do and we had to take care of business. The leadership was incredible and the team chemistry was everything you’d ever want it to be. We fell short of reaching the state final four, but we had attained our goal and made history for Somers girls’ lacrosse. The girls are feeding off of that feeling from last year to improve and take our game to the next level.”

The Lady Tuskers did graduate Tara and Emma Chargaro, Shannon Coogan and Aly Marton, but Irving said Somers returns a deep, talented nucleus and has the championship pedigree and the yearn to recapture the title after losing consecutive championship games to Somers and John Jay, respectively.

LAKELAND/PANAS will once again be among the Section 1 elite under the guidance of veteran coach Sharon Sarsen. The Rebels, who won three consecutive sectional titles earlier this millennium, lost to arch-rival Suffern, 11-4, in the 2014 Section 1 Class championship game.

The Rebels, who finished 14-3-2 in 2014, graduated five seniors — Kayla Moore, Krista Sawler, Kim Monteforte, Gab Gjelaj and Sam Pfeiffer. Lakeland/Panas does return experience, especially on the attack and midfield lines, led by seniors Jillie Dineen-Carey (defense), Gianna Paglia (midfield), fifth-year varsity player Molly Fitzpatrick (midfield/attack) and goalie Alex Halpin. The returning juniors include Brianna Muniz (defense), field hockey stand-out Dana Bozek (midfield), Katie Bradbury (midfield/attack) and Valerie Perkins (attack).

Sarsen, in her 29th year coaching the Rebels, welcomes a multitude of talent returning, including the senior trio of Briana Corace (midfield), Stefanie Svoboda (attack) and Valerie Perkins (attack). The sophomore trio of Briana Corace (midfield), Stefanie Svoboda (attack) and Gabby Ferrao will anchor the midfield lines.

"Our team goals this year are to work hard and get better everyday. We have been knocked out of the sectionals the last two years by sectional champ Suffern and we hope to be able to continue to build on what we have done the last two years and compete with the top teams in the section.”

HEN HUD’s Mary Honovich was one happy coach following the 2014 season, knowing that she would return her entire team in 2015.

“We didn’t have any seniors last year so we are excited to have everyone back and we also gained some hard working newcomers,” said Honovich, in her fifth season. “We have 23 skilled athletes and are looking to compete and get further than last year.”

Hen Hud lost to Pearl River in a Section 1 Class B quarterfinal-round game last year. The returning group is led by all-season selection Amber Fenimora (attack). She will be joined up front by Olivia Tivnan. The midfield lines are comprised of Jenna Richardson, Jackie Rieffenhauser and Montana Garrett. Goalie Mackenize Porter will rely on her defense of Melanie Porras, Rachel Blitzer and Katie Luposello.

No rest for the weary regarding OSSINING as coach Dan Ricci and many of his lacrosse players come right into practice following a third consecutive New York State Class AA basketball championship.

Ricci, along with seniors Abby Squirrell (midfield), Stefanie Svoboda (attack) and Jalay Knowles (defense), had one week of practice for the Pride. Squirrell will attend Marquette University in the fall and play lacrosse.

The senior trio is joined by classmates Gabby Hagerman (midfield) and Meghan Hooley (attack). Senior Annelyse Lopez and junior Gabby Ferroa will anchor the defense in front of sophomore goalie Molly Haag.

Sophomore Gabby Rama (midfield) freshman Kelsey Quain (attack) and eighth-grader Jaida Strippoli (attack) are new to varsity.

Ricci noted that all of the teams’ top scorers return, led by Squirrell.

“We will do well as long as we stay healthy,” Ricci added.

Girls lax coaches interested in coverage should contact Tony Pinciaro at TFinch23@optonline.net.
Hen Hud Makes History in 1st Ever Win over John Jay
Yorktown’s Strong 2nd Half Fuels Win over Somers

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

Besides the obvious, like reigning NYS Class B champion Yorktown High is pretty dang good once it gets past its potentially damaging slow starts, here’s what we may have learned in Week 2 on the Section 1 lacrosse circuit: Lakeland/Panas and Mahopac may not be as good as we originally hoped; Somers is probably better than initially expected; and Hen Hud is a program you should probably get on your radar. Oh, and lacrosse, in general, is down, way down, in this neck of the woods in early April. And, remember, the end of May comes quickly.

The story of the week had to be Hen Hud’s 10-9 overtime triumph of John Jay, whom they beat for the first time ever when senior Ryan Tandy tickled the twine and I feel like this could really propel us forward.” Forward would be the Sailors’ first Class B championship game appearance, which might not be out of the question considering they just knocked off John Jay, the Class B runner-up three years running.

Hen Hud boss Craig Solomon concurred this was bigger than most regular season wins.

“All of these kids love to be in the moment,” said Solomon. “We’re getting huge contributions from three freshman in Austin Fraser on attack, Alan Jackson at LSM and Vinny Bell in goal. Also, we are so balanced on offense with all six players able to score. To go along with that, Jared Hershman facing off, so we know we will get the ball back.”

And when they don’t the Sailors are getting a solid defensive effort from three seniors, Carson Jacobs, Matt Kenny and Ryan Lustyik.

“It’s just a great group of players and coaches, so things are really good right now,” Solomon said...

Here’s a humdrum poll for some bulletin-board fodder for those of you that need it.

NWE/Putnam Fab Five Lax Poll

No.1 YORKTOWN – Senior M Mike Dedvukaj reminded us all that he in on course for an All-American campaign, going for four goals in a 12-5 win over host Somers after hitting for a career-high seven goals in an 18-4 rout of Mahopac. Rookie Justin Cavallo (3G) was also big against the Tuskers. The undefeated Huskers (5-0) also saw young Kyle Casey drop a five-spot on Creeley in a 19-5 triumph of the Quakers while Nick Del Bene and Ryan Baker each dropped hats on the field. Bakes is cooking at the dot, too, winning 70%, and posing as a legit A-A candidate.

No.2 HEN HUD – Yeah, there, I said it: Hen Hud is the 2nd best team in the NWE/Putnam area. First time anyone ever said that, huh? Against John Jay, Nick Marra (1G, 1A), Frank Riefenhauser (1G, 1A) and Austin Fraser (2A) filled in nicely against behind the big guns, which has to continue if Coach Solly’s Sailors (2-1) are going to make a move in Class B from also-ran to contenders.

No.2A SOMERS – Coach DeGregorio’s Tuskers (1-2) threw the fear of God into Yorktown for a half when the Tuskers trailed the Huskers, 3-2, but they eventually succumbed to a superior brand of stick when the Huskers went on a 9-3 second-half run. Vincent Cartelli (1G, 2A) Joe Hashmall (2G) had his moments for the Tuskers, who relied on G Justin Monaco (15 saves) throughout the first half. Still, the fact Somers hung hard with Yorktown has to be a moral victory for a club seeking a new identity and its first Class B title appearance since 2009.

No.4 LAKELAND/PANAS – Coach Lindsay’s Rebels (2-2) took two on the chin this week and reminded us what a rebuilding season looks like in a pair of lopsided losses to Section 2 power Shenendehowa and Suffern, which was really bothersome. How the Rebels intend to make up the 12-goal differential between them and the Mounties by late May is a tall order.

And by the way, thanks to my boy Tom Cegielski for gently reminding me that Lakeland did win the Section 1 Class B title back in 1984, beating, umh, Roosevelt of all teams, which gives Lakeland four sectional championships without Panas as its sidekick, nine with them.

No.5 PUT VALLEY – If Coach Ignatz’s Tigers (1-1) didn’t have the wherewithal to stand tall with Class C runner-up Pleasantville in a 13-3 beatdown last Thursday, what the heck is going to happen when/if they face Bronxville in May? The penalty box is not your friend, boys, stay out of it and you might contend and maybe even beat Mahopac for a third-straight year today.

HM BREWSTER – Coach Honey’s Bears (1-2) played Yorktown a lot tougher than Mahopac did.

HM MAHOPAC – Coach Haddeland’s Indians (0-2) discovered the next level of lacrosse in an 18-4 shellacking at the hands of Yorktown. The surprising thing is that it was never a game, since the Indians usually play the Huskers strong for a half before fading in recent seasons. I think the Indians have superior overall athleticism than Put Valley does, but the Mello boy could be the difference between the pipes for the Tigers in what should be a last possession game today.
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