Murphy, Local Leaders Work to Get Grip on Drug Epidemic

By Rick Pezzullo

Elected officials, community leaders and law enforcement personnel joined together last week to discuss strategies on how to curb the heroin and opioid addiction epidemic that is destroying and claiming lives at an alarming rate in Westchester and Putnam counties.

“The problem that we’re dealing with is an epidemic of Americans becoming addicted to opioids,” said Dr. Andrew Kolodny, chief medical officer for Phoenix House, an independent nonprofit organization that is the nation’s leading provider of alcohol and drug abuse treatment and prevention services operating more than 130 programs for over 6,000 men, women and adolescents in nine states, including a facility in Shrub Oak.

“The way you end an epidemic is to contain it,” Kolodny stressed. “We need to prevent new people from developing opioid addiction.”

Kolodny was one of about a dozen experts who testified at the first of a series of hearings planned by the New York State Senate Task Force on Heroin and Opioid Addiction, co-chaired by Senator Terrence Murphy (R/Yorktown), who was joined last Thursday at Mildred E. Strang Middle School in Yorktown by fellow Senator Jack Martins (R/Long Island).

“This drug has no religion, it has no race, it has no ethnicity. It will grab you and shake you down,” Murphy remarked. “It’s not a needle in the arm any more. It’s a pill you can take. The numbers are absolutely staggering. More of this conversation has to be had with our kids.”

Last year, in Westchester and Dutchess, Murphy said heroin and opioids contributed to at least one death a week. Deaths from drug abuse outnumbered homicides.

“These overdoses are happening every day. It’s time we start waking up,” Martins said. “It starts with us looking in the mirror and realizing it’s happening in our backyards. It knows no boundaries. Perfect families, broken families. Nobody

Putnam Residents Gripe Over Common Core, Seek Solutions

By Janine Bowen

Putnam County residents are looking for ways to improve the education of local students under the Common Core, while debating the root of the current problems in education.

During a forum at the Kent Public Library hosted by county Legislator Toni Addonizio on Wednesday night, local teachers and parents discussed the impact that the Common Core has had on students over the past few years. More than 200,000 students were opted out of this year’s standardized math and English language arts (ELA) exams in April because many felt the tests were inappropriate.

Anthony Cardinale, a third grade teacher at Kent Elementary School noted that while the old standardized tests were designed to assess whether or not a student were performing at grade level, passages on recent examinations are too difficult for students. He explained that a recent Common Core ELA test for third graders included a passage by Leo Tolstoy, which was written on a seventh grade level. Christine Zirkelbach, of the Hudson Valley Parent Educator Commission, noted that a recent high school Regents examination included a passage from Aton Chekov; an author she did not read until she was in her forties, as well as a

Annabi Confirms Run for Putnam Valley Supervisor, to Face Oliverio

By David Propper

It may not be much of a surprise considering the volume of chatter throughout Putnam County, but Republican Jackie Annabi confirmed she’s indeed running for Putnam Valley supervisor this year after more than five years on the town board.

In an interview, Annabi said she’s ready to take a more active role in Putnam Valley as she goes up against Democrat and former county legislator Sam Oliverio. As petition season starts in less than a month, this will be Annabi’s third run for public office after two successful town board campaigns. Her goal is to “bring Putnam Valley back.”

“I don’t want to be the corner of Putnam County anymore,” Annabi said. “I want to be the center.”

Now that Republican and current supervisor Bob Tendy is making a run for Putnam County District Attorney, Annabi knew this was the right time to step into a new role.

Putnam Valley has a myriad of issues that Annabi wants to see tackled if
Murphy, Local Leaders Work to Get Grip on Drug Epidemic

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is immune. “

Mahopac resident Steve Salomone, whose son Justin died in 2012 at the age of 29 after struggling with an addiction for 10 years, said he learned of how many families were dealing with a loved one in the same predicament as Justin after he and his wife started the organization Drug Crisis In Our Backyard.

“The common denominator was the shame and fear of coming out because of the stigma of the addiction,” Salomone said. “It blindsides you. We need to let the common citizen know it’s not the other family, it’s them. A cultural change is in order. If we don’t change the culture of young people we may never get ahead of the problem.”

Westchester County Police began a Narcotics Initiative in 2014 with seven municipalities in northern Westchester that has resulted in 125 people arrested for selling heroin.

“No community is immune. This is everybody’s problem,” said Westchester Public Safety Commissioner George Longworth.

In Putnam, Drug Court Judge James Reitz has run a drug treatment program that started with 15 cases nine years ago and now averages 110 cases, with about 50 others on a waiting list.

“This is the first time in my nine years that this has been taken seriously,” Reitz said. “You need tough love and people dedicated to changing lives and we do that one person at a time. There’s nobody safe. There’s nobody secure. Heroin is very inexpensive and easy to get. Working together we will solve this problem.”

Besides drug dealers, Kolodny said well-intentioned doctors and dentists needed to be more responsible in only prescribing medication for limited use to prevent individuals from becoming hooked. He mentioned 21 million prescriptions for opioids were written in 2011 in New York State for a population of only 19 million.

State Senator Terrence Murphy (center) co-chaired a hearing on heroin and opioid addiction in Yorktown last week.

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Ask the Doctor

Mitchell Roslin, MD
Director, Bariatric Surgery
Northern Westchester Hospital
nwhsurgicalweightloss.org/DrRoslin

Q: Who can benefit from weight-loss surgery?
A: First, let’s look at the host of major health problems linked to obesity. Two frequent consequences are type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure, which increase the risk of heart attack and stroke. Another serious potential problem is sleep apnea, in which a person’s airway collapses during sleep, and breathing stops for long periods. The condition can raise blood pressure, and can cause a dangerous level of daytime sleepiness. Obesity is also a known cause of elevated blood fats, arthritis pain, mobility problems, asthma, and infertility. Despite the major health, emotional and social problems they face, many obese people can’t lose weight through dieting and exercise. For these people, surgical weight-loss (bariatric surgery) can be the route to almost miraculously improved health - and greater happiness.

Q: What are the benefits of bariatric surgery?
A: They are remarkable. Studies published in The New England Journal of Medicine show that, for obese patients, bariatric surgery is more effective than exercise, dieting and even drugs, in controlling the high blood sugar of diabetes, reducing blood pressure, lowering the risk of heart disease, and improving overall health. What’s more, type 2 diabetes often decreases dramatically, or sometimes completely abates, due to the large weight loss common after bariatric surgery. The same weight loss can actually cure sleep apnea, and can also normalize female hormones, enhancing fertility and improving the ability to become pregnant.

Q: What are my surgical options?
A: Northern Westchester Hospital (NWH) offers a full-range of advanced, minimally invasive procedures, including adjustable gastric band, gastric bypass, sleeve gastrectomy, duodenal switch and Stomach Intestinal Pylorus Sparing surgery (SIPS). At NWH, our team of experts in nutrition, fitness, psychology, and patient education guides you through your journey, supporting your commitment to maintaining weight loss long after surgery.

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www.nwhsurgicalweightloss.org
Annabi Confirms Run for Putnam Valley Supervisor, to Face Oliverio

Annabi said her relationship with the rest of the town board is a cooperative one, as she noted while they don't agree on everything, there is a sense that the group works together to move the town in a positive direction.

"In a small town like this, (political) party doesn't matter," Annabi said. Annabi also said she knows officials from Putnam County government all the way up to New York State government, which could be beneficial to Putnam Valley. Annabi currently works for NYS Sen. Sue Serino’s office.

"I want to stay with my residents, work with my residents," Annabi said. "I think I proved in the two terms that I’ve been there that when something is asked of me, it gets done, and it’s done with all my heart and I know I can continue to do more."

When reached for comment, Oliverio, the Democrat and lifelong Putnam Valley resident running, said that he considers Annabi a friend and good councilperson. He doesn’t see it as two campaigns waging a battle between each other, but rather “two individuals with different visions.”

Oliverio said he is concerned over recent cuts to volunteer organizations, proposed zoning ordinances, and the lack of a Master Plan passed by the town board.

“In these very trying times though, experience and knowledge of our Town’s needs (in a proactive not reactive manner) is of utmost importance,” Oliverio said in an email. “With my experience as...”

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beyond the tax cap. (Councilwoman Wendy Whetsel and Annabi both voted against the final budget, but Whetsel was in favor of exceeding the cap.)

Annabi said the town must focus on spending more wisely and explore parts of town government that can be consolidated.

As for working to promote a lively business environment, Annabi knows first hand the difficulties of owning a small business because her parents owned a business and many of her siblings own businesses. She said she understands the “hardships” businesses deal with and why it’s important to support one another in Putnam Valley.

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Levy Earns Conservative Party Nod Over Tendy

By David Propper

As the race for Putnam County District Attorney’s Office rages on, Adam Levy received a welcomed boost last week when he was officially endorsed by the county’s Conservative Party, according to a press release by Levy’s campaign.

The vote to give the nod to the Republican incumbent Levy, over Republican challenger Bob Tendy of Putnam Valley, was unanimous, according to the release.

Levy said in a statement he was “grateful” for the nomination and that his views match up with many Putnam Conservatives.

“Putnam County Conservatives are people who care that Putnam remains the safest place in New York to live, work and raise a family,” Levy said. “I’m grateful they recognize the work we’ve done to keep our neighbors safe and defend their freedoms.”

Conservative Party chairman James Maxwell described Levy as an “ideal choice” for the position.

“He is a problem solver, not a politician and stands on his principles. From the issues he cares about to the way he manages his office, he shares our values and we are proud to support him.” - Conservative Party chairman James Maxwell on DA Adam Levy

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Annabi Confirms Run for Putnam Valley Supervisor, to Face Oliverio

‘I don’t want to be the corner of Putnam County anymore. I want to be the center.’ – Putnam Valley Supervisor candidate Jackie Annabi

both a former Town Councilperson and Legislator, as an educator in our schools for over 30 years and as a life long resident of Putnam Valley; I know that if the people of Putnam Valley elect me as their next Town Supervisor, I will never let them down.”

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Putnam Residents Gripe Over Common Core, Seeks Solutions

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passage on the physics concept of String Theory by Stephen Hawking.

Cardinale and Zirkelbach noted the difficulty of the tests as well as the arbitrary cut scores, which determine how many children pass or fail each examination, guarantee that some children will be set up for failure. Zirkelbach, the mother of a special needs student, stated that the tests are particularly inappropriate for those who suffer from learning disabilities, including dyslexia, as well as those who are English language learners. These students are required to take the tests without any of the regular accommodations offered to them in class, with the exception of extra time.

"Right now, at this time in history for a student with dyslexia or dysgraphia, there is more technological supports for them to succeed and advance their education than ever before in history but now they can't graduate unless they can read one particular test," she said.

New York State requires all students must pass five Regents examinations in order to graduate, meaning that those who can't pass the challenging Common Core tests may end up eventually dropping out of school, which is concerning to teachers and residents given the high rate of failure on recent tests.

Zirkelbach said 70 percent of students in New York State received a score of one or two, out of a possible score of four, on the 2013 Common Core tests. Under State Education Department requirements, any student receiving a score of one or two is required to be placed in academic intervention services (AIS) classes. In Brewster, these services cost an additional $950,000 to implement last year, said Zirkelbach.

Southeast resident Ann Fanizzi questioned why students in Putnam County school districts, like Brewster are not doing as well as students in other communities like Scarsdale, which has one of the highest performing schools in the state. Speakers at Wednesday's event stated that, while the average student in Brewster may have been able to achieve the same score as the average student in Scarsdale, Brewster has pockets of poverty within the town as well as a significant number of students for whom English is a second language. Under SED regulations, non-native speakers are only permitted to take Common Core tests in their native language during their first year of testing.

Although Cardinale noted that poverty is only a small piece of the puzzle surrounding the Common Core, he noted that 48 percent of students in the state live in poverty, based on the number of children who qualify for free and reduced lunch. These students do not have the resources for tutors or other academic services that children of wealthier families may have. In addition, many of the current elementary school students were born at the height of the recession, and have had to deal with parents who may need to work multiple jobs and are therefore unable to dedicate enough time to helping them prepare for school. Although as some residents noted, even parents who do have time struggle to help their kids with homework.

Putnam Valley town board trustee and parent, Jacqueline Annabi noted that while her children are not having a hard time with the material, she doesn't understand the Common Core methods educators are using to teach students, and she is therefore unable to help her children when they do struggle.

In addition, she believes it’s unfair that part of a teachers Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) scores could be based on these standardized tests that are developmentally inappropriate and scored in what appears to be an arbitrary way.

“I opted my children out because I don't like the way that [Governor Andrew] Cuomo stated that it was going to evaluate our teachers and I thought we had great teachers at a great school district and I didn't want my children to be part of that as a pawn,” she said.

In addition to the implementation of the Common Core, parents and advocates are also taking issue with changes that have been made to other aspects of education, particularly the material that is being taught in Advanced Placement United States History (APUSH).

Cathy Sapeta, of New York is United for Kids, stated she and members of that organization are concerned about details that have been removed from the APUSH curriculum including aspects of early American history like Thomas Jefferson and the House of Burgesses as well as no mention of German dictator Adolf Hitler, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, or the Holocaust in regards to World War II. Sapeta said the new curriculum, which is laid out in a 98-page outline distributed by the College Board, which administers the Advanced Placement exams, “removes all examples of American exceptionalism. She is concerned that these events will be removed from all history classrooms as there is a push to begin aligning these exams, as well as the SATs, with the Common Core.

Sapeta also voiced disapproval with recently elected politicians who ran on a platform of putting an end to the Common Core but voted to approve Governor Andrew Cuomo’s educational reform agenda, which was tied to the recent state budget.

“It is more than sad that these politicians are using out children for political gain,” she said.

Dan Armstrong, a former member of the Byram Hills board of education and a four-time candidate for the Brewster board of education noted state politicians are not the only problem. He stated that many local school boards have become “cliques” and that he has seen too many boards unanimously vote through resolutions without any new idea or discourse about how problems might be solved.

“To change it, you've got to get the school boards thinking differently,” he said. “You've got to get the government thinking differently, but I think that's hopeless.”
Putnam IDA Board to Seek Funds From County Government

By David Propper

As Putnam County’s Industrial Development Agency’s (IDA) funds continue to dwindle, the agency responsible for offering businesses tax abatements, is looking to the county to set aside funding for the IDA as upcoming budget discussions get underway.

IDA board chairman Richard Ruchala came to legislators last month in hopes of seeking funds from the county as a means of making the county’s IDA more competitive against other IDAs in the Lower Hudson Valley. While Ruchala hasn’t pinpointed an exact amount, he plans on presenting various options when he appears before the legislature’s Economic Development Committee this month.

In an interview, Ruchala said the IDA used to have more than $160,000 at its disposal back in the early 2000s, but now that has dropped down to around $10,000. That dramatic decrease, Ruchala said, is due to a rise in government regulations that have made it much more difficult to make money off transactions.

Admittedly, Ruchala said the IDA should have requested money from the county somewhere between 2008 and 2010. “We’re at a point where we need the money,” Ruchala said.

Ruchala said he would like to see the IDA, the Economic Development Corporation, and Putnam Tourism have both received money from the county, while the IDA has not.

“The regional EDCs are taking over the jobs of (county) EDCs and they’re not as important as they once were while the IDAs are even more important,” Ruchala said.

Legislators will hear more about Ruchala’s proposal at a May 13 committee meeting. The committee at an April meeting requested more information from Ruchala going forward.

“They’re thinking of restructuring the way we’ve been doing things the whole time so we really need a plan on paper to discuss and to look at it,” committee member and legislator Barbara Scuccimarra said.

One legislator that wasn’t at the April meeting, Dini LoBue, said she was in support of the IDA receiving money from the county, but would not support giving out more funds on top of what the EDC already receives. “I think the funding should be taken from the EDC and appropriated to the IDA,” Lobue said. “Because in the past before the Odell administration the two agencies worked together cooperatively.”

Ruchala said right now, the IDA runs on a “bread and water” budget. “We can’t do that and be an effective IDA,” Ruchala said.

Putnam County’s Industrial Development Agency board chairman Richard Ruchala at an April committee meeting.

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St. Lawrence O'Toole Wraps up Renovations to Excitement of Parishioners

By David Propper

Combining the old with the new has been a trademark of the renovations at the Church of St. Lawrence O'Toole, which has been in a period of influx and adjustment for more than eight months.

The end result though, is a 100-year church that appears to be ready for another 100 years.

Julie Noce, who works in the church’s office, said the purpose of the renovations was to open up space and make it more apt to members joining different communities within the church. Columns inside the church were thinned down so churchgoers in the back were able to see the altar clearer. The grounds and the back of the church were also redone and opened up so churchgoers can gather following that day’s service to cultivate camaraderie.

Restructuring of rooms has also taken place and the church is more handicap-accessible with a new elevator and two handicap bathrooms. Though the interior was essentially “gutted” and rebuilt, the structure is the same and feeling is similar.

“A lot of it is bringing the church up to date for the new way people tend to worship,” Noce said.

Originally, the plan years ago was to build a new church after property along Route 6 was purchased by the church in 2003, before Father Richard Gill’s time. But that wasn’t plausible for multiple reasons later on, he noted.

When Father Gill came aboard a few years ago, the direction was to renovate the church instead. Rather than leave it, it was decided to recommit to it.

Father Gill said he understands the importance of the church in Brewster, describing it as an anchor in the community. The church is almost as old as the village itself.

“I think just the presence of the church here in the village is something of an anchor and us staying here, we’re really trying to reaffirm the value and goodness of this community,” Father Gill said. “And our people are a part of that.”

Parishioners lauded the new and improved church with one longtime member, Kathy Delbono, calling it a “rebirth” and a “renewal of our spiritual life.”

Parishioner Lynn Sherman, who has been with the church for seven years, said the church renovations yield the same pride as if you’re fixing up your own home. As someone who doesn’t have the same historical background as older members, she said being part of the renovations gives a “sense of ownership, commitment and just pride.”

One part of the construction that has been especially welcomed by the church community is the historic preservation of many artifacts within the church and using those items or materials in a different manner. A cross at the very front of the altar was also put together from old wooden pews, a stark symbolism of old and new meshing as one.

Additionally, The Four Gospels were taken from the front, but put in the back, statues of saints were brought up that are almost 100 years old, and the old baptismal fountain was also brought back into the church. The adoration chapel also has items and materials taken from the old church.

The improvements have cost in the millions, but impressively enough the support has come from parishioners, considered a miraculous effort by the church community.

While there were challenges, many church members continued to go about their usual business of worshipping. They would attend service in the church’s gym and would consistently receive updates from Father Gill on the renovations. Though in a more informal setting, there was a sense of excitement as the renovations continued to move forward.

“We can worship anywhere because we have Jesus with us,” longtime parishioner John Delbono said.

Father Gill said the eight months of relocation moved quickly, with everyone making the necessary adjustments to enjoy mass and other religious activities. Though he gave updates at least once a week, parishioners asked Father Gill “all the time, whenever I saw people.”

Now, with the drop cloths picked up and fresh paint smell subsiding, the entire church community is back to business, enjoying a new, gorgeous church that has been long awaited.

“We are just looking to reach out and welcome all those people curious about our new physical renovations but more importantly what else can we give them,” parishioner Loretta LaStrange said. “And it’s a lot.”
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of $50 or more
Social on 6
Not valid with any other offer.
Exp. 5/31/15
Letter to the Editor

Scouts Work to Revive History in Putnam Valley

A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of attending a fundraising at the German American Club in Putnam Valley for a local Eagle Scout project. I like to keep an eye out for opportunities to support quality Eagle Scout candidates and their projects. This particular project impressed me so much that it compelled me to write this letter.

The Life Scout leading this project, James Gummerson from Yorktown’s Troop 165, chose a project that will truly make a lasting impact in our community. With funds raised through James’ event, as well as his Go Fund Me website, he plans to restore the historic Lawson Cemetery in Putnam Valley. Presently, the cemetery is overgrown, littered, and has missing and eroded headstones. James’ plan is to clean up the site, plant seed, refill sunken graves, create a path and build a memorial garden with stones bearing the names of each person buried in the cemetery.

The Town of Kent Republican Committee Scholarship

The Kent Republican Committee is offering a $500 scholarship to a deserving student who has demonstrated his or her knowledge and interest in American Politics and History based on a 1,500 word competitive essay. The purpose of the scholarship is to provide financial assistance to students who are Kent residents, who will be graduating seniors at Carmel High School and who will continue their education at an accredited college/university. The award is intended for students who will pursue Political Science and American History courses of study.

For further application information students should contact Robert McKiernan, Carmel High School Assistant Principal at 845-225-8441 ext. 411

Obituaries

Giannina (Zangrandro) Pradella

Giannina (Zangrandro) Pradella, 87 of Kent, died on April 29, due to complications from surgery. Giannina was born in Bibano, Italy on August 18, 1927 and moved to New York in 1954. Her husband Renato predeceased her in 1988. She is survived by her sisters Luciana (Giovanni) Susech of Carmel and Giancarla (Roberto) Dall’Ava of Bibano, Italy, her only child Maria (Robert) O’Connor of Kent, her grandchildren Michella (Gregory) McCoy of Cold Spring and Kevin (Heidi) O’Connor of Darien, CT, and many cousins, nieces, and nephews. She adored her five great grandchildren Caeleigh, Riley, and Sean O’Connor and Matthew and Kirra McCoy. Giannina held a masters degree in education from Columbia University. She was a co-owner of The Maison Lafitte Restaurant in Briarcliff Manor and then the co-owner of The Monteverde Restaurant in Cortlandt Manor for 28 years with her partner and dear friend Milan Olich. She enjoyed her retirement by spending time with her family, helping out at her grand daughter Michelle’s Chiropractic office, and traveling. Many people will remember Giannina for her fabulous cooking and taking care of her nieces, nephews and great grand children, who knew her as GG and Nonna. She will be greatly missed by everyone here and in Italy.

Helen M. Pignatelli

Helen M. Pignatelli, of Kent Cliffs, died on April 29. Born in NYC in 1942, she was the daughter of the late Helen E. Kranz & Joseph E. Lamb. Helen was predeceased by her husband, James R. Pignatelli and grandson James P. Pignatelli. She is survived by her daughter, Lorayne, of Kent Cliffs, NY, her son James and his wife Regina of Carmel and her daughter Helen and her husband Tod Bowers of New Milford, CT. She is also survived by her four grandsons; Michael & Jonathon Kiss and Joseph & Dylan Pignatelli.

Jean Emerson

Jean Emerson, loving mother, grandmother, sister, and wife passed away on Wednesday, April 29 due to complications from her ALS. She is finally at rest after her arduous journey. She is preceded in death by her father, Thomas Avezzano, mother Jeanne Peet, and brother Thomas (Chip) Avezzano. She is remembered by her husband of 45 years, Charles F. Emerson; children Carolyn, Melissa, Danielle, Chuck, and Joshua; her sister Carol Avezzano; and 11 grandchildren with one more on the way.

Helen T. Senno

Helen T. Senno (nee: Kearns) resident of Jensen Beach, Florida, and longtime resident of Carmel, died Thursday, April 30, in the midst of her loving family. She was born on June 24, 1936 in New Rochelle to Sarah and John Kearns. She attended high school at Saint Gabriel in New Rochelle. Helen spoke of her days at St. Gabriel’s with much enthusiasm. Helen was a golden throat soprano in the high school glee club. She also walked off with the “A” Company Queen contest when a senior at St. Gabriel’s. Helen enjoyed lifelong friendships made from her years at St. Gabriel’s. After graduating high school in 1954 she attended Miller School, in NYC and graduated as an executive secretary. Upon graduation she worked at National Paper Co. In 1958 she married the love of her life, Angelo Senno. Together their greatest accomplishments were raising six children and celebrating 56 years of marriage. Helen supported her husband in his growing accounting business as well as juggling and being a hands-on mom to her six children. She was a dedicated advocate for her son Stephen and all the challenges that faced...
Putnam Valley resident John Moljo, a graduate of Putnam Valley High School, has been doing athletic training and providing training classes in the local area for many years.

Most of his clients live locally, in Putnam Valley and surrounding towns in northern Westchester and Putnam, and when the opportunity arose, Moljo decided to open Team Moljo Strength and Conditioning in Putnam Valley.

“I really, really felt in my heart that the town needed something like this, someone who is passionate about working out,” Moljo said last week. “There was nothing convenient around for us and for the Town of Putnam Valley.”

Though a grand opening ceremony for Team Moljo was held on May 2, the business actually opened its doors on Feb. 1. “It took a couple of months to get everything up and running,” Moljo said. “We wanted to wait for some nice weather.”

Several types of athletic training are offered at Team Moljo. “We have a bunch of classes that are geared toward all fitness levels,” Moljo said. “We have classes geared toward student-athletes. We offer programs that are geared toward weight loss, sports performance. We vary among trainers but for the most part we offer a little something for anyone that walks through our doors and just has a passion for achieving any fitness goal.”

Personal, semi-private (two people) and group classes are offered at Team Moljo. There are also general memberships available for those who want to use the equipment on their own without classes, Moljo said.

“I have actually have benefited more non-athletes than athletes,” he said.

Sports have been an important part of the life of Moljo for years. In high school he was a lacrosse and football player. Athletic training has also played an important role since his high school days, Moljo said. “During high school I struggled with weight and to continue playing sports in high school I had to surpass that struggle,” he said. “I had to kind of get my life together, focus on exercise, focus on weight loss.”

Moljo said he wants to share his love for fitness and a healthy lifestyle with his clients. “It’s beyond a passion. I think it’s a calling,” he said. “I was fortunate enough in life at a young age to realize that I was put on this earth to serve other people and help other people and to prove to them that they’re far more capable than they think. I found an industry I could walk into and kind of have that impact every single day.”

Team Moljo Strength and Conditioning is located at 17 Peckskill Hollow Rd. in Putnam Valley in the Putnam Professional Business Park. For more information call 845-603-6280, visit teammoljo.com or send an e-mail to jmoljo@teammoljo.com.

Crossword by Myles Mellor

Answers on page 17

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS
How Safe Are the Spring Cleaning Products That You Use at Home?

Do you know what ingredients are in the cleaning products you buy? Probably not, as there are no federal governmental regulations requiring companies to disclose their contents. But harsh chemicals can take their toll on the indoor air quality of your home, are harmful to the environment and may irritate eyes and skin.

So how can you learn more about the cleaning products you plan to purchase? Luckily, certain retailers are making it easier for consumers to make informed decisions. For example, in 2011 Whole Foods Market introduced the Eco-Scale Rating System, which are the first household cleaner standards offered by a retailer.

This season, don't just spring clean your home; take stock of your cleaners and clean up your entire act. By opting for green cleaning products, you can help make your home a safer, healthier place.

• Do an audit. Take a look at the cleaning products you currently own. Just because a brand or product is well-known does not make it a healthy option. A quick Internet search can reveal the safety attributes of a product's ingredients -- so long as the manufacturer has chosen to disclose ingredients. Toss anything problematic and make a shopping list of what you need to replace.

• Full disclosure. Avoid cleaning products that don't disclose what ingredients they use. Look for brands, such as 365 Everyday Value, that make it easy for you to know what ingredients are being used in the product you're purchasing.

• Be informed. Know what ingredients to avoid entirely. Harsh ingredients like formaldehyde and chlorine can still be found in cleaning products today.

• Lock-up. No matter the contents of your cleaners, it's good practice to keep them stored in a safe place, such as a locked cabinet. Young children and pets should not be able to access your cleaning products supply.

• Do it yourself. A quick and easy way to know exactly what's in your cleaning products is to make them yourself. Simply mix one part water with one part vinegar, add a few drops of your favorite pure essential oil and you have an all-purpose spray. Baking soda is another great cleaner that has a mild scrubbing power and helps combat odors.

Don't have the time to make your own cleaner? The Eco-Scale Rating System evaluates products for environmentally impact, safety, efficacy, source labeling and animal testing. Visit www.WholeFoodsMarket.com/ecoscale to learn more.

If you're using conventional cleaning supplies, you may be exposing your family to harmful ingredients. By learning more about the products you use, you can green your spring cleaning for a healthier home.

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What to Know Before You Replace Your Home’s Siding

Whether you’re building a home from scratch or contemplating an upgrade, when choosing siding, there’s a lot more to consider beyond color. The type of material you use can impact durability, beauty, and even energy efficiency.

Since siding is a long-term investment, you’ll want to make a decision from an informed place, especially with more options now available in the marketplace. With that in mind, here are some things to consider about different siding materials.

Weather
Extreme weather events, including high winds and hot and cold temperatures, can damage or destroy siding. Look for a product that is certified to withstand these conditions. No matter where you live, this should be an important consideration, as weather patterns have become more unpredictable across the country.

Rot
Fiber-based materials (such as fiber cement planks) absorb water, which over time can make siding more prone to rot, decay and even disintegration. At the store, ask to see siding options made of polymer-based materials, which are impervious to moisture.

Environmental Impact
For improved energy efficiency, choose insulated siding, which will prevent undue loss of warm air in winter and cool air in summer. Where environmental impact is concerned, vinyl is a good bet, as it complies with environmental standards known as LEED and ICC 700 National Green Building standards.

Fabric Mart-NY, Inc. Brings Much Needed Service to the Community

As local fabric stores continue to close, the Westchester community has few options for purchasing quality fabrics and custom home decorative services from experienced professionals.

On April 15, Fabric Mart-NY, Inc. in Yorktown Heights announced that, with the addition of Joel Karpoff to their staff, they will be expanding to offer custom soft furnishings and re-upholstery services.

“We are very excited to have Joel on our staff,” said Erin Brophy, Manager of the store, “He has a wonderful eye for coordinating fabrics and designs together. His industry contacts and ability to locate new fabric sources will allow us to continue expanding to serve the community’s needs. For the moment, Joel will be working by appointment, so give the store a call if you would like to meet with him.”

Mr. Karpoff is the former workroom coordinator and lead buyer for the Home Decorative Department at Hartsdale Fabrics in lower Westchester, which recently closed. He has worked in the textile industry for 40 years and is an expert at sourcing specialty fabrics and matching clients with service providers.

His monthly newsletter about the trends and history of the textile industry will continue to be distributed through the Fabric Mart website at www.fabricmartnyinc.com. Joel can be reached by calling Fabric Mart at (914) 962-3328.

The Home Guru’s Roundup of Home Improvement Providers

continued from page 14
Can there be anyone else but “Fireman Joe” for painting inside or out? He’ll also tell you about fire safety at home. (Check your smoke detectors!)

Paving and Stonework: Jim’s Driveway Sealing. 914-962-8727. Jim Capone will be paving my driveway soon as well as constructing my new stone walls.

Plumber: Goldberg Plumbing & Heating. 914-962-3498. Dave Goldberg was the first plumber I called over 40 years ago.

To my suppliers, If I’ve left anybody out, don’t shoot me. Forgive me and I’ll catch you the next time around. Just as with the throngs of maintaining a home, there’s always another job to be done, right?

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.

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The Putnam Examiner

May 5 - May 11, 2015

The Home Guru’s Roundup of Home Improvement Providers

There’s always the possibility that we’re taking a chance when we hire a home improvement contractor for the first time whether the job is big or small.

When I moved to the suburbs and it was time for me to find a contractor, it was for a big job: to take a mud room that was literally falling off the back of my historic home, reframe it and install a new door, a half bath and a closet.

A good friend who had moved from the city a few months before us recommended a contractor he had used, basically a handyman, and knowing no one else in the area, I trusted that referral. Foolish me. I forked over $500 to the guy to buy materials and that was the last I saw of him. Forty-plus years ago that was a lot of money, but being rooked and made a fool of hurt more than the financial loss.

The lessons learned: Never hire a contractor who wants money up front or who doesn’t have a significant portfolio of jobs in the community to demonstrate his or her stability.

Since becoming The Home Guru, I’ve formed happy alliances with many home improvement suppliers, and because readers frequently ask me for recommendations, I’m opening the pages of my “little black book” to share those I’m using right now or have used in the recent past. I can recommend them with full confidence and, for good measure, I’ve included some personal notes.

Blinds: Niles Floors & Blinds. Anthony and Pat Viverito, 914-737-6780, www.nilesfloorsandblinds.com. The Viveritos convinced me to filter the light in my new digs rather than have my windows go naked, as I was wont to do for some years.

Cabinetry and Woodworking: Woodtronics. Jan Efraimson, 914-962-5205, www.woodtronicsny.com. Efraimson and his designer, Chris Keating, are designing and building the cabinetry at my new home, needed because I’m downsizing by 50 percent. Originally an engineer, Efraimson turned his woodworking hobby into the most amazing cabinetmaking skills I’ve ever encountered. For residential and commercial applications.


Fencing: Campanella Fencing. Tony Campanella, 914-628-2200. Campanella always offers me creative solutions when it’s time to repair my very old stockade fencing.

Flooring: Absolute Flooring. 914-245-0225, www.absoluteflooring.com. When it came time to replace my kitchen floor, owners Mary and son Bryan Fellbusch treated me like family and gave me the best installation job imaginable for a checkerboard white and black pattern.

Home Inspector: Robin Home Inspection. 914-456-7718. Dale Robin does an incredibly thorough job; clients are always impressed.


Mover: Advantage Movers. 800-444-0104. Phil D’Erasmo is the best in the business, and his resources aid charities in need. That really appeals to me.

Painter: Joe Pascarella, 914-330-3889.

continued on page 11

Continuous Experimenting Results in Instinctive Behavior

In my last two columns, I focused on the similarities of select agricultural products to the life cycle of wine from raw ingredients to finished product. In the growing, harvesting and production of wine, I compared each step to similar steps in the making of coffee and chocolate. The similarities run deep and broad.

This week I am focusing once again on chocolate, taking my comparison to another level: branding and commercialization.

The similarities between wine and chocolate go beyond production techniques. Just as fine wine achieves its ultimate expression in the hands of artisanal winemakers, so too does chocolate in the hands of artisanal chocolate manufacturers and chocolatiers.

With the proliferation of artisanal chocolate styles and brands on the market today, it is often difficult to differentiate one chocolate bar -- or truffle -- from the next. This week I offer a comparison of wine and chocolate to guide consumers through the maze in the wonderful world of chocolate.

Reading between the lines: As wine evolved over centuries, small producers made inroads in their local markets, garnering increasing market share. In the late 20th century, the balance shifted as mass producers saturated the market with low-cost wines. In the last 10 years, small artisanal producers have captured the attention of discerning consumers. Throughout this sea change, many small-scale winemakers thrived. Others were acquired and merged into global corporations; several of these retained their brand name and control over their product.

A similar phenomenon for wine occurred in the 20th century for chocolates. Brands such as Ghirardelli and Sharffen Berger in the United States and Valrhona and Amedei in Europe brought fine chocolate making to new levels of refinement, purity and consumer popularity. Today several coexist with the mass producers, while others have been acquired and absorbed into global behemoths.

Ghirardelli began as an artisanal chocolate producer in 1852, gaining fame for the quality of its products; then in 1998 it sold out to the European giant Lindt.

Today, Lindt has kept the name and independence of the Ghirardelli brand.

The same is so for Sharffen Berger, long considered one of the finest producers in the world. Begun in 1986, it attracted the attention of the Hershey Company in 2005 and has retained its reputation while under the corporate rule of one of the largest chocolate companies in the world.

Artisanal European producers Valrhona and Amedei have remained independent and flourish in the shadow of Big Chocolate. Valrhona, founded in 1924, has succeeded in competing with Big Chocolate by concentrating on the finest ingredients and processes. Today it is the overwhelming choice of top pastry chefs around the world.

Likewise, Amedei, a brother-and-sister artisanal chocolate-making team in the Tuscan region of Italy, have established a solid reputation for their ability to incorporate the finest ingredients and technology in producing a superior finished product. Their extensive line of chocolates has repeatedly been voted the best in the world.

A number of mass producers have fared well in both the low and high end of their market. Just as wine behemoth Gallo thrives with its marketing and branding strategies for gaining market share across the quality and pricing spectrum, so too do Hershey and Lindt.

Prices: Just as wine prices vary significantly, from jug to cult wines, so too for chocolates. High-end wines and chocolate are expensive to source and produce; producers have no hesitation in passing these costs and a brand-name markup to consumers. And consumers don’t seem to mind paying for the higher quality. You can still buy a bottle of Gallo for under $5 and a Hershey bar for under $1. By contrast, a bottle of high-end Bordeaux costs over $1,000 and an Amedei Chuao chocolate bar costs $14.

When wine becomes big business, artisanal producers may succumb to the temptation to sell out. Or they may dig in and follow their passions. So too in the chocolate marketplace. Consumers are the ultimate winners. They have myriad choices to tailor their tastes and budgets to their individual palates.

Nick Antonaccio is a 35-year Pleasantville resident. For over 15 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick’s credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on twitter @sharingwine.
County Executive MaryEllen Odell joined Veterans, families and other elected officials in celebrating being an American and all that it represents at the Loyalty Day Jamboree at Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park in Kent on Sunday, April 26. The annual event, which is held on the last Sunday in April, was organized by the Putnam County Council Veterans of Foreign War. VFW Brewster Post 672 was host to this year’s event.

“Putnam County has a proud tradition of belief in liberty, equality and justice—values defended by our troops over the course of generations,” said Odell. “The people of Putnam County are inspired by the servicemen and women, the military spouses and family who stand by their loved ones and the countless individuals in communities who support them.”

Loyalty Day had its origins with the Veterans of Foreign Wars. It began with the VFW’s initiation of Americanization Day in 1921 as a counter to the Communist May 1 celebration of the Russian Revolution. It grew to the point where on May 1, 1930, ten thousand VFW members held a patriotic rally at Union Square in NYC. Then, in 1949, the VFW adopted a resolution and May 1 began its evolution into Loyalty Day. Loyalty Day was made an official holiday by the U.S. Congress on July 18, 1958 and President Dwight D. Eisenhower proclaimed May 1, 1959 as the first official observance of Loyalty Day.

“It is truly an honor to stand among you,” said State Senator Terrence Murphy, who represents the 40th Senate District, to the Veterans. “We are celebrating the freedom that you defended for us. It is our duty to do right by those who have served and those who continue to serve in the Armed Forces.”

Putnam County will be recognizing Veterans and current military personnel at events throughout the month of May. The Putnam County Sheriff’s Office will be christening its four marine vessels after the names of prominent local Veterans at Veterans Park on Thursday, May 14 at 7 p.m.

On Saturday, May 16, there will be the annual Row of Honor Kickoff Pancake Breakfast from 9 to 11 a.m. at the VFW Carmel Post 1374, located at 32 Gleneida Avenue in Carmel. The breakfast is the official start of the spring Row of Honor season.

Twice a year, for Memorial Day and Veterans Day, more than 100 flags with the names of Veterans line the shore of Lake Gleneida. The flag line has been recognized as the Row of Honor. This historic observation has become a cherished tradition for residents and has drawn national attention to Putnam County.

With a $100 donation, the name of your loved one can appear on a flag. Proceeds will go toward the return of The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall to Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park in September.

To RSVP for the pancake breakfast or to order your flag call 845-808-1620 or visit PutnamCountyNY.gov/ROH. Checks can be made payable to the Joint Veterans Council to PC Veterans Services Agency, Donald B. Smith Government Campus, 110 Old Route 6, Bldg. 3, Carmel, N.Y. 10512.
A New Pair of Pigs Move to Tilly Foster Farm

Putnam County added a couple more pigs to the growing animal population at Tilly Foster Farm in Brewster. Levi and Lucy have joined Penelope and Ginger, who already call the county-owned farm home, in the pig pen. All of the pigs are Kunekune pigs that were purchased from Bel Canto Farm in Trumansburg, NY.

“Our family on the farm just got a little bit bigger,” said veterinary technician Teresa Delahanty, the caretaker of the animals at Tilly Foster Farm. “People have taken a great liking to Penelope and Ginger. So, when we were given an opportunity to obtain two more Kunekune pigs the County decided that the time was right to expand our family.”

Levi, the sole boar of the team, is a 10-year-old. Lucy, who is five months old, was gifted to the County when Levi was purchased.

Delahanty stated that the Kunekune pigs were chosen for Tilly Foster Farm because of their friendly dispositions, their mini-esque size and their non-rooting and non-roaming characteristics.

“Kunekune are very friendly, easy to manage little pigs,” said Delahanty “and they will be able to feed mostly on pasture grass unlike other breeds. They won’t grow to be taller than 24 inches, very child-friendly.”

After a consensus by residents at a set of public meetings last year, the County has been working diligently toward repopulating Tilly Foster Farm with small farm animals.

“We are fulfilling our commitment to our constituents,” said Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell. “We have brought back the animals to the farm for everyone to enjoy.”

Last June, newly hatched chicks were the first animals to move to the farm under the County’s intendance. Since then Tilly Foster Farm has welcomed four Kunekune pigs, four alpacas and two mini horses.

“We are adding animals strategically,” said Odell. “When Putnam County took over management of Tilly Foster Farm it adopted an animal acquisition plan that calls for a variety of low maintenance animals that have the least impact on the County financially as well as environmentally. We are balancing our fiscal liabilities with our social responsibilities.”

Tilly Foster Farm is located at 100 Route 312 in Brewster. The farm is open daily to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. till Memorial Day.

Book Sale at Kent Library May 22, 23

The Friends of the Kent Public Library are grateful to the many people who helped to make their April book sale in the new “Book Cellar” location in the Kent Public Library such a success. However, rather than resting on their laurels, they are busy planning their next book sale in the “Book Cellar”, which will take place on May 22nd and 23rd, the beginning of the Memorial Day weekend. On Friday, May 22nd from 10 to 2 there will be an “Early Bird” preview where buyers can have first pick of the books for an entrance fee of $10. The main sale will take place on Saturday, May 23rd from 10 to 4.

Around 4,000 gently used books will be for sale at bargain prices. The donated books have been carefully sorted through, and only the best will be offered for sale at this location.

In the past the Friends of the Kent Public Library held an Annual Giant Book Sale on Memorial Day weekend in the Town Hall. Now that the Friends have moved into their new quarters our fiscal liabilities with our social responsibilities.

Tilly Foster Farm is located at 100
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@theexaminernews.com

Thursday, May 7
Little Black Dress Event: Sponsored by community cares. Featuring live music by Stonehill Band. This annual fundraiser helps support our operations to provide services to our mom's in the midst of their cancer treatments. $25 at the door includes entry, food, live band and cash bar. Please consider an additional donation to help support our mission to serve families in the midst of a medical crisis. Putnam County Golf Course. 6:30 p.m.

National Day of Prayer: Our sanctuary will open at 7 a.m. and conclude the day with a service at 7 p.m. Light refreshment will be served though out the day. Patterson Community Church. 1062 Route 311 Patterson. (845) 878-3961 www.pattersoncommunitychurch.org

Putnam County Metal Detectors and Archeological Society Meeting, First Baptist Church Brewster. 460 N Main St., Brewster 7 p.m. Anyone interested in Metal Detecting is invited to attend. Finds of the Month and future club hunts will be topics for discussion. For more information, visit us online at www.greattreasure.com. New members are always welcome.

Hamlet of Carmel Civic Association will host a presentation of the 2015-2016 School Budget for the Carmel Central School District. 7:30 PM at the Carmel Firehouse, 94 Gleneida Avenue. Carmel. Representatives of the Carmel Central School District will be on hand to present the finalized budget for the next school year and will entertain questions from the audience. Voting on the budget is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2015, so this is an opportunity to become informed ahead of time. The general public is encouraged to attend and participate in the discussion. For more information about the Hamlet of Carmel Civic Association, visit their website at carmelcivassoc.org

Friday, May 8
First United Methodist Church, 83 Main St., Brewster Annual Plant Sale: Also at the Hamlet of Carmel Civic Association, 9am-1pm. For more information, call 845-743-2893. For the Terrace Grill for $50. Special Menu Wednesday's: 6:30 PM. Special Menu Tuesday's: 6:30 PM. Special Menu for consumers to enroll in the Health Insurance Marketplace. 3 p.m.-7 p.m.每个人 are always welcome.
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Brewster’s Devin O’Connor (14) slides back in safely as Fox Lane’s Robert Lichtenberger awaits throw in the Bears’ 4-1 loss to the visiting Foxes last Friday, but Brewster made a quick recovery Saturday in a 4-1 win over visiting Putnam Valley behind a two-hitter from Ed Mead, ending a skid that had the Bears losing six of their last seven... see Baseball Notebook
By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

So, this is no knock on Lakeland/Panas, but if they can't hang within 14 goals of Yorktown, and former Section 1 heavyweight Mahopac can't get any closer than 14 goals, what are we to think about the state of Section 1 Class A lacrosse after the reigning NYS Class B champion Huskers made short work of Lakeland/Panas in their 17-3 rout of the Rebels in the 26th running of the annual Charlie Murphy Cup game last Saturday at Murphy Field.

There's no telling who the last team standing in Class A will be this season: Fox Lane, Lakeland/Panas, Arlington, Mahopac, Mamaroneck… one could make a case for each of them, but it will be difficult for anyone of them to be standing beyond the first round of the NYSPHSAA tournament with the eventual Section 2 champion – either Niskayuna or Shenendehowa – lying in wait.

Unless Fox Lane is legit, which remains to be seen, the Section 1 Class A circuit is unpredictable, leaving the section with reigning Class B NYS champion Yorktown and the survivor of Class C – either Niskayuna or Shenendehowa – lying in wait.

Boys LAX Notebook

Yorktown Refuses to Give Up Murphy Cup in Rout of L-P

Despite the efforts of Rebel M Drew Thompson, Yorktown M Ryan Baker was shaking defenders in Murphy Cup game en route to three goals.

Yorktown players hoist the Murphy Cup for the 23rd time in 26 years after defeating Lakeland-Panas 17-3 Saturday. A quick timeout just moments in as the reigning Class A champion Rebels were reeling from the get.

“Playing harder and we couldn’t keep up,” L/P captain Kevin Prunty admitted. “We’re very young and not at their level right now.”

While we’re not one to count our chicks before the hatch, nobody in Class B appears to be close to Yorktown either, unless Hen Hud or John Jay can close the gaping gap within the next two weeks.

NWE/putnam Fab Five Lax Poll

No.1 YORKTOWN – Coach Marr’s state-ranked (No.2) reigning NYS Class B champion Huskers (11-3) saw the best Connecticut had to offer in a startling 15-3 loss to Darien, far and away the class of the Nutmeg state this season. And that’s about the level of play they might see from Section 8’s Lynbrook in the semi-finals should both clubs be so fortunate, so they’re going to need to amp things up in the days ahead if they are going to live up to the hype that comes with the Y on that giant flag they carry.

No.2 LAKELAND/PANAS – Coach Lindsay’s hugely inconsistent Rebels (5-8) were rocking along with quality wins over John Jay, Hen Hud and Mahopac, but the stunning 17-1 loss to Mamaroneck kind of rings an alarm in the mind of this pollster.

Much as I respect this program for being involved in 20 Section 1 championship games (winning 8 titles) since 1989, it’ll be tough to get there this season. Should the Rebels put in the necessary work, perhaps 2016 is their year.

No.3 MAHOPAC – Coach Haddeland’s Indians (7-6) have been struggling some since losing versatile M Christian Donahoe (broken hand), who was the QB of the attack. “We are young and inconsistent,” Coach Haddeland admitted. “It really hurt losing our second leading scorer, Donahoe, after the Somers game. He and Foley were the one-two punch at mid. We had to move DJ Pearl up to mid so that teams couldn’t just focus on Foley. We had to move some guys around to new positions due to us not being very deep.”

Donahoe’s return is uncertain. The cast comes off shortly before the playoffs but he’ll need some time to...
rehab, but knowing that kid he’s already rehabbing with the cast still on (if that’s at all possible).

With the state of lax being what it is right now in this neck of the woods: All we can do in this poll is go by head-to-head and L/P defeated by Mahopac and Hen Hud and the Indians defeated the Sailors.

No.4 HEN HUD – Coach Solly’s Sailors (9-5) put Harrison back in its place during an 11-7 victory over a Huskies outfit that had been 10-0 before losing two of three last week, including Byram Hills and Lakeland/Panas, which was kind of startling seeing where both clubs had been at the time.

“We didn’t play any D in second half,” Coach Solomon admitted. “When we are on, we are pretty good. When we’re not, we’re very average. Had a good win against Harrison but did not play both halves against Lakeland/Panas.”

Mike Smith (4G, 1A), Ryan Tandy (4G) and Nick Marra (3G) had big games against the Rebels, but it was far from a vintage effort on defense. Against Harrison, Matt Kolesar (4G), Austin Fraser (3G, 1A) and Smith (2G, 1A) led the charge.

No.5 SOMERS – Coach DeGregorio’s Tuskers (5-8) are beating teams they are supposed to beat (Eastchester & Greeley being the latest), but we’re still waiting for a win over teams they used to beat regularly. With games to play against Lakeland/Panas, which was kind of startling seeing where both clubs had been at the time.

HM PUT VALLEY – Coach Ignatz’s Tigers (9-4) have won 8 of the last 9 games, but they haven’t faced anybody like the unit they will see today when they visit state-ranked (No.5 Bronxville). If the Tigers can hang within 10 goals of the Broncos, we’d be impressed and further convinced that PV has what it takes to make the Class C Final 4. And that, my friends, would meet the goals we set for this club during its current rebuilding era, which we suspect will be a couple more years.
**Sports**

**Girls LAX Notebook**

**Mahopac’s Harker Named Under-Armour All-American**

**Yorktown Trims Somers in Battle of State-ranked Powers**

By Tony Pinciaro

There was never any question regarding the elite status of Mahopac senior Kim Harker when she is playing lacrosse. Opponents attempt to create a defensive scheme that will somehow neutralize Harker. This does not always work and, as a result, Harker will take over a game.

Harker has been recognized in Section 1 and New York State, and now she has received national recognition with a selection to the Girls’ Lacrosse Under-Armour Senior All-American team. Harker is one of only 48 players from the United States named to the prestigious honor.

“I received the phone call in school,” said Harker, who will attend Northwestern and play lacrosse next fall and play lacrosse. “My class was about to end and when the call was from Baltimore, I asked if I could be excused to take the call.

“When I received the news, I ran to a quiet place, which was the band room, to call my parents.”

Harker was nominated by Mahopac coach Jim Lieto and her travel lacrosse coach.

“This is a huge accomplishment for Kim and so well-deserved,” Lieto said. “Kim definitely earns all of these awards and what makes it even better is she is a wonderful teammate and an amazing young lady. It is a pleasure to coach a player like Kim.”

Harker could not contain her enthusiasm.

“I was excited when I received the news because it shows that my hard work has paid off,” Harker said.

Harker is even more excited at the play of the team. State-ranked (No.16) Class A Mahopac manhandled Scarsdale, 16-6, and Wappingers, 19-5, last week, running its winning streak to six consecutive.

Harker said that losses to Section 1 powers John Jay-Cross River, North Rockland and Somers in their first four games helped Mahopac improve.

“We knew that playing those three tough teams in our first four games we didn’t take the losses to heart,” Harker said. “Instead, we learned from them and since then, have been clicking on the field.

“We felt that our defense and offense have been playing well, so we focused on our transition. We needed to control the draw and once we began doing that, our defense has been getting the ball to our offense.”

Harker said the win over Scarsdale was a good barometer because Mahopac considered the Raiders a major test, especially after two close games the past two years.

“When we lost to Arlington, we felt we didn’t play well and we were frustrated,” Harker said. “We were determined to not let that happen again. We felt we played one of our best games of the season against Scarsdale.”

Harker finished with a game-high five goals and Gabby Light and Ali Korin netted three apiece.

In the win over Wappingers, Harker finished with seven goals and two assists, while Kelly Maxwell added three goals and eight assists. Korin added three goals and Light contributed two.

The rumbling coming from Shrub Oak is the awakening of Lakeland/Panas. The state-ranked (No.11) Class A Rebels extended their winning streak to seven consecutive games after triumphs over Putnam Valley (15-7), Kingston (17-1) and Nyack (18-5). The Rebels are now 9-2-1 on the season. During this winning streak, no opponent has reached double digits in goals.

“We played our best week of lacrosse,” Lakeland/Panas coach Sharon Sarsen said. “We are getting quality play from everyone on the team and I hope to continue this into the playoffs.”

Molly Fitzpatrick had five goals and an assist and Dana Bozek chipped in with three goals and two assists against Putnam Valley.

Fitzpatrick kept finding the back of the net against Kingston with five more, including her 250th varsity goal. Bozek added three goals and three assists and Katie Bradbury finished with three goals and an assist. Bozek was the offensive standout against Nyack with six goals, including her 100th varsity goal, and six assists and Fitzpatrick had her third straight five-goal game.

“Against Putnam Valley, we played coming out of the gates, opening up a 10-2 halftime lead and our defensive unit of Ellie Dineen-Carey, Mia Lennon and Courtney Araujo made a formidable defensive statement,” Sarsen said.

“Our team was ready to play against Nyack and it showed by opening up 10-1 halftime lead. Courtney Araujo was exceptional on the field, playing lockdown defense, coming up with key interceptions, draw possession and 1-on-1 defense. Dana Bozek had a career day Molly Fitzpatrick was her usual self.”

SOMERS had an uncharacteristic week, playing Horace Greeley to an 11-11 draw and dropping an 11-9 verdict to Yorktown, after leading at halftime.

“The girls played hard, but we gave Horace Greeley too many opportunities and they capitalized on them,” Somers Coach Jaime Irving said of the reigning Class B Section 1 champs. “We continue to work on strengthening our draw controls to help us gain more control of the game.”

YORKTOWN saw Casey Duff had five goals, Rilea Fusco had two goals and Abby Squirrell had five goals, including her 200th varsity goal, and six assists and Squirrell finished with five goals.

Ossining led Greeley by two at halftime, but the Quakers outscored the Pride by three in the second half for the win. Gabby Hagerman and Squirrell led the Pride with three goals apiece.

The Pride were in the same position against Arlington, leading 8-7 at the half. Squirrell and Svoboda each had four goals for the Pride.

Brewster had a rough week playing two perennial powers and falling to Yorktown (16-6) and Niskayuna (17-5).

“We played two undefeated teams,” Brewster coach Gerry Walsh said. “We had unforced turnovers and missed offensive opportunities, but the bottom line our opponents were excellent teams and just better than us.”
**Sports**

**Time is Now to Get Hot, Get on a Run as Playoffs Near**

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

Now would be the time for some of the locals to get hot and get on a run as we head into the dog days of May and teams are forced to play three, four and even five games within a week as we streak toward the Section I playoffs.

Usually, we have a couple of programs from this neck of the woods that we can rely on for some form of post-season brilliance; be it 2014 Class A runner-up Lakeland, former three-time Class A champion Somers or two-time defending Class C champion Haldane. But we haven’t got a single local team from Northern Westchester or Putnam County ranked within the top 20 in NYS in any classification this season.

It has been downright discouraging at times. But the proof is in the pudding, as nobody had really stepped up and given a clear indication that they were poised for post-season magic; until Class B Putnam Valley, which we had a great deal of hope for going in to the 2015 campaign, did something spectacular in a 6-0 win over Keio Monday; not Mahopac, which, despite a stellar 9-4 mark, is still fairly inconsistent given a recent five game span that includes losses to Class B North Salem and Class A John Jay CR and Fox Lane; not even Yorktown, which, despite a solid 8-3 record, has been known, at times, to play some ghastly defense and just lost, 7-5, to Somers.

**CLASS B**

The jury is still out on CROTON-HARMON (11-2), which has had a fine season to date but hasn’t been tested with a mighty schedule, but did defeat Class A Somers, 2-1, behind Chris Columbo’s four-hitter. Consecutive losses to Class B rival Briarcliff is something to note, though.

PUTNAM VALLEY (8-4-1) simply had its best foot forward Monday and was just shut down by a struggling BREWSTER (4-10) outfit when Eddie Mead fired a two-hitter in Brewster’s 4-1 win over the visiting Tigers last Saturday. Mead allowed one run over seven innings, whiffing three. Tiger RHP Eddie Lent ended up RA of 2.22. The senior of the pitching decision, charged with the loss, despite a solid effort, the victim of four Tiger errors. It didn’t take long for Brewster to score its first two runs in the second, getting an RBI single by Matt Catalano and a second run on a PV error. Devin O’Connor went 2-3 with an RBI for the Bears.

PV did secure a 14-7 win over Somers on Thursday, getting five RBI from senior IF Nick Marro. Tigers Zack Girvalo (3-4 with a homer), Lent (3-4), Elviz Belen (3-5) and Mike Dellabate (3-5) each had three hits in the win, but the Tigers’ loss to Brewster is an indication that their not playing consistent above-board baseball like state-ranked (No.3) Keio was before the Tigers vindicated last year’s quarterfinal loss to the Unicorns behind a studly five-hit, 6-plus pitching performance from Ryan Basso and a two-run, second-inning jack from 3B Elviz Belen. Clearly, this confidence-building triumph was the vintage effort PV Coach Joe “Nats” Natalie and Tiger fans were waiting for.

**CLASS A**

 YORKTOWN LHP Chris Henry has pitched 30.2 innings this year, allowing one earned run with an ERA of 0.22. The senior ace has 37 K’s and wins vs. Carmel, Lakeland, Panas and Valhalla this season. With Henry on the hill and a clean defensive effort, the Huskers (8-4) can play with anyone in Class A. After starting out the season 5-1, WALTER PANAS is now 7-4, including losses to SOMERS (7-4) and OSSINING (6-6). We just don’t know what Panther team will show up, much like the Tuskers and most teams in Class A; outside of defending champion Rye, ranked No.3 in NYS, and No.16 Byram Hills.

Senior Anthony Maestri knocked in two runs in Somers’ 7-5 win over Yorktown while rookie Matt Pires knocked in another. We’re keeping close tabs on this Pires kid. There are some young boys at Somers who can ball a little and Pires and young Marc Maestri are two of them. Paul Franzese drove home a game-tying RBI double before scoring the winning run on an error. The Tuskers have wins over Lakeland, Beacon, Panas and Yorktown, and remain unbeaten against Class A foes, so there’s a possibility that this unit can produce a Final 4 finish should they get hot and put all facets together.

Mike Rodriguez stroked a two-run single for the Huskers, who would also do well to procure a playoff win and vie for a Final 4 berth.

Somers reliever Ryan Mullaly earned the save with two scoreless frames after chalking up the win over Panas.

LAKELAND (7-5) is another tough team to figure out this season, but RHP Mike Morelli worked five innings for the win and 2B Trevor McCarthy went 3 for 3 in a 13-3 win over visiting PEEKSKILL (1-9) last Wednesday. The two times this scribe has seen Coach Casey’s Hornets, the sticks have been anything but mighty, so we’re not sure if they can make like last year and get on a legit run down the stretch.

**CLASS AA**

Fox Lane’s Andrew Workman threw a six-hitter, whiffing eight in the Foxes’ 2-0 win over host MAHOPAC (9-4) Saturday, handing Mahopac its third loss in five tries after a torrid 6-0 start. Among the losses is a woeful 28-4 loss to John Jay CR. Among the Indian wins, though, was another sterling effort from senior RHP Cal Lawrence, who hurled a four-hitter in Mahopac’s 2-1 win over John Jay East Fishkill. Young Calvin whiffed five Patriots and won his fourth-straight game while lowering his ERA to 1.63. He has 27 K’s in a 30 IP.

John Reda and Mike Celestino each drove home a pair of RBI in Mahopac’s 9-6 win at John Jay EF last Wednesday. When the Indians bring their A-game, they look like an outfit that should win a playoff game, advance to the quarters and contend for a Final 4 showing.

CARMEL (6-7) lost two close games to Arlington and had dropped three of the last four, scoring just four runs in the three losses. The post-season magic we’ve seen from the Rams in the past will be difficult to produce if they don’t find the consistency they’ll need.

Brewster 1B Rob Chamberlin gets Fox Lane’s Fraioli in Bears’ 4-1 loss to Foxes last Friday

Put Valley 2B Nick Marro had five RBI in Tigers’ win over Somers.

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Brew-tiful Week for Bears!

Brewster Edges Somers, Crowned League Champs for 10th-Straight Year

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

It might have been a portent of things to come on the Class B boys’ track and field circuit where both Brewster and Somers appear poised to have it at for the Section 1 crown.

After trailing Somers by 28 points through Day 1 of the League I-D track and field meet, Brewster lit it up on Day 2 and rallied for a 21-point win (196-175) over the Tuskers last Thursday for a 10th-straight boys’ league crown.

That course of events, though upsetting to the Tuskers, could not dampen Somers’ enthusiasm on Saturday, though, as Somers named its track in honor of former longtime Coach Roy Arnesen, perhaps the foremost figure in Northern Westchester track and field. Former players and supporters of “Arny’s Army” turned out in force at the Somers Lion’s Club Meet to honor the man whose vast merits speak volumes.

Brewster’s Mike Delfay had a tremendous league meet, winning the 800 meters, placing 2nd in the 400-meter hurdles and the 1600 while helping anchor the boys to win the 4 x 800 relay. “Mike is having a tremendous season thus far,” Bears Coach Joe Scelia said. “He’s run 1:56 flat for his relay leg on the 4 x 800 and he’s one of the sections best runners.”

Kevin Hazelwood also had a nice league performance, winning the 3200 meters, placing 3rd in the 1600 and the 800, and was also part of the 4 x 800 relay. Brent DiVittorio just plain dominated in the jumps, leaping to a personal best to win triple jump. He also won long jump, and destroyed everyone in the 110 hurdles. “Brent is one of the best athletes by far in section 1,” Scelia said. “His focus later in the season will be on the pentathlon. He could win the section in pentathlon; he’s that good.”

Sprinters Kyle Catalano, Brendan Pryce, Stanley Davis, and Dan Rossi have really stepped it up. All four of them scored in the top six in both the 100 and 200 meters at the league championships.

“They scored much needed points for the team - they did awesome,” Scelia said.

Brewster’s 4 x 400 team of Reggie Titré-Barnor, Eric Fedio, Kyle Catalano and Stanley Davis closed the meet in style by winning the 4 x 400 relay. “In Brewster fashion,” Scelia exclaimed! “Stanley has turned into a wonderful anchor leg for us - he’s extremely fast and he’s starting to see that the hard work is paying off in races.”

Brewer’s sprint medley team was off the hook at the Somers Lions Meet on Saturday. After a scary fall by Kyle Catalano in the 400 meter leg (that stopped the race for a restart since it came within the first 100 meters), Scelia decided to switch and put Stanley Davis as the 400-meter leg and move Catalano to the 200 leg. “It turned into a school record for the boys,” Scelia said of their 3:35.87 clocking. Delfay anchored in fashion at a blistering 1:56 for the final 800 meters.”

Hazelwood won the Somers Lions Meet Invitational 3200 meters with a 9:35.

The Lady Bears were led by sensational Jaynie Criscione, who won the hat trick of jumps. “Jaynie was our shining star - she’s a section champion and she won the league meet for us by winning the high jump, triple jump and long jump.”

Criscione also won field event athlete of the meet at the Somers Lions Meet. Sophomore Brooke Pagan has been one of Section 1’s best throwers. She won discus at the league meet, and placed 2nd in discus at the Somers Lions Meet - she has a personal best of 102’6” in discus. Two bright future stars for us are 8th grader Florence Cuomo, and 7th grader Marissa Crowley. “Florence is a very competitive and gutsy young runner,” Scelia said. “She’s just starting to realize her exceptional potential. She has a current best time in the 1500 meters of 5:05. Marissa Crowley came back from an early season back injury to run a 5:12 in the 1500 this past Saturday. Marissa runs very passionate when she’s out there - she’s always willing to battle the competition and I see a bright future for her in this sport.”