

Mahopac News



Vol. 5 No. 26 Mahopac's Only Local Paper, *Mailed to You*, Reaching More Homes Than Anybody Else.

Thursday, August 14, 2014



MUDDY PUDDLES

Annual event raises money for cancer research.

pg 18

LAWSUIT

Restaurant owner sues Levy, Carmel police.

pg 4

BACK TO SCHOOL	20
BUSINESS & REAL ESTATE	33
CLASSIFIEDS	34
LEISURE	17
MAHOPAC MUSINGS	9
OPINION	10
SPORTS	27

MAHOPAC VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL

Welcome, coach!

Son of late NBA coach Dick Harter led Pace men's basketball team for 16 years

BY LIZ BUTTON
OF MAHOPAC NEWS

Former Pace University head coach Jim Harter is poised to become the Mahopac High School varsity boys basketball team's new head coach.

The district's Interim Superintendent Dr. Brian Monahan confirmed that he will recommend that the Board of Education hire Harter, the son of late NBA and Division 1 college coach Dick Harter. The Aug. 12 BOE vote was scheduled to take place after this paper went to print.

Since the spring, the Mahopac Central School District's athletic department has been searching for a replacement for Kevin Downes, who resigned in March after several students posted racist comments on Twitter following a Feb. 27 game against Mount Vernon at the Westchester County Center.

At the time, Downes, who is African-American and a 1989 alum of Mahopac High School, expressed his disappointment that the Twitter comments were liked and retweeted more than 200 times.

Monahan said the search for a new head varsity coach was a long and careful process to find the right person for the job, with the original screening done by the high school staff and Mahopac Athletic Director John Augusta.

"To me, what impressed me about Coach Harter most was that he's got a great deal of experience, most of it at the college level," Monahan said, "but he really seems to understand that being a coach is not just about winning basketball games, it's about helping the kids develop as individuals, about making sure academics are always part of the discussion, and for me, that is a big part of it."

Before coming to Mahopac, Harter coached at Pace for 20 years, serving as head coach for



PHOTO COURTESY OF PACE UNIVERSITY

Jim Harter

16 of those years. There, Harter finished as the school's second all-time winningest coach and led the Setters to postseason play in 14 of his 16 seasons, including three NCAA appearances.

According to Harter, it was his time spent volunteering for the Somers varsity basketball team last year that led him to consider coaching at the high school level. He ran the defense at Somers and got the opportunity through Somers coach Chris DiCintio. He also coached an 11th grade AAU team last spring for the East Coast Panthers, a program also run by DiCintio.

"I thought [the Somers high school kids]

were able to really pick up all of the things that we had done at Pace," Harter said. "Really, there's just a little bit of a difference in the level of the ability of the players. But as far as their ability to learn and all that, I didn't think there was any difference."

Harter said the younger students' positive attitudes were refreshing.

Interim Superintendent Dr. Brian Monahan will recommend that the Board of Education hire Harter. The board was scheduled to vote on the matter after press time on Aug. 12.

"It gave me some perspective. To me, coaching is coaching. I have a passion for doing it and it doesn't matter what level you're doing it at as long as you have a chance to teach kids and help them get better. So that was what was attractive about Mahopac," Harter said. "They have a really good program. They've had a good tradition over the years and they gave me an opportunity to get back into coaching which is something I love doing."

Monahan said that the Mount Vernon incident and issues of racial tolerance were part of the conversation during the interview process. The interim superintendent said he has the utmost confidence in Harter that, as Mahopac's new coach, he will take these issues seriously and make sure everyone is treated with respect.

Augusta said that the school had a lot of quality candidates come in to interview, including some minority candidates, a sign these racially charged issues did not significantly affect the job's appeal.

SEE **COACH** PAGE 2

Home Sales at the Speed of Light

Your Home **Sold In 60 Days** Guaranteed!
Or I Will Buy It For Cash!*



LOU
CARDILLO
REAL ESTATE TEAM



60daylou.com 914-481-2223





Cindy Campbell celebrates her mud belly flop!



The Arnold family has some fun in the mud.



Mahopac's Xander, 6, and Leo Przymyski, 4, get to work with their bucket and shovel.



Yum! Ten-month-old Emily Murphy chows down on some delicious mud pies.



Mahopac's Dylan Bello, 6, and Cade Freehill, 5, aren't afraid to get a little dirty.



Jesse Kovarcik, 6, of Mahopac, hangs out pool side with his mud pies.



Celeste Didona is ready for her dive.



Jennifer Spencer jumps face first into the mud.



Great form by Celeste Didona as she belly flops into the mud.



Four-year-old Pierce Knowlton's shirt says it all.

Muddy Puddles Mess Fest is a Hit

Annual event brings in \$75k for pediatric cancer research

BY LIZ BUTTON
OF MAHOPAC NEWS

The second Muddy Puddles Mess Fest at Camp Kiwi was a day for kids to be kids, but the annual event had a deeper purpose, as it honored those whose time to be kids was cruelly cut short by cancer.

Cindy and Lou Campbell of Pawling founded The Muddy Puddles Project in 2013 in memory of their son Ty, who passed away in October 2012 at the age of 5 after battling a rhabdoid tumor, a rare and aggressive form of pediatric cancer. Last year, the Campbells teamed up with Kiwi Country Day Camp in Mahopac to host the first Muddy Puddles

Mess Fest, where the main attraction is a giant muddy puddle for jumping and splashing and a fire truck to hose off. The goal of the Muddy Puddles Project is to inspire parents to let their kids take part in the fleeting pleasures of childhood, and proceeds from Muddy Puddles events and fundraising go to the Ty Louis Campbell (TLC) Foundation to support research for safer, more effective treatment of childhood cancers.

"Ty was diagnosed with cancer

when he was two years and 10 months old, and for two-and-a-half years he said that he always wanted to jump in muddy puddles when he was better," said Cindy Campbell. "He wasn't able to walk through his whole experience so it was a very touching and upsetting thing, but at the same time it was something that was really impactful for other parents. It was inspiring. Here is this adorable little boy in a situation where, as a grown-up, you would want to think of something much more extravagant for your bucket list, and his list was so simple. It translates into a lot more meaning for people — about parenting and about just letting kids be kids in a world where they are under a lot of stress."

Along with mud puddle jumping, the carnival-style festival on Aug. 9 featured family activities such as swimming in the camp's pond, paddle boats, a dunk tank, a

SEE MUDDY PAGE 21

One-year-old Scarlett Freehill of Mahopac has had about enough of the mud.



The Micka family holds hands as they jump into the mud pit.

MUDDY

FROM PAGE 19

whipped cream pie toss, tie-dye t-shirt-making, pie eating contests, bingo, raffles, food fights, water balloons, a climbing wall, ziplines, bounce houses and slides, splatter paint and glitter crafts and musical performances. Soccer and gymnastics clinics and food trucks with chocolate-covered waffles and shaved ice were all new for this year, according to Cindy Campbell.

The festival grossed \$75,000 via ticket sales, merchandise and donations, and had over 1,500 people in attendance, while last year's event raised about \$70,000, she said.

This year's Mess Fest also featured another new event—the Dirty Dunk, a special fundraiser where kids, adults and families got sponsors to donate to watch them jump into the mud. This year's Dirty Dunk raised more than \$6,000 on top of what the event took in for the day.

Melissa DiVitto is in charge of the mud pit each year, a 20 foot by 20 foot man-made puddle which volunteers construct from bottom to top.

"It's pretty much packed from

the time we open until it's time to close. People don't want to get out," she said.

Erica Schietinger of Yorktown Heights, a longtime friend of Cindy's, attended the day's event with her three children Will, 10, Jack, 9 and Callie, 6.

Schietinger, who knew Cindy before she got married and was with her throughout Ty's long illness, said each of her kids enjoyed different age-appropriate activities. Will liked the zipline and Callie liked the station for nails, tattoos and colored hair extensions, while Jack liked the mud best.

"We were there for the entire time, all five hours," she said. "There are a lot of parents who won't let their kids get messy and fingerprint and do all that stuff. They worry about the house and things being clean, their kids being clean. So what's nice with this event is it is a safe place so you can just kind of let your kids go and they can run around. There are lifeguards and all kinds of adults there who are working the event. It's basically all the things that you constantly say no, no, no to, but here, it's yes, yes, yes."

SEE **MUDDY** PAGE 22



The mud pit was crowded all afternoon.



PHOTOS: BRIAN MARSCHAUSER

Lorenzo Mazzarulli, 10, of Mahopac, is just hanging around.



COUNTRY KNOLLS

PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

Morning/Afternoon or Full Day Classes • Summer Program
Music & Zumba Programs • Monthly Specials



NEW FOR THE FALL!
Before & After School Care
 (Homework & Tutoring Also Available)
Busing provided by Mahopac and Carmel Central Districts for school age children.



2's Program
 3's Programs • 4's Programs
 Pre-K • Kindergarten
 (For older 4's and younger 5's)

Small Class Size
 NYS Common Core Curriculum
 NYS Certified
Licensed by Office of Children & Family Services

845-520-7408
www.countryknollspreschool.com

1055 Route 6, Mahopac
Former Holy Communion Day School
100 Myrtle Ave., Mahopac Falls
Located Within the Mahopac Falls Kindergarten Center



Not Tutu Shabby Dancewear

Back to School...Back to Dance!

Best Prices For Dancewear & Shoes In Town!

914-245-2200
 Underhill Plaza
 1877 Commerce St.
 Yorktown Heights, NY
www.nottutushabby.com

FREE GIFT
WITH
PURCHASE





Mon-Fri: 10am-6pm
 Open late Thurs until 7pm
 Sat: 10am-5pm

\$7.00 off \$35 purchase
or more with this ad
 Expires September 30, 2014

MUDDY
FROM PAGE 21

A balloon tossed by her father explodes on Yorktown's Madison Delgado, 8.



Two-year-old Amelia McGarry of Poughaug creates a masterpiece.



Heidi Bekkelund, 9, of Pawling, paddles her kayak around Camp Kiwi.



Kelly Knowlton of Connecticut might be having more fun in the mud than her kids!

PHOTOS: BRIAN MARSCHHAUSER

SEE **MUDDY** PAGE 23



Pine Grove
COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

Why Pine Grove School?

Certified Teachers • Honored Center of the Year
Healthy & Nurturing Environment • Drama & Art
Music, Yoga & Meditation
Library, Science & Computer Centers
Humanitarian Projects • Corporate Calendar & Extended Hours



- **Infant** (6weeks-12months)
- **Wobbler/Toddler** (12-36 months)
- **Preschool** (3-5 years)
- **Pre-K** (older 4's)
- **Kindergarten** (5-6 years)
- **Before & After School** (5-12 years)
- **Summer Camp** (3-12 years)



Certified by:
NYS Department of Education
NYS Department of Social Service

845-628-7500

*Serving the Community
for Over 30 Years*

85 Myrtle Avenue, Mahopac, NY 10541 • www.pinegrovecountrydayschool.com

MUDDY
FROM PAGE 22



The water slides were a popular attraction for the kids.



Chase Eichele, 4, swims to the ladder after going down the water slide. Chase's brother, Tanner, died in 2011 after being diagnosed with rhabdomyosarcoma. The Eichele family bonded with the Campbell family during their battles and after their losses. "This is a very important event for us," said Melissa Eichele, Tanner's mother.



Nico and Lorenzo Mazzarulli leap in together.

PHOTOS: BRIAN MARSCHAUSER



Best in Backyards®
—A Division of Eastern Jungle Gym®

Sizzling Summer

\$ALE!



Best in Swings



Best in Basketball Systems

STAYCATION with a NEW Swing Set, Outdoor Kitchen, Trampoline or Awning!



Best in Swings

Vacation in Your Own Backyard!



Best in Outdoor Kitchens

SAVE \$954! Reg. \$4,953
SALE \$3,999

Grill Carts & Components



Best in Trampolines



Best in Awnings

Sheds, Pergolas, Pavilions, Rubber Mulch and Much More

800-752-9787 bestinbackyards.com

Sale Ends August 31

119 Route 6, Mahopac, NY • 50 Executive Blvd. Elmsford, NY