

# FALL THEATER PREVIEW

A LOOK AT THE SEASON FROM BROADWAY TO A STAGE NEAR YOU | **1K**



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## LATE SPORTS

- ECONOMY IS A TOP ISSUE FOR YOUNG VOTERS, **1B**
- BYRAM HILLS BEATS NANUET 17-7 IN FOOTBALL, **1C**
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# The Journal News

Sunday  
September 21, 2008

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## Staring down the TALIBAN

Marine on the front lines in Afghanistan dreams of home in Lake Carmel

**Michael Risinit**  
The Journal News

**S**weetums is one of the more obscure Muppets, a towering, shaggy character whose threatening appearance is offset by his friendly disposition.

It's also the nickname of a 6-foot-4-inch Marine from Lake Carmel, who has spent the last six months in Afghanistan chasing the Taliban, withstanding sandstorms and longing for (in this order) his girlfriend, a steak, a beer and a Mustang.

"One of the sergeants thought I had an uncanny resemblance to the Muppets character. It stuck from there," Lance Cpl. Patrick Stanborough said last week.

Part of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Stanborough spoke last week via cell phone from the Kandahar Air Field in southern Afghanistan. The sprawling NATO base houses 13,000 troops from different nations.

Stanborough later clarified that the nickname was about his height, not a woolly appearance. In a photo, the 2005 Carmel High School graduate is clean-shaven, tan and dusty with an intense gaze.

Shortly before dinner on Tuesday, Stanborough described his experiences as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. He sat in his tent's living area on a "fine, military-issued green cot," plywood floor beneath his feet.

Stoic in his account of life among the dust, the heat and the bullets, the 21-year-old spoke of intense fighting and of visiting village elders to solve everyday problems, such as malfunctioning mosque speakers. His unit arrived in Afghanistan in March.

"You have to be extremely careful. Sometimes everything seems normal and OK. In this kind of job, everything can change in a heartbeat," he said.

As the seventh anniversary of

**Please see MARINE, 9A**



Louie Palu/Zuma Press for The Journal News

Marine Lance Cpl. Patrick "Sweetums" Stanborough, 21, a Lake Carmel native, is photographed after a patrol in Garmser District, in Helmand province, Afghanistan, at Forward Operating Base Apache North.

## Ryder Farm funding opposed

Patterson, NYC object to using watershed money for project

**Michael Risinit**  
The Journal News

**CARMELO** — The county's paperwork seeking to protect Ryder Farm in Southeast from future development is with state agriculture officials in Albany.

But the source of the cash the county plans to kick in for the undertaking remains in dispute.

In July, the farm's owners, local conservation groups and officials detailed plans to seek a state preservation grant for the 120 acres sitting along Peach Lake. Through the grant, the state would purchase the 18th-century farm's development rights, meaning it couldn't be subdivided or otherwise developed in the future.

The effort, though, requires the surrounding town and county to contribute matching funds.

To that end, the Putnam County Legislature earlier this month passed a resolution committing \$325,000 from its East of Hudson watershed fund created by New York City to protect drinking-water quality. The farm, as well as much of the county, sits in the city's watershed.

As part of the review process necessary to spend that money, however, both the city and the town of Patterson have objected, saying it should be spent for other water-quality improvements.

"I think they're being very short-sighted, both Patterson and New York City," said Legislator Vincent

**Please see FARM, 11A**

### Speak out

■ Should Putnam purchase the development rights to Ryder Farm? Visit the "Putnam" forum at [LoHud.com/forums](http://LoHud.com/forums).



Julie Jacobson/The Associated Press

Baseball fans stand for the national anthem before yesterday's game between the Yankees and the Baltimore Orioles at Yankee Stadium.

## Yankee Stadium's final game

Yankee Stadium was built in less than a year on a budget of \$2.5 billion. The ballpark opened April 18, 1923, and Babe Ruth hit a home run as the Yankees beat the rival Boston Red Sox. As baseball bids farewell today to the House That Ruth Built, The Journal News looks at the top 10 games played at the stadium, **Details, 1C, 9C**

### On LoHud

Follow the Yankees and live chat on the stadium's last day on the Yankees blog at [LoHud.com/blogs](http://LoHud.com/blogs).



### On LoHud.com

■ See more photos of Stanborough, both in Afghanistan and in family photos, in a gallery at [LoHud.com](http://LoHud.com).

■ View of video of Stanborough's aunt and girlfriend with this article at [LoHud.com](http://LoHud.com).

### Have your say

Talk about increasing diversity on police forces in the "Open forum" at [LoHud.com/forums](http://LoHud.com/forums).



## Westchester police looking to bolster ranks

Minority recruiting among the priorities as civil exam nears

**Richard Liebson**  
The Journal News

It only comes around every four years, and you have to be registered.

No, it's not the presidential election. It's the Westchester County Civil Service exam for police officers.

And if you don't register to take the test by tomorrow's deadline, you can't become a cop in all but a handful of police departments in Westchester.

"Law enforcement is a terrific career with good pay, good benefits and the chance to really serve your community," Westchester Public Safety Commissioner Thomas Belfiore said. "What many people don't realize is that police work is more about helping people than arresting people. It's a very rewarding job. We're hop-

ing that anyone who has thought about a career in law enforcement will register to take the test. Otherwise, you'll have to wait four years for another chance."

The exam, to be held Nov. 15, results in Civil Service lists of candidates for police jobs in every municipal police department in the county except Yonkers, Mount Vernon, New Rochelle and White Plains, which administer their own tests. To help those who register score well on the exam, the county is offering an \$8 preparato-

ry course at Westchester Community College.

In the wake of criticism over the lack of diversity in local police departments following the shooting death in White Plains of off-duty Mount Vernon Police Officer Christopher Ridley by four county detectives in a case of mistaken identity, and after a number of alleged police brutality incidents during the year, the county is making an effort to recruit minorities.

Working with The Westchester County Office of Minority Affairs, **Please see CIVIL SERVICE, 12A**

## Camp Smith's open house spotlights infantry training

Families, employers, friends observe unit's combat preparations

**Ernie Garcia**  
The Journal News

**CORTLANDT** — Lillian Murphy wasn't sure what to expect when she accepted her son's invitation to a National Guard open house at the Camp Smith military reservation.

"I never thought I would shoot a gun," said Murphy, who, with

her family, was among the many civilians who toured the camp for a demonstration of what National Guard members do when they are summoned for weekend training.

"At least now we get to see what he does," said Murphy, of Pearl River, about her son, Cpl. Kieran Murphy. "I'll come every year and I'll bring other people."

Families, friends and employers of National Guard members were invited to the daylong event, where they fired real and simulated weapons and were offered the chance to rappel down a 50-foot tower. **Please see CAMP SMITH, 10A**



Mike Roy/The Journal News

With assistance from Sgt. Ray Maldonado, left, Andrew Branley, 19, participates in a rappelling exercise during an open house hosted by the Army National Guard at Camp Smith in Cortlandt.

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**Today:** Sunny, 79  
**Tonight:** Cloudy, 53  
**Weather:** 13A

For live weather updates, send a text message with **W** and **ZIP** code (e.g. 10604) to **44636** (4INFO).

PX



### Tomorrow in Life&Style

New Victory's senior vice president has big plans for little show-goers.



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## Putnam Marine awaits homecoming

MARINE, from 1A

the start of military action in Afghanistan approaches (Oct. 7), Stanborough and the rest of the 24th are preparing for a fall homecoming back to Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

Wiping the grit of those many weeks from their weapons and body armor was the duty of the day recently. The 24th MEU on Sept. 8 handed over control of Garmser, a former Taliban stronghold, to British and Afghan forces.

"All I've ever wanted to do was be in the military. Once you get the Marine Corps mind-set, that's what you want," said Stanborough, who also served in Iraq from September 2006 to February 2007.

On Sept. 11, 2001, he was a freshman inside the high school on Fair Street. In February 2005, he signed up with a Marine recruiter in Peekskill. Three weeks after graduation, he reported for basic training at Parris Island, S.C.

"Patrick was always G.I. Joe," said his aunt, Michelle Austin of Lake Carmel. "He always wore fatigues T-shirts. He always had a crewcut. He always said he was going to be in the military."

Austin helped raise her nephew. Her 24-year-old son, Joshua Adrian, who is with the 26th MEU, has served in Iraq and is now deployed aboard the USS Iwo Jima in support of the war on terror.

Stanborough's father died when he was young. His mother, Tammy Thomas, died on Mother's Day last year, bringing Stanborough home on emergency leave from Iraq. His stepfather, Michael Thomas, lives in Kent.

Since October 2001, according to a recent study by Rand Corp., about 1.6 million U.S. troops have deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq. Most local veterans groups don't have data on how many residents have served in those operations. Rockland Veterans Service Agency Director Jerry Donnellan said 854 Rockland residents have served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 24th MEU's original mission was to clear a road through the Garmser City District, a mission expected to take up to a week. But the Marines met strong resistance in the Taliban-held area and ended up battling insurgents for 35 days.

"We did our thing," Stanborough said of his duty in the Helmand province. "If anything, we were the first ones on the deck."

Published reports said the Marines killed more than 400 militants intent on defending Garmser because it was part of a main transportation route for fighters, weapons and drugs. The Marines' success allowed the Afghan government to return to the area for the first time in years and for a medical clinic and civic center to open.

Katie Cray of Cortlandt, Stanborough's girlfriend of almost three years, said she watched television news every day during his Iraq deployment. She now limits herself to online news stories and keeps her cell phone by her side.

"Now I can't even turn on the TV. I don't need to see that," said Cray, 20, a Northeastern University journalism student. "Of course I'm proud of him. I just can't wait for him to get home."

Always by Stanborough's side is his medium machine gun. Along with body armor, ammunition and water, he lugged some 70 pounds on patrol. With temperatures sounding like a recipe

rather than weather (120-degree heat), Stanborough said he could easily down more than a gallon of water during a patrol.

Afghanistan, he said, is a place of mud homes, wells and limited electricity. Residents climb on a donkey or tractor to go somewhere. Any cars, he said, seem to be Toyota Corollas.

"I always made the joke that if you were to take the Bible and add cars and radios, you would have Garmser," Stanborough said.

His enlistment is up next summer. He then hopes to become a police officer. Security patrols and conversations with village elders may be over, but Stanborough remains "mission-oriented" as his unit heads back to the States.

"The first thing I'm going to do is kiss my girl," he said.

The Associated Press contributed information to this report. Reach Michael Risinit at mrisinit@lohud.com or 845-228-2274.



Michelle Austin holds photos of her son, Joshua Adrian, left, and nephew, Patrick Stanborough, at her home in Lake Carmel. Both men are serving in the Marines. Adrian is stationed aboard a ship and Stanborough is stationed in Afghanistan.

Stuart Bayer  
The Journal News

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Matthew Brown/The Journal News  
Katie Cray holds a portrait of her boyfriend, Lance Cpl. Patrick Stanborough, outside her home in Cortlandt.



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