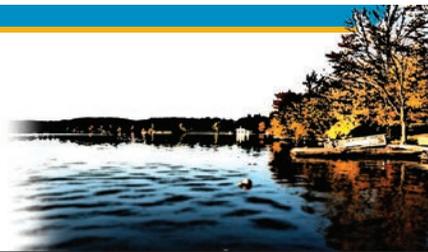


Mahopac News



VOL. 9 NO. 24

Visit TapIntoMahopac.net for the latest news.



THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2018



What a mess!

Ava and Anthony Riina are covered in mud after jumping in the mud pit at Mess Fest. The annual fundraiser held at Kiwi Country Day Camp is hosted by the Muddy Puddles Project (MPP) for childhood cancer research, and honors Ty Louis Campbell, who lost his battle with brain cancer at the age of 5. Hundreds of kids and their families showed up Saturday to take part in all the messy fun and catch a special guest appearance from Peppa Pig. For more photos, see the center spread on pages 12 and 13.

County continues to cope with blue-green algae

Situation not critical at Lake Mahopac, but vigilance is called for

BY BOB DUMAS
EDITOR

This year, blue-green algal blooms have dashed many summer plans as Putnam County health officials have had to make repeated beach closures due to the toxic aquatic plant.

Even Lake Mahopac has not been immune. Its one public beach at the Mahopac Golf and Beach Club has been closed twice due to the presence of the nasty stuff.

Last week, officials from the county health department, along with members of Lake Mahopac Park District Advisory Board, held an informational meeting on blue-green algae at Mahopac Public Library to help educate the public.

"I have been dealing with this since 2011 and when we closed the Golf Club beach originally, it was the first time I'd seen it on Lake Mahopac," said Vince Perrin, a public health sanitarian with Putnam County Department of Health. "Lake Mahopac, in our eyes, is a little bit different—not because of the ecology or the size of it, but because it's deep and cold. We have one regulated beach (Mahopac Golf) with a swimming area the size of this room and that's our only eyes;

it's our only set of eyes on the beach. So, this year, we went out and had a few conversations with people on the private beaches. At Mahopac Woods, we saw a potential bloom floating in the middle of the water."

The increasing number of harmful algal blooms (HABs) in Putnam and around New York State is not completely understood. Staff at the Department of Health have been busier than ever collecting and sending lake water samples for testing.

"We are working closely with town and beach personnel," said Dr. Michael Nesheiwat, interim commissioner of health. "They are well-informed and able to quickly recognize these harmful algal blooms. When there is an overabundance of this cyanobacteria, the onsite personnel are able to shut down the beaches directly without a confirmatory visit by the health department."

Perrin was accompanied at the meeting by fellow county health sanitarian Shawn Rogan, and both of them cautioned that while it is important to raise awareness of blue-green algae and take the necessary precautions, conditions on Lake Mahopac are not dire.

SEE ALGAE PAGE 4

WE BUY HOUSES FOR CA\$H



We're Ready To Buy Houses In Mahopac, NY.

No Fees. No Commissions. Put More Cash In Your Pocket.

You'll Get A Fair Cash Offer – You Choose The Closing Date. We Pay All Costs.



INSTANTOFFERS.COM
THE AREA'S MOST ACTIVE & TRUSTED CASH BUYERS

914-222-1550

BACK TO SCHOOL	14
BUSINESS & REAL ESTATE	23
CLASSIFIEDS	22
LEISURE	21
MAHOPAC MUSINGS	2
OPINION	8
SPORTS	18



CARMEL PD

Mahopac's Daniel Shea joins the force.

WEDDING

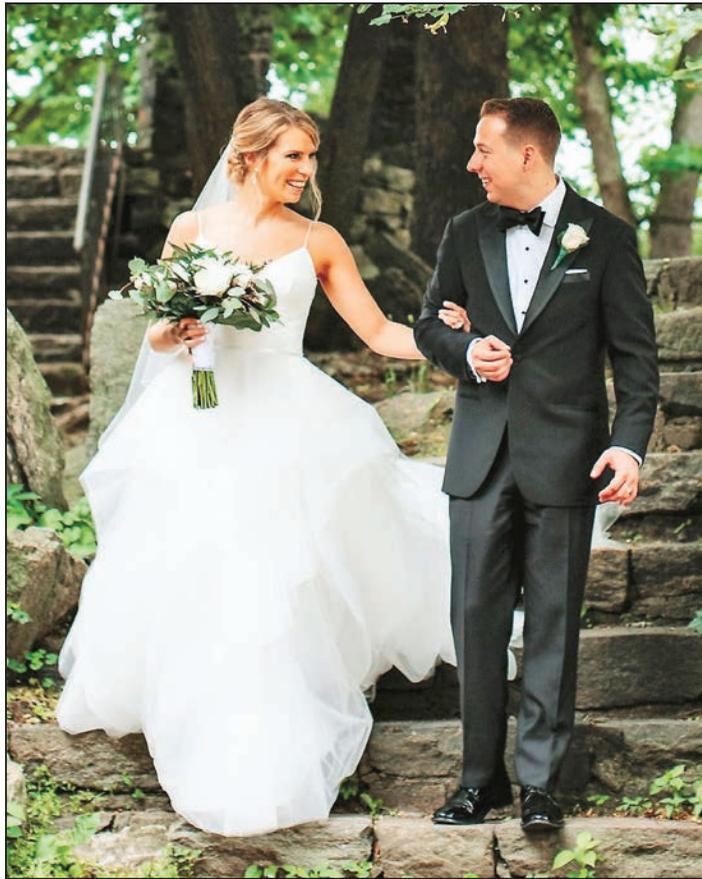
Mr. and Mrs. Rich Leo

It took 10 years, but Rich Leo and Jordan Hunt are finally officially married.

They made it through Mahopac High School, senior prom, 469 miles of distance at different colleges and moving back home to New York to start their careers.

Jordan and Rich met in their sixth-grade English class, where they were assigned a project to write an essay together. They went their separate ways after that, but reconnected in their senior year of high school where they ended up in the same group of friends and were inevitably around each other a lot.

After high school, Rich attended Siena College in New York, while Jordan attended Randolph Macon in Virginia, but even that distance did not keep them apart. Upon graduating, both moved back to begin their careers in New York City; Rich working at J.P. Morgan Chase and Jordan at Cheetah Digital. They moved to White Plains to ease commute time and start their life together, but still find time to go back to Ma-



hopac where they both grew up to see family and friends.

After a decade of dating, Rich and Jordan tied the knot on June 23 in Mahopac at St. John the Evangelist Church, where Rich's parents were also married 30 years ago. The couple then had a fantastic celebration re-

ception at the Glen Island Harbor Club in New Rochelle, surrounded by the people they love most. Their family and friends could not be more thrilled for them and excited for their future together.

Congratulations to the new Mr. and Mrs. Rich Leo.

ALGAE

FROM PAGE 1

"It's not the end of the world, the sky is not falling," Perrin said. "But it does have an impact on our recreational use throughout Putnam County. Our main goal [of the meeting] is that you will have an appreciation for what it looks like, how you self-identify it, because the idea is you want to protect your family and your friends, and what to do when you see it."

Toxic bacteria are naturally present in low numbers in lakes and streams. However, in warm, shallow, undisturbed surface water that gets a lot of sunlight, the bacteria can grow quickly and easily, creating a bloom. When this happens, floating scums on the water surface may appear, along with discolored water covering all or portions of a lake.

Health Department officials say they will continue to monitor the county's 32 permitted bathing beaches this summer, while also responding to calls from town, village and summer camp personnel.

At last week's informational meeting, a number of slides were shown to help people identify the substance, so they can report it.

"It's called blue-green algae, but it doesn't have to be blue and it doesn't have to be green," Perrin

said. "Just because it's 'blue-green' algae doesn't mean those are the only colors you look for. It expresses itself differently depending on when you are and where you are and how early in the bloom you are. It goes by many different names. It is opportunistic in various conditions: stagnant water, warm water, lots of sunlight."

Blue-green algae can range in color from green, blue, brown, yellow, grey, or even red. So, contact should be avoided with any discolored water, with or without a floating covering or unpleasant odor. When the water clears, either naturally or by treatment, follow-up water testing must be conducted. Toxins can still be present even after the bloom looks like it has passed.

"Why are we scared of it? Blue-green algae release toxins and it can affect different people in different ways," Perrin said. "Some people are more susceptible than others. And it's not just toxins that are a concern. Some people are allergic to the proteins that are in the algae."

Perrin said swimming in it and/or drinking it are two of the most obvious ways to be made sick by the algae, but they're not the only ones.

"One thing that was noticed is

SEE ALGAE PAGE 6

WELCOME TO THE

OLYMPIC FAMILY RESTAURANT

BREAKFAST - LUNCH - GOURMET SALADS

<p>BREAKFAST SPECIALS EVERYDAY FROM \$6.99 INCLUDES 2 EGGS, HOT COFFEE OR TEA & JUICE</p>	<p>LUNCH SPECIALS MONDAY THRU FRIDAY SOUP & DESSERT \$11.99</p>	<p>GOURMET SALAD SPECIALS FROM \$7.99</p>
<p>FRESH BROILED SEAFOOD DINNERS SOUP OR SALAD, POTATO & VEGETABLE \$16.99</p>	<p>STEAK & CHOPS SOUP OR SALAD, POTATO & VEGETABLE \$17.99</p>	<p>SUMMER SPECIAL 1 1/2 LB. LOBSTER STUFFED BROILED LOBSTER WITH SOUP OR SALAD, POTATO \$21.99</p>
<p>OLYMPIC SEAFOOD COMBOS! FROM \$22.99</p>	<p>ROAST PRIME RIB \$23.99 SOUP OR SALAD & VEGETABLE</p>	<p>Early Bird Specials From \$12.99</p>

SENIOR MENU AVAILABLE STARTING AT \$13.99 EVERY DAY 2-5pm

Open 24/7 • Take-Out Available

Route 6, Mahopac, NY • 845.628.0876 • www.olympic-diner.com

QUALITY NEW CONSTRUCTION IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

STARTING AT \$515,000

RANDOM RIDGE

MAHOPAC • NEW YORK

Welcome to Random Ridge, an enclave of 29 custom homes. All the space you imagined and the lifestyle you deserve is here in these freshly built, brilliantly designed and quality constructed private homes. Seven distinct styles to choose from and all 29 homes are near roads, trains, golf, art center, lakes, hiking trails, and more. Web# 4750368

Owen Berkowitz
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson
26 Popham Road, Scarsdale, NY 10583
M: 914.819.7622
owen.berkowitz@elliman.com

Carol Marrone
Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker
26 Popham Road, Scarsdale, NY 10583
M: 914.419.4000
carol.marrone@elliman.com

elliman.com/westchester

101 KING STREET, CHAPPAQUA, NY 10514 914.238.3888 © 2018 DOUGLAS ELLIMAN REAL ESTATE. ALL MATERIAL PRESENTED HEREIN IS INTENDED FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY. WHILE THIS INFORMATION IS BELIEVED TO BE CORRECT, IT IS REPRESENTED SUBJECT TO ERRORS, OMISSIONS, CHANGES OR WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT NOTICE. ALL PROPERTY INFORMATION, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO SQUARE FOOTAGE, ROOM COUNT, NUMBER OF BEDROOMS AND THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IN PROPERTY LISTINGS SHOULD BE VERIFIED BY YOUR OWN ATTORNEY, ARCHITECT OR ZONING EXPERT. EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY.

Putnam Service Dogs to appear at movie premier

Putnam Service Dogs, along with some of their pups in training, will be in the lobby of Carmel Cinema, noon to 5 p.m., on Saturday, Aug. 11, to celebrate the opening of "Dog Days." One dollar from all ticket sales will be donated to Putnam Service Dogs.

Putnam Service Dogs is a nonprofit corporation that provides free service dogs to people with physical disabilities.

Carmel Cinema is located in the Carmel Shoprite Plaza, Route 52.

For more information go to putnam servicedogs.org.

ALGAE

FROM PAGE 4

that inhalation of the aerosolization of the water can cause short-term respiratory distress," Perrin said. "If you are sitting next to the water and it is aerosolizing you are going to inhale it and it may cause short-term distress. It's not like if you walk by the lake you are going to get sick."

Perrin said sitting by on a beach while the water laps at the shore

can aerosolize it, as well as driving a boat or watercraft through a bloom. He said 93 percent of exposure to the HAB is through recreation; the rest is occupational.

Some towns have opted to apply an algacide, but they have the same precautions as any pesticide. Treatment methods, if any, are strictly a town decision, and application of an algacide requires approval by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

What causes blue-green algae and why is it suddenly appearing on Lake Mahopac?

"Over the last 30 years, we've had a lot of runoff. We have improper storm-water practices," Rogan said. "We want to make sure to treat our stormwater and get rid of the sediment, and more importantly, the phosphorous. And failing septic systems are certainly a contributor because of all the nitrogen and phosphorous. Fertilizer on all these pristine lawns we have on Lake Mahopac [plays a role]. We use a lot of chemicals and a lot of herbicides."

Rogan also said that the feces from waterfowl such as ducks and geese "doesn't help" either. He cautioned against feeding the birds and attracting them to the lake. Someone in the audience noted that four Canada geese can equal one septic system.

Rogan said it was important that people learn to identify the algae and report it to the health department when they spot it. He said the DEC has plenty of photos of it on its website, so people learn what it looks like.

"It's part of building the science; it builds a baseline data," he said of why it should be reported. "We don't want people calling if you see weeds, but if you see something different, something

you've never seen before and it seems odd, [report it]. We want your eyes and ears... we can't be out there.

"We have such little perspective about Lake Mahopac," he added. "We just don't see that much of the lake. It's not about closing something down, it's about education and public health protection—making sure we keep your children safe. Certainly, no one is saying close down all of Lake Mahopac. That's not practical and it's not likely. But [if it's spotted] we can issue an advisory for certain areas."

Rogan and Perrin said symptoms of blue-green algae exposure include temporary respiratory distress if it has been aerosolized and breathed in, rashes, but mostly gastrointestinal distress.

Sadly, Perrin said, it may be dogs that are at the most risk. They will swim in it and lick it off their fur, and even drink the contaminated water.

"There have been no human deaths [attributed to blue-green algae], but there have been dog deaths," he said. "They are smaller with less body weight."

Health officials said prevention efforts should focus on ways to control the level of nutrients the algae receive. These include reducing plant fertilizer use, promoting efficient septic systems operations and managing stormwater. These tactics are supported by the DEC, but much is still unknown about the causes of blue-green algae.

If you believe you've spotted a blue-green algal bloom on Lake Mahopac or any public lake in Putnam County, call the health department at 845-808-1390, visit the website at putnamcounty.com, or visit its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/putnamhealth and Twitter @PutnamHealthNY.

*Put your mind at ease...
Call us today!*

**Elder Law
Wills & Trusts
Estate Planning
Medicaid Planning
Guardianships
Probates**

We make home and hospital visits.

SLOAN & Feller
Attorneys at Law

(845) 621-8640
www.sloanandfeller.com

**625 Route 6
Mahopac, NY 10541**

PLAYING AT THE PARAMOUNT

Gordon Lightfoot
In Concert- *The Legend Lives On*
AUG. 12
8 PM

HIPPIEFEST 2018
AUG. 18 at 8 PM
featuring Vanilla Fudge, Rick Derringer, Mitch Ryder & The Detroit Wheels and Badfinger featuring Joey Molland

CTA ft. **Danny Seraphine and Bill Champlin, Formerly of Chicago (Aug 3), Gordon Lightfoot in Concert- The Legend Lives On (Aug. 12) Hippiest 2018 (Aug. 18), The FIXX Beach Tour (Aug 31), Chris Isaak (Sept. 1), An Evening with Groucho (Sept. 9), Sugar Ray with Mark McGrath (Sept. 13), Jefferson Starship (Sept. 14) Ani DiFranco w/Special Guest Peter Mulvey (Sept. 18), The Gipsy Kings ft. Nicolas Reyes and Tonino Baliaro (Sept. 22)**

1008 BROWN STREET PEEKSKILL NEW YORK 10566 PHONE: (914) 739-0039 X2 JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST FOR A CHANCE TO WIN GIVEAWAYS!

PARAMOUNTHUDSONVALLEY.COM

Rooney Orthodontics
Children & Adults

17 Miller Rd.
Mahopac
845-621-1222
RooneyOrtho.com