

Birth Announcements

SAWYER THOMAS GILBERT

Sawyer Thomas Gilbert was born on Jan. 24, 2017, to parents Lindsey and Derek. Grandparents are Denise Francis (Florida) and Mr./Mrs. Anthony Supino (Putnam Valley).

Lent Events at Sacred Heart

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER

At the SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH, during Lent, please join in for *Friday Nights*, 7 pm, Stations of the Cross, followed by special events. All welcome.

March 3- "War Room" Movie, free movie & popcorn

March 10- "Vocation Night"

March 17 (nothing this night as we're cooking Irish food)

March 24- All kids come and "Make Your Own Rosary"

March 31- (something good TBD by the Knights of Columbus)

April 7- All kids make Easter Cards for Nursing Home

April 14- Good Friday's LIVE Stations of Cross by the Youth of Parish

Please join us for one or all of the events. Come to a vibrant church!

Address: 414 Haviland Dr., Patterson.

Note: Religion listings are online this week at putnamcountycourier.com

Robber Of Subway Pleads Guilty To Reduced Charge

By ERIC GROSS

A Dutchess County man accused of robbing the Patterson Subway sandwich shop at the Patterson Commons off Routes 311 and 22 last October of \$347, copped a guilty plea in Putnam County Court last Thursday to a reduced charge of third degree robbery.

John Caputo, 47, of Wingdale, was arrested 36 hours after the heist when an alert Sheriff's Department investigator patrolling in an unmarked squad car spotted the suspect driving a pick-up truck in Kent.

The investigator recognized the truck and its driver as matching the descriptions

of the man and vehicle wanted in the robbery resulting from video footage.

Caputo was charged with 1st degree robbery, carrying a maximum sentence of 15 years in a state penitentiary if found guilty.

However, in a plea bargain move before Judge James Reitz, Caputo copped a guilty plea to 3rd degree robbery that carries a maximum seven years incarceration.

District Attorney Robert Tandy said he wanted a "clear message sent. Crimes of violence will be dealt with swiftly and aggressively in Putnam County."

Caputo is to be sentenced by Judge Reitz on April 25.

Point Of Distribution Drill Prepares Public For Disaster



Seniors are welcomed to the POD by Health Department staff at the Putnam Valley Senior Center.

By ERIC GROSS

Putnam County emergency responders are prepared just in case!

On Tuesday, the Putnam Valley Senior Center was the scene of a POD or "Point of Distribution," during a realistic exercise coordinated by the Putnam Health Department and monitored by New York State Health Department personnel.

The scenario involved a novel influenza strain dubbed Haiiphong that was first identified in Vietnam in 2005 before rapidly mutating to a strain capable of human to human transmission.

The mortality rate among those infected was high.

Putnam Public Health Nurse Rachel Gressel, who coordinated the POD, explained that the virus spread rapidly from Vietnam to Asia and Europe late last year due to returning visitors: "Particularly affected were children under the age of 18 in addition to individuals suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease."

Attendees at the exercise including some three dozen public health workers and dozens of senior citizens were advised that the virus was identified in the U.S. last month, first recognized in a patient residing on Long Island.

Acting Commissioner of Health Dr. Michael Nesheiwat explained that a NYS Health Commissioner's call was made to all 57 counties and a "decision was made to activate 21 POD's throughout New York where prophylaxis would be offered to those not yet exposed." The prophylaxis given to those attending was a bag of M&M candy.

THIS WAS ONLY A DRILL.

Reports from overseas indicated while the strain spread quickly, Tamiflu was found to be effective in both treatment and preventing infection in those exposed.

Seniors participating in the exercise were greeted by staff members before being ushered into a large room where they were questioned and counseled.

Among the seniors attending was 98 year old Juanita Pope of Putnam Valley who called the day "exciting. I feel like a kid again taking part in this adventure that will hopefully save lives."

In addition to Putnam, Points of Distribution were held in Rockland, Orange, Dutchess and Westchester counties as well as nine counties in the Capital District, two in central New York, three in western New York and two on Long Island.

Large Fire Destroys Home in Kent

By ERIC GROSS

A large two story home was turned to rubble early Wednesday when a raging inferno engulfed the residence at 16 Westleigh Court at the Kent-Carmel line across from the Raymond Hill Cemetery despite the efforts of 75 firefighters from departments throughout the area.

Peter and Sharon Major escaped with only the bed-clothes on their backs when the fire erupted around midnight. The couple fled their home after smoke detectors became activated.

Flames shot more than 100 feet into the air as the wood frame structure was destroyed.

Firefighters from Lake Carmel, Carmel, Brewster, Kent, Patterson, Mahopac, Mahopac Falls, Putnam Lake and Putnam Valley were all pressed into action yet despite their efforts the home was reduced to rubble since the area has no hydrant system and water had to be trucked to the scene by tanker trucks from nearby sources including the ShopRite Plaza Shopping



Firefighters from departments throughout Putnam battled a raging inferno at the Kent-Carmel line early Wednesday.

Center that is serviced by a hydrant system.

A veteran firefighter described the scene as tragic: "Thank God the couple escaped but a lifetime of memories is going up in flames right before our eyes."

Lake Carmel Fire Chief

Jack Keher, who served as Incident Commander, said investigators determined the cause of the fire was traced to a faulty chimney that had been connected to a pellet stove inside the home.

Assisting at the scene was Putnam Battalion 15 Coordi-

nator Doug Casey, members of the Kent Police Department, the Putnam Fire Investigation Team and a representative of the Bureau of Emergency Services.

No injuries were reported. Firefighters cleared the scene at 4:45 a.m.

Lake Carmel Woman Left Homeless as Fire Ravages Cottage

By Eric Gross

A Lake Carmel woman lost all her worldly possessions Monday when fire ravaged her three room cottage at 19 Nepera Road overlooking the lake.

Heavy black smoke was observed as far away as downtown Carmel when initial calls were received by the Putnam 9-1-1 Center reporting the blaze.

Kent Police arrived minutes later and confirmed a working fire.

Lake Carmel FD personnel were summoned along with mutual aid from the Carmel, Kent and Brewster Fire Departments.

Crews under the command of LCFD Assistant Chief David Churchill knocked down the flames in a matter of minutes but the damage had been done to the 380 square foot structure.

The homeowner, Debra Rosko, escaped with only the clothing on her back.

Rosko was provided shelter from a neighbor since temperatures at 7:55 a.m. when the fire was reported were in the mid-teens.

The residence dated back to 1947 and was one of the



A Lake Carmel woman lost all her worldly possessions Monday when fire ravaged her 70-year old three room cottage overlooking Lake Carmel.

original Daily Mirror homes that surrounded the lake for many years.

Rosko's two pet cats also escaped the inferno.

No injuries were reported. Cause of the fire remains under investigation by the Putnam Fire Investigation Team but Kent Police said the blaze did not appear to be suspicious.

Assisting at the scene were members of the Putnam Sheriff's Dept., Putnam Battalion 15 Coordinator Doug Casey, a crew from the New York State Electric and Gas Company, counselors from the American Red Cross di-

saster team, members of the Putnam Fire Investigation Team and a representative of the Putnam Bureau of Emergency Services.

Firefighters returned to quarters three hours later.

Juanita Pope is an Inspiration To All

By ERIC GROSS

Juanita Pope, at the tender age of 98, is more with it than many people half her age.

Pope, a resident of Putnam Valley, participated in last week's Point of Distribution exercise at the Putnam Valley Senior Center.

Pope immigrated to the United States from her native Puerto Rico 80 years ago.

Despite growing up on a coffee farm, she has never consumed a "cup of Joe."

"No coffee, no whiskey and no smoking," she said, adding: "My life has been fulfilled but I have a lot more living to do."

After moving to the Bronx following her immigration, Juanita married the love of her life. "My husband was a Polish gentleman but sadly, he passed away 21 years after we were married."

The couple was blessed with three sons and one daughter and today Juanita's family has grown to include seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Pope is a highly religious woman who wears seven sacred medals around her



Juanita Pope of Putnam Valley is an amazing 98 year old.

neck. She is also proud of her holy and spiritual statues that adorn her home.

"Whenever I return to the house, I light candles and say a prayer thanking the Good Lord for giving me another day," she said.

Juanita is also a regular parishioner at her local church. In addition to visiting the senior center on a regular basis, Pope said she enjoys watching television and seeing her family.

And yes, Juanita visits the doctor once every six months: "I've been doing it for years. After all, I don't want to come down with any illness at my age. I have a lot more living to do!"

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