

The PUTNAM COUNTY COURIER



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*A Journal of Politics, News,
& Life in Putnam County*

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Sifting Through the Sands of Time

Courier Archives

152 Years Ago  May 20, 1865

END OF THE WAR OFFICIALLY DECLARED

A general order has been issued from the, War Department as follows:

All the forces of the enemy east of the Mississippi river having been duly surrendered by their proper commanding officers to the armies of the United States under agreements of parole and disbandment, and there being now no authorized troops of the enemy east of the Mississippi River, it, is ordered that from and after the 1st day of June, 1865, any and all persons found in arms against the United States, or who may commit acts of hostility against it east of the Mississippi River, will be regarded as Guerillas, and punished with death.

The strict enforcement and execution of this order is especially enjoined: upon the commanding officers of all the United States. forces within the territorial limits to which it applies.

WORD of the WEEK

gimcrack \JIM-krak\

NOUN: a showy object of little use or value : gewgaw

CUNNINGHAM'S CORNER

The Fallen, On Memorial Day

My father used to go to all the holiday events, perhaps most especially the patriotic ones: Memorial Day, July 4th, Veterans Day. As a kid, we always had parades

DOUGLAS CUNNINGHAM

for the big holidays, with marching bands and color guards. Maybe my memory has gilded the schedule, but we seemed to have several parades to attend every summer, at least 3-4 among nearby communities.

And, by golly, when that color guard went by, you can bet we were standing up and removing our hats. My father had enlisted while the Korean War was on. He was training for one of the last Army

units to actually use mules, which would have been well-suited to the terrain (his farm background no doubt was a factor in this assignment). The war ended, after a fashion, before he shipped out.

Today in Putnam County, only Cold Spring, Brewster and Mahopac manage to rustle up parades with any regularity for Memorial Day. And as with much in life, time breeds perspective. Now, I have a vastly better understanding of what it meant for him to sign up, and for his family, at home. Too, I grasp why that experience shaped so much of his outlook in later life.

So this year, go to one of those ceremonies marking Memorial Day. That sacrifice is a big deal. Thousands gave their lives. We should remember that, and mark it,

and consider that sacrifice and its meaning when we pick our leaders.

**

We've made a number of changes to the Courier since I took over in December. We've added content, including two puzzles and a food and garden columnist, as well as this column on a regular basis. We pushed up the publication day to Tuesday, to bring you fresher news. Many customers now get their paper the same day, on Tuesdays. I've spoken to several community groups about our work.

I'd welcome hearing how we are doing. Drop me an email, or call me. Complaints, compliments, questions, it doesn't matter. Chime in. If you'd like to grill me in person, I'm open to speaking to additional

groups, too (Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays are best).



Douglas Cunningham is editor and publisher. Reach him at doug@pcnr.com, or 845-265-2468. Letters to the editor, on this or other topics, are welcome. Send to editor@pcnr.com by 10 am Mondays for that week's edition.

Beware! Ticks are Out in Force

By ERIC GROSS

Tick season has arrived with a vengeance.

The mild winter and a large population of mice last year have experts believing there will be an increased number of ticks and the diseases they carry this summer.

New York State Cornell Cooperative Extension reports a single mouse can carry up to 100 infected ticks on its tiny face and ears.

Steve, a runner residing in Southeast, told the Courier last week that he had already been bitten on three separate occasions by deer ticks: "My

doctor is tired of seeing me already and summer hasn't even arrived."

More than a dozen tick-borne illnesses have been identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention including five that can infect residents of the Hudson Valley.

Acting Putnam Commissioner of Health Dr. Michael Nesheiwat said in addition to Lyme disease, "anaplasmosis, ehrlichiosis and babesiosis are on the rise in addition to Powassan disease, a potentially fatal infection, carried by the deer tick."

Dr. Nesheiwat encouraged

all residents recreating or working out of doors to take "extra care this summer especially in wooded or brushy areas."

The physician noted that "tick-borne illnesses can be challenging to diagnose. A physician makes his or her diagnosis based on a combination of available tests as well as the observation of the patient, a patient history and other symptoms. The only way of absolute diagnosis of Lyme disease can be made when the patient develops an unmistakable bullseye rash that occurs in 75 percent of infected individuals."

Dutchess County's tick problems have become so exacerbated that a five year study has gotten underway to determine if neighborhood based prevention efforts can reduce human cases of tick related disease.

Two tick control methods are being tested: A low dose of a tick medicine on dogs and cats to kill their ticks while the second involves spraying vegetation to eliminate ticks. The spray that is safe for people, pets and the environment has been developed from a naturally occurring fungus.

Children's Expo & Safety Fair Rescheduled for Sept.

By ERIC GROSS

The weatherman might have played scrooge earlier this month forcing the postponement of Putnam's 12th annual Children's Expo and Public Safety Day but organizers are determined that the show will go on and have rescheduled the event for Saturday, September 16.

A variety of exhibitions creating awareness about aspects of child safety from fire prevention to always buckling up when riding in a vehicle as well as the proper fitting of bicycle helmets will be offered. Keeping children safe is

the theme of the fair that will be highlighted by demonstrations from police canine partners courtesy of the Putnam Sheriff's Department and New York State Police, lessons dealing with the safe handling of animals and social media safety, safety demonstrations, food, games, entertainment and a Home Depot Kids Workshop, will keep families busy throughout the day.

The Sheriff's Department will issue Operation SAFE CHILD cards while joining other law enforcement professionals in making car seat checks.

The event is co-sponsored by the Putnam Bureau of Emergency Services, Putnam Hospital Center and the Child Advocacy Center and will again held in memory of Barbara Gross, an educator from Carmel, who lost her valiant battle to cancer in 2011.

The program will be held from 11 am to 3 pm.

Parking will be permitted on the Donald Smith Governmental Center campus with added parking at the Board of Elections office on Old Route 6. Trolley service will be provided.

Admission is free.

In the event of inclement weather, the fair will be held the following day, Sunday, Sept. 17.

Magic Tree House Book Club at Library

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER

Magic Tree House Book Club at the Kent Public Library will meet on Tuesday, May 30th from 4:30-5:15. We'll be discussing "Tonight on the Titanic" by Mary Pope Osborne. Travel through time and explore history with Jack and Annie on their many adventures. We will discuss the book, learn more about the

time they travel to and enjoy making a craft.

This club is open to those in 1st, 2nd & 3rd grades. Registration is required. You may register for the program by going to www.kentlibrary.org or calling the Kent Public Library at 845-225-8585. The library is located at 17 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes, NY 10512.

RACHEL FLANAGAN FROST ATTORNEY AT LAW

Are you and your family protected?

When was the last time you looked at your will? Has it been reviewed by an attorney? Do you know how to locate the original documents? Or, better yet, have you ever hired an attorney to draft your will, power of attorney or health care proxy? Has the thought crossed your mind that it may be time to get your estate in order? Are you familiar with the changes in law that may have an impact on your overall estate and planning for the future? Have you thought of Medicaid planning and probate avoidance?

If interested in a free review of your estate plan and consultation, call Rachel Flanagan Frost, Esq., (in home appointments available upon request).

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