

Sheriff's Canine 'Duncan' Now Patrolling In Heaven

By ERIC GROSS

A highly decorated police canine that patrolled Putnam County for years with his handler has passed away.

K9 Duncan was 10 years old.

For eight of those years, the German shepherd, assigned to Deputy Vincent Dalo, was involved in scores of narcotics arrests while solving dozens of property related crimes.

In addition to being trained as a certified narcotics dog, Duncan was credited with saving several lives due to its tracking capability.

Several years ago, a two year old Putnam Valley toddler went missing in the remote Roaring Brook section of town and Duncan tracked the child to a wooded area where Deputy Dalo heard a faint cry from the child who was found behind a tree.

Duncan also came to the assistance of a suicidal woman who fled her Brewster home due to a domestic incident.

The 35 year old attempted to harm herself with a razor and, after her companion wrestled the weapon away, the woman ran from the home into a heavily wooded area.

Police searched the area without success and when Deputy Dalo and Duncan were summoned, the dog tracked the woman's scent and led the deputy to the disturbed woman in a matter of minutes. Both the child in Putnam Valley and the Brewster woman were uninjured.

Sheriff Robert Langley Friday thanked Duncan for its service: "We can't thank you enough for keeping your handler safe and protecting our community."

The Sheriff's Dept. sent out a message as well: "K9 Duncan: End of Watch: Run Free!"

Deer Kills In Putnam Decline

By ERIC GROSS

The number of deer taken in Putnam County declined last year despite a five percent increase statewide.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation reported last week that hunters registered the killing of 626 deer last year countywide, down from 725 taken in 2016 and 847 the year before.

Statistics included deer harvested by bow as well as by firearm.

The Town of Carmel reported the largest number of kills, 154, followed by 120 in Putnam Valley, 103 in Southeast, 102 in Kent, 80 in Philipstown and 67 in Patterson.

DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos said that statewide 233,427 deer were shot, an increase of 5 percent in the buck harvest from the 2016 hunting season. Regionally, hunters in the Southern Zone, which includes Putnam, harvested 188,000 deer in 2017.

While Putnam's numbers continued to decrease, the number of deer kills in surrounding counties rose, including Rockland, Dutchess, Orange, Ulster, Columbia and Sullivan.

The DEC also reported bear kills in 2017 and not a single ursine was taken in Putnam last year. The nearest community where bear were killed was Pawling, where two animals were shot.

Water District Meeting for Carmel Residents

Residents of Carmel Water District #2 are encouraged to attend a Town Board meeting on Wednesday, April 25, to voice their opinion on future plans to upgrade the water district.

Carmel Water District #2, which includes most of the Hamlet of Carmel, is swiftly aging and will require extensive, costly updates in the near future, which will be paid for by district residents. The entire 52-mile system of water mains will need to be replaced within the next five to 10 years.

Many residents of the hamlet have reported having discolored and dirty water

as well as clogged filters and blackened appliances.

In January, the Town Board voted to spend \$2.3 million to make limited emergency improvements to the system, replacing 13,000 linear feet of water main.

This informational meeting is arranged by the Hamlet of Carmel Civic Association and will take place with the Town Board and town engineer immediately following the scheduled 7 p.m. board work session on April 25. The meeting will be held at the Carmel Firehouse, 94 Gleneida Ave., Carmel.

-Olivia DiAgostino

School Safety on Minds of Legislators

By ERIC GROSS

Putnam lawmakers are concerned about the safety of the county's 14,000 school children, and, at last Tuesday's meeting of the Putnam Legislature, unanimously called on the state to fund a school resource officer (SRO) for every elementary and secondary school countywide.

The vote was 7-0, as legislators Barbara Scuccimarra of Garrison and Carl Albano of Carmel were absent. Both supported the measure when it was brought up in committee.

The resolution was introduced by Paul Jonke, chairman of the Legislature's Protective Services Committee, which discussed the matter last month.

Jonke and his colleagues on the committee, legisla-

tors William Gouldman and Neal Sullivan, believe the SRO initiative is one of the most important programs found in Putnam.

Putnam's SROs, assigned to the Brewster, Carmel, Haldane, Mahopac and Putnam Valley School Districts, cost \$1.35 million a year, with the county picking up \$624,000 of the total cost.

The coordinator of the county's School Resource Officer program, Sgt. Michael Szabo, described Putnam's schools as "safer than any other schools across America due to the school resource officers assigned to them."

Sullivan added that "Putnam County was at the forefront of America's SRO program."

In addition to protecting faculty, staff and students

at each school while acting as a deterrent to those seeking to harm young people, SROs prevent bullying while interacting with children on a daily basis.

Brewster's late former Superintendent Mark Lewis often compared the SRO program to his American Express card, saying: "I don't leave home without it."

In addition to memorializing the resolution, the governing body called on the state to fully reimburse counties for district attorney salary increases set and controlled by the state while demanding that the governor and New York State Legislature provide funding for mandates pertaining to inmate supervision and drug overdose precautions at county operated jails.

Driving On Putnam Plaza Sidewalk Leads To Arrest

Several calls to the county's 911 Center last week reporting a man driving on the sidewalk at the Putnam Plaza Shopping Center sent Carmel Police to the busy shopping mecca.

Police spotted the vehicle and, according to Chief Michael Cazzari, as officers approached the car they found the driver, John Law, 23, of North Salem, asleep behind the wheel.

Law was awakened and arrested for DWI and for refusing to take a breath test. He was released to the custody of a family member pending future court action.

Shortly thereafter, patrols responded to a property damage crash on Route 6 and questioned the driver, Diane Staab, 55, of Mahopac.

Chief Cazzari said the woman first advised officers that

she was not driving the vehicle at the time of the mishap but when confronted with conflicting witness statements, she admitted to have been behind the wheel at the time of the crash.

A check with the New York State DMV database revealed Staab had been operating her car with a revoked license and was required to have an ignition interlock device on any vehicle she operated due to a previous DWI conviction.

Staab was charged with aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and circumvention of an interlock device as well as being an unlicensed driver.

She, too, appeared in Carmel Town Court and was released without bail pending future court action.

-Eric Gross

Brewster Man Killed in Hit & Run Incident on I-84

By ERIC GROSS

A Brewster man was killed early Saturday when struck by a hit and run motorist on I-84 near the New York-Connecticut line in Danbury.

State Police identified the victim as Daniel Crawford, Jr. 32, of Peaceable Hill Road.

Troopers from the Southbury barracks said several 9-1-1 calls reporting a man down in the right westbound lane of I-84 near Exit 2 were received around 1 am. Patrols responded and found a Jeep Cherokee owned by Crawford on the right shoulder of the four lane highway with Crawford's body nearby. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

A state police spokesman told the Courier that investigators determined Crawford had been struck by at least one vehicle and possibly a second with the offending cars fleeing the scene.

Troopers have requested anyone driving along I-84 in the early morning hours Saturday who may have witnessed the tragic incident or

may have observed a man walking along the interstate to call Connecticut State Police at 203-267-2200. All calls will be kept confidential.

On Sunday family remembered Danny as a "people person who loved the outdoors. Danny could often be found on the local reservoirs fishing with his friends. It was his passion and hobby."

Crawford was a graduate of Brewster High School. He continued his education and earned an associate's degree.

Danny is survived by his parents, Susan and Daniel; his sisters Kimberly and Kelly and brother, Tim.

A graveside service will take place Wednesday at 10 am at St. Lawrence O'Toole Cemetery in Brewster. Interment will follow the service.

Friends may pay their respects this afternoon (Tuesday) at the Beecher Funeral Home in Brewster from 2-5 pm.

The family has requested in lieu of flowers, donations in Danny's name be made to the Putnam County Humane Society.

War on Addiction Task Force Officially Formed in Putnam

By ERIC GROSS

County lawmakers, realizing the vast impact of addiction issues in Putnam, formed the "One Army in the War on Addiction Task Force" at a recent meeting.

Legislature Chairman Joseph Castellano explained the One Army in the War on Addiction has compiled a "powerful collaboration of

members of county government and members of dedicated provider organizations who confront this crisis daily."

Lawmakers predicted that education paired with action would act as powerful weapons to facilitate a change in the world. "Our task force, consisting of nine members, will develop increased efforts and methods to educate the community to combat

this devastating plague," said Legislator Bill Gouldman, who serves on the Health Committee along with Chairwoman Barbara Scuccimarra and fellow Legislator Amy Sayegh.

Members of the panel include: Sheriff Robert Langley, District Attorney Robert Tandy, Commissioner of Social Services Mike Piazza, Deputy Commissioner of So-

cial Services Joseph DeMarzo, Commissioner of Health Dr. Michael Nesheiwat, Susan Salomone, Director of Drug Crisis in our Backyard, Kristin McConnell, of the Prevention Council of Putnam, Doreen Lockwood, Project Coordinator of Community that Cares and Bruce Kelly, Coordinator of the Community that Cares coalition.

Sexually Transmitted Disease Skyrockets In Putnam

By ERIC GROSS

Rates of the sexually transmitted disease gonorrhea have risen dramatically across Putnam County, and the health department is responding with the message "Treat Me Right."

Commissioner of Health Dr. Michael Nesheiwat reported last week 27 cases of the disease were reported in 2017, a 60 percent increase from the 17 cases confirmed in 2016.

At the same time, both syphilis and chlamydia numbers remained relatively

stable, following a dramatic 125 percent in syphilis cases across Putnam the year before.

The sexually transmitted diseases infect both men and women and can cause serious or permanent damage to a woman's reproductive system, making it difficult or impossible for her to get pregnant. Chlamydia can also cause a potentially fatal ectopic pregnancy, or a pregnancy that occurs outside the womb.

Gonorrhea is the second most common STD after chlamydia. Syphilis is the

third most common and left untreated can result in death.

Nesheiwat said that "anyone is at risk; however, some groups, including those aged 15 to 24, gay and bisexual men and pregnant women, are more susceptible."

There is some good news. Medications can be prescribed for all STDs. Nesheiwat said the only way to know if someone is infected is to be tested.

This month, the Putnam Health Department is reaching out with the message "Treat Me Right."

Nesheiwat noted that the underlying theme was to "underscore the importance of trusting a patient/provider relationship. Patients must learn as much as they

can about sexually transmitted disease and how to protect themselves; for providers, it means building trust by listening to patients in a way they feel heard and respected."

Nesheiwat reminded physicians that all sexually transmitted diseases "must be reported to the health department. We are talking about gonorrhea, syphilis as well as chlamydia. The effects of the illnesses affect people of all ages and can result in hospitalization."

Nesheiwat explained that all sexually transmitted diseases can be prevented with the proper use of condoms. "Get tested and use condoms with any sexual activity," urged the physician.



Insuring New York and Connecticut businesses and families for more than 30 years.



845.278.7070
Service@feehaninsurance.com
FeehanInsurance.com
2350 Route 6, Brewster, NY 10509

Manitou Farm

OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 12-3PM

EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF MANITOU FARM

Riding · Wagon Driving · Exhibitions · Refreshments

If you like what you see, sign up for our Spring Riding Session from April 7th - June 24th or Summer Camp from June 25th - July 7th



CALL LEONA DUSHIN
AT 845-737-7556
FOR MORE INFO

Or check us out on Facebook!

56 South Mountain Pass, Garrison NY