

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Corporate Welfare
& Everyone Else

To the Editor,
We thank Southeast Town Board members Lynne Eckardt and John Lord for putting taxpayers' and property owners' interests first by voting no on the tax breaks for the developer of the planned Best Western Hotel in Southeast.

We welcome any new enterprise to our area and wish Best Western success. We ask only our government recognize how unfair such corporate welfare is to all those businesses who don't receive it, not to mention Putnam's long-suffering homeowners: as soon as a resident applies to build a new addition or make home improvements, the homeowner's tax bills shoot up.

Besides being fundamentally unfair, economic development, which is just another term for central planning, never works, no matter how well intended. For example, the recent Start Up New York, a huge economic development initiative that cost taxpayers millions of dollars, delivered a little over 100 jobs statewide.

If our county and town governments insist on interfering with the economy, they should focus on rewards instead of bribes and offer those rewards to all businesses in Putnam: a tax holiday for every five years a business operates here, for example. They might consider cutting down red tape, licensing requirements (most of which are nothing more than revenue raising schemes) and outdated and unnecessarily burdensome regulations.

When Southeast and Putnam County elected officials

show up for their photo opportunities at the Best Western ribbon cutting ceremony, we should ask they be on hand for a photo op on the sad day when a local business closes, and the lights go out for the last time.

John and Alexandra Ballantine
BREWSTER

Murphy Needs to Go

To the Editor,
State Senate District 40 is mostly in Putnam and Westchester Counties. There are only two towns in Dutchess that are part of this Senate District—Beekman and Pawling.

Terrence Murphy has been State Senator in 40 for two terms. He is up for re-election in November. He desperately needs to be replaced. Why? Murphy opposes everything I stand for: women's reproductive rights, gun safety including the Safe Act, sanctuary cities, the Dream Act, and quality education for all students by favoring tax credits for private schools. Yuk.

Enters Democrat Robert Kesten about a year ago to unseat Murphy. Raised in Bedford and currently living in South Salem, Kesten is a Lewisboro Democratic district leader and an active member of the Lewisboro Democratic Committee. The first time I heard Robert speak, he opened by saying that he entered the race for his son who suffers from schizophrenia. He spoke candidly about wanting to go against Murphy on all fronts, especially his siphoning money from public education to schools without many of the state education mandates. (i.e., for physically, mentally, and emotionally challenged

students). Kesten sounded educated, informed, and passionate. He had my vote.

Fast forward to about a month ago. Democrat and former Westchester County legislator Peter Harkham enters the Senate 40 race, having been asked by Governor Cuomo to do so. What's this about? Regardless, nominations in the three counties in 40 would be good.

Last Thursday, May 31, in Poughkeepsie the Dutchess County Democratic Committee held a meeting which included a Nominating Convention. After Kesten's nomination, the question of other nominations was posed—once, twice, three times. No more candidates stepped forward. Peter Harkham hadn't even bothered to show up for his Beekman and Pawling constituents!

I feel so dismissed. I guess Peter Harkham doesn't care about my concerns and doesn't need my vote. Is that because he has the governor's endorsement? This looks fishy to me.

Barbara Walsh
HOPEWELL JUNCTION

CUNNINGHAM'S CORNER
Our Throw-away Society

It's summertime! We know this because the dehumidifier needs emptying.

Which I did, and the machine continued to indicate the tank was full. It obviously couldn't be; I had just emptied it on the blueberry

by
DOUGLAS CUNNINGHAM

bush. I turned it off and on, then removed and re-inserted the tank. To no avail. I lifted the machine up and turned it on its side. I found that the small plunger that is depressed when the float rises to indicate a full tank was in a plastic assembly, maybe 2" wide, held in place by two plastic brackets that were supposed to snap into place. The whole assembly had now fallen inside the machine.

I could reach it, but couldn't re-install it from the "wrong" direction. And because no one uses screws anymore to put things to-

gether, I couldn't take it apart to reset what is probably a 75-cent part. Grrr.

I understand the virtue of making things idiot-proof, including from me. But a screw or rivet surely would have held this part in place for eternity. The plastic brackets? A season of use, if that.

**
The county Health Department has recently had two alerts that are important: One on tick-borne diseases and a new effort to control ticks. NYS, it turns out, is second nationwide in terms of disease cases from ticks from 2004 through 2016. And the second alert was about rabies, which is vir-

tually always deadly to humans if the exposure is not realized and the vaccine administered. So far in 2018, in fact, one skunk and one raccoon in Putnam have already tested positive for the disease. Foxes, raccoons, bats, skunks, all can carry the disease.

Don't mess around, on either health front. More info is available from the Health Department, here: <https://www.facebook.com/putnamhealth>. If your pet is not vaccinated, get it done now.

Until next week.
Douglas Cunningham is publisher of both the Courier and its sister paper the Putnam County News and Recorder, in Cold Spring.

Gridlock on Putnam Roads!

Traffic throughout eastern Putnam County was in a state of gridlock for most of the day Friday following a pair of back-to-back crashes on I-84 in Southeast.

The first mishap took place at 10 am when, according to State Police, a five-car chain reaction crash took place in the westbound lanes near Exit 20. Moments later, the driver of an eastbound tractor trailer truck was apparently distracted by the first crash and took his eyes off the road for an instant resulting in his big rig slamming into a vehicle in front of him and causing the 18-wheeler to jackknife and overturn.

Both eastbound and westbound lanes of the highway were closed in order to allow emergency responders from the Brewster Fire Department, Putnam Lake Fire Department and Croton Falls Fire Department along with paramedics from the EM STAR Ambu-

lance Company, Putnam's Director of Emergency Medicine Robert Cuomo, Battalion 12 Coordinator Ron Davies and Sheriff's Dept. personnel to assist the injured.

Five people from the first crash were taken to Putnam Hospital Center and Danbury Hospital while the tractor trailer operator, who was trapped in his vehicle, was extricated with the Jaws of Life and admitted at Danbury Hospital.

Route 84 westbound was closed for over an hour backing up traffic into Connecticut while the eastbound lanes were not reopened until mid-afternoon causing massive traffic delays throughout greater Brewster, Carmel, Kent and Patterson since motorists exited the highway along Ludingtonville Road, Route 311 and Route 312 snarling traffic along Routes 6, 22 and 52.

-Eric Gross

FROM THE CHAMBER

Stages of Networking

Networking ... it can either be the most powerful part of building your business or it can be your biggest time waster. Becoming more purposeful in one's networking efforts is crucial. Here is a useful system to try.

Prior to even stepping into any event or networking situation, identify who you want to network with. Who are they? How do they dress? What do they drive? How can they help you? Once identified, you will be more successful in networking with the right people and engaging them in a long term, fruitful relationship. The next step is to share a few meaningful snippets from your business that will impress and set you apart from your competition.

Do not start flinging your business card around. I know it's counterintuitive but this is crucial! Ask for their info and set a time to follow up, and make sure you do so at the exact time you said you would. At this point you should set a face to face, one on one meeting. This is where you really build trust and rapport. Be prepared and understand your needs so people can connect

with you and help you in your journey. For some people, giving is easier than taking and for others taking is easy and giving is impossible. Successful business networking is a give-and-take. Give referrals, make introductions and help others. Be open to accepting the help of others without feeling guilty of accepting. This and helping others without feeling resentful when you give but don't get back as expected is the key to successful networking, building confidence that business networking is a viable key to growth.

After the meeting, take time to connect to this person on social media. This will synergize your relationship. Also send a handwritten note. Add this person to your database and schedule your follow-up. Some ideas for follow up are: newsletters, client and ally appreciation events, face to face meetings, calls, birthday cards, etc. Just be sure to stay in touch so you stay top of mind.

-Jennifer Maher, Chairwoman, the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce, "A business advocacy group"

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Carmel-Kent Chamber of Commerce
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Designated as an official paper of record
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The publisher reserves the right to reject any advertisement,
letter or other submitted material.

WORD of the WEEK

thimblerrig | THIM-bul-rig

VERB: to cheat by trickery

Sifting Through the Sands of Time

Courier Archives

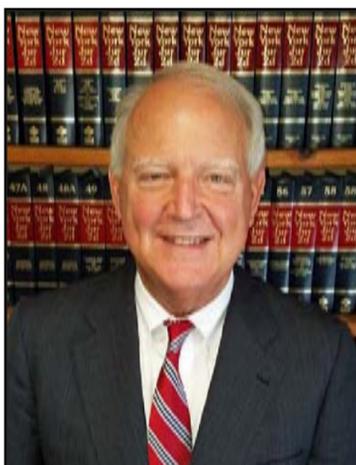
112 Years Ago



June 1, 1906

PERSONAL MENTION
CONCERNING PEOPLE
WHOM WE KNOW OR
SHOULD KNOW.

Thomas J. Torpy, one of Peekskill's most popular citizens, and who has hosts of friends in this county, met with a serious accident. He was driving his horse homewards, when the horse look fright and ran away. He collided with a telephone pole, and a general smash-up ensued. Mr. Torpy was thrown about a dozen feet, and had his ankle dislocated.

TIMOTHY J. CURTISS
Attorney at Law

(and accomplished road cyclist)

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I-684 Speeding Crackdown

Traveling along Route 684 from Southeast into Westchester can be expensive to your pocketbook if you exceed the 55 mph and 65 mph speed limits.

State Police Friday kicked off the statewide "Speed Week" campaign by setting up radar traps along the highway in Southeast and North Salem.

Troopers from the Brewster and Somers barracks conducted the detail and, according to State Police Major Robert Gregory, 57 speeding tickets were issued during a three-hour period for motorists exceeding the posted limit by at

least 15 mph.

The top speed recorded was 93 mph in a 65 mph zone.

Troopers also cited five motorists for failing to wear seatbelts and 11 others for talking on the phone or texting while driving, operating a vehicle with a child not properly restrained, operating a vehicle with an expired registration or operating a vehicle that was un-inspected.

The crackdown along the interstate continues this week and according to the major will be expanded to other roadways. -Eric Gross

PUTNAM COUNTY
PERSONNEL DEPT.

Announces Civil Service Exam

PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

Exam Title & No: Public Health Nurse
18-603 T&E

Starting Salary: \$59,602 (2016 rate)

Exam Date: There is no exam date.

This is a Training & Experience Exam.

Last Filing Date: June 22, 2018

Exam Filing Fee: \$35

To apply and for information about minimum requirements, job duties, and subject of the exam, as well as the exam announcement, please visit: <https://putnam.munisselfservice.com/employmentopportunities/default.aspx> or call Putnam County Personnel Department (845) 808-1650 X46104. **EEO/AA**