

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Praise for Column  
on Vaccines

## To the Editor:

Thank you for your column titled "Dangerous Thinking" (*Cunningham's Corner*) published on May 8, which called attention to the history of how vaccines have gotten a "bad rap." The measles outbreak in Putnam would be much worse if most residents were not vaccinated. Since the initial three confirmed positive cases, four more have been identified. Two are California residents who returned home before they were contagious, one was a French citizen who also has returned home and the fourth is another Putnam resident, who is now isolated.

In Europe this past win-

ter, more serious measles outbreaks have occurred. Over 1,000 cases have been reported since January 2018, including fatalities in four countries. Worldwide measles still takes a very serious toll. The World Health Organization reported nearly 90,000 measles deaths in 2016, mostly among children under the age of 5.

With the advent of the internet and social media, today it is more important than ever to understand what reputable sources of information are and where to get the best, most up-to-date information. In the United States that means the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention and your local and state health departments. Vaccination

is one of the greatest public health advances – it offers an easy and safe way to protect one's health.

**Michael J. Nesheiwat, MD**  
*Interim Commissioner of Health*  
PUTNAM COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

On Indian Point: Where  
Will The Power  
Come From?

## To the Editor,

With Indian Point's closure less than three short years away, developing replacement power is essential – as is an honest conversation about the thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in economic activity we're losing.

The New York Independent System Operator says it's counting on a combination of three natural gas plants to replace Indian Point. One's in New Jersey. The other two are under construction in New York: CPV Valley Energy Center in Orange County and Cricket Valley in Dutchess County.

The bad news is that the New York facilities may never go online, thanks to "Not-In-My-Back-Yard" opposition to the plants and the pipelines needed to fuel them.

Without natural gas infrastructure, we're going to be forced to rely on generation from Canada and other states. We'll be paying them while we struggle to replace lost jobs and the economic benefits that came with them – and we'll lose control over our power supply. Ask Californians who depended on Enron for out-of-state electricity how well that worked out.

Importing electricity and exporting jobs is a lose-lose for New York – and it's completely unnecessary. The state owes us a plan to ensure that even after Indian Point we'll be making our own power here, by New Yorkers for New Yorkers.

Sincerely,  
**Gavin J. Donohue**  
PRESIDENT AND CEO, INDEPENDENT POWER PRODUCERS OF NEW YORK, INC.

**Arthur J. Kremer**  
CHAIRMAN, NEW YORK AFFORDABLE RELIABLE ELECTRICITY ALLIANCE

MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY (RET.), 1966-1988

**James T. Slevin**  
PRESIDENT, UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA, LOCAL 1-2

CUNNINGHAM'S CORNER  
What a Week!

And then, the power went out.

I have some familiarity with tornadoes. I grew up in an area where they were common. I covered a number of them as a reporter in

— by —  
**DOUGLAS  
CUNNINGHAM**

South Dakota, ones where the damage was substantial or people died (if neither of those was true, then it was just another day on the Great Plains, and a tornado was just a tornado). I walked outside Tuesday last, just as the rain was starting to pelt down and the wind was winding up. Looked west, across the Hudson Valley. It was tornado weather, for certain.

\*\*  
And indeed, two tornadoes touched down in Putnam County that afternoon. The last tornado in Putnam was in 1990. *Almost 30 years ago.* In the process of these extreme winds, the tornadoes made a hash of the

local power grid. And by Monday – yes, Monday – some 400 NYSEG customers, representing many more individual people, were still without power.

*My assessment:* 1, Putnam County has this down to a finely honed operation. Its Emergency Operations Center, first responders across the county, and DPW and other employees, including the County Executive, moved rapidly to respond. No doubt, this response was strengthened by the training of this past winter's miserable storms, especially the last. Still, it's a skill the county wears well.

2, NYSEG's corporate parent, Avangrid, itself 81.5 percent owned by the Spanish company Iberdrola SA, isn't really interested in something as mundane as supplying power to Putnam's long-suffering residents. Avangrid, though, is very interested in renewable energy, anything that has the green tag attached to it. Your neighborhood in Carmel, Brewster or Kent Cliffs? Not so much.

NYSEG and Avangrid also are not interested in staff-

ing the place so that a rapid response can be made. They may have been at one time, but that time is not now. We are reliant in good measure on the linemen from Canada, especially Hydro-Quebec. Once NYSEG arrives on the scene (hours later for a representative to even show up at the Emergency Operations Center in Carmel, I'm told), it has to "assess," and then activate the mutual aid plan.

Then, someone else, but often not NYSEG, actually restores the lines.

\*\*  
It is Memorial Day weekend just ahead. There are commemorations across the county. Go to one. It is a genuine, apt and fitting occasion to thank a veteran and remember the dead. We're lucky we can do that.

Until next week.

*Douglas Cunningham is publisher of both the Courier and its sister paper the Putnam County News and Recorder, in Cold Spring. Letters on this or other topics are welcome. Limit to 500 words. Send to editor@pcnr.com.*

## PERSPECTIVE

Putnam Hospital Center:  
A Jewel In The Medical Field

Concern, kindness, consideration, empathy, understanding and compassion are the words that come to mind

— by —  
**ERIC GROSS**

following my nearly week-long hospitalization at Putnam Hospital Center.

From the moment, I checked in at 6:15 in the morning last week to the time I was discharged days later at 5 in the afternoon, the hospital team couldn't have been more helpful.

Routine surgery had been scheduled but I quickly discovered there is no such thing as 'routine' when it comes to surgery.

When complications developed, I was whisked off to the ICU where I remained for three days. Nurses, physicians, phlebotomists, even maintenance personnel couldn't have been more pleasant and helpful.

Never a grouchy look or a feeling that the patient was asking for something out of the ordinary. Always a reassuring smile; a pat on the back with kind words of encouragement.

When transferred to the third floor for additional recuperation, the outstanding treatment continued from physicians, nurses and therapists.

Community hospitals oftentimes are denigrated for being just that – a small community medical facility. Yet, residents of Putnam should be thankful and proud that a fine medical center is available for their health needs consisting of highly trained, compassionate and caring professionals.

Days before I underwent my procedure, a national report was issued rating hospitals around the U.S. in a variety of categories. Putnam Hospital was the only hospital in the region to receive a rating of 'A.' I now understand why.

The hospital's president and CEO Peter Kelly stopped

by my room each morning around 7 to say hello. When I mentioned the rating to him, Kelly smiled: "We are proud of our dedicated employees and the compassionate work they perform every day. Putnam Hospital is here to assist residents of our county anyway we can. Our new emergency department will be opening this fall that will expand services afforded residents of not only Putnam but neighboring communities in Westchester, Dutchess and Fairfield counties," said Kelly.

When Putnam Hospital was gobbled up by the HealthQuest Corporation several years ago, the talk of the town was that PHC would lose its sense of community and become 'just another small town hospital.'

I am pleased to report that the naysayers – who included yours truly – were incorrect. From personal experience, I can report that Putnam Hospital is a jewel in the medical field.

PUTNAM COUNTY  
PERSONNEL DEPT.

## Announces Civil Service Exam

PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

**Exam Title & No:** Probation Officer  
64-782 OC

**Starting Salary:** \$56,881 (2016 rate)

**Exam Date:** June 23, 2018

**Last Filing Date:** June 4, 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.muniselfservice.com/employmentopportunities/default.aspx> or call Putnam County Personnel Department (845) 808-1650 X46104. **EEO/AA**

The PUTNAM COUNTY  
COURIER

Established 1841

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

Douglas Cunningham, *Owner, Publisher,  
Editor-in-Chief*

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## MEMBER

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Designated as an official paper of record  
by the Putnam County Legislature.

*The publisher reserves the right to reject any advertisement,  
letter or other submitted material.*

## WORD of the WEEK

causerie | causerie

NOUN: an informal conversation : chat; a short informal essay

## Sifting Through the Sands of Time

## Courier Archives

109 Years Ago



May 21, 1909

## IT IS MURDER

*Three Italians With Knife, Club, and  
Pistol Killed Another Sunday Night*

There was a celebration at the home of Meila Natore in one of the shanties at Tilly Foster, Sunday afternoon and it was attended by Salvatore Russo. As near as we can get it, he became involved in a quarrel with Natore over fifty cents and had left the house. About 6 o'clock Meila Natore, his brother, Franco Natore and Nicola Shebille followed him.

Meila first fired three shots into him and as he tried to rise from the ground, Shebille hit him in the head with a club, which entirely prostrated him and while he was lying on the ground dying, Meila fired two more bullets into him.

Franco stood by with a knife in hand, ready to assist in his death, but had no opportunity given him to use it. The dead man had a brother in the camp but his body was left to lay on the ground, through the heavy rain which followed the killing. Some outsider heard of the murder and telephoned to the Sheriff's office and in the storm, Sheriff Barry went to Tilly Foster, but could get no information, until in the deep darkness he accidentally drove over the dead body.

He got out of the wagon, lit a match and made the ghastly discovery. There were no lights in the shanties and he began a futile search for the murderers but they had already gone. The fleeing men were trackmen on the Putnam road, Meila worked for Foreman Sheppard- between Carmel and Brewster, Franco worked at Baldwin Place for Foreman Horton and Nicola for Foreman Spain between Carmel and Mahopac.

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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FREE CONSULTATION**  
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