

Haldane Mourns Passing of 'Miss I'

By Kimberley Mazzuca

HALDANE

Lori Isler, most affectionately known as Miss I, was one of the best examples of a teacher Haldane, or any school for that matter, could hope to have. She died overnight Sunday, Dec. 30, after a short, fast-moving battle against cancer.

And so Dec. 31st was a little less brighter. It's odd to think we won't see her in 2019.

Miss I. was one of those teachers who always had a smile on her face and pep in her step. I've been trying to think of one instance where I saw her angry or upset, or where she even raised her voice, and I honestly cannot think of one. She was my 5th grade homeroom and math teacher, as well as my neighbor for years before she moved. When she passed, she was teaching 2nd grade.

I've been thinking about her a lot lately. One memory always comes to mind, and it's not even from school. When I was in 5th grade, my mom held a Tupperware party, and Miss I. was invited. It was never odd or out of place to see her outside school, as it can be when you see your teachers outside of a classroom. She was always just Miss I.

I can't remember how or why, but we had gotten to

talking. Right before the party got in full swing, she handwrote on the spot a list of math problems, equations we were learning that week. I did them all, and she faux graded them even while the party was still going.

For the record, I hated math. She was Miss I. And that was the kind of a teacher she was. Her heart was always in the right place, her devotion was always to her students, in and out of school and long after you've graduated. She was the best homeroom and math teacher I ever had.

As a person, Miss I. (I could never and will never be able to call her Lori even if I am 27 years old) was one of the sweetest people one could meet. And I am serious when I mean she always smiled and had that little dance to her steps. She had that smile that reached her eyes, a twinkle. She will never be forgotten.

On Thursday, before her death, the Haldane School Board met in an open session to approve Miss Isler's retirement, which she had requested. Superintendent Phil Benante on Monday said the

district would notify parents and families on Tuesday via the district's email notification system about her death. She had not been in the classroom for some time, but the notifications would include parents of her second graders, the superintendent said. Another teacher has been filling in at her second-grade spot for most of this school year and is expected to continue.

The emergency meeting late Thursday afternoon was brief and attended by members Laura Hammond, Jen Daly and Peggy Clements, as well as Benante. The vote was 3-0. "We were trying to act as quickly as possible to help one of our staff members and their family in a time of need," the superintendent said. "We felt this was something we could address so she could have peace of mind."

Benante also noted that her impact was far more broad than simply one second grade class. "Lori taught hundreds of students in our school district," he said.

Services are expected to be at 10 am Friday at Our Lady of Loretto in Cold Spring. Clinton Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

Douglas Cunningham contributed to this report.

Putnam County Ranks No. 3 In Statewide Lyme Disease Cases

By Eric Gross

Tick-borne disease is on the rise and Putnam health officials are reminding the public to protect themselves, as well as their families and pets, from infected ticks.

The New York State Health Department reported recently that Putnam lays claim to the third-highest rate of Lyme disease of all 62 counties statewide.

Health Commissioner Dr. Michael Nesheiwat says, "Disease from infected ticks has more than doubled during the past decade, with anaplasmosis, ehrlichiosis, babesiosis and Powassan cases increasing as well."

Nesheiwat said problems in diagnosis and treatment often arise because a person fails to recall a bite: "Early symptoms when antibiotics are most effective are non-specific or are similar to other viral illness. With Lyme disease, not all patients develop the telltale 'bull's eye' rash."

Contact your healthcare provider if you have been bitten by a tick and experience symptoms such as fever, chills, aches and pains or rash.

Nesheiwat indicated physician reporting has improved for diagnosed cases, with more than 80 cases confirmed to the health department in 2018.

Gina Whalen, a local dog groomer, also reported seeing large numbers of pets

Lyme Disease:

When to see a doctor



If you've been bitten by a tick and have symptoms:

Only a minority of tick bites leads to Lyme disease. The longer the tick remains attached to your skin, the greater your risk of getting the disease. Lyme infection is unlikely if the tick is attached for less than 36 to 48 hours. If you think you've been bitten and have signs and symptoms of Lyme disease – particularly if you live in an area where Lyme disease is prevalent – contact your doctor. Treatment for Lyme disease is more effective if begun early.

See your doctor even if symptoms disappear

Consult your doctor even if signs and symptoms disappear – the absence of symptoms doesn't mean the disease is gone. Untreated, Lyme disease can spread to other parts of your body for several months to years after infection, causing arthritis and nervous system problems. Ticks can also transmit other illnesses, such as babesiosis and Colorado tick fever. Source: mayoclinic.org

being brought in for bathing and grooming with ticks attached to their bodies: "It's frightening, but the family's four-legged family member is just as susceptible to coming down with Lyme disease or

another tick borne illness as humans are. Check that pup or cat daily for ticks even during the cold weather, since ticks may have taken up residency inside your home during the winter months."

Serino Wants New Yorkers to Vote on Legislator Salary Hikes

By Eric Gross

Putnam County State Senator Sue Serino, who previously criticized a state compensation committee proposal to increase the salaries of state legislators by 64 percent over a three-year period, has now introduced legislation requiring those pay hikes to be approved by voters.

Serino represents constituents in Kent, Philipstown and Putnam Valley, in addition to sections of Dutchess and Columbia counties.

The recently reelected state senator said, "With New Yorkers poised to become the highest-paid [state legislators] in the nation, residents of our state deserve a say in the process. While many public servants work tirelessly on behalf of their constituents and their salaries should reflect that commitment and dedication, salaries are paid for by the hardworking taxpayers of New York. These



PHOTO BY CHRIS LAYTON
Sue Serino, at the opening of the new Philipstown Senior Center in December 2018.

Serino continues to refuse her per diems and travel reimbursements and was one of six senators to vote against the bill that established the committee in the current state budget.

However, as a member of the GOP minority in the senate beginning Jan. 1, it is unlikely that Serino's proposal will make it to the floor for a vote.

The NYS Compensation Committee's recommendation is that beginning in January salaries will increase from \$79,000 to \$110,000, rising again in January 2020 to \$120,000 and in January 2021 to \$130,000.

The hike will make New York lawmakers the highest-paid legislators in the United States, besting California's base salary of \$107,000.

are the people who should decide whether a raise is warranted."

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FOP to Hold Beefsteak Dinner Saturday

By Eric Gross

Jimmy O'Neill, founder of the Putnam Chapter of the Fraternal Order of Police, who died suddenly in 2016, was a man who loved giving back to his community.

Six months before his untimely death, O'Neill initiated a beefsteak dinner, where members could congregate and enjoy company and fine fare while watching sporting events on large televisions.

Proceeds from that initial dinner benefited St. James Church in Carmel.

The Carmel Chapter of the Knights of Columbus—Our Lady of the Lake Council 6318—has decided to keep the tradition going, and on Saturday will sponsor the annual Jimmy O'Neill Memorial Beefsteak Dinner at the K of C Hall on Fair Street in the hamlet.

Admission is \$50 per person, which includes a filet mignon steak, fries, dessert, coffee and a variety of beverages.

The dinner begins at 5 p.m. Reservations can be made by email at gk@carmelknights.org.

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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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PUZZLES

Puzzle answers on page 11

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9	4	7			6	8			
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- Across**
- 1 Pervasive clown
 - 5 You, in Peru
 - 10 ABC drama about plane crash survivors
 - 14 Footnote notation
 - 15 Nary a soul
 - 16 Stuff in a dump
 - 17 Buried the hatchet
 - 20 Leafy Tolkien creature
 - 21 Boomers' kids
 - 22 Round gaskets
 - 23 Steely Dan album pronounced like a continent
 - 24 Move with effort
 - 25 Got on everyone's nerves
 - 33 Let in or let on
 - 34 Man with a code
 - 35 Prohibit
 - 36 They may be black or green
 - 37 __ Waldo Emerson
 - 38 Ask for proof of age
 - 39 Street in "Freddy vs. Jason"
 - 40 __ colony
 - 41 With "en," hot, in sports slang
 - 42 Showed disapproval
 - 45 Western tribe
 - 46 Remote cells
 - 47 Evening get-together
 - 50 Venus de Milo knockoffs?
 - 52 Stat for Chris Sale
 - 55 Type of auto found in the three other longest puzzle answers
 - 58 Fine spray
 - 59 Meathead's '70s TV mother-in-law
 - 60 Scintilla
 - 61 Bump on a lid
 - 62 Tony of "Who's the Boss?"
 - 63 Seemingly forever
- Down**
- 1 Kid's wheels
 - 2 Ruler of the Valkyries
 - 3 Get-up-and-go
 - 4 Mantra sounds
 - 5 Like zombies
 - 6 Rise dramatically
 - 7 Oodles
 - 8 Word with tight or loose
 - 9 Reduce to rubble
 - 10 Pretentious
 - 11 Writing on the wall, so to speak
 - 12 Complacent
 - 13 Bikini parts
 - 18 Joe Namath, notably
 - 19 Came up
 - 23 Without warranty
 - 24 Flowery, as prose
 - 25 Provide fare for an affair
 - 26 "A Passage to India" heroine
 - 27 Savory taste
 - 28 Some refrigerators
 - 29 "Interstellar" director Christopher
 - 30 Mav or Cav
 - 31 Things in a hold
 - 32 Fund, as an academic chair
 - 37 Got money for
 - 38 Team that hasn't won a World Series since 1908
 - 40 Fizzle (out)
 - 41 Elaborate spread
 - 43 French police force
 - 44 Virtualway competitor
 - 47 Virtual citizens in a video game
 - 48 Doing the job
 - 49 Teeny
 - 50 Deuce follower, in tennis
 - 51 Cracker brand
 - 52 Chamber effect
 - 53 Drops from above
 - 54 Part of MFA
 - 56 Writer LeShan
 - 57 Farm female