

## OBITUARIES

### James M Thompson Jr.

James M Thompson Jr., of Brewster, NY, died at his home on August 21. He was 51 years old.

He was born on March 11, 1968, in Yonkers, NY. James was a graduate of Yorktown High School.

James was an over-the-road truck driver for Swift Transportation, and he was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Fr. James T. Breen Council #7490 of Sacred Heart in Patterson, NY. He enjoyed working on cars, and fishing.

James is survived by his father and step-mother, James M. and Karen Thompson of

Pawling, NY; his son, Cody Thompson of Yonkers, NY; and his sister, Kelly Jaconetti (Jason) of Brewster, NY, as well as his niece Haley Jaconetti.

Friends and family visited Beecher Funeral Home, 1 Putnam Avenue, Brewster, NY, on Monday, August 26, 2019 from 4pm-8pm. A funeral service took place at 7:30pm. A private cremation and interment will be held at a later date. (Beecher Funeral Home, One Putnam Avenue, Brewster, New York 10509, tel. 845 279 3615; fax 845 279 3614).

Please consider making donations in James' memory to Maria Fareri Children's Hospital NICU, 100 Woods Road, Valhalla, NY 10595.

Send Obituaries to editor@pcnr.com

### Acceptance Of Online Payments

The Town of Patterson and Receiver of Taxes, Mary DeLanoy, is proud to announce the acceptance of online electronic payments for the payment of Brewster

Central School District and Carmel Central School District taxes for residents of the Town of Patterson. Effective September 3, 2019, found through the link on the Town of Patterson website, www.pattersonny.org, Receiver of Taxes page, tax payers will have the ability to pay their taxes with any major Credit Card, VISA only Debit card or E-check. There will be an

upfront convenience fee associated with the electronic payments. Please review the fee schedule on the webpage. You may also view and print your current tax bill. For payment history, tax receipts or further information, please contact Mary DeLanoy, Receiver of Taxes, via email at receiver@pattersonny.org or by telephone at 845-878-9300 x18.

### Rocking Out at Southeast Museum



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELLEN CASSIDY

Performers at the talent show performed 11 separate acts at the Southeast Museum.

### Southeast Museum Rocks Out

BY ERIC GROSS

The Southeast Museum's youth talent showcase entitled "Southeast Museum Rocks" was a great success, so much so, that it will become an annual event.

Children from the ages of eight through 16 performed in 11 separate acts earlier this month to the delight of a SRO crowd at the Main Street museum in Brewster.

Brewster Girl Scout Cadette Ellen Cassidy organized the event in conjunction with her Silver Award project "Communications Community."

Museum Director Amy Campanaro said Cassidy and volunteers translated information on the permanent exhibits of the museum so that "non-English speaking families are able to enjoy Putnam's local history."

### Putnam Women's Center Assists Victims of Domestic Violence

BY ERIC GROSS

Domestic violence continues to plague Putnam County.

Ann Ellsworth, Executive Director of the Putnam Women's Center in Mahopac, appeared before the county Legislature's Health, Social, Educational and Environmental Committee last week advising the lawmakers that in 2018, more than 1,800 clients were aided by the non-profit including 170 men and boys.

Ellsworth, pictured below, assured Legislators Toni Addonizio, who chairs the committee along with fellow Legislators Amy Sayegh, Paul Jonke, Nancy Montgomery, Carl Albano, Joseph Castellano and Neal Sullivan, who were also in attendance: "Domestic violence will continue unless the world decides it will no longer tolerate spousal abuse. Relationships must become safe with people leaving

when they want to. Until the day comes when control is no longer a primary cause of abuse, we will fight."

All services provided by the center are confidential. Ellsworth's staff consists of five client advocates, including three of whom are bilingual, seven case managers along with a number of licensed therapists and social workers.

Ellsworth, who has led the center for the past 13 years, noted she and her staff "create opportunities and safety for clients to heal including the operation of a shelter that allows victims of domestic violence to remain for up to 180 days."

The center which will soon be expanding a satellite office in Putnam Valley, provides not only victim advocacy but a wide variety of clinical services including individual counseling, child and adolescent counseling, crisis intervention and a sexual assault nurse program.

Statistics provided by Ellsworth were alarming: "One in three women and one in four men have been victims of some type of physical violence by an intimate partner during the past year while 72 percent of all murder-suicides nationwide involve an intimate partner with 94 percent of these murder-suicides being female."

Domestic violence also affects business and the economy since one in five employed adults is a victim and women makeup 46 percent of the workforce, resulting in eight million lost work days nationwide or \$2 billion in lost wages and \$4 billion spent in medical and mental health care costs due to such violence.

The Putnam District Attorney's office recently reported one in three women are physically assaulted by a partner at least once in adulthood while 55 percent of all female homicide victims are killed by a spouse or partner.

Last year, police across New York State reported more than 800 homicides of which 199 or nearly 20 percent were domestic violence related.

The NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services also revealed that women were victims in 82 percent of intimate partner homicides statewide in 2018.

The center is sponsoring its First Walk to End Domestic Violence next month at the FDR State Park off the Taconic State Parkway in Yorktown. The event takes place on September 22.

The Women's Center's 24 hour hotline can be reached by calling 628-2166.

## Algae Blooms, Down From 2018, Are Still a Health Hazard

BY ERIC GROSS

Last year, Putnam County's 529 lost beach days due to algae blooms, constituting 27 percent of all beach closures in New York State.

This year, the numbers have declined dramatically to 125 lost beach days, now that the blue-green algae crisis has been monitored all summer long by representatives of the Putnam Health Department under the direction of Public Health Sanitarian Shawn Rogan, who is expected to be named as Director of Environmental Health Services once the re-organization of the Health Department occurs.

This summer the department's war on blue-green algae has been assisted by a drone operated by Dan Reis, a sanitarian, and assisted by Emily Olenius of Brewster, a seasonal employee.

Only a handful of lakes with public beaches experienced closures for blue-green algae this summer including Lake Carmel, Putnam Lake, Lake Casse, Long Pond, Lake Peekskill and Barger Pond, both in Putnam Valley.

Last Thursday, Rogan, Reis and Olenius joined Sheriff's Department Sgt. Scott Lombardo who heads up the 14-officer Sheriff's Marine Division, and spent several hours on Lake Mahopac checking for the dangerous algae. None was found.

Rogan attributed the algae problems found in Putnam to its lake communities: "So many exist and most homes around lakes are served by septic systems. Add that to the fertilizer cared for yards and storm water run-off and blue-green algae is often the result."

Blue-green algae results from nutrients in the water such as nitrogen and phosphorus that feed the algae. Rogan said the increase of incidents is a direct result of "impacts to the water bodies from nutrients being deposited in area lakes from failing septic systems, run off from storm water and fertilizers people use in their yards which are all contributing factors to the epidemic."

Blue-green algae can result in various health concerns.

Rogan said skin irritations are common: "If a child ingests the water, he or she may develop serious cases of vomiting or diarrhea. There is also inhalation concerns related to blue-green algae. A person seated on the

beach may be exposed to wave action from a motor boat or even the wind. These aerosolized toxins result in inhalation concerns."

When queried why neighboring Westchester was not as affected as Putnam when it comes to the algae blooms, Rogan explained: "Many of the towns and villages in northern Westchester are serviced by community sewer systems."

Long Pond in Mahopac experienced its first blue-green algae bloom a week and a half ago at the Sycamore Park beach. Rogan said the Rock Hill Girl Scout Camp was negative for any algae blooms.

Rogan commended Olenius for her summer employment during which she identified all homeowners' associations found throughout the county "allowing us to partner with them making sure they are notified whenever an algae bloom is discovered."

On the western side of the county, Rogan said no algae blooms have been reported on Lake Oscawana in Putnam Valley.

Rogan also wants the public to become involved: "If you see something suspicious, call us. Our staff hopes to sponsor an educational seminar in February or March of 2020 specifically for recreational users. Identification is the most important aspect. If you don't know about blue-green algae and swim in it, you won't know how to avoid it. Early identification, reporting to the health department and avoidance are the best ways to keep one's family safe."

During last week's tour on Lake Mahopac, Sgt. Lombardo checked on several craft in the lake as well.

Lombardo said the Marine Division consists of five boats and one jet-ski and patrols Lake Mahopac as well as Lake Oscawana and the Hudson River.

When asked about the biggest problem faced by the Marine Division, Lombardo quickly replied "jet-skis. Users need education, where they can go and how fast they can travel."

Did the veteran member of the Sheriff's Department have any advice for parents? "All boat operators must complete a boater safety course. Don't give your teenager a high-powered speedboat. Keep your eyes on the teenager. A speeding watercraft is as dangerous as a speeding car on the road."

PHOTOS BY ERIC GROSS

Top photo: Exactly the kind of fetid water you and your pets should avoid. Below: The drone that monitors Putnam water bodies is controlled from a police launch.



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