



The
Putnam
County

TIMES FREE

PUTNAM COUNTY'S LOCAL NEWSPAPER

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EDITORIAL@PUTNAMPRESSTIMES.COM WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2024



The 11th annual Mess Fest took place Aug. 3 at Kiwi Country Day Camp in Mahopac, where kids and families enjoyed a day of summer fun.

Gettin' Dirty to Raise Some Dough!

Muddy Puddles Mess Fest a Hit



Hosted by the Ty Louis Campbell Foundation and Muddy Puddles Project, the event included a giant slip and slide, food fight, water balloon toss, color run, zip lining, kayaking, swimming, miniature golf, the Dirty Dunk and so, so much more! Proceeds from the event go toward fighting pediatric cancer.



Additional photos are on pages 8 and 9. Photos by Laurie Spens Photography.

Lawmakers Call for Removal of Carmel School Bd. Trustee

By Holly Crocco

A group of lawmakers whose districts include the Carmel Central School District is asking New York State Education Department Commissioner Betty Rosa to remove Trustee Jim Wise from the board of education, following what they are calling a "blatant and dangerous use of antisemitic rhetoric" made during a June 22 pro-Palestine protest in front of the Historic Courthouse in Carmel, when Wise reportedly shouted inflammatory remarks at pro-Israel counter-protesters.

In the letter, Assembly members Matt Slater, R-Yorktown, and AJ Beephan, R-East Fishkill, joined Congressman Mike Lawler, R-Rockland, and State Sen. Rob Rolison, R-Poughkeepsie, in urging immediate intervention.

"Our public school officials are entrusted with the education and protection of all students," the letter states. "There must be zero tolerance for any school board trustee who spreads and defends ig-



Jim Wise

norant antisemitic slogans such as 'From the River to the Sea, Palestine must be free.'"

The phrase has been recognized as an explicit call to eliminate the state of Israel and exterminate the Jewish population within it — especially in the aftermath of Hamas' deadly rampage

across southern Israel on Oct. 7, and Israel's bombardment of the Gaza Strip.

In Congress, the House passed a resolution condemning the phrase. However, Wise "rejects absolutely" the idea that the phrase is antisemitic.

"The claim that the only way Palestinians could be freed from the apartheid under which they now live would be for Jews to die is deeply racist, white supremacist in its origins, and closely mirrors the rhetoric used to defend apartheid in South Africa," he wrote on Facebook. "Palestinians and Jews lived together in peace for centuries before 1948, and I look forward to the

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Putnam Residents Asked to Complete Health Survey

The 2024 Community Health Survey is now open for Putnam residents to provide input on the county's state of health and the factors contributing to health.

This anonymous survey is a key component of Putnam's comprehensive community health assessment and is being conducted by Nuvance Health, in collaboration with the Putnam County Department of Health. It can be taken by adults in English, Spanish, Portuguese or Haitian Creole, and is available at www.surveymonkey.com/r/6JDJ6JH.

Residents are encouraged to participate so that results will reflect the broadest and most representative data on the health and well-being of Putnam County. Completing it takes less than 10 minutes.

"Year after year, Putnam County has been one of the healthiest counties in the state, in part because of the input residents provided in the

past," said County Executive Kevin Byrne. "The input gathered from Putnam residents will help guide the work of our health department, Putnam Hospital/Nuvance Health, other area hospitals, and Putnam community health partner organizations in the coming years. We want to encourage everyone to take this opportunity to help provide a complete picture of Putnam's health and challenges."

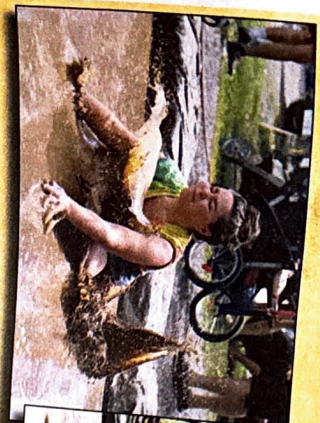
Dr. Mark Hirko, president of Putnam Hospital, said Nuvance Health is excited to collaborate with the county to conduct the survey.

"This partnership is vital in understanding and addressing the health needs of our community," he said. "By working together, we can gather valuable insights from local organizations and residents to create effective Community Health Improvement Plans. We encourage everyone to participate in this

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Annual Mess Fest Another Sloppy Success!

The 11th annual Mess Fest Day Camp in hopes of raising money for the Ty Louis Campbell Foundation and Andy's Legacy Project, the event included giant slip and slide, water balloon fight, water balloon toss, color dunk, eating, kayaking, foot fight, water balloon toss, color toward fight, so much more! Proceeds from the day go toward fighting pediatric cancer. Photos by Larrie Spotts



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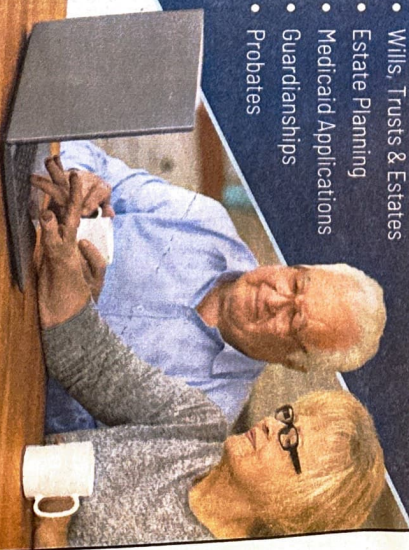


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