

# THE WAYNE INDEPENDENT

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Honesdale, PA



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## News Sections

- Front Page
- Local News
- Local Sports
- Obituaries
- Archives
- World News
- Stocks
- Health News

## Classifieds

- Current Ads
- Real Estate
- Employment

## Special Sections

- Business Guide
- Entertainment
- Town Hall

## Customer Service

- Subscribe Online
- Guest Book
- About Us

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## AG's office to assist Zimmer with cases, grand jury

By KEVIN KEARNEY

**HONESDALE - With an investigative grand jury, two murders and a high-profile hazing case, Wayne County District Attorney Mark Zimmer's last year in office has been chaotic.**

For the remainder of his term, however, he will be receiving an extra hand. Frank Fina of the state Office of the Attorney General has been sworn in and will assist the district attorney, with no charge to the county.

Zimmer introduced Fina to county commissioners on Thursday.

The grand jury investigation is centering on: the suspicious death of Marilyn Phillips in 2002; the suspicious death of Patricia Woll in 1997; and the disappearance of Kathryn VanDine in 1995.

It is also looking into alleged corruption in the Waymart Police Department.

In addition, Zimmer is handling the prosecution of accused killers Joseph Stephen Iavecchio and Frank Maierle, and the hazing case involving players of the Mephram High School football team.

### Community grants

In other business, Jacqueline Young, executive director of the county Redevelopment Authority, said a public hearing regarding Community Development Block grants is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Jan. 22 at the courthouse.

The grants go to municipalities and organizations for projects such as revitalizing neighborhoods, expanding affordable housing and economic opportunities, and improving community facilities and services.

The program has become more popular each year, Commissioner Mark Graziadio said.

The commissioners also declared Tuesday as Weatherization Day.

Weatherization is aimed at reducing heating and cooling costs to low-income families, particularly the elderly, disabled or those with children. The work includes attic and basement insulation, caulking, weather stripping and furnace retrofits.

"It's a worthwhile project," Commissioner Don Chapman said.

[Back to index](#)

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