



The Mountain Eagle

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Stamford Adopts Budget, Reacts to State Audit

By Liz Page

STAMFORD – The Stamford Village Board of Trustees adopted the new budget, which represents an 11 percent increase in the tax levy and approved its response to a state audit, during Tuesday's meeting and budget hearing.

No one spoke during the budget hearing. Appropriations total \$1,985,244.49, up \$213,177 from the current budget. The appropriations will be offset by estimated revenues of 1,3250,903.47 and an unexpended fund balance of \$75,652.65. The amount to be raised by taxes totals \$558,688.37. The amount to be raised by taxes is up from the current budget by \$65,096, or 11 percent.

During privilege of the floor, Collin Miller, treasurer of Catskill Mountain Little League was present to ask the village to consider paying for thousands in additional costs incurred in the construction of a new little league complex near Archibald Memorial Field.

Miller read a statement regarding additional costs incurred in attempting to get the complex constructed and contend there was a lack of communication that has cost them thousands of dollars. The statement pointed to an issue with the com-

pany installing the new water main along state Route 10. CMLL was given permission to hook into the water and they ran 600 feet of line to connect to the main, only to be told it was not approved by the village and no formal approval from the funding agency. Belamy moved on and CMLL was quoted \$20,000, \$12,000 for the site work and \$8,000 for excavation, which included a \$2,000 discount. In an email to the mayor, the league said they were looking into digging a well at the site, but the mayor said the village discouraged private wells where there was availability to a water main.

"We are now asking the village to pick up the costs to connect to water. We were unable to connect to the sewer and a gray water system," Miller read from his statement. He also contended there were legal fees for the land transfer and during construction of the swimming pool, which displaced CMLL from its previous location, appliances they were told they could store inside the building where demolished along with the old concession stand. Those appliances have been estimated at \$7,000 to replace.

"The current situation

without water at the field is difficult. We were displaced and now in our third season without a permanent home."

The CMLL is still operating by utilizing various fields in the area.

"We are asking the board to strongly consider payment as a community partner," he concluded.

Trustees are expected to discuss the issue at a workshop meeting on May 2. "We need to consider everything before responding," said Mayor Robert Schneider. Sarah Abbattine asked if the league could have an answer by the next meeting so the league could consider additional assets. Mayor Schneider said the village would respond after that meeting.

Board members also discussed a pair of audits released by the state Comptroller's Office. Mayor Schneider said the results were released prior to the approval of a response from the village board, which board members approved on Tuesday. See separate story.

The village will be undertaking a sidewalk project, with rebids received and one falling within the margin of the \$1.8 million grant to do the work. Deputy Mayor Jim Kopp said the project is eight years old due to various developments along

the way, such as state and federal regulations and the pandemic. The costs have increased and the first round of bidding came in with the lowest bid at \$2.1 million. He said they looked at the scope of the project and broadened the field of contractors to rebid the project. The bids are now being reviewed by the state Department of Transportation before a formal award of the bid.

The village will also change the description of a summer employee job in the hope of getting some applications. The job is listed on the village website.

Trustees gave approval for Camp HERE, which will run from July 3 to July 28, from 9:15 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. There will be swim lessons for different age levels as well as free swim. The camp is for children aged K-6. The director, Candace Gockel, thanked the village for its continued support.

Board members approved the use of an excavator and the monitoring for asbestos to allow Department of Public Works Supervisor Jesse Calia to bring down the falling town portions of the Four Seasons Hotel, which is a dilapidated building on West Main Street. "I've addressed this with Jesse to crunch up the collapsed part

so it is no longer a hazard and put it at the top of the To-Do List," said Mayor Schneider. The cost to rent the excavator and do the asbestos monitoring is estimated at \$8,000. He said

the falling down former hotel has become an unwanted tourist attraction. A motion to do the razing was approved with the cost not to exceed \$8,000.

Village Responds to Audit

By Liz Page

STAMFORD – An audit from the state Comptroller's Office, released last week, was released prematurely according to Stamford Mayor Robert Schneider. The audit cites the village for it general claims and for a multi-million dollar capital project.

Schneider said the village had a difficult time with the auditors regarding the use of grant funding for the pool project. A second audit referred to the village's general claims audit.

According to the audit: The Board did not effectively audit claims prior to payment. As a result, disbursements were made for unsupported and/or improper claims and were not in the taxpayers' best interest.

During the audit period, the Board approved 890 claims totaling \$8.2 million. Of the 200 claims totaling \$1 million examined, the audit found: 78 claims totaling \$195,545 did not have support that the purchases complied with competitive bidding requirements or the Village's procurement policy; Five claims totaling \$1,334 included food and alcohol purchases; One claim totaling \$700 did not have an itemized receipt and did not follow procurement guidelines; 1 Six claims totaling \$637 did not have appropriate support, such as an itemized receipt or invoice and 17 claims had sales tax totaling \$129. Furthermore, all 11 credit card claims totaling \$62,404 were improperly paid before the board's audit.

The March 27 response indicated village government was doing its best to do what is right for the taxpay-

ers of the village and the key recommendations included: Perform a thorough and deliberate audit of claims and ensure that Village personnel involved in the procurement process are aware of, and comply with, statutory bidding requirements and the Village's procurement policy.

Many of the items are already being done, said Schneider, who was upset the audit was prematurely released. The formal response from trustees included a credit card use policy, instituted at the time of the audit. The credit card company was contacted to arrange for billing at the end of the month so it may be included in the abstract and not prepaid.

The village has also revised its Procurement Policy to better facilitate claims requiring statutory competitive bidding, as well as required quotes. In addition to distributing them to the impacted parties, the village will complete a workshop reviewing the requirements of the updated procurement policy and new credit card use policy to ensure all are on the same page.

The audit process has made the village treasurer more cognizant of voucher inclusions when the abstract is prepared.

It also noted that the comment in the audit regarding improper food and alcohol purchases were not the norm in the village of Stamford. It was related to a retirement event for an outgoing DPW Supervisor who had provided 30 years of service to the taxpayers and a thank you luncheon for

Continued on Page D3

Stamford Approves ATVs on Town Roadways

By Liz Page

HOBART – It was standing room only at the Stamford Town Hall last Wednesday as members of the town board heard public comment before unanimously approving a local law to allow all terrain and utility terrain vehicles (ATVs and UTVs) to travel town roadways.

Most of those attending were in support of the proposed law. Only one man spoke against it, citing safety concerns for youngsters not knowing the rules of the road as inexperienced drivers and the lack of safety equipment to ride on town roads.

A permit must be obtained to utilize town roads and it must be prominently displayed. It will be issued by a ATV/UTV club that has been recognized and approved by the town.

Brian Hartman, of South Kortright, said he was concerned about access to all town roads and questioned whether the town has the ability to grant such permission. The NYS Vehicle

and Traffic Law authorizes town to post and designate certain highways for ATVs as defined in 2281 of the state Vehicle and Traffic Law.

The premise is to allow the recreational vehicles to use roadways to access certain areas/trails adjacent to the town roadways. The speed limit will be 35 mph for the vehicles on all roads, or lower where designated. They must also travel to the far right, or on the shoulder.

It will be up to the designated clubs to make sure the vehicles are licensed, of applicable, and insured before a permit is issued. According to the club members, the fee charged for the permit will go toward the cost of the signage to post the town roads, as required by state law.

Most of the vehicles do have safety equipment, with the exception of turn signals. Which alleviated much of Hartman's concerns, according to Jake More. The other thing that town board members pointed out is that the

club should be supplying safety education for the kids.

All state vehicle and traffic laws pertaining to ATV/UTVs will be applicable.

You do not need a driver's license to operate an ATV, however there are restrictions for those under 16. Those age 10 to 15 may operate an ATV, but must have adult supervision, or operate an ATV on property owned or leased by a parent or guardian. They may operate on any property without supervision provided they have completed an ATV safety course approved by the state DMV. You must carry the course completion certificate when operating an ATV. Under the age of 10, you must have adult supervision or operate on land owned or leased by a parent or guardian.

All the other rules fall under the state V & T Laws. There is to be no trespassing on private property and permission must be sought from private property owners. That is already written in the state law however,

Supervisor John Kosier said he would like it added to the town law that the town is not liable for damage to private property, injury or death.

Club information will be available on the town's website at www.TownofStamfordny.us.

The new law will be filed and Supervisor John Kosier said the Sheriff has requested a copy of the new law.

In other business, town highway department will take a look at the culvert that is the Foote Hollow bridge to see if the shoulder can be restored underneath the guardrails. In the meantime, Councilman Dave Post asked that cones be placed there. He said the road becomes very narrow at that bridge and is concerned someone could drop a wheel into the hole or cause an accident. He travels the road with farm equipment and said there are several places where it is narrow and there are close calls.

INDEX

Obituaries	Page 2 of Sections
Here's the Scoop	Section E
Windham Weekly	C1
TriCounty News	D1
The Catskill Geologists	D1
Editorial	D4
Whittling Away	D
Classifieds	D



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ATV/UTV Permitted on Kortright Roadways

USPS Return to Bloomville Efforts Discussed

By Mary A. Crisafulli
BLOOMVILLE - Following a public hearing, Kortright councilmembers unanimously passed a local law on Apr. 17 to permit the use of ATVs and UTVs on town roadways. Councilmember Lynn Pickett was absent.

The legislation was developed following a request from the 607 Riders, a local club, seeking to unite the towns of Stamford, Kortright, Harpersfield, and Jefferson through an ATV and UTV trail system. The organization will contact property owners to develop a trail system similar to the state snowmobile trails.

Resident Brian Hartman spoke against the law outlining several concerns for the council to review before voting. He requested the board table the law until they review his research and pass concerns on to the town attorney. Hartman said three main issues are opening all roadways, safety matters, and signage. According to Hartman, the local law conflicts with state regulations that only permit towns to open roads to ATV/UTV use to gain access to trails or land.

Supervisor George Haynes said the law covers this issue by stating that use on roadways must conform to New York state legislation. The local law has been reviewed twice by the town attorney, and, according to Haynes, no issues were reported.

Hartman also stated sev-

eral safety concerns, including lack of license or age requirements for driving ATV/UTVs. It is Hartman's belief that the law will put youth at risk as they are the demographic most likely to take advantage of roadway use. In addition, he said, ATV/UTVs do not have safety features typical of an automobile, including blinkers, rearview mirrors, or speedometers.

According to Hartman, safety regulations, including speed limits, must be posted on signage along all roadways included, which would be an expensive endeavor for the town.

Several residents in attendance, in favor of the local law, were outspoken about Hartman's concerns. One resident stated that the state has regulations regarding safety of such vehicles on the road, including wearing helmets. It is typical for ATV/UTVs to have a speedometer, they stated. Other individuals said residents already use ATV/UTVs on town roads, and the local law will provide parameters. The local law will also decriminalize the behavior, several individuals argued.

Councilmember Michael Pietrantoni, who has worked closely on the local law, acknowledged Hartman's concerns, though he explained that he is the first to oppose the issue. Pietrantoni explained the law intends to allow the 607 Riders to develop and maintain trailways for ATV/UTVs. He

added that the club is hesitant to begin the project without confirmation that the town would permit use.

Haynes also requested the vote be tabled due to opposition from the Sheriff's department. "While I am not opposed to the law, I would like to review their concerns."

Councilmember Chad Boest felt the Sheriff's Department should have sent representation to the public hearing to express concerns.

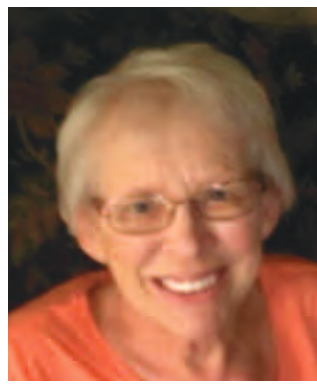
The council also passed a resolution recognizing the 607 Riders as the club responsible for regulating ATV/UTV annual permits for roadways with a fee set at \$25. A club will be appointed annually at the organizational meeting.

In another discussion, Mike Howard spoke during public comment regarding ongoing efforts to return a United States Post Service (USPS) office to Bloomville. The USPS Bloomville location closed in December 2019, causing residents to travel over ten miles to the nearest post office and delays in mail delivery. In March, Howard received a letter from USPS and Senator Chuck Schumer stating efforts to secure an alternate location had been unsuccessful but are ongoing. Howard requested the council write a letter in support of the return of the post office, as he believes this would expedite the initiative. According to Howard, a notice was expected to be mailed to all Kortright residents by USPS and Schumer's office requesting suggested locations, which was never sent.

Haynes will draft a letter for Howard to review that is expected to be approved at the next board meeting.

In other business, the water rents were increased by \$25 for each six-month billing period.

The next town council meeting is scheduled Monday, May 15, at 7 p.m.



Alyce Briggs Cole, 82, of Harpersfield, passed away on Sunday afternoon, April 9, 2023, peacefully at her home surrounded by her family.

Born on the family farm on Pumpkin Hollow Road in East Meredith on November 2, 1940, Alyce was the daughter of the late Frank and Minnie (Pedersen) Briggs.

After graduating from Charlotte Valley Central School in 1958, Alyce worked at the Singer Sewing Machine Store on Main Street in Oneonta, where she also taught sewing lessons. Alyce also worked for Century 21 as a certified real estate agent for a period of time. She was a mem-

Obituaries

Alyce Briggs Cole

ber of The Board of Education at Stamford Central School where her boys attended school. Alyce's favorite occupation was when she operated a local day care from her home in Harpersfield, caring for local children for decades. One of her daycare highlights was the yearly float for the children in the Stamford Flag Day Parade. Alyce also loved having garage sales. She often invited 5 or 6 families to participate in her huge annual summer garage sale. She loved being around people and reminiscing about the past and discussing the future.

Alyce was an avid crafter and enjoyed traveling to craft shows around the area. She also enjoyed sewing, knitting, quilting, crocheting, and working in her flower gardens. However, Alyce's greatest joy was her family, always keeping up with her three sons and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is survived by her companion of over 43

years: Roger Champlin of North Harpersfield; sons: Frank Cole of Ft. Myers, FL, James (Michealle) Cole of Burlington Flats and John (Christa) Cole of Stamford; seven grandchildren: Jamie, Megan, Wayne, Jimmy, Julie, Dustin and Dylan; seven great-grandchildren: Anna, Ellie, Carter, Carson, McKenna, Charlotte and Brooke; three sisters: Kay Cronk, Marjorie Bull and Bette Shaw; several nieces, nephews, cousins and her canine companion: Callie.

A short graveside memorial will be held at 11:00 on Saturday, April 29, 2023, at Jefferson Evergreen Cemetery, Jefferson, NY followed by a celebration of Alyce's life at 1:00 at the Col. Harper Grange Hall, 170 Wilcox Road, Harpersfield. In lieu of flowers, please honor Alyce's love of potluck dinners by bringing a dish to pass.

Please visit www.macarthurfh.com to share a condolence with the Cole family.

Gilboa, Charlotte Valley Pick Up Baseball Victories

DELAWARE LEAGUE - Gilboa defeated non-league Schoharie 13-1 in baseball action on Tuesday. Sean Willie notched a no-hitter on the mound, striking out 15 Schoharie batters. Once again, he helped his cause with four hits over his five turns at bat, including a homer and trio of doubles for six RBI. Teammate Jamie Perry added a pair of hits and two RBI to the victory. Schoharie's lone run came off an error.

Schenevus downed Roxbury 20-2 in non-league action on Tuesday. Chris Garafolo doubled for the Rockets and teammate Jordan Johnston had two RBI on the day.

Delhi/Downsville defeated Charlotte Valley 8-6 on Tuesday. D/D came back after being down five runs to score six runs

in the fourth inning and go on top 6-5. Mike Camarata picked up the loss, striking out eight D/D batters. He and teammate Ezra Ontl each had a pair of hits. CV scored another run in the top of the seventh, but it wasn't enough to win, after D/D added two runs in the bottom of the sixth.

Jefferson/Stamford fell to non-league Schenevus 14-4 last Thursday. Jon Leas led J/S with a hit to score two runs for J/S.

Gilboa defeated Jefferson/Stamford 17-3 on Monday. Joe Wille picked up the pitching win, giving up just two hits over his six innings. He helped his cause, going 3 for 4 behind the bat including a pair of double for 3 RBI on the day. For J/S, Jordan Anderson had a pair of RBI.

Milford/Laurens defeated Windham/Hunter-Tannersville 22-7 in a non-league game last Friday. Connor Aplin was 2 for 3 to score one run and bring in four RBI. John Garzone struck out five and walked three in just over two innings of work, giving up one hit with four runs allowed, to pick up the loss from the mound. M/L pitcher Evan Clark struck out 9, walked none and gave up no hits in his three innings on the mound.

Charlotte Valley picked up a 19-2 league win over Jefferson/Stamford last

Friday. The Wildcats scored eight runs in the second inning to get a jump on J/S and never looked back.

Michael Camarata went 3-for-4 at the plate with four RBI to lead the offense while Freddy Cargill added a double. Trevor Waid picked up the win from the mound, striking out nine batters over five innings and allowing just two hits and no walks. Camarata added two strikeouts in relief.

Gilboa defeated Roxbury 17-2 in Delaware League action last Friday at Roxbury. Jacob Strauch and Sean Willie each homered for the Wildcats, with Strauch connecting for a grand slam to help his cause on the mound and driving in six runs, while Willie brought home three. Burton Strauch was 2-for-4 behind the bat including a double to notch four runs. Jacob Strauch picked up the pitching win as he struck out seven batters in four innings. Roxbury's Chris Garofolo finished 3-for-3 with a double and an RBI.

Charlotte Valley nipped non-league Afton 1-0 last Saturday. Jamison Quigley picked up the pitching win, going the distance on the mound and striking out 10 Afton batters. Trevor Waid crossed the lone run to give CV the win. Afton got 13 strikeouts from Ryan Wright.

HELP WANTED

The Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC), a non-profit organization working to protect the NYC Watershed, while supporting farm and forest land uses, seeks a Stewardship Specialist. This position is responsible for stewarding WAC's working land conservation easements as well as maintaining professional working relationships with landowners and partners. Bachelor's Degree in Natural Resource Management, Environmental Studies or related field. Minimum of three years related experience. Salary range low \$50,000's. Excellent benefit package including 8% employer contribution to 403(b) pension, portable life insurance, health, dental and vision; employer pays 95% of cost of plans. Qualifications detailed in position description available at <http://www.nycwatershed.org/careers>. To apply send letter of interest and resume to Patti Bowker, Watershed Agricultural Council, 33195 State Highway 10, Walton, NY 13856 or e-mail to pbowker@nycwatershed.org. EOE. Review of applications will begin as received.

Watershed Agricultural Council



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Volunteers Needed

For over 35 years, the Food Pantry at Sacred Heart Church has been serving the needs of our community. While the number of people in need of food assistance remains (and has slightly risen due to current economic climate), the number of volunteers who remain ready, willing and able to help is declining. The community at large, including Stamford, Hobart, Jefferson has been generous with monetary and food donations. What is also needed is volunteers. The Pantry is open every other Thursday from 10-11 AM. Volunteers arrive to set up at 9:30 and stay to clean up and restock shelves until about 11:30 AM. Do you have 2 hours every other Thursday to help distribute food to your neighbors? Volunteers are also needed twice a month to drive to Food Bank distribution point (usually Oneonta) to pick up products ordered from the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York. Volunteer drivers pick up the order, bring it to the Parish Hall on Harper St. and store it in the pantry closets. The process takes about 2-2 1/2 hours. Do you have 2 hours twice a month to help bring food to the pantry? How

about your teenaged children? Are they looking for community service hours to fulfill requirements for scholarships and school applications? Evening volunteer hours could be made available.

We are a great and charitable nation. However, local poverty and food insufficiency still exist. Please consider giving back to our community by volunteering at the Food Pantry.

For more information contact Carol Hogan at 607-326-4073

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Valente's Wife Appointed Davenport Supervisor

By Mary A. Crisafulli
DAVENPORT - Davenport Town Board members appointed Patty Valente as acting supervisor on Apr. 18 following the death of Supervisor Dennis Valente on Apr. 4.

At a meeting on Mar. 21 Patty Valente was appointed as deputy supervisor to sign checks while Supervisor Dennis Valente was on medical leave. Patty replaced William Hensen, who recently stepped down after 18 years of service.

The board could appoint any individual as acting supervisor to serve the remainder of Valente's term until Jan. 1, 2024, or leave it open. Patty would take supervisor responsibility if left open, though she cannot be appointed to county

committees or have a secondary signatory. As acting supervisor, Patty will attend county board meetings and be appointed to committees.

Delaware County Republican Elections Commissioner Maria Kelso said paperwork to fill Valente's vacancy must be refiled with Patty's correct dates and new appointment.

Patty thanked the board for their trust in her to fill the supervisor position. As Valente's wife, Patty kept up to date with town proceedings and expects to learn from attending county board meetings.

In other business:

Paul Moller was appointed water district operator, replacing Valente for the remainder of the year at a

prorated rate of \$3,750.

Moller announced that he would seek out companies to contract with to conduct a water piping survey to comply with New York State Department of Health (DOH) regulations for testing municipal pipes for lead. The required DOH tests are due by October 2024.

Councilmembers Trevor Bell and Jackie Losie were tasked with organizing the 2022 audit.

Patty will attend the next Fire Department meeting to request their opinions on the optional 10% tax exemption for volunteer firefighters the state permits municipalities to offer. A resolution on the exemption was tabled in March following advice from Asses-

sor Glenna Jeschke, who said to qualify, volunteers must forgo their state income tax credit of \$200 according to state regulations. For most individuals, Jeschke noted, the 10% exemption would be less than \$200. In addition, she said, the law would increase the duties of the fire chief to keep track of who qualifies. Patty will also ask firefighters what they think would be best beneficial for retention and recruitment efforts.

Several CHIPS projects were approved to total \$390,592 to restore Rathbone Hill and Coe Hill roads and stockpile 1,000 tons of cold patch.

The next town board meeting is scheduled Tuesday, May 16, at 7 p.m.

Charlotte Valley Picks Up Trio of Wins, Gilboa Notches Two

DELAWARE LEAGUE - Hunter-Tannersville defeated Stamford/Jefferson 24-15 in league softball on Tuesday. Angelina Dixon did much of the damage hitting in seven runs on four hits and teammate Emma Constable doubled for four more RBI and Saleema Paladian had three RBI in the win. S/J got four RBI from Alayna Stannard.

Roxbury and Schenevus ended their non-league pairing with a 21-21 stalemate. Schenevus rallied back from a 14-run deficit to tie the game. Mikayla Wright tripled for the Lady Rockets to bring in two runs.

Schoharie defeated Gilboa 17-0 in a non-league contest on Tuesday.

Delhi/Downsville defeated Charlotte Valley 16-1 on Tuesday.

The Hunter-Tannersville Lady Wildcats squeezed by the South Kortright Lady Rams 19-18 on Monday. They scored eight runs in the bottom of the seventh to steal the win. Saleema Paladian tripled for the winners and Angelina Dixon connected on a pair of singles to help the cause. For SK, Faith Sass had a triple and two RBI, and Carlee Dropp had a pair of singles.

Gilboa blasted Stamford/Jefferson 27-8 on Monday. Caitlyn Ciaravino connected four of her five times at bat to bring in five runs and Olivia Ross picked up the win in the circle, striking out seven S/J batters. Ciaravino, Ross and Anna Tompkins all had a pair of hits in the win.

Charlotte Valley blanked Franklin 22-0 in non-league softball action on Monday. Abby Vroman led the way with four hits in five at-bats, including a homer to lead the Lady Wildcats. Josie Butler had a 3 for 4 day, for 3 RBI and Brinlee Wright took the pitching win, giving up a single hit in the shutout.

Laurens/Milford defeated Windham 23-2 and South Kortright 20-2, while Windham defeated SK 19-9 in a round robin at Windham on Monday. In the first pairing Hannah Tuttle scored the two runs for WAJ, while L/M had an 11-run second inning in the game against SK to take that win. In the third game, Catherine Coe had four hits and four RBI for the Lady Warriors, along with four RBI by Ashtyn Hansen. In the circle for SK, Neleh Brown struck out

six. Delhi/Downsville defeated Margaretville 26-7 last Friday.

Charlotte Valley shutout Stamford/Jefferson 24-0 last Friday. Kailey Whitbeck scored two runs and had three RBI in the action, while teammate Natalie Amadon scored four runs and Laila Wheeler hit in three runs.

In non-league action Saturday, Charlotte Valley defeated Afton 10-3. A five-run second inning put the Lady Wildcats in front and the went on from there. Natalie Amadon scored three runs and had a pair of hits for 3 RBI to lead the charge. Abby Vroman had a pair of hits and Brinlee Wright scored two runs.

Charlotte Valley defeated non-league Worcester 17-3 last Wednesday. Abby Vroman drove in four runs and teammate Josephine Butler struck out seven in the win. Natalie Amadon stole three bases to help the cause.

Gilboa defeated South Kortright 20-17 last Wednesday in a non-league pairing. Olivia Ross took the win from the mound and helped her cause by batting 4 for 4 for six runs. Caitlyn Ciaravino and Carlee Sutton each homered in the action for the Lady Wildcats. For SK, Faith Sass also homered.

Worcester defeated Stamford/Jefferson 26-15 last Thursday.

Drunk Driving Conviction

DELHI - Acting District Attorney Shawn Smith announced that Brett Conklin, 50, of Walton, New York, was convicted of one count of Driving While Intoxicated, an Unclassified Misdemeanor, in Tompkins Town Court on April 6, 2023.

New York State Police responded to a car crash on

State Highway 10 in the Town of Tompkins on November 23, 2022. When State Police arrived on scene they observed the vehicle off the roadway. Upon interviewing the driver, Brett Conklin, the Troopers observed multiple indicia of intoxication, and the defendant was placed under arrest for drunk driving. It was later determined that the defendant had a blood alcohol content of 0.14.

On April 6, 2023, the defendant appeared in the Town of Tompkins Court and pleaded guilty to the top charge of driving while intoxicated by alcohol, a misdemeanor. The Honorable Harry Johnson, Justice of the Tompkins Town Court, sentenced the defendant to pay a \$500.00 fine and a \$400.00 surcharge. The defendant's driver's license was revoked for 6 months.

The defendant was also sentenced to a 1-year conditional discharge. The conditional discharge requires, among other things, that the defendant undergo a drug and alcohol evaluation,

and comply with any treatment recommendations. The defendant must also install an ignition interlock device in any vehicle that he owns for at least 12 months. He was ordered to attend a victim's impact panel, and to successfully complete an impaired drivers program.

Assistant District Attorney

Schuyler Kinneman prosecuted the case.

Acting District Attorney Shawn Smith stated, "I commend NYS Troopers Tatiana Edmondson and James Weik for their investigation of this case. Their thorough investigation permitted us to obtain a guilty plea without a trial."

22 APRIL 2023
EARTH DAY AT MOUNTAIN DOG CAFE
CATSKILLS FOREST ASSOCIATION INFO TABLE THROUGHOUT THE DAY
1PM: PRESENTATION BY ZANE LAWYER: "CONSERVATION THROUGH WOODLOT STEWARDSHIP"
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DISABLED VET living in Stamford is looking for home health aid. Flexible hours and days. Please call (607) 652-2449.

HELP WANTED

The Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District is seeking two (2) interns to perform field work and data collection on riparian forest buffers implemented in the Susquehanna watershed portion of Delaware County. Duties will include planting native trees and shrubs, performing tree tube maintenance and removal, collecting data on tree health and survival rates, and writing summary reports. These are 12-week summer positions (40 hours per week) that pay \$14.50 per hour. Must have a valid NYS driver's license. Interest in working outdoors with ability to perform physically demanding work. Experience with ArcGIS and Microsoft Excel is preferred. Tree, shrub, and herbaceous species identification skills also preferred. Please send resume and cover letter to Jay Czerniak, Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District, 44 West Street Suite 1, Walton, NY 13856 or email jay-czerniak@dswcd.org Deadline April 17, 2023

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Grand Gorge Office seeking Customer Service Rep. Computer experience and detail oriented. Part-time noon to 5pm three to five days a week. Competitive pay for the right person. Call Janet 607-588-7788 or cell 406-780-0032 TSN Document Services Corp. Call Janet 607-588-4700 noon-4:30pm

HELP WANTED

Roxbury Central School has the following opening:
Bus Driver: Full-time

CDL-Class B w/air brake, passenger & school bus endorsement preferred, but not necessary. District will provide training. Position will remain open until filled. Applications may be submitted to: Joanne Shelmidine, Interim Superintendent ROXBURY CENTRAL SCHOOL 53729 State Hwy. 30 Roxbury, NY 12474 EOE

YOUNG REPUBLICANS OF DELAWARE COUNTY

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Meeting: Tuesday April 25th at 6:15 PM at the Delaware County Public Safety Building at 280 Phoebe Lane Delhi 13753

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Letters to the Editor

Davis For Supervisor

Hiram Davis is running for Middletown Supervisor, on the Republican ticket and he wants your vote. Hiram is ready and willing to serve our community representing all the citizens of Middletown.

We need to keep the positive momentum going - EXPERIENCE TRULY MATTERS!!

At this critical stage for our Middletown community, we need to ensure that we finalize all our on-going efforts to completion. This calls for a strong leader!! Hiram fits the profile perfectly!!!

Hiram brings to the forefront: Served as:

Middletown Code Enforcement Officer for 5YRS.

Fire Commissioner for District 1 for 10YRS.

Trained & Certified Floodplain Manager

Served on Middletown Zoning Board of Appeals

A family man born and raised in our own backyard with strong ties to our community. A pastor in our community for 22 years. Raised in Roxbury - graduated RSC in 1990. He is one of us!!

An independent thinker that will fight for our community and will not back down or compromise his values nor our Traditional Values.

As Code Enforcement Officer he has years of experience dealing with various agencies - DEP, DEC, FEMA, DOH, DOT and various Delaware County agencies and tackling complicated challenging problems and issues. Not afraid to "tell it like it is". Will not be "bullied". We all have seen what New York City has done to our upstate communities. We live in the watershed zone which is even worse. The DEP and DEC are constantly infringing on our Rights and Freedoms.

Hiram will stand-up to them and protect us.

He will be financially conservative with our hard-earned taxpayers dollars - especially in these economic times. Unlike our current Governor and president, he fully realizes this is YOUR taxpayer dollars and not some 'slush fund' to be used indiscriminately.

Believes that our "Town Board" should be fully transparent and accountable to all our citizens, whether you reside in Arkville, New

Kingston, or Fleischmann, Dunraven/Clovesville.

Hiram, will ensure that our board will honor their "Oath of Office" and will be committed to the Middletown community. Mr. Davis truly believes that all Board Members, himself included, are elected to serve "We The citizens of Middletown"

When elected, Hiram, will continue to respect our country with the "Pledge of Allegiance", and continue to have public comment sessions at every town board meeting. The Town Board meeting belongs to the citizens. We are just your elected representatives.

Let's keep our community and America moving in the right direction. We have accomplished so many good things for our community - we need to keep this momentum going...

Vote for the man who has your same values. Join me and VOTE for Hiram Davis for Supervisor.

Richard Rossi
Denver, NY

A Great Trip!

If you are one of those people who just can't seem to find enough family friendly activities try this.

I have personally made many trips to the city of Boston and find it one of my favorite cities to visit.

There are the arts, the history, the architecture, the museums, the sports and so much more that has that New England flavor to make it an unforgettable experience.

The Friends of Gallupville House have chartered a bus trip to "Beantown" on Saturday April 29th, 2023 via Wade Tours, which means comfort and carefree adventure without dreading the drive.

The bus leaves the Gallupville House at 6:30 AM and drops you off at the New England Aquarium in Boston and you can spend the day however you like.

Shop at Quincy Market, have lunch at The Old Union Oyster House (America's oldest restaurant), walk the Freedom Trail and visit the site of the Boston Massacre, Old North Church, Paul Revere's House and the 1742 Faneull Hall where speakers from Samuel Adams - John Kennedy made historic speeches. Visit the the Granary Burial Ground where many of our founding fa-

thers lie in rest, Board "Old Ironsides and visit the Bunker Hill Museum, The Museum of Fine Art - The Museum of Science and the magnificent Boston Aquarium. There is even a museum for the Boston Tea Party and The Childrens Museum.

The bus leaves Boston at 6PM and back in Gallupville by 9:30PM

Something for everyone and all for just \$60 round trip.

Have a great day and help the great cause of the preservation of the historic 1872 Gallupville House and maybe even make a new friend or two.

For more information and reservations call (518) 768-4062 or email gallupvillehouse@gmail.com

An appeal from a "Gallupville Kid."

Richard Sherman
Schoharie, NY

A Resignation from the CAB

Just wanted to reach out to everyone regarding the original MISSION STATEMENT of the Cobleskill Police Citizen Advisory Board.

Mission Statement:

It is the mission of the Citizen Advisory Board to act in an advisory capacity only to the CPD and the Village of Cobleskill Board of Trustees by bringing to their attention feedback from the community concerning public safety issues and law enforcement needs and actions. To this end, the CAB is devoted to facilitating ideas relative to police services for the continued improvement of the quality of life of its citizens.

In January I sent a mass email to everyone with concerns for community safety regarding senior officers leaving the department and the understaffing, not to re-

tire but to work for another local agency and what the impact will be to our citizens. My concerns fell on deaf ears by not only the entire CAB board, chairman, trustees & Mayor but also having the January 18th CAB meeting canceled while at the same time receiving a response from the chairman via email that I had acted inappropriately.

It seems that the CAB has become politically driven and has lost any credibility to operate as it should for its citizens.

As of today I will be resigning from the CAB as the direction the Trustees, Mayor & chairman have chosen are not in line with what I had envisioned when the CAB was first created.

I am as always in support of our men & women officers here in the village and will continue to do so in the future.

Thank you

John Stiles
Cobleskill

Delaware League Standings

Delaware League Varsity Baseball (6 games)

SKCS	2-0	5-0
Davenport	2-0	4-0
Gilboa	2-0	3-1
Margaretville	0-0	0-2
Windham/HTC	0-1	0-3
Jefferson/Stamford	0-2	0-3
Roxbury	0-3	0-5

Delaware League Varsity Softball (7 games)

Windham	1-0	3-1
Davenport	1-0	3-1
SKCS	1-0	1-4
Roxbury	0-0	1-0
Gilboa	0-0	1-1
Margaretville	0-0	0-2
HTC	0-1	0-1
Jefferson/Stamford	0-2	0-3

Delaware League Varsity Tennis (10 matches)

Margaretville	3-0	3-0
Stamford/Jefferson	3-0	3-0
HTC	3-0	3-0
Windham	0-2	0-2
Roxbury	0-4	0-4
Andes	0-3	0-3

Juvenile Facing Charges in Domestic Dispute

Harpersfield - Sheriff Craig S. DuMond announced that a juvenile is facing the charge of Endangering the Welfare of a Child following a Domestic Dispute that occurred in the Town of Harpersfield.

On Friday night, April 7th, 2023, Delaware County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a Domestic Dispute involving a juvenile at a residence in the Town of Harpersfield. Preliminary investigation by Deputies revealed that the victim had been exposed to an unsafe environment during a physical domestic dispute.

Upon the conclusion of their investigation, Deputies subsequently arrested and charged the juvenile with one count of Endangering the Welfare of a Child.

The juvenile was then issued one juvenile appearance ticket and was directed to report to the Delaware County Probation Department at a later date to answer the charges.

HELP WANTED

ONC BOCES is accepting applications for the following vacancies:

- Teachers
- Instructional Support Staff
- Clerical Support Staff
- Summer Driver Education Instructor
- Substitutes

Please visit www.oncboces.org/jobs for a complete list of openings, job descriptions and application information. EOE

Are you between the ages of 14 and 20 and looking for a summer job?

CDO Workforce is currently taking applications for summer job placements for youth who are interested in working in their own communities.

The Summer Youth Employment program runs from July to August and youth must be a year-round resident of Delaware County, NY to be eligible.

Applications can be downloaded and more information can be found at:

<https://www.cdoworkforce.org/youth-seekers/under-25/summer-jobs>

or picked up at the local high school Guidance office. You may also call CDO Workforce at 607-832-5776 or 607-832-5777 and we would be happy to email or mail one to you.

Applications are due in CDO Offices by **June 9, 2023**. Don't Delay! Apply today!



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HELP WANTED

The Watershed Agricultural Council, a non-profit organization working to protect the NYC Watershed while supporting farm and forest land uses, is seeking to hire one Economic Viability Program Intern to assist the Economic Viability Program with Pure Catskills membership relations and support, Pure Catskills Guide deliveries, document archiving, content development for various electronic and print media, event coordination and setup, and creating outreach materials consistent with messaging of the Pure Catskills Buy Local Campaign which will reinforce the positive impact being made in the region. This is a 10-week summer position that pays \$16.00 per hour. Must have a dependable vehicle, insurance and a valid N.Y.S. driver's license. Will be reimbursed for mileage incurred on the job. Send cover letter and resume to Patti Bowker, WAC, 33195 State Highway 10, Walton, NY 13856 or email pbowker@nycwatershed.org. Job description: www.nycwatershed.org. WAC will accept cover letters/resumes through April 27, 2023. E.O.E.

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GILBOA, CONESVILLE, BLENHEIM UPDATES

The Newspaper of the Schoharie Valley and Southern Schoharie County • A Section of the Mountain Eagle

Volume 8, No. 16 mountaineaglenews@gmail.com FRIDAY April 21, 2023 518-763-6854 \$1.00

Residents Speak Against Highbridge Project, Again

By Bradley Towle
SCHOHARIE — On Tuesday night, the Schoharie Planning Board held its final public comment hearing regarding the proposed Highbridge Development project along the I-88 corridor on Route 30-A.

While the board agreed to accept written comments through May 9th, the meeting offered supporters, opponents, and the conflicted their last chance to voice their opinions and concerns in front of the board. Planning Board Chairwoman Kathryn M. Saddleire stated that comments would adhere to a three-minute limit as they have in the past, but the time limit quickly became null and void. Opening speaker William Anderson offered a warning from experience, recounting his hometown of Patolla Valley, California, and his background in construction. Anderson turned to face the board, describing what he has seen from companies like Amazon and Walmart and their distribution warehouse projects.

"They will steamroll over you," stated Anderson. "For better or worse," he said. "This won't be the town you grew up

in." Resident Corrie Schrader echoed Anderson's sentiment, warning that there would be "no going back" from allowing the project to proceed. Re-soundingly, attendees spoke out against the project, citing concerns including traffic, noise, trash, and pollution from idling trucks. Many referred to Schoharie's Comprehensive Plan from 1997, which was reviewed and approved again in 2014 as the cornerstone of the argument against Highbridge Development's proposed 540,000-square-foot warehouse, citing, among other things, the height of the warehouse will exceed the Comprehensive Plan's limit of 35 feet.

"Highbridge simply doesn't fit," stated one resident. Barton Finnegan spoke as a "conflicted member of SEEC" (Schoharie Economic Enterprise Corporation). Finnegan conveyed that he supports the project "with caveats." Finnegan's described concerns aligned with those opposing the project, including a potential impact on the water table. "I support if..." Finnegan concluded.

Other residents noted that taxpayers would pay

roughly \$7,000,000 into the project with the PI-LOT program, while Highbridge would ultimately contribute only \$7,500,000 over the fifteen-year plan.

SEEC representative Julie Pacette used those same numbers to support the project, stating that without the warehouse, the land would only generate \$300,000 in tax revenue. One attendee expressed concern at Highbridge's reputation. They noted that Plank Construction has built all of Highbridge's projects and felt that this rendered many promises of local employment during construction a dubious claim. A quick internet search reveals CEO John Roth owns both Plank Construction and Highbridge Development.

The threat to the area's natural beauty was at the heart of everyone's concerns. "There's not a prettier valley," stated Kim Viscova, whose home is across from the proposed project.

Some described relocating to Schoharie because of its stunning views and proximity to commutable jobs in the Capital Region. Board members visibly conveyed the weight of their position, with many acknowledging how "compelling" the comments have been from both sides and the difficulty of the decision ahead.

The arguments favoring the project lean heavily on potential economic development, while those against it stray toward what many feel will diminish Schoharie's appeal as a region. Anyone interested in submitting written comments can do so via email at schoharetownclerk@midtel.net or traditional mail at Town of Schoharie Planning Board, PO BOX 544, 300 Main St, Schoharie, NY, 12157.

The deadline for written public comments is May 9th.

SCS Splits Bill in Gilboa



Gilboa-Conesville Wildcat pitcher S. Willie heads from second to third base, as Schoharie third baseman Eddison Wayman Bender fields a groundball and throws the batter out at first base to end the second inning. Photo by Scott Keidong. More inside.

SCS School Tax Levy Remains Low

By Joshua Walther
SCHOHARIE - The Schoharie Board of Education convened last Wednesday evening to listen to a presentation on the 2023-2024 proposed budget, put forth by Business Administrator David Baroody.

Mr. Baroody opened the presentation with a projection of the numbers that voters can expect to see this spring. He stated that the overall budget projection is \$26,819,862, which is a 3.57% increase from last year.

This inflated number is owed to a number of factors, including an increase to employee pay and benefits, more funding for a mandated mascot change, and an increase in BOCES Services

and Debt Services. Yet despite the bigger budget, taxpayers shouldn't be impacted too harshly. Schoharie is projected to receive a 4.34% increase in state aid, so the tax levy will only rise by a marginal 0.23% from last year.

"We show consistency in the tax levy for our taxpayers," said Mr. Baroody, who was especially proud to present the minimal increase. He gave a comparison to sixteen other school districts in the area, and among those, Schoharie's increase is the second lowest, only beaten by another district with a 0% increase.

Board President Terry Burton and Superintendent David Blanchard were both impressed

with this budget's tax levy, and both gave anecdotes about how Schoharie has attempted to keep the tax levy rate flat across the past ten years for the community.

Other Board members were in full support of the 23-24 tentative budget, and it wasn't long until a motion to accept the proposal was made and accepted with no further objections or discussions.

The official budget will be voted on by members of the community on May 16th, along with three other propositions relating to the purchase of five replacement buses, the public library tax levy, and the creation of a capital reserve fund.

Valley Briefs

2023 Village Of Middleburgh Meeting Schedule

First Monday Of The Month @ 7pm
Location: 309 Main Street, Middleburgh, NY
May 1
June 5
July 10
August 7
September 11
October 2
November 6
December 4

Schoharie 5K Set for May 6

SCHOHARIE - The 2023 Schoharie 5k will benefit the Scho-Wright Ambulance Service this year. Registration is online at: <https://runsignup.com/Race/NY/Schoharie/Schoharie5K>. There is no race day registration. Packet Pickup starts at 7:30 am at The Schoharie Fire Department on Saturday, May 6. Finisher awards and refreshments for everyone. Age group awards for runners and walkers.



Middleburgh Woman Arrested for Alleged Non-Return of Uhaul

On April 11, 2023, State Police of Cobleskill arrested Emily G. Blond, 33, of Middleburgh, NY, on a warrant for Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle in the Third Degree.

On March 27, 2023,

at about 7:23 a.m. Troopers received a complaint that a Uhaul was rented and not returned per a written contract. The investigation determined Blond reportedly rented the vehicle from Warn-

erville in December of 2022 and failed to return it the next day per the written contract. On April 11 the vehicle was recovered in Middleburgh and Blond was taken into custody.

Blond was transported to SP Cobleskill for processing. She was issued an appearance ticket returnable to the Richmondville Town Court on April 26, 2023, and released.



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Obituaries Karen F. O'Leary

Conesville - Karen F. O'Leary of E. Conesville Road, died in the warmth and comfort of her home on Thursday, April 13, 2023 after a long illness.

Karen was born in Albany on October 7, 1958 to Eugene O'Leary and Josephine Calasso. She lived in West Albany and worked, with her sisters in their father's many restaurants before working many years with Bobby Van Warner at his garage. She also operated a sheep farm in Preston Hollow for many years while simultaneously working as

a clerk at many local livestock auctions. For the last sixteen years, she's been the bookkeeper and oversaw operations with Rock and Pinkster Elk Farm and Dahlberg Construction in Conesville.

Cherishing her memory forever are her companion, Eric Dahlberg of Conesville and many friends. Karen is also survived by her brother-in-law, her niece and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents, step-father and her sisters Christine and Donna. A special thank you also to

Tonya Buley for her kindness and compassion with Karen's care.

Per Karen's request, cremation will be handled privately and here will be a gathering for family and friends at a later time.

Memorials donations in Karen's honor are requested to Helios Care, 297 River Street Service Rd, Oneonta, NY 13820 or the Conesville Fire Department, 1292 Rt-990V, Gilboa, NY 12076

Coltrain Funeral Home, LLC of Middleburgh is honored to be caring for Karen and her family.

Blenheim Hose Company Trains on New Jaws of Life

On April 12th, seven members of the Blenheim Hose Company received training on their recently purchased ION Flexvolt Combi Spreader (jaws of life) tool.

The Blenheim Hose Company appreciates the award of funding made possible through the New York Power Authority, the Schoharie County Flood Committee and Board of Supervisors which distributed \$200,000 to local First Responders and related agencies.

Doug DeRidder of Bulldog Fire Apparatus provided the in-depth, two hour hands-on training for the proper use of this emergency access tool at the Blenheim Municipal



Chief Kevin Gillespie operates the rescue tool.

Center. The new tool was used to remove the doors and roof of a car as part of the training. The Blenheim Hose Company is grateful for the comprehensive training provided by Mr. DeRidder.

M'burgh Planning Board Seeking New Member

By David Avitabile

MIDDLEBURGH - The Middleburgh joint planning board is seeking a new member after the town board accepted the resignation of Danielle Berger last week.

Ms. Berger also served as secretary for the planning board, which is a joint board shared by the village and town. Members are named by the town board.

"I joined the Planning Board to be able to contribute to the community and hopefully help shape some of Middleburgh's future development, and without a vote, I don't think I can make that contribution in a meaningful way," wrote Ms. Berger. She explained that she had considered getting her citizenship but decided not to pursue it at this time.

"At this time I have decided not to move forward with that process, and even if I did it can take up to a year - again, I don't want to put myself or any of the Boards in a state of limbo for such a long time. I do want to make it very clear that had I realized I was ineligible to be part of the Planning Board I would not have applied in the first place. I have double-checked with the Office of Local Government and confirmed there is no allowance for Permanent Residents to serve on a planning board (de-

spite it being an appointed, not a voted, position) so I obviously have to follow that rule. I also want to reiterate that all Planning Board votes during my tenure were unanimous so my vote was not a deciding vote in any of the decisions during my time on the Board."

Supervisor Wes Laraway said the loss is a big one for the planning board and town.

"It's a huge loss to the planning board," he said Thursday night. "She was great." Ms. Berger was "exactly what the planning board needed. It's our loss not to have her on there. Too bad."

The resignation was accepted with regret.

Ms. Berger added, "I have made a recommendation to Fred (Risse, the chairman) for a replacement as secretary and I will help whoever is appointed as secretary as much as I can."

Someone is interested in the opening and the town will advertise the position. The deadline for applicants is May 4 and interviews will be held on May 11. An appointment may be made that night, the day of the next town board meeting.

Mr. Risse noted that many planning boards have alternates. The only caveat is that two would be needed since the planning board needs mem-

bers from both the town and village.

Jefferson Closes WCCRC Grant, Dispels Rumors About Letter

By Liz Page

JEFFERSON - Supervisor Peggy Hait read an unsigned letter to dispel any rumors it was coming from the town board and members of the Jefferson Town Board closed out a housing repair grant during their meeting last Thursday.

"It is our policy not to read letters that are not signed," said Supervisor Hait, but the letter she read was being rumored as coming from the town board, which she assured the public it is not.

The letter refers to a meteorological evaluation tower (MET) tower on private property off North Road in the town and how it came to be erected without notification to the neighbors. The issue is being researched according to the letter that appeared in a Facebook post and is signed by Jefferson Neighbors. They attribute a possible wind turbine development to Borego and hint that it is the precursor to a line of 640-foot tall wind turbines along the ridge parallel to North Road. The letter states concerns about the developers and states they

have not had a successful project to date.

It also accuses the state of attempting to compromise home rule and contends there is conflicting information in the planning board minutes regarding the actual scope of the project.

A moratorium on wind and solar projects is set to run out in June and the letter urges the people of Jefferson to participate at the town board and planning board levels.

The letter provides no lists of names of those posing as Jefferson Neighbors. "We have a resolution that no letter will be read if it is not signed, however, in this case, I believe it is needed to point out this is not coming from the town board," said Hait. Permission was given to erect the test tower, but there is no permission to erect any wind towers. An action for that, she said, would require a public hearing.

She said she believes the concern is generated by the fact that the town of Middleburgh did not allow a project that proposed a number of wind

turbines and resulted in a law that now prohibits wind turbines in Middleburgh. The town of Schoharie currently has a lawsuit with Borego.

She said there was a wind test tower erected years previously and the project never moved forward.

She said the town of Sharon Springs has a solar project that the state has taken over the home rule to assess the project, which has substantially reduced the amount a town would collect on these expensive projects.

"We need to take a close look at what is coming here," said Hait.

Antonia Besculides, executive director of the Western Catskills Community Revitalization Council (WCCRC) was present to answer questions and present the figures on a \$425,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) the town is closing out. She said \$348,000 was spent on construction, utilizing local contractors. There was another \$55,250 in soft costs and another \$20,000 was spent on administration. Eight housing rehabilitations

were completed, most for seniors at an average cost of \$42,800 per project.

She thanked the town, saying the WCCRC has had several successful grants, including the mobile home replacement program, with the town. The one which is being completed consisted of emergency repairs for senior homeowners, including accessibility modifications.

The final report of the night was from Supervisor Hait, who managed to find names for several roadways off Castle Mountain Road. The roadways all had similar names, leading to confusion for 911 dispatch in the county. The town was asked to rename the roads. They will now go down in the mapping system as Elf Drive, Moose Crossing Drive, Oak Tree Lane, Frog Lane, Erie Street, Maude Lane and Kane Road.

Highway Superintendent Ray Hendrickson was given approval to spend up to \$45,000 on an auction site to purchase a new tractor and boom mower for the highway department. To help cover the cost, he is gathering a list of items to auction as surplus.

Councilman Don Van Valkenburgh, who is a member of the Heritage Day Committee, reported that two members of the Jefferson Historical Society attended the meeting and have been supportive, but no one showed from the Holiday Committee or the Jefferson Fire Department. The HDC has appealed to other organizations to get involved with the event. Ads are currently being sold for the booklet and they are looking into renting picnic tables. They are still looking for volunteers to help with activities on Heritage Day. The next meeting will be held April 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the Jefferson Town Hall.

There were no objections to Thady Tully taking over care of the Old Jefferson Cemetery

Board members then moved into an executive session to discuss union negotiation with no action expected.

All Electric Buses May Not be Right for MCS, Despite Gov. Hochul's Wish

By David Avitabile

MIDDLEBURGH - Despite Governor Kathy Hochul's dream and edict

that all state school buses are electric by 2035, Middleburgh Central School is not ready to enter the fu-

ture.

In January 2022, Governor Hochul said she would propose legislation to shift to 100 percent electric school buses by 2035. She also said she would propose legislation to require that all new school bus purchases will be zero-emissions by 2027. When the 2022 budget was approved three months later, it included a plan to make the state's approximately 50,000 school buses all-electric by 2035.

The state Senate then strengthened the proposal by requiring the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NY-SERDA) to provide technical assistance to school districts as they navigate the transition to all-electric buses.

Middleburgh does not have any electric buses and will not have any in the near future.

The district will be putting a bus proposition on the ballot in May asking voters to approve the purchase of three buses for up to \$306,500. The district gets back 77.3 percent of the cost in state aid.

The buses would be a 60-passenger, a 30-passenger with air conditioning, and a mini-van. None are electric.

Bill Himme, the district's director of facilities, said there are concerns in the local grid capacity if the entire fleet of 28 buses was switched to electric.

"I don't know how much the grid capacity will need to be increased in the future," he said. "What I was told by the company that did the survey for us was, if Middleburgh converted its fleet of 28 buses to electric, we would consume most of the additional electric National Grid's current infrastructure can provide."

Mr. Himme, who came to the district about two years ago, feels electric buses have their limitations, especially in such a large (in a square area) district as Middleburgh.

"I'm definitely not a fan of them yet," he said. "Large electric buses have a range of 100 miles, small electric buses have a range of 70 miles. Our bus runs to the Albany area are over 100

miles long and they go twice a day. Some of our in-district routes are 60 miles long over some pretty hilly terrain. I'm not convinced an electric bus would do very well on our terrain."

He would be willing to test one out if offered.

"It would be great to try one out, but dealers can't get a demo for us to try because of their limited range."

He also is concerned about the initial cost of the bus and their lifespan.

"The cost of going electric is huge. The price of an electric bus is around \$400,000, compared to \$150,000 for our current 65-passenger buses. Electric buses have a seven-year life span, we currently operate on a 10-year replacement plan."

If a charging station was added at the bus garage, the electrical system would also need an upgrade, Mr. Himme noted.

"We'd have to add charging stations at the garage with a substantial upgrade to its electrical system. There's also many incidental things that go along with it; charging stations near our sports fields for opposing teams, training mechanics, tools, etc..."

Middleburgh Central School District Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration

Student registration for both kindergarten and pre-kindergarten (UPK 3 and UPK 4) are now open for the 2023-2024 school year.

For the UPK 3 and UPK 4 programs, children must be 3 or 4 years old on or before Dec. 1 and reside in the Middleburgh School District to be eligible. The program does not require income eligibility and registration is on a first come, first serve basis once the registration packet has been completed.

For the Kindergarten program, children must be 5 years old on or before Dec. 1 and reside in the Middleburgh School District to be eligible.

If you would like a registration packet or have any questions, please contact our registrar at (518) 827-3600 ext 2601.

All About Racing



Bill and Cindy Yurkewicz sit in their favorite seats in the Fonda Speedway grandstands on Saturday to enjoy practice at the track. The Yurkewicz are strong supporters of local racing through their many avenues of sponsorship at local tracks. *Biittig photo*

By Ed & Betty Biittig

Fonda's practice session on Saturday was a big success for the 105 cars and racers that came and for the fans that came for a chance to see cars on the track for the first time. After a bit of grooming the track came up fast and racy for the later sessions.

Good News!! Fonda is getting a new lap counter and even better news is that it's scheduled to be delivered this week. And this is all thanks to Bill and Cindy Yurkewicz of Yurkewicz Auto Crushers in Fultonville, the Track of Champions will have a new lap counter in the infield this season. Bill and Cindy are big supporters of local racing and have been for many years. This season they are title sponsors for the Pro Stock division at Glen Ridge along with being associate sponsors on several cars; the Pro Stocks of "Cousin" Luke Horning, Andy Graves, and they are owners of the Pro Stock driven by Kyle Weiler. They sponsor the Limited Sportsman of Lucas Duncan, and the 602 Cate Sportsman of Jason Greco.

Whether you see it as good or bad luck, Danny Varin blew the engine in his Sprinter after taking

a few very fast laps. Good luck that it happened in a test and tune event and bad luck that it happened at all. According to Varin, his engine builder informed him he's way behind schedule and may not have it back to him before the first Sprint race at Fonda on May 6.

Friday night at the Great Race Place, Albany-Saratoga felt like a July night of racing with temps hovering around 90 degrees. A banner number of race cars (170) were on hand to welcome the 58th season at the track and the fans were still pouring in as the qualifying events were underway. With 42 Modifieds on hand it look like a major series event with \$5800 on the line for the winner. Taking the money and the checker was Australian, Peter Britten, his fourth time in victory lane on opening night at the Malta oval. What was a great decision, was the running of two main events for the 55 Crate Sportsman on hand. Both Modifieds and Sportsman were running for show points.

The annual NESOCOT (North East Stock Car Old Timers) Steak Roast has a new venue and date this year. The popular event will be held on Sunday, August 6, 2023 at

Fonda Speedway on the Fonda Fairgrounds. Information on the event and/or membership to NESOCOT can be accessed through their Facebook page at NESOCOT Racing. Information is also available from NESOCOT Officers, President, Al McCoy (518-461-5223) VP, Mitch Poole (518-588-3737), Treasurer, Don Cadoret (518-374-5481) and Secretary, Pat Cadoret (518-281-6867).

A couple of our local racers branched out into Late Model racing this past week in Delaware. Brock Pinkerous of Ellenville was the winner of the Rush Late Model non-qualifiers event at Delaware International. Demetrios Drellos of Queensbury won the B-Main at Delaware and finished eighth in the main event.

Due to a push back of the closing on the sale of Five Mile Point Speedway, the track announced this past week that it will run several special events in 2023, marking the 73rd consecutive season at the Kirkwood oval. Check their webpage for a full schedule of the events to be run.

Until next week please send all news and/or comments to biittig@yahoo.com

Creekside Flea Market Opens to Sun, Crowds



It was a perfect spring Sunday for opening day at the Creekside Flea Market on Route 145 in Livingstonville as shoppers, pent up from a winter indoors flocked to the open-air market. Photo by David Avitabile.

All Stars Music Festival

The Schoharie County Music Educators' Association is sponsoring the annual All Stars Music Festival at Berne-Knox-Westerlo Central School. Exceptional student musicians have been chosen to participate based on recommendations by their music teachers. Selected students will rehearse with guest conductors on Friday, April 28 and Saturday, April 29. The festival will culminate in a concert at 3:00 PM on Saturday, April 29, given by a 5th/6th grade choir and a 5th/6th grade band. Participating school districts are Berne-Knox-Westerlo, Cobleskill-Richmondville, Duanesburg, Middleburgh, Schoharie, and

Sharon Springs.

The members of SCMEA meet on a regular basis to plan two festivals which offer expanded music opportunities for music students. The group also sponsors scholarships for grad-

uating seniors who will be taking music courses in college next year.

The concert is open to the public and begins at 3:00pm in the BKW high school gymnasium.

Lady Knights Fall to Galway

MIDDLEBURGH - The Lady Knights rallied late but it was not enough as Middleburgh fell at Galway 13-4 Monday afternoon.

Galway built up a 7-0 lead by the bottom of the third inning before MCS scored single runs in the fourth and fifth innings and two more in the seventh inning.

Olivia Skowfoe led the Knights at the plate with a single and RBI double. Cierra DuPont added a single.

Kaitlyn Wood got the start on the mound for the Knights and was relieved by Skowfoe. Sarah Schafroth was the catcher.



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Conesville Discusses Assessments

By Patricia Lee
 CONESVILLE — At the Conesville monthly Town Board meeting that was held on Monday, April 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., discussions were held regarding property assessments. Property assessments are required to be done every 5 years, and it is an important process because it helps to determine if some people are paying the accurate amount. Someone may be paying too much in property taxes, or not paying enough. According to Bill Federice, Conesville Town Supervisor, it is a “popular misconception” that assessments are based off of prior tax levies, but that is not true. They are not directly related.

“It has nothing to do with the town budget,” Town Assessor Marie Stuber added. “It is based on what the sales have been in the past 5 years.”
 When property assessments were done approximately 4 years ago, taxes did not go up drastically. The tax bill is driven by the amount of money needed to run the town in the coming year. Expected sources of income are initially looked at and then the balance leftover is where they do the tax levy. Federice said that many people will go on Facebook to complain, but he doesn't receive any phone calls. “If you think something is not right,” he said, “pick up the phone.”
 Work is progressing on the Couchman House, a landmark located in Conesville. Electricians have

come in and installed a new electric panel. They have also checked all of the wirings and have found nothing worthy of being addressed. The next step will be the inspection. The town is also waiting on a \$225,000 grant for the project. Federice has been told they have about a 50/50 chance to receive it, as there are a lot of needy people who have also applied. Federice made an amendment to the budget, to move \$172,000 from the Capital Equipment Fund to the Highway Department for the purchase of a big mower. “I am really proud of where we are right now,” Federice stated. “I think our Highway Department right now will stand up to anyone.”

Big Win For Schoharie



Schoharie softball pitcher Amanda Stalker fields an infield hit and lobs it underhand to the first basewoman for an out to end the fourth inning.



Schoharie's Arabella Donzelli slides in safe, stealing second and beating the throw to Gilboa-Conesville shortstop Kanly Sutton in Schoharie's 17-0 softball victory Tuesday. Photos by Scott Keidong.

Ticket to Hold “Meet the Candidates” Event

MIDDLEBURGH – With the 2023 Village of Middleburgh Election officially off to the races, a ticket of four local candidates are holding a “meet the candi-

dates” event that Village residents are invited to attend. Village Mayoral candidate Timothy Knight and Village Trustee candidates Robert

Tinker, Amanda Fernandez, and Kevin Young will be hosting the event at Middleburgh Coffee Co. on Saturday, April 22nd from 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM.

Volunteers Needed in Schoharie

The Schoharie Promotional Association is looking for volunteers to assist with: Adopt-a-Highway pick-

up, meeting at Rt. 443 park and ride on Saturday, April 22nd, 10 AM. Bags, vests and grabbers provided.

Please wear sturdy boots or shoes. Lily Park cleanup on Saturday, April 29th, 10 AM.

OESJ Edges Middleburgh

ST. JOHNSVILLE - The Middleburgh Knights lost an 8-5 game to Oppenheim-Ephratah-St. Johnsville (OESJ) Wednesday. With seven runs in the 4th, 5th, and 6th innings, OESJ came back to win the game.

Middleburgh is currently 2-4 overall and 0-3 within the league. On the Middleburgh side, Ben Croote went 2-4 with 2 doubles and 2 RBI. Braeden All was 1-2 with a double and a run. Ian Hoop was 1-4 with a dou-

ble and a run batted in. Middleburgh traded between several pitchers. Jason Hoop tossed 3 innings and racked up 6 strikeouts while Derrick Fuller allowed no hits, one run, and struck out one.

Notice of Town Caucus

A Republican Caucus is hereby called to be held in and for the **Town of Middleburgh, NY**, at the Community Center in said town on the **26th day of April, 2023, at 7 o'clock p.m.** for the purpose of nominating candidates for Town offices to be voted for at the General Election to be held November 7, 2023, and for the transaction of such business as may regularly and legally come before said caucus. All enrolled Republicans of said town are invited and requested to attend and take part in said caucus.

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St. Mark's Lutheran Church
 Sunday 10:30 AM, 326 Main St., Middleburgh

Middleburgh Reformed Church
 178 River St. Middleburgh
www.middleburghreformed.org
 Worship 11 a.m.
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Sharon Reformed Church
 Sundays 10:30 AM
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 Sharon Springs,

The Warnerville United Methodist Church
 1615 NY-7, Richmondville, NY 12149 Holds services every Sunday at 9 a.m.
 (Children's Sunday School also at 9 a.m.)

Middleburgh United Methodist Church
 281 Main Street Middleburgh, NY holds services every Sunday at 11 a.m.
 (Children's Sunday School also at 11 a.m.)
 Pastor Mel 518-827-5126 or Melenamoore2323@gmail.com

Esperance-Sloansville United Methodist Church
 175 Main St. Esperance, NY 12066, at 11 a.m. on Sunday

Gallupville United Methodist Church
 120 Factory St. Schoharie, 12157

Delanson United Methodist Church
 112 E Shore Rd, Delanson, NY 12053

Our Lady of the Valley Roman Catholic Parish
 Saturday 5:45 p.m.
 Sunday: 9:00 a.m.
 Wednesday 9:00 a.m.
 Virtual Mass available at [Facebook.com/our-lady-of-the-valley-parish/](https://www.facebook.com/our-lady-of-the-valley-parish/)
 Main Street at Wells Ave. Middleburgh
 Rev. Tom Zelker, Pastor

518-827-3301
Olv2009@midtel.net

Evangelical Lutheran Church - Gallupville
 Sunday Worship begins at 9:00 am every Sunday, followed by Adult Study at 10:30 am and Children's Sunday School at 11:00 am.
 Sarah's Pantry Second and Fourth Thursdays 12 noon-4pm

Grosvenors Corners United Methodist Church
 1217 Grosvenors Corners Road in the hamlet of Grosvenors Corners, Carlisle meets for worship at 8:30 a.m. Sunday Morning.

The Sharon Springs United Methodist Church
 511 US-20, Sharon Springs meets for worship on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Schoharie Reformed Church
 258 Main Street Schoharie, NY 12157
 In-person Sunday Worship Service 10:00am for all ages. All are Welcome.
 Pastors Michael & Sherri Meyer-Veen

Summit UMC
 2870 State Rt. 10 service

10 a.m. Pastor Jan Benson
Seventh Day Adventist
 2861 State Rt. 10
 Saturday Service 10 a.m.
 Pastor Reid 501-545-8351

Calvary Assembly of God
 960 Mineral Springs Rd. 10 AM Sunday service.
www.cagcobleskill.org

First Baptist Church
 492 West Main Street, Cobleskill Sunday Service – 11:00 AM

Schoharie United Presbyterian Church
 314 Main St. Schoharie, Worship Service: 10:30 AM Sundays

Lawyersville Reformed Church
 209 Phillip Schuyler Road, Cobleskill 9AM service every Sunday

Sacred Heart Church
 Saturday, at 4:30pm Sacred Heart Stamford
 Sunday, at 8am St. Philip Neri, Grand Gorge
 Friday, at 12pm Sacred Heart in Stamford

Harpersfield Methodist Church
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Old M'burgh Town Hall Empty For Now; Hayes Asks for Hall to Be Sold

By David Avitabile
MIDDLEBURGH - All offices have been moved out of the Middleburgh town hall, at least temporarily, as officials gather information on the next step.

The board discussed the town hall on Railroad Avenue in the village after receiving a letter from former Mayor and town councilman Gary Hayes asking that the building be marketed, sold, and be put back on the tax rolls.

"There is nothing to report on the old Town Hall as of yet," Supervisor Wes Laraway said. "All of the town offices have been moved to the Community Center while we weigh out the options of what to do with the other old Town Hall. We can renovate the old building to address some of the air circulation issues. We can sell the old building and put it back on the tax rolls. This option would save the taxpayers a lot of money for duplication of expenses at multiple buildings."

The town court moved up to Community Center, located on Cotton Hill Road, in late December and the town clerk's and assessor's offices were relocated last month. The town's historian was moved to a location in the town barn.

"We will stay at the Community Center (on a temporary basis) until we see if it works for all involved," Mr. Laraway added. "Having town court and two other offices (town clerk and assessor) at the Community

Center really does not interfere with the desire of having an emergency space for disasters. It actually makes a lot of sense for the offices to be there as well. Community groups are still using the building many nights a week."

Town officials, Mr. Laraway, hope to find out the answers by the fall, if not sooner. They do not want to go through a heating season with an empty building, he added.

The town wants to find out "what we legally do and get it in writing."

Middleburgh officials have been battling air circulation problems at the old town hall for months.

The moves up to the Community Center could also be a precursor to the town eventually selling the 100-plus-year-old building that once housed an Agway store.

The town has been at the town hall on Railroad Avenue for nearly 20 years. The Community Center, which also doubles as an emergency shelter, opened about three years ago. Town board meetings were moved there shortly after it opened.

Once vacated, the town could look to sell it.

"I think someone would want to buy it," Mr. Laraway said earlier this year. "It would be great for a variety of things and would be better back on tax paying rolls. We won't be selling it until we are ready and if we think the move to the Community Center will work."

The Community Center

hosts the town board and planning board meetings after nearly 30 years at the town hall.

The town moved into the town hall around 1995 after an "amicable" divorce with the village when Richard Shultes was town supervisor and Mr. Hayes was a councilman during the terms of Mayors Charles Slater and Art Wargo.

The town and village

shared the Municipal Building on Main Street for many years before town officials at that time were worried that the state would force the two municipalities to make the building, which was once Central National Bank, handicapped accessible. The town agreed to buy the town hall, which once housed an Agway store. After much rehabbing, the town

moved in a few months later.

The village hall was exempted from needing to be handicapped accessible. The building is not handicapped accessible, though the village board recently purchased a wheelchair lift to meet the need.

The community center was built with \$3 million in NY Rising funds that

the town received after the flood of August 2011.

In other town hall news, board members agreed to keep the current town hall security system, according to Mr. Laraway.

"The decision was made to keep the security on at the old town hall because it is reasonable and there are still some records there," he said.

Schoharie Recognizes Key Students

By Joshua Walther

SCHOHARIE - During the regular Schoharie Board of Education meeting on Wednesday, the Board proudly presented the valedictorian and salutatorian for the Class of 2023, as well as one other for athletic accomplishments.

Principal Kevin Calacone and Superintendent David Blanchard stood before the Board to honor each student, beginning with the upcoming class valedictorian, Morgan Phelan.

Principal Calacone listed off Ms. Phelan's academic and athletic achievements, recognizing that she earned WAC

MVP for Girls' Varsity Soccer last autumn, and showed her extraordinary participation in choir, musicals, and extracurricular clubs.

The next student to be honored was Alyssia Bleau, the class salutatorian. Principal Calacone explained that not only is she proficient as a student and soccer athlete, but she often challenges herself on double black ski trails whenever she gets the chance.

It was stated that Ms. Bleau intends to go to Clarkson University, then live in another state like Vermont to hopefully raise a family of her own.

And finally, the last stu-

dent was Zoey Lints, who stood before the Board to be recognized for her outstanding athletic achievements. She remained as a team captain for several years and even led her teams to WAC competitions on three separate occasions. Last winter, she was celebrated as a wrestling state champion.

Ms. Lints plans on continuing her wrestling career as she attends higher

education for physical therapy, and Superintendent Blanchard noted that because of her skill as an athlete, she will be immortalized within Schoharie with her very own banner in the gym.

Each student earned rapturous applause from the sizable audience and the Board after each presentation, and members were quick to offer their congratulations and well wishes for the future.

Gallupville House Plans for Coming Year

By Bradley Towle

GALLUPVILLE - A recent meeting of the Gallupville House Association addressed a myriad of upcoming events and plans for 2023. Association president Scott Hadam announced that he's "received confirmation from the town board" that progress can begin a front porch project. Questions and thoughts about the projects ranged from checking in with historic registries to cre-

ating a banner that reads "Your Donations at Work." Six seats remain for the April 29th bus trip to Boston. Tickets are \$60 per person and are available at <https://www.gallupville-house.org/events/bus-trip-to-boston>.

The Gallupville House will host an open mic on Sunday, April 23rd, at 3:00 p.m. and plan on the second Sunday of each month. (April and May are third Sundays due to holidays). A report on the recent Easter Egg hunt revealed it was a "big success," with 81 attendees. Association members brainstormed for ways to make next year's even more fun for the young egg hunters. Plans for future fundraising include a raffle with membership forms, magnets, and t-shirts. The next meeting of the Gallupville House Association is scheduled for May 15th at the Gallupville House.

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Middleburgh Board Names Short-Term Rental Committee

By David Avitabile
MIDDLEBURGH - Now that the spring travel season has arrived, Middleburgh village officials have named a four-person committee to look into short-term rentals in the village.

The village is looking to revisit its zoning law, specifically regarding STRs within the commercial and historical districts in the community.

Earlier this month, village board members named four members to the committee: Trustee Tim Knight, zoning board

of appeals chairman John Wingfield, and residents Matthew Lacy and Jim Snyder.

Board members also asked the zoning board of appeals that they consider any short-term rental application "judiciously in light of potential change in the village zoning law on this subject."

Mr. Wingfield noted that bed and breakfasts, as long as it is owner-occupied, are allowed, but STRs, also known as Airbnb's, are not owner-occupied.

At the Middleburgh

town board meeting in March, the Middleburgh joint planning board, which is shared by the village and town, asked for a moratorium on the rentals.

In a letter to the town board last month, it was reported that members had discussed a short-term rental for the Black Bear Country Inn (formerly Wattles Inn the Middle) on Main Street in the village.

The zoning board of appeals was scheduled to hold a public hearing last month on a proposed short-term rental at 296 Main Street, next to the post office. The owner is planning to use all or a portion of the building as a non-owner-occupied short-term rental facility. The two-story building is now owned by Daniel Green of Smith Road in Potter Hollow.

He is seeking a special

use permit.

"We have recommended to the ZBA that the property in question at 296 Main Street (formerly 'Wattles Inn the Middle') does not meet the requirement for a 'Hotel/Motel/Tourist Home' per the current zoning law definitions and Commercial zoning special uses - it is not a tourist home or B&B because it will not be owner-occupied, and it does not meet the room requirements for a hotel/motel," read the planning board letter to the town board.

A moratorium would be a good idea right now, planning board members suggested.

"On a broader level, this opened up issues around the precedent that the outcome of the ZBAs decision would set for other properties in the commercial district as

well as short-term rentals generally in the village, and we would like to recommend that the village hold a moratorium on short-term rentals until the laws are reviewed. We want to make sure that short-term rental facilities are allowed within reason, but also make sure there are no legal loopholes that could be exploited, that our long-term rental and housing stock is protected and that rules/definitions are up-to-date and practical."

The property in question is zoned commercial, under which "hotel, motel, tourist homes" are

listed as special uses in the zoning law.

In July 2021, village officials looked at possibly changing its zoning on Airbnbs and decided to leave things as they are.

At that time, officials briefly discussed the new vacationing and renting trend the month prior and decided to let things remain status quo.

Officials received opinions, advice and the pros and cons from the town and village planning board and the zoning board of appeals members before making the decision on zoning laws.

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\$1.00

Prattsville Gets New Fire Truck

By Michael Ryan

PRATTSVILLE - The formation of an ambulance district is underway, subject to input from the citizenry before anything is finalized, and meanwhile Prattsville firefighters are strutting their new firetruck.

Volunteers from the Prattsville Hose Company took delivery on their 2023 Freightliner tanker, last Wednesday evening, finally welcoming its arrival after an 18-month wait.

The 3,000 gallon capacity tanker, manufactured in Winnipeg, Canada, cost \$410,000, according to 1st assistant chief and squad PR man Tom Olson.

The fire district will finance \$184,000 of that amount over the next 10 years. "It was time," fire chief Jim Dymond said, noting the new rig replaces an aging model and will be "much more reliable."

Dymond said the old tanker "served its purpose well" and will be kept by the department, moving it outside for the immediate future.

Several firefighters were on hand, getting hands-on instruction from Vander Molen Fire Apparatus Sales & Service owner Phil Vander Molen and salesman Nick Catalino. The firm is located in Ballston Lake.

Also on hand was Larry Gates who made the 24-hour, 2-day drive from Winnipeg, Canada, dropping off the Canadian-built tanker for the Fort Garry Industries manufacturer.

Two days before that happened, town council members approved fresh legislation that provides real property tax exemptions for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers.

Several area towns and the Greene County Legislature have similarly passed the measure which offers a tax break, honors volunteers and hopefully encourages people to join the ranks.

County lawmakers, approving the resolution earlier this year, stated, "the legislature finds and determines that attracting and retaining quality volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel is one of the most critical problems facing a



Prattsville Hose Company took delivery of their new Freightliner tanker, last week, replacing an aging truck. On hand for the unveiling were (in the cab) Fire Commissioners chairman Don Speenburgh, (standing left to right) fire chief James Dymond, 1st assistant chief Tom Olson, 2nd ass't chief Ted Weingate, 3rd ass't chief Cole Weingate (with his son Coltan), Fire Commissioners member Randy Brainerd and (kneeling left to right) Vander Molen Fire Apparatus Sales and Service owner Phil Vander Molen and salesman Nick Catalino. Larry Gates (not shown) made the 24-hour drive with the rig from the Fort Garry Industries dealership in Winnipeg, Canada.

number of communities."

Language in the tax law states that, "real property owned by a member of the town of Prattsville Volunteer Fire Company (or ambulance volunteers if applicable) shall be exempt from taxation of up to 10 percent of assessed value of such property...exclusive of special districts.

Applicants must be certified by the local fire district that they have accrued a minimum of two years of active service as an active member, and further:

—"Any certified member who has accrued more than twenty years of active service shall be granted the 10 percent tax exemption for the remainder of his/her life as long as [Prattsville] is his/her primary residence;

—"Un-remarried spouses of deceased volunteers, killed in the line of duty, may apply for this property exemption if...the deceased volunteer had been an active member for at least five years;

—"Un-remarried spouses of deceased volunteers may continue an exemption or reinstate a pre-existing exemption if...the deceased volunteer had been an active

member for at least twenty years and...

"...such deceased volunteer and spouse had been receiving the exemption for their property prior to the death of the volunteer;

"Application for such exemption shall be filed with the assessor on or before the annual taxable status date on the form," the law reads.

Municipalities were given the choice of mandating between 2 to 5 years of active service to be eligible and a tax exemption rate of between 5 and 10 percent. Prattsville opted for the minimum and maximum, respectively.

And in another matter related to the fire company, town supervisor Greg Cross said the recent arrangement made between the town and fire department continues to be a win-win.

The town agreed to pave Firehouse Drive - which does exactly what the name implies, leading from Route 23 to the firehouse - ,and also took ownership in terms of snowplowing, maintenance, etc.

In exchange, the fire district transferred ownership of their old firehouse, located on Main Street, to the town for use by the highway department which has an aging building on the east side of the hamlet.

"It is an effective solution to a problem we had," Cross

said, noting the paving of Firehouse Drive was accomplished by KCK Paving at a considerable savings to taxpayers.

"A pat on the back for [KCK Paving owner] Jim Thorington who did the work without charging the town for his equipment or labor," Cross said, noting town trucks were part of the operation.

When the blackout settled, local taxpayers were spared any of the overall \$117,000 expense, tapping federal American Rescue Plan Act money provided through

Jewett Town Purchases Snowplow

By Michael Ryan

JEWETT - They had to move fast for two reasons in Jewett, the other night, wanting to buy a new snowplow that became available suddenly.

Town council members wasted no time agreeing to the purchase after a recommendation from highway superintendent Bob Mallory.

Mallory, earlier this month, informed government leaders about the surprise availability of the 2023 International almost as if by divine vehicular intervention, filling an existing need.



Following in the footsteps of - and sitting upon the shoulders of - his father Cole, 1-year-old Coltan Weingate helped welcome the arrival of the new Prattsville Hose Company 23-3 tanker, perhaps setting the stage for the passing of the multi-generational volunteer firefighting torch.

the State and county.

Switching gears to emergency rescue, council members, last week, held the first of two required public hearings aimed at establishing a new ambulance district. The next hearing is slated for April 24 at 7 p.m.

Prattsville has a contract with the town of Ashland for primary ambulance coverage and was recently advised by Ashland that significant change is necessary in the way business is done, particularly surrounding costs.

Talks have been ongoing for several months, concluding this month when Prattsville signed a new contract, obliging them to pay 41 percent of Ashland's annual operating expenses.

The town of Lexington is also a partner in that 3-way agreement, paying 30 percent while Ashland pays 29

percent, representing a sizable increase for Prattsville and Lexington though far less than if they ran their own service.

If the district is formed - pending a possible permissive referendum - it will pave the way for the three towns to ultimately merge and join forces with the towns of Windham, Hunter and Jewett in the future, creating a ground-breaking mountaintop ambulance system.

"This is the way we have to go," Cross said. "Hopefully it is semi-painless but either way, in my mind, this is an essential service."

An ambulance district, in addition to giving Prattsville options, would show up as a separate line item in the annual town budget, letting taxpayers have a clearer picture of how their dollars are spent.

"Our fleet is aging," town supervisor Greg Kroyer said, sharing the details of Mallory's unexpected find with colleagues, last Wednesday night.

"This year, we have been hammered with repair bills on one of the older trucks. We've been looking for a used truck the past couple of years.

"There are very few out there and with all the supply chain issues, [dealers] are only taking new orders two years out. That won't help us," Kroyer said.

"Bob has been calling around, coming up with

nothing. He got a call back from this dealer about a municipality in Vermont that ordered a truck but then refused delivery.

"They offered it to us. It is essentially perfect for what we need. I can't say exactly what day we'll have it here but it will definitely be before winter which is when we need it the most," Kroyer said.

Board members, prior to saying aye or nay, reviewed a voluminous list of specs about the truck sent by the dealer, Allegiance Trucks Jericho.

Story continues on C2



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Ashland Speaks

By Lula Anderson

Did I just spend two days in the house, getting my chores done in the early morning, because of the heat? As I am writing this on Tuesday morning, I am looking at an occasional snowflake. Windows are once again closed, fires started, heat turned back on. Who was it that said April is the cruelest month?

Bill Mead just returned from a two week trip to Poland. Had a whirlwind tour of castles, old architecture, a government run cow farm, a wild boar and venison dinner in the mountains and homecooked meals with friends. It was a great trip, but he is glad to be back home again.

Traveling mercies for Claudia Braciello . A guest organist will be in Ashland Community church on Sunday. Please come and fill the pews once again. Keep the dust off the pews.

Don't forget Dinner Church in Lexington then next month is Lexington. We have a wonderful time at these fellowship gatherings. Fifth Sunday combined services for UMC Mt Top will be April 30th in Windham.

There was a beautiful celebration of Baptism at the Windham Hensonville UMC on Sunday for Zoe Jaxclynn Gentile daughter of Anna Maye Finger Gentile. The church was full and everyone enjoyed the fellowship following. Does Diane Osborn suffer from constant jet lag, or know where she is when she wakes up in the morning? She's taking great care of mom, Janice .

MaryLouise has about 10 more openings for the trip to Williamsburg and Charlottesville with the WAJPL Golden Agers.. It will be a 5-day - 4 night trip, from September 11 - 15. Package includes 4 nights lodging, 4 breakfasts, buffet lunch at Historic Michie Tavern, 3 dinners including Captain George's smorgasbord and the Whaling company. 2 day ticket to Colonial Williamsburg with a guided tour, self-guided tour of Jamestown, tour of Monticello, admission to Berkeley Plantation. Luggage handling, taxes and gratuities included. Call Mary Louise 518-622-3397 for further information and to reserve. With Mary Louise planning the trip, you can be sure you will get the most for your money as well as a very enjoyable trip. Greene County Community Action implores you to never go hungry, ask for help. Their mobile food pantry goes to the Prattsville area every other Wednesday and can deliver to one's door, or drop at the Prattsville Art Centre. Community Action requires pre-registration by calling 5518-943-9205. They are also in talks with the Regional Food Bank regarding the Jewett area.

If all goes as planned, Opal will be home again by the time you read this. Prayers for her continuing healing.

Continued prayers for Ellouise Cole, Tom Bristol, Janice Maben, Leona Know, Suzanne Mann , Michael Hermance and Phyllis Hillis.

60th Anniversary blessings and congratulations to Joyce and Har-

ry Terry.

AS I REMEMBER IT I usually have the radio on (WRIP of course) as background noise, and occasionally a blurb strikes my interest and I listen. A couple of weeks ago someone asked the question, "Are there really caves on Cave Mt?" When I was young and worked at Brainard Farm on South Street the help—dishwashers, chamber maids, and waitresses, decided to go to the top of the mountain on our afternoon break. The range ran from Brainard Ridge to Alle's farm, Sanfords (now Christman's) to Holdridge farm which is now Tuttle's, dropping down to the Maples which my grandfather owned and is now the Cave Mountain motel. When we went, we didn't care about the caves, but we heard that there was gold in them thar hills. We searched and searched, and all brought down a few nuggets of Fool's Gold, Iron Pyrite. So back to work we went, as poor as we went up.

I'm told that the Jewett boys used to hunt and walk up their side of the mountain quite often and have been in the caves. Not the size that we think of when we think of caves, but large enough for a bear or two to live in. The area is so grown up now, you have to know where they are to find them. Bill Mead had a wonderful horse that he used to go into Windham on—go up Grampa's farm, go to the top of the hill, and down into town. There were many trails leading to the tip of the mountain, as the Jewett side was basically woodlots for the residents of the town. Many of the paths can be found, but without an ATV or snowmobile, don't try to go there.

It's been more than 70 years since I've been chasing black angus cattle around the pastures of Cave Mt, or that Billy has taken his trusty steed on a trip to Windham Village, but the memories remain and while we would both like to revisit our youth—it ain't about to happen.

Out Lexington Way

By Christine Dwon

Thank you to all who came to the annual Maple Brunch hosted by the West Kill/Lexington Community Improvement Association on April 16 at the Community Hall in West Kill. Great turnout, delicious variety of savory and sweet food choices and good fellowship.

What a wonderful performance by the Hunter-Tannersville Middle/High School Theater Department of Shrek the Musical on April 13, 14 and 16. The music, the costumes, all the help, hours, dedication and hard work that it takes to present these fantastic performances is just outstanding. Congratulations to all of you.

Happy 51st wedding anniversary to Susan and Eugene Constable on Saturday, April 22.

Also celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary on April 22 are Jane and Joe Concato.

Happy birthday on Monday, April 24 to Marilyn Carreras.

Dr. Elena Suditu celebrates her birthday on Tuesday, April 25.

Best wishes to all.

The Spring Rummage Sale at the East Jewett United Methodist Church, 2252 Route 23C, East Jewett, will be held on Friday, April 21 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, April 22 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be housewares, Tupperware, lamps, antiques, toys, puzzles, books, clothing men's 2XL tops, women's winter coats, kids' clothing plus clothing in all sizes. Light refreshments will be available.

On Saturday, April 22 at 1 p.m., please join us at the Community Hall, 141 Spruceton Road, West Kill for the annual Patriots' Day. This year we are honoring the Town of Lexington hardworking and dedicated employees, volunteers and community organizations. Light refreshments will be served.

There will be a Roast Pork Dinner hosted by the Prattsville Hose Company, 47 Firehouse Drive, on Saturday, April 22 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Adult dinners are \$15; children 6-12 are \$7.50 and under 5 are free.

The Greene County Department of Human Services Senior Nutrition Program menu for the week of April 24 - April 28 is as follows: Monday—Sloppy Joes, California vegetable mix, white rice, pineapple; Tuesday—Sweet and sour chicken, oriental mixed vegetables, white rice, fortune cookie, applesauce; Wednesday—

Pork chop with gravy and applesauce, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots; peanut butter cookie; Thursday—Crab topped cod, Au Grain potatoes, carrot coins, butter pecan cake, fresh fruit; Friday—Bacon cheddar burger, coleslaw, green beans, yogurt cup. The meal will be the meal that is delivered to all Greene County homebound meal clients. All persons over the age of 60 can receive a meal. Meals served at noon and suggested donation for each meal is \$4. Those wishing to receive a meal are required to call the respective location by noon, a day in advance. The number to call for the Senior Nutrition site at the Jewett Municipal Building, Route 23C, Jewett is 518-263-4392.

The next Dinner Church potluck will be held Friday, April 28 at 6 p.m. in the Lexington/West Kill UMC Fellowship Hall. Topic of the evening will be Seeds of Faith. All welcome.

Saturday, April 29 is the Ashland Fire Department's annual Roast Beef Dinner. Take outs start

at 4:30 p.m. and dining hall at 5 p.m. Adults are \$15, children 5-12 are \$8, under 5 free.

There will be a Republican get together on Saturday, April 29 at 4 p.m. in the West Kill/Lexington Community Hall, 141 Spruceton Road, West Kill.

Sunday, April 30 is a combined worship service with the Mountain Top Parish churches at the Windham-Hensonville UMC, Main Street, Windham at 10 a.m. All welcome.

Thank you to all law enforcement, firefighters, EMS, dispatchers, health care providers, essential workers and so many more.

A reminder that there is a burn ban in effect until May 14.

Prayers for all who are dealing with illnesses, healing, loss, difficulties, our country, Ukraine, the world.

Until next week take care, be thankful, be courteous, be respectful and please be kind to one another. Your act of kindness may change someone's life.



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The Prattsville Scoop

By Abby and Gabby

PRATTSVILLE - Lots of good news to share. And many of it is thanks to our newspaper media - Mountain Eagle and Hudson Valley Newspapers. The Mountain Eagle and Hudson Valley Newspapers via Mike Ryan did Prattsville proud with their reporting of our dual Easter Egg Hunts. And so many pictures of our events. Thank you.

It was rewarding to know Gilboa friends Cynthia and Howard Mattsson read the Mountain Eagle and the Prattsville Scoop. They took note of Bonnie Trail's initial opening and the West Kill/Lexington Community Improvement event - Brunch Buffet at the Community Hall on Spruceton Road and attended both events. It was a day of appreciation for all involved. It is the true meaning of community spirit.

Skeet and Carol Constable also attended the buffet, after all they live just down the street from the Hall. Skeet was telling how the main section of the building used for the kitchen and extra dining, was brought there from the Town of Gilboa during the time of construction of the dam. He went on to say how the section used for dining and dances was built for the royal sum of \$1,500. At one time during the early 1950's, the upstairs over that part was used to present plays performed by local talent. During the warmer summer months way back when, there used to be round and square dances in the Hall every Saturday night with music supplied by the Melody Boys, who were well beyond the legal age back then. But it was a very good time for all ages to dance and have fun.

CathyMartino, Marianne Krauss and Ginny Gurley dropped off donated items to Voluntary Services and for Veterans Mother's Day baby items. While they were there they met the new Director of Fisher House, Mike. Either we forgot his last name or he never told us what it is. He shared the glorious news with us that within the next year a total renovation will start on The Fisher House. This renovation will cover all the aspects of the House and is already totally funded by the Fisher House Foundation and private entities. Amazing. Mike said there will be a major event when this project is completed with a jaw breaking ceremony. Stay tuned.

With the warm weather there are lots of sore muscles for mostly all homeowners. The rewards are lovely green lawns and flower beds bursting with blooms. Claudia Bracaliello was out collecting those flowers, even some known as weeds, for her beautiful arrangements for her beloved Reform Church.

She also does amazing knitted afghans in the softest of large yarns to be donated to her fellow veterans in local nursing homes. Mentioning handmade items, Dena Lawrence of East Jewett continues to crochet afghans for veterans and soft baby layettes in the loveliest of pastel colors. Thank you ladies, you are appreciated.

Good to see Wayne Tompkins out and about. Wayne and wife Ann enjoyed the breakfast buffet with Carol and Skeet. Wayne and Skeet have been life long friends and it is nice to see their friendship continuing all these years.

Get well wishes go out to fellow columnist Chris Dwon of West Kill, author of Out Lexington Way. Perhaps we can get WWWW to send her get well wishes. Knew those gold finches were around for a reason - they were wishing Chris the best.

The Krausses and the Gurleys represented Prattsville at the buffet and Rosalie Randolph was almost representing Prattsville - she is from Mosquito Point so we have to share her with Lexington. She was helping at the buffet and admitted she was tired after being an EMT responder Saturday evening in Walton. And she also serves in the same capacity in Ashland. Rosalie is always busy doing something fun, rewarding and/or worthwhile.

Lots of activities planned by the American Legion Virgil E. Deyo Post 1327, Prattsville, for the Memorial Day observances. The main event will be the Annual Memorial Day Parade, sponsored by Post 1327, on Monday, May 29, starting at 1 PM from Maple Lane. Assembling starts at 12 and line up at 12:30. The Parade will end at the Prattsville Town Green for the Memorial Day observances and honors for fallen heroes. Please join the veterans in honoring their comrades who are no longer with us. This has always been a solemn ceremony to honor those who have served to secure our way of life. On this day we can say "Thank you" in their memory. There will also be a Memorial Day Parade Float Contest for Creativity, Color and Messaging for Patriotism/Memorial message. Call Mike at 516-316-5149. More information to follow on all news media. Post 1327 will also be headlining Prattsville Military Tribute Banners. Go to militarytributebanners.org click "Banners Programs" & local "Prattsville, NY" or contact Christ Tompkins, call/text 518 795 5425 - Arnold Jaeger 518-708-3960 - Johannes Krauss 518-299-3307. Banners sponsorship is \$125 payable to Virgil E. Deyo American Legion Post 1327, P.O. 272,

Prattsville, NY 12468.

Remember the Memorial Services for Veterans John Wilkins on Tuesday, April 25, at Fairlawn Cemetery, 2 PM. The Parade will end at the Prattsville Town Green for the Memorial Day observances and honors for fallen heroes. Please join the veterans in honoring their comrades who are no longer with us. This has always been a solemn ceremony to honor those who have served to secure our way of life. On this day we can say "Thank you" in their memory. There will also be a Parade Float Contest on that day. Please contact Mike Meli at 516-316-5149 for more information.

Bluebirds and cardinals are singing as are other birds I fail to identify. But did recognize a flock of ten turkeys gleaming the lawn for creepy crawly things. The two toms were in full strut but the 7 or 8 hens ignored them.

Happy Birthday to Waylon Koerner-Fox on April 22 son of Forest and Miranda Cross Koerner-Fox. This makes this lad the great-great-grand-

son of Stella and Val Cross! Happy Birthday on April 26 to Mary Powell at Jim's Great American. On April 27 we wish Happy Birthday to Rev. Elliott Oakes and Dana Hommel. As they are both veterans, we thank them for their service. Happy Anniversary to Jane and Joe Concato on April 22. This will be the Concatos first anniversary as full time residents of our area. Go out and celebrate Jane and Joe.

If you have news to share, call 518-299-3219 or gurleyrv@gmail.com.



Beautiful local blooms and wild flowers arranged by Claudia Bracaliello

Germantown Tops W/HT

Germantown bested the combined Windham-Ashland-Jewett and Hunter-Tannersville team 30-0 last week. Germantown no-hit the combined team in five innings, grabbing 14 base hits. Ger-

mantown pitcher Mason Ferrer racked up 15 Ks in 5 innings pitched, with zero hits and runs allowed. Germantown's batters hit well in the game, with Ferrer going 3-4 with 5 runs scored

and 2 doubles. Shawn Lyons went 2-3 with 2 runs scored. Kyan Anderson had two hits and one run scored. Connor Benack went 2-4 with three runs scored.

LEGISLATURE STUFF

Two Senators Stop By

By Michael Ryan

CATSKILL - It is uncertain what may come from a recent meeting between U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, NY State Senator Michelle Hinchey and a handful of Greene County officials.

The informal sit-and-schmooze took place at a Catskill cafe and reportedly included county legislature chairman Patrick Linger, county administrator Shaun Groden and county attorney Edward Kaplan.

Also on hand were Warren Hart, the deputy county administrator and head of county Economic Development, Tourism & Planning, with James Hannahs, the Economic Development & Planning director.

Everyone was there on the invite of Gillibrand after her office reached out via email, being treated to victuals and engaging in what Linger later characterized as a "good discussion."

Senator Gillibrand has already launched her 2024 re-election campaign, seeking a third

term, which may partly explain her local presence.

She also potentially faces a stiff primary challenge but in any event, was in the area to "discuss the needs of Greene County and projects we might need [financial] help with," Linger said.

Gillibrand was accompanied by "three of her people," Linger said, touching upon "quite a few different things related to economic development."

"Senator Gillibrand wanted to know any hardships we are having, trying to get federal money," in the form of grants and other resources, Linger said.

Greene County has found it "difficult to apply for federal programs," Linger said, particularly thru the United State Department of Agriculture.

"She wanted to know the roadblocks that might be in the way for getting things done. There are qualifications in certain grants we can't meet," Linger said.

"One of our biggest stumbling blocks is we

don't have a big city in our county. Her answer to that was interesting," Linger said.

"She said she will tell us when money is out there and available although it is offered under certain criteria. But she also said she now had member items," Linger said, possibly opening other revenue avenues.

"At the end of the day, we don't know how much we would be eligible for but Senator Gillibrand promised, if we put in for one or two projects, she would do her best to fund one of them," Linger said.

Greene County is navigating a necessary and expensive shoring up and restoration of the dock and historic events building at Catskill Point.

Stabilizing the continuing undermining of the Hudson River bank at the site could cost the county multiple millions of dollars before completion.

The county, through the office of Economic Development, is seeking outside assistance, making both Senators aware of the issues.

Federal officials have indicated they are willing to help but timing is of the essence with the usual repairs, such as rip rap, no longer adequate.

Bid documents should be sent out by mid-summer. "This is not something we want to push off," Linger said, noting Gillibrand listened for roughly an hour. Hinchey stayed longer at the late

Sunday morning get together.

Conversations with Hinchey "for the most part stuck to State budget talks," Linger said, with Albany lawmakers not meeting their April 1 deadline.

The county legislature is controlled by Republicans, 12 to 2, while Hinchey is a generational Democrat, following in the political footsteps of her father, longtime U.S. Congressman Maurice Hinchey.

Albany is similarly a Democratic stronghold. Linger, while savvy to Party politics, especially locally, spoke candidly about Hinchey.

"Senator Hinchey does for her district (46th District) what she should be doing, promoting her district," Linger said.

"I do not agree with every vote Senator Hinchey makes but we have seen millions of dollars come to Greene County [via the State]," Linger said.

"Our State Senator is at those meetings. She is continuously working with governments at the county and town levels," Linger said.

"One thing that is concerning to us is that we are held to a 2 percent tax cap by State law, to keep property taxes in check.

"That is not a reciprocal requirement for the State. The Governor's budget proposal is over that. In our opinion, that is a problem," Linger said.

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BETTER THAN HEARSAY Pun Always Intended

By Michael Ryan

HUNTER - It was only a few jazzy riffs on the keyboards by Judd Weisberg but it brought things full circle when "The Moss Ensemble" made their first visit to the Doctorow Center for the Arts in Hunter, last Saturday night.

Judd is the son of Evelyn Weisberg, the woman for whom the Doctorow Center concert hall is reverently named and a mother who would love hearing her boy tickling the ivories again, even if only briefly.

Evelyn Weisberg was a devotee of the arts. Her son's passion has instead been fishing mountain streams but, "her spirit is soaring tonight," he said.

"She is happy, seeing me playing," Judd said about his mom, also the sister of Jarvis Doctorow who helped make the Doctorow Center a reality.

Jarvis and his wife Constance had a seasonal home in nearby Lexington, starting the Jarvis & Constance Doctorow Family Foundation.

The couple formed close bonds with Sarah and Peter Finn, founders of the Catskill Mountain Foundation and later the Doctorow Center.

Sarah and Peter have expanded on the initial vision in Hunter, also creating the Orpheum Theater in the village of Tannersville, bringing community and world-class arts and entertainment to the mountaintop.

Judd accommodated a reporter's request to sit at the in-house grand piano, last Saturday night, sharing a story of how The Doctorow Center came to be, minutes before The Moss Ensemble took the stage.

They performed a varied venue including music by Leonard Bernstein, Johann Sebastian Bach, Franz Haydn and Frederic Chopin.

The foursome of Darcy Dunn (mezzo-soprano), Marshall Coid (violin and countertenor), Mary Wooten (cello) and Elizabeth Rodgers (piano) also performed "Three Songs on Love Sonnets of Pablo Neruda."

"Three Songs" is composed by Robert Manno,

co-founder of the Windham Chamber Music Festival, tying together the artists and those who have given the artists a place to express, at length or briefly.

The impromptu improvisation by Judd Weisberg is something Jarvis Doctorow probably would have appreciated, a man who spent his childhood in Lexington and lived an exuberant life.

He served in World War II as an infantryman in Southern Italy where he was wounded, ultimately meeting his first wife Catherine Loumeau who, during the war, was involved with the French Resistance.

They had three children before Catherine died from cancer. Jarvis, while in the Army, had also been assigned to American Forces Radio Network in France, staying in Paris as a radio reporter after the war.

Jarvis, later remarrying, founded the Foundation with Constance, focused on funding non-profit organizations devoted to mental health service and the performing, visual and literary arts.

Over the years, Jarvis Doctorow, in addition to his charitable acts, formed a reputation as a mischievous punster, playing with words and writing his own obituary, opening with "Adieu.

"Please be aware, That I was forced to declare, That I've used up my share

Of days in our hot sun's glare," Doctorow wrote.

"Though I've tried very hard, Playing every single card, Even losing lots of lard, My time was up.... Decision of the Bard.

"Next the trip to the field, In a box that's sealed, Into an open slot, revealed

To the outcome I've been dealt;

"This poem is my last shot, Using word-play that's hot, Directing you to the plot, Where from now on, I'll rot.

"But, first stop, to a hall. For a gathering that's small, Of friends, one and all, Telling stories, some quite tall.

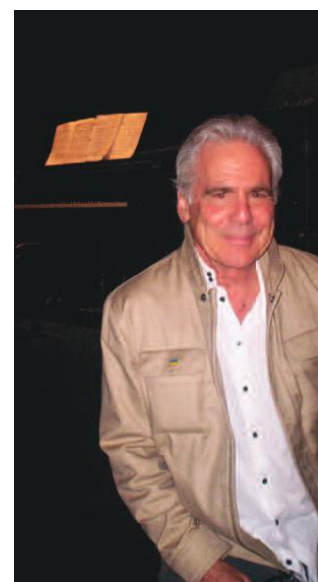
"I hope the pies are tart, And the beer most hearty, TA TA, dear friends.

It's been a party!"



Above left: The Moss Ensemble made its first visit to the Doctorow Center for the Arts including (left to right) Marshall Coid (violin and countertenor), Elizabeth Rodgers (piano), Mary Wooten (cello) and Darcy Dunn (mezzo-soprano).

Above right: "Three Songs on Love Sonnets of Pablo Neruda," composed by Windham Chamber Music Festival co-founder Robert Manno, were performed by The Moss Ensemble, last Saturday night, at the Doctorow Center for the Arts.



Above left: Welcoming patrons to Evelyn Weisberg Hall were (center) Pam Weisberg (Catskill Mountain Foundation director of performing arts) with Catskill Mountain Foundation co-founders Sarah Finn (left) and Peter Finn.

Above right: "Her spirit is soaring. My mother would be happy to see me playing," said Judd Weisberg, the son of Evelyn Weisberg, a lover of the arts while her son's passion has forever been fishing.



Moss Ensemble Wows at Doctorow Center

By Bradley Towle

HUNTER — "Mud season" on the mountaintop did not stop a receptive and eager audience from attending the Moss Ensemble's inaugural performance at Doctorow Center for the Arts in Hunter on Saturday night. The concert began with violinist Marshall Coid and pianist Elizabeth Rodgers treating the crowd to Fritz Kreisler's "Praeludium and Allegro," showcasing some rather frenetic violin work from Coid. Mezzo-Soprano Darcy Dunn and cellist Mary Wooten then joined Coid and Rodgers on stage, completing the quartet. Following a brief discussion of the ensemble's origins, the four musicians performed "Moss," a song imbued with meaning for the quartet and the inspiration for their name. The four musicians visibly enjoyed working together. Their faces beamed

with gratitude following each number as they took their bows to the crowd's applause. The performance was part of the Catskill Mountain Foundation's (CMF) 25th Anniversary Season. Darcy Dunn performed at CMF's first concert in 1998, making a special night just a bit more meaningful for the Mezzo-Soprano. For more information about upcoming Catskill Mountain Foundation Events, visit <https://www.catskillmtn.org/>.



LOCAL HISTORY BY DEDE TERNS-THORPE

Airport

A bit of interesting local history was found in an agreement between the Town of Hunter municipality and Perry Edwards of

Athens. Many local historians know an airport was once located at the intersection of County Route 16 and

Elka Park Rd. The agreement described the airport property as "Beginning at a point fifteen feet southerly of a balsam stump forming the southwesterly corner of what was formerly known as the School House Lot." (Interesting the way they measured property one hundred years ago-south sixteen degrees and nine minutes west.)

A further description said the property went to the center of the creek (Dibbell's Dam?) and then to the center of the highway leading from Elka Park to Tannersville. It said it was about seventy-five feet east of the pumping station at the bank of the brook owned by the Tannersville Water Company. The property then went north 44 degrees and thirty-five minutes east to the southeasterly corner of the property belonging to a Vera Flach. The leases contained approximately thirty acres of land.

Perry Edwards leased the property as an aviation field and granted exclusive rights during this period for commercial aviation. The following terms were listed:

\$1.00 for the second year, payable Jul 15, 1931.

\$500.00 for the third year, payable July 15, 1932.

\$500.00 for the fifth year, payable July 15, 1933,

(No dollar amount was found listed for the first year.)

The document said both parties agreed that Edwards would use the field as an active aviation field during July and August. Both

agreed that an airplane was to be on the field at least one day each week. A mutual understanding that if the above were not adhered to, the lease would be null and void.

The agreement stated Edwards was responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the grounds. Edwards also agreed that he would not operate any store or rent out any concession that would conflict with the hotel known as Shamrock Inn.

The agreement also said that if the town receives a deed for the property, Ed-

wards would be granted the right and privilege of renewing his lease for another five years—the renewal price to be decided at that time.

This agreement was signed by Hunter Town Supervisor, J. Frank Lackey, William Carrnright, Town Clerk, Morris Shapiro, George E. Griffin, Millard Becker, and Joseph M. Farrell, Town Justices. The above agreement, signed on July 25, 1929, was notarized by Paul Fromer, with the signatures of Perry Edwards and all Hunter Town Officials.



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TRADITIONALLY SPEAKING BY PAT LARSEN

Tending to Your Own INNER GARDEN

We're well into Spring 2023. The earth has fully awakened to a magical display of abundant colors. Full leaf tree foliage makes up the canopy above and flowers are on display vying for our attention on the ground. The fruit trees are beginning to show signs of the bees' activities with the promise of what is to come in the Fall. The sunshine is warm and embracing and the sky has never looked so blue. Even the puffy clouds that pass by beckon our attention to stop for a moment to appreciate the many shapes that they form for our viewing pleasure. Maybe you see a heart and I see a butterfly. No matter, it's all in good fun, isn't it?

This playful game speaks to our inner child who always loved this activity. She still does.

It is the season of new beginnings. We each have an opportunity to consider what it means to tend to our own inner landscape. How we choose to tend to our hearts desires by nurturing our dreams is at our fingertips to explore if we choose to.

Have you ever considered this before? You can be in control of tending to your own personal growth and emotional and mental wellbeing, regardless of your age or when you choose to begin. Fostering a healthy personal foundation by attending to your own personal truths and desires can help you handle the unexpected issues that arise in life and still manage to help us thrive.

Plants need soil, sun and water to thrive. So do you!

Managing your life by putting yourself in charge of the potential outcome that you desire, you then create daily activities that support your goals. We've often explored healthy diets in my columns that include nutritious foods. Have you begun to implement those possibilities? Getting plenty of sleep allows for your seeds to take these nu-



trients and produce an abundance of energy that allows for growth to take place. Doesn't that sound exciting? Self care practices that include nutritious foods and rest to grow and become resilient no matter what storm impacts your progress is the desired goal.

I am particularly fond of suggesting that we each learn how to set clear and appropriate boundaries, as you would in a garden, by learning how to communicate with adversarial situations that might arise.

In the case of learning how to "speak up", consider first how you would like to be spoken to and use that as the framework to proceed with those in your life. Quieting the reactions and refocusing someone's attention from harshness to a gentler reaction helps all of us to grow toward the light of kindness that is much more readily available.

It's especially interesting how playing in the dirt reconnects us to nature where everything is grounded. When we pay particular attention to the seeds we plant whether within ourselves or in a garden of our choosing, that attention to detail that we pay to getting the results that we want to see can be a great building block for our future relationship with ourselves and others.

Stay connected throughout the year to those things that you'd like to see shift in your own garden. If a weed is growing in the wrong place in your personal garden then possibly accept its placement or reframe the description. We tend to make a big

deal out of our expectations when they're not realized ahead of actually defining what our expectations are. Take a minute to think that through.

When I shop at local garden supply shops, I find myself drawn to vibrant flower aisles that clearly require more sunlight than I can offer at my home. Rather than be disappointed that I'm stuck in the shady plant aisle, I begin to look at these plants and their possibilities. The alternative would be to just give up and go home empty handed.

Have I learned a lesson in acceptance here? How would this apply to the inner garden that I'm cultivating within myself?

It's all about creating the personal validation and beauty within yourself that you want to develop.

Enjoy creating your own inner garden. Take all the time you need and watch how you grow and flourish in your life. Expect situations that might impede your development and figure out how to find a new path to get where you want to go. Have you seen a plant push through a rock in the soil and wondered how in the world it had the strength to do that?...yeah do THAT! Because now you know it's possible.

Pat Larsen is a certified clinical hypnotherapist who specializes in

story to uncover a stuck state of mind. Not all therapy means being in a subconscious state. Sometimes a person's issues are right there below the surface and working with someone who can help you uncover that buried concern can release the solutions.

Pat lives in Greene County and also teaches educational programs and fitness classes for Baby Boomers and Seniors at THE SHAMROCK HOUSE in East Durham.

Please feel free to contact Pat via email at pelarsen5@aol.com or at 518-275-8686

Focus on Photography

Windham Arts Alliance Show at the Main Street Community Center

5494 State Route 23, Windham NY 12496 (518) 734-4168

May 5, 2023 to July 28
Opening Reception and Music by the Songbirds May 6, 2023 from 4pm to 6pm Francis Driscoll Hands-On Workshop May 20th 9 am to 3pm

Windham Arts Alliance is very excited about the May 5, 2023 show that will be at the Main Street Community Center until July 28. This show has been planned to give an opportunity for artists who focus on photography to display their works. The variety of approaches and interpretations and techniques makes this a truly eclectic show.

Beth Schneck says, "Photography is all pervasive in 2023, almost everyone carries a camera in their pocket. This is something only the pros, or those enamored with photography, did before smartphones....Though as we know, everyone can capture a stunning photograph from time to time. But to do it consistently, always ready in the moment, as well as the ability to visualize images in advance and know how to create them, are some of the many advantages of a photographer with years of experience."

The word FOCUS brings many ideas to mind. We can find an image that rivets our attention to a certain subject or idea. Photography provides the opportunity for the viewer to see what attracted the photographer's attention and made a subject important enough to study or look at in depth. In the hands of an experienced photographer the mood and even a fleeting experience can be captured and made immortal. Beth says, "As time passes, photographs remain, glimpses into a time and place imprinted by memory. The memories they elicit are felt deeply, and conjure a story for the viewer."

We have asked the artists to explain what made them select their subject matter. Another meaning for focus is, "to concentrate attention or effort. And giving proper sharpness due to good focusing." Nancy De Flon takes this idea and creates her picture On the Horizon. She tells us that she chose this picture for the spring show "because of its bright colors and its simplicity—and because it depicts one of my favorite places....The bright complimentary colors seem to justify the horizon's location at the center of the picture, and I chose a filter that would tame the unruly winter grass while still leaving the trees and structures sharp and

recognizable."

Not all photographs emphasize a realistic interpretation of the world. Jeffrey Langford chose two photographs of the snow to enter in the show. His photographs Snow Study 1 and Snow Study 2 focus on how natural forms can create abstractions. He says, "They both illustrate some of the graceful abstract designs that untouched snow can make."

Bill Deane has taken a different approach and is changing his work by focusing on using software to edit his photos and create a painterly quality to his new works. He states, "I have been working with existing images and recent photos with consideration to modify them with software to become 'Photo Art'. The Scottish Loch piece in particular gave me the opportunity to explore available colors that we don't usually see with the naked eye. Textures also become quite different and interesting. I also find borders make an interesting effect to the image."

Creativity is a large focus of photography and with the addition of digital editing photographers have access to new means of expression. Elaine Warfield tells us that she is entering a photograph called "Horses on Kaaterskill Clove." Here she is working with "an artistic rendering using Photoshop to combine interesting elements from several photographs. The background image is a photograph taken from Twilight Park at the top of the mountain overlook Kaaterskill Clove in the early morning. The two horse images were taken at a Gypsy Vanner Farm in Virginia, also in the early morning. The images were combined to create a new artistic piece."

Beth Schneck says, "I love the entire process of photography - interacting with many interesting people, visualizing and sensing images, feeling the beauty of light falling on an object, and seeing and sharing the results. The camera is not just a tool to capture light, it is an extension of my mind's eye, and allows me to view the world from a distinct perspective."

Focus also means creating a clear image. It is the point at which rays of light converge or from which they seem to diverge. How does each photographer use this concept to create their work?

Francis Driscoll says, "The main subject should be in acceptable focus and exposed well." His close up of a spring flower illustrates this. By understanding the media, he is able to blur the background so the objects he is emphasizing stand out.

Fran is excited to share his knowledge with the

community, providing a free workshop. Participants will meet Fran in the parking lot behind Briars and Brambles on May 20 at 9:00 am. They will have the opportunity to take their camera and join Fran on a photography excursion. This is a rare opportunity to pick Fran's brain and learn how he takes his beautiful photographs. He will demonstrate how he chooses his subjects, and what to focus on to get artistic photos. You will begin to understand what is involved to see the world through your camera lens and to produce exciting photographs. Later, he will follow up at the Main Street Community Center with an introduction to basic editing techniques. You can register for this all-day workshop at mainstreetcommunitycenter.org/registration. Seats are limited. There is a registration fee of \$10 to hold your place.

Windham Arts Alliance is thrilled to again celebrate the arts at the opening of the Focus on Photography Show with music by the Songbirds. They will be performing at the opening celebration on Saturday, May 6 at 4:00 PM. An offshoot of the Greene Room Players Community Theater, the Songbirds is a group of 9 talented singers under the direction of Linda Nicholls, founder and director of Greene Room Players. For over ten years these talented ladies have performed for private events, benefits, our Mountaintop community and surrounding areas to standing room only audiences. Their repertoire includes a variety of music that includes Broadway tunes, folk music, Doo Wop, standards, holiday, patriotic, etc. Our "Birds": Glenda Lauten, Kelly Transue, Louise Le Brun, Cara Dantzig, Jody Nicholls, Wini Baldwin, Myra Garcia, Chris Pierce and Susan Kleinfelder. We also have the talented Jenni Cawein, concert pianist, as an accompanist for select performances. Harmonies are beautiful! Voices exceptional! Lots of fun for them and their audiences! Come and hear some of your favorite tunes sung by your favorite singers!

WAA hopes you join us and maybe find the photograph that makes you feel, "a ground-trembling experience, one that imprints the image into your mind for years into the future, so in this way you know the power of a photograph. Great photographs, like the soul, need not be explained." Beth

We want to thank the Main Street Community Center for generously sharing their beautiful space with WAA and the Community. This show is open to all photographers - new, emerging and professional.

GRAMMY Award-Winning Chanticleer Performs at the Orpheum Performing Arts Center

HUNTER – Chanticleer, the multiple Grammy Award-winning all-male vocal ensemble, performs at the Catskill Mountain Foundation's Orpheum Performing Arts Center in Tannersville this Saturday, April



22 at 7:30 pm.

Founded in 1978, Chanticleer is comprised of 12 singers hailing from across the U.S. The ensemble's repertoire spans ten centuries from Gregorian chant, Renaissance polyphony and Romantic art song to contemporary music, jazz, spirituals and world music. Chanticleer gives approximately 100 concerts a year throughout the world, appearing regularly in New York, Boston, Los Angeles, Washington, DC, Chicago, and Internationally, as well as its home base of San Francisco.

"The singing of Chanti-

cleer is breathtaking in its accuracy of intonation, purity of blend, variety of color and swagger of style." – The Boston Globe

"The world's reigning male chorus." – The New Yorker

Chanticleer performs at the Orpheum Performing Arts Center, 6050 Main Street, Tannersville on Saturday, April 22 at 7:30 pm. Tickets purchased ahead are \$25 adults; \$20 seniors; \$7 students. Higher at-the-door ticket prices apply. For tickets, visit catskillmtn.org, call 518 263 2063 or email boxoffice@catskillmtn.org.

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HOME IMPROVEMENT - SPRING 2023

Trending Textures for Your Home's Exterior

Gone are the days of boring, cookie-cutter style houses. Today's homeowners are finding ways to express themselves by designing their homes in a way that reflect their style. One increasingly popular trend is mixing textures on your home's exterior, which makes your home stand out among the rest.

How to mix textures
You'll want to pick 2-3 different textures for your home's exterior, and no more than 2-3 different colors. Too much variation will appear chaotic, so it's important to be thoughtful about your choices.

You can take a drive around your neighborhood to get a sense of what you

like, use online design tools like Cultured Stone's Visualizer tool, or talk to our GNH design experts to get started.

Think about what focal points you want to stand out on your home—dormers, gables, porches, bump-outs, etc. Use contrasting colors and/or textures to draw attention to these features. You may also want to switch up the siding on different levels of your home.

Not ready for a remodel? You can start small by adding contrast with your front door, shutters or trim.

Using Cultured Stone for texture

One texture you'll definitely want to consider using is stone. With so many colors

and textures to choose from, the possibilities are limitless. You can also choose between using natural stone or a manufactured veneer, such as Cultured Stone veneers. There are a number of benefits of using Cultured Stone veneers. Cultured Stone is about one-quarter the weight of natural stone and is generally easier and less costly to install. Because of its light weight, Cultured Stone can be installed on a variety of substrates, unlike natural stone which needs to be fixed to something structural. Composed of lightweight concrete, Cultured Stone will last as long as other concrete materials, which can be anywhere from 50-100 years. Cultured Stone



products are virtually maintenance-free and come with a 50-year limited warranty. Some consumers may worry that manufactured stones will be too repetitive in appearance, but Cultured Stone uses thousands of individual molds and no two stones are ever cast with the same exact coloring. In fact, Cultured Stone has the largest variety of colors and textures in any manufactured stone line, with more than 20 textures available in over 100 color combinations. Check out some combinations below!

These examples show how you can use different colors of Ledgestone to create vastly different styled homes. On the left you have Echo Ridge Country Ledgestone and an arts and craft style home, followed by a modern looking home in the middle with Artic Pro-Fit Terrain Ledgestone, and lastly the rustic log cabin style home with a combination of Aspen Dressed Fieldstone and Aspen Country Ledgestone.

Continued on C8

Popular Kitchen Design Trends

Get a jump-start on planning and designing the perfect kitchen for your family! It's easy to create a gorgeous new kitchen with help from the pros. They've been doing it for years and are often on top of the newest trends. To help you get started, check out these kitchen remodel tips and trends from GNH Kitchen Designer, Michele Gregg.

Add More Functions
Today's kitchens are designed to accommodate more than just cooking. Kitchen designers now create spaces where people can gather, play games, and even work on their laptops



or mobile devices. Of course, the modern kitchen is still a place for cooking, baking, meal preparation and clean-up. But, in addition to these

basic functions, our kitchens have evolved. We're now using this all-important room to entertain our family &

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OUTDOORS BY LARRY DIDONATO

DEC Cutting Access to Trout Streams is Bad Policy



"Paradise Lost" - For decades, the landowner of this beautiful roadside pool allowed DEC to stock trout providing fishermen with access to this great section of a local trout stream. When the owners were informed by DEC Fisheries they had to have signs put up on their property and the location listed on DEC's mobile app, the formerly cooperative landowner declined by heavily posting the sleepy trout pool; stopping stocking on miles of the stream and denying access for the public to fish it forever. All the result of DEC's ill advised, "Stream Access Verification Plan."

A school bus of excited kids with special needs arrives at a popular fishing hole on the Lisha Kill on a recent field trip to stock trout in Schenectady. But the kid's hopes for stocking the stream are quickly dashed. They learn the Department of Environmental Conservation's new, "Stream Access Verification Plan" removed the location from the stocking list. DEC had stocked trout there for decades. This location is not your typical trout hole; it's at a bustling intersection of Central Avenue. A site accessible by urban residents of limited means who take the bus from the inner cities of both Albany and Schenectady. Underserved urban neighborhoods where access to trout fishing doesn't exist. These folks can't afford guided trout fishing trips on the Battenkill or Delaware River Tailwaters to fish with an outfitter. They, and millions of other New Yorkers rely on DEC's trout stocking program to be there for them. But it isn't. They can no longer clamber down the banks of this pool, having fun catching trout on the Lisha Kill; all while putting nutritious food on the table. As we speak, this tragic scenario is being repeated in every county of our state.

Trout stocking in NY is under attack. By whom you ask? Astoundingly, it's DEC's own Fisheries Bureau. This pool on the Lisha Kill is just one example. There are countless locations in every county of the state being eliminated from DEC's trout stocking program.

In a recent presentation by DEC on their "Stream Access Verification Plan," fisheries proudly announced it's responsible for an up to 60% decrease in access to trout stocking locations re-

sulting in 30% less trout stocked overall. A whopping 80% reduction in numbers of trout stocked has been documented in some counties. This at a time when voters in NY approved \$75 million in new spending for DEC trout hatcheries.

The program has staff attempt to contact streamside landowners where we already have access and stock trout. If DEC receives no reply upon their third request, they remove the location from the stocking list and the previously stocked site that was open to the public is lost forever. If landowners do reply, they are required by DEC to put up signs on their property and agree to post their GPS location on a mobile app so everyone can travel to that spot to fish. These subsequent demands are almost universally answered with an abrupt "no." The previously unposted property is not only any longer stocked, it's invariably heavily posted closing access to the public.

Families used to have fun connecting with the outdoors, making lifelong memories on private streamsides. Folks harvested nutritious meals of trout stocked by DEC on private lands open to the public to fish. Now, all that may become a thing of the past simply due to bad policy.

The plan, now underway, drastically cut the numbers of trout stocked and eliminates hard-fought access for the public. In the first two counties in Region 4 where DEC implemented the program, the results are chilling. In 2018 in Montgomery County, 3,230 trout were stocked.

In 2023 after the start of DEC's new plan, only 603 were stocked.

In Schenectady County in 2018, 780 trout were

stocked with just 525 in 2023 after the implementation of the program. This is just the start, it's happening statewide and coming to your county next.

So, who is impacted the most by the DEC's effort to slash public access and the number of trout stocked? Not those who go on expensive guided trout fishing excursions with professional guides. It's the average and lower-income New Yorkers that pay the price. Their hard-earned tax dollars just funded Governor Hochul's \$2.2 billion Environmental Bond Act with \$75 million in new funds earmarked for DEC's trout hatcheries.

Why is DEC destroying its own trout stocking program that took massive funds and years to build? To save money? Establish a trophy fishery?

DECs plan drastically cutting the numbers of stocked trout that can be

kept, while establishing year-round catch and release seasons on more waters where no trout can be taken home for the table, hints of switching over to a trophy trout fishery. Is this the time to take food out of these family's mouths?

It's clear DEC either has contempt for, or just doesn't care about those who harvest trout to eat and is now managing trout for a trophy

fishery. DEC dismisses their complaints by responding with even more draconian cuts to stream access and the numbers of trout stocked across the state. It's time for these marginalized citizens to demand from their elected officials that DEC's "Stream Access Verification Plan" be halted immediately before it does any further damage.

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Kitchen Design Trends Continued from C7

friends, help our kids finish their homework, balance household budgets, plan parties and much more!

Break it Open

Open concepts are very popular. Even the smallest kitchens will feel bigger and brighter in an open concept layout. This also floods the space with daylight coming from windows in other rooms and can facilitate airflow. But larger kitchen spaces are also trending towards the open concept layout. By opening up this all-important room to the living room, you make it easier to interact with your family or guests from the kitchen as they relax on the couch. You can add space needed to create "entertaining zones" like coffee nooks, breakfast bars, and more.

Storage, Not Space

More storage will never go out of style. Even when working within the footprint

of your existing kitchen space, you can still add tons of storage! Try installing cabinets that reach your ceiling. This adds more shelving space and gives you a spot to display that beautiful dishware up top. You can also install shelving units, racks, and hooks in unused spaces. These could be empty sections of wall, inside cabinet doors, or even your ceiling.

Go Bold

Design with color and texture in mind. White Shaker style cabinetry has been popular for years now. While it remains popular, we are now finding ways to introduce color and texture. A dark navy-blue island stands out against the white perimeter cabinets. Wood-stained floating shelves pair nicely with hardwood floors. A honed or "leathered finish" countertop creates warmth.

GNH's Design Experts can help you plan the kitchen

of your dreams. Please call 518-313-1229 to schedule an appointment at our Design Showroom.



Inaugural Bonnie's Trail Run and Hike a Success

The Inaugural Run and Hike for Bonnie's Trails saw a turnout of about 30 to 40 people today from our area and beyond. The ages ranged from about 4 years old, on up to people in their 80s, although we did not ask people's ages.

When I mentioned that the trails were dedicated to local activist Bonnie Blader; there were many whoops and hollers from an appreciative crowd.

We had one very devoted runner, Victoria Stanhope who originally was from across the pond...England that is. The rest were hikers who joined us on a path that did most of the perime-



ter of Bonnie's Trails, covering 1.75 miles in about 50 minutes. It was a great day for a hike with warm temperatures and clear skies affording beautiful views.

Bonnie's Trails are open to the general public for non-motorized recreational activities. They are across

from 745 South Beech Ridge Road in West Kill, NY.

We had a number of sign-ups for the Lexington Hiking Club. If any of your readers are interested in joining the club and/or helping out with the maintenance of the trails, please write to bennettwine@gmail.com

2023 Delaware County Arts Grants Awards Reception

Thursday, April 20, 2023
Roxbury Arts Center
5025 Vega Mountain Road, Roxbury, NY

The Roxbury Arts Group congratulates the 2023 Delaware County Arts Grants awardees. The Delaware County Arts Grant program, administered by the Roxbury Arts Group, provides funding to support arts projects and programs that will take place throughout Delaware County in 2023. An Awards Reception celebrating awardees will be held at the Roxbury Arts Center, 5025 Vega Mountain Road in Roxbury, on Thursday, April 20 at 4pm. Featured awardees will highlight their projects with performances, videos, displays, and interactive activities. Refreshments will be available. This is event is free and members of the community are invited and encouraged to attend. To RSVP, please email community@roxburyarts-group.org or call 607.326.7908. For more information about all of the grant funded events, visit roxburyartsgroup.org.

The Delaware County Arts Grants program is a re-grant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and is administered locally in Delaware County by the Roxbury Arts Group. Awards granted for 2023 total \$80,000 and will help support 20 programs including of workshops, performances, concerts, school programs, installations, exhibitions, and artistic opportunities to create new work throughout Delaware County. "The Roxbury Arts Group is grateful to the artists, organizations, and education leaders for their continuing commitment to the arts to Delaware County," says Samantha Nick, Grants & Community Coordinator of the Roxbury Arts Group. "We are also thankful for the opportunity to award more than double our usual amount this year, and look forward to seeing the impact these projects will have in our communities."

The 2023 Delaware County Arts Grants Awardees are:

The third annual Mountain Madness performance that fuses dance, live music, poetry and scenes from Shakespeare to share an immersive, inter-disciplinary walk through the Catskill Mountains at Kirkside Park in Roxbury, paired with local, farm-to-table concessions.

Creating an abstract short film using dance, sculpture and video, Zaybra will explore the interconnectedness of all things, particularly how an individual's life has impact on generations past and future, displaying how each



one of us plays a vital role in the ecosystem of the universe.

Delaware County Pride will offer a personal essay writing workshop for LGBTQIA+ folks on Tuesday evenings at Bushel from May 2nd to June 6th 2023, 6:30 to 8:30pm and a public reading showcasing participants' stories will be held on Saturday June 10th, 4 to 7pm.

NEON CAVIAR will offer a free performance of dance and monologue excerpts from the play "Lemons" at the Ouletout Graveyard in Franklin, NY on Saturday, May 27th at 6pm.

Dr. Deborah L. Fox will offer a free interactive workshop series during the Winter and Spring of 2023 for participants to make their own train marker discover the popular board game Mexican Train Dominoes.

Microcosm is a new, original, immersive "micro-theatre" walk at the Mutual Aid Society in Stamford. Attendees will experience a guided, outdoor walk, encountering several unique pieces of performance art along the way that work together to build a small world and tell a common story.

The newly formed Fenimore Chamber Orchestra, based in Cooperstown, will give a Sunday afternoon 25 musician classical concert in Rexmere Park in Stamford on August 20, 2023.

The Hobart Festival of Women Writers, a project of the Hobart Community Foundation, will occur in the Book Village of the Catskills on June 17, 18, 19, 2023.

Marisa Caruso working with the Stamford Village Library will lead eight sessions where students between the ages of 7 and 16 will learn theater performance and production skills to present a series of original scenes for the public.

Arts Inn in Fleischmanns will host the 2nd Annual H & R Vaudeville Variety Show, an international, multidisciplinary Festival of the Arts on Memorial Weekend.

The Monthly Mulch, an illustrated monthly zine by Hannah Deen, explores how the climate crisis affects life in Delaware County.

Rachel Condry, a local Deep Listening practitioner, presents the documentary

film Deep Listening followed by a Q&A with film maker, live streaming at Bushel Arts Collective and a series of workshops.

AMR Artists will host the celebrated Open Studios Tour and Annual Exhibition to connect established and emerging artists with area art lovers and Eastern Delaware County visitors.

In May 2023, the William B. Ogden Free Library will offer a 4-part multidisciplinary art project for seniors in collaboration with teaching artist, Caryn Davies and area historical societies to be held at the library, Tuesdays from 10-2.

The Walton Theatre Parlor Gallery presents Patchwork Landscape by GG Stankiwicz, paintings inspired by the local nature of Delaware County, on Saturday, October 7 through Sunday, November 5, 2023, opening reception and artist talk on Saturday, October 7, 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm.

Anne Elizabeth Moore presents My Inevitable Murder, a spoof of true-crime podcasts that, through interviews and research, will share online audio stories monthly in 2023 about what constitutes a life, how communities are formed, and what brings diverse people together in moments of joy.

Kaat's Cradle Theater Series will produce a series of four theater workshop performances in the carriage house theater space located at 76 Main Street in Stamford between May and October 2023.

Page to Stage Productions will host a theater festival consisting of 12 local writers and their short plays, performed by 18 local actors in a beautiful outdoor stage on the Michael Kudish Natural History Preserve.

Jeremiah Pottery will offer complimentary ceramic classes in 6-week cycles for hand-building and wheel-throwing for all ages in Walton and vicinity.

The Hancock Community Education Foundation will offer 3 Day Workshop on Digital Book Creation with Film and Animation for After School Students at Hancock School on March 22, 23 and 24th.

More information about these events can be found at roxburyartsgroup.org, under the Opportunities tab and the Delaware County Arts Grant page.

A CONVERSATION ABOUT Ticks

By Jean Thomas

The Tick Talk. We all need to hear it. We're all tired of hearing it. There is a constant drumbeat from government health departments and hunting and fishing and hiking advocates and garden centers and naturalists of all sorts. It's that serious a subject. People endure horrible health issues, even death, from the little beasties. Every year brings more varieties of ticks invading northward, many bringing whole new diseases, some deadly.

Our modern experience with tick borne diseases begins in the early eighties, when Lyme CT became famous for a mysterious multisymptomatic sickness. It took years of patients fighting for treatments for the medical community to arrive at the current state of awareness. Unfortunately, during those years the ticks and their bacterial passengers spread from a group of cases in Connecticut to an epic infestation, first in the Hudson Valley, then further west. The ticks were carried by small rodents and deer, both experiencing population explosions. Early on in the battle, a Lyme disease vaccine was developed and discarded for humans but kept for pets. Flea and tick collars can protect your pets, so that's a start. That's about the only good news on the medical front, though.

Since the whole Lyme (NOT Lymes) and tick connection became known, the news gets scarier. Deer ticks (the primary one) now carry at least four different bacteria as well as viruses. The bacteria, at least are susceptible to antibiotics. So when you go to get tested if you had a bite, there may be four test samples taken. My latest adventure in tick land scored me a dose of



'anaplasmosis'. It could also have been erlichiosis or babesiosis among bacterial infections. There's also the often deadly virus, powassan. This is working its way north. There is presently no cure for it.

As the region experiences warmer winters, the tick population not only can reproduce more extravagantly, but it has more opportunity to infect us as we pass through its world. In a nutshell, then... there are more types of ticks carrying more varieties of diseases. There is still no vaccine for any of the diseases, although the bacterial types are still controllable with antibiotics. In fact, many emergent care sites immediately prescribe (usually) doxycillin or even hand you a dose in the office. Many GPs will order a prescription with any confirmation of a tick bite on a patient. I'm going to distill a lot of the information down to the commonest and easiest actions we can take, because I'm in the same boat as most of you. That is to say, I'm in the garden or the woods or walking the dog every day. I don't really want to have to remember a whole bunch of things every time I go out the door. So here goes.

*Develop a new sense of fashion. Socks pulled over your pants cuffs are cool. Also impossible when wearing shorts.

*Figure out which insect repellent sprays are your friend. Look for specifically labeled tick repellents. Spray all areas where there is exposed skin. Learn about Permethrin™, which is not to be sprayed on skin but on clothing. If you have certain clothes you wear for outdoors activities this can be very useful. There are also clothes available already treated with Permethrin™.

*Once you go indoors, take off all your clothes and run them through the dryer. This is fatal to ticks. While you're naked, do a tick inspection of your entire body. At my house we call it the tick dance. Better to find and remove them as early as possible.

If you have any of the many symptoms and think you've been bitten, go to your GP or emergency care facility. Don't wait for the famous "bullseye rash". It appears in relatively few cases, and is not a sure symptom. For deeper delving into the subject, listen to episode 59 of "Nature Calls Conversations from the Hudson Valley" with Joellen Lampman, a NYS expert on the very latest efforts to battle the dreaded ticks. It's available on any podcast platform or at <https://ccecolumbia-greene.org/gardening/nature-calls-conversations-from-the-hudson-valley/episode-59-all-about-ticks>.

THE TAPESTRY BY DR. DEBORAH HERODES

Hide and Seek, Part II

Compulsive lying is also a huge issue that many involve themselves in, on a daily basis. The inability to tell the truth about even the smallest things makes one continually anxious; he/she has to keep remembering what the last lie was, so the next lie doesn't interfere with the first one. If you believe that people do not know you are lying, think again. Unfortunately, close friendships can not be enjoyed with liars, because a no-trust relationship is not a relationship.

Quite recently, a study of the human brain has discovered that lying, especially compulsive lying, can be a result of an "unprepared moral" section of the brain. Clinical narcissists, quite often, lie,

due to their need to protect themselves from condemnation. Isn't this true of everyone who lies?

Unfortunately, lying, like smoking and drinking, becomes a habit, but this habit does not impede your health, just your lifelong friendships. Although it is true that everyone lies or tells white lies or fibs to convince their children to take medicine ("it tastes like bubble gum,") to explain how Santa is able to come into a house without a chimney, to make kids feel better about themselves, even if their outfits or hair colors for school are horrendous, it is the damaging lies that need to be central. There are some, who will stop at nothing to protect them-

selves and other family members from scrutiny. Perhaps the saddest part of this scenario is that children tend to live what they learn.

Recognizing that you struggle with being deceitful is the first step. An inability, to tell the truth, is usually a sign of fear and/or self-loathing. Discover what it is about yourself that makes you distrustful and work on these issues. You don't have to HAVE or BE anything but you. Your strengths and weaknesses belong to you and more importantly, you need to know that no matter how shiny the surface may be in other individuals, every single person has his/her own problems.



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LEGAL ADVERTISING

Middleburgh Library Vote Notice

A public hearing on the Middleburgh Library Association Budget was held on April 19th, 2023, from 7:30PM to 8:00PM at the Middleburgh Library.

Legal notice of a budget vote by paper ballot is hereby given: that a budget vote by the qualified voters of the Middleburgh Central School District shall be held on Tuesday, May 9th, 2023, between the hours of 12:00 noon and 8:00 PM at the Middleburgh Library, 323 Main Street, Middleburgh, New York. The Proposition to be voted on is as follows: SHALL the Proposition be approved authorizing the Middleburgh Central School Board of Education to levy taxes annually in the sum of \$176,397.35 and pay over such amount to the trustees of the Middleburgh Library Association annually until such authorization is changed. AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a trustee vote will be held to elect 2 (two) trustees to the Board of Trustees of the Middleburgh Library Association to serve for a term of three years to succeed Carolyn Foland and Cora Forshlund. Petitions for Trustee seats will be available on February 21st, 2023 and must be completed with required signatures and returned by March 21st, 2023 during normal library hours.

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that applications for absentee ballots will be obtainable between the hours of 1:30 PM and 8:00 PM on Mondays, 10:00 AM and 8:00 PM on Tuesdays, and Thursdays, 10:00am and 5:00 pm on Wednesdays and 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM on Saturdays from the Library Staff. Completed applications for absentee ballots must be received by the library at least seven (7) days prior to the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before election if the ballot is to be hand delivered personally to the voter. Absentee ballots must be received by the library staff no later than 4:00 PM on May 8th, 2023. A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall be available at the library between the hours mentioned above. Any qualified voter may challenge the acceptance of the ballot of any person on such list, by making his/her challenge and reasons therefore known to the Inspector of Elections before the close of the polls.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the qualified voters of the Middleburgh Central School District shall be entitled to vote in said annual vote. A qualified voter is one who is 1) a citizen of the United States of America, 2) eighteen years of age or older, and 3) a resident within the Middleburgh Central School District for a period of thirty (30) days next preceding

the annual vote. The library may require all persons offering to vote at the budget vote to provide one form of proof of residency pursuant to Education Law, Section 2018-C. Such a form may include a driver's license, a non-driver identification card, a utility bill or a voter registration card. Upon offer of proof of residency, the Library may also require all persons offering to vote to provide their signature, printed name and address.

LLC Notice
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY; Name of LLC: JSB CONCRETE, LLC; Date of filing: Feb 1, 2023; Office of the LLC: Albany Co.; The NY Secretary of State has been designated as agent upon whom process may be served. NYSS may mail a copy of any process to the LLC at James Bouton, 2600 Vega Mountain Road, Roxbury, NY 12474; Purpose of LLC: Any lawful purpose.

LLC Notice
Dan Hanchett General Contracting and Stone Masonry, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 04/22/2022. Off. Loc.: Schoharie Co. SSNY design. as agt. upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Daniel E. Hanchett, 176 Hill Road, Cobleskill, NY 12043. General Purposes.

LLC Notice
166 JAR LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 10/17/22.

Middleburgh Library Vote Notice

Office in Albany Co. SSNY designated Agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the Martha Hacklin, 4 Oakwood St., Albany NY 12208. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

LLC Notice
Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC). Name: 607Riders, Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on March 8, 2023. Office location: Delaware County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: 607Riders P.O. Box 134 Stamford. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

LLC Notice
NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION NP3LSO LLC. Filed 11/30/2022. County: Schoharie. SSNY design. for process & shall mail to 4912 NY-30 Schoharie, NY 12157. Purpose: any lawful.

LLC Notice
NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION TNF Cobleskill, LLC. 1/3/2023. County: Schoharie. SSNY design. for process & shall mail 20 Petra Lane #6, Albany NY 12205. Purpose: any lawful.

LLC Notice
Notice Of Formation Of Domestic Limited Liability Company; Name Of Llc: GILBOA EGG BARN LLC; Date of filing: 02/07/2023; Office of the LLC: Delaware Co.; The NY Secretary of State has been designated as the agent upon whom process may be served. NYSS may mail a copy of any process to the LLC at 380 Wyckoff Rd, Gilboa NY 12076; Purpose of LLC: Any lawful purpose.

LLC Notice
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). Name: Whitgate Family Farm LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/31/2022. Office location: Greene County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY may mail a copy of any process to the LLC, C/O Daniel Locker, 173 Village Grove, Williston, VT 05495.

LLC Notice
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). Name: PANGMAN OUTDOOR POWER LLC; Date of filing: 01/03/2023; Office of the LLC: Schoharie Co.; The NY Secretary of State has been designated as the agent upon whom process may be served. NYSS may mail a copy of any process to the LLC, C/O Daniel Locker, 173 Village Grove, Williston, VT 05495.

LLC Notice
Notice of Formation of Domestic Limited Liability Company. Follow Through Landscaping, filed on May 3, 2022; 137 Souer Road, Stamford, NY 12167. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC at 137 Souer Road, Stamford, NY 12167. Any lawful activity.

LLC Notice
Notice of Formation of NYSentencing LLC, a Domestic Limited Liability Company located at 285 Main Street, Catskill, NY. Articles of Organization filed with NY Dept of State 02/01/23. Office in Greene County. NY Sec of State designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. Sec of State to mail copy of any process against it to PO Box 433, Catskill, NY 12414. Purpose: Software publishing and all other lawful purposes.

LLC Notice
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LLC Mid Valley Diesel, LLC filed Articles of Organization with the New York Secretary of State on March 8, 2023. The office of the LLC is located at 2663 State Route 145, Middleburgh in Schoharie County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail a copy of any process served upon the LLC to Mid Valley Diesel, LLC, 132 Clover Lane, Schoharie, NY 12157. Its business is to engage in any lawful activity for which limited liability companies may be organized under Section 203 of the New York Limited Liability Act.

LLC Notice
Notice of Formation of Sass Squash Fallon Brands, LLC. Articles of

Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 02/22/23. Office location: Schoharie County. Princ. office of LLC: SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to Sass Squash Fallon Brands, 597 Shew Hollow Road, Stamford, NY 12167. General Purpose.

Notice of Formation of LLC
WindyRidge Trading Company/LLC filed with SSNY 3/26/2023 Office located in Schoharie County SSNY designated as agent for process and shall mail to 137 Debar Hill rd Middleburgh NY 12122

Public Notice - Bids Wanted
Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received until 1:00 PM., April 26, 2023, at the Village of Middleburgh Offices Attention: Village Clerk, located at 309 Main Street, PO Box 789, Middleburgh, NY 12122; at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for the Village Hall - Interior & Exterior Repairs Project.

No pre-bid conference will be held for the Foundation Stabilization Contract. Bids for the Interiors/Exterior repairs contract were previously submitted on March 24, 2023 and are currently under review.

Bids will be received for the Single Prime Contract Project consisting of the following prime contracts which covers the Village Hall - Foundation Stabilization & Interior/Exterior Repairs:

Foundation Stabilization & Repairs of the Existing Village Hall must be completed by September 8, 2023.

Contract Documents, including Advertisement For Bids, Information For Bidders, Labor and Employment, Additional Instructions, Bid Documents, Agreement, General Conditions, General Requirements, Specifications, Contract Drawings and any Addenda, may be examined at no expense on-line at the following website: https://de.biddlyhq.com

Sealed Bids will be received until April 28th, 2023 at the Village of Middleburgh, 309 Main St, Ste 1, Middleburgh, New York 12122 until 01:00 PM local time and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud for:

VILLAGE OF MIDDLEBURGH SCHOHARIE COUNTY, NEW YORK
M I D D L E B U R G H W W T P E Q U P G R A D E S 2023

Contract 2G Work shall include but is not limited to:

Contract #2G: Provision of submersible pumps for equalization tanks complete with piping, instrumentation, controls, electrical power, and integration to existing SCA-DA.

Proposals shall be submitted on bid forms which are contained in the detailed specifications available at www.debiddocuments.com beginning on April 14th, 2023. Bid Forms and associated contract documents will only be available from the bidding service.

Contract Documents may be examined at no expense on line at the following website: <https://de.biddlyhq.com>, or at the office of Delaware Engineering, D.P.C., 28 Madison Ave Extension Albany NY, 12203.

Digital copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained online as a download for a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) from the website: <https://de.biddlyhq.com>. Complete hardcopy sets of bidding documents may be obtained from REV, 330 Route 17A, Suite #2, Goshen, NY 10924, Tel: 1-877-272-0216, upon depositing the sum of 100.00 Dollars (\$100.00) for each combined set of documents. Checks or money orders shall be made payable to Delaware Engineering, D.P.C. Cash deposits will not be accepted. Any Bidder requiring documents to be shipped shall make arrangements with REV and pay for all packaging and shipping costs.

Any Bidder who submitted completed Bid Forms to the Village of Middleburgh, upon returning such set in good condition within thirty days following the award of the contract or rejection of the bids, will be refunded his full payment. Deposits will not be refunded to any non-bidder (including material suppliers, subcontractors, or those that provide quotes to Bidders). Questions should be sent to Cody Messier, PE via email at cmessier@delawareengineering.com.

Please note that <https://de.biddlyhq.com> is the designated location and means for distributing and obtaining all bid package information. All Bidders are urged to register to ensure receipt of all necessary information including bid addenda. All bid addenda will be transmitted to registered plan holders via email and will be available at <https://de.biddlyhq.com>. Plan holders who have paid for hard copies of the bid documents will need to make the determination if hard copies of the addenda are required for their use, and coordinate directly with REV for hard copies of the bid addenda.

Each bid must be accompanied by security in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid in the form and subject to the conditions provided in the Information for Bidders. No Bidder may withdraw his bid within forty-five (45) days after the actual date of opening thereof.

This is an exempt capital improvement project, and Bidders shall not include taxes in the cost of materials which are to be incorporated into the work, and which are to be separately sold by the Contractor to the Village of Middleburgh prior to incorporation into the work of the Contract.

Bids may be held by the Owner for a period not to exceed forty-five (45) days from the date of the opening of Bid for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of the bidder(s) and the subsequent approval of the bids and related documents by the Owner. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or waive any informalities in the bidding, without explanation, and to select the Bid, in its judgment, will best assure the efficient performance of the work.

The contractor must also be aware that they must comply with the most recent State wage rates under New York State Department of Labor (www.labor.state.ny.us). In addition, the contractor must comply, if applicable, with Labor Law 220, section 220-h, which requires that on all public work projects of at least \$250,000.00, all laborers, workers and mechanics on the site be certified as having successfully completed the OSHA 10-hour construction safety and health course.

The right is reserved to waive any informalities in the Bid and to reject any or all Bids.

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Sealed Bids will be received until April 28th, 2023 at the Village of Middleburgh, 309 Main St, Ste 1, Middleburgh, New York 12122 until 01:00 PM local time and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud for:

VILLAGE OF MIDDLEBURGH SCHOHARIE COUNTY, NEW YORK
M I D D L E B U R G H W W T P E Q U P G R A D E S 2023

Contract 2G Work shall include but is not limited to:

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Contract Documents may be examined at no expense on line at the following website: <https://de.biddlyhq.com>, or at the office of Delaware Engineering, D.P.C., 28 Madison Ave Extension Albany NY, 12203.

Digital copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained online as a download from the website: <https://de.biddlyhq.com>.

Complete hardcopy sets of bidding documents may be obtained from 28 Church Street, Unit 7, Warwick, NY 10990, Tel: 1-877-272-0216, upon depositing the sum of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) for each combined set of documents. Checks or money orders shall be made payable to Delaware Engineering, D.P.C. Cash deposits will not be accepted. Any Bidder requiring documents to be shipped shall make arrangements with REV and pay for all packaging and shipping costs.

Any Bidder who submitted completed Bid

Forms to the Village of Middleburgh, upon returning such set in good condition within thirty days following the award of the contract or rejection of the bids, will be refunded his full payment. Deposits will not be refunded to any non-bidder (including material suppliers, subcontractors, or those that provide quotes to Bidders). Questions should be sent to Robert Flores, PE via email at rflores@delawareengineering.com or Fax at (518) 452-1335.

Please note that <https://de.biddlyhq.com> is the designated location and means for distributing and obtaining all bid package information. All Bidders are urged to register to ensure receipt of all necessary information including bid addenda. All bid addenda will be emailed from bidding service. Plan holders who have paid for hard copies of the bid documents will need to make the determination if hard copies of the addenda are required for their use, and coordinate directly with REV for hard copies of addenda to be issued.

There will be no charge for registered plan holders to obtain hard copies of the bid addenda.

Each bid must be accompanied by security in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid in the form and subject to the conditions provided in the Information for Bidders. The right is reserved to waive any informalities in the Bid and to reject any or all Bids.

Public Notice - Middleburgh CSD
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a public hearing of the qualified voters of Middleburgh Central School District will be held in the Junior/Senior High School Library Information Center 291 Main Street, in the Village of Middleburgh, New York on May 3, 2023, at 6:00 PM prevailing time, for the presentation of the 2023-2024 budget for Middleburgh Central School District, and other business as may come before the meeting as is authorized by Education Law.

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting and a vote, by voting machine, will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, in the Junior/Senior High School Gymnasium Lobby, 291 Main Street, in the Village of Middleburgh, New York, at which time the polls will be open from Noon until 9:00 PM, for voting on the following items:

1. To adopt the annual budget of the Middleburgh Central School District for the fiscal year 2023-2024 and to authorize the requisite portion thereof to be raised by taxation on the taxable property in the District.

2. To elect one (1) member to the Board of Education to a three (3) year term, commencing on July 1, 2023, and expiring on June 30, 2026, to succeed Scott VanKuren, whose terms expire on June 30, 2023.

3. To vote on the following propositions:

PROPOSITION # 2: Shall the Board of Education be authorized to: (1) acquire school buses and a vehicle at a maximum cost of \$306,500; (2) expend such sum for such purpose; (3) levy the necessary tax therefor (including the levy of a tax to pay the interest on obligations when due), to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into State aid; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of

the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$306,500?

PROPOSITION # 3: SHALL the Board of Education of the Middleburgh Central School District Board of Education be authorized to fund the Repair Reserve in the amount not to exceed \$200,000 from (the 2022-23 unappropriated fund balance) to be used for repairs of capital improvements or equipment, which repairs are of a type not recurring annually or at shorter intervals?

PROPOSITION # 4: SHALL the Board of Education of the Middleburgh Central School District be authorized to: (1) create a Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of financing the general improvements, construction, reconstruction, renovations or additions to various School District, buildings and grounds, including site work and the acquisition of original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus required for the purpose for which such buildings are to be used; (2) said Capital Reserve Fund not to exceed the ultimate amount of \$4,000,000 plus interest earned; (3) and annually deposit into the Capital Reserve Fund such portion of the General Fund and/or available unappropriated fund balance as determined by the Board of Education. The probable duration of the Capital Reserve Fund is ten (10) years?

4. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting pursuant to the Education Law of the State of New York.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the election and budget vote shall be by machine or absentee ballot. The hours during which the polls shall be kept open shall be from Noon to 9:00 PM prevailing time or for as long thereafter as necessary to enable qualified voters who are in the polling place at 9:00 PM to cast their ballots.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required to fund the School District's budget for the 2023-24 school year, exclusive of public monies, may be obtained by any taxpayer in the District during the fourteen days immediately preceding the Annual Meeting except Saturdays, Sundays or holidays, at District school buildings between the hours of 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM., prevailing time and also at said District Election.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the qualified voters of the School District shall be entitled to vote in said annual vote and election. A qualified voter is one who is (1) a citizen of the United States of America, (2) eighteen (18) years of age or older, and (3) a resident within the School District for a period of thirty (30) days preceding the annual vote and election. The School District may require all persons offering to vote at the budget vote and election to provide one form of proof of residency pursuant to Education Law section 2018-c. Such form may include a driver's license, a non-driver identification card, a utility bill, or a voter registration card. Upon offer of proof of residency, the School District may also require all persons offering to vote to provide their signature, printed name, and address.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that applications for absentee ballots will be obtainable during school business hours from the District Clerk; completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 PM, prevailing time, on May 16, 2023.

A list of persons to whom absentee ballots are issued will be available for inspection to qualified voters of the District in the office of the District Clerk on and after May 11, 2023, between the hours of 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM on weekdays prior to the day set for the annual election and on May 16, 2023, the day set for the election. Any qualified voter present in the polling place may object to the voting of the ballot upon appropriate

grounds for making his/her challenge and the reasons therefore known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that petitions nominating candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education to fill one (1) expired term of three (3) years, shall be filed with the Clerk of the Middleburgh Central School District at 291 Main Street, Middleburgh New York 12122, not later than April 17, 2023, at 5:00 PM. Each petition shall be directed to the Clerk of the District and shall be signed by at least twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the District, and must state the full name and residence of the candidate. Nominating petitions may be obtained from the District Clerk during regular school hours.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to a rule adopted by the Board of Education in accordance with Sections 2035 and 2008 of the Education Law, any referendum or propositions to amend the budget, or otherwise to be submitted for voting at said vote and election, must be filed with the Board of Education on or before April 17, 2023, at 5:00 PM, prevailing time; must be typed or printed in the English language; must be directed to the Clerk of the School District; must be signed by at least twenty-five (25) of the qualified voters of the District; and must state the name and residence of each signer. However, the School Board will not entertain or place before the voters any proposition if its purpose is beyond the power of the voters or is illegal, or any proposition requiring the expenditure of moneys which fails to include specific appropriations for all such expenditures required by the proposition.

Public Notice - Schoharie
There will be a Workshop held by the Planning Board of the Town of Schoharie

on Monday April 24, 2023 at 6:30 PM in the downstairs meeting room at the Schoharie Firehouse, 114 Fort Road, Schoharie, NY. Primarily held to review the High-bridge SEQR Environmental Assessment Form, any other business may be conducted.

Public Notice - Harpersfield
The annual meeting of the Harpersfield Rural Cemetery Association will be held Sunday, May 7, 2023 at 2 p.m. at the Cemetery on Colonel Harper Drive, Harpersfield, NY. In the event of rain, we will meet at the Harpersfield United Methodist Church on Colonel Harper Drive, Harpersfield, NY. All Board of Trustee members, lot owners or persons with interest are invited to attend. Contact Pat Hornbeck 607-434-6613 for further information.

Public Notice - Middleburgh
The Town Board, Town of Middleburgh, is seeking an interested person from the Town of Middleburgh to serve on the Joint Town and Village Planning Board. This is a voluntary position with a year end stipend. This opening is for a Village Resident. Please drop your letter of interest off to the Town Clerk's office (located at 139 Cotton Hill Rd) or email to tnmidd@gmail.com by May 4, 2023. Interviews will be held at the Town Board Meeting on May 11, 2023.

The Joint Town and Village Planning Board has an opening for Planning Board Secretary. This is an hourly paid position and open to any Town or Village of Middleburgh resident. Please drop letters of interest off to the Town Clerk or email to tnmidd@gmail.com.

Public Notice - Middleburgh
Starting April 17, 2023 Village of Middleburgh will pick-up bagged leaves in biodegradable paper bags and SMALL tied brush Monday & Friday's. Please place at the edge of Village Street no sooner than 24 hours prior to pick-up days. Only SMALL tied brush will be picked up.

Public Notice - Middleburgh
The Village of Middleburgh will be cleaning the Cemetery May 1, 2022 through May 5, 2023. Anything left at Cemetery will be removed. Thank you Village Department of Public Works

Public Notice - Stamford CSD
BUDGET HEARING
A budget hearing for

the inhabitants of the Stamford Central School District, qualified to vote at school district meetings will be held in the Cafeteria of the Stamford Central School on May 9, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., where there shall be presented the proposed school district budget for the following year.

DATE OF VOTE
The vote upon the appropriation of the necessary funds to meet the estimated expenditures or for any propositions involving the expenditure of money or the authorizing of levy of taxes, as well as the election of two members of the Board of Education shall be held on May 16, 2023, at the Stamford Central School District between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

PROPOSITION 1 - Statement of Money Required for Next School Year
A copy of the statement of the amount of money which would be required for the next school year for school purposes shall be completed seven days before the budget hearing and may be obtained by any resident of the District at Stamford Central School during the period of 14 days immediately before the annual meeting and election, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., except Saturday, Sunday or a holiday.

PROPOSITION 2 - Bus Purchase
RESOLVED that the Board of Education of Stamford Central School District be authorized to purchase a 65 passenger bus (Freightliner/Thomas) not to exceed a cost of \$140,742, and to pay for such purchases from a previously established bus reserve fund and/or unappropriated fund balance.

VOTE FOR BOARD MEMBERS
Petitions nominating candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education must be filed with the Clerk of the District between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. but not later than 4:00 p.m. April 17, 2023. The following vacancies are to be filled:

A three-year term ending June 30, 2023, presently held by J. Eklund

A three-year term ending June 30, 2023, presently held by E. Hager

ADDITIONAL PROPOSITIONS
Any proposition that is required to be included for vote shall be submitted in writing by means of a petition signed by at least 25 qualified voters, stating the residence of each signer, which proposition shall be filed with the Clerk not later than April 17, 2023, unless a greater number of days are required by statute. Any proposition shall be rejected by the Board of Education if the purpose of the proposition is not within the powers of the voters or where the expenditure of monies is required for the proposition, and such proposition fails to include the necessary specific appropriation.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS
Applications for absentee ballots may be applied for at the Office of the District office. Such applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days before the vote set in this notice if the ballot is to be mailed to the absentee voter or the day before the vote if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the absentee voter. Absentee ballots must be received in the office of the District Clerk of the District not later than 5:00 p.m. on the day of the vote.

A list of all persons to whom absentee voters' ballots have been issued shall be available for public inspection during regular office hours which are between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Any qualified voter may upon examination of such list, file written challenge of qualifications of voter of any person, whose name appears on such lists, stating the reasons for the challenge. Such list shall be posted in a conspicuous place during the election, and any qualified voter may challenge the acceptance of the absentee voters' ballots or a person on such list, by making this challenge and the reasons for the challenge known to the inspectors of election before the close of the polls.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS
The qualified voters of the School District shall be entitled to vote at said annual vote and election. A qualified voter is one who is (1) a citizen of the United States of America, (2) eighteen years of age

Help Wanted
Reliable kennel help wanted in Cobleskill NY. Looking for help in the mornings and afternoons with our dogs. Turn out, clean and feed. Call for more information. 518-701-5646

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Town of Bovina Highway Department is looking for a full time heavy equipment operator. The applicant must be capable of operating highway equipment, have some mechanical skills, have a CDL class B license or the ability to get one and pass a drug screening. Benefits are available

Help Wanted
after a probation period. Contact Highway Superintendent Edward Weber, at 607-832-4220 or email at bovinahighway@hotmail.com

Help Wanted
Edward Weber
Bovina Highway Superintendent

Help Wanted
Gerster Trucking Now Hiring For: Class A CDL Drivers Local - Tank Endorsement Required
Competitive Salary and Health Insurance Available Immediately.
Paid Vacation and Retirement Plan Available after 1 Year
Call 607-278-5212 or email prgerster76@aol.com

Help Wanted
The Village of Stamford DPW is seeking a full-time skilled laborer. This person must have a valid driver's license and be able to report to the job for emergency calls. Some of the job duties include familiarity with general hand tools, physical labor, snow removal, road flagging, landscaping, assisting on construction and excavation sites, etc. Compensation based on experience. Opportunity for advancement with certifications and great health benefits.

Help Wanted
The Delaware County Department of Planning & Watershed

SERVICES OFFERED

Services Offered
My services of vacuuming and rug shampooing to Schoharie County Seniors. Apartments only. Monday-Friday, Noon to 3:00 PM. \$15 per room. 518-231-2359.

SEEKING

CASH FOR RECORDS VINYL RECORDS WANTED! We'll buy your Vinyl LPs for top \$\$. Interested in full or partial collections. CASH paid for vinyl in good condition dating from the 1950's to the present. Call or email Sounds Good: (845) 676-6233 or soundsgoodcatskills@gmail.com.

ARKVILLE - Summer helper, part time, weekends. Some heavy lifting and porting. May - October. Call David (845) 586-6287.

HELP WANTED

Affairs is seeking interns for the 2022 field season beginning on May 31, 2022. Pay rate is \$18.939/hr based on a 37.5-hour work week, M-F, 9am-5pm. Work will consist of data collection on highway infrastructure, drainage features and infrastructure with use of Geographic Positioning System (GPS) units. Interns will be required to operate County vehicles and use County equipment for field surveys in a responsible manner. Applications can be obtained by visiting the Delaware County Personnel webpage: <http://www.co.delaware.ny.us/departments/pers/application.htm>. Please mail applications to the Delaware County Personnel Department, 1 Courthouse Square, Suite #2, Delhi, NY 13753.

Help Wanted
The Village of Stamford DPW is seeking a seasonal summer skilled laborer. This person must have a valid driver's license. One of the job requirements will be to complete a pool operator training course, paid for by the Village of Stamford, to help operate the municipal pool. Some of the other job duties include familiarity with general hand tools, physical labor, road flagging, and landscaping.

Compensation based on experience. Please apply in person by April 23, 2023 at Village Hall, 84 Main Street, Stamford, NY 12167 or see our website at www.stamfordny.com to print our employment application.

Help Wanted
The Town of Wright Highway Department is seeking two full-time year-round employees. The job is full-time with overtime in winter and benefits package. CDL B is necessary, along with equipment knowledge. Mechanical abilities is a plus. Please call Keith at 518-231-8345 for application.

LEGAL ADVERTISING

or older, and (3) resident within the School District for a period of thirty (30) days next preceding the annual vote and election.

Sell: May 15, 2023@ 9:15AM; 2017 Texas Pride Trailer VIN: 7HCK2UGT4HB000237 &; 9:30AM; 2016 Ram 3ST VIN: 3C63RRGL1GG131457; Braunsdorfs Auto Transport Inc; Citizens Bank NA, Sidney Federal Credit Union

Public Notice - Bids Wanted

Delaware County (the Owner) is seeking bids to construct a single level 2000+/- SF residential building on a vacant lot in the Village of Delhi.

Delaware County invites Stipulated Sum Bids for the work described in the Construction Plans dated March 6, 2023.

The Owner shall accept sealed bids from qualified bidders at the Delaware County Office Building addressed to:

Mr. Pete Montgomery Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds Delaware County Maintenance Department 111 Main Street Delhi, NY 13753 Telephone No. (607) 832-5050 Email: pete.montgomery@co.delaware.nyu.s

Sealed bids must be submitted in envelopes which identify upon their face the project name "161 Main Street" as well as the bidder's name and address.

Sealed bids are due by 12 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16, 2023. Bids received after said time and date will be rejected.

The Owner reserves the right to award the contract within forty-five (45) calendar days after the re-

ceipt of the bids. No bidder may modify or withdraw their bid within forty-five (45) calendar days after the receipt of bids. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids submitted.

Bid documents are available in digital format upon request. All requests shall be made to Mr. Pete Montgomery via phone or email.

A complete printed set may be purchased by a non-refundable fee of \$50.00.

Public Notice - Prattsville

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Prattsville will hold a Town Wide Cleanup on May 1, 2023 to May 4, 2023 only.

There will be one stop only per house. Please have your matter out and ready to be picked up by Monday May 1, 2023. Items available to be picked up are metal, furniture, appliances, and up

to four tires. NO HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE, PLASTIC, WOOD OR BUILDING DEBRIS. Please call the Town Hall at 518-299-3125 with your name, address, phone # and what you will have to be picked up.

Public Notice - Bovina

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Bovina Town Board will hold a Public Hearing on May 9, 2023 at 6:00 PM regarding the adoption of a Local Law to Establish the Residency Requirements for the Appointed Office of Deputy Highway Superintendent for the Town of Bovina.

Public Notice - Bidders Wanted

Pursuant to Section 103 of the General Municipal Law, sealed bids will be received by the undersigned for the County of Schoharie to purchase the following: ABRASIVES ASPHALT CONCRETE SOLID WASTE AGGREGATES BULK LUBRICANTS GUIDERAIL & POST POUNDING

The bidding documents may be obtained at the offices of the undersigned between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

All bids when presented to said office shall be in sealed envelopes and plainly marked on the face the item(s) being bid.

Bids must be delivered to the office of the undersigned not later than 10:00 a.m., Thursday, May 4th, 2023, at which time they will be publicly opened and read.

The bid documents may be examined at the office of the following: Schoharie County Department of Public Works Highway Building 393 Main Street Schoharie, NY 12157.

The right is reserved by the County to waive any informality in and reject any or all bids. Bid documents should be dropped off or be mailed to: Daniel R. Crandell, PE, Commissioner of Public Works 393 Main Street PO Box 249 Schoharie, NY 12157

Summons Notice SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK - COUNTY OF SCHOHARIE INDEX # 2022-14 FILED 01/13/2022

ARNOLD A/K/A DENNIS M. ARNOLD, WHO WAS BORN IN 1953 AND DIED ON JUNE 29, 2019, A RESIDENT OF SCHOHARIE COUNTY WHOSE LAST KNOWN ADDRESS WAS 3122 STATE ROUTE 7, HOWES CAVE, NEW YORK 12092, THEIR SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST IF ANY OF THE AFORESAID DEFENDANTS BE DECEASED, THEIR RESPECTIVE HEIRS AT LAW, NEXT OF KIN, AND SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST OF THE AFORESAID CLASSES OF PERSON, IF THEY OR ANY OF THEM BE DEAD, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE HUSBANDS, WIVES OR WIDOWS, IF ANY, ALL OF WHOM AND WHOSE NAMES AND PLACES, ARE UNKNOWN TO PLAINTIFF, DENNIS ARNOLD A/K/A DENNIS ARNOLD JR. AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN TO DENNIS ARNOLD A/K/A DENNIS M. ARNOLD, JESSICA ARNOLD AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN TO DENNIS ARNOLD A/K/A DENNIS M. ARNOLD, MARK ARNOLD AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN TO DENNIS ARNOLD A/K/A DENNIS M. ARNOLD, CHRISTOPHER ARNOLD AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN TO DENNIS ARNOLD A/K/A DENNIS M. ARNOLD, COMMISSIONER OF SCHOHARIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION D/B/A NATIONAL GRID, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA O/B/O INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, CLERK OF SCHOHARIE COUNTY, "JOHN DOE #1" through "JOHN DOE #12," the last twelve names being fictitious and unknown to plaintiff, the persons or parties intended being the tenants, occupants, persons or corporations, if any, having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the Subject Property described in the Complaint, Defendants. To the above-named defendants: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the Complaint is not served

with this Summons, to serve a notice of appearance on the Plaintiff's Attorney within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within thirty (30) days after the service is complete if this Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York) in the event the United States of America is made a party defendant, the time to answer for the said United States of America shall not expire until sixty (60) days after service of the Summons; and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. McCabe, Weisberg & Conway, LLC, Attorneys for Plaintiff, 145 Huguenot Street, Suite 210, New Rochelle, NY 10801. 914-636-8900. 914-636-8901 facsimile HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS IN FORECLOSURE New York State requires that we send you this notice about the foreclosure process. Please read it carefully. SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT You are in danger of losing your home. If you fail to respond to the Summons and Complaint in this foreclosure action, you may lose your home. Please read the Summons and Complaint carefully. You should immediately contact an attorney or your local legal aid office to obtain advice on how to

protect yourself. SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE The State encourages you to become informed about your options in foreclosure. In addition to seeking assistance from an attorney or legal aid office, there are government agencies, and non-profit organizations that you may contact for information about possible options, including trying to work with your lender during this process. To locate an entity near you, you may call the toll-free helpline maintained by New York State Department of Financial Services* at 1-877-BANK-NYS (1-877-226-5697) or visit the Department's website at WWW.BANKING.STATE.NY.US. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO LEAVE YOUR HOME AT THIS TIME. You have the right to stay in your home during the foreclosure process. You are not required to leave your home unless and until your property is sold at auction pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale. Regardless of whether you choose to remain in your home, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR PROPERTY and pay your taxes in accordance with state and local law. FORECLOSURE RESCUE SCAMS Be careful of people who approach you with offers to "save" your home. There are individuals who watch for notices of foreclosure actions in order to unfairly profit from a homeowner's distress. You should be extremely careful about any such promises and any suggestions that you pay them a fee or sign over your deed. State law requires anyone offering such services for profit to enter into a contract which fully describes the services they will perform and fees they will charge, and which prohibits them from taking any money from you until they have completed all such promised services. File# 20-302612

Five Count Indictment Resulting From Police Chase

DELHI - Delaware County Acting District Attorney Shawn J. Smith announced that Chad M. Ostrander, 38, of Grand Gorge, New York appeared for Arraignment on a Five Count Indictment in Delaware County Court on April 13, 2023.

Count One of the Indictment alleges that the defendant committed the crime of Attempted Aggravated Assault on a Police Officer, a Class C Violent Felony. The defendant is alleged to have attempted to run down Walton Police Officer Logan Wood with his motor vehicle, after being asked to stop the vehicle.

Counts Two and Three of the Indictment allege that the defendant committed the crime of Reckless Endangerment in the

First Degree, Class D Felonies. The Indictment alleges that the defendant acted recklessly, and under circumstances evincing a depraved indifference to human life, when he took police on a high-speed chase through Walton and Colchester, reaching speeds up to 137 miles per hour. The Indictment further alleges that these reckless actions endangered the lives of pedestrians, and other motorists that were forced off the roadway.

Count Four alleges that the defendant committed the crime of Criminal Mischief in the Third Degree, a Class E Felony, when he intentionally kicked down a door located at 32 Liberty Street in the Village of Walton.

Count Five alleges that

the defendant endangered the welfare of a child when he engaged in a physical domestic dispute in the child's presence.

The defendant pleaded not guilty at the Arraignment, and Acting Delaware County Court Judge Gary A. Rosa remanded the defendant to the Delaware County Correctional Facility without bail.

Acting District Attorney Shawn Smith commended Officer Logan Wood of the Walton Police Department, and Officer Keith Gavette of the Colchester Police Department for their thorough investigation of this case.

As are all persons accused of a crime, the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

Williams to Play at WKC

EAST MEREDITH — Acoustic fingerstyle guitarist Yasmin Williams will open the West Kortright Centre's 48th performance season on Saturday, May 13 at 7PM. Based in Alexandria, VA, Yasmin Williams is known for her unorthodox, modern style of playing. She utilizes various techniques including alternate tunings, percussive hits, and lap tapping in her music to great effect. Her "radiant sound and adventurous origins have made her a key figure in a diverse dawn for the solo guitar" —

The New York Times.

This is an indoor concert with limited seating; Tickets are \$25 general admission, members receive 10% discount, kids 12 and under are free. Visit westkc.org to purchase tickets. Arrive early

to enjoy dinner and drinks from the concession stand.

Event schedules and guidelines are subject to change. Call (607) 278-5454 or contact info@westkc.org with any questions.

\$25 Digital Subscription 518-763-6854

FreeDailyCrosswords.com

- ACROSS 1) Deep gulf 6) Highlight reel accompaniment 11) Certain Beatle's lady 14) One of the Allman Brothers 15) America's bird 16) Fighter at Vicksburg 17) Seller's hoped-for number 19) Tarzan beast 20) Beach playthings 21) Sports complexes 23) "To ___ is human ..." 26) Drag before a jury 27) Bit of glitter 28) Type of doll or economics 30) Orbital high point 31) "My Cherie ___" 32) Smoothing tool 33) Sail afore the foremast 36) British title 37) Speak at length 38) Popular sandwich option 39) Not the longest dashes 40) Deceptive appearance 41) Large water conduits 42) Doesn't act conservatively 44) It holds one cup 45) Jeans magnate Levi 47) Experienced office holder 48) Important time 49) Frolic 50) Part of A/V 52) ___-Wan Kenobi 53) Kind of insurance 58) "The Blacklist" network 59) Remove from a hard drive 60) A day's march 61) It can be rolled or batted 62) Wigwam kin 63) Submarine locator

FROSTY BUTT By Luke Cayon 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63

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- DOWN 1) Toothpaste-certifying org. 2) Mass transit carrier 3) Chatter incessantly 4) Pinking shears sound 5) Washington post 6) Answer 7) They're good listeners 8) Some special effects (abbr.) 9) "Untouchables" target 10) British aristocracy 11) Breakfast staple 12) Country in the Himalayas 13) Way too big for one's britches, say 18) ___ d'Italia (cycling event) 22) Reverse from WSW 23) Avoid 24) Subject of Caesar 25) Hotel amenity 27) Outpouring, as of words 29) Word with "date" or "process" 30) "Amo, amas, I love ___" 32) Is inquisitive 34) Word with "tube" or "circle" 35) Iraq's main port 37) Win a "no blinking" contest 38) Frat "T" 40) Haute cuisine patron 41) Feelings of spite 43) "Nixon in China" role 44) Carbonated drink 45) Breakfast pastry 46) Cat, informally 47) Blender option 50) Cathedral section 51) Sgt. Snorkel's dog 54) Drink like a 46-Down 55) Actor McKellan 56) Tax pro 57) Always used by a poet?

Audit, from Page A1

the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation's \$3.5 million pool complex to the taxpayers of the village. The village's response said the expenses were both customary and the right thing to do. In its audit of the pool project, which was paid for through a grant from the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation, the audit found the Project's total cost of almost \$2.86 million exceeded the grant revenues of \$2.6 million by \$256,302 Based on a Board meeting minutes, the Board was aware that the Project costs may have exceeded revenues by \$50,000. However, Board members were unaware of the total Project cost and the effect the Project costs had on the Village's finances As of fiscal-year end May 31, 2022, due in part to the Project's funding shortfall, the Village's general fund balance had been reduced to approximately \$300,000 The Mayor told us the Village would be applying to the same private foundation that provided the Project's initial grant funding to cover the overruns, and if approved, the Village would hopefully receive this additional revenue by May 2023

In addition, 10 purchases totaling \$63,528 required either written or verbal quotes in accordance with the Village's procurement policy While one purchase totaling \$3,560 contained the required two verbal quotes, officials were unable to provide documentation that they sought adequate competition for the remaining nine purchases totaling \$59,968 including pool design services, benches, tables with umbrellas, chairs, garbage cans and a plaque An additional \$15,965 in expenditures for the Project did not need to be competitively purchased Village officials stated that because the Village received grant funding, they did not know they needed to seek competition or follow the Village's procurement policy

As for the audit of the pool construction, the audit team recommended the board: Approve an initial project cost and detailed budget for the life of a project that includes all anticipated costs and financing methods: Explain all Board actions and proceedings in the Board meeting minutes to ensure the project scope is transparent to taxpayers: Require the Treasurer to provide and then review monthly budget-to-actual reports: Review and approve all change orders; Monitor project payments to ensure that contracted payment terms are followed and not exceeded; Consult with legal counsel and take appropriate action regarding the overpayment to the construction manager; Properly procure goods and services in accordance with applicable statutes and its procurement policy and ensure relevant documentation is retained; Improve its understanding of planning, overseeing and managing a capital project to ensure proper compliance with laws and reporting and monitoring of project activity by reviewing our publication Capital Projects Fund available at https://www.osc.state.nyu.us/files/local-government/publications/pdf/capital-projects-fund.pdf

The Treasurer should: Maintain complete and accurate accounting records in appropriate funds and provide the Board with monthly financial reports comparing the project budget-to-actual revenues and expenditures.

In response, board members said the village will gather, create as necessary and utilize project management tools as necessary for the given scale of a project. These tolls will be drawn from the publication Local Government Management Guide - Capital Projects Fund (financial), and the Project Management Body of Knowledge (physical project management), among others to allow the board to successfully guide a project from concept to completion;

The village will do a more thorough job of documenting discussions, decisions, milestones, etc., related to capital projects and to improve transparency, appropriate communications to the project stakeholders, the taxpayer, will be provided project milestone and when major changes dictate.

DISABLED WET living in Stamford is looking for home health aid. Flexible hours and days. Please call (607) 652-2449.

EDITORIAL

We're Not Perfect

For thousands of you, this is just the latest edition of our little newspaper that you're getting in the mail or picking up at a store.

For those of you around Delhi, this might be the first time you've seen the Mountain Eagle, or the first time you've seen it in several decades.

Our local paper isn't perfect, but we give our all. We've built an experienced team with a singular goal in mind: to serve you.

Our cover story is our second large, well-researched corruption expose in less than two months... and we have more in the hopper. A lot more.

We aren't perfect. Below we have a correction because of an error I made last week. We make errors, but we correct them.

If you're looking for the news of the area in your email or mailbox 50 Fridays a year (giving our team time with their families for Thanksgiving and Christmas), please give us a shot.

MIGHTY MEAGAN & THE LEGIONS OF LIGHT
EP:3 WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY: ELIZABETH M. LIVINGSTONE

FINALLY THE ENTRANCE TO THE UNDERGROUND SANCTUARY STOOD BEFORE THEM.

THE HALL OPENED. A GALLERY OF LIGHT. PEOPLE BUSY - MOVING ABOUT, PRETENDING LIFE WAS NORMAL.

JADEN'S FACE GRIMACED.

ALMOST THERE! MOVE JADEN!

LET'S GET YOU PATCHED UP... COME ON!

THE LEGIONS CHOSE ARROWS OVER BULLETS... MOST OF THE TIME.

AN ARROW, EASY TO MAKE.

DELFT FINGERS, A BIT OF TWINE AND FEATHERS...

A BULLET. A BULLET: WADDING, GUNPOWDER, BITS OF METAL...

ANTHONY GRABBED JADEN'S WAIST, SUPPORTING HIS BROTHER IN ARMS..

BUT, THEY CREATED THE SAME DARK RED STAIN.

PLEASE, SOMEONE GRAB OUR HORSES.

THEY RODE HARD TODAY.

MEAGAN CLUTCHED THE BOOKS IN HER ARMS, FEELING RELIEF... AND DESPAIR.

...MOST OF THE TIME

Week to week we have the most Delaware County news of any newspaper and our office is in Stamford. With our partnership with the Hancock Herald, we have the whole county covered.

- Matthew Avitabile
Publisher

RUSTY AND LILA BY BILLY SHEARS



For more information or about syndication, contact Mr. Shears at shearsum@protonmail.com. For more Rusty and Lila visit Billy's website PunkCartoons.com

Returning to Roots in Gilboa

GILBOA – What do you get when you mix a little real estate, a sprinkle of legal, and a whole lot of campground experience? Christine Taylor and Cathy Reinard's newest venture, returning to the world of Campground Ownership.

Cathy Reinard is a licensed real estate associate broker with Danielle Windus Cook and realtor for the Own a KOA program and her daughter Hospitality Attorney Christine Taylor is a partner at the Towne Law Firm, but prior to that they had previously owned multiple campgrounds. They couldn't stay away and now are proud to announce their purchase of Nickerson Park Campground in Gilboa NY.

With a slight name

change to <https://nickersoncatskillmountaincampground.com/>

Nickerson Catskill Mountain Campground LLC, they couldn't be more excited to expand upon the already amazing reputation and operations.

Beyond it's gorgeous 362 permitted site property right on the Schoharie Creek – it came with something much more valuable, the extremely talented manager Rosemary Celessi 3rd vice chair for the Campground Owners of NY agreeing to continue to manage the park and put up with a broker and a lawyer collaborating with her in operational decisions.

Current campers will be happy to know that this park will continue

to remain a family owned campground as it has been since the 1960's.

We plan to introduce current campers of Nickerson's to our style of camping fun and welcome previous campers who had camped with us at our previous parks to come reexperience what made us great before in a new location!

The name isn't the only change campers will perceive – with many new upgrades in the works including: Conestoga modular bathhouses, a brand new GB Wi-Fi system throughout the entire park and Berg Pedal Karts to be implemented this 2023 season.

Whether you're experienced at camping, or if it's instead something new – we cannot wait to make memories with you!

WHITTLING AWAY WITH DICK BROOKS

Toilet Paper

It all started with toilet paper. A couple of years ago I started noticing that despite the ads to the contrary, the double and triple rolls of the white stuff just didn't seem to last as long as they used to. The ads told me that the brand of preference in our castle had a thousand sheets more than the leading competitor yet I found myself purchasing large sized packages that resembled the cotton bales being loaded on steamships in the old South in a book about the Civil War I recently perused. One of these packages and I had to go through the checkout and haul the thing out to the car because there was no room for anything else in the cart. When I got it home and had dragged it into the kitchen, I then spent much of my time carrying armfuls to the bathrooms daily. It seems to be almost single serving size.

Next it was the bagels, for years whenever I've gone to shop at the big box store near the city, I've picked up a package of blueberry bagels. They are quite tasty and usually fresh. The price was also quite tasty compared to what the coffee shops and bagel bakery places charge. \$3.00 for a half dozen appealed to the Scottish side of my ancestry. The last time I was in the store, I migrated to the bakery section, picked up a package of bagels, checked the price, still \$3.00, tossed it into the cart and went to load up on toilet paper. After I got home, unstrapped the toilet tissue from the roof rack and dragged it to the pantry, I was feeling snackish and figured that I had earned a bagel. I open the package and it was then that I noticed it contained only four bagels. Anyone can make an honest mistake, but they're messing with my snacks here! The next time I went to that store, I thought I'd point out the error to the manager. He explained that it wasn't an error, rising costs for oil

and such meant that there had to be a price increase. They had solved the problem by downsizing the number of bagels in the package, that way, the price could stay the same. Not having realized that the bagels were cooked in or contained petroleum products, I figured I could live with it, bought a bag of bagels and another bale of toilet tissue and went home.

Last week, I was in our local market, a small homey store where everyone is smiley and I know where to find most of the necessities of life, and I happened to wander down the cookie aisle. As my eyes roamed over the shelves of forbidden fruit, they happened to land on a small package of Fig Newtons. I love Fig Newtons, they're the comfort food of Cookie Land, plump, smooth to the touch, with just the right amount of good for you stuff in them to justify an occasional package or two. I even like the small crunch of the tiny little seeds when you're chomping on them. They kind of hopped into the cart and nestled down under the toilet paper on their own. We arrived back at the castle, I carried the groceries in and took out the package of Fig Newtons so they wouldn't get squished and laid them on the counter near the sink and went out

to wrestle with the toilet tissue. A little later, hot and sweaty, I poured a glass of nice cold milk and decided to give the cookies my full attention for a while. I unwrapped them and couldn't believe my eyes, the Fig Newton that appeared was square! Fig Newtons are rectangles, always have been since the Creator made them as rewards for good little children. It had been down sized, it just wasn't its plump ancestor. Four or five of the old cookies had made a good snack and had left you with a nice tummy feel. I ate half a box wondering what was happening to the world as I had known it.

Now I've started to look for all the things that are being downsized, shrunk, and changed. I'm getting more angry every time I find one. It's a good thing I'm a reasonable man because I think I'd get great pleasure out of plummeting someone with a large bale of toilet tissue right now!

Thought for the week— "You know you're getting old when you stoop down to tie your shoelaces and wonder what else you could do while you're down there." -George Burns.

Until next week, may you and yours be happy and well.

Whittle12124@yahoo.com

Former Sheriff Bates Speaks to Seniors

GALLUPVILLE - The Wright Seniors welcomed former Schoharie County Sheriff John Bates as guest speaker to their April meeting. As a former ballistics specialist with the NYS Police, John was chosen to participate in a select committee to research the ballistics evidence after the assassination of President John Kennedy. Members

found John's presentation, complete with slides and pictures, most interesting. John entertained questions from the members.

The Wright Senior group meets on the second Thursday of each month at 11:30 in the Gallupville Lutheran Church. New members are always welcomed and encouraged to attend.



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Correction

Last week, I was under press deadline and made a leap I shouldn't have.

We reported on Tim Van Glad as former Gilboa Supervisor Tony Van Glad's son.

He is, in fact, Mr. Van Glad's nephew.

We apologize for the error.

FROSTY BUTT By Luke Cayton

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Social Services Staff Plea for Additional Job Positions

Federal Medicaid Funds Remain Unresolved

By Mary A. Crisafulli
DELHI - Delaware County Social Services Deputy Commissioner Keith Weaver and Director of Services Tatiana Amadon expressed a need for additional job positions to supervisors at a committee meeting on Apr. 17.

The department has eight open positions, including three case worker positions. According to Amadon, the best practice would be to train and recruit continuously, which means they would need additional jobs available to fill. The issue is that caseload is constantly in-

creasing due to state regulations and adaptations to community needs.

Once open positions are filled, and individuals are trained to take on work, other caseworkers become burnt out and leave, creating a cycle where the department is never fully staffed, explained Weaver.

Franklin Supervisor Jeffery Taggart said the committee authorized two new positions last year. In addition, he said, it would only be wise to create new jobs if the ones that remain open are filled, referring to the three openings.

The department requested four new caseworker positions be created, and the committee authorized two, explained Weaver.

Amadon said she is confident the three open positions can be filled, plus some. Individuals who are graduating college this year have expressed interest. "I would hate to turn people away," she added.

Taggart and other committee members agreed to develop additional positions once those three caseworker positions were filled.

Weaver also explained

a need to reassess staff needs as a whole with the opening of the new DSS South building in Walton. The building will need supervisory oversight, reception, and security, among other things.

In another discussion, Director of Fiscal Management William Bryden reported both the state senate and assembly have been asked to continue dispersing county share of the \$624 million in Affordable Care Act Enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance (ACA) funds. The issue remains unresolved. In addition, the state needs to catch up

on reconciliations for ACA and owes the county approximately \$2.5 million. Even with this shortfall, Bryden reported finalizations for the 2022 budget resulted in \$1.7 million being returned to the fund balance following state reimbursements. "It was a great year," he said. However, if ACA funding continues not to be disbursed by the state, it could become an issue for the 2024 budget, he explained.

Weaver said due to a letter to the editor published in The Daily Gazette by Robert Megna, New York state budget director,

he is hopeful the state will disburse the funds. "While Medicaid has expanded, the state hasn't passed any added expense of additional enrollment or benefits to counties by adjusting the amount of enhanced federal funding it retains for expansion; shouldering the burden of what would otherwise be local costs," Megna's letter states.

In other business, HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program) has been extended through Apr. 28.

The next social services committee meeting is scheduled Monday, May 15, at 9:30 a.m.

Guilty Plea In Felony DWI Cases

DELHI - Robin Reese, 52, of Bainbridge, NY appeared in Delaware County Court on April 17, 2023 and pleaded guilty to two counts of Driving While Intoxicated by alcohol, Class E felonies.

The defendant was alleged to have been Driving While Intoxicated in the Village of Delhi on two separate occasions, once on August 15, 2022, and again on October 5, 2022. On October 5, 2022 the defendant is alleged to have operated an unregistered motor ve-

hicle in the Village of Delhi. After being stopped, Village of Delhi police detected an odor of an alcoholic beverage emanating from the defendant's person, along with other signs of intoxication. The defendant failed her field sobriety tests, and a subsequent police investigation revealed that the defendant had a blood alcohol content of 0.09.

On April 17, 2023, the defendant appeared in front of Acting Delaware County Court Judge Gary A. Rosa, and pleaded

guilty to two counts of felony driving while intoxicated- one count resulting from August 15, 2022, and one count resulting from October 5, 2022. The defendant admitted that she had a previous DWI conviction within the prior 10 years, which resulted in these charges being felonies. Reese further admitted that she had been drinking vodka and driving in the Village of Delhi on both dates.

These guilty pleas were entered as part of a ne-

gotiated disposition where the defendant was sentenced to two separate terms of 5-year felony probation supervision. The defendant was also sentenced to Adult Treatment Court, as a special term of felony probation. The terms and conditions of the defendant's probation require, among other things, that she undergo a drug and alcohol evaluation, and successfully comply with any treatment recommendations. The defendant's license was revoked, and

the Court imposed fines and surcharges in the amount of \$4,140.00.

Acting District Attorney Shawn Smith thanked Detective Justin Mohr of the Delhi Village Police Department for his thorough investigation of this case. Detective Mohr's thorough investigation of these cases allowed us to secure guilty pleas without a trial.

Delaware County Stop DWI Coordinator Scott Glueckert stated, "STOP DWI appreciates the continued work of the Delhi

Village Police Department and the Delaware County District Attorney's Office in their diligent efforts to keep the community safe and hold DWI offenders accountable. Driving While Intoxicated is a completely preventable crime that happens far too often. And every time it happens the operator of the vehicle and the rest of the community are placed at risk. If you are going to consume alcohol, make a plan that does not involve driving a motor vehicle."

Harpersfield Again Rejects Moratorium on Solar Projects

By Liz Page

HARPERSFIELD - A consulting attorney brought the issue of a moratorium on solar projects to the Harpersfield Town Board last Wednesday and they again rejected the need to institute a moratorium. They also held a lengthy executive session at the beginning of the meeting to discuss personnel and again to close the meeting.

Robert J. McKertich, a partner with Coughlin and Gerhart LLP in Binghamton, is serving as counsel to the town planning board, due a conflict with the town's firm of Young & Sommer regarding a solar project off Weaver Road by Delaware River Solar. Young and Sommer represent the developer for another project.

McKertich was present at the March meeting of the town planning board where the question of a moratorium again surfaced and residents were told it is not a planning board decision, but a town board decision.

He explained a moratorium is a land use tool that can be put in place as a temporary pause on certain activities in the town. They are usually for six months to one year. The main purpose is to address some deficiency the town may see in a local law. It is not a tool that can be used to frustrate a particular project or a back door method to deny a project.

The town of Harpersfield has no zoning, but it does have a site plan review law that regulates land use activities. They also have the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) to address the environmental impacts.

He asked if there is some reason to correct or update the law. The town currently has three pending solar projects. It doesn't preclude a

moratorium, but it does raise red flags. Calling for a moratorium would have to be done in order to address some problem the town found in its process.

"It's a legislative decision for this board," he said.

Kevin Young, town attorney, asked McKertich if he believes the planning board has enough controls. He said zoning can prohibit certain land uses in the town, but the town does not have zoning. It must look at the laws it has. The site plan gives the planning board authority to regulate the syntax, while SEQRA provides tools to address adverse impacts.

He said the town has the laws in place, but some solar laws include items related to use and also include decommissioning bonds and buffers.

He went on to say that site plan and SEQRA have what is needed to address the impacts.

Supervisor Lisa Driscoll said at this time there were no issues and the town board would not issue a moratorium. If something is brought to light somewhere down the road, she said the town could revisit the issue.

Young addressed the issue of assessments and said it has been discussed at the county level and a previous formula rejected by the school districts. "It is not a small issue," he said, pointing to examples in Schoharie County where the state Legislature has based the assessment on the earning (license) value of the project, which is much less than a land assessment or cost of construction based value. If a town does not opt out, it must negotiate a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT). Several Schoharie County towns have joined in a lawsuit against the state's formula, which is still making its way through the court

system and has temporarily halted the state's ability to regulate the payments.

Young said he has drafted the law to opt out of the state exemption which has been used in other communities and would require a public hearing. That hearing was set for 7 p.m. on May 10, the town board's May meeting.

The local law is titled "Local Law to Opt Out of the Solar and Wind Energy System and Farm Waste Energy System Exemptions" provided by Section 487 of the New York State Real Property Tax Law. It is being adopted pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law 10 and the state's RTL Section 487. It is intended to provide no exemption from taxation RPTL 487. A full copy of the proposed law is available at the town clerk's office.

Town Clerk Linda Goss reported the town has been approached to erect a cell tower in the area previously approved for Verizon (2001) near the town salt shed on town property. The tower was never constructed due to a lack of vendors to utilize the tower. She said it was not cast in stone and the company said they would recontact the town after surveying other possible locations. The property is owned by the town.

Assessor Chairman Laurie Bedford reported the town's equalization rate has dropped to 17.7 percent. She said she is working with the other two assessors. This year she did all of the agriculture exemptions. They are working their way through the process of updating property data and new changes to the exemptions.

The tentative roll will be out May 1 and the town clerk will have a copy, along with the assessors. Harpersfield will hold open book nights on four different dates with all three assessors avail-

able on Friday, May 5 from 5-9 p.m.; Saturday, May 6 from 4-8 p.m.; Friday, May 12 from 5-9 p.m., and Saturday, May 13 from 4-8 p.m.. They will discuss each land owner's concerns individually on these open book days. Grievance Day is the fourth Tuesday of May (May 23) from 5-9 p.m. in Harpersfield. The Board of Assessment Review (BAR) requires a completed

application, RP-552 that is available from the town clerk, town assessor or on line at tax.ny.gov/realproperty/forms.

Any questions may be directed to the assessors by calling (607) 214-6080 or emailing harpersfieldassessor@gmail.com

Board members also discussed seeking grants to help pay for additional Automated External Defibril-

lators (AEDs) are being sought, with one currently located at the shared transfer station in Harpersfield. The devices walk anyone through the process that could help save a life. The town acquired one for the transfer station site after a resident went down there. It is felt one should also be available at the town hall, where the public is gathered for court and meetings.

Schoharie Valley Concert Band Returns

After having been sidelined by the pandemic for three years, the Schoharie Valley Concert band will strike up the band at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 30, at Cobleskill-Richmondville High School.

Under the direction of Martin Zavadil, the band will renew its quest of performing quality concert band music for the community.

The concert will lead off with "Covenant," fanfare and celebration, by Robert W. Smith, composer and arranger of marching band literature. Smith's music has received extensive airplay on major network television, inclusion in many movies, and in professional ensembles such as the United States Navy Band, United States Air Force Band, Boston Pops and the Atlanta Symphony.

The program will also feature familiar tunes from Broadway musicals, march music from the circus, a piece portraying the dreams of a matador's last bullfight, and a reflective composition that captures youth and

innocence through the eyes of a child.

The variety of music will include "The Old Matador," with a Spanish flair by composer David Bobrowitz. The Old Matador is a tone poem in which the music evokes the content of the poem. The piece depicts an aging matador's desire to return to the arena for one last bullfight. The Matador is brave, courageous, and proud. Yet fearing for his life, his señora pleads with him to come to his senses and retire. The music portrays the march to the arena, the bullfight and the Matador's victory.

"Robinson's Grand Entrée March," is one of 188 marches composed by Karl King. It is a circus march called a screamer, aimed at stirring up the audience during the circus show. Screamers are a very demanding type of music due to their extremely fast and advanced rhythms, especially the low-brass parts. Some say King did for the circus march what Sousa did for the patriotic march.

"A Childhood Remembered," by Rossano Galante, urges you to imagine a time of care-free days and magical star-filled nights. Sprightly melodic lines play tag with more lyrical, lush sonorities, taking audiences back to their own childhoods.

Selections from two popular Broadway musicals will highlight memorable songs from "Into the Woods," by the late Stephen Sondheim and "Carousel," by composer Richard Rodgers and lyricist-dramatist Oscar Hammerstein.

The Schoharie Valley Concert Band is open to all area residents, including high school and college students. The new season for band will start in September. Rehearsals are held on Thursdays in Cobleskill-Richmondville High School. For information on how to join the band, contact Martin Zavadil at Zavamart@aol.com or Ed Truax by calling (518)925-0745. The Schoharie Valley Concert Band website is <http://sv-concertband.org/>

Delaware Academy Hears Public Input on Capital Project

Ballot Proposition Appearance Undetermined, Superintendent Says

By Mary A. Crisafulli
 DELHI - During a community public forum, Delaware Academy Central School District (DA) Superintendent Kelly Zimmerman presented preliminary capital project concepts. Public in attendance were able to express concerns and ask questions regarding the project which will appear on the ballot in October.

Several public concerns regarding the project's appearance on the ballot were received. The school board has yet to decide whether several or one proposition will appear on the ballot to distinguish the projects individually or as one package. "We are still interested in input from the community," said Zimmerman.

Several community members requested the proposals be presented as separate

propositions on the ballot. During the presentation, Zimmerman identified a technology and agricultural innovation lab, auditorium and music room lighting and sound improvements, and multi-use soccer, football, and softball fields as the most costly of the proposed project plan.

Although DA currently offers technology and agriculture coursework, Zimmerman said there are limitations to instruction and a gap in meeting student needs. After researching student pursued careers following DA graduation and student surveys, it was determined the space should support coursework in CTE agriculture, computer-aided design (CAD), design and drawing pre-architecture, design and fabrication multi-media, small animal sci-

ence, welding, and project-based learning.

The long-term viability of using the American Legion sports fields is becoming increasingly complex each year, said Zimmerman. The school district contracts with the legion annually to use the areas for \$10,000 to \$12,000. In addition, the school must maintain the fields, which, according to Zimmerman, means the district does not receive investment returns. The fields are utilized for athletics and physical education for all age groups.

A similar project to update the fields was voted down in 2017. According to Zimmerman, this proposal is scaled down to focus on necessity and long-term viability. The project, if approved, encompasses a multi-purpose artificial turf field

with lights and resurfacing of the existing track. All three levels of soccer and football seasons could be extended, and late evening games during the week could be scheduled, explained Zimmerman. She explained that while the initial installation cost for a turf field is approximately \$2 million compared to the \$800,000 of a natural field, maintenance is roughly \$8,000 annually compared to \$20,000 for a natural one.

In addition, the proposal includes transitioning the lower field to a natural multi-purpose field for softball and soccer, which would return softball to the district.

The auditorium and music lighting and sound systems were last updated several years ago, reported Zimmerman. She noted DA is one of the few districts of smaller size which still offer band and orchestra to students. "We have every intention to keep it that way."

Public concerns were overwhelmingly against the turf field, so much so that questions or comments regarding other proposed projects were limited.

With concerns for the health and safety of students; resident, parent, and business owner Raegan Reed sighted studies which found carcinogenic materials in turf fields. She also stated the NFL discontinued use of turf fields due to injuries.

Zimmerman asked Reed to forward the studies for review and noted that district

research cited the opposite regarding carcinogenic materials. Zimmerman said there are reading materials on the NFL fields that she will make available to the public.

Raber also asked about the usage change if the turf field is installed. A grass field can handle four hours six days a week, Raber, a landscape architect, stated. Could preventative maintenance be conducted to preserve these fields, Raber asked.

Zimmerman said currently, up to 30 practices and five to six games a week at the legion, and the new field would bring those games and practices to the district campus, allow for late-night games, and amend some scheduling conflicts.

Athletic Director Jeffery Ferrara said the current field use is about ten hours weekly. "By the end of the season, our field is pretty muddy and pretty worn down." There is preventative maintenance conducted, though more could be done, financial restraints prevent such work, he explained. The proposal includes increased use of up to 40 hours a week, "which I know the grass could not withstand," said Ferrara.

Another concern was for environment and sustainability of turf fields, which according to the resident, turf requires trashing large amounts of plastic every several years, which can not be recycled.

"There is no doubt, the

infrastructure of the capital project itself is what the school should be proud of," said one resident. They continued to note the summer, spring, and winter months have little to no use for outdoor fields. He asked the board to perform additional research into turf fields and required warranties stating that many studies are biased and conducted by companies sponsored by the Artificial Turf Association. The resident also noted that the New York State Department of Environmental Protection labeled turf as hazardous waste, and the life expectancy is roughly ten years.

Resident and Architect and Design Architecture educator at SUNY Delhi Michael Tweed said he does not support the turf field due to environmental concerns. Tweed also noted the lab proposal would add valuable education services to the students.

Lauren O'Leary expressed excitement for the project as a whole and requested the technology lab include financial education.

Two residents said their athletic children, who attended DA, would rather play on a turf field than a natural one.

For more information on the capital project, visit delawareacademycsdnysites.thrillshare.com/page/delaware-academy-capital-project.

The regularly scheduled meeting for the board of education is scheduled Monday, Apr. 24, at 5 p.m.

The Roxbury Arts Group Announces Challenge Book Club

With the support of HumanitiesNY and the A. Lindsay and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation, the Roxbury Arts Group is excited to offer the Challenge Book Club, a curated and moderated reading group for 11 to 14 year olds that will explore age appropriate literature that has been challenged for its content.

Together with book club facilitator Julie Rockefeller and other participants, readers will ex-

plore the books and their topics, share their ideas and reactions, expand their critical thinking skills, and learn about literary rating systems and their impact.

All books will be provided to Challenge Book Club participants to keep, guaranteeing that they will be accessible to the readers.

Book Club Meetings will begin on April 13th from 3:30- 5 pm and run

every other Thursday through June 22nd. They will take place at the Headwaters Arts Center, 66 Main Street in Stamford NY. Participants can also join the conversation via zoom. Readers may join at any time during this club.

For more info or to RSVP for this book club, please visit roxburyarts-group.org or call Headwaters Arts Center at 607-214-6040.

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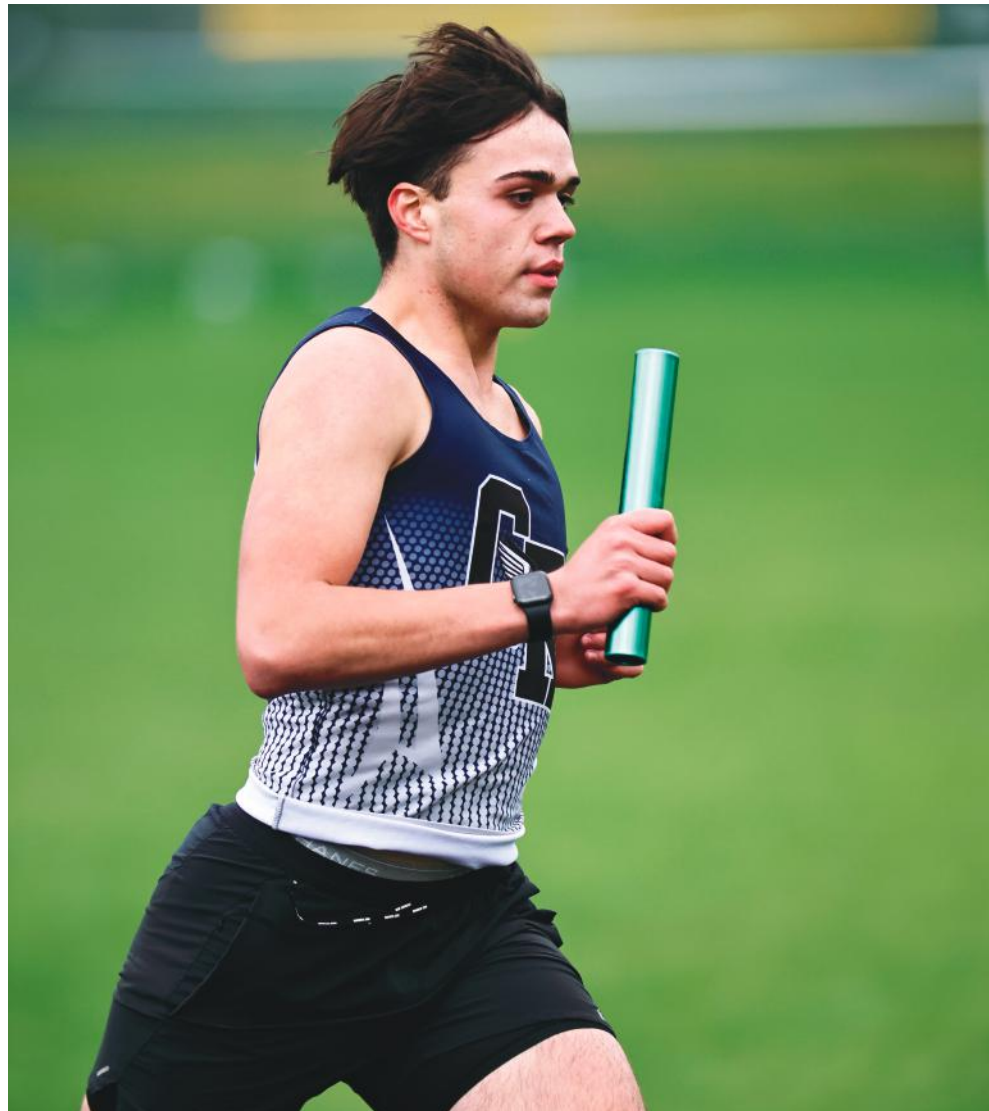


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A Cloudy Meet



Cobleskill-Richmondville squared off against Ravena-Coeymans, Selkirk, and Vorheesville Wednesday. Abby Batchler runs the first leg of the girls 4X800 Meter race. Each person runs 2 laps or 1/2 a mile.

Nicolas Plunkett showing a strong run in the third leg of the boys 4X800 meter track event.



Miya Van Dewerker with a time of 18.70 in the girls 100 meter hurdles. This seems to be her event.

Nicolas Plunkett running the 100 meter hurdles. Photos by Bob Duso.

Talking Ag Development at SUNY



Local dignitaries at last Wednesday's economic summit at SUNY Cobleskill included, left to right, Rep. Elise Stefanik, Farm Bureau President David Fische, Assemblyman Chris Tague, State Senator Peter Oberacker, and County Board Chair Bill Federice. Topics included using whole milk in schools, issue surrounding farm worker pay, processing plant, the lack of trucking, prices, and more. Photos by Bob Duso.

SUNY Cobleskill President Marion Terenzio spoke to the assembled group. Terenzio and SUNY played leading roles launching the Institute for Rural Vitality.

Catskills Regional Harvest's Demise Impacts Purveyors, Staff, Taxpayers

Unpaid Vendors, County Agency Losses Follow Shuttering Of Andes-Based Shop and Café

By Jennifer Adger

ANDES While businesses close all the time, the decline of an Andes shop has had a far-reaching impact on numerous farmers, food purveyors, and tradespeople. The support of several Delaware County agencies in establishing the Catskills Regional Harvest and its spinoffs has also resulted in taxpayers footing a substantial bill for the failed enterprise.

Once touted as a "dream come true," the closure of the Andes-based Catskill Regional Harvest has become a nightmare for many locals who provided their time, labor and products to these projects. Based on The Mountain Eagle's research, a con-

servative estimate on the financial losses incurred by those associated with Nicole E. Day's businesses — which include associated ventures AgriForaging and Delaware County Foodworks+ — total more than \$150,000. Documented losses include the following: Tradespeople: \$43,500 in labor and materials; agricultural businesses and food purveyors, between \$30-35,000 in unpaid product and services; at least \$12,000 still owed to staff; Delaware County and New York State taxpayers: \$63,500 in loans that were never repaid and rent that went unpaid.

Timeline and Background

Ms. Day, the owner of the businesses that will be profiled in this article, is a New Hampshire native who moved from southern Vermont to the Catskills in 2010.

Soon after arriving, she began building multiple businesses related to promoting local agriculture. In 2011, She founded a consulting company, called AgriForaging, focused on state and federal food safety and regulatory compliance. In 2015, she co-founded the Cheese and Dairy Society of New York, a non-profit, focused on uniting cheese and dairy producers in NYS and eventually leasing office space in Arkville for a short while.

Not long after launching this venture, Ms. Day transitioned to a new project, named Catskills Regional Harvest, that opened in July 2017. Focused on marketing an array of regionally produced goods, this venture was established in the Delhi-based E-Center business incubator space run by the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce.



A dumpster was brought for the cleanout of the Catskills Regional Harvest building on Route 28, Andes after the shop was closed last fall. The closing of the business has resulted in losses for vendors taxpayers.

Just four months after opening the retail space in Delhi, Ms. Day had proposed expanding the scope of Catskill Regional Harvest (CRH) by working in tandem with the Chamber and the Delaware County Industrial Development Agency

(IDA) to diversify the Harvest's offerings. To achieve this vision, plans were put into motion to relocate the business to a much larger space. At the organization's October meeting, IDA Board Chair Jim Thompson proposed that the organization

purchase the long vacant, former Andel Inn, just outside of Andes, to be utilized for the store.

Accompanied by Chamber of Commerce President Ray Pucci during her presentation to the IDA outlining her vision for the expanded **continued on E9**

Margaretville Central School Hires New 6-12 Principal

Lenny Giardino Has 30+ Years In Education Field

MARGARETVILLE – Margaretville Central School has announced the hiring of a new 6-12 principal, to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of former principal Laura Norris.

Lenny Giardino joins MCS this month, bringing with him more than 30 years of education experience in New York and Oregon. A former classroom teacher and inclusion specialist, Giardino has eight years of experience as a PreK-12 school administrator, CEO, and superintendent, and served as a special edu-

cation chairperson. Prior to his time in education, Mr. Giardino worked as a Peace Corps worker, serving as an Americorps/VISTA in the North Clackamas School District. The mission of the Americorps/VISTA program is to alleviate poverty, and volunteers support an organization to make sustainable change in areas that affect poverty, including education, public health, climate, access to benefits, and more. Mr. Giardino served the organization as a school-to-careers advisor for at-risk youth in the North Clackamas School District.

As a result of that ex-



Lenny Giardino

perience, Mr. Giardino went back to school for his teaching certification in Oregon, after which he taught in North Clackamas. While at North Clackamas, he began a private/public partnership for credit

recovery programs throughout the Portland area, the aim of which was to help students who were at risk of not graduating. Mr. Giardino served as the Executive Director and expanded the program to offer SAT classes and college prep classes.

Upon returning to New York, Mr. Giardino continued to teach and work in middle and high school settings, and after six years, he became an administrator, with both building and district leader credentials. Following the premature birth of his twin sons, he shifted his focus to early childhood education to better learn the science and

best practices behind brain development.

Mr. Giardino served as the Director for Healthy Families New York, and also led Early Head Start programs, after which he became a superintendent, leading one of the largest UPK-12 programs in upstate New York.

An author, too

In addition to his varied professional experience, Mr. Giardino is an author who has written about trauma-informed care.

"Understanding how the brain works during times of stress helps to be an administrator that leads by utilizing the skills of empathy and

understanding that everyone at some point has stressors that can inhibit personal growth," he says. "It is our role as leaders to create a safe environment for everyone to work together and learn how to achieve positive outcomes for the student population and families that we serve."

Mr. Giardino is the father of two grown children and two sons who will attend college in the fall. He began his career as a Camden Blue Devil, and says he looks forward to returning as a Blue Devil in Margaretville, and to meeting and working with students and families.

INDEX

Here's The Scoop.....E4	Tri-County News.....D1
Chronicle Obituaries.....E8	Catskill Geologists.....D1
Schoharie Valley & Co.....B1	Editorial.....D8
Windham Weekly.....C1	Whittling Away.....D1
Letters.....E5	Classifieds.....D&E

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Producers Report Mixed Results For Syrup Season

By Brian Sweeney
MARGARETVILLE — For one of the area's most historic farming families, the 2023 maple syrup season was one for the record books.

The operators of the Hubbell Family Farm provided an overview of the season that yielded 460 gallons of maple syrup — making it the farm's most productive yet. A sweet success.

Toby Hubbell said his crew tapped its first trees on February 10, with the initial boiling getting underway three days later. He explained that they normally plan to start tapping during the mid-February Presidents' Week, but if the weather looks good, like it did this year, they will start before then.

"It seems to be trending earlier, but you never know with Mother Nature," Toby commented.

Sap collection at the Hubbell Family Farm,

located on Route 30 several miles north of Margaretville, continued until March 11, and the season's last boil was on March 30.

Toby pointed out that the sugar content in the sap has dropped a bit since they began utilizing a vacuum system to enhance collection. On the other hand, the benefits outweigh the dip in the sugar measurement in the sap.

Increased volume

"This is normal, and with vacuum we get twice as much sap so it's worth it," he noted.

The Hubbell Family Farm put out 1,300 taps this year. Toby said they average making about 400 gallons of syrup each spring. He indicated that the higher sap yield resulting from the vacuum system, combined with favorable temperatures, resulted in the record-breaking syrup total.

In an interesting contrast, the area's largest producer of maple products, Roxbury Mountain Maple, reported that the 2023 season yield was among its lowest. Ironically, this followed a banner year in 2022 for the company.

A spokesman for Roxbury Mountain Maple said they began tapping trees during the first week in January — an earlier trend they see continuing as the result of milder winters.

Sugar content in January was low, but February and March were average. The family-run operation collects sap from 26,000 and boiling ended last weekend.

When they wrap up, the owners anticipated making about two-thirds of an average syrup crop.

"Last year was the best harvest we have had. This year will be one of our worst," the spokesman said.



The sap house at the Hubbell Family Farm.

Chamber Hosted Legislative Leadership Panel

By Robert Brune
DOWNSVILLE —

The Delaware County Chamber of Commerce opened the Legislative Leadership Panel on April 12 after a warm welcome from Chamber President Ray Pucci. The event included a number of local representatives, including Assemblyman Chris Tague (R), Assemblyman Brian Maher, (R) Assemblyman Joe Angelino, and Congressman Marc Molinaro (R). State Senator Oberacker (R) was unable to attend. All panelists represent portions of Delaware County.

Pucci's first question put to the panel of politicians was, "What are

the issues that we as businesses need to be concerned about?"

First up was Assemblyman Joe Angelino, elected three years ago, with an extensive background in law enforcement and served in Desert Storm and the Iraq War again in 2003 and 2005 in the Marine Reserves concluding his military career as Sergeant Major, the enlisted highest rank.

Assemblyman Angelino explained the huge burden of legislators in Albany with 11,000 – 12,000 bill proposals created each year but the number of bills that reach the legislative floor is somewhere between 1,000 – 2,000. He declared, "We are

overwhelmingly a business-unfriendly state."

Many seemed to agree.

"Regarding the regulations that had come out of the Assembly and Senate, luckily the Governor (Hochul) vetoed some of them.", Angelino said.

Then the Assemblyman detoured from his experiences in Albany by stating, 'Luckily, we're pretty insulated. I don't know about you, but where I live, if the police don't show up, we take care of it ourselves.', referring to what's commonly known as 'mountain justice'.

"The wait for the Delaware [County] po-



Rep. Marc Molinaro — Photo by Robert Brune

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Getting Out There

By Peter Manning

Mount Tremper

Looking out my kitchen window the other morning – the day it got really warm – one leaf bud on the pear tree had opened while all the others remained closed. Returning in the late afternoon, most buds on the lower half of the tree had opened. The upper branches however, with only their slender buds and overall brown appearance created a marked contrast within the whole tree. Looking out my back window, a similar pattern was expressed on 500' vertical feet of mountainside. Brilliant green grass in the valley, followed by lighter greens on the lower slopes, then backed by red maple buds, with bare trees still punctuating the crest. Even a snapshot couldn't freeze the ever-unfolding process of spring.

The present moment may be at its most plentiful when it connects us with both the past and the future. The springtide uptake of the pear tree is now benefitting from the recently melted snowpack, and the Baltimore Orioles will soon be picking ants from the tree's flowers.

Changing vegetation

And the vegetational differences that are expressed in the verticality of a mountainside can also be found in a similar yet horizontal patterns across the greater landscape. This may be subtle in places, but in the Catskills the vegetative differences are fairly apparent in crossing the Catskills Divide. This term refers to the ridgelines that separate the watersheds of the Hudson and Delaware Rivers, delineated on some maps and trending roughly north-south. Heading east or west on State Route 28, the line is at the top of the hill at Highmount.

Okay, the change isn't quite instantaneous, but rolling down the long, long hill into Ulster County at this time of year, the more progressed state of spring is unquestionable. To put this in a larger perspective, there is often a two-week difference between Delhi and Kingston for average dates the last spring frost and for the average dates of the first fall frost. As I head out of the hamlet of Mount Tremper, the sprawling Forsythias appear as great yellow fountains, their branches like draping spouts of water flowing freely onto the greenest of lawns. I'm heading to the Willow Trailhead, bypassing the Mount



Diamond Notch from Mount Tremper.

Tremper Trailhead on the Old Plank Road (Ulster Co. 40). The three-mile climb from this latter trailhead is an unrelenting, nearly 2000' gain up the old road to the fire tower. While the hike from the Willow Trailhead is longer, at 3.8 miles one way, the walk is less abrupt and more varied in terrain.

For many years, the Willow access point (on Jessop Road) was sketchy, and if you made it up the narrow road, there were a couple of parking spots on the skinny shoulder. But the recently constructed parking area (part of the same project with the parking area for Overlook Mountain) not only helps accommodate the increased number of hikers to the Catskills, but it contributes to the overall strategy of dispersing visitors throughout the region.

Catskills feel

The Willow Trail, which shows up on the 1946 USGS quadrangles, skirts and ascends Hoyt Hollow and follows an old logging road for much of its route. After rising beyond the tall oaks and stands of Mountain laurel, the cliffs and hemlocks kick in as the valley walls steepen – all this eliciting that certain Catskills feel deep within you. The bare, wintery summit of neighboring Carl Mountain complements the experience, though I begin to wonder whether the low cloud ceiling will ever lift. Reaching the ridge at 1.6 miles, it's a left turn and then a pleasurable 2.2-mile ramble across to Tremper.

At first, there were some promising bright

spots over by the Hudson River. I could see Mount Tobias and all the greens of spring toward Woodstock. But then, about a mile in, the clouds obscured all the views. Continuing the march toward Tremper, the sky again brightened a bit. I thought about how Mount Tremper (2740') was considerably lower than many of the other Catskill peaks, and how this might afford better chances for a view. I quickened my pace, thinking there might be a temporary opening in the skies that I wouldn't want to miss. Finally, the tower's cabin came into view against the higher clouds.

Without hesitation, I ascended the many flights of steps, and to my surprise, the cabin was open. Also unexpected, a newer set of swinging windows with latches had been installed, and a few lawn chairs invited a longer visit.

With no one else around, I engaged in the extended moment, as the clouds masses peeled away in one direction, only to completely cover the view in another. Slowly the movement favored the view seeker. Bursts of sunlight intermittently illuminated random valleys and notches. Snippets of the Ashokan Reservoir came and went. Then with more conviction, the rising cloud banks revealed more verdant mountainsides and then their bare summits. A couple of hikers showed up and were as enchanted and appreciative as I was. Eventually, the final wisps gave up their hold on Slide Mountain, uncovering the vertical streaks of snow on its upper face.

Well, you just don't know what you're going to get. And you wouldn't have it any other way. Because that's the way it is.

To reach the Willow Trailhead, take State Route 212 to Willow, turn on Van Wagner Road, and follow the signs for the forest preserve access point.

Peter Manning is the Executive Director of the Catskill Mountain Club. To learn more about CMC events, membership, and projects, please visit: catskillmountainclub.org

The Property Exchange

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Andes home

JUST SOLD – A beautiful home with gorgeous views on 19+ acres in Andes. Congratulations to Sherry and her sisters on the sale of their parents' home. Listed by Jeffrey Ashton of Coldwell Banker Timberland Properties, who works out of the company's Margaretville office.

Catskill Dream Team to help with the sale when they realized they would not likely ever use it. Keys knew lots up that way are coveted with the beautiful mountain views, proximity to Andes and Margaretville and utter quiet and she knew a lucky buyer would come along quickly.

The property transferred to the neighbor who is a true nature lover and will enjoy and maintain her privacy and now larger property. Another happy real estate transfer in the Catskills!

Crescent Hill land

The Welsh family held onto their beautiful vacant land outside of Andes for many years. They reached out to Cricket Keys with the



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Here's The Scoop

It's All About The...Photos?

By Brian Sweeney

My past two columns have had a semi-music theme, so I figured it makes sense to make it a trilogy. Sort of.

The reason I'm hedging about Part Three is that this week's column is less about going to enjoy a concert experience than it is about being "seen" at a concert. And getting paid for it. Even though you're not a musician. Honestly, I wasn't really aware that was a way to make a living.

In case you're like me and didn't know about such things, I'm referring to the huge "music" festival known as Coachella. No matter what you think about this festival, you've got to admit it has a cool name. But, that may be the end of the coolness.

Smile and say money

Anyhow, for the past few days, every time I go online the "news" feed is filled with stories about Coachella. To my surprise, many of these items have nothing to do with, you know, music. Instead, they involve photos of "influencers" making appearances at the festival site in California. Well, some of them are actually on the real location. Others, apparently, don't really attend the festival, but merely stop by the general vicinity, have a few photos taken and are whisked back to civilization and the comfort of air conditioning.

Which leads to the logical question: What exactly is an influencer — and how do I get in on this gig? I wasn't exactly sure, so I looked it up and discovered this term refers to a person with the ability to influence potential buyers of a product or service by promoting or recommending the items on social media. "Influencers can add serious credibility to your brand," the article stated. I've got to get me an influencer. Or maybe two. Not sure what I'd sell, but I'll think of something.

Selling it

A bit of additional research revealed that being an influencer can be quite lucrative if you've got a lot of online followers — with thousands of dollars "earned" for a single social media post. As far as I can tell, the only real requirements are to wear a minimal amount of clothing and have good teeth. And lots of makeup.

Even with serious money to be made, some influencers have been ratting out their peers for merely *pretending* they're at Coachella. Honestly, when you read about the festival, it's hard to blame them for not really visiting the event. Dust, heat, really expensive food and generally uncomfortable conditions seem to be the common themes.

Who are these people?

Of course, all that can easily be overlooked with the reward of some riveting concert performances. I guess some of those occur? I'm pleased to admit, I have little to no knowledge of most of the acts playing this festival. That seems to be a good thing, because the reviews from the opening weekend focused mostly on bad sound, acts ending early because of a curfew, and disappointed fans. What were they expecting — great music?

Oh, wait, I just came across a story detailing the "Top 50 Outfits" worn (by musicians) at Coachella over the years. I remember back in the olden days critics would rate guitarists and drummers.

One person exposing the truth behind Coachella showed a photo (not of an influencer) with the revealing caption: "Most Instagram photos are taken on day one or two. By day three, the picturesque field has turned brown and dusty." Good to know.

I'm pretty sure there won't be any trips to Coachella in my plans. For a music festival, it "sounds" overrated.



Officials from Westchester Medical Center met with Margaretville Hospital representatives and community members on Tuesday, April 18 in Margaretville. From left are: Hospital Board Member Steve Finch, Hospital Board Member Arnie Schwartz, Foundation Board Member John Kelly, Foundation Board Member Michelle Sidrane, Hospital Board Member Jim Howie, Hospital Board Member Cynthia Clark, Margaretville Telephone Company CEO Glen Faulkner, MARK Project Executive Director Peg Ellsworth, Central Catskills Chamber of Commerce Director Carol O'Beirne, Hospital Board Member Colleen Martin, and Hospital Board Vice-Chair Dave Rama. — Contributed photo

WMC Chief Visits Hospital, Meets With Community Leaders

MARGARETVILLE — Michael Israel, CEO of the Westchester Medical Center (WMC), visited Margaretville Hospital and Mountain-side Care Center on 18 April and met with the Hospital Board and The Foundation Board.

Mr. Israel leads the entire 10 hospital conglomerate, and his role is the culmination of a 46-year career over several hospital systems

and states. WMC is a public benefit corporation, chartered in New York, originating as a Westchester County owned facility.

Mr. Israel's trip originated at the request of the Hospital Board and was intended to review a variety of outstanding issues, to wit: Hospital staffing, medical services, potential ancillary third-party operations, ambulance services,

overall communications and a new heliport on the hospital grounds.

The discussions were cordial, yet frank and open, and while specific resolution of most issues remains in the future, all participants agreed that further pursuit of possible projects is in the best interests of all parties. Additional meetings are planned.

Subsequent to the WMC meet, Margaret-

ville Hospital and Foundation Board members met with community

leaders to review most of the same issues discussed with the leadership of WMC, perhaps most important, communications. Various thoughts about a more active role with the Hospital and WMC were proposed, and again, subsequent meetings and proposals will be planned.



Among those taking part at Monday's meeting at Margaretville Hospital were, from left: Westchester Medical Center CEO Michael Israel, Margaretville Hospital Executive Director Ed McNamara, Hospital Board Vice Chair Dave Rama, Foundation Board Chair Mike Moriarty, and Executive Director of HAHV hospitals Michael Doyle, MD.

Fleischmanns Voter Case Testimony Continues

By Mary A. Crisafulli

DELHI - Several individuals whose absentee ballots are in question for the 2023 Fleischmanns village election began their testimonies on Monday, April 17, in front of Delaware County Supreme Court Justice Brian Burns.

Mayoral candidate Elizabeth Hughes and trustee candidates Todd Pascarella and Yvonne Reuter petitioned 81 absentee ballots, that remain unopened by order of the court. Petitioners allege that votes were cast by individuals who don't live in the village of Fleischmanns.

In the meantime, the village is left with no declared winners until after the proceedings. Trustees Sam Gil and Stewart Cohen will remain in office until Judge Burns determines a final decision. Mayor Winifred Zubin will also stay in office until court proceedings are completed.

On Apr. 3, Mr. Pasca-

rella testified several claimed residences appeared to be summer dwellings and rental properties, and several individuals registered at each home. Mr. Pascarella also testified that over 50 of the absentee voter applications listed Rabbi Abraham Horowitz as an authorized individual to pick up their ballot, while others listed Joseph Horowitz.

All can testify

Each of the 81 voters has the opportunity to testify and has been subpoenaed by the court. Several individuals testified, including Rabbi Horowitz's brother, sister-in-law, and driver.

Petitioners Attorney Daniel Belzil asked a series of questions to each individual, including typical period of time spent in Fleischmanns annually, if they own personal property at their dwelling there, if they pay bills at the Fleischmanns property,

and if their passport or driver's license lists Fleischmanns address. Several individuals testified that while they pay bills at their New York City properties, they do not do so in Fleischmanns. Many individuals testified they typically spend two months in the summer in Fleischmanns and some weekends throughout the year and said they do own personal property in Fleischmanns.

Rabbi Horowitz's brother testified that his driver's license is listed with a Fleischmanns address for about 12 years. He further testified that the address listed is where he often stays and that he grew up in Fleischmanns.

Belzil was scolded by Justice Burns several times, stating he was arguing with the witness and questions should be direct rather than include statements. Belzil was further limited to 15 minutes of examina-

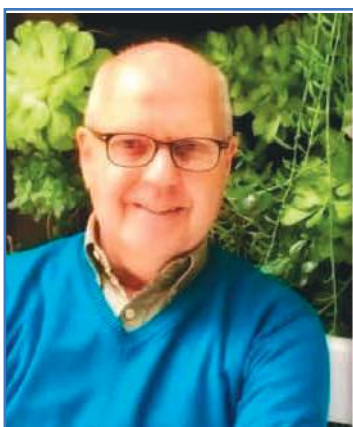
tion for each individual to preserve court time.

County Attorney Amy Merklen asked each individual how long they have been coming to Fleischmanns, where they pay taxes, where they celebrate holidays, and if Rabbi Horowitz assisted in the absentee voter application process or influenced their vote.

Application help

Individuals testified that they voted for the individual that Rabbi Horowitz endorsed in the election, which is typical of their congregation as Orthodox Hasidic Jews. Rabbi Horowitz's brother and sister-in-law both testified the Rabbi assisted in the application process, they have been coming to Fleischmanns for several years, and pay taxes and celebrate holidays in Brooklyn.

Testimonies are expected to continue throughout the week.



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Middletown Union Seeks To Open Contract

Staff Report
MARGARETVILLE — The union representing Town of Middletown Highway Department workers is requesting that the association's contract with the town be reopened.

Union President Steve Sines addressed the town board at its April 12 meeting and suggested that renegotiating the contractual agreement is necessary to maintain a full roster of employees. Mr. Sines said that at least two highway employees have the intention of retiring soon. Two others, he said, are eligible to

retire. He suggested that a higher rate of pay is necessary to attract personnel to fill potential staffing shortages.

Mr. Sines had previously submitted a letter to the board outlining these concerns. In response, Supervisor Patrick Davis referred the matter to the town's labor attorney Frank Miller. Following Mr. Sines' comments, the board indicated it is awaiting a response from Mr. Miller before making any determinations on the request.

In another highway matter, Superintendent of Highways John Biruk

noted that the town's contract to plow 14.5 miles of Delaware County roads, and 5.5 miles of New York City roads will expire in August. Under this long-time arrangement, the town's highway department plows these roads and a locally based Delaware County highway crew applies sand to these same surfaces.

Superintendent Biruk said the board should decide regarding a new contract soon, because the county would have to outfit its trucks with plow equipment if the town was no longer plowing these roads.



Signature Season

Middletown Democratic candidates pictured above, from left, John Biruk running for re-election as Superintendent of Highways, Alana Siegel running for Town Clerk/Tax Collector, and Glen Faulkner running for Town Supervisor. Also on the slate is Brian Sweeney who running for a fifth term on the Town Board. Candidates collected petitions this past month at several events. — Photo by Marian Hunter.

Worship Service Directory

ADVENT CHRISTIAN MARGARETVILLE ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 109 Maple Street
 Margaretville, New York 12455
 845-586-4601
 Sunday Worship 11 AM
 Bible Study: Wednesday 5 PM, April - November
 Rev. Adrian K. Todd

BAPTIST STAMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
 40 Lake Street,
 Stamford NY 12167
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 Pastor Waylen Bray:
 Associate Pastor Shawn Frazer
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CHRISTIAN CENTER – CONTEMPORARY CATSKILL MOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN CENTER
 629 Main St. Margaretville, NY 12455

845-586-4848
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EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 Saint James Church
 Lake Delaware
 55 Lake Delaware Drive Delhi, NY 13753
 (607) 832-4401
 Sunday Mass, 10 am

ORTHODOX CHURCH
 SAINT HERMAN OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH / CLOUD-BEARING MOUNTAIN RETREAT CENTER
 1714 Mountain Brook Road, Bovina, NY 13740
 Phone: 607 326-0052
 Sundays 10 am: Holy days, classes and retreats as announced
 info@cbmountain.org
 www.cbmountain.org

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 169 Orchard Street
 Margaretville NY 12455
 May-October
 5177 County Hwy 6
 New Kingston NY 12459
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REFORMED CHURCH
 JAY GOULD MEMORIAL REFORMED CHURCH
 53837 NY Highway 30, Roxbury, NY 12474
 Phone: (607) 326-7101
 Time of Service 9:30 am Sunday
 Rev. Richard Dykstra

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 MARGARETVILLE UMC
 55 Church Street, Margaretville NY 12455
 10:30 am Sundays

LEGAL NOTICES

VILLAGE OF MARGARETVILLE NOTICE

In accordance with Section 17 of the water department regulations of the Village of Margaretville, all water rentals and other water department charges for the period up to December 31, 2022

which remain unpaid on May 12, 2022 shall, by order of the incorporated Village of Margaretville, acting as the Board of Water Commissioners, be added to the village tax for the year 2023 and collected as a special tax on the property affected thereby. The matter is

called to the attention of the owners of the real property in order to avail such property owners of the opportunity of paying such water department arrears before the 12th day of May 2023.

Diana Fronckowiak,
 Village Clerk

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Events Calendar

Saturday, April 22

As part of the annual RecruitNY statewide initiative, the Bovina Center Fire Department and Emergency Squad will open its doors on Saturday, April 22 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. so residents can learn how they can serve their volunteer community. Bovina is listed at: recruitny.org as participating this year in the RecruitNY open house.

Through April 23

A Special exhibit Farms, Farmers, and Farming: A Tribute to Local Agriculture at Longyear Gallery in Margaretville opened March 24. The show runs through April 23. Longyear Gallery is located at 785 Main Street, Margaretville. For information, please call 845 586-3270 or visit: longyeargallery.org. Hours are Friday-Sunday from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Saturday, May 6

Diamond Hollow Books in Andes welcomes artist Denise Corley to start the Spring/Summer exhibition series. DENISE CORLEY - COME WHAT MAY, RECENT WORK will open on Saturday, May 6 with a reception for the artist from 12-4 p.m. The show will run through June 11. The book store is located at 72 Main Street, Andes. For information visit diamondhollowbooks.com or email: biz@diamondhollowbooks.com

A full-screen televised running of the 149th Kentucky Derby will be the highlight of this afternoon and evening full of fun, great food, and the company of good friends on Saturday, May 6, beginning at 3 p.m. at the MTC headquarters on Academy Street, Margaretville. Tickets are \$45 per person. Reservations are a must. You can make a reservation by calling 845 586-3500 or email admin@markproject.org.

Through May 6

Liberal Arts Roxbury is present a solo exhibition of multi-media works by Moscow-born, Brooklyn/upstate-based artist Dasha Shishkin. chik chirik, featuring drawings and prints on various supports. A closing May 6 is also planned.

Through May 7

1053 Gallery in Fleischmanns is pleased to present Flora and Fauna, an exhibition of 26 artists who work in and around the Catskills Mountains of New York or who engage the regional biodiversity in their art-making practice. group show. The exhibition runs through May 7, with a public reception on May 7. For info, please call 845 254-3461 or visit: 1053gallery.com

Wednesdays, through May 24

Writers in the Mountains (WIM) presents Just Hit Send: Submitting to Literary Journals, a six-week long workshop with Sally Simon, April 19 - May 24, 2023. The class will be held online Wednesday. To register online, visit writersinthemountains.org. Class fee is \$125. Registration deadline is April 12.

EVENTS CALENDAR
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Kentucky Derby Party Offers Fun, Prizes, Food

MARGARETVILLE — A full-screen televised running of the 149th Kentucky Derby will be the highlight of this afternoon and evening full of fun, great food, and the company of good friends on Saturday, May 6, beginning at 3 p.m. at the MTC headquarters on Academy Street, Margaretville.

Time to get the hats out of the closet and dress them up for this spectacular gala to benefit the hard work of the MARK Project.

What you'll get

Ticket holders are afforded a complimentary mint julep, an extravagant buffet of food provided by local restaurants, derby

themed sweets, prizes for best hat, and a full service cash bar. New this year is the opportunity to purchase table-side service by local celebrities—no standing on line for the bar or food—and feel free to heckle your server.

"This event is an absolute whoot and should not be missed" says Peg Ellsworth, Executive Director at MARK "Funds raised help this vital organization to keep up the work we do in our towns and villages" she adds.

Tickets are \$45 per person. Reservations are a must. You can make a reservation by calling 845 586-3500 or email admin@markproject.org.

Communications, a consultancy doing thought leadership, speechwriting, and training. To register for this class, e-mail writersinthemountains@gmail.com. To register online, visit writersinthemountains.org. Class fee is \$100. For more information, visit writersinthemountains.org.

Storytelling Focus Of Weekend Online WIM Class

MARGARETVILLE — Writers in the Mountains (WIM) presents Speechwriting and Storytelling with Felicity H. Barber, a weekend intensive held online Saturday and Sunday, April 22 and 23, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 noon. Once you register and pay, you will be given instructions on how to join the class.

Since the advent of TED, storytelling has become a buzzword. But it's a trick speechwriters have been using for centuries to help speakers connect with audiences and persuade them of their message. In this intensive two-day course you will: learn the basics of speechwriting and how to use it to tell your

story; learn how to take your story, structure it into something that works for an audience, and use language to make it more compelling; connect your story to a broader message that moves hearts and minds; practice telling your story to an audience. n along the way.

Felicity Barber is Founder of Thoughtful

Communications, a consultancy doing thought leadership, speechwriting, and training.

To register for this class, e-mail writersinthemountains@gmail.com. To register online, visit writersinthemountains.org. Class fee is \$100. For more information, visit writersinthemountains.org.



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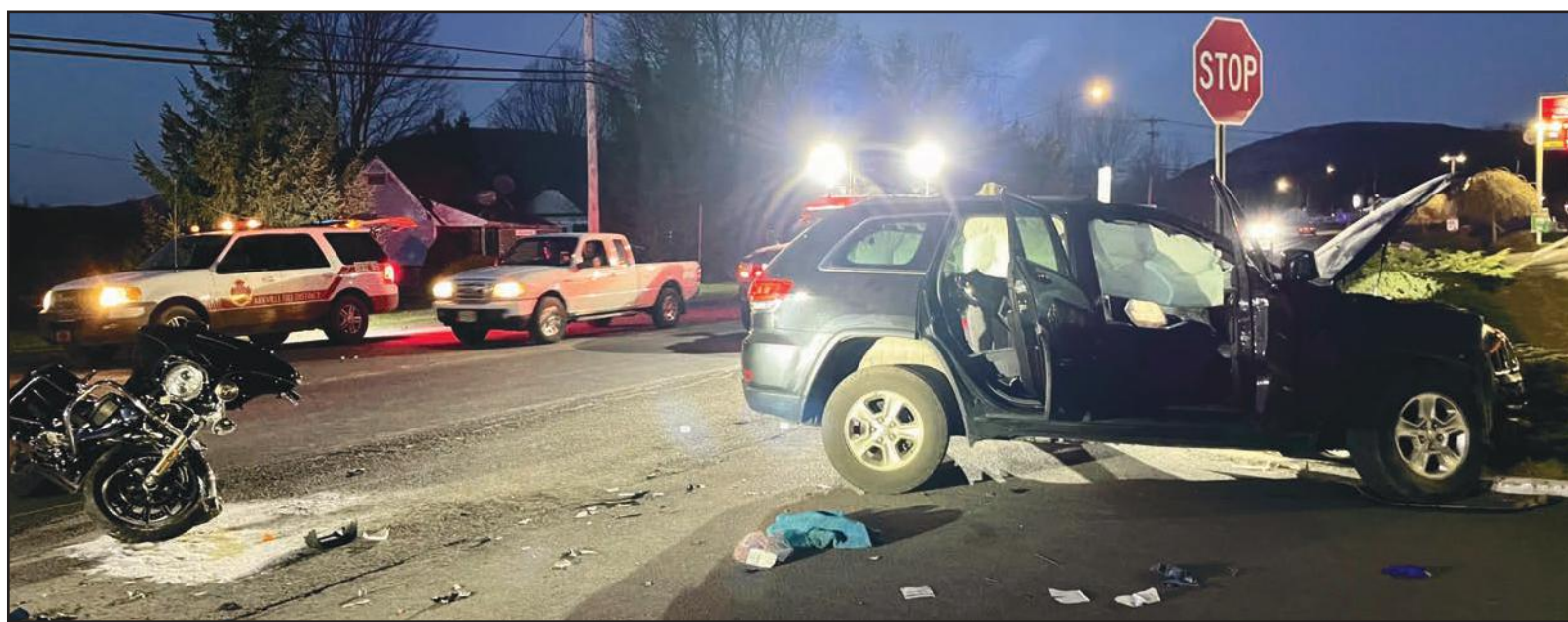
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Route 28 Crash

A motorcyclist sustained serious injuries on Thursday, April 13 approximately 8:41 p.m. when Troopers from State Police Margaretville responded to State Highway 28 in the Town of Middletown for a car versus motorcycle motor vehicle accident in front of the Speedway convenience store. Police reported that Jeannine Apuzzo-Farrell, 51, of Arkville was traveling north in a Jeep Grand Cherokee on State Highway 28 before she turned left directly

into the path of a motorcycle being operated by Robert Maxim, 55, of Margaretville. Maxim was transported by helicopter to Albany Medical Center for treatment. Apuzzo-Farrell was taken to the hospital for evaluation, and was cited for several vehicle and traffic violations. The Margaretville Hospital Ambulance Squad and the Arkville Fire Department assisted at the scene.

— Contributed photo

POLICE NEWS

MARGARETVILLE — While on patrol on Friday, April 14, Troopers from SP Margaretville responded to State Highway 30 in the Town of Middletown to assist the Roxbury Town Constable who was pursuing a Ford F250, driven by Joseph P. Vanleuvan, 36, of Bearsville who failed to comply and pull over.

NYS terminated its pursuit of the vehicle while the Roxbury Constable continued pursuing the vehicle. While a State Police vehicle was patrolling South on State Highway 28, the Roxbury Constable and Vanleuvan were approaching from the North. Vanleuvan's vehicle then struck the rear driver's side bumper of the Trooper vehicle and lost control of his truck which came to rest on the shoulder of State Highway 28.

EMS responded to the scene and all parties involved in the vehicle collision were taken to Margaretville Hospital for evaluation.

Vanleuvan was arrested and charged with DWI - 1st offense, Criminal Mischief in the second degree, Unlawful Fleeing a Police Officer in the third degree, Reckless Endangerment in the second degree, and several other Vehicle and Traffic Law violations.

Vanleuvan was ar-

raigned in Town of Roxbury Court and remanded to the custody of the Delaware County Correctional Facility.

DELHI — Delaware County Sheriff's Deputies arrested an Andes woman on Thursday afternoon, April 13 on charges stemming from a Trespass Complaint that occurred in the Town of Delhi.

On April 7, at approximately 1:26 p.m., Delaware County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a Trespass Complaint in the Town of Delhi. Further investigation of the incident revealed that 61-year-old Judith Tait of Andes had remained unlawfully on private property and had placed a chain and lock around another person's gate, causing the owning party to be unable to access their property.

On April 13, Sheriff's Deputies located and subsequently arrested Tait. She was charged with one count of Criminal Tampering in the third degree, a class B Misdemeanor. Tait was also served with a Criminal Summons for Trespass, a violation. Tait was released on appearance tickets returnable to the Town of Delhi Court at a later date to answer the charges.

Sheriff Craig S. DuMond has reported the arrest of a Margaretville man on operating a

Motor Vehicle with suspended registration.

On Tuesday afternoon, April 4, Sheriff's Deputies conducted a traffic stop on State Route 28, after witnessing a vehicle leave the intended traveling lane into oncoming traffic. During the course of the investigation Sheriff's Deputies identified the driver as Micah Wyckoff, age 41, of Margaretville. Upon conclusion of the investigation, it was discovered that Wyckoff was operating a vehicle with a suspended registration due to an insurance lapse.

Deputies subsequently arrested and charged Wyckoff with a vehicle and traffic misdemeanor of, operating while registration is suspended, as well as a traffic infraction for moving from lane unsafely.

Wyckoff was subsequently released on an appearance ticket and directed to appear at the Town of Middletown court at a later date to answer the charge.

Sheriff DuMond has announced the arrest of a Downsville man on Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle charges.

On Thursday afternoon, April 6, Sheriff's Deputies observed a vehicle to be traveling above the posted speed

while in the Village of Walton. A traffic stop was conducted on Stockton Avenue in the Village of Walton. During the course of the investigation Sheriff's Deputies identified the driver, Devin Castillo, age 22, of Downsville. Upon a DMV check of Castillo NYS Driver's license, it was found that his driving privileges were revoked for failure to answer multiple summons out of the Town of Colchester.

Deputies subsequently arrested and charged Castillo with aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, operating motor vehicle by unlicensed driver and speed in zone.

Castillo was subsequently issued traffic summonses, and an appearance ticket, all returnable at a later date to the Village of Walton Court.

Sheriff Craig S. DuMond has announced the arrest of a Bovina Center resident for driving with a suspended registration.

On Wednesday afternoon, April 5, Sheriff's Deputies were patrolling on Main Street in the Village of Delhi when the Deputy received an indication via a license plate Reader of a vehicle with a Suspended Registration. Upon conducting a traffic stop, Deputies iden-

tified the driver of the vehicle as 53-year-old Deanna Karpe of Bovina Center. A check of Karpe's vehicle registration was in fact suspended, due to Insurance not in effect, as well as Insurance lapse in the State of New York.

Deputies subsequently arrested Karpe and issued her uniformed traffic tickets for Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended/Revoked Registration, an unclassified misdemeanor, of the New York State vehicle and traffic law. Karpe was released on the uniformed traffic tickets and is scheduled to appear in the Town of Delhi Court at a later date to answer the charge.

Sheriff Craig S. DuMond has announced that a juvenile is facing the charge of Endangering the Welfare of a Child following a Domestic Dispute that occurred in the Town of Harpersfield.

On Friday night, April 7, Sheriff's Deputies responded to a Domestic Dispute involving a juvenile at a residence in the Town of Harpersfield. Preliminary investigation by Deputies revealed that the victim had been exposed to an unsafe environment during a physical domestic dispute.

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NOTICE OF VACANCY SCHOOL YEAR 2022-23 TEACHER AIDE

Margaretville Central School District has an opening for a Full Time Aide to start on May 1, 2023 until the remainder of the 2022-23 School Year. Starting pay will be as per the MESPA Union Contract. All applicants must have a High School Diploma and pass NY State Fingerprinting. Interested applicants should complete an application and submit to the District Office by March 24, 2023.

Contact: Michelle Osterhoudt, Superintendent of School Margaretville Central School 415 Main St, PO Box 319, Margaretville, NY 12455. (845) 586-2647

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LEGAL NOTICES

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the plot owners and directors of the cemeteries of both the Clovesville Cemetery and the Bedell Cemetery will be held on Wednesday, April 26, 2023. The location of both meetings will be at the Fleischmanns Fire Department located on Main Street, Fleischmanns, NY. The purpose of these meetings is to elect officers and directors and transactions of other such business that may come before the next meeting. The Bedell Cemetery, Inc., meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the Clovesville Cemetery Inc., meeting will be held immediately following at 6:00 p.m.

MegAnne Balcom Secretary/Treasurer 3AP21C

TOWN OF ROXBURY DENVER SEWER DISTRICT REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Pursuant to the provisions of 40 U.S.C. 1101 et seq., the Town of Roxbury seeks qualifications statements from engineering firms in relation to the Town's Engineering Planning Grant for Project No. 119690 - Denver Wastewater Treatment Plant Study Project. The existing 0.035 MGD WWTP facility consists of preliminary treatment, an extended aeration package plant, intermittent sand filters, rapid sand filters, membrane filtration, and sludge drying beds. This study involves the evaluation of upgrades to the facility and the possibility of replacing the existing processes with a new Membrane Bio-Reactor (MBR) pack-

age plant. The evaluation must be summarized in a report that meets the current NYSEFC report standards.

Qualifications statements are due to the Town Clerk by 3:00 pm on April 28, 2023. The Town Clerk's email address for receipt is townclerk@roxburyny.com. Such qualifications statements should address past performance, specialized experience and technical competence related to engineering services for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of wastewater treatment plants. Further, statements shall identify the name(s), title(s) and qualification(s) of the proposed project lead(s). Qualifications statements shall be limited to a maximum of 30 pages.

As required by 40 U.S.C. 1101 et seq., upon receipt of the qualifica-

tions statements, the Town shall evaluate and rank the submitted qualifications statements, discuss with at least three firms to consider anticipated concepts and compare alternative methods for furnishing services, select at least three firms considered to be the most highly qualified to provide the services required and negotiate with the most highly qualified firm to determine compensation that is fair and reasonable based on a clear understanding of the project scope, complexity, professional nature and the estimated value of the services to be rendered. In the event a contract cannot be negotiated with the most highly qualified firm, negotiation shall continue in order of qualification.

This project will be funded, in part, by an

Engineering Planning Grant. As such, the NYSEFC Mandatory State Financial Assistance Terms and Conditions are applicable with an effective date of November 1, 2021, as may be amended from time to time, shall be incorporated in the contract for engineering services.

Questions may be directed to Town Supervisor Allen Hinkley at 607 287-8729 or townsupervisor@roxburyny.com.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that the Planning Board of the Incorporated Village of Fleischmanns, New York will hold a Public Hearing at the Skene Memorial Library at 1017 Main Street, Fleischmanns, New York on Monday, May 1, 2023 at 5:00 pm, immediately Pre-

ceding Village Planning Board Meeting.

1. Application VFSP 0310-003-23B Abbott Jackson would like to operate an Air B&B at 106 Little Red kill Rd. Tax map # 287.-13-2-1.A copy of the Application is on file in the Office of the Village Clerk, located behind the Skene Memorial Library at 1017 Main Street, Fleischmanns, New York and may be examined during normal business hours Monday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

NOW TAKE NOTICE that all parties in interest and citizens will be given the opportunity to be heard at the aforesaid time and place.

By Order of the Board of Trustees
Village of Fleischmanns, New York
Diane Rossman
Village Clerk

Coldwell Banker Honors Timberland Properties Agents

19 Associates
Earn Top Rankings
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MARGARETVILLE — Coldwell Banker Timberland Properties, the top brokerage in the Catskills, had 19 agents who were recently honored for their sales accomplishments in 2022, placing them among the company's top associates worldwide.



Pauline Trottier



Jeffrey Ashton



Carol Spinelli



Melissa Wakin-Mostert



Jacqlene Rose

Elite status

Pauline Trottier, who works out of the company's Sidney office, was the recipient of the International President's Elite Award, which signifies her status among the top three percent of all of the Coldwell Banker sales associates worldwide.

Jeffrey Ashton and Carol Spinelli (Margaretville office), Jacqlene Rose (Sidney office), and Melissa Wakin-Mostert (Delhi office) achieved International President's Circle status, given to the top

five percent of all sales associates worldwide.

The Coldwell Banker International Diamond Society Award is presented to sales associates who rank in the top 15 percent of the company. Agents earning this status were Susan Doig (Margaretville office), Stephen Kaminsky (Delhi office), and Leah Long (Oneonta office).

Eleven Coldwell Banker Timberland Properties agents earned International Sterling Society honors, give to the top 16 percent of all company sales associates world-

wide were: Christine O'Shaughnessy, Sean O'Shaughnessy, Daniel O'Connell, and Reginald Oberlag (all who work out of the Margaretville office), Mary Maney and Corey Marikovics (Delhi office), Catherine Treffeisen (Sidney office), Deborah Gorenflo and James Karpowicz (Roscoe office), and Robert Kennedy and Robert Schneider (Stamford office).

Coldwell Banker Timberland Properties traces its origins to 1971. The company has been a consistent sales and technology leader in the Catskill Region.

With the recent addition of offices in Walton and Oneonta, the company now has eight offices. Other locations include Margaretville, Delhi, Stamford, Mt. Tremper (in a newly relocated space across from the Emerson Resort), Roscoe, and Sidney. Founder Eric Wedemeyer sold Timberland Properties to Coldwell Banker Prime, based in Albany, in 2017 and this company is ranked number one Coldwell Banker office in the state of New York and ranks seventh nationwide.

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with the hard work our agents perform to find the perfect pairing of buyers and sellers. Their commitment to excellence made it possible for our company to enjoy another outstanding year," stated Catskill Regional and Branch Manager Debra Danner.

Ms. Danner added, "The awards earned by our sales associates reflect their dedication to meeting clients' needs."

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To view the company's listings, visit TimberlandProperties.com. A second site, featuring unique properties can be found at: CatskillPremier.com.

For additional information, please call the following Coldwell Banker Timberland Properties offices:

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Bovina Fire Department, EMS Hosting Open House April 22

BOVINA CENTER — As part of the annual RecruitNY statewide initiative, the Bovina Center Fire Department and Emergency Squad will open its doors on Saturday, April 22 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. so residents can learn how they can serve their volunteer community.

The department is located at 36 Maple Avenue, (just off County 6 behind the playground).

Volunteer fire departments across New York state have been faced with decreased membership and increased call volume. Like most volunteer fire departments, Bovina needs to bolster its ranks so it can continue to provide the optimum level of protection for its residents.

The Bovina FD will join hundreds of volunteer fire departments across New York to

raise public awareness regarding the need for volunteers and to highlight the rewards of being a member of a volunteer fire department.

Throughout the day, they will conduct tours of the station and apparatus, allow visitors to try on gear, demonstrate firefighting activities, provide information, and address questions on becoming a member. These activities give visitors a taste of what it means to be in the fire service. Volunteer firefighters will also be on hand to discuss the requirements and rewards of joining.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend, including families with children.

Bovina is listed at: recruitny.org as participating this year in the RecruitNY open house.



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

4/21 Fri	6:00PM - Citizen News Bureau - Lori Fairbairn brings you the Weekend Weather report for the Catskill Region. 6:30PM - Solid Waste Management Center and Compost Facility - Jezz Harkin talks with Tyson Robb, Solid Waste Coordinator, about the compost facility. 7:00PM - Mostly Folk with Artie Martello - Artie's guest is Sara Milonovich, an incredible fiddle player. Aside from her great voice and work with her band "Daisy Cutter" Sara has performed with scores of folk singers and is the choice of many when it comes to backup fiddle. 7:30PM - Focus on the Arts - Elizabeth Mami talks with filmmaker Robert Rosenbaum about his new upcoming film, Psych Ward, a horror film in the tradition of 80's thrillers like Friday the 13th and Halloween. Robert has chosen to film his feature film right here in Delaware County. 8:00PM - The Jerry Bartlett Angling Collection presents Ray Smith: The Legend Lives on with Jody & Paul Hoyt.
4/22 Sat	6:00PM - Delaware County News Update - Julia Marks and Matt Avitabile bring you the latest news from the Delaware County Region. 6:30PM - The Hikers Trash Husbands. Join the hike as Jeff and Moe head to Pennsylvania's Michaux State Forest, where they join friends on a six mile loop hike to Sunset Rocks. This trail is part of the Appalachian Trail in this portion of southeastern Pennsylvania. 7:00PM - Focus on the Arts - Elizabeth Mami talks with Kate Quarfordt who is a multifaceted artist, teacher and performer. 7:30PM - The Catskill Center - Jezz Harkin talks with Jeff Senterman, Executive Director of the Catskill Center talks about the Center and funding from New York State. 8:00PM - The Jerry Bartlett Memorial Angling Collection at the Phoenicia Library presents Theodore Gordon, Father of Dry Fly Fishing in America.
4/23 Sun	6:00PM - Grocholl Homestead - Ashton Grocholl shows how to harvest wild leeks. Then it's into the kitchen as she makes leek butter. 6:30PM - WARK Community Television Archives - WARK's Christine Cardone visits the All American Old Time Circus on its visit to Arkville. 7:00PM - WARK Community Television Archives - The Dictionary Game (Episode 2) Michael Finberg hosts two teams of four as they try to stump each other with "trick definitions". One of the four definitions is correct Tune in for the fun! 7:30PM - The Sonny Rock Show - Sonny Rock talks with songwriter, Vito Petrocchio Jr. about his musical life and the story behind "Yankee Song". 8:00 PM - The Jerry Bartlett Memorial Angling Collection at the Phoenicia Library presents "Ray Smith: The Legend Lives on with Preston Woolheater".
4/24 Mon	6:00 PM - Weekly Weather Forecast - Lori Fairbairn brings you the Weekly forecast for the Catskill Region. 6:30PM - Solid Waste Management Center and Compost Facility - Jezz Harkin talks with Tyson Robb, Solid Waste Coordinator. 7:00PM - Mostly Folk with Artie Martello - Artie's guest is Dan Pallotta, an American entrepreneur, author, and humanitarian activist. He is best known for his involvement in multi-day charitable events. Dan has returned to writing and performing music after a 30 year hiatus. 7:30PM - Delaware County Board of Supervisors meeting - recorded on April 12. Thank you to the Delhi Telephone Company. 8:00PM - Focus on the Arts - Elizabeth Mami talks with BT Bard, an illustrator, poet, and artist. 8:30PM - Mountain Athletic Club - The 2023 season for vintage baseball is coming soon to Delaware County. Tonight we learn about the Bovina Dairyman from one of their players, Nick "Roughcut" Frandsen.
4/25 Tue	6:00PM - Delaware County News Update - Julia Marks and Matt Avitabile bring you the latest news from the Delaware County Region. 6:30PM - WARK Community Television Archives - The Dictionary Game (Episode 2). Michael Finberg hosts two teams of four as they try to stump each other with "trick definitions". One of the four definitions is correct Tune in for the fun! 7:00PM - The Hiker Trash Husbands. Join the hike as Jeff and Moe head to Pennsylvania's Michaux State Forest, where they join friends on a six mile loop hike to Sunset Rocks. This trail is part of the Appalachian Trail in this portion of southeastern Pennsylvania. 7:30PM - The Delaware County Chamber of Commerce Legislative Forum. Tune in to hear from your elected official as recorded on April 12. Special thank you to The Reporter.
4/26 Wed	6:00PM - Grocholl Homestead - Ashton Grocholl shows how to harvest wild leeks. Then it's into the kitchen as she makes leek butter. 6:30PM - WARK Community Television Archives - WARK's Christine Cardone visits the All American Old Time Circus on its visit to Arkville (Airdate Early 80s). 7:00PM - Focus on the Arts - Elizabeth Mami talks with filmmaker Robert Rosenbaum who discusses his new upcoming film, Psych Ward, a horror film in the tradition of 80's thrillers like Friday the 13th and Halloween. Robert has chosen to film his feature film right here in Delaware County. 8:00PM - WARK Community Television Archives - Michael Finberg visits the Arkville Fair and visits with folks in the community that are there. (Airdate Early 80s)
4/27 Thu	6:00PM - Citizen News Bureau - Lori Fairbairn brings you the Weekend Weather Report for the Catskill Region. 6:30PM - Mostly Folk with Artie Martello - Artie talks with Antje Duvekot who has solidified her reputation as one of Boston's best singer-songwriters, winning some of the top songwriting awards. Antje will be performing in Phoenicia at the end of May. 7:00PM - The Catskill Center - Jezz Harkin talks with Jeff Senterman, Executive Director of the Catskill Center talks about the Center and funding from New York State. 7:30PM - The Delaware County Chamber of Commerce Legislative Forum. Tune in to hear from your elected official as recorded on April 12. Special thank you to The Reporter.

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Bitter Taste: CRH's Demise Has Wide Impact

continued from E1 business model, Ms. Day described the project as a "multi-faceted incubator for agricultural and food-related enterprises. It will support entrepreneurs in their effort to create products for retail and wholesale markets through a shared commercial kitchen, inspected meat processing facility, retail store, event/conference area, and gathering space."

According to the IDA's meeting minutes, board members agreed that Ms. Day had done a good job in the E-Center space during the short period it had operated and supported the idea of relocating her businesses to the Route 28 property. The board approved a motion to pay the \$320,000 appraised value for the property. Plans called for the building to be repurposed into a retail store, community kitchen and visitors center. The ribbon-cutting on this space occurred on May 25, 2018.

Getting started

In June 2018, the IDA entered a five-year graduated payment scale lease with the Catskill Development Foundation (CDF), a non-profit operating within the auspices of the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce. The CDF would then sublease to Delaware County FoodWorks+ (another entity operated by Ms. Day) to open a local products store and community kitchen. The lease payment terms were \$0 per month the first year, \$250 per month the second year, then the lease would increase \$250/month annual through the end of the lease.

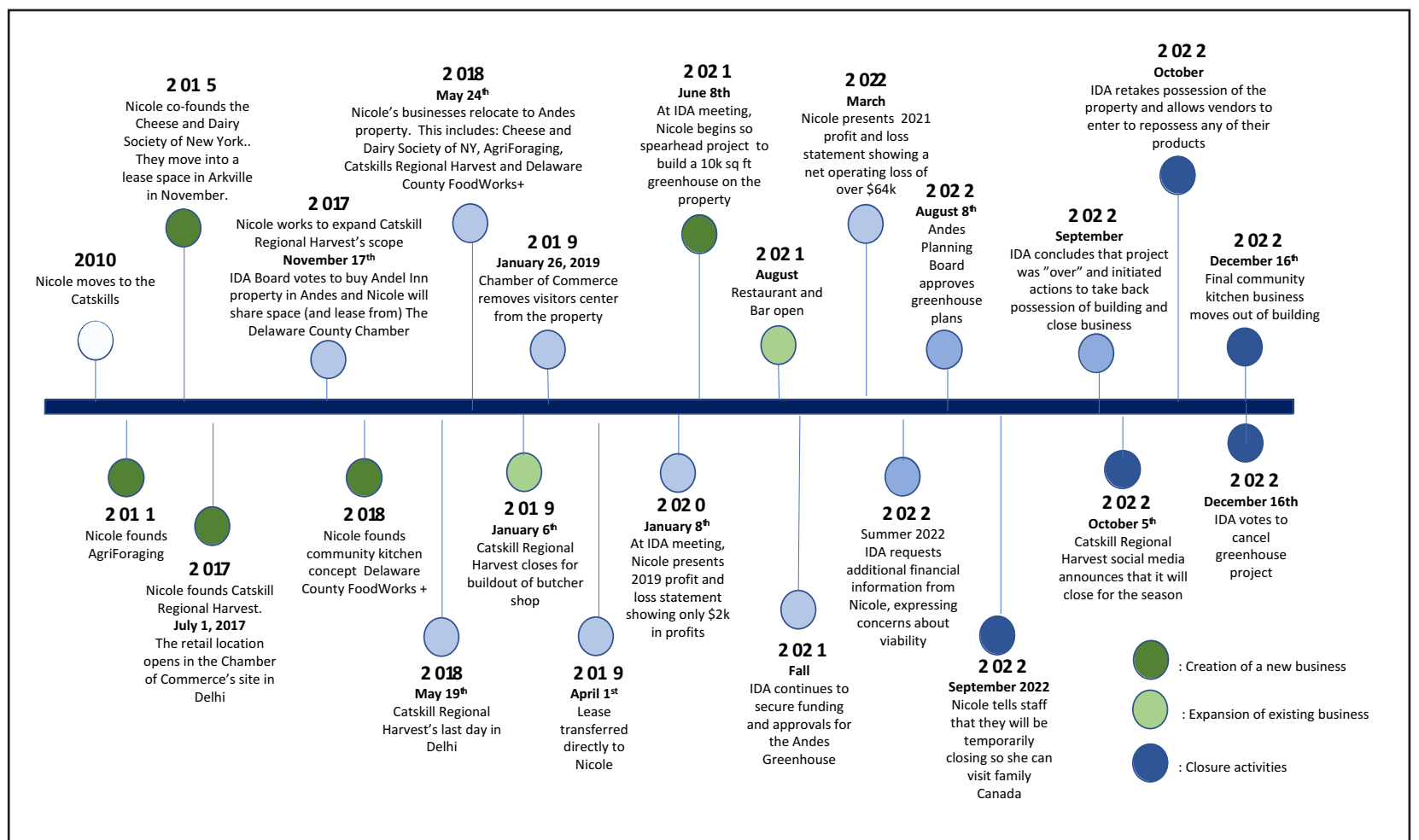
Although the project was launched with much fanfare, concerns were raised early about sustainability of the project. At its January 2019 meeting, the IDA requested a presentation from the Chamber and Ms. Day to provide financial documentation from the project's inception through the end of 2018. At the same time, the CDF requested that the lease transfer directly to Ms. Day and Catskill Regional Harvest.

Despite the financial concerns, IDA officials said they still believed in the core mission of the project and agreed to allow it to continue through March 2019 to determine if the business plan could become viable. The IDA then entered into a three-year lease agreement with Catskill Regional Harvest on April 1, 2019.

Over the next few years, the scope of the businesses located at the Andes property continued to expand. Ms. Day's businesses were extended lines of credit totaling \$60,000, despite IDA board meeting minutes reflecting ongoing concerns that the business appeared to have trouble sustaining itself.

County support

Delaware County Economic Development Agency Director Glenn



This chart illustrates the timeline of progression of the expansion of plans for businesses affiliated with Nicole Day, primarily working in conjunction Delaware County agencies.

Nealis explained that the primary goal for the IDA (an umbrella arm of his agency) was to help support the Catskill Regional Harvest concept by providing a space where local producer goods could be available in a retail setting. However, he said the evidence of quickly spiraling debt began to drive an expansion of business scope. Among the plans was the addition of a café — even though restaurants have a notoriously high rate of failure within the first few years.

"With a business that has to come back multiple times for lines of credit, [these new business offerings] were an attempt to reach sustainability. She tried a number of different ways to do it," Mr. Nealis recalled.

The concept evolved from the Catskill Regional Harvest retail space; then a butcher counter was added with the goal of providing local producers an opportunity to sell their beef at a higher retail margin than selling it to consumers as a full- or half-animal. After that, the café was introduced — an idea that was not part of original vision.

"It was an attempt by Nicole to survive," Mr. Nealis commented. "While there was mission creep, that was being attempted to create a sustainable business." He added, the new offerings "were legal business purposes, so it was an allowable use of the building. If side income is necessary to sustain the community kitchen and making local products available, then that's what it takes to survive."

Protests raised

In fact, when Ms. Day introduced plans to add a wine bar and restaurant in an area adjacent to the retail space in 2020, protests were raised by some local business owners, particularly in Andes. The primary concerns regarded the unfair advantage that business was receiving preferential rent as well as a tax abatement — estimated at \$5,000 per year based on payments from previous owners — that would be ultimately supported by

Delaware County taxpayers.

Ms. Day gave assurances to the IDA that she would meet with residents and local business owners to "sort it out," but there is no indication that these meetings occurred or that the IDA followed up on these activities. The bar and restaurant opened in August 2021.

But these efforts were not creating a thriving enterprise, according to the IDA's continuing reviews of the business records. Things had "reached a head," and the IDA requested additional financial data, expressed concerns, and began more closely monitoring business activities.

According to Mr. Nealis, by the end of March 2022, it was clear that the businesses should shut down. In spite of this assessment, the operations were allowed to continue.

Finally, at its September meeting, the IDA concluded that project "was over." A Confession of Default and Forbearance & Settlement Agreement initiated, and actions were started to wind down the project.

IDA fully aware

According to Mr. Nealis, it was only at this time that the IDA became aware of the full extent of the vendor payables. Based on invoices that have been provided to the IDA, the total outstanding payments are estimated to be between \$30,000 and \$35,000 to local food purveyors alone. Additional debts have also been revealed, including outstanding obligations to other types of vendors, such as The Mountain Eagle, that is owed approximately \$3,100 in unpaid advertising invoices.

Many of the individuals interviewed for this story expressed regret for extending credit for such a long period while still providing products and services, but noted they believed in the concept and wanted to part of its success. A similar view was held by the county agencies that stood firmly in support of the project verbally and, more importantly, with considerable financial backing. The most no-

table investment was the \$320,000 real estate purchase that secured the business location. The timeline of the establishment of Catskills Regional Harvest and Delaware County Foodworks+ near Andes reveals many early warning signs. (See chart).

Catskills Regional Harvest was originally set up in the Delhi e-Center business incubator space overseen by the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce. The business only oper-

ated in that space for about four months before plans were announced to expand into the Andes site. Chamber President Ray Pucci confirmed that rent was paid while Ms. Day was operating at the eCenter space. However, multiple attempts to determine the amount of the monthly payments went unanswered.

Preferential lease

After securing the building for the expansion of Catskills Re-

gional Harvest, the initial lease with the Catskill Development Foundation was reworked and the IDA entered directly into a three-year lease agreement with Catskill Regional Harvest on April 1, 2019. Following the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, the lease was extended by one year through 2023. This lease agreement for the approximately 7,000-square-foot building on nearly four acres followed the same terms: **continued on E10**

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Bitter Taste: CRH's Demise Has Wide Impact

continued from E9
\$250 per month the first year, then \$500 per month the second and then \$750 per month the final year. The lease also called for the tenant to assume utility payments.
The IDA's minutes show that during its February 2019 meeting, Ms. Day reported she was not financially able to take over the utility payments, which had been paid in full by the CDF while they were leasing the building. The IDA subsequently agreed to pay the building's utilities for one year, through March 2020. Records show Catskill Regional Harvest ultimately took full ownership of those payments in late July of 2020. In total, the IDA paid \$12,850 for utilities between April 2019-July 2020.

Rent hike stalled

In 2021, per the lease agreement, the rent payment was supposed to increase from \$500 to \$750 per month. After reviewing financial statements provided by Ms. Day, the IDA board, worried about "business viability issues," kept the payments at \$500 per month. These lease payments were paid through 2021 and were scheduled to increase to \$750 in April of 2022. That never happened. The last lease payment the IDA received was in February 2022 — resulting in \$3,500 in unpaid lease payments at \$500 per month or \$5,500 if you take the rent escalation into account—before the IDA retook possession of the building last October.

Lines of credit

Between June and October 2018, the IDA approved \$20,000 in loans to Catskill Regional Harvest. In 2020, a total of \$30,000 in additional lines of credit were approved. The agreement allowed CRH to pay back this debt on an interest-only

basis for the first year. The line of credit was made in several installments from March 2020 through April 2021.

Known as the Andel Inn for many years because of its location between Andes and Delhi, the property had subsequently been operated under various names and owners over the course of the past few decades. The building had been vacant for several years, but the most recent owner sold the building with all the kitchen equipment included. To outfit the Catskills Regional Harvest (commercial refrigeration units, etc.) was needed.

Equipment purchase

Mr. Nealis explained that the IDA had received a previous USDA grant that had an unused portion of funds available. He said Ms. Day asked the board to purchase equipment and lease to AgriForaging with a seven-year payback period. Under this agreement, the county would recoup 40 percent of its investment per USDA contract stipulations. The IDA equipment purchases on behalf of Catskills Regional Harvest totaled \$10,416.

Despite the substantial amount of support from Delaware County agencies, the cracks in the business model were readily apparent within a short time. The lines of credit extended by the IDA apparently allowed Ms. Day's enterprises to continue operations, but numerous vendors reported payment problems.

Most of the farmers and agricultural vendors interviewed for this story described a similar experience. They said, Ms. Day was initially incredibly supportive and excited to work with them and invoices would be paid in a reasonable timeframe. After a while, many vendors said, payments would frequently be

continued on E11

Examples Of Impacted Businesses

607 Sweets: Located in Jefferson, 607 Sweets sells sweet and savory baked goods. While the company experienced frequent late payments throughout her time as a vendor with Catskill Regional Harvest, they are currently hoping to collect a remaining balance of \$1,193. Owner Lana Frantz-Hennen describes her and other vendors' experience with Catskill Harvest and Nicole Day as "egregious" and believes that it "sets terrible precedent for other local retail and restaurant businesses that are genuinely working with local farms and producers to showcase the products of this beautiful region."

The 607 CSA: The 607 CSA works with 40+ sustainable family farms from Delaware, Otsego, and Schoharie counties. The cooperative provides direct to consumer as well as wholesale products throughout the Catskills and Southern Tier. In 2021, Ms. Day had an outstanding balance of \$3,173. In the beginning of 2022, the CSA's Wholesale Manager began to send payment reminders. Based on those balances, no additional product was provided to Catskill Harvest and despite two small payments in July of 2022, the CSA is still owed \$2,640.

BethAnne LLC: In the Spring of 2020, Nicole was interested in updating the bar in the space across from the retail side of the building. She contacted and began working the aforementioned Delhi-based business to draw up design plans. She paid an initial deposit on the estimate, based on the contract agreed upon by both parties. Once the work was completed, only one additional payment of \$500 was paid. This payment was over 365 days in arrears after multiple attempts by phone calls, text messages, emails and handwritten notes. When the IDA allowed businesses to enter the building after they took possession, they were able to retrieve some of the furniture and decorative pieces that were used during this project. Ultimately the company's estimated loss in materials and labor is approximately \$3,500.

Fisk Construction: The former Andel Inn building and property needed substantial upgrades to operate efficiently as a retail store, community kitchen, butcher shop, café, bar and restaurant. Between 2018 and 2020, Fisk Construction was the primary contracting company working to make improvements and maintain the property. Substantial work on the property's exterior such as upgrading the drainage, regrading, running electrical outside to support food trucks and snow removal during inclement months.

On the interior, the company upgraded the electrical throughout the building to bring it up to code and to handle the increased load from the new refrigeration equipment and saws for the butcher shop, replaced counters and other surfaces so they could be properly cleaned, refinished the floors, installed swinging doors which were required to operate a butcher shop, moved coolers and equipment, set up roasting equipment, updated the office space, and more projects. Invoices for this work totaled over \$35,000. Fisk Construction Owner Jason Bower regrets continuing to provide services as invoices went unpaid: "We never saw a payment

and I should have stopped providing services to Nicole and her businesses earlier, but Jim Thompson consistently assured me that I would ultimately be paid. I believed him," Mr. Bower stated.

Greentopia Farms: Began selling mushrooms to Catskill Regional Harvest in 2020. While many payments were late in 2021, by the end of the year, there were no balances carried over by the end of the season. In 2022, however, Catskill Regional Harvest increased their weekly orders. Payments began to slow over the summer and by October 2022, when the shop closed, the Farm was owed \$2,500. When asked if Ms. Day has made any contact or attempted to repay the balance, Seth Friedman confirmed, "So far, we haven't received anything."

Kilcoyne Farms: A third-generation, family-owned farm in Hudson Falls, Kilcoyne Farms sold beef to Catskill Regional Harvest. A Facebook post in late October 2022, reported that the farm had stopped fulfilling orders in 2021 due to lack of payment, and was owed \$6,694.

In addition to providing products to the CRH Kilcoyne Farms had also contracted with Ms. Day's separate business, AgriForaging, to develop health and safety plans to build a meat processing plant on land located in Warren and Washington counties. In the fall of 2022, they reportedly paid AgriForaging \$7,000 and \$16,125 for retainers related to consulting projects. The owners said in their online post these services were never delivered and there have been no attempts to repay these debts. In total, Kilcoyne Farms is owed \$29,819.

Magpies on Pink Street: Founded in 2019, Magpies on Pink Street provided handmade, seasonal pies to Catskill Regional Harvest starting in 2019 and then at the restaurant when it opened in 2021. As other business owners have corroborated, Ms. Day had a history of being late with invoice payments but for the first year-and-a-half of doing business with Magpies, she always ultimately received payment.

In early 2022, Magpies owner Maggie McDowell said she began to press Ms. Day for payments when invoices were several months past due. "Nicole did try to reach out to me — we played phone tag a few times, but we never connected, and then contact dropped off. She made a small payment of \$250 to me after she closed her doors in October, but her balance with me still stands at over \$3,000 (no small amount for any small business in this community)."

Star Route Farms: Star Route seeks to begin addressing systemic food inequities by farming with integrity and responsibility to both land and people to grow nutritious food; distribute free produce to those who are food insecure; and collaborate with our communities to ensure they are growing culturally relevant food. The farm began to sell produce to CRH in 2017 while still located in Delhi. The owners said in 2020, Nicole stopped paying invoices. Orders made through email or text, which were delivered and invoiced, were refuted and never paid, the owners said. Star Route Farms is owed approximately \$1,500.

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continued from E10
come delayed — often significantly. The vendors reported that payments requests would often go unanswered, or they would receive messages from Ms. Day that her bookkeeper was experiencing delays in getting payments out, but they would receive money in the next couple of days. Several vendors said they would receive partial payments, typically between \$250 and \$750 dollars. Afterwards, a familiar refrain was the vendors would no additional response from Ms. Day, despite additional requests for payment on the remaining balance and no additional payments would be received.

Some vendors recalled an attempt to begin the new season with paid balances to ensure there would be local products during the busy seasons. Greentopia Farms, located in East Meredith, provides a representative example. Owner Seth Friedman said they started selling quantities of mushrooms to CRH regularly in 2021. He said they probably averaged \$200 most weeks.

“Her payments started out mostly on time, only a couple of weeks delay. By the end of the 2021 season, she owed us a lot, I don’t remember how much exactly, but she did manage to pay it all by spring 2022, the beginning of the next season. So, since we were square with her, I kept taking orders in 2022. More than the previous year,” Mr. Friedman recalled. “That year, she followed the same pattern of gradually being unable to pay me on time. But I guess this time she really ran out. When she closed down, she owed me about \$2,500.”

Staff owed

By August 2022, the IDA had communicated to Ms. Day that it would be initiating activities to close the business. In September, they officially proceeded with Confession of Default and Forbearance & Settlement Agreement and initiated steps to take back possession of the building. Despite Ms. Day’s knowledge that the IDA had started the process of closing Catskill Regional Harvest and the community kitchen, she continued to hire staff. According to Ms. Day, when asked specifically, she did so because she “never gave up hope of trying to find a way to make the business work.” The result for the staff, however, was incredibly upsetting and costly.

Anthony Falco, a chef with more than 30 years’ experience, initially began working with the restaurant on a consulting basis in August 2022. He was responsible for building a holiday catering menu and revamping the menu at the restaurant. In September, he began full-time as the restaurant’s executive chef.

Mr. Falco recalled that, after beginning full-time work, Ms. Day informed him the business would be closed for a week while she went to visit family in

Canada. He said he later learned from the retail store manager that Ms. Day intended to close for two weeks. Prior to closing, Mr. Falco said he had not received his initial paycheck. After multiple requests via text and phone calls, he confirmed receiving \$700. No additional payments have been made and Mr. Falco said he is still owed more than \$6,000 in back salary and more in consulting fees.

“After this happened to me, I reached out to other staff who worked there over the years and most had issues with not getting paid. The fact that she did the same thing to the staff for years shows a pattern of behavior which proves a criminal intent. I am just wondering when someone is going to put her in cuffs.”

In late September 2022, the five Catskill Regional Harvest staff were told there would be a two-week closure. The staff said they were not told the store was closing and they were not informed the IDA had initiated actions to shut down the project. Several staff told The Catskills Chronicle they were promised vacation pay during for the purported two-week shutdown. Reportedly, no staff received vacation pay. However, several said they ultimately received pay for hours worked prior to the shutdown. When asked about these charges, Ms. Day denied that any staff are still owed payment.

In addition to the financial impact on vendors, revealed during interviews for this article, several staff described a disturbing practice they personally witnessed or performed. They allege that CRH sometimes used mass-market produce and meat that was repackaged to make it appear that the products were from local farmers. This practice reportedly was instituted after several purveyors who were owed back payments refused to continue deliver product to CRH. In response, the staff said some products purchased at Costco, Restaurant Repot or Price Chopper were repackaged with local farms’ logos and sold as if that was their produce or meat. Former staff who have asked to remain unnamed have substantiated these claims and have confirmed that this was a frequent practice in both the restaurant and the retail store.

Questioned about these alleged practices, Ms. Day did not directly address the matter, stating, “Unfortunately, the business ended with disgruntled employees. It does not seem productive to discuss hearsay.”

Kitchen Impact

By the time the IDA retook possession of the facility in October 2022, there were only two businesses using the community kitchen. Because the building’s kitchen was mostly used to prepare food for the restaurant, tenants of the community kitchen were only able to use the space during

non-restaurant hours, a schedule that proved difficult. Further impeding this arrangement was the fact that the kitchen layout was set up for a restaurant and not conducive to facilitating the multiple needs of a workable community kitchen setup.

At the time Catskills Regional Harvest was closing, two small businesses used the community kitchen’s facility. Neither was told of plans to close the building.

Similar to the experience of the Catskill Regional Harvest staff, the owner of Meadowhawk Granola in Grand Gorge, which paid \$600 per month for access to the kitchen for two days per week, was told the building would be closed for two weeks in late September while Ms. Day was away. The Meadowhawk owner was out of town from October through mid-November and when she returned, recalled that she reached out to Ms. Day to confirm she would be able to bake even though the business had not reopened after the September-October vacation.

“There was no direct response about this question until the day before I was scheduled to be at the kitchen to bake, right after Thanksgiving. I was especially concerned because when I went to the kitchen on Friday to make sure everything was ready for my Monday shift (that Nicole knew had been scheduled), the owner explained.

Services shut off

“There was no wireless or phone service, and the alarm system that was usually on had been turned off. The building was not locked. Nicole finally called me two days later Sunday, November 27 to let me know that the business was closing. I was scheduled to bake the next day,” she remembered.

The Meadowhawk owner said Ms. Day did not provide contact information for her community kitchen tenants to the IDA so no one was able to reach out to them to plan for them to vacate.

“Glenn at IDA was very helpful, and I was able to bake until December 16 to be able to have some inventory to last me while I found another kitchen space,” she noted.

A second business had leased community kitchen space since 2019 and the owner preferred not to be identified. She confirmed that her business paid a similar monthly rent and was also not given warning that the community kitchen was closing permanently or that the building was being repossessed by the IDA.

Andel Greenhouse

While Ms. Day’s businesses were in a challenging financial state, she was simultaneously working with members of the EDA and IDA to expand the scope of the property to include a 10,000-square-foot greenhouse on the Catskill Regional Harvest Property. At the Andes

Nicole Day Responds To Chronicle’s Questions

Q. Why do you think the business failed?

A. “On a personal level I left a tragic marriage during the pandemic and in turn struggle with depression along with our business margins couldn’t consistently cover the operational overhead due to the dramatic seasonality in Delaware County.”

Q. Do you intend to pay back staff and vendors who are owed money?

A. “The business does not owe staff. Unfortunately, the business has closed; we are continuing to work with the IDA to sell inventory and equipment, so no vendors go unpaid.”

Q. Is there anything else you would want readers to know about your businesses or their closure?

A. “I tried everything I could for years to make this business work. In the end we reached a point where the business couldn’t continue. Unfortunately, sometimes businesses close. There was never any ill intent. This business was closely tied to the community in varying ways though local agriculture & food, music, new & long-time relationships, wonderful friendships, navigating the pandemic, seasonal shifts; it’s sad to see it end this way. I want to thank our community for supporting Catskills Harvest since we opened in 2017.”

Town Planning Board Meeting on April 11, 2022, Ms. Day and Evan Bowker from the Delaware County Economic Development Agency presented a proposal to build a carbon neutral greenhouse that could serve as a model that farmers could install on their own property to extend growing season and increase their revenues. The greenhouse would grow produce that would be sold at Catskill Regional Harvest and be used to provide food for low-income residents of Delaware County.

The project advanced significantly, including hiring architects and getting an environmental impact study completed, but ultimately the cost of the project ballooned to over \$800,000 and was shut down by the IDA in December of 2022. The loss to IDA for this project was \$8,819, agency figures show.

Taxpayer impact

Delaware County’s financial investment in these businesses has both a measurable impact on county taxpayers in terms of money invested and there are additional unquantifiable, but very real impacts on the local economy.

A breakdown of these costs includes:

- 60,000 in loans with only \$12,000 in repayments.

- County agencies covered more than \$12,000 in utility payments which were not meant to be a loan, but were not reimbursed.

- The substantially discounted lease amounts meant that the county received only a fraction of the market rate for a building of its size.

- From a technical standpoint the CRH debt was erased when the project was ended. Mr. Nealis revealed that the loss to the IDA was approximately \$42,000 in terms of loans outstanding and subsequent expenses the IDA had committed to the project.

- Lease payments for the equipment were paid through September of 2022. When the business finally closed in 2022, the IDA offered the equipment for sale with proceeds to be applied to the \$10,416 CRH equipment lease. In an odd circumstance created by the Confession of Default, the \$4,595 balance on the lease was canceled by this legal proceeding.

- An easy-to-overlook ramification of this ordeal is lost opportunity. This refers to other Delaware County businesses that couldn’t leverage loans from the EDA/IDA because of the substantial investment in Catskills Regional Harvest.

Next steps

On October 5, the Catskills Regional Harvest Instagram announced that the business was closed for the season but would reopen in the spring. This post remains up on the platform even though Ms. Day no longer has access to the building and the IDA is making plans to sell or accept proposals from other businesses that have ideas on how to best use the space.

The IDA estimates the impact to farmers and other vendors is approximately \$30,000-\$35,000. The board ultimately decided to not attempt to recoup their remaining debt (from outstanding loans and unpaid rent) and to use the value of the inventory and equipment to reimburse vendors.

After taking possession of the building in October, the IDA allowed vendors collect any product that could be reused or resold. This would be deducted from the total amount owed to them by Ms. Day. Other retailers were invited to come in and buy any products they might want at a sale price. This resulted in approximately \$3,000 in inventory sales, less than 10 percent owed to vendors. Mr. Nealis said many of the dry goods and 90 percent of perishable goods were unsellable because they had incorrect handling practices or were expired. Factoring in equipment sales, Mr. Nealis estimated his agency would be able to recoup about \$17,000-\$18,000 which could be used to offset a portion of vendor losses.

As of early April, the IDA was still in the process of liquidation. Mr. Nealis said there have been commitments to purchase about three-quarters of the equipment put up for sale, but some hasn’t been paid for or picked up yet. To date, none of the vendors have been paid by the IDA because once they finalize the total amount available for disbursement, the agency needs to determine a “rational and equitable way to distribute it.” Mr. Nealis acknowledged there are “some equity issues that

come in to play,” and that may impact disbursement amounts but “no one will receive 100% repayment.”

At this point, the IDA is seeking to sell the property. Mr. Nealis said, if a great project with widespread community benefit is proposed, the agency may consider maintaining the property.

After approval by the IDA Board, and with Andes Town Supervisor Bud Gladstone’s involvement, a Request for Proposals (RFP) will be issued seeking ideas on alternative uses for the space. This RFP is supposed to be issued this spring. With the published response period, due diligence, IDA Board presentations and project award, the timing on this decision is expected to be in early summer.

Accountability

The true measure of this collapsed business venture on county taxpayers, farmers and other vendors is far-reaching in terms of financial impact and a loss of trust.

Several of the vendors summed up their feelings of the scenario.

Lana Frantz-Hennen, proprietor of 607 Sweets stated, “It’s ironic that the communities are so small, and everyone is connected to everyone else that people wouldn’t have spread word about this going on before. Instead, all these small businesses and producers are worried about backlash from various organizations and local officials. They just keep grievances to themselves out of fear of being blacklisted. I wouldn’t be at all surprised if some people refuse to talk with you (for this story) for this very reason. It’s unfortunate because it’s exactly how these situations propagate.”

Magpies owner Maggie McDowell reflected, “From what I understand, Nicole, in her ambitious-ness, got completely in over her head, and then sort of disappeared — which felt hurtful on a personal level, and hurt businesses of friends and colleagues who work very hard at their craft.

While I admired what she was attempting at the Harvest, her lack of business acumen and honesty ultimately caused damage, which just sucks — and is also what happens sometimes when a business fails,” Ms. McDowell concluded.

Chamber Hosted Legislative Panel In Downsville

contined from E2
lice can be quite extensive.”

There is no way that the Assemblyman could have predicted it at the time, but just such an incident made national news out of Hebron, NY. Kaylin Gillis was gunned down for pulling into the wrong driveway. Gillis was 20 years old and made a simple mistake, however, someone's interpretation of mountain justice was to shoot at her vehicle from his deck this past Saturday.

Assemblyman Angelino concluded his opening with stating his belief regarding how unreasonable the New York State Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) goals to curtail carbon emissions are too aggressive. 'It's a freight train coming' as Angelino motioned towards Margaretville Central School district Superintendent Michelle Osterhoudt, who was in the audience, mentioning how Albany wants public school buses to be transitioned to all-electric by 2027.

Osterhoudt responded, "It's debatable."

Assemblyman Chris Tague who admits he isn't a college graduate, but came from a business background, began his portion by saying, "Albany has been broken for a long time, but we continue to elect the same people making the same decisions. Now, I'm not trying to be political, everyone knows that I'm a conservative Republican, negotiating and meeting in the middle when I knew it was something good for the people I represent."

Tague jokingly declared, "I just want you to know that I represent most of Delaware County. Joe might have more people because he represents Walton and Sidney, but I do have Delhi and Margaretville."

New district maps

Ray Pucci asked about Albany's plans for redistricting, pointing out that the last draft map he had seen puts all three panelists out of Delaware County.

Tague said the final map wouldn't be as drastic. At worst, Maher's district may lose Madison and Delaware Counties but the rest is likely to stay the same in our area.

As the CLCPA green initiatives are a concern for most businesses and homeowners in upstate New York, alongside worries about the cost of transitioning from gas stoves, wood burning heat, and other fossil fuel appliances such as generators would be banned. Pucci asked the panel to comment.

Assemblyman Tague dabbled in some climate-denial rhetoric with his turn on this topic, "They've [the Democrats] have been scaring the daylight out people for the past 50 years. How many times have you heard the word 'Climate-Crisis'? By God, I've been waiting 50 years and I'm still waiting for the crisis to happen."

Margaretville Hospital & Mountainside Residential Care Center

Spring 2023



Michael Doyle, MD

A Note from Michael Doyle, Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer, HAHV

Spring into Spring! As we dig out of the snow and put our skis away, we look forward to longer stretches of daylight and new activities. Spring is historically a time for rejuvenation and growth. At Margaretville Hospital, our growth continues.

WMCHealth's Heart and Vascular Institute has expanded cardiology services at Margaretville Hospital. Interventional cardiologist **Niki Kantrowitz, MD**, will start seeing patients at Margaretville Hospital at the end of April. To learn more about Dr. Kantrowitz, visit <https://rb.gy/eiocti>. To schedule an appointment, please call **845.334.4248**.



Niki Kantrowitz, MD

Cardiovascular health is vital for your health and wellbeing. If you can, get outside, walk and take care of your heart. Your family will thank you for it.

Hear from Margaretville Hospital's Executive Director



Edward McNamara

I am continually impressed by the dedication and compassion of our workforce at Margaretville Hospital and Mountainside Residential Care Center. Our patients are treated like family! If you are looking for a career change or are in the job market, I encourage you to see what opportunities exist and join our team.

An update from Mountainside Residential Care Center's Facility Administrator



John J. Edwards Jr, LNHA

We have some very exciting news for our community! New York State Department of Health has granted us the opportunity to conduct our own Nurse Aide Training Program. With this program, we will be able to recruit people from our community to learn how to become certified nursing aides. This allows for Mountainside Residential Care Center to give back to the community by offering careers in healthcare that increase the continuity of care a resident receives.

Mountainside Residential Care Center continues to maintain its **five-Star rating with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**, placing us above 90% of other facilities in New York. Thank you for your continued support of our mission.



Visit from Congressman Marcus Molinaro

United States Congressman Marcus Molinaro visited Margaretville Hospital. Rep. Molinaro was newly elected in 2022 and his Congressional District includes Delaware County and Margaretville Hospital. The Congressman had never previously been to Margaretville Hospital and in his effort to better understand the healthcare needs of his constituents and the ongoing challenges faced by healthcare providers, visiting Margaretville Hospital was one of his first priorities. We look forward to working with the Congressman and his team on federal issues that impact Critical Access Hospitals such as Margaretville Hospital as well as more overarching issues of Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement.



Left to Right: E. McNamara, Exec Dir, Margaretville Hospital | K. MacMillan, WMCHealth SVP Government & Community Relations | D. Marcy, WMCHealth Dir Government & Community Relations | M. Doyle, MD, HAHV Exec Dir & Chief Medical Officer | Congressman Molinaro | K. Coppage, Margaretville Hospital Dir of Nursing | F. Davis, WMCHealth Northern Region VP of Nursing | C. Sickler, HAHV Chairman of the Board

Interested in becoming a part of the team? Margaretville Hospital is hiring! Check out job postings at:

WMCHealthJobs.org

Community Paramedicine

WMCHealth and Margaretville Hospital are excited to announce the creation of a new community paramedicine program based at Margaretville Hospital.

Community paramedicine is a relatively new field with local programs emerging as a response to the healthcare crisis. This program's model increases access to basic healthcare services through the use of specially trained Emergency Medical Service (EMS) personnel, who provide enhanced care with the assistance of physicians.

The goals of the community paramedic program are twofold: 1. To improve health outcomes among medically vulnerable populations and 2. To save healthcare dollars, by preventing unnecessary ambulance transports, emergency department visits, and hospital readmissions.

Paramedics will now be able to provide more services to the communities they serve. Telemedicine technology would provide a medical caregiver (on-site and "virtual") with advanced diagnostics, facilitating a remote virtual medical consultation rather than transport to a hospital emergency department. Patients could avoid inpatient hospitalizations and receive treatment at a lower cost.

Telehealth communications will be available through a program that would include emergency medicine providers, certified emergency medical technicians, 911 dispatch and patients for the purpose of triaging a patient's level of severity and determining appropriate next steps of care when an acute medical issue arises. This can include assessment, diagnosis, referral and treatment.

In conjunction with WMCHealth, paramedics will also be able to assist in providing vaccinations to community members and to those that are homebound or without transportation.

Want to help out your local community?

Margaretville Hospital offers EMT and AEMT trainings as well as scholarships for students studying paramedicine. To learn more, contact Adam Billingslea at Adam.Billingslea@hahv.org.

Community Relations



Daniel Marcy, Director of Government and Community Relations for WMCHealth, attended the **Complete Streets Summit** in March. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County along with the Bassett Healthcare Network convened a Complete Streets Summit at the Sidney Memorial Public Library on March 9th to discuss community needs and partnerships as well as an affiliated grant to aid in implementation.

The **Complete Streets Coalition** is an avenue that facilitates design groundwork to enable safe access for all users regardless of mode of transportation, age, or ability. Successful application of Complete Streets health equity among communities, reduces barriers to underserved populations. A robust discussion was held regarding county demographics, current challenges and potential initiatives that would mitigate or improve upon existing conditions and help create more uniform accessibility for Delaware County residents.

Margaretville Hospital, a member of WMCHealth, is deeply committed to health equity and looks forward to continued collaboration with Delaware County community partners to ensure that all residents have access to information, education and resources.

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email or have a question that may be answered in a future issue, please email MargaretvilleHospital@hahv.org.





The Cobleskill Herald



Serving Cobleskill, Sharon, Esperance, and beyond • A Section of the *Mountain Eagle*

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Cobleskill May Drop City

By Joshua Walther

COBLESKILL - On Tuesday evening, the Cobleskill Village Board met to discuss an update to their city status study, as well as the prospect of attracting new businesses to make the town more "attractive."

To begin, Mayor Rebecca Stanton-Terk gave a brief synopsis on why the Village of Cobleskill thought about pursuing cityhood in the first place.

In 2021, she said she felt that Cobleskill's share of sales tax revenue with the county was not equitable, given the Village's size, traffic, economic value, and the number of facilities located within its bounds.

To give an example, Mayor Stanton-Terk stated that in one year, Schoharie County made nineteen million dollars in sales tax revenue, and Cobleskill's share of the pie was \$128,000.

In order to find a better deal for Cobleskill, the mayor approached the County Board of Super-

visors to form a committee and begin to pursue cityhood, leading us to the present day.

However, due to a recent update of a study on how the community may be impacted, city status may no longer be feasible.

The most significant factor is the impact that city status would have on the CRCS school district, which could restrict the amount of financial aid received for district projects.

"None of us want to disrupt the school district," said Mayor Stanton-Terk, pulling back from the prospect of cityhood. "We cannot continue down the path we're on."

However, the Board is not giving up just yet, as the mayor opened other possible avenues to allow Cobleskill to thrive.

The first option would be to open shared services between the Cobleskill Police Department and the Schoharie County Sheriff's Office, as that partnership would help with expenses.

Mayor Stanton-Terk also expressed the idea of making Cobleskill "more attractive" to draw in more traffic and bolster their amount of businesses and student enrollment, and restore old buildings like the Best Western.

Speaking on potential businesses, the Board confirmed that a Marshall's will be moving into the old Label Shopper, and a new dollar store will open in the old Walgreens.

The Board also expressed that they cannot "wave a magic wand" to incentivize more diverse businesses to invest in Cobleskill, and they cannot reject a business just because there may be a surplus of similar stores in the area already, such as auto parts shops.

In closing, Mayor Stanton-Terk said that the Board can make decisions, but it will ultimately fall into the hands of the voters to decide the future of Cobleskill.

Solar App Out in Carlisle Bypasses to State

By Alexis Pencar

CARLISLE — On Tuesday, the Town of Carlisle Planning Board held their regularly scheduled Meeting and previously scheduled ongoing Public Hearing regarding the Cypress Creek Solar Site Plan at the Carlisle Town Hall located at 541 Crommie Road, Carlisle.

Residents arrived early, ready to present information, and were surprised to

learn that the Public Hearing was canceled the day of since the Solar Site Application was withdrawn.

With information like images of the proposed site, environmental information, posters, and more prepared, frustrated residents still set up outside, in front of the Town Hall for all to see.

Chairwoman Jen Regelski kicked off the meeting at 7:00 pm to tension in the

room from residents wanting more clarity. Other notable Board Members included: Neil McConnelee, Mary E. Bates, Sam Dunston, Charlie Rhoades, Shaun Pangman, Wyatt Ward, and Secretary June Collins.

Though withdrawn, the company Rock Solar District LLC (Cypress Creek)

Continued on Page F8

CRCS Accepts 23-24 Proposed Budget

By Joshua Walther

COBLESKILL - It was last Monday that the Board of Education met to discuss the proposed budget for the 2023-2024 school year and whether or not they should put it forward to the voters.

The proposal was presented by Superintendent Matthew Sickles and Business Manager Tracy Fraleigh, both of whom alluded to a difficult budget process and regrettable eliminations of positions.

Superintendent Sickles detailed that the general fund balance is \$45,352,710, and the real property tax levy is \$17,479,400. Both of these numbers are slight increases from last year.

The state and federal aid received is \$21,995,635, and the reserve fund balance is \$1,585,000. Unfortunately, these are decreases from the prior budget, being a 1.2% decrease and a 22.7% decrease, respectively.

Superintendent Sickles explained that for last year's budget planning, a substantial amount of the reserve fund was used to balance the gap, but he went on to state that it would not be wise to continue down that path as it isn't sustainable forever.

There were several reasons for the increase in the budget, mostly being attributed to contractual increases in pay, vehicle maintenance, and inflation for utility costs. Simultaneously, there are lower revenue streams than usual, such as the lower state and federal aid.

Superintendent Sickles

also stated that this is a multi-year problem that they're attempting to tackle. They want to plan ahead for the 2024-2025 budget planning stage, which they anticipate to be a "fiscal cliff."

"We fear for layoffs and we want to delay that as much as possible," said Superintendent Sickles about the future. He went on to explain that several changes made this year are in anticipation for the next few years.

With that being said, there are several notable budget cuts, mostly relating to positions that currently aren't filled or positions that will open up because of upcoming retirements.

There are six positions that will be reassigned and absorbed by other roles once someone retires, referred to as "eliminations through attrition." These include three elementary teachers, one reading teacher, and two school counselors.

There will be six paraprofessional positions eliminated, which refers to aides or teaching assistants. Superintendent Sickles noted that there are over one hundred similar positions throughout the district, alluding to the necessity of cutting a handful of them.

Two unfilled positions will be eliminated, which includes one french teacher and one music teacher. There has been extreme public outcry over the miss-

ing music teacher, with some stating that CRCS's music program will suffer, but a motion to amend the budget and provide funds for that position was rejected.

And finally, there will be a general reduction in the "materials and supplies" budget for all four schools, closing the budget gap.

The Board had recommended that Superintendent Sickles look into the hiring costs for aides on every school bus to manage student behavior. Unfortunately, the total cost would range anywhere from \$609,713 to \$825,066, effectively nullifying the possibility.

After the proposal was heard, the Board held a brief discussion on the eliminated music teacher position, but they would ultimately vote and accept the proposed budget without amendments. Every Board member voted yes, with the exception of Jason Gagnon, who said "This isn't a successful budget without [the music teacher position]."

This budget will be voted on by the general populace this spring as the school year begins to come to a close. If it is denied, a contingency budget will have to be implemented, which cuts down costs by almost a million dollars and denies public use of school grounds.

Cobleskill Briefs

Do you have any events you'd like to see featured in the Cobleskill Herald? Let us know at cobleskillherald@gmail.com.

Senior Congregate Meal Sites Open

Local residents are invited to enjoy noon-time meals and good company (except holidays) at one of Schoharie County Office for the Aging's two congregate meal sites:

-Jefferson (Tues./Wed./Thurs.), Community Center, Rte. 10)

-Sharon Springs (Mon./Wed./Fri), Firehouse, 137 Beechwood Rd.) Reserve a meal by calling Schoharie County OFA at 518-295-2001 before 2 pm the day before you want to go. A suggested donation of \$4 is accepted from those 60 years old and older. Under age 60? You're welcome to participate and will be charged \$5.

Schoharie - Board of Supervisors Meeting

The Schoharie County Board of Supervisors will be holding its monthly meeting next week - Friday, April 21st - at 9:00 AM. Meetings are also available for viewing afterwards on the SCHOPEG website.

Family Recovery Support Group

Every Wednesday evening from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM., SCCASA hosts Family Recovery Support Group Meetings facilitated by Maggie Jackman Pryor, a Family Support Navigator, and Tom Moran, a Peer Engagement Specialist and Recovery Coach at 349 Mineral Springs Road.

Cobleskill - Schoharie County Maple Festival

The Schoharie County Maple Festival will be returning to the Cobleskill Fairgrounds on Saturday, April 29th. There will be maple products for sale, pancakes all day, food & craft vendors, maple syrup production and free, live entertainment all day. Festivities will kick off at 9:00 AM.

Cobleskill - Fisheries Wildlife Festival

The SUNY Cobleskill Fisheries Wildlife Festival will be returning to the Village of Cobleskill Veterans Memorial Centre Park on Saturday, April 29th from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Events include a "Live Birds of Prey Show" by Wesley Laraway, a Youth Fishing Derby (trophies awarded; poles & bait available), and other activities for area youth and children.

Cobleskill - Author's Hour

The Jeff Tufano Gallery will be hosting an Author's Hour with Susan Fantl Spivack on Saturday, May 7th at 2:00 PM. Presented by Schoharie County Arts, this event is funded in part by Poets & Writers with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts. Refreshments will be provided.

Sharon Springs - New Everything Shoppe

A new Everything Shoppe, which is administered by the Schoharie County Council of Senior Citizens, is poised to open in early May at 209 Main Street in the Village of Sharon Springs.

OFA and The Gathering Place Offer Grab & Go Meals

The Office for the Aging provides healthy grab and go meals for individuals 60 years +, daily (M-F) at The Gathering Place, 127 Kenyon Rd., Cobleskill. Each person may make a suggested \$4 voluntary contribution for a meal. Interested individuals must reserve grab and go meals 24 hours in advance by calling 518-920-3757 and speaking to Judy between 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Meals are available daily beginning at 11 a.m. One can take meals home to eat or stay at the Center and enjoy them with company. Monthly meal menus are available at The Center's front desk or by contacting OFA at 518-295-2001.

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COFFEE IN COBY

'Tis the Season

By Timothy Knight

Author's Note: my continued analysis and coverage of the Russo-Ukrainian War will resume in next week's column. Thank you.

There is a significant difference between normal people and political junkies. Whereas your average person gets really excited about Christmas, going to the movies, or vacations; political junkies live, breathe, and act upon one basic instinct: campaigning, and ultimately, elections.

Since turning eighteen years old, I have been an official candidate in four elections. While the process is tiring, stressful, and often chips away at my longevity, I love the ability to meet with my constituents and have face-to-face conversations about what is or isn't working here.

For many residents, who are busy with work, family, and enjoying the simple moments in their lives, this is the only opportunity for them to interact with their incum-

bent and potential elected representatives. You can get a "pulse" of where the community is at by sharing a cup of coffee and talking about the big issues.

I am fortunate enough to say that I have never had a resident slam a door in my face or act unprofessionally while petitioning, campaigning, or anything else, and that speaks volumes about the kind of community that the Village of Middleburgh is. Those who act in such uncivilized ways are unbecoming of our village.

That doesn't mean there isn't any weirdness. Every candidate who has ever run for office has at least one dog story; either they, or the people volunteering for them, have encountered a dog doing its job: keeping weird people with clipboards away from their home, and sometimes they have the bite marks to prove it.

Hard working doggies aside, this is democracy in its most beautiful

form. No matter where you live, who you are, or what office you are seeking, all incumbent and prospective elected officials have to seek the community's vote of confidence in order to lead.

While different from the classic definition of democracy, it is nevertheless a tried-and-true method of representative government that works not only in this country, but throughout the world. And I for one am thankful to have the freedom to participate here.

P.S. - Due to a heavy workload last week, I was unable to submit a "Coffee in Coby" on time. My apologies for missing a deadline.

Greetings! I am planning a "mailbag" edition of Coffee in Coby soon, so please send any questions you may have for me about Schoharie County politics, the Atlanta Braves 2021 World Series title or whatever else, and it might just be included. My email is timothyknight93@gmail.com.

CRCS Parents Try to Save Music Program

By Joshua Walther

COBLESKILL - During the CRCS Board of Education meeting on Monday evening, people showed their overwhelming support for the crippled music program by turning up in droves, making for one of the longest public comment periods in recent memory.

Though CRCS is often lauded for having one of the best music programs in the county, music education is under threat of withering away by being severely understaffed.

Historically, there have been seven to eight music teachers for all four schools, providing an even spread for the entire student body. However, after complications during COVID and recent resignations, that number has dwindled to five.

The remaining teachers are reportedly spread thin in their attempts to keep up the same course offerings as before, resulting in high stress and burnout, and the lesson frequency and size have suffered accordingly.

The administrations have been scrambling for new hires ever since January, but because of a difficult budget gap for the upcoming year, the Board has put a hold on the search for new candidates.

In the 2023-2024 pro-

posed budget, this position would go unfilled for a year or more, leaving CRCS with only five teachers. Many parents, alumni, and current students read this situation as a dire one, with numerous voices saying that it will have irreparable consequences to the health of the music program.

The pleading audience was spearheaded by Paige Bulmer, who reached out to the Cobleskill-Richmondville community for their aid and support. The response she received was overwhelming, culminating in a petition to save the program with 389 signatures.

Several voices rose to join Mrs. Bulmer's, including parents, recent alumni, and students ranging anywhere from 6th grade to high school seniors. Although they all noted how difficult the budget was to balance, they advocated for at least six music teachers for the upcoming year.

In response to the number of people present, Board member Susan Strasser made a motion to amend the budget, wanting to see money diverted from the reserve fund to fuel a one-year temporary position.

This motion was soon seconded by Jason

Gagnon, who held incredibly strong faith in the music program. However, not all Board members were so quick to throw in their support.

Aimee Yorke, who said that she supported the music program wholeheartedly, brought up the point that it simply wasn't a possibility to use the reserve fund. Dominga Lent backed this sentiment, stating that the Board's savings should be used on a more pressing matter down the line.

In the end, Mrs. Strasser's motion to amend was denied by the other members, and it wasn't long after that the Board successfully adopted the proposed budget, with only Mr. Gagnon's refusal, who said "This isn't a successful budget without [the music teacher position]."

Once the proposed budget was adopted, Mrs. Strasser begged voters to accept it as well. She cited that if this budget is shot down in the coming months, the Board will have to implement a contingency budget that cuts even more and denies public use of school grounds.

Voters will get the chance to officially accept or deny the budget this spring as the school year rounds out.

DAR Welcomes Farrell and Costello



Top photo: Sue deBruijn, Pat Costello, Regent Jean Yaro

Above: Regent Jean Yaro and Jackie Farrell

With a full slate of activities during their April meeting, the Captain Christian Brown Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution was pleased to welcome Jackie Farrell as their newest member. Membership Chairperson Leslie Smith and Chaplain Priscilla Davis led the Oath of Membership. After an inspiring presentation by Pat Costello, President of The Joshua Project, the chapter presented him with the Community Service Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the community.

Police Blotter



Thursday, April 13, 2023

At 7:40 PM, Cobleskill Police executed an arrest warrant from Cobleskill Town Court and arrested Linda Smith, 58, of Jefferson, N.Y. for criminal mischief in the second degree, a "D" felony, harassment in the second degree, and two counts of criminal contempt in the second degree for violating an order of protection. She was arraigned in Schoharie County CAP Court at 6:00 PM and remanded to Schoharie County Correctional Facility on \$1 cash bail to return to Cobleskill Town Court on 04/18/2023 at 6:00 PM.

Linda Smith, 58, of Jefferson, N.Y. for failure to appear on a previous charge. She was arraigned in Schoharie County CAP Court at 6:00 PM and remanded to Schoharie County Correctional Facility on \$1 cash bail to return to Cobleskill Town Court on 04/18/2023 at 6:00 PM.

Friday, April 14, 2023

At 2:05 PM, Cobleskill Police served a criminal summons from Cobleskill Town Court, arresting a 17-year-old of Cobleskill, N.Y. to appear at a later date in Cobleskill Town Court on charge of harassment in the second degree.

At 9:26 PM, Cobleskill Police arrested Robert Lamont, 49, of Cobleskill, N.Y. for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the second degree and two other vehicle and traffic law violations. He was issued traffic tickets to appear in Cobleskill Town Court on 05/16/2023 at 2:00 PM.

At 7:40 PM, Cobleskill Police executed an arrest warrant from Cobleskill Town Court and arrested

PM.

At 11:21 PM, Cobleskill Police arrested Rachel Depp, 46, of Richmondville, N.Y. for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree, nine additional vehicle and traffic law violations, resisting arrest, obstructing governmental administration in the second degree, and unlawfully fleeing a police officer in the third degree. She was issued traffic tickets and an appearance ticket to appear in Cobleskill Town Court on 05/02/2023 at 2:00 PM.

Sunday, April 16, 2023

At 4:07 PM, Cobleskill Police arrested Nechuma Allen, 34, of Verona, N.J. for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree and one other vehicle and traffic law violation. She was issued traffic tickets to appear in Cobleskill Town Court on 05/30/2023 at 2:00 PM.

Wilson Honored



Members of the Cobleskill Police Department and the community thanked Chief Jim Wilson for 65 years of service this week. Photo credit Cobleskill Fire Department.

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FRESH JUICES

Court News

Alexander Moon, 31, was convicted of three counts of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the third degree, a class B felony. The County Court sentenced Mr. Moon to a determinate term of two (2) years in New York State Prison with two (2) years post release supervision on each count to run concurrently with each other. Mr. Moon was further sentenced to a surcharge of \$375 and restitution of \$360.00 plus an \$18.00 surcharge. The District Attorney's Office would like to thank the New York State Police VGNET unit for working with the Schoharie County Sheriff's Office and Investigator Armlin.

Katie Gunther-Singleton, 34, was convicted in the Schoharie County Court of Felony Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated, a class E felony and Criminal Mischief, a class A misdemeanor. The defendant provided the court with proof of the defendant wearing a SCRAM bracelet which did not detect alcohol used by the defendant for 435 days. The defendant was sentenced to five (5) years probation and three (3) years respectively, a fine of \$3,500, restitution \$5,328.38, surcharges, DNA, DNA surcharge, and driver license revocation for 18 months. The defendant waived the

right to appeal. It was alleged the defendant crashed a vehicle into a stump, the vehicle went airborne and struck a church and house. The defendant suffered a six (6) inch cut to the skull. The District Attorney would like to arresting officers, New York State Troopers Bird and Molle for their extraordinary efforts in the investigation of the matter. Esperance Fire and Ambulance Squad provided extraordinary care until the defendant could be flown by Life Net to Albany Medical Center.

Sandra Butler, 60, was convicted of Bail Jumping in the 3d degree in the Town of Cobleskill. The Court sentenced Ms. Butler to a conditional discharge, \$205 surcharge, \$0 fine, DNA and DNA surcharge.

Nickole Leonard, 37, was convicted of Endangering the Welfare of a Child, a class A misdemeanor and Harassment, a violation, in the Town of Cobleskill after an altercation at the Schoharie County Sunshine Fair. The Cobleskill Court sentenced Ms. Leonard to 2 years' probation, \$250.00 fine and \$100.00 fine respectively, and \$205.00 surcharge. The Court issued orders of protection for the victims. The Schoharie County Sheriff Deputy Cochrane and Deputy Layaou were the arresting officers.

Thomas Croote, 41,

was convicted of Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle in the third degree, a class A misdemeanor, after he took a vehicle from the home he was temporarily staying in. The Town of Wright Court sentenced Mr. Croote to a one-year conditional discharge, \$250.00 fine, \$205 surcharge DNA surcharge of \$50.00 and restitution. Schoharie County Deputy Cochrane was the arresting officer.

Jesse McHargue, 34, was convicted of Criminal Contempt 2d, a class A misdemeanor, after he was discovered to be in a home of a woman with a stay away order of protection. The defendant was sentenced by the Town of Wright Court to time served, 35 days in jail, probation, \$205.00 surcharge and \$50.00 DNA fee. Former Schoharie County Deputy Suckocki was the arresting officer.

William Waterson, III, 33, was convicted of Criminal Mischief in the 4th degree, a class A misdemeanor, after he had a domestic incident. Mr. Waterson served 62 days in jail and was sentenced to a conditional discharge, a \$200.00 fine and a \$205.00 surcharge.

***** CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS AND INDICTMENTS ARE ACCUSATIONS. A DEFENDANT IS PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY**

Schoharie And Otsego County Brush Fire Update

Richmondville – Shortly before 2pm yesterday, April 12, 2023, the Schoharie County Sheriff's Office Communications received numerous calls reporting brush fires breaking out along the railroad tracks in the town of Richmondville, NY. Initial calls were sent to Richmondville Fire Department, who determined the extent of the fires spanned both Schoharie and Otsego Counties which exceeded local resources and they requested additional agencies respond to the scene for assignment.

Unified Command was setup with Richmondville Fire Department, Schoharie County Deputy Fire Coordinator's, Schoharie County Sheriff's Office, New York State (NYS) Office of Fire Prevention and Control, NYS Department of Emergency Management, NYS Police, NYS Police Aviation, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation,

NYS Forest Rangers, NYS Department of Transportation, Otsego County Emergency Services, and Norfolk Southern.

It was determined that due to the hazardous terrain and containment of the fires that operations would conclude at 8pm last evening. Richmondville Fire Department continued the fire watch throughout the night, and operations resumed at 8am this morning.

Sixteen (16) Fire Departments from Schoharie and Otsego Counties responded with sixty-six (66) firefighters and fifteen (15) NYS Forest Rangers. They created seven (7) working crews making fire lines on dangerous terrain. NYS Police Aviation provided Helicopter Water Drops along the fire lines

and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) to monitor the entire operation. Three (3) Emergency Medical Service Ambulance crews responded to ensure the safety of fire personnel.

At this time, the fires are 90 percent contained. Schoharie County fires are under control and Unified Command have continued

to concentrate efforts on the Otsego County fires. It has been determined that more than 240 acres were involved; the start of the fires remain under investigation by the NYS Forest Rangers.

Operations will again conclude at 8pm this evening and resume at 8am tomorrow morning

Upcoming George Steele Workshops at Landis

Have you ever had a class with George Steele?

If you have, you know why he's so popular. His excitement about everything in nature is contagious, his knowledge is vast, and he loves to answer questions. Mark your calendar now so you won't miss these experiences, partially funded through a grant from Stewart's Shops Holiday Match Program.

And don't forget that the Arboretum is open for you to enjoy dawn to dusk 365 days a year. For more information in general, email us at info@landisarboretum.org

Annual Spring Hawk Watch & Hawk Identification Workshop
Saturday, Apr 29, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Woodcock Search and Sneak-up
Friday, May 5, 8:30 – 10:00 PM

Morning Bird Walk
Sunday, May 28, 6:00 – 9:00 AM

Moth Watch
Friday, Jun 9, 9:00 -

10:30 PM
Hike to the Waterfalls
Saturday, Jun 24, 2:00 – 3:00 PM

Pond Exploration
Saturday, July 1, 2:00 – 3:30 PM

Summer Nature and Nature Games
Sunday, July 16, 2:00 – 3:30 PM

Herp Hike
Saturday, August 5, 2:00 – 3:30 PM

Full Moon Celebration
August 30, 8:00 – 10:00 PM

Bird Feeder Making Workshop
September 23, 2:00 – 3:30 PM

Full Moon Night Walk
September 29, 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Fall Foliage and Tree Identification Walk
October 8, 2:00 3:30 PM

Annual Halloween Owl Prow
October 28, 7:00 8:30 PM

Forest Ranger News

Statewide Wildfires: From April 11 to 17, Forest Rangers were called to 26 wildfires in 16 counties that burned nearly 1,000 acres of land. The largest fires were in the town of Deerpark in Orange County at 300 acres, and in the town of Richmondville where the fire totaled 241 acres and spanned Otsego and Schoharie counties. In both fires, Forest Rangers worked with New York State Police (NYS) Aviation to perform dozens of bucket

drops. The relationship between Rangers and NYSP pilots is invaluable. Their training and experience make it possible to successfully contain these fires. Rangers coordinated firefighting efforts with State agency partners including the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, Office of Fire Prevention and Control, New York State Parks, Department of Transportation, Office of Emergency Management, dozens of local respon-

ders, volunteer firefighters, and other DEC staff trained in wildland fire suppression. Videos of some of the fires are available on DEC's website.

DEC reminds New Yorkers the annual statewide ban prohibiting residential brush burning began March 16 and runs through May 14. The largest cause of spring brushfires in New York is residential burning. More information is available on the DEC website.

Keep Mohawk Valley Beautiful 22nd Annual Great American Clean-Up

At a joint news conference today with area elected officials, business leaders, community organizations and Keep Mohawk Valley Beautiful (KMVB) - announced that it's launching the "22nd Annual Great American Clean-Up" on Saturday, April 22nd.

Keep Mohawk Valley Beautiful (KMVB), a six-county NYS affiliate of the national Keep America Beautiful (KAB) program. KMVB is a standing committee of the Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Inc. (MVEDD)

KAB works to create sustainable communities that are socially connected, environmentally healthy and economically sound. Their annual cleanup effort is the country's largest community improvement program. Each Spring, KAB affiliates, like KMVB, engage more than 4 million volunteers in more than 20,000 communities nationwide.

Impact: Litter is not simply unpleasant to look at; there are environmental and economic costs to litter that negatively impact local wildlife, public drainage systems, road safety and property values. Last year, over

1,700 volunteers across the Mohawk Valley collectively removed 3,100 bags of litter from parks, roadways, and waterways.

Goal: KMVB is calling on local businesses, residents, and local leaders to register a team to pick up litter and beautify our parks, neighborhoods, and waterways to surpass last year's impressive cleanup results. The 2023 Goal is to exceed 6,000 bags of litter collected! The KMVB cleanup kicks-off on Earth Day, April 22nd. Groups are encouraged to schedule their cleanup anytime between April and July 31st.

Registering your clean up allows KMVB to report the impact of our region's efforts to the KAB national office. When you register, the KMVB team will coordinate your cleanup efforts and provide you with supplies, such as trash bags and gloves. To register your team visit www.mvedd.org/kmnb

Sponsors/Partners: KMVB is currently supported by the Bank of Utica, BME – Business Machines & Equipment, and Standard Insulating Co., and has received generous in-kind sponsor-

ships from Central Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired (CABVI), Northern Safety, PJ Green, NY Sash – CNY Open House and the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority. These sponsors, along with the long-standing support of Positively Rome, the City of Rome, the City of Utica, the CNY Conservancy, the Utica Rotary, the Genesis Group, as well as the Herkimer, Otsego, Schoharie, and Fulton-Montgomery Chamber of Commerce offices, are crucial to the success of this cleanup effort.

To report a site that needs to be cleaned or rehabilitated, email us at info@mvedd.org. You may also follow KMVB on Facebook for additional information. To donate materials, register your team, or access our sponsorship package, visit www.mvedd.org/kmnb call (315) 866-4671 or scan the QR code.



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Note: NYPA is the sole promoter & sponsor of this event. Scan for Info



SUNY Cobleskill Fighting Tiger Weekly Recap

The SUNY Cobleskill baseball team captured five-of-six games during the week including all of their North Atlantic Conference (NAC) Western Division games to move to 13-11 overall on the season including an 8-0 record in league play to remain in first place in their division. The Fighting Tigers opened the week on the road on Tuesday by sweeping their NAC rivals from the SUNY Polytechnic Institute downing the Wildcats by scores of 16-1 and 11-10 prior to returning home on Wednesday to lose a non-conference game to the Hawks of SUNY New Paltz by an 11-4 margin. Cobleskill closed the week by sweeping a weekend conference road series from the Cazenovia College Wildcats winning on Friday 15-5 then sweeping a doubleheader on Saturday by scores of 5-1 and 17-2. Junior outfielder Matthew Snyder, Latham, N.Y., Shaker High School, was the team's catalyst during the week batting .478 for the week with an on-base percentage of .555 while amassing a triple, four doubles, a stolen base, 10 runs scored and seven RBI.

The Fighting Tiger women's golf team opened the spring portion of their schedule in impressive fashion by winning the 2023 Mount Saint Mary's Invitational on Friday posting a team total of 427 to top the three-team field at the event which was held at the par 72-6193-yard Powelton Club in Balmville, N.Y. Senior Olivia Lisi, Marathon, N.Y., Marathon High School, was the team's top finisher at the event firing a round of 24-over-par 96 to place second overall at the event.

The men's lacrosse team took two-of-three games on the week posting a 26-7 non-league road win over The Express of Wells College on Wednesday followed over the weekend by them splitting a pair of NAC home contests losing on Friday to the Terriers of Thomas College by a score of 17-12 then winning on Sunday over the Hornets of Northern Vermont University-Lyndon 21-5 to improve to 7-3 overall including a 2-3 record in league action. The Fighting Tigers were led by senior attackman William Bockhaus, Southampton, N.Y., Southampton High School, who scored 12

goals, passed out 12 assists, picked up 14 ground balls and caused two turnovers on the week.

Junior distance runner Nick Logan, Queensbury, N.Y., Queensbury High School, was the Fighting Tiger men's track & field team's top finisher at the 2023 Cortland Upstate Alternative Invitational on Saturday hosted by SUNY Cortland in Cortland, N.Y. Logan won the 1500-Meter Run in a time of 4:07.44 at the non-scoring qualifying meet.

The men's golf team had a busy week placing third in a field of four teams at the 2023 SUNY Delhi Invitational hosted by the Broncos at The Course at Delhi in Delhi, N.Y. by firing a round of 67-over-par 351 before losing on the road in dual meet action on Friday to the Blue Knights of Mount Saint Mary's College (MSMC) by a 321-to-326 margin. Fighting Tiger first-year player Joshua House, Saratoga Springs, N.Y., Saratoga High School, won individual medalist honors in Friday's dual meet with MSMC by firing a round of five-over par 285 at the par-70-6193-yard Powelton Club in Balmville, N.Y.

Fighting Tiger sophomore multi-event athlete Lilah Ward, Arlington, Vt., Arlington High School, was the women's outdoor track & field team at the 2023 Cortland Upstate Alternative Invitational hosted by SUNY Cortland in Cortland, N.Y. on Saturday. Ward placed second in the 100-Meter Dash in 13.04 seconds, fourth in the 200-Meter Dash in 27.29 seconds and fifth in the High Jump by clearing a height of 4'11" at the non-scoring event.

The Cobleskill softball team lost five-of-six non-

conference games during the week to fall to 4-19 overall on the season including a 0-3 record in conference play. The Fighting Tigers opened the week on Tuesday by taking to the road to lose twice to the Spartans of Castleton University by scores of 10-2 and 5-1 before returning home on Thursday to split a pair of games with the visiting Bears of SUNY Potsdam taking the first game 10-6 then losing the second game 10-4. On Saturday Cobleskill dropped a pair of games to the Wildcats of

Bay Path University by scores of 7-3 and 9-4. Sophomore utility player Olivia DeMott, Sidney, N.Y., Sidney High School, batted .381 for the week with a triple, two doubles, six runs scored and seven runs batted in.

UPCOMING HOME CONTESTS:

Baseball vs. Utica University 4/25, Oneonta 4/25, SUNY Canton 4/29, Keystone College 5/3

Softball vs. SUNY Delhi 4/25, SUNY Canton 4/21 & 4/22,

Lacrosse vs. MCLA 4/19, Cazenovia College 4/24

Delgado Involved in Schoharie County Events

ALBANY / SCHOHARIE — The Lieutenant Governor of New York State is coming to Schoharie County on May 11 to honor our business community and the local Democrats working in the redistricted Congressional District 21. Antonio Delgado has long been interested in helping our rural communities; during his two terms in the U.S. Congress, he served on the Congressional Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Small Business, and the Committee on Infrastructure and Transit.

Back in 2018, Delgado was an inspiring young man from Schenectady running for Congress to represent Schoharie County as part of then-District 19. He had been quite successful in his studies at Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons High School, Colgate University, Queens College Oxford England as a Rhodes Scholar, and Harvard Law School. He chose to use his breadth of understanding and experience for the common good. This is a core Democratic value, to widen the playing field and include everyone who wants to play as long as they play in good faith by the same rules. His strategy relied upon education, science, respect for the laws of the land, a healthy dose of optimism and deep compassion to solve problems, to reach out, including phone-based town halls dur-

ing the early COVID days.

The Schoharie County Democratic Committee (SCDC) worked hard knocking on doors and organizing town halls to help him in the 2018 election cycle, in which he defeated the incumbent, John Faso, by over 7,000 votes. The SCDC worked with him again in 2020 when he defeated candidate Kyle Van Der Water by nearly 40,000 votes.

As indicated in the successful margin of that 2020 contest, people of all party affiliations in the district supported him in his second campaign based on evidence that he actively represented our interests in the confounding halls of the US Congress. He even brought a satellite Congressional Hearing out to our area in order to get first hand testimony on the record, from folks in Schoharie County among others, about how rural broadband could positively impact our rural development whether in farming, business, education or health care. He recognized the issues inherent in recruiting top quality job candidates to an area where there was spotty cell service and slow internet, and how that impacts on the quality of education and health care, even leading to population loss. He pushed the cause because rural communities matter.

Delgado's appearance at

the Chamber of Commerce annual celebration is rooted in this consistent level of commitment to our growth and community well-being. His attendance among the Democrats of Schoharie County demonstrates that he hasn't forgotten all those volunteers working for Democratic values who knocked on doors and gave people information about early voting.

On May 11th our Lieutenant Governor will come to celebrate a strong start to 2023 as featured speaker at the Annual Dinner of the Schoharie County Chamber of Commerce and later that evening at the FDR Banquet of the Schoharie County Democratic Committee. It is no question that many of us have missed seeing him at town halls all over our area, but these events offer opportunities to once again be inspired by that young man from Schenectady. Thank you Antonio Delgado, for keeping your promises, and keeping our rural counties top of mind in your state-wide policy role.

FOR THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENT: For more information and to purchase tickets online, visit <https://schohariechamber.com/annual-dinner/>

FOR THE SCHOHARIE COUNTY DEMOCRATS EVENT: For more information and to purchase tickets online, visit schohariedemocrats.org/

Week Four for Mountain Eagle's Baseball Trivia Contest

It's Week Four for the Mountain Eagle's famous baseball trivia contest!

The first-place winner of the contest will receive two tickets to a Mets or Yankees game this summer. The second-place winner will receive will get two tickets to the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. The third-place winner will get a \$20 gift certificate for Yastrzemski Sports on Main Street in Cooperstown.

Just answer the five questions each week and mail in your answers.

Since we live in New York, the questions will center around the Yankees and Mets. Now we know, in the age of the Internet, you can

Google the answer to almost anything in five seconds, and we can't stop you from doing that. But, TRY, to answer these questions on your own.

This week's questions will focus on Mets' great Tom Seaver;

1. What year did Tim Lincecum debut with the Mets?
2. The Mets' literally picked Tom Seaver's name out of a hat. What two other teams had their names in the hat?
3. Who did Tom Seaver beat for his 300th win in 1985 and what team was he pitching for at the time?
4. When Tom Seaver was traded to the Reds in 1977, what four players did the

Mets get?

5. What team did Tom Seaver last pitch for in 1986?

Answers to last week's questions:

new Yankee Stadium firsts:

1. Who did the Yanks play in the first game on April 16, 2009? The Cleveland Indians
 2. Who won the game? Indians, 10-2.
 3. Who started for the Yankees? CC Sabathia
 4. Who had the first hit in the new Stadium? The Indians' Victor Martinez
 5. Who hit the first home run? Jorge Posada
- Good luck and keep rooting for the "home teams." David Avitabile

NOTICE

A vacancy exists in the Schoharie County Health Department in the positions of

*PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE Starting Salary: \$61,631 – CSEA grade 20 OR

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*Appointment to the position of PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE will be provisional. Permanent appointment will be contingent upon successful completion of a Civil Service examination & becoming reachable on the resulting eligible list.

Candidates interested in being considered for a position must submit an employment application to the Schoharie County Department of Personnel & Civil Service,

284 Main Street, PO Box 675, Schoharie, NY 12157, (e-mail: civilservice@co.schoharie.ny.us) by the close of business on MAY 4, 2023.

Applications may be obtained in the Personnel Office or online at: www.schohariecounty-ny.gov

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Public Health Nurse: Possession of a bachelor's degree in Nursing from a regionally accredited or New York State-registered college or university; and licensure & current registration to practice as a Registered Professional Nurse in New York State.

Registered Professional Nurse: Possession of an associate's degree in Nursing from a regionally accredited or New York State-registered college or university; and licensure & current registration to practice as a Registered Professional Nurse in New York State; and two (2) years of general nursing experience. (Part-time employment can be pro-rated to count towards full-time, based on number of hours worked per week).

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: These positions require extensive travel. Incumbents will be required to possess a valid, appropriate level, New York State operator's license, or otherwise demonstrate the ability to meet the travel needs of the job.

****In accordance with NYS Public Health Law, appointee must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 at time of appointment and provide proof of vaccination status****

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DEC Stocks Millions Of Trout Statewide As Harvest Season Opens



By Jennifer Patterson

Trout fishing season opened on April 1, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is stocking nearly 1.9 million catchable brown and rainbow trout in waters across the state – music to anglers' ears.

The first of the month also marked the opening of harvest season after year-round fishing was green-lit on most streams in 2021, with the implementation of an Oct. 16-March 31 "artificial lures only, catch and release" season.

"Since DEC updated regulations in 2021 to allow a catch-and-release season in the fall and winter months, anglers have the opportunity to fish for inland trout year-round," said DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos. "Even so, April 1 has a special meaning for anglers in New York as the date signifies the start of a season full of promising fishing opportunities."

In Schoharie County,

hundreds of brown and rainbow trout will be released in Fulton's Mallet Pond in May, and hundreds more brown trout have been released into Blenheim's West Kill stream.

Thousands of trout will be released through the first week of June into ponds, streams, creeks, lakes, reservoirs and rivers open to the public in Delaware County. The same is true in Greene and Ulster counties.

Every year, the DEC releases about 900,000 pounds of fish into more than 1,200 public streams, rivers, lakes and ponds to enhance recreational fishing and restore native species to waters they formerly occupied.

Breeding and rearing fish is a big task that requires precise methods and specialized equipment and facilities. There are 12 such DEC fish hatcheries statewide, each specializing in raising one or more species of fish, including brook trout, brown trout, rainbow

trout, lake trout, steelhead, Chinook salmon, Coho salmon, landlocked salmon, walleye, muskellunge and tiger muskellunge.

The fish are stocked with help from County Federated Sportsmen.

If it has been a while since you've been on the water, know that anyone 16 or older needs a New York State fishing license. There are one- or seven-day passes, as well as an annual license for \$25 available online at <https://www.dec.ny.gov> or at many local bait and tackle shops, where important information about what waterways are open and additional regulations are also passed along.

As for some trout catching tips, anglers say that when the waters are cold and high in April, the trout tend to look for live bait.

For information about the DEC's new streamlined annual fishing regulations guide, go to <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7917.html>.

Great Success for KNK Egg Hunt



Family and children of Kayla A. Hitchcock releasing balloons in her loving memory.

By Alexis Pencar

The 2nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt by KNK Landscaping at Sharon Springs Central School this past Saturday, April 15th, was a huge success with perfect weather!

Thousands of eggs were

hidden by volunteers all over the SSCS grounds! Hundreds of children participated and dozens went home with big prizes like bikes, scooters, Easter baskets, and more.

Being so well-organized, the grounds were

split into multiple age groups to ensure everyone would have an equal chance at fun and prizes! There was even a peanut-free section too!

Each child walked away with tons of candy, a picture with the Easter Bunny, a big chocolate bunny, and a huge smile!

Before the Easter Egg hunt started, the family of Kayla A. Hitchcock, including her young children, released balloons at the front of the school in her loving memory.

With beautiful weather to accompany a wonderful family-filled day, this event was such an outstanding display of community! Everyone is already excited for what is to come next year!

A BIG thank you to the organizers and volunteers, especially Ken Kennedy and family!



It was a full house at the school. The Easter bunny greeted local kids.

Worship Night on Campus Sunday

The Cobleskill Christian Club at SUNY Cobleskill is sponsoring a worship night on campus in Bouck Theater from 7:00-8:00 PM on

Sunday, April 23rd. The event is open to the public and free of charge. For more information, contact 518-231-5098.

SCRA Reminder

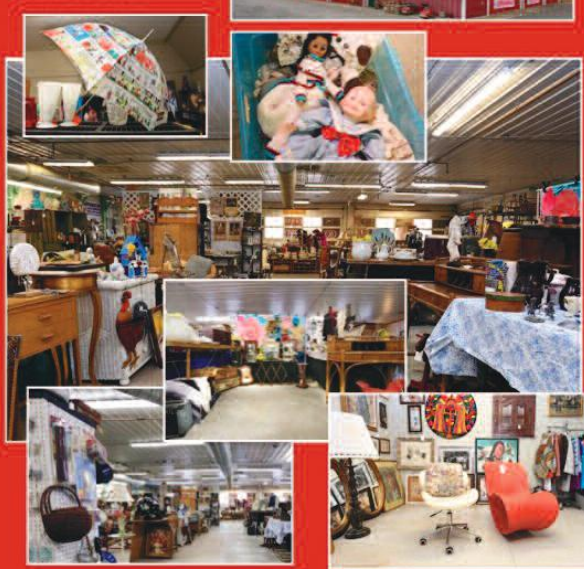
The Schoharie County Retired Teachers Association (SCRTA) is having their spring meeting and luncheon at 10:30 AM on May 17, 2023 at Chieftans in Cobleskill. If you have not already

received registration information, and wish to attend the luncheon, please call President Leslie Hooper (518 827 4754) before May 5 with your contact information.

MUCH MORE LOCAL NEWS IN D - TRI-COUNTY SECTION

DISABLED VET living in Stamford is looking for home health aide. Flexible hours and days. Please call (607) 652-2449.

Flea Market At Howe Caves New York



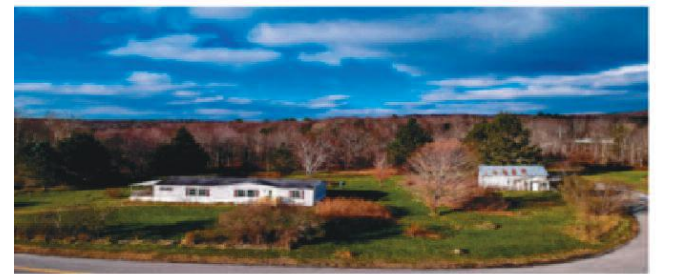
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YOUR LOCAL HAPPENINGS FOR SHARON SPRINGS

Sharon Things

By Alexis Pencar
Hey Neighbors!

What a week of up and down weather! With a few days of record highs in the 70s and one day that reached nearly 80 degrees, it was quite a tease of the warmer weather to come. By Monday the temperatures returned to chilly and wet April norms.

Looks like similar wet weather for the week to come with average highs expected in the 50s and lows in the 30s and 40s.

The Sharon Springs Chamber of Commerce is hosting a "Mother's Day Make A Bouquet" event to kick off the season, followed by the Summer Garden Parties each 2nd Saturdays for June through August! Look out for more information soon!

Village Construction

Construction has continued throughout the Village on the Water & Sewer Project. Use caution on Main Street, Route 20, and Chestnut, look out for large construction vehicles at work!

Brimstone Bakery is open 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Tuesday - Saturday but often has to deal with closures of Chestnut Street, which happened quite a few times this last week. Stop by and visit owner Anthony Leberto for a delicious coffee, pastry, and lunch! If needed, use the alternate route to get there by heading West on Route 20, then a left on Sawmill Road, then follow that back down until meeting back with Chestnut Street, bringing you in from the other direction.

Sharon Springs Free Library

Book Discussion is Friday, 4/21 at 6 pm. "The Department of Rare Books and Special Collections." by Eva Jurczyk. This one will likely engender some discussion as to why we do or don't relate to a particular female

protagonist or an author's choice of words.

Did you know that the Sharon Springs Free Library was founded in 1910 and chartered by the State of New York in 1911? For over 110 years, the library has provided services and continues to do so through its mission, "to operate a circulating library and to provide technological services necessary to the education and intellectual stimulation of the entire community."

The library operates primarily on tax revenue collected for us by the Town of Sharon tax collector. The library has not asked the public for or received an increase in funding since 2014 in spite of significant increases in the costs of utilities, materials and payroll. Our annual fundraising drive has helped, thanks to the generosity of our patrons. And we receive donations at our Annual Book Giveaway and from regular patrons throughout the year. Nevertheless, this year we have realized that in order to continue our services at their current level, we will need to seek an increase in tax revenue. There will be a referendum on the back of the November ballot asking you to vote "Yes" or "No" to an increase in funding for the library. It would amount to an additional \$5.20 per \$100,000 assessment on your home.

The Library Board of Trustees will meet 4/27/23 at 7 pm in the library. Board meetings are always open to the public. Everyone is encouraged to come to learn about and provide input regarding the challenges our library faces today.

Children's Reading Group is on Thursday mornings from 10-11 AM and includes story time, crafts, and a snack for preschool and homeschool children up to third grade.

For more Library information please contact (518) 284-3126.

Worship Services

The Sharon Reformed Church (6858 State Route 10, Sharon Springs, NY 13459) offers weekly service at 10:30 am. Contact at (518) 234-2387 for more details.

The Sharon Springs United Methodist Church (511 State Route 20, Sharon Springs, NY, 13459) offers weekly service at 10:30 am. Contact at (518) 284-2200 for more details.

The St. Thomas The Apostle Catholic Church (24 Maple Avenue, Cherry Valley, NY 13320) offers weekly mass at 10:00 am. Reminder: confession is available 30 minutes before every mass. Contact at (607) 264-3779 for more details.

The Zion St. John's Lutheran Church Seward (114 Mesick Ave, Cobleskill, NY 12043) offers weekly service on Sundays at 9:00 am. Contact at (518) 234-3222 for more details.

Cornerstone Baptist Church (7274 Route 10, Ames, NY 13317). Sunday Service is at 10:00 am. All are welcome. Contact (518) 673 3405 for more details.

Food Pantry

The Sharon Springs Food Pantry is an excellent local resource for all! They are located in the United Methodist Church on Route 20, across from the school (511 US Route 20, Sharon's Springs, NY 13459).

They are always accepting donations! If you or someone you know is in need of the Pantry, the hours are Thursday 9:00 am -10:30 am and 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm.

Senior Congregate Meal Site

Linda Wegner, Sharon Springs Meal Site Manager, invites local residents to enjoy some good company and a noon-time meal year round (except holidays) at the "Spa Ritz" Senior Congregate Meal Site at the Firehouse at 137 Beechwood Rd. M-W-F. All orders for meals must be called into the Schoharie County Office for the Aging at 518-

295-2001 by 2 p.m. for the following day. A suggested donation of \$4 is accepted from those 60 years old and older. Under age 60? You're

welcome to participate for a fee of \$5.

To share community news, upcoming events, business specials, adjusted

hours, birthdays, anniversaries, or even an outstanding resident, please reach out to: (772) 971-1410 or alexis.pencar@gmail.com.



Kimberly Ferstler, Nutrition Educator with Cornell Cooperative Extension, visited the Sharon Springs Free Library on April 15th for a presentation on how to prepare healthy foods. Photo courtesy of Alexis Pencar.

Arbor Day Tree Giveaway

By Alexis Pencar

SHARON SPRINGS — The Village of Sharon Springs will celebrate Arbor Day this year with a Native Tree Giveaway and more! The Village and appointed Tree Board are sponsoring this event in preparation for its upcoming application for Tree City USA.

This Arbor Day celebration is planned for Saturday, April 29th, and Sunday, April 30th from 12:00 pm until 2:00 pm both days at the Sharon Springs Community Building located at 129 Main Street.

Along with the tree giveaway, there will be educational sessions with local Arborist Elliot Adams. Topics will cover tree care, tree identification, pruning, and more! Look out for a fun craft for children too!

Your local reporter for the Sharon Springs area, yours truly, will also be at this event to greet neighbors and pass out complimentary newspapers! Come by and say hello!

The Tree Board will now offer Sand Cherry and Virginia Rose, one each per household! This particular tree and shrub are native to our specific area and will promote new and long-term

growth in the Village.

The Sand Cherry, also known as Prunus pumila, is a small deciduous tree that grows up to 10 feet tall. It is commonly found in sandy soils and can be located in open woods, along roadsides, and in other disturbed areas. The Sand Cherry produces fragrant white or pink flowers in the spring, followed by small red or purple fruit in the summer. These fruits are also a favorite food source for birds and small mammals.

In addition to providing food for wildlife, Sand Cherry is also used in landscaping and erosion control. Its dense root system helps stabilize sandy soils, making it a popular choice for planting along highways and other areas prone to erosion.

Virginia Rose, also known as Rosa virginiana, or common wild rose, is a deciduous shrub that can grow up to 6 feet tall. It is typically found in open woods, meadows, and along roadsides. The Virginia Rose produces fragrant pink or light purple flowers in the spring, followed by small red berries in the fall. These berries are a favorite food for birds and small mammals.

In addition to providing

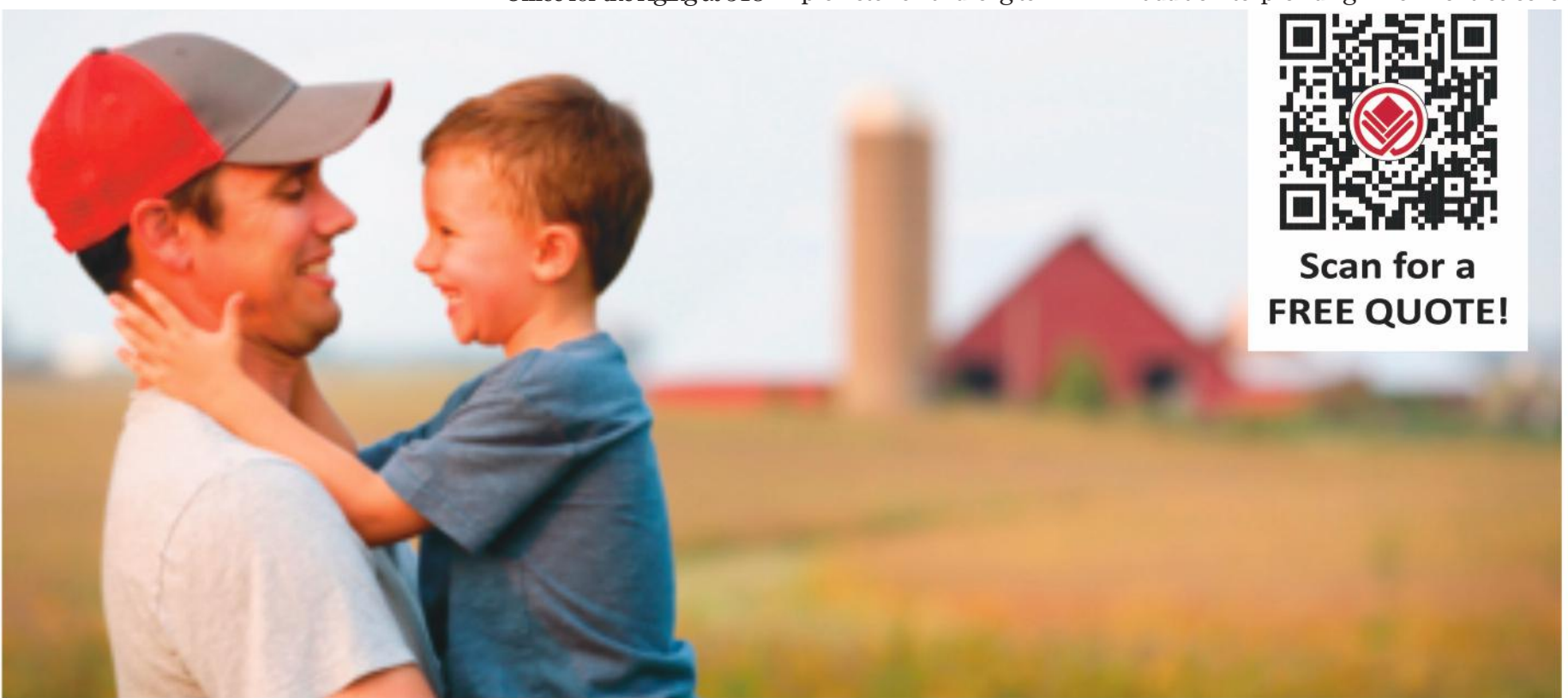
food for wildlife, Virginia Rose also has medicinal properties. The leaves and flowers can be used to make a tea that is said to help relieve diarrhea, sore throat, and other ailments. The plant's roots have also been used to make a poultice for treating bruises and other injuries.

The Sand Cherry and Virginia Rose are important native trees in Upstate New York and provide numerous benefits to the environment, specifically the rocky and steep Village of Sharon Springs.

Since supplies will be limited to a first come first serve basis, there will also be a sign-up sheet for ongoing details on continued events like workshops, family-friendly events, more giveaways, etc.

The Village of Sharon Springs is working towards becoming one of 3,652 other communities that have satisfied the requirements to be called a Tree City. This program is responsible for nearly 1 million trees planted since 1976!

The Tree City USA program, through the Arbor Day Foundation, provides communities with a framework for tree cover.



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Apiary Talk Sets Silver & Gold Sr. Club Abuzz

By Alexis Pencar
 SHARON SPRINGS — Did you know that at the turn of the 20th century, New York was the top honey producer in the United States? Members of the

Sharon Silver & Gold Senior Club learned this and other interesting apiary information at their recent luncheon meeting. Bob Muller from Sun Mountain Apiary on Marcus Road

in the Town of Wright shared an educational display and engaging presentation with the forty individuals in attendance.

"I was fascinated to discover from Bob's presen-

tation that in 1910 Schoharie County was the second largest producer of honey in New York State right behind Seneca County," commented Linda Wegner, Sharon Springs OFA Congregate Meal Site Manager.

Bob manages about 1.35 million native stock bees nestled in a couple dozen hives. In 2020 he went through the testing and inspection process to

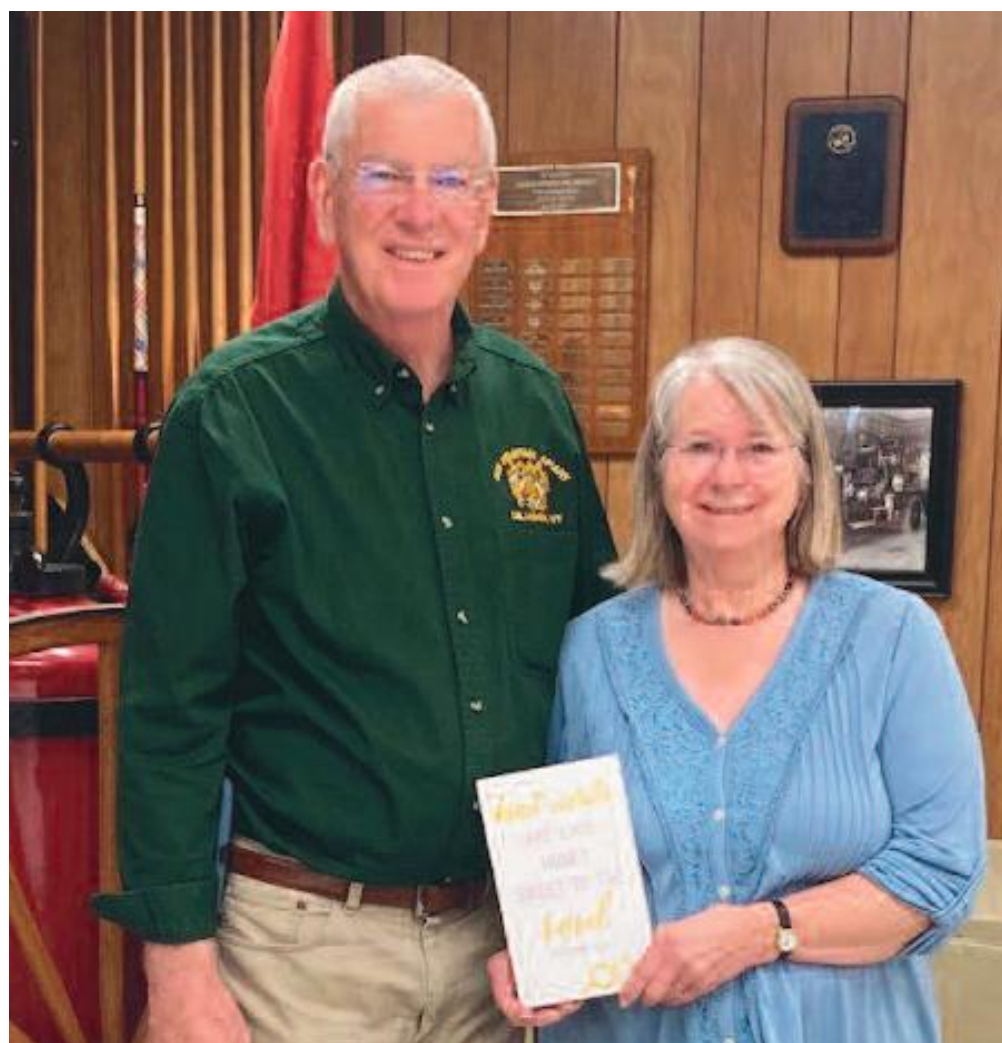
become a "NY Grown and Certified Honey Producer", in fact the only one in the Greater Capital Region.

Bob only uses glass jars to preserve the delicate, unique flavor of pure, raw local honey. His wife Linda helps with honey extraction and creates products of the hive including candles, hand lotions and lip balm.

Sharon Silver & Gold

Senior Club members gather together for a luncheon meeting the second Friday of each month at the Office for the Aging's "Spa Ritz" meal site at the firehouse at 137 Beechwood Road in Sharon Springs. Area seniors interested in more information about the club and its activities should contact

Anne Lennebacker, president, at 607-547-9055.



Above left: Bob and Linda Muller - Sun Mountain Apiary Beekeepers
 Above right: Bob Muller presents a short history of beekeeping to Silver & Gold Senior Club Members

Authors Hour With Susan Fantl Spivack

Schoharie County Arts welcomes Susan Fantl Spivack to the second installment of their Authors Hour, Sunday, May 7 at 2PM at the Jeff Tufano Gallery 548 Main St., Cobleskill, NY.

Ms Spivack is well known for her poetry, writing, and storytelling. On Sunday, she will be reading her poetry. After the reading she will take questions. Refreshments will be served. As Ms Spivack explains "I garden in the earth and cultivate words on paper." For a preview of Ms Spivack's work visit her online blog *Singing Frog Press*, (<https://singingfrog-press.com/>) Authors

Hour is funded in part by Poets & Writers with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

For thirty years Ms. Spivack taught poetry and writing in area schools and told traditional tales and oral histories from many cultures at the Iroquois Museums, Cobleskill Community Library as well as many venues locally. Some of her stories also focus on Jewish tales including those of her own family stories and stories from the Holocaust. Her readings and writ-



ings have included oral histories from World War II, the Chinese Cultural Revolution, and the Nations Civil Rights Movement. With Sweetland Storytellers, she brought "Voices of the Vietnam War," - a program of oral histories - to adult and high school audiences.

Since 1965, her work has appeared in numerous literary magazines and anthologies, includ-

ing *Earth's Daughters*, *Calyx*, *The First and Second Word Thursdays Anthologies* and *Out of the Catskills and Just Beyond*. Her *Singing Frog Press* has published *Times River 2: A Calendar of Poems* and nine other hand sewn collections of poetry. Her chapbook *In the Garden—Poems* (Nov.2013) is available from *Bright Hill Press* (www.brighthill-press.org).

NEW THIS YEAR AT THE CHARLOTTEVILLE SCHOOLHOUSE

• **Crockpot Soup Buffet**, with a variety of homemade soups. Sunday, April 30 from 12 noon to sold out. \$3 for a 12 oz. cup of soup.

• **Spring Crafternoon at the Charlottesville Schoolhouse**. Sunday, April 30th, 12pm-2pm, \$15 per person. All materials and instruction included to Make 'n take three gift cards/treat holders and coordinating greeting cards themed for Mom's Dad's & Grad's. Project samples will be featured on the Charlottesville Schoolhouse facebook page @charlottvilleschoolhouse. Pre-registration required, with payment day of, email for details at csrc641@gmail.com



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Family Support Services

Hi Everyone, There is now a New Family Support Group meeting being held every Monday evening from 5:30 – 7:00pm at Open Arms Recovery Center on Main Street in Schoharie. Everyone is welcome, feel free to join us for some or all of the meeting. We are here to help you and your family navigate the complexities of being and/or loving someone with a Substance Use Disorder. If you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact me. Bushnell.Chrystal@SCCASA518.org
 Cell: (518)605-4180

HELP WANTED

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Cobleskill Town Court seeking a Part Time Court Security Officer.

Approximately 10 to 15 hours per month.

Contact via email at CobleskillTownCourt@nycourts.gov for further details.

Republicans Lay Out 2023 Vision



Sheriff Ron Stevens speaks with Rep. Stefanik. Photos by Bob Duso.



Schoharie Mayor and County Clerk candidate Larry Caza speaks.



Republican candidates line up. Left to right: State Senator Peter Oberacker, Rep. Marc Molinaro, Schoharie Mayor Larry Caza, Assemblyman Chris Tague, coroner candidate Wells Farr, Treasurer Mary Ann Wollaber Bryan, and Rep. Stefanik at last Thursday's well-attended Lincoln Day Dinner hosted by the Schoharie and Greene County Republican Parties. The event was held in Durham's Blackthorn Resort.

BELOW: Dignitaries offer a resolution to Mike Buttino.



County Treasurer Mary Ann Wollaber Bryan spoke to the crowd.



Carlisle, from F8

decided to "pull back their application before completion" for their proposed "370 acre Industrial Solar Facility at 190 Brown Road in the Town of Carlisle". This company has since opted to move up to the State level, working with the NYS Office of Renewable Energy instead.

This Solar Site Plan created huge pushback from residents of Carlisle and Seward, prompting them to form the Schoharie Citizens Against Solar Arrays or Schoharie CASA. This group believes that the

Rock Solar District was accused of attempting to "bypass our local boards and ignore municipal home rules".

The largest concerns from Schoharie CASA are the environmental impacts, including the unknown effects on the unique Karst Aquifer including cave systems under Northern Schoharie County, as well as the long-term negative effects on endangered species like the Northern Long Eared Bat, Blue Jay, and Bald Eagles. One Planning Board member mentioned that "fortunately or unfortunately it is out of our hands" and that there is "no jurisdiction when the State is involved".

Towards the end of the meeting, quite a few residents wanted to make public comments and the Planning Board agreed to listen after arguing that they had "no jurisdiction at this point".

Lynne Bruning of Duaneburg stepped up to speak "as a cautionary tale" to the Planning Board on her negative experience with Oak Hill Solar, which neighbors her property. She went in length to describe and

provide aerial photo evidence on how this project is in disarray and is causing an extreme long-term impact on the area with no clear plans ahead.

After limited environmental impact studies and a fast timeline, this project was on its way, quickly straying from approved building methods, noncompliance with the site plan, and improper maintenance, resulting in eleven 275 feet of solar panels collapsing in December 2022, "the posts have just sunk straight down" indicating a larger structural issue. No repairs have been made since and the Project was recently sold to an international private equity firm in February 2023.

With further examples of the Oak Hill Solar application (2018) avoiding disclosure of a National Wetland Inventory riverine, still present beneath rows and rows of solar panels, not to mention the now \$1,450,000 of mechanic's liens against the property owner, Ms. Bruning gave examples of how these large energy companies are investors and do not have the citizens in mind when constructing these projects.

She continued to mention how educating yourself is the best defense and for the Towns to hire more outside attorneys since there will be more solar plans to come. After this impactful speech, she ended with "Look closer and talk to your neighbors".

A member of the Town Board was present and followed up with the mention of the large incentives for outside solar companies and how the lawsuit of Schoharie County against NYS based

on unfair fixed taxes at 15% for these Solar companies was won but is now nullified by "Page N" allowing them to choose the tax percentage regardless of the town or municipality.

Chairwoman Regelski wrapped up the meeting with a statement that the Office of Renewable Energy is "handling the application going forward". It was also suggested that all interested in this continued topic of solar attend the upcoming Town of Carlisle Board Meeting on May 3rd at 7:00 pm and every first Wednesday of the month.

The Town of Seward, which also holds land interest in the Rock Solar District LLC (Cypress Creek) project, will hold its Town of Seward Board Meeting on May 8th at 6:30 pm and every second Monday of the month.

The mission of the Office of Renewable Energy Siting is to consolidate the environmental review and permitting of major renewable energy facilities in New York State into a single forum that provides a coordinated and timely review of siting permit applications. This process is designed to help meet the State's renewable energy objectives while ensuring the protection of the environment with consideration of all pertinent social, economic, and environmental factors (including environmental justice) while providing opportunities for local government and community participation in the permitting process. Feel free to voice your opinion to the NYS Office of Renewable Energy Siting at (518) 473-4590 or e-mail General@ORES.ny.gov.

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