



The Mountain Eagle

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FRIDAY, February 17, 2023

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Driscoll Takes Over For Eisel In Harpersfield

By Liz Page
HARPERSFIELD – It was a difficult meeting for members of the Harpersfield Town Board last Wednesday as long-

time Supervisor Jim Eisel stepped down, due to health reasons, and the board made some difficult decisions.

Council member Lisa

Driscoll will take over as town supervisor, appointed by her fellow board members. Dwayne Hill was seated as a member of the town council, ap-

pointed to fill Driscoll's council seat.

Eisel's resignation was effective Feb. 17. He has served on the town board for more than

years, most of that time as town supervisor, a job he loves. He also served a number of years as chairman of the Delaware County Board of Super-

visors.

For now, his fellow council members are wishing him speedy recovery as he resigns to look after his health.

Delhi Council Denies Bramley Mountain Fire Tower Contract Members of Public Request Code Officer Be Terminated

By Mary A. Crisafulli
DELHI - Delhi Council members were bombarded by public outcry at a regular meeting on Feb. 13. Several residents respectfully requested town support in resurrecting the Bramley Mountain Fire Tower, while others expressed discontent with Building and Code Enforcement Officer Dale Downin, demanding his immediate dismissal.

The Friends of Bramley Mountain Fire tower have been working to resurrect the original fire tower for several years and have since raised over \$100,000 for the project. The Friends of Bramley Mountain Fire Tower President Anne Roberti said the group would be responsible for the total costs associated with the project, including ongoing maintenance. The Catskill Watershed Corporation agreed to guarantee \$30,000 for deconstruction if needed.

Roberti asked the council to accept the building permit, develop a memorandum of

agreement (MOA) with the group, and work with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on a land use application.

DEP drafted a contract requiring a municipal entity to take responsibility for liability, deconstruction, and other associated needs for the tower if it is to be resurrected on what is DEP-owned property. Council members voted not to sign the contract 3-2 following an executive session with the town attorney. Council members Matthew Krzyston and Christina Viafore voted to move forward with a DEP contract, while council members Margaret Baldwin, William Cairns, and Supervisor Mark Tuthill voted against it.

"I felt the agreement with the City was workable, and it was something that the town should do, especially considering we previously passed a resolution to support the volunteers on this project," Krzyston said after



Friends of Bramley Mountain Fire Tower President Anne Roberti asks Delhi council members to support the resurrection of the tower.

the meeting.

In 2019, council members passed a resolution backing the initiative, which states liability for the tower could be placed on the town's insurance so long as the group completed specific guidelines, including safe erection, permanent reserve account for deconstruction, provide ongoing maintenance, and provide supervision when the tower is open to the public.

"I feel that the volunteers did what they said they would do, but the Town did not," Krzyston continued, "I will keep working with the Friends of Bramley Mountain Fire Tower to move the project forward through other channels."

Following the vote, Baldwin made a motion stating the council supports the group's efforts to resurrect the tower but that the town can not enter into an agreement with the city due to the requirements.

In an interview the following day, Tuthill said, "We would like to see them build it on non-city owned land. There were so many unknowns about cost, control, and what the town would be responsible for." If the group were to pursue resurrection on the walking

paths owned by Delaware Academy Central School District along New York Route 28, the town would support that, he added as a suggested alternative.

After hearing about the town's decision, Delaware County Economic Development Director Glenn Nealis said the project could have been completed this year if the contract had been signed. "From a tourism perspective, it is a great idea," he said, "Everyone goes to the Adirondacks to hike fire towers, it's really popular." According to Nealis, the group can seek municipal support from Bovina, which borders the mountain or the county.

During public comment, Laurie Rankin, director of NYS chapter of forest fire lookout association, informed the council of other fire tower restoration projects which have been ongoing for 25 years in the Catskill region. Over 50 towers have been restored throughout the state since the 1990s with the help of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Rankin said she is unaware of any accidents or injuries at the restored Catskill towers over the 25 years. The structure

will benefit residents by providing a new recreational source, improving health through hiking, and being a multi-faceted educational resource for school districts.

Group board member John Sandman, and Catskill Mountain Club board member, said the Bramley Mountain Trail draws over 3,300 hikers annually and is estimated to draw around 10,000 if the tower is erected. Based on statistics from the Economic Valuation Study for Public Lands in the Central Catskills, Sandman estimates the tower could bring over \$400,000 in visitor spending to Delaware County annually. "The fire tower will, no doubt, provide a huge economic benefit to the Town of Delhi," he concluded.

Other public concerns addressed during the comment period were regarding Delhi Code Enforcement Officer Dale Downin.

Dirt Road Camp owner Brad Lockwood and local welder Richard Ambrose requested Downin's immediate dismissal due to building permit concerns at the camp.

The camp was ordered to shut down by New York State Department of Health and the town during the summer of 2022. The camp was operating without proper permits, Downin said. There have since been several planning committee discussions regarding the paperwork needed for Lock-

wood to gain appropriate permitting and re-open.

The situation has become a "personal vendetta," said Ambrose. The code violations were based on false claims, and Downin has "grotesquely abused rights by failing to file proper paperwork and unjustly shutting down the camp," he said. Ambrose added that he would not subcontract with any projects in the Delhi area due to untimely paperwork, which delays projects.

"He (Downin) does not provide paperwork, respond, and if you only listen to one, then it can get skewed. There are issues we are working on. I am happy with everything that Dale is doing as code enforcement officer."

Later during the town meeting, Tuthill said, "There are two sides to everything, and if you only listen to one, then it can get skewed. There are issues we are working on. I am happy with everything that Dale is doing as code enforcement officer."

In other business: The clerk will advertise bids for mowing the pool, playground, town hall, and garage.

Code enforcement issued three building permits, conducted nine inspections, and six conferences, issued one certificate of compliance, and drove 88 miles in January.

The next Delhi council meeting is scheduled Mar. 13, at 7 p.m.

Pistol League Scores

Team and High Individual Match Scores 02/10/2023 Match XVI:

Oneonta defeats Rockdale: 1083-14X to 1053-11X

Stamford defeated Delhi: 1090-9X to 1061-11X

Top shooters for Stamford were: Gus Mueller 280-3X; Cliff Christman 271-5X; Larry VanDeusen 271-0X; and John Wyckoff 268-1X

Also shooting for Stamford were: Steve Baker, Maynard Vance, Brian Righi, Ric Cammer, Mark Gifford, and Bill DeSilva

High Scores for Delhi were: Kevin Gutliph 269-3X; Fred Stanton 268-4X; Mabel Gutliph 266-4X; and Bob Anderson 258-0X

Other Delhi shooters were: Dennis Klimowski and Fred Robertson

Walton beat Sidney: 1079-9X to 938-5X

Win/Loss Record:

Stamford:	16-0
Walton:	12-3
Oneonta:	7-9
Rockdale:	5-10
Sidney:	4-11
Delhi:	2-13

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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Obituaries Marcello Dianich



Marcello Dianich, 93, of Jamaica NY sadly left us on February 9, 2023 with family at his side.

He was born in Valdarsa, Italy to Marcello and Luiga Dianich and was the oldest sibling of 4.

Marcello worked many years on cargo ships sending money back to his family in Italy and eventually immigrated to the U.S. He found work in the restaurant industry and with his love for cooking worked his way up to a Chef posi-

tion at the Waldorf-Astoria while living with his brothers in lower Manhattan. He retired after many years as a Head Chef at Danny's Hide A Way in Manhattan which was his most favorite place to work.

He bought a house in Jamaica Queens from his brother with a big backyard where he loved gardening and took pride in his garden and huge grapevines and making his own wine. Marcello talked to his sister in Italy often and visited when he could and came upstate to Stamford to see his brothers as well as his niece and nephews and family.

Surviving is his sister: Alma Arcese and family in Italy; his sister-in-law: Maria Dianich; nieces and nephews: Michael Dianich and family, Dorine Muller

and family, Anthony Dianich and family, Joe Dianich and family; along with Robert Oates of Jamaica Queens who was his longtime friend and caregiver.

He was predeceased by his brother Silvio Dianich of Stamford and most recently his brother Guerrino Dianich of Stamford, and his lifelong companion Irene Hlinka of Jamaica Queens.

Calling hours are on Saturday, February 18, 2023 from 9:30-11:30 am at the MacArthur Funeral Home, 15 Buntline Drive, Stamford, NY. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 12noon on Saturday at Sacred Heart Church, Stamford.

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

Negotiations for City Land Easements Continue DelCo Representatives Push for Reduction of Easement Provisions

By Mary A. Crisafulli

DELHI - Delaware County Planning Director Shelly Johnson-Bennett reported on ongoing negotiations regarding recently approved New York State Department of Health (DOH) revisions to the New York City Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD) agreement at a committee meeting on Feb. 9.

After several Delaware and Catskill watershed stakeholders opposed the initial draft revisions, DOH finalized the FAD agreement requiring DEP to continue negotiations with stakeholders to address concerns. Opposition primarily focused on DEP's land and streamside acquisition programs, which are not directly mandated by FAD. According to stakeholders, acquisition programs cause economic concerns, as they prevent construction on such land due to conservation easements.

According to Johnson-Bennett, a primary goal is to adjust land easement language to include the ability to construct utilities. According to Johnson-Bennett, city representatives are in agreement with the language adjustment. Johnson-Bennett hopes to encourage proposed solar or wind turbine farms to be constructed on city-owned lands, which could preserve other agriculturally viable lands.

Stakeholders will also request a reduction of the total allowable solicitation and acquisition of acres. The previous agreement allowed for up to 50,000 acres of solicitation plans annually. Stakeholders are expected to request no more than 500 acres be acquired by the city per year West of the Hudson Watershed, said Johnson-Bennett.

Representatives from Delaware County's planning department, soil and water conservation district, and legal council will attend negotiations.

In another discussion, Johnson-Bennett reported the department is exploring the 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act and its impacts on local municipalities. Possible concerns include revisions to solid waste management procedures and affordable housing goals.

According to Johnson-Bennett, Governor Cathy Hochul's proposal to develop 100,000 climate-friendly affordable homes in urban and rural communities needs to be better informed. The initiative does not consider local zoning codes or the lack of such regulations in upstate New York and instead violates the constitution's home rule, she said. In addition, she continued, affordable housing is not the main issue in rural communities; instead, they require workforce housing.

Another possible concern for the county is the general goal for zero emissions, which will require homeowners to rely on electricity in their homes, Johnson-Bennett continued. During the last severe weather event, she explained that electric companies had difficulty reaching and repairing all the downed poles in the county due to rough road conditions. Delaware County does not have places for people to shelter as a city would, and if they are relying on electric heat, it could leave many of our aging population freezing

to death, she said. The department will continue to review legislation for possible concerns.

In another discussion, Johnson-Bennett reported continued planning for the upcoming IRT medical services event scheduled for July in Walton. United States Military personnel will be stationed in the county to provide medical services, including dental, vision, well checks, optometry, behavioral health, and veterinarian services. All medical assistance received will be free of charge for county residents, with no income level requirements. The team is currently working to secure equipment for pet neutering so the service can be offered. They are also working on planning a thank-you dinner for military personnel and assuring local business involvement. The hope, said Johnson-Bennett, is that military personnel working the event "fall in love with Delaware County and want to come back to live or raise families."

The next planning committee meeting is scheduled Thursday, Mar. 9, at 1 p.m.

Cobleskill Woman Arrested Following Crash in Stolen Vehicle Investigation

On February 10, State Police of Princetown arrested Jessica L. Glass, 31, of Cobleskill, for Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fourth Degree, Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, Criminal Mischief in the Fourth Degree, Unlawful Fleeing a Police Officer in a Motor Vehicle, Reckless Driving and other Vehicle and Traffic Law Violations.

On February 10, at about 2:11 a.m. Troopers were dispatched to the Stewarts Shop on West Main Street in Cobleskill, for a 911 call, reporting that a vehicle had just been stolen from the location. While enroute, Troopers located a vehicle matching the description of the stolen vehicle being operated on State Route 145 near Keyser Road and initiated a traffic stop. The operator, later identified as Glass, failed

to comply. Troopers pursued the vehicle until it crashed in the area of Cliff Street in Middleburgh, NY. Glass was taken into custody uninjured, and the vehicle was recovered.

Glass was transported to SP Cobleskill for processing. She was arraigned at the Cobleskill Town Court and released on her own recognizance.

Bronx Resident Arrested in Delhi

Delhi - Today, Sheriff Craig S. DuMond announced the arrest of a Bronx resident for driving with a suspended registration.

On Friday night, February 10th, 2023, Sheriff's Deputies were patrolling on Meredith Street in the Village of Delhi when the Deputy received a hit on their License Plate Reader of a vehicle with a Suspended Registration. Upon conducting a traffic stop, Deputies identified the driver of the vehicle as 42 year-old Katara Bush of Bronx, NY. A check of Bush's vehicle registration was in fact suspended, due to Insurance Lapse, Insurance Not in Effect as well as Violation of Toll Regulations in the State of New York.

Deputies subsequently arrested Bush and issued her uniformed traffic tickets for Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended/Revoked Registration, an unclassified misdemeanor, and Obstructed View, an infraction of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law. Bush 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.

Bovina Council Concerned With NYS Building & Construction Requirements Towns could lose code enforcement authority if local laws are not passed

By Mary A. Crisafulli

BOVINA - Bovina council members were advised by the town attorney Alison Davidson on Feb. 14 following a public hearing regarding proposed amendments to the local law regarding state uniform building and construction code.

Local municipalities have authority to create and enforce building, construction, and fire codes provided they adhere to New York State minimum standards, referred to as the uniform code. The state revised the uniform code in 2020 following the goals mandated in its 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. Municipalities were given until Dec. 31, 2022, to revise local code enforcement laws to meet the state's new minimum standards. If local towns refuse to adopt the minimum requirements, they will be deemed unfit to oversee the code and the responsibility falls to the county. If the county does not assume the standards, the authority to enforce and develop code will fall to the state. Essentially municipalities have no choice but to adopt the standards or release local power to the state.

Councilmember Dominic Gullow had several questions regarding the effects of amendments on local farmers. One amendment includes a requirement for any high-piled combustible item storage of over 500 square feet to have a permit. Every sap house has the wood over this amount, are they required to get a permit, he asked.

Davidson will explore what protections farmers have from amendments due to the Right to Farm Act.

According to Davidson, Code Enforcement Officer Dale Downin has already applied the new uniform code to permit applications. Davidson added that the new implementations place an increased workload on local enforcement officers.

Supervisor Tina Molé asked for additional comments from Downin regarding the revisions to be obtained. "My concern is that this is opening the door for additional requirements or restrictions as a broader mission of the state." Molé also suggested reaching out to surrounding town officials to see if there is a common position to be taken.

As advised by Davidson, Bovina council members unanimously voted to table the law's adoption until more information is gathered. According to Davidson, several municipalities still need to adopt such amendments and are still reviewing them.

In another discussion, the council appointed members to the recently developed committee to update the comprehensive plan. Following an executive session, council members Donna Dickson Noonan and Marni Greenberg were appointed, along with Don Farley and Chris Ingvordsen, as planning board representatives. Residents Shannon Shoemaker, Matthew Homeijer, Jillienne LaFever, Faith Burns, and Bonnie Denison were also appointed to the committee.

In other business: Kristin Janke Scheider was appointed to the planning board.

Dubbins estimated to replace the 30-year-old heating system at the community hall at approximately \$85,000. The estimate was cheaper than anticipated due to moving to a one-furnace system rather than two.

The next Bovina Council meeting is scheduled Tuesday, Mar. 14, at 6 p.m.

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DuMond Elected 1st VP of NYS Sheriff's Association

Albany – Delaware County Sheriff Craig S. DuMond was elected 1st Vice President of the New York State Sheriff's Association during the Sheriffs Winter Conference held in Albany. As 1st Vice President, Sheriff DuMond will assist Albany County Sheriff Craig Apple, President of the Association, as well as the executive staff, with leading the association in 2023.

In addition to serving as 1st Vice President, Sheriff DuMond also serves on several committees to include the Executive, Legislative,

Jail, and Standards, Goals and Ethics Committees respectfully.

Sheriff DuMond is also actively involved in the National Sheriffs Association, recently attending the National Conference in Washington DC, where he serves on the Government Affairs, Drug Enforcement, School Safety and Security and Animal Abuse and Cruelty Committees.

Speaking on his election to 1st Vice President, Sheriff DuMond remarked, "I'm so humbled and honored to have the confidence of my fellow Sheriff's from across New



Above left: Sheriff DuMond and Peter Kehoe, Executive Director, NYS Sheriff's Association
Above right: State Supreme Court Justice Thomas Marcelle and Sheriff DuMond



York State. I promise to support as well as honor the historic Office of Sheriff, the New York and the people of State Sheriff Association, Delaware County.

ARPA Committee Hears Project Updates Additional \$50K Received

By Mary A. Crisafulli

DELHI - Delaware County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Committee members heard updates on various projects they allocated money for on Feb. 14. Delaware County received approximately \$8.5 million in ARPA funding.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Senior Team Leader Dale Dewing presented updates on the farm enhancement grant program. Supervisors awarded \$1 million in ARPA funds for the project to combat issues due to the pandemic, which disrupted agricultural markets.

Qualifying farms could request grants of up to \$5,000 for crop production costs or up to \$25,000 for improvement projects. Out of 108 applications, 49 farm projects were funded across the county, including 44 dairy, 25 livestock, six vegetable, six maple, and four other farms.

"There is a fair amount of diversity among farmers," said Dewing. Several innovative farms, such as mushroom and fish farms, surprised Dewing.

Some projects that were awarded funding have the potential to receive funding from a John Mills grant program in Cooperstown, he explained, and those farmers were required to apply for funding there before receiving disbursement. If such farms are funded through that grant, Dewing said, the program will be able to re-

locate those funds.

Delhi Mayor Sridhar Samudrala presented updates on two village-funded projects. The village was awarded \$15,000 to install 100 feet of safety fencing in Reservoir Park on Franklin Street and \$20,000 for improving the shooting range on J. Small Range Road.

Approximately \$4,800 in funds have been spent for Reservoir Park to install fencing along cliff sides. Samudrala presented the committee with before and after photos. He reported that the remaining funding would be used to install fencing along the roadway entrance.

Other work planned for the park is the removal of knotweed, which has begun, and installation of an entrance gate and safety signage. Samudrala requested additional funding for benches and park chairs, which committee members did not discuss.

Samudrala also requested an additional \$25,000 to improve the shooting range further. "We are getting a tremendous amount of requests for use," he said.

Funds were allocated to complete improvements to the instruction classroom and materials to construct a 12' by 24' outdoor pavilion for shooting in inclement weather. To date, \$11,738 in funding has been spent. The project is estimated to be completed in March.

The original request for the shooting range was \$10,000 until Joe Cetta, Walton supervisor, suggested raising the award, believing it was underestimated.

The project proposal indicated the need was due to anticipated increased use of the facility due to a recent change in New York State legislation which took effect in September; said Colchester Supervisor Arthur Merrill.

The bill, which relates to licensing and firearm provisions, requires all pistol permit applicants to complete an 18-hour introductory training course and a refresher every three years.

The Delhi facility is utilized by the general public and several police units within and outside the county.

Committee members did not appear to agree the project required additional funding at this time.

Information and Technology Director Joe de Mauro said of the \$2.6 million allocated for a network and phone system update, approximately \$28,000 remains unspent. The project is about 90% complete, with a few network switches still needing installation at the three Department of Public Works facilities recently constructed in Delhi, Walton, and Bloomville. Once the team has had time to address

any issues with the network update, the phone system will be updated, he reported.

Economic Development Director Glenn Nealis reported on the 'train-to-work' program, which was allocated roughly \$350,000 in ARPA funds. The program supports local businesses that have struggled to fill jobs during the pandemic by reimbursing employers 50% of wages paid while training new hires. The program has established 64 contracts with approximately 35 individual businesses. Of the 64 employee contracts, about one-third end up quitting, said Nealis, which is a struggle for the

program. However, Nealis said the program has been very beneficial for those businesses taking advantage. "It helps them take the leap with hiring," he said.

In other business, the committee approved the re-allocation of \$17,899 to the ARPA general fund initially allocated for premium pay for county employees who went uncompensated for extra time worked during the pandemic. The committee also accepted \$50,000 in additional ARPA funds from the state and is expected to receive another \$50,000.

The next ARPA committee meeting is scheduled Tuesday, May 9, at 1 p.m.

State to Discontinue County Share of Federal Medicaid Funds

Trying to Steal our Money, Commissioner Says

By Mary A. Crisafulli

DELHI - Delaware County Social Services Commissioner Sylvia Armano requested supervisors pass a resolution asking New York State to continue dispersing county share of Affordable Care Act Enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance (ACA) funds at a social services committee meeting on Feb. 13.

Governor Cathy Hochel proposed that the state retain all ACA funding, leaving Delaware County's 2023 budget for Medicaid short by approximately \$1 million. NYS Medicaid qualifications were also recently expanded, increasing the number of individuals that can receive Medicaid.

Director of Fiscal Management William Bryden said the state is six years behind on reconciliations for ACA and owes the

county approximately \$2.5 million.

Armano believes the proposal to retain ACA funding will release the state from dispersing back payments and leave the county short of future financing. "It looks like they are trying to steal money from us," she said.

The federal proposal would require 57 counties to spend approximately \$280 million and roughly \$1 billion when the city is included in calculations.

The resolution states, "It is the strong view of Delaware County that congress intended these federal savings to be shared with counties proportional to the amount they contributed toward the non federal Medicaid match."

Supervisors will vote on the resolution at their next meeting on Feb. 22. Bryden will attend the

meeting to answer any supervisor questions.

Hamden Supervisor Wayne Marshfield, committee chairperson, expects supervisors to pass the resolution.

In another discussion, Veterans Services Director Charles Piper reported veterans in suicidal crisis are eligible, as of January 2023, to receive free emergency health care from any facility. The eligibility includes those individuals who were discharged or released from active services under conditions other than dishonorable. According to Piper, veterans services are working to create several strategies for suicide prevention. An essential aspect of the initiative, he said, is

community awareness.

Piper also reported concerns with the veterans services adjustment in disability payments made years prior. To save funding, veterans receiving disability 40% or lower than their retirement benefits will see that amount subtracted from their retirement payments. For example, Piper said, an individual that received \$500 in disability and \$2,000 in retirement now receives \$1,500 in retirement. Piper predicts that congress will fight this adjustment and force the VA to return to the previous payment plan.

The next social services committee meeting is scheduled Monday, Mar. 20, at 9:30 a.m.

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Letters to the Editor

Supervisor Questions

To the Editor:
Thank you for your ongoing coverage of the Board of Supervisors' decisions and actions regarding Dr. Amy Gildemeister. Since you have stated that you are planning more in-depth coverage, I would like to suggest a few questions to be posed to the supervisors:

What is the reason for refusing to renew her contract?

Her highest priority has been the health and welfare of county residents. Since it seems you are at odds with that, what are your priorities? What is more important than keeping us all safe and healthy?

Without a well-qualified person leading the Healthy Department, how are residents and visitors supposed to feel confident in the safety of our restaurants and shops?

Why are you undermining the efforts to attract new businesses and tourists?

How do you expect to find well-qualified applicants for the position? Who would want to work for a Board that creates a hostile work environment?

I will read next week's edition with interest and look for their answers to these questions.

Thank you.
Sincerely,

Betsy Meredith
Schoharie

Firearms Corner - Facts Vs. Misinformation

By Richard Rossi - NRA Certified, Pistol, Rifle, Shotgun and Personal Protection in the Home Instructor

In recent weeks, I have heard some very disturbing suggestions involving firearms usage involving self defense.

Also with crime on the rise around the country - more Law-abiding individuals are purchasing firearms for self protection as is their RIGHT under the Second Amendment of our Bill of Rights. However, with this "RIGHT" - you do have grave Responsibilities for your actions with any firearms.

The comments came for two politicians - our President Joe Biden and NYC Mayor Eric Adams. Let me be perfectly clear - DO NOT follow either of their suggestions - it will result in legal ramifications, possibly prison time or your bodily injury.

President Biden was speaking about his Assault Ban proposal and personal protection in your home. However, his advice was absolutely disturbing and completely illegal. His suggestion was to to his wife Jill: IF THERE'S EVER A PROB-

LEM, JUST WALK OUT ON THE BALCONY HERE, AND FIRE TWO BLASTS IN THE AIR WITH THAT DOUBLE-BARREL SHOTGUN.

Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES, should you fire a weapon to scare someone in the air or as warning shots in the ground. When you discharge your firearm in a self-defense scenario - you better have fear for your life or someone else - personal property does not qualify. The use of deadly force is a serious matter and will be scrutinized carefully by the authorities.

As a reminder, we live in New York State - You are and will be unfortunately considered guilty until you prove yourself innocent.

This brings me to the second comment that both President Biden and Mayor Eric Adams stated; Just "shoot to wound - never shoot to kill." This comment was made concerning police officers shootings, as well as implications for Law-abiding citizens in a Self Defense scenario.

Another bad idea.... DO NOT DO THIS EITHER. It might get you killed or gravely injured or raise issues involving the use of deadly force in a self defense scenario.

Normally when police officers draw their weapons, it is because they are in fear for their life or bystanders on the scene. The same standard will apply to a citizen in a Citizens Self Defense scenario. Under the assumption that you are in fear for your life or someone else's, which is basically the ONLY VALID REASON to use "DEADLY FORCE" - a firearm. Why would you hope wounding the attacker will stop the aggression? The main purpose at this point in firing is to STOP THE THREAT. Shooting to just wound the individual(s) under a high stress scenario is extremely hard to hit your assailant's leg or arm - a non lethal body part.

Furthermore, will that stop the aggression and bodily injury to you or the individual you are attempting to protect? Shooting at BODY MASS, which can be deadly, is a bigger target area; therefore, you have less possibility of your "SHOT" missing your intended target area and hurting an innocent bystander!!

Things to REMEMBER and definitely keep in mind - you will be required to defend your actions after the shooting to the police and/or the DA. You as the shooter are responsible for every bullet you fire and where it ultimately stops and why you made the decisions you did.

You must prove, you had justification to use deadly force and felt that your life was in grave danger or

someone else's. "Waring shots" don't indicate fear for your life - under the law. "Shooting to wound" someone, may also be challenged by the defense, as you were not in reasonable fear for your life OR you would have shot to stop the aggression immediately. You had other choices!!!

This is my personal opinion as I am not a lawyer.

Richard Rossi
Denver, NY

Proposed Dollar General in the Town of Wright

The Town of Wright is idyllic. The Fox Creek, a Class A trout stream, bubbles through the countryside between farmlands with soil as rich as the history, where soldiers were fed by the "breadbasket of the Revolution." The Becker Farm is one such historical farm; a 1782 battle was fought right on this property. It's also on the State and National Historical Registry for Historic Farmlands, just another reminder of the far-reaching importance of this little town.

But to Dollar General and Bohler Engineering, the Town of Wright is just another low-income community where they can maximize their profits. Their 10K shareholder report makes it clear that this is the only value they see in our quiet, rural area. In fact, it's how they see much of the surrounding area. There are already five other Dollar

General stores within 15 minutes of this proposed location. The location currently being proposed, along route 443 in the Town of Wright, is an irresponsible choice by Bohler Engineering and Dollar General for a number of reasons.

The Schoharie County Planning Board has said that they feel a long form environmental and DOT survey should be completed to make sure all impact reports are done in more detail before the Town of Wright Planning Board makes a final decision. Even before this is complete, however, there are a number of issues that citizens of the Town of Wright should be concerned about.

In addition to the cost to our town's rich history, there is a human cost that must be considered. First of all, labeling this area as "low income" lowers the overall value of our community. Dollar General will not add any additional value, either. It will swallow up potential profits from locally owned and operated small businesses, eventually forcing them to close. These are our neighbors, working hard to provide us services. Dollar General may offer some low-quality products at a discounted price, but is that reason enough to invite this predatory company to our town to put our friends out of business? They claim that we'll get a major influx of cash from the sales tax revenue, but that claim is unfounded. In reality, we could be lucky to get a few hun-

dred dollars total. There's no guarantee Dollar General will bring the town substantial income, but I guarantee that it will change our quality of life here.

The Town of Wright Comprehensive Plan has also identified several major environmental concerns. The proposed site is considered Farmland of Statewide Importance based on the soil types present and is also considered Town of Wright Prime Farmland. Groundwater aquifers are the main source of drinking water for our community and serve as sources of water for animals and plants in the area, too. The characteristic limestone in this area is very porous. That means any chemicals and toxins released into the environment throughout this process will be absorbed and will leech into our water. Additional contamination can occur due to the impervious paving material that will be used. This material will cause increased stormwater runoff, which will bring with it any chemicals used on the parking lot, in the surrounding roads, or in any commercial activities. In addition, Dollar General has mentioned that they plan to remove vegetation along an existing federally designated wetland to make settling ponds. Impeding the wetlands as they work to store water and release it slowly just adds to the risk of rapid erosion and flooding in the surrounding areas. This disregard for the careful natural

balance of the ecosystem puts us all at risk.

Another cherished inhabitant of our town that Dollar General intends to put at risk is the endangered northern long-eared bat. Their roosting and feeding habitat at the edge of the wetlands is part of the targeted area from which Dollar General callously plans to remove vegetation, disrupt natural water flow, and increase the risk of flooding. To add to these challenges for our region's animal life, there's been no consideration for the impact of artificial light at night on all the surrounding species. Studies have shown that plant and animal behavior is disrupted by this constant light throwing off their natural rhythms. Foraging, orientation, migration, mating, and colonization can all be impacted by the lights that Dollar General plans to leave on 24 hours a day, every day.

The majority of us who live around this proposed store location are against this plan and are speaking up to make it clear. But anyone who lives in the Town of Wright and sees the peril our community is in should feel free to join us at the Town of Wright Planning Board meetings on the third Thursday of every month. We need to come together to stop corporate greed ruining the peaceful, small-town, rural life we hold dear.

Frank Weber
Wright

Delaware County Chief Assistant DA Welcomed

DELHI - Delaware County Acting District Attorney Shawn J. Smith welcomed David Rikard, of Roxbury, as chief assistant district attorney on Monday, Feb. 6. Rikard will be responsible for prosecution in Roxbury, Stamford, Middletown, Davenport, South Kortright, Delhi, and Harpersfield town courts. Prosecuting duties include traffic violations, violation-level offenses, misdemeanors, and DWIs. Rikard will work with felony offenses through arraignment if pending in local court.

Rikard, who studied law at Syracuse University Law School in Syracuse, has over 30 years of experience in court. "I like to approach each case with compassion and fairness while looking for the best result justice calls for under the law,"



said Rikard.

Rikard moved back to Delaware County from Prattville, Greene County, where he served as town justice for nine years. Rikard was raised on a farm on Johnson Hollow in the Town of Roxbury and after serv-

ing in the military and attending law school he practiced law in Albany and Greene counties. Rikard has experience in civil litigation and criminal defense.

When Smith reached out to Rikard with a job proposal, the orientation process was intriguing to him. "There is a large drug problem in Delaware County," he said, "Working to fight the addiction issues

seemed like a good career move for me."

"I am thankful to have Rikard join our team, he has a wealth of knowledge as a former criminal defense attorney and judge," said Smith, "Rikard will be a great benefit to us and Delaware County residents."

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Dr. Joanne Shelmidine, Interim Superintendent
ROXBURY CENTRAL SCHOOL
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THE SCHOHARIE NEWS

YOUR CHOICES FOR SCHOHARIE MASCOT BASKETBALL, MUSIC PHOTOS

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

Volume 8, No. 7 mountaineaglenews@gmail.com FRIDAY February 17, 2023 518-763-6854 \$1.00

Schoharie County Person of the Year: Jean Cain

By Timothy Knight
MIDDLEBURGH - For as long as I have been alive, there has been one constant at the Joint Recreation Commission's (JRC) summer programming for youth in the Village of Middleburgh: Youth Director Jean Cain.

A quiet, caring woman who would rather others receive accolades and accommodations before herself, she embodies the characteristics and qualities of a community leader. Unafraid to sacrifice both her time and talents to ensure the Village Pool, tennis, open gym, band concerts, and arts & crafts programs run smoothly, Mrs. Cain has remarked in the past to me that she gets as much out of helping our community's youth as they do from partaking in the JRC's activities.

Michael Wilkens, a former

Town of Middleburgh Councilman and current Vice-President of the JRC, stated that "There is nobody more deserving of this award than Jean." He added, "Jean is the definition of dedication." "Anyone that has visited the community pool, taken their children to swimming lessons or summer recreational activities sponsored by the JRC, or been to a summer band concert has surely seen Jean hard at work overseeing the events and supervising employees," explained Mr. Wilkens.

He continued, "What they may not have seen, however, is the day in and day out dedication and passion that she has shown in her position as Youth Director of the Middleburgh Joint Recreation Commission. During the summer, when the community pool is open and we have open gym and other activities taking place at the High School, Jean starts her day early in the morning and continues working with our youth

throughout the day and many times well into the evening."

Mr. Wilkens concluded his remarks about Mrs. Cain by saying, "It's a rare occasion for Jean to take even one day off throughout the entire summer. This isn't just a job to Jean, this is her passion. She's been an incredible role model for our youth and we're very fortunate to have had her working with our children and our community for the past 31 years."

His comments were echoed by Village of Middleburgh Clerk Melanie Laraway, who remarked that "Jean Cain's dedication to our community has probably touched parents, children and grandchildren over decades. She is not only director of our youth program, but a keeper of our children's welfare and safety. I wish the public could see all the time and energy Jean puts into our youth."

Mrs. Laraway added, "Thank you Jean for all you

have done over the years, you are irreplaceable."

Courtney Mooney, a former lifeguard under the supervision of Mrs. Cain and presently a JRC member representing the Village, commented that "Jean is a wonderful human being - she always puts others before herself. She's taken many kids under her wing at the pool, helping give them a safe place to have fun during the summers."

"Jean also makes a fantastic peanut butter pie!!" remarked Ms. Mooney.

Village of Middleburgh Mayor Trish Bergan noted, "She's our longest serving Village employee."

She continued, "Jean is one of the kindest people I have ever met and is truly devoted to our youth. I wonder how many children have passed through the pool gates during Jean's tenure?" Just last year the Village Board also honored Mrs. Cain, recognizing her for three plus decades of service to the local community.



"There wouldn't be a summer program without her," commented Ms. Bergan.

Mrs. Cain - through both her leadership at the JRC and decades of dedicated service at the Middleburgh Central School District - has proven that while it does take a village, just one member can play a really large role in that village's success. Thank you, Mrs. Cain, for all that you have done, and congratulations on being named as the Schoharie County Person of the Year Award Recipient.

Valley Briefs

2023 Village Of Middleburgh Meeting Schedule

First Monday Of The Month @ 7pm
Location: 309 Main Street, Middleburgh, NY

- March 6
- April 3
- May 1
- June 5
- July 10
- August 7
- September 11
- October 2
- November 6
- December 4

MCS to Host Blood Drive on March 1

MIDDLEBURGH - Give the gift of life: The American Red Cross is experiencing an urgent need for blood donations, and the Middleburgh Central School District is ready to help by hosting a blood drive 12-6 p.m. March 1 in the high school library. It is an opportunity for students, staff and the community to come together for the community's benefit.

Students who are 16 and older can donate, but those under the age of 17 will need a parent/guardian consent form. Students may sign up in School Nurse Jennifer Adams' office or online. All other community members should sign up at redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: MiddleburghCS.

Appointments for students and staff to donate will be available from 12-3 p.m. Appointments for community members will be available from 3-6 p.m.

All donors will receive an American Red Cross branded item.

Questions? Call Ms. Adams at 518-827-3600, Ext 2609.

Rotary to host Brooks Chicken BBQ in M'burgh on March 18

MIDDLEBURGH - The Middleburgh Rotary is hosting a Brooks chicken barbecue on March 18. The dinner includes a half chicken, a baked potato, coleslaw, roll and butter, dessert, and a drink for \$13.50. Sale is only by pre-sale only. Please mail a check to the Middleburgh Rotary, PO Box 1100, Middleburgh, NY, 12122, or buy a ticket in person at Lenny's Tire, Middleburgh Hardware, National Bank of Cossackie, Middleburgh Pharmacy, or Middleburgh Mercantile.

Pick up is from 2 to 4pm at the Community Center, the MEVAC bay, on Cotton Hill Road.

Village Residents Receive Info on Tax Exemptions

MIDDLEBURGH - Middleburgh village residents recently received information about the senior tax exemptions in the village.

The post card from assessor Marie Stuber stated, "Property owners 65 years of age or older may be eligible for senior citizen tax exemptions on their primary residence. Senior citizens have until March 1 to apply for such exemptions with the submission of renewal applications being required annually."

"For information, please call or write the assessor for the town in which your property is located. The name, address, phone number of the assessor is" the Village of Middleburgh, Marie Stuber, PO Box 946, Middleburgh, NY, 12122, 518-827-4887, ext. 103. The income limit is \$25,650

Those who have already applied for the exemption or are under 65 should disregard the notice.

M'burgh Town to Get Legal Advice on Proposed Housing Development

By David Avitabile

MIDDLEBURGH - Middleburgh officials will seek legal advice before any action is taken on a proposed housing development for upper Main Street.

After village resident Dave Jeremenko issued the town board a letter Thursday requesting an ethics board review on the project proposed by Fred Risse, Supervisor Wes Laraway said he will speak to town attorney Mike West about the issue before proceeding.

Mr. Risse is the chairman of the planning and his niece is the vice chairman.

Mr. Jeremenko's letter stated, "I don't think this planning board should make this decision due to the conflict of interest between its members, one being the owner of the project and another being a relative, at least before they do a complete application, including a detailed set of engineered, stamped prints for the whole job, and all the proper studies on the seeker (sic, SEQR) with documentation on these studies being submitted for review. All copies of the submittal should be sent to the village, so there are no surprises."

"In the past this board has made decisions for its members that have been questionable. This project

will bring changes to this village and all aspects of the project should be public record for all to review before this decision is made."

Mr. Risse said the proposal was introduced at the village meeting Monday night and brought up at the planning board meeting Wednesday.

Mr. Laraway sought the advice of former town board member Sue Makely, who also works in the county real property tax office.

It would be best to get legal advice first, she said. "Covering your bases sooner than answering a firing squad is always good."

A planning board member proposing a project means the member goes "beyond recusing yourself," Mr. Laraway noted.

Mr. Risse said that, normally, unless the project is for financial gain, the member can vote.

Former town board member David Lloyd, and husband of Denise Lloyd, the vice chairman of the planning board, addressed the issue.

"In a small community like this, no matter who comes in the door, someone is related to it."

Mr. Laraway said it would be best to run the question by the attorney and take his advice about whether

to have a board of ethics review "and go from there" and "make sure everything is fine and dandy."

Resident Gary Hayes countered Mr. Lloyd's contention.

Mr. Hayes' brother Paul proposed and built the Cliffside development "and he's related to no one" on the planning board.

"I don't know what your point is," Ms. Lloyd answered.

She said the reservations being brought about the issue "raises the hair on the back of my neck that this is being brought up."

To Mr. Jeremenko, she said, "I don't know where Mr. Jeremenko is coming from."

The town will make sure that before any action is taken on the proposal, all "questions will be answered," Mr. Laraway said.

Mr. Jeremenko added, "There's a lot here that needs to be put out on the table."

Mr. Laraway concluded, "The rules have to be the same for everyone."

The issues should be resolved and will "only take a short meeting with Mike



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Former Board Member: M'burgh Village, Town Need to Share More

By David Avitabile
MIDDLEBURGH - Former Middleburgh town Councilman David Lloyd said last week that the town and village need to share more departments and facilities.

The two municipalities should look at combining the highway departments, said Mr. Lloyd, who also ran unsuccessfully for supervisor several years ago.

The town, he noted, searched for months to fill out their highway crew.

"You've got issues right now, not enough people."

In addition to combining the highway departments, he also said the town and villages offices should be in the same building with "each clerk under the same roof."

Currently, the village clerk and village offices are in the village hall on Main Street and the town

clerk is in the town hall on Railroad Avenue. Most other town functions, such as meetings, as being held at the community center on Cotton Hill Road.

Citing a study done in the mid-1990s about combining the town and village, there could be a cost savings, Mr. Lloyd said.

"It would enhance this community and possibly save some money," he added.

There is a lot of duplication of equipment, he noted.

For several years, both the town and village had the same person run both highway departments. Currently, Nick Duncombe runs the village streets department and Steve Kowalski is the town highway superintendent.

Town Supervisor Wes

Laraway said that MEVAC, the fire department, and the town could someday be in the same building.

Village Trustee Tim Knight weighed in on the suggestion from Mr. Lloyd.

The village crew, Trustee Knight said, is happy with the current direction.

He did note that the two crews do work together when needed and the village and town already have a joint zoning board of appeals and planning board.

He would be "hesitant beyond that, but willing to have that discussion."

Those discussions could start at the joint village-town meeting in June, Mr. Laraway said.

"That would be a great topic of discussion in June at the joint meeting," he said.

Jefferson: Senior Citizen Tax Exemptions Deadline Approaches

By Patricia Lee
JEFFERSON - Property owners 65 years of age or older may be eligible for the Senior Citizen Tax Exemptions. These exemptions are in addition to, and different from the Enhanced Star exemption. While the Enhanced Star exemption is also income eligible, you only need to register once for the program. You must provide income eligibility every year to receive the Senior Citizen Tax Exemptions. The Income Limit for the Town and County tax exemption is \$24,500, and the limit for the school tax exemption is 36,500. To see if you are eligible and apply, please call the town Assessor Andrea Brooks at the Town Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-12 a.m. at (607) 652-7931. The deadline to apply is March 1st, 2023.

The Planning Board has made a letter of recommendation to the Town Board to place a cap on the amount of short-term rental permits issued. The cap has been recommended to be set to 40 permits at one time. This is due to the fact that when people are applying for short-term permits, people are unable to live in the town long term. Full-time housing would be better for people who are looking to move into the area due to employment, and also increase the population of students in Jefferson Central School. The board voted unanimously to cap the amount of short-term rental permits at 40, and will revisit this policy every year in November.

Oorah has a new camp manager and has applied for a building permit for the construction of a

grand ballroom. It is a major project, with a projected price of \$600,000.

The town has received a grant for \$300,000 for the replacement of portions of different sidewalks throughout the town. Construction bids for the project will open on February 28, 2023.

The Board discussed an idea by the Heritage Committee to design and distribute a newsletter containing information about the various committees in Jefferson. After viewing a newsletter from another town, the Board decided to give further thought on fabricating a newsletter so people can have valuable information about the various town committees and volunteer on them if they desire.

The next Town Board meeting will be Thursday, March 9, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall in Jefferson.

Obituaries Anne M.R. Downes



Anne Marie Reine de Bourbon Downes passed away on February 7, 2023 at the age of 99 at home in Gilboa, NY. surrounded by her family.

Born January 3, 1924 in Mamaroneck, NY, Anne was the second oldest and only daughter of four siblings. Her brothers, all of whom have predeceased her, were Phillippe de Bourbon; Renaud Bruce; and Louis de Bourbon. Her parents had immigrated from France: father, Charles de Bourbon, an importer/exporter and mother, M. Reine Cantau-Bruce, an educator and early graduate student at Yale.

From a young age, Anne's artistic abilities and friendly spirit shone brightly and were to shape her life. Her high school years were spent in Connecticut with teachers from the French order of the Daughters of the Holy Spirit at the Putnam Catholic School

Academy and later graduated from St. Michael's in New York City. She then attended art school in Manhattan. Following news of her brother, Phillippe's POW status during WWII, the day she reached enlistment age in 1944 she traded her Air Warden responsibilities in New York City for the United States Marine Corps. Among the first women in the Corps at the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station, despite her slight build, she drove huge convoy trucks between bases in California.

She met her first husband Richard L. Hudson in the Marines and they later moved near his family in Kansas City and, while raising their growing family and because she felt "I don't consider housekeeping quite enough," worked full-time as a bank officer.

In 1969, Anne moved to Ft. Lauderdale Florida, met and married Robert Downes, Jr. and settled in Coral Gables where she worked in leaded glass restoration and organized an Art Glass Guild for glass arts professionals. She enjoyed worldwide travel, reading, swimming, bridge, animals, and scuba diving, and delighted in watching golf and football. She later treasured social times

with her Sheridan Woods neighborhood family in Melbourne, Florida.

While Anne will be remembered for her intelligence, courage, kindness, sophistication, and patriotism, her devotion to family and their education was her most important gift. Surviving children are daughters, Anne-Marie Hedge (Frank B. Flink) and Lee Hudson (Carolyn Bennett); sons, Richard P. Hudson (Lisa Judge) and Peter C. Hudson (Carrie Ellis Hudson). Her grandchildren are Karen Hudson, Steve Hudson, Sarah Hudson Norton (Zack Norton), David Hudson, Clarissa Hudson, and great grandchildren Taylor Hudson, and Iliana Nunez.

Among those who will also miss her dearly are her cats, Sam Oliver and Sam Lee.

Anne will be buried alongside her husband Robert W. Downes Jr. in the Denton Cemetery, Caroline County MD. In lieu of a memorial service, Anne's family will celebrate her life in the Spring and encourage a donation to Helios Care of Oneonta in recognition of the care she received from the staff, especially Becka Burkart, the Schoharie Animal Shelter, or the Gilboa Historical Society.

Thomas D. Armlin



Thomas D. Armlin, of Armlin Hill Road, Middleburgh, passed away peacefully in the comfort of his home on Monday, February 6, 2023.

Tom was born 75 years ago on August 27, 1947 to Mary (Felter) and Floyd G. Armlin, Sr. He attended Middleburgh

Central School and went on to a long career in construction. Tom worked with crews building I-88, Route 30, the Gilboa Dam and finally for himself for many years before retiring.

He loved wood working and every chance to be with his family, friends and enjoy his favorite beverage of choice.

Loving Tom forever are his mother: Mary Armlin; his children: Tom Armlin, Jody Bellon, Sarah Bellon-McCain, Janice Merwin; sisters: Tammy Armlin (Tony Marsh), Donna (John) Enright, Sandra Wood (Tim Warner) and Kathy (Joe) Best; brothers: Floyd G. (Buffy)

Armlin, Jr., Nelson (Hope) Armlin; many grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins. Tom was predeceased by his father: Floyd G. Armlin Sr., his sisters: Dorothy Dyer, Sally Armlin and his children: David and Maria.

A graveside service and interment will be at a later date, privately for family and friends, at Armlin Hill Cemetery. Coltrain Funeral Home, LLC is honored to be caring for Tom and his family.

Please visit www.coltrainfuneralhome.com to share online condolences with his family.

CROP Valentine Dinner in Jefferson

By Patricia Lee
JEFFERSON - The Jefferson CROP group held a family dinner on Friday, February 10. The students were very excited to hold this event because it unfortunately had to be canceled previously in December because of a winter storm and snow day. This time the students were preparing for a Family Valentine Dinner.

The CROP (Creating Rural Opportunities Partnership) Program is an afterschool and summer program for students in grades K-8. Students receive academic assistance while enjoying carefully planned activities and lessons. The program also provides fun social interaction.

The family dinner is a service project where all students get to participate



on different levels. The older group, which is led by Activity Leader Jennifer Van Cleef, carefully prepares a budget for all of the food that will be served. The students then research how much the food will cost. After the budget is completed, all students in grades K through 8 will take a trip

to Walmart to buy the food. Students are divided into groups to shop.

The week of the dinner was very busy! The older students spent each afternoon cooking and baking. The younger groups created the decorations for the cafeteria. Friday evening CROP students welcomed their families. All were served an amazing meal of baked ziti, fresh homemade bread, salad, and pudding parfaits, created with the help of the younger students. Approximately 100 people attended the event, and a great time was had by all!

MCS Budget Could See Health Insurance Hike

By David Avitabile
MIDDLEBURGH - Middleburgh school board members have begun work on the 2023-24 budget and it will not be an easy road.

The school district is facing inflation pressures, most notably a sizable hike in employee benefits, especially in health insurance costs.

The first budget development meeting of the season was held on February 1 and board members were told that health insurance rates will be going up by seven percent and that this rate is final. Prescription costs are projected to increase by 20 percent, but those numbers will not be fi-

nalized until next month.

The two hikes could send employee benefits from \$6.88 million to about \$7.78 million, a hike of about \$891,000.

Overall, officials are looking at a preliminary budget for 2023-24 of \$24.64 million, which is up by \$829,000 or 3.48 percent over the current spending plan. A rollover budget would be \$24.74 million. The newest proposal is down by \$81,965 since the first budget meeting.

Thus far, salaries are down by about \$439,000 from \$11.3 million to around \$10.89 million, mostly due to anticipated retirements. Debt services costs are up by about

\$177,000 from \$1.85 million to around \$2 million.

The district still needs the governor's state aid projections before they can complete a tax cap evaluation. The figures are much later than in prior years, officials noted. The state aid numbers could hold a possible foundation aid increase.

School business manager Robyn Bhend presented the proposed preliminary budget at the February 1 meeting. The next budget meeting was slated for Wednesday and was to include an update on the Executive State Aid runs, and additional work they are doing on the expenditure side.

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More Schoharie County News in F Section

All About Racing

By Ed & Betty Biittig

Monday was the start of Daytona Speed Weeks, meaning all the activities that happen in and around Daytona Beach and Daytona International Speedway began.

Actually Florida Speed Weeks began in January, with racing all over the state, and will culminate with the running of the 65th Daytona 500 this Sunday, February, 19. NASCAR kicked off their 75th year anniversary at the Los Angeles Coliseum with the annual Clash event on February 5.

For us Monday meant a trip down A1A to the Drive-In Church for the annual Living Legends of Auto Racing (LLOAR) car show and parade. Although significantly smaller this year it was still a day to reminisce with many old timers and remember racing legends. The Drive-In Church sits on the site of the original inspection area when the racing was held on the beach in the early days of NASCAR.

A couple bits of info from racing historian, Mike Joy; this will be the

first Daytona 500 in which there is not a driver in the field that raced against Dale Earnhardt. It will also be the first Daytona 500 without a team with the Petty name. Petty GMS Racing recently rebranded to Legacy Motor Car.

As we sit here in the warm Florida sunshine and anticipate the migration of all the northern race fans making their way south for some sun and racing we realize we are also seeing the changing of the guard in racing.

Brett Deyo has been working on his changing ideas for the past 10 years and this year he will promote special events at Delaware International Speedway in Delaware. According to BD Motorsports LLC information the schedule at DIS will work hand and hand with Georgetown Speedway, the other track in Delaware under BD Motorsports promotion and both will be part of the NASCAR Roots Advance Auto Parts Weekly Series along with Fonda and Utica-Rome Speedways in New York.

We've known Brett Deyo for a long time and we always knew he was ambitious and had some very good ideas, not that we always agreed with them but we came to respect him and his ideas to improve the sport we love and he's done that many times over. One of the keys to his success are the people that work for him and with him.

Two of the four nights of the Sunshine Swing fell to rain and winners on those two night were Stewart Friesen on night one and David Schilling on night two. It was Schilling's first Short Track Super Series (STSS) win and his third career win. Schilling won at Fonda this past season and his first career win came at Thunder Mountain Speedway in 2020.

News out of the RPM promoter's workshop this week, Lyle Devore, promoter of Albany-Saratoga was named Promoter of the Year, for Region 1.

DeVore took over the promotional duties at Albany-Saratoga Speedway in 2012 and dedicated himself to building one

of the top programs in his region. The track boasts an incredible weekly car count, with many weeks exceeding 140 cars in the pit area. Following the 2020 season, DeVore was named "The Pandemic" Auto-Racing Promoter of the Year after averaging nearly 150 cars per night while operating with no fans in the grandstands.

Those of us with DIRTVision subscriptions, will be able to watch Land of Legends this season. They have been added to the DirtVision schedule for 2023 weekly racing.

We are headed to Volusia Speedway this week for the Super DirtCar Series Modified shows for four nights. Will do our best to give you some up to date info for next week.

As we close we send our condolences to the family of Walt Markert who passed away this past week. Markert was an engine builder and all around racing supporter.

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



Lyle DeVore, promoter of Albany-Saratoga Speedway was presented with the Auto-Racing Promoter of the Year award in Region 1 at the annual RPM Workshops in Daytona Beach. Press Release photo

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Library News

Middleburgh Library
2/20 - President's Day - The library will be closed to observe the holiday.

2/20 - 6:00 PM - Library Board of Trustees Meeting - The public is welcome.

2/21 - 10:45 AM = Drop-in Storytime - Join Miss Terry for this fun, interactive storytime geared toward little ones

ages 0-5 and their caregivers! We will read books, sing songs and watch a short film based on our weekly theme. All children will go home with a coloring sheet and take home craft. No registration is required.

2/21 - 12:00 PM - Embroidery Club - Join local artist Betty Pillsbury at our Embroidery Club. Bring whatever projects you are working on and enjoy the company of your fellow stitchers! Betty will not be teaching but will provide help if needed. No registration required. Refreshments will be provided.

2/22 - 1:00 PM - Family Movie "Pete's Dragon" (PG) - For years, Mr. Meacham has told tales of the fierce dragon deep in the woods. To his daughter, Grace, these stories are little more than tall tales, until she meets Pete. Pete is a mysterious ten-year-old with no family who claims to live in the woods with a giant, green dragon named Elliot. No registration required. Free popcorn!

2/23 - 10:30-Noon - Computer and Internet Basics - Join Mary Carrier from the Mohawk Valley Library system as she teaches you computer and internet basics. Registration is required.

2/23 - 1:00 PM - Imagination Build - Stop in and enjoy some building time with Legos, Keva Planks, Bristle Blocks, and a Q BA Maze. This is for kids of all ages and their grown-ups. Registration Required.

2/24 - 5:30 PM - Dinner & A Movie - "Fabelmans" (PG-13) - Join us for a fun evening of Dinner & a Movie. The library will show the Academy Award nominated film The Fabelmans by direc-

tor Steven Spielberg and share pizza and drinks. You bring a dessert or snack to share. Growing up in post-World War II era Arizona, young Sammy Fabelman aspires to become a filmmaker as he reaches adolescence, but soon discovers a shattering family secret and explores how the power of films can help him see the truth. Registration Required.

Creativebug - You're more creative than you think! Use your Middleburgh Library card and PIN to enjoy unlimited access to thousands of online art and craft classes available at Creativebug. Videos are produced by renowned artists and creative experts. You'll also find downloadable patterns, templates and recipes. Watch classes anytime, anywhere. Classes never expire, you can start and stop projects at your own pace. No pressure, just possibilities! Please check our calendar on our website at www.middleburghlibrary.info for future programs. Also, don't forget our Facebook page.

Cobleskill Library
February is Love Your Library month. Stop in and check out the Friends of the Library Love Your Library Book Bundle Sale. Pick up a bundle and donate. Bundles are created for all ages. New bundles are added weekly.

Thursday, February 16 at 5:30 pm Teen Advisory Board Help us make the Community Library a better place for teens! Join our new Teen Advisory Board and help the library choose new teen books, plan programs, and make our teen zone a fun space for teen patrons. Snacks provided. Open to 8th-12th graders (ages 13-18). For more information, email clittle@mvl.info.

Thursday, February 16 at 6:30 5-Minute Experts This new event is a fun, fast-moving, educational program where 4-5 presenters deliver five-minute talks on a specialized area of expertise. Each presenter must prepare a slide show of 10-20 slides and

the presentations may not exceed 5-minutes. Topics will be as varied as the participants' interests. For audiences, it's an opportunity to learn something new and different, with less likelihood of getting bored by a long-winded presentation. It's like TED Talks for audiences with short attention spans! If you're interested in presenting at a future program, contact Adult Services Librarian Don LaPlant at cob-adult@mvl.info

Tuesday, February 21 at 6pm Adult Gaming Group: Adult Gamers interested in role-playing games, card and board games are invited to gather at the library for fun and games with other game fans.

The Award-Winning Trivia Night@ the Library! February 23 at 6:30 pm. If you would like to be a 2023 sponsor please contact the Library. Special thanks to The Friends of The Community Library for sponsoring the snack table.

Tuesday, February 28 at 6:00 pm The Short Fiction Workshop: This monthly writing workshop for teens and adults features writing prompts, exercises, and moderated feedback sessions where authors working on short fiction can practice their craft, develop new skills, and get constructive input from other writers.

Wednesdays weekly StoryTime at 10:30 with Miss Courtney is for children ages birth to 5 and their caregiver featuring stories, songs and fun activities.

Families Count bags are now available to check out at the Community Library! These bags cover a variety of math topics and are aimed at elementary schoolers. Each bag includes lesson guides, books, and hands-on activities that help families build math skills together. Stop by the library to get started!

Want to learn a new skill, enhance your hobby skills, or try something new? Watch classes online, anytime from anywhere, just log in to Creativebug with your Community Library card and the last four digits of your phone number to get started. Once you create an account you can save your progress and save your favorite videos. The Library's

landing page <https://www.creativebug.com/lib/communitylibrary>

The following museum passes are available for check out with your library card. The Adirondack Experience, The Empire Pass, The Iroquois Museum, and MiSci. Each pass has specific access and one pass can be checked out for 7 days but they can't be used for special events at these locations. Please check each location for specific requirements prior to visiting.

You can also check out games with your Library card. Visit the second floor near the teen area to see what we have. A special thanks to Games A Plunder for their support of this collection.

Tuesdays join your neighbors and make new friends during the Tuesday Knitters group! You can find them in the program room at 1pm. Bring your own supplies and learn something new while you chat, listen or just get in your zone.

The Library has started a new program called Tabling Tuesdays. Where we invite social services organizations to staff a table and share information with our patrons. Our visitors for February:

Tuesday, February 21 from 2-6pm a representative from The Cancer Services Program of the Central Region will be tabling at the Library. The program provides no-cost breast, cervical and colon cancer screening to qualifying individuals. February is Black History and National Cancer Prevention Awareness Month and CSP is spreading the word! Screening can prevent cancer and CSP is here to make sure everyone gets screened. They will answer your questions and help determine if you qualify for no-cost screening. CSP will be back March 14 from 10-2.

Tuesday, February 28 from 3-7pm a representative from Berkshire Farm Center & Services for Youth will be at the Library. Berkshire's mission is to strengthen children and families so they can live safely, independently and productively within their home communities. Berkshire will have information on becoming a foster parent. There are currently

over 17,000 children in foster care in NY with more than 6,000 coming into care every year. Berkshire will be back March 7 and April 18.

Do you have used Inkjet or LaserJet toner you want to recycle? Please bring them to the Library. We recycle and use the rewards to supplement our office supply budget. We can't recycle the empty toner containers from your copier so please don't bring us those. The recycle box is under the card catalog by the water fountain. We really appreciate the donations we have received.

The Library continues to offer curbside pickup.

A reminder that our weather closures will be posted on TV, our Facebook page and web site. If Cobleskill-Richmondville School District is closed the library will automatically move to a delayed opening at noon unless it is determined unsafe for staff to travel and then the Library will close.

To receive Library News by email signup here <https://mailchi.mp/287db1f866ef/news> Follow us on social media for library news, event information, volunteer opportunities, new book announcements and more! It is easy to find age-appropriate programs on the event calendar visit <https://communitylibrary.mvl.info/>

Schoharie Library
518-295-7127
www.schoharielibrary.org
Schoharie Library Hours: MTF 11am-6pm, Wed. 5-8pm, Thurs. 12pm-7pm, and Sat. 10am-2pm
Art and Craft materials are always available during library hours.

Drawing Classes with Maeve McCool: Thursdays, February 16 & 23 and March 2, 4:15pm. All ages are welcome. The class is now full.

Teen Thursday: Every Thursday 5-7pm. Come hang out in our Teen Room

- socialize, create in our Makerspace, play board games, code with our Dash Robot, share book recommendations, and much more!! Ages 13 - Young Adult Welcome! No registration required.

Storytime with Yvonne: Fridays at 10am. Stories, songs, fun activities!

Writing Club (Virtual): Mondays at 6:30pm. <https://bit.ly/SchoharieLibraryPrograms>

Middle Grade Book Group: Monday, February 20, 4:15-5pm: Children grades 3rd - 6th are welcome to join us. Refreshments, track reading to earn prizes. Sign up today at <https://bit.ly/MGBookGroupSHO>.

Learn to Crochet: Mondays, February 20 & 27, 4:15-5:30pm. Signup: <https://bit.ly/Crochet1-24-23>

STEM kit play all day: Monday, February 20 through Friday, February 25 during library hours.

Make a Friendship or Paracord Bracelet with Heather: Tuesday, February 21, 2-3:30pm. We provide beads, string, or paracord, you bring the creativity! Signup: <https://bit.ly/BraceletMaking2-21-23>

Owl Ecology with George Steele: Wednesday, February 22 at 6:30pm. Learn about owls, and go outside to listen for owl calls. Dissect an owl pellet to see what they eat! Registration appreciated: <https://bit.ly/OwlEcology2-22-23>

Virtual UFO Club: Thursday, February 23, 10am. Work on projects and chat on Zoom. Signup: <https://bit.ly/SchoharieLibraryPrograms>

Coding Club Intro Meeting: Friday, February 24, 4:15pm. Signup: <https://bit.ly/SHOCodingClub>

Knitcetera at the Library: Tuesday, February 28, 10:30am-noon. Embroider, sew, knit, anything goes!

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Auto Racing News

By Tom Coughlin
Last week the Short Track Super Series opened their 2023 season with racing at the All-Tech Raceway near Lake City, Florida, with the Sunshine Swing.

Stewart Friesen of Spraker's, picked up his first STSS modified victory of 2023 and the 37th. STSS win of his career on Wednesday as he led all 30-laps of the feature in claiming the \$4,000 winner's check. Matt Sheppard, Alex Payne, David Schilling, and Erick Rudolph completed the top five. Marc Johnson finished 9, Chris Curtis 16, Peter Britten 18, and Robert Bublak 19. Some highlights include Friesen's number 44 Bicknell chassis modified, showing signs of possible engine failure as there was oil smoke billowing out of the exhaust at near the 20-lap mark. Fortunately, everything stayed together until the end.

Dylan Madsen earned the 25-lap STSS crate 602 sportsman feature with Brian Calabrese, Yan Bussiere, James Friesen, and Ayden Cipriano completing the top five. Johnny Bruno finished 7, Derrick McGrew Jr. 8 and Mike Ballestero 12.

Thursday night's 35-lap modified feature would see the number 20 of the Thrilling David Schilling in victory lane. Matt Sheppard, Tyler Siri, Peter Britten, and Larry Wight would complete the top five. Marc Johnson finished 13, Stewart Friesen 16, Chris Curtis 20, and Robert Bublak did not qualify.

Brian Calabrese of Johnston would claim the 25-lap STSS crate 602 sportsman division feature. Joe Toth, Mike Ballestero, Yan Bussiere, and Ayden Cipriano would complete the top five. Derrick McGrew Jr. would finish 16 and Johnny Bruno 17.

The STSS Sunshine Swing crate 602 sportsman points fell as follows Brian Calabrese, Dylan Madsen, Yan Bussiere, Ayden Cipriano, and Joe Toth.

Unfortunately, rain washed out all racing for Friday and Saturday. Monday it was racing at New Smyrna Speedway for the asphalt late models. The annual Fonda Speedway car show will be here, before you know it.

If you plan on displaying your 2023 race car in the Fonda Speedway Car Show being held at the Via/Port Mall in Rotterdam. Please contact Jamie Page at 607-760-0671 or email at jpage15@stryrr.com. The event will roll cars in on Thursday, March 23 after mall hours and roll out is Sunday, March 26 after mall hours.

Two fun filled events that you will not want to miss, will kick off the month of April. First up is the annual Joslin Racing Team wine tasting & bar-be-que. On Saturday, April 1, 2023, from 1:00 pm. until 4:00 pm. at Hummingbird Hills Winery, located at 1442 Burtonville Road in Fultonville. Ivan Joslin driver of the number 49 pro stock in conjunction with a couple small local businesses will provide an opportunity to taste up to (5) free wine tastings of your choice. No ticket is needed for entry or wine tasting. Also available will be a chicken bar-be-que from Bartlett's BBQ. For \$15 the dinner (pre-sales are recommended, message facebook page for details) will include a half chicken, salt potatoes, maple baked beans, and roll. Raffle

tickets for auction items will be sold at the event.

The number 1H, Shaffer Racing Team and their Swagger Factory Apparel crate 602 sportsman driver Happy Harry Shaffer will host their annual Bowling tournament & party. This will be held on Sunday, April 2, 2023, at Kelly's Imperial Bowling Center located at 249 Wallins Corners Road in Amsterdam. Registration begins at 1:00 pm. and bowling at 2:00 pm. Your \$15 ticket includes 8-pin no-tap bowling & shoes. Prizes and music and as always plenty of raffles. This event sells out annually, so be sure to see someone from the 1H team to purchase tickets.

Lyle DeVore of Albany-Saratoga Speedway was recognized by Racing Promotion Monthly as not only Region 1 (Northeast) Regional Promoter of the Year, but also as the 47th. Annual Auto Racing Promoter of the Year (Nationally) Racing Promotion Monthly presented Lyle with his honor at their 50th. annual convention in Daytona Beach, Florida. A new team is being formed that will compete in the Swagger Factory Apparel crate sportsman division at Fonda Speedway. Third generation driver Tanner Warner is working on putting together a new team, with hopes of competing Saturdays at the Track of Champions. Tanner is thinking of using the number 87 for his new ride and currently is looking for sponsorship/

New Assessor Coming to Broome

By Joshua Walther
BROOME - On Wednesday evening, the Broome Town Board held their regular meeting for February, where they convened to talk about the vacant assessor's position and a bid for the price of fuel.

After years of service, the former assessor for Broome, Irene Schmidt, chose to resign from her position due to her age and health. While the Board was sad to see her go, they accepted her resignation and began looking for a possible replacement.

On Wednesday, members reviewed the only application and letter of interest. The letter was sent by Glen Warner, a lifelong resident of Broome, and he has over thirty-five years of experience in construction, giving him unique insight into the work of an assessor.

Supervisor Stephen Weinhofer vouched for Mr. Warner personally, saying "I've known Glen a long time. I think he'd be good for the job."

As Mr. Warner was the only interested applicant, the Board accepted him with no further questions and appointed him as a town assessor, offering their congratulations to him soon after.

In other news, the Board sought out bids for the price of on-road diesel. Just like with the assessor's position, they only received one bid in response, from Laraway's Oil in Middleburgh.

Laraway's proposed a price of twenty-two cents over the price at Albany's port terminal. This is a common occurrence with fuel, as the cost in Albany can often fluctuate from day to day. The twenty-two cents serves as a delivery sur-

charge, which is only a one-cent increase from previous years.

Happy with the price, and seeing as how Laraway's was the only interested proposal, the Board soon accepted the bid.

Science Fair

Photos by Scott Keidong



Homeschooled fourth grader Shyanne Beretz points out Earth as she presents her science fair project - There is no place like space! - to Library Trustee Diane Stewart and Library Director Teresa Pavoldi



Shyanne Beretz, homeschooled fourth grader from Middleburgh, gets applause from parents, library staff and others at the Middleburgh Library's Homeschool Science Fair last Saturday.



The inner workings of volcanoes are explained to the crowd at the Middleburgh Library's Home-school



The crowd at the Middleburgh Library's Home-school Science Fair watches the eruption of Jimmy Beretz's science fair project "It's Time To Erupt."

Gallupville Community Dance

The Gallupville House Association will be hosting a COMMUNITY DANCE at the Gallupville House on Rt 443 in Gallupville on Saturday, February 25th, from 2-4 pm. This FREE event features the talented caller Paul Rosenberg and live band Tamarack, playing traditional American, Celtic, French-Canadian, Old-Time and

original fiddle tunes. Fun, simple dances from the U.S. and around the world will be taught and will include circles, contras and squares. No experience is necessary - bring the whole family!

For more information, visit GALLUPVILLE-HOUSE.ORG

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Community Calendar (Including Cancellations)

Ongoing

- 2022 Adult Grief Support Group, Cobleskill United Methodist Church, 107 Chapel Street, Cobleskill, NY 12043, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
- Free Story Times each Tuesday at The Book Nook, 645 Main St., Hobart. 2:30 p.m. for toddlers 18 months to 3 years and 4 p.m. for ages 4 and older.
 - Family Support Meetings
- Open Arms Recovery Resource Center 289 Main St Schoharie NY 4 till 7 Thursdays. call Chrystal @ 518 605-4180 for details.
 - Open Arms Recovery Resource Center
- 289 Main St Schoharie NY 8:00 - 4:00 Tuesdays 8:00 till 7:00 Thursdays. Addiction and recovery information call 518 605 3867 for more details.

February 25
COMMUNITY DANCE 2 - 4 pm
With live fiddle music by Tamarack and Caller Paul Rosenberg At the Gallupville House, Rt 443 in Gallupville
Fun, simple dances from the U.S. and around the World
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U.S. National Park Tour: The Rockies, Arches, Yellowstone. 9 days. 13 days with Badlands and Mount Rushmore extension, through August 17. grouptoursite.com/rosemariakeller
August 6

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September
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Students Activate Hope With Sweethearts & Heroes Assembly At Schoharie Central School



Above left: Tom Murphy, AKA Mr. Incredible introduces Rick Yarosh, and show off his "robot leg" to an assembly of 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. Yarosh is a retired U.S. Army sergeant, HOPE expert and motivational speaker from New York who was severely burned while serving in Iraq. The two are "Sweethearts & Heroes", are a student empowerment and empathy activation team that aims to prevent bullying and suicide with a focus on social and emotional learning.

Above right: The fastest kids in the room – Tom Murphy, AKA Mr. Incredible of Sweethearts & Heroes, asked the gym full of Schoharie third, fourth and fifth graders "who are the fastest kids in the room?" Then he had them come up front for a race – how fast can you say the ABCs? Clay sped through in 2.71 seconds, and Michaela's was clocked at 3.85 seconds.

MCS Shows Off Talent



Mr. Incredible, Tom Murphy times Michaela as she speeds through the alphabet while "chipmunked up" with cheeks full of marshmallows during a "Students Activate HOPE with Sweethearts & Heroes" assembly at Schoharie Central School last Thursday.



ABOVE, LEFT: High school Principal Matt Sloane and Quin Smith lead off the open mic Friday night with a duet Friday night on the Middleburgh high school stage.

ABOVE, RIGHT: Alexia Bell and Luke Bramer perform a Valentine's song.



ABOVE: Sophia and Marian Patino performed Francis Forever at the Open Mic Friday night.

Photos by David Avitabile

Left: "Bully Drill" Superhero Elise got a cape, a mask (swim goggles), superhero headgear (a swim cap), and ten seconds to take Rick Away from bully Tom during a lesson about the ABCs of handling a bullying situation. Photos by Scott Keidong.

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Letters Policy

The Mountain Eagle welcomes Letters to the Editor that are signed and under 600 words. Only one letter from the same author every four weeks will be published. The Mountain Eagle also reserves the right to edit letters for content and length and to refuse publication. Send letters to mountaineaglenews@gmail.com

Mascot, Continued from B6

Like many people Toni Schaffer had more than one suggestion.

Others were Schoharie Harriers or the Harrier Hawks.

William Thomas Nay Jr. had an unusual one, the Schoharie Potato Heads.

Francine Otty Hard also suggested the Cannons or Cannoneers.

"My husband suggested due to the cannon on the front lawn."

James Greene had an interesting question.

"Schoharie' comes from a Mohawk word meaning 'floating driftwood.' So I am not sure changing the mascot name serves any real purpose."

James Snyder suggested the Serpents and the S could be a rattlesnake.

Ryan Clark said the ValleyCats, Chris Osinski said the Skylarks, and Jake Davis suggested the Raptors, Fal-

cons, Hawks, Hawk Owls, "Our region is full of these magnificent birds of prey. They have no natural predators, they are the apex of their habitat. It also keeps the Native American culture alive, as they also honored these animals." The mascot could be a Red Tail Hawk, Peregrine falcon, Hawk-Owl, or Golden Eagle (although Duaneburg is already an Eagle)."

The Diamonds, suggested Susan Diamond, "because Schoharie is tough as rocks and sticks together. Even though I would rather it stay Indians because I was an Indian, but I understand the state is making ALL schools change it or lose funding."

Eeb Breault got a little political.

"Oh great the Dems making us change it. Well how about the Wokies!"

Resident Richard Sherman had a similar thought.

"I vote to tell the State to mind their business. However if the change is made I vote for no mascot at all because whatever it is some WOKE loser will have a problem with it. Those of us who are privileged to be Schoharie Indians will never let it die."

Feather Crayon also like the Raptors.

"Schoharie Raptors in

honor of the turkey vultures that nest at the school. Also raptors are tough and fierce!" Nate Sells might not be serious.

"Should try the unicorns or sheep cause it's a joke they are taking the Indians away. Butthurt society. Or how about the Schoharie kittens to go with the cat litter boxes?"

Ken Hubert had a different one.

"Gladiators -- don't think there are any of them still alive to moan and groan about using their name..." Or, "Call 'em The Americans' and keep the nice original American as the logo (what would you use instead, an apple pie? a hot dog? a baseball?)"

Connie Kane Standhart liked the Patriots too.

"Patriots. Go with the winner of the Revolution this time. The mascot could be akin to Timothy Murphy and start events like he does the TM 10k. (Except obviously using another device to create a bang)."

Chad Boyles also went with a weather symbol.

"Cyclones..keep the colors, simplified logo. In an area where hurricanes have ravaged our villages. It only makes sense."

Gary Hayes also looked to history for a name.

"The Forts, Rebels could draw a lot from the areas history with the American revolution."

Carrie Shaul suggested a clan animal.

"Schoharie" was the Mohawk word for floating driftwood. Maybe a good way to keep with the original theme and honor the rich history and traditions of the Iroquois is to choose a clan animal. The Beaver. Not only does the beaver symbolize hard work, persistence, resourcefulness and creativity. But in light of more recent events, like the flood, the Beaver rebuilds and doesn't stop until its done, like the people of Schoharie. The Schoharie Beavers."

Brenda Hewett was not sure any name could be used.

"I'm thinking if school mascots are becoming offensive then no matter what new mascot is chosen then it will ultimately offend someone for some reason so my opinion is that there be no more mascots and end the insanity of all the time and money wasted when efforts and money should be directed towards more important school issues."

Olivia Smith suggested the Eagles or Blue Devils while Dave Barmen said something "cute" like the Schoharie engines. Thomas Lafontaine simply said, the Schoharie Rednecks, or the Rock Heads, or the Farmers.

Ashley Allen said a new mascot is the only way to go.

"Anything but the Indians at this point. During pep rallies and parades it's quite

racist and inappropriate for a non-native white person to wear a war bonnet (chief headdress) it's rude and shouldn't have been a thing in the first place. As for the name 'the Schoharie Indians' that's not racist in any manner just the 'mascot' that's racist cause again white people shouldn't be wearing a war bonnet, even a mixed native person shouldn't be wearing it. Only a Chief should be wearing a war bonnet. This isn't being 'woke' it's called being compassionate towards natives. If y'all don't see it as being even slightly racist there is an issue with your morals."

Ken Dobesh was very passionate in his sentiment on the issue.

"I am really just tired of this 'new world' we are living in," he wrote.

"My mother went to Schoharie school. She is 82 years old now. So you take the time to figure out what year she graduated. That school was the Schoharie Indians then and even before she attended the school. Now everyone gets offended over the silliest stuff. I do understand about the head dress BUT they have done it for almost 90 years. The school was built in 1933.

"Come on people, let put our big boy and girl pants on and look at reality. The only reason this is happening is people want to make a mockery of the old ways. Get over yourselves."

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Wednesday marked a red-letter day in the history of the Schoharie Valley. Local Journalist, Philanthropist, Professor, Village Trustee, Former Rotary President, Former County Coroner, Sea Shanty Creator, and "great guy everyone would want to know" Timothy C. Knight married the love of his life, Courtney Knight, formerly Mooney. The two were joined in a propitious ceremony replete with moving statements and a wonderful dinner hosted by the Apple Barrel.

Mr. Knight, who writes a popular column for this newspaper, cited Socrates in his wedding vows.

"While it is difficult for a man so handsome and so comfortable in suspenders to be removed from the dating market," one wedding participant said, "This union will soon be one of major change for Schoharie County and beyond. It was a Knight like no other."

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Indians Defeat Golden Eagles



Matt Bernhardt nets two points for Schoharie in the second period of Saturday's Crossover Tournament game against Galway at Fulton Montgomery Community College. Bernhardt was The Indians' high scorer in the game, netting 12 of Schoharie's 47 points.
Photos by Scott Keidong.



Ryan Pudney of the Galway Golden Eagles and Indians' Nate Burke debate the possession of a rebound.



Nate Towle flies in for a shot.

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Tax Exemption Law Passed for Two Frontline Units

By Michael Ryan

LEXINGTON - A financial tip of the cap and hopefully an incentive to join the ranks was given to volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers in Lexington, last week.

Town council members, following a public hearing, passed a new local law providing real property tax exemptions for the two frontline units.

Recruitment of firefighters is a major issue statewide as membership ages, although Lexington is holding its own in that regard and is the rarest of communities still having an active volunteer First Responders squad.

Wanting to keep it that way, officials mirrored actions taken recently by the Greene County legislature and being considered by other area towns.

And while the legislation offers a tax break - with eligibility requirements - it is also, "a way to honor our volunteers,"

town supervisor Jo Ellen Schermerhorn said.

The law reads as follows:

"Real property owned by a member of the town of Lexington Volunteer Fire Company or a member of the town of Lexington Rescue Squad shall be exempt from taxation of up to ten percent of assessed value of such property...exclusive of special districts.

"Such exemption shall be granted to a member of the Lexington Volunteer Company/Rescue Squad if:

— "The applicant resides in the town of Lexington and serves the residents of the town;

— "The property is the primary residence of the applicant;

— "The property is used exclusively for residential purposes; however, if any portion is not used as its residence but is used for other purposes, that portion will be taxed at the

usual taxable rate;

— "The applicant has been certified by the authority of the town of Lexington Volunteer fire Company Inc. and/or the town of Lexington Volunteer Rescue Squad that the minimum of two years of service has been acquired as an active member according to the membership section of the respective by-laws of the specific Fire/Rescue Squad companies;

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

— "Unmarried 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;

— "Unmarried 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.

Lexington chose to match the same criteria set by the Greene County Legislature in recently passing similar legislation.

Municipalities were given the choice of requiring between 2 to 5 years of active service to be eligible and a tax exemption rate of between 5 and 10 percent, opting for the

minimum and maximum, respectively.

County lawmakers, approving their resolution earlier this month, stated that "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 number of communities in Greene County.

"Maintaining effective emergency protection depends on the ability to train and retain volunteers.

"The Legislature finds and determines that it is essential for the county and its municipalities to provide real property tax exemptions as an incentive to attract new volunteers and help combat a persistent and alarming decline in the number of volunteers serving as active responders to fire and medical emergencies.

"Unless recruits are

found to replace retiring volunteers and seasoned members are encouraged to continue their volunteer service, the health and safety of citizens served by the volunteer firefighter and emergency medical personnel corps may be jeopardized.

"The Legislature further finds and determines that real property tax exemptions are an appropriate way to recognize the personal sacrifices and dedication of these community-spirited men and women who unselfishly give their time and risk their safety to protect their neighbors without compensation," legislature resolution states.

In other matters:

— Town council members held a respectful "Moment of Silence" for three people with connections to Lexington who recently passed away, Ann Rappleyea Robison, John Klein and Charles VanEtten.

RISE Nations Showing Support In Ukrainian Refugee Crisis

By Michael Ryan

MAPLECREST - It might have been the most witless idea he'd ever had, says Jared Dorsch, until it turned out to be pure heavenly genius.

Jared and his wife Sharlene are preparing for a spiritually inspired journey to Poland, next week, as part of a team of 25 people working with RISE Nations, aiding in the refugee crisis from the Ukrainian War.

The couple founded the non-profit RISE Nations in 2020, sharing the vision of establishing missionary training centers worldwide.

Jared and Sharlene have ministered in 26 countries, thus far, "going to all people that are lost and hurting," which now includes Ukrainian citizens.

Their team will be partnering with ICF Bydgoszcz, transforming an old brick building into nine apartments for displaced families.

They, along with some team members, were given a supportive sendoff at Living Faith Commu-



Living Faith Worship Team cranks out a tune at the maiden Maplecrest Music Cafe Open Mic Night at Living Faith Community Church.

nity Church, last Saturday night, ebulliently hosted by Pastor Charmaine Rusin.

Pastor Rusin, wanting to help the cause, blended the farewell with the first, and hopefully continuing, "Maplecrest Music Cafe Open Mic Night" inside the freshly renovated Fellowship Center.

"We did this for two good reasons, to have a

fun community gathering and to raise funds" [for the RISE Nations effort], Pastor Rusin said.

The spruced up Fellowship Center, across the road from the chapel, along Main Street in Maplecrest (a hamlet in the town of Windham), was again bustling with sounds of children playing and the fragrances of what the pastor sweetly

said were, "folks slinging coffee and serving donuts."

There are neatly arranged tables and comfortable sitting places next door to the Maplecrest Sports Arena where kids were shooting baskets and romping, guaranteeing them (and their parents) a restful night's sleep.

"Trust me when I say this didn't look like this



Going up for the slam, Matt Cunningham shoots some hoop at the Living Faith Community Church sports arena.

two weeks ago," Pastor Rusin said, proudly. "When we first got here [last autumn] there were tables piled up everywhere. This has been a process.

"We hope to have the

Open Mics twice a month," Pastor Rusin says, and meanwhile the RISE Nations group is hunkering down for the flight from JFK Airport

Story continues on C2



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RISE Nations, Continued from C1

to war torn Ukraine. ICF Bydgoszcz has been responding to the humanitarian crisis since Day One of the Russian intrusion, providing emergency relief, stepping up for families for whom there is no home to return. Jared and Sharlene came to the mission from seemingly different but connected threads. "I had reached the end of me," Jared says. He grew up in Goodland Kansas in what he says was, "the middle of flat nowhere," spending six years in the Navy doing nuclear mechanical engineering before settling in Fresno, California. Shortening a long story, he wandered east, to Wappingers Falls, where he and some buddies

cooked up a scheme to create an eatery. "It wasn't a great idea," Jared says, laughing at the memory. "Three nuclear engineers going to culinary school to start a restaurant in New York City. "Let's just say it didn't work out. At that point, nothing was working in my life. I was worn out, hitting a wall. I surrendered my life to the Lord." Jared crossed paths with Sharlene, who was born and raised a Parisi, here in the mountains, marrying in 2014, sharing a heaven-sent vision. RISE Nations is the result, "reviving, impacting, serving and empowering the nations," cultivating compassion amid tempestuousness.



Rising to the occasion, "RISE Nations" is traveling to Poland for Ukrainian Refugee Support. Helping raise funds for the cause are (left to right) RISE Nations co-founders Jared and Sharlene Dorsch and Living Faith Community Church pastor Charmaine Rusin.



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Roxbury Defeats WAJ

By Robert Brune

In the final game for the Roxbury Rockets boys basketball season, they edged out the Windham (WAJ) team 45 -43. George Proctor #34 for the Rockets scorched the court by leading with 23 points. This was an exciting matchup for the fans on both sides, as most of the game within three points between them right up until the end of the game.

Coach Doug Johnson of the Roxbury Rockers was elated to finish off the season with a win, "It was a hard fought game, going back and forth the whole entire way... could have gone either way." Johnson added, "Getting some rebounds and putbacks, I think Taran Davis #30 had 10 in the first quarter." With this being the last game coach Johnson wanted to give mention to the contribution from Mason Hamill who was sick tonight. Mason had been Roxbury's second highest scorer throughout the season, "He had a big game, scored 16 when we played them at their (WAJ) place. The rest of the guys stepped up and did a really nice job."



Above left: Collin Lyke #5 point guard did well to distribute the ball
Above right: George Proctor #34 with 23 pts



Above left: Judah Allsop #33 with 11 points top scorer for WAJ
Above right: Judah Allsop free throw drew the most fouls for WAJ

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The Prattville Scoop

By Abby and Gabby

PRATTSVILLE - To all who cheered for the winning football team, Kansas City Chiefs, congratulations. To those who are now suffering disappointment, you will have to wait till next year with us Buffalo Bills fans. But not unhappy that KC won, even didn't want Philadelphia to lose, just enjoyed the game and to know we were all enjoying a mutual fun time.

Goaded Janet Brainerd often enough that she finally called me after the last prompt in last week's Scoop in the Mountain Eagle. Now I have her mailing address and telephone number so she cannot get away from me.

Shelly and Elliott Brainerd made a trip to the Stratton VAMC on Friday where Elliott was able to get three appointments in one trip. That is very handy, and he had good check ups. The Brainerds delivered more gifts to the residential veterans on the 9th Floor from the American Legion Virgil E. Deyo Post 1327 and American Legion Auxiliary Virgil E. Deyo Unit 1327. Elliott and Shelly are both members of these two organizations. Thanks to all you generous supporters of our hospitalized veterans through our VAMC programs, are able to participate in many more programs, and just for fun and joy, they have happy hour with non-alcoholic drinks and lots of snacks. They were able to have some pre-game celebration prior to Super Bowl kick off. With Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day soon arriving, more snacks and drinks and special decorations will be there for their enjoyment. Thank you. When we are able to get in to mingle with them, you will be informed to celebrate with them.

John Wilkens long time resident of Prattville passed away at the age of 90 weeks ago. He leaves behind his 3 daughters Johanna Friedel, Peggy Young and Karen Martel. John and his late wife Peggy were involved in the establishing of the Prattville rescue squad years ago and John was a long time carpenter. He served in the military in the Korean War as a Medic, and so enjoyed that, and also served in the reserves. John and Peggy lived in Ocala Florida for the last 30 years, enjoying the warmth and sunshine and being close to his brothers Bobby and Ronnie. Our prayers are with John's family and send them our

condolences.

Lots of activity around the homestead with much of it being phone calls and unexpected drop by guests. Heard from Al Olivieri that his lovely mother Toby is going to be celebrating her 100th birthday on March 4. How about a card shower for her? Anyone that reaches 100 years of age deserves an avalanche of cards. Toby is worthy of cards just because she is Toby. Mail to: Toby Olivieri, P.O. Box 58, East Jewett, NY 12424. Al has a birthday on March 7 so you might as well send him a card also. He does tend to cry if he is overlooked.

Jimmy Hull Jr. was out and about, finally getting the okay to be driving. We all love our independence and Jimmy is enjoying his freedom after a heart attack some months ago. His nieces and nephews have been there for him to do all the things that his medical restrictions put upon him. So glad you are well on your way to a return to complete recovery. Stay well Jimmy.

Johannes and Marianne Krauss celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary with friends. Friends take the sharp edges off all your worries and upsets. Marianne and Johannes, may you have many more anniversary celebrations.

Jane Concato played deliveryman on Friday evening and personally delivered bbq chicken dinners. She was very kind and made it easy on those who are a bit disabled. You're a good friend Jane, and Joe also fits that category. Jane and Joe are members of the Lexington UMC and work along side those members of long standing. They practice what they preach. Thank you one and all. Others were also able to enjoy everyone's generosity.

Red Wing Blackbirds are back and busy feeding at our feeders. They do not look very sleek but they are here. Their usual arrival date is Valentine's Day, the fourteenth, but they are a welcome sign of spring. Other than a few really cold days, we have had very mild weather this winter. We will probably have a payback later on, like in May.

Happy Birthday to Dottie Pickett on February 20 and may it be filled with love. We wish Ken Aurigema a very Happy Birthday on February 24. We also wish Ken good health.

Please send your news to gurleyrv@gmail.com or call 518 299 3219.

By Lula Anderson

Walking weather is finally here! People are starting to appear on the roads and sidewalks, the Windham Path is full, all for the sake of exercise and good health. It feels so good to be able to walk in the sun and look at the changes in the area since last fall. Many trees have fallen, branches are down in many locations. And the perpetual trash. It's so nice when people come to visit us and stay at an Air B&B, then instead of disposing of their trash legally, they dump it on the side of the road. I saw a full trash bag, nicely tied, and dumped in the woods at the top of Jewett Mt. Another bag was thrown in the creek where it landed on top of the ice and is now making its way to Mill Hollow. Cans, bottle, fast food wrappers and coffee cups. All out there to sully my roadside because someone didn't want to have a dirty car and couldn't wait until there was a trash can. Thank you for visiting.

For those who are walking along the roads, please make yourself visible. I know its very un-stylish to wear a bright walking vest, or pairing bright yellow with orange or pink, but it could save you from injury. The way cars are speeding down the roads, you WANT the occupants to notice you. I have heard complaints from truck drivers that they cannot see the walker until almost upon them

Ashland Speaks

because of dark clothing. Something bright and reflective is preferred.

What a surprise for two of my friends who just entered the Pines for Re-Hab. When introduced to their roommate, Leona Knox and Ruth Cross were so happy to find they were in the same room. It makes healing so much easier when it's someone you know.

Went to Nana Gail's for breakfast on Sunday and heard the bad (good) news: They will be closed for the next two weeks while the new owner does some minor renovations.

Went to the Jewett Nutrition Center on Thursday for a delicious turkey dinner. It was a full house, and Gail is "taking reservations" for the month of February. Come check it out. For \$4, Senior Citizens get a complete dinner, served to you, just remember to call at least a day in advance as the food is cooked on premise and Gail and staff have to know how much to cook.

Several "Save the Dates" The next meeting of WAJPL will be on February 20 at our Senior Hall in Hensonville and we'll be having a game day. Albie and Donnie tried out the pool table yesterday, so it's good to go. Also Bingo and ???

On Feb. 24th, the VFW is holding a spaghetti dinner from 4:30 - 7. \$12 for adults, \$5 for children. The VFW hall is on Rt 23 just west of Windham.

On Feb 26, I will be

doing the message at the Windham UMC at 11 am. March 16th is the annual "Dinner Theater" for WAJ Senior Citizens. The Production this year is ANNIE. Join us and support our Drama Club and the school.

The Annual Corned Beef Luncheon is back at the Windham UMC on March 17th. Starting at 10 am, you can get a corned beef sandwich, cole slaw, bag o'chips, dessert and a drink for \$12. Free delivery of 3 or more in the Windham/Hensonville area.

The Cornell Cooperative Extension will be holding a gardening workshop, complete with soil sampling, one on one time with a master gardener, and more in Hudson on March 25th and in Acra on April 1s. Contact: Sandra Linnell SML334@cornell.edu 518-622-9820

Prayers for Wally Thompson who has been in the hospital, and for Peggy Fromm.

AS I REMEMBER VALENTINE'S DAY for some a day of candy, flowers, dinner out, and love. For some: memories. The Hallmark Channel is always showing stories of How two people get together, so I decided to share mine:

In 1957 IBM was first coming into Kingston so they had to rebuild their

telephone system with Ma Bell. I was working for the telephone company along with Jean McGlashen, Ruth Brandow and Jean Quinn. The winter season was slow, without the resorts being open, there was little need for many operators, so we, along with others from Tannersville, and other locations, were asked to go to Kingston to help. At the same time, Western Electric from Hartford, CT sent a team of men to put in the cross bar. And so the saga begins. We all worked together for 2 years, and got to be friends.

There were several night clubs, the Tropicana, the Capri, along with the MidTown Chop House and the DugOut. Breakfast was always at the Chop House, and soon we started pairing up. That is where both Jean and Ruth met their mates, and I fell in love with George (Andy) Anderson. He joined the Navy and after 20 years, we moved back to Ashland. We raised 4 wonderful children three boys and one girl, and in 2012 had been married 48 years. So many memories, both happy and sad, to look back on, and I miss the opportunity to make more, so I wish you, LOVE and happy memories.

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Tannersville Ghosts

By Michael Ryan
TANNERSVILLE - Questions have arisen about the legal residency of two village of Tannersville trustees, a matter that has reportedly been turned over to the State Attorney General's office for clarification.

The issue arose at a village board meeting, this past Monday night, when the trustees, Kim Thompson and John Gallagher, were directly asked where they live by an attendee of the meeting.

Thompson and Gallagher apparently live within the town of Hunter but municipal law reportedly dictates trustees must reside in the village.

Tannersville mayor Lee McGunnigle, on Wednesday, said he has reached out to the New York State Conference of Mayors for guidance.

"The law isn't vague at

all. They said I have a duty to forward any evidence to the Attorney General's office," McGunnigle said, noting all village sessions are recorded.

If it is factual that Thompson and/or Gallagher do not dwell within village boundaries, the situation could have serious implications.

They would likely be forced to resign and any actions taken by them while in office could fall under the "void ab initio" section of public officer law.

"Void ab initio" is a Latin term that translates into "from the beginning," meaning that, legally speaking, the two trustees never existed.

Their legal non-existence would apparently impact any documents signed or decisions made during their time in office,

creating a potential bureaucratic mess for the village.

No timeframe was given for receiving a response from the AG's office. The information has also been forwarded to the town attorney.

While a ruling is awaited, the issue could have deeper complications for village government with an election slated for March 21.

Two trustee seats are open in that vote but the posts held by Thompson and Gallagher are not impacted. They reportedly each have one year remaining in their current terms of office.

And meanwhile, Tannersville has become a whirlwind of political intensity as the race for mayor gains considerable interest (Please see related Better Than Hearsay).

SGT. JAMES F. CARTY, D.S.C.

VFW POST 1545 – WINDHAM, NY WEEKLY UPDATE



What is patriotism? The definition as the dictionary tells us is "the quality of being patriotic; devotion to and vigorous support for one's country."

Well, has our country turned the corner on expressing patriotism? This past Sunday as the Super Bowl extravaganza got going, I was pleasantly surprised that the NFL showed patriotism by honoring Patrick Tillman, Jr.

Pat Tillman was an American professional football player for the Arizona Cardinals of the National Football League (NFL) who left his sports career and enlisted in the United States Army in May 2002 in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks.

His service in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as subsequent death, were the subject of national attention when he was shot by friendly

fire. He also posthumously received the Silver Star and Purple Heart medals.

I was pleased to see that no one on the sideline took a knee during the National Anthem. Our country needs this kind of attention to the service that our armed forces perform regularly for our freedom.

I hope we turned the corner on national patriotism. I believe that our country needs to see this type of showing of our service members and what it means to serve our country.

I would like to also spotlight one of our members this week by honoring one of our Korean veterans. Billy McGregor served in the US Navy during the Korean War. Billy has also served as

an officer of VFW Post 1545 as a trustee. His contributions are numerous in keeping with the ideals of service to our community.

Our Post will hold a pasta dinner on Friday, February 24, from 4:30-7 p.m. with pasta, meatballs, salad and dessert served (takeout available should you choose not to eat in). The cost will be \$12 with \$5 for children.

Hope to see you all. I just wanted to remind you that we are still taking donations for our VFW District special project ALLIANCE 180, helping Veterans, First Responders, Doctors and Nurses, anyone with PTSD.

It is a SUICIDE PREVENTION program. This is a problem that the VFW wants to support. Should you want to donate to this project, forward your donation to VFW Post 1545, PO Box 598, Windham, NY 12496.

God Bless America and support our troops serving our country.

Marc Farnillette, PDC – Quartermaster Post 1545.

WAJ Ski Team Going to Championships



Windham-Ashland-Jewett school ski team is moving on to the New York State championships after winning a Section IV title, earlier this month. Taking it to the slopes are (front, kneeling) Gianna Garzone (middle, left to right) assistant coach Abby Garrison, John Garzone, Sophia Dyjak, Erin Klein, Piper Cohane and Alpine race coach Reggie Willcocks and (back, left to right) Alpine race coach Dave McQueen, JP Klein, Devin Schloffler and Slade Tynan. (Photo courtesy John Garzone Sr.).

By Michael Ryan
WINDHAM - The next stop for the Windham-Ashland-Jewett ski team is the New York State Public High School championships after bringing home a pair of Section IV trophies, earlier this month.

"Stop" may be the wrong word to describe this squad of downhillers who, when they aren't studying or sleeping, are constantly on the go.

"They are a young, very talented and inspiring group of kids," says Alpine race coach Reggie Willcocks, noting there are no seniors.

"What separates them is

their dedication to the sport, the way they train. Their overall attitude toward the goal of winning is spectacular.

"It makes you proud, seeing what a cohesive team they are," says Willcocks, working with the WAJ program full time since 2016.

Both the womens' and mens' teams brought home Delaware League and sectional titles, lead by overall womans' champ Piper Cohane and John Garzone, the mens' second-place finisher.

They are racing with Sophia Dyjak, Gianna Garzone and Erin Klein (women) and JP Klein,

Devin Schloffler and Slade Tynan (men).

WAJ competed against four other schools at Belleayre Mountain, on February 9, in combined alpine, slalom and giant slalom events.

The snowy scene now shifts to Bristol Mountain

in the Finger Lakes region of western New York at the end of this month.

"We're optimistic," Willcocks said, noting the program has fared well in the past at States, under then-coach Jerry Jaeger.

"We are on the uptick again," says Willcocks,

working with Alpine race coach Dave McQueen and assistant coach Abby Garrison.

Windham Mountain has traditionally been and still is "extremely supportive of this team and the program," donating slope time, Willcocks says.

Nominations Sought For 2023 Youth Awards

Once again, Greene County is seeking nominations for the annual Greene County Youth Awards (Youth of the Year, Youth Advisory Board Chairman's Choice Award, and Greene County Department of Human Services Director's Award).

Please consider nominating a youth who you believe has made outstanding contributions in serving his/her community through leadership, knowledge, skill and/or service.

From the nominations received, the youth will be evaluated by The Greene County Youth Advisory Board to determine this year's winners.

Nominations can be obtained from Greene County Department of Human Services. If you prefer, you can

find a nomination form available on their web site:

<https://www.greene-gov.com/departments/human-services/youth>

Return nomination forms by mail to Greene County Department of Human Services, attn.: M. Murphy, 411 Main Street, Catskill, NY

12414; fax Attn: M. Murphy at 518-719-3798 or email to mmurphy@discovergreene.com with the subject: Annual Youth Awards. Deadline is March 31, 2023. Any questions can be directed to the Greene County Department of Human Services at 518-719-3555.

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Historic Pine Hill Hotel Revival Planned

18 Hamlet Neighbors Team Up To Purchase Rundown Landmark

PINE HILL — A group of neighbors who live and work in the hamlet of Pine Hill have joined forces to purchase an historic building that once anchored the town's Main Street. Built in 1882, The Ulster House hosted hundreds of summer visitors during the glory days of Catskill resorts. It was placed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places in 2002.

Severe decline

But after decades of neglect, the impressive three-story building, capped with a distinctive belvedere look-out, has become increasingly dilapidated. Currently home to critters of various kinds, its large yard, adjoining a beautiful creek, was littered with tires and other garbage. The expansive wraparound porch was hidden from view by overgrown hedges.

"It's vacant, derelict, and desperately in need of *everything*, but it's got good bones and it can be saved," stated Gigi Loizzo, one of the local residents trying to rescue the building, located at 310 Main Street. Calling themselves Wellington-Blueberry LLC (as the building and its café were later known), the group purchased the property and developed



A number of Pine Hill residents have joined forces to purchase an historic building that once anchored the town's Main Street. Built in 1882, The Ulster House hosted hundreds of summer visitors during the glory days of Catskill resorts.

a plan to bring the faded old rooming house back to life as a modern hotel with a breakfast/lunch café catered by area bakers, and a shop stocked with basic groceries and other essentials.

According to One Hundred Years on Resort Ridge (Legendary Mountain Hotels of the Northern Catskills) by John M. Ham, "during the heyday," at the beginning of the 20th century "Pine Hill was one of the premiere vacation spots in the area." These days, although Pine Hill is the closest village to Belleayre

Mountain Ski Center, it often gets bypassed by traffic on Route 28

In Gigi Loizzo's view, the revival of Wellington will attract new visitors and benefit the whole town.

"Things are happening here. Pine Hill is full of possibilities and perfectly situated to provide breakfast and budget rooms to skiers in the winter," she remarked.

At a January 17 public hearing at Shandaken Town Hall, long-time resident Jan Jaffe, another leader of the Wellington group, took care to lay out "a

vision that would serve the community, as well as tourists." "Currently, there is no place in Pine Hill to purchase milk, bread, eggs or a sandwich," she noted.

Jaffe asked those in attendance to imagine the blighted vacant building as a vibrant community hub where one could meet a friend for a cup of coffee. Hotel guests would boost patronage of the restaurants already operating in Pine Hill, Phoenicia, and the other 10 hamlets that make up Shandaken. One or two units out of the projected 18 rooms

would be reserved for those working at the hotel. There are even dreams of a pickle ball court in the ample yard which would be open to visitors and residents, alike.

She summed up the proposal by saying, "this is not a get rich project! We want to contribute to and appropriately scale the growth of a place we love very much."

Chandra Valianti, Chair of the Wellington LLC Board, echoes this sentiment.

"When my husband and I found our forever home in Pine Hill, we

didn't just fall in love with the house, it was the village!" We are the luckiest people on earth to live here and we want to do this for our town."

In addition to members who have resided in Pine Hill for decades, the investors group includes several newcomers in their 20's, like Roz Stengle, who sought refuge in the Catskills during the COVID crisis. "At first I was nervous," she remembers. "I thought I might be missing out by leaving Brooklyn, but I've gotten very involved up here and found friends." "Everyone in the Wellington group has a different area of expertise," says Katya Blitsman. "I doubt any of us could have done it alone."

Momentum

The Wellington team hopes to build on the 2022 news that Governor Kathy Hochul had awarded \$3.9 million dollars to build a Shandaken Rail Trail. It will follow the abandoned Ulster and Delaware RR line, which used to bring tourists to the Wellington. Some day, in the not too distant future, people will be able to walk and bike from Highmount down to Pine Hill's Belleayre Beach, and on to Big Indian and the Shandaken Wild Forest.

The grass roots group turned LLC is working hard to clean out and secure the

continued on E4

Town Of Middletown Building Activity Spiked Last Year

Permit Numbers Rose 20 Percent 8 For New Homes

Staff report

The Town of Middletown Building and Zoning Department say a 20 percent increase in building permits in 2022 from a year earlier, it was reported at the town board's February 8 meeting.

Code Enforcement Officer was present to give the town board his Annual Report that showed a sharp uptick in activity. He said the Building and Zoning Department issued 193 building permits last year, up from 160 the previous year. In 2020, there were 147 building permits authorized.

Among the permits,

eight were for new homes. The year before, 10 building permits were for new homes. These figures compare to construction of just two new homes started in 2020.

A breakdown of other permits issued in 2022, shows the biggest jump in permits was for projects involving alterations/additions and

repairs, with 148 permits falling under these categories. This figure compares to 117 and 113 in the past two years, respectively.

The rest of the building permits were for the following types of activity: one for a trailer, one for a doublewide, two for modular homes and one commercial project.

Building permit fees for the 193 projects last year totaled \$36,379. This is a slight increase from the \$33,240 in fees collected in 2021. Total values reported for projects last year was \$2,811,238. The town's Zoning Department took in an additional \$1,350 in fees.

There were two floodplain development per-

mits issued.

CEO Davis' report for the Zoning Department, there were two subdivisions. There were eight boundary line adjustments applied for involving a total of 10 lots that were put back together. All these applications were approved. The Zoning Department received four applications

continued on E4

INDEX

Obituaries.....E5	Tri-County News.....D1
Here's The Scoop.....E4	Catskill Geologists.....D1
Schoharie Valley & Co.....B1	Editorial.....D8
Windham Weekly.....C1	Whittling Away.....D1
Letters.....A4	Classifieds.....D&E

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Getting Out There

by Peter Manning

This Week's Hike: Red Hill

There comes a point when you just need to walk in the woods. The urgency of this condition might be supported by the realization that computers are hereby infiltrating so much of what we do in our lives. The article my sister-in-law sent about our brother-in-law's career building a super-computer was fascinating, and mind-boggling. Then my computer-tech friend tells me about the new search engine with AI (Artificial Intelligence). Just ask the bot a question and it will "generate human-like responses to text inputs in a conversational manner."

So just for kicks, I inquired what the Red Hill Fire Tower hike would be like, and it replied that I would need to drive across the Catskills to find out. I'm being facetious of course; the real me was already pulling on my micro-spikes at the icy parking lot.

Two years ago, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the NYC Department of Environmental Protection partnered on the construction of a new trail to Red Hill. The drive to the new trailhead is a bit shorter (than the original trailhead) for those coming

from the north and west, and the round-trip hike mileage is longer (now 4 miles). This is my kind of combination. Besides, the eastern approach can be tricky in the winter; not the hike but driving your car to the bottom of a steep narrow road to the starting point.

To reach the new trailhead from Route 28, turn south at Big Indian and take Ulster County Route 47 26 miles to Claryville (Sullivan County), turn left, go 2.8 miles, and you'll see the new sign or your right.

I knew the hike would require micro-spikes all day. This is a reference to Kahtoola Microspikes, one of the most popular types of "winter traction." By contrast, the Hillsound trail crampon is more aggressive, with larger teeth to bite into icy inclines. Both kinds are made of stretchable rubber that easily pull over your winter boot – and they stay on. Depending on conditions, some hikes will demand that you use a trail crampon. Only in rare instances will you need an ice crampon, with its even-larger fangs to help secure your footing when a trail is all ice. Packing both the Kahtoolas and the Hillsounds will cover a wide range of conditions.

Getting a grip

With the new Red Hill trail being packed snow on this day, the Kahtoolas enabled just the right amount of grip to move along at brisk pace with even foot placement on each step. It's great when the snow is deep enough to cover all the rocks in the trail but not require snowshoes.

Shortly after setting out, I was immediately impressed by a set of sturdy rock steps that have been carefully placed along the trail. Continuing, I encountered several extremely well-designed rock staircases that artfully threaded me through the craggy passes. You just don't typically encounter this level of high-quality trail construction, and especially not for long stretches. After I completed the hike, I confirmed with a DEC forester that the trail work was completed by Tahawus Trails, a company specializing in this work.

Continuing upward, I heard a loud pop off in the woods. It sounded like somebody was cracking firewood by jumping on it. There it went again. A bear down in that glen? Nope. I soon realized the woods were thawing, as the afternoon sun was hitting the forest after two nights of sub-



Spectacular view from Red Hill Trail.

zero temperatures and ridiculous wind chills. With plenty of woody debris on the trail I could get a sense of what these westward facing trees endured prior to basking in today's mid-30s sunlight.

When the new trail intersects with the older one, you've come 1.4 miles and have completed a moderate climb with 700' elevation gain. For the remaining .6 you will really start climbing, completing an additional 500'. The pitch to this 2990' summit packs a punch and is part of what makes the trip worthwhile. And the view from the tower is highly rewarding.

Not only are you raised above the forest canopy, but the position of this mountain in the southern Catskills presents one-of-kind views. Here the mesa-like topography is revealed from a different angle. From this unique vantage point, the high peaks of Table and Peekamoose Mountains punctuate the gulf of Bear Hole Brook that defines their eastern slopes. Slide Mountain too does not exhibit its usual profile. To the north, the summits of Graham and Doubletop are head and shoulders above the surrounding foothills.

For hiking the Catskills, the New York New Jersey Trail Conference publishes a detailed set of maps. And if you climb Red Hill Fire Tower you are at least one-sixth of the way to earning the new patch issued by DEC for those who complete the Catskills Fire Tower Challenge in 2023. Bonus prizes are also offered. Happy Trails!

Peter Manning is the Executive Director of the Catskill Mountain Club. To learn about CMC events, membership, and projects please visit catskillmountainclub.org.



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No Word On Roxbury Grant Application

By Mike Martin

The Roxbury Town Board heard a report from MARK Project Executive Director Peg Ellsworth at its February 13 meeting who told the board her organization is still awaiting results for the DRI Grant, Downtown Revitalization Initiative.

MARK has applied for funding on the town's behalf, but funding allocations for this region have not yet been announced, Ms. Ellsworth told the board. She said that DRI grants have been announced for some regions, but not this one.

Other items:

- Chris Mattice reported that a water leak at the entrance to the Grand Gorge trailer park has been identified and steps are being taken to repair. A small water leak was detected in Roxbury and handled.

- Denver Vega Water, well pump #6 is currently out for repairs.

- Superintendent of Highways Bill Sprague reported most of the speed indicator signs have been installed. All the new digital Highway Department radios have been received and are in service.

- Assessor Clerk Stephanie Seminara addressed the board regarding a proposal to raise the income limit for senior citizen tax exemptions to \$28,200. Ms. Seminara also updated the board on a proposed First Responder/Firefighter tax exemption. Supervisor Allen Hinkley noted that more information will be needed before any decision is made.
- Board Member Ken Davie was re-appointed as Deputy Supervisor and David Cowan was again appointed to the Planning Board. This action was necessary as their Oath of Office was not taken within the required 30-day time limit.

- The State Comptroller's Audit report for year 2022 was completed and is on file at the town hall. The

board agreed to respond with corrective actions as needed.

- The board voted approval for Building Inspector Tomi Tompkins to be retained for additional duties of Commercial Fire Inspector. Supervisor Hinkley noted that in discussions with Tomi Tompkins, building permit fees may need to be adjusted. Many old/un-

resolved permits are detected. The supervisor stated that any action on penalties for unresolved permits should wait until an update on permit fees is decided.

- David Rainbird noted that the new town website will be operational next week. A \$3,600 quote for annual website maintenance was accepted.

The Property Exchange

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Arkville residence

The estate of Evelyn K. Van De Bogart has sold her three-bedroom, two-bath home with pool and panoramic mountain views on a

quiet country acre off Dry Brook Road. The new local first-time homeowner is pleased to be making monthly mortgage payments and no longer paying rent.

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Here's The Scoop

Tree-mendous Help

By Brian Sweeney

With temperatures hovering in the 40s and 50s here in mid-February, it seems like a perfect time for a “hobby” maple syrup producer to spring into action. But, I haven't.

I'm hearing lots of reports that professionals and amateurs alike are experiencing sap flows that rival Niagara Falls. Only less noisy, with no spray or souvenir stands.

Despite this positive start to the season, my dozen buckets remain in the basement, untouched since they were put away last year. Let me be blunt: I hate cleaning the pails and sap spiles. I know, it's a small amount of work for some truly sweet rewards. I'm hoping by the time you read this I'll have been hit with a wave of motivation and be busy collecting a steady flow of sap.

Lots of experience

I've been involved in the maple syrup “business” for quite a few years. Like snowflakes, each season is different. Folks who make a living from this process invest serious money into their equipment to maximize every part of their enterprise as they try to squeeze out every drop, so to speak.

Not me. I'm on the other end of the production spectrum. I like to start the season late and end it early. We have a handful of good-sized sugar maples near our house and I tend to tap the same trees. Oddly enough, the biggest tree I tap has been yielding less sap each year. During the off-season, I noticed a large split in the tree. That explained the sap trickle. I'm not sure how I didn't notice this issue earlier. I won't be tapping that one any more.

At least the lack of flow from the damaged tree wasn't as big a problem as one I heard about this week. It seems a rookie producer in a neighboring community was recently eager to dip into maple syrup production on a small scale. Tipping her hand as a newcomer to this pastime, she mistakenly tapped an ash tree. Apparently, she was unaware that such trees are only used to make ash trays.

Hot stuff

Which leads us to the real work of maple syrup production — boiling. This process is time consuming for anyone, but is greatly improved by the pros who can utilize evaporators and other methods that improve the magical transformation from sap to the final sticky, sweet sensation.

On the other hand, if you don't have fancy equipment at your disposal, the boiling process can be quite tedious. It's like watching water boil. For a really long time. The basic rule of thumb is it takes about 40 gallons of maple sap to boil down to the final product of a gallon of syrup. No word on how long it takes for ash sap to turn into maple syrup.

Doing my part

We're fortunate to have a good friend who is far more dedicated to syrup-making. He not only keeps the fires roaring, he also welcomes “contributions” of sap from those “producers” who don't match his level of ambition. This isn't to say that I just “dump” the fruits of my limited labor and run. Sap isn't the only liquid I deliver — beer is a vital part of the boiling process — it helps dull the boredom.

If that's not enough, I like to offer words of encouragement such as: “Wow, that's a really hot fire you've got going — that's quite boil!” After all, I'm a “steam” player.

Historic Pine Hill Hotel Revival Planned

continued from E1
building. With the help of local real estate experts, they have determined that it will take about \$2.5 to \$3 million to fix all 10,900 square feet of the building inside and out. The Town of Shandaken is backing an application to the Restore New York

Program to assist with the rehabilitation. The determined participants have big dreams of opening the new hotel by the end of 2024. To do this they have been putting in sweat equity as well as cash as they look for more investors and funders. They have been heartened by the

large number of community members eager to join their effort to return this property back to life on Main Street. “I believe that we can really accomplish something together here,” says Roz Stengle. “It feels important. We are putting down roots and now our goal is to en-

tice other people to come to Pine Hill.” For more information, please check out the Wellington's website (pinehillwellington.com), Instagram (@pinehillwellington), or contact the group at hello@pinehillwellington.com.

Town Of Middletown Building Activity Spiked

continued from E4
tions for variances to the Zoning Ordinance and all were approved. There were six sign permits applied for, and approved, in 2022.

During the past year, CEO Davis said the Planning Board did not receive any applications for Special Use Permits. He said there was one application for a Site Plan Review, and it was approved.

The report noted that the Building and Zoning Department dealt with 15 zoning violations in the town during the past year. Out of the 15 violations, none have

been closed successfully and are still pending. The report showed four open violations from 2021, two open from 2020, zero open from 2019, and one open violation from 2018.

Asked by a board member about the outstanding violations, CEO Davis said that, of the 15 open violations from last year, one property owner has been cited for 13 of the violations. He said that all of these violations need to be addressed for the case to be closed. He also noted that several lingering

violations involved non-resident owners who are difficult to reach.

On the other end of the spectrum, the Building and Zoning Department received eight applications for demolition permits and collected \$410 in fees for these projects.

CEO Davis said his department conducted 15 inspections on new woodstoves or fireplaces. These inspections yielded \$750 in fees. In addition, there were 58 annual fire inspections conducted on local businesses and places of public assembly in the Town of

Middletown.

The code enforcement officer's Annual Report also gave an overview of the number of municipal searches performed during the past three years. Following are the number of municipal searches during those years. In 2022, there a total of 118 searches by town personnel on behalf of the public, with fees totaling \$3,075. In 2021, there a total of 163 searches done with fees totaling \$4,075. These figures compare to 2020 when 178 searches were done, with \$4,580.

Town Sets Public Hearing On Tax Exemptions For Volunteers

Staff report

The Middletown Town Board will hold a Public Hearing regarding the adoption of a proposed Local Law that would authorize property tax exemptions for volunteer firefighters and ambulance service workers on Wednesday, March 8 at 6 p.m.

If enacted, the Local Law would “permit the partial real property exemption for such qualified enrolled members of said emergency service organizations for real property taxes.”

Town Board Member Nelson Delameter said that details for the proposal are still be worked out by Delaware County officials. Noting the difficulty of attracting personnel to volunteer time for fire department and ambulance duties, Mr. Delameter said the Local Law is viewed as a retention tool, rather than an enticement for recruitment. He told the board that the qualifications for volunteers to earn a Real Property

Exemptions would have to be clearly spelled out so that all taxing authorities adopting such a law would utilize the same criteria.

Copies of the Local Law will be available at the town clerk's office during the week prior to the hearing.

In other business, the board agreed to submit a letter to the NYC Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) land acquisition office to inquire about a potential “land swap.”

Neighboring land

The town has been working on a plan to utilize a portion of a 14.5-acre parcel it owns near the end of county Route 38 in Arkville for a housing project. Because of the slope of much of the property, the intention was to combine the buildable acreage with a much flatter adjoining parcel to create adequate space for the project. When the neighboring property owner decided not to sell, the plans

stalled.

At last week's meeting, Board Member Brian Sweeney explained that Superintendent of Highways John Biruk had reached out to let him know he had spoken to a DEP representative regarding the possibility of the town trading its parcel with a much flatter adjoining piece owned by the city. It was noted that the land would ideally lend itself to a housing project because of the availability of municipal sewer and water.

Seeking support

Mr. Biruk explained that the deal would not involve a subdivision, but merely a lot line adjustment, since the parcels share a border. The board approved a letter to the DEP written by Mr. Sweeney inquiring about the possible land swap.

Supervisor Patrick Davis recommended that the board also reach out to state representatives and local or-

ganizational leaders to have them prepare letters of support to be included with the town's request.

Work to install a new well for the Arkville Water District moved forward when the board authorized a long-term easement agreement with the Arkville Fire Department to place a backup well on the Pavilion Road parcel owned by the department.

The board is pursuing the project as a means of replacing a well behind the Delaware & Ulster Railroad that requires arsenic filtration. If the water from the new well meets health standards, the arsenic well would be decommissioned.

The goal is to secure a better water source and to save money for district residents since the new well would not require an operator with a higher class of water license. The project is being funded with a portion of Middletown's American Res-

Delaware County Deed Transfers

By or against	Town	In Favor of	Transfer Tax
Date: Feb. 13			
MCINTOSH COUNTRY MARKET LLC	MIDDLETOWN	213 FAIR STREET LLC	1,200.00
DEBARI ARTHUR ROBERTS CHARLENE	MIDDLETOWN	DEBEECH DARYL	1,900.00
BALCH ERICKA MEYERHOFF SWING FAYE S MEYERHOFF CRAIG A (AKA) MEYERHOFF MARIE A MEYERHOFF GARTH DIETRICH MEYERHOFF CRAIG ALLEN DANIELS CORTNEY MEYERHOFF (ANCILLARY EXX) MEYERHOFF DEBORAH COGUE (EST OF/EXX OF) MEYERHOFF ROGER JAY (SEE INST)	MEREDITH	J&M DEVCO LLC	1,200.00



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The Margaretville boys' JV basketball team clinched the Delaware League Crossover title following a nail-biter win over South Kortright on Tuesday night at MCS. The Blue Devils posted a 49-45 victory over the visiting Rams. Ryan Sanford led the MCS boys with 21 points, followed by Robert Sass with 11 and Alex Bandham with 10 points, respectively. — Photo by Julia Marks

Margaretville Wins JV Hoop Crown

MARGARETVILLE — The host Margaretville boys' JV basketball team clinched the Delaware League Crossover title with a 49-45 win over South Kortright.

Ryan Sanford paced the winners with 21 points. Next in the scoring department for the winners were Robert Sass with 11 points and Alex Bandham to who had a 10-point night.

Coach Ivan Herrera noted, "Ryan Sanford is the sharpest three-point shooters that I've seen, and could be the best that Margaretville has had."

The coach said it was a total team effort the won the title.

"There is no I in them, and these boys played as a team. They all wanted this more than anything and I am very proud of them, every single one of them."

Coach Herrera added, "One of the moments of this game that I will cherish besides basketball is when all my youth basketball 3rd and 4th graders ran to me after the game and gave me a huge hug, those are what being coach is all about and all I can say is the future for Blue Devil basketball is bright."

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CHURCH
109 Maple Street,
Margaretville, NY 12455
845-586-4601
Sunday Worship
Service, 11am
Bible Study
Wednesday 6 pm, April-No-
vember

BAPTIST
STAMFORD BAPTIST
CHURCH
40 Lake Street,
Stamford NY 12167
(607) 607 652-3713
Sunday School, 9:45 AM,
Worship 11:00 AM
Pastor Waylen Bray:
Associate Pastor Shawn
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ST. ANNE'S MISSION
CHURCH
375 Main Street, Andes, NY
13731
Phone: 838 910 9889
Mass on Sunday at 12 pm

ST. PHILIP NERI
MISSION CHURCH
State Highway 30, Grand
Gorge, NY 12434
Phone: 838 910-9889
Mass Sunday 8am
Reconciliation is offered
Sundays 7:30-8:00 am

SACRED HEART CHURCH
543 Main Street, Margare-
ville, NY 12455
Phone: 838 910 9889
Masses: Sun. at 10 am,
Tuesday at 12, Wednesday
at 9am

SACRED HEART CHURCH
27 Harper Street, Stamford,
NY 12167
Phone: 838 910 9889
Masses: Saturday 4:30,
Thursday 12:00pm, Friday
9:00am
Reconciliation is offered
Saturdays 3:30-4:15pm

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NY 12455
845-586-4848
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Sundays

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Saint James Church
Lake Delaware
55 Lake Delaware Drive
Delhi, NY 13753
(607) 832-4401
Sunday Mass, 10 am

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ALASKA ORTHODOX
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www.cbmountain.org

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May-October
5177 County Hwy 6
New Kingston NY 12459
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Tel: 845-586-4567

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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

PRATTSVILLE
REFORMED CHURCH
14630 Main Street, Pratts-
ville, NY 12468
Phone : (607) 326-7101
Sunday Worship 11 am
Rev. Richard Dykstra

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327 Lower Main Street,
Andes NY 13731
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HALCOTT UMC
42 Bouton Road,
Halcott NY 12430
9:00 am Sundays

MARGARETVILLE UMC
55 Church Street,
Margaretville NY 12455
10:30 am Sundays

ROXBURY UMC
53761 State Highway 30,
Roxbury NY 12474
9:00 am Sundays

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Events Calendar

Friday, Feb. 17

A Mardi Gras Concert featuring Kimberly Hawkey, Dan Gabel, Evan Jangels, and Joelle and River, will be held from 6-9 p.m. at the Pine Hill Community Center, 287 Main Street, Pine Hill. Information at: pinehillcommunitycenter.org

Friday & Saturday, Feb. 17 & 18

Longyear Gallery of Margaretville is pleased to announce the opening of "Members' Late Winter Group Exhibit," a new group show featuring the art of all Longyear Gallery Members. Opening on Friday, February 17, the exhibit will run through Sunday, March 19 with the Artists' Reception on Saturday, February 18 from 3-5 p.m. Info: longyeargallery.org, or call 845 586-3270. Longyear Gallery located at 785 Main Street, Margaretville.

Sunday, Feb. 19

Please join us at the 1053 Gallery this at 2 p.m. for a conversation with the show's curator, Lindsay Comstock, and artists featured in DEPARTURES, including Janice La Motta, Kate Quarfordt and Christie Scheele. Hear about the vision behind the exhibition and how the artists' process shifted in response to the pandemic. DEPARTURES is a survey of work made in response to the pandemic by twenty-four New York artists. The show will run through March 12. music. The gallery is located at 1053 Main Street, Fleischmanns. Info at: 1053gallery.com, phone 845 254-3461.

Through March 4

Liberal Arts Roxbury is hosting Phil's Ghost, an exhibition of album art honoring the late Phillip Lenihan, owner of the gallery under its previous entities, Orphic Gallery and the 8-Track Museum. Phil's Ghost is curated this year by Film Director and Producer Roger Ross Williams. The show runs through March 4. Located at 53525, State Highway 30, Roxbury. E-mail info@liberalarts-roxbury.com.

March, 18, 19, 25, & 26

Looking ahead a bit, New York State producers will participate in Maple Weekends on March 18-19, March 25-26. 10 am to 4 pm each day at most locations. Check your planned destination for any exceptions. Visit: mapleweekend.nysmaple.com for a complete list of participants.

Thursdays, March 30-May 4

Writers in the Mountains (WIM) presents Ekphrastic Poetry: A Jump Start from Other Art Forms and Everyday Objects, a six-week long workshop with Sharon Ruetenik, March 30 - May 4. The class will be held online Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m. To register, e-mail writersinthemountains@gmail.com. To register online, visit writersinthemountains.org. Class fee is \$125. Registration deadline is March 23. Class limited to ten students.

Late Winter Group Members' Show Opening Planned At Longyear Gallery

MARGARETVILLE — Longyear Gallery of Margaretville is pleased to announce the opening of "Members' Late Winter Group Exhibit," a new group show featuring the art of all Longyear Gallery Members. Opening on Friday, February 17, the exhibit will run through Sunday, March 19, with the Artists' Reception on Saturday, February 18 from 3-5 p.m.

Longyear Gallery is a cooperative art gallery that first opened in Margaretville in Fall 2007. In "Members' Late Winter Group Exhibit," Longyear Gallery's 34 artists, including Robert Axelrod, Joanne Barham, Temma Bell, Robert Buckwalter, Marcia Clark, Anna Contes, Neil Driscoll, Gail Freund, Ann Lee Fuller, Elaine Grandy, Irina Grinevitsky, Robin Halpern, Louise Kalin, Hedi Kyle, and Linda Lariar.

More members

Also, Margaret Leveson, Helene Levine-Keating, Patrice Lorenz, Ron Macklin, Alethea Maguire, Douglas Maguire, Frank Manzo, Helene Manzo, Anthony Margiotta, Gary Mayer, Sheila McManus, Richard Kirk Mills, Bonnie Mitchell, Wayne Morris, Lesley A. Powell, Deborah Ruggerio, Victoria Scott, Gerda van Leeuwen, and Ros Welchman, will be presenting their watercolors, prints, monotypes, photographs, drawings, ceramics, objects, mixed media work, and oil paintings.

Future Spring 2023 Longyear Gallery exhibits will include a Special Exhibit running from Friday, March 24-Sunday, April 23: "Farms, Farmers & Farming: A Tribute to Local Agriculture," featuring art focusing on the farming communities surrounding Margaretville and located throughout the



Joanne Barham, 54 Highland, 2022 — paper collage, 22x24

Catskills, a theme close to the hearts and minds of Longyear members. This special exhibit will be accompanied by a group show of those Longyear Gallery artists who will not be participating in "Farms, Farmers & Farming." Following this special exhibit is "Frontier Horizons," a solo exhibition featuring recent original monoprints by Longyear artist Victoria

A. Scott, accompanied by a members group exhibition, running from Friday, April 28-Sunday, May 29 with the opening reception on Saturday, April 29 from 3-5 p.m.

Longyear Gallery's "Members' Late Winter Group Exhibit" will be on view Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Holiday Mondays each weekend from 11 p.m.-4 p.m. Special attention

will be paid to keep safe all visitors to the gallery as well as members. In view of health precautions at this time, it is suggested that all visitors wear masks.

Longyear Gallery is located Downstairs in The Commons, 785 Main Street, Margaretville. For information, please see Longyear Gallery's website, longyeargallery.org, or call 845 586-3270.



Patrice Lorenz, Wake Up Call — Mixed Media on Paper, 17x23

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Members' Late Winter Group Exhibit

Friday Feb 17, 2023 - Sunday March 19, 2023

Reception-Sat Feb 18, 3-5pm Gallery Hours: Fri/Sat/Sun 11am-4pm

Robert Buckwalter

Temma Bell

785 Main Street, Margaretville New York 12455 845-586-3270

longyeargallery.org
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POLICE & COURT NEWS

DELHI — Delaware County Acting District Attorney Shawn J. Smith announced that John Olson, 59, of Monroe pleaded guilty to one count of Criminal Sexual Act in the 1st Degree, a Class B Violent Felony, and one count of Criminal Sexual Act in the 2nd Degree a Class D Violent Felony

The defendant appeared in front of Acting Delaware County Court Judge Gary A. Rosa on February 6 and entered his guilty plea. The defendant admitted that on or about March of 2020, in the Town of Andes, he engaged in oral sexual conduct with a child less than 13 years old.

The defendant also admitted that during the fall of 2016, while in the Town of Andes, he engaged in oral sexual conduct with a different child, this one less than 15 years old.

Guilty pleas

These two guilty pleas were part of a negotiated disposition. It is agreed that on the Class B felony of Criminal Sexual Act in the 1st Degree, the defendant will be sentenced to eight years imprisonment and 10 years of post-release supervision. It is further agreed that on the Class D Felony of Criminal Sexual Act in the 2nd Degree, the defendant will be sentenced to five years imprisonment and five years of post-release supervision- this sentence will run concurrently to the eight-year sentence. Upon his

release from state prison, the defendant will be required to register as a sex offender.

Acting District Attorney Shawn Smith announced that Charles Wise, 51, of Grand Gorge, was convicted of one count of Driving While Intoxicated, an unclassified misdemeanor. The defendant entered his guilty plea in the Town of Roxbury Court on Feb. 1.

This defendant was alleged to have been involved in a motor vehicle crash on State Highway 20, in Roxbury on Sept. 1, 2022. New York State Trooper James Feldbauer arrived at the scene of the crash and detected an order of alcohol emanating from the defendant. Further investigation revealed that the defendant had a blood alcohol content more than the legal limit.

The defendant pleaded guilty to Driving While Intoxicated, an unclassified misdemeanor. The Honorable Jerry Stein, Roxbury court justice, sentenced Wise to a one-year conditional discharge, and revoked his driver's license for six months.

The defendant was ordered to install an ignition interlock device in any motor vehicle he owns or operates for the next 12 months. The defendant was ordered to pay a \$500 fine, and to attend a victim impact panel.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT — Delaware County Sheriff Craig S. DuMond has

announced that an investigation into a Larceny complaint resulted in the arrest of a Davenport, NY man.

On January 8, at approximately 3:56 p.m., Delaware County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a report of an ongoing larceny complaint. It was reported by the complainant that 20-year-old Brandon Navas had been stealing electricity to provide electricity to his residence.

On Monday February 6, Delaware County Sheriff's Deputies arrested and charged Navas with one count of Petit Larceny, a misdemeanor. Navas was processed and released on an Appearance Ticket; he is scheduled to return to the Town of Davenport Court to answer for this charge.

Dispute

Sheriff DuMond announced that an investigation into a neighbor dispute resulted in the arrest of a Margaretville woman.

On December 24, 2022 at approximately 7:30 a.m., Delaware County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a report of an ongoing neighbor dispute. It is alleged that 67-year-old Wilma Balcom, of Margaretville engaged in a course of conduct, which alarmed or annoyed another person, and which served no legitimate purpose.

On Tuesday afternoon, January 31, Delaware County Sheriff's Deputies arrested Balcom on a Criminal Summons issued by the Middletown Town

Court, charging her with one count of Harassment in the second degree, a violation. Balcom is scheduled to return to the Town of Middletown Court on a later date.

Sheriff DuMond has announced the arrest of a Staten Island resident for driving with a suspended registration.

On Sunday night, February 12, Sheriff's Deputies were patrolling on Route 30 in the Town of Colchester when the Deputy received notification on a License Plate Reader of a vehicle with a Suspended Registration.

Traffic stop

Upon conducting a traffic stop, Deputies identified the driver of the vehicle as 38-year-old Danielle Pitre of Staten Island. A check of Pitre's vehicle registration was in fact suspended, due to Violation of Toll Collection as well as Parking Violations Suspension.

Deputies subsequently arrested Pitre and issued her uniformed traffic tickets for Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended/Revoked Registration, Failure to turn in License Plate to DMV, both unclassified misdemeanors, Unlicensed Operator, Failure to Notify DMV of Address Change, Unregistered Motor Vehicle, Obstructed Plate, and Obstructed View.

Pitre was released on the uniformed traffic tickets and is scheduled to appear in the Town of Colchester Court to answer the charges.

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LEGAL NOTICES

BID NOTICE

Please take notice that the Town Board, Town of Roxbury, is seeking sealed bids for hauling materials from Schoharie, Middleburgh, Lexington, Davenport, Ashland and Oneonta, on a per ton basis to the NYS Rt. 30 storage area and/or the Cty. Hwy. 41 storage area located in Roxbury.

Bids must include a Certificate of Liability Insurance in the amount of \$1,000,000 and a Certificate of Non-Collusion. Sealed bids shall be marked "MATERIAL HAULING".

Sealed bids must be received at the Roxbury Town Clerk's Office, PO Box 189, 56 Hillcrest Drive, Roxbury, NY 12474 before 2:15 pm on March 10, 2023 at which time they shall be opened. The bids will be awarded/rejected at the Regular Meeting of the Town Board to be held on March 13, 2023 at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall.

For questions regarding this bid or to receive a bid package, please contact William Sprague, Highway Supt. at 607-326-4222 between the hours of 5:00 am and 1:30 pm Monday-Friday. The Town Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

By Order of the Town Board
Town of Roxbury
William Sprague,
Hwy. Supt.
Dated: Feb. 13, 2023

BID NOTICE
Pursuant to Section 103 of the General Munic-

ipal Law, the Town Board, Town of Roxbury is soliciting sealed bids for the following materials to be delivered, unless otherwise stated, to the Town Highway Building located at 52508 State Hwy. 30, Roxbury as requested by the Highway Supt.

42,000 gallons +/- Diesel Fuel

The following is required: 1) must meet New York State specifications; 2) Winter Blend will be a 50/50 Blend of 50% Ultra Low Sulfur diesel and 50% Kerosene; 3) Base Prices will be based on the Journal of Commerce Daily Average Albany Posting for Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel and Kerosene dated March 3, 2022; and 4) must be accompanied by a Certificate of Non-Collusion. The Town Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Sealed bids shall be marked "HIGHWAY FUELS" and must be received at the Town Clerk's Office, PO Box 189, 56 Hillcrest Drive, Roxbury, NY 12474 before 2:00 pm on March 10, 2023 at which time they shall be opened.

Bids will be awarded/rejected at the Town Board Meeting to be held March 13, 2023 at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall.

By Order of the Town Board
Town of Roxbury
William Sprague,
Hwy. Supt.
Dated: Feb. 13, 2023

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hear-

ing will be held before the Town Board for the Town of Middletown on Wednesday, March 8th, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, 42339 State Route 28, Margaretville, New York, regarding the adoption of Local Law No. 1 of 2023 - A Local Law Authorizing Real Property Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Service Workers. This law is being proposed to permit the partial real property exemption for such qualified enrolled members of said emergency service organizations for real property taxes imposed by the Town. At such time and place all persons interested in the subject matter thereof will be heard concerning the same.

Copies of the proposed law shall be available at the time of the hearing and shall be available at times prior to and after the hearing at the Town Clerk's Office during normal business hours for the purpose of inspection or procurement by interested persons.

FURTHER NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Town Board will meet and hold their March monthly meeting immediately following the public hearing.

By Order of the Town Board
Dated:
February 8th, 2023
Patricia F. Kelly
Town Clerk
Town of Middletown
F17C

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BOWLING NEWS

ARK BOWL & BBQ WOMEN'S LEAGUE • Stats for 2/9/23

Team Name	W	L	High Game
Spillian	45	23	Kacie Thomas 163,
ROI	43	25	Jeannette Thompson 154,
JK Tinting	39.5	28.5	Jessica Watson 151
JM Lawncare	39	29	
Better Late Than Never	35.5	32.5	High Series
Bye	2	59	Kacie Thomas 413,
			Jeannette Thompson 408,
			Karen Straut 398



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Sectional Success

Congratulations to the Margaretville Central School Ski Team which produced an excellent showing at Sectionals on February 9 at Belleayre Mountain in Highmount. Overall champion, Senior Ryan McVitty (photo at left) placed first in Giant Slalom and Slalom and has secured a spot on the Section IV Boys' State Team.

Sophomore Chase Norwick placed second in Giant Slalom and fifth in Slalom and also made the Section IV Boys' State Team. Seventh grader Gabby Sines, placed sixth in Giant Slalom and sixth in Slalom and will be the first alternate for the Section IV Girls' State Team.

Seventh grader, River Williams placed in the top ten, finishing ninth in Giant Slalom and ninth in Slalom. Sectionals were held at Belleayre Mountain today, States will take place at Bristol on February 27 and 28.

Above, from left, are: River Williams, Ryan McVitty, Chase Norwick, Gabby Sines, and Coach James Owdienko

— Photos by Robin Williams



Margaretville senior Ryan McVitty placed first in Giant Slalom and Slalom in Sectional competition last week.

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DELHI, NY 13753

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ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES: kitchen mixer, cookie jars, jardiniere & pedestal, bookends, pair of art glass swans, oak & walnut frames, draw shaves, early marriage certificate, Native American picture, copper pitcher, Asian jardiniere, buck skin, sheep skin, wooden bowls, wooden kitchenware, sewing baskets, yellow ware bowls, stoneware bottle, crocks, candle lamp, peanut jar, brass candle holders, Westinghouse blue kitchen pitchers and accessories, Bear Spring water bottle, stoneware bottle, crocks, Native American photos, tools, machetes, buggy whip, kraut cutter, butter press, chocolate mold, buggy weight, US military canvas water bucket, Globe file box, clock made in Delhi, zither, tea pot, tobacco can, hanging baskets, duck decoy, wooden goose, brass horn, oil paintings, table lamp, torchere' lamp. Stoneware foot warmer, sterling silver candlesticks, wire basket, tea set, Jadite kitchen pieces, picnic basket, vintage Halloween items, vintage Christmas decorations, food choppers, folding quilt rack, copper pitcher, leaded glass window, Art Deco lamp w/ nudes, wrought iron candle stand, US coins including silver dollars, Mercury dimes, wheat pennies, steel pennies, 4 1 oz. silver commemorative coins, flask, crocks & jugs, antique lanterns, antique jewelry and more!!

ANTIQUE FURNITURE: oak stick and ball shelf, ball and claw piano stool, O-Gee mirror, walnut piano stool, cedar chest, folding magazine rack, large oak stand w/ ball & claw feet, caned rocking chair, set of 4 pillow back chairs, pair of early maple chairs, folding Victorian rocking chair, mahogany parlor table,

VINTAGE TOYS & TRAINS: boxed Tootsie Toy road construction set, boxed Midgetoy vehicle set, Wyandotte Express Truck in original box, 4 early Bing, German tin litho train buildings, cast iron banks, cast iron cars & trucks, Lionel standard passenger set w/ Engine 1835 E, German tin wind-up toys.

For lots of pictures, and a detailed listing go to: www.mcintoshauction.com or www.auctionzip.com (Auctioneer 18080)

15% buyers premium—3% discount for cash or check — Positive ID required

Preview: Friday, Feb. 17, Noon- 3 PM, Saturday, Feb. 18, 8 AM until Auction

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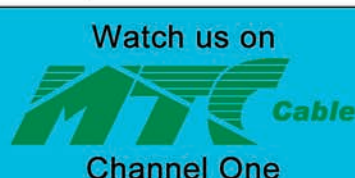


PROGRAM SCHEDULE

2/17 Fri	6:00PM - Citizen News Bureau - Lori Fairbairn brings you the Weekend Weather report for the Catskill Region. 6:30PM - WARK Community Television Archives - WARK's Micheal Finberg talks with Dr. Ott about the flu. (Airdate Early 80s). 7:00PM - Mostly Folk with Artie Martello - Artie talks with John McCutchen who is an American folk music singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist who has produced 41 albums since the 1970s. John is also regarded as a master of the hammered dulcimer. 8:00PM - The Jerry Bartlett Angling Collection presents Ray Smith: The Legend Lives on with Jody & Paul Hoyt. A conversation about The Esopus Valley's most famous outdoorsman.
2/18 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 Hiker Trash Husbands. Join Jeff and Moe as they hike Bearpen Mountain which is the westernmost of the Catskill 3500 peaks in the Catskill Mountains. 7:00PM - Focus on the Arts - Elizabeth Mami talks with Kate Taverna, who is an acclaimed artisan and film maker. 7:30PM - WARK Community Television Archives - Tune in and watch Dance Effects, a dance show that features local artists and hits of the 80s (Airdate Early 80s). 8:00PM - CabaRadio - Tune in to see the most recent performance as recorded at the Pine Hill Community Center.
2/19 Sun	6:00PM - Grocholl Homestead - Ashton keeps busy inside during the Winter months. Adding decorative tongue and groove around her "fireplace" and shows us how to create a "shiplap" look without using wood. 6:30PM - The Catskill Center - Jezz Harkin talks with Jeff Senterman, Executive Director of the Catskill Center. 7:00PM - WARK Community TV - The Dictionary Game. 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. 8:00PM - "Trees, Trout and the CCC" - Diane Galusha, Director of the Historical Society of Middletown, talks on how the Civilian Conservation Corp boys worked to preserve John Burroughs' Catskills and saved themselves in the process.
2/20 Mon	6:00PM - Focus on the Arts - Elizabeth Mami talks with Xan Peters, fine artist, Tufts teacher, podcast host, paleo artist. Amazing young talent. 6:30PM - The Little Red Cottages of Nowhere - Andrea prepares for her chickens by building a chicken coop with scrap wood and pallets. 7:00PM - Mostly Folk with Artie Martello - Artie talks with James Kahn is a retired ER doctor, singer-songwriter and writer. James has published numerous articles as well as the novelizations of Poltergeist, The Return of the Jedi, The Goonies, Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom 7:30PM - The Jerry Bartlett Angling Collection presents Ray Smith: The Legend Lives on with Jody & Paul Hoyt. A conversation about The Esopus Valley's most famous outdoorsman. 8:00PM - Citizen News Bureau - Jezz Harkin visits The Bearsville Theater and talks with Lizzie Vann, the owner. Lizzie also takes Jezz on a tour of the theater.
2/21 Tue	6:00PM - Weekly Weather Forecast - Lori Fairbairn brings you the Weekly forecast for the Catskill Region. 6:30PM - Medicare With Robin - Join Julia Marks as she asks important questions about Medicare with Robin Williams, a licensed insurance agent. Tonight's episode: Financial Aspects of Medicare. 7:00PM - The Hiker Trash Husbands. Join Jeff and Moe as they hike Bearpen Mountain which is the westernmost of the Catskill 3500 peaks in the Catskill Mountains. 8:00PM - WARK Community Television Archives - The Dictionary Game. 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! 8:30PM - Delaware County, NY - Solid Waste Management Center & Compost Facility - the systems that are in use at the facility.
2/22 Wed	6:00PM - Grocholl Homestead - Ashton keeps busy inside during the Winter months. Adding decorative tongue and groove around her "fireplace" and shows us how to create a "shiplap" look without using wood. 6:30PM - Focus on the Arts - Elizabeth Mami talks with Kate Taverna, who is an acclaimed artisan and film maker. 7:00PM - Medicare With Robin - Join Julia Marks with Robin Williams. Tonight's episode: Financial Aspects of Medicare. 7:30PM - The Catskill Center - Jezz Harkin talks with Jeff Senterman, Executive Director of the Catskill Center. 8:00PM - The Sonny Rock Show - Sonny talks with James Noon. James is a friend and a VFX/Songwriter/Music Producer. 8:30PM - The Little Red Cottages of Nowhere - In this video, Andrea prepares for her chickens by building a chicken coop with (no experience) scrap wood and pallets.
2/23 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 Tom Chapin, an American musician, entertainer, singer-songwriter, and storyteller. He talks about his new album "Hold Our Ground", his music career and his brother Harry and his commitment to fight world hunger. 7:00PM - Downstaters - A comedy web series about two New Yorkers who leave big city life for the Catskills. In this episode, Jess & Beth make an attempt at hunting. Hunting for property. 7:30PM - WARK Community Television Archives - The Larry Smith Show. In this episode, Larry visits Zullins Country Store in Arkville. (Airdate Early 80s). 8:00PM - CabaRadio - Tune in to see the most recent performance as recorded at the Pine Hill Community Center.

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FRIDAY, February 17, 2023

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CRCS Split Over SRO, Public Disagrees

By Joshua Walther

COBLESKILL - On Monday evening, the CRCS Board of Education met to hold a significant discussion on whether the district should adopt an SRO, with each member voicing their opinions and concerns on the matter.

An SRO, or School Resource Officer, is an armed police officer that is staffed within a school campus. Their job description covers security for faculty and students alike by preventing breaches and monitoring cameras, but they can also act as informal educators and counselors for the student body.

At the last January meeting, the Board of Education heard a presentation from the Schoharie County Sheriff's Office on the details of such a contract. The presentation used Schoharie Central School as a case study to showcase everything about what an SRO is, but the

agreement would see that the SRO remains as an employee of the Sheriff's Office, not the school district.

While the Board did not voice their opinions that night, they did so on Monday, and statements were made from both the positive and the negative sides.

Board President Bruce Tryon kicked off the discussion, stating that he felt neutral toward the idea of an SRO before looking into the research on his own.

He shared his findings, explaining that it would be good to have a police presence on a campus to respond to threats like active shooters while having someone that kids could go talk to about any manner of topics. However, he was worried about the lack of federal guidelines for SROs.

"Based on my research, I would be in favor of a School Resource Officer," finished President Tryon, making his stance clear

to the rest of the members.

Board Vice President Stephen Philbrick echoed the shift in perspective, saying "I used to think that we didn't need one. But times have changed. I think it's time to pursue it."

Member Aimee Yorke was also in favor of hiring an SRO, testifying to her own personal experiences with working around an SRO in the past. "I have not, in ten years, seen one negative interaction."

Finally, member Dominga Lent was the last person to view the SRO program positively, and she voiced that she believes there's a need in a modern-day school system for such a position, saying "This might only cover a small percentage of kids, but that might make the biggest difference."

However, other members were not so quick to trust in an SRO. Jason Gagnon was wary of hir-

ing a police officer, and he wanted to be sure that CRCS had a problem that an SRO could fix by pointedly saying "You wouldn't call a plumber to fix an electrical situation."

Susan Strasser agreed, and she expressed that she saw the counseling as the best value that an SRO could offer. However, she reminded the Board that CRCS already has "good counselors," and that they'd be better off finding a specialized professional to fix whatever problem they have.

Member Mary Black was the last to speak, and she felt concerned that CRCS was entering into a contract and not directly hiring someone. She spoke on the lack of control from such an agreement, topping it off by expressing annoyance

that the district had to pay for public safety.

All three members that spoke against an SRO resolved that they'd be willing to consider the idea, but more research was required before they took any action.

The Board noted the sentiment and asked Superintendent Matthew Sickles to compile more information, tabling their decision for a later time.

During the public comment period of the meeting, two members of the community sought to make their stance on an SRO clear to the Board.

Wayne Stinson of Summit was the first to speak, believing that having an armed police officer within school grounds does not fall under the purview of "the mission of an educational institution." His sentiments echoed Mrs.

Strasser's, believing that CRCS should seek out specialized aid for whatever problem the Board may face.

Rebecca Eckel, a mother of a high school junior, followed Mr. Stinson's lead, noting that she was very concerned about the idea of an SRO being around students. She cited research that studied how hiring SROs often lead to an increased risk of violence and finished by reading her daughter's comments, which said that bringing a firearm closer to a school does more harm than good.

CRCS will continue to collect information and research the pros and cons of an SRO, and members encouraged the public to share their feedback, either in written word or verbally in person.

C-R FBLA Members Join Honor Society

Nine students in the C-R High School chapter of Future Business Leaders of America have recently been notified that they have been accepted by FBLA as a member of the New York State Future Business Leaders of America Honor Society. Membership in the honor society is one of the highest honors that can be awarded to a high school member of NYS FBLA. The New York State FBLA Honor Society recognizes students that uphold academic excellence while displaying positive character, leadership, and service as a member of New York State FBLA.

Members will be recognized at the NYS FBLA State Leadership Conference this April in Rochester, New York.

Students accepted:
Chloe Batchler
Brynn Crewell
Jenna Domanski
Ty LaBarge
Natalie Meyre
Ainsley Mummmenthey
Lucas Pryor
Nicholas Underwood
Anthony Underwood



Lucas Pryor, Ty LaBarge, Advisor: Katrina Schweigard, Chloe Batchler, Jenna Domanski, Brynn Crewell, Natalie Meyre, Ainsley Mummmenthey, Anthony Underwood, and Nicholas Underwood

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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 socialization and a hot meal at 12 noon at one of Schoharie County Office for the Aging's congregate meal sites:

-Jefferson (Tues./Wed./Thurs.), Community Center, Rte. 10)

-Sharon Springs (Mon./Wed./Fri.), Firehouse, Beechwood Rd.)

Reserve a meal by calling Schoharie County OFA at 518-295-2001 the day before you want to go. A suggested donation is accepted from those 60 years old and older. Under age 60? You're welcome to participate and will be charged a set fee.

Schoharie - Board of Supervisors Meeting

The Schoharie County Board of Supervisors will be holding its monthly meeting this morning - Friday, February 17th - at 9:00 AM. Meetings are also available for viewing afterwards on the SCHOPEG website.

Presidents Day

All banks, government institutions, and schools will be closed in observance of Presidents Day on Monday, February 20th.

Cobleskill - Village Board Meeting

The Cobleskill Village Board of Trustees will be meeting on Tuesday, February 21st at 7:00 PM at the Cobleskill Firehouse. 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 P.M., 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.

Summit - Poker Run Benefit

The Summit Sno-Riders Inc. will be hosting their annual poker run for Helios Care on Saturday, February 25th, 9:00 AM, at the Summit Conservation Club. All proceeds raised go to Helios Care, followed by a ham dinner at the Club. This is a snow or no snow event.

Howes Cave - Music at Serious Brewing

Serious Brewing Co. is hosting Pork and Beans with Coleslaw (The Bluestones Band) on Saturday, March 11th from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The music features an eclectic mix of roots, rock and blues.

OFA and The Gathering Place Offer Grab & Go Meals

Healthy and nutritious meals are now available to anyone aged 60 and above, daily (M-F) at The Gathering Place 50 Plus Community Center, 127 Kenyon Rd., Cobleskill. Each person may make a suggested \$4 voluntary contribution for a meal. Individuals must order meals 24 hours in advance by calling the Office for the Aging (OFA) at 518-295-2001. Meals will be 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.

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War in Europe XLIV

By Timothy Knight

As the one year anniversary of Russia's illegal, immoral invasion of Ukraine draws nearer, it becomes painfully apparent that the Kremlin has no intention of deviating from its self-destructive path in Eastern Europe.

Here are a sampling of headlines over the previous forty-eight hours:

Moldovan leader outlines Russian 'plan' to topple government (Associated Press).

White House 'Deeply Concerned' About Putin's Reported Power Grab (Newsweek).

Putin Plots Big Military Push Before Ukraine War Anniversary: U.K. Intel (Newsweek).

Despite an estimated casualty toll of over two hundred thousand Russians - regular soldiers, mobilized infantry, and mercenary forces - Moscow's bloodlust for Ukrainian territory and treasure is boundless to a suicidal extent. And, at least according to Ukrainian and Moldovan sources, it includes fresh plans of fostering a coup within tiny Moldova.

Situated between Ukraine and Romania,

Moldova is one of many socialist republics that existed under Moscow's sphere of influence until the Soviet Union's collapse. Never one to let a crisis go to waste, Russia has subsequently supported the breakaway region of Transnistria within Moldova and has roughly fifteen hundred soldiers stationed there.

Understandably, nerves have been tense in Moldova since Russia's invasion was launched last February; as for many Moldovans, Vladimir Putin's envious stare upon Eastern Europe does not stop at Ukraine's borders. And this has seemingly been confirmed by a series of alarming reports that Moscow was and/or is scheming to sow discord in Chi in u.

While this could be a Russian feint designed to force Kyiv to carefully reconsider their western borders, there is no disputing that this Moldovan conspiracy is coinciding with a renewed Russian offensive on the eastern front. Oddly enough, it mirrors some of the same cloak and dagger techniques that Moscow used

in the months leading up to this conflict.

It is difficult for me to fathom that this war started almost a year ago now. My heart aches for the loss and destruction our brave Ukrainian allies have endured in resisting Moscow's colonialist imperialism, while a sense of hatred continues to fester against Putin and his rotating cast of villainous warlords, generals, and butchers who have wreaked havoc.

Though the hour is still dark, I do earnestly believe that a distant light is emerging on the horizon for the Ukrainian people. There is still more loss and destruction ahead, but nothing like they have already gone through.

In Solidarity with Ukraine.

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.

Obituaries

Frank I. Chianucci



Cobleskill- Frank Chianucci, 91, died on February 11, 2023 at St. Johnsville Rehab and Nursing Center, where he had been a resident for the past four months.

Born on May 26th, 1931 in New York City to Ireneo and Gina Chianucci. He attended public school in New York City. He later moved with his parents and brother, Louis to Grovenors Corners and later to Central Bridge.

He was employed by GE in Schenectady in 1950 and then enlisted in the US Army in 1951. He was stationed at a base in the Hudson Bay where equipment and clothing were tested for their resilience to the frigid weather on this

base. He was also a member of the Army's hockey team and played teams from both Canada and Alaska. He was honorably discharged in 1956 as a Corporal and he returned to employment at GE. He started in the small motor department and 37 years later retired from large turbine and generator as a machinist.

Following retirement, he and his wife, Phyllis spent their winters in Surfside Beach, SC, where they owned a beach house. He loved to go deep sea fishing, fishing off the pier, clamming, and golfing. In 2004 they returned full time to Cobleskill, and he worked a couple hours a day for Fenimore Asset Management delivering their mail.

He was predeceased by his parents, Ireneo and Gina Chianucci; sister, Miriam Gentilini; stepmother, Modesta Chianucci.

He married Phyllis Keyser Chianucci on October 27, 1956, and have been married 66 years.

Frank is survived by his wife, Phyllis; daughter,

Deborah (Andre) Nadeau of Cobleskill; son, David (Michelle) Chianucci of Endicott, NY; grandchildren, Jason (Alyssa) Nadeau of Colchester, VT, Pierre (Cassi) Nadeau of Cazenovia, Dan Chianucci of Rochester, NY, Amy (Colby) Fisher of Ewing, NJ; great-grandchildren, Blake, Nolan, Mary Anne, and Helen Nadeau; brother and sister-in-law, Louie and Betty Chianucci; nieces, Lori (Joe) Poggi, Gail (Bruce) Oksa, Linda Gentilini and Richard Gentilini.

The family will receive relatives and friends on Sunday, February 19th from 1:00-3:00PM at Mereness-Putnam Funeral Home, 171 Elm Street, Cobleskill, NY with a funeral service following at 3:00PM at the funeral home with Robert Holt officiating. Burial will take place in Cobleskill Rural Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Contributions in memory of Frank Chianucci may be made to the Schoharie Valley Animal Shelter, 521 Caverns Road, Howes Cave, NY 12092.

SUNY Cobleskill Fighting Tiger Weekly Recap

The SUNY Cobleskill men's basketball team split a pair of North Atlantic Conference (NAC) home contests losing to the Badgers of Northern Vermont University-Johnson 86-77 on Friday evening then topping the Kangaroos of SUNY Canton 92-84 on Saturday afternoon to close the regular season with a 17-8 overall record including an 8-6 record versus league opponents. The Fighting Tigers 17 wins equal the most wins by a Cobleskill team at the NCAA level of competition. Junior guard Iziah Pigott, Brooklyn, N.Y., Urban Assembly High School/Dutchess Community College, averaged 17.5 points, 5.5 rebounds, 5.0 assists, and 5.0 steals per game during the week for Cobleskill.

The Fighting Tiger women's basketball team swept a pair of North Atlantic Conference (NAC) home contests during the week defeating the Badgers of Northern Vermont University-Johnson 72-71 in overtime on Friday evening then beating the Kangaroos of SUNY Canton on Saturday afternoon 62-51 to close the regular season with a 15-9 overall record including an 11-3 record in conference action. Sophomore guard Taylor Meacham, Berne, N.Y., Berne-Knox-Westerlo High School, led the way for Cobleskill averaging 12.0 points, 5.5 rebounds, 4.5 assists, 2.5

steals and 1.0 blocked shots per contest.

The men's indoor track & field team posted a team score of 15 points to place seventh in a field of seven teams at the 2023 Frozen 8 Indoor Track & Field Championship hosted by Suffolk University at the TRACK at new balance on Sunday afternoon. The Fighting Tigers top individual performer at the event was first-year sprinter Charlie Foote, Cobleskill, N.Y., Cobleskill-Richmondville High School, who placed third overall in the 200-meter dash in a time of 22.75 seconds and fourth in the 400-meter dash with a time of 52.32 seconds

The women's indoor track & field team posted a team score of 17 points

to place sixth in a field of seven teams at the 2023 Frozen 8 Indoor Track & Field Championship hosted by Suffolk University at the TRACK at new balance on Sunday afternoon. The Fighting Tigers were led by sophomore jumper Lilah Ward, Arlington, Vt., Arlington High School, who placed second in the high jump clearing a height of 4'9".

UPCOMING HOME CONTESTS:

Baseball vs. Castleton University 4/2, SUNY Polytechnic 4/7, SUNY New Paltz 4/12

Softball vs. Russell Sage 3/25, SUNY Potsdam 4/1, St. Lawrence University 4/2

Men's Lacrosse vs. SUNY Delhi 3/25, Thomas College 4/14, NVU-Lyndon 4/16

Carlisle Woman Arrested for Alleged DWI

On January 27, 2023, at about 2:49 p.m. State Police of Cobleskill stopped a vehicle on State Route 20 in Esperance, for Vehicle and Traffic Law violations. The driver

was identified as Cynthia Shelley, 52, of Carlisle. Shelley was arrested for Driving While Intoxicated and other Vehicle and Traffic Law violations. She was transported to

SP Cobleskill for processing, where she recorded a 0.21% BAC. Shelley was arraigned at the Esperance Town Court and released on her own recognizance.

Richmondville Woman Arrested on Burglary Charges

On February 1, 2023, State Police of Cobleskill arrested Kara E. Goodknight, 30, of Richmondville, NY, for Burglary in the Third Degree,

a class "D" felony.

On February 1, 2023, at about 3:03 a.m. Troopers responded to the CVS in Cobleskill for an active Burglary. The investiga-

tion determined Goodknight entered the store while it was open. The store was closed, at which time Goodknight intentionally remained hidden in the store. She then stole multiple items and fled. She was located walking a short distance away and taken into custody.

Goodknight was transported to SP Cobleskill for processing. She was arraigned at the Cobleskill Town Court and released on her own recognizance.

Got a Tip?
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518-763-6854

Family Support Services
Did you know that Schoharie County Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (SCCASA) offers free family support services and has a Family Support Navigator on staff. We are here to help you and your family members navigate the complexities of being and loving someone with a substance use disorder. Contact Chrystal Bushnell @ sccasa518.org or join her at SCCASA's new location 597 E Main St in Cobleskill every Thursday from 9 till 4.

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A Night for Kings and Queens to Shine



Kiah Simeon (back) with Becky and Gloria at the well-attended and fun event. Photos by Matthew Avitabile



Courtney Palmer does Cysse Kuhn's hair during the Night to Shine gala at Fusion Community Church in Cobleskill Friday



Bob (left) and Steven get their portraits taken during the event



First responders were well represented at the event, including two police departments and multiple EMS and fire squads. Travis Lindsey (left) of the Esperance Fire Department is joined by Zeb Schmid from the Cobleskill rescue squad (back), and Savannah Coons and Josh Hollis from Schoharie County EMS



Heather Kelley and Tina Fischer from the National Bank of Coxsackie branch in Middleburgh serve up food and drinks as a part of the NBC Cares program. Photos by Matthew Avitabile

Right: There was a full dance floor prepared and much more for the kings and queens at the event. The event was possible due to several dozen volunteers and donors



The dance floor was prepped for a night of celebration and dancing.

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SUNY President Terenzio Appointed to the New York State Rural Ambulance Task Force

COBLESKILL – SUNY Cobleskill President Marion A. Terenzio, Ph.D. has been appointed to the New York State Rural Ambulance Task Force, representing the College and Schoharie County in evaluating the unique challenges faced by ambulance service providers in rural areas. These challenges have accelerated EMS closures in recent years. The task force was created through legislation introduced by Sen. Michelle Hinchey (NY-41), and its members will determine and present recommendations to state lawmakers for improvements to support public health and safety.

“Well-staffed and well-equipped emergency medical services are a critical lifeline for rural

communities in upstate New York, where hospitals are often fewer and farther between when compared to larger population centers,” said Dr. Terenzio. “As a society, we must ensure that those who have taken the oath to conserve life, alleviate suffering, and promote health are given the tools and resources to do so. I am honored to serve on the New York State Rural Ambulance Task Force and to work concertedly with our EMS providers to find solutions to the challenges facing our local industry, thereby improving the health of our rural citizenship.”

“We are very excited to have Dr. Terenzio on the State Ambulance Rural Task Force. Her leadership and commitment

to the SUNY Cobleskill Paramedic education programs, combined with her work with many rural health initiatives, gives her the knowledge and expertise to bring forward innovative strategies to help create a sustainable rural EMS system,” said Ryan P. Greenberg, director of the NYS DOH Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems.

Leading SUNY Cobleskill since 2015, Dr. Terenzio guided the creation of the College’s Institute for Rural Vitality, recognized nationally for its merging of experiential learning with regional and economic development initiatives and receiving the 2019 Excellence and Innovation Award for Regional and Economic De-



velopment from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. She has been a champion for rural-serv-

ing higher education institutions and has written numerous reports and opinion pieces on the importance of serving com-

munities. Dr. Terenzio serves as co-chair of the Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council, co-chair of SUNY’s Empowering Students with Disabilities Task Force, and board member of the Bassett Health Care Network. She also serves on the New York State Department of Education’s Graduation Measures Blue Ribbon Commission and the NCAA Committee on Women’s Athletics, among several other current board and committee memberships.

SUNY Cobleskill’s Paramedic education offers hands-on experience in the lab, hospital, and field to prepare students for entry into the paramedicine, providing compassionate care as a critical link between patients and hospitals.

Police Blotter



Friday, February 3, 2023

At 5:46 PM, Cobleskill Police arrested Michael Meyers, 21, of Schoharie, N.Y. on an arrest warrant from Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office. He was turned over to the custody of the New York State Police for transport to Montgomery County.

Monday, February 6, 2023

At 3:20 PM, Cobleskill Police arrested Tina Graham, 24, homeless, for two counts of harass-

ment in the second degree, one count of trespass, resisting arrest, and obstructing governmental administration in the second degree. She was arraigned in Carlisle Town Court at 5:45 PM remanded to the Schoharie County Correctional Facility on \$1.00 cash bail, \$30.00 insurance bail bond, or \$500.00 partially secured surety bond with pre-trial conditions if released, to return to Cobleskill Town Court on 02/21/2023 at 2:00 PM.

Wednesday, February 8, 2023

At 10:54 AM, Cobleskill Police arrested Linda

Smith, 58, of Jefferson, N.Y. for trespass. She was issued an appearance ticket to appear in Cobleskill Town Court on 03/07/2023 at 2:00 PM.

Thursday, February 9, 2023

At 2:41 PM, Cobleskill Police arrested Tyler Webb, 22, of Middleburgh, N.Y. for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree and two other vehicle and traffic law violations. He was issued traffic tickets to appear in Cobleskill Town Court on 02/21/2023 at 2:00 PM.

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NIGHT TO SHINE

Churches who were represented at event

1. Broadalbin Baptist Church
2. Calvary Assembly of God
3. Calvary Chapel of the Hills
4. Central Bridge UMC
5. Cherry Valley Church
6. Christian Community Church of Faith
7. Church of New Beginnings
8. Cobleskill UMC
9. Crossroads
10. Esperance United Methodist
11. Faith Bible Church
12. Fusion Community Church
13. Gallupville Lutheran
14. Grace Community Church
15. Grace Fellowship
16. House of Praise
17. Mohawk Valley Church
18. Our Lady of Assumption
19. Our Lady of Hope
20. Our Lady of Mount Carmel
21. Psalm 27:13 Ministries
22. Radiant Church
23. Schenevus Baptist Church
24. Sharon Springs UMC
25. St Mark's Lutheran Church
26. St Thomas the Apostle
27. The Upper Room Christian Church

Thank you for all the volunteers who made Night to Shine Happen

Businesses to Recognize

1. Apple Barrel
2. BBQ Delights
3. Brick House Bakery
4. Bulls Head
5. Carrot Barn (Schoharie Valley Farms)
6. Cobleskill Diner
7. Hannaford
8. Kelly Farm and Garden
9. KFC
10. Linda's Cookie Jar
11. Little Italy
12. McDonald's
13. Pizza Shack
14. Price Chopper
15. Stewart's Shops
16. Stockyard
17. Walmart
18. Tagua Nut

19. Eric Haley with Interstate Entertainment

Organizations to Recognize

1. Cobleskill Police Department
2. SUNY Police Department
3. Cobleskill Ambulance
4. Schoharie County Emergency Management

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE ARC LEXINGTON

Thank you for all the volunteers who made Night to Shine Happen



Connecting Pets to Seniors



Rays of Sunshine played for the full house at the Gathering Place Tuesday. Photos by Matthew Avitabile



Above left: Aleah Schmid, from the Schoharie Valley Animal Shelter holds Sophie. Sophie and her siblings were rescued from Conesville and are available through a partnership between the Gathering Place and the Shelter. She described how a cat that was in the shelter for two years was adopted earlier thanks to the program.

Above center: Liz Kosier, an integral part of the program and the Gathering Place, gives an affectionate peck to one of the cats available for fostering.

Above right: The partnership allows for seniors to long-term foster a pet, not having to worry about the cost of spaying or neutering, or food and kitty litter. The Shelter will take care of any cats that seniors cannot for any reason. Gathering Place director Kim Witkowski said that the program has been great and included her adopting "Kitty," who had been a resident of the Gathering Place. She also said that the effort led to the adoption of Brownie, a dog rescued from a puppy mill. Witkowski describes the process as "another part of our health and wellness program." She said that the program didn't include just exercise but also "mental wellbeing."

The Shelter's Maggie Jackman held the cat JR while describing successes through the program, which includes the shelter helping foster pet parents bring the animals to the vet. She said there's been a great response and the "best experience." Those interested in fostering an animal can come by the Shelter between 1-3pm seven days a week. As of this writing there were eight cats available. Witkowski and Jackman thanked the efforts of volunteers, especially Nicholas Juried, who has supported the Gathering Place and Shelter in many ways over the years.

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YOUR LOCAL HAPPENINGS FOR SHARON SPRINGS

Sharon Things

By Alexis Pencar
Hey Neighbors!

From cold to warm with rainy weather it was quite the change from the previous week. This past week gave a feel of early Spring with more snow to come in the forecast. The highs in the 60s this past Wednesday were very welcome.

Village Construction
Construction continued this week up near Chestnut and Route 20. Lots of digging and large equipment.

This is in connection to the long-term and long-awaited Water and Sewer Project backed by The Village.

Sharon Springs Rescue Squad

The Sharon Springs Rescue Squad is a cornerstone of our community! With many active members, they are always looking for new volunteers for Drivers, First Responders, Social Members, and EMT's. SSRS will fund any training

that is needed. SSRS meets the first Monday of the month at 7 pm and would be happy to answer any questions with how you can support your community.

The American Legion Post 1269 of Sharon Springs is looking for new members! If you are interested in becoming an American Legion member, volunteering, or even donating to the many wonderful causes the Legion supports, please contact Commander Paul Todd at (518) 649-0024 for more information.

Sharon Springs Free Library

We are having a contest to find out who knows what year our building was built? This doesn't mean the renovation that turned the bowling alley into a library. The question is regarding when the original building was built. Ideally, that could be

proved with a dated photograph, a newspaper article, an official record, or some other sort of documentation. If nobody comes up with that specific kind of information, then the first person to come up with the most agreed-on year will win. The contest will end on Friday, March 10 at 6:00 p.m. Stop by the library with your information. The prize is a \$25 Stewart's gas card.

No time for a book this Black History Month? Why not take out a DVD that relates to race or racial issues? We have pulled a stack and put them on display, some serious and challenging ("True Justice"), some leaning toward mostly entertaining ("Green Book"). Others on the grab-and-go table are "Guess Who," "The Help," "Hidden Figures," "Black or White," "Black Panther," "42, The Jackie Robinson Story," "The Hate U Give" and "Harriet." Library staff are aware of the content and tone of each of these and can help you make a choice. We also have a selection of relevant children's materials available

and on display.

Friday, 2/17, at six p.m., our book group will discuss "Apples Never Fall," by Liane Moriarty.

April 1, 2023 is the date of our Great Book Giveaway. It will be only one day this year, so be sure to mark your calendar to come early and bring lots of bags. Meanwhile, we are accepting donations of books in good condition. Please bring them in any time during our open hours; Monday and Thursday 10 - 6, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 3 - 6, Saturday 10 - 1. Please do not leave them outside the library at any time.

Children's Reading Group is on Thursday mornings from 10-11 AM and includes story time, crafts, and a snack for preschool and home-school children ages preschool 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

Local residents are invited to enjoy socialization and a noon-time meal at Schoharie County Office for the Aging congregate meal site in Sharon Springs (Mon., Wed. & Fri., Firehouse, Beechwood Rd.). Reserve a meal by calling OFA at 518-295-2001 by 1 pm on 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.

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.

DEC Offers Free Seedlings for Streamside Planting

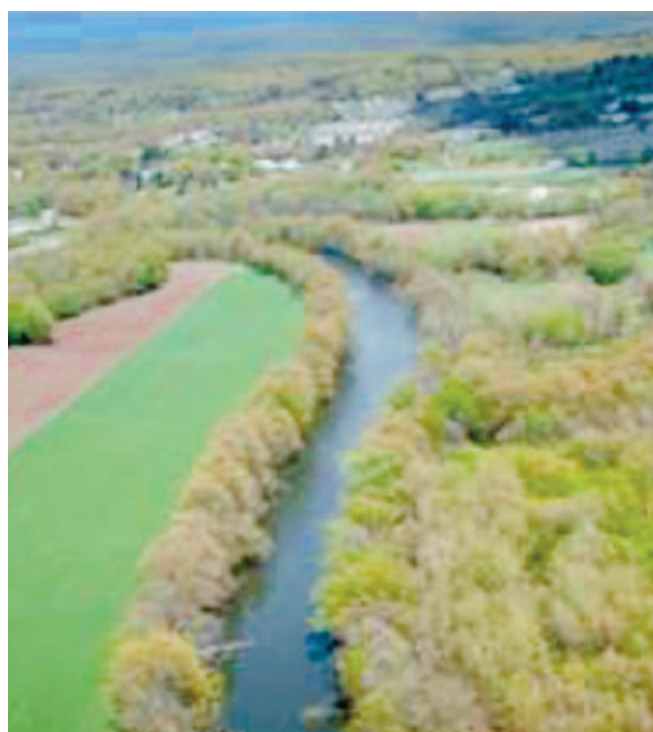
By Jennifer Patterson

Get your applications in for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Trees for Tribs' "Buffer in a Bag" program.

Landowners can apply for a free bag of 25 tree and shrub seedlings for planting near streams, rivers or lakes to help stabilize banks, protect water quality, reduce pollution and improve wildlife habitats.

"Small-scale streamside plantings help decrease erosion, slow floodwaters, sequester carbon, and protect fish and wildlife," said DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos. "I encourage New York landowners to bolster the state's efforts to protect water quality and help safeguard communities from flooding," which Schoharie County is no stranger to.

Qualifying landowners must have property in New York State with at least 50 feet bordering a stream, river or lake, and provide photos or a map of the



Example of a treed buffer along a stream. (DEC)

planting location. Previous Trees for Tribs' recipients are able to reapply and continue to build riparian buffers.

Applicants will be eligible for one bag of 25 seedlings, which are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. A total of 350 bags will be

made available for this round of applications.

Property owners in the Hudson River Estuary watershed may also be eligible for additional assistance with streamside planting projects.

Locations in Greene and Schoharie counties are part



Program participants will receive paper bags with seedlings in the mail. (DEC)

of the Lower Hudson Watershed, which makes up about 40 percent of the larger Hudson/Mohawk River Basin – one of the largest drainage areas on the eastern seaboard of the United States, according to the DEC.

The Trees for Tribs program is managed by DEC's Division of Lands and Forests, and supported by the State Environmental Protection Fund, which re-

ceived an historic \$400 million investment in the latest state budget.

The Environmental Protection Fund provides resources for critical programs like land acquisition, farmland protection, invasive species prevention and eradication, enhanced recreational access and water quality improvement, as well as an aggressive environmental justice agenda. Seedlings will be provided

by the DEC's Colonel William F. Fox Memorial Saratoga Tree Nursery.

Applications for the "Buffer in a Bag" program are due by 3 p.m. April 7. For questions about the application process and requirements, email mailto:treesfortribs@dec.ny.gov.

For information, go to <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/77710.html>.

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Union Opens Doors, Potential Employment to BOCES Students

DUANESBURG/SCHOHARIE – The aptitude and professionalism of Capital Region BOCES Career & Technical Education students once again gained the attention of area business, labor, and government leaders after a delegation of students attended a union hiring event on Feb. 8.

The Construction/Heavy Equipment and Electrical Trades seniors and juniors sought information and employment at a recruiting event hosted by The Laborers' International Union of North America Local 157 in Duanesburg.

"From resumes to completing the application and the interview process in a professional manner, the CTE students from Capital Region BOCES were well prepared, professional, and eager," said Josh Shaul, Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer for the union. "I look forward to working alongside many of these BOCES students one day as they start their professional careers in the Laborers' Local 157."

Attending the event were Career & Technical Education students Michael DeMarco, who attends BOCES from Duanesburg High School; Dan Bradt Jr., Cobleskill-Richmondville High School (CRCS); Ryan Gaida, CRCS; Alicia Gray, CRCS; Katelyn Griffin, Schalmont; Drew Hall, Middleburgh; Tyler Harnett, Berne-Knox-Westerlo (BKW); Nate Lupi, BKW; Luke Napierski, Voorheesville; Jeremiah Taylor, Schoharie; Mark Becker, CRCS; Jacob Letko, CRCS and Nathan Hagadorn, CRCS.

Students said they enjoyed the opportunity.

"This was my first face to face interview for a major



Alicia Gray of CRCS in the Electrical program



job," said Drew Hall, a Commercial Construction/Heavy Equipment senior from Middleburgh. "It's a huge help to have the opportunity to attend these events, get a foot in the door, and be ready for these big opportunities."

"It was exciting it was fun and I am so glad I went and I would recommend this great opportunity to others," added Gray, who is a junior in the Electrical Trades. "I enjoyed the experience and ability to network."

BOCES maintains relationships with more than 300 business, education and labor entities who work with students and educators, like the Laborer's Union. These partners provide training, career-preparation events, work-based learning and in-

ternships that prepare Career & Technical Education students for careers that exist now and those that will exist in the future.

"BOCES appreciates the relationship we have developed and expanded with the Local 157. Each year, their commitment to our students increases, allowing students to build fantastic futures," said Nancy Liddle, Managing Program Coordinator - Business & Community Partnerships.

Shaul said the Laborers' partnership with BOCES "is invaluable."

"We value the training and skills Capital Region BOCES CTE students learn and are proud to partner with Capital Region BOCES to address our workforce needs."

Capital Region BOCES CTE Open Houses Begin

SCHOHARIE/ALBANY – The first Capital Region BOCES Career & Technical Education Center open house of the 2023-24 recruiting season took place on the Schoharie Campus on Feb. 9, drawing prospective students and parents from the region.

During Thursday's Schoharie event, culinary students, including (pictured) Ruby Culletto, from Sharon Springs, Loren Herzog, from Schoharie High School, and Angelina Carpenter, from Berne-Knox-Westerlo High School, served numerous delicacies prepared by themselves, their classmates, and Chef Chris Snye, while students in the Cosmetology, Electrical Trades, Construction/Heavy Equipment, Criminal Justice, Two-Year Sequence of Health Careers and Automotive Trades programs spoke about and in some cases, demonstrated, the trades they learn in their programs.



Ruby Culletto of Sharon, Loren Herzog of Schoharie, and Angelina Carpenter of BKW in the Culinary program.

Construction student Logan Chichester from Middleburgh and Bill Moorehead, parent of Ashley Moorehead, another student, checked out the Trim-A-Brake used for projects in the classroom.

The next open house will take place March 9, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., on the Albany Campus, located at 925B Water-vliet-Shaker Road in Albany, NY 12205.

Students interested in

careers ranging from medicine to welding, law enforcement to graphic and video game design are invited to attend the open houses and learn more about how the 28 programs offered by Capital Region BOCES can give them a head start on college or career. To learn more about the programs, visit <https://www.capitalregion-boces.org/career-technical-education/courses-programs/>

DA Mallery Announces Indictments

SCHOHARIE - Schoharie County District Attorney, Susan J. Mallery, Esq. announced the following Indictments were obtained by the Schoharie County District Attorney team:

1. Brian D. Kosier, was accused by the Schoharie County grand jury of nine counts: course of sexual conduct against a child who is under 13 years in age and the actor is 18 years in age or more, a class B felony, 6 counts of Rape in the first degree, class B felonies, Endangering the Welfare of a Child, a class A misdemeanor; and 1 count of Sexual Abuse 2d, a class A misdemeanor. Mr. Kosier is scheduled to be arraigned on the indictment on February 15, 2023.

2. Bandon Lockwood and Clifford Swart were accused by the Schoharie County grand jury of Grand Larceny, a class E felony, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property, a class E felony, and Conspiracy in the fifth degree, a class A misdemeanor. The offenses are alleged to have occurred on October 27, 2022. Mr. Swart and Mr. Lockwood are scheduled to be arraigned on February 15, 2023.

3. Erika Trendell, was accused by the Schoharie County grand jury of the following charges: three counts of Assault in the second degree, a class D felony. The offense was alleged to have occurred at the Schoharie County Public Safety Building on September 13, 2022.

4. William Buck, was accused by the Schoharie County grand jury of the following six (6) charges:

Burglary in the second degree, a class felony, Criminal Obstruction of Breathing or Blood Circulation, a class A misdemeanor; two (2) counts Assault in the third degree, a class A misdemeanor; and two (2) counts Harassment in the second degree, violations. The charges stem from an offense alleged to have occurred on February 26, 2022.

5. Brett E. Oteri, was accused by the Schoharie County grand jury of nine (9) counts: Burglary in the second degree, a class C felony, Criminal Trespass in

the second degree, a class A misdemeanor; 2 counts of Grand Larceny in the 4th degree, a class E felony, Petit Larceny, a class A misdemeanor; 2 counts Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the fourth degree, a class E felony, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the 5th degree a class A misdemeanor; and Resisting Arrest, a class A misdemeanor. The charges stem from an offense occurring January 30, 2023.

All individuals charged with crimes are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Community Tracks Missing Dog

By Alexis Pencar

COBLESKILL - Lola, an Australian Cattle Dog has been missing since December 30th in the Cobleskill area. Lola's owners Shawna and Matt Forsythe have been searching for her tirelessly as the local community has stepped up and become actively involved in helping to track her.

The story starts on 12/30 around 4 pm with Lola escaping the kennel she was staying at in nearby Warnerville while her family was out of town. From 1/1 to 1/7 she was spotted South of I-88 near Dodge Lodge, West Fulton, and Karker Rd. On 1/10 she was spotted East near the Cobleskill Golf Course. From 1/15 to 1/17 she was spotted near Shad Point Rd, the back of the Golf Course and I-88 Median.

With a gap in sighting for over a week, there was a possible sighting on 1/27 near Hubb Shutts Rd. Over 2 weeks later on 2/11, she

was spotted again near the I-88 Median and Park & Ride. Just a few days later on 2/13 she was spotted near Barnerville Rd making her way in what seems to be a large loop back to Cobleskill, closer to her home which is North of SUNY Cobleskill.

The Forsythes have been using Facebook as an excellent resource to connect with anyone that may have spotted her. From security camera footage to spottings near main roads, Lola appears healthy and uninjured, but skittish to anyone approaching her.

At this point, the Forsythes say they have "learned a lot" and are working with a professional dog tracker. The goal is not to trap her but to "consistently see where she is going and where she is eating".

This missing dog has brought so many together in what has become a true community effort! In an interview with Shawna



Forsythe, she would like to thank those that have gone above and beyond in helping with this process especially: John & his dog Waffles (biggest supporters), Tonya, the Collins Family, and the Hertzler Family.

If anyone is interested in keeping up with this story or even assisting in the tracking process check out The Cobleskill Community Bulletin Board on Facebook. If you happen to see Lola around town, please do not approach her but snap a quick picture and contact Shawna Forsythe directly at (440) 344-1337.



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SCHOHARIE COUNTY EAGLE TRAIL UPDATE

Month of Love

By Bill Combs Jr.,
Eagle Trail
Ambassador

Happy Valentine's Day Friends of the Trail! February is the month for love and for the Eagles this is the when they are spending a lot of time together. You will see them sitting side by side in the nest or in a tree. For the Cobleskill Eagles, John Jacob and Anne Marie, this began in 2017 after a year of courting. Eagles mate for life, so this choice is made carefully. John Jacob traveled across the northeast and even all the way to Ontario before settling down in Cobleskill and ultimately finding his match in Anne Marie.

Partnership for the Eagles means sharing the workload for everything from nest building and hunting to sitting on eggs to keep them warm, a process that takes 34 to 36 days. The Eagle pair has even been seen dealing with spousal spats such as disagreements on nest building, but no matter what they still



work together. They rely on each other to make it through the months of winter storms, ice and rain. Once their eggs are hatched that partnership is essential to keep up with the constant feeding of their eaglets. Together John Jacob and Anne Marie have raised 10 eaglets, and with a life span of 20 to 30 years, there could be many more eaglets in the cards for these two lovebirds.

Amazingly, I have only witnessed Eagles mating four times in past 20 years and two of those

times were this week on the trail. With that being said, it looks like the Gilboa & Jefferson Eagles should be laying eggs in a few days. It looks as if the Middleburgh Eagles have already laid eggs and have been sitting on them for the past 2 or 3 days in the new nest they built this year. We will be hosting our annual hatching season event this April at the Sterling Insurance Viewing Site #1. This will give Friends of the Trail a chance to see John Jacob and Anne Marie's 2023 eaglets.



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