

# PERSON OF THE YEAR IS TRIANGLE PARK MISNAMED?



# The Mountain Eagle

Serving Schoharie, Delaware, Greene and Northern Ulster Counties

Volume 8, No. 8 mountaineaglenews@gmail.com

FRIDAY, February 24, 2023

\$1.00

## Village Tweaks Chicken Law, Lowers Sewer Costs

By Liz Page

STAMFORD – A question about the village's chicken law prompted a rewrite to eliminate acreage and trustees agreed to purchase windows for the sewer treatment plant that will substantially reduce the costs to sewer district customers, during their meeting on Tuesday.

The amendment to the chicken law involves a coop and run shall only be permitted on parcels with a minimum lot size of 1/2 acre. The acreage will be dropped from the law.

As for replacing the windows at the village's sewer treatment facility, Trustee Bob Orcutt said he had received a quote on vinyl windows that is substantially less than the anodized aluminum windows Lucas Flachs was pricing. Although Orcutt must verify the war-

rantee, trustees believe the lower cost windows are feasible and could be replaced three times for the cost of the others. Orcutt said the company providing the quote was aware of where the windows were being installed.

Lucas estimated the cost of the windows and the installation at \$30,000 to \$50,000. It is his thought that having a company install the windows at once with a warrantee is the safest option.

If the vinyl windows do have a warrantee, they would reduce the budget at the sewer plant to \$15,000 for the windows, saving those in the district \$22 per unit on special projects.

The other big cost will be repaving the driveway. New York City picks up 20 percent of the tab.

Trustees discussed the

three options to pay for the major projects.

Flachs said he just wants to make sure the windows will conform to the village's operation and maintenance agreement with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection. Code Enforcement Officer

Rich Irwin has reviewed the village's building permits and updated the packet. He will be starting safety inspections and wanted the input of trustees regarding transient occupancy and how it relates to zoning in the village. It is an issue the village began discussing sev-

eral months ago and reached that critical issue. It was agreed to have Irwin bring his issues to a special workshop meeting on March 15 to allow the village to get insight into establishing a Short Term Rental Law for safety issues.

Village trustees approved

a policy change for the water law, explaining the frost plate replacement for water meters and that bills will now go to the property owner and not the tenant.

Board members then moved into executive session to discuss pending litigation.

## Davenport Board Approves ARPA Expenditures Tax Exemptions Discussed

By Mary A. Crisafulli

DAVENPORT - Davenport Council members approved several federal ARPA allocations on Feb. 21. William Hansen, deputy supervisor, took the lead in Supervisor Dennis Valente's absence at the meeting.

The council agreed to cre-

ate one additional sign for the town court building to total \$3,400 for the project. The building will have a new entrance sign, a sign for the historical society parking, and the food bank, all in the same building at 11790 New York State Route 23. The project estimate does

not include lighting for the signs.

The council also approved two ARPA allocations for the highway department. Highway Superintendent Fred Utter requested a new radio system to improve communication. There are several dead areas throughout the town, including behind the highway building, near Walmart, and along Stewart Road, among other places, he said. Davenport Central School District had similar issues and updated to digital radios; Utter continued when tested, the radios had significantly better coverage. Councilmembers approved using \$21,000 in ARPA funds based on an estimate that required clarification. The department requires 21 radios. It is possible equipment on the radio tower will need to be replaced if it is not compatible with digital radios, he explained, which will cost approximately \$1,460. Once installed, the yearly service fee will increase from roughly \$600 annually to \$2,660.

The council also agreed to purchase a new trailer for the highway department rather than seeking a used one. According to Councilmember Mark Miller, the new trailer was estimated at roughly \$23,000, which

was comparable to the used prices.

In other business, council members presented a local law matching the county's recent increase in senior property tax exemption rates. The law will increase the income limit from \$15,000 to \$22,000 to receive a 50% tax exemption status on town property taxes for those 65 or older.

Councilmembers will review a sample local law regarding property tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers. The town attorney will attend the next council meeting to discuss possible language for the law and answer questions. Councilmember Mike Lutz said the exemption should be more than 10%, which he said on a \$2,000 tax bill would equate to \$200.

Utter, a volunteer firefighter, said the law passed by the state allowing municipalities and school districts to offer such exemptions was developed due to a shortage of volunteers. The 10% exemption is meant to incentivize younger generations to become or continue volunteer service, he said.

The next Davenport Town Council meeting is scheduled Tuesday, Mar. 21, at 7 p.m.

### Delaware League Standings

Delaware League Varsity Boys Basketball (8 league games)

*SKCS	8-0	17-3
Davenport	7-1	17-3
Margaretville	6-2	14-5
Gilboa	4-4	8-9
Downsville	4-4	9-11
HTC	3-5	8-7
Roxbury	2-6	4-16
Windham	1-7	2-16
Jefferson/Stamford	1-7	2-16

Delaware League Varsity Girls Basketball (8 league games)

*SKCS	8-0	16-4
Windham	7-1	12-6
Stamford/Jefferson	6-2	13-7
Davenport	4-4	9-11
HTC	4-4	9-6
Roxbury	3-5	6-11
Margaretville	2-6	4-16
Downsville	2-6	5-15
Gilboa	0-8	0-15

Delaware League JV Boys Basketball (5 league games)

*Margaretville	4-1	11-3
*SKCS	4-1	11-7
Jefferson/Stamford	3-2	11-6
Davenport	3-2	8-8
Gilboa	1-4	3-8
Downsville	0-5	1-11

Delaware League JV Girls Basketball (4 league games)

*Davenport	4-0	19-1
Stamford/Jefferson	2-2	6-10
HTC	0-4	1-6

Delaware League Varsity Boys Skiing (6 races)

- \*1st - Windham
- 2nd - Margaretville
- Roxbury
- 3rd - HTC

Delaware League Varsity Girls Skiing (6 races)

- \*1st - Windham
- 2nd - HTC
- 3rd - Margaretville
- 4th - Roxbury

### Three Delaware League Teams Advance to Sectional Quarterfinals

Six Delaware League boys varsity basketball teams entered Section IV, Class D playoffs this week, with the opening rounds played on Tuesday. Charlotte Valley and Margaretville both advanced, while South Kortright had a bye.

Laurens/Milford will travel to Charlotte Valley Central and Margaretville will travel to Southern Cayuga, while South Kortright hosts Marathon today, Feb. 23, with games set for 6 p.m..

In the opening rounds, Charlotte Valley defeated Worcester 54-30 on Tuesday. Jamison

Quigley and Trevor Waid led the way for the Wildcats, scoring 21 and 18 points, respectively. Ezra Ontl chimed in another 10 points in double figures..

Laurens/Milford defeated Hunter-Tannersville 71-45 on Tuesday. L/M went on a 28-7 second quarter run that put the game away. Grady Glennon was the top scorer for Hunter with 15 points while Garrett Legg added 10 points.

Southern Cayuga topped Gilboa 75-47 in Tuesday's opening round action. Dakota Oliver led the Wildcats with 12 points and teammates William Cipolla and Joe Wille each added 11 more

in double figures. Wille also pulled down 10 rebounds.

Margaretville defeated league rival Downsville 63-44 in Tuesday's sectional opener. Ryan McVitty scored seven baskets from three-point land to finish with 27 points for the Blue Devils. His teammate, Cody Wayman had four three pointers to finish the night with 20 points. Gavin Brunner led the Eagles with 23 points.

Semifinal games will be played Feb. 28 at SUNY Delhi, with the championship round set for March 4 at SUNY Delhi.

Seedings for the Sectional playoffs are, as follows:

1. Morris 20-0
2. South Kortright 17-3
3. Davenport 17-3
4. Southern Cayuga 12-8
5. Margaretville 14-5
6. Laurens-Milford 14-5
7. Richfield Springs-Young 11-9
8. Marathon 8-12
9. Edmeston 10-8
10. Sharon Springs 10-8
11. Odessa-Montour 5-14 (not entered)
12. Hunter-Tannersville 8-7
13. Downsville 9-11
14. Gilboa-Conesville 8-9
15. Worcester 8-9

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## ONC BOCES Students Celebrate Random Acts of Kindness Week

The Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Committee at the Otsego Area Occupational Center in Milford created "Cocoa & Kindness" to celebrate Random Acts of Kindness week. Students and staff were invited to write kind, positive, encouraging or inspirational messages on paper marshmallows to place in classroom or program cups of cocoa on display in the hallway.



## ONC BOCES Mechatronics Showcase

On Friday, February 17th the ONC BOCES Mechatronics/Robotics program hosted a showcase event which featured robot demonstrations, hands on trials, and networking with students, industry professionals, legislators, businesses and higher education organizations. The Mechatronics program provides high school juniors and seniors with hands-on skills in automation, robotics, electronics, programmable logic controls, and clean manufacturing.



## Understanding Historic Documents – Free Transcription Workshop at DCHA

Do you have old letters and diaries from your ancestors? Have you ever struggled to read them? Come to the Delaware County Historical Association (DCHA)'s Transcription Workshop on Saturday, March 11 at 2PM to learn valuable tips and tricks to reading and understanding old-fashioned handwriting.



The museum's resident history educator will offer a presentation on transcribing documents. Attendees will then put their skills to the test by reading several historic letters from the museum's collections. Attendees are also encouraged to bring any materials they have, whether it be an old fam-

ily diary, journal or a letter, to work together as a group in deciphering the handwriting.

This workshop is free and open to the public. RSVPs are encouraged but not required and can be made by calling DCHA

at 607-746-3849 or emailing [dcha@delhi.net](mailto:dcha@delhi.net). This workshop will be held at DCHA in Delhi, across from Curtis Lumber. In case of inclement weather, the workshop will be held on Saturday March 18 at 2PM.

## Woman Convicted of Driving While Ability Impaired by Drugs

DELHI – Acting District Attorney Shawn Smith announced that Denise Wells, 40, of Herkimer, was convicted of one count of Driving While Ability Impaired by Drugs, an unclassified classified Misdemeanor. The defendant entered a guilty plea to the misdemeanor in the Town of Delhi Court on Feb. 15.

The defendant was alleged to have been driving erratically through Delhi village on Dec. 12, 2022. The defendant drove in an erratic manner until she drove off the road on New York State Highway 10. After an initial investigation, Delaware County Sheriff deputies suspected that the defendant was under the influence of a drug. Further investigation

revealed that Wells was under the influence of heroin and unable to safely operate a motor vehicle.

The Honorable Matthew Burkert, Delhi court justice, sentenced the defendant to a one-year conditional discharge. The court further ordered that the defendant undergo a drug and alcohol evaluation, and comply with any treatment recommendations. The defendant was also ordered to attend and successfully complete an Impaired Driver Program, and attend a Victim Impact Panel. The defendant's license was revoked for six months, and she was ordered to pay a \$500 fine and \$400 surcharge.

Acting District Attorney

Shawn Smith stated, "I commend the Delaware County Sheriff's Department for their investigation of this case."

"STOP DWI Coordinator Scott Glueckert added, "The Delaware County Sheriff's Department is a steadfast partner with Delaware County STOP DWI with their continuous effort to keep our roads safe and our mutual ongoing commitment to educate the community about the dangers of driving under the influence. We applaud the daily work they do, in conjunction with the District Attorney's Office, to hold impaired drivers accountable for their actions."

Assistant District Attorney Schuyler Kinneman prosecuted the case.

## Hobart Exchange Opens



The Hobart Exchange owners and friends cut the grand opening ribbon on February 19. The new retail store is located at 645 Main Street in Hobart. Pictured here, from left to right, Delaware County Chamber president Ray Pucci, store owners Susana Caban and Julie Rockefeller, James Caban, and Hobart Business Alliance members Don Thomases and Don Dales.

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# She is the 'Heart' of the Catskills Animal Shelter

**Crute is Our Delaware County Person of the Year**  
By Liz Page

DELHI – Dogs are man's best friend, but who is the dog's best friend? If you live in Delaware County, it is likely Deb Crute, the enthusiastic director at the Heart of the Catskills Humane Society in Delhi.

The HCHS has been around for 55 years and Crute has been the driving force for nearly half of them. She has been at the shelter, in one capacity or another, since 1997.

"She cares deeply about the shelter animals and is always looking for ways to keep expenses down at the shelter while maintaining the best possible care for all the animals," states Marion Ott, one of the shelter volunteers and past president of the shelter's board of directors.

Whether it was the recent installation of new dog kennels and flooring, the annual Holiday for the Heart fundraiser, or daily operations, Crute is "the heart" of the shelter.

"For more than 20 years, Deb Crute has continued to be the high-energy force that makes the HCHS the little shelter with a big heart," states Kelly Haas, of Stamford, another volunteer and nominator for Crute.

While many of us say we love our pets, Crute is an advocate for all pets and dedicated to providing them a safe haven as they adjust to make the transition to a loving home and humane care. She is the driving force behind why so many others get involved and in dealing with the many things, including the emergencies, that come with the territory of operating a shelter. "She is the life of the shelter. She has a great, positive attitude, always welcoming, always patient and always giving 110 percent for the people and pets," stated Silvia Benelli, of East Meredith.

That's the part that might be the most important to all those who have spoken so highly of Crute. She cares about the people as well. She has gone out of her way for people she knows and people she doesn't know.



Above: Deb Crute gives a big smile during the annual dog walk fundraiser at the Heart of the Catskills Humane Society.

Below: Deb Crute taking a break along a hiking path with her own adoptees, Seeley, a German Shepherd mix and Tempe, a black lab. Named after characters in the TV series "Bones", one of Crute's favorites.

Right: Deb Crute feeds a chipmunk a peanut, as a true friend to all animals.



She is that rare person who acts, taking on whatever is needed to lessen the burden, ease the fear, or relieve the stress for someone else. It may be dog sitting, teaching someone how to run a snow blower, or just showing up for moral support.

Crute received nominations from all over the county, with the word "enthusiastic" on the lips of many who spoke on her behalf. She is a humble, private person, who always treats others with the utmost respect along with her furry charges.

Unlike other shelters where there are people to carry out the fundraising activities, Crute has initiated many of the fundraising pro-

grams that help keep things running at the shelter, according to Ann Lukin. Lukin said she got to know Crute when she became president of the HCHS Board of Directors and gained a best friend along the way.

"When Deb made director, she started to study other shelters to see what was working for them. She knew we had to make changes. We struggled financially in the beginning and she knew money comes from support."

Crute initiated the annual dog walk and Holiday for the Heart to raise money. There are other fundraising activities as well. "Other shel-

ters have people to do the fundraising for them. She took it on herself," said Lukin. She has also invested part of her salary to purchase things that were needed at the shelter.

She spent two plus weeks sleeping on the floor in her office, while the kennels were being redone to make sure that every animal was okay, which she also often does if there is a strong storm predicted, according to Dale Tretheway, a board member and "girlfriend" of Crutes.

As for the downfall at some shelters, Lukin said it is often related to the board not getting along with the staff. That doesn't happen at the HCHS because Crute ensures the staff is treated with dignity. She also treats anyone who donates anything to the shelter with the same dignity. She treats every donation like it is a million dollars.

Crute has initiated an education campaign for children to learn the humane treatment and proper way to approach animals. "You realize the impact when you hear a child ask if a dog is friendly and if it would be okay to pet the dog," said Lukin. It has provided a level of education that prevents a bad exchange between a pet and a child.

Crute developed a program to help children who struggle with their reading skills, called the Barking Books Program. She provides adopted dogs for children to read to one on one. The result is the students' reading levels increase.

The PetSmart Adoption Center in Kingston, attests to the treatment of the animals at the shelter who are available for adoption. When the new PetSmart in Kingston asked the shelter to provide the cats for their adoption program, because they were healthy and well-behaved, Crute gave it a try and they took it over. She wasn't so sure they could do it, but she knew they had to try. That was more than 2,400 cats that have been adopted through PetSmart.

Crute works with other humane societies as well,



was paralyzed and its elderly owner was unable to care for it. Inc was Crute's first adopted pet and her inspiration. Then, according to Lukin, she found a puppy in the street and brought it home.

It was this connection to the animals that caused her to switch her major from biochemistry to veterinary technician. That decision found her attending classes at SUNY Delhi where she took a part time job at the shelter, then known as the Humane Society of Central Delaware County.

Delaware County should feel very fortunate that this gem of a person, who was sought after by the American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and others, chose to stay here. "She was young, she wasn't making very much money at the shelter and she needed to make a career for herself," said Lukin.

Lukin had just become president of the board when Crute said she was being recruited for an upper level position by the ASPCA. "I asked her to give me a couple of weeks notice to find someone else, but I didn't hear back from her. When I asked her about it, she said she never took the job because 'there is too much I want to accomplish here'. I was so relieved."

That is when Lukin realized she really liked Crute and admired her integrity. "That's really when our friendship began."

Crute was nominated Woman of the Year by the Delhi Business and Professional Women's Organization in 2006 for her contributions to the community. She has continued to contribute tremendously to a much larger community. The extent of the lives she has touched and enriched will never be completely known.

"I loved working with Deb and I got a best friend out of the deal," said Lukin, who remains involved with the thrift store, another fundraiser for the shelter "Gifts from the Heart."

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- (2) Massey Ferguson 4707
- Massey Ferguson 4707
- Massey Ferguson 4710
- Massey Ferguson 6713
- Massey Ferguson 5612
- Massey Ferguson 2860 0ROPS
- Massey Ferguson 2860
- Massey Ferguson 2705
- Massey Ferguson 1736
- Approx. (12) Massey Ferguson GC sub-compact tractors w/ loaders
- Approx. (10) brand new tractors, sell with warranty
- John Deere 4240 QR w/ cab
- John Deere 8650 w/ duals
- (4) tractor loader backhoes
- Ford 2000 w/ loader
- John Deere 6305 MFWD w/ loader
- John Deere 4230 w/ cab and loader
- Ford 7700 MFWD
- (70) round balers
- Massey Ferguson 2150 big square baler
- Massey Ferguson 2250 big square baler
- (2) Massey Ferguson 9970 16ft windrower
- Kverneland bale wrapper
- New Holland 565 baler w/ thrower
- New Holland 271 baler
- Krone 6-star tedder
- Several hay rakes
- Haybines
- Round bale wagon
- Approx. (12) Ferris and John Deere zero turn mowers
- 20ft. Gooseneck dump trailer
- 2022 25ft. Gooseneck equipment trailer
- 22ft disc
- 24ft. disc
- Creep feeder
- Storage sheds
- Kubota RTV 900 w/ plow
- Bobcat 3400 ATV
- (20) skid steer attachments
- 40ft storage container
- Excavator buckets and hammers
- Bumper pull dump trailers (new and used)
- Tilt top trailers
- (8) Bobcat skid steers
- Bobcat T650
- Bobcat T770
- Gehl 4625
- Case skid steer
- Volvo A25C off-road dump
- Doosan 225 excavator w/ thumb
- 2022 Doosan 140 w/ Viking tilt rotator and 2 buckets-demo
- Bobcat E35
- Bobcat E26
- John Deere 450 dozer
- John Deere 350 dozer
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## HELP WANTED

Roxbury Central School has the following immediate openings:  
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Available vacancies for the 2023-24 school year:  
**Certified 7-12 Physics Teacher**  
**Certified 7-12 Biology Teacher**  
**Certified Technology Teacher**

Positions will remain open until filled.  
Applications may be submitted online at [www.olasjobs.org](http://www.olasjobs.org), or by written application to:

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53729 State Hwy. 30  
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## HELP WANTED

Roxbury Central School has the following vacancy:  
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# Letters to the Editor

## Open Letter to Town of Delhi

I just learned of the Town's disappointing and short-sighted vote on the Bramley Mountain tower restoration. I'm the administrator of 5 outdoor or hiking related Groups on Facebook and can't tell you how much of a buzz there's been by people wanting to hike Bramley Mountain and enjoy the new views once the tower is replaced.

I'm one of the fire tower stewards on Overlook Mt near Woodstock. We get many visitors on a weekend day. They vary by where they come from but most have read about Overlook and come from all over to stay in the area and make the tower hike part of their vacations. They stop for gas, buy snacks and head to local places for lunch or dinner afterward. You comments about the "unknowns" gives the impression you're choosing to ignore that the Friends of Bramley Mountain Fire Tower are covering 100% of the tower's restoration, construction, ongoing maintenance and unlikely removal of the tower in the event it needed to be taken down. Since, by the 3-2 vote, is it possible the three who voted against what would be a popular attraction represent a view that the Town doesn't need the business the tower would attract? I'm also puzzled by your comment, joined by two others, that the tower would be welcome somewhere else in town.

Do you have an unstated reason why the tower shouldn't be restored on Bramley mountain that already has the trails, parking lot and infrastructure but would be OK somewhere where the process has to be started from scratch? I'm grateful that Council Members Kzryston and Vifore voted in favor of the tower. Their votes indicate that they too see the need for a much needed attraction that will help Inns, restaurants, B&Bs, shops and other businesses in your area of Delaware Country.

Alan Via

## Kick Up Your Feet

The Town of Wright has struggled to find its footing relative to community events with a strong family flavor. The pandemic quarantine and the low saturation of local business (ok, make that like NO saturation of local business) have done a number on the foundation needed to build and maintain a vibrant community spirit.

Yes, there are exceptions including the several faith communities and the local fire department.

The Gallupville House Association deserves recognition for the ambitious calendar of events designed to entertain and bring members of the local community together.

This President's Week will bring a Contra And Traditional Dance Event to the Gallupville House (913 Rt 443) on Saturday, Feb 25 from 2 - 4. Have some fun with your partner, your family and support a hard-working community group in the process. You'll love Paul Rosenberg and his band and you will kick.up.your.feet!

Chris Claus Wright

## Schoharie Mascot Ideas

I think the requirements would be (a) a blue and white color scheme (b) universally acceptable (c) timeless. Therefore ..while I prefer Spelunkers I would say the "Schoharie Blue Skies" would be the best fit. Also the song "blue skies" is in the public domain and could be the new fight song. I predict they will choose "The Schoharie Spirit" or something else equally bland.

Some examples could be:

- (1) Schoharie Blue Skies
- (2) Schoharie Slughters
- (3) Schoharie Spelunkers
- (4) Schoharie Farmers
- (5) Schoharie Tim Murphys?

Michael Bowes Howes Cave

## Prattsville Positive!

What a lovely way to hear from an old friend: Through the pages of the Mountain Eagle!

I was both delighted and surprised to read Dave Scudder's Letter to the Editor, "Prattsville Positive" in the February 10th issue of the Mountain Eagle. So many good memories came flooding back. Thank you, Dave, for helping me to remember those great good times. I hope you're still playing your violin as vigorously and melodically as you did "back in the day". Thank you, too, for your positive comments about Prattsville. Pratt's town is definitely on the rise and with it, some important cultural organizations like the Zadock Pratt Museum, Prattsville Art Center, and Friends of Historic Prattsville. As for the ongoing story of the restoration of historic Pratt Rock Park (thank you, Prattsville Town Board), I expect you'll be reading some exciting news about the project in these very pages in the next few weeks.

Dear Dave, hope you are well.

Prattsville Positive!

Carolyn Bennett Gilboa

## Abusive Overreach

Albany's (and by extension the lower 9 counties) demand to strip Schoharie Central High School of their mascot is a demonstration of government overreach and a gross abuse of power. All of this to fit a political and social narrative that didn't exist 10 years ago.

We need to step back and view this with some historical perspective. The progressive political and social elements of our society are incrementally stripping away our history and our legacy. It has been said many times that if you don't study and understand history, you're bound to repeat it. Just take a look at Mao's Cultural Revolution in China where the culture and history of the nation were stripped away and replaced with progressive Chinese Communist Party (CPC) ideology. How did that work out? You might even think that China's Cultural Revolution and wokeness are starting to look like the same thing - efforts to strip away your identity.

This is where SCS should take a lesson from the board of supervisors regarding how they are handling the state's unfair laws that grossly undervalue wind and solar energy projects resulting in disproportionately low tax revenues for our towns. The county has gone on the offensive and is taking the state to court and rather than taking this laying down, SCS should do the same thing. Despicable behavior, like burning the flag of The United States, has been recognized by the Supreme Court as a protected act under the First Amendment's Free Speech clause because it is a form of expression. Having an Indian as a mascot is simply

another form of expression which should not be held hostage by the threat of removal of state aid. Albany is doing this because they feel that they can get away with it. Using the same logic, many of the towns on Long Island, like Merrick (Meroke Indians), Wyandanch (named after chief Wyandanch), Shinnecock (Shinnecock Indians), Canarsie (Canarsie Indians), etc. should also be stripped of their names, but we know this will never happen because the people would never stand for it and the state has no leverage.

The threat of pulling state aid is a cheap shot and is probably illegal. We can only hope that this is the end of "correctness" and collective, manufactured "social guilt". However, it may only be a matter of time until Albany discovers the subdivision in Middleburgh called Indian Acres and demands that it be renamed Indigenous American People's Acres and that Squaw Lane is not only misogynistic but also represents cultural appropriation.

Ted Werner Fulton

## "It's Ugly"

The Town of Wright board met recently to discuss the potential for a Dollar General to come to Wright. Someone muttered "It's ugly."

Of course Big Box is ugly! It doesn't belong in an agricultural bedroom community like Wright. Why is the town entertaining the idea of a corporate monstrosity in the first place? This in a town with more cows than people.

Shutters Corners is an historic hamlet with two prominent houses that are listed on the National Register of Historic places. The Becker Stone House is on Drebitko Road on the site of the "Gas Up," an antique engine and car show sponsored by the Hudson Mohawk Chapter of the the

Pioneer Gas Engine Association. This popular two-weekend annual event draws thousands to our community.

The Becker-Westfall House is a brick house that lies at the corner of Route 443 & Cook Road.

A mile further up Route 443 there's the historic Evangelical Lutheran Church, a parishioner researched its history and listed it on the National Register. And the Gallupville House, originally built as an inn and tavern that serves today as a community center.

In 1998, Habitat for Humanity of Schoharie County built a Habitat home with a partner family on Drebitko Road. The house was built from scratch by volunteers with donations of materials and labor. The land was provided by local resident Joe Mix.

The town has conducted surveys and more surveys, and updated comprehensive plans. I doubt anyone ever reads them or carries them forward from one administration to the next. On those surveys did the people of Wright ever ask for chain stores to be built here?

By development perhaps people were thinking of the good old days of the 1990s, when a number of grassroots enterprises sprung up. Like Bittersweet Organics, a Community Supported Agriculture project that was the dream of Jon and Dobie Mix. People could work the farm to pay for their share of organic vegetables. When you picked up your produce at the farm, Jon presented you with a bouquet of flowers. He sponsored barn dances and his zydeco

band, the rubber Band, played long into the night.

Karl Westphal, with his little Guernsey cow realized his dream when he operated the Rundycup Dairy at his home, hiring locals to churn organic yogurt fresh from the farm. You could taste the love in the yogurt!

The Olde Corner Store at Factory Street and 443 thrived for years before being shuttered.

From the time it was chartered in 1975, the Town of Wright/Schoharie Valley Lions Club dreamed of building a park in Gallupville. From 1975 to 1985, they constructed a park, tennis and basketball courts. They added a pavilion in 1992, picnic tables and barbecue grills, and sponsored an Eagle Scout to construct a portable bathroom. Groups signed up to use the park for their events, people enjoyed the park until Hurricane irene devastated the area.

There are many creative ways to grow and revitalize our community. Invest in its rich history; support our local farmers, refurbish the Gallupville town park, volunteer to renovate Gallupville House. Be an active participant in the town's destiny.

Thirty years ago when no other town would let them in, the Iroquois Gas Transmission System built a pipeline compressor transfer station off Route 146 in Wright. The town sold out for a mere \$29,000 and a few perks.

Learn from our history. Don't let the invaders in!

Rosemary Christoff Dolan  
Shutter Corners  
Town of Wright

## Four Girls Teams Enter Sectional Playoffs

DELAWARE LEAGUE - Four Delaware League girls varsity basketball teams will enter Section IV, Class D playoff action this week, with the opening rounds set for Wednesday, Feb. 22. Windham-Ashland-Jewett will host Richfield Springs, Odessa-Montour will host Hunter-Tannersville and South Kortright will host Stamford/Jefferson. Games will take place after press time.

The teams that advance from the opening round, will play at the higher seed on Saturday. Semifinal and the championship game will be held at SUNY Delhi. The Semifinals scheduled from March 1 and the championship set for March 4.

Seedings for the sectional playoffs are, as follows:

1. Cherry Valley Springfield 19-1
2. Oxford 15-4
3. Southern Cayuga 15-5
4. Worcester 17-2
5. Odessa-Montour 12-8
6. Marathon 11-9
7. South Kortright 15-4
8. WAJ 12-5
9. Richfield Springs 12-8
10. Stamford/Jefferson 13-7
11. Laurens 12-8
12. Hunter-Tannersville 9-6
13. Schenevus 11-8
14. Morris 10-9
15. Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton. 10-10
16. Edmeston 8-11

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

### Stamford Rotary Club Annual

**Mid-Winter Chicken BBQ**

**NAPA Parking Lot Stamford**

**Sunday March 5, 2023**  
**11:00 am until sold out**

**Take-outs only:**  
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Certified Technology Teacher

Positions will remain open until filled.  
Applications may be submitted online at [www.olasjobs.org](http://www.olasjobs.org), or by written application to:

Dr. Joanne Shelmidine, Interim Superintendent  
**ROXBURY CENTRAL SCHOOL**  
53729 State Hwy. 30  
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# THE SCHOHARIE NEWS

COOL WITH McCOOL  
DEMOCRATS SEEK REBIRTH

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

Volume 8, No. 8 mountaineaglenews@gmail.com FRIDAY February 24, 2023 518-763-6854 \$1.00

## ZBA Hearing Set for M'burgh B&B

**By David Avitabile**  
MIDDLEBURGH - The Middleburgh zoning board of appeals will hold a public hearing next month on a proposed "Airbnb" in the village. The owner of 296 Main Street, next to the post office, is planning to use all or a portion of the building as a non-owner occupied short-term rental facility also known as an Airbnb. The two-story building is currently

the Wattles Inn the Middle and is owned by Daniel Green of Smith Road in Potter Hollow.

The hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 14 at the village hall on Main Street starting at 7pm.

The Wattles Inn the Middle, a bed and breakfast which helped raise funds for the Broome Animal Sanctuary on Route 145, was recently sold as the former owners plan to focus more on the sanctuary and are consolidating the properties in Broome.

The applicant is requesting a special use permit under the village zoning law.

The property is zoned commercial, under which

"hotel, motel, tourist homes" are listed as special uses in the zoning law.

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

Officials briefly discussed the new vacationing and renting trend the month prior and decided to let things remain status quo.

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

Airbnbs are all the rage in many other parts of

the country and in the Catskills and other areas of the state.

There are differences between Airbnbs, bed and breakfasts, and regular rentals.

An Airbnb is a lightly regulated home-sharing site that lets almost anyone list accommodations for rent. A bed and breakfast is a regulated small inn subject to state or local lodging laws, kind of like a small hotel with a few extra perks and personal touches.

The lines between an Airbnb - an apartment or room rented through the home-sharing site - and a traditional bed and breakfast (B&B) are blur-

ring, experts have said. Even the professionals are having trouble keeping up and that could cause problems, especially in zoning in some areas.

For now in the village, if you live in the home you can do it, officials said, but there are issues if you do not live there and rent it out.

Some board members expressed some concerns about Airbnbs and a board member asked what if the renters are just college kids that parents want to get rid of for a few months.

There is a bed and breakfast on River Street but the owners live in the home.

### 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.

#### Blood Drive at MCS on March 1

MIDDLEBURGH - Want to help your friends and neighbors? The American Red Cross is experiencing an urgent need for blood donations, and the Middleburgh Central School District ready to help.

The district is hosting a blood drive noon-6 pm on March 1 in the high school library. This is a great opportunity for students, staff and the community to come together for the benefit of our greater community. Eligible students may sign up in Nurse Jennifer Adams' office or online. All other community members should sign up at redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: MiddleburghCS.

## Deadline Monday for SCS Mascot Suggestions

**By David Avitabile**  
SCHOHARIE - If you want to suggest a new mascot for Schoharie Central School, your time is running out.

Suggestions and ideas for a new mascot can be sent to SCSMascot@schoharie-schools.org by the end of business Monday, February 27.

The Schoharie school board earlier this year agreed to move forward with a plan for a school community vote on a new mascot. The New York State Department of Education has ordered school districts that have Native American-themed logos or mascots to change them, or face loss of state aid, which means the end for the Schoharie Indian.

Thus far, hundreds of suggestions have come in, Superintendent David Blanchard announced at last week's school board meeting. He thanked the public for their "generosity" and is keeping track of the names and suggestions on a spreadsheet. Many people gave multiple suggestions.

As of last Thursday, Eagles is the leader, possibly because the Philadelphia Eagles were in the Super Bowl. The

biggest issue is that a neighboring district, Duaneburg, already uses the Eagles, and they are in the same sports league.

In last week's Mountain Eagle, readers gave their suggestions and hundreds of names came in via Facebook. The Eagles, Coyotes, Blue Jays, Blue Devils, Patriots, and, of course, Indians, were among the most popular. Other ideas were: Canoneers, Pioneers, Minuteman, Colonials, Revolutionaries, Sentinels, Sodbusters, Bulls, Bisons, Stallions, Bucks, Scorpions, Bobcats, Serpents, Harriers, Hawks, Hochuls (yes, that Hochul), Diamonds, Vipers, Bears, Skylarks, Storm, Dutchmen, Cyclones, Chiefs, Dragons, Spartans, Arrowheads, Forts, Falcons, Raptors, Warriors, Rebels, Gladiators, Engines, Farmers, Rock Heads, Rednecks, the Tomahawks, the Flying Eagles, Sasquatch, Cowtipplers, Palatiners, Pride, and many others.

"It's really interesting," Mr. Blanchard said of the suggestions. "The rollout is moving forward."

After the 30-day mascot suggestion ends on February 27, a commit-

tee of stakeholders (students, staff, and community members) will meet and review all of the submissions. They will select four or five options, and over a two-week period in March, the school community will have the opportunity to vote for their preferred option. The vote will be done electronically and by paper.

The school district will then work with a graphic designer to create a new logo inspired by the new mascot.

The new mascot and imagery will be used on new uniforms, on athletic fields, and in gyms.

About 35 people attended a public forum on January 18 to discuss the future of the mascot.

Almost all districts in the same bind as Schoharie have agreed to change their mascot, though some are pushing back or looking for ways to keep or preserve their Native mascots and are waiting for more firm guidance from the state to move on. Some are also exploring whether the district has permission to keep using Native imagery. Some are con-

sidering changing the imagery but not the name (Warriors for instance).

The state education department has decreed that all Native American mascots and imagery have to be removed by the end of the 2023-24 school year. More than 60 districts in the state have Native American mascots.

In addition to policing a no mascot rule on school grounds starting in September, the district will have to remove the imagery from the gym floors (estimated at \$20,000 for the high school gym), remove the cement sign on sign on the front lawn, and re-upholster padded chairs.

The entire change will cost about \$100,000, much less than other districts, Mr. Blanchard said.

He has said that the district did not add the mascot imagery in the \$19 million building project that rehabbed the high school.

The district needs to make a decision on a new mascot by April because work on the new athletic fields and tennis courts will begin in the spring and be done by August.



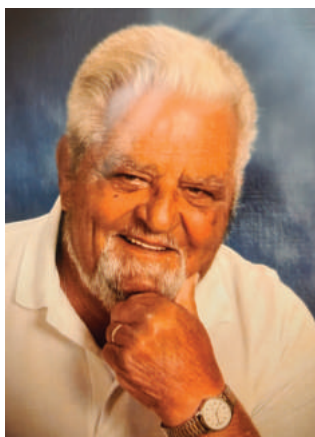
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## Obituaries

### George Falcone



George Thomas Falcone, 90, of Stamford, passed away on Monday February 20, 2023 at the Pines Nursing Center in Catskill, NY

Born on October 26, 1932 in Amsterdam, NY, George was the son of the late Samuel and Florence Falcone.

He proudly served in the US Navy during the

Korean War from 1952 until his honorable discharge in 1955.

George worked with the Operating Engineers Local #157, District 106 for over 60 years.

He was a Roman Catholic and a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in Stamford.

George was a member of the VFW in both Schoharie and later in Stamford. He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed camping, fishing and golfing. George was also an avid NY Yankees Baseball fan.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 47 years: Joyce Falcone of Stamford; daughters: JoAnn (Mike) Freeman of Hudson and Dawnette

(Randy) Hotaling of Ocala, FL; along with several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial with full military honors will be celebrated at 1PM on Saturday, March 4, 2023 at Sacred Heart Church, 27 Harper Street, Stamford, with Rev. Paul Mijas celebrant. Burial will be at Blenheim Cemetery in the spring.

In Lieu of flowers contributions in memory of George can be made to Fisher House, 113 Holland Ave, Albany, NY 12208 [www.fisher-house.org](http://www.fisher-house.org)

Please visit [www.macarthurfh.com](http://www.macarthurfh.com) to share a condolence with George's family.

### Marilyn E. Koerner

Marilyn Koerner passed away February 19, 2023. Born in the Bronx on January 22, 1928. Her parents were Edward and Rosalie Everett. Marilyn married Paul Koerner on September 14, 1946 and made their home in the Gilboa, NY area all their married life. Out of that beautiful union of over 53 years, came 5 children; Laura (Thomas) Molle, Paul (Karen) Koerner, Donna (Leonard) Castle, Gary (Melinda) Koerner and Mary Eileen Koerner.

Marilyn is predeceased by her parents, her devoted husband Paul, and

her beautiful daughter Mary Eileen. She was also predeceased by her brother Leonard and sister Shirley.

She is survived by her children and their families inclusive of 17 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren.

Marilyn had a very deep faith along with her husband Paul, they raised their children in that faith. She was a member of the St. Philip Neri Church in Grand Gorge, NY until her passing. She was a member of the Alter Society which did many great things for the

parishioners and their children. She was a member of the Conesville Senior Citizens Club.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, February 25, 2023 at Miller Funeral Home in Roxbury, NY. from 10am-12noon. A mass to celebrate her life will follow at 1pm at St. Philip Neri, Grand Gorge, NY with Father Paul Mijas officiating. Burial will be in the spring.

At the family request, in lieu of flowers, one can make a donation in Marilyn's memory to St. Philip Neri Church, Grand Gorge.

## MCS Sixth Graders Deliver Thanks

MIDDLEBURGH - There are miles of smiles at Middleburgh Central School. MCS sixth-grade students decorated and filled treat bags and delivered them to employees at the bus garage on February 17.

Middleburgh Central School District thanks its Transportation Department for taking great care of their students. Drivers provide that first smile in the morning and a kind word on the trip home, all while ensuring everyone's safety.



## Cool With McCool at Schoharie Library



Art instructor Maeve McCool checks progress on contour drawings during a Schoharie Library drawing class. Photos by Scott Keidong.



Maeve McCool illustrates a number of shading techniques for pencil drawings.



Drawing Classes with Maeve McCool -- Catskill-based fine artist Maeve McCool introduces the project for next week during the second of her four Thursday series of art workshops at the Schoharie Library.

## SCS Students Attend 'Lower Voices Sing' Event at Cornell

SCHOHARIE - Eight SCS students attended the New York Lower Voices Sing event at Cornell University in Ithaca on Saturday, February 11. The Cornell University Glee Club, which has been around since 1868, hosts the event annually and SCS students were invited to participate this year.

Braeden Beck, Noah Florussen, Sean Harrington, Tyler Mason, Jake Rase, Ryan Snyder, Reid

Starks Swotkewicz and Zechariah Warner spent the day at Cornell with Dr. Rayvon T.J. Moore to prepare four pieces to be performed in a culminating concert.

The students sang alongside the Glee Club members and worked with their acapella subset for part of the day. At the conclusion of the rehearsals, students performed in Cornell's beautiful Sage Chapel.

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# All About Racing

By Ed & Betty Biittig

Along with the great racing we saw, one of the best things about being at Volusia Speedway for the DIRTcar Nationals in February is not just the weather, that can be unpredictable, it's seeing all the people we've met in racing over the years. Florida Speed Weeks brings fans from all over the country.

One of the first people we ran into was Sportsman driver, Dave Rosa of Delhi, who raced at Afton on Friday nights. Rosa is unsure that will be the case this season due to Afton Raceway changing their night of racing to Saturday. Dave said, "I like racing on Friday so I think I'm going to Penn Can." Penn Can in just over the border in Pennsylvania and races on Friday nights and pays well, according to Rosa.

We also met Danny Ballard of Grand Gorge at the same time and his plans for 2023 are to put his grandson in a Slingshot at Glen Ridge. Ballard said he still has a

car so whether he will race in 2023 is still up in the air.

Volusia Speedway was the sight of the Super DirtCar Series events scheduled for four nights of big block Modified competition, however, Friday night fell to persistent rain after three of the World of Outlaw Late Model heat events.

This put Saturday night in the limelight for the crowning of the DIRTcar Nationals champion and Mat Williamson of St. Catherine's, Ont. Canada came out on top and holding the big Gator as the Champion and the smaller Gator trophy for the win that night also.

We spoke with Williamson's father, Randy after the first night of competition and he said they had switched to a different car for the second night hoping the switch would improve their performance and it surely did. Well, the change of cars proved to be the answer for Williamson. The second

night, Thursday he chased down pole sitter, Demetrios Drellos of Queensbury, from his third place position and passed him on the final lap of the feature. On Saturday night it was Jack Lehner of Saratoga Springs, that sat on the pole and ran a great race, swapping the lead with Rick Laubach and Williamson before getting caught behind lap traffic allowing Williamson, who had started ninth, to get by.

It was heartbreaking for both Drellos and Lehner who were both going for their first DIRTcar Nationals win. Both drivers are young stars and still learning the art of losing and winning.

BD Motorsports Media LLC owner Brett Deyo "made it official" with NASCAR's Brett Tisdale, Senior Manager Weekly Racing Operations, during a NASCAR Home Tracks meeting at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla., last Wednesday. The four his-



Matt Williamson of St. Catherine's, Ont. Canada was the overall DIRTcar Nationals Modified Champion.

Biittig photo

toric dirt tracks that Deyo will promote in 2023 will be racing under the NASCAR banner for the 75th anniversary season of the iconic auto racing organization.

We will be headed back north soon and the next racing event on our agenda will be the Fonda car show in March. We will have more info next week.

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



Right: Speed Weeks in Florida is a racing epicenter for fans and drivers from the Northeast. We met Dave Rosa and Dan Ballard in the pits the first night. Biittig photo

## Library News

Middleburgh Library

2/28 - 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.

3/2 - 10:30-Noon - Internet Safety and Privacy - Join Mary Carrier from the Mohawk Valley Library system as she teaches you about internet safety and privacy. Registration is 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!

We have new displays in our foyer cabinets. Take a look. If you are interested in displaying your collection, contact us. Please check our calendar on our website at [www.middleburghlibrary.info](http://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 23 Trivia Night@ the Library 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, March 14 and 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.

Wednesday, March 1 and March 15 at 3:30 We've got the LEGO, just bring your imagination! Each session we'll have a different building theme to challenge participants, but you can build anything that inspires you. Open to kids in grades K-8

Friday, March 3 at noon Fan Favorites Book Club. Join us on the first Friday of every month for our casual conversation about the books, tv series, and movies we love. No assigned readings, just a chance to meet people, talk about things you love, and perhaps pick up a few suggestions on things that will become your new favorite obsession.

Friday, March 3, 17 and 31 at 4pm Paws for Reading Join Nico, our favorite therapy dog, for reading and cuddles! This is a great, relaxed opportunity for kids to practice their reading with a friendly face. All ages welcome. No registration necessary.

Saturday, March 4 Check Mates at 11 Longtime chess lovers and those just learning the game are invited to drop in Saturday morning for a pick-up game and a chance to meet new friends and learn new things from other players. We'll provide the chess sets and some snacks for players.

Tuesday, March 7 and 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.

Thursday, March 9 at 1pm Library Board of Trustees monthly meeting. The Trustees meet upstairs in the Community Room and meetings are open to the public.

Thursday, March 9 at 4 All Ages Craft Buffet Patrons of all ages are invited to join us for open craft time. We'll have tables full of craft supplies available for participants to use, along with plenty of snacks and beverages. Come let your imagination inspire you to create whatever you choose!

Saturday, March 11 at 10:30 the Friends of the Library Annual Meeting in the Program Room. Interested in joining and learning more about upcoming fundraisers to support the Library and how you can help. Want to join The Friends? Visit <https://communitylibrary.mvls.info/friends/> or email [friendsofcommunitylibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcommunitylibrary@gmail.com) for more information

Tuesday, March 14

6:00pm Do you love anime and manga? Or maybe you're curious about these Japanese stories but aren't sure how to get started? Check out our Anime Club for teens! We meet once a month to watch anime episodes, eat snacks, and try Japanese-inspired crafts. Open to 6th-12th graders (ages 11-18). No registration required.

Thursday, March 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@mvls.info](mailto:clittle@mvls.info).

Thursday, March 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@mvls.info](mailto:cob-adult@mvls.info)

Wednesday, March 22 at 1 Using the Libby App. Overdrive App users take note, the app will be discontinued in April. Overdrive is focusing on the Libby App which makes it very easy to borrow from the extensive collection of ebooks, audiobooks and magazines. All you need is your device, the Libby App and your Library card.

Thursday, March 23 at 5:30 PowerPoint Basics Interested in learning how to use PowerPoint or Google Slides for presentations? This quick-and-easy workshop will introduce the basics including slide layout options, animations, and transitions. The library can provide laptops to learn on during the workshop, or you can bring your own if you have one. Free of charge; no reservation required.

Tuesday, March 28 at 6pm Teen Video Game Night Stop by for some video game time on our new Switch! We've got multiple controllers and some great

games for groups, so bring some friends along! Open to middle and high schoolers (ages 11-18).

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, just log from anywhere, any time 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 checkout 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 28 and March 7 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 April 18.

Tuesday, March 14 from 10-2pm 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.

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 sign up here <https://mailchimp.com/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.mvls.info/>

Schoharie Library

518-295-7127 [www.schoharielibrary.org](http://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 23 and March 2, 4:15pm. All ages are welcome. Sign up: <https://bit.ly/DrawingwithMaeve23>

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.

SCS Musical Preview Storytime: Friday, February 24, 10am with cast members from "Catch Me If You Can."

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

STEM kit play all day: Thursday, February 23 and Friday, February 24 during library hours.

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

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

Knitcetera at the Library: Tuesdays, February 28, March 14 & 28, 10:30am-noon. Embroider, sew, knit, anything goes!


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

Virtual UFO Club: Thursdays, March 2 & 23, 10am. Work on projects and chat on Zoom. Signup: <https://bit.ly/SchoharieLibraryPrograms>

Middle Grade Book Group: Mondays, March 6 & 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>.

Printmaking Classes with Maeve McCool: Thursdays, March 9, 16, 23, and 30. Learn to carve your design onto a printing block and print it on fabric. Best for ages 9 and up. Signup: <https://bit.ly/Printmaking2023>

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## M'burgh Democrats Hoping for Rebirth

**By David Avitabile**  
MIDDLEBURGH - The Middleburgh Democratic Club has begun meeting after 20 years of dormancy and members are hoping for a rebirth in the town.

About a dozen people attended the first meeting of the revitalized club on February 13, according to Jim Buzon, former supervisor and councilman on the town board. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 13 from 7 to 8pm at the Middleburgh library. Future meetings will be held on the second Monday of the month. The meetings will be at the library on Main Street at least through May.

Currently, the members are going over the old bylaws of the club, which have not been reviewed in at least 20 years.

"We crossed out a bunch of stuff and added some," he said.

No officers have been elected and probably will not be until April, which was the month for the organizational meeting in the past.

The meetings are not just open to Middleburgh

town Democrats, Mr. Buzon said. Residents can come to the meeting and voice their concerns on the town and other levels.

Some people, he noted, at not "comfortable getting up at a formal meeting and speaking." He did note, only those who are registered Democrats in the town can vote.

Many people have questions and concerns, Mr. Buzon said.

There are many things going on in the town and county in the past few years that people are saying, "What is going on?"

The meetings can also help to educate residents and voters and hopefully the party can offer a full slate of candidates come election time, Mr. Buzon said, "to give people a choice."

For more information, please contact Mr. Buzon at (518) 827-6643.

## Life Long Learning: S.C.H.O.O.L Spring Semester

Founded in 2011, the Schoharie County Home of Ongoing Learning (SCHOOL) is a nonprofit membership organization for those who share a love of learning, which continues throughout our lives. It is an independent entity, affiliated with SUNY Cobleskill and the Road Scholar Institute Network, and designed to stimulate the mind and energize the body in classroom and social settings.

SCHOOL provides daytime (and sometimes early evening) non-credit classes and is offering over 70 courses in-person and some via ZOOM. Their goal is to offer a choice of activities that encourage you to create, think, exercise and socialize.

Offerings this semester include a wide variety of topics, all lead by experienced and enthusiastic facilitators. Perhaps you would enjoy: hikes, historical talks and walks, agricultural, nature & environmental topics,

books and writing, arts and crafts, medical-biological-nutritional topics, exercise, governance, theater & entertainment, or even virtual tours.

A \$50 yearly membership fee (for the year of July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023) allows you to choose as many classes that you want that fit your schedule and interests. Some classes and trips have additional fees which are detailed in the class description. Registration is now open for classes and will be accepted throughout the Spring semester (term is March through June 2023), up until 10 days before the start date for a given class or when/if the class size limit is reached.

Detailed class descriptions and the membership and registration forms are available on the website [www.cobyschool.com](http://www.cobyschool.com), and copies can also be seen at the various public libraries throughout the county.

Contact Information:

S.C.H.O.O.L.  
PO. Box 576  
Cobleskill, NY 12043  
e m a i l :  
SCHOOL@cobleskill.edu  
Office phone for messages: 518-255-5463  
See their website at [www.cobyschool.com](http://www.cobyschool.com)  
And follow on facebook: <https://facebook/cobyschool.com/>

## Schoharie Valley Singers Resume Rehearsals for 2023 Season

The Schoharie Valley Singers are proud to begin rehearsals for their Spring 2023 Concert Season entitled, "Hope is Still Here." Rehearsals will begin on Tuesday, February 28th at 7 PM and will be held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Central Bridge. The church can be found at 141 Church St. in Central Bridge.

New and returning singers of all ages and ability levels are welcome to join. Registration for the season will be conducted both online and in-person. The cost of registration is \$25 for all adult members, and free for students. Online registration can be accessed beginning Tuesday, February 14th via the SVS Facebook page and website. Requests for the link can also be sent to our email address. All three links are listed below. In-person registration will begin at 6:00 PM on February 28th. Covid vaccinations are not required for singers, and masks are not required, though we encourage anyone who would like to wear a mask to do so.

"Hope is Still Here" features an uplifting se-

lection of classic and contemporary choral music, including selections by J. David Moore, Jacob Narverud, Rene Clausen, Susan LaBarr, Shawn Kirchner, and an upbeat musical setting of the hymn text "For the Beauty of the Earth" by Artistic Director Benjamin April. This series also features a piece written by Middleburgh Central School senior Sienna Kelley, entitled "In This Short Life." This will be the final concert series with Benjamin April at the helm as Artistic Director.

Concerts are scheduled for Friday, June 9th at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Central Bridge, and Saturday, June 10th at the Duaneburg Reformed Presbyterian Church. Both concerts begin at 7:30 PM.

Details regarding our season including online registration can be found on our website [www.schoharievalleysingers.org](http://www.schoharievalleysingers.org), and on Facebook @SchoharieValleySingers. Emails are always welcome at [schoharievalleysingers@gmail.com](mailto:schoharievalleysingers@gmail.com) for those wishing for more information.

## MCS Craft Fair to Benefit Honor Society and Student Congress

MIDDLEBURGH - Members of the National Honor Society and Middleburgh Central School Student Congress are organizing a craft fair to benefit the year-end awards ceremony. The craft fair will be held on March 4 at the high school.

The school has already reached the capacity for vendors.

Details are as follows: Set-up starts at 8am. Sales between 9am-

2pm. Bring your own table or rent one for \$5 \$20 for a 10' by 10' booth \$30 for a 20' by 10' booth Each seller is asked to donate one item for a silent raffle

Please contact [jessica.schoenecker@mc sdnyc.org](mailto:jessica.schoenecker@mc sdnyc.org) or [maria.sime@mcsdnyc.org](mailto:maria.sime@mcsdnyc.org) or call (518) 827-3600 ext. 2607 with questions.

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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  
All dances will be taught: circles, contras, squares  
For every age and ability!  
Free!

**March 22**  
2023 Adult Grief Support Group  
Cobleskill United Methodist Church, 107 Chapel Street, Cobleskill, NY 12043  
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.  
Helios Care adult grief support groups are free monthly drop-in groups open to all members of our community 18 and over. Groups are facilitated by staff specifically trained in grief and loss. Attendees have a safe and confidential place to focus on understanding the grief process, making sense of the strong emotions, and learning from other community members. Groups are free and open to all adults. Please call (607) 432-5525 to register. Visit [HeliosCare.org](http://HeliosCare.org) for more information and resources.

**April 26**  
2023 Adult Grief Support Group

Cobleskill United Methodist Church, 107 Chapel Street, Cobleskill, NY 12043  
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.  
Helios Care adult grief support groups are free monthly drop-in groups open to all members of our community 18 and over. Groups are facilitated by staff specifically trained in grief and loss. Attendees have a safe and confidential place to focus on understanding the grief process, making sense of the strong emotions, and learning from other community members. Groups are free and open to all adults. Please call (607) 432-5525 to register. Visit [HeliosCare.org](http://HeliosCare.org) for more information and resources.

**Mary 24**  
2023 Adult Grief Support Group  
Cobleskill United Methodist Church, 107 Chapel Street, Cobleskill, NY 12043  
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.  
Helios Care adult grief support groups are free monthly drop-in groups open to all members of our community 18 and over. Groups are facilitated by staff specifically trained in grief and loss. Attendees have a safe and confidential place to focus on understanding the grief process, making sense of the strong emotions, and learning from other community members. Groups are free and open to all adults. Please call (607) 432-5525 to register. Visit [HeliosCare.org](http://HeliosCare.org) for more information and resources.

**June 28**  
2023 Adult Grief Support Group

Cobleskill United Methodist Church, 107 Chapel Street, Cobleskill, NY 12043  
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.  
Helios Care adult grief support groups are free monthly drop-in groups open to all members of our community 18 and over. Groups are facilitated by staff specifically trained in grief and loss. Attendees have a safe and confidential place to focus on understanding the grief process, making sense of the strong emotions, and learning from other community members. Groups are free and open to all adults. Please call (607) 432-5525 to register. Visit [HeliosCare.org](http://HeliosCare.org) for more information and resources.

**July 15-23**  
Sicity tour, small group 20 spaces available, extended to July 25 with Rome extension. [grouptoursite.com/rosemariekeller](http://grouptoursite.com/rosemariekeller) or call 800-438-7672 group #60918243

**August 5-13, 2023**  
U.S. National Park Tour. The Rockies, Arches, Yellowstone. 9 days. 13 days with Badlands and Mount Rushmore extension, through August 17. [grouptoursite.com/rosemariekeller](http://grouptoursite.com/rosemariekeller)

**August 6**  
The Lion King at Proctors Theater. 1 p.m. \$40 per person. Limited tickets. RSVP with payment by December 12. Contact Rosemarie Keller at [kellerr22@gmail.com](mailto:kellerr22@gmail.com)

**September**  
Sicity tour, 13 days, with Rosemarie Keller.. In the midst of the Mediterranean, discover an island with personality all its own—full of flavor and teeming with one-of-a-kind art and architecture. From multicultural Palermo to breathtaking Taormina, each stop on this tour of Sicily reveals unexpected treasures. Visit [goaheadtours.com/ZOM](http://goaheadtours.com/ZOM) or call 800-597 0350



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# Town of Wright/Schoharie Valley Lions Club Hosts Guest Speakers

## Programs Available for General Public

Photos courtesy Lions Club

Story by Rosemary Christoff Dolan

Schoharie County Office for the Aging

Cheryl Plant, an Aging Services Specialist with the Schoharie County Office for the Aging, was a recent guest speaker at the Town of Wright/Schoharie Valley Lions Club. She spoke about services provided for older adults over age 60 in Schoharie County.

The Schoharie County Office for the Aging advocates for and provides services to county residents 60 and older, and their caregivers. Services are designed to promote health, safety, dignity, and independence. Services are funded by the Title III Older Americans Act; New York State funds EISEP and CSE; grants, local government, and donations.

New York Connects provides residents of all ages and their caregivers' with information and education on long-term care resources.

Services include outreach, information, and referral, case management, in-home, nutritional, legal, and other programs.

### Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP):

A program designed to assist older individuals to remain safely in their homes. Services include bathing, hair care, skin care, laundry, cleaning, shopping, errands, etc. EISEP is a cost-share program and the fee for service is based on an individual's monthly income and housing expenses.

### Caregiver Services:

Caregiver services are designed to provide assistance, support, respite, and train-



Lion Bob Lassone and his guide dog, Lion Keg, TOW/SV Lions Club president Georgia Van Dyke, and Cheryl Plant, Aging Services Specialist with the Schoharie County Office for the Aging. Ms. Plant educated the Lions about SCOFA services.

Mr. Lassone is a client currently receiving SCOFA services. Photo courtesy Lions club

ing. Services are available to those persons of any age caring for anyone 60 and older, or anyone 60 and older caring for a disabled younger person.

### Nutritional Services:

#### Congregate Meals:

Senior Centers in Cobleskill (Mon.-Fri., Golding Park, 103 High Street), Jefferson (Tues./Wed./Thurs., Community Center, Rt. 10), and Sharon Springs (Mon./Wed./Fri., Firehouse, Beachwood Road) offer a hot noontime meal that provides 1/3 of the recommended daily allowance. A reservation by 1:00p.m. the day before is recommended. Donations are accepted from those aged 60 and older, or the spouse of a senior regardless of age. Younger guests are welcome but they will be charged a set fee.

#### Home-Delivered Meals:

A meal filling 1/3 of the

daily-recommended allowance guidelines is offered to seniors meeting program guidelines. Meals are delivered to the senior's home. A regular, diabetic, or modified consistency meal is available. Donations are accepted, however no one is denied a meal due to an inability to contribute.

#### Nutrition Counseling:

Nutrition counseling is available to any county resident 60 years of age or older. Appointments with the registered dietician can be made by calling the Office for the Aging's Nutrition Coordinator. The dietician will visit the client, evaluate his or her needs, and develop a care plan to meet those needs. Written instructions and handouts are provided.

#### Nutrition Education:

Nutrition and related consumer and health instruction are provided by a registered dietician. Group presenta-



Patrick Costello, president of the Joshua Project, and TOW/SV Lions Club president Georgia Van Dyke. The club presented an annual donation to support Christmas for Kids last December. Photo courtesy Lions club.

tions are scheduled once a month at each senior meal site (see above), and handouts are sent to home-delivered meal participants monthly. Articles also appear in the senior newsletter bi-monthly.

#### Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP):

This is a federally funded program that assists the client with payment of electricity, gas, oil, coal, propane or wood expenses necessary for heating. HEAP is a program based on income eligibility and the guidelines usually change from one year to the next. The program generally runs from November - April. Applications must be filed annually. When the season begins, interested clients should contact SCOFA for information.

#### Legal Services:

Legal assistance is pro-

vided through a referral from the Office for the Aging. The client must be a resident of Schoharie County, and aged 60 years or older. The services include, but are not limited to: Legal Advice; Representation, and Appropriate Referral to elder citizens concerning: Entitlements, Support of Patient Rights, Landlord/Tenant Issues, health Insurance Claims and Consumer Protection Concerns. A referral to other sources of legal assistance may be provided on the basis of need or eligibility. There is no fee for legal assistance, but donations are encouraged so that the program can be expanded and services provided to all older persons who need them.

The Town of Wright/Schoharie Valley Lions Club works in coopera-

tion with the Schoharie County Office for the Aging and maintains an adaptive equipment loan-closet with a supply of hospital beds, wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, canes and commodes. These items are loaned to individuals at no charge.

SCOFA operates a Lions Hearing Loan Out Center at their office.

The Lions Hearing Conservation Society has Loan Out Centers where individuals can borrow a variety of amplification and alerting devices for the deaf and hard of hearing. This enables you to try devices and find the one that best accommodates your hearing loss, free of charge. Also, if you need financial assistance in purchasing devices, the local Lions Club may be able to assist.

Schoharie County Office for the Aging is located at 113 Park Place in Schoharie. For information call 518-295-2001.

#### The Joshua Project

Patrick Costello, president of the Schoharie County chapter of the Joshua Project spoke to the Lions about the Christmas for Kids program last December. The Joshua Project works with Catholic Charities to help run the Christmas for Kids Program at the Fusion Church in Cobleskill where volunteers give out presents and gift cards to several hundred kids. The Lions club makes an annual donation to this project.

For information about Lions programs, write Town of Wright/Schoharie Valley Lions Club, PO Box 42, Gallupville, NY 12073, or call 518-296-8076.

## Two FFA Officers Represent SCS at the State Capitol

SCHOHARIE - Schoharie Valley FFA Officers Savannah Traverse and Chloe Armstrong were two of 126 elite students selected to travel to the state capitol last week to participate in the NY FFA State Leaders Experience.

While there, they participated in workshops hosted by NY FFA State Officers to learn about the government, the legislative process, and how to engage with elected officials about their experiences in agricultural education. They engaged in a question and answer session with a panel of agricultural industry experts, toured the beautiful NY Capitol building, and even had the opportunity for a personal meeting with Governor Kathy Hochul where she spoke on the importance of their leadership in agriculture to support NY's future.

On Tuesday, FFA members were treated to a pan-



cake breakfast served to them by a number of NY Senators and Assembly Members before they spent the day meeting with elected officials to advocate and discuss their experiences in agricultural education. In addition to speaking with Chris Tague and Peter Oberacker, the elected officials that represent our school district and area, Chloe and Savannah met with Assemblyman Robert Smullen from our neighboring legislative district of NY-118 and the Chief of Staff for Assemblyman Michael Benedetto from NY-82 in

the Bronx. Meeting with officials from outside our area gave students the opportunity to discuss the impact FFA has had on them and how agricultural education continues to grow, even in urban areas like the Bronx.

School officials are proud of Savannah and Chloe for taking this opportunity to serve as a voice for the FFA organization and we cannot thank our elected officials enough for taking the time to meet with students to discuss issues important to the future of the food, fiber, fuel and natural resource industries.

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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](mailto:mountaineaglenews@gmail.com)



# NYPA Receives FAA Waiver for Drones

BLLENHEIM — The New York Power Authority (NYPA) has received its first federal approval to fly unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) or drones beyond the visual line of sight (BVLOS) of the pilot in command. In a significant step forward, this Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) waiver enables NYPA to conduct fully remote drone operations such as asset and vegetation management inspections at its Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Power Project in

Schoharie County. NYPA's growing drone program supports its industry-leading asset management strategies and is part of an Authority-wide digitization initiative to modernize grid infrastructure to advance the efficient delivery of clean power statewide.

"The Power Authority is proud to be leading the way in the advanced deployment of automated flight technologies for use in the utility industry," said Justin E. Driscoll, New York Power Author-

ity Acting president and CEO. "Drones will become an even more valuable tool as we expand our capability to detect infrastructure issues and support our mapping and land management responsibilities. Being able to capture images remotely, regardless of weather conditions or distances, will allow us to track and evaluate our assets more efficiently and safely."

FAA Part 107 regulations require drone pilots to maintain visual contact

while operating a drone. This waiver allows operators to conduct operations without the requirement for the pilot or an observer to see the unmanned aircraft or to scan the surrounding airspace throughout the entire flight. Routes, however, must be pre-planned and the drone must remain within 50 feet above ground level or within 50 feet of structures.

The waiver was obtained with the help of Skydio, a U.S. drone and software manufacturer providing equipment and advisory services. NUAIR provided a safe testing environment and safety case development, conducting test flights and training for NYPA at the New York UAS test site.

"This important approval enables NYPA to operate Skydio drones beyond line of sight without visual observers," said Jenn Player, Skydio's senior director of Regulatory Affairs. "Skydio autonomy and collision avoidance capabilities are key to conducting these low-altitude, high-value operations safely and easily."

Peter Kalaitzidis,

NYPA's UAS program manager, who submitted the application, said the Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Project was proposed as a first use case to prove the technology's application, primarily because of the sparser population in the region. Drones are already being operated at various NYPA sites throughout the state to monitor asset health, including for inspection of transmission lines, vegetation management and monitoring of overgrown trees, and spillway erosion mapping.

Being able to view assets remotely will improve safety for workers and save time. For example, a drone can significantly reduce the time needed to inspect a transmission line, particularly after inclement weather.

The waiver, which is specific to Skydio drones, authorizes operations through 2027 and grants NYPA the capability to conduct remote operations without an on-site pilot or visual observer. The timing of the waiver dovetails with the launch of a new drone docking technology by Skydio that al-

lows drones to take off and land autonomously from the dock with a pilot directing operations from a remote location.

"Our application demonstrated to the FAA that we are ready to enhance our program and capabilities," Kalaitzidis said. "Having this waiver removes limitations and unlocks opportunities moving forward. We will continue to explore potential uses for this technology that will benefit the Authority and hopefully the industry at large. At present, we are developing the procedures, mitigation steps and hardware so we can best use these resources over the next few years."

NYPA's extensive in-house drone program is researching and testing new applications to implement drones more fully into day-to-day utility operations while maintaining the highest standards of aviation professionalism and safety. More than 40 employees are now trained as drone pilots, and work on projects ranging from vegetation management to line inspection to project monitoring.

## Schoharie Library Seeking \$20,000 Funding Hike

### Library Seeing More Users, Almost Back to Pre-Pandemic Numbers

By David Avitabile

SCHOHARIE - As the use continues to climb back to pre-pandemic numbers, Schoharie library officials are seeking a bigger funding increase from residents this spring.

Officials told Schoharie school board members that they are seeking a \$20,000 increase, to \$126,000, on the SCS ballot in May. The library tax levy hike is on the school ballot when residents vote on the district budget in May. The district collects the library tax

levy in their September bills and passes it along to the library. If the tax levy hike is approved, the library would be receiving \$126,000. If the hike fails, the library funding will remain at \$106,000. The funding increase is normally at \$10,000, library director and librarian Yvonne Keller told board members last week.

The library had about 1,100 more people come through the doors in the last year over the prior year, she said.

This is not up to the

pre-pandemic numbers "but we're getting there," she added.

The library continues to add programs to attract users, including children, including a summer reading program, Ms. Keller said.

The Schoharie Free Schoharie gets the majority of funding from the tax levy, she added.

She also noted that after the flood, there was no increase in the library tax levy for 10 years and funding needs to catch up.

## SCS gets Good Budget News From State

By David Avitabile

SCHOHARIE - Schoharie school officials have gotten some good news from the state as they start work on the 2023-24 budget.

The initial state aid runs show Schoharie getting a 7.65 percent increase, or about \$559,000. This is a "very significant" increase, Superintendent David Blanchard reported at Thursday's school board meeting. Initial state aid increases start at around 2 to 3 percent.

State aid figures usually do not become final until

around April 1 and are usually higher than the initial figures.

Mr. Blanchard also noted that SCS is in line to get about \$100,000 in high-need tutoring aid. This aid still has to be defined and could possibly be used for summer school. The district is hoping for "some flexibility," he added. The tutoring aid is geared toward students in grades three through eight.

The district is poised to go into the budget season in good shape and "without much difficulty," Mr. Blanchard added.

Unlike other districts, Schoharie's enrollment has been stable.

SCS is the only local district to see such a significant increase in state aid and high-needs funds, Mr. Blanchard reported.

Officials will give board members a budget update in March and will have updates on spending and the tax levy.

Overall, the "budget looks very good," Mr. Blanchard said.

The board will approve a budget in April and it will go to the public in May.

## Have a Tip?

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## Local Worship Services

Send us your local worship services at mountaineernews@gmail.com.

**Christian Community Church of Faith**

Sunday 8:30 AM  
An Independent/Non-Denominational Church, 355 State Route 7, Richmondville,

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

Sunday 10:30 AM, 326 Main St., Middleburgh

**Middleburgh Reformed Church**

178 River St. Middleburgh

www.middleburghreformed.org

Worship 11 a.m.

Food Pantry open Saturdays, 9-11 a.m.

**Sharon Reformed Church**

Sundays 10:30 AM

5868 State Route 10 Sharon Springs,

**The Warnerville United Methodist Church**

1615 NY-7, Richmondville, NY 12149 Holds services every Sunday at 9 a.m.

(Children's Sunday School

also at 9 a.m.)

**Middleburgh United Methodist Church**

281 Main Street Middleburgh, NY holds services every Sunday at 11 a.m.

(Children's Sunday School also at 11 a.m.)

Pastor Mel 518-827-5126 or Melenamoore2323@gmail.com

**Esperance-Sloansville United Methodist Church**

175 Main St. Esperance, NY 12066, at 11 a.m. on Sunday

**Gallupville United Methodist Church**

120 Factory St. Schoharie, 12157

**Delanson United Methodist Church**

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**Grosvenors Corners United Methodist Church**

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

**The Sharon Springs United Methodist Church**

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

**Schoharie Reformed Church**

258 Main Street Schoharie, NY 12157

In-person Sunday Worship Service 10:00am for all ages. All are Welcome.

Pastors Michael & Sherri Meyer-Veen

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10 a.m. Pastor Jan Benson

**Seventh Day Adventist**

2861 State Rt. 10

Saturday Service 10 a.m.

Pastor Reid 501-545-8351

**Calvary Assembly of God**

960 Mineral Springs Rd. 10 AM Sunday service.

www.cagcobleskill.org

**First Baptist Church**

492 West Main Street, Cobleskill Sunday Service - 11:00 AM

**Schoharie United Presbyterian Church**

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

**Lawyersville Reformed Church**

209 Phillip Schuyler Road, Cobleskill 9AM service every Sunday

**Sacred Heart Church**

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Sunday, at 8am St. Philip Neri, Grand Gorge

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# Owl Ecology with George Steele at the Schoharie Library

**By Alexis Pencar**  
 SCHOHARIE - Have you ever heard a symphony of owls call to each other on a dark winter night? Did you know there is a thriving owl population in Schoharie County?

This coming Wednesday, March 1st at 6:30 pm, learn much more about the amazing owl at 'Owl Ecology with

George Steele' offered at the Schoharie Library! Meet with George Steele, Nature Educator, and learn about owls native to our area, go outside to listen for owl calls, and even dissect an owl pellet to see what they eat! This is an educational event open to the public.

According to the New York State Department

of Environmental Conservation, the owls native to Schoharie County have an average wingspan of 44 inches with The Eastern Screech Owl as one of the smallest at a 27-inch wingspan and the Great Horned Owl as the largest at a 55-inch wingspan! Wow!

As a big part of our ecosystem, it is always positive to learn about those creatures that live side by side with us.

Sign up for this Owl Ecology Event at Schoharie Library online through the Schoharie



Photo of flying Barn Owl courtesy of Schoharie Library.

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Library Facebook Page or call the Library at (518) 295-7127 for more information. Registration

is not required but helps make sure there are enough owl pellets! Please note the date was

pushed back from 2/22 due to inclement weather.

## Auto Racing News

check. Erick Rudolph, Larry Wight, and Max McLaughlin completed the top five. Jack Lehner finished 6th., Stewart Friesen 8th., Peter Britten 10th., Marc Johnson 12th., C.G. Morey 19th., and Adam Pierson 22nd.

Friday night at Volusia was able to race in the rain-shortened NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race at the Daytona International Speedway, which is approximately 25 miles to the east.

Friesen would start approximately 23rd. in the event and was near the front as pit stops started to rearrange the field near

the end of stage one. Stage two would see Friesen move to the front of the field and lead for some laps. Unfortunately a combination of restrictor plate racing and some bumping from other drivers, would send the very nice looking #52 into the outside wall on the back stretch, ending all hopes of a victory on this night. Friesen and the Halmar crew were able to repair the #52 Toyota and return to collect those all important championship points. Friesen was credited with a 28th. position finish. As a side note the #52 Halmar-Friesen Racing truck carried a beautiful tie-dye paint scheme for Aim Autism, which allowed the

#52 to be very well seen, no matter where it was on the track. Saturday at Volusia the Ginja Ninja Jack Lehner drove an amazing race as he started on the pole for the 50-lap Super DIRTcar Series feature.

Lehner fought off challenges from drivers such as Rick Laubach and Mat Williamson throughout the 50 laps. It looked as if Lehner would earn his first Gator trophy, unfortunately veteran driver Money Mat Williamson was able to slip by Jack on the high side for the win on lap-50, as Jack would make the choice to stay low on the track and was slowed by the lapped car of Jimmy Phelps.

**Gilboa-Conesville Central School School District Treasurer**

**Job Description**  
 Full-time, 12-month District Treasurer position who reports directly to the Superintendent and is responsible for overseeing multi-faceted business office operations for a small rural school district.

Duties and responsibilities include but not limited to: manage the business office staff; budget development and management; maintain all district fund accounting records including the general ledger; handle bank deposits; manage capital project budget; complete state and federal financial reporting; handle district investments; oversee the purchase order process, payroll, accounts payable, and employee benefits; other related duties as required.

This position will also require attendance at all Board of Education meetings.

The chosen applicant will possess strong leadership skills; thorough knowledge of governmental/fund accounting principles and procedures; the ability to plan, assign and supervise the work of others; good mathematical ability; thorough knowledge of computerized accounting practices; good knowledge of office procedures; and the ability to communicate to the public clearly and concisely.

**Qualifications:** At least one year of progressively responsible business management or municipality accounting experience preferred. District willing to provide training to the ideal candidate.

Salary is commensurate with experience; includes an excellent benefits package.

Please submit a letter of interest, resume, and three (3) professional references to Mr. Jack Etter, Superintendent by **Friday, March 24, 2023**. The anticipated start date for this position would be April 2023. Gilboa-Conesville Central School is a small, rural school district in a K-12 school building with approximately 300 students/80 employees in the Northern Catskill Mountains.

For more information about the District, please visit:  
<https://www.gilboa-conesville.k12.ny.us/o/gccs/page/about-us>.

The District does not discriminate in employment or in the education programs and activities which it operates on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, marital status, military status, sex, age, weight, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnic group, religious practice, disability (including but not limited to gender dysphoria) or predisposing genetic characteristic in violation of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 12111 et seq. known as the Americans With Disabilities Act or § 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, New York State Human Rights Law, and The Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act of 2001. Gilboa-Conesville Central School District complies with applicable state and local laws governing non-discrimination in employment in every location in which the District has facilities. This policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including, but not limited to, hiring, placement, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, transfer, leaves of absence, compensation, and training. Inquires regarding this non-discrimination policy may be directed to the Title IX Coordinator at Gilboa-Conesville Central School District.

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# Penske Shifts Learning and Networking into High Gear for BOCES Students

ALBANY/SCHOHARIE -- Several area high school students interested in careers and auto and truck repair spent a day recently shadowing the experts at Penske Corp.

Automotive Trades technology students from the Capital Region BOCES Career & Technical Education Center Albany and Schoharie campuses spent Feb. 15 at the Penske's Warehouse Road location in Albany, learning what a day in the life of a technician is like at trucking operation.

"It was refreshing to see and hear the passion that these young adults had for the automotive/trucking industry and to realize that the future of our profession should be well served when they enter the workforce," said Stanley Pollard, Branch Service Manager for Penske. The high school seniors

learned about the diagnostic equipment and tools used in the daily operation of Penske and how the repair team ensure that Penske's fleet of equipment stays on the road.

Students said they enjoyed the opportunity to not only learn, but also network with industry professionals and develop a new career option. Several of the students said they would seek employment with the company.

Penske representative Connor Kasuba earlier this school year recruited students in the Automotive Trades program in the Albany Campus. At the time, he said Penske operates more than 3,000 locations with 60,000 employees around the world in everything from transportation logistics to truck leasing to racing. Kasuba went on to detail how the work the stu-

dents are doing now at BOCES could lead to a great career at BOCES.

"It's important for companies like Penske to reach out and engage students at an early age, especially if they are growing their business and need workers," said Kasuba.

There are 96 students enrolled for the 2022-23 school year in the Automotive Trades technology program on the Albany and Schoharie campuses.

Capital Region BOCES Managing Program Coordinator-Business & Community Partnerships Nancy Little praised Penske's commitment to BOCES and its willingness to help "the next generation of automotive trades professional build knowledge and gain a foothold in the industry."

Capital Region BOCES



works with more than 300 business, government, union and education partners—like the Aaron's Electric—to help fuel the regional and state

economies. Through these partnerships, students are able to launch careers directly out of high school or land jobs that will help them pay

for future educational opportunities.

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Volume 8, No. 8 windhamweekly@gmail.com

FRIDAY, February 24, 2023

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# An Eternal Salute to Louise McRoberts

By Michael Ryan

WINDHAM - An eternal salute is now extended to World War II veteran Louise McRoberts who passed away, last Friday.

McRoberts, settling in East Windham in 1963 with her husband and WW II compatriot Charles McRoberts, has over the years become an iconic community presence and fixture in the local Fourth of July parade.

A respectful seat has been perennially reserved for her at annual Veteran's Day ceremonies hosted by Windham-Ashland-Jewett school and in the Grand Marshal's car for the Independence Day march.

McRoberts would have turned 99 years old, this autumn, exemplifying the grit and determination of the Greatest Generation.

Her beneficence on behalf of homestead and country was perhaps most poignantly encapsulated in 2014 in the awarding of a Liberty Medal, the highest indi-

vidual honor given by the New York State Senate.

Accompanied by her son Chuck at VFW Post #1545 in Windham, Louise was rightfully christened as an "extraordinary individual," receiving the tribute from then-State Senator Cecilia Tkaczyk.

A legislative resolution presented to McRoberts told a quiet hero's story, stating, "it is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein.

"From time to time this legislative body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize... and publicly acknowledges their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all.

"This legislative body is justly proud to honor Louise McRoberts," the resolution states, noting the Liberty Medal was created that same year to single out individuals

performing exceptional, heroic or humanitarian acts.

"Mrs. McRoberts has been assisting others virtually non-stop since World War II when she followed her brothers, cousins and friends into harm's way," the resolution stated.

"Of the thousands of troops who enlisted in the United States Armed Services during the Second World War, approximately 400,000 women served" with medical units or as clerical aids.

Louise McRoberts, "had the distinction of serving in both capacities, first helping to care for the wounded returning stateside during the Battle of the Bulge, and later in Germany serving with General George S. Patton's Third Army, weeks after the surrender of the Third Reich."

The Senate resolution noted McRoberts was born in Hollis, Queens, in October 1924, the daughter of Erna and Henry Kading.

She was a teenager when the war began, too

young to enlist, signing up with the Women's Army Corp. in 1944, on her 20th birthday.

"During her instruction at an Army camp in Georgia, although women were never assigned combat duties, Louise McRoberts' basic training was just as rigorous as that for men, with the same level of physical activity," the resolution states.

"Soon after her training, [she] was deployed to a medical unit, serving in a triage-type capacity as wounded Americans arrived by the thousands during the infamous Battle of the Bulge.

"McRoberts was stationed at Camp Shanks which holds the distinction of being the nation's largest embarkation point for troops being deployed overseas, including 75 percent of those involved in the D-day invasions.

"At the time it was dubbed 'Last Stop USA,' the resolution states, noting, "for weeks, and in shifts which lasted for days, the soldiers con-

tinued to arrive at the medical unit where Louise McRoberts was assigned, sorting them for care, depending on the severity of their wounds.

"By early May 1945, Germany had surrendered and Louise McRoberts was assigned to Patton's Third Army, special services.

"This duty would take her to Heidelberg, Germany, where she would handle postwar furloughs for GI's and arrange for entertainment for the troops.

"In August 1945, Louise McRoberts was on her way to Germany when she heard the United States had dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. The unit she was traveling with was briefly detained in France.

"She observed much devastation but was joyed hearing the war had ended," the resolution stated, noting Louise and Charles, her military sweetheart, married after the war.

Staying actively en-

gaged in peacetime, McRoberts "has volunteered extensively to help others, has worked with the Meals on Wheels program, is active in reading for youth programs and is active in her church," while also attending VFW meetings and functions, the resolution states.

Louise, in 2010, was chosen as a Greene County Veteran of the Year, enjoying one of the Honor Flights to the World War II Memorial in Washington D.C.

"The dedication and sacrifices of our military personnel ensure our continued role as a Nation which embodies the ideals of democracy and is a defender of liberty for peoples throughout the world," the resolution stated.

"It is the sense of this legislative body to pay the highest tribute to the valiant service displayed by the members of the United States Armed Force during that time of crisis," including Windham's one and only Louise McRoberts.

# County Legislature Opposes NYS Medicaid Changes

In its Wednesday, February 15th session, the Greene County Legislature unanimously adopted Resolution No. 54-23 calling on the Governor and NYS Legislature to continue the practice of passing through enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (eFMAP) funds to county governments, a precedent that has been in place for over 20 years. This action was made in response to the fact that the State Budget proposal for the fiscal year 2024 would end this practice, enabling the State to keep all of these federal savings going forward.

The elimination of eFMAP funding would saddle the 57 counties outside

of the City of New York with an additional \$270 million in Medicaid costs in the fiscal year 2024, and approximately \$1 billion when NYC is included.

In a recent news release, Michael E. Zurio, President of the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) noted: "Not only does this proposal harm New York's local taxpayers, but it also subverts Congress' intent that eFMAP be shared with local governments that contribute to the Medicaid program. In March of 2020, New York Senator Charles Schumer championed that "Enhanced FMAP funds are so important because they are immediate and flexible.

The state - which gets billions and the most of any state in the nation - and counties use the money they save on whatever they want."

He went on to add: "At a time when New York is facing an affordability crisis, the last thing the Governor should do is burden local taxpayers with more costs that will drive up the cost of homeownership and rent, increase business expenses and make New York more unaffordable."

"Unfortunately, this type of 'money-grab' by the State is not unprecedented", states Patrick S. Linger - Chair of the Greene County Legislature. "Back in 2019, New

York State began diverting local sales taxes that should fund local programs and services, redirecting them to pay for state responsibilities. In 2022, we joined with NYSAC to call on Governor Hochul to end this practice, and now her proposed budget is seeking to divert federal assistance funds."

Dave Lucas, the director of finance and intergovernmental relations for NYSAC points out that "The typical county will see a 5.2% property tax increase, 20% of counties will see a 7% increase, and some [will] get into double digits."

"The Greene County Legislature strongly dis-

agrees with the need to cut county funding so deeply when the Governor's budget proposes to fully fund its own reserves two years ahead of schedule, depositing \$5.4 billion by the end of this fiscal year" comments Legislator Matthew Luvera, Majority Leader.

"Keeping Greene County property taxes affordable is our constant concern," says Legislator Harry Lennon, Minority Leader. "Proposals that mandate local governments to fund state & federal programs must be continuously challenged in order to keep our econ-

omy strong and support the quality of life of all who live and work here."

Ensure that the County's collective voice is heard to advocate for maintaining the pass-thru of federal eFMAP funds to Greene County. You can take action by calling, texting, emailing or tweeting to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea-Stewart Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, State Senator Michelle Hinchey, Assemblyman Chris Tague, US Senators Chuck Schumer & Kirsten Gillibrand, and US Representative Marc Molinaro.



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## LEGISLATURE STUFF

## Opposed in No Uncertain Terms

By Michael Ryan

CATSKILL - There are several reasons the Greene County Legislature is opposed to a ban on the future sale of new fossil fuel-powered heating systems as proposed by Governor Kathy Hochul.

Those objections were listed at length in a resolution unanimously passed by lawmakers during their regular monthly meeting, last week.

Governor Hochul unveiled the plan within her recent State-of-the-State address, wanting the restrictions in place by the year 2030 for smaller buildings and by 2035 for larger structures.

Lawmakers offered numerous "whereases" against the policy, stating, "whereas Governor Hochul is further calling for zero-emission new construction, with no on-site fossil fuel combustion by 2025 for smaller buildings and by 2028 for larger buildings; and

"Whereas, President Biden and the White House have come out against any prohibition of gas stoves; and

"Whereas, the Governor's misguided ban is intended to help address climate change, but this government mandate is more of a burden on our region's working-class residents and will have a devastating effect on restaurants, businesses and manufacturing facilities when they have to convert to all electric; and

"Whereas, the cost to convert a house to electric will result in a cost between \$20,000 - \$50,000 per household and would not include any kind of backup system in the event of a power outage; and

"Whereas, the conversion to electric will create unnecessary financial burden and hardship for businesses that compete on a national or global level; and

"Whereas, the ban will push a lot of businesses out of State and will contribute to accelerated population loss for those that are fed up with high taxes, the high cost of living, unreasonable government mandates, reckless spending by the government and unrealistic environmental mandates not consistent with our geographic region," the resolution states.

Barely catching their

collective breath, lawmakers further stated, "a ban on gas appliances and water heaters is not feasible for New York with harsh winter weather and an exposed electrical infrastructure;

"Appliances used to heat water and cook food need to work during power outages especially during times of inclement weather; and

"This past December saw a blizzard rip through the Buffalo Metro Area leaving tens of thousands of residents stuck in their home without power, many for several days;

"Gas appliances, fed by a more resilient infrastructure, allowed those residents to heat their homes, boil water, and safely cook their food during the days needed to clear the roads and restore electricity;

"More than 40 people died during this storm - some froze to death; many more would have suffered if they had to rely on a power grid for cooking and emergency heating," the resolution states.

Getting more specific with their whereases, lawmakers stated, "current technology that is expected to replace gas appliances, such as space heating, does not work well in our climate;

"This fact was noted in the recent Climate Action Council's report which proposed requiring two heating sources for New York residents who live in areas that are frequently too cold;

"Electrical appliances have more moving parts and are expensive to maintain and repair, have been shown to be less efficient and therefore cost more to generate the same amount of heat than gas fed appliances;

"Mandating the purchase of electrical appliances is an unnecessary burden we are placing on families across New York State at a time when the cost of living has significantly outpaced wage growth;

"With the higher costs, energy bills will go through the roof for residents, further exacerbating the recent price spikes in food, transportation, and general merchandise," the resolution states.

Declaring that the proof is in the utilities pudding, lawmakers stated, "as we have seen with California's recent push to make everything electric, this

government mandate will likely lead to an increased strain on our State's electrical grid leading to blackouts and rationing, which is especially dangerous with the winter weather we routinely experience;

"The costs to bury power lines, increase renewable energy infrastructure, and increase the capacity of transformers will be passed on directly to consumers in the form of increased energy costs;

"Individual homes, especially those in older housing stock, will be forced to conduct costly in-home electrical panel upgrades to accommodate the increased demand from their appliances;

"The ban on fossil-fuel powered heating equipment and appliances will cause severe hardship on the residents and businesses within Greene County and New York State," the resolution states.

Saving their strongest language for last, lawmakers stated, "the Greene County Legislature condemns the New York State Legislature and Governor Hochul for continuing to pass hypocritical and nonsensical environmental laws which burden the working-class citizens of this county and State all the while ignoring the largest source of pollution."

That source is, "China, a country that has virtually no environmental protections and continues to be irresponsible and indefensible with environmental policies which ultimately end up subsidized by United States consumers through the purchase of hundreds-of-billions of imports much of which are brought to market through New York City ports."

"Therefore," the resolution states, "be it resolved that the Greene County Legislature hereby vehemently opposes the Governor's plan to ban gas heating and appliances as not feasible or warranted for Greene County and much of New York State; and

"Be it further resolved that the Greene County Legislature hereby strongly urges Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature to fully examine the real life impact their decisions will have for all New Yorkers, especially those least able to afford them."

## Obituaries

## Alan Epstein



Alan Epstein, husband, father, brother, uncle, artist and teacher, passed away in his sleep February 4, 2023.

Alan was born on January 14, 1942 in the Bronx where he grew up. His parents were Sol, a firefighter, and Dolly, a teacher.

Alan had a full and varied life. As a youth he traveled to Israel where he worked on a kibbutz. After returning to the United States, he graduated from City College with a degree in creative writing, made a career at IBM, began his own company Eduputer, and

later worked as a Wall Street financial consultant. Alan made a mid-life change, traveling to California where he earned his Master's degree at the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology, and put his degree to work as a family and marriage counselor.

Alan retired in upstate New York where he continued his interest in skiing, woodworking, stained glass, gourmet cooking and gardening.

## Town Council Meets to Hear Local Input

By Michael Ryan

WINDHAM - There hasn't been much snow this winter - although there is still plenty of time - and meanwhile, Windham government officials are focusing on a flurry of public hearings.

Town council members were meeting this week to receive potential input from residents about proposed changes to local site plan and setback regulations which are being updated.

The citizenry, last year, revised the existing Comprehensive Plan, setting goals for the future of the community and how to get them done.

A special Implementation Committee was formed and given the task of digging through the laws, finding weak spots and strengthening them.

Some significant modifications are expected, pending the outcome of the public hearings slated for February 23 (too late for this edition).

"The most important element of possible site plan changes is the addition of a Sunset Clause," town supervisor Thomas Hoyt says.

In the past, once a development project was approved by the local planning board, there was no deadline for getting underway or completion.

Henceforth, the builder will have, "one year to get a shovel in the ground. They can get one six-month extension and if they still aren't ready, a second, six-month extension," Hoyt says.

"After that they have to go back before the planning board for review," Hoyt says, noting

concerns have been raised by residents related to the Stonewall Glen housing project along South Street.

The developer went through all the proper procedures, but planning board okays were given a decade ago and because of the lag, "some people didn't know anything about it," Hoyt says.

Folks were surprised to see excavations happening. A repeat of that scenario will be much less likely with the new Sunset Clause.

Formal notice to surrounding property owners is part of the planning board oversight process, also including announced public hearings.

Alterations are also recommended for the current Setback guidelines which, until now, just encompassed a portion of the community.

"We had setback regulations within the hamlet designation but not for the rest of the town. We'll make it uniform," Hoyt says.

Language will also be added regarding setbacks on properties of less than or more than two acres, "making everything cut and dry," Hoyt says.

A third public hearing was slated on a local law that would allow the town to possibly join the New York Municipal Energy Program (NYMEP).

Passage of the law paves the way for NYMEP to prepare a dollars-and-cents proposal on potential savings in electricity costs.

"This doesn't oblige us to anything," Hoyt says. "They'll send us a proposal. We'll compare it to our electric bills and

see if it's something that would be good for residents or not. There is nothing to lose at this point."

NYMEP is a collaboration between the Association of Towns of the State of New York and the New York Conference of Mayors.

Their website states NYMEP is, "a one-of-a-kind, innovative municipal buying initiative that allows New York communities and municipal facilities to save money on energy costs.

"The program enables municipalities to join an energy bulk-buying group to increase energy purchasing power and reduce costs for participating account holders.

"NYMEP will negotiate lower energy costs for electricity and natural gas [and] provide the marketplace expertise to secure the most attractive rates," their website states.

"Municipalities that sign up will be able to save on energy costs for facilities such as municipally-owned buildings, wastewater treatment plants, and correctional facilities," their website states.

Supervisor Hoyt pointed out the town already uses a vendor for Windham's water and wastewater systems, going with the best prices every year, reaping financial benefits.

"I've talked to [village of Coxsackie mayor] Mark Evans about the [NYMEP] program," Hoyt says. "They're signed on. He said savings the first year were no big deal but since then it has worked out well."

## Local Worship Services

**Resurrection Lutheran Church**  
186 Main Street, Cairo, NY 12413  
(518) 622-3286 / www.RLC.life  
Online Worship (after 8:15am)  
Inside Worship (8:15am, 9:15am & 10:30am)  
Sunday School & Bible Study (9:15am)  
**Barnerville United Methodist Church**  
224 Shady Tree Lane Howes Cave  
Sunday at 8:30 AM  
**Greek Orthodox Church of the Assumption**  
State 23 Windham, New York 12496

(518) 734-4631  
assumptionwindham@gmail.com  
**Hope Restoration Christian Fellowship**  
117 State Route 296, Windham  
518-734-3826  
www.hoperestorationchurch.net  
Sundays 11:00 AM  
Find us on Facebook  
Tent Services begin June 26th  
**Living Faith Community Church**  
54 Route 56, Maplecrest, NY  
518-734-4275  
Sundays at 10:30 am  
Find us on Facebook

**Jewett Presbyterian Church**  
53 Church Street, Jewett, NY  
518-424-2919  
Sundays 10:00 AM  
Find us on Facebook  
**Mitchell Hollow Mission Church**  
893 Mill Street, Windham, NY  
518-332-7669  
Sundays at 11:15 AM  
www.Mitchellhollow.org  
**Windham-Hensonville United Methodist Church**  
5296 Route 23, Windham, NY  
518-734-4122  
Sundays 11:00 AM  
Find us on Facebook

**St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Catholic Church**  
5188 Route 23, Windham  
518-734-3352  
www.Sainttheresas.weebly.com  
**Lexington / West Kill United Methodist Church**

54 Greene County  
Route 13A  
Lexington NY 12452  
AM Church Service  
9:00 Sunday morning  
**Discover Life Church**  
14464 Main Street  
Prattsville, NY 12468  
518-299-3321  
Website:  
https://prattsvillechurch.c

om  
Sunday School for Pre-K through adult from 9-10 am  
Worship Service 10:30 am till about 12 noon

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# Out Lexington Way

**By Christine Dwon**  
Deepest heartfelt sympathy to Susan Epstein of West Kill, family and friends on the recent passing of Susan's husband Alan Epstein.

There were 40 at the pot luck Dinner Church was held on Feb. 17 at the Ashland Community UMC. There was a skit on Fishers of Men—Jesus choosing his disciples, lots of singing and wonderful fellowship.

There was a virtual baby shower held at the Prattsville Fire house on Feb. 18 for Cassandra Constable and Corey Laframboise, who live in California. The baby shower was given by Connie Constable, MacKenzie Constable, Becky Benson and Haley Benson. Both of Cassandra's grandmothers were in attendance along with many aunts, cousins, some uncles and friends, about 29 guests in all. Corey's grandparents came from Connecticut too. There were delicious dips, vegetables, fruit, cupcakes, guests played games. Cassandra's mother, Connie, sent some of the snacks along with the same decorations that graced the Prattsville Fire House, to Cassandra so they could decorate and enjoy the same treats. They could all see each other on the screen and watched Cassandra opening all her beautiful gifts that had been sent to her and Corey. Even living on opposite sides of the country everyone could be a part of this lovely baby shower and celebrate with Cassandra and Corey.

Family came to help Marie Cross celebrate her birthday on Feb. 18. Her daughter Beth made a lovely birthday sheet cake, was going to frost it at Marie's house, had it covered in the car and her dog sat on it. Wasn't quite enough icing to cover the dent. They had lots of laughs and a wonderful happy time together.

Thank you all for your support for the Friends of the Feathered and Furry Wildlife Center Freeze Your Butt Off Bake Sale on Feb. 19 at the Sunoco Gas Station in Tannersville. Thanks to all the bakers who provided a bountiful array of delicious baked goods. Your support helps continue the Wildlife Center's work saving injured, sick and orphan wildlife.

Sunday, Feb. 26 is the date of the Children's Ice Fishing Derby sponsored by the Catskill Mountain Fish and Game Club and the Stony Clove Rod and Gun Club from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Rip Van

Winkle/Tannersville Lake. The ice didn't cooperate for the original date of Feb. 18. Registration starts at 9 a.m. Prizes for largest fish and most fish in both junior and senior divisions. Open to children up to 16. Children 16 must have a valid fishing license. You may fish up to three tip ups or hand lines and single hooks only. Live bait and some tip ups will be available. Call Bob Monteleone at 518-488-0240 if you have questions.

Happy birthday to Laurie Brezniceanu on Friday, Feb. 24.

Also celebrating a birthday on Feb. 24 is Ken Aurigema.

Happy 57th wedding anniversary to Bette and John Knapp on Saturday, Feb. 25.

Happy birthday wishes on Sunday, Feb. 26 to Susan Constable.

Rosalie Randolph is also celebrating her birthday on Feb. 26.

Tuesday, Feb. 28 is Sherry VanCoughnett's birthday.

Best wishes to everyone.

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.

Nomination forms 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.greenegovernment.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](mailto: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.

The Tannersville Food Pantry, One Park Lane, Tannersville, is open Wednesdays 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. and the first Satur-

day of each month from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. If you need more info, you can call 518-589-6787 or email [kaaterskillunc@gmail.com](mailto:kaaterskillunc@gmail.com).

Here are the dates for this year's events sponsored by the West Kill/Lexington Community Improvement Association: Sunday, April 16 Maple Brunch; Saturday, April 22 Patriots Day; Saturday, May 27 Annual Meeting; Saturday, June 3 Chicken BBQ; Saturday, July 22 Car Show (at the Lexington Municipal Building); Sunday, Oct. 19 Halloween Brunch; Saturday, Dec. 2 Holiday Market and Saturday, Dec. 9 Tree Lighting. Be sure to mark your calendars so you don't miss any of these wonderful events at the Community Hall in West Kill.

The Lexington/West Kill UMC Administrative Council will meet on Wednesday, March 1 at 6 p.m. in the church hall.

The Greene County Department of Human Services Senior Nutrition Program menu for the week of Feb. 28 - March 4 is as follows: Monday—Baked Manicotti, sausage, green beans, Italian mixed vegetables, pears; Tuesday—Chicken Dijon, mashed potatoes, broccoli, peaches; Wednesday—Salmon with dill sauce, scalloped potatoes, cauliflower, peanut butter cookies; Thursday—Macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, 3-bean salad, fresh fruit; Friday—Seafood Scampi, linguini, spinach, tomatoes/zucchini, fresh fruit. The meal will be the meal that is delivered to all Greene County homebound meal clients. All persons over the age of 60 can receive a meal. Meals served at noon and suggested donation for each meal is \$4. Those wishing to receive a meal are required to call the respective location by noon, a day in advance. The number to call for the Senior Nutrition site at the Jewett Municipal Building, Route 23C, Jewett is 518-263-4392.

Thank you to all law enforcement, firefighters, EMS, dispatchers, volunteers, healthcare providers, our military, their families and so many more.

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

The Red-Winged Blackbirds and Grackles are back - lots of them.

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

LOCAL HISTORY WITH DEDE TERNS-THORPE

## The Big House



Dale's Big House

This week's story is by a young man who spent every summer on county route 16 at what the extended family called "The Big House." Thanks to Jimmy Dale for sharing a few memories of growing up on the Mountain Top, back in the 1950s & 60s. Jimmy, an "almost local," lived his summers at what he and his extended family called "The Big House." The house just north of the Big House was the home of another Dale family, Charlie and Rose, and their large family. (Charlie and Rose Dale were good people, admired and respected throughout the community.)

It was always about the House- "The Big House" as we all affectionately called it.

Most of us Dales lived in NYC in apartments—mine was a two bedroom 750 square foot one bathroom in a 1500 family apartment complex called Hillside Homes, located in the NE Bronx. Coming from this environment and similar ones for our cousins to visit our family home in Tannersville with 4 bedrooms, a den, living room, dining room, pantry, large kitchen, 2 bathrooms, a cellar, attic and front porch was the reason it was "The Big House" to all of us.

My grandmother, Katharine Grace Leach Dale, was my only living grandparent when I was born in 1944. She died in 1954 and on some level she knew her children would share the house and come there for vacations and weekends. She was right- all my aunts and uncles spent a lot of time at the house, first as married couples and then with their children- my first cousins. The Dales were a fertile group begetting 27 offspring altogether and my sister, Barbara and I got to meet and grow up together with all of them for part of each year.

Each summer, my father would drop my Mother, sister and myself at the Big House around the middle of June. My father was a salesman and would leave Monday morning to work the week, returning to the mountains on Friday. My mother was a nurse and cared for my grandmother who was ailing in her 60's after bearing 12 children, 3 of whom died before the age of 4. My sister and I got to spend the entire summer through the Labor Day Weekend in Tannersville- in the woods, the meadows, the steams and the lakes. And, each weekend and for two or three weeks, three of my aunts and uncles and their

kids would come to spend their vacations at The Big House. It was a rotating loving family experience. In the early 60's, Charlie and Rose Dale bought the old Glennon house across the road and raised their seven kids there, making the family ties even closer.

My summers in Tannersville were filled with excitement. We swam at Leach's Lake, Dibble's Dam, the Electric light Dam, Howard Hole and at Tannersville Lake. I fished Swain's Creek (Running along Colonial Golf Course) to the Disposal House in addition to The Schoharie, Roaring Kill and Tannersville Lake. We hiked up behind the Big House to our spring house, the red marker trail up to Clum Hill and cross lots to the Disposal Plant and the swinging bridge that crossed the Tannersville Creek. I learned how to play golf and would accompany my uncles as they played Onteora on a special deal from the pro, Scotty Robertson. (Most of them were caddies under Scotty's tutorage). We also played golf at Colonial on a family deal with Howard and Mary Leach. As a teenager, I hiked:

Hunter Mountain; High Peak; Sugarloaf Mountain; Kaaterskill-Laurel House Falls; The Escarpment trail; trails to the Catskill Mountain house and The Kaaterskill Hotel. What a change from the brick and concrete that awaited me back in the Bronx.

I was fortunate to spend Christmas vacation in the early 60's in The Mountains taking the Adirondack Trailways bus from Port Authority Bus Terminal to Tannersville with a short stopover in Kingston. In 1960, I stayed with the Charlie and Rose Dale family in the Big House and in 1962 at the house they purchased across the road. The purpose of both trips was to keep summer romances alive but then I got to experience the mountain top in a winter setting which was both fascinating and beautiful. One highlight that sticks

with me was ice skating on the Tannersville Lake with temperatures at 10-20 below zero. The booming sound from the contraction of the ice is something that I still remember vividly. One of the most important facets of my time in Tannersville is that since my family had roots there, I was accepted by the local kids. This made all the difference to me especially as a teenager. There was Dede and Susie; Kevin; Maureen; Nancy; Rosemary; Donna; Desiree; Sharon; Jimmy Rose; Timmy Hyland; Herb Terns; Cubby Chapman, John Naja and Marcel (City people). I also spent the summers of 1963 and 1964 working as a waiter at the Police Camp at ages 19 and 20 and this kept my connection both to the mountains and people with whom I loved spending time.

My paternal grandfather, James J. Dale, who passed in 1942, was a carpenter by trade and he built the Dale house in 1908. He also helped build the 2 houses on either side of us—the Frank Leach house and the Showers' house, the residents of which were cousins to the Dales. The Showers house was subsequently sold to the De Julio family in the 50's and then to the Colao's in the early sixties. There are new owners there now. The Leach house sold in the late fifties or early sixties to George Leterer who recently passed away in his mid-90's.

In 2002, twenty two of the Dale family first cousins formed an LLC, from which we maintain the Big House through annual assessments. At some point, we will pass the house on to the next generation of those Dales who are interested. Hopefully, it will continue to be about the House- "The Big House".

PS We schedule our Dale reunions every 5 years- We had our first in 1985 and our last in 2022- it had to be rescheduled because of the Pandemic.

## Posselt Presentation at MTHS

Thursday, March 16, 6pm - "Era Zistel Posselt, Forgotten Gem of the Mountain Top"

A Women's History month celebration by Johanna Titus. Era Zistel Posselt was a spunky mid-western gal, who fell in love with the Catskills. She was a long-time librarian of Haines Falls, prolific

author, and profound lover of animals. Along with Posselt, Johanna Titus will tell us of the women who were instrumental in carving out what the mountain top community is today. Register to obtain a link to the program. To register [emamail@mthsdirector@mths.org](mailto:emamail@mthsdirector@mths.org) or call 518-589-6657.

**\$25 Digital Subscription**  
**518-763-6854**



# The Prattsville Scoop

**By Abby and Gabby**  
Prattsville – Thank you to all healthcare workers – doctors, nurses, hospital workers, EMTs, etc. – because we know firsthand the number of patients you are asked to provide with medical care. Stay healthy and strong.

The Prattsville Art Center, under the auspices of Nancy Barton and her staff, is excited to host the Saturday Sewing and Knitting Circle every Saturday from 3 - 5. Come share your skills by the fire at the Prattsville Art Center, 14562 Rt 23, Main Street, Prattsville. All forms of fiber arts are welcome, whether you are quilting, crocheting, knitting or creating a sculpture of yarn or textiles, they are looking forward to sharing in your creativity. The circle is hosted by Robin Tower Potter and Sinzia Reese and is open to all. Ideas for an exhibition in our gallery and a spring craft sale are in the works as well! Questions? email: Nancy.barton@nyu.edu. Also the Art Center will be hosting free children's classes on Sunday afternoons, led by Ms Calabrese who teaches Art at the Gilboa Conesville School. "Kids Art Classes, Ages 5 - 13, Sundays 1 - 3 PM, at Prattsville Art Center, 14562 Rte 23, Main Street, Prattsville. Classes by donations, no need to commit to multiple classes. Contact Ms. Calabrese for more information at ravenodell19@gmail.com. Nancy offers the public a variety of classes, exhibits and entertainment. We need to support her efforts to keep these programs here in the future. Thanks Nancy. GO PRATTSVILLE!

From Michelle Ferraulo at the Stratton VAMC. "Hi Ginny and group - the Veterans had a great few days because of your donation. They had a feast on the Superbowl [Sunday]. And I thought I would add some pictures of the Valentines day plates, napkins and table liners that your donation provided. I wish I could have had Veterans in the pictures but no one who is able to consent agreed to have their picture taken.

I will send out the thank you. Michele." Please enjoy the pictures showing their fun items for the Super Bowl and Valentine's Day. You made this happen for our veterans and you should get to see, [we are not yet able to interact personally with them], the joy you provide. Thank you.



*This week's Prattsville Scoop is more visual thanks to these photos of a feast for veterans during the Super Bowl. The meal was thanks to donations, especially thanks to the facilitation of Ginny Gurley. We will return to a more traditional column next week.*

Don't like the way some of the other world nations are acting towards the USA? Read all labels and don't buy products made in those countries. American companies should manufacture in the USA. Right?

Any suggestions for spinal pain relief? Will try anything that is legal.

On behalf of the Town of Prattsville, you are invited to participate in the:

Comprehensive Plan Update Stakeholder Roundtable

Monday, February 27th, 2023, from 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Prattsville Fire Station, 47 Firehouse Drive, Prattsville, NY 12468

GO PRATTSVILLE!!!

Spring can't be too far off. Saw Jerry Raeder out on his lawn tractor, think he might have had firewood in the trailer. Or maybe it was Phyllis enjoying a ride on a springlike day. Can't keep us oldies down or at least not for long.

Margaret (Mrs. Jerry) Lawrence continues to crochet for our veterans. Due to restrictions at the VAMC, we have gifted our local veterans with lap robes and afghans. Many or most of our local veterans give assistance in many forms to their hospitalized brethren and it seems they are always amazed when they are remembered with gifts of appreciation. To our local veterans, thank you for your service and your continued support of all your fellow veterans. If any veteran or veteran's

family is in need, please call 518-299-3219 for assistance. Or call Greene County Veterans Service Agency, Michelle Deyo at 518 943-3703. Many of the benefits have been enlarged and extended so check for the assistance you may qualify for. Thank you to those staffing our local veterans' agency in giving assistance to our veterans.

Saw that feisty Gail Peckham at Jim's doing whatever Gail is up to. Many of the AM pictures on the local TV stations are submitted by Gail and a mighty fine job she does. Of course, she has the advantage of living in the beautiful area of Little West Kill and has all that scenery for the subject of her pictures. Keep them coming Gail, they are beautiful. Mentioned this before but this doesn't get old – on Chanel 10 at 6:55 AM local students from various schools recite the Pledge of Allegiance to get you off on a positive step for your day. Thank you Chanel 10.

Happy Birthday Happy Birthday to Rob Gurley and Chris Brody on February 28. Happy Birthday to Brianna Grant on March 2. On March 3 we wish Patricia Chatfield a very Happy Birthday.

Send your news to gurleryrv@gmail.com or call 518-299-3219.

# Ashland Speaks

**By Lula Anderson**  
Another Holiday weekend in the books, and from different reports, I think it was a busy one. According to different skiers, skiing was bad and good. For my friends that have season tickets and go out first thing in the morning and quit before noon, the slopes were quite good. Those that sleep in, had crowds, slush and some "brown" spots. I did notice that it didn't deter many from visiting our area. The B&B across the street from my house was packed. On Sunday there was a crowd of people sitting around the firepit, and kids playing in the yard. That's MY idea of a great weekend.

We lost another dear friend this weekend with the passing of Louise McRoberts. She was such a presence in our community: Windham Hensonville UMC, WAJPL, VFW, OES. Always a cheerful, loving person. Our hearts go out to her friends and sympathy and love to her family, Chuck, Lorraine, Cheryl and families.

This past Monday, 20 fun loving people, yes, both men and women, gathered at the Senior Center in

Hensonville to make chocolate, vanilla, and peanut butter truffles. While we were waiting to coat them in chocolate, out came the molds and we made a little of everything, including chocolate covered cherries and walnut turtles. Some of the men played pool and sampled as we made. There were a few people that were wearing more chocolate than putting on the truffles. Sometimes you couldn't hear anything but laughter. Next special is candle making on March 13th.

The Mt Top Parish of Churches gathered for their pot luck and church on Friday night. 40 hungry, happy people got together at the Ashland Church Hall where we ate, sang, laughed and just generally enjoyed each others company. Next month's gathering is in Lexington on March 24th starting at 5 with meal starting by 6. Hope you can join us.

This week, on Wednesday, Ash Wednesday starts the beginning of the Lenten Season a precursor to Easter. I guess you also know that it is the beginning of the Great Hensonville Fish Fry. I'm

hoping the menu is the same: Fried to perfection fish, clams or chicken tenders, Baked potato or French fries, cole slaw and dessert. The number to order ahead is 518-734-3040. I'll go check it out and remind you periodically during the next 40 days.

Get well wishes and prayers to Joan Matthews Gates, Pastor Choi, Margaret Mulford, Leona Knox, Ruth Cross (in the Pines), Rose Beers, Peggy Fromm, and Marion Quick.

Sympathy to Dawn Kiley on the passing of her partner

AS I REMEMBER IT

While traveling South Street after lunch at the Jewett Nutrition Center, we passed the new building of condos and began to reminisce. How things change. I could see, in my mind, us chasing Black Angus cattle through those fields on Brainard Ridge. Just open pasture land, no houses. The few hous-

es along the road were farms and Boarding Houses. Many years ago, both Windham and Hensonville had bars. Along with drinks, there were tables where you could sit and eat dinners. You went out to Seeleys, or Thefords to meet your friends, have a drink, and ask what there was on the menu that night. Very few were just restaurants, and to get pizza, we had to travel down the mountain to Franks. In the 60's, we got a pizza parlor next to the Sportsman's Lodge, Messina's.

Then the town became a Real Estate Haven. Pizza places were all over the place. Next came the restaurants, and low cost meals started to disappear. I never thought there would be a time when a night out didn't include a bar hamburger or roast beef sandwich with chips and a pickle sitting around with friends chatting the night away and not costing a week's salary.



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BETTER THAN HEARSAY

# A Helium Dream (or Welcoming the Ghosts of Dead Relatives)

**Michael Ryan**  
**BONNIECORN** - It's not every day you get to talk to someone whose dream in life is to suck in so much helium - at one time - that the sound of their already screechy voice rises so high, only dogs can hear it.

Annabelle Williams turns 9 years old in April which maybe explains some of that thinking but the bigger question is - why did she think of it in the first place and what if she goes ahead and does it?

Every once in a while it is fun to forget the mundanities of local politics and stray into the unordinary which exactly describes Annabelle, the daughter of my nephew Douglas Williams and his glittering wife Nicole.

They aren't especially worried about Annabelle's argon plan because she also writes horror movies and holds the door open to her house, welcoming the ghosts of dead ancestors to enter.

Seriously, she does that, and the kid, a little while ago, made some cutout dolls of her family including her mom and dad, her brother, her deceased grandmother and similarly deceased Great Aunt.

All of those people are related to me. Annabelle, I am happy to say, is a chip off the old block, exquisitely curious about seeing Beyond the Veil.

Her father is an accomplished actor, writer, filmmaker and stay-at-home dad. Mom is a public school Math teacher and department head.

Normal as apple pie which Annabelle is and isn't. She came here, last summer, after her Great Aunt Bonnie, my Anam

Cara, ceased to exist. The fact is Annabelle barely knew Bonnie but somehow misses her the same as me, even while we totally agree Bonnie couldn't actually go anywhere since there isn't anywhere else to go.

Bonnie is buried in a small cemetery in the woods a short walk away from the house she grew up in and took her last breath in. My nephew helped ready her grave, bringing his family for a respectful visit a month later.

It is bizarre, writing those words, but Annabelle sprinkled sparkly dust on the grave and the manner in which she did it, and what has happened since then, mystically changed the experience.

The family stayed for only a couple of hours, needing to drive back to New Jersey, and as they were leaving I asked Annabelle and her little brother Kellan if they wanted a keepsake.

Annabelle instantly said "the unicorn," this giant stuffed animal of Bonnie's, so it is hers now and for a recent school assignment, she was asked to write about her favorite possession.

"My most prized possession is my Bonniecorn," Annabelle wrote. "She is a unicorn who is almost as big as me. She reminds me of my dead aunt Bonnie. Another prized possession of mine is my Dream-catcher.

"It also reminds me of my aunt Bonnie who gave it to me, and"...Annabelle wrote of her prized possessions..."my iPad which I legit could not live without."

That made me laugh and so did the hand-written card Annabelle sent

after Bonnie went, innocently writing, "Dear Unk- il Mike. Sorry your Aunt died."

Okay, so, details details, but Annabelle and her Bonniecorn are, I'm told, constant companions which is strangely comforting, erasing the lines between the here and hereafter.

And then there is this other thing about not closing doors until the perished have been let in, including Bonnie and Annabelle's paternal grandmother, my elder sister Pat, who passed two summers ago.

Annabelle says she got the idea from her brother who, after Grandma Pat passed, began holding doors open and long-pausing before going inside.

"Yes, I know ghosts can walk through walls," Annabelle explains, "but it was the only thing that made sense and Kellan would go in after that."

Her parents have no more logical explanation and then, a few weeks ago, their daughter created a string of cutout dolls modeled after family members including a couple of dead-and-goners.

Aunt Bonnie and Grandma Pat are there, haloed, blue-faced and legless. "They're blue because they're souls. Blue is associated with the soul," Annabelle says. "Their legs are cut off because they're floating."

Yep, she used the word "associated." The child has a romping vocabulary. Laying in a hammock for the first time, visiting here, she got tangled up, flipped it, fell out and bemusedly said, "clearly I need supervision."

Annabelle says she made the cutouts for her father's birthday. "They're



The living and the lifeless are inseparable in the imagination of moviemaker Annabelle Williams, joining together her (left to right) little brother Kellan, (herself), maternal grandma, aunt Coreen, uncle Tommy, mom and dad, great aunt Bonnie and paternal grandma.

his family. He loves them so much. He loved them when they were alive. I thought daddy would love it a lot."

The girl has started writing, directing and acting in short movies, turning out a horror flick "Hacked" (helped by cameraman dad) featuring an invisible bird with black eyes that causes her to disappear.

Pretty cool, and as far as all the death stuff? "I had a dog I loved, Dublin," her father says. "When Annabelle was very little, she asked me where Dublin was. She came up with her own ideas about heaven.

"We are very direct with her about taboo subjects," her father says, which has healthily freed Annabelle's imagination and her searching spirit.

She is clearly sensitive to the mysteries although



Annabelle Williams and Bonniecorn, her faithful stuffed-unicorn companion.

any rational human would scheme. On the other have to roll their eyes at hand, what if Dublin is her whole helium listening and waiting?

## National Bank of Coxsackie To Lease New Office

**COXSACKIE** - NBC Bancorp, Inc. ("Bancorp"), (OTCPK:NCXS), the holding company for The National Bank of Coxsackie ("Bank"), announced that the Bank has entered into an agreement to lease 6,600 square feet of office space located at 1003 New Loudon Road in Latham, NY. The office space will be deployed by the Bank to expand commercial lending and administrative offices and to support its continued commercial loan growth in the greater

Capital Region. The Bank's corporate headquarters will remain in Coxsackie, NY.

Bank President and Chief Executive Officer, John A. Balli, stated. "We are excited for this opportunity to support our local businesses and enhance our market visibility and employment opportunities." The Bank recently announced its financial results for 2022 which included significant loan growth and total assets in excess of \$500 million. The transaction

was brokered by Tyler Culberson of NAI Platform and construction fit-up is to be completed by BBL Construction Services for an expected occupancy in the summer of 2023.

NBC Bancorp, Inc. is the parent company of The National Bank of Coxsackie, which celebrated its 170th anniversary in 2022. The Bank operates eight branches in the New York State counties of Albany, Greene and Schoharie. For more information, please visit [www.nbcoxsackie.com](http://www.nbcoxsackie.com).

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TRADITIONALLY SPEAKING BY PAT LARSEN

# The Juice is Worth the Squeeze

I'm a metaphor fanatic. This phrase was recently shared with me by a friend and author of a wonderful new "children's" book series, Ben Barrowman. The first book in his series, Parmesan Pig, caught my eye when it was gifted to me recently to share with my granddaughters.

I quickly realized this book series was so much more than a children's book. This book represented a connection to the generations that was so profound and so encouraging that I just had to share it with you, my readership. This is the exact premise that all my columns are based on... relevance, connections, traditions and community.

First, let me give you the background to this phrase and tell you about Ben. After reading book 2 of his series, I was so excited about the storyline and I went straight to the source and contacted Ben directly to tell him how much I loved his stories.

Ben, in his very humble way, thanked me and then asked what made the story line so appealing to me...I mean, he wrote these books with his two younger children in mind and here I was shouting from the rooftops about how much I loved the messages of his books for adults as well. After we spoke at length about my impressions Ben realized that he had indeed bridged the generation gap by sharing old concepts that actually never went out of fashion and were still relevant in today's world.



Not just a kids book series...!!! Brilliant! And that is not so easy to do in today's kids book market.

In my numerous text exchanges with Ben I found that he and I had so many similarities in our desire to tell stories. Important stories about the mechanisms that we grew up embracing in our lives. The building blocks that created the writers that we both were now. His attention to details, little subtleties that focus the reader's attention to grasp the messages were really quite engaging in Ben's book series and I was picking up and highlighting every detail that I read. He was so appreciative!

Back to the phrase...I had shared with Ben my desire to write a children's book series as well, wanting to collaborate with my grandkids who would be part of the artistic development of the characters as illustrators. I dream big!

We must've chatted and texted for hours about this whole process of getting started on this project. Ben was so generous with his knowledge. I was showing my level of procrastination by asking him all the details of

his creation of this series. Finally, I realized it was time to get myself on track by just starting to write the book. MY BOOK... and so Ben lovingly shared this very poignant phrase. He could've added to just "get the lead out!" too but he was much kinder than that.

He just said...The juice is worth the squeeze. THAT stopped me in my tracks and made me sit up and take notice and froze me in my tracks before I realized he was right.

THE reference in this phrase relates to the labor-intensive process of squeezing fruit to produce fresh juice. The effort one puts into creating something is justified by the eventual outcome. In this case, Ben's case, he completed his labor of love, a five book series that is so lovingly shared and offered with simple messages that will touch the readers heart and open the door to many a conversation and opportunity to learn lessons over and over as life unfolds for both the reader and those being read too. And so...the author, in this case, me, has to decide: is the effort worth it? OF course it will be. I've never shied away from hard work in my life's. I just needed to hear this encouragement from another author who understood the path that I was choosing.

The rest of this tale is yet to be told as my book unfolds. Stay tuned for that.

Back to Ben's story. I'm so excited for him realizing the fruits of his

labor coming to life. The story behind the story has many facets that unfolded in our numerous discussions.

I loved when he divulged his book series was written at first entirely on his cell phone... chapter by chapter. The characters were aptly named as they appeared during play time with his little ones...one by one. The storyline had a special theme in each of the series that he created and the plot twists were uniquely enhanced by these descriptive characters and the rhyming for each flowed ever so sweetly and with such grace. The reader, in this case, me, couldn't help but realize the "aha!" moment for each lesson that was revealed. Trust me, you're going to love these books.

Ben's third book in this

series is about to hit the bookshelves.

I'm so excited to have shared a bit of insight into how all of this has unfolded and I'd love to encourage everyone to check out the book series available in our local area. Ben is a self published author to boot. That's a task not suited for the faint of heart.

It takes real guts and passion to achieve that goal on one's own.

I've also invited Ben Barrowman to come join us here locally to share a book or two as he reads from stories. I'll be scheduling that soon and I hope you'll come by Shamrock House to meet him when you see the date scheduled.

Please check out his first 2 published books in the Parmesan Pig series (the third will be released very soon...there's

5 in total.) You can find them on Amazon Books also as well as at local book stores. Ben resides with his wife and two children in Albany.

I just know you'll fall in love with Ben's books and his kind nature that will draw you in and leave you feeling as I felt... hopeful for this world that everything of value will not be lost when we connect to each other.

Pat Larsen can be reached at 518-275-8686 or via email [patlarsen5@aol.com](mailto:patlarsen5@aol.com)

Fitness Classes are taught by Pat at THE SHAMROCK HOUSE on Mon and Thurs mornings.

Baby Boomer, Ladies and Gents are welcome... follow the sounds of the oldies from the 50's and 60's. That's where we'll be getting healthy and fit.

## State Cautions Over High Fire Risk

DEC is urging New Yorkers to take extra caution due to this year's warm and dry winter season. While the statewide burn ban doesn't take effect until March 16, the

majority of the State's land is dry and brown. Without any new or additional snowfall, the dry, dormant vegetation is primed to burn and fa-

cilitate the spread of a wildfire. For more information about fire safety and prevention, go to DEC's FIREWISE New York webpage.

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# Two Displaced After Fire on Mountain Avenue



Firefighters made quick work of a fire at 11 Mountain Avenue in Cairo on Monday evening. Photos courtesy of the Catskill Fire Company.

**By Andrea Macko Porcupine Soup**  
 CAIRO—Two people have been displaced after a fire Monday evening on Mountain Avenue. Shortly after 6 p.m., Cairo Hose Company was dispatched to 11 Mountain Avenue, just off of Main Street near the Cairo Mart gas station, for a reported structure fire. The first units on scene reported heavy

smoke coming from the second floor of the three-story residential building. Round Top Volunteer Fire Company was called in for mutual aid, as was Catskill Fire Company. Firefighters made quick work of the fire, keeping it contained to the second floor. No one was injured, but due to interior damage two residents are un-

able to move back in at this time and are being assisted by the American Red Cross. Cairo Fire Chief Ray Femi said the cause of the fire has been deemed electrical. Also on scene were Cairo Ambulance, Greene County EMS, Cairo Police Department, State Police and the Greene County Sheriff's Office.



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## VFW POST 1545 – WINDHAM, NY WEEKLY UPDATE

You see ads on television regarding veteran benefits due you; don't fall victim to predatory practices! The VFW provides free, expert assistance to help you get the PACT Act benefits and compensation you deserve. These benefits are for your service to our country. The VFW fights for your rights and the service officers of the VFW know how to file for your benefits. For information; contact VFW Post 1545 at vfw-post1545@gmail.com and we will direct you to a service officer. Friday (February 24) we are holding a pasta dinner at the Post building. It starts at 4:30 till 7 pm. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children. Penne pasta, meatballs, bread, salad, dressing, iced tea and lemonade & desert.



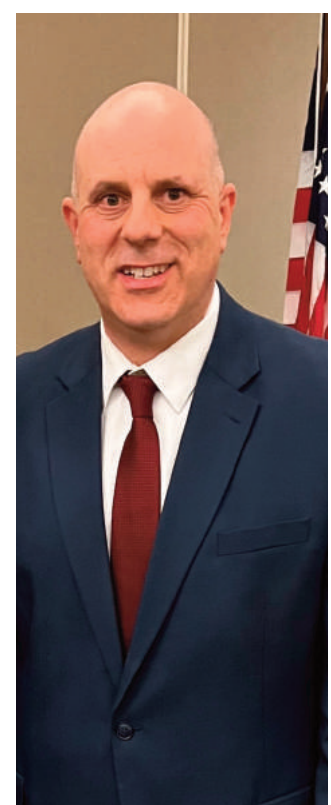
Hope to see you all. A few weeks ago I spotlighted one of our WWII veterans; Louise McRoberts. It is with a heavy heart that I tell you this beautiful woman, veteran and patriot has passed away. Our Post family will miss her, and our hearts go out to her family. She will be missed. We find ourselves losing our WWII veterans and their numbers are dwindling. They fought the great fight for our freedom for which our county owes them so much respect. Stand strong with the more than 1.5 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary as we continue to

fight for all that's good FOR VETERANS. If you are a combat veteran consider joining the VFW. We have strength in numbers which enables us to continue to help veterans. So, help yourselves by joining the oldest combat veterans organization. This week I would like to highlight another one of our members, Bob Stefanko. Bob served in Vietnam with the 9th Infantry Division. The 9th Infantry Division that he served in took more casualties than any other combat unit in Vietnam. Bob was a past Post 1545 Commander among many other tasks he performed. We salute his service to our country. Marc Farmillette – Quartermaster Post 1545.

# Costanzo Seeks Nomination for County Judge

MOUNTAINTOP - Assistant District Attorney Dave Costanzo is seeking the Conservative and Republican Party nominations for Greene County judge. Costanzo hopes that his experience will make a major difference. "I have been a prosecutor for 23 years and have been the Chief Assistant DA to Joe Stanzone since Jan 2015. I have prosecuted and conducted trials on numerous felony cases including murders child abuse cases and other violent crimes. I have also appeared in family court and handled domestic violence cases as well as cases of abuse or

neglect. The second amendment is a fundamental constitutional right and the protection of that constitutional right is of the utmost importance to me." "I live in the Town of Greenville." "I am seeking the Republican and conservative endorsements as a result of Judge Wilhelm's retirement." "I feel I have the experience, compassion and demeanor to provide justice for ALL of the citizens of Greene County, from the Mt. Top to the Rip Van Winkle." "I want to make sure our children are protected and their best interests are served."



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\*Special price is for first lawn application only. Requires purchase of annual plan, for new residential EasyPay or PrePay customers only. Valid at participating TruGreen locations. Availability of services may vary by geography. Not to be combined with or used in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Additional restrictions may apply. Consumer responsible for all sales tax. †Purchase of annual lawn plan required for Healthy Lawn Analysis, which is performed at the first visit. America's #1 lawn care company based on U.S. market share of professional lawn care companies. 2021 MMR Brand Health Tracker. \*Guarantee applies to annual plan customers only. BBB accredited since 07/01/2012. ©2022 TruGreen Limited Partnership. All rights reserved. In Connecticut, B-0153, B-1380, B-0127, B-0200, B-0151.



# Tannersville Ice Sculpture Fest Wows



Above left: Little truck and big truck.  
Above right: Piggy bank for cold cash in front of the real Bank of Greene County.



Snowman sheds his white coat to become an Iceman.

If it is mid-February in the mountains, that means the annual Village of Tannersville Ice Sculpture Fest is here. The event, held last weekend, is sponsored by local businesses, providing blocks of frozen water that are transformed into wintry works of art by volunteers such as Phil Derasmo.



Valentine's Heart (complete with a bottle of celebratory champagne) was carved by Peter Aluotto and his little pal Matthew Wohltjen.

Photos by Michael Ryan.



Karl Anshanslin applies the finishing touches to one of Rip Van Winkle's ninepins-playing dwarves who put the Rip to sleep with grog.

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ray@firemarkins.com

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

## Belleayre Ski Patrol Annual Brooks BBQ and Dance

Saturday March 11th - BBQ from 4:00 to 6:30 P.M.  
Dance - The Blues Manuever Band 5:30 to 9:30 P.M.  
Belleayre Mountain Ski Center, Overlook Lodge  
181 Galli Circle Road - Highmount, NY 12441

Tickets available from the Ski Patrol -  
Adults - \$20.00, Children 12 and under - \$10.00

Take your meals home or stay and listen to and dance to the Blues Manuever Band

Buy some raffles! Lots of prizes!





THE CATSKILL GEOLOGISTS BY PROFS ROBERT & JOHANNA TITUS

## Stratigraphy at Opus 40

For our first real column about Opus 40 let's do the basics. The quarry cuts into something that we have seen a lot of in these columns. That's the stratified rock of the Catskill Delta. About 385 million years ago the Catskill region was an enormous delta. It was the size of the Mississippi Delta which covers most of the state of Louisiana. If you took Louisiana and elevated the crust there a few thousand feet and petrified it, then – presto - you have the Catskills. That delta lay at the bottom of a sizable mountain range, the Acadian Mountains, known today as the Northern Appalachians. As those mountains were rising, they were also eroding away. Thousands of feet of gravelly sand piled up at the base of the Acadians. Those sands eventually hardened into the Catskill sequence of sedimentary rocks. It's a very well-preserved fossil delta and it is known to geologists all around the world. The rocks, right here, are famous! And the Opus 40 quarry may well be the best preserved outcrop of that delta. It too borders on being famous. No wonder the two of us have been there several times and are planning to write so much about it.

We think that the best place to start is at the deepest part of the main quarry. We rather think that when Harvey Fite first visited; it was, mostly filled up with left over quarry debris. It wasn't so much a slag heap as it was a slag pit. We are betting that Harvey cleaned it up and cleaned it out as part of



his art, his sculpture. That was probably near the beginning. Well thank you Harvey; you opened up a lot of rocks for people like us to go and see. Take a look at our photo. The woman is pointing at an erosional surface. If it had been a big erosional surface with a lot of time missing, then we would call it an unconformity. But it represents just a small amount of missing time, so we call it a hiatus - or a diastem. But those are just words. This is, in fact, the boundary between two river deposits. Each is a mass of sandstone that accumulated in the deep center of an ancient river channel.

If you spend some time looking at this photo then a question might emerge. What, you might ask, are the deposits of one river doing sitting on those of another river? But let's make it worse. Who said they were two different rivers? We think that these are two deposits from one river. It looks like we have some explaining to do, doesn't it? And you will have some thinking to do. There are two dynamics you will have to envision. First, way back

when this was a great delta, it was sinking. Deltas do that. Their sediments weigh so much that their weight presses them deep down into the crust. Today's Mississippi River deposits will, in some future time, be located well into the ground. In short, the quarry's lower river deposit used to be higher.

The other dynamic has to do with the fact that delta rivers meander left and right across the delta top. This is a slow process; it takes a while so if a river meanders left, then by the time it wanders back to the right, the crust has sunk. The river will now deposit new sediments atop its own older deposits. Now it's time to do that thinking; it may take a while, these may be pretty tricky spatial relations but if you can envision all this, then it explains the stratigraphy of that photo. And it explains how one river could produce two deposits, one atop the other.

Contact the authors at [randjtitus@prodigy.net](mailto:randjtitus@prodigy.net). Join their facebook page "The Catskill Geologist." Read their blogs at "thecatskill-geologist.com."

A team of Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteers in Columbia and Greene Counties have gone digital. Post-covid, it became evident that in-person outreach is no longer the easiest way to communicate. In the past Master Gardeners taught classes and conducted demonstrations for groups of twenty or more local residents. They participated in community celebrations and events. Such interactions lost momentum during the pandemic.

Building from an earlier foray into radio broadcasting, the team decided to produce a podcast. They reasoned that electronics had made it possible to listen to e-books and podcasts in the car or at home (or in the garden) or anywhere via one's phone, ipad or laptop through an app. They could produce short interviews or mini lectures to be heard in the car or in the garden.

A year later, the podcast is known as "Nature Calls: Conversations from the Hudson Valley. It is available on your phone or car radio by way of all major podcast platforms such as Apple, Amazon, Google and Spotify. It is even available on Youtube or by asking Alexa to play an episode. Or you can follow this link to the CCE webpage: <https://ccecolumbia-greene.org/gardening/nature-calls-conversations-from-the-hudson-valley>

The volunteers are committed to finding as many ways as possible to reach the public, so they are beginning a newspaper column called "A

Conversation" with highlights from the many topics covered in the podcast. Each week will focus on a particular nature or gardening subject already discussed in an episode on the podcast.

We hope you will enjoy our efforts to educate and entertain you.

The podcast team: Linda Aydlett, Teresa Golden, Tim Kennelly, Annie Scibienski and Jean Thomas, along with contributions from assorted experts and Master Gardener Volunteers.

This week we're having a conversation about houseplants. Mid February is a good time to think about houseplants, for so many reasons. Those of us who are old hands at keeping houseplants are scampering around cleaning up the plants and their containers



and beginning to fertilize again as all their greenery is responding to the stimulus of lengthening days. New house plant owners who began the winter with great hopes are learning the harsh lessons resulting from light and (often) water deprivation. There is hope in their eyes as they observe new signs of life emerging where they had almost given up hope. And recipients of gift plants are desperately trying to keep things alive that maybe don't want to be. All of us have one thing in common: we can feel Spring coming and are susceptible to the lure of all those cheerful pots of color displayed around the supermarket produce section or the big box store or the local garden center.

Let's start with the last category. Many of those plants on display in the retail emporiums are often not meant to spend their lives as houseplants. Seasonal bulbs like hyacinths, daffodils and tulips, or tiny shrubs like miniature roses can be nursed through indoors and enjoyed until the time is right to plant them outdoors. Primroses can happily reside indoors until time to plant as perennials outside. The best candidates to nurture indoors are the African violet family and even some herbs. Orchids can thrive indoors as well, although they present their own challenges. And there are many foliage plants that are happy in lower light or in dryer conditions. Houseplants arrive in our homes from many sources. The two main sources are as gifts and as our own purchases. When we buy our own plants, there's hope that we know a little about the plant already. We might be a collector of a particular type of plant or have a particular place we want to put it. So there is a chance of success and a happy future.

If the plant dies, we have the option of blaming ourselves or calling it a suicide. Of course, we lose that choice when the plant was a gift. Guilt rears its ugly head, and the fear of explaining the death to the donor can be debilitating. This is where we have to become realists. You may or may not have murdered it. But bear in mind a couple of things. The person who gave you the plant probably doesn't expect you to keep a living thing in its full glory forever. They may not even remember giving you the thing. Another thing we often beat ourselves up about is the dish garden. Dish gardens are lovely combinations of plants that look beautiful when presented. They have the same inconvenient habit of all plants... they grow. As they grow, they often display different needs and potentials. Just because a dish garden has several plants planted together doesn't mean they're compatible as "adults". As time goes by, each will begin to exhibit its own personality, particularly in regard to size. So if you receive a dish garden that outgrows its container, re-potting may become necessary. It's not your fault that the thing has become the island of misfit plants. You have many options, including disposing of the thing in whatever way you see fit. Maybe we'll talk about compost next time. The key to success with all flowering and foliage plants alike is light. Learn the requirements of the plant when you bring it home. Most come with a helpful tag that tells you what the light and watering needs are. If not, and you need counseling, you can email [columbia-greene@gardeners.cornell.edu](mailto:columbia-greene@gardeners.cornell.edu) for Cornell Master Gardener advice. Or listen to our episode 56 of "Nature Calls: Conversations from the Hudson Valley"

## Is Delhi's Triangle Park Misnamed?

By Kirby Olson

DELHI - It is probably an academic question, but I am an academic. Taken broadly, I like how most of Delhi is named. High Street, for instance, is up high. Main Street is the Main Street. Spruce Street features spruce trees. Prospect Street offers a prospect of Delhi from which one can see the high school, and the cupolas of various churches. Elm Street, at least once upon a time, held numerous elm trees. Today, it's a nightmare, but all the elms are gone. They have been replaced by maple. Delhi itself is the result of a joker in Albany misnaming what was to be called Mapleton because he apparently thought the mayor of Mapleton acted like a Mahatma. So, the town was called Delhi. Can the name be changed back to Mapleton? These are academic questions, insofar as they bear on very little. In the line of pushing these minor conundrums further, let's look at Delhi's infamous Triangle Park, and get down to this column's real question: is Triangle Park misnamed?

This tiny park does not, at least at first, appear to be a triangle! In point of fact, it is clearly a semi-circle. Within the overall design of the park are two linden trees, a trash can, abundant grass, a small bed of flowers, two picnic benches, and if you want to be thorough, a stop sign, a no-parking sign, and an occasional squirrel. I may not have been as exhaustive as I could, but the main



task now remains one of geometrical inventory. First of all, where is the triangle on which the name is based? Is the overall outline that of a triangle or that of a semi-circle? We must be careful. The trees do resemble triangles. They have a wide base and a pointier top. There are other geometrical things in the park that could affect our nomenclature: the trash can consists of a circular top and a cylindrical base. There are so many beautiful geometrical things to see in the park. There is the octagonal stop sign. The exquisite No Parking sign is rectangular. Parallel lines exist in the picnic benches. But most Delhinians that I've spoken with argue that the overall conception of the park is semi-circular. Therefore, they claim, the park should be renamed Semi-Circular Park. However, what if the park's semi-circularity was changed to a Triangle? All

it would require is a bulldozer and a couple of hours of earth removal and curb repair. Changing the physical reality of the park, indeed, might be easier than renaming it? And yet, names are important and help us Delhinians with conceptual clarity. Another name for the park could be Geometrical Park, in light of its myriad exemplars of geometrical design. The triangle being one of these, it might stand in for all the other geometrical exemplars, and be apt after all. The community is divided into the following main groups:

There are those who don't want to change the name, and think we should leave well-enough alone. Then there are those who want to change it, but they proffer too many suggestions to inventory. One of the more promising is "Half-Moon

Story Continues on D3

## Supers Oppose SWCD Law Adjustments, Call for Continuation of Medicaid Funding

Big Gov't Takes from the Little Guys, Walton Supervisor Says

By Mary A. Crisafulli  
DELHI - Delaware County supervisors opposed proposed changes to soil and water conservation district law and called for the state to continue sharing federal Medicaid funding with counties at a meeting on Feb. 22.

Davenport Supervisor Dennis Valente and Hancock Supervisor Jerry Vernold were absent.

Following a presentation by Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Executive Director Larry Underwood, supervisors unanimously opposed the proposed conservation district regulation changes. According to Un-



Harpersfield Supervisor Lisa Driscoll

derwood, changes were proposed by the Watershed Health Coalition, which, when researched, does not have a website. One of the concerns is that the group does not have any readily available information and has yet to contact any SWCD officials statewide,

said Underwood. "They have done a tremendous amount of work, which appears to be behind the scenes, to edit our laws." The SWCDs have worked well together since their inception; the laws, as they stand, provide great flexibility for each district to work on projects addressing the specific needs of their residents and environment, explained Underwood. Proposed changes, he said, include changing the board format by replacing the State Grange and Farm Bureau members and requiring county board-appointed officials to be elected. The SWCD board consists of town supervisors James Ellis and Jeffery Taggart, Delaware County Farm

Continued on Page D4



**LEGAL ADVERTISING**

**Shoveling Notice - Windham**

Notice is hereby given that the Windham Fire District #1 of the Town of Windham, State of New York, seeks bids for the shoveling of snow from the walkways and area around and about the Windham Fire House for the 2022-2023 Winter Season. Sealed bids will be opened on Wednesday November 16, 2022, at 6:00 PM at the Windham Town Hall, 371 St Rt 296, Hensonville, NY 12439, in the Town of Windham, State of New York.

Sealed bids can be submitted at the meeting or mailed before November 6, 2022, to Windham Fire District #1 PO Box 91 Hensonville, NY 12439

**Budget Hearing - Lexington Fire District #1**

The Town of Lexington Fire Districts budget hearing for the public on November 7th at 6:30 at the Lexington Municipal Building. Copies of the budget can be obtained at the Lexington Town Clerk's office

**Snowplow Notice - Windham**

Notice is hereby given that the Windham Fire District #1 of the Town of Windham, State of New York, seeks bids for the plowing of snow from the parking areas around and about the Windham Fire House and the Hensonville Fire House for the 2022-2023 Winter Season. Sanding and/or salting will also be required. A Qualified Contractor must be fully insured. Sealed bids will be opened on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at 6:00 PM at the Windham Town Hall, 371 St Rt 296, Hensonville, NY 12439, in the Town of Windham, State of New York.

Sealed bids can be submitted at the meeting or mailed before November 7, 2022, to Windham Fire District #1 PO Box 91 Hensonville, NY 12439

**LLC Notice**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF Christina O'Donnell, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on June 7, 2022. Office Location: Schoharie County. SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: 136 CC Camp Road, Middleburgh, NY 12122. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**LLC Notice**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY; Name of LLC: Krissy's Sparkle Cleaning SVCS LLC; Date of filing: July 7, 2021; Office of the LLC: Albany Co.; The NY Secretary of State has been designated as the agent upon whom process may be served. NYSS may mail a copy of any process to the LLC at Northwest Registered Agent LLC, 90 State St, Suite 700, Office 40, Albany NY 12207; Purpose of LLC: Any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LLC MINIMALLY INVA-**

SIVE TREE REMOVAL, LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 09/08/22. Office in Schoharie Co. SSNY designated Agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC @ 1881 Western Ave STE 180, Albany, NY 12203. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

**LLC Notice**

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

**LLC Notice**

166 JAR LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 10/17/22. Office in Albany Co. SSNY designated Agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the Martha Hacklin, 4 Oakwood St, Albany NY 12208. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

**LLC Notice**

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC). Name: SOUNDS GOOD CATSKILLS, LLC., Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on November 18, 2022. Office location: Delaware County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: Sounds Good Catskills, LLC 2838 Murphy Hill Rd Andes NY 13731. Purpose: to engage in any lawful business of every kind and character for which LLCs may be organized under the New York LLC Law, Section 203, or any successor statute.

**LLC Notice**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY Notice of Formation of Massage By Beth LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-07-18. Office location: Greene County. United States Corporation Agents, Inc. designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to United States Corporation Agents, Inc.: 7014 13th Avenue Suite 202 Brooklyn NY 11228. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

**LLC Notice**

Notice Of Formation Of Domestic Limited Liability Company; Name Of Llc: Pangman Property LLC; Date of filing: 8/3/2022; Office of the LLC: Schoharie Co.; The NY Secretary of State has been designated as the agent upon whom process may be served. NYSS may mail a copy of any process to the LLC at 220 Barnerville Road, Cobleskill, New York 12043; Purpose of LLC: Any lawful purpose.

**LLC Notice**

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

**LLC Notice**

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION OF LLC

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

**LLC Notice**

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

**LLC Notice**

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

**LLC Notice**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY; Name of LLC: PANGMAN OUTDOOR POWER LLC; Date of filing: 01/03/2023; Office of the LLC: Schoharie Co.; The NY Secretary of State has been designated as the agent upon whom process may be served. NYSS may mail a copy of any process to the LLC at 220 Barnerville Road, Cobleskill, New York 12043; Purpose of LLC: Any lawful purpose.

**LLC Notice**

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

**Public Notice - Greene County**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that there has been duly presented to the County Legislature of the County of Greene on the 13th day of February 2023, Local Law Introductory Number 2 Of 2023, A Local Law Entitled "A Local Law Adjusting The Weighted Vote Of The Greene County Legislature". Be It Enacted by the County Legislature of the County of Greene as follows: Summary Of Proposed Local Law Number 2 Of 2023, Entitled: "A Local Law Adjusting The Weighted Vote Of The Greene County Legislature.": Pursuant to this Local Law, the County of Greene proposes to adjust the weighted votes of the individual members of the Greene County Legislature to reflect the results of the 2020 United States Federal census. The population to be utilized in adjusting the votes of the Greene County Legislature

shall be the 2020 United States Federal census exclusive of those persons incarcerated in state correctional institutions and facilities located within Greene County. The weighted voting calculations shall be based upon the 2022 Greene County Weighted Vote Recalculation Report prepared for Greene County by the Research Foundation for the State University of New York through the Benjamin Center of SUNY New Paltz, dated September 14, 2022. The Weighted Vote Recalculation Report utilizes the Banzhaf Power Index for the recommended adjustment of weighted votes.

The full text of this proposed Local Law Number 2 of 2023 is available for review in the office of the Clerk of the Greene County Legislature, Suite 408, 411 Main Street, Catskill, New York 12414, and on the Greene County website: www.discovergreene.com.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN,**

that the County Legislature of the County of Greene will conduct a Public Hearing on the aforesaid Local Law on the 15th day of March 2023, at 6:15 p.m. in the Legislative Chambers, County Office Building, 411 Main Street, 4th floor, Catskill, New York at which time all persons interested in the subject matter thereof will be heard concerning the same.

**Public Notice - Middleburgh**

The Village of Middleburgh is implementing NYS Office of Community Renewal Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Projects. NYS CDBG Project #726PR154-18 in the amount of \$1,000,000 is being used for various improvements at the Village wastewater treatment plant.

In accordance with the CDBG Citizen Participation requirements, a public hearing is being held in order to review the performance and status of activities and to identify future Community Development activities for Small Cities CDBG Program. This second hearing is in addition to a public hearing that was held during development of these projects prior to submission of the Small Cities CDBG applications. At this hearing the Village will review the amount of project #726PR154-18 CDBG funds, that were available, provide a listing of activities that were undertaken with CDBG funds, the amount of CDBG funds made available for activities that benefit the LMI National Objective and progress towards program goals and objectives as outlined in the original application submitted for Program Year 2018.0

Interested citizens are invited to attend this hearing on March 6, 2023 at 7:30pm via Zoom link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87826761188?pwd=OENXM2dHRjhN-MmgxVS9uNORGL0pQT09 or at the Middleburgh Village Hall, 309 Main Street, Middleburgh, NY. Citizens

may submit views at the hearing or in written form to Patricia Bergan, Village Mayor, and Village Hall 309 Main Street - PO Box 789, Middleburgh, NY 12122 until March 6, 2023.

Financial assistance for this activity is made possible by a grant from the:

New York State Homes & Community Renewal

Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program

**Public Notice - Schoharie County**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Schoharie County Board of Supervisors at a meeting held on February 17, 2023, duly adopted on said date Local Law #1-2023 titled: AMENDING LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 2009 WHICH IMPOSED TAX ON THE OCCUPANCY OF LODGING FACILITIES PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 101 OF THE LAW OF 2009 OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

A complete copy of the local law may be obtained at the Schoharie County Board of Supervisor's Office, 284 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Schoharie, NY during normal business hours.

**Public Notice - Schoharie County**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Schoharie County Board of Supervisors at a meeting held on February 17, 2023, duly adopted on said date Local Law #2-2023 titled: INCREASING THE SALARIES DURING FISCAL YEAR 2023 FOR CERTAIN COUNTY OFFICERS WHO ARE ELECTED OR APPOINTED FOR A FIXED TERM, subject to a permissive referendum.

Section 1. As per Section 201 of County Law, the Board of Supervisors can only increase the salary of a county officer who is elected for a fixed term or appointed for a fixed term, in the middle of that term of office, if Section 24 (2)(h) of the Municipal Home Rule Law is complied with.

In keeping with that compliance, Local Law #2 of 2023 is hereby enacted setting the annual salaries for the year 2023 for the following county officers who are elected or appointed for a fixed term, and whose terms did not expire on December 31, 2022.

POSITION and 2023 Annual Salary

Board of Supervisors Chair \$25,274

Board of Supervi-

sors Members \$14,535

County Treasurer No Change in Salary

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors No Change in Salary

County Administrator No Change in Salary

Real Property Tax Services Director No Change in Salary

County Clerk No Change in Salary

County Attorney No Change in Salary

District Attorney No Change in Salary

Elections Commissioners No Change in Salary

DPW Commissioner No Change in Salary

IT Director No Change in Salary

County Sheriff No Change in Salary

Probation Director No Change in Salary

OES Director \$94,708

Director of Public Health No Change in Salary

Director of Mental Health \$87,045

Director of Public Transportation No Change in Salary

Social Services Commissioner \$104,088

OFA Director \$84,290

Youth Director \$53,634

Director of Old Stone Fort \$69,224

Veteran Services Director No Change in Salary

Personnel Director \$83,953

Administrator of Indigent Defense \$114,858

County Historian No Change in Salary

Section 2. These increases in salary shall be effective as of January 1, 2023.

Section 3. This Local Law shall take effect after the provisions of Section 20 and Section 24 of the Municipal Home Rule Law have been complied with, and after filing with the Secretary of State. All Department Head salary changes will be implemented uniformly after such filing.

**Public Notice - CWC**

The Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) is seeking proposals for portable toilet vendors for bids to lease and maintain toilets at fifteen locations in Delaware, Greene, Schoharie and Sullivan Counties adjacent to four reservoirs from May 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023. Bids must be received by CWC by 3pm on March 10, 2023. For bid documents, please contact Barbara Puglisi or Timothy Cox at 845-586-1400. EOE

**Public Notice - CWC**

The Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) is seeking qualified entities for the demolition of structure in the Village of Tannersville, Greene County on a property purchased pursuant to the NYCDEP funded

Flood Buyout Program and approved by the Village. A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held on at 10:00 AM on March 9. Bids must be received at CWC by 3:00 PM, March 16, 2023. For bid documents please contact John Mathiesen or Timothy Cox at 845-586-1400. EOE

**Public Notice - Windham FD**

Please take notice that the Windham Fire District of the town of Windham County of Greene, New York, change of date for the March regular meeting.

The new date is, Tuesday March 21, 2023, at 6 o'clock p.m. at Town Hall 371 NY-296, Hensonville, NY 12439. All meetings of the Windham Fire District are open to the public.

This notice is being posted in accordance with the provisions of Section 94 of the Public Officers Law of the State of New York.

**Public Notice - Kortright PD**

The Kortright Rural Fire District Commissioners Reorganization meeting was held on January 10, 2023. Paul Dibble was appointed Chairman, Lynn Pickett was appointed as Secretary/Treasurer. Meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday of every month starting at 7:30 at the Bloomville Fire House, 243 Scotch Hill Road, Bloomville, NY. The Mountain Eagle was designated as Official Newspaper and NBT was designated the Official Bank.

**Public Notice - Delaware County**

Delaware County Board of Elections has moved from 3 Gallant Ave Delhi, NY 13753 to its new location: Delaware County Board of Elections 97 Main Street Suite 5 Delhi, NY 13753

**Public Notice - Delaware County SUPREME COURT: COUNTY OF DELAWARE**

SHERIFF'S DOCKET #23000082 NYBDC Local Development Corporation d/b/a The Excelsior Growth Fund vs. American Ginseng Pharm Regional Center LLC, Docketed with the Delaware County Clerk's Office March 2, 2021, Judgment creditor's Attorney - Lemery Greisler LLC Smart Business Sense 677 Broadway, 8th Floor Albany, New York 12207.

By Virtue of an Execution issued out to the State of New York, Delaware County, in favor of NYBDC Local Development Corporation d/b/a The Excelsior Growth Fund. And against Defendant(s) American Ginseng Pharm Regional Center LLC, I have seized and taken all the right, title and interest of the said American Ginseng Pharm Regional Center LLC, (Defendant, and Judgment Debtor) in and to the following described property, to wit:

See Attached (Legal Description)

1. N 05-07-20 W, 20.00 feet to a capped rod; 2. S 84-52-40 W, 58.00 feet to a capped rod; 3. S 05-07-20 E, 70.00 feet to a capped rod; 4. S 84-52-40 W, 8.00 feet to a capped rod;

5. S 05-07-20 E, 155.99 feet to a point on the Southerly bounds of Church Street, said point being on the Northerly line of lands now or formerly of Alyssa Melnick (849-292); thence turning and running along lands of said Melnick, S 84-52-40 W, 124.81 feet to a point; thence turning and running through the lands of the grantor N 15-58-30 W, 73.20 feet to a capped rod and continuing N 15-58-30 W, 71.75 feet (for a total of 144.95 feet) to a capped rod; thence turning and continuing through the lands of the grantor the following courses:

1. N 73-26-57 W, 296.27 feet to a capped rod; 2. N 14-19-55 E, 309.72 feet to a capped rod; 3. N 62-17-53 E, 124.69 feet to a capped rod; 4. N 08-06-29 E, 66.74 feet to a capped rod;

5. N 87-41-14 E, 272.87 feet to a point on the line of lands of the aforementioned Weerheim and others; thence turning and

I am selling the above, subject to any liens, chattels, mortgages, conditional sales or any other encumbrances.

\* TERMS OF SALE: 10% DUE AT THE TIME OF SALE IN THE FORM OF CASH OR CERTIFIED CHECK. BALANCE DUE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE SALE DATE. DATE OF SALE: April 11, 2023

TIME OF SALE: 1:00 PM.

SALE WILL BE CONDUCTED AT: DELAWARE COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING, 280 PHOEBE LANE, DELHI NEW YORK.

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND situate in the Town of Franklin, County of Delaware, State of New York bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a capped rod, said capped rod marking the common corner of lands now or formerly of Elwood W. Weerheim and others (1030-37) on the northeast, lands now or formerly of Bright Hill Press, Inc. (973-310, Ref. Riled Map No. 2859) on the southeast, lands now or formerly of Douglas E. and Patricia A. Jamieson (980-106) on the southwest and the lands being described on the northwest; and commencing from said point of beginning and running along lands of said Jamieson, s 84-52-40 W, 99.00 feet to a capped rod on the line of lands now or formerly of Thomas A. and Donna A. Briggs (1116-264); thence turning and running along lands of said Briggs the following courses:

**SEEKING**

We are looking for a person to do stonework on our stone walls in Stamford, NY. (607) 652-2449.

Looking for someone to refurbish GE 4 line business phones. Approximately 10 phones

Please call Janet 607-588-4700 noon-4:30pm

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

**FOR SALE**

FOR SALE: 2008 Chevrolet Silverado truck. Vehicle is being sold as is. Needs repairs to pass NYS inspection. Sealed bid; bids due February 27th at 2:00 p.m.- Call Delaware Co. SWCD (607) 865-7161 for bid package

**REAL ESTATE**

**Vacant Land**

5 acres in Jefferson, NY. \$35,000  
90 acres in Harpersfield, NY. \$285,000.

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

**HELP WANTED**

**Help Wanted**

Margaretville Senior Dining Center Driver Valid NYS driver's license, clean driving record. Ability to relate well to senior citizens and to help shut ins stay independent. 15 hours per week, Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. \$14.40 per hour. Annual, Sick, and Paid Holidays. Sign on bonus of \$250.00 after a month of employment. Applications accepted until filled at Delaware Opportunities Inc., 35430 State Highway 10, Hamden, NY 13782, or Margaretville at the Senior Dining Center. Or RAngerer@delop.org Equal Employment Opportunity MF/ F/ Disability/ Protected Veteran Status

**Help Wanted**

Gerster Trucking Now Hiring For: Class A CDL Drivers Local - Tank Endorsement Required. Milk Pick Up Routes

Competitive Salary, Health Insurance.

**Help Wanted**

The Town of Bovina Highway Department is looking for a full time heavy equipment operator. The applicant must be capable of operating highway equipment, have some mechanical skills, have a CDL class B license or the ability to get one and pass a drug screening. Benefits are available after a probation period. Contact Highway Superintendent Edward Weber, at 607-832-4220 or email at bovinahighway@hotmail.com Edward Weber Bovina Highway Superintendent

**Help Wanted**

DISABLED VETERAN looking for an aid in the Stamford area. Flexible hours and flexible days to do housekeeping and some meals. 917-670-1647.

**Help Wanted**

ARKVILLE - Summer helper, part time, weekends. Some heavy lifting and porting. Now through October. Call David (607) 326-6829.

**Help Wanted**

The Town of Middleburgh Highway Department has an open position for a Full time Laborer. A CDL license is preferred but not required to apply. Please stop at the Town Clerks office, email the clerk at tmidd@gmail.com or call 518-827-5100 for an application.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Town of Bovina Highway Department is looking for a full time heavy equipment operator. The applicant must be capable of operating highway equipment, have some mechanical skills, have a CDL class B license or the ability

to get one and pass a drug screening. Benefits are available after a probation period. Contact Highway Superintendent Edward Weber, at 607-832-4220 or email at bovinahighway@hotmail.com Edward Weber Bovina Highway Superintendent

**Help Wanted**

Computer Technician needed for local Computer Store. Experience is a Plus. System Builds, System repairs, Virus and Spyware removal, Networking, Security Camera Installs. Salary Commensurate Experience. Call Michael 518-231-0622 to schedule and interview

**Help Wanted**

The Cornell Cooperative Extension After-school Program at Schoharie elementary school is in need of an Activity Leader. The program runs from 2 to 5:30pm, Monday through Friday. If you or someone you know is interested

in becoming an Activity Leader, please contact Susan Salisbury at 518-234-4303-extension122 or sms248@cornell.edu

**Help Wanted**

The Village of Middleburgh is currently accepting applications for a part-time Deputy Codes Enforcement Officer (5-10 hrs. per week). Candidates must have the ability to enforce the Uniform Code and conform to the requirements of 19 NYCRR Part 1203 (Uniform Code: Minimum Standards for Administration and Enforcement) and be up to date on all NYS certifications. Salary will be commensurate with experience.

If you would like an application you may stop in at the Municipal Office 309 Main St. or call 518-827-5143 or email middleburgh-nvillage@midtel.net.

**Help Wanted**

Full Time Wash Bay Position available to wash and detail commercial trucks and trailers in a fully equipped wash bay. Excellent Medical Insurance available immediately. Vacation and retirement available after one year. Please call 607-278-5212 or email prgerster76@aol.com

**Help Wanted**

Full Time Wash Bay Position available to wash and detail commercial trucks and trailers in a fully equipped wash bay. Excellent Medical Insurance available immediately. Vacation and retirement available after one year. Please call 607-278-5212 or email prgerster76@aol.com

**Help Wanted**

Gerster Trucking Now Hiring For: Class A CDL Drivers Local - Tank Endorsement Required Competitive Salary and Health Insurance Available Immediately. Paid Vacation and Retirement Plan Available after 1 Year Call 607-27



**LEGAL ADVERTISING**

running along lands of said Weerheim and others, S 16-17-20 E, 445.73 feet to the point of beginning, containing 5.482 acres and being LOT 1 shown upon a subdivision map prepared for A.L. Kellogg Elementary School, prepared by Ronald R. Mullenix, PLS dated August 8, 2011, revised October 26, 2011 and filed in the Delaware County Clerk's Office on March 7, 2012 as Filed Map No. 9191.

EXCEPTING THEREFROM AND RESERVING TO THE GRANTOR HEREIN ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, the permanent non-exclusive right to enter upon and use the "35' Right of Way" and the separate "Right of Way" leading from the 35' Right of Way northerly east of the circular drive and through the parking lot all as shown on the aforesaid Mullenix Survey filed as map #9191 over and across Lot 1 being retained by the Delhi Central School District (herein "the Rights of Way"), for all purposes of ingress and egress from Church Street to the premises delineated as Lot 2 on said survey map #9191. The Grantor Delhi Central School District, its successors and assigns, shall have the right to make use of the Rights of Way in such manner as not to be inconsistent with the use of the Rights of Way by the Grantee herein, its successors and assigns, and neither party shall place any buildings within said Rights of Way, and shall place no other structures, trees, permanent walls or fences, or other improvements within said Rights of Way that shall prevent or unreasonably interfere with the other's ability to use the same as aforesaid.

Middleburgh, NY 12122. Bidding contractors are strongly encouraged to have an authorized representative of their firm attend the pre-bid conference.

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

Interiors/Exterior Repairs Contract  
Foundation Stabilization Contract

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

Contract Documents, including Advertisement For Bids, Information For Bidders, Labor and Employment, Additional Instructions, Bid Documents, Agreement, General Conditions, Specifications, Contract Drawings and any Addenda, may be examined at no expense on-line at the following website: <https://de.biddyhq.com> or at the office of Delaware Engineering, D.P.C., 28 Madison Ave Extension Albany NY, 12203.

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

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

reengineering.com. Please note that <https://de.biddyhq.com> is the designated location and means for distributing and obtaining all bid package information. All Bidders are urged to register to ensure receipt of all necessary information including bid addenda. All bid addenda will be transmitted to registered plan holders via email and will be available at <https://de.biddyhq.com>. Plan holders who have paid for hard copies of the bid documents will need to make the determination if hard copies of the addenda are required for their use, and coordinate directly with REV for hard copies of addenda to be issued. There will be no charge for registered plan holders to obtain hard copies of the bid addenda.

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

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

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

The contractors must also be aware that they must comply with the most recent State wage rates under New York State Department of Labor ([www.labor.state.ny.us](http://www.labor.state.ny.us)). In addition, the contractor must comply, if applicable, with Labor Law 220, section 220-h, which requires that on all public work projects of at least \$250,000.00, all labor-

ers, workers and mechanics on the site be certified as having successfully completed the OSHA 10-hour construction safety and health course.

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

**Public Notice - Liquor License**  
Notice is hereby given that license, number 2204552 for on premise beer, cider, liquor and/or wine has been applied for by George E. Maltese to sell beer, cider, liquor and/or wine, at retail in a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 36 Main Street, Stamford, NY for on premises consumption.

**Public Notice - Wright**  
The Town of Wright Planning Board will hold a special meeting, at 7 o'clock, on Friday, March 10, 2023. The purpose of the meeting is for further review of the Full Environmental Assessment Form for the current application of the Bohler Engineering Dollar General project. The meeting will be held at the Gallupville Town Hall and is open to the public.

**Public Notice - Middleburgh**  
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE Zoning Board of Appeals of the Village of Middleburgh, New York will hold a public hearing pursuant to Attachment III, Section 1.51 of the Zoning Law of the Village of Middleburgh.

Appeal No. 01-23V is the request of Daniel Green (hereinafter Applicant), 392 Smith Road, Potter Hollow, NY for a Special Use permit pursuant to the Village of Middleburgh Zoning Law. Applicant wishes to use all or a portion of his property at 296 Main St. as a non-owner occupied short term rental facility (e.g. "Airbnb"). Said property is zoned Commercial, within which "Hotel, Motel, Tourist Homes" are listed as Special Uses in the aforesaid Zoning Law.

The hearing of the Zoning Board of Appeals regarding this special use permit request will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at the Village Hall, 309 Main Street, Middleburgh, NY, beginning at 7:00PM.

**Public Notice - Stamford**  
The Village of Stamford Board of Trustees will hold a workshop on Wednesday, March 15th, 2023 at 5:30pm to discuss the Short Term Rental Permit.

**Triangle Park, Continued from D1**

Park," suggested by an aficionado of Delhinian architecture, Lisa Tessier. Then there is Daily Star columnist Bob Cairns, who told me that Triangle Park originally did resemble a triangle, and it was only later that it was changed into a semi-circle. Cairn's point is that to

change the name would erase the park's history. Another small but extremely militant minority (of one) believes that the park should be physically altered back into its original triangular shape. We now turn the problem over to the Town Council to set up a special

session to decide whether the matter is important enough to consider. To table it would silence an important controversy, and could potentially lead to serious mental problems for the many sensible Delhinians who insist that word and thing match.

**Finance Committee Explores Extending Gas Tax Savings, Opposition to State Zero Emissions Goal & Short-Term Rental Issues**

**By Mary A. Crisafulli**  
DELHI - Delaware County Finance Committee members explored the possible extension of sales tax savings, opposing portions of New York States' 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, and town issues with short-term rentals at a committee meeting on Feb. 22.

Hamden Supervisor Wayne Marshfield reported that Jefferson County supervisors recently passed a law that will cap county sales tax collection at \$3 per gallon from June 1 until Dec. 1.

State legislation passed in 2022 permitted supervisors to adjust tax collected per gallon as low as \$2 or as high as \$4 from June until Dec. 31. Supervisors elected to cap the county sales tax on the first \$2 per gallon in April 2022. Committee members have expressed interest in continuing the savings on motor fuel though understood they needed permission from the state to do so.

"This could save our constituents quite a bit of money if gas prices go up again," said Marshfield.

Committee members were all in agreement this is something to look into further. Marshfield will contact Jefferson officials and inquire about how they passed such a resolution without state permission.

Marshfield also requested committee members consider submitting a resolution to supervisors opposing the state's climate

act, which includes a zero-emission electricity target of 2040.

Supervisors opposed the draft scoping plan in April 2022, which has since been adopted.

According to Marshfield, Wayne County and several other counties have passed a resolution in opposition. "The whole village of Walton runs on natural gas, and they are saying you can't use it," he said.

Bovina Supervisor Tina Molé said the best committee to draft a resolution would be the planning committee. Molé will request a special committee meeting to discuss the matter so a resolution can be placed on the agenda for the next board of supervisors meeting on Mar. 8.

In another discussion, Franklin Supervisor Jeffery Taggart raised concerns about short-term rental properties. Taggart requested that a portion of county bed tax revenue from rentals be reserved for towns to utilize if litigation arises due to non-compliant properties. He said several rentals in Franklin did not receive proper code enforcement inspections or permits, which he foresees as legal and safety concerns in the future.

Molé suggested Taggart speak with Economic Development Director Glenn Neails and Planning Department Director Shelly Johnson-Bennett regarding the request.

The county contracts with Granicus to regulate and document short-term

rental properties. The company continuously scans the multitude of short-term rental listing sights to produce a list of properties in each town that are both compliant and non-compliant with codes. They have begun sending letters to all non-compliant rental owners. According to Molé, of the letters sent nearly 25% of owners have responded and are working to become compliant.

At the board of supervisors meeting later in the day, Taggart made the request again to Neails, who agreed to meet with him and discuss logistics of the request and program with Granicus further.

In addition to the request, Taggart told committee members the number of short-term rental properties has placed an increasing burden on the town code enforcement officer and Franklin council members are exploring increasing fees for such inspections to compensate the town's budget.

Colchester Supervisor Art Merrill said his council is in the process of developing a short-term rental law due to similar concerns. According to Merrill, Margaretville has already passed a short-term rental ordinance.

Finance committee members entered into an executive session to discuss possible litigation. No decisions were made.

The next finance committee meeting is scheduled Wednesday, Mar. 8, at 10:30 a.m.

**Chemical Recycling Could Extend County Landfill Life**

**By Mary A. Crisafulli**

DELHI - Delaware County Solid Waste Director Tyson Robb reported at a Department of Public Works (DPW) meeting on Feb. 22 that a new chemical recycling plant could greatly benefit the county landfill facility. The company, based out of Texas, is planning to build a plant in Pennsylvania and is pursuing the collection of the county agricultural film waste. Agricultural films are plastics laid over open ground cops to protect and enhance the productivity of the farm. Currently, the films received are placed in landfill cells and can not be composted, said Robb. Approximately 50 tons a day, 13,000 annually, in film waste is sent to the landfill, he said, about 40% of last year's debris.

"The processing plants they are building need consistent feedstock," said Robb, "It would be great if Delaware County could get in on the ground floor of an operation like this." The partnership would expand the life of the landfill exponentially, he added.

One supervisor noted that agricultural films are often heavily contaminated and need to be cleaned before recycling.

Robb said a process for cleaning the product would need to be discussed. Representatives will tour Delaware County's facility and examine the waste next month. Companies have reached out to the county in the past for recycling opportunities. Several years ago, an organization

in the midwest wanted to use agricultural films to develop jet fuel. However, the shipping needed to be closer for the county to support the initiative, said Robb. A facility in Pennsylvania would be close enough to ship. "It is heartening to see such potential future gains in regional recycling," he concluded.

In other business: DPW Commissioner James Thomas is working to secure portions of the \$5 million awarded to Delaware County as a part of the state's BridgeNY program. Thomas said the application requires plans for specific bridge reconstruction projects.

Thomas, Robb, and other solid waste employees will tour the Rockland County composting facility on Mar. 2 to explore options for composting sludge. According to Robb, the county has struggled with sludge processing, and Rockland County exclusively composts these solids and could offer some insight into the issue.

Committee members approved the purchase of two plow trucks at \$308,000 each, two roll-off trucks at \$225,000 each, a walk-behind plate tamper for \$5,620, and a waste oil transfer pump for \$949.

Committee members entered into an executive session to discuss the employment of a particular individual. No decisions were made.

The next DPW committee meeting is scheduled Wednesday, Mar. 8, at 8:45 a.m.

**FreeDailyCrosswords.com**

- ACROSS**
- 1) Astronaut drink
  - 5) High points
  - 10) Native of Mecca
  - 14) Collection of miscellaneous things
  - 15) Public humiliation
  - 16) Prizefighter's garb
  - 17) Old-school "Amazing!"
  - 20) Word in several Agatha Christie titles
  - 21) It's usually lower in the winter
  - 22) "A Farewell To \_\_\_\_"
  - 25) Fall on \_\_\_\_ cars
  - 26) Comes down with
  - 29) Feedbag fill
  - 31) Serious productions
  - 35) Space-saver for writers
  - 36) Spaniard's sign-off
  - 38) Drink option
  - 39) Be ecstatic
  - 43) Popular salad fish
  - 44) Long-snouted mammal
  - 45) "To be or \_\_\_\_ to be"
  - 46) Decreases one's bankroll
  - 49) Bollywood wardrobe item
  - 50) Oinker's abode
  - 51) What many signs are written in
  - 53) Prefix meaning "left"
  - 55) Get a sense of
  - 58) Homeric epic
  - 62) How John Wayne rode
  - 65) New York canal
  - 66) Final resting place
  - 67) Stylish elegance
  - 68) Try out
  - 69) Gnawed away
  - 70) Turtle or dove's retreat

**NBA READY** By Corey Bowers

- DOWN**
- 1) "Sweeney \_\_\_\_"
  - 2) Cosmetic additive
  - 3) Singer Simone
  - 4) "Sorry, \_\_\_\_ run!"
  - 5) Silver-gray shade
  - 6) When doubled, a lively dance
  - 7) It has its plusses and minuses
  - 8) Place tiles in cement, e.g.
  - 9) Had the appearance of
  - 10) Archaeologist's prize
  - 11) Speckled reddish-brown
  - 12) Fit to perform the task
  - 13) \_\_\_\_ canto
  - 18) It may be cleared before a speech
  - 19) Wing-shaped
  - 23) Like a neat bed
  - 24) Stretch at work?
  - 26) Checks the weight
  - 27) Consumed
  - 28) Public display of temper
  - 30) Some convert into beds
  - 32) Partner of groans
  - 33) Dispense
  - 34) Like some pretzels
  - 37) Flower leaf
  - 40) Burrowing marine animal
  - 41) The Emerald Isle
  - 42) Quiz show fodder
  - 47) Noted surrealist
  - 48) Type of bath or cake
  - 52) Buddhist teaching
  - 54) Antiquated
  - 55) Cab passenger
  - 56) Yale students
  - 57) Just one of those things?
  - 59) Sit at a red light
  - 60) Mournful expression
  - 61) Bumper ding
  - 62) Vietnamese New Year
  - 63) Holiday brink
  - 64) One of a state's two, briefly



EDITORIAL

# A Good Step Forward

This week I'd like to highlight the efforts of SUNY Cobleskill President Dr. Marion Terenzio, who has given great effort during her almost-decade at the college. I've seen presidents and acting presidents come and go, and the stability and leadership is refreshing. I may be a little biased because I'm on campus twice a week, but I think that her efforts need to be lauded.

As an alum of the college, I really appreciate the enthusiasm that Dr. Terenzio brings to the office. She has focused on a number of improvement projects for SUNY, including a major number of aspects of agricultural and diesel technology that have already borne fruit. I think that there is still more to be done, but she showed special initiative with the Institute for Rural Vitality.

In last week's paper we reported on Dr. Terenzio's appointment to the New York State Rural Ambulance Task Force, which reflects both on her efforts and the unique position she is to solve a number of common issues with local first responder coverage.

I look forward to seeing what happens next and how the college can improve further and work more with the local community.

- Matthew Avitabile, Publisher

PS. - In the Feb. 17 edition of The Mountain Eagle about the Bovina Town Board, it was incorrectly reported that the town attorney is Allyson Davidson. The attorney is Allyson Phillips. It was also incorrectly reported that the estimate received for a replacement furnace was \$85,000. The estimate was between \$8,000 and \$9,000.

## Supers, from D1

Bureau representative Andy Kiraly, and Walton Grange Chapter member Bruce Dolph. He said that an election process and other proposed changes are expected to decrease county involvement in SWCDs. "To suggest changing the composition of our board of directors was unacceptable to us; this has become a widespread opposition statewide."

The resolution states, "Proposed changes would have a negative impact on the county SWCD management of environmental issues, local land management consequences and impact on county operations."

In another discussion, Hamden Supervisor Wayne Marshfield presented a resolution calling on the state to continue to pass on the Affordable Care Act enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage

(eFMAP) to counties.

Governor Kathy Hochul proposed that the state retain all ACA funding, leaving the county budget for Medicaid short by approximately \$1 million. NYS Medicaid qualifications were also recently expanded, increasing the number of individuals receiving Medicaid. The resolution notes the state will retain funds to expand Medicaid eligibility benefits further and increase payments to health care providers.

According to Marshfield, if the proposal is passed, the state will effectively add approximately one billion dollars to county budgets statewide. In addition, the state needs to catch up on reconciliations for eFMAP and owes the county roughly \$2.5 million. The resolution passed unanimously.

In other business: Lisa Driscoll was wel-

comed to the board as Harpersfield supervisor after Jim Eisel's resignation Feb. 17 due to health reasons.

Supervisors passed a resolution requesting the state to reinstate host benefit payments to Delhi Village for hosting SUNY Delhi campus. The resolution states, "The loss of this host benefit payment presents a financial hardship on the Village of Delhi due to the added burden of community and public safety services provided to the SUNY Delhi campus."

Planning Department Director Shelly Johnson-Bennett gave an overview of the planned Department of Defense Innovative Readiness Training Program, which will offer free walk-in health exams, youth sports physicals, eye exams, glasses prescriptions, dental exams and procedures, behavioral health screenings, and veterinary

# County to Host Defense Innovative Readiness Training Program

The Delaware County Board of Supervisors is pleased to announce a joint mission of the U.S. military and the County of Delaware with an Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) mission. IRT is a federally supported program through the US Department of Defense to ready military personnel for future potential deployment missions across the nation and throughout the world. Through the IRT program, military units are paired with communities willing to partner with them as a real-world field experience.

In September 2021, the Delaware County Planning Department worked with Southern Tier 8 Regional Board, to apply for a community site IRT mission, called "Healthy Delaware". In late 2022, "Healthy Delaware" was matched with the United States Army to host a military training operation and provide no cost medical and veterinary services to the public. As the Department of Defense is supporting this mission

care for domestic household pets. The event will be held from July 11 until July 19 at the Walton School District at 47-49 Stockton Avenue. The county applied to host the event in partnership with the Southern Tier 8 Regional Board. Johnson-Bennett said several organizations and county departments are assisting in the planning process. An event website and Facebook page are being developed.

Sean Penchoff was appointed to the Chenango-Delaware-Otsego Workforce

through military training budgets, the services are provided at no cost to the patients.

The IRT event will be held July 11th through the 19th and will be open as a "walk in" service to any person wanting to attend, where military personnel will provide Delaware County residents with no cost health exams, youth sports physicals, eye exams and glass prescriptions, dental exams and procedures, behavioral health screenings and veterinary care for domestic household pets.

As the host community, the Walton Central School District has very graciously volunteered to provide operations space at the Walton High School Complex. Delaware County will operate a command center at New Hope Church, and the Delaware County Board of Supervisors will be providing security, managing traffic flow, assisting with patient flow and organizing continuity of care services for those in need. The Board

has appointed the Director of Delaware County Planning & Watershed Affairs, Shelly Johnson

Bennett, to lead the community partnership. For additional questions, Shelly can be reached at (607) 832-5444.

Partnering with Delaware County, Delaware Opportunities will provide volunteers to assist on-site during the event and organize a community resource area where local services providers will be available to assist with long term care needs and services. If you are interested in volunteering to help with this event, please contact Delaware Opportunities at (607) 746-1600. Additionally, regional medical services through United Health Services in Walton, Bassett Health Care and Westchester Medical are participating to assist patients and provide additional services through their facilities.

To promote the event and engage volunteers, a website and Facebook page will be launched shortly.

Development Board. Taggart and Economic Development Specialist Sean Penchoff were appointed to the Southern Tier 8 Regional Planning and Development Board.

Supervisors passed a resolution in memory of former Stamford supervisor Robin W. Turner who passed away in January. "He was a very gentle man who cared very much for his town and county and will be greatly missed," said Tina Molé, Bovina supervisor and chairperson to the board of su-

perisors.

A grant for \$85,356 through NYS Homeland Security was accepted for maintenance and upgrade costs for emergency services equipment, including license plate reader trailer, hazmat equipment, cyber security equipment, and camera network systems.

A State Empire Development grant for \$45,807 was accepted into the tourism and promotion budget.

The next board of supervisors meeting is scheduled Wednesday, Mar. 8, at 1 p.m.

WHITTLING AWAY WITH DICK BROOKS

## Mr. Patten's Gas Station

I stopped by the gas station the other day and I got to remembering when gas stations were called service stations. Not much service is to be found nowadays except for the kind you do for yourself.

As folks of my grudgingly advancing age are prone to do, I had a flashback to the days when the car I drove cost less than a tank full of gas now does.

I was a strikingly handsome sixteen-year-old, in the prime of early manhood when my father, looking at me with pride in his eyes, uttered those few words that changed my young life forever—"Get a job kid". Jobs in rural northern New York in the Fifties were few and far between, usually, they involved things like helping during the haying season which meant long days in the hot sun and chaff in your underwear, or working in the barn which involved either feeding animals or cleaning up the residue after they had eaten. Having had about all the animal husbandry I wanted to be involved in, I decided to try for the big time. I asked Mr. Patten of Patten's Shell Station if he needed any help and to my amazement, he answered in the affirmative. I was now the proud holder of a real job with a title and everything—I was a Service Station Attendant.

Talk about service! Mr. Patten believed in "Circle Service". A car pulled in and you walked briskly to the driver's window and greeted the driver with the hopeful phrase, "Fill it up sir?" If they said, "Yes", they were probably out of towners, none of the locals ever filled it up. For some reason I cannot figure out even to this day, everyone ordered their gas by the gallon, "I'll take five gallons worth" was a common response. I would leap to the back end of the car in a spirited manner and try to find the gas cap. Not as easy as it sounds,

when you returned with their change and Green Stamps. If by some chance they had actually had the car filled, you brought them the glass or mug or whatever happened to be the premium that week. Duties completed, I would return to my SSA station sitting atop the Pepsi cooler to await my next customer satisfied that I was a useful member of society and of service to my fellow man. I was good! I even got a quarter tip once.

Putting the requested amount of gasoline into the tank was just the start of Circle Service. The windshield was washed, followed by the side windows and the rear one. Next, the car owner was asked if they would like their oil and water checked, that was done, the next question was if they would like the air pressure in their tires checked. All of these tasks completed, the SSA (Service Station Attendant-me) returned to the driver's window and in a polite, business-like manner, announced the amount due. "Five gallons of gas Sir, that'll be a dollar fifty please, and will there be anything else?" Frequently they would ask for a quart of milk or a loaf of bread which you would bring them from the store

when you returned with their change and Green Stamps. If by some chance they had actually had the car filled, you brought them the glass or mug or whatever happened to be the premium that week. Duties completed, I would return to my SSA station sitting atop the Pepsi cooler to await my next customer satisfied that I was a useful member of society and of service to my fellow man. I was good! I even got a quarter tip once. I'm glad that I had that experience in my youth, it comes in handy nowadays when I pull into the gas station, pump my own gas, wash my own windshield, check my own oil and water—forget checking the tires, not many air hoses to be found and drag a large bag of money into the store where a surly teen with a ring in his nose, wearing pants large enough to house his whole family, grunts something at me, stuffs the cash into the drawer and goes back to yelling into his cell phone. I'm kinda glad Mr. Patten never lived to see this.

Thought for the week—Start every day off with a smile and get it over with—W.C. Fields

Until next week, may you and yours be happy and well.

whittle12124@yahoo.com



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The Mountain Eagle (PE 23510) is published weekly except for the weeks of Thanksgiving and Christmas for \$75 by Upstate Weekly News, PO Box 162, Schoharie NY 12157. Periodicals postage paid at Middleburgh NY.  
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Mountain Eagle, PO Box 162, Schoharie NY 12157







# The Catskills Chronicle

Serving the Central Catskills • A Section of *The Mountain Eagle*

Rip Van Winkle

Volume 8, No. 8

mountaineaglenews@gmail.com

FRIDAY, February 24, 2023

\$1.00



## Celebrity Server

Acclaimed actor Kelsey Grammer, a part-time area resident, made a guest appearance at Belleayre Mountain on Sunday, Feb. 19 and enjoyed assisting with some work behind the bar. Kelsey is actually the founder of the Faith

American Brewing Company, which has Catskill Mountain roots. Visitors and staff enjoyed having beers poured by a celebrity — and he clearly had fun during the busy holiday weekend. — Belleayre Mountain photo

## Margaretville Is Exploring Water System Upgrade \$\$

By Mike Martin

The Village of Margaretville is exploring funding options for major repairs to its water system that are anticipated within the next few years, according to Mayor John Hubbell.

The mayor gave an update on the water system issues at the board's February 21 meeting. He indicated that, while there are no major repairs, per se, the entire aging system is due for an upgrade. The estimated cost for all the work that is expected is about \$1 million.

One significant part of the system that needs to be addressed, the mayor said, the water storage tank behind the hospital has exceeded its lifespan.

### Planning ahead

"While there are no issues at this time, we will have to within the next two years completely drain, clean and repaint the entire tank if it's not replaced. That cost is about 30 percent of a new tank or \$100,000," Mayor Hubbell told The Catskills Chronicle.

He also pointed out that the village has been having issues with the control systems that run the water system. The control system itself was obsolete about 10 years ago, he said. The mayor reported that the last time there were problems with the control system, it was necessary to utilize parts from a decommissioned system that the repair company had on hand.

Mayor Hubbell said the upgrades are not imminent, but the village board is proactively exploring funding options to help finance this work.

"There's no immediate emergency due to **continued on E4**

## Andes Board Hears Good News On Fund Balances

### CHIPS Funding, Property Sale, Mortgage Taxes Boost Budget

By Brian Sweeney

The Andes Town Board received good news at its February 14 meeting when a budget review showed significant fund balance increases in several areas.

Bookkeeper Karen Kropp gave a presentation to the board summarizing the town's finances once all transfers had been completed to balance the 2022 budget.

Ms. Kropp reported

that the town last year added \$143,000 in fund balances to the General Fund. She explained that more than half of this revenue came from the sale of the former highway garage property for \$80,000. She indicated that mortgage tax revenues from property sales were also considerably higher than budgeted. Fees from licenses and building permits also exceeded budget projections.

The budget clerk said spending in last year's budget went over allocations in several categories, but were not

significant enough to impact the overall fund balance gains.

In her report on Highway Fund finances, Ms. Kropp pointed to an even rosier picture with approximately \$700,000 added to the fund balance.

She pointed out that because Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) funding payments were delayed during the past two years, the Highway Department utilized a significant amount of fund balance in 2021 to offset the anticipated revenue. That funding, of

approximately \$400,000 was eventually received last March. The town received nearly \$600,000 in additional CHIPS funds in January.

"We received two years of CHIPS money in 2022. The town had spent more than \$620,000 (of its anticipated CHIPS money) for road work and we received all of that back, plus what was owed for 2021 — that's why that number looks exceptionally large compared to what we normally see," Ms. Kropp noted in explaining the approximate

\$700,000 gain in fund balance. "The difference was CHIPS spent, but not received (at that time)."

In her review of the Andes Water District budget, Ms. Kropp stated, "It isn't good news."

She said the Water District budget has slowly been increasing the amount of money from the General Fund utilized to meet budget obligations. That shortfall is now up to \$85,000. She expects the Water District to and go further into the negative fund balance **continued on E4**

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South Kortright overcame a slow start to down Margaretville in the Delaware League Crossover Championship on February 14. The Blue

Devils (pictured after the Crossover contest) bounced back on February 21 with an opening round Sectional win over Downsville.

# MCS Falls In Crossover; Rebounds In Sectionals

**By Julia Marks**

The Margaretville varsity boys' basketball team fell to the South Kortright Rams in the Delaware League Crossover Championship game at SUNY Delhi on Valentine's Day, but posted a decisive win over the visiting Eagles of Downsville this week to advance in the Section IV tournament.

At the Crossover Championship last week, the Blue Devils jumped out to an early lead, hitting back-to-back three-pointers to take a 15-8 lead at the end of the first quarter. The Rams battled back in the second, scoring nine points before Margaretville struck back with a three-pointer to tie it at 18. South Kortright had the run of play going into halftime, carrying a seven-point lead into halftime.

In what would become a tale of two halves, the Rams outscored the Blue Devils 19-2 in the third quarter, sinking Margaretville into a hole it wouldn't be able to dig itself out of. The Blue Devils tallied only eight points in the fourth quarter while the Rams scored 12 en route to a 60-31 final score, earning South Kortright its eighth consecutive Delaware League title.

The Rams were led by Connor Quarino with 20 points and Trenton Cole with 18, while the Blue Devils were led by Connor Wayman with 11.

In the opening round of the boys' Section IV Class D tournament on Tuesday night, fifth-seeded Margaretville (14-4) hosted 12th-seeded Downsville (9-11). Senior Ryan

McVitty opened the scoring for MCS, sinking a three-pointer that was immediately answered by Downsville senior Gavin Brunner to tie the score.

The Blue Devils held a four-point lead at the end of the first quarter. At the start of the second, McVitty, Hunter Balcom, and Cody Wayman combined for six points to give MCS its first 10-point lead of the game. Eli Bullock put the Blue Devils up 25-13 with 2:30 left in the quarter; McVitty nailed a three-pointer with just under a minute left to give MCS a 20-point lead going into halftime.

The Eagles struck first in the third quarter to make it 36-14, but Cody Wayman answered again for the Blue Devils to make it 36-14. The third

quarter was the Cody Wayman and Ryan McVitty show, with the two combining for 11 points. Downsville got a three-pointer from eighth-grader Tyler Reed to make it 40-27 with 30 seconds left, and Brunner added four points just before the half to make it 51-28.

In the opening seconds of the final quarter, the Eagles came alive, scoring three quick points in the first 20 seconds; Downsville outscored the Devils 16-12, but the deficit was too great to overcome, and MCS earned a 63-44 win to advance to the second round of the sectional tournament, where they will face host Southern on Friday, Feb. 24 at 6 p.m.

Margaretville is coached by Chad Richards.



Margaretville's Cody Wayman prepares to take a shot during Crossover contest against South Kortright. — Photos by Julia Marks

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# Getting Out There

By Peter Manning

## Balsam Mountain Hike

I had a call out of the blue the other night. Joe, a childhood friend, and two hiking partners were going to travel three hours to climb Balsam and Eagle mountains, both Catskill high peaks. The meeting place would be the McKinley Hollow Trailhead. I pondered but did not commit – and even indicated chances were slight. But with a day to let it sink in, the hiking bug soon got the best of me, surprise, surprise. I hatched a plan to participate. I would climb Balsam from the closer (to me) Rider Hollow Trailhead, meet them at the summit, and skip the jaunt out to Eagle, which also includes Haynes Mountain along the way.

Although I never take living in the Catskills for granted, the fact that these guys would be spending six hours (and maybe more) in a car to hike here only reinforced my appreciation for having Rider Hollow in my greater backyard.

The last thing Joe and I agreed to in our land-line conversation was that he would text me from the Kingston interchange of the Thruway, for timing purposes. (Yes, I now have an iPhone - that's another story).

### Communication breakdown

Unbeknownst to me at the time, my efforts to explain the Plan-B summit meeting to him via text failed. Fortunately, I received his text, probably as I drove over the higher elevations on the way to Rider Hollow. At the trailhead, my screen said of his text: "24 minutes ago." Was that sent? Received? And how long was that message bouncing around in the mountains? Ah well, I harbored an optimism, borne of thinking I'd be ahead of them.

From Rider Hollow, Balsam Mountain is a 5.3-mile loop hike with about 1,700 feet of elevation gain. It's challenging but it comfortably fits



Balsam Mountain from Margaretville Mountain. — Photos by Peter Manning

within a half day. The loop option, being relatively rare for a Catskills five-miler, contributes to the popularity of this hike. And at 3,600 feet, the mountain is a requirement for those collecting hikes to all the high peaks. Plus, there's an amazing view. If you haven't tried this hike, take Dry Brook Road 4.6 miles out of Arkville and follow the brown-and-white wayfinding signs.

Although vehicular access terminates at the trailhead, the old road continues much farther into the hollow as a trail. Evidence of prior human settlement is found along the way and former structures are shown on old USGS topographic maps (see the USGS Historical Topographic Map Explorer).

In the summer, the occasional Bee Balm flower will signal the location of a former home-site. Another interesting piece of human history is the metal bridge you encounter near the Rider Hollow Lean-to. The material was taken from the former Belleayre Mountain Fire Tower. This tower was anchored to the easternmost summit of Belleayre in 1930 and removed in 1985. The loop hike will bring you to a point that is just under a mile and 500 feet below where the tower once stood.

After Hurricane Irene, a portion of the trail (known as both the Olive-rea-Mapledale Trail and the McKinley Hollow Trail) was rerouted not far from the Rider Hollow Trailhead. Leaving the old road, the reroute climbs abruptly to the left, where the fork in the trail for each portion of the loop is encountered. Taking the fork to the right brings you right back down to the stream and the old road. For this reason, the hiker is often inclined to continue upward and to the left on the Mine Hollow Trail. Moving up through the narrow ravine and a stand of hemlocks, this trail reaches the first significant rock outcrops just before topping out at the height of land, one mile from the junction.

At this point, you're on the Catskill Divide and the blue-marked Pine

Hill-West Branch Trail. The watershed to the east goes to the Hudson River, while water running down to the west is on its way to the Delaware River. The PH-WB Trail runs this divide for much of its way, before ducking into the headwaters of Biscuit Brook and reaching Ulster County Route 42 at 14 miles.

Heading south from the Mine Hollow junction, the PH-WB Trail moseys along this nearly flat section of the divide, until the flanks of Balsam Mountain present themselves. This is where the families of mountain gnomes reside. You might catch a glimpse of one scurrying behind an outcrop, according to my then-eight-year-old son. Lunging up through the rock passes, you will enjoy greater strides than the gnomes, but they are faster, when they want to be. Entering the summit evergreens with an elevated heartrate you might even begin to feel like a gnome.

### Stunning view

The view just below the summit is tremendous, one of the famed Catskill overlooks. And there's Joe. He doesn't see me. I nonchalantly address him, and he replies in like fashion. Then it hits him that it's me. After all, those guys had written me off when they arrived at McKinley, since they never got my text. And now they need to continue their 10-mile outing. Heading down to the four-way junction, Joe and I bat the conversation back and forth much faster than our hiking pace, as the others fly out of sight.

With their sandwiches out at the intersection, we discuss a variety of Catskill topics. One of these is the call to create marked trails on the trailless high peaks. We span and occupy the varying viewpoints on this likely change. Realizing that it won't happen overnight, we exchange good-byes as they hike up and I begin the trot down. Descending the hollow, I reflect on the many reasons, excuses, and challenges that bring us to the mountains. Perhaps none is more appreciated than someone reaching out and asking you to go.

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



"When you come to the fork in the road, take it." — attributed to Yogi Berra

## Hospital Planning Art Auction

MARGARETVILLE — The Margaretville Hospital, a unit of Westchester Medical Center, will host its third annual Art Auction on Saturday, May 20, at Liberal Arts Roxbury on Main Street, Roxbury.

Approximately 25 pieces of art will be sold at auction by Chuck McIntosh of McIntosh Auction Service in Margaretville. Proceeds will be directed to specific projects at the hospital.

A variety of art by both local artists and others will be offered at the evening event. The art will be displayed starting May 13, potentially with separate event showings available during the week.

A webpage will be available for interested viewers, along with purchase now options.

Previously, the auctions have been a source for state of art equipment purchases for the nascent Women's Health program at the hospital, having raised more than \$30,000.

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# Here's The Scoop

## Dinner & A Movie

By Brian Sweeney

I like dinner parties. These gatherings offer a chance to catch up with friends, enjoy some laughs and consume great food and some refreshing beverages. You can also learn stuff. On occasion, too much.

As you may have guessed, my wife and I recently attended a get-together that included all these elements. Just like at those restaurants where customers can watch their meals being prepared, The Chef (as I will refer to him) at this gathering was putting together our meal as we sat around the counter and observed his technique. This was really cool — especially for a spectator whose kitchen skills are pretty much limited to pushing the toaster lever and knowing the exact amount time for warming coffee in the microwave.

### Lots of preparation

Not only did The Chef explain his process as he went along, but he had spent considerable time researching recipes and even the history of the dish he was preparing. The excellent results were apparent from the first bite.

Making this action even more impressive was the fact that The Chef was not only cooking and discussing his approach, he was also chatting about other topics as well. Maybe it was the multi-tasking, but that's when it slipped out that The Chef had recently watched the entire Twilight movie series. Honestly, this news was so unexpected I can't remember if it was The Chef or his wife who divulged this little tidbit. No matter. The Chef totally owned it. Not a shred of embarrassment.

Honestly, I don't know much about The Twilight Saga except there are vampires involved. I did a bit of research for this column and discovered there were five movies and they grossed \$3.346 billion! Obviously, *someone* was paying attention to these films. I just never figured The Chef as a fan.

### Wrong profile?

The only other knowledge I had regarding this series was that the audience was on the "younger" side. The Chef is by no means old, but it's been a few decades since he was popping wheelies on his new bicycle with a banana seat.

Plus, this is a fellow who is more than content to zip around on his four-wheeler, equipped with several chainsaws, ready to tackle any obstacles that arise here on the mountainside. When he's not engaged in such activities, he's usually building something in his expansive shop. He's the embodiment of "never busier than in retirement." I guess that's why I never thought of The Chef as being anywhere close to his "Twilight" years.

### Another admission

Once the initial shock of this announcement wore off, The Chef didn't really speak much about his movie-watching revelation. Given the subject matter of these films, he probably thought it was a pain in the neck. Or, maybe he didn't want to spoil the plots in case others now felt they now had license to binge-watch this series.

This, of course, got me thinking about my own movie choices. A few years back I announced in this space my admiration for the Paddington Bear series. You read that correctly. I firmly stand by this endorsement.

On the other hand, my wife still cringes on the rare occasion when I mention that, while I was a huge fan of rock-n-rollers like Led Zeppelin and Mountain during my teenage years, I sometimes enjoyed the "soft" sounds of the Bread. I put this in print, despite the fact that my wife often reminds me about this uncharacteristic revelation, "You'd better not tell anyone about the Bread listening."

# Margaretville Is Exploring Water System Upgrade \$\$

**continued from E1**  
the fact that the (village's) Department of Public Works (DPW) staff has learned to deal with the system and has been able to keep it going for some time. The issues will come in if we must repair it again. Fingers crossed on that," he stated.

Mayor Hubbell added, "This information is just dealing with what I consider the issues at hand. We also have in the village many sections of the water system that are 100 years old and it's becoming the norm for DPW to be working on water leaks."

### Reaching out

The mayor said he's been in touch with local state representatives to determine if there's a grant available to help finance upgrades to the water system. He was planning to meet with several officials this week to discuss funding options. He said that problem being encountered is, as long as your system is operational, funding is difficult to obtain.

"Frustration comes in when you try to be proactive and fix it before it breaks," he stated.

The Margaretville mayor explained that, if the village had studies

completed before COVID hit and money had been secured, the work could have been done for a lot less expense. He said the quote for the control systems has approximately tripled in three years.

"Hopefully we'll be able to secure some financial aid through the state and federal government sources to work on these problems," Mayor Hubbell added.

### Tax topic

In other business, Margaretville Fire Department Chief Nelson Delameter was present to speak on the topic of a proposed real property tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and first responders. This proposal would allow a 10 percent tax exemption on real property for these volunteers.

In explaining the proposal, Mr. Delameter noted that there would be a list of requirements developed outlining qualifications that would need to be met for this exemption. He said that details are still be worked out, but items like length of service and the percentage of calls responded to would be among the determining factors. He stressed that, in an era

when volunteerism is in steep decline, the tax exemption is seen primarily as a means of retaining personnel rather than an incentive for recruitment.

Following his presentation, the village board voted to set a public hearing on the proposal for March 22 at for 4:45 p.m.

Diane Galusha, president of the Historical Society of the Town of Middletown (HSM), also gave a presentation. She thanked the board for its continued support and then gave an update on the 1,100-square-foot addition planned for the organization's building on Cemetery Road. The expanded space is slated to house archives, an office, reading room, and lobby.

### Raising funds

Ms. Galusha explained that the HSM has an ongoing capital campaign with proceeds to be utilized to help fund furnishings and landscaping. On another historical topic, she noted that repairs, primarily to headstones, are needed at the Margaretville Cemetery itself.

Looking ahead, Ms. Galusha noted some of the HSM's upcoming programs such including The Living History

Tour at Margaretville Cemetery on June 17 and, in August, Middletown Ablaze, A History of Fires in Middletown Over the Last 100 Years.

- A Public Hearing for proposed updates to the village's Property Maintenance Law under the NYS Uniform Building Code was scheduled for March 22 at 4:50 p.m.

- It was noted that an audit was required due to the village receiving more than \$750,000 in grant funding. The audit was performed by RBT Certified Public Accountants and returned with no major comment from the State.

- Mayor Hubbell reported there will be a budget workshop to be held at Village Hall on March 7 at 5 p.m.

- Regarding Delaware County Resolution 34 involving the acceptance of New York City's Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD), Mayor Hubbell and the Trustees voted to table approval of this document until further study could be conducted.

- A representative of Delaware County Soils & Water is scheduled to provide a presentation concerning local Flood analysis (LFA) at the village board's March meeting.

# Andes Town Board Hears Good News

**continued from E1**  
ance "to the tune of about \$29,000 this year." Repair issues with a district well are responsible for most of this increase.

The Andes Sewer District also reflects a negative fund balance. Ms. \_\_\_ reported good news

on that front, with that negative balance dropping from \$62,000 to about \$15,000.

She noted that the Sewer District still owes reimbursement money to the Highway Fund.

"Hopefully, if this (sewer budget) continues to go in the right

direction, we can start to send some of this money back to the Highway Fund," she pointed out.

In another matter, it was noted that the Highway Department normally has utilized approximately 4,000 cubic yards of sand/salt

by this point in an average winter. To date the Andes Highway Department has used only about 1,000 cubic yards of material due to the lack of snowfall. It was pointed out that winter can always return on short notice and change things dramatically.

## Delaware County Deed Transfers

By or against	Town	In Favor of	Transfer Tax
<b>Date: Feb. 14</b>			
CHAMBERS WAYNE S CHAMBERS LLOYD M JOHNSON RITA J CHAMBERS ROBERTA (ADMIN)	DAVENPORT	GUNDLACH NATHAN	192.00
FREIMOUR LEON	ROXBURY	DALTON MICHAEL WILLIAM	328.00
BOURKE LESTER L SR WRIGHT CYNTHIA E	MIDDLETOWN	SZPROCH ARTHUR SZPROCH EMILY	1,580.00
LANDSMAN ROBERT H	DELHI	LANDSMAN SANDRA L	0.00
DUNLOP WILLIAM K DUNLOP KAREN L	HAMDEN	DUNLOP WILLIAM K DUNLOP KAREN E DUNLOP MARK F	0.00
<b>Date: Feb. 15</b>			
WRIGHT GERALD T (BY ATTY) WRIGHT MATTHEW (ATTY)	HAMDEN	WRIGHT MATTHEW	0.00
CONDON DANIEL C KING NORMA DAHLGREN KA REN J (EST OF/ADMIN OF) ROOSA KA REN J (EST & ADMIN OF/AKA) JOHNSON-MOODY SUSAN (AKA) ROOSA KEITH A (ADMIN) MOODY SUSAN	MIDDLETOWN	676 WINTER LLC	1,400.00
TIGERFISH REAL ESTATE I LLC	DAVENPORT	DELAWARE RIVER SOLA R REAL ESTATE LLC	290.00



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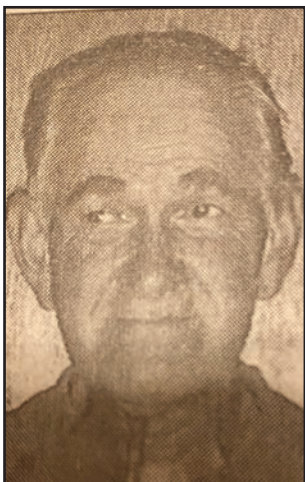
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SIDNEY  
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ROSCOE  
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# Obituaries



## William Irwin

William (Bill) A. Irwin, 88, of Roxbury passed away February 15, 2023 at Margaretville Memorial Hospital. He was the son of the late Walter and Sarah Mead Irwin. Bill was born on September 5, 1934 in the house he grew up in.

Bill was a farmer and

worked at Mountainside Farms dairy plant in Roxbury, for over 30 years, retiring in 1999. Bill was enjoying life on the farm with his wife, Evelyn, and the animals. Bill would give Evelyn convertible rides on the four-wheeler down the road.

On Saturday mornings breakfast at Creekside. They would also take there occasional rides down Route 28 & Route 23. Sunny days were spent at home, outside with Sadie, playing with her pine cones.

Bill is survived by his wife, Evelyn of 54 years; his children Edward Irwin and his wife Kelly, Sarah Irwin, Sadie his granddoggie, and along with nieces, nephews and cousins.

Bill was predeceased by his parents, a son

William A. Irwin Jr, brothers Walter, George, Ray, Bruce and sisters Helen Raymond, May Wright and Viola Pearsall.

Calling hours were held on Monday, February 20 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Miller Funeral Home, in Roxbury. A funeral service was held on Tuesday, February 21 at 11 a.m. with committal in Roxbury Cemetery, with the Rev. Dykstra officiating.

After the service the family held a gathering at the Roxbury Fire Hall.

In lieu of flowers, we encourage any donations go to the Roxbury Library, P.O. Box 186, Roxbury, NY 12474 or the Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 514, Roxbury, NY 12474.

## Worship Service Directory

**ADVENT CHRISTIAN MARGARETVILLE**  
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845-586-4601  
Sunday Worship Service, 11am  
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Wednesday 6 pm, April-November

**BAPTIST STAMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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Associate Pastor Shawn Frazer  
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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, Margaretville, 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

**CHRISTIAN CENTER - CONTEMPORARY**  
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Margaretville NY 12455  
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New Kingston NY 12459  
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**REFORMED CHURCH JAY GOULD MEMORIAL REFORMED CHURCH**  
53837 NY Highway 30, Roxbury, NY 12474  
Phone: (607) 326-7101  
Time of Service  
9:30 am Sunday  
Rev. Richard Dykstra

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

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ANDES UMC**  
327 Lower Main Street, Andes NY 13731  
10:30 am Sundays

**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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## OCS Kindergarten Registration Open For Fall Enrollment

BOICEVILLE — It's time to register your child for Kindergarten. Children who turn five on or before December 1, 2023 are eligible to attend Kindergarten beginning in September 2023.

To register online, parents or guardians should click here <https://bit.ly/3X0TXMa>. The link for online registration is the red button in the middle of the page. Please be sure to choose the 2023-2024 school

year. Current Universal Pre-K parents should simply update their already established registration using the Parent Portal.

Once your child is completely registered, you will be contacted with an appointment for Kindergarten screening.

If you have any questions, you may contact Sharon Wood, Ontario's District Registrar, by calling 845 657-6383, ext. 1023.

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# Events Calendar

## Saturday, Feb. 25

The Bovina Library Bicentennial Art Project Gallery Show is opening on Saturday, February 25 from 5-7 p.m. The show includes paintings of the historic Bovina landmarks that were commissioned specifically for Bovina's Bicentennial Celebration last summer. Contact librarian Annette Corvelo at bovinalibrary@gmail.com or at 607 832-4884.

## Thursday, March 2

Gertrude's Hair Salon, a monthly reading aloud experience and get-together inaugural evening is set for Thursday, March 2 at 6 p.m. at Diamond Hollow Books in Andes. Diamond Hollow Books, 72 Main Street, Andes. For information, please call 347 262-4187.

## 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. Located at 53525, State Highway 30, Roxbury. Email info@liberalarts roxbury.com.

## Through March 12

1053 Gallery in Fleischmanns is presenting an exhibit titled DEPARTURES, including works by Janice La Motta, Kate Quarfordt and Christie Scheele. DEPARTURES is a survey of work made in response to the pandemic by 24 New York artists. The show will run through March 12. The gallery is located at 1053 Main Street, Fleischmanns. Info at: 1053gallery.com, phone 845 254-3461.

## March, 18, 19, 25, & 26

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

## Through March 19

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. The exhibit will run through Sunday, March 19. Information at: longyeargallery.org, or call 845 586-3270. Longyear Gallery located at 785 Main Street, Margaretville.

## 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.

# Gertrude's Hair Salon Appointment Set March 2

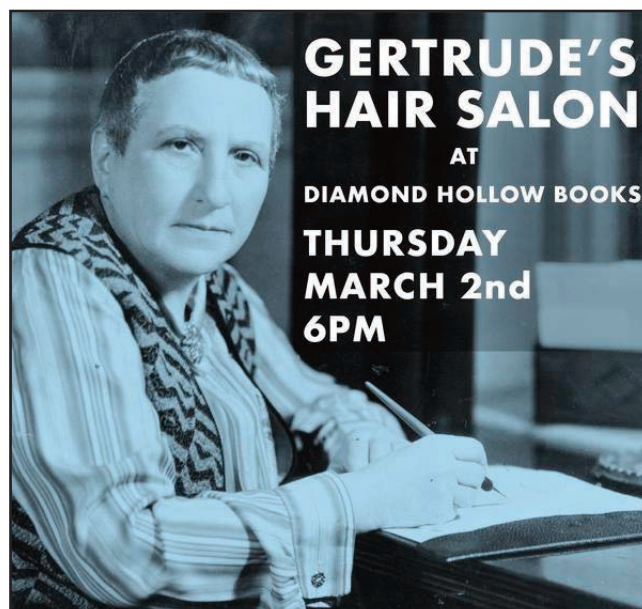
ANDES — Gertrude's Hair Salon, a monthly reading aloud experience and get-together inaugural evening is set for Thursday, March 2 at 6 p.m. at Diamond Hollow Books in Andes.

Hosted by Iris and Miles, the format of this salon is decidedly experimental: let it evolve based on what we make of it. Please bring a piece of writing, either your own or something you've read that moved you. It might be a poem, a chapter of a novel or an essay, something you read in the paper or an email from your boyfriend. It might be a

grocery list, a manifesto or a prayer.

Size of the group will determine how much time we can allot to readings and responses. Children — and their contributions — are welcome. We'll sit in chairs in a circle. Bring food and drink if you can. The snazzier the better.

Admission is free but everyone's encouraged to leave a donation to make the flourishing of Diamond Hollow Books a little more likely. Diamond Hollow Books, 72 Main Street, Andes. For information, please call 347 262-4187.



**GERTRUDE'S HAIR SALON**  
AT  
DIAMOND HOLLOW BOOKS  
**THURSDAY**  
**MARCH 2nd**  
**6PM**

Gertrude's Hair Salon, a monthly reading aloud experience and get-together inaugural evening is set for Thursday, March 2 at 6 p.m. at Diamond Hollow Books in Andes.

# Bovina Library Unveils Bicentennial Art Project Gallery

BOVINA — The Bovina Library Bicentennial Art Project Gallery Show is opening on Saturday, February 25 from 5-7 p.m.

The show includes paintings of the historic Bovina landmarks that were commissioned specifically for Bovina's Bicentennial Celebration last summer. The li-

brary walls will be transformed into a gallery of historic Main Street structures showcasing the ten interpretive paintings created by the following local artists: Mike Casey, Tim Cunningham, Sandy Finkenberg, Lisbeth Firmin, Lori Glavin, Scott Hill, Gary Mayer, Richard Mills, Antonio

Mora and Corneel Verlaan.

Full-size prints of the paintings will be available, any of which can be ordered for \$80 [cost + donation/handling]. Prints will be ready for pickup within a week or two after they are paid for.

There will be refreshments and drinks. And a

chance to meet and visit with the artists.

The show will be on display through April. Library Hours: Tuesday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wednesday: 1-7 p.m.; Thursday: 1-5 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Contact librarian Annette Corvelo at bovinalibrary@gmail.com or at 607 832-4884.

# Riel Peerbooms Named CEO of Frost Valley YMCA

CLARYVILLE — Frost Valley YMCA is pleased to announce that Riel Peerbooms has been appointed as the new CEO following the retirement of long-time CEO Jerry Huncosky.

Peerbooms is uniquely qualified for the position, with over 30 years of experience working with non-profit organizations, specializing in youth service, education, and development. He has served as the Executive Director of Trail Blazers Camp, Inc. since 2008, leading the way in development and strategic planning, operations, donor management and recognition, as well as program management and educational design. These are just a few of the many incredible accomplishments Peerbooms has seen in a career that has been devoted to serving children through education



Riel Peerbooms

and camping before joining the Frost Valley YMCA team. He is expected to take office on March 3, 2023.

Peerbooms has also served as a member of Community Board 9 in Brookly for five years, as well as serving as their Chair of the Economic Development Committee since 2018 and their Chair of the Education Committee since 2021.

Peerbooms's background in education is what led him to become an industry leader for non-profit camp organizations.

According to Peerbooms, "My early experiences in camp influenced every subsequent role, as a science teacher, high school guidance and crisis counselor, community leader, and business executive.

"The camping perspective provided me with an ability to find uniquely effective and creative solutions to the challenges of the competitive non-profit land-

scape," he added.

Frost Valley YMCA is a values-driven organization that fosters youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility through outdoor educational and recreational programs for all.

The organization provides year-round access to nature and fun through programs such as summer camp, adventure trips, farm camp, equestrian programs, group and family retreats, family weekends, school trips, teambuilding, and more.

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## EVENTS CALENDAR

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**Enjoy The Presidents' Week Holiday!**





## Stating Their Case

On Thursday, February 9, the alpine ski teams from local schools competed at sectionals which were held at Belleayre Mountain. Racers from Hunter; Windham, Margaretville and Roxbury all competed. Both the men's and women's teams from Windham won the Delaware League and Section 4 championship. The top six men's and

women's individual racers move on to state competition. This year the men's Section 4 State Team is comprised of Ryan McVitty (Margaretville), John Garzone (Windham) JP Klein (Windham), Dennis Slauson (Roxbury), Chase Norwick (Margaretville), and Slade Tynan (Windham), and the alternate is William Schnider (Hunter - not pictured).



The women's Section 4 state team is comprised of Sophia Dyjak (Windham), Piper Cohan (Windham), Erin Klein (Windham); Teagan Walsh (Corning Painted Post), Gianna Garzone (Windham), Teagan Mahoney

(Hunter), and the alternate is Gabriella Sines (Margaretville - not pictured). This year's state competition is held at Bristol Mountain on February 27 and 28. They advanced after competition at Belleayre Mountain.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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**MAIN STREET OFFICE/RETAIL SPACE** available. Prime turn key location in the Village of Fleischmanns with 640 sq ft., onsite parking, storage, and creekside access. \$900 per month, includes utilities. Please call Village Clerk @ 845-254-5514.

**HOUSE FOR RENT** for able-bodied person who can remove snow from church steps & walks and perform lawn care for church & parsonage, 5 BDRM, KIT, DNG RM,

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## LEGAL NOTICES

### NOTICE

The Town of Hardenburgh will convene a Special Town Board Meeting at Town Hall at 51 Rider hollow Rd, to be held on March 9, 2023. At said Meeting the Board will conduct Town business that could not be conducted at the February 9, 2023 meeting due to a lack of a lawful quorum due to Board member illness. Immediately following this Special Town Board Meeting the Town will hold its Regular Monthly Meeting.

By order of the Town Supervisor:  
Date: February 13, 2023  
Wendy M. Buerge,  
Town Clerk  
MAR3C

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Town of Roxbury

The Town of Roxbury is seeking Requests for Proposals (RFP) for professional services for updating the current Town Comprehensive Plan. A complete RFP information package is available on the Town of Roxbury website [www.roxburyny.com](http://www.roxburyny.com). Proposals must be received before 4:00 pm on March 30, 2023 and may be emailed to [peg@mark-project.org](mailto:peg@mark-project.org) or mailed to Roxbury Town Hall, PO Box 189, 56 Hillcrest Drive, Roxbury, NY 12474. The Town of Roxbury reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

Diane Pickett,  
Town Clerk  
Town of Roxbury  
Dated: Feb. 21, 2023  
MAR3C

### PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF BUDGET WORKSHOP Village of Fleischmanns

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Village Board of Fleischmanns, New York will hold a Budget Workshop at the Skene Memorial Library at 1017 Main Street, Fleischmanns, New York on Monday, February 27, 2023 at 5:00 pm to discuss item proposals for the creation of the 2023-2024 Village Budget.

By Order of the Board of Trustees  
Village of Fleischmanns,  
New York  
Diane Rossman  
Village Clerk  
MAR3C

## BOWLING NEWS

ARK BOWL & BBQ WOMEN'S LEAGUE • Stats for 2/16/23

Team Name	W	L	High Game
Spillian	49	23	Sue Wixon 156,
ROI	43	29	Amanda Goodchild 155,
JM Lawncare	43	29	Lisa Friscia 154
JK Tinting	39.5	32.5	
Better Late Than Never	38.5	33.5	
Bye	0	56	
High Series			Amanda Goodchild 441,
			Sue Wixon 434,
			Lisa Friscia 400



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# Fleischmanns Lights Up Holiday With Presidential Bonfire

FLEISCHMANN'S — The Village of Fleischmanns celebrated the Presidents' Day holiday in hot fashion with a bonfire in the village park on the evening of Saturday, Feb. 18.

Village officials asked local visual artist Miguel Martinez-Riddle to build a bonfire as a means of celebrating the President's Day holiday period. Miguel was selected because of his expertise in this arena, having served as the resident ceremonial bonfire artist at the nearby magical and historic event venue Spillian for five years. It was during his work at Spillian that Miguel developed a recognizable style for bonfire preparation.

In the past, various attempts to create a celebratory bonfire in the village park were thwarted by wind, ice and drought conditions. Fortunately, the weather cooperated, and this year's ceremony went off smoothly, with the fire set up on the baseball field section of the Wagner Avenue park.

Wadler Brothers Inc. home improvement store in Fleischmanns continued its tradition of donating pallets and scrap wood to fuel the fire.

"The bonfire was a success thanks to Wadler Brothers Inc. We are grateful for their generosity," Miguel remarked.

When things got going full force, spectators enjoyed the view from stadium seats in the ball field, and from

as far away as Highmount and the Dry Brook Valley, with flames soaring 30 feet into the air, framed by the beautiful Catskill Forest Preserve.

While the bonfire was set up to reflect Miguel's vision, he had ample assistance to create the proper atmosphere — and to ensure safety. He expressed appreciation to the volunteers from the Fleischmanns Fire Department, particularly Officer Billy Haines who donated many hours of his in helping with the construction of the bonfire. In a job that came full circle, Billy and other FFD members later manned hoses and worked to contain any wandering embers, safely extinguishing the coals at the end.

Village of Fleischmanns Trustee Yesmin Sarabia organized volunteers and helped with the event, along with Trustees Samuel Gil and Stewart Cohen. Mayor Winifred Zubin was among those in attendance, and greeted the onlookers with hot chocolate and warm cheer. S'mores were provided for the kids.

Looking ahead, one village official noted that, it won't be long before the "hot" action at the village park will again be provided in the form of Vintage Baseball competition. The Fleischmanns-based Mountain Athletic Club will begin its 2023 "old time" baseball season on May 20 when the club hosts the Providence Grays.



Visitors enjoy the holiday bonfire at the Fleischmanns Village Park on February 18.



Bonfire creator Miguel Martinez-Riddle basks in the glow of his creation.

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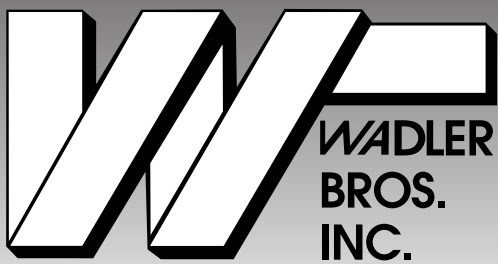
Wadler Bros. Inc. supplied the bulk of the materials for the Fleischmanns bonfire.



### PROGRAM SCHEDULE

2/24 Fri	6:00PM - Citizen News Bureau - Lori Fairbairn brings you the Weekend Weather report for the Catskill Region.
	6:30PM - WARK Community Television Archives - The Larry Smith Show. Watch as Larry takes to the slopes at Belleayre Mountain.
2/25 Sat	7:00PM - Mostly Folk Artie talks with James Kahn - a retired ER doctor, singer/songwriter and writer, who 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 and more.
	7:30PM - The Reporter - Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer's visit to Delaware County to talk about The Critical Access Hospital program which allows rural healthcare providers to receive federal reimbursements to help ensure they are able to service patients.
2/26 Sun	8:00PM - The Jerry Bartlett Memorial Angling Collection at the Phoenicia Library presents "Ray Smith: The Legend Lives on with Preston Woolheater".
	6:00PM - Delaware County News Update - Julia Marks and Matt Avitabile bring you the latest news from the Delaware County Region.
2/27 Mon	6:30PM - The Hiker Trash Husbands. Join Jeff and Moe as they hike up to The Palenville Overlook which sits above the Village of Palenville, right at the eastern edge of the Catskill Mountains. It offers a tremendous view of the entire Hudson Valley.
	7:00PM - Focus on the Arts - Elizabeth Mami talks with Geoffrey Doyle from Foothills Performing Arts Center where they discuss the wonderful shows coming up and ongoing at the venue.
2/28 Tue	7:30PM - WARK Community Television Archives - Tune in and watch Dance Effects (Episode 1), 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.
3/1 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 - The Catskill Center - Jezz Harkin talks with Jeff Senterman, Executive Director, about the Center and funding from New York State.
3/2 Thu	7:00PM - WARK Community Television Archives - The Dictionary Game (Episode 2). Michael Finberg hosts two teams of four as they try to stump each other with "trick definitions". One of the four definitions is correct. Tune in for the fun!
	7:30PM - The Sonny Rock Show - Sonny Rock talks with Robert "Cue" Gerhards. A woodworker, finisher, luthier, and working musician in Windham.
3/1 Wed	8:00PM - Catskills Addiction Coalition - Session on Criminal Justice Responses to the Addiction Epidemic.
	6:00PM - Focus on the Arts - Elizabeth Mami talks with Lindsay Comstock, current curator of 1053 Gallery on main in Fleischmanns.
3/2 Thu	6:30PM - The Little Red Cottages of Nowhere - In this video, Andrea showcases her outdoor shower that she built for her guests.
	7:00PM - Mostly Folk 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.
3/1 Wed	7:30PM - The Jerry Bartlett Memorial Angling Collection at the Phoenicia Library presents "Ray Smith: The Legend Lives on with Preston Woolheater".
	8:00PM - The Catskill Center - Jezz Harkin talks with Jeff Senterman, Executive Director of the Catskill Center talks about the Center and funding from New York State.
3/2 Thu	6:00PM - Weekly Weather Forecast - Lori Fairbairn brings you the Weekly forecast for the Catskill Region.
	6:30PM - Medicare With Robin - Julia Marks with Robin Williams, a licensed insurance agent. Tonight's episode: Medicare Savings Program.
3/1 Wed	7:00PM - The Hiker Trash Husbands. Join Jeff and Moe as they hike up to The Palenville Overlook which sits above the Village of Palenville, right at the eastern edge of the Catskill Mountains. It offers a tremendous view of the entire Hudson Valley.
	8:00PM - WARK Community Television Archives - The Dictionary Game (Episode 2). Michael Finberg hosts two teams of four as they try to stump each other with "trick definitions". One of the four definitions is correct. Tune in for the fun!
3/2 Thu	8:30PM - Delaware County, NY - Solid Waste Management Center & Compost Facility. A video that explains the systems that are in use at the facility.
	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.
3/1 Wed	6:30PM - Focus on the Arts - Elizabeth Mami talks with Xan Peters, fine artist, Tufts teacher, podcast host, paleo artist. Amazing young talent.
	7:00PM - Medicare With Robin - Julia Marks with Robin Williams, a licensed insurance agent. Tonight's episode: Medicare Savings Program.
3/2 Thu	7:30PM - The Catskill Center - Jezz Harkin talks with Jeff Senterman, Executive Director, about the Center and funding from New York State.
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	6:00PM - Citizen News Bureau - Lori Fairbairn brings you the Weekend Weather Report for the Catskill Region.
3/2 Thu	6:30PM - Mostly Folk 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 as well as working on a number of TV shows.
	7:00PM - Downstaters - Jess & Beth join the local gym and find they might need to adjust their schedules and fashion accordingly.
3/1 Wed	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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Volume 8, No. 8

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## County Board Chair Creates Budget, Homelessness, Security Special Committees

By Matthew Avitabile

SCHOHARIE – County Board of Supervisors Chair Bill Federice laid out a number of goals for Schoharie County last Friday.

The presentation during the supervisors' regular meeting included several policy initiatives that coincide with the major topics of the last several months, including possible cooperation with SEEC and the IDA for economic development.

Federice said that he hoped that the county would work in a "more structured way" in 2023, including through increased communication within county government. The chair asked each committee of the Board of Supervisors to report back to the whole Board a "progress report" for each meeting, starting in April.

"Not all goals and actions are equal," he said.

The Conesville Supervisor said that he hoped that the compiled recommendations would allow the county to better prepare for the 2024 budget. He called such goals fiscally conserva-

tive, though flexible. He described the county's current budget situation as having a healthy fund balance. Federice continued with the first of his major goals.

The supervisor described the dismantling of the county's internal economic development program as a "mistake," stating that this "lost internal county skills whose sole mission was to look after the interests of the county." Federice cited feedback from a number of local leaders that there was a need for a "qualified and competitively-compensated person employed by the county" to carry out such a mission "without a political agenda."

He cited a recent meeting with Destination Marketing, which represents the county's tourism planning. The chair called on the board to create a special committee to report to the board on a potential plan to create an in-house economic development program and review the current tourism strategy.

He named Wright Supervisor Alex Luniewski

as the chair of this committee, also including Supervisors Sandra Manko of Sharon, Alan Tavenner of Schoharie, and Alicia Terry of Gilboa along with the County Administrator Korsah Akumfi and Treasurer Maryanne Wollaber-Bryan.

Federice said next that county facilities needed to be better secured. While such an option is "not always convenient or cost-free," it was necessary. He described current access to some buildings as "unfettered."

He cited a recent threat of violence and that he witnessed "several incidences" of one non-employee entering his office without screening. He asked Supervisor Peggy Hait of Jefferson to chair this committee and named Supervisors Wes Laraway of Middleburgh, Phil Skowfoe of Fulton, and Steve Weinhofer of Broome to also serve. They will be joined by Sheriff Ron Stevens, DPW Commissioner Dan Crandell, and Office of Emergency Services Director Mike Harzel.

"I cannot think of a better way to invest some

of our excess fund balance dollars," Federice said.

The Chair also called for a special task force to handle the county's current growing homelessness situation. "Most people don't realize how pervasive this is and would be shocked how many of our citizens are homeless."

The cost of such a crisis is "equally shocking," he said. "It appears this problem will continue to be an issue which we cannot ignore."

Federice cited hard

work by multiple county departments, non-profit organizations, and religious groups to "get our fellow citizens back on track."

He created a special committee with Supervisor Earlin Rosa of Seward as chair along with Supervisors Don Airey of Blenheim and Earl Van Wormer of Esperance. They will be joined by the heads of Social Services and Community Services.

Federice said that a plan to use the former jail for such a purpose is

cost-prohibitive "without sufficient assistance from the state." He would like to find out more, Federice said.

Federice set a goal to identify the number of homeless people in the county, as well as the direct and indirect costs of the current crisis. This information would be used for potential solutions that "could take a great deal of time to implement, which is all the more reason this effort needs to be taken on with a sense of urgency."

## Cobleskill Considers Firefighter Exemption

By Joshua Walther

COBLESKILL - On Tuesday evening, the Cobleskill Village Board met to discuss the new state legislation for tax exemption for firefighters, along with the retirement of Clerk Sheila Wilday.

In December of last year, Governor Kathy Hochul created an optional law to allow town and village governments to grant a ten percent property tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers. Those volunteers are eligible for this break after five years of active service.

With Cobleskill just recently receiving its official proposal from the state, a discussion was born among the Board and the public about the pros and cons of such a law.

Bill Johnson took to the podium to express his concerns during the public comment period. With over fifty years in fire service, Mr. Johnson explained that he came as a private voice that doesn't represent any organization in particular.

While Mr. Johnson noted that the tax-exempt status was a good thing, he lamented how it felt like the bill was centered around the recruitment of new members rather than retaining the old guard.

Stating that he wanted to see incentives for inactive members to return to their departments, he

said "Bring back the firefighters that are in our organizations already."

Mr. Johnson also raised the problem of tracking active service and what that looks like, saying that volunteers could sign up, complete their required training, disappear for months, and still benefit from the exemption law.

However, his points were countered by Board member Howard Burt, who is also a longtime firefighter. Mr. Burt believes that having a partial property tax exemption would help retain members, as it encourages the inactive members who've already settled down in Cobleskill to return, and he ex-

plained that there are ways to track active service.

The Board agreed to accept the proposal and set a public hearing for the law, inviting anyone who wants to give their own feedback to next month's meeting.

In other news, Sheila Wilday is retiring from her long-running position as the town clerk. After thirty-five years of service, March will be her last month.

The Board hesitantly approved her resignation as they each gave their well wishes for Mrs. Wilday. "She is phenomenal and deserves all the kudos in the world," said Mayor Rebecca Stanton-Terk.

## Part 3: Opioid Epidemic Budget Battlelines Being Drawn

By Robert Brune

CATSKILLS REGION — Over the past couple of months, there's been an increased urgency to address the estimated 109,000 opioid fatalities for this past year of 2022. In her State of the State address on January 3rd, Governor Hochul announced that New York State will be making a '...historic shift in policy' returning to the approach of inpatient treatment

dedicated to mental health and substance use disorders (SUD).

Jennifer Donadio, the executive director of Friends of Recovery New York, has to say this about the governor's announcement, "We would love for recovery mentioned more frequently. We often hear recovery group in with treatment, but we really see a de-

Story continues on F7

### 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.

#### 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.

#### Sharon – Town Board

The Sharon Town Board will be holding its monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 1st at 6:30 PM at the Sharon Town Office. Meetings are also available for viewing on the SCHOPEG website.

#### Family Recovery Support Group

Every Wednesday evening from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM., SCCASA hosts Family Recovery Support Group Meetings facilitated by Maggie Jackman Pryor, a Family Support Navigator, and Tom Moran, a Peer Engagement Specialist and Recovery Coach at 349 Mineral Springs Road.

#### Carlisle – Town Board

The Carlisle Town Board will be holding its monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 1st at 7:00 PM at Town Hall.

#### Sharon Springs – Board of Education Meeting

The Sharon Springs Central School Board of Education will be meeting on Monday, March 6th at 7:30 PM. The school is located at 514 State Highway 20 in the Village of Sharon Springs.

#### 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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## COFFEE IN COBY War in Europe XLV

By Timothy Knight

As you are reading this on Friday, February 24th, it is important to acknowledge that Russia's immoral, illegal invasion of Ukraine started exactly one year ago today.

It is difficult to quantify how much suffering our Ukrainian brothers and sisters have endured in defense of their country since then, but Ukraine has withstood the world's second largest military power and even recaptured a significant portion of territory seized by Russia in the initial days of the bloody, confusing invasion.

From the earliest days of this conflict – and our weekly study of the Russo-Ukrainian War here in the Cobleskill Herald's pages – much of our attention has been devoted to parsing the sick, twisted vision of reconstituting the Soviet Union that has motivated Russian despot Vladimir Putin to wage war on his Slavic brethren.

Every inch of Ukrainian land occupied by Moscow has suffered every crime imaginable, as the battlefields are strewn with the corpses of cannon fodder and the shallow graves are filled with civilians. Hundreds of thousands of innocent Ukrainians and Russian soldiers have perished so that Putin can reign over the ashes of Mariupol and the outer limits of Bakhmut.

This war began with a deranged speech by the former KGB officer



American President Joe Biden and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky walked the streets of Kyiv on Presidents Day in a show of resolve that would have been unimaginable only a year ago

turned despot, so it is only fitting that the anniversary was marked by another screed.

"Ukraine is not just a neighboring country. It is an inalienable part of our own history, culture and spiritual space. These are our comrades, those dearest to us," stated Putin in comments that would have made Stalin smile during his own genocide committed upon the Ukrainian people in the Holodomor.

Compare that with the scene in Ukraine only a day prior.

In what could only be described as unimaginable just a year ago, United States President Joe Biden walked the streets of Kyiv with his Ukrainian counterpart, Volodymyr Zelensky, on Presidents Day in a show of not only American support for Kyiv, but western resolve as the war enters its second year.

For the first time in a very long time, America is retaking its natural position as the adversary of Moscow's tyranny in Eastern Europe, offering aid and comfort for all people's yearning to be free from the oppression of Cold War psychosis.

I do not pretend to know what will happen next in Ukraine's struggle for sovereignty, but if this war has taught me anything: never bet against a Ukrainian.

Slava Ukraini!  
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.

## Honoring National CTE Month, BOCES to Host First-ever Alumni Day

SCHOHARIE – In honor of national CTE Month, Capital Region BOCES is hosting on Feb. 28 its first-ever Career & Technical Education Alumni Day on the Schoharie Campus.

Throughout the daylong celebration, CTE graduates will speak with our current students about their education, post-graduation life and their career and how attending BOCES served as a catalyst for their future successes.

Among graduates expected to speak to students are Victoria Carl, owner of Carl's Advanced Automotive & Truck Repair, and a 2017 graduate of the Diesel Tech program; Nate Bartlett, a 2022 graduate of the Construction/Heavy Equipment program who works for New York State Department of Transportation; and Michael Schofell, a 2022 Automotive Trades Technology graduate who works at Penske Corp.

The event will run from 8:35 a.m. to 2:25 p.m., on the Schoharie Campus, which is located at 174 State Route 30A Schoharie, NY 12157.

The CTE Alumni Day will serve as the closing chapter of the month-long Capital Region BOCES CTE Month Celebration. CTE Month is a nationally recognized designation that seeks to raise awareness of the role that CTE has in readying high school students for college and career success. CTE Month is also a time to recognize and celebrate the achievements and accomplishments of our CTE partners at the local, state and national level and the valuable role Capital Region BOCES plays in supporting the local, regional, state and national economies.

Capital Region BOCES is currently teaching more than 1,200 high school students from across the region, as well as several hundred adult students, the skills necessary to find meaningful employment.

As an operator of one of the largest workforce development centers in upstate New York and partner to more than 300 businesses, education and labor organizations, Capital Region BOCES takes seriously its role in equipping

the next generation of workers with the essential skill sets needed to alleviate the critical shortage of skilled labor in this region and beyond.

Graduates of BOCES programs work in virtually all facets of the workforce—from nurse practitioners and physicians to machinists, entrepreneurs, diesel technicians, fashion designers, video game designers, electricians, chefs, service managers, dietitians and many, many more successful careers.

"BOCES is where I really found my passion. I always worked on cars and that, but BOCES is where I got into trucks and gained knowledge and really solidified what wanted to do," said Carl.

Assemblymember Chris Tague credits BOCES for his professional successes.

"I am not a product of Harvard, Princeton or Yale, I am a graduate of Schoharie BOCES," he said during an event at BOCES last year. "I owe all of my success in my business life to the lessons I learned here."

## Richmondville Discusses Soccer Program, Debit Card

By Alexis Pencar

The Village of Richmondville held its regular Board Meeting on Monday, February 13th at 6:00 pm, one week early due to the President's Day holiday. The meeting kicked off promptly at 6:00 pm by Trustee Davis.

The privilege of the Floor was utilized at this meeting with a local resident asking why the Village had opened up a debit card account. Trustee Davis explained that some vendors require credit/debit cards for payment of services and goods and will no longer accept check payments. When faced with these types of situations, employees had to use their own personal cards to be then reimbursed.

Having a debit card is an appropriate solution for this moving forward.

Also utilizing the Privilege of the Floor, Justin Davis was present and spoke of the soccer program and a new service called Team Snap, a new 'Sports League App' that would help keep track of monies in and out as well as online registration and available information. Resolution #4-23 was passed, authorizing the final payment of BAN for Water Project Phase 1.

The various Departments' written reports were reviewed with no further discussion and there wasn't any new business to add to the agenda.

In old business, the new camera system has been ordered and are

awaiting installation.

The following items of old business were tabled until the March meeting: purchase of meter testing equipment, donating monies to SCOPEG, and internship program (awaiting more information from Superintendent Smith..

The next scheduled Village of Richmondville Board Meeting is for March 20th at 6:00 pm.

The website for the Village, [www.richmondvillage.org](http://www.richmondvillage.org), is helpful and has many resources available including agendas and meeting minutes as well as the ability to make payments online. For additional information, please call the Village Clerk at (518) 294-7700.

## SUNY's Neumann Named Fighting Tiger Athlete of the Week



The SUNY Cobleskill Athletic Department announced today that junior Gregory Neumann, Accord, N.Y., Rondout Valley High School, a member of the men's lacrosse team has been named the athletic program's Fighting Tiger Athlete-of-the-Week for the week ending February 19, 2023.

The Accord, N.Y. native led the Fighting Tigers to a season opening 16-

7 victory over host Cairn University on Saturday night on the Highlander's home turf in Langhorne, Pa. as Cobleskill opens the year at 1-0 overall.

The junior attackman scored five goals, passed out two assists, picked up eight groundballs and forced a turnover on the night in the win.

Cobleskill will return to action on Saturday March 4 when they travel to Aurora, N.Y. for a non-league meeting with The Express of Wells College with face-off scheduled for 1:00 p.m.

**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](http://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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# Plumbing Union Pipeline for Success Starts with BOCES

ALBANY/SCHOHARIE – More than two dozen high school students hope to be flush with knowledge of the plumbing industry courtesy of the experts from UA Local 7 Plumbers and Steamfitters union.

The Construction, Heavy Equipment and Electrical Trades students on the Capital Region BOCES Career & Technical Education Center – Schoharie Campus are learning this week the basics of the plumbing, including PVC draining/vent fittings, basic plumbing code, plumbing math, job-site safety and more.

“We are here to get kids interested in the plumbing trades,” said Tom Carrigan, marketing director for UA Local 7, Plumbers and Steamfitters.

During one aspect of the lesson, students leveled and connected PVC pipes within a frame of a wall.

“I am very pleased with what I see. I have done similar trainings with other high school students and these BOCES students are doing great,” said Carrigan. “BOCES students’ commitment to



Jeremiah Taylor of Schoharie, part of the Construction, Plumbing program through BOCES

learning, motivation, attitude and teamwork skills are impressive,” he added.

Students said they appreciate the ability to learn a new skill set and value the opportunities it affords them.

“This is pretty fun. These are skills I can use if I get to build my own house or if I have to make repairs,” said Jeremiah Taylor, Construction/Heavy Equipment student from Schoharie High School.

“These are good skills to have,” added Electrical Trades senior Lucas Grenier from Duanesburg High School. “It’s pretty fun to do and it’s something I can use wherever.”

Carrigan said the union will offer the same training later this school year to students on the Capital Region BOCES Career & Technical Education Center – Albany Campus.

He added that the program was started as a pilot program for Capital Region BOCES to introduce the basics of plumbing and will be expanded to other BOCES around New York state.

BOCES works with more than 300 business, education and labor partners – like Local 7 – to provide training and career opportunities to the 1,200 students enrolled in Career & Technical Education programs at Capital Region BOCES.

# Suny Cobleskill Fighting Tiger Weekly Recap

The SUNY Cobleskill men’s basketball team split a pair of games at the 2023 North Atlantic Conference (NAC) Western Division Championship Tournament hosted by SUNY Delhi in Delhi, N.Y. over the weekend defeating the Wildcats of the SUNY Polytechnic Institute on Friday 70-55 in the tournament opener then falling to the host Broncos of SUNY Delhi in the division’s championship on Saturday in overtime 83-76 to close the season with an 18-9 overall record the best since the program’s move to the NCAA level of competition. Junior center Markel Jenkins, Elmira, N.Y., Elmira High School/Corning Community College, averaged 10.5 points and 9.0 rebounds for the Fighting Tigers at the tournament.

The Fighting Tiger women’s basketball team closed the season over the weekend by splitting a pair of games at the 2023 NAC Western Division Championship Tournament hosted by the Wildcats of the SUNY Polytechnic Institute in Marcy, N.Y. Cobleskill

opened the event by defeating the Kangaroos of SUNY Canton 79-56 in the opener before losing in the championship game to the host Wildcats 51-45 to close the year at 16-10 overall equaling the most wins since the program’s move to the NCAA level of competition. First-year guard Talia Washington, Schenectady, N.Y., Schenectady High School, averaged 13.0 points, 3.0 rebounds and 3.0 assists per game at the tournament.

The Cobleskill men’s lacrosse team opened the 2023 season in impressive fashion on Saturday night posting a 16-7 victory over the host Highlanders of Cairn University in Langhorne, Pa. to open the season at 1-0. The Fighting Tigers were led by junior midfielder Sean D’Amaro, Northport, N.Y., Northport High School, who scored five goals, passed out three assists and picked up six groundballs in the win.

Junior distance runner Nick Logan, Queensbury, N.Y., Queensbury High School, was the Fighting Tiger men’s indoor track

& field team top finisher on Saturday at the 2023 Marc Deneault Memorial Invitational hosted by Cornell University at the college’s Barton Hall in Ithaca, N.Y. Logan placed second overall in the mile run with a time of 4:20.82 at the event.

First-year jumper Shealinn Stevens, Otego, N.Y., Unatego High School, was the Fighting Tiger women’s indoor track & field team top finisher on Saturday at the 2023 Marc Deneault Memorial Invitational hosted by Cornell University at the college’s Barton Hall in Ithaca, N.Y. Stevens placed tied for seventh overall in the high jump clearing a height of 4’7” at the event.

## 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

# SUNY Track Competes at Invitational

Members of the SUNY Cobleskill women’s indoor track & field team returned to action on Saturday at the 2023 Marc Denault Memorial Invitational hosted by Cornell University at the college’s venerable Barton Hall. The Fighting Tiger team members

posted several strong efforts from the non-scoring qualifying meet featuring athletes from all divisions of competition.

The Cobleskill jumper corps were the team’s top finishers at the event as first-year Shealinn Stevens, Otego, N.Y., Unatego High School,

and junior Lilah Ward, Arlington, Vt., Arlington High School, tied for seventh place overall by clearing a height of 4’7”. First-year jumper Lilly Swyers, Peru, N.Y., Peru High School was also in action at the meet placing 12th overall in the triple jump with a mark of 32’3

¾”.

Members of the SUNY Cobleskill men’s indoor track & field team took to the road on Saturday to compete at the 2023 Marc Denault Memorial Invitational hosted by Cornell University at the college’s venerable Barton Hall. The Fighting Tigers brought home several noteworthy efforts from the non-scoring qualifying meet featuring athletes from all divisions of competition.

Junior distance runner Nick Logan, Queensbury, N.Y., Queensbury High

School, was the team’s top placer finishing second overall in the mile-run in a time of 4:20.82 while first-year sprinter Charlie Foote, Cobleskill, N.Y., Cobleskill-Richmondville High School, finished third overall in the 400-meter dash in a time of 50.81 seconds.

Cobleskill also received solid outings from first-year hurdler Kameron Cusmano, Oakfield, N.Y., Oakfield-Alabama High School, in the 60-meter hurdles placing 12th overall in a time of 9.11 seconds and from first-

year distance runner Will Seamans, Fayetteville, N.Y., Fayetteville-Manlius High School, who placed 26th overall in the mile-run with a time of 4:46.14.

The Fighting Tigers will next be in action on Friday February 24 when qualified team members travel to Staten Island, N.Y. for the 2023 Fast-track Last Chance Invitational hosted at the Ocean Breez Athletic Complex by the Ocean Breeze Complex beginning at 1:00 p.m.

# Court News

SCHOHARIE - District Attorney Susan J. Mallory announced that Omar Harry, was convicted of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance, a narcotic drug, in the 4th degree, a class C felony. Mr. Harry entered his guilty plea on November 23, 2022 and was sentenced on February 15, 2023 to 3 years and 6 months determinate sentence in NYS prison, felony surcharges \$325.00, and a \$50.00 DNA fee. Mr. Harry was sentenced as a second felony offender.

Mr. Omar Harry was also convicted of Driving While Intoxicated, an unclassified misdemeanor, and sentenced on February 15, 2023 to a fine of \$700.00; surcharges of \$395.00, all his vehicles

owned or operated must have an ignition interlock device installed, conditional discharge; victim impact panel must be attended, and license revocation.

The District Attorney’s office would like to acknowledge Troopers DeHont and Schroeder and Investigator Morgan for their investigation and extraordinary efforts to keep the residents of Schoharie County safe. Mr. Harry possessed MDMA, a hallucinogenic substance and cocaine. Mr. Harry further admitted to driving while intoxicated with alcohol.

Kathleen Pandolfi was convicted on February 12, 2023 for Obstruction of Governmental Administration 2d and was sentenced to a conditional discharge, fine and sur-

charge of \$200.00 and DNA surcharge of \$50.00. The plea was part of a global resolution.

Luis A. Rivera was convicted on February 8, 2023 of Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle, an unclassified misdemeanor, and received a conditional discharge, \$200.00 fine and a mandatory surcharge of \$93.00.

Etiosa Ogunrobo was convicted on February 8, 2023 of Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle and another traffic offense and received total fines of \$325 and surcharges of \$186 and a conditional discharge.

All individuals charged with crimes are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

# SUNY Lacrosse Defeats Cairn

The SUNY Cobleskill men’s lacrosse team opened the 2023 season on Saturday night posting a 16-7 road win over the host Highlanders of Cairn University in the season opener for both programs. With the non-league victory, the Fighting Tigers open the campaign at 1-0 while the Highlanders start off at 0-1 on the year.

Leading 3-2 at the end of the first period the Fighting Tigers then erupted for six goals in the second period to take a 9-5 lead into the locker room at the half. Cobleskill then held the home team scoreless in the third period to increase their lead to 11-5 from which they never looked back.

The Fighting Tigers dominated the action on the turf outshooting the Highlanders 58-33 on the evening, holding a 61-39 advantage in ground-

balls while taking advantage of 43 Cairn turnovers of which the Cobleskill defense caused 26.

The offense was paced by the duo of junior attackman Gregory Neumann, Accord, N.Y., Rondout Valley High School, who had five goals and two assists to go with eight groundballs and junior midfielder Sean D’Amaro, Northport, N.Y., Northport High School, who scored five goals, passed out three assists and picked up six groundballs in the win.

Junior attackman Aaron Brooks, Geneva, N.Y., Geneva High School/Finger Lakes Community College, was also a factor in the win with two goals and an assist as was sophomore midfielder Albert Sippio, Syracuse, N.Y., Institute of Technology Syracuse Central, who tallied a pair of goals, an assist and

eight groundballs.

On the defensive end of the field, sophomore defender Jarrett Helgerson, Southampton, N.Y., Southampton High School, picked up a team high of nine groundballs while causing five turnovers while senior long stick midfielder Ian Gaddy, Saratoga Springs, N.Y., Saratoga Springs High School, caused five turnovers to go with a pair of groundballs.

Sophomore goalkeeper John Williams, Smyrna, Del., Smyrna High School, recorded the victory by making 12 saves and picking up two groundballs on the evening.

The Orange & Black will next be in action on Saturday March 4 when they travel to Aurora, N.Y. for a non-league meeting with The Express of Wells College with face-off scheduled for 1:00 p.m.

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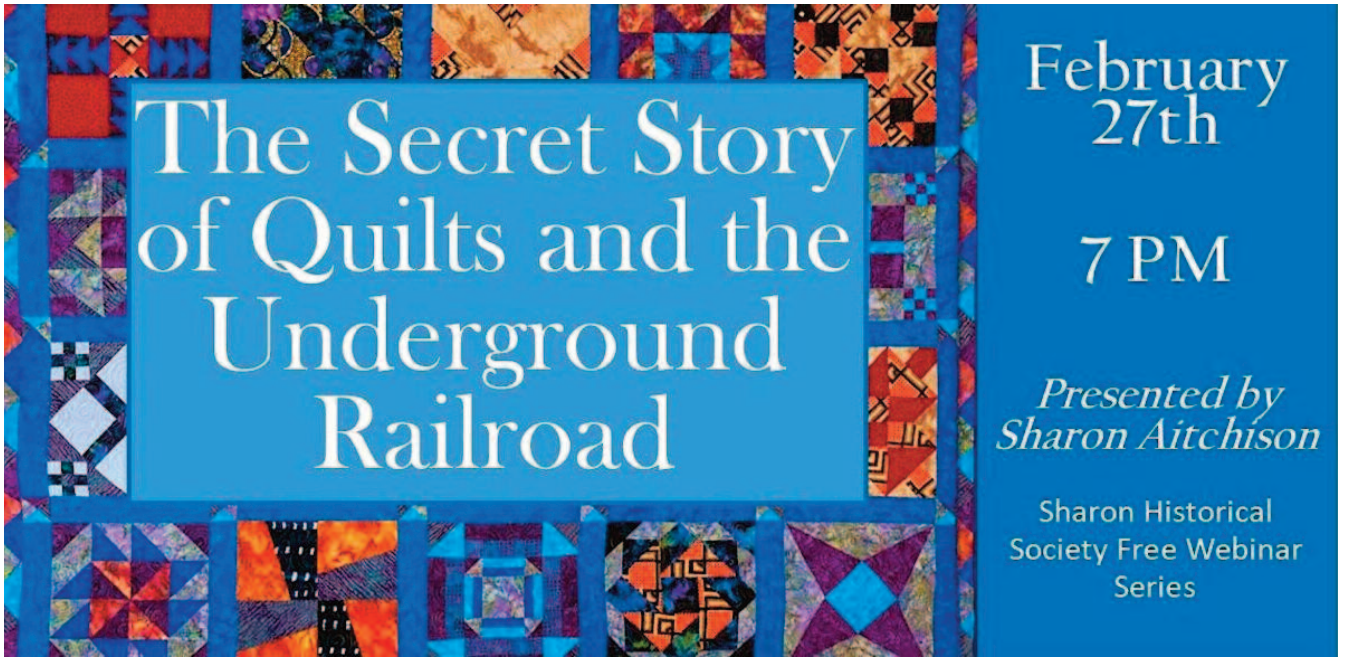
# Sharon Historical Society Hosting Quilts & Underground Railroad Presentation

We're hosting a new event, and we'd love to see you there. Join us for "The Secret Story of Quilts and the Underground Railroad", NY, February 27, 2023 at 7:00 PM (New York Time).

In celebration of Black History Month, join historical quilter, Sharon Aernecke Aitchison as she takes us on a journey on the Underground Railroad and explains how quilts were used as signals along the treacherous escape routes. The Underground Railroad is part of a larger story of personal and cultural survival of proud African people brought to America against their will prior to 1860. America captured and enslaved about four million black Africans. Slavery came

about because Americans needed workers to do the difficult labor on sprawling plantations that stretched across the South and because slave traders saw an opportunity to make a great deal of money buying and selling slaves.

According to legend, a safe house along the Underground Railroad was often indicated by a quilt hanging from a clothesline or windowsill. These quilts were embedded with a kind of code so that by reading the shapes and motifs sewn into the design, an enslaved person on the run could know the area's immediate dangers or even where to head next. Nimble fingers working in secret, armed with needle and thread, engaging with a visual



language, doing their part for freedom.

Register soon because space is limited.

We hope you're able to join us!

## Police Blotter



### Thursday, February 16, 2023

At 5:08 PM, Cobleskill Police executed a bench warrant from Cobleskill Town Court and arrested Pedro Palmer II, 29, of Schoharie, N.Y. for bail jumping in the third degree. He was arraigned in Cobleskill Town Court at 7:00 PM and remanded to the Schoharie County Correctional Facility on \$1,000 cash bail, \$2,000 insurance bail bond, or

\$10,000 partially secured surety bond to return to Cobleskill Town Court on 02/21/2023 at 4:00 PM.

At 5:08 PM, Cobleskill Police arrested Pedro Palmer II, 29, of Schoharie, N.Y. for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the second degree, aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree, and four other vehicle and traffic law violations. He was issued traffic tickets, arraigned in Cobleskill Town Court at 7:00 PM and remanded to the

Schoharie County Correctional Facility on \$1.00 cash bail to return to Cobleskill Town Court on 03/21/2023 at 2:00 PM.

### Saturday, February 18, 2023

At 3:31 PM, Cobleskill Police arrested Daniel K. VanDeusen, 18, of Altamont, N.Y. for reckless driving, failure to stop for school bus, and one other vehicle and traffic law violation. He was issued traffic tickets to appear in Cobleskill Town Court on 03/21/2023 at 2:00 PM.

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**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

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**NIGHT to Shine**  
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# Chamber Holds Very Successful Organization Collaboration Roundtable

On Thursday, February 16th, over 50 people from various organizations came together at the Gathering Place in Cobleskill to discuss upcoming events for 2023. The event's purpose was to coordinate events in Schoharie County and give visibility to what organizations are planning for the year.

"This was a great opportunity for anyone who plans events throughout the County to hear what events are being planned and see a visual calendar of the year," said Chamber Vice President Kimberly Witkowski. "We receive very positive feedback from those who attended who felt it was extremely helpful to know for their upcoming event planning."

A list of all events in Schoharie County for 2023 will be coming shortly.



Above left: A Group of over 50 event planners in Schoharie County came together to discuss what their organization has planned for 2023. Above right: Kevin Berner tells the group what the Jefferson Historical Society has planned for the upcoming year.



Above left: Debbie Brigadier from The Dr. Best House in Middleburgh looks through the events being planned in Schoharie County. Above right: Daniel Beams from The Old Stone Fort Museum told the group what they have planned for 2023.

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YOUR LOCAL HAPPENINGS FOR SHARON SPRINGS

# Sharon Things

**By Alexis Pencar**  
Hey Neighbors!

It was muddy and wet this past week leading into snow and cold again on Wednesday and Thursday. It felt like the beginning of Spring for a few days but the wintery temperatures returned rapidly.

Conditions will continue to be snowy and cold into next week. The Almanac boasts more cold and snow into the end of March with temperatures predicted at 1 degree below average.

**Village Construction**

Construction continued this week up near Chestnut street with lots of digging and large equipment. Massive trenches were dug in front of the Sharon Auto Wash, and directly across Chestnut Street. The part of Chestnut next to AMT was closed this past week, as Eldredge St and Sawmill Rd were used as alternates. The road has since been reopened.

This is in connection with the 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 EMTs. 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**

On Monday, we will be getting a new public computer, thanks to a prior year's generous do-

nation from the Walmart foundation. Public computers may be accessed for free any time the library is open. Staff will be happy to assist anyone who needs help. It is not necessary to have a library card in order to use our computers, and there is no password for our wifi. If you need to use our wifi after hours, you can access it from outside the library. The signal will be strongest near the east end of the building.

Our next book discussion is scheduled for March 17 at 6:00 pm in the library. The subject will be Susan Meissner's "The Nature of Fragile Things," a novel set in San Francisco in 1906, the time of the great earthquake and fire. We have large and regular type copies available, and it is also an e-book or e-audiobook on Libby.

March 12 is the date of the 2023 Oscars, but since we are still in Black History Month, we can take note of the fact that Hattie McDaniels was the first African American to win an Oscar in 1940. Since then, Hollywood has been criticized for a lack of roles for people of color and for a historical failure to recognize their outstanding performances when they do get parts. That is changing slowly. This year Angela Bassett was nominated for her performance in "Blank Panther: Wakanda Forever" and Rihanna's "Lift Me Up," from the Wakanda film was nominated for best original song.

No one has yet correctly identified the year our building was built. If you know, give us a call. The first person who can substantiate the year will receive a \$25 Stewart's gas card.

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 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.



Sharon Springs Water & Sewer Project at work in front of the Sharon Auto Wash.



Large equipment rip up ground for Water & Sewer Project on Chestnut Street in the Village of Sharon Springs.

Don't Miss Out! Email us at [cobleskillherald@gmail.com!](mailto:cobleskillherald@gmail.com)

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# Kindness in Sharon Springs— A Team Effort

**By Alexis Pencar**  
 SHARON SPRINGS - This past Valentine's Day, kindness was in full swing in Sharon Springs! Local businesses KNK Landscaping and Sage-Femme Midwifery teamed up with Stewart's to offer free coffee to local residents!

This has been a yearly tradition, and according to Ken Kennedy of KNK Landscaping, this was the biggest year yet, selling more coffee than in previous years. He went on to say, "I love my hometown and if it wasn't for the people here I wouldn't be doing what

I love to do."  
 The other sponsor of this generous Valentine's Day treat was Kelly McDermott, Certified Nurse Midwife and founder of Sage-Femme Midwifery, who now has a local office in Sharon Springs!  
 Kelly has been offering her wonderful services in our area for many

years. She was first called to midwifery by the birth of her first child in 1984, making her a renowned midwife in Upstate, NY.  
 In a tight-knit community like Sharon Springs, it is more than a nice gesture when people go above and beyond. Actions of kindness like this are a continuous re-

minder of the devotion and commitment that can emanate through the community.  
 Kennedy, a proud lifetime resident, business owner, and active Village Trustee is always coming up with new and kind ways to support the community.  
 KNK Landscaping

looks forward to hosting the 2nd Annual Easter Egg at the Sharon Springs Central School this Spring and it will be larger than the first, with nearly 10k filled easter eggs all over the school grounds! Check for updates on their Facebook page at KNK Landscaping.

## Opioid Epidemic, from Page F1

definitive line between treatment, recovery, prevention, and harm reduction." When asked if she could expand on what she means by there being a definitive line, she said, "Specifically, when it comes to funding. Treatment is what happens in a facility and recovery is everything after, so having community-based resources, having services that help maintain their recovery or find recovery without the treatment process. A fair number of people find recovery without ever stepping into a treatment facility."  
 If you haven't read the previous two installments of this series, Attorney General Leticia James had secured an estimated \$2 billion from settlements with opioid pharmaceutical companies that is currently held up in the State Senate Alcohol and Drug Abuse committee. About a month ago, it was announced that \$7.5 million would

be drawn from that fund and put towards existing harm reduction programs. State Senator Oberacker's office says that the newly released funds will need to go through an application process with the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS is a branch of the federal agency SAMHSA). OASAS is now showing that they're making \$8.6 million available for opioid programs. This first allotment is not the innovative historic shift that Gov. Hochul mentioned, rather it appears to be more of the same approach that doesn't seem to be entirely successful at bringing down that numbers of fatalities.  
 Upon speaking with the OASAS Commissioner Chinazo Cunningham, who is the gatekeeper of the \$2 billion fund and possibly an extra \$1 billion from the state's excess funds, as announced by Gov. Hochul, we discussed the possible so-

lutions. Commissioner Cunningham expressed a need for facilities patterned after the Dutchess County Crisis Stabilization Center by saying, "I'd like to see a Stabilization Center in every county in New York within months, not years." This might take a while due to the latest bill from the State Senate Alcohol and Drug Abuse committee initiating a task force to seek solutions, this past week. The chair of the committee Sen. Fernandez has failed to respond to email and voicemail requests for comments.  
 To complicate matters, President Biden had a short comment about the opioid epidemic by baiting the Republicans with this, "Fentanyl has claimed 70,000 lives this past year." In his State of the Union address. This triggered a loud protest of yelling, likely because downplaying the numbers of deaths to a subset of the opioid epi-

demic, undercounting it by 39,000 is both cynical and irresponsible. The next morning on the MSNBC Morning Joe show, pundits praised President Biden after airing a montage of baiting incidents including the fentanyl reference. Rep. Marc Molinaro had this response to President Biden's comment on the opioid epidemic. "This is not a new phenomenon. There is a long history of leaders in our country downplaying the opioid epidemic because it's inconvenient and a tough fight to have. The reality is, fentanyl continues to pour into our rural communities and we still have inadequate treatment options for those who need it. People need our help and we must work in a bipartisan manner to deliver solutions."  
 The latest developing concern on the budget as pointed out by both Rep. Marc Molinaro and Nick Langworthy (NY-23) is Governor Hochul's

2024 state budget proposal which takes from the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (eFMAP) funds from local governments and that vulnerable New Yorkers rely on. Congress delivers federal funds directly to states to cover a share of their Medicaid programs. These funds are known as eFMAP, are intended to be shared with counties. The Governor absorbs eFMAP funds into the state putting county-administered Medicaid services on the chopping block, according to Molinaro and Longworthy.  
 According to the New York Association of Counties are due to lose this amount in the coming year:  
 Broome: \$4.9 million  
 Chenango: \$1.2 million  
 Columbia: \$1.4 million  
 Cortland \$1.3 million  
 Delaware \$1.1 million  
 Greene \$1.2 million  
 Otsego \$1.3 million  
 Sullivan \$2.6 million  
 If this effort by the Governor is allowed to move forward, it would have devastating consequences for anyone hoping to put their lives back together. "The governor's proposal to eliminate enhanced federal Medicaid payments to our local governments is unacceptable. This is nothing more than a hid-

den tax that the governor is attempting to unleash on local property owners. As a former county representative, I fully understand how Albany schemes like this affect local budgets and will be fighting against this proposal. Questions regarding eFMAP fund payments will certainly be asked during the health portion of our legislative budget hearings," said Senator Peter Oberacker.  
 In an effort to conclude this segment on a positive note, a quote from a recent interview with the DCS of the Dutchess County Crisis Stabilization Center Jean-Marie Niebuhr on what makes her facility stand out as a beacon of hope, "It's important to have services at all the different levels; prevention, treatment, and recovery. Treatment is really important, early identification is really important, and then recovery supports are really important. So, after an individual has struggled with mental illness and substance use disorder, none is more important than the other. You really need to have a full system. You have to be able to prevent the problem from happening. All those different items have to be addressed when you're developing a comprehensive system."

# SUNY Downs Polytechnic, Falls to Delhi

The SUNY Cobleskill men's basketball team defeated the Wildcats of the SUNY Polytechnic Institute in the opening round of the Western Division of the North Atlantic Conference (NAC) Championship Tournament by a 70-55 margin in a game hosted by the Broncos of top seeded SUNY Delhi on Friday evening. With the win the Fighting Tigers improve to 18-8 overall on the season while the Wildcats close their season at 13-13 overall.  
 The Fighting Tigers used a strong defensive effort to move out to a 34-21 advantage at the end of the first half holding the Wildcats to 7-of-26, 26.9%, from the field including only 1-of-8, 12.5%, from three-point range while forcing the visitors into eight turnovers.  
 The Cobleskill offense was keyed by the backcourt of junior guard Andre Starks, Rochester, N.Y., Fairport High School/Corning Community College, who tallied 11 points and a pair of assists and junior guard Izhiah Pigott, Brooklyn, N.Y., Urban Assembly

High School/Dutchess Community College, who scored six points and passed out two assists in the half. Center Markel Jenkins, Elmira, N.Y., Elmira High School/Corning Community College, was also a factor in the half with six points and four rebounds.  
 In the second half the Fighting Tiger offense went cold as the Wildcats cut the lead to 58-52 with 5:03 remaining in regulation before Cobleskill regained their composure to close the game on a 12-to-3 run down the stretch to seal the victory.  
 Andre Starks posted a strong all-round effort with a game high 18 points to go with four assists, four rebounds and four steals while his running mate Izhiah Pigott finish with 14 points, six rebounds and a pair of assists. Markel Jenkins also reached double figures in scoring with 10 points to go with nine rebounds on the evening.  
 Cobleskill also received strong contributions from senior forward Justin Feldman, Chester, N.Y., Chester High

School/Orange Community College, with eight points and six rebounds and from first-year forward Chace Peterson, Troy, N.Y., Troy High School, with eight points and four rebounds in a reserve role.  
 The Fighting Tigers will next be in action on Saturday February 18 when they meet the host Broncos of SUNY Delhi for the NAC Western Division Championship with tip-off scheduled for 2:00 p.m.  
 The SUNY Cobleskill men's basketball closed out their season on Saturday afternoon falling in overtime to the host Broncos of SUNY Delhi in the 2023 North Atlantic Conference (NAC) Western Division Championship Game 83-76. With the loss the Fighting Tigers end the year with an 18-9 overall record on the season while the Broncos are now 19-8 overall and advance to the league overall championship game next weekend in Farmington, Maine.  
 The Fighting Tigers came out on fire from the opening tip racing to a 16-4 advantage when

junior guard Izhiah Pigott, Brooklyn, N.Y., Urban Assembly High School, converted a lay-up in transition with 13:45 remaining in the half.  
 However, Delhi battled back as cutting the lead to 31-30 on a jumper by sophomore forward Pablo Quinones, Highland Mills, N.Y., Monroe-Woodbury High School, with 2:37 left in the half as backcourt foul trouble and a poor outing at the free throw line, 12-for-27, hampered the Fighting Tiger offense.  
 After both teams made defensive stands and missed free throws, Cobleskill closed the half with a 33-30 advantage when first-year guard Quanire Greene, Albany, N.Y., Bishop Maginn High School, split four free throws on two separate trips to the charity stripe to close the half.  
 In the second half the teams exchange leads early before the Broncos went on a 16-to-6 run to make the score 65-54 with 6:23 left to play. Once again, a combination of cold shooting and foul trouble plagued Cobleskill during the run.

Letters to the Editor  
 on Page A4  
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# Summit Holds Short Term Rental Hearing

**By Karen Cuccinello**

**SUMMIT** - Last week's Summit Town Board meeting opened with a discussion lead by Councilperson David Kearney about amending the minutes. He suggested a change in the wording pertaining to beautification monies in the budget; approved.

Highway Superintendent Jim Dibble gave a report stating that they received the refund from the state for the NYS taxes paid on fuel. The monies previously budgeted as revenue for sanding and plowing the County roads was higher than expected so the excess will go into other line items. The generator for the building, that was ordered a while ago, came in and will be installed after they can make a pad for it. The county election inspector came by and said Summit is in good shape.

Assessor Dave Jones discussed the volunteer

ambulance and firefighter exemption that NYS passed in December 2022. The purpose of the exemption is to help recruit, retain and thank the volunteer services. He has been meeting with County officials to coordinate a unified plan of action. Volunteers can receive up to 10% of the assessed value of their property for service of at least two to five years. Municipalities will choose the percentage and amount of time served. In order to receive the exemption the homeowner needs to be a permanent resident, the property needs to be residential and needs to be certified by the emergency service they volunteer for. The fine points need to be discussed at the next town meeting March 16. For more information contact Clerk VanValkenburg [summitclerk@midtel.net](mailto:summitclerk@midtel.net) or Assessor [djones@midtel.net](mailto:djones@midtel.net).

I gave my historian's

report. Have received and answered one to two queries per month, was granted a Gardiner Foundation Semiquincentennial Summer Fellowship that will take place this summer, putting together the next Summit history book and program about the villages of Summit and Charlottesville, sent in an article for the Maple Festival booklet, received a thank you from NYS Office of State History for turning in the annual report and suggested a form for the clerk to use in writing up transcripts for vital records, which was approved.

Code Enforcement Officer Jesse Wilcox gave a report and stated that he has sent out five orders of remedy to homeowners and two of them may have been mailed incorrectly so they will be mailed again via certified mail. Attorney Mike West suggested that they also be mailed via regular mail. If the recipients do

not make contact after 30 days the town judge will be notified. Discussion about tiny houses and that there should only be one per property. Fire inspections will take place soon.

Youth Program report was mentioned.

The Public Hearing on Local Law for Short Term Rentals opened at 7:30pm. Discussion followed. Attorney West

stated that the law is for the health, safety and welfare of town residents. The public hearing will remain open at the March 16th town board meeting.

Jennifer Stinson, of the Summit Neighbors, mentioned that they are working with the Mohawk Valley Landbank about turning one of the properties, where a house was razed, into a green space.

Supervisor Vroman is working with the Bear Gulch Lake Association on how to remediate the lake water and dam. The lake has an algae bloom problem and the dam needs to be repaired. They first need to get an inundation report in order to proceed.

The meeting ended about 8:30pm and the board went into executive session.

## SUNY Preps for Baseball Season

The SUNY Cobleskill baseball program will be taking on a new look for the 2023 season after winning back-to-back North Atlantic Conference (NAC) Western Division Championships in 2021 and 2022. With the departure of the architect of those championship teams former Head Coach Lance Ratchford now direction the Red Foxes of Marist College and the graduation of 2022 NAC Player-of-the-Year Eddy Garcia, it will be up to first-year head coach Austin Straub and a roster that features 23 returning lettermen to defend their divisional crown and make a return trip to the league's championship tournament.

"We are still a relatively young, but we are considered a very experienced team," said Coach Straub. "This year we need to figure out, after winning the Western Division the past two seasons, how to win a conference tournament and play regional level baseball."

The Fighting Tigers will be led offensively by a talented core group highlighted by the 2022 NAC Rookie-of-the-Year sophomore catcher/outfielder Logan Hutter, Smithtown, N.Y., Smithtown West High School, who batted .355 on the year with 13 doubles, five home runs, 32 RBI, 29 runs scored and 10 stolen bases.

Also returning this season will be junior infielder David Flora, Windsor, N.Y., Windsor High School/Herkimer Community College, who bat-

ted .302 with six doubles, three home runs, 11 RBI and 23 runs scored along with sophomore centerfielder Zach Ducorsky, Oceanside, N.Y., Oceanside High School, who batted .286 with four doubles, 15 RBI, 32 runs scored and 21 stolen bases from the lead-off spot.

The line-up will further be improved by the return of junior shortstop/pitcher Stephen Tejada, Queens, N.Y., High School for Construction, who was an All-NAC Second Team honoree in 2021 but was forced to miss the entire 2022 season due to injury. In 2021, Tejada batted .400 with five doubles, eight RBI and six stolen bases while turning in a 2-1 record on the mound with a 3.96 ERA in six appearances.

The Cobleskill pitching staff will be led by the returning 2022 NAC Pitcher-of-the-Year junior Wyatt Palmer, Camden, N.Y., Camden High School/Cayuga Community College, who went 7-2 overall on the season in nine starts posting a 2.86 ERA with two complete games and a shutout in 50.1 innings of work and senior Devin Lewis, Cobleskill, N.Y., Cobleskill-Richmondville High School, who posted a 4-4 record in 10 appearances with a 5.49 ERA and a team leading 52 strikeouts in 43.2 innings last season.

The Orange & Black will also be counting on production from sophomore starter Josh Gorham, Baldwinsville,

N.Y., C.W. Baker High School, who was 1-1 with a 9.14 ERA in seven outings and junior reliever Jason Treffiletti, Cohoes, N.Y., Shaker High School, who was 0-1 overall with 1.00 ERA in eight appearances on the year.

The recruiting class will feature first-year utilityman Dylan Schwam, Cooper City, Fla., South Plantation High School, who will open the year at first base, first-year pitcher/outfielder Logan Firment, Andes, N.Y., South Kortright High School, who will start the season in right field along with first-year pitching prospects Tanner Wood, Glenville, N.Y., Niskayuna High School, and Evan Balbera, Patchogue, N.Y., Patchogue-Medford High School, who will see action in starting and relief roles.

With the season opener fast approaching, Coach Straub sees some differences in this year's team than in past seasons but also sees a clear path to a successful campaign.

"Our slugging percentage may take a dip this year, but I think our on-base percentage will go up. We may be a more singles-oriented team this year which is going to require us to play more small ball and continue to be aggressive on the bases."

The Fighting Tigers are slated to open the 2023 season on Saturday February 25 when they travel to Wilkes-Barre, Pa. for a doubleheader versus Wilkes University beginning at 12:00 p.m.

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## Tague Blasts NYS Overtime Change

Assemblyman Chris Tague blasted the New York State Department of Labor's (NYSDOL) final decision to cap farm overtime to 40 hours by 2032. The reduction in farm work weeks will begin on January 1, 2024, and be reduced by four hours every year until fully phased in.

An ardent agriculture advocate, Tague released the following statement in response to the state Department of Labor's (NYSDOL) decision, announced today:

"Since this proposal was first announced, I have been working with farmers and farm workers across our state to be their advocate and magnify their voice so

bureaucrats would listen and change course. These are the types of job-killing and economy-busting policies that New Yorkers don't need and can't comprehend. People don't want Albany to interfere with things that aren't broken and don't need fixing, especially when our state has much bigger problems. This policy is going to greatly hurt our agriculture industry, force many farms to close, compromise the integrity of our landscape and environment and of course many of the jobs it aims to protect will be lost to other states that are more competitive.

"I am deeply disappointed that Commissioner Reardon did not listen

to common sense, or most importantly, the farmers and farm workers impacted and reject this downstate-driven policy that has no place in our farms. Farming is not a 9 to 5 job. Anyone knows that, except it seems the people trying unnecessarily to control this industry - and to everyone's detriment. It is unfortunate that farming used to be the pride of New York but with policies like this it will soon be not much more than a memory. And all New Yorkers will suffer the consequences of losing access to fresh, affordable, locally-grown or produced food. No farms, no food."