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Stamford Preps for March Elections

By Liz Page

STAMFORD - With village elections set for March 21, members of the Stamford Village Board passed a resolution to hold the general election for one four-year term for mayor, one four-year term for trustee and one two-year term for trustee, during their Jan. 17 meeting. They also appointed election officials for the polls which will be open from noon until 9 p.m. in Stamford Village Hall.

Petitions for candidates to appear on the ballot are due to the Stamford Village Clerk by February 14. No one has yet filed a petition, according to Village Clerk Jamison Hanway. The peti-

tions require the signature of registered voters who reside in the village.

Although no paperwork has yet been filed, Mayor Robert Schneider has indicated he will seek another term, due to capitol projects that are not yet completed. In an email he stated, "I am running again, primarily due to the capitol projects that are midstream and the unresolved issues at the pool. I have acute knowledge of these projects and would like to see them through. It would be difficult for someone to jump into them midstream. These projects would have been completed if not for Covid. It was just the luck of the draw. Of course

someone could run against me and win and then they would have to get up to speed."

Schneider had intended to serve just one term.

Trustee Jim Kopp has also indicated he will seek another term. However, there are no known candidates at this time for the two-year trustee seat.

Eligible residents who wish to register to vote should contact the Delaware County Board of Elections. The deadline to register in order to vote in the March 21 election is March 10, 2023.

A resolution to schedule a public hearing for April 18, 2023 at 6:45 p.m. on a

proposed local law to override the tax levy limit for the 2024 fiscal year was adopted by trustees.

Trustees, with Jim Kopp absent from the meeting, also appointed the firm of Monaco, Cooper, Lamme & Carr PLLC as village attorney, the same firm approved last October as special counsel. Laura Golfo was present to take the oath of office. She replaces Shawn Smith, who is now the acting District Attorney for Delaware County, and may no longer serve as village attorney.

Trustees formally adopted the rental agreement for the tenants of the Churchill Gym building, which houses the village library and Kiddie

Corner Preschool. In previous articles it was reported the library and the preschool had not paid rent previously. That information is incorrect, they did pay rent to the school district, however it was substantially lower than the current proposal.

Stamford Central School has agreed to pay the village through the end of the school year, June 30, 2023, which will offset the cost of heating the gym area, according to Mayor Schneider. The school utilizes the gym for sports practices.

At a workshop meeting earlier this month, Mayor Schneider said the school could continue to utilize the gym area for practices, but would have to pay a fee. Since the workshop meeting, Schneider said he discussed it with the SCS Superintendent Dr. Glen Huot. Although no firm agreement has been made, Mayor Schneider said they are looking at a payment of \$5,000. His main concern during the workshop meeting was the cost of heating the large gym area, with the high fuel prices this winter. He said the gym area was "bleeding money" on the cost of fuel. The village crew was expected to seal off the gym area, so village officials could get an idea of the actual cost for heating the gym area.

The tentative agreement with the school would cover the cost of heating the gym, according to Mayor Schneider. Lease agreements with the library and the preschool would be for 90 days, when it is expected village officials will have a better idea of costs and may renegotiate the figures.

Trustees approved a five-year contract with Cedarwood Engineering for operation of the wastewater treatment plant. Previously the village has entered three-year contracts. However, it was determined the longer contract would be mutually beneficial to both parties.

The budget for operation of the plant over the coming year has increased 17 per-

cent, according to WWTP supervisor Lucas Flachs. The village must bear the brunt of the cost to replace windows, with the city paying 25 percent of the cost. Another major repair is resurfacing the sewer tanks, for which the village must pay the entire bill, estimated at \$500,000. Flachs told the board it would be treated as a capitol project and put out for bid. The driveway also needs to be redone. The estimated cost is \$30,000 with the city picking up a 20 percent share. He also touched on damage to the fiber optic line to the plant, damaged by the company replacing the water mains. The lines have been patched for the time being and will be fully replaced, the cost for replacement borne by Bellamy, the company replacing the water mains.

This led to a discussion of an increase in the sewer rates, with three options proposed. The first option would be to increase the sewer unit by \$10 per unit for the coming year and revisit the cost next year. It would make up the deficit in the current sewer budget. The second option is to raise the sewer rate by \$10 for the coming year, then drop it back to \$5 per unit going forward. The third option is to create a special project fee, to cover the cost of the projects at the plan and spread the cost to all sewer units. Each sewer unit would be up \$12 per unit for the next two years. After two years the cost would be re-evaluated. Trustees seemed to favor the third option, however it will be revisited at the February meeting.

The village will also review permit fees for code enforcement. Code Enforcement Officer Rich Irwin is in the process. He also discussed transient housing, which includes short-term rentals. While it is covered under state building codes, the village could have more restrictive regulations.

It All Depends on 'Mother Nature'

By Liz Page

Just as winter has finally showed up for local skiers, snowmobilers and other winter outdoor enthusiasts, it's time for the groundhog to come out of his winter den to predict how many more weeks of winter are left. Most of the time Punxsutawney Phil predicts six more weeks. Is that because the winter solstice lasts until March 20 at 5:24 p.m. when the vernal equinox, or spring, begins? That's about six weeks after Groundhog Day on Feb. 2.

Wouldn't it be nice to point to the calendar and say, there, winter will begin or end on this day, or spring, or summer, or fall. Unfortunately, Mother Nature doesn't follow the astronomical seasons, which are based on the position of the sun. She has her own patterns which can make seasons longer



or shorter, milder or harsher, than the those based on the sun.

The weathermen on television last night were kind of hinting the winter sports enthusiasts needed some snow and the back to back storms this week should give them enough to do whatever we enjoy in the snow. The snowmobilers were revving their engines

in anticipation of more snow on Wednesday.

What we do know, and what we can predict, is that the daylight is lasting longer each day as we move toward the summer solstice, the day we will see the longest amount of daylight. That day is still a long way off. It happens on the astronomical calendar on June 21 at 9:57 a.m..

Equinox means equal night. There are two of them - the second one comes in the fall, or the autumnal equinox (Sept. 21). Daylight and nighttime are each 12 hours.

When the groundhog sees his shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter. If the groundhog doesn't see his shadow, spring will arrive early. We have had his prediction since Feb. 2, 1887 with the first groundhog day in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. It has grown to become a full day of special, light hearted events to celebrate the furry creature and his prediction. It is now a tourist destination in the middle of winter.

While the day has continued eventful for 136 years, scientists will tell you it's all a bunch of bull. Phil is only right about 40 percent of the time. Since 1887, the groundhog has predicted an early spring just 20 times.

The scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association NOAA,

are saying we will have colder than normal temperatures in February, March and April. The Old Farmer's Almanac prediction is that this winter would be the longest and coldest in years, but it also said there would be places where the traditionally snowy winter never really arrives. The coldest periods will be early and late January and late February. NOAA is saying above normal temperatures may occur in the Northeast.

With some feeling that winter hasn't been too cold or snowy, it's unknown which prediction will be accurate. Whether or not "Phil" sees his shadow, astronomically there will still be six more weeks in the winter solstice. The weather could hold almost anything, but at least the days are getting longer.

Like I said, Mother Nature will bring whatever she brings. I have seen softball teams shoveling paths to the bases, just because they wanted to get outside for a spring sport, even though games were cancelled for the first two weeks of the season in April. There are pictures of snowstorms well after the spring equinox. Mother Nature can bring it on at any time. Remember the storm that ruined everyone's Valentine Day plans? That was a three-foot snowfall on Valentine's Day 1993. Or March 14, 2017 that dumped 36 to 42 inches of snow. And, of course, you don't want to ask anyone in the city of Buffalo what kind of a winter it has been for them. They saw 51 inches from one storm for New Year's.

Keep the snowshoes handy, if you like winter, or look at a spring seed catalog, if you aren't.

No matter what, the days are getting longer, and spring will arrive when Mother Nature is ready.

Indictment In Contractor Fraud Case

DELHI - Delaware County Acting District Attorney Shawn Smith announced that Casey B. Tait, 38, of Tannersville, New York appeared in Delaware County Court on Jan. 23 in front of the Honorable Gary A. Rosa. Tait was arraigned on a Two Count Indictment.

Count One of the indictment accuses the defendant, Tait, of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a Class D Felony in violation of Section 155.35(1) of New York State Penal Law. Tait, the owner of Tait Enterprises, is alleged to have taken a deposit for home renovations on a home in the Town of Roxbury, and failed to perform the contract for renovations.

Count Two of the Indictment also accuses the

defendant of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree. The defendant is alleged to have received over \$3,000 to complete a home improvement project on a house in Roxbury, but instead of using that money to complete the renovations, the contractor used the funds for other purposes.

The defendant pleaded not guilty to all the charges at his arraignment. The case is scheduled for a conference in Delaware County Court on Feb. 6.

Smith thanked New York State Police Investigator Brian Dengler for his hard work on the case.

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

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Year-End Reports And Forthcoming Initiatives Top WAC Meeting

By Mary A. Crisafulli
WALTON - Watershed Agricultural Councils Council of Directors met on Jan. 24 to hear operation and year-end department reports, make appointments, and discuss business.

Heather Magnan gave an update on communications and reported all deliverables were met in 2022. Moving into 2023 WAC is celebrating its 30th anniversary, she said. Magnan's team is developing outreach and educational programming associated with WAC's anniversary. The team is also creating content for the new website redesign project currently underway. With a revamped website, Magnan said, all program materials are being reviewed to ensure they conform with the WAC message and brand.

Due to increased costs in paper, Magnan expects to print fewer copies of the guide booklets that help promote WAC involvement and initiatives. Approximately 55,000 are usually printed, and she expects to cut about 5,000 handouts.

Amy Faulkner, director of operations, presented the information and technology (IT) report in John Jackson's absence. The IT department continues to work on the operating system update project. A new database system is being installed, which will be implemented alongside the current database to identify bugs, she ex-

plained. According to Faulkner, portions of the new system can not operate with the current system and will need to be established after new servers are installed.

Forestry Program Manager Tom Pavlesich reported on the forestry program, which had only one missed deliverable in 2022. The Green Connections Program was challenging to meet due to lingering pandemic-related restrictions in school districts, said Pavlesich. The program connects New York City schools with rural schools in the Catskill region. Aside from building friendships, the main objective is to educate downstate children on where their drinking water derives. The program is challenging in a typical year due to the lack of Catskill region school districts, said Pavlesich. "We expect to meet this deliverable next year," he concluded, due to several prospective participating schools.

Easement Program Manager Serena Orleski reported high praise for her employee's work during 2022. The program was short-staffed most of the year, with only three individuals managing nearly 32,000 easement acres and over 120,000 forest lands.

Orleski also reported a pilot flight program using DEC helicopters to monitor properties. Each easement requires three inspections

annually, one of which can be conducted via aerial view, she explained. The agreement could save staff time and present additional data, said Orleski.

The following appointments were made for a one-year term: To the Council of Directors Wayland Gladstone, chairperson, Tom Hutson, vice chairperson, Karl Gockel, treasurer, and Jennifer Grossman, secretary. To the governance committee John Verhoeven, chairperson, Steve Reed, Tom Hutson, and Fred Huneke. To the audit committee John Verhoeven, chairperson, Dwight Bruno, and Steve Reed.

In another discussion, directors renewed a lease agreement with Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District to occupy WAC headquarters at 44 West Street in Walton until March 2025. WAC has operated out of the facility for 20 years. Executive Director Ryan Naatz said directors should explore the building or purchase a facility and end the rental agreement in 2025. The proposition to build a headquarters has been discussed in the past, and WAC members and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) representatives should assess the budget to be sure it is a fiscally safe endeavor, he explained.

New York State Department of Health (DOH) rep-

resentative Patrick Palmer gave a brief overview of DOH's second wave of revisions to the Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD). Following an initial draft published in June 2022, DOH representatives took into account comments from watershed stakeholders to develop a second set of revisions. The FAD is a license awarded to the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) by DOH, permitting its operation within the Delaware and Catskill watershed towns. Under such a license, DEP runs several programs, including land and streamside acquisition. The FAD is now finalized, Palmer reported. He explained that the FAD will be reviewed again in 2027, and feedback will be collected again through several workgroups before adjustments are made. Such workgroups will be open to watershed stakeholders but not the general public, he added.

Directors entered into an executive session to discuss a potential project funding award for Columbia University for \$2.9 million. No decisions were made following the executive session.

WAC directors' next meeting is scheduled Tuesday, Feb. 28, at 10 a.m. via Zoom only. For more information on WAC or to get a Zoom link visit nycwatershed.org.

Obituaries

The family of Guerrino Dianich would like to express their appreciation to the Sacred Heart Church community, especially the Knights of Columbus and Women's Guild. Thank you to all of our friends and family who traveled to be with us during this difficult time.

Delaware League Standings

Delaware League Varsity Boys Basketball (8 games)		
SKCS	7-0	14-1
Davenport	5-1	12-2
Margaretville	4-2	10-3
Downsville	4-2	7-9
Gilboa	3-3	6-5
HTC	2-3	5-4
Roxbury	1-4	2-10
Windham	1-6	2-10
Jefferson/Stamford	0-6	1-15

Delaware League Varsity Girls Basketball (8 games)		
SKCS	6-0	12-3
Stamford/Jefferson	5-0	10-4
Windham	4-1	7-3
Davenport	2-2	7-5
HTC	2-3	5-5
Downsville	1-4	3-12
Roxbury	1-4	2-8
Margaretville	1-4	2-12
Gilboa	0-4	0-9

Delaware League JV Boys Basketball (5 games)		
Margaretville	4-1	7-2
SKCS	3-1	8-4
Jefferson/Stamford	3-2	8-6
Davenport	3-2	7-6
Gilboa	1-4	3-5
Downsville	0-4	1-9

Delaware League JV Girls Basketball (4 games)		
Davenport	2-0	15-0
Stamford/Jefferson	2-2	5-8
HTC	0-2	1-4

Delaware League Varsity Boys Skiing		
1st - Windham		
2nd - Roxbury		
3rd - HTC		
4th - Margaretville		

Delaware League Varsity Girls Skiing		
1st - Windham		
2nd - HTC		
3rd - Margaretville		
Roxbury		

Grant Programs Top Delco's Mental Health Committee Meeting Discussion

By Mary A. Crisafulli
WALTON - Delaware County Mental Health Committee members discussed multiple federal and state grants at a regularly scheduled meeting on Jan. 23.

Doug Elston, interim behavioral health director, announced the extension for use of funds awarded regarding the Workforce Training Grant through the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act. The department was awarded approximately \$35,000 to pay for training and educational courses for behavioral health employees. Funds were initially required to be spent by the end of 2022, though the extension will permit use in 2023, Elston explained. The department spent approximately \$5,000 in grant funding in 2022.

A variety of training is available for mental health

professionals, which are typically offered virtually, making attendance simple, said Elston. Several employees are interested in taking a three-day trauma treatment and therapy training, he continued. Staff certified in the best approach for trauma-based patients will help the department better serve the community, said Elston. Several clinicians will also take suicide assessment trainings.

According to Colchester Supervisor Arthur Merrill, county budget director, training is typically budgeted for each department. The grant will help offset the education budget line for the behavioral health department in 2023, he explained.

In addition to the training grant, several behavioral health employees were eligible for the New York State Health Care and Mental Hygiene Worker Bonus program distributed

through New York State Department of Health (DOH). The behavioral health department is preparing its second round of bonuses for approximately 17 employees.

The New York State 2023 budget allocates \$1.3 billion to the bonus program to support the recruitment and retention of healthcare and mental hygiene workers. Gratuities are eligible for workers who make less than \$125,000 annually and remain in their positions for at least six months. Disbursements will be calculated based on hours worked during designated periods for up to \$3,000 per employee.

In other business, Elston reported several issues with children skateboarding in the front parking lot of the behavioral health facility in Walton. Security officers have asked the skateboarders to leave, though they seem to come back at other times, he continued. Elston explained that staff members are worried someone will get hurt since cars pull in and out of the area. Walton could benefit from a skatepark, he suggested.

Walton Supervisor Joe Cetta, who is on the mental health committee, said the prospect of opening a skatepark in Walton had been discussed in the past. Liability issues, cost of construction, and the chance

skateboarding could lose popularity led to council members defeating the notion, said Cetta.

Merrill will work with county Maintenance Superintendent Pete Montgomery on placing signage prohibiting skateboarding in the parking lot. Council members agreed the signage might not prevent the issue, though it will protect against liability concerns.

In another discussion, Elston will meet with members of the recently formed county Threat Assessment Team organized through the Sheriff department. Elston will represent the mental health clinic and find ways to be involved in the assessment efforts, he said.

No decisions were made following an executive session to discuss personnel.

The next mental health committee meeting has not been scheduled. Committee schedules for 2023 will be placed on the county website at delcony.us in the near future, said Tina Molé, Bovina supervisor and chairperson to the board of supervisors.



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Spartans Dominate Rams 72 to 62

KORTRIGHT - It was a rough start for the boys South Kortright Rams that built up to a tight basketball game against Main Endwell Spartans on Jan. 24. The Rams came back on top for most of the first half but were dominated again by the Spartans ultimately ending the half 40 to 36 Spartans. The two teams were well matched with equal defensive and offensive players.

The second half proved to be as intense as the first. The Rams remained behind the entire second half, but not without a fight. The Spartans took the win 72 to 62.



South Kortright's Adam Champlin successfully blocked Spartans' Cullen Green's attempt at a basket in the first half.
Photos by Mary Crisafulli.



South Kortright's Josh Anderson jumps to block Main Endwell's Luka Ioanisci. Spartan Cullen Green scores another two points for Main Endwell while Ram Josh Anderson attempts to block.

MARK Project Reps. Seek County Support in Affordable Housing Initiative

By Mary A. Crisafulli
DELHI - Steve Finch, president of the MARK Project, a not-for-profit based in Arkville, requested support in finding a suitable structure for their affordable housing initiative at a Delaware County Finance committee meeting on Jan. 25.

The nearly 40-year-old organization works to build resiliency throughout the communities it serves, which include Bovina, Andes, Middletown, Roxbury, Margaretville and Fleischmanns.

MARK Project members recognized a need for housing in the county which increased during the global pandemic. Representatives have

identified state grant opportunities to refurbish a dilapidated home. The plan is to remodel a home into two or three condos for individuals to rent or purchase, said Finch. The ability to purchase the condos would make the project a stepping stone for individuals or families to build from, he added.

The main focus of the initiative is to build up local communities and businesses by developing workforce housing. Many businesses and industries struggle to hire new employees due to the lack of housing in the area, he explained.

Finch approached the finance committee due to previously failed structure opportunities. The

Mark Project would like to partner with Delaware County in purchasing one of its tax-delinquent homes. A previously sought parcel in Middletown was unobtainable due to owner concerns, explained Finch.

Committee members were all in agreement the initiative would be beneficial for the county as a whole.

"There is no doubt there is a housing issue in Delaware County," said Franklin Supervisor Jeffery Taggart.

Hamden Supervisor Wayne Marshfield asked if Finch would consider branching outside the currently served areas for the housing project. Finch said the project is focused on their current-

ly served locations through other organizations, such as Western Catskills Community Revitalization Council, which might be interested in a similar project.

Colchester Supervisor and committee chair Arthur Merrill said Finch would be connected with County Treasurer Beverly Shields to identify potential properties.

In another discussion, Shields requested property in Colchester should be gifted to the county highway department for storage. The 290 by 335 parcel is unbuildable as it is directly next to a road and brook, said Shields. Committee members agreed the parcel would be best used by the highway department.

Another property in Middletown, whose taxes have been delinquent for five to six years, would be best suited for the village to purchase, Shields explained. The county has not taken possession of the property, which has a structure with several code violations attached. The structure is currently owned by The Church of God and has approximately \$20,000 in delinquent taxes. Com-

mittee members permitted Shields to connect with the village regarding purchase of the property.

The next finance committee meeting is not scheduled. Committee schedules will be placed on the county website at delcony.us in the near future, said Tina Molé, Bovina supervisor and chairperson to the board of supervisors.

SK Boys Stay Perfect in League Play

DELAWARE LEAGUE - South Kortright defeated Jefferson/Stamford 62-25 last Friday to stay on top in the Delaware League standings and Charlotte Valley handed Margaretville a 49-38 loss to hold second place with one league loss.

Connor Quarino led the way for the Rams as he bucketed five baskets from the three-point line and finished the night with the game high of 29 points. Teammate Troy Dianich

chimed in another 10 points in double figures. For J/S, Chris Hardenbergh was the high man with 10 points on the night.

Jamison Quigley scored 23 points to lead the Charlotte Valley Wildcats in Friday's win over Margaretville. He also pulled down nine rebounds. Trevor Waid added eight points, eight rebounds and dished off eight assists. Ryan McVitty led the Blue Devils with 20 points on the night.

Hunter-Tannersville defeated Roxbury 52-45 in last Friday's action. Jevail McKinnie pumped in 18 points and pulled down 12 rebounds to lead the win. Grady Glennon chipped in another 12 points, five assists and had five steals. Roxbury was led by Jordan Johnson's game-high 27-point effort.

Gilboa-Conesville picked up a 45-29 victory over Downsville on Friday. Jacob Strauch led the way with 14 points and teammates Joe Wille and William Cipolla each chimed in 10 points each. Wille also had a good night on the boards, with nine rebounds. For the Eagles, Gavin Brunner scored nine points.

In action last Wednesday, Margaretville defeated Roxbury 58-48. Ryan McVitty scored the game high of 24 points as he got hot at the three-point line with six three-point baskets on the night. George Proctor led the Rocket's scoring with 21 points on the night.

Charlotte Valley defeated Jefferson/Stamford 56-49 as Ezra Ontl struck for five three-pointers to finish the night with the game high of 25 points last Friday. Jamison Quigley chimed in another 17 points to the win. For J/S, Jacob Staroba scored 19 points and pulled down 11 rebounds.

Hunter-Tannersville came out on top of a close pairing with Windham, 38-32, last Wednesday. Jevail McKinnie led H-T with 15 points and 12 rebounds and Grady Glennon added 13 points, had seven steals and four assists. For the Warriors, Tyler Lashau scored 11

points.

In action on Tuesday, Laurens/Milford defeated Windham 69-31 in a non-league pairing. Eli Cicerone was the high scorer for Windham, with 12 points on the night.

Charlotte Valley defeated Hunter-Tannersville 68-41 on Tuesday. Jamison Quigley scored the game high of 21 points and teammates Ezra Ontl and Trevor Waid added another 15 points each in double figures. For H-T, Jevail McKinnie scored 18 points and pulled down eight boards, with Connor Schiefer adding eight points and eight rebounds.

In non-league action on Tuesday, Maine-Endwell handed SK a 72-62 loss. M-E pulled away from the Rams over the second half. Connor Quarino led SK with 21 points on the night and teammates Darren Dengler and Josh Anderson chimed in another 10 points each in double figures. It was the second loss on the season overall for the Rams, who remain perfect in league play with one league pairing to go. They were due to travel to Downsville on Thursday.

Girl's League Results

DELAWARE LEAGUE - It was light week in girls varsity hoop as four teams fell in non-league pairings on Tuesday.

Laurens defeated Windham 68-44. Amanda Nilsen was the high-scorer for the Lady Warriors with 17 points.

Milford topped Charlotte

Valley 49-40 on Tuesday. Ella Gerster led Davenport with 10 points on the night.

Morris defeated Roxbury 50-32. Kimora Brown led scoring for the Lady Rockets with 15 points.

Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton defeated Gilboa 51-20. Caitlyn Ciaravino led Gilboa's scoring with eight points.

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Letters to the Editor

Crute for POTY

I would like to nominate Deb Crute – Director of Operations at heart of the Catskills Humane Society – as Person of the Year.

I volunteer at the HCHS and have known Deb for a few years now. I have observed her interact with not just the animals, but the general public, staff member and volunteers and I can safely say she is an exceptional human being.. Deb is the life of the shelter: she has a great positive attitude, always welcoming, always patient, always putting in 110% for people and pets. She is always ready to help, no matter who or how help is needed and one knows that you can always count on her. She is extremely dedicated to her job and the wellbeing of the animals and works very hard to make sure everybody is happy.

I can't think of anyone one who would be a better fit to be Person of The Year

Silvia Benelli
Meredith

Crute for POTY

I nominate Deb Crute, Director of Heart of The Catskills Humane Society for Person Of The Year. For over 20 years Deb has continued to be the high energy force that makes the HCHS the little shelter with a big heart. Running the shelter's day to day operation and assorted emergencies that pop up, initiating and promoting many new programs that benefit the animals and the public as well as being the creative force behind many fundraisers are just a broad description of Debs work. The staff, volunteers and the public all know they can count on her to be there for them, no matter what the situation. Deb is the Purr-fect person to be honored for Person of The Year!

Kelly Haas
Stamford

America-Speak Up

Many believe it was Rev. Bonhoeffer, a Christian in Germany, who seeing the persecution of Jews by Hitler at the beginning of WWII said: "Silence in the face of evil, is itself evil; not to speak is to speak, not to act is to act, God will not hold us guiltless."

He saw evil and he

knew it was time to speak up. Hitler was against Jews and Christians. Today, we have another evil movement in the world threatening Christians and Jews, America and Humanity.

It is called "Atheistic-Socialist-Marxism." Disguised as "liberal-progressive", it is slowly destroying a once great, free Biblically based society, called America. Obama first declared, while President, that America is not an exceptional Christian country.

What we see slowly happening in America would amaze our Biblical founders and forefathers. We see our churches closing at an alarming rate. Our children are being indoctrinated with anti-Christian values in our schools and in our once great Biblically based colleges. This is a slow, subtle indoctrination. Prayer was eliminated from our schools in the radical 60's.

Now we have drag queens entertaining our young children and giving them books to read.

Abortion, nowhere mentioned in the Bible, is now made to be a right because "it's my body, my choice". Jesus said, "I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly".

Crime in our cities is out of control, while the "progressives" defund our police. Divorce and broken homes are at an all time high, and our young people are dying from drug overdose. Our gas and fuel supplies have been drastically cut and food prices are increasing daily, while inflation continues to rise.

No country, like America, has prospered and given so much to the world and its people. Schools teach our children mostly about our sins and flaws. While our test scores continue to drop, we teach "critical race theory". One of Marxism's major tools is to divide and conquer, pit one group of Americans against another. Another, is to eliminate the religion of the people and weaken its schools and the media.

If we care about our children, grandchildren and our future, it's time to get involved and speak up for what is right and good for our country.

Our only hope is a return to the teachings of the Bible and individual

trust in the God of the Bible. We need to return to what made us great, "One Nation under God".

James T Varelas
US Veteran
East Jewett

Nominating Crute

I would like to nominate Deb Crute, director of shelter operations at Heart of the Catskills Humane Society (HCHS) for Person of the Year!

Deb has worked at the humane society since 1997 in many different roles. Deb 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.

Deb participates and coordinates in many HCHS fundraising events during the year and always tries to help raise awareness of the homeless animals at the shelter by generating good PR between the shelter and local community groups.

She is an excellent supervisor and role model to her staff and a true leader. Staff know they can rely on Deb for invaluable knowledge with any animal related procedure or problem.

Deb works well with staff, volunteers, Board Members, donors, supporters and community members. Regardless of how busy Deb is, she always takes the time to answer questions or speak with someone who needs advice regarding an animal problem.

Deb is the "heart and soul" of the animal shelter! She keeps the shelter operations running smooth everyday and always has a positive attitude.

I hope you will consider Deb Crute for Person of the Year!!

Marion Ott
HCHS Volunteer

Fully Informed Jury

Fellow citizens, I would like to bring to light a process of our legal system that is and has been a well-kept secret; I would like to discuss THE IMPORTANCE OF JURY DUTY AND THE RIGHT OF JUROR NULLIFICATION'.

If you have never heard the term, it is NOT something that Judges, District Attorneys, and Prosecutors readily speak about to juries or Grand Juries.

Juror nullification is your right to refuse to enforce UNJUST OR UNCONSTITUTIONAL laws. Nullification is your RIGHT to veto corrupt laws. Jurors have authority and the right to decide both law and fact. You can protect yourself, friends, family and neighbors, by refusing to enforce bad/unjust laws.

In our system of "checks and balances", you - the juror, are the final judge of law and justice. We can ALL stand up for our Rights and Freedoms against our legislators and judges who dictate laws that are unjust. We can STRENGTHEN our justice system - We the jurors have the power via: JUROR NULLIFICATION.

Only one 'NOT GUILTY' vote can be the difference. A 'HUNG JURY' is

better than a conviction TO AN UNJUST LAW!! You have every right to vote 'NOT GUILTY' If your personal convictions say this is an unjust law. Jurors can use discretion - If the law violates any human rights, you must vote NO against that law by voting 'NOT GUILTY'.

If you preserve and hold to your convictions, you can make our democracy work for EVERY PERSON.

Alexander Hamilton, an American Founder, said in 1804, Jurors should acquit even against the judge's instruction... "if exercising their judgment with discretion and honesty they have a clear conviction that the charge of the court is wrong."

Jurors must question the law - In American courtrooms there are 12 judges plus the one in the robe. In fact, one court ruled, "If the jury feels that the law under which the defendant, I accused is unjust... or for any reason which appeals to their logic or passion, the jury has the power to acquit and the courts must abide by that decision - (U.S. V Moylan 427 F 2d 1002, 1006, 1969)

If you are on the jury, YOU CAN vote NOT GUILTY to any and all laws that infringe our Rights & Freedoms, as proclaimed in our Bill of Rights. Our Freedoms of speech, religion etc. to speak our minds, follow our religious faith, protect ourselves and neighbors as a Law-abiding FIREARM owner.

Example: self-protection is a NATURAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT that our government DOES NOT HAVE THE RIGHT to take away.

Jury Nullification can be a peaceful tool that protects Law-abiding citizens from unjust and UNCONSTITUTIONAL charges.

The next time you receive a juror duty notice, stand up and cheer. You are one of the most powerful individuals in our country.

You can make a true difference. You can ENSURE THAT our Rights and Freedoms are maintained by knowing your rights is having power through JUROR NULLIFICATION.

Jury Nullification: empowering the jury as a FOURTH branch of government.

I encourage each and every one, to read and understand all you can concerning 'JUROR NULLIFICATION'. Go to "WWW.FJJA.ORG"

In closing, I Would like to share a quote from Douglas Buchanan: "The primary function of the independent juror is NOT, as many think, to dispense punishment to fellow citizens accused of breaking various laws, but rather to PROTECT fellow citizens from tyrannical abuse of power by government."

Richard Rossi
Denver

Nomination

I am honored to nominate Deb Crute, Director of Heart of the Catskills Humane Society for your person of the year. I have known Deb for close to 20 years, being a board member and serving on

numerous committees and fundraisers with her. She goes above and beyond with responsibilities and ideas. A perfect example would be this fall when we installed new shelter kennels. Deb stayed overnight for two weeks in a row at the shelter to make sure everything was fine with all of the animals there; she also often does this if there's a snowstorm or other kind of severe weather, just to be sure everything is fine with all of the furry babies. She has been our Shelter Director for 25 years and inspires each and every one of us every day. I can't think of a person more worthy of this special honor.

Dale Trethaway
Cohoes, formerly of Roxbury

STR Response

Although Ms. Barchitta, in her letter appearing in this paper in the Jan. 13th edition, marshals some very obvious and thankfully well-ingrained principles of our representative democracy, her outrage against the Roxbury Town Board is totally unfounded and impugns the Town Board and the STR Committee without reason. There is no evidence that the Town Board has "decided issues on their own, taking the authority away from the people they serve."

The STR committee appointed by the Board was NOT charged to come up with regulations for short-term rentals in Roxbury but rather to understand and investigate the need for regulations. After looking into the issues and looking at the approaches in other nearby towns and considering effect of STRs and potential regulations on the welfare and economy of our town, the committee decided that there was no need of regulations at this time. We are not aware of whether it was unanimous or not, but certainly the majority preference was for no regulations.

That aside, there is a presumption in Ms Barchitta's letter that most people want regulations and that such a preference was subverted by the Board's process. That presumption has no firm ground. There were letters received by the committee, but they were not all in favor of regulations, and it would not have been correct for the Board to presume the need for regulations without proper examination. That examination took place and the result was a determination that regulations of STRs are not necessary at this time.

Rather than unnecessarily and unreasonably stirring up passions about supposed dereliction of duty and undemocratic process, it would be better to elucidate the concerns or benefits of STRs and take it from there.

Robin Factor
Doug McLaurine
Roxbury

POTY

I would like to nominate Deb Crute, Director of the Heart of the Catskills Humane Society, for Person of the Year. I have been a volunteer at the Heart of the Catskills for over 20 years, and Deb is an amazing leader and incredibly hard worker, completely devoted to the animals in her care. From managing the day-to-day operations of the shelter, to spearheading numerous fundraisers, her enthusiasm and energy and boundless. Serving as the Director of "the little shelter with the

big heart" is more than a job to Deb. She is there for the animals, the staff, and the volunteers in so many ways. Deb is one of the main reasons I keep coming back to volunteer. Deb is the face of the Heart of the Catskills to the community.

Thanks for considering this nomination.

Barbara Kaplan
Delhi

God Takes Care of His People

Honesty is not extinct. A few weeks ago, I shook hands with a man and let him take my backhoe. He was purchasing the backhoe from me, but still owed \$6,000. Just as he had promised, he paid me the remainder of the money three days later when the bank opened. He paid every cent of it. His name was Ashley Alberti, from Ashland. I call him Honest Ashley.

I had a deal a few days ago to work for a young lady from Gilboa. She paid me 10-times more than I expected. I didn't have to ask. Her name is Heidi VanAken.

I just wanted people to know.

Larry Truesdell
Grand Gorge

Thank You

I am writing to thank Schoharie-area residents for sharing the true meaning of Christmas with children in need this past holiday season.

Generosity throughout contributed to a successful shoebox gift collection season at drop-off locations for the Samaritan's Purse project Operation Christmas Child. Across the U.S., the project collected over 9.3 million shoebox gifts in 2022. Combined with those collected from partnering countries in 2022, the ministry is now sending nearly 10.6 million shoebox gifts to children worldwide.

Through shoeboxes—packed with fun toys, school supplies, and hygiene items—Schoharie-area volunteers brought joy to children in need around the world. Each gift-filled shoebox is a tangible expression of God's love, and it is often the first gift these children have ever received. Through the continued generosity of donors since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 209 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories. This year, Samaritan's Purse delivered its milestone 200 millionth shoebox, which was packed on a country-wide tour and then hand-delivered to a young girl in Ukraine.

Across NY, shoebox packers often shop for deals on shoebox items throughout the year, and many serve at a deeper level by becoming a year-round volunteer. Information about ways area participants can get involved year-round can also be found at samaritanspurse.org/occ or by calling 518-437-0690.

Although local drop-off locations for gifts are closed until Nov. 13 – 20, 2023, anyone can still be a part of this life-changing project by conveniently packing a shoebox gift online in just a few simple clicks at samaritanspurse.org/buildonline.

These simple gifts, packed with love, send a message to children worldwide that they are loved and not forgotten.

Lizette Miller
SAMARITAN'S PURSE

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

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Supers: Independent IDA or No Money Majority Oppose IDA/SEEC Director Share

By Timothy Knight
SCHOHARIE – If the Schoharie County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) wants \$130,000 in annual funds pledged by the Board of Supervisors in order to grow the agency, then new IDA Director Julie Pacatte will be fully transitioned from her current position at the Schoharie Economic Enterprise Corporation (SEEC) by the start of May.

That was the ultimatum approved by a majority of supervisors at last Friday morning's monthly county board meeting, with them opposing a proposal by Gilboa Town Supervisor Alicia Terry, Ms. Pacatte, IDA and SEEC to operate both agencies (IDA is publicly operated, while SEEC is privately run) under a shared directorate through the year.

Prompted by a presentation Ms. Terry had delivered to the Economic Development Committee earlier last week, in which she proposed a multi-agency effort that would include private and public sector components, her colleagues expressed hesitation about both the "optics" of a dual-directorate and how county taxpayer funds would be expended.

"I was hoping when this happened, we were going to move to a full-time IDA person, because I think we need to take that step up," explained Esperance Town Supervisor Earl VanWormer. Although he was not op-

posed to a year-long transition period, Mr. VanWormer noted that the agencies should be separated.

Both IDA Board Chairman Chester Burton and SEEC Board Member Peter Johnson spoke in favor of the arrangement to supervisors, with Mr. Burton noting that IDA's are closely governed by the state-operated Authorities and Business Office (ABO). "That doesn't take care of the optics, of course," he conceded.

"SEEC is very comfortable with this arrangement with the IDA," commented Mr. Johnson. Arguing that, "We really need to work together collegially, collaboratively in the effort to actually create economic development in Schoharie County," he expressed his concerns with accepting any county financing because of the accompanying strings.

"Our responsibility is making sure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely," replied Mr. VanWormer. His comments were echoed by Blenheim Supervisor Don Airey, who stated "We do have a responsibility for oversight, and those optics are important." Mr. Airey also understood the need for transition, but wanted to avoid a legacy appointment.

He also expressed concerns about SEEC hiring a private consultant to work on strategic alignment with the IDA and the Board of Supervisors that has no apparent eco-

nomics development experience. This would be a point of contention later in the meeting, as Ms. Pacatte accused Mr. Airey of only doing five minutes of research, which he disputed.

Additionally, Mr. Airey commented "We need and we thought, as a board, that we were going to get 100% for the irreplaceable Ron Filmer." Noting that the recently adopted Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) didn't incorporate that stipulation, he added that "I'm sorry, and I apologize as oversight, that I didn't study the MOU more carefully."

Seward Town Supervisor Earlin Rosa concurred, saying "I think the optics are terrible and this arrangement is incestual; I find the taste of nepotism in that." He explained that he learned two members sit on both the IDA and SEEC boards, which Ms. Pacatte disputed from the audience as "untrue."

"I'm also weary of doing the one-year transition," commented Schoharie Town Supervisor Alan Tavener. He continued, "I understand that there has to be a little bit of transition, maybe ninety days or something; a year just allows everybody to get far too comfortable with the status quo of that split relationship."

Saying that he doesn't want the relationship between IDA, SEEC, and the Board of Supervisors poisoned, Mr. Tavener commented "With the understanding that this transition happens within maybe ninety days, then I'm comfortable with letting the money go forward."

Summit Town Supervisor Harold Vroman, who also serves as Vice-Chairman, explained that the county share would actually be \$650,000 over five years. Noting that amount is not miniscule to residents who are trying to survive on \$10,000 per year, he said "All you had to do was

let us know, but we never heard about it until it was done."

Expressing her opposition to both the dual-directorate proposal and permitting a year-long transition period, Jefferson Town Supervisor Margaret "Peggy" Hait said that "...I'm not positive I would support Don's 90 days [transition period]." She accused the two entities of planning to split the position.

Rejoining the conversation after listening for a while, Ms. Terry addressed her colleague's

earlier comment by stating there is only one member (Peter Johnson) who sits on both the IDA and SEEC boards, while another one (Benjamin Oevering) serves on the IDA Board and the SEEC Advisory Committee.

"I heard loud and clear on Tuesday night that folks are concerned about return on investment," stated Ms. Terry, who asked her colleagues for both county participation in the strategic alignment process and some time for the transition to work. "Schoharie

County is on the brink of a lot of important IDA scale projects," she further commented.

Recognized to speak from the audience, Village of Cobleskill Mayor Rebecca "Becky" Stanton-Terk stated that the Fairweather Report – which preceded SEEC's development – did not recommend that a private economic development entity should oversee the IDA, but that it should be an independent organization not subject to

Continued on Page B7

Skowfoe: "Retribution" for Committee Removal Rosa Tapped to Chair Health Committee

By Timothy Knight
SCHOHARIE – In the aftermath of Dr. Amy Gildemeister's reappointment being voted down twice by the Board of Supervisors, a subsequent reshuffling of the Public Health Committee by Board Chairman Bill Federice has spurred allegations of retribution.

"At our last meeting, you chose to remove me from the Health Committee," stated Fulton Town Supervisor Phil Skowfoe in his remarks to supervisors on Friday morning. Mr. Skowfoe, who had chaired the Public Health Committee for several years, had supported Dr. Gildemeister's reappointment vocally.

Addressing Chairman Federice, Mr. Skowfoe stated that "You said it was not retribution, but you told me it was because I did not support the will of the board, which is your opinion." He continued, "As a member of this board, we are supposed to be free thinkers. I believe the path I chose was the right one."

Although the two men have clashed in the past – sometimes at great disagreement – the committee process has remained bipartisan, with both Mr. Skowfoe and Sharon Town Supervisor Sandra

Manko retaining committee chairmanships despite them being the only elected Democrats on a Republican dominated board.

Noting that he has more years of experience on the Public Health Committee than any of his colleagues do, Mr. Skowfoe commented that "I was trying to prevent a lawsuit and keep a qualified person in the position." He added, "You should follow the laws of the state and not try to push your own agenda."

"You chose to remove people and replace them with ones that would do what you want as chairman," said Mr. Skowfoe in reference to his replacement by Seward Town Supervisor Earlin Rosa as committee chair. During the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Rosa once accused Dr. Gildemeister of fear mongering.

Accusing Chairman Federice of not utilizing the knowledge and experience of supervisors in his committee appointments, Mr. Skowfoe concluded his remarks by

stating "...I would like for you to tell me that it was not retribution for how I voted. My conscience is clear! I did the right thing! Can you say that?"

No response was made to Mr. Skowfoe's comments.

In other business, supervisors: Approved unanimously the appointments of Rachael Jafajo, David DeSando, and Undersheriff Bruce Baker to the Community Services Board.

Approved unanimously the appointments of Quin Smith (Middleburgh), Johanna Luhrman (Schoharie), Leighanne Golden (Cobleskill), Brae Dunham (Cobleskill), Matthew Wilms (Seward), Da-Lai Wu (Schoharie), Cherie Clapper (Fulton), Rosemarie Corcione Keller (Richmondville), and Melissa Bevins (Middleburgh) to the Schoharie County Youth Board.

Heard from MaryJo Sawyer and her colleagues from Gilroy, Kernan, & Gilroy about Schoharie County's health insurance plans and the costs associated therein.

Valley Briefs

2023 Village Of Middleburgh Meeting Schedule

First Monday Of The Month @7pm
Location: 309 Main Street, Middleburgh, NY 12122
February 6
March 6
April 3
May 1
June 5
July 10
August 7
September 11
October 2
November 6
December 4



FOUR STAR
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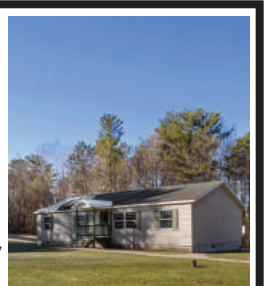


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M'burgh School to Host Blood Drive

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 redcross-blood.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.

Auto Racing News

By Tom Coughlin

Let's begin with a nice piece of positive information.

Albany-Saratoga Speedway promoter and race track preparer aficionado Lyle DeVore, has been battling Cancer for the past year. Recently his doctor has told him that the chemo treatments have made a difference, but Lyle acknowledges that he is not out of the woods yet. However, the support from the racing community and his commitment to keeping the racing exciting at the Great Race Place. Keep him moving with a smile on his face.

Late model racing was on the schedule last week as the World of Outlaws and DIRTcar pro (604) crate late model divisions were at the Volusia Speedway Park in Barberville, Florida for the Sunshine Nationals. Friday night there were 67 DIRTcar 604 crate pro late models in the pits. Four 20 lap features paying \$1,500 to the victor were run and two northeast drivers qualified for the features. Brock Pinkerous finished 9th. in feature number two, while Demetrios Drellos finished 3rd. in feature number four.

In the 25 lap \$8,000 to win World of Outlaw Case Construction Equipment Series feature Devin Moran of Dresden, Ohio beat a fast closing Tim McCreadie of Watertown, N.Y. to the finish line. Moran and McCreadie also finished 1-2 on Thursday night. Stewart Friesen of Sprakers failed to qualify his #44 on both nights and Saturday's 50-lap \$20,000 to win feature was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Cody Clark and Cody Clark Racing announced

on Monday that a new partnership has been formed for 2023 with Laundry Hoyenga of Hoyenga Racing. A resident of Salisbury Center, N.Y., Clark will use the number 4 on his modified at Fonda Speedway and will have a new DKM Fabrication chassis for his Clark Racing number 4 crate 602 sportsman ride at Fonda and for select Short Track Super Series events.

Ivan Joslin & Ivan Joslin Racing recently released their tentative schedule for the number 49 pro stock in 2023. Ivan will focus mainly on being at the Track of Champions every Saturday night, along with the Thunder on the Thruway Series which will involve a few races at Utica-Rome Speedway. Support in 2023 will come from One Zee Tees, Crystal Grove Diamond Mine & Campground, Hummingbird Hills Winery, Scentsy by Kyle, JB Photography, Parks Electrical, JK Signworks, and RCK Motorsports.

A new, but familiar face will be the voice of the Super DIRTcar Series for 2023 and beyond. Mike Warren of Averill Park, N.Y. will replace Shane Andrews in the announcers booth, as Shane's full time job has become more demanding. Warren has been announcing throughout the capital district for years and has been the PR. Coordinator for the World of Outlaws Case Construction Equipment for the past couple of seasons, a position that he will still maintain. I have had the honor of working with Mike a number of times and believe that he will do a great job and wish him the best in his new role.

Glen Ridge Motorsports Park has released the dates of a number of highlights for their 2023 racing season. The Classic Muscle Parts DIRTcar crate 602 sportsman division will compete in the Triple Crown Showdown events, which will take place on Sunday June 18 in the DIRTcar East Region Series, Sunday, July 23 is the annual Hall of Fame 40, and Sunday, August 20 is the Battle at the Ridge 50. The Yurkewicz Auto Crushers DIRTcar pro stock division will host the Ridge Runner 30 on Sunday, August 27.

Well the rumor has been put to rest as B.D. Motorsports Media LLC and promoter Brett Deyo announced on Saturday that Fonda Speedway,

Utica-Rome Speedway, and Georgetown Speedway will become NASCAR sanctioned tracks in 2023. What does that mean for our local racers?

From what I took from the interview as a member of NASCAR and the Advance Auto Parts Weekly Series local drivers will be eligible for State, Regional, and National Championships, which means possible added funds at the end of the year. Naturally there will be the opportunity for added press exposure and recognition for race teams and their sponsors. At this time there appears to be no changes in rules. Another take from this is that with two historic tracks in upstate New York, that there may be other independent facilities that decide to also join in the sanction.

What many race teams and supporters would like to see is a hold or reduction in spending in the way of parts, tires and more. We all know that is wishful thinking, but it does definitely need to be looked at, as every race team big or small is spending many dollars every week hoping to make themselves more competitive. As race fans we have been lucky as admission and concession prices have stayed low compared to the ridiculous prices charged at ballgames. Also a possibility is that now with the attention of NASCAR in Northeast dirt track racing, this may force World Racing Group to wake up and offer a better package to their member tracks and drivers.

Obituaries

Virgil Cater, Jr.



Virgil Cater, Jr. found eternal peace on Thursday, January 19, 2023, in the comfort of his home and in the loving care of his family.

Born 71 years ago on April 30, 1951 in Cobleskill, to Ethel (Diamond) and Virgil Cater, Sr., he graduated from Middleburgh Central School in 1969 and went on to serve in the United States Army from 1970-1972. Virgil earned a National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and a Marksman Badge (Rifle)

A lifetime member of the Middleburgh Rod and Gun Club, Virgil was an avid hunter and enjoyed sharing the peace and

solitude of nature with his son. He loved driving a truck for a living, with Freihofer's and most recently the Golub Corporation before retiring. Virgil was also a keen card player and met twice a week with his "card groups." He never missed his daily drive around the neighborhood with his beloved dog "Ginger" and surrounding himself with his family, especially grandchildren and great-grandchildren, brought out his brightest smiles.

52 years of life and love will be held forever by his wife: Cheryl (Gordon) Cater, whom he married on August 22, 1970 and his children: Leonard (Marie) Cater, Melissa (Greg) Mickel, Dan Pigott; grandchildren: Sydney (Nate) Shoemaker, Cody (Deanna) Martin, Taylor (Mykel) Foland, Hannah Martin, Connor (Saige) Mickel, Ethan Mickel; great-grandchildren: Dallas Foland, Noah Shoemaker, Everette Foland, Alexander Martin, Indie Foland; siblings: Cheryl (Bill) Lee, Joan Cater Porter, Mary (Gerald)

Bowman, William "Willie" Cater; brothers and sisters-in-law: Vernon (Lorrie) Gordon, William (Vanessa) Gordon, Timothy (Debra) Gordon; many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Virgil was predeceased by his parents and his brother, Bruce Cater.

A visitation with Virgil's family will be held from 6-8PM on Monday, January 23rd at Coltrain Funeral Home, LLC, 134 River Street, Middleburgh. A funeral service will be held at 12:00PM on Tuesday, January 24th at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Main Street, Middleburgh. A committal service, with Military Honors will be at 12:00PM on Wednesday, January 25th at Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery, 200 Duell Rd. Schuylerville, NY 12871

Donations in Virgil's honor are requested to the Middleburgh Rod and Gun Club, PO Box 24, Middleburgh, NY 12122. Please visit www.coltrainfuneral-home.com to share online condolences with his family.

Recruiting season is Underway at BOCES CTE

ALBANY/SCHOHARIE -- Recruiting for the 2023-24 school year is underway at the Capital Region BOCES Career & Technical Education Center.

With one of the largest workforce development facilities in the Northeast, BOCES is dedicated to empowering students to enter the workforce, compete in a global marketplace and engage in life-long learning. Students can enroll in more than two-dozen programs - ranging from Welding and Metal Fabrication to Game Design & Implementation- that prepare students for in-demand careers. Offered on our Career & Technical Education Center Albany and Schoharie campuses, as well as off-campus facilities at St. Peter's and Ellis hospitals, as well as Proctors, the programs help high school students develop in-demand skills through rigorous and relevant career-focused coursework.

More than 300 partnerships with local businesses, labor and education organizations, bolster student learning and offer them real-life experience, as well as jobs.

Learn more about these programs by visiting our website - <https://www.capitalregionboces.org/career-technical-education/courses-programs/>.

Upcoming open houses and information sessions Jan. 20: New Visions: Health Careers Open House, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Capital Region BOCES Career & Technical Education Center - Albany Campus, 925B Watervli-

et-Shaker Road, Albany, NY 12205

Feb. 9: Career & Technical Education Center - Schoharie Campus, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., 174 State Route 30A, Schoharie, NY

12157

March 9: Career & Technical Education Center - Albany Campus, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., 925B Watervliet-Shaker Road in Albany

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It Takes a Village...



Please join us for a community roundtable at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 4th at the Middleburgh Library to discuss the future of MABA and its popular Fourth Friday and Miracle on Main Street events in the Village of Middleburgh.

With existing leadership taking a step back, volunteers are needed to keep these wonderful community events operating through the MABA (Middleburgh Area Business Association) organization. The Village is hosting this discussion to encourage greater community input and participation in MABA, which is open to all members of the community.

Planning starts for Fourth Friday's (which run from May-September) in February, while Miracle on Main Street begins organizing in late March. Volunteers are needed to help lead MABA and the existing leadership is willing to help train the generation of organizers and volunteers.

Without community support, these events will not happen.

\$7 Classifieds!

3 Column Inches!

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All About Racing

By Ed & Betty Biittig

The big news in local racing this week is that Fonda Speedway and Utica-Rome Speedway will become NASCAR sanctioned. Both New York State tracks are under the promotion of Brett Deyo and will join NASCAR Advance Auto Parts Weekly Series. Georgetown Speedway, also under Deyo promotion, in Delaware will also join the two local tracks as part of the sanction deal.

According to an announcement by Deyo this past week, he has been looking at the option to sanction with NASCAR for the past couple years. For Fonda and Utica-Rome many of the same racers run both Friday night at Utica-Rome and Saturday night at Fonda. This deal will give them an opportunity to run for a state championship, the regional championship and national championship.

The NASCAR Advance Auto Parts Weekly Series sanctions weekly short tracks across the United

States and Canada.

Fonda was NASCAR sanctioned at the beginning of weekly racing at Fonda in 1953 until the early seventies, when Ed Feuz and Jim Gage, Sr., were at the helm of promotion at the Montgomery County track. NASCAR last sanctioned Utica-Rome in 2016 when Gene Cole was promoting the track.

We spent two nights at the DIRTcar Sunshine Nationals for Late Models, the final night was rained out. Late Model racing is totally something new to us and although there were nearly 150 cars in three divisions at the track we concentrated our efforts on the three Modified racers from the Capital District trying their talents in a Late Model at Volusia Speedway. Stewart Friesen, Demetrios Drellos and Brock Pinkerous were all enrolled in Late Model school.

After two nights of racing, Drellos came out on top with a second place finish on the first night and third place on night

two putting him fifth in points earned toward a guaranteed spot in the final night feature. Drellos had been behind the wheel of his Late Model only once prior to his time at the Sunshine Nationals.

Brock's appearance in his first night feature ended with a meeting with the outside wall. On the second night he showed that he too had done his homework and moved up from 16th to a top ten finish. It was the youngsters sixth time behind the wheel of a Late Model.

Stewart Friesen ran with the World of Outlaw Late Models, some of the best in the country in Late Model racing and came up short in qualifying.

In other news this week, veteran racer Bob Vedder has posted on Facebook that he is looking for ride in a 358 Modified at Glen Ridge this season. Anyone interested in teaming up with Vedder can call, 518-231-0253.

News from the Hoyen-

ga racing team, Laudy has picked up another young driver for the coming season. 602 Sportsman driver Cody Clark will move up to the Modified division and drive one of the Hoyenga No. 34 Modifieds. Cody will race predominantly at Fonda Speedway. Dave Constantino will still be behind the wheel of one of the other Hoyenga Modifieds. Hoyenga's cars are powered by Billy the Kid and Dan Bedell engines.

Coming up next week, February 2-4, Brett Deyo will take the Short Track Super Series to Lakeview Motor Speedway in South Carolina. Racing for both Modifieds and 602 Sportsman are on the card culminating with features on Saturday, February, 4.

The following week, Deyo takes the series to All-Tech Raceway in Lake City, Florida.

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

SCS to Expand Joint Wrestling Program with Duanesburg

By David Avitabile

SCHOHARIE - The joint wrestling program between Schoharie and Duanesburg schools is going so well that the schools have agreed to expand its reach.

Schoharie school board members agreed Thursday evening to approve the agreement between Schoharie and Duanesburg to expand the existing joint wrestling program to include both the wrestling teams and the Youth Wrestling Program for the 2022-2023 school year.

Several schools now have joint wrestling teams as enrollment numbers have dropped in the region which makes it hard to field a full wrestling team.

* * *

In other action, board members:

* Heard Superintendent David Blanchard's update on discipline referrals in schools. He

said, "We are seeing a significant decline in the number and severity of incidents. However we are looking at restorative practices as an alternative to suspension and other punitive consequences."

The district saw a spike in discipline referrals after students return to school full time after the pandemic.

* Appointed Mitchell Barton to a four-year probationary Social Studies teaching position in the high school, at a salary of \$46,145 per STA Contract, effective January 20.

* Accepted a \$5,000 CASE Grant from National Association of Agricultural Educators Inc. for agriscience classes/regular education classroom equipment and supplies.

* Approved a motion to declare a list of fixed assets as surplus/obsolete.

Library News

Middleburgh Library

Storytime - There is no Storytime in January.

Food Drive - Please help us and our friends from Minekill State Park collect non-perishable food items for the Martin Luther King statewide food drive. Donations may be dropped off whenever the library is open and put in the box near the information desk. Thanks in advance for your generosity!
2/2 - 11:00-12:00 - Home-school Science Club - We will meet every other Thursday and go over our science fair projects, research, help each other and of course, do a cool experiment! This program is for homeschooled students ages 6 and up. Registration is required for each week, so we have enough materials.
2/4 - 9:00-2:00 - Take Your Child To The Library Day - Bring your kids to the library on Saturday, February 4th at any time between 9am and 2pm, Check out some books, do a craft, play in the children's room and do a new scavenger hunt and get a prize!

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!

Display Cabinets - We have new displays in our foyer cabinets. Take a look. If anyone has a collection they would like to display in our cabinets, please contact us to set up a date. Please check our calendar on our website at www.middleburghlibrary.info for future programs. Also, don't forget our Facebook page.

Cobleskill Library

Visit the library to fill out an entry form for our "2022 High Circulation Trivia Contest." Just answer some multiple-choice questions about what our library's patrons have checked out the most

over the last year. Submissions due by Jan. 31st; winner announced on Feb. 1st.

The Award-Winning Trivia Night@ the Library! returns January 26 at 6:30 pm. If you would like to be a 2023 sponsor please contact the Library. Special thanks to The Friends of The Community Library for sponsoring the snack table.

Saturday, January 28 at 10am Build and Play Saturday Stop by the library anytime between 10:00 and 1:00 for some free build time! We will have lots of different building sets, from simple wood blocks to LEGO, Magnatiles, and Goldie Blox. There's something for every age and skill level.

Rescheduled Thursday, February 2 at 6:30pm Beyond Books: Tools & Resources for Book Lovers Join Adult Services Librarian Don LaPlant for this program highlighting a range of tools and resources for bibliophiles. Learn about apps, websites, podcasts, and publications that help you keep track of your reading, find new recommendations, and read and share book reviews. We'll also cover hidden features in the library's catalog that make it easier to find your next favorite book.

Friday, February 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, February 3 and 10 at 4pm Paws for Reading Stop by the library to read to our favorite therapy dog, Nico! Nico loves to meet patrons of all ages, but he especially enjoys hearing kids practice their reading. Open to all ages. No registration necessary.

Tuesday, February 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, February 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, February 9 All Ages Craft Buffet 4-5:30pm. All ages are invited to join us for open craft time. We'll have tables full of craft supplies available for participants to use. Whether you want to do some coloring or painting or paper crafts or knitting or whatever, you're welcome to join us for some relaxing, creative time. Come let your imagination inspire you to create whatever you choose!

Thursday, February 9 at 6:30pm Teen Board Game Night We're breaking out the board games! Middle and high schoolers (ages 11-18) are welcome to explore our collection of board and cards games and play with other teens. We've got classics like Sorry, Life, and Monopoly as well as lots of newer favorites like Fluxx, Dixit, Bears Vs. Babies, and many more! Snacks and drinks provided.

Saturday, February 11 at 11am Do you love Elephant and Piggie? Do you think the Pigeon should get a chance to drive the bus? We certainly do! Join your friends at the Community Library as we celebrate the birthday of beloved children's author Mo Willems! We'll read some favorite Mo Willems stories, enjoy birthday treats, play games, and make a craft. You won't want to miss this fun family event!

Tuesday, February 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.

Tuesday, February 14 at 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, February 16 at 5:30 pm Teen Advisory Board Help us make the Community Library a better place for teens! Join our new Teen Advisory Board and help the library choose new teen books, plan programs, and make our teen zone a fun space for teen patrons. Snacks provided. Open to

8th-12th graders (ages 13-18). For more information, email clittle@mvlis.info.

Thursday, February 16 at 6:30 5-Minute Experts This new event is a fun, fast-moving, educational program where 4-5 presenters deliver five-minute talks on a specialized area of expertise. Each presenter must prepare a slide show of 10-20 slides and the presentations may not exceed 5-minutes. Topics will be as varied as the participants' interests. For audiences, it's an opportunity to learn something new and different, with less likelihood of getting bored by a long-winded presentation. It's like TED Talks for audiences with short attention spans! If you're interested in presenting at a future program, contact Adult Services Librarian Don LaPlant at cobadult@mvlis.info

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

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

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

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

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

quirements 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.

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

The Library continues to offer curbside pickup.

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

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

Schoharie Library
5 1 8 - 2 9 5 - 7 1 2 7
www.schoharieibrary.org
Schoharie Library Hours:
MTF 11am-6pm, Wed. 5-8pm, Thurs. 12pm-7pm, and Sat. 10am-2pm

Teen Thursday: Every Thursday 5-7pm. Come hang out in our Teen Room - socialize, create in our Maker-space, play board games,

code with our Dash Robot, share book recommendations, and much more!! Ages 13 - Young Adult Welcome! No registration required.

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

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

Make a Macrame Plant Hanger: Tuesday, January 31, 4:15pm Register at: <https://bit.ly/Macrame1-31-23>

Virtual UFO Club: Thursday, February 2, 10am. Work on projects and chat on Zoom. Signup: <https://bit.ly/SchoharieLibraryPrograms>

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

Learn About Maple Sugaring: Tuesday, February 7, 4:15pm. Why does a tree taste so sweet? We'll learn how trees work, why sugar is so important, and—best of all—get a taste of real maple syrup. Presenter: Anita Sanchez. Sign up: <https://bit.ly/MapleSugaring2-7-23>

Board of Trustees Meeting: Wednesday, February 8 at 7pm.


Drawing Classes with Maeve McCool: Thursdays, February 9, 16 & 23 and March 2, 4:15pm. All ages are welcome. Sign up: <https://bit.ly/DrawingwithMaeve23>

No-Sew Heart Decoration: Monday, February 13, 4:15pm. Make a simple stuffed heart to hang up. <https://bit.ly/NoSewHeart23>

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

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

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BOCES Prepares Students for a Multitude of Careers-- Including Snow Removal

ALBANY/SCHOHARIE – As drivers make their way along the highways and byways of the Capital Region today, one thing is certain - the plow operators that are keeping those roadways clear and safe to operate on may very well be graduates of Capital Region BOCES.

Several graduates of the Capital Region BOCES Construction/Heavy Equipment program have been hired by the New York State Department of Transportation; others by county and town highway departments around the region. Still others, like current Voorheesville High School and Construction/Heavy Equipment senior Alex Stapf operate successful snow

removal businesses. “In the winter, I do a lot of snow clearing. I have multiple commercial and residential contracts,” said Stapf, owner of Stapf’s Dirt Work and Grading.

Students in the two-year Heavy Equipment and Construction program learn the knowledge and skills necessary to enter construction industry or pursue further education in college or technical school. They learn everything from maintenance skills and how to construct a building to equipment operation, including use of a plow, dozer and front end loaders used to clear and remove snow.

A panel of industry experts, business leaders



Noah Acampora of Sharon Springs running heavy equipment in the snow

and educators guide the program and make recommendations on equipment

purchases, curriculum and other topics to ensure program gradu-

ates are on track for a career in the industry or to further their education

at the college level.

During recent recruiting events, representatives of New York State DOT and area county highway departments have actively pursued Capital Region BOCES students because of those skills.

“It’s important for us to get out name out there and inform young people that we are a viable opportunity,” Marty McClune, director of operations at Albany County Department of Public Work, said during an event last school year.

There are currently more than 60 students from Schoharie, Schenectady and Albany counties enrolled in the Construction/Heavy Equipment Program.

SCS Board Approves Path to New Mascot

By David Avitabile

SCHOHARIE - You have the next 30 days to send in your ideas on what should be the next Schoharie school mascot.

The day after a public forum on the future of the district mascot, Schoharie school board members Thursday agreed to give the public a month to make suggestions on the identity of the next district mascot.

Schoharie teams may no longer be called the Indians, but its residents – students, staff, parents, and commu-

nity members – will have a voice in selecting the next mascot.

Superintendent David Blanchard, who ran last week’s forum that drew about 35 people, updated the board Thursday on the process to change the mascot and the takeaways from the public forum on the mascot change. The school board meeting began two hours early due to impending bad weather.

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 - including the SCS Indian - the Schoharie school district will let the public decide on a replacement.

District officials will accept suggestions for a month through the district Facebook page and website and then send them to a stakeholder group made up of community residents. The group will pick out four or five semifinalists. Then, probably in April, the public, students, teachers, and resi-

dents will vote for a new mascot.

After the finalist is chosen, the name will be sent to a graphic artist for imagery, which would then be approved by the school board.

The school wide vote will take place electronically and in person and open to adults and students in grades from third or fourth and up.

A few suggestions were made at the forum, including the Coyotes and the Blue Devils, and others such as the Squirrels and the S’s, were denounced. Officials

said the school colors would definitely stay blue and white.

Not everyone at the forum was ready to give up the mascot, despite the fact that the district could lose state aid and have school leaders removed.

Mr. Blanchard and school board President Terry Burton noted that no districts throughout the state, even in districts that do not rely heavily on state aid, are fighting to retain their Native American mascots. More than 60 districts in the state have Native American mascots.

The state, Mr. Blanchard said, has deemed that school boards have to approve a resolution by the end of this year.

In addition to having to change the mascot and its imagery, the schools will have to enforce "no mascot imagery" rules starting in September. No Indian imagery will be allowed on school grounds.

In addition to policing a no mascot rule, 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 the sign on the front lawn, and reupholster 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 the spring and be done by August.

He called the state ruling "a state unfunded mandate."

Help Needed for the Future of MABA

Community Meeting Set for Feb. 4 at Library

By David Avitabile

MIDDLEBURGH - Community members are urged to attend a public meeting at the Middleburgh Library on Saturday, February 4 to breathe the new life into MABA.

MABA, which was organized after the devastating August 2011 flood, started as a group with business members. Over the years, events such as Fourth Fridays, Miracle on Main Street, and others have begun and flour-

ished in the village. Now, like many organizations, several key members are suffering burnout and are pulling back.

The meeting, called a community roundtable, is scheduled for 11am on Saturday, February 4 at the Middleburgh Library to discuss the future of MABA and its popular Fourth Friday and Miracle on Main Street events in the Village of Middleburgh.

Village officials said, "With existing leadership taking a step back, volunteers are needed to keep these wonderful community events operating through the MABA (Middleburgh Area Business Association) organization. The Village is hosting this discussion to encourage greater community input and participation in MABA, which is open to all members of the community."

"Planning starts for Fourth Friday's (which run from May-September) in February, while Miracle on Main Street begins organizing in late March. Volunteers are needed to help lead MABA and the existing leadership is willing to help train the generation of organizers and volunteers. Without community support, these events will not happen."

At the January village board meeting, MABA members Joan Wissert said the name of the group could be changed to the Middleburgh Area Betterment Association.

Several important members of MABA have decided to "step back" from their duties and not enough people are needed to help several projects.

Mayor Trish Bergan said that the community has to become more involved in order to keep these very popular events continuing.

Ms. Wissert said that during the summer it took her between 40 and 60 hours to organize the monthly Fourth Friday events.

The businesses are still needed, officials said, but the village needs a committee.

The group has leftover funds which will remain in the village's revitalization fund.

It was agreed to form a new committee and Ms. Wissert agreed to help organize it and will turn over the group's information.

At the village meeting, resident Sean Lawton said the group is very important to the village and is willing to take a leadership role.

Schoharie Wrestler Earns Place in First Girls' State Invitational

SCHOHARIE - Congratulations to Schoharie senior Zoey Lints, who was recently selected to participate in the first ever NYSPHSA Girls Wrestling Invitational.

Zoey, a member of the Duanesburg-Schoharie wrestling team, will compete at the SRC Arena in Syracuse on January 27.

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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.

Feb 6

SUNY DELHI ANNOUNCES SPRING WATER AEROBICS CLASS SESSION 1

DELHI, NY - The SUNY Delhi Spring Water Aerobics first session will run from Monday, February 6, 2023 through Friday, March 3, 2023 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in the Kunsela Hall pool from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. All registration forms must be received by the first day of class. Participants will not be allowed in the water without submitting a registration. There will be a charge of \$50 per person for 12 sessions or \$10 per person, per session. Please make checks payable to SUNY Delhi Swimming Pool,



Lindsey Giagni

518-827-8888

Call / Text

#YOUR518AGENT

State Farm

questions call John Kolodziej at 607-746-4263. Please check in your vehicles at University Police to get a free parking pass for the semester. For register forms and more information go to DelhiBroncos.com or Bronco Connect.

July 15-23

Sicity tour, small group 20 spaces available, extended to July 25 with Rome extension. groupstour.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. groupstour.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 keller22@gmail.com

Indians Edge Eagles



Above left: Schoharie Indians' Emily Lehoe takes aim for a second period foul shot. Photos by Scott Keidong.
 Above right: Galway Golden Eagless Taylor Germain is determined in her attempt to take the ball from Schoharie's Kate Stalker.



Above left: Schoharie's Savannah Traverse drives the ball past Galway's Anna Spadaro.
 Above right: Schoharie's Lily Ballard grabbed the rebound and heads downcourt.

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Schoharie's Emily Lehoe drives under the basket for a shot

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Kiwanis, Fire Dept. Aid Community



Pictured above are members of the Schoharie Kiwanis Club and the Schoharie Fire Department delivering Holiday meals to the Good Shepard Lutheran Church in Schoharie. This is the final event in a partnership developed between the two organizations which brings Christmas Time in Schoharie annually. The event starts with the erection of the town Christmas Tree and includes many children's activities, the Fire Department Parade, Kiwanis Tree lighting at the DAR and local businesses participation as well. This month Kiwanis and the Fire Department will commit to the continuation of this event for years to come. Other organizations who participate in Christmas time in Schoharie are, but not limited to The DAR, Good Shepard Lutheran Church, Old Stone Fort, Schoharie Promotional Assn. and Scho-Wright Ambulance. Christmas Time in Schoharie is chaired by Amanda Stinson and Martin Ewald representing the Fire Dept and Kiwanis.

SCS Hikes Salaries After State Bumps Up Minimum Wage

By David Avitabile

SCHOHARIE - Schoharie school board members last week had to hike the salary of numerous employees and seven substitute positions to conform with the state's new minimum wage.

New York State increased the minimum wage to \$14.20 an hour as of January 1.

With the hike in the minimum wage, the district had to increase and adjust the existing Schoharie Central Employees Association salary schedule as well as the existing district substitute rate.

Board members agreed to increase the following positions within the existing Schoharie Central Employees Association salary schedule:

- * Teacher Aide, part-time, Step 1, 2, 3, to \$14.20 an hour.
- * Teacher Aide, full-time, Step 1, 2, 3, \$14.20 per hour.
- * Food Service, part-time, Step 1, 2, 3, \$14.20 per hour.
- * Food Service Helper, full-time, Step 1, 2, 3, \$14.20 an hour.
- * Cleaner Hourly, Step 1, 2, 3, \$14.20 an hour.
- * Secretary, Step 1,

\$14.20 per hour.

- * Custodial Worker, Step 1, 2, \$14.20 an hour.
- * Office and keyboard worker, Step 1, 2, \$14.20 per hour.

Board members also agreed to increase the pay rates for the existing district substitutes in the following positions:

- * Clerical, to \$14.20 per hour.
- * Aides, teacher and bus, to \$14.20 per hour.
- * Teaching assistants, to \$14.20 an hour.
- * Cleaner/custodian, to \$14.20 per hour.
- * Food service helper, to \$14.20 per hour.
- * Teacher (with four-year degree), to \$102 per day.
- * Teacher (without four-year degree), to 99.40 per day.

* * *

In other action, board members:

- * Appointed Suzanne Johnson as an elementary school long-term substitute at a salary of \$46,145, per STA contract, effective January 20, through June 23.
- * Named Moira Gellman as an elementary school long-term substitute, at a salary of \$46,145, per STA contract, effective on or around February 15,

through on or about May 1.

- * Appointed Donna Nuna-mann as a temporary payroll clerk, at a salary of \$55 an hour, as needed, extended through March 31.

* Added six people to the Capital Region BOCES teacher substitute list calling service list at the current sub rates.

- * Accepted the resignation of Alexandra Croft as the full-time assistant musical director and named her half-time assistant director at a salary of \$1,165.

- * Appointed Timothy Solinger as half-time assistant musical director at a salary of \$1,165.

- * Named Sarah Becker as costume director for the spring play at a salary of \$1,550.

- * Appointed Mark Pracher as half-time musical assistant for the play at a salary of \$775.

- * Named Katherine Harvey as half-time musical assistant for the play at a salary of \$775.

- * Corrected the appointment of Samantha Bellinger as a senior account clerk typist at a salary of \$45,000, according to the confidential/managerial working conditions document, effective January 3.

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Middleburgh Falls to Cherry Valley



The Middleburgh Girls Varsity team fell to Cherry Valley during Tuesday night's game at MCS.

Photo by Bob Roney.

BELOW LEFT: #14 - Sarah Schafroth makes a shot.

BELOW RIGHT: #21 - Natalie Ulmer makes an impressive try at the basket.



Kiwanis Welcomes New Member



Pictured above are Eric Stein Club Secretary, new member Brian Marbot and his sponsor Director Bob Vedder. Bryan joined Kiwanis as a means of helping and supporting the local community as all members do. Kiwanis

IDA, from B1

FOIL.

"I would urge this Board of Supervisors to pump the brakes," commented Ms. Stanton-Terk.

Board Chairman Bill Federice noted that the county needs a full-time IDA Director. Sharing some of the behind-the-scenes dialogue that occurred, Mr. Federice said that it was the desire of SEEC Chairperson Tom Putnam to have the dual-directorate in place permanently, but that the split proposal was revised after initial opposition.

"This whole thing doesn't come across as right in a couple of ways: I don't like the way the Board was disrespected," remarked Mr. Federice. When he said the existing MOU is "absolutely non-binding and unenforceable," Ms. Terry slammed her hand on the supervisors table, scoffing it was approved by County Attorney Mike West.

Displeased by the whole situation, Mr. Federice commented "Why don't we withdraw the \$130,000 and let SEEC fund it? And then we have no ties to it and you can do whatever the hell you want."

Seeking a middle ground, Mr. Airey proposed that the county board would release funding to the IDA on the condition that Ms. Pacatte would resign from SEEC by May 1, 2023. Furthermore, any reinstatement and/or employment with SEEC while she is employed by the IDA would be barred by written agreement.

Mr. Tavenner, upon seconding Mr. Airey's proposed motion, asked representatives of both IDA and SEEC if they could accept the board's terms. "I personally can," said Mr. Burton, "but I gotta take it back to the board...We will try to work with whatever you

come forward with." Mr. Johnson indicated that SEEC would reject it completely.

Ultimately, the motion was adopted by both a majority of supervisors and their weighted votes.

Voting in favor of Mr. Airey's motion (1604 weighted votes): Mr. Airey, Mr. Federice, Richmondville Town Supervisor Jeffrey Haslun, Middleburgh Supervisor Wesley Laraway, Carlisle Town Supervisor John Leavitt, Mr. Rosa, Fulton Town Supervisor Phil Skowfoe, Mr. Tavenner, and Mr. Vroman.

Voting in opposition to Mr. Airey's motion (1370 weighted votes): Ms. Hait, Cobleskill Town Supervisor Werner Hampel, Wright Town Supervisor Alex Luniewski, Sharon Town Supervisor Sandra Manko, Ms. Terry, Mr. VanWormer, and Broome Town Supervisor Stephen Weinhofer.

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New SCS Athletic Field On Track for Fall Use

By David Avitabile

SCHOHARIE - It may be the "dog days" of winter and the outdoor athletic fields may be covered with a thick layer of snow, but that does not mean there has not been significant progress on the new athletic fields at Schoharie Central Schools.

Schoharie school athletes should get a chance to play on updated and upgraded sports fields this fall.

Phase I of the \$25.9 million building project that was approved by voters last May includes synthetic turf on the baseball, softball, and soccer fields, new tennis courts, and lights for the baseball, softball, and soccer fields.

The design of Phase I of the \$25.9 million project is complete according to Superintendent David Blanchard. The building project is in for state review and approval.

"We are still on track with Phase 1 of the project this spring," he said.

Mr. Blanchard updated school board members on the project at last week's monthly board meeting.

The new fields, it is hoped, should be playable by next August for the beginning of fall sports, Mr. Blanchard said.

The tennis courts behind the elementary school have been removed and it is likely, he said, that the tennis teams will not be able to play at SCS next year and the sport will be shifted to a neighboring district. Baseball and softball are likely to be played in Schoharie as they may not break ground on those fields until late in the summer. The tennis courts will be rebuilt in the same place and everything should

be ready for the fall. The work should be ready to go out to bid in the spring.

Voters approved a \$25.9 million building project last spring. The project will transform the elementary school in addition to the work on the athletic fields. The project does not require any new local taxpayer funds as state aid and the current building reserve will cover the costs.

The project which would commence in 2024, will combine the current "1976" gym and elementary school cafeteria into a much larger gym with a stage at one end, move the cafeteria into the current elementary school library, and move the library to the current "1952" gym.

Improvements to the parking lots has already

been completed.

School board members have approved contracts with Schoolhouse Construction and Mosaic Associates Architects to do the design of the work which will then be presented to the state education department for approval.

Other first phase of the work will include the solar panels "out back," the air handlers, HVAC work.

After the first phase, roofing and window work will begin, Mr. Blanchard said.

How soon the work will be sent out to bid will depend on how fast the state education department reviews and approves the project, officials said. It could be a month to six weeks or more.

Winter Fest Feb. 4 at Huyck Preserve

RENSSELAERVILLE - The Huyck Preserve at the Eldridge Research Center at 284 Pond Road in Rensselaerville will host a Winter Fest on Saturday, February 4 from 11am to 2pm.

Join them for outdoor winter fun, s'mores mak-

ing, demonstrations from community organizations, food, and a local vendor market. Plus, visit with wildlife rehabilitator Kelly Martin and her animals.

Go to our Winter Fest event page on Facebook for event information updates.



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Volume 8, No. 4 windhamweekly@gmail.com

FRIDAY, January 27, 2023

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Confusion in Hunter Village Approves Amended Proposed Moratorium on Container Homes

By K. Fleig

HUNTER -On Monday night, a special Public Hearing was held by the Village of Hunter's Village Board. The purpose was to allow public comments with regard to proposed Local Law #1 of 2023, that would place a village-wide moratorium on the construction of container homes for a period of six months. The proposed law appeared to have passed, but since the law was amended, it is unclear if the law will go into effect as passed.

Mayor Mike Papa, presided over the Hearing. Trustees Benjamin Sommers and Dorothy Grasso, Planning Board Members Paul Slutzky and former mayor Alan Higgins, who is now the superintendent of the Department of Public Works, Planning Board

member and Building Inspector Carl Giangrande, along with Village Clerk/Treasurer Kathleen Hilbert were in attendance. The Village Attorney, Tal Rappleyea was absent.

The room was filled to capacity, with many standing. Residents were given five minutes each to voice their opinions on the proposed law, and ask questions. Many attendees expressed their thoughts, at times en masse and loudly.

In July 2022, Amy Hasselbeck and her wife Daniela Lin were granted a building permit to allow for the construction of one "container home" on their 360 square foot lot on Main Street, in the Village. Shortly after, due to its location on Route 23A, the permit was suspended, pending a stan-

dard architectural review by the Planning Board, which was scheduled for January 26, 2023.

The couple wants to build a weekend home on the small lot they purchased from friends. They have drawings showing a small one family, one floor house, with a flat roof, without wheels. The structure is basically a metal container, like the kind that holds cargo on ships, but covered with wood framing. There are windows and doors that allow for proper ingress and egress.

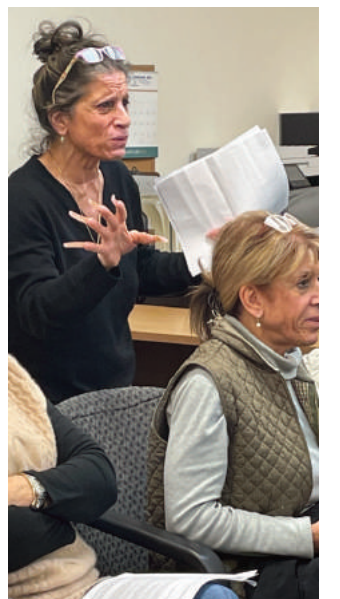
At the Hearing, Giangrande spoke against the proposed law early in the evening. He stated that Hasselbeck and Lin's building plans were reviewed by him, and conform to zoning laws and are in compliance with all building code, includ-

ing fire safety code. He stated that the architectural review should occur before the Village imposes a moratorium on container houses. He ended his impassioned argument by pounding on the table, for emphasis.

Attempting to regain order, Papa said, "We are in uncharted waters, we

want to make sure we do it right . . . it is not to kill the project." The interchange between Papa and Giangrande was heated at times, with Papa threatening Giangrande with expulsion from the room.

Hasselbeck, an attorney, argued that the proposed law, as written,



Fran Clark, with questions about the proposed law.

“Where’s the line? There are all sorts of buildings in the town.”
- Amy Hasselbeck

needs to be redrafted. She pointed to section 3, paragraph D, the definition of "Container Home." "Any home or por-

Continued from Page C6.

Rikard Leaving Prattsville Judiciary Position

By Michael Ryan

PRATTSVILLE - The solid reputation of longtime attorney David Rikard has resulted in the town of Prattsville losing one of its two judges.

Rikard, a member of the local judiciary for the past decade, has informed government leaders he is leaving the bench after taking a job as chief assistant district attorney for neighboring Delaware County. "While I am excited about embarking upon this new chapter in my legal career, my acceptance of this position also unfortunately requires that I must resign as town of Prattsville justice," Rikard stated in a letter to the town council.

"Thus, I hereby respectfully, yet regretfully, submit my resignation...effective immediately," Rikard stated in his January 6 missive.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to have been elected three times to serve the citizens of the town of Prattsville, as well as others who have come before my court.

"It is with fond remembrance that I depart from [the judiciary]. Should you have any questions or otherwise wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to call," Rikard stated.

Rikard, in a followup

phone interview, said Delaware County acting District Attorney Shawn Smith reached out to him, noting the appointment is a part time situation and could change in the near future.

Smith needs to run for election in November, possibly impacting the DA's office and its staff. Rikard, either way, is committed to the task.

He has received a list of courts he will likely be involved with at the outset in the 6th Judicial District including the towns of Roxbury, Stamford, Kortright, Davenport and Middletown.

"I've had to wrap my mind around this transition," Rikard said, having been active as a defense attorney over the years, now switching to the prosecutorial side of the system.

"But I have been appointed as a special prosecutor on several occasions for criminal cases in Schoharie, Greene and Delaware counties.

"And in the long run, it's not a lot different because

the vast majority of cases now are resolved through plea negotiations," Rikard said.

Rikard, whose vintage home became internationally known in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene as emblematic of the storm's flood destruction in the community and beyond, has rebuilt his practice along Main Street.

He will still be able to handle clients for real estate closings, personal injury suits, estate planning and administration, etc.

For now, however, he will be wearing a different hat. "I really hated having to resign my judgeship," says Rikard who was born and raised in Prattsville, earning his law degree at Syracuse University.

"But you can't be an assistant district attorney in one district and a part time judge in another district so I had to make a tough decision.

"This is part of a journey I began thinking about when I was in high school in Gilboa. I'm not saying goodbye to Prattsville. It all goes full circle.

"Who knows? I may be back," says Rikard, who officially starts in Delaware County on February 6, stochically noting that if the political tides shift in November, "I guess I'd have to run for Prattsville judge again."

Town supervisor Greg Cross said leaders of the local Democratic and Republican parties have been notified of the judicial opening.

Someone could be appointed to take Rikard's gavel or a special election could take place in November, allowing residents to choose who joins Judge Daniel Peckham on the local court for a 4-year term.

In other matters: —Town supervisor Greg Cross reported that the extension of local broadband is continuing at a very welcome pace.

Necessary infrastructure is in place along County Route 10 and adjoining back roads, Cross said, noting "people are hooking up and [available] addresses are available on the town website."

The readied residences can be accessed by visiting townofprattsville.com, clicking on "More," then "Buzz Board," then underneath "High Speed Internet" click on "address list"

to download the information.

Homes are linkable on Etta Post Road, Alpine View Road, Bunney Road, Alby Way, Stanley Slater Road, Blueberry Est Road, Oakley Road;

Cozy Hollow Road, Dent Road, Mary Rion Road, Macumber Road, Albert

Slater Road, Huntersfield Road, County Route 10 and County Route 11.

"We're still working on County Route 2," Cross said, with no timeframes set for completion as Margaretville Telephone Company goes through the complex licensing and contract-signing process.



David Rikard

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LOCAL FEATURE

What the Soap?

By Michael Ryan

WINDHAM - A piece of Prattsville will always be part of "What the Soap? & Company" which has changed its location to the big red barn just off Main Street, behind Windstar Realty Group, in the town of Windham.

Ribbon-cutting and Grand Opening ceremonies were hosted at their new digs, last Saturday afternoon, by the Windham Chamber of Commerce, putting elbow room at a premium even in the more spacious shop.

"We think they are a great addition to the community," Windham Chamber president Lisa Jaeger said. "We are thrilled to have them here."

The feeling is mutual although mixed for the co-owners, Melissa and Matt Peters, who started "What the Soap?" from scratch in 2020, slowly but surely outgrowing their surroundings, prompting the move east.

"It is definitely bittersweet," Matt said, welcoming a good-sized crowd to the larger spot, a short stroll from the heart of the hamlet district, up from Mill Street and Madd Brook (with plenty of onsite parking available).

"This was purely a business move. It landed in our laps. The owner of the building is actually one of our customers," Matt said.

"We wouldn't be where we are without support from the people in Prattsville and Jim and Geanine Eisel," Matt said, referring to the proprietors of the Great American market in Prattsville, their first landlords.

Melissa thanked Prattsvillian Ann O'Hara for "being there for us, personally and professionally," saying the change to Windham is accompanied by "a complicated set of feelings."

"We became deeply involved in promoting the growth and prosperity of Prattsville," Melissa says, noting several artisans have made the trip to Windham with them through their creations.

"What.The.Soap. began as a family homemade soap hobby, but has since expanded to supply soaps, lotions, shampoos, body butters and other bath items to those lucky enough to find us," their website states.

"Soap making, and this business in particular, is something that we do as a couple, working along side each other every night and weekend to bring you the best products," their website states.

"Our goal is to source as locally as possible for all our packaging and ingredients, helping to keep our local economy healthy."

"In addition to the health of our economy, we are also concerned about the health of the Earth! That's why we are constantly taking steps to lower our carbon footprint, as well as the footprint left behind by our products."



Windham Chamber of Commerce, last Saturday, hosted ribbon-cutting and Grand Opening ceremonies for "What the Soap & Company" at its new location, in the red barn just off Main Street in Windham, moving from the town of Prattsville. Brandishing make-believe and real scissors are (left to right) co-owners Matt and Melissa Peters with sons Santino and Matthew and Windham Chamber board of directors member Barry Smith.



"What the Soap?" has, of course, multiple varieties of homemade soaps, lotions, shampoos, body butter, other bath niceties and sundry items.

The shop is best known for its soaps, of course. "We have a bar soap to wash everyone, everywhere they need it," their website states.

"Our soaps cross all borders - many that shouldn't have been crossed. Whether you're in the mood for fun and fruity or require something unscented and serious, What.The.Soap. will never disappoint."

Proving their point Matt and Melissa dream up some unique soaps, such as "Constant Avocado," saying, "it's believed that the avocado (ahuacatl) was first used for skin care 10,000 years ago."

"This was smart, very smart, as the avocado is a great source of antioxidants and carotenoids, is rich in vitamins C and E, and has high concentrations of mois-

turizing fatty acids.

"Then again, they weren't geniuses as it took 3,000 more years before they started making guacamole. We forgive their gastronomic oversight and recognize their dermatological brilliance in this soap by using fresh avocados and raw goat's milk."

Or there is "Den of the Beatnik," describing it as, "a beautiful all-purpose soap scented with sweet earthy patchouli essential oil, wrapped in a warm blanket of vanilla," calling upon clients to imagine...

"The room is dark save for the psychedelic flow of lava lamps and the warming glow of the roaring stone hearth fireplace..."

"Neatly framed concert posters hang from the rough-hewn log walls. A re-

Catskill- Elaine Marie Soule Mann Grange, 73, passed away in her home of natural causes on December 23, 2022. She was born in Lexington NY and lived most of her life in Highland, NY. She was predeceased by her late husband's Edward Mann Jr and Rodger Grange, her father Stanley Soule, her sister Jeanette Goff, and her Mom Lula Soule.

Obituaries

Elaine Grange

She is survived by her four children Michele Mann Petrides of Florida, Melinda Mann of Prattsville, Suzanne Mann (Jim) of Catskill, and Justin Grange (Ellie) of Highland. She had six surviving siblings Pamela Berry (Joseph) of Grand Gorge, Daureen Maurer (Richard) of Roxbury, Sarah Soule of Prattsville, Heidi Brainerd (Edwin)

of Hensonville, twins Stanley Soule (Amy) of Tennessee and Sherry Bruno of Prattsville. She had 9 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, several nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins. Her funeral arrangements were held at Decker Funeral Home in Windham NY. Burial will be in spring at Lexington Cemetery.

Sebastiano Nativo



6/21/1939 - 12/3/22

Losing someone is the most difficult thing we can go through, and there are no words to express our heartache right now. The Nativo Family would like to start by answering a simple question, Who was Sebastiano Nativo?

To some, he was called Sam, Yano, Uncle, Friend, and most importantly to us, he was called Grandpa, Dad, and our mom's favorite: Honey.

He came to this coun-

try from Italy in 1960, with nothing in his pockets. After he married our mom, he became successful in everything that he touched. He did it with his own hands. He paved the way to a good life for his wife Anna, his three sons Joseph (and Gina), Sebastiano Jr (and Michael) and Vincent (and Monica), his grandchildren Joseph Jr., Sebastiano, Luchia and Vincent Jr. As our family grew, the love for his family grew.

His love of family and friends was his most valued possession. He was proud of who we all became. We are who we are because of him. He created an environment for us to thrive. He was a very generous man who simply wanted to help people. Many knew him and loved him, as we did, and know this to be true. My father gave his life to

friends, family and loved ones, he was a man who touched so many lives in so many ways. Those who hunted with him, worked with him, they sat and had dinner with him and simply just chatted with him about the old times. This is what we need to hold dear to our hearts. These memories will keep him, as well as us, alive.

Our Dad died where he lived in all aspects of the word, in the mountains, in his hunting clothes, with his pistol on his hip, on the property that he thrived on and built with his own hands for our family to enjoy for generations, breathing in the mountain air with his last breath, - he may have been the most stubborn man we knew, but like Frank Sinatra's song, OUR DAD DID IT HIS WAY!



There was a lot more to see and shop for than soap at the Grand Opening of "What the Soap & Company," located behind Windstar Realty Group, along Main Street in Windham.



Blending all work and all play, the Peters family has created a successful business from scratch on the mountaintop.

tired peace sign rests in the corner, its corners dinged and handle worn smooth from years of marches...

"Thick fur-like rugs warm the dark wood floors much like the smell of deep vanilla and patchouli warm your insides."

"This is the Den of the Beatnik, a fine balance of eccentricity and comfort. You may wonder if it's for you, but really, how could it not be?"

Beyond its many soaps, What.The.Soap also stocks, "I'll Scratch Yours if You Scratch" calamine lotion and "Quit Buggin' Me" lotion

bar for when "food is on the grill, firewood is stacked, campfire is lit...and then POW-POW-POW, you get attacked by insects."

Come browse for handmade jewelry, pottery, and unique and fun gifts, as well as Sanya Incense, Natural Life Hair & Accessories, Kate's Creations (from Kathleen Sherman in Prattsville) and Funky Prayer Candles.

There are Pratt's Confectionary, Reverie Coffee, Funny & Heat-Changing Mugs, Muffin & James Dog Treat Bags, Creative Wood Art, Healing Gems, bread boards, chess sets, local maple syrup

and t-shirts.

Also neatly arranged on well-designed shelves are tinctures, tea towels, puzzles, celebrity candles (from Frank Sinatra to Janis Joplin), birdhouses, blankets, Craft Jerky, wine racks, books with a local theme and much more.

"What the Soap & Company" is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m, Thursday through Monday. Feel free to stop by or have it shipped to your door.

For pricing, special orders or consultations telephone (917) 703-6788 or contact what.the.homemade@gmail.com.

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 Rte 23 Wind-

ham, 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.com

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
Family Christmas was held at the home of Rose Williams on Sunday, Jan. 15. Betty Hapeman's and Rose's niece Sarah and her two daughters Christine and Taylor were there; Rose's daughter Amy and husband Dominic their son Dominic and his wife and their two children; Rose's daughter Becky and husband John and their son Matthew and Betty and son Glenn. The grandchildren and great grandchildren had fun playing with blocks, a top and xylophone that had been Rose's and Betty's. Everyone had a wonderful time together.

On the last Friday and Saturday of each month there is a book sale at the Hunter Public Library and you can fill a paper bag with books for \$5. Friday hours are 10 - 4 and Saturday hours are 10 - 2.

Happy birthday to Robin Potter on Friday, Jan. 27.

Saturday, Jan. 28 is Carl Simpferfer's birthday.

Ariana Creech celebrates her birthday on Sunday, Jan. 29.

Happy birthday wishes on Monday, Jan. 30 to Shirley Van Valkenburgh.

Rose William's birthday is Thursday, Feb. 2. Best wishes to everyone!

There will be a combined worship service of the Mountain Top Parish churches at the Kaaterskill UMC in Tannersville on Sunday, Jan. 29 at 10 a.m. There will be a pot luck lunch after the service if you would like to bring a dish to share.

The Greene County Department of Human Services Senior Nutrition Program menu for the week of Jan. 30 - Feb. 3 is as follows: Monday—Stuffed peppers, California vegetable mix, cookies, applesauce; Tues-

day—Tortellini, meatball, Italian mixed vegetables, Brussels sprouts, rice pudding with raisins; Wednesday—Chicken Dijon, mashed potatoes, broccoli, carrot cake; Thursday—Pork chop with gravy, applesauce, sweet potatoes, green beans, fresh fruit; Friday—Fish Florentine, sauteed mixed vegetables, rice pilaf, fresh fruit. The menu 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.

Friday, Feb. 10 from 3 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. is the annual Lexington/West Kill UMC Trustee TGIF Brooks Chicken BBQ at the Lexington/West Kill UMC, 54 County Route 13A, Lexington. The menu includes half a chicken, baked potato, green beans, coleslaw, roll and assorted cupcakes. Take out only. Adult dinners are \$15, children 5 - 10 are \$7, children under 5 are free and chicken half is \$8.

The next covered dish Dinner Church will be at the Ashland UMC on Friday, Feb. 17 at 5 p.m.

Here are the dates for the 2023 Greene County Rabies Clinics: Wednesday, May 17, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.; Wednesday, April 14, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.; Wednesday, Aug. 16, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.; Wednesday, Sept. 13, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. Clinics will be held at Angelo Canna Town Park, Joseph D. Spencer Lane, Cairo. Call to pre-register 518-719-3600. The clinics are drive up only. You

must wear a face mask and remain inside your vehicle at all times. Bring record of pet's previous vaccination for a three-year certificate. If no record present, pet will be given a one-year certificate. Public Health law requires all cats, dogs and ferrets to be vaccinated for rabies starting at 12 weeks old. If you are feeding a stray, please bring it to be vaccinated.

Vaccine is free but donations will be accepted to defray cost of the program. Pre-register so paperwork will be ready. The final registration day for each clinic is the Monday before each event date so register early. Please arrive no sooner than 15 minutes prior to your scheduled time. All dogs must be on leash and cats in carriers. Call ahead for ferrets so vet may be notified in advance.

Groundhog Day is Thursday, Feb. 2. Do you think the critter will predict six more weeks of winter?

Tannersville Food Pantry located at the Tannersville Village Hall, One Park Lane, is open on Wednesdays from 1 - 3 and The first Saturday of the month from 10:30 - 12:30. If you have questions, call 518-589-6787 or kaaterskillumc@gmail.com.

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.

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 Pera Palace, Haines Falls, NY

Driving along 23A in Haines Falls, most of us drive past the Pera Palace every day, or at least the site where it used to stand. Today, it's the site of Billy Van Valkenburg's storage sheds (and Lou's amazing December holiday decorations).

I came across a 35-year-old newspaper article by Rich Neumar, sharing some of Pera's history. As you'll see, Van Valkenburg's property had previously been owned by various people. Neumar tells us it originally belonged to George Washington Haines, Lawrence Schoonmaker, Susan Fromer, and in 1892 Sylvia and William Van De Bogart. In 1906 the property went to William's sister, Maude De Bogart, and Ira S. Rider.

Neuman said that when the Riders took over the property, there bought the land, a house, and furniture. A 1906 paper described a significant addition built on the Rider home by L. Schoonmaker (Lawrence, previous proprietor?). Maude rented rooms and held church services. The Riders transferred the large building to William and Renee Wolff in 1924, who sold it to the Panossians.

Justine Hommel said the Panossians, who were Syrians, gave the building, known as the Mountain Rest, the name Pera Palace. Justine said the Pera had a large community kitchen with separate ice boxes in each room.

The Panossians passed and, in 1981, left the property to Hyrant Evlian

of Watertown, MA, the new owner of the Pera Palace. Evlian sold the Pera Palace to resident Mark Hyer in 1986. Hyer had purchased it as commercial property, but it was already in need of water, heat, and electricity. Mark also said the foundation had severe problems.

The article said the Van Valkenburg family tried to repair the hotel but soon found "It was a disaster waiting to happen."

Interestingly, the Rider family also owned the Mountain Rest on county route 25. Additional research has to be completed to learn more about both the Rider family and the Mountain Rest on 23A & on route 25.

Thanks so much for reading. Have a great week, and stay safe.



Sgt. James F. Carty, D.S.C. VFW Post 1545 Windham

Well, the Giants lost and Buffalo lost also which makes life a bit hard on us New Yorkers so as we say; wait till next year. Who do we root for now? Baseball is around the corner.

I received news that the Veterans Benefit Administration (VBA) has processed 67,350 toxic exposure claims as of January 10th.

Further in the first week of 2023 the VBA has processed over 20K claims. If you are eligible for a service connected disability the VFW can file these claims and eliminate paying lawyers legal fees.

As I like to do, highlight a past member or active member, this week I would like to let you know about another one of my heroes.

Mr. Ken Smith is a Korean veteran. Ken was in the United States Marines and was awarded the purple heart.

As they say, once a Marine, always a Marine. Ken has been great at helping me in all the workings of our post, always helping me with advice and support.

We will be entertaining the Warriors in Motion at a dinner this Friday Jan. 27th. The Adaptive Sports Foundation at Windham Mountain will bring them to our post and hold this affair which allows us to meet them and honor their service.

This is a great night for all our comrades that served our country.

Marc Farmilette-Quartermaster Post 1545

Greene County Youth Bureau 2023 Funding

We are requesting proposals for the Greene County Youth Bureau Funding for Youth Development programs, as well as separate Youth Sports Opportunities that will run January 1 - September 30, 2023 sponsored by any 501(c)(3) (Non-profit tax-exempt charitable organization per IRS).

Due to changes from NYS OCFS, 2023 funding will only be for programs running January 1 - September 30, 2023. Programs that cover October 1, 2023 through September 2024 will be eligible for 2024 funding.

The deadline for this 2023 RFP is Friday, March 24, 2023.

The application must include:

- List of current Board members with contact information and employer noted.

- List of board members or staff who are authorized to sign claims.

- OCFS-5001 Program Application (Municipalities

are to be signed by Chief Elected Official).

- OCFS-5002 Program Profile

- OCFS-5003 Program Components

- OCFS-5005 Program Budget

If your application packet will be the same as in the past, kindly send us an email & state you wish your last grant "recycled". In this case, we will only require Form OCFS-5001 with an original signature mailed to: Greene County Human Services (Youth Bureau), 411 Main Street, Catskill N. Y. 12414. Response must be made to mmurphy@discovergreene.com.

All applications are to include only one Life Area with the goals & objective for the program. In addition, the Services, Opportunities & Supports (SOS) & Performance Measures must be entered on the application.

Historically, the average grant award has been between \$1,000 and \$3,000.

All OCFS forms are available on the web site,

<http://greenegovernment.com/departments/human-services/youth-resources>

Please call (518) 719-3555 for assistance.



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The Prattsville Scoop

By Abby and Gabby
 PRATTSVILLE – We are saddened and broken hearted by the sudden death of our Kristin Ehlers Tompkins. She was involved in so many different parts of our lives on a personal, organizational or community level. She is loved and will be missed by all. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to her family.

The Greene County Veterans Service Agency, Michelle Deyo Director, is spearheading a drive to get Valentines to all the veterans in the six nursing homes in Greene County, plus one in Hudson. The number of veterans in these facilities is 76. If you want Michelle to deliver them, they must be in her office in the Greene Medical Arts Center, Catskill, by February 6. The Gurleys will be going there on January 31 and will gladly drop off your Valentines at that time. There are 76 veterans in these facilities who would really enjoy getting their own Valentines Day card. The envelopes should be marked "Attn: U.S. Veteran". Greene Meadows Nursing Home, 161 Jefferson Heights, Catskill 12414, has 20 veterans, FASNY Firemen's Home, 126 Harry Howard Ave, Hudson, NY 12634 has 18 veterans, The Pines, , 164 Jefferson Heights, Catskill, NY 12414 has 12 veterans, The Eliot, 122 Jefferson Heights, Catskill, NY 12414 has 15 veterans, Home Sweet Home Catskill, 38 Prospect Ave., Catskill, NY 12414 has 8 veterans and Home Sweet Home in Athens, 71 2nd Avenue, Athens, NY 12018 has 3 veterans. You can mail your cards directly to each facility just be

sure to mark them "Attn. U.S. Veteran". A "Thank You for your service" line on the card would delight them. Thank you.

Guess the snow brought bad luck to our New York teams. The Bills are still Number 1 with me and the New York Giants remain a favorite. They can both hold their heads high. Regardless to all the football teams on their demeanor and sportsmanship. You set a good example. Good luck to all. The snow could have waited at least 24 hours so many could keep their doctors' appointments. We all know how difficult it is to get an appointment and good luck rescheduling canceled appointments.

Sandy Kiley has a job at a restaurant in Windham that keeps her closer to home and at this time of year, that is a super plus – more snooze time, more time with her handsome hubby Bob and less travel time without the danger of slippery roads. Good to see you, neighbor and be quicker on the recognition next time. Take care Sandy and Bob.

So far I have met no one who knows what chilblains are so it is apparent that you did not grow up in a non-winterized farm house in the Catskill Mountains. Chilblains are sores or painful swelling caused by exposure to cold on fingers, ears or toes. Yes, they are painful and one of our cures was to stand close to the wood cook stove in the kitchen to get relief.

The Krausses and Gurleys celebrated Marianne's birthday with an enjoyable dinner out on the town with appetizers, etc. before leaving for the restaurant. It has been ages since have been able to just enjoy a social outing. It was agreed there should be more to come.

We wish Jamison Rikard at Happy Birthday on January 30. On January 31 we wish our own Jim Eisel a great and Happy Birthday. Just how old is he? On February 1 we wish Gail Peckham a Happy Birthday and remember Gail your Aunt Eva is watching over you on your shared birthday. On February 3 we wish Tammy Irwin Shea a very Happy Birthday.

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

By Lula Anderson

I love watching the snow fall, but as I sit looking out the window, I rub my hands that are sore from arthritis and think of all of the things that have become increasingly difficult for me and my friends to open. I am going to refer to them as "MY Pet Peeves."

The other night I had to open a bottle of eye drops for glaucoma. Now, if you haven't seen eyedrop bottles, they are 2" in height, with 3/4" being the cap. You first have to get the shrink sealed plastic off. I generally cut that with a knife, but can't get it completely peeled off. Next, grab the top with fingers that don't bend, and holding on to the 1 1/4" bottom, try to open it. The top is on so tightly, it takes two pairs of pliers to TRY and get that sucker open. No exaggeration, it took 10 minutes of twisting to break that seal. And these bottles are for the elderly?? The next day I tried to open the milk carton that comes with my home delivered meals. Simple, separate and push on the sides. Nope, get a knife and put that in the seam to try to loosen the glue. Well, I got it opened, but can't use the spout. Open a new pump bottle of hand soap or moisturizer. Where is the release? Many days I just use a pump from another bottle since I can't figure out how, or where, the sweet spot is. Laundry pods with child proof zips, or line up the arrow and pull top off. Once open, I never close mine since I don't want to go

Ashland Speaks

through that torture again. Don't call it child proof (they can open them 1,2,3). Call them Elderly Proof.

Thank you Dolores Decker for getting me out of the house for a very enjoyable afternoon at the cinema. We went to see "A MAN CALLED OTTO" definitely worth seeing. You may know someone resembling him. January 29 is the 5th Sunday in January and the next gathering of the Mt Top Methodist Parish combined Service. This month it will be held at 10 AM at Kaaterskill UMC in Tannersville. Please come and join us.

Continued prayers for Leona Knox, Ed Zimmerman, Mike Laterza, Cricket Johnson and Eric Towse.

Sincerest sympathy and condolences to the Ahlers and Tompkins families on the passing of Kristen Tompkins.

AS I REMEMBER IT

You know the news of the day is the price of eggs. Over \$5/dozen for large eggs. The first time that I know of that fresh farm eggs are cheaper than grocery stores. But, do you know eggsactly what goes into that dozen of eggs? Back in the 40's and 50's, there were several poultry farms in the area. Of course, my family had their flock of chickens for extra income.

We ordered our chicks from the local GLF or closest farm store. Sometimes they were delivered to the door, and other times we went to pick them up. While we were waiting for them to come in, we had to prepare the area they were going to

start growing in. The coop was small, and cleaned spotless (for a barn). It had to be close to the house to keep away as many critters as possible. A cardboard circle was put up (no corners for the chicks to gather in, so they wouldn't smother), then fresh wood shavings were put in. Water was put into quart mason jars with a glass trough that looked like an orange juicer on the top. Flip it over, and there was just enough water to drink, but not drown in. Heat lamps were suspended over this circle on a chain that could be adjusted for height as the birds grew.

The big day comes and the boxes of chicks arrive. Such cute, fluffy sweet smelling babies. The girls got the job of keeping them separated while they got accustomed to their new home. Chickens tend to huddle up, so we would go in every couple of hours and spread them out. The littler had to be removed from the water troughs, and small amounts of food had to be put in small hoppers and sometimes, the chicks had to be dunked in so they could get a taste of food. As the chicks got bigger, the circle became larger until the first feathers started appearing, and then we removed it completely. At that time, we could put out pans of water as they knew how to drink without drowning. Now we had to watch out for the aggressive chickens that would peck the others to the point where they drew blood. Yes, there is a real pecking order.

For the first 6 months, we just feed, water, and clean up after these birds. Oh boy, I found the first little egg, not much bigger than a robin's egg, but a sign that it was time to put in nests. Many farms now moved the chickens to a permanent barn with platforms for them to roost on and built in boxes to nest in; some metal, most wooden with a door on the back to get the eggs out from underneath the chicken without disturbing her.

Progressively, the eggs get larger and now it's time for the real work. Daily the shell strength is checked to see if the chickens need more calcium in their diet. Ground oyster shell was added to the mash for that. Cracked corn was added, plus strewn on the floor and chickens like to scratch for food. Grit was periodically added to aid in digestion. Okay, we can start the real business. Twicer a day we took our wire baskets into the coop and carefully removed the eggs. Into the house (or egg room), we washed the eggs, then put them up to a candler to check the insides for blood or meat spots, due to the chicken being disturbed. The eggs were weighed from pullet to jumbo and put into 30 dozen cases. Only now are they ready for market. A lot of work, a lot of time, a lot of money—for someone's breakfast.

I heard of a couple in PA who want to rent you 2 chickens and a coop so you can experience "free" farm fresh eggs. Good Luck!

LOCAL BUSINESS REVIEWS

Nellie's - East Durham

By Anita Devine

EAST DURHAM - Nellie's is an Irish Country Cafe with an on-site Bakery and Gift Shop known for its gourmet Coffee, fresh baked Irish Soda Bread and Scones. The Soda Bread is made from Nellie Gavin's recipe, the owner's grandmother.

The Cafe is open currently with New Seasonal Hours, Thursday to Saturday 3pm to 9pm and Sunday 9am to 9pm. This lovely Cafe and Bakery is located at 2212 Route

145, East Durham, NY and is owned and operated by Bernadette Gavin Palmieri. She is the third generation of Gavins who also owns and operates Gavin's Resort, which is celebrating their 100th Anniversary as an Inn. Nellie's restaurant area is spacious and inviting, as well as the Bar with its unique design featuring a large selection of Beer, Wine and Specialty Cocktails. Along with their regular menu, featuring weekly specials Friday, Prime Rib Dinner

\$24.95, Saturday NY Strip Steak \$24.95, and a Baked Chicken Dinner for \$18.95.

Fish & Chips has been added to their regular menu, also every Friday Brick Oven Pizza from 4 - 9 pm. Nellie's will be open on Tuesday, February 14th with a special Valentine's Day menu. Call or text Bernadette

for reservations, 518-755-7488. There will also be Live Music Events on Saturday evenings 6 - 9pm. It was a pleasure meeting and speaking with Bernadette, who was very personable and informative. She makes your visit to Nellie's a comfortable and friendly experience.

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ASF Welcoming 15 Vets, Families for Stubbs Warriors in Motion Winter Sports Weekend

WINDHAM— The Adaptive Sports Foundation will be hosting its 19th annual Bob Stubbs Warriors in Motion® Winter Sports Weekend this week from Thursday, January 26-Sunday, January 29.

The Warriors in Motion (WIM) program provides participating injured United States servicemen and women with a basic knowledge and practice of wellness and the importance of lifelong healthy living. All Warriors in Motion programs are goal-oriented and empower the warrior to take charge of their own fitness and wellness. One of the many things that makes this weekend special is that the warriors who will be joining the ASF are able to bring their families along for ski and snowboard lessons as well.

United States Army veteran Richard Phillips will be joining the ASF from Virginia, and he's looking forward to his trip up to Windham. "The camaraderie, the fellowship, the conversations, the stories and meeting other veterans and their families, it's all great," Phillips said.

"My wife is coming with me and it's a great thing. She'll see the togetherness of the veterans and the camaraderie. Also, I can laugh at her if she falls, and I won't get in trouble." Phillips added with a laugh.

15 veterans and their families will arrive at Windham on Thursday

evening to begin their four-day winter excursion. The trip will begin with equipment fitting, where they'll receive the proper adaptive equipment and the skis and snowboards they'll be using all weekend, making sure that everything fits properly and comfortably for three days of hitting the slopes. After everyone gets situated, the warriors and their families will then dine in the Gwen Allard Adaptive Sports Center for a catered dinner.

Friday will be a special day for the veterans. Not only will they hit the slopes for the first time for morning lessons, but the ASF and Windham Mountain will host a special lunch in Seasons, located on the third floor of the Windham base lodge, honoring the warriors and their service in the U.S. Military.

The ASF has invited special guests to speak at the event, including New York State Senator Michelle Hinchey. She, along with other honorary guests, will have a chance to say a few words and to mingle with the Warriors in Motion. The Windham-Ashland-Jewett Elementary Chorus will be on hand to sing patriotic songs to kick off the celebration as well. The lunch will take place from 12 p.m.-1:30 p.m., and when it's over, the soldiers and their families will hit the slopes again for their afternoon lessons. For dinner on Friday, the WIM participants



will be hosted by Marc Farmilette and VFW Post 1545 in Windham for a meal catered by Main Street Market.

The warriors will have another full day on the snow on Saturday, as they'll receive lessons both in the morning and the afternoon. The lessons will be separated by a lunch in the ASF lodge. When their final lessons of the day are over, the participants will be able to head back to their hotel rooms to wind down and relax after a second-straight day full of skiing and snowboarding before hitting the town again for dinner at Chicken Run.

On Sunday, the final day of the Bob Stubbs Warriors in Motion Winter Sports Weekend, the veterans and their families will have one last lesson in the morning before they enjoy a lunch in the ASF lodge and depart back to their homes.

Phillips, an amputee, knows that getting out

there on a snowboard will be difficult, but he's ready for the challenge. "Balance is my main concern, but I'm just looking to have a good time and getting rid of the fear of falling," he said. "I'll take my time, I may need to be held up for a while, but we're going to see

what we can do. It's something I want to do, because I miss being active."

Beginning in 2021, the ASF renamed its Warriors in Motion Lean to Ski and Ride event to the Bob Stubbs Warriors in Motion Winter Sports Weekend to honor the

memory of Bob Stubbs, a former Chairman of the ASF Board of Trustees, who passed away in 2020. Stubbs, a U.S. Army veteran himself, was one of the first ASF donors to ensure that wounded warriors had everything they needed for a weekend of fun and empowerment on the slopes. He and his wife Rosie would attend many of the WIM events the ASF held, and often the couple would build friendships with the participants.

Thanks to the organization's generous donors, the ASF will be able to provide all lessons, equipment rentals, meals, hotel rooms, snacks and drinks. If you'd like to donate to the many programs the Adaptive Sports Foundation has to offer, visit www.adaptivesportsfoundation.org.

MA Man Arrested on Drug Charges Following Crash

On January 24, 2023, at approximately 2:45 a.m., troopers responded to State Route 23A in the town of Hunter for a report of a single vehicle crash. When troopers arrived at the location of the crash, they observed a 2015 black Nissan Pathfinder in a ditch facing north and the back end of the vehicle partially in the roadway. There was no one in the vehicle. Troopers searched the area and located a male with blood on his clothing and walking with a dog in a parking lot adjacent to State Route 23A. He was identified as Alexander Rakita, age 40, from

South Easton, Massachusetts. Mr. Rakita stated that he was in an automobile crash and that the vehicle that the troopers located was his. While speaking with troopers it was determined that he was impaired by drugs. Mr. Rakita was having a difficult time standing while speaking with troopers and stated that had taken mushrooms. Troopers transported him to Columbia Memorial Health for a medical evaluation. He was evaluated for any injuries and was released after being medically cleared. He was subsequently charged with Driving While Ability Im-

paired (DWA) by drugs. While searching Mr. Rakita's vehicle troopers located approximately 70 grams of psilocybin cubensis (mushrooms) in several jars. He was additionally charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 2nd degree and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 3rd degree, both felonies.

He was arraigned in the Town of Catskill Court and remanded to Greene County Jail in lieu of bail. He has a return date of February 15, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Rakita's dog was taken to the Columbia Greene Humane Society.

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TRADITIONALLY SPEAKING BY PAT LARSEN

Tapping into Our Intuition

How often you get that “gut” feeling that informs you either positively or negatively about a project you’re about to undertake. Or perhaps, you’re contemplating making a major purchase but still feel a sense of uncertainty that you causes you to hesitate.

Well, that’s your sense of INTUITION at work.

Basically, it is an instinct that you are born with and utilize both consciously and unconsciously throughout our lives.

When our intuition and intellect are in harmony with each other, there really is no problem that you can’t resolve. This blockbuster combination of our subtle character emerges as our creative intelligence, a blend of our capacity for reasoning coupled with a deep



trust in gut feelings.

In the flow of thought and then action that results in resolving our “questions” or problem in this way, it becomes obvious quickly how simple and effective the answers present themselves.

Intuition is actually a constellation of cues, physical cues, that responds to subtle body language, the tone of

your voice, the palpable energy you might feel being given off from the people or situation around you that is often felt in your “gut” but not totally confined to that area either.

It’s your “instinct communicating with you.

That’s an aspect of our animal nature that’s cued into our survival and growth. If you’re interested in tapping into that instinct more readily when an issue presents itself you might try, first, identifying your need to slow down your breathing and then sharpen your focus and your attention on the physical sensations you’re experiencing.

Let’s consider some practical subjects first by thinking back to a time when your gut was send-

ing up flares about traveling during an impending storm.

That’s a very common concern and fear associated with gut feelings that I hear voiced from those I have worked with. Often this anxiety is the result of a former experience that may not have gone well when the decision was made to travel without listening to that nagging gut feeling. But then how would a previous experience relate to a current impending storm and your decision to make a travel plan.

The answer lies within the two areas I mentioned.

Your physical cues (where that concern was living inside your body at the moment) and your intellect.

Right there in the middle lies the answer as to what you’d be comfortable with doing.

In addition to your intuitive feelings, you can

get more information on which to base your choices and decisions by doing more research. Consult books, the internet, web sites, current live broadcasts, comparative charts, friends, family etc depending on what the subject matter is.

Sometimes a solution may be found in simply walking away, sleeping on it, contemplating it for a few days and asking yourself if an answer was required immediately or could it quite possibly be ok to wait.

Giving your gut a chance to catch up with your intellect often results in unexpected insight that helps you discern the best choice among all the possibilities available to you.

Practice these 2 concepts the next time a situation presents itself. When there is a congruity or balance between mind and intuition, coupled with a healthy dose of

patience, you will tap into a greater deeper wisdom within yourself.

Wellness Corner: Fresh Fruit and root vegetables are becoming more available now at our local farms, markets, grocers. Fresh apples are abundant and they are a great resource for our overall health. Grab a bunch and enjoy an apple every day. Prep a few pounds by canning for winter food storage when the cold, damp weather impacts our arthritis even more aggressively and we would benefit from a local source of vitamins and nutrients.

Feel free to contact Pat Larsen,

Licensed Fitness Instructor about classes Mon.& Thurs. @ The Shamrock House, East Durham for more info @ 518-275-8686 text or call.

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Hunter, from Page C1

tion of a home . . . that has as its base or contains a shipping or storage crate or similar container constructed of metal, plastic or other type of material.” By this definition, she said “it could include a large plastic bin used to store items in someone’s home.”

Several attendees agreed. The sentiment of the majority of attendees was that the proposed law is both ambiguous and confusing, and ultimately the law is not currently necessary. Many

had questions about the difference between a “tiny house” and a “container home,” pointing out that there is already a type of tiny house in Hunter - yurts. Some questioned the difference between constructing a modular home, or a mobile home, and the proposed container home.

“Where is the line?” Hasselbeck asked. “There are all sorts of buildings in the town.”

Papa said, “This Hearing is for safety, not appearances.”

Sommers stated, “A

metal framed building burns very hot.” He expressed concern for the safety of Firefighters, should there be a fire, and the need to ensure the materials used are fireproof.

He and Papa both mentioned the issue of connecting the container home to the electrical grid, and a possible need for “double grounding.” Papa said, “This is all a brand new thing and we’re going to look into it.”

Resident Michael Osterer said he has worked in construction with all types of materials, and does not see a building with a metal skeleton as any more dangerous than other buildings.

Many argued that the couple should be allowed to go ahead and build, and afterward the Village could create a new law. Village resident Fran Clark asked the Board, “Are you discriminating against these applicants?” She did not get a direct response.

Papa ended The Public Hearing at 8:00, and he and other Board members left the conference room to meet with Rapleyea. When they returned, Papa told the crowd that the words “container home” would be inserted in 3B. of the proposed law, to help clarify its meaning. After calling for a motion to adopt the law, a vote was taken. The law passed.

Papa acknowledged that Hasselbeck and Lin have invested “a lot of money.” He told them “if you can prove a ‘substantial right’ [to Rapleyea after the architectural review] and meet all criteria, you may be eligible to go forward.” The crowd applauded.

After the meeting, Gi-grandie said, “I consider myself pro-growth, and a vacant lot doesn’t contribute to the business climate or health of the community.”

Hasselbeck remarked, “We’re really excited about having a home

here, but it’s really upsetting how much flat out discrimination and shortsightedness there is, and unwillingness to be open to different styles of homes.” She added, “We’re two young people who are just trying to find a way to be part of a community within our means.”

The addition of the two words into the law could cause the public hearing process to start again. As of press time, whether that is scheduled has not been announced by the village of Hunter government.



Hasselbeck speaking at the meeting.



Mayor Papa listens during the meeting.

Bennett to Present Prattsville’s Glory Feb. 23rd

Thursday - Feb. 23, 6pm - “Prattsville’s Glory” presented by Carolyn Bennett for Black History Month. Bennett’s talk introduces 5 Mondore brothers, residents of Prattsville, who fought in the Civil War as volunteers and what happened to them when they returned home. She will

also tell us of Leander Bacon, a brother-in-law of the Mondores, and Civil War veteran, who is buried in the family cemetery near Pratt Rock. Register to obtain a link to the program. Please email mthsdirector@mths.org or call 518-589-6657 to register. Thank you.

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LEGISLATURE STUFF

Not Repeating Redundancy

By Michael Ryan
CATSKILL - Sending a unified message, the Greene County Legislature is calling upon Senator Michelle Hinchey and Assemblyman Christopher Tague to light a perpetual revenue spark in Albany.

Local lawmakers have approved a resolution strongly urging Hinchey and Tague to cooperatively initiate legislation related to mortgage tax.

"The current State legislation allowing Greene County to impose mortgage recording tax, in the amount of 1/2 of 1%, and allowing that additional mortgage tax to be paid to Greene County will expire effective December 1st, 2023," the resolution states.

"If this should expire, it would create a tremendous burden upon the residents of Greene County," the resolution states.

"The last time Greene County received this extension, the term was increased from [two years to three years] and Greene County is respectfully requesting a 3-year term for this extension, ending on November 30th, 2026," the resolution states.

"In the alternative, we are respectively calling for a permanent mortgage recording tax...this would provide Greene County with more stability to better anticipate and plan our budgets and projects.

"It would also remove the possibility of delays in renewal of the extensions, cut down on burdensome paperwork and most importantly give Home Rule back to our municipality where it belongs," the resolution states.

Turning their collective eyes to Albany, county lawmakers say they "find it necessary to make a request" to Hinchey, a Democrat, and Tague, a Republican, to turn blind eyes to political lines.

They want Hinchey and Tague to follow the local example by giving mutual "support and assistance" to the plan. Hinchey and Tague have been appreciative of each other's efforts when publicly crossing paths.

"We have worked together on this as we regularly do, enacting what's best for the entire county, not just our particular districts or Party," county legislature chairman Patrick Linger said.

Those sentiments were echoed by county Majority Leader Matthew Luvera and



Greene County Legislature, led by legislature chairman Patrick Linger (center), Majority Leader Matthew Luvera (left) and Minority Leader Harry Lennon, is calling upon Albany lawmakers Michelle Hinchey and Chris Tague to join hands on behalf of all county residents.

Minority Leader Harry Lennon with the GOP historically holding an edge and currently enjoying a 12 to 2 upper hand over Democrats.

The collection of mortgage tax would continue to fatten the General Fund for various county purposes, according to local officials, asking Hinchey and Tague to present a bill as soon as possible.

No less expediency is attached to a resolution approved by lawmakers "memorializing State representatives to introduce legislation for an extension of sales tax.

"Whereas, effective November 30, 2023, State legislation allowing Greene County to impose an additional one percent sales tax will expire," the resolution states.

"Due to the revenue generated by a four percent sales tax, which was first enacted in 1993, Greene County has been able to fiscally manage the ever-increasing mandates and services required by county government.

"The loss of the additional one percent sales tax revenue would result in a decrease in the range of approximately seven to eight million dollars of anticipated revenue" to the county, the resolution states.

"The last time Greene County received this extension, the term was increased from a two-year term to a three-year term and Greene County is respectfully requesting a three-year term for this extension, ending on November 30th, 2026

"In the alternative, we are respectfully requesting a permanent sales tax extension, giving Greene County permanent authority to impose a four percent (4%) sales and compensating use tax," the resolu-

tion states.

Reiterating the advantages of being able to better plan the annual budget and any projects, etc., local lawmakers requested that Hinchey and Tague likewise join hands to sponsor permanent 4 percent tax legislation.

Removing the temporary labels would eliminate the need for the county to essentially get permission from the State to conduct business, a redundant exercise and touchy subject for many counties.

In another matter closer to home, lawmakers authorized a new contract for janitorial services at five county buildings with Purely Clean, LLC, headquartered in Leeds.

Buildings and Grounds Superintendent Craig Seaburg recommended the company after an immediate need arose to find a new sub-contractor for providing cleaning services, receiving two quotes.

One quote was roughly 30 percent higher than the current cost with Purely Clean coming in lower and given a trial period during which they have shown themselves to be skillful and proficient in their work, Seaburg states.

The one-year contract startup date is January 1, 2023, with crews going once a week for \$375 per month to four different sites including:

240 West Main Street in Catskill (highway department), 90 Allen Street in Catskill (buildings and grounds), 465 Main Street in Catskill (records management office) and 39 Second Street in Athens (Greene County nutrition program).

The fifth site is 45 Haverly Memorial Drive in Coxsackie (Greene County Sheriff's Office), three times per week for \$2,200 per month.

BETTER THAN HEARSAY

Deepening Waters

By Michael Ryan
WINDHAM - Dissimilar conclusions have been reached about the same occurrences in the legal case brought against the town of Windham by local business owner Nick Bove.

Bove, in October, 2022, filed a complaint in Greene County Supreme Court surrounding a water district discrepancy that surfaced, last summer.

Bove, in his grievance, also named the Windham town board, the Windham water district and Thomas Hoyt in his dual roles as town supervisor and water district president.

Town officials, at that time, had no comment on the matter, turning over the documents to their insurers who have brought in Nicolas A. Pascale from the Hudson Valley firm Drake Loeb PLLC.

Pascale, on January 12, responded to allegations offered by Bove and his attorney, Cassandra Gipe, that, "the town of Windham has, without any basis in fact and in violation of [Bove's] due process rights, imposed a criminal fine on [Bove] for allegedly stealing water from the town."

Gipe alleges the town, "did this without regard to the true facts of the matter and without providing [Bove] any opportunity to defend himself.

Bove "did not violate Section No. 4 of Local Law #3 of 2007 entitled "Windham Water District #1 Rules and Regulations Local Law.

Bove is "not guilty of Criminal Tampering as defined in the NYS Penal Law § 145.15, which the Town Board has found him guilty of without due process of law," Gipe stated.

"The Town has acted illegally and unconstitutionally, and its actions must be overturned by this Court," including the assessing of a \$200 fine and additional penalties, Bove and his attorney state.

Pascale conversely claims Bove, "admits to the unmetered use of Town water from about September 2021 through at least...October 20, 2022" when Bove's complaint was submitted.

Bove "does not allege an application was made, nor approval or permit was obtained, nor that notice was given to the Town Water Board before tying into the water system as required by the Local Law," Pascale claims.

Pascale further claims that Bove, "agrees to pay the penalty rate for the

over one (1) year of unmetered water use, and blames this circumstance on a plumber [Bove] hired to perform this work."

Bove's attorney states her client, "did not tap in the Town Water without the Town and/or the Water Superintendent's authorization.

Gipe states, "in September of 2021, [Bove] hired plumber Rob Drum...to decommission a well on the properties and to hook into the town."

Bove has been accused by the town of illegally hooking into the municipal water system at two locations; a cafe business along Route 296 and a rental property along Route 23, a half-mile or so apart.

Town officials say they were made aware of the hookups only after a routine inspection of the cafe by the State Department of Health, subsequently notifying Bove of alleged violations and fines.

Bove's attorney states that, "upon information and belief, [town] Water Superintendent Kyle Schwarz was aware of, and had approved the hook-up [at the cafe], and had previously been on the property with the plumber to review and approve the use of existing piping materials.

"Upon information and belief, the plumber followed proper own procedure when tapping into the Town Water," Gipe states.

"The town provided [Bove] with two (2) water meters which he picked up himself from the Town on two separate occasions which further reflects that the Town was aware of and authorized the water hookups," Gipe states.

Pascale conversely claims, "there is no indication that the Water Board was ever notified by [Bove] of the two connections made by [Bove]."

Bove's "claims that the Water Board should have known because meters had been distributed to him or because his plumber had phone calls with Mr. Schwarz are of no effect since the law is very clear that notice is required to the Water Board," Pascale claims.

Schwarz, in an affidavit says that, "on or about June 8, 2022, the Town received an e-mail from State Health Department Sanitarian Victor C. DelRegno, Jr. asking the Town to confirm the Café premises...was served by municipal water.

"The Town then inquired with [Bove] who confirmed that indeed the Café premises, as well as the residential premises...had been served by Town water since connection was made in or about September of 2021.

"However, neither I, nor to my knowledge [water district clerk] Bette Rhodes, nor the Water Board had first been notified by [Bove], nor had [Bove] applied to the Water Board, nor had the Water Board approved an application prior to the connections being made," Schwarz says.

"Also, it was determined that neither connection was metered. I am advised that [Bove]

claims he did not violate the Local Law on the grounds that his plumber had spoken previously with me about connecting to the Town water system, and because he had been provided by the Town with meters for the two properties," Schwarz says.

"To my understanding the Town Water Department will distribute meters in advance of work commencing, but this distribution does not relieve users such as [Bove] from notifying the Board and receiving Board approval prior to making new connections to the Town's water mains.

"I understand [Bove] was advised he had to come back to the Town when he was provided with a meter before connecting to the Town's water system. [Bove] did not do so," Schwarz says.

"Likewise, his plumber did not notify me before any connection was made and activated...neither [Bove] nor his Plumber, provided notice before making the connection to either property.

"If not for State Sanitarian Del Regno bringing the issue to the attention of the Town, the Town would, to this date, remain unaware either of these connections were made," Schwarz says.

Bove's complaint is not limited to a question of water usage. His court papers further state that he, "seeks a judgment...declaring a local law of the Town illegal, as both ultra vires and unconstitutional," referring to the town's water district rules enacted in 2007.

Bove, "seeks a judgment...vacating and setting aside the town's decision to impose penalties upon [Bove], as the imposition of the penalties is a direct violation of his procedural due process rights afforded to him under the U.S. Constitution and the New York State Constitution."

Imposition of the penalties was, "therefore, in violation of lawful procedure, was affected by an error of law, was arbitrary and capricious and was otherwise an abuse of discretion," Bove's court papers allege.

Pascale, in his response claims, "the Town is authorized to enact local legislation pertaining to local municipal water systems and such legislation may provide for the assessment of fines, penalties or charges in consequence of the violation of that local legislation.

"The Town clearly has jurisdiction to regulate public water facilities, so the claim that the local law at issue is "ultra vires" or "unconstitutional" lacks facial merit," Pascale claims.

Pascale has asked the court to dismiss Bove's complaint, upholding the town's fees and penalties. Both sides have requested payback for any connected court costs.

Bove and his attorney have until February 3 to explain to the court why their complaint should not be dismissed which they will likely do.

The court must then make a decision to dismiss the complaint or move forward to a trial, a process that could take many months or longer.

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Windham Preps for 2023

By Michael Ryan

WINDHAM - The fate of a famously four-legged slowpoke is uncertain after officials in Windham recently reorganized themselves.

Doing what has to be done every year at this time, town council members made the various appointments and designations necessary to keep the gears of local government un-glitched.

There were few if any changes from 2022 which is considered a good sign, indicating everyone is performing their duty dutifully.

While every person is vital and each department is important, one of the highlights of the meeting is a perusal of the annual dog control officer's report (which comes later in this story).

That report is traditionally packed with tales of lost and found dogs who can frequently turn out to be one and the same, depending upon which human being notifies the dog control office first.

In no particular order, reorganization selections

and choices were as follows:

—Reappointment of part time police officers, Tor Tryland (chief of police), Greg Paspalis, James Scarey III, William Scarey, David Sherman, Sergeant David Sherman Jr., Peter Varelas, Cody Rogers, Charles Rion, Thomas Parquez, Marino Romito, Greg Thorp and Donald Schoenborn.

—Police Chaplains (Father Jay Atherton from St. Theresa's Church, Pastor Cliff Cool from Hope Restoration Church and Pastor Ryan Dempsey from Mitchell Hollow Mission Church).

—Liaison with police department and town court (councilman Stephen Walker), Town Health Officer (Dr. Nikolay Samedov), Medical Director (Doctor Craig Stanger);

—Town Historian (Patricia Morrow), Town Attorney (Tal Rappleyea), deputy town supervisor (councilman Wayne Van Valin), Working Foreman for the highway department (Troy Aplin, on the recommendation of high-

way superintendent Gary Thorington);

—Representative to the Greene County Planning Board (Windham Planning Board chairman Thomas Poelker), Official Town Newspaper (Mountain Eagle);

—Official Town Banks (Key Bank Windham, NBT Bank (for Escrow Accounts), Greene County Commercial Bank, National Bank of Cossackie and the Bank of Greene County).

—Code Enforcement Officer (Dominick Caropreso), Registrar of Vital Statistics (town clerk Bonnie Poehmel), Water Superintendent (Kyle Schwarz), Centre Property Contact for Entry/Key Holder (Carol Spear);

—Person in Charge of Fixed Assets (Bette Rhoades and town supervisor Thomas Hoyt), Ambulance Operations Liaison and Greene County EMS Representative (councilman Ian Peters);

—Planning Board Liaison (councilman Peters), Windham Chamber of Commerce Liaison (councilman Kurt

Goettsche), Fire Commissioners Liaison (councilman Goettsche);

—Social Service Office/Bookkeeper to the Newton Fund (Bette Rhoades), Youth Officer (councilman Van Valin);

—Town Officer in Charge of Parks (supervisor Hoyt), Town Officer in Charge of Cemeteries (councilman Van Valin), —Sewer District Grease Trap Inspector (Josh Vital) and Dog Control Officer (Bruce Feml), which segues to his yearly report containing the following snippets:

On March 24, someone called to register a complaint against a dog barking incessantly when the dog is outside.

The caller was advised there is no dog barking ordinance in the town of Windham (not the first time that has happened). The caller said he would check with the police to perhaps register a Disturbing the Peace complaint.

On the last day in June, Feml received a phone call from a local homeowner who wanted a rattlesnake removed from

his property.

The caller was given the phone number for the area EnCon officer, with Feml telling the caller, "I do not pick up snakes" (although Feml did not specify whether he meant ever or just professionally).

An entry in Feml's report on July 7 states that a stray dog picked up in late June in Windham was given up for adoption since no one had called to claim the pooch. But the story does not end there.

Feml noted that no Missing Dog Reports matching the pup had been filed and no one responded to repeated advertising on local radio that the stray had been picked up.

Then on July 22, a lost dog report was taken from a woman who said she was calling for a friend, telling Feml her friend had lost his dog on June 30 when it took off chasing a deer and hadn't been seen since.

The friend was visiting from Texas and working in the area and did not know who to contact, the

woman caller said.

Feml advised the caller that a dog matching the description was picked up by Windham police in late June, held by Feml for 10 days and then adopted out as per NY State Agricultural & Markets law.

But the story did not end there either. On July 29, the original owner called, stating he lost the dog a month ago and did not understand how Feml could have given the dog away. The man was advised the dog had no identification and was treated as a stray per Ag & Markets laws.

On October 29, a woman called from a local hotel to advise there was a cat up a tree by their establishment. Feml advised the woman he did not take care of cats, suggesting she contact Leon Taufield or Tom Hitchcock, two local men who have ladder trucks.

And on September 21, a woman called to report a turtle in the road by her house. Feml advised her to just leave it alone, letting Mother Nature take her course.

(MORE) LOCAL HISTORY BY DEDE TERNS-THORPE

Jim West, Part II

Last week's story of the Mountain Top resident Jim West said they had just arrived in Liberia, where they would live for the next few years. Jim and his bride of sixty-two years, Shirley Brooks West, had just arrived in Monrovia, Liberia. Firestone had hired Jim as a superintendent, and he had just received a plant tour.

Jim said they spent the night in a Firestone guest house, then flew to Cape Palmas, where they were taken to their new home. It was a pleasant two-bedroom bungalow built on piers with a ground-level room for servants. We hired a cook and a steward to serve meals and do housework (paid respectively 50 and 40 cents a day [about \$4 or \$5 today]). The departing superintendent gave me a quick orientation of the place. I had about 150 workers – overseers, headmen, tappers, maintenance workers, and clerks. The rubber trees were tapped, and the latex was collected daily for shipment to the factory.

I worked for Firestone for two two-year contracts with a three-month paid vacation back home between contracts. Our three children, Barbara, Sandi, and Bill were born in the Firestone hospital on the plantation. Firestone provided elementary school, but older children were either sent to boarding school, or the wife and kids spent the school year at home. We didn't want to separate the family and decided it was time to return to the states.

We returned to East Jewett, I soon worked on a survey crew with the State Conservation Department, and we rented a small house in the Cabbage Patch in Haines Falls. I eventually obtained a land surveyors license and promotions, and after a couple of moves, we bought our first house on Spring St. in Tannersville. We bought it from Ed and Margaret Dolan. We later purchased a new home on Clum Hill Road next to Don and Joan Yager. I joined the fire department, rescue squad,

American Legion, and Lions Club. I served several years on the school board.

After attending several real estate courses, I worked out of the Albany office appraising land being acquired by the Department. I spent much time traveling, and Shirley was left with the kids and the house while also working as a bookkeeper. The commute to Albany was becoming too much, and after our youngest (Bill) graduated, we sold the house and moved to Westerlo, closer but still in the hills. I joined the Kiwanis Club and the American Legion; we bowled in the Legion league, and Shirley joined a women's golf league. She often played with friends. I tried, but I was not a golfer. I eventually became Bureau Superintendent at Environmental Conservation and finally retired in 1994. (After thirty-four years).

We purchased a 5th-wheel RV and truck in 1990 and made camping trips with it whenever possible. After retirement, we sold the house, put some things in stor-

age, and with a new RV, began life as full-time RV'ers. We eventually visited all 49 of the continental states (with two memorable trips to Alaska) and all the provinces of Canada (except Nunavut, which you can't drive to). When it became time to have a home base again, we bought a house in South Cairo, where we live today. We continued our RV travels until a few years ago when we sold our last camper."

I can't thank Mary McGinnis and Jim West enough for sharing a bit of their history. As Justine Hommel always said, "It's people that make history." How right she was.

Again. If anyone would care to share their history, please call 518-589-4130, text 518-291-3540, or email hunterhistorian@gmail.com. People often feel like their story isn't valuable enough, but it is. As Justine Hommel always said, "It's people that make history."

Thanks for reading. Stay safe, and have a good week.

Free Mental Health First Aid Training for Ag Community

Did you know that farmers are more likely than the general population to die by suicide?

NY FarmNet and New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health are pleased to offer a free Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) course on January 31st from 8am - 5pm. The training will be held at Clarks Sports Center, 124 County Road 52, Cooperstown, NY 13326. Farmers, agribusiness workers, and anyone who interacts with the agricultural community in New York State is encouraged to attend this free training. Lunch will be provided from a local eatery, with a one-hour break.

Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among adults. You'll build skills and confidence you need to reach out and provide initial support to those who are struggling. You'll also learn how to help connect them to appropriate support.

After the course, you will be able to:

- Recognize common signs and symptoms of mental health and substance use challenges.
- Understand how to interact with a person in crisis and connect them with help.

• Use self-care tools and techniques

The instructors for this course are Kevin Luschen and Anna Meyerhoff of New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health. Please note that the adult MHFA content is not ag specific, although the instructors are.

This free training is made possible by funding from the United States Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food & Agriculture. They have invested nearly \$25 million in addressing farmer behavioral health on a state-by-state basis as part of the Farm and Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) through state Departments of Agriculture.

Scan the QR code below, or go to www.nyfarmnet.org/trainings to register by January 23rd. Contact NY FarmNet at 1-800-547-3276 with any questions. Registration deadline will be extended if the class does not fill. Please register for lunch count to be accurate.

This work is supported by 7 U.S.C. 5936, Section 7522 of FCEA of 2008, Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN), Grant No. 2021-70035-35550, from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

MESSAGE OF HOPE BY SISTER CHIRYA

Let Your Love Light Shine

Seeing how much the world has changed in the past 100 years, feelings of helplessness and anxiety are rising. Worldwide, souls are experiencing sorrow and peacefulness. People need to know how to connect and create some positive action with their inner values. However, power is always available as within the soul is a spiritual center of pure radiant spiritual light. This is what we are. When our third eye opens, our internal spiritual light turns on. We become aware of our true identity. and stop

stumbling, as the darkness has disappeared.

Take time to empower yourself today. Sit quietly and listen within. The light and love of the Spiritual Sun, God, the Source, invisible to our physical eyes, is only one second away, a thought away. When we quieten and focus our mind, we remember our true form is of spiritual light: 'I am incorporeal – without a body—and my spiritual Father, is incorporeal. It is when I, the soul, am bodiless, detached from the body, that I experience being loved by

God.' God is Light and I am light. Becoming merged in God's light I, the soul receives limitless love and power. Connect your mind to God's mind and allow yourself to recharge and renew. With true love for the one Father, we receive pure love, infinite peace and happiness.

"Only a powerful soul can offer love. Only a powerful soul can afford to be humble. If we are weak, we become selfish. If we are empty, we take; but if we are filled, we automatically give to all. That is our nature." - Dadi

Prakashmani.

Meditation connects and fills us with this source of power – that is why meditation is the way to access the real vitamins and the minerals the spirit craves, the vitamin of pure love and the minerals of truth and wisdom. With meditation and regular spiritual studies, we increase the power to accept and love ourselves. With God's love we realize we do not need to borrow strength or identity from anyone or anything else. We build our self esteem on our core values, not on

achievements or people's acceptance. Our anchor for life is internal. With this insight nothing can diminish our sense of worth.

Be a good mother to your mind, teach it good, positive thoughts so that when you tell it to sit quietly, it will. Learn to talk to your mind as if it were a child, with love. If you just force a child to sit down, he won't. A good mother knows how to prompt her child into doing what she wants. Once the heart understands the mind opens and love flows.

Love is contagious. When we teach and share love, it multiplies and comes back. By being connected to God's love, we will have equal love for all human beings, not love only for some or love only sometimes. After all, we all have the same loving spiritual Parent!

Contact: Yvonne Chirya Risely bkchirya@gmail.com chirya.risely@peacevillageretreat.org

PV Bookshop link: <https://www.peacevillageretreat.org/all-books.html>

THE CATSKILLS GEOLOGISTS BY ROBERT AND JOHANNA TITUS

Floodplain Streams

Recently, we began a series of columns classifying river types. We are following a classification scheme developed by Professor William Morris Davis, a late 19th Century Harvard geographer. We described his first type, the mountain or, as he called them, the youthful streams. Such streams were usually found descending the steep slopes of

mountains. Their valley walls were steep sloped, they were fast flowing and erosive. But as time passed such streams eroded their landscapes; they widened their valleys and lowered their slopes. The mountains, in between those streams, were also eroding away. The landscape was changing; it was flattening out in a fashion that we call maturing. That led

to a gradual transformation into William Morris Davis's second category: the mature stream. In the mind of Davis streams grew up much like people do. They did have a youth, a maturity and an old age. Like people, streams aged and passed from youth to maturity to old age.

The two key features of mature streams, and the ones we want you to watch

for are the floodplains and stream meanders. You probably already know what a floodplain is. That's the flat valley floor that many streams flow across. Meanders are back and forth bends in a stream as it flows across its floodplain. Take a look at our illustration. It's a painting by one of our favorite Hudson River School artists, Sanford Robinson Gifford. Right in the middle you will see both features. That stream is meandering across a floodplain. It is a classic floodplain river. But here is the problem. If you will get last week's column out (you save these, right?) you will see that this is Kaaterskill Creek. We argued last time that Kaaterskill Creek was a classic mountain stream, So, which is it? Is this a mountain stream, or a mature floodplain stream? Well, if you look at last week's photo you will see no such



floodplain and no meanders; it is a mountain stream; at least it was last week!

Well, that means that Gifford cheated! He did a good job of painting the stream as it is, except that he added meanders that don't exist. (There is no waterfall at this vantage point either, but that is another story). Gifford painted this in the 1860's, about 30 years ahead of Davis's work. The Davis theory of stream erosion did not yet exist. So, Gifford can (sort of) be for-

given. He was not likely to be well versed in stream theory that did not yet exist.

We haven't yet found a proper floodplain stream anywhere in the Catskills, so it is odd that it is only in art that they exist. Well, we do the best that we can.

Contact the authors at randjtitus@prodigy.net. Join their facebook page "The Catskill Geologist." Read their blogs at "thecatsskill-geologist.com".

THE TAPESTRY BY DR. DEBORAH HERODES

Temperature's Risin' January's Thermometer

I have been coughing for five weeks, and no matter what I take to help quell the hacking, I'm still coughing. This is the story most people who live in upstate New York are telling. If they aren't coughing, they are vomiting or have severe sinus infections or UTIs. This is an ordinary January for me; it is the unhealthiest month of the year for me. I have always chalked it up to the busy days that surround the holidays, and the lack of sleep that go hand in hand with this time of year.

Sadly, however, it is not just me this year, who is struggling with January madness; most of the people I know are suffering, "health-wise," through January. Kids are dropping and drooping from RSV, influenza, Coxsackie virus, stomach bugs, severe ear infections and Covid. As parents, who are trying to keep-up with the doses of "pink medicine" (Amoxicillin) in the refrigerator, and cough medications, inhalers, and out of stock Tylenol, I found my own grown children coming to me to ask for some old-fashioned remedies. I laughed, because most of the time, my old-fashioned ways are pushed aside for more new age ideas. My heart went out to them and to their children, however, so I began to list some things they could try to do to relieve the limpness and suffering of their children.

First and foremost, I reminded them, it is Winter, so hats SHOULD BE WORN! Little ears need to be covered and most of the body's heat escapes through one's head. I also have begged for years for children to wear their coats in the car, even though car-seat companies swear that seatbelts in car-seats cannot be made tight enough, with a winter coat on. I must remember, however, that I didn't grow up with car-seats, and for that matter, not even seat belts, so this isn't really an old-fashioned idea. I

mentioned Vicks, for back and chest rub, and of course, under the nose, and, also added that my grandfather used to swallow Vicks every night of his life. Additionally, I recommended tepid baths, moist-air vaporizers, warm Wesson oil drops in the ears, followed by puffs of smoke, covered with cotton, for ear-aches, cool wash cloths on head, under arms and on feet to bring down fevers, wintergreen lifesavers for coughing, along with peanut butter, on a spoon, for asthmatic coughs. Ginger-ale and hot tea with honey, along with chicken broth and pop-suckles were my suggestions for food and drink. Coxsackie virus needed a pair of soft gloves on small hands to avoid torn sores from scratching. Most importantly, however, was the need for sleep in a quiet place, free of video games, television etc. For headaches, if no Tylenol was available, I suggested ice packs and teabags on eyelids.

As most people reading this, are probably either shaking their heads in agreement, with the aforementioned, or laughing hysterically at these old-time remedies, the one thing we can all agree on is kids are sicker than usual and so are adults.

The reasons for this unusually sick January are twofold. The first reason has to do with sending children to school who are sick. When both parents work, it is difficult to get time off to care for a sick child, so off he/she goes, with fever intact, to spread his/her germs to other children. When I was teaching, I never was more irritated than when a classroom full of kids were coughing and blowing their noses. The classroom epidemic usually started with one ill child, and, within 10 days, all were in concert with each other, teacher included. Used Kleenex lined the classroom garbage can all day long, just waiting to spread its deposits, with all who dared to enter Rm. 158. As I taught high school students,

I was pretty much protected from the projectile vomiter, of the elementary school, who left his/her impression on his/her desk or square in the hallway, on the way to the bathroom. Teachers need to learn to control that gag reflex, and somehow, they do, but little ones have no idea how to rid themselves of that puking feeling.

The second reason for all this non-stop sickness surrounds Covid and all the ramifications of masking, disbelief and believing that the entire safety issue is over. The wearing of masks protected children from Covid, until vaccinations came along to boost their immune systems. Those who were not immunized were also protected from all kinds of viruses, due to the masks. When the masks came off, however, and a year and a half of immune systems sitting by silently, waiting to be used, were forced to kick back in, because viruses were free to enter through the mouth and nose, they were not prepared. There is good news however, for those with little ones. Each illness your "not yet school age" child endures means a stronger immune system, once they enter school. Believe it or not, the longer I taught, the less I got sick, because my body got so used to these attack germs that eventually it just warded them off.

Take heart parents and other adults who are struggling through these cold months, your immune systems are also getting stronger, and despite your lack of sleep dealing with your little ones, you will get through this, and the Spring and Summer will bring us some natural vitamins. In addition, it still is smart to wear your masks if you are ill or are going to an event full of people. It is now considered the norm, so keep one in your pocket. By the way, vaccinations are still available, if you are so inclined.

DelCo Supervisors Support Revised Filtration Avoidance Determination Public Hearing Set Feb. 22

By Mary Crisafulli
DELHI - After several discussions and comments against New York State Department of Health's (DOH) draft revisions to the Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD) in June 2022, Delaware County supervisors submitted a resolution supporting the second set of revisions at a meeting on Jan. 25.

The FAD is a license awarded to the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) by DOH, permitting its operation within the Delaware and Catskill watershed towns. Under such a license, DEP runs several programs, includ-

ing land and streamside acquisition. Strongly voiced concern by watershed communities, ultimately leading to new revisions, grew when FAD proposed to expand acquisition programs and leave easements unchanged. Watershed stakeholders were united in that acquisition programs, as is, were detrimental to the growth and vitality of their communities.

The critical change, said Andes Supervisor Wayland Gladstone, is that now DEP will be required to review and reassess acquisition programs before expanding them. The resolution

states supervisors support the reorganization of such programs and exploration of a program modeled after CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program), explained Gladstone. CREP, administered by Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District, preserves land by paying landowners a rental fee to place an environmental easement on the property, which prevents building. This program has continued stewardship which is needed to support the community and preserve land successfully, he continued.

Franklin Supervisor Jeffery Taggart said a CREP-

like program keeps the community and the landowner involved in what's happening with the land, which is critical.

The conservation easements attached to DEP's acquisition programs are of primary concern and should be addressed, said Roxbury Supervisor Allen Hinkley. Such easements prevent economic development as they prohibit utility construction, he explained.

Walton Supervisor Joe Cetta asked if a reduction in the amount of acreage DEP is permitted to acquire through acquisition was reduced as requested by watershed stakeholders. Land acquisition

acres permitted for solicitation in 2024 were reduced to 200,000 from 300,000.

Supervisors unanimously voted in favor of the resolution thanking DOH representatives for considering their comments. Harpersfield Supervisor James Eisel and Deposit Supervisor Thomas Axtell were absent.

In other business: Supervisors amended the budget to accept \$72,125.50 through the New York State Health Care and Mental Hygiene Worker Bonus program distributed through New York State Department of Health (DOH). DOH al-

located the funding to support the recruitment and retention of direct care healthcare and mental hygiene workers. Supervisors accepted \$8,612 for the Sheriff's department, \$20,991.75 for public health services, \$27,450.75 for the behavioral health department, and \$15,071 for the office of the aging. Bonuses are to be distributed within 30 days of receipt by the county.

Supervisors designated \$13,178 for the recently established Delaware County Lifeguard Certification Program administered through the youth bureau. Funds are set to

ONC BOCES Service Supports Local School Staffing

ONC BOCES Regional Certification service provides guidance for obtaining New York State Education Department certification to school district employees and individuals residing and/or employed within the ONC BOCES region. This service covers several areas of licensure including teaching, teaching assistants, pupil personnel and coaching. Regional Certification Officer, Tammy Pochily, lends her expertise to participating school districts by providing guidance, navigating uncertified professionals through the certification process, reviewing districts' certified personnel to ensure valid and up-to-date certification, providing training to district personnel and more. This important work helps ensure that our students engage with qualified educators. The Regional Certification service is provided to the ONC BO-



CES' nineteen component school districts in Delaware, Otsego, Schoharie and

Greene Counties. In addition, sixteen local non-component districts participate.

Bushel Presents "WindShipped" with Q&A

DELHI —On Thursday, January 26, 7 pm, Bushel will present a film screening of *WindShipped*, a 2022 documentary about the Hudson River Sail Freight Schooner *Apollonia*, the only sail cargo venture currently operating in North America. The film's director Jon Bowermaster and schooner captain Sam Merrett and crew members will be present for a Q&A. The event will conclude with a tasting event. Bushel is located at 106 Main Street, Delhi. Doors open at 6:30; screening at 7 pm. There is seating for 30; mask optional. This

event is free and open to the public; donations are welcome to support the film project and to cover event costs.

WindShipped tells the story of a New York sailing crew, led by Captain Sam Merrett, set on restoring the *Apollonia*, a 1940s 64-foot, steel-hulled sailboat to return to its original purpose of carrying and delivering cargo by sail. Today the *Apollonia* is trawling ports from Hudson to Kingston, Beacon to Poughkeepsie, and down to Brooklyn and Manhattan, bringing goods up and down the Hudson,

all on sail power and vegetable oil.

Jon Bowermaster has written eleven books and produced/directed more than thirty documentaries. His feature documentaries include 'Dear President Obama,' 'Antarctica, on the Edge,' 'After the Spill,' and 'Ghost Fleet.' He is a long-time contributor to magazines ranging from the *New York Times Magazine* and the *Atlantic* to *Outside* and *Rolling Stone*.

Sam Merrett (USCG Captain), Hudson Valley, is the visionary captain of the schooner *Apollonia*.

Continued on Page D3

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

By order of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Windham Fire District #1.

Budget Hearing - Lexington Fire District

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

By order of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Windham Fire District #1.

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 INVASIVE 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 Barn-

LLC Notice

Notice Of Formation Of Domestic Limited Liability Company; Name Of Llc: Catskills Junction LLC; Date of filing: 4/21/2022; 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 DONNA SCHIEFFER-KENNEDY, 151 LAKE ROAD, EAST MEREDITH, NY, 13757; Purpose of LLC: Any lawful purpose.

Road, Cobleskill, New York 12043; Purpose of LLC: Any lawful purpose.

LLC Notice

NOTICE OF LLC F O R M A T I O N 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 Formation Of Domestic Limited Liability Company; Name Of Llc: Catskills Junction LLC; Date of filing: 4/21/2022; 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 DONNA SCHIEFFER-KENNEDY, 151 LAKE ROAD, EAST MEREDITH, NY, 13757; 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 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.

WAJ Fiscal Affairs Notice

Notice is hereby given that the fiscal affairs of the Windham-Ashland-Jewett Central School District for the period beginning on July 1, 2021 and ending on June 30, 2022, have been examined by Raymond G. Preusser, CPA, PC., and that the report has been filed in the District Superintendent's office where it is available as a public record for inspection by all interested persons. Pursuant to §35 of the General Municipal Law, the governing board of the Windham-Ashland-Jewett Central School District, may, in its discretion, prepare a written response to the report and file any such response in the District Superintendent's office as a public record for inspection by all interested persons not later than January 27, 2023.

Stamford Fiscal Affairs Notice

Notice is hereby given that the fiscal affairs of the Stamford Central School District for the period beginning on July 1, 2021, and ending on June 30, 2022, have been examined by an Independent Public Accountant and the Report and Management letter prepared in conjunction with the external audit by the Independent Public Accountant have been filed in my office where it is available as a public record for inspection by all interested persons. Pursuant to Section §35 of the General Municipal Law, the governing Board of the Stamford Central School District may, in its discretion, prepare a written response to the report of external audit or management letter by the Independent Public Accountant and file any such response in my office as a public record for inspection by all interested persons no later than February 10, 2023.

Public Notice - Greene County

Notice is hereby given that the Greene County Legislature, Greene County, New York, at a meeting thereof held on the 18th day of January, 2023 duly adopted a resolution as follows: Resolution No. 49-

FOR RENT

Mobile Home for Rent in Senior Park in Roxbury. Recently renovated, partially furnished 2 bedroom/1 bath with covered front deck, small back deck, storage building, refrigerator, LP gas kitchen stove, washer/dryer hookup, municipal water and sewer. Absolutely no smokers or pets allowed. Security and references required. \$800 per month. Call 607-326-7067.

FOR RENT

Senior seeking apartment. Non-smoker with housing voucher seeking apartment in Cobleskill, Richmondville, or Summit. Two cats. Can start immediately. Call Debra at 845-407-2205.

BRIGHT, SPACIOUS HUNTER/CATSKILLS MOUNTAIN GETAWAY

4 Bedroom, 3 Bathroom House for rent - \$450/night. Mountain view, private sauna, hot tub, hiking, skiing, biking. Please call Joseph- 631 745-0193

FOR RENT

Renovated, 3 bedroom mobile home with deck in Roxbury. Absolutely no pets, no smokers. Includes storage shed. \$800 monthly + utilities. Security and references required. Call 607-326-7067.

SERVICES OFFERED

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

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Public Notice - Greene County

Notice is hereby given that the Greene County Legislature, Greene County, New York, at a meeting thereof held on the 18th day of January, 2023 duly adopted a resolution as follows: Resolution No. 49-

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

FOR SALE

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

ANTIQUES

ANTIQUES All old, most over 100 years, solid wood, not reproductions: dark wood music cabinet with drawer and shelves, light wood cradle with solid ends and sides, oak short chest of drawers, dark wood sewing caddy, upholstered ornate platform rocker. All in very good condition. Not cheap but reasonable asking prices. Call for pic and price, Pat at 518-827-7508.

REAL ESTATE

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

Establishing The Real Property Tax Stabilization Fund W H E R E A S , Greene County is committed to prudent budgetary practices and maintaining a steady real property tax levy; and WHEREAS, sales tax, which serves as the single largest revenue source for the County has achieved a significant increase in collections over recent fiscal years, and WHEREAS, the continuity of sales tax is dependent upon the national economy and other external factors outside of the Greene County Legislature's control; and WHEREAS, the County is the recipient of other revenue streams, sourced from state and federal taxpayer funds, for which there is no local control of allocations; and WHEREAS, Greene County is responsible for maintaining operations and delivering services necessary to its residents; NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, upon passage of permissive referendum procedures, there is hereby established a contingency and tax stabilization Reserve Fund to be known as the "Real Property Tax Stabilization Fund" (hereinafter "Fund"). The purpose of this Fund is to finance any unanticipated revenue losses or expenditures chargeable to the eligible portion of the annual budget, and to lessen or prevent projected increases of the real property tax levy needed to support the eligible portion of the annual budget; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Greene County Treasurer is hereby directed to deposit sales tax revenue or other such revenues when directed, that are not required by law to be paid into any other fund, to this Fund. Revenues deposited into the Fund may be used only upon recommendation of the Greene County Treasurer and resolution adopted by at least a two-thirds vote of the Greene County Legislature.

Public Notice - Middleburgh

Please take notice the Town and Village of Middleburgh Planning Board will hold a public hearing on February 8th 2023 at 7:15pm, located at the Town of Middleburgh Community Shelter Building at 138 Cotton Hill Rd. A submission has been received from Bradford Stratton and Abigail Isolda to subdivide a parcel of 1.56 acres from the overall 6.77 acre parcel at 1029 Clauverwie Rd (Tax Map #116-1-1). The new parcel will be used to build a residence. Written comments may be sent to the Town and Village of Middleburgh Planning Board, PO Box 946 Middleburgh NY 12122. You are also welcome to attend and speak at this public hearing. All interested parties will be given the opportunity to be heard. By order of the Town and Village of Middleburgh Planning Board.

Public Notice - Middleburgh

Please take notice that the Windham Fire District of the town of Windham County of Greene, New York, will hold its regular meetings for the year 2023 on Second Tuesday of every month at 6 o'clock p.m. on such date at Town Hall 371 NY-296, Hensonville, NY 12439. All meetings of the Windham Fire District are open to the public.

Public Notice - Seward

NOTICE FROM THE Town of Seward Planning Board. Please be advised the monthly meeting will take place on February 21, 2023 and not the scheduled second Tuesday of the month. The meeting will be held at Town of Seward Offices, 795 Lowe Road, in the Town of Seward at 7:00 PM.

Looking For CDL Class B Drivers

Part and Full Time, Competitive Pay and Benefits Bloomville Disposal Call: 607-538-1160

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. Equal Employment Opportunity MF/F/Disability/Protected Veteran Status Help Wanted Gerster Trucking Now Hiring For: Class A CDL Drivers

tion is subject to a permissive referendum and shall take effect forty-five (45) days after its adoption, unless there shall be filed with the Clerk of the Greene County Legislature in the manner and time provided by Section 101 of New York State's County Law a petition protesting against the resolution and requesting that the matter be submitted to the electors of the County for their approval or disapproval at a referendum. By Order of the Greene County Legislature, Tammy L. Sciaivillo, Acting Clerk, Greene County Legislature. January 20, 2023.

Public Notice - Greene County

The Greene County Legislature on December 14th, 2022, adopted Local Law Number 4 of the Year 2022, as follows: LOCAL LAW NUMBER 4 OF 2022

A LOCAL LAW amending Local Law Number 1 of 2004 relating to exemption from real property taxes of property owned by persons with disabilities and limited incomes.

SECTION 1.

The purpose of this Local Law is to amend Local Law Number 1 of 2004 by increasing the maximum income limit from its current amount of \$29,000. to \$34,000.

SECTION 2.

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon its filing with the Secretary of State.

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 17th day of January 2023, LOCAL LAW INTRODUCTORY NUMBER 1 OF 2023, A LOCAL LAW ENTITLED "A LOCAL LAW PROVIDING REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND A M B U L A N C E WORKERS PURSUANT TO SECTION 466-A OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW"

BE IT ENACTED

by the County Legislature of the County of Greene as follows: SUMMARY OF PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NUMBER 1 OF 2023:

Pursuant to this Local Law, the County of Greene proposes to adopt the real property tax exemptions provided for volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel in accordance with Section 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law. Real property owned by an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service or such enrolled member and spouse residing in the County of Greene shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of 10 percent of the assessed value of such property for County purposes, exclusive of special assessments. Applicants must meet certain qualifications and eligibility requirements.

Public Notice - Middleburgh

The full text of this proposed Local Law Number 1 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 6th day of February 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Legislative Meeting Room, 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

Please take notice the Town and Village of Middleburgh Planning Board will hold a meeting on Wednesday, February 8th, 2023 at 7:00pm at Village Hall.

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Part and Full Time, Competitive Pay and Benefits Bloomville Disposal Call: 607-538-1160

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. Equal Employment Opportunity MF/F/Disability/Protected Veteran Status Help Wanted Gerster Trucking Now Hiring For: Class A CDL Drivers

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Catskill Scenic Byway to Expand in Delaware County

By Mary A. Crisafulli
 DELHI - Catskill Mountain Scenic Byway representatives attended a Delaware County Department of Public Works (DPW) committee meeting on Jan. 25 to request permission to expand on County Route 38 in Middletown.
 The main initiative in the byway efforts is to increase traffic and tourism through small towns in the Catskill region, said Carol O'Beirne. It spreads the history and stories of the region and benefits the local community and economy, she added. "It tells the story of who we are in the Catskills."
 The byway, which stretches 52 miles long across Olive, Shandaken, Middletown, and Andes in Delaware and Ulster counties, offers an opportunity to unite several municipalities, said O'Beirne. "That's what makes it so rewarding, to get to know your neighbor when normally you wouldn't get to know them."
 Robin Williams, Middletown Councilmember, came to inform committee

members that the council has already passed a resolution supporting the expansion. The council sees the byway as a benefit to the community, which provides an opportunity for further development, she said.
 John Hubbell, Margaretville mayor, also supported the initiative believing it would benefit the village.
 Peter Manning of Genius Loci Planning, working on the byway project, said to develop the county road, expansion plans require a letter or resolution from the county to support the undertaking. The New York State Department of Transportation will raise signage with the byway logo to indicate it's part of the pathway. Manning added that large signage such as billboards are not permitted along the byway, though existing signage is grandfathered in. All existing signs are the property of the previous governing body.
 As the byway develops, the initiative becomes less about tourism promotion and concentrates on

tourism management which is the goal, Manning said.
 Committee members agreed the county should support the initiative and will review the proposed resolution before voting.
 For more information on the Catskill Mountain Scenic Byway, visit scenic-catskills.com.
 In other business: Committee members reviewed several equipment purchase requests for the county solid waste facility amounting to over \$800,000. Most items were budgeted for 2023 and will cover most of the yearly needs, said DPW Assistant to Commissioner Lisa Henderson. DPW Commissioner James Thomas said several items came in under the budgeted cost.
 An online training course for \$59 was approved to appoint a new Resident Safety Officer to replace Thomas after being promoted to DPW commissioner.
 The contract with Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District was renewed at \$20,000 annually to assist

in culvert repair and replacements.
 Thomas reported the county had been permitted to dispose of historical items in FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) flood buyout properties. When a municipality acquires a property through FEMA, it must return such property to green space (undeveloped land). SHIPO (State Historic Preservation Office) requires each FEMA dwelling to be assessed for historical features and approved items to be preserved. Due to several complications in securing storage for such items, SHIPO has permitted the county to dispose of historic items after documentation and photos are recorded.
 The next Delaware County Department of Public Works Committee meeting has not been scheduled. Committee schedules for 2023 will be placed on the county website at delcony.us in the near future, said Tina Molé, Bovina supervisor and chairperson to the board of supervisors.

ONC BOCES Board Members Attend Mixer



ONC BOCES board members and staff welcomed component school superintendents and board of education members to a mixer event on Wednesday, January 18, to enjoy refreshments prepared by Northern Catskills Occupational Center Culinary Arts Students.



ONC BOCES Engineering Students Visit Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals



The ONC BOCES New Visions Engineering Class of 2023 recently toured the Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals plant in Hobart, New York. Students visited the packaging and manufacturing floor led by the Senior Project Engineer, Mr. Snelson, Quality Assurance Engineer, Mrs. Wright, and Packaging Process Engineer, Mrs. Beine. Students were provided the opportunity to participate in a turnover exercise with Operations Excellence Leader, Mrs. Betz. Mallinckrodt also presented the class with information about employment with the company.

Filtration, from D1

be employed to increase the number of certified lifeguards throughout the county. Funding to support the program came from a grant through the O'Connor Foundation.
 Another donation from the O'Connor Foundation was accepted for \$33,808 to assist children in foster care in developing skills necessary to become productive members of society. Programming is administered through the Department of Social Services.
 Several change orders were authorized for general construction to cell 4s of the county landfill in Walton for \$5,895,595. Changes were necessary after discovery of tires and piping during the excavation process of cell 4s, Department of Public Works Commissioner James Thomas said at a previous committee meeting.
 The following appointments were made to the Delaware County Fire Advisory Board to the Department of Emergency Services: John Gilmore of Sidney, chairperson; Blaise Bojo of Hancock, vice chairperson; and Mike Pietrantoni of Bloomville, secretary. Fire chiefs from around Delaware County were appointed as voting members, including, Dale Tait of Andes, Mike Sarrubi of Arena, Rob Sweeney of Arkville, Pietrantoni, Kevin Brown of Bovina, Bill Cairns of Delhi, David Briggs of East Meredith, Todd Wickham of Fleischmanns, Tom Warden of Franklin, Hank Gockel of Grand Gorge, Bojo, Josh Mason of Hobart, Nelson Delameter of Margaretville, Matt Jones of Masonville, Brad Hitchcock of Meridale, Gilmore, VanBuren of South Kortright, Don VanEtten of Stamford, Tony DeDominicis of Treadwell, Josh LaTourette of Trout Creek, and Frank Wood of Walton. Voting members were selected based on meeting attendance from the previous year. Alternate department chiefs include Chris Jandl of Cooks Falls, Phil Gerster of Davenport, Saun Rynerson of Deposit, Sterling Murphy of Downsview, Rod Keesler of East Branch, Jeff Slauson of Halcottsville, Matt Accordino of Pindars Corners, Jim Bouton, Jr. of Roxbury, and Codey Lambrecht of Sidney Center.
 A public hearing is set for Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 1 p.m. for the eight-year review of agricultural district number six, which includes Hancock, Colchester, and Hamden. Approximately 149 acres are proposed as additions to Hancock, with 580 removals. In Colchester, 147 proposed additions and eight removals are proposed, while Hamden has no proposed changes.
 Committee schedules for 2023 will be placed on the county website at delcony.us in the near future, said Tina Molé, Bovina supervisor and chairperson to the board of supervisors.
 The next board of supervisors meeting is scheduled Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 1 p.m. following the public hearing for agricultural district six.

FreeDailyCrosswords.com

Edited by Timothy Parker

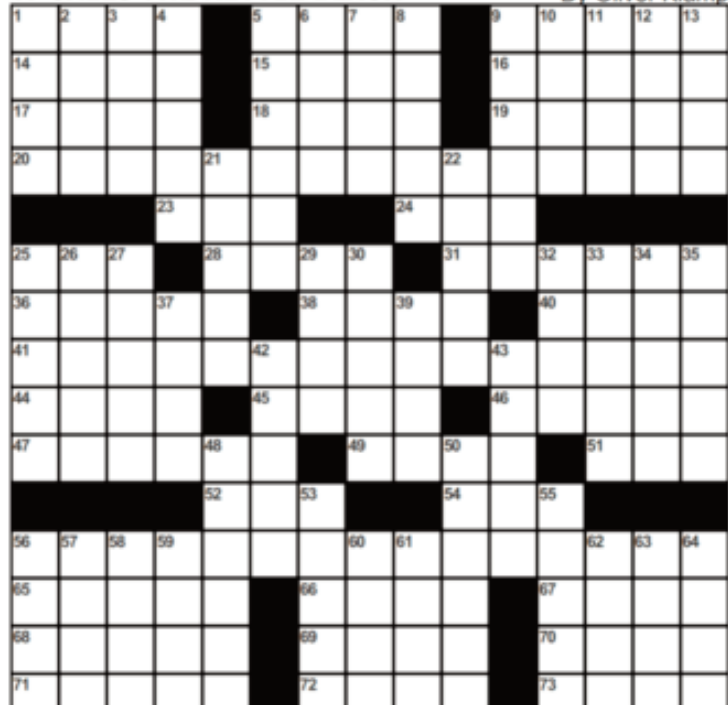
ACROSS

- 1) He bullied George McFly
- 5) Neuter, as a male horse
- 9) Big wine holders
- 14) Big man in Oman
- 15) Strong smell
- 16) Group of eight
- 17) Coin of Western Samoa
- 18) San Juan, Puerto ____
- 19) Geneva's river
- 20) Where bullets may be stockpiled
- 23) Female rabbit
- 24) "7 Faces of Dr. ____"
- 25) Sigma-epsilon go-between
- 28) Tolkien creatures
- 31) Put the cart before the horse, say
- 36) Host before Paar and Carson
- 38) Creole food veggie
- 40) Big name in desktop computers
- 41) One-room heater
- 44) Large, round hairdo
- 45) Hall-of-Famer manager Weaver
- 46) Land in the Thames, perhaps
- 47) Part of a batting instruction
- 49) Little kid
- 51) "____ none of your business"
- 52) Surgeons' workplaces, for short
- 54) Mature, as wine
- 56) Useful guy to have around
- 65) Established rule
- 66) In ____ of (replacing)
- 67) Faithful or factual
- 68) Contour
- 69) Lively spirit
- 70) Effortlessness
- 71) ____ a high note (finish well)
- 72) Blood supplies
- 73) Some deli loaves

DOWN

- 1) VCR format of old
- 2) Islamic spiritual leader
- 3) What soap may leave
- 4) Swindler's crime
- 5) More likely to receive an R rating
- 6) Prepare for publication
- 7) Mathematical sets
- 8) Emulate Pavlov's dogs
- 9) Beef ____ bleu
- 10) Have rheumatic pains
- 11) Bit of sign language?
- 12) Bingolike game
- 13) Annotation in proofreading
- 21) Worst possible turnout
- 22) Nymph presiding over rivers
- 25) Spanish appetizers
- 26) Up in the sky
- 27) Prefix meaning "extremely"
- 29) Coke or Pepsi, e.g.
- 30) Go around, as an issue
- 32) Winery storage units
- 33) Bacteria in uncooked food
- 34) Build an embankment
- 35) Allowances for waste
- 37) Black, to Byron
- 39) Depend
- 42) Distrustful
- 43) Surrounding blockade
- 48) Scam artist
- 50) Hawaiian medicine man
- 53) Brogue bottoms
- 55) Vegetable oil, e.g.
- 56) Mocking comment
- 57) Yoked animals
- 58) Sir Francis Drake's was "Golden"
- 59) Eating peas with a knife, e.g.
- 60) World's longest river
- 61) Rend
- 62) Evangelist's suggestion
- 63) Either of three English rivers
- 64) Football holders

IT CALLS THE KETTLE BLACK By Oliver Klamp



EDITORIAL

Giving to Your Community

This week sees the retirement of longtime Sharon Springs village Trustee Patty Johnstone. Not only has she been a tireless advocate for Sharon Springs. She has also been, alongside Garth Roberts and other volunteers, a major morale and financial help for our area's first responders through Hero Fund America. This dedication is on full display whenever you talk to her.

Patty's commitment to the community and to those around her is well-known and well-respected. I hope that more people hear the call of service and decide to aid their communities in some way possible. This could be through volunteering in a local community organization such as Rotary, the Elks, or Kiwanis, serving on a local board, or helping in some unique way.

We all have a part to do for our area and I hope that we all can follow the example of Trustee Johnstone.

-- Matthew Avitabile, Publisher

PS. - A reminder that I still need your Person of the Year nominations. We'll start unveiling nominees and winners in next week's edition! Send your nominations to us at mountaineaglenews@gmail.com.

Team and High Individual Match Scores 1/20/2023 Match XIII:

Sidney defeats Oneonta : 1053-14X to 1042-9X
 Stamford defeated Walton: 1105-14X to 1077-18X
 Top shooters for Stamford were: Gus Mueller 282-2X; John Wyckoff 277-4X; Jim Hitt 276-6X; and Brian Righi 270-2X
 Also shooting for Stamford were: Steve Baker, Larry VanDeusen, Jan Hornbach, Mark Gifford, Jeff Mattice, and Maynard Vance
 High Scores for Walton were: Glenn Bowker 275-6X; Brian MacRabie 270-5X; Dennis Bennett 270-3X; and Kris Bowker 262-4X
 Other Walton shooters were: Michael Noviello, James Noviello, Justin McAdams, Bill McAdams, Ryan Boice, Jeff Yambor, and Joe Yambor
 Delhi beat Rockdale: 1056-19X to 1027-6X

Win/Loss Record:	
Stamford	11-0
Walton:	8-3
Rockdale:	5-6
Oneonta:	4-7
Sidney:	3-8
Delhi:	2-9

RUSTY AND LILA BY BILLY SHEARS



For more information or about syndication, contact Mr. Shears at shears-sw@protonmail.com.

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GARDENING TIP OF THE WEEK BY BOB BEYFUSS

Snowbirds



Note: Since the tragic passing of Bob Beyfuss last week we are committed to honoring his legacy. We will be re-running former columns of Mr. Beyfuss for the foreseeable future.

This is the time of the year when many local residents put out their bird feeders for a glimpse of active wildlife when the surrounding world appears very dead. The winter forest is seemingly quite somniferous right now, but I suspect that observation is due to the lack of people out there observing, more so than the lack of activity. Now is actually a great time to study and learn about migratory, as well as resident bird species. My friend Lester is an avid "birder" and spends many hours each winter sitting in his warm loft with binoculars close by to observe the parade of feathered visitors to his feeders. Binoculars are not even required because most species that frequent feeders are not shy when it comes to a free dinner. They will glut themselves as little as 3 feet away from a picture window, seemingly oblivious to the spectators inside. In order to observe minor details, such as markings around

the bird's eyes, leg coloration, wing patches and beak characteristics, the close up views offered with binoculars certainly do help. Now that our local black bears have gone into hibernation it is safe to feed our feathered friends without risking the creation of a serious nuisance.

The local deer, which seem to completely disappear during hunting season, have reemerged in force from their hiding places and many of them have become quite adept at licking out sunflower seeds from hanging bird feeders. Although it is not legal to feed deer during winter, I doubt if the DEC would prosecute people with hanging bird feeders at this time of year. Lester also has a turkey feeder that is designed to keep deer away as well as a simple platform feeder he uses, but scattering corn or hay in the open fields or forest is certainly not legal and not a good idea in general.

Here in Florida I have yet to see a single bird feeder outside someone's house, but birds are everywhere, especially near water and for the most part, they seem to be taken for granted. It was not always this way. I can recall back in the early 1970's when spotting an osprey or bald eagle or even herons and egrets were uncommon sites. A nesting pair of bald eagles in Everglades National Park, with a

spotting scope observing them from a safe distance, had a 45 minute wait for queued up tourists such as I, to look at, in 1971. Today I can see bald eagles pretty much anytime I want, both here and even back home in NY. Osprey are everywhere and not a day goes by when I don't see half a dozen or more.

There is an entire generation of people who do not recall how very few predatory birds existed 40 or 50 years ago. Spotting any sort of hawk in the 1950's in Greene County was a rare event. Many younger Americans today complain that the environment we are leaving for our children is a polluted, dying one, with devastated ecosystems and massive species extinctions, but those people did not grow up in the 1950's or 60's and do not realize just how much recovery has occurred since then.

The actual bird species most commonly referred to as a "snowbird" is the Junco, a very frequent visitor at most feeders. They are called snowbirds because they used to show up mostly in early winter, when the snow began, but these days they are year round residents. I think the name is more an accurate description of their color, with their upper bodies a slate grey color, like our winter sky most days and the undersides the color of the snowy landscape below.

WHITTLING AWAY WITH DICK BROOKS

Atmospheric Conditions

I've decided that when I grow up that I'll become a weatherman. I've got a lot of experience dealing with weather and as I get older I find that I'm getting better and better at predicting what the atmospheric conditions will be for the day ahead. Maybe the decision is based partly on the fact that I pay closer attention to the weather segment of the television news programs that I watch daily then to the news. I store little facts that are new to me in what passes for my memory. A couple of weeks ago I learned about the Polar Vortex, a spinning cloud of ice cubes that usually has the decency to stay up around the North Pole where people expect to be cold, that decided to come down to our area for a bone chilling visit. It finally decided to go back home and we had a few days above the average temperature for this time of year. I wrote the National Weather Bureau and suggested that since the weather was running hot and cold that they change the Polar Vortex's name to the Bi-Polar Vortex, I haven't heard back from them yet. I also suggested that putting a window in the room where they do their predicting might help with their accuracy. I'd be more accurate than most of the current weathermen and weatherwomen because I have a dog. If you really want to keep up with the up to the minute weather, get a

dog. Telly, my canine companion, sees to it that I am kept current on the weather conditions. Neither sleet, rain, snow, the dark of night or even hurricanes keeps him from his appointed rounds. Maybe every weatherman should be given a weather dog. I realize that there are things I'll have to practice before I can become an official weatherman. I'll need to brush up on the vocabulary needed and learn how to predict something without making any commitments to reality. Phrases like "partly cloudy" and "chance of precipitation" sound good and can fit almost any weather situation and yet not pin you down to an actual prediction of what the weather is really going to be like. I'll bet that a weatherman or weather woman that has been using weather vague-speak for years could easily get a second career after they retire as a politician. I imagine that the pay is pretty good and you get to be on the radio or on televi-

sion which could be fun and you can be wrong most of the time and still not worry about your job security. Most of the time you work indoors and don't have to worry about being out in the weather you're predicting. I have the added advantage of being older so my whole body has become a barometer. My knees can tell when there's a sneaky low pressure area creeping up on us that doesn't even show up on Doppler radar. Ice, not being senior friendly, is something I can spot from a long way off and I'm aware of all the atmospheric conditions that might cause that ice to occur. Yep, I'd make the perfect weatherman, I'm old, I own a dog and I spent 20 years in politics. Watch for me on your local news cast.

Thought for week— We've had enough "youth". How about a fountain of "smart"?

Until next week, may you and yours be happy and well.

Whittle12124@yahoo.com

IT CALLS THE KETTLE BLACK By Oliver Klamp

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Rip Van Winkle

The Catskills Chronicle

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Volume 8, No. 4

mountaineaglenews@gmail.com

FRIDAY, January 27, 2023

\$1.00

Inn At Kirkside Plans Taking Shape

\$1.8 Million State Grant Project Key

By Brian Sweeney

When one door closes, another one opens. That adage is being exemplified by the reimagining of one of Roxbury's most historic landmarks.

Thanks in large part of a recently announced \$1.8 million RESTORE NY grant, the Kirkside mansion will be renovated as The Inn at Kirkside, a fully operational hotel/restaurant. The project will be staffed by paid Fellows who, under the guidance of professionals, take leadership roles in the running of the enterprise. The Fellowship will be a paid,

residential, rigorous, immersive program that provides real-world experience in all phases of the hospitality industry, with particular attention to innovation, entrepreneurship, green technologies, and capitalizing on local agricultural systems. The Guest Cottage will be renovated as housing and conference space for Fellows.

MARK Project Executive Director Peg Ellsworth traced the origins of this plan. She recalled that the Kirkside Retirement Home began struggle financially during the first two decades of the 21st century. She indicated that this was primarily due to an imbalance of Medicaid versus full pay residents and state

continued on E4



A rendering of the exterior of the planned Inn at Kirkside on Main Street, Roxbury.



Ski School

Elementary students from Margaretville Central School get tips from instructors on the Roaring Brook trail at Belleayre Mountain this week. The four-week recreation ski program

provides lessons and equipment for MCS students in grades 1-5. The program is back following a two-year hiatus due to the COVID pandemic. — Photo by Julia Marks

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Zada's Cocktail Lounge Newest Addition To Margaretville Scene

Venture Reflects The 1920s Era, French Bistros

By Brian Sweeney

Drawing inspiration from the 1920s era and French Parisian bistros, Zada's cocktail lounge opened its doors in Margaretville last weekend.

Sophie and Damon Meena are the majority owners in the venture and have endeavored to create a comfortable atmosphere that works in tandem with the beverage and light dining choices. Patrons can choose from a variety of fine wines, cocktails, toddies, and mocktails. Farm-to-table French cheeses and charcuterie, hot croques, and savory hors d'oeuvres round out the offerings.

The setting for Zada's — with its elegant dark tones, warm lighting scheme, and carefully curated decorative pieces — perfectly reflects the owners' tasteful aesthetic.

restaurants in Paris, France when I was younger, and we are both entrepreneurs," Sophie related.

The effort that went into planning and renovating the two-story space was considerable. On the other hand, coming up with a name for their business was simple. Sophie and Damon's daughter is named Zada-Rose and a grandmother and an aunt on Damon's side are both Zadas. Plus, they wanted to keep the Meena (their last name) legacy alive.

Exciting time

Sophie and Damon are particularly enthused to open the cocktail lounge at time when the village is amid an impressive renaissance.

"We think that the growing business community in Margaretville really has the power to change this area for the better and bring more

tourism and flux of people towards the Western Catskills," Sophie noted.

She continued, "We are so blessed to be surrounded by such an amazing community of people and businesses who supported us from the beginning. We hope to be a great addition to Margaretville and provide a top-quality service."

Sophie and Damon are assisted by three staff. As is the case with many hospitality endeavors, they are looking to add staff and expand hours. For general information or to inquire about employment opportunities, please e-mail: Zadasbar@gmail.com

The "soft opening" period for Zada's will continue for the next month with hours during that time as follows: Thursday 5-8 p.m., Friday 5-10 p.m., Saturday 2-10 p.m. and Sunday 2-7 p.m.



Damon and Sophie Meena are the majority owners of Zada's cocktail lounge at 850 Main Street, Margaretville.

Details are key

"Damon and I love interior design and have worked on every detail to create a real experience," Sophie commented.

The months-long transition of the space at 850 Main Street, working in partnership with two longtime friends, Tommy and Barret, has resulted in an ambiance that encourages relaxation and socializing.

They will soon be adding periodic live music events as another component of their vision.

Sophie said starting a bar has been a longtime dream for her and Damon. Last year, they decided the timing was perfect to pursue their project.

"We were both in a period of life when we needed change and to experience something new. I worked at bar and



Zada's cocktail lounge in Margaretville has been meticulously curated to create a warm, relaxing atmosphere.

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Obituaries

Richard Hunter

Richard W. Hunter, 81, a native and lifelong area resident died Saturday January 21, 2023 at his home.

He was born in the Vega Valley October 20, 1941. He was the son of the late Burt and Ella (Mead) Hunter.

"Uncle Dick," as he was fondly called, worked on area farms and retired from the Town of Hardenburgh Highway Department in 2001.

In his younger years, he was very active in horse pulling competitions. Always happy to impart his expertise and skills with horses, big or small.

For many years he and Aleta, wife of 40+ years, were 4-H Leaders in the Fleischmanns area.

Surviving is his wife,

Aleta (Roberts) Hunter, his siblings; Janet Matrice of North Blenheim, Rose Bush of Margaretville, John Hunter of New Kingston and Betty Bailey of Richmondville. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Calling hours/visitation for "Uncle Dick" will be held Friday January 27 from 4-7 p.m. at Hynes Funeral Home, 48 Walnut Street, Margaretville. The Rev. Richard Dykstra will officiate.

Interment will be in the spring at Bedell Cemetery in Fleischmanns.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests a donation be made to: Delaware County Clovers 4-H Club, c/o Ashton Grocholl, 88 Turk Hollow Rd., Halcott Center, NY 12430.

Halcottville Fire Department Elected Officers For New Year

HALCOTTVILLE — The Halcottville Fire Department (HFD) has elected officers for 2023 at its January 5 Annual Meeting.

Election results were: Chief, Jeff Slauson; 1st Assistant Chief, Toby Hubbell; 2nd Assistant Chief, Andrew Camillone; Captain, Dan Goodell; and Fire Police Captain, Christy Goodell.

Also elected were: President, Steve Finch; Vice President, Anthony Camillone Jr.; Treasurer, Lilly Golden; Secretary, Garth Battista; and Member-At-Large to the Executive Committee, Joe Camillone.

The departmental report for 2022 showed the following results. The Halcottville Fire Department responded

154 Total Calls for Service. A breakdown shows: 140 - Automatic Mutual Aid/Mutual Aid calls; 14 - In-District calls; 46 percent were Medical Assist/Rescue calls; 10 percent Fire calls; the remainder of calls were to assist at helicopter landing zones and miscellaneous situations.

Due to ongoing staffing shortages, the HFD is simultaneously dispatched to all Margaretville Fire Department calls and vice versa.

Department President Steve Finch commended department efforts for their selfless efforts. "Thanks to all officers and members for your efforts, dedication and volunteer support!" he commented.

The Property Exchange

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Tom Kazlauskas and Susan Eckstein have purchased a stunning building parcel in Crescent Hills subdivision in the Town of Andes. The plan is to build a retirement home. The property was sold by Susan Doig/ associates broker Coldwell Banker Timberland Properties.

Bovina farm

Gabriel, Alexis, Myles, and Aiden Cohen are the owners of a new working farm located on Reinertsen Road in the Town of Bovina. The family has named the new farm Quiet Peak Farm. The property was listed by Carol Spinelli of Coldwell

Banker Timberland Properties.

The Hermitage

This is a true luxury Catskills cabin that was completely renovated by the talented team of Whisky Hollow, Andes. Peggy Bellar of the Catskill Dream Team helped them acquire the property and when it was ready to list they engaged her for the project.

This home features so many unique details. The new wrap-around deck is the perfect spot to take in the mountain views and the new owners Congratulations to our wonderful seller and welcome to Andes' newest residents.

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Here's The Scoop

Won't You Fly High?

By Brian Sweeney

Here's something I've never heard before — actually I *didn't* hear it — someone turning off "Free Bird"!

This unique occurrence took place in a public store. Here's the scene: the Pandora station had been tuned to Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young as a tribute to David Crosby, whose death had just been announced. If you've ever listened to Pandora radio, you know it's intended to focus on the artist or band you've chosen. The music you've selected, in theory, will dominate the songs played, while the rest of the tunes are supposed to reflect a similar sound or era. Nice concept.

On occasion, though, Pandora will mix in songs that feel like true headshakers. "Why in the world would they play *this* song?" is a common response when a tune you'd never select works its way into the mix. In these instances, there's a rush to "Thumbs Down" the song in hopes that Pandora gets the message that it screwed up. In my unofficial experience with such matters, if you "Thumbs Down" a song more than once, the music service usually takes the hint and will not spin that tune again. Whew.

You remember

Which brings us back to "Free Bird." If you're alive (guessing you are) and can hear, there's a very good chance you are familiar with this song. In fact, a quick online search regarding this tune by the legendary Southern rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd reveals it's included in The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame's 500 Songs that Shaped Rock and Roll. It's number 407 in Rolling Stone's 500 Greatest Songs of All Time." I thought it would fly much higher.

If you've ever been to a concert of any type, there's a good chance someone has hollered out a request for "Free Bird." No matter what kind of show you are attending. This request has become a cliché, but it's still kind of funny to many folks.

Get ready

If you need a refresher on "Free Bird," basically it starts out slowly and builds in an epic guitar anthem. Played live, it typically spanned 10-14 minutes. If you like that sort of thing, it's a truly special song. I recall in college more than a few times when my friends and I would jam out to "Free Bird." Since we were lacking in musical skills and real guitars, we all played tennis rackets. We aced it, so to speak.

Like any great tune, "Free Bird" has been overplayed. A lot. Truthfully, I haven't intentionally listened to it in decades, but I don't mind hearing it when it comes on the radio. That's why I was kind of shocked when the store owner applied a negative thumb to the song last week.

"You turned down 'Free Bird?'" I asked in a state of semi-shock. Another employee echoed my sentiments.

Split verdict

The owner — who happens to be our daughter — made no apologies. "I heard that song too many times growing up. She referenced high school dances, but I think she was including playback in her household, as well. Note: even for people who have great rhythm, "Free Bird" is not aimed at the dance crowd. I think that was the problem.

Some customers who were on the younger side and overheard this conversation, supported our daughter's decision to tune out "Free Bird." I think they just all lacked tennis rackets growing up.



This rendering shows the kitchen area proposed for the Inn at Kirkside in Roxbury.

Inn At Kirkside Plans Taking Shape

continued from E1
mandates for operations and staffing.

After learning of the daunting financial issues facing Kirkside, officials at the MARK Project, an Arkville-based economic development organization, worked with Senator James Seward for some stopgap funding to help Kirkside stay open. In 2017, when the former Kirkside Retirement Home could no longer sustain operations, the MARK Project entered a conversation with Dr. David Brower, Dean of the Business and Hospitality School at SUNY Delhi. It was that discussion that helped reimagine the next incarnation of Kirkside, Ms. Ellsworth recalled.

In 2018, the property was deeded to MARK and the organization raised funds to embark on a regenerative planning process for the Future Inn at Kirkside, an experiential learning and entrepreneurial incubator for post-graduate hospitality students, a paid Fellowship Program.

When renovations are completed, Ms. Ellsworth explained, "Guests of the Inn at Kirkside will find a welcoming, relaxing, and culturally rich experience in a first-rate lodging facility situated in an iconic historic mansion on a Rockwellian Main Street in the Catskills. Access to neighboring historic Kirkside Park and the East Branch of the Delaware River are literally right outside the door.

She continued, "The culinary experience will be developed specifically to showcase seasonal ingredients from

area farmers and the on-site greenhouse. Outdoor recreational opportunities are boundless, with many nearby options for hiking, golf, fishing, skiing, kayaking, and canoeing."

The MARK Project director noted that shopping is a short walk away or a 10-minute drive down a scenic byway to Margaretville or north to Grand Gorge and Stamford. She added "The grandness of the Kirkside mansion, coupled with its exquisite and thoughtfully developed surrounding properties will make the Inn at Kirkside a destination not only for those seeking culinary tourism-based vacations, but for world-renowned chefs and the new generation of hospitality entrepreneurs who are abandoning larger cities for a closer connection to their food source and a better work-life experience."

More fund-raising

Ms. Ellsworth said that funding will be needed on top of the \$1.8 million RESTORE NY grant but said the funding will allow us to put a shovel in the ground and get this ambitious, but spectacular project off the ground.

Work to date includes completion of regenerative planning, creation of a schematic design, and a portion of Design Development. With a significant amount of funding secured, they will now head into construction drawings and the onset of construction.

In addition to the initial concept, Ms. Ellsworth pointed out that a

virtual food hub known as the Kirkside Farm and Food Connection will be woven into the program to build a reliable system of mutually beneficial relationships among farmers/producers and the hospitality industry. She said this concept is currently in the beginning stages of planning and implementation.

The MARK director said they expect to have a contract with the state finalized in the coming weeks. Since this is a reimbursement program, the organization has secured a construction bridge loan from Catskill Watershed Corporation to get the project underway.

If everything goes according to schedule, Ms. Ellsworth anticipates the work will require about two full years of continued fundraising and construction. Using that schedule she is thinking December 2025 would be a good bet as a completion date. "But a bet, nonetheless," she cautioned.

Economic boost

Asked about the anticipated impact of the Inn at Kirkside on Roxbury and greater area, Ms. Ellsworth said it's expected that the positive results will reverberate throughout the region.

She noted that, despite a robust tourism economy that capitalizes on scenic beauty, recreational opportunities, and a rich historic heritage, this region faces challenges from population decline and the out-migration of young people, creating workforce shortages.

"The rural nature of

the area, coupled with the impact of the COVID pandemic, has undercut local opportunities for the kinds of experiential learning that are crucial to the hospitality industries. In addition, despite a hearty foodshed in the region, there is still a disconnect between growers and the hospitality industry," Ms. Ellsworth commented.

She said that, toward this end, the Kirkside project will offer a number of new jobs, but more importantly will become an engine for ongoing job creation, "as generations of prospective professionals become innovative entrepreneurs in the hospitality and related industries."

With a substantial financial commitment in from the Restore NY Award, Ms. Ellsworth pointed out that MARK now has a jumping off point that will get this project underway and eventually yield long-term benefits.

"We are elated that Governor Hochul and NY State Empire State Development recognizes this project as an economic driver as well as an experiential learning facility that will support the entire hospitality and agricultural industry in the Catskills and Southern Tier.

In conclusion, she stated, "Imagine the Fellow, who participates at Kirkside for two years then decides to open a bakery or a café on one of our Main Streets? This project has unbounded potential for economic development and to help address the outmigration of our younger generation."

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 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 CATSKILL MOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN CENTER
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 845-586-4848
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 53837 NY Highway 30, Roxbury, NY 12474
 Phone: (607) 326-7101
 Time of Service
 9:30 am Sunday
 Rev. Richard Dykstra

REFORMED CHURCH
 14630 Main Street, Prattsville, 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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Events Calendar

Saturday, January 28

1053 Gallery in Fleischmanns pleased to present Departures, curated by Lindsay Comstock, a survey of work made in response to the pandemic by twenty-four New York artists. An opening reception is set for Saturday, Jan. 28 from 4-7 p.m. The show will run through March 12. The works, most of which were created in 2020 or 2021, and many of which have never been viewed publicly, mark a departure from previous modes of art-making, which span the mediums of painting, photography, sculpture and music. The gallery is located at 1053 Main Street, Fleischmanns. Info at: 1053gallery.com, phone 845 254-3461.

Through Feb. 12

Longyear Gallery of Margaretville is featuring a "Members' Winter Group Exhibit," a new group show featuring the art of all Longyear Gallery Members. the exhibit runs through Sunday, February 12. Info: longyeargallery.org, or call 845 586-3270. Longyear Gallery is in The Commons, 785 Main Street, Margaretville.

Tuesdays through February 21

Writers in the Mountains (WIM) presents Modern Love, a six-week creative writing workshop with Elizabeth Koster, January 17 - February 21, 2023. The class will be held online Tuesdays, from 12 noon to 2 pm. Once you register and pay, you will be given instructions on how to join the class. column. To register for this class, e-mail writersinthemountains@gmail.com. To register online, visit writersinthemountains.org. Class fee is \$1 Limited to 10 students.

Through March 4

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

EVENTS CALENDAR

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'Departures' Lands At 1053 Gallery

FLEISCHMANNS — 1053 Gallery is pleased to present Departures, curated by Lindsay Comstock, a survey of work made in response to the pandemic by 24 New York artists. An opening reception is set for Saturday, Jan. 28 from 4-7 p.m.

The works, most of which were created in 2020 or 2021, and many of which have never been viewed publicly, mark a departure from previous modes of art-making, which span the mediums of painting, photography, sculpture and music.

As the seismic changes and uncertainty of the external world began to filter into the material, emotional and psychic realms, artists turned to new ways of expressing and creating. While some worked with found objects and ephemera, reclaiming old materials or becoming curious about new media, others turned inward, considering the stillness of intimate spaces. Some worked with a newfound sense of freedom, abandoning formal constraints, while others reacted instinctually, reverting to primary tools of creation.

Inspiration

The "tarp-blue" hue of house paint piqued one artist's curiosity when she found it difficult to procure her usual media. Two artists who'd primarily painted in black and white turned to color, but only briefly. A new mother rocked her baby and captured light moving across a room.

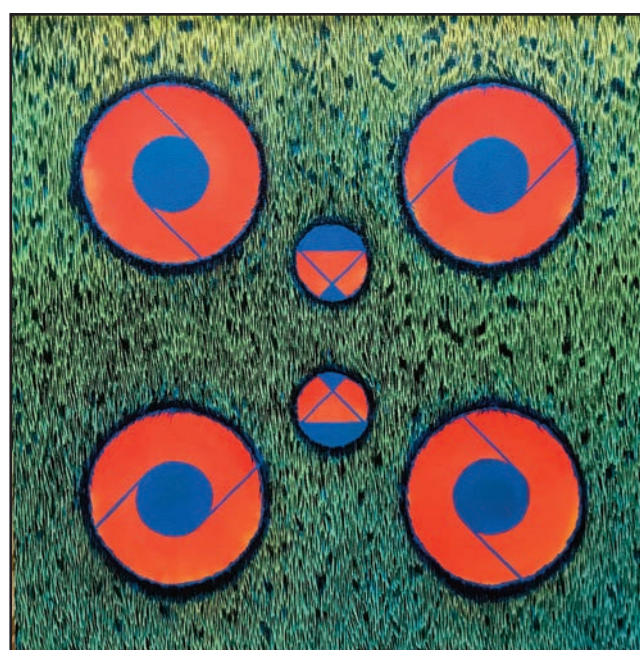
Another artist cut up her mother's wedding dress and worked the fabric into thick oil paint. A poet became immersed in collage-making as society became further fractured. A painter worked with the concept of a Boltzmann Cafe named for a physics theory that tortured him in college. A musician who'd spent much of his life touring found solace in creating solo compositions. A photographer-turned-

writer was inspired to pick up her camera again. A sculptor gave new life to downed highway road signs. Sticks became wands.

The survey, hung salon-style, and on view during the coldest months in the Catskills, encapsulates a season in human history we've yet to understand.

The artists

Participating artists include: Sue Bellamy, Arjun Bruggeman, Rebecca Chamberlain, Lindsay Comstock, Eddie Donoghue, Lisbeth Firmin, Nick Flynn, Tad Flynn, Jack Foster, Claire Gilliam, Sharon Horvath, Kat Hunt, Emily Johnston, Janice La Motta, Amy Masters, Bea Ortiz, Tom Pappas, Corey Presha, Kate Quarfordt, Christie Scheele, Marie Vickerrilla, Paul Weil, Jesse Lee Wilson and Monte Wilson.



This work by Paul Weil is among the featured pieces in the new "Departures" show opening January 28 at the 1053 Gallery in Fleischmanns.

About 1053 Gallery: Founded in 2021, 1053 Gallery joins the burgeoning contemporary art scene in The Catskills region of Upstate New York. Representing the multidisciplinary work of emerging and mid-career artists, the gallery aspires to bridge the gap between the rural and cosmopolitan, inviting community engagement and international appeal.



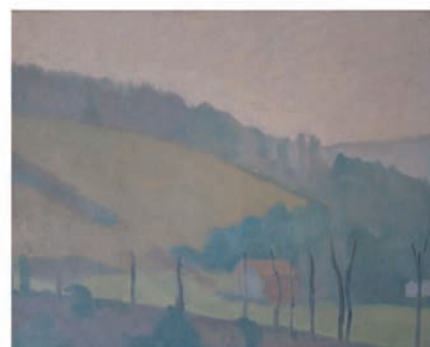
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DEPARTURES

DEPARTURES

JANUARY 28 - MARCH 12, 2023
OPENING RECEPTION JANUARY 28 4-7PM

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Sue Bellamy | Amy Masters |
| Arjun Bruggeman | Bea Ortiz |
| Rebecca Chamberlain | Tom Pappas |
| Lindsay Comstock | Corey Presha |
| Eddie Donoghue | Christie Scheele |
| Lisbeth Firmin | Kate Quarfordt |
| Nick Flynn | Marie Vickerrilla |
| Tad Flynn | Paul Weil |
| Jack Foster | Jesse Lee Wilson |
| Claire Gilliam | Monte Wilson |
| Sharon Horvath | |
| Kat Hunt | |
| Emily Johnston | |
| Janice La Motta | |



VISIT THE GALLERY
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845 254 3461

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Fleischmanns, NY
12450

Fri - Sat 11am-5pm
Sun 12pm-4pm
and by appointment

POLICE NEWS

DELHI — Delaware County Sheriff Craig S. DuMond has announced the arrest of a 33-year-old Irina Irimescu of Hancock.

On Tuesday morning, January 24, while conducting an eviction at a residence in the Village of Hancock, Deputies made contact with the Irina Irimescu who had an active Delaware County Family Court Warrant for her arrest.

Deputies arrested Irimescu, transporting her to Delaware County Family Court where she was released on her own recognizance, and directed to return to Family Court at a later date for further court proceedings.

Sheriff DuMond has reported the arrest of a Hilton, NY, resident for driving with a suspended New York State Driver's license.

On Saturday night, January 22, Sheriff's Deputies observed a vehicle traveling on State Highway 206 in the Town of Hancock, at 86 mph in a posted 55 mph zone. Upon conducting a traffic stop, Deputies identified the driver of the vehicle as 19-year-old Jaden Whitfield of Hilton. A check of Whitfield's driver's license revealed that his driving privileges were suspended in the State of New York.

Deputies subsequently arrested Whitfield and issued him uniformed traffic tickets for Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle in the Third Degree, and failing to surrender NYS License to DMV, both unclassified misdemeanors', as well as Unlicensed Operator, Speed in 55 mph zone, obstructed view, and obstructed license plate, all violations of the New York State vehicle and traffic law.

Whitfield was released on the uniformed traffic tickets and is scheduled to appear in the Town of Hancock Court at a later date to answer the charge.

Arrest warrant

Sheriff DuMond has announced the arrest of 34-year-old Jessica Arnott of Queens.

On the afternoon of January 17, Delaware County Sheriff's Deputies were notified that Jessica Arnott was currently at the Delaware County Family Court with regards to surrendering herself on an active Delaware County Family Court Arrest Warrant.

Arnott, who was subsequently arrested for the Arrest Warrant out of Delaware County Family Court for violations of Article 10 of

the Family Court Act. Arnott was arraigned on the active Arrest Warrant, in Delaware County Court where she was committed to the Custody of the Delaware County Correctional Facility pending further appearance in court at a later date to answer the charges.

Sheriff DuMond has reported the arrest of 33-year-old Amber Astrologo of Sidney. On the afternoon of January 17, Delaware County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a 911 call for a one-car motor vehicle accident on County Highway 44 in the Town of Sidney.

Deputies interviewed the driver of the vehicle who was identified as Amber Astrologo and a driver's license check revealed that she had a suspended driver's license due to insurance not in effect.

Deputies subsequently arrested Astrologo, charging her with one count Aggravated Unlicensed Operator in the Third Degree, an Unclassified Misdemeanor of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law. Astrologo was additionally issued citations for Unlicensed Operator and Speed not Reasonable and Prudent both violations of the New York State Penal Law.

Astrologo was then directed to appear in the Town of Sidney Court at a later date to answer for said charges.

Delaware County Sheriff's Deputies this week arrested a Burdett, NY resident for driving with a suspended registration.

On Monday night, January 22, Sheriff's Deputies were patrolling on State Highway 10 in the Town of Hamden when a hit on a License Plate Reader of a vehicle revealed a Suspended Registration. Upon conducting a traffic stop, Deputies identified the driver of the vehicle as 48-year-old Ian Barry of Burdett. A check of Barry's vehicle registration was in fact suspended, due to Insurance Lapse in the State of New York.

Deputies subsequently arrested Barry and issued him uniformed traffic tickets for Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended/Revoked Registration, an unclassified misdemeanor, and Obstructed Plate, a Violation of the New York State vehicle and traffic law. Barry was released on the uniformed traffic tickets and is scheduled to appear in the Town of Hamden Court at a later date to answer the charge.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE

The Annual Financial Report for fiscal year ending May 31, 2022 for the Village of Margaretville was filed with the Office of the State Comptroller on January 11, 2023. The report is on file and available for review in the Office of the Village Clerk located in the Gottfried Building, 773 Main Street, Margaretville, NY between the hours of 9 am and 12 noon and 1 pm and 3 pm weekdays.

Beth Bush, Treasurer Ja27C

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BOWLING NEWS

Team Name	W	L	High Game
Spillian	41	15	Jessica Watson 179,
ROI	36	20	Dolores Kestler 166,
JK Tinting	31.5	24.5	Sue Wixon 159
JM Lawncare	30	26	
Better Late Than Never	29.5	26.5	High Series
Bye	0	56	Jeannette Thompson 437, Jessica Watson 425, Birgitta Brophy 410



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Catskills Agrarian Alliance: Fostering A Healthy & Just Food System

HAMDEN — Catskills Agrarian Alliance (CAA), a new 501(c)3 organization, is a comprehensive food sovereignty project in Delaware, Otsego, and Schoharie counties in New York State.

The decade-old endeavor, first known as the Lucky Dog Food Hub and then The 607 CSA, expanded programming in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and now aims to ensure food security in the NYC foodshed by scaling to meet markets through collaboration.

CAA's operations fall into the following categories:

- We grow food sustainably at Star Route Farm and incubate new farmers
- We facilitate regional land access and stewardship, in 2022/3 preserving 300 acres of prime farmland in Delaware county for the next generation of farmers

- We help 40+ local farms and food producers sell their food to schools, businesses, and households through our CSA and wholesale programs
- We fundraise to buy food to donate to local pantries and mutual-aid organizations
- We provide trucking and logistics services for partner farms

CAA's impacts to date include:

- Collaboration across 40+ small-scale family farms connected to The 607 CSA, providing direct-to-consumer food to more than 700 households in the Catskills region and in NYC
- Approximately four tons of sustainably produced, nutritious, local produce, dairy, eggs, meat, baked goods, grains, legumes and

- Partnership with the Business & Hospitality Management at SUNY Delhi NY to develop a local tomato sauce with produce from the Amish community that will replace all non-local tomato sauce in 12 school districts in 2023

- Connection and capacity building services to further land access

opportunities for Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous, People of Color who face systemic barriers in terms of accessing agricultural land

- Development of a local (c)2 for the Greater Northern Catskills Agrarian Commons alongside American Farmland Trust and Agrarian Trust, preserving 300 acres of prime farmland in Delaware county for the next generation of farmers

Mutual aid

- Deep connection and community building with 22 mutual aid organizations each serving hundreds of families weekly, with a mission towards food justice and sovereignty
- Star Route Farm alone has produced more than 17,500 pounds of nutrient dense fresh produce donated to mutual aid or-

ganizations in 2022

- CAA is actively seeking funding to maintain its current operations and support our donative work.

Partner comments

“CAA understands that food systems work is more than creating short term solutions — it's about building partnerships and networks that are interconnected and sustainable.”

— Hannah Rion, Rural Food and Health Network

“While we've seen large programs enacted broadly without any intent of supporting those who slip through their cracks, Catskills Agrarian Alliance has proven to be an inspiring and powerful alternative.”

— Bushwick Ayuda Mutua

“They are more than just a vendor, they are partners in our work to feed kids local, nutritious food.”

— Maryssa Schlough, Farm to School Coordinator, Sydney Central School District

For more information, visit: catskillsagrarianalliance.org

Land access

- Connection and capacity building services to further land access

opportunities for Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous, People of Color who face systemic barriers in terms of accessing agricultural land

Partner comments

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Mutual aid

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- Star Route Farm alone has produced more than 17,500 pounds of nutrient dense fresh produce donated to mutual aid or-



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Job Fair Set For March 23 At Grand Gorge

DELHI — A WE'RE HIRING! Job Fair is set for Thursday, March 23, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at ONC BOCES Northern Catskills Occupational Center in Grand Gorge.

Connect with motivated high school juniors and seniors for full, part-time, and summer employment. Meet adults who are eager to return to work.

Be prepared to interview applicants, accept resumes, discuss current job openings, and offer advice about how to prepare for employment with your company.

A \$25 registration fee for employers includes a six-foot table, two chairs, refreshments during the event, and lunch for two people. Electric service is limited and will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

Event Schedule:

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.: Exhibitor set up

9:30-11 a.m.: Area schools will transport high school seniors to event. BOCES students will attend.

11-11:45 a.m.: Lunch will be provided to all exhibitors

12:00 - 1:30 p.m.: Area schools will transport high school juniors to event. BOCES students will attend.

Note: The fair is open to adult job seekers from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Getting word out

Promotion of the event will include radio announcements, print advertising, social media posts, and e-mails sent directly to job seekers.

To maximize promotion of your participation, please register by March 10.

The WE'RE HIRING! in-person job fair is a collaborative effort of Otsego-Northern Catskills BOCES, CDO Workforce, and the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce.

To register for the Job Fair online via the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce, please visit: delaware-county.org



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

1/27 Fri	<p>6:00PM - Citizen News Bureau - Lori Fairbairn brings you the Weekend Weather report for the Catskill Region.</p> <p>6:30PM - WARK Community Television Archives - The Larry Smith Show. Join Larry as he visits the renovation of one the buildings in Margaretville (Airdate Early 80s).</p> <p>7:00PM - Mostly Folk with Artie Martello - Artie's guest for this show is a married folk duo, Ash and Eric. Hailing from the gritty heart of New England (Worcester, MA), the two find consolation in discovering beauty in the challenges of life.</p> <p>7:30PM - Focus on the Arts - Elizabeth Mami talks with Jennifer Prevatt. Jennifer is a Visual artist, Children's book illustrator and a Scientific illustrator.</p> <p>8:00PM - The Sonny Rock Show - Sonny visits the shop of Ron Stetkewicz, who is not only a musician but creates miniature art.</p>
1/28 Sat	<p>6:00PM - Delaware County News Update - Julia Marks and Matt Avitabile bring you the latest news from the Delaware County Region.</p> <p>6:30PM - The Hiker Trash Husbands - Join Jeff and Moe as they hike the Middle and North Tripyramid Mountains, which are located in the Sandwich Range Wilderness of the White Mountain National Forest of New Hampshire.</p> <p>7:00PM - Downstaters - A comedy web series about two New Yorkers who leave big city life for the Catskills. In this episode, Jess & Beth vow to clean out their closets and turn in their stilettos for snow boots, but find it hard to resist the local treasures.</p> <p>7:30PM - Focus on the Arts - Elizabeth Mamitalks with local author, Peg DiBenedetto about her book, Silver Dollar Girls. In this book, DiBenedetto weaves a realistic tale of life in a rural farming town—the friendships, hardships and rewards.</p> <p>8:00PM - CabaRadio - Tune in to see the most recent performance as recorded at the Pine Hill Community Center.</p>
1/29 Sun	<p>6:00PM - Grocholl Homestead - A new episode from Ashton as we learn about the ins and outs of owning chickens.</p> <p>6:30PM - The Catskill Center - Join Visitor Center staff member Olivia Bernard on a fall foliage tour of the fire tower and see the mountains in the surrounding Esopus Valley.</p> <p>7:00PM - WARK Community TV Archives - The Larry Smith Show. Join Larry as he visits the renovation of one the buildings in Margaretville.</p> <p>7:30PM - The Sonny Rock Show - Sonny visits the shop of Ron Stetkewicz, who is not only a musician but creates miniature art.</p> <p>8:00PM - Catskill Mountain Cycling Challenge - A story about the cycling challenge from local resident and filmmaker Kent Garrett.</p> <p>8:30PM - Boots in the Barnyard - Watershed Agricultural Program presents stories from two farms. Clark Farms is a fourth generation dairy farm in Delhi, NY and Gladstone Farms in Andes, NY.</p>
1/30 Mon	<p>6:00PM - Focus on the Arts - Elizabeth Mami talks with Jennifer Prevatt. Jennifer is a Visual artist, Children's book illustrator and a Scientific illustrator.</p> <p>6:30PM - Little Red Cottage of Nowhere - The autumn colors are amazing this year! Spend an ordinary fall day with Andrea running errands and doing chores while soaking up the extraordinary sensations of the season.</p> <p>7:00PM - Mostly Folk with Artie Martello - Artie talks with Ray Lambiase and Lanny Sichel. Ray is a well accomplished folk musician with albums to his credit and a 5th being worked on.</p> <p>7:30PM - SMACKED! Heroin Addiction & Recovery in Rural America - A documentary by Hamden resident and filmmaker Jessica Vecchione.</p>
1/31 Tue	<p>6:00PM - Weekly Weather Forecast - Lori Fairbairn brings you the Weekly forecast for the Catskill Region.</p> <p>6:30PM - Medicare With Robin - Join Julia Marks as she asks important questions about Medicare with Robin Williams, a licensed insurance agent. Tonight's episode: The Basics of Medicare.</p> <p>7:00PM - The Hiker Trash Husbands - Join Jeff and Moe as they hike The Middle and North Tripyramid Mountains, which are located in the Sandwich Range Wilderness of the White Mountain National Forest of New Hampshire.</p> <p>7:30PM - The Little Red Cottages of Nowhere - Andrea visits the Wolf Mountain Nature Center in Smyrna, NY.</p> <p>7:00PM - The Walton Theatre presents a Film Artist Talks with Catskill filmmaker Tobe Carey.</p> <p>8:30PM - The Sonny Rock Show - Sonny visits the shop of Ron Stetkewicz, who is not only a musician but creates miniature art.</p>
2/1 Wed	<p>6:00PM - Grocholl Homestead - A new episode from Ashton as we learn about the ins and outs of owning chickens.</p> <p>6:30PM - Focus on the Arts - Elizabeth Mami talks with BT Bard who is an illustrator, poet, and artist.</p> <p>7:00PM - Medicare With Robin - Join Julia Marks and Robin Williams, a licensed insurance agent. Tonight's episode: The Basics of Medicare.</p> <p>7:30PM - Citizen News Bureau - The Catskill Center's Jenny Flavin talks about the Steward Program.</p> <p>8:00PM - The Sonny Rock Show - Sonny talks with Adam Ippolito and his time as a keyboard player for John Lennon's band, Elephant's Memory.</p> <p>8:30PM - The Reporter reports on 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.</p>
2/2 Thu	<p>6:00PM - Citizen News Bureau - Lori Fairbairn brings you the Weekend Weather Report for the Catskill Region.</p> <p>6:30PM - Mostly Folk with Artie Martello - Artie's guest for this show is Sonny Ochs. Sonny is known internationally as a producer, radio program host and recipient of numerous awards for her dedication to folk music. She is Phil Och's older sister.</p> <p>7:00PM - Downstaters - A comedy web series about two New Yorkers who leave big city life for the Catskills. In this episode, Jess & Beth vow to clean out their closets and turn in their stilettos for snow boots, but find it hard to resist the local treasures.</p> <p>7:30PM - WARK Community Television Archives - The Larry Smith Show. Join Larry as he visits the renovation of one the buildings in Margaretville (Airdate Early 80s).</p> <p>8:00PM - CabaRadio - Tune in to see the most recent performance as recorded at the Pine Hill Community Center.</p>

CatskillsAir is community-based, grassroots television channel, reflecting the lifestyles, interests and concerns of the Greater Catskills Region.

Visit us at catskillsair.com



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Volume 8, No. 4

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CRCS Considers SRO

By Joshua Walther

COBLESKILL - On Monday evening, the CRCS Board of Education heard remarks from the Schoharie County Sheriff's Office on a possible contract for a School Resource Officer.

A School Resource Officer, or SRO, is an armed police officer on campus that's certified to be an instructor and has a minimum of three years of experience with the Sheriff's Office.

The aim of the program would be to provide safety to the school as well as educate both the students and staff in any capacity that they can, likely providing presentations on shooting scenarios and drugs.

"He is effectively a staff member," said Undersheriff Bruce Baker. He went on to explain that the SRO would have their own office space and be open as a resource for students to use at their discretion.

CRCS would be following in the footsteps of Schoharie Central School, who have implemented a similar program over the course of the past few months. Mr. Baker continually referred to them

as an isolated case study throughout the conference, backing his argument for an SRO with positive statistics of change in student behavior and wellbeing.

Mr. Baker also sought to quell any nerves or fears about the program, running through a list of what an SRO cannot do.

The officer, while still certified and trained as a police officer, is not on a school campus to act in a law enforcement capacity. They're not equipped to closely monitor students or make arrests if a crime should occur. Discipline is carried out solely through the school or another officer if something bigger should happen.

Instead, the SRO is present to provide a positive interaction with students and faculty, seeking to bridge the divide between the general population and law enforcement agencies. According to Mr. Baker, being armed does not take away from this, saying "The gun isn't a hang-up for students."

While the Board seemed interested in the prospect of an SRO for the district, technicality concerns soon arose surrounding pricing

and the distance between each of the CRCS schools.

"We are not here looking to make money," said Mr. Baker. He explained that they would only charge the school enough to cover any new hire rates and benefits, which rounds out to an \$80,000 flat rate charge with \$50 per hour for overtime.

Superintendent Matthew Sickles agreed that it was a good price for an SRO, attesting that he had worked within districts that spent upwards of \$200,000 for the same program.

However, Mr. Baker agreed that the isolated schools were a problem. In Schoharie, the SRO can walk the entire campus and check on all of the schools at once, but there's much more distance to consider with the CRCS district.

He suggested that the SRO program would start within the high school and be run as a test project, then they could adjust accordingly. The Board agreed that the technicalities would have to be stomped out in negotiations.

At the end of the conference, the Board

thanked Mr. Baker for his time and promised to take

the matter into full consideration, tabling their

final decision for a later date.

DEC Sounds Alarm on Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease

By Jennifer Patterson

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is asking the public, especially hunters, to help protect wild rabbit and hare populations across the state.

With big game seasons at an end, there are a number of small game hunting opportunities open, and hunters can help the DEC better manage wildlife by reporting their observations and harvests.

The department is collecting information about the snowshoe hare, fox, squirrels, weasels, marten, fisher, bobcat and otter. According to officials, the data helps the DEC better understand the distributions of these more elusive furbearer and small game species, improving its ability to more adequately manage them.

The DEC is also sounding the alarm about rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus 2 (RHDV2), a highly lethal and easily transmissible disease that impacts rabbits and hares. It is spread through direct contact between rabbits or contaminated materials, including hunting equipment and shoes.

Although the disease does not pose a risk to humans or other species, it is extremely hardy and able to survive freezing temperatures and remain contagious on surfaces for three months.

The original strain of rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus (RHVD) was detected in 1984 and only affects domesticated or European rabbits. In 2010, a new strain, RHDV2, was identified and can infect North American species of wild rabbits and hares in addition to domestic rabbits.

In 2018, RHDV2 was detected in pet rabbits in the U.S., and in 2020, the disease jumped to wild rabbits and hares in the Southwest, where it spread to six states in four months. That same



year, RHDV2 killed domestic rabbits at a veterinary practice in New York City, and in 2021, a case was reported in Montgomery County.

Rabbits infected with RHDV2 often show few or no symptoms. Infected wild rabbits are simply found dead, sometimes with blood around the nose. Domestic rabbits may develop a fever and die suddenly within 12 to 36 hours after infection, or they may survive longer and develop anorexia, reddening of the eyes, or respiratory symptoms.

If RHDV2 enters the state's wild rabbit and hare populations – likely through domestic rabbits, internationally imported rabbit

products or people who travel to outbreak areas – it could be impossible to control and result in significant population declines through the state, including extinction of the vulnerable New England cottontail.

Wild rabbits and hares fulfill a vital ecosystem function as a key food source for many predators. To protect New York's wildlife, the DEC says it's critical to prevent RHDV2 from being introduced into the state.

For a list of ways to help protect wild rabbits and hares, as well as domesticated breeds, go to https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife_pdf/rhdv2factsheet.pdf.

Esperance Man Arrested on Multiple Charges

On January 12, 2023, at about 4:38 p.m. State Police of Princetown responded to the Stewarts Shop in Esperance, for the report of an unwanted person at the location. The suspect was identified as Robert J. Alexander, 34, of Esperance, who was no longer permitted at the store due to suspected past thefts. Alexander had left the location, but patrols stopped him on Charleston Street in Esperance. Alexander's vehicle was uninspected,

and he did not have a valid driver's license. Alexander was arrested for Driving While Intoxicated, Aggravated Unlicensed Operator in the First Degree, and other violations of the Vehicle and Traffic laws. He was transported to SP Princetown for processing, where he refused to provide a sample to determine the alcohol content of his blood. Alexander has previous DWI convictions in the last ten years. He was arraigned at the Esperance Town Court and remanded to the Schoharie County Correctional Facility in lieu of \$10,000 cash, \$25,000 bond, or \$35,000 partially secured bond.

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.

Canajoharie – Annual Wintergreen Winterfest

The Village of Canajoharie Parks and Rec Committee in conjunction with the Canajoharie Village Board are hosting the third annual Wintergreen Winterfest 2023 on Saturday, January 28th from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Hosted at Wintergreen Park, this event is for all ages.

Sharon – Town Board

The Sharon Town Board will be holding its monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 1st at 6:30 PM at the Sharon Town Office. Meetings are also available for viewing on the SCHOPEG website.

Narcan Training

Head Start preschool will be presenting a Narcan Training on Wednesday February 1st @ 8:30 at 114 Lark St. Cobleskill with Dave Desando Schoharie County trainer.

The training is open to the public and will be followed with a Family Support meeting presented by SCCASA Family Support Navigator Chrystal Bushnell and Recovery Coach Tom Moran. If you have any questions call 518 605 3867

Carlisle – Town Board

The Carlisle Town Board will be holding its monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 1st at 7:00 PM at Town Hall.

New York Grown & Certified Workshop

The Schoharie Economic Enterprise Corp. (SEEC), in partnership with the Schoharie County Office for Agricultural Development, Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Inc. (MVEDD), and the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets is holding a New York Grown & Certified Workshop on Wednesday, February 15th from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at SEEC headquarters, located at 287 Main Street in Schoharie. For more information and registration, please visit www.seecny.org.

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.

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 XLII

By Timothy Knight

Since this column's inception almost a year ago, we have spent a considerable amount of time discussing the differences between "Old" and "New" Europe, specifically in relation to the Russo-Ukrainian War that has consumed the continent since last February.

Whereas the Old European nations of France, Germany, and Italy have been reluctant to cast the war in definitive terms and provide Kyiv with the necessary offensive weaponry in a timely fashion, the New European countries of Czechia, Poland, and Slovakia (along with the Baltic states) that lived under Soviet Union oppression for generations see modern Russian aggression clearly and support a robust military response in support of liberating Ukraine.

This difference between Old and New Europe is starkest with the topic of supplying Ukraine with Leopard 2 tanks. Manufactured in Germany, the Leopards are Europe's premier tank in terms of military capacity and repair accessibility (while the American M1 Abrams is comparable, little infrastructure exists in Europe for repairs), yet a snafu has plagued their

transfer to Ukrainian forces: the Germans themselves, much to the chagrin of Poland and the Baltic states.

Before proceeding, I want to express a note of sympathy for the German position: excuses weren't permitted in response to World War Two by either the German people or government. Instead, they accepted and took ownership of their father's crimes, in particular against the Jewish people and the Russian state. There is a reluctance to embrace militarism, and while I have personally described German Chancellor Olaf Scholz as "feckless," it is more complex than that.

However, my sympathy is limited. While I can appreciate a German reluctance to militarily engage – and it is arguably for Europe's best interest that they don't – I have no stomach for Chancellor Scholz emulating Neville Chamberlain's weakness towards Putin.

Neither does Poland, apparently.

Frustrated by Germany's unwillingness to either supply or approve the re-exports of Leopards to Ukraine, the Polish government announced on Monday that it would form a coalition to send their Slavic neigh-

bors the highly desired military equipment; with or without Berlin's consent to do so. While Kyiv has requested the Leopards to help it break through Russian lines and recapture occupied territory this year, Germany has been reluctant for fear of military escalation.

With the Russian military unable to advance in Ukraine and its oil no longer flowing to Europe, fears of escalation ring hollow as the one year anniversary of this conflict draws nearer. Unless Germany desires a protracted stalemate, in which case more combatants and civilians will perish, the only path forward is to equip Ukraine with the tools and tanks necessary to launch a counteroffensive that results in victory against Russia. Or, if Berlin won't lead, let Warsaw.

In Solidarity with Ukraine.

Greetings! I am planning a "mailbag" edition of Coffee in Coby soon, so please send any questions you may have for me about Schoharie County politics, the Atlanta Braves 2021 World Series title or whatever else, and it might just be included. My email is timothyknight93@gmail.com.

Local Historian Launches TV History Adventure Series

CAPITAL REGION - Don Rittner, a local historian, filmmaker, and author of more than 50 books, has launched a new TV show on Youtube called History on the Road. Rittner and his traveling colleague Justyna Kostek, Director of Just More Theater in New York City, have embarked on an adventure series traveling over the oldest highways of America, stopping at historic communities, interviewing historians and interesting people, and even trying to solve local history mysteries along the way.

Rittner began the concept back in 2012 but wanted a different format and reorganized the show in 2018. The series released today is the new format and contains eleven episodes featuring the Great Western Turnpike, one of the oldest turnpikes in America that went from Albany, New York To Cherry Valley, New York, a distance of 52 miles. It is now part of Historic Route 20, the longest road in America.

The eleven episodes feature stops and interviews in Guilderland, Duaneburg, Esperance, Sharon Springs, and Cherry Valley. In those communities, Rittner & Kostek interview an Irish Pulitzer Prize winning poet and his New York Times bestseller wife, the last of the Beat Poets, a former famous San Francisco Jazz Singer, local historians, and they explore the famous medic-

inal springs and abandoned hotels in Cherry Valley. In one episode they learn that the residents of one village ganged together, forged a silver bullet, and shot a woman dead because they thought she was a witch. Another community features a woman who gave birth to a "Stone baby." One episode talks about a New York City mayor in the 18th century who wanted to make Duaneburg the Capital of New York.

Rittner said that he learned just how popular Sharon Springs was in the 19th and 20th century. "During its heyday there were 70 hotels and boarding houses" in the community. During this time, the Vanderbilts, Ulysses S. Grant, and Franklin and Theodore Roosevelt each spent parts of their summer there.

In particular Rittner and his team explored the Adler, which closed in 2006. He explored the remains of the mineral baths and stayed at local boarding houses.

"The Adler was an amazing hotel," he said.

Rittner also cited the Roseboro, currently owned by historian Ron Ketelsen and the American by Mayor Doug Plummer and Garth Roberts.

Rittner's channel includes several episodes on Sharon Springs.

He ventured over the Otsego County line to explore Cherry Valley. There are some elements that

people know about, including the Cherry Valley Massacre during the American Revolution and Alan Ginsburg's hippy camp. However, you may not know that Samuel Morse set up the first telegraphy school there. There is also a tale from the 19th century of a woman who gave birth to a stone-like calcified baby.

Rittner said that the goal was to search the first highways.

"What makes your village so historic?" he asked.

"This is where American democracy began," Rittner said.

The trip took him to Esperance, where he was helped by Historian Ken Jones. This includes a tale of a woman killed by local officials on suspicion of being a witch in the 19th century.

Rittner says he wanted to show that major historical events and fascinating people were not just confined to large urban areas but that rural areas, small villages, also had people that made major contributions to the American Experience.

Should there be support for the project, Rittner plans to

Rittner plans on doing a GoFund Me to obtain enough capital to do the next season of shows.

You can watch the first eleven episodes on the Great Western Turnpike by going to Youtube or <https://www.youtube.com/@historyontheroad>.

**Letters to the Editor on
Page A4
Send us yours at
cobleskillherald@gmail.com!**

NOTICE

The following vacancies exist in the
**SCHOHARIE COUNTY OFFICE OF
REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICES**

G.I.S. Coordinator
(Starting salary: \$51,771 – CSEA grade 17)

Senior G.I.S. Technician
(Starting salary: \$48,922 – CSEA grade 16)

G.I.S. Technician
(Starting salary: \$41,575 – CSEA grade 13)

Data Collector
(Starting salary: \$34,579 – CSEA grade 9)

For full job postings, including
minimum qualifications & details on how to apply, visit:
www.schohariecounty-ny.gov

Last filing date: JANUARY 18, 2023

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Police Blotter



Thursday, January 19, 2023

At 5:15 PM, Cobleskill Police executed an arrest warrant from Cobleskill Town Court and arrested James D. Phillips, 33, homeless, for burglary in the second degree, a class "C" felony, and petit larceny. He was arraigned in Cobleskill Town Court at 6:00 PM and remanded to Schoharie County

Correctional Facility on no bail. He is to return to Cobleskill Town Court on 01/24/2023 at 4:00 PM.

At 8:43 PM, Cobleskill Police arrested Ninja English, 35, of Cobleskill, N.Y. for criminal trespass in the second degree. He was arraigned in Cobleskill Town Court at 10:30 PM and remanded to Schoharie County Correctional Facility on \$1.00 cash bail and \$2,000 cash on an unrelated warrant for which he was con-

currently arraigned. He is to return to Cobleskill Town Court on 01/31/2023 at 4:00 PM.

Sunday, January 22, 2023

At 2:00 AM, Cobleskill Police arrested Amanda Vasquez, 33, of Cobleskill, N.Y. for criminal possession of a controlled substance in the seventh degree. She was issued an appearance ticket to appear in Cobleskill Town Court on 02/21/2023 at 2:00 PM.

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Alumni Return, Praise BOCES Video Game Program

ALBANY – Several recent graduates of the Capital Region BOCES Game Design & Implementation program returned to the Albany Campus recently to speak with their former teachers and share their successes.

The class of 2022 graduates—Zachary Talbot, from Scotia-Glenville, William Kruk, Schalmont, Gavin Christman,

Cobleskill-Richmondville, Cyrus Wang, Shenendehowa, and Alexander Andrelos, Shenendehowa—visited with teachers Darryl Nunn, Astra Wijaya and Patricia Gallant and checked out the new technology the program utilizes in the new Career & Technical Center – Albany Campus.

“We graduated too early,” said one of the graduates while walking the

aisles of one of three of the Video Game Design laboratories.

Despite that, Christman said that BOCES paved the way for him to get his job at Rotterdam technology company Green Tech Studios.

“I got the interview for my paid internship as a programmer by way of recommendation from my BOCES teacher,” he said. “Additionally, BOCES in-



Grads of the Video Game Design program



K-9 Wilson Retires from Cobleskill PD

COBLESKILL – Cobleskill Police Department officers, friends and family celebrated the retirement of K9 Officer Wilson last week.

Wilson, who was appointed in 2016, was treated with a cake in his honor and showered with lots of toys and treats to keep him busy. Chief Manchester also presented Wilson and his handler Cody Whittaker with a plaque commemorating Wilson's service with CPD.

Cody will be taking care of Wilson during his retirement. They wish Wilson the best in the years to come and hope he has a long, healthy, and happy retirement.



K9 Wilson

In Recognition of loyal and dedicated service to the Cobleskill community, the department, and partner Cody N. Whittaker #217

THANK YOU
for 7 years of dedicated service.
APPOINTED - 2016
RETIRED - 2023

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troduced me to many of the foundational skills I use on a daily basis, as well as opened the door to so many more skills.”

Students in the Capital Region BOCES Game Design and Implementation program learn the “ins” and “outs” of video game design, 3-D modeling and

computer programming.

They also learn the history of games and create a wide variety of games, including board games, card games and dice games while exploring various art concepts during the first year and 3-D modeling during the second year of the pro-

gram.

Enrollment is currently underway for the 2023-24 school year. For more information on career and technical school programs, go to <https://www.capitalregion-boces.org/career-technical-education/courses-programs/>

NIGHT *to Shine*

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HELP WANTED

THE TOWN OF SEWARD is looking to hire a MEO - (motor equipment operator) - this position requires a CDL.

Please call 518-234-2292 or stop by the Highway Bar at 795 Lowe Road to get an application. Please bring your license with you.

Don't Miss Out!
Email us at
[cobleskillherald@gmail.com!](mailto:cobleskillherald@gmail.com)

YOUR LOCAL HAPPENINGS FOR SHARON SPRINGS

Sharon Things

By Alexis Pencar

Hey Neighbors! The Village got over a foot of snow this last week on Sunday into Monday. With continued snow and freezing rain falling during the week on Wednesday, this called for some slippery driveway conditions but not road conditions since the Town of Sharon Snow Plow crews do such an excellent job keeping up.

The overcast conditions with snow on and off should continue into next week with some single digit lows on the horizon again.

Regardless of the weather, always use caution while heading up and down historic Main Street, especially down the hill where the suggested speed limit is marked at 25 MPH. Also look out for large pieces of construction machinery pulling out and driving up and down Route 10. Most of Main Street is not a passing zone and should always be traveled

with care.

Happy Birthday

On January 29th, wish a BIG Happy Birthday to Mr. Claude Jackson! Claude is an active Village resident and helpful neighbor!

Sharon Springs Rescue Squad

The Sharon Springs Rescue Squad is a cornerstone of our community! With many active members, they are always looking for new volunteers for Drivers, First Responders, Social Members, and EMT's. SSRS will fund any training that is needed. SSRS meets the first Monday of the month at 7 pm and would be happy to answer any

questions with how you can support your community.

The American Legion 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

Please note, if you are being blocked from ordering materials online there are likely only two reasons, both of which can be easily resolved by calling or stopping in at the library. Library cards expire every three years and need to be renewed, just like books. If your card expires, all you have to do is let a librarian know whether there have been any changes to your address, phone number, ID number or email address. We will update your record and renew your card.

If you are using Overdrive to access e-materials, it will soon cease to work. You need to upgrade to the Libby app which can be found in your app store. If you have any questions, please stop by our circulation desk where one of our librarians will be happy to help.

The Board of Trustees of the library meets tonight, Thursday, January 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the library. Board meetings are always open to the public, and your participation is important and more than welcome. Issues of community-wide interest are coming up at meetings now, as the library seeks ways to navigate the climate of increasing costs and limited revenue.

February is a month of holidays. February 2 is Groundhog Day, the 14th is Valentine's Day, and the 20th is Presidents' Day, the only one of these holidays that is an official Federal holiday. The post office, banks, and the library will be closed Monay, February 20th. February is also the month generally cel-

ebrated as Black History Month. Check our materials on display related to these holidays.

Book Discussion is scheduled for Friday, February 17th at 6:00 p.m. in the library. Liane Moriarty's "Apples Never Fall" is our book selection for this month. It is something of a mystery without a dead body. It is also an extraordinarily entertaining story of family dynamics.

Children's Reading Group is on Thursday mornings from 10-11 AM and includes story time, crafts, and a snack for preschool and home-school children ages preschool to third grade.

For more Library information please contact (518) 284-3126.

Worship Services

The Sharon Reformed Church (6858 State Route 10, Sharon Springs, NY 13459) offers weekly service at 10:30 am. Contact at (518) 234-2387 for more details.

The Sharon Springs United Methodist Church (511 State Route 20, Sharon Springs, NY, 13459) offers weekly service at 10:30 am. Contact at (518) 284-2200 for more details.

The St. Thomas The Apostle Catholic Church (24 Maple Avenue, Cherry Valley, NY 13320) offers weekly mass at 10:00 am. Reminder: confession is available 30 minutes before every mass. Contact at (607) 264-3779 for more details.

The Zion St. John's Lutheran Church Seward (114 Mesick Ave, Cobleskill, NY 12043)

offers weekly service on Sundays at 9:00 am. Contact at (518) 234-3222 for more details.

Cornerstone Baptist Church (7274 Route 10, Ames, NY 13317). Sunday Service is at 10:00 am. All are welcome. Contact (518) 673 3405 for more details.

Food Pantry

The Sharon Springs Food Pantry is an excellent local resource for all! They are located in the United Methodist Church on Route 20, across from the school (511 US Route 20, Sharon's Springs, NY 13459).

They are always accepting donations! If you or someone you know is in need of the Pantry, the hours are Thursday 9:00 am -10:30 am and 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm.

Senior Congregate Meal Site

Local residents are invited to enjoy socialization and a noon-time meal at Schoharie County Office for the Aging congregate meal site in Sharon Springs (Mon., Wed. & Fri., Firehouse, Beechwood Rd.). Reserve a meal by calling OFA at 518-295-2001 by 1 pm on the day before you want to go. A suggested donation of \$4 is accepted from those 60 years old and older. Under age 60? You're welcome to participate and will be charged \$5.

To share community news, upcoming events, business specials, adjusted hours, birthdays, anniversaries, or even an outstanding resident, please reach out to: (772) 971-1410 or alexis.pencar@gmail.com.

NOTICE

Vacancies exist in the Schoharie County Health Department in the positions of

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REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSE

Starting Salary: \$51,771 – CSEA grade 17

*Appointment to the position of PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE will be provisional. Permanent appointment will be contingent upon successful completion of a Civil Service examination & becoming reachable on the resulting eligible list.

Candidates interested in being considered for a position must submit an employment application to the Schoharie County Department of Personnel & Civil Service, 284 Main Street, PO Box 675, Schoharie, NY 12157, (e-mail: civilservice@co.schoharie.ny.us) by the close of business on JANUARY 31, 2023.

Applications may be obtained in the Personnel Office or online at: www.schohariecounty-ny.gov

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Public Health Nurse: Possession of a bachelor's degree in Nursing from a regionally accredited or New York State-registered college or university; and licensure & current registration to practice as a Registered Professional Nurse in New York State.

Registered Professional Nurse: Possession of an associate's degree in Nursing from a regionally accredited or New York State-registered college or university; and licensure & current registration to practice as a Registered Professional Nurse in New York State; and two (2) years of general nursing experience. (Part-time employment can be pro-rated to count towards full-time, based on number of hours worked per week).

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: These positions require extensive travel. Incumbents will be required to possess a valid, appropriate level, New York State operator's license, or otherwise demonstrate the ability to meet the travel needs of the job.

In accordance with NYS Public Health Law, appointee must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 at time of appointment and provide proof of vaccination status

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Above left: Coach Randy Pacatte has them fill up a big ol' pot for takehome. Randy's ready to watch the Giants play. As by now we all know they didn't win. I hope the chili was a good consolation. Photos by Robert Duso.

Above right: Randy Pacatte headed home with a good meal for the game.

Left: Bill & Kim Elmore dishing up the chili and rolls.

New York Grown & Certified Workshop Announced for February

Schoharie -- The Schoharie Economic Enterprise Corp. (SEEC), in partnership with the Schoharie County Office for Agricultural Development, Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Inc. (MVEDD), and the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets is holding a New York Grown & Certified Workshop which will feature information addressing the process to apply, benefits of certification, including exclusive grant and marketing opportunities, and more. The hybrid event will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm at the SEEC headquarters, located at 287 Main Street, in Schoharie, New York. Attendees are welcome to join in person or via Zoom. A light lunch will be provided for those who attend in person.

The New York Grown & Certified Workshop will bring together experts well-versed in New York Grown & Certified applications, grants and other resources and incentives available to farms and agri-businesses in Schoharie County. This event features Jessica Brooks and George Spohn of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, Pete Nichols of the Schoharie County Soil and Water Conservation district, Aileen Randolph of the NY Farm Viability Institute and Amanda Kaier of MVEDD. The event will also feature testimonials from farms and agri-businesses that have gone through the process of becoming New York Grown & Certified.

The program offers opportunities for traditional dairy, livestock, and produce farms, but also for less conventional producers such as fresh cut flowers, maple, honey, firewood, craft beverage ingredients and craft beverage production. With limited to no cost associated with the application process and significant benefits to certification, this workshop looks to streamline the process while addressing direct concerns or questions about the program from attendees. Paper applications will be available at 287 Main during the event or can be accessed on SEEC's website. Early registration is encouraged to help shape the specifics of the workshop to match the needs of producers in attendance.

This event is free and open to the public. Registration is available here or visit www.seecny.org for more information.



Time to Register for SCRABBLE Tourney

COBLESKILL – Register by March 16 to participate in the SCRABBLE Tournament fundraiser for Literacy New York – Fulton, Montgomery, and Schoharie Counties (LNY-FMS). The popular event, which returns after a three-year pandemic-related hiatus, will be held Saturday, March 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at the Radez School in Richmondville. Teams of two-to-four people will compete in three low-pressure, fun games for cash prizes totaling \$600. There will be trivia contests, raffle items, giveaways and a free buffet breakfast. The registration fee is \$60 per team of 4, or \$15 per person. Players should bring their own boards and tiles. Proceeds will help volunteers to provide free literacy tutoring to adults in the three counties served by LNY-FMS. Call 518-234-2576 to register, or e-mail lunyfms1@gmail.com.

Court News

Kathleen Pandolfi: Convicted of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 5th, a Class D Felony, was resented in County Court to a term of 304 days in the Schoharie County Jail, with fines, fees, and surcharges on January 18th, 2023.

Raymond Mojica: Convicted of 2 counts of criminal contempt and sentenced to 75 days in the Schoharie County Jail, with surcharges of \$255 on January 17, 2023.

Stefen Becker: Convicted of Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle and was sentenced to a conditional discharge, a \$400 fine, and a \$93 surcharge on January 17th, 2023 in the Town of Cobleskill Court.

Roger Graham: Convicted of Assault 3rd and was sentenced to 52 weekends in the Schoharie County Jail, a \$500 fine, and a \$255 surcharge on January 17th, 2023 in the Town of Cobleskill Court.

Robert Alexander: Convicted of Felony DWI and Felony Aggravated Unlicensed Operation in the 1st degree on January 12th, 2023. DWI and AUO 1st by themselves do not qualify for bail under New York State Bail laws, however, District Attorney Susan Mallery argued for bail as Alexander has two pending DWIS and AUO 1st charges stemming from arrests on July 8th, 2022 and September 27th, 2022. The Court set bail at \$10,000 cash.

Alexander was indicted on his initial charges on January 6th, 2023, and is scheduled to be arraigned on January 25th, 2023.

Angel Cruz: Convicted of Driving While Intoxicated and Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle with fines of \$500 and \$200 and a surcharge of \$400 and \$93 on January 11th, 2023 in the Town of Carlisle Court.

Lance Shaver: Convicted of Aggravated Harassment and was sentenced to a conditional discharge, a fine of \$230 and a surcharge of \$205.

Clifton Kirk: Convicted of DWI 1st and Aggravated Unlicensed Operation 2nd January 5th, 2023 from an arrest on March 28th, 2022, and sentenced to a fine of \$1000, a surcharge of \$400, Ignition Interlock Device, Victim's Impact Panel, Impaired Driver Program, and DNA sample.

Kirk was also convicted of Criminal Mischief 4th on January 5th, 2023, from a separate arrest on August 8th, 2022, and sentenced to a conditional discharge.

Thomas Palmatier: Convicted of Criminal Mischief 4th Degree and was sentenced to 364 days in the Schoharie County Jail on December 14th, 2022 with a fine of \$100, a surcharge of \$205, Restitution, DNA, and a DNA surcharge.

Brent Speedling: Convicted of Petit Larceny and was sentenced to 10 weekends in the Schoharie County Jail with DNA, DNA surcharge \$50, Order of Protection, and \$300 charitable donation on October 10th, 2022.

Tyler Korkosz: Convicted of Possession Forged Instrument 2nd Degree and was sentenced to New York State Prison (2-4 years), waiving his right to appeal, DNA, and surcharge on December 21st, 2022.

Phillip Jackson: Convicted of Criminal Possession Stolen Property-3rd, and was sentenced to New York State Prison (2-4 years), waiving his right to appeal, DNA, and surcharge on December 21st, 2022.

Kristopher Keiper: Convicted of Criminal Mischief: Intent To Damage Property and Harassment-2nd Degree: Physical Contact, and was sentenced to Probation, a Conditional Discharge, \$400 in fines, DNA, and \$175 in surcharges on December 20th, 2022.

Starr Fronk: Convicted of Aggravated Unlicensed Operation Of A Motor Vehicle- 3rd Degree, and Failure To Obey Police Officer, and was sentenced to a Conditional Discharge on January 9th, 2023.

Guenter Honauer: Convicted of Criminal Possession Controlled Substance- 7th Degree and Unlawful Possession Cannabis - More Than 3 Oz Or 24 Grams, and was sentenced to a Conditional Discharge, fines of \$55, DNA, and DNA surcharge of \$50 on January 11th, 2023.

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Strong Opposition to Solar in Seward

By Matthew Avitabile
SEWARD – The Town of Seward Planning Board held a public hearing on the issue of potential solar projects on Tuesday. The meeting was well-attended, with local observers waiting for a chance to ask questions.

About four dozen people attended the 7pm meeting at the Seward Town Hall, which featured a presentation from an alternative energy company. Several members of the Carlisle Town Planning Board were also present for the meeting.

This included discussion over a Special Use Permit application for a 20 MW solar project in the Towns of Seward and Carlisle. The project has been in the works for several years.

95% of it is located in the Town of Carlisle with the rest in the Town of Seward. Few solar panels would be located in Seward. Carlisle acts as the SEQR state environmental protection application lead agency. Both Carlisle and Seward retained the same engineering firm, Barton & Loguidice.

Legal counsel Terresa Bakner stated that the meeting was intended to hear public comment and to hear the presentation. The documents regarding the solar project are available at the Seward town office or online.

Bakner asked members of the public to follow any verbal comments with the same in writing.

The meeting followed a contentious one in the Town of Carlisle two weeks ago, where most speakers were against any proposed commercial-scale solar.

Prior to the presentation, one question submitted was whether there were mechanisms to make changes if a further review found potential environmental harm. The answer was yes.

Another question asked whether there is a "condition that could be met" regarding the environment that could supplant the original review. The answer was no.

A question asked if there was an environmental impact statement to date. The answer was no, but that Carlisle completed a draft SEQR assessment.

Jeff Davis from the Barclay Damon law firm and Emily Proutey of Cypress Creek Renewables spoke about the project, giving effectively the same presentation as the one recently given in Carlisle.

Another question asked about the number of panels, which precipitated a terse exchange between Mr. Davis and several members of the audience. Mr. Davis said that he did not know the number of panels in the final project and members of the public asked if



Solar company attorney Jeff Davis spoke about the potential scope of the project at Tuesday's meeting.

it would mean hundreds or thousands, or a specific number.

The proposed plan will include several attributes. The presentation stated that the project could provide electricity for 4,200 households and would include 10 acres of land reserved for agricultural purposes. Growth of grass will be taken care of by sheep, according to the plan. This would be done with cooperation with Cobleskill's Black Willow Pond Farm. Overall, the project would be 125 acres within three parcels totaling 357 acres at 190 Brown Road.

The developers created a number of interpretations of what the solar farm would look like. These were shown on a slideshow, which developers argue will mostly not be visible from the road. There will be further plantings near the project that will help obscure the view.

The developers spoke about the potential changes to the town if the project proceeds. This would include an additional \$22,000 in tax revenue to Carlisle over the current \$12,800. During a 15 year period, this is estimated to be more than a half million to the Town. During the same period, there is an expected increase in taxes of \$765,000 to the County, \$1.65 million to the Cobleskill-Richmondville School District, and \$80,000 to the Carlisle Fire Department. Overall, the taxable increase to all municipalities in Schoharie County over 15 years is \$3.8 million. Because of the confines of the proposal, the exact amount for the Town of Seward was not clear. Mr. Davis said that the developers would entertain a special agreement with the Town.

Following the presentation, there was expanded public comment.

Bruce Clapper of 158 Snyder Road spoke first, asking about how many trucks of stone would be needed for the project and the removal of stone when

and if the panels come down. He also asked about which panels would be used. This was not clear at the time.

Maryann Nelson, formerly of the Duaneburg planning office, asked about police coverage. "How do you plan on handling a fire event?" she asked. "What if there is a catastrophic event and the fire spreads?" She also asked about the role of sheep on the property and who paid Bakner for legal assistance. The answer about the latter was that this is paid for through an escrow account through the Towns of Carlisle and Seward.

Jean Gosling of Route 145 read a statement on behalf of Christina of AG Quality Hay and Straw asked a question about the potential fall of property value. This includes 160 acres of potential loss for just one solar project. Without this and other land, local farms won't be able to provide local hay and straw for local and regional businesses. There was fear that there would be a "sea of solar cells" instead of "amber waves of grain."

Mrs. Gosling asked the legal counsel if there were any cases of opposition to local solar projects stopping such a project. In the Sharon, Minden, and Canajoharie cases, she said, each municipality objected to their respective projects. The NY Siting Board overruled these objections. In the case of Duaneburg, the Planning Board unanimously approved the project and a solar facility on Alexander Road that has been operating for about five years. In Coxsackie there were "substantial objections" to the project there, which was then overruled by the Siting Board.

The next question was about whether the legal firm AES lobbies on behalf of energy companies. The answer was yes.

Mrs. Gosling stated that she submitted 23 questions in writing following the Carlisle Town meeting and did not receive a response

as of the time of the meeting. The answer was that the questions will be answered and posted on the website.

The next question was for Ms. Proutey of Cypress Creek about a potential 'good neighbor' policy where adjoining landowners are paid not to object to the project. The answer was that the answer was no, to the best of her knowledge. Mr. Davis responded that this has not happened in this project.

The next question was whether or not there would be an expansion of electricity transmission lines. The answer was that the state Public Energy Commission would have information regarding this, and that it didn't fall under the decision makers in the room. Mr. Davis stated that the existing line can carry the potential charge in a study with National Grid.

Tree height was the next topic, whether or not the trees would continue growing beyond five years. This is guaranteed for the life of the facility.

The next question was about the share of money going to Cypress Creek. The question could not be answered. This was followed-up on whether there was a study done on potential tax losses as a result of the project. The answer was that other studies from previous projects studied the potential for such losses or loss of sale-ability of real estate. Mr. Davis stated that potential negative tax impacts are "low." The audience replied with disbelief.

Mrs. Gosling asked about the potential for a catastrophic weather event. Could that lead to a premature stoppage of the project part of the way through? If this happened, would decommissioning be paid for by the developer?

The answer was yes, through both contractual obligation and a bond. This was followed with a statement that \$1.5 million reserved for such a contingency "can't be enough," said Mrs. Gosling. She asked if the Planning Board considered having the developers hold a special insurance policy for such a purpose.

What if there are contaminants at the end of the project, she asked. "What then?"

"I don't like what I'm hearing," came one comment from the audience. "I just don't trust the proposal."

Lenny Prezorski asked the Town to reopen the environmental assessment. He stated that the project would sit upon a major element of the Mohawk River Drainage Basin. The water flows to the south and has a potential for a severe impact, he said.

Duane Spaulding of Route 10 asked about drainage. He said that around 1989 did work on a property nearby, including 5-7,000 feet of drainage tile, including under the power transmission lines. What would happen to this existing drainage system, he asked. Mr. Davis said that there has been a stormwater drainage plan as part of the approval process. This includes a promise not to increase existing drainage and do a study about existing drainage. This was reviewed by an engineer and the Town of Carlisle on route for pending approval with the NYS Department of Environmental Protection.

"There's a lot of water there," said Spaulding.

Mayor Becky Stanton-Terk of Cobleskill spoke next. She said that she came to these meetings to "listen." She asked if the project started several years ago-- the answer was yes, and that public participation has grown. She called on the audience to give the members of the Planning Board "a little bit of a break." The Mayor then asked if the Town of Seward Planning Board could ask the Carlisle Planning Board to reconsider the environmental assessment.

"Is that appropriate?" Stanton-Terk asked.

"That is not appropriate," said Bakner. She continued, stating that after the Carlisle Planning Board issued its SEQR declaration, the next step is whether or not the Town of Seward Planning Board would issue a Special Use Permit.

Another member of the audience called upon the Seward Planning Board to not make a decision until they ask Carlisle to re-do its environmental assessment.

"I'm asking you on behalf of Seward not to work forward. Don't do anything, please."

Seward Supervisor Earlin Rosa said that even though most of the project is in Carlisle, "they need Seward to make this work. Even if Carlisle said yes, you can always say no."

A question from the audience then asked if the state would then overturn the decision.

"It's part of the game," Rosa said. "Home rule. We lose it. We've lost it already. This is just a formality to get to the end result." He later said that the state plans 180 million solar panels by 2030.

The question came up whether or not the people had a say. Carlisle Town Supervisor John Leavitt said that former solar company representatives wanted to make this a "model" solar project with cooperation from the host com-

munities. However, he said that the actual tax benefits for the area would be "nothing" when actually put in place.

"You cause anger among some of the residents. Anger that will be there for years," Leavitt said. "You make money," yet the project and hurt remains, said the Supervisor.

"Negotiate a fair tax base for the citizens," he said. Leavitt said that Carlisle receives a similar payout annually from the Tennessee and Iroquois project that the gas company negotiated.

At the beginning of the project, he said, the alternative energy company would work with the town. He then said that once the state started offering incentives, there was a very different attitude.

Bill Harlow of Markley Road asked about decommissioning. "What do they do with the panels?" He said that these are unlikely to be used again. "Where does it go?" This was not answered.

The next question was that there was a Northern Long-eared Bat, an endangered species that lives in a nearby cave. The question was whether the company had received permission from the state Department of Environmental Conservation and US Fisheries and Wildlife. The company representative stated that there were letters from government agencies about all potential local endangered species.

The project cannot be transferred to a new owner without notification to Seward and Carlisle if it proceeds.

Jean Gosling then asked about potential economic impacts of the project, including a potential risk assessment and the number of local jobs created. The current estimates do not include this, she said. "Why are we putting all of our energy eggs in one basket?" she asked. The recent Buffalo blizzard, she said, shows the importance of having access to propane. She then gave two pages of questions to the Board.

Further questions centered around why sheep would graze on different properties, about construction traffic, the Amish leaving over solar projects, and about planting trees and shrubs to restore the viewshed.

Many people moved to the area, said Mrs. Gosling, so that they would have a great view.

The meeting ended with no major resolution, but with an apparent understanding between the public and the Planning Board that the state would likely have the final say.

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Trustee Change Up - Novko Back In, Johnstone Retires

By Alexis Pencar
SHARON SPRINTS - There has been a Village of Sharon Springs Board of Trustee change up over the last few months. Recently re-elected (2021) Trustee Patty Johnstone announced in November she would step down and by January her seat was filled by previous Trustee Paul Novko. Village Board Members had a plan in place to quickly fill Johnstone's seat, with Mayor Doug Plummer reaching out directly to Paul Novko. Mr. Novko then stepped up to the plate in December and generously offered his time to our community once again. Novko was narrowly voted out of office in the November 2021 election, after serving for 5 years, with Trustee Joyce Slater

taking his seat. Mr. Novko's appointment was made official at the regularly scheduled January Village Board Meeting on Thursday, January 19th at 6 pm with no objection. As Novko was well-received by the Village Board and will still need to be voted into office in the November 2023 election. This is the same way he made Village Trustee for the first time in 2018. In an exclusive interview regarding the recent appointment, Mr. Novko said "I am pleased to have a chance to see through the projects that were started before and to contribute to the large projects ahead" with reference to the ongoing and lengthy Water and

Sewer Project. One Village resident said, "Paul did a great job as Trustee before, he did a lot, I'll go out and vote for him again in November." Notably, now 'previous' Trustee, Ms. Patty Johnstone recently celebrated her retirement and 20 years of devoted service to the Cobleskill-Richmondville Central Schools. As a very active member of the community, Patty still has plans to stay on as an integral Board Member of Hero Fund America, who hosts the RUN 4 the HILLS for First Responders 5k event each Fall in the Village of Sharon Springs. The next Village Board meeting is scheduled for February 16th at 6 pm.

Help Identify!



A follow-up from Karen Cookson's excellent column last week. A still 8x10 glossy from "Model" features Jeanne Crain in a taxi labelled Sharon Springs. The driver was an extra from here, and if anyone recognizes him, please tell the Mountain Eagle at mountaineaglenews@gmail.com.

SUNY Loses Two to Wildcats

COBLESKILL - The SUNY Cobleskill men's basketball team closed out their weekend North Atlantic Conference (NAC) homestand on Saturday afternoon losing to the visiting Wildcats of the SUNY Polytechnic Institute by a score of 72-61 at the Iorio Gymnasium. With the defeat the Fighting Tigers are now 14-5 overall on the year including a 6-3 record in league action while the Wildcats improve to 9-10 overall including a 4-5 record in conference play. Cobleskill entered the contest bitten by the injury bug as three rotational players including two starters were in street clothes for the game. Despite the short bench the home team took a 34-29 lead into the locker room at the half behind the hot shooting and athletic play of first-year swingman Jeremy Rosario, Colonie, N.Y., Colonie High School, who scored 10 points in the half. However the second half was a different story as the Wildcats used a pronounced size advantage to put the contest into the win column outscoring the Fighting Tigers 43-27 connecting on 17-of-31 shots from the field, 54.8%, and 9-

of-12 free throw attempts. Junior guard Andre Starks, Rochester, N.Y., Fairport High School/Corning Community College, scored a team high of 15 points to go with four steals and three assists while Rosario finished with 13 points and two assists on the day. The home team also received 11 points and nine rebounds from senior forward Justin Feldman, Chester, N.Y., Chester High School/Orange Community College and 10 points off the bench from sophomore Trent Lomax, Harlem, N.Y., Percy Sutton High School, in his first extended action of the season. The Orange & Black will return to action on Wednesday January 25 when they travel to Dallas, Pa. for a non-conference meeting with the Cougars of Misericordia University beginning at 7:30 p.m. In a game to determine the top spot in the current North Atlantic Conference (NAC) Western Division standings the SUNY Cobleskill women's basketball team was out battled by the visiting Wildcats of the SUNY Polytechnic Institute by a 48-40 margin in a hard-hitting defensive struggle on Saturday afternoon at the Iorio Gymnasium. With the loss the Fighting Tigers drop to 11-8 over-

all with a 7-2 mark in conference play including a 4-1 mark against divisional opponents while the Wildcats improve to 7-11 overall with a 5-4 record in NAC action including a 4-0 mark versus conference divisional opponents. In a game that was a defensive slugfest between the two long-time rivals the Wildcats shot only 26.1% from the field while the Fighting Tigers were held to only 26.9% shooting from the floor. The Wildcat defense forced Cobleskill into 23 turnovers on the afternoon while the home team won the battle of the backboards by a 59-46 margin. Fighting Tiger first-year forward/center Emily Satterday, Latham, N.Y., Shaker High School, turned in an impressive effort for the Orange & Black posting her 12th double/double of the season with 10 points and a season high of 24 rebounds while senior center Jordan Finch, East Meredith, N.Y., South Kortright High School, hit for eight points to go with three rebounds and a pair of blocked shots. Cobleskill will return to action on Saturday January 28 when they travel to Delhi, N.Y. for a NAC meeting with the Broncos of SUNY Delhi with tip-off scheduled for 1:00 p.m.

SUNY Athletes Named to NAC All-Academic Team

The North Atlantic Conference (NAC) announced today that 22 SUNY Cobleskill Student-Athletes were named to the league's All-Academic Team for the Fall semester of the 2022-23 season. In order to be eligible for All-Academic honors, student athletes must be participating members of their respective teams and achieve a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale. Member institutions are responsible for identifying eligible student athletes. According to Fighting Tiger Athletic Director Marie Curran-Headley, this accomplishment was a great accomplishment by these student-athletes given the rigors of balancing intercollegiate athletics and academics. "We are extremely proud of what these young people have accomplished given what is asked of them when they are in season and they are a prime example of what we want our student-athletes to aspire to when they come to our program."

All-Academic Team honors are bestowed twice a year, at the conclusion of the fall and spring semesters. The fall semester All-Academic Team includes only student athletes who compete in sports with a fall conference championship - men's and women's cross country, men's golf, men's and women's soccer, women's tennis, and women's volleyball. Winter and spring sport athletes will be recognized at the conclusion of the spring semester. The NAC has 12 member institutions: SUNY Canton, Cazenovia College, SUNY Cobleskill, SUNY Delhi, University of Maine-Farmington, Husson University, Northern Vermont University-Johnson, Northern Vermont University-Lyndon, Maine Maritime Academy, SUNY Poly, University of Maine-Presque Isle, and Thomas College. Athletes include: Nick Logan-JR Men's X-Country

- Michael Marker-FY Men's X-Country
- Vladamire Sheehan-FY Men's X-Country
- Katherine Ledermann-SO Women's X-Country
- Jennifer Swyers-SO Women's X-Country
- Charles Agle-SO Men's Soccer
- Conor Flanigan-SO Men's Soccer
- Ben Kessler-SR Men's Soccer
- Tyler Cinamon-SO Men's Soccer
- Annie Canales-SO Women's Soccer
- Caleigh Chase-FY Women's Soccer
- Hannah Fitzgerald-SO Women's Soccer
- Hayleigh Girard-SO Women's Soccer
- Dory Gosselin-FY Women's Soccer
- Rebekah Merrill-SO Women's Soccer
- Lauren Russen-SO Women's Soccer
- Grace White-FY Women's Soccer
- MacKenzie Larson-JR Volleyball
- Lydia McDonough-FY Volleyball
- Kelley Miller-JR Volleyball
- Eva Norris-SO Volleyball
- Abigail Scheurich-JR Volleyball
- Emily Wisniewski-JR Volleyball

Family Support Meetings in Schoharie!
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Public Hearing Held for Historic Adler Stabilization Affordable Housing Discussed

By Alexis Pencar
 SHARON SPRINGS - The Village of Sharon Springs held a Public Hearing on Thursday January 19th to discuss the proposed Adler stabilization backed by the Restore NY Grant, with further talks of affordable housing.

A representative from Schoharie County Industrial Development Agency, Ms. Julie Pacatte, provided an overview of the Restore NY Communities Initiative Grant Application to stabilize The Adler Hotel at 107 Adler Avenue.

This large project would first prepare the location for future investment opportunities through cooperative efforts from businesses and local organizations' matching funds, with the

Village of Sharon Springs as the sponsor of the application.

It was made clear that an estimate of the stabilization of the property will cost between \$400,000 - \$2.1 million, without any restoration included. Once the stabilization portion is complete, it would then take up to \$38 million to fully restore the building for development.

Within this Public Hearing there were concerns brought up about the lack of affordable housing, in which this project could alleviate in the long run. One opinion chimed in, "nothing ventured, nothing gained" regarding some of the risk associated with moving forward on any large project like this.

It is said that the cur-

rent owner fully supports the project and that after stabilization "there would be negotiation to take title to the property for development".

The Public Hearing portion of the meeting wrapped up with the Village Board swiftly moving to approving Resolution 2023-#2: A motion authorizing the Village of Sharon Springs to sponsor the Restore NY Grant application for stabilization of The Adler Hotel.

The regularly scheduled Village Board Meetings are the third Thursday of the month at 6 pm, with the next on February 16th, located in the Community Room at 129 Main Street, Sharon Springs NY 13459. Call (518) 284-2625 for more information.

A Fun Read!



Librarian Ms. JoAnne Fraclick reads about "Snowfolk" to a full house at the Sharon Springs Free Library Reading Group this past Thursday (1/19) at 10 am. Photo by Alexis Pencar.

Finch Named SUNY Athlete of the Week



The SUNY Cobleskill Athletic Department announced today that senior Jordan Finch, East Meredith, N.Y., South Kortright High School, a member of the women's basketball team has been named the Fighting Tiger Athlete-of-the-Week for the week ending Sunday January 22, 2023.

The senior center turned in stellar defensive efforts over the weekend as the Fighting Tigers split a pair of North Atlantic Conference (NAC) home contests during the week defeating the Wildcats of Cazenovia College by an 85-44 margin on Friday then losing to the Wildcats of the SUNY

Polytechnic Institute on Saturday 48-40 to move to 11-8 overall on the season with a 7-2 record in conference play.

For the weekend the South Kortright High School alumnus averaged: 6.0 points, 5.5 rebounds, 2.0 blocked shots and 1.0 assists per game while connected on

50.0% of her shot attempts hitting on 6-of-12 shots from the field.

Overall on the season the East Meredith, N.Y. native is averaging: 6.3 points, 4.4 rebounds, 1.3 blocked shots, and 1.1 assists per game in 19 games while connecting on 48-of-114 shots from

the field, 42.1%, and 23-of-30 free throw attempts, 76.7%.

The Fighting Tigers will next be in action on Saturday January 28 when they travel to Delhi, N.Y. for a NAC game versus the host Broncos of SUNY Delhi with tip-off at 1:00 p.m.

SUNY Cobleskill Fighting Tiger Weekly Recap

The SUNY Cobleskill men's basketball team split a pair of North Atlantic Conference (NAC) home contests over the weekend defeating the Wildcats of Cazenovia College 63-62 on Friday evening prior to losing to the Wildcats of the SUNY Polytechnic Institute on Saturday by a 72-61 to move to 15-4 overall including a 6-3 record in NAC action. First-year swingman Jeremy Rosario, Colonie, N.Y., Colonie High School, led the Fighting Tiger attack

averaging 14.5 points, 5.0 rebounds and 1.5 assists during the homestand.

The Fighting Tiger women's basketball team split a pair of NAC home games over the weekend defeating the Wildcats of Cazenovia College by an 85-44 margin on Friday then losing to the Wildcats of the SUNY Polytechnic Institute on Saturday 48-40 to move to 11-8 overall on the season with a 7-2 record in conference play. First-year center/forward Emi-

ly Satterday, Latham, N.Y., Shaker High School, averaged 12.0 points, 17.0 rebounds and 1.0 blocked shots per game including a 24-rebound effort versus SUNY Polytechnic on Saturday, UPCOMING HOME CONTESTS:

Men's Basketball vs. Northern Vermont University-Johnson 2/10, SUNY Canton 2/11

Women's Basketball vs. Northern Vermont University-Johnson 2/10, SUNY Canton 2/11

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