



The Mountain Eagle

Serving Schoharie, Delaware, Greene and Northern Ulster Counties

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\$1.00

Supply Chain Issues Delay DelCo Solid Waste Project Catskill Mountain Scenic Byway to Expand

By Mary A. Crisafulli

DELHI - National supply chain issues have delayed the shipment of an underground storage tank for the Delaware County Solid Waste Management facility, Commissioner Susan McIntyre reported at a Department of Public Works (DPW) committee meeting on Jan. 4.

The storage tank is a required part of the development of a new landfill cell to be called 4S. The project, which will expand landfill capacity and extend the facility's life for another 40 to 60 years, includes establishment of cell 4S and redevelopment of cell 1. Underground storage tanks prevent hazardous substances such as petroleum from seeping into the soil and groundwater.

Installation of the storage

tank was set for the end of September, but was delayed for a second time, said McIntyre. The tank installation is now tentatively set for Jan. 11. Prior to mobilizing units to prep for delivery, McIntyre said verification the tank is in route is required. "The majority of the site is prepped," she added. The central hole where the tank will be installed needs to be dug out, said McIntyre.

The double-walled fiberglass tank measures approximately eight feet by twelve feet, replacing a steel tank from 1990. The original tank is not leaking, but the integrity is questionable as steel corrodes over time, McIntyre reported. When analyzing pricing, which was done prior to the pandemic, steel and fiberglass were comparable, she said.

Fiberglass was chosen for its longevity, McIntyre added. When consulting with gas station representatives, she said they chose fiberglass for tanks.

In another discussion, McIntyre said the Catskill Mountain Scenic Byway members are pursuing expansion opportunities. Representatives have requested access crossing County Route 38 in Middletown. A resolution from the Middletown council states the town supports and agrees to participate in cooperative development of an expansion. The proposed extension will run along State Route 30 from the town's boundary with Andes north to the Roxbury border, along the entirety of County Route 38, and along State Route 23. It is unclear how the project will affect county

maintenance of the roadway, McIntyre explained. In an initial review, she continued, it does not appear to interfere with county maintenance efforts. If supervisors agree, it will permit byway members to erect signage.

In another discussion, McIntyre provided an update on the new DPW construction projects in Delhi, Bloomville, and Walton. The Delhi facility, which will house administrative offices for DPW and planning department staff on Main Street, is in the final stages of internal work, she said. Once the flooring and the last sections of sheetrock have been installed, fiber connections for internet and phone services can be established. The county Information and Technology department has requested

all work that will create dust be completed before fiber installation. Delhi Telephone company will then connect telephone service, permitting the elevator and door locks to function, said McIntyre. According to state code, the elevator must have an emergency call button to operate, she said. Exterior work pending includes landscaping and other small items.

Steel for the walls of the Bloomville facility, which will become a highway patrol building, is going up this week. The site will also house a salt shed - which is already constructed - and two specialty shops, including a sign shop and guide rail fabrication.

On Neal Road in Walton, plumbing is being installed for the heavy equipment maintenance shop. Once

the plumbing is complete, the block walls can go up, said McIntyre. Steel footers have been installed, she added.

In other business:

- The ten-year contract with New York City for road maintenance is in the final stages of completion, McIntyre reported.

- Committee members celebrated McIntyre's last day in the office before her retirement. McIntyre is on the books as a consultant until the end of February. She requested her email account remain active until that time to assist with the transition for the new commissioner, James Thomas, which the committee agreed was beneficial.

The next DPW committee meeting is scheduled Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 8:45 a.m.

Stamford Residents Win Holiday Decorating Contest

The Stamford Business Alliance and the Holiday Decorating Committee are thrilled to announce the winners of this year's Holiday Decorating Contest!

Residential Category: Sponsors for this category are the Stamford Market (\$200), and ACE Hardware with (\$100).

1st Place: William O'Keefe, 4 Prospect Street. \$150

It's a Dogs World with our first place winner. An abundance of lights illuminated the many (many!) dogs on display, with dog treats, a flying santa with moving propellers, and a chorus of holiday music sung by our furry friends over the speaker system. Not only was this display bright and cheerful, it had heart.

2nd Place: Priscilla Little, 7 Lake Street. \$100

This stately home wowed the judges with its classic appeal. Elegant with its creamy white lights, there is no denying the magic of a traditional Colonial home in full holiday splendor.

3rd Place: Derek Brian 40 River St. \$50

A cheerful display awash with multicolored lights, we loved how thoroughly this home is decorated. With the lights high up in the trees framing the home, 2

(!) full size christmas trees in the yard, and the house itself being lit like an ornament, this entry brought a huge smile to our faces.

Business Category: Sponsor for this category is the Margaretville Telephone Company, (\$300) donation to charity of the winners choice (\$100 per winner).

1st Place: John's Tavern 87 Main Street

Warm and filled with life, John's display literally poured out of the storefront and onto the surrounding area. The window displays were a mix of antique treasures, shout outs to holiday movie classics, and tiny depictions of Stamford. Then the lights reached up, around and everywhere. Upper windows were framed in lights while a riotous Polar Bear stomped across the roof, a little red candy canes reflected off the snow a little away from the building while twinkling lights led you to their front door. Ella Fitzgerald could be heard crooning holiday music while patrons laughed inside. John's was both enthusiastic and welcoming. John's Donated their winnings to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

2nd Place: C.O.R.E. Values 112 Main Street

Please visit this business and check out its beautiful

display. Two trees in the window display are dressed with roses and white lights, while the rest of the display is washed in blue, a vision at night this judge won't forget. Perfect gifts and holiday decorations perch on shelves wrapped with a black and gold oak leaf pattern, adding detail to the smallest of places. CORE will be selecting their charity shortly.

3rd Place: Stamford Wellness Center 67 Main Street

Working within a confined space, this business took the time to add small, personal touches to their display. Step in to see the figurines that line the window, or enjoy the colorful lights and traditional red bows as you drive by. A local charity, the Stamford Wellness Center chose to donate their proceeds to themselves, so they may continue to provide support for our local community.

The Holiday Decorating Committee would like to thank all who participated this year, regardless if you signed up or enjoyed it as a spectator, we all shared in the magic of the Holiday Season together. Happy New Year.

Love,
The Holiday Decorating Committee and The Stamford NY Business Alliance.

Sheriff Celebrates Graduation and Certification

KINGSTON - On December 21st Sheriff Craig DuMond, Undersheriff Kim Smith and Major John Deleo attended the Graduation Ceremony of the 72nd Session of the Ulster County Law Enforcement Training Group (UCLETG) to celebrate the Municipal Police Training Council (MPTC) certification of the newest Delaware County Deputy Sheriff, Brenden Cairns.

The UCLETG Academy began their Phase 1 training on August 1st, 2022 and culminated their Phase 2 training with a beautiful certification/graduation ceremony at The Chateau event venue on December 21st. Thirty-one new police officers, their families and varying members of their law enforcement agencies attended the ceremony.

Deputy Cairns served as a Squad Leader during the entirety of the 72nd Session and in addition, he was awarded an academic award for his outstanding academic achievements during the entirety of the Phase 1/Phase 2 training.

Speaking on the graduation, Sheriff DuMond states "Deputy Cairns personifies the high standards set by the Delaware County Sheriff's Office where Honor, Pride and Integrity are not just a motto, but the moral code by which we



lead."

We commend Deputy Cairns for his outstanding effort and commitment to excellence, and we are in-

credibly proud to announce his addition to our Road Patrol Division, where he has already begun his field training.

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Obituaries

Lyle Robert Chastaine



Lyle Robert Chastaine of Stamford, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend, passed away on Monday, December 26, 2022 surrounded by his family.

Lyle was born on January 4, 1950, in Brooklyn and moved with his family to North Babylon, Long Island in 1961. After graduating from high school, he attended St. Bonaventure University and received a Bachelor of Science in 1971. Thereafter, he received a Master of Arts in Teaching from Colgate University in 1972.

Following his graduation from Colgate, he taught Biology in Schoharie Central School. While teaching, he attended the State University of New York at Albany

and received a Master of Library Science in 1975. In 1977, he began working as a librarian in Middleburgh Central High School, where he worked until his retirement in 2010.

In 1972, he married his wife Claire (née Charlton), the love of his life, and soon after settled in Stamford where they raised their son, Lyle Andrew.

In addition to spending time with his family and friends, Lyle was an avid reader, bird watcher and lover of Notre Dame football and political discourse. As a young man, he enjoyed spending summers digging for clams in the Great South Bay off Long Island. Lyle was a devoted member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Stamford and served on the parish council. He was also involved in many community activities, such as volunteering at Core Values in Stamford, where he served on the Board, and serving on the Board of Stamford Library.

Lyle is survived by his beloved wife, Claire, of fifty years; his son and

daughter-in-law, Lyle Andrew and Kathleen of Larchmont; one cherished grandson, Lyle Augustus, and two surrogate grandsons, Liam and Cole Seeley of Davenport. He is also survived by his sister, Denise Chastaine of West Islip, and a cousin, Joan Goeller of Staten Island. Lyle was preceded in death by his father and mother, Lyle Walter and Edna Chastaine.

Relatives and friends may call on the family from 3 to 6 pm, Monday, January 2, 2023 at MacArthur Funeral Home, 15 Buntline Drive, Stamford. A Mass will be celebrated at 2 pm, Tuesday, January 3, 2023, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 27 Harper Street, Stamford.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Doctors Without Borders (<https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/>), World Central Kitchen (<https://wck.org/>) or Bassett Healthcare Network (<https://www.friendsofbassett.org/>).

For an online message of sympathy go to www.macarthurfh.com

Richard "Dick" Sutton



Richard "Dick" Sutton, 99, of Stamford passed away on Thursday evening, December 22, 2022, at O'Connor Hospital, Delhi.

Dick was born on July 27, 1923, in Grand Gorge, he was the son of the late Frank and Lucille Sutton.

He joined the Civilian Conservation Cor at the young age of 16. In May 1943 at the age of 18, he enlisted in the US Army, serving his country during WWII, stationed in Central Europe, Normandy, Northern France and Rhineland Germany, when he was honorably discharged from the Army in December 1945, he had served in 4 campaigns and honored 4 decorations and citations. He was a member of the Grand Gorge American Legion.

Dick worked for the D&H Railroad before and following his military service, he also worked road construction in the Binghamton area driving truck.

In 1948 he married Edna (Louise) Clark of Grand Gorge.

Dick moved his family to Putnam Valley in 1958, where he worked as superintendent on a 3000-acre estate solely preserved for wildlife. Along

side four other officers, Dick volunteered his time as a special conservation officer for 12 years.

Moving to Stamford in 1965, he worked for Delair Enterprises, owned by William Murphy, maintaining the estate and horse farm for 17 years.

Dick worked at Stamford Community Hospital as maintenance Engineer. He was athletic groundskeeper for Archibald Field and the school playing fields as well as custodian for the basketball games for 17 years. Richard also served as crossing guard for the village.

In 1982 Dick married Kathleen Kendall of Stamford.

Dick was an active member of the Stamford Fire Department. He was a founding member and assisted in the organizations of the Emergency Squad, serving as Captain. He also served as a Delaware County Fire Coordinator for 7 years, was a first aid instructor and continued to teach EMT courses for NY State.

His greatest passion was the love and respect of nature, being and avid hunter and passion his knowledge down to his sons and they became to share in the same love as they lived by example.

He was a self-taught photographer and enjoyed taking photos of animals in their nature habitat, birds, scenery and was often the family photographer. His photos can be seen throughout the area in magazines, including a prize-winning photo displayed at Epcot Center in Flori-

da.

In his later years, Dick would sit quietly on his deck watching the animals come and go, listening to the birds and feel the warm sun on his face. He was a true outdoorsman in many ways.

Besides his parents, Dick was predeceased by two children: April and David; and a sister: Mary Sutton Dawson.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years: Kathy (Kendall) Sutton; children: Richard L. (Ro) Sutton of Stamford, Mark (Roxanne) Sutton of West Monroe, Holly (John) Hewitt of Bloomville, and Josh (Leann) Sutton of Jefferson; brother: Chester Sutton of Old Hickory, TN; sister: Rose Sutton Huestis of Hartwick; seven grandchildren: Rich, Jennifer, Becky, Renee, Bob, Johnathan and Madison; and five great-grandchildren.

Friends and relatives are invited to call on the family from 10-12AM on Saturday, January 7, 2022 at the MacArthur Funeral Home, 15 Buntline Drive, Stamford, where a celebration of life and full military honors will be held at 12Noon with the Rev. Dottie Morris. Burial will take place in the spring at Stamford Cemetery.

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



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Desserts and Diaries at DCHA

January 28, 2023

(snow date Feb. 4)

Chase away the winter blahs!

Visit the Delaware County Historical Association (DCHA) on Saturday afternoon, January 28th for an afternoon of sundry and delectable delights. At 2 pm members of the museum staff will begin reading from a variety of historic diaries and narratives – all drawn from the museum's collections. While guests relax and listen to the readings, enjoy an array of sumptuous desserts. Tea and coffee will also be served.

Excerpts that will be presented include those from the diaries of Uriah Edwards (travels through Delaware County), Joseph Ells (Harpersfield), Fannie Riggs (Meridale) and Charles Bennett (Franklin). Additional journals, newspaper articles



and letters will introduce audience members to the lives of William Woodhouse (Delhi) and the Knapps (Meredith). Plus more!

WARNING: This event is not recommended for those embarking on a New Year's weight loss regimen! However, it is recommended for those looking to spend an afternoon having fun while

learning more about our ancestors who once lived in Delaware County. To enjoy this delectable and – dare we say it, decadent – afternoon, please reserve your space by January 26.

Cost: \$10.00 per person. Call DCHA at 607-746-3849 or e-mail dcha@delhi.net to reserve or for more information.

One of A Kind!



At the Antique Knot at 74 Main Street in Stamford is an Ardabil carpet. It's a famous and well known Persian carpet - the largest one known to exist is in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London (34 x 17 feet). There's an inscription on it that reads "I have no refuge in the world other than thy threshold. There is no protection for my head other than this door. The work of the servant of the threshold Maqsd of Kashan in the year 946."

The rug is a copy of the original. Many copies were made to fit commercial sizes and homes, but that doesn't mean it's not a unique piece on its own.

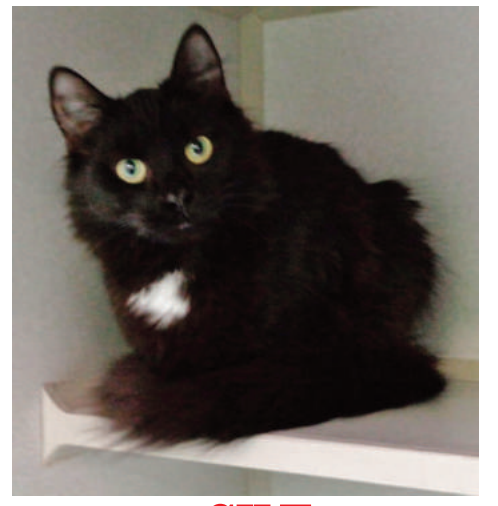
The Antique Knot's is at least 100 years old and looks stunning after the cleaning the team gave it. It's huge too - people's eyes gravitate to it because it's so huge in the gallery (15'10" long x 11' wide). It's also worth noting that the Office of the British Prime Minister also has an Ardabil carpet, as did Adolf Hitler had one in his office in Berlin.

Adopt a Local Pet!



CLOUD

Has one blue eye and one brown eye. That is not only distinctive, but thought of as good luck. Along with this, he's an active puppyish male dog who is smart, takes commands (sit, down, and come) but needs more house training. Good with other dogs, plays fetch but also still chews on things he shouldn't. So when he's home alone, crate him. Teenagers would love him, and like them he loves treats and car rides. He can be fostered or adopted. Call 607-746-3080



SILT

SILT entered the shelter on November 19, 2022 when she was about 1 year old. Silt is black with a big fluffy white patch on her neck. She's a sweet little girl.



Nappi Tile & Marble
10700 State Hwy 23 Suite 2
Oneonta NY 13820
607-278-6411

HELP WANTED

The Town of Jewett Highway Department is accepting applications for full time employment. Great benefits (100% Health Insurance), NYSLRS, Paid Vacation, Personal and Sick Time, Most Holidays Observed. CDL REQUIRED. Applications may be obtained at the Town of Jewett Town Clerks office Monday thru Thursday between 10:30am and 2:30pm.

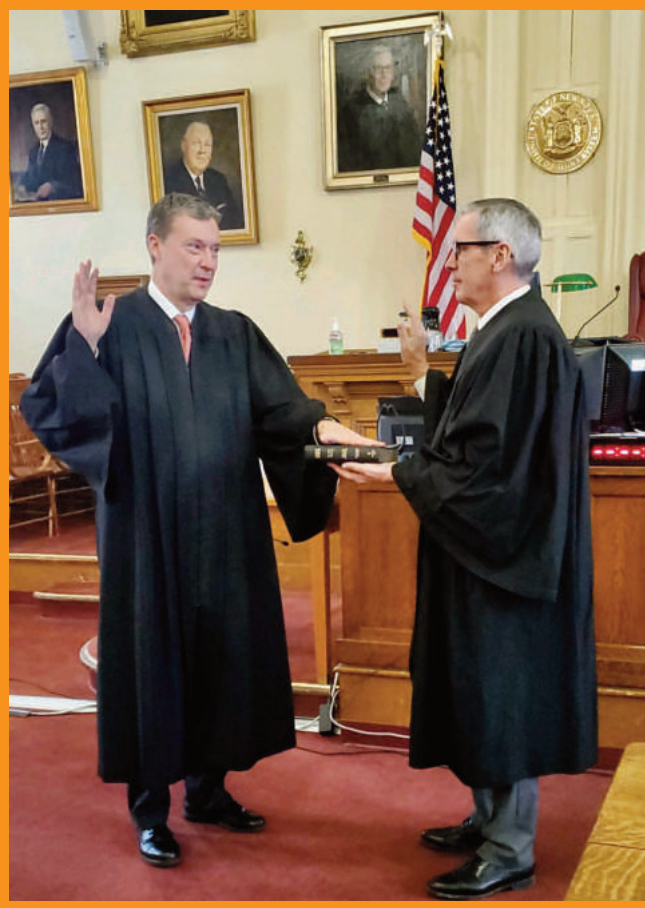
Roxbury Fire Department

Chicken BBQ
Saturday, Jan. 14

Halves Only
11 a.m.
until
sold out
\$8.00 per half



His Honor



Outgoing Delaware County District Attorney John Hubbard was sworn in by the former Delaware County Court Judge, the Hon. Richard J. Northrup, Jr. Retired this week as the new County Judge of Delaware County.

Sworn In



The new Acting District Attorney, Shawn Smith, was sworn in by outgoing DA John Hubbard, who separately took the oath of office as County Judge this week.

Deer Hits And How To End Them

By Kirby Olson

My teenaged son drove the van at 70 mph on the empty highway between Scranton and Carbondale. My wife was napping in the shotgun seat. I was in the back reading George Orwell's essay, "Politics and the English Language." I was rereading a sentence, "Never use the passive where you can use the active" (122).

WHAM! I looked up. "It was a deer," my son said.

We limped into a gas station. I looked at the damage in the twilight. I had already hit three deer and a dog on the front right corner over the previous year. This time the metal was bent back, and the front right headlight obliterated. The tires were good, and the engine still worked. Home, in the western Catskills, was still an hour away. We were on an obscure "highway" in northeastern Pennsylvania. The road was paved but looked like a sidewalk through the forest. My son called his friend and bragged.

"I smashed the car!" He whispered.

I took a deep breath. I drove up other deer paths that claimed to be highways on Google. It was right after the Thanksgiving feast with family down in Maryland. My extended family remained

in a radiant house on the Maryland shore with a lighthouse on the horizon. They were eating cheesecake and sprinkling party flakes on their dessert while dancing Irish jigs. They were watching Dancing with the Stars.

My wife said, "The car engine has overheated." The needle was clear to the right. I pulled over and called Triple A in a town called Preston Park.

We were parked before a sign that said, "You are now entering Preston Park." There were no lights anywhere. Preston Park was a town? Two hours later, we got a truck and driver. The driver said that due to the deer mating at that time it is the same high accident rate every year. The driver began to talk of his bowling league, his girlfriend, and how rarely he sees his little boy because he's always on the road in November helping out be-

leaguered drivers whose cars were turned into accordions by deer. He himself had hit a deer earlier that day. He talked grumpily about the scratches on his paint. Negotiations with insurance companies, banks, garages, began the following morning after we were towed to Hancock, Pennsylvania. We then got a taxi home. A lot of people were in-

involved. There were banks to call, and insurance companies, and tow trucks and mechanics and appraisers. Everyone called it a "deer hit." We got 2200 from the insurance company for repairs. A new car was possible, but we still owed 4800 on the van, and a new car would stretch our budget. We got it repaired, and the car was working again. I should have cashed the Honda van with 200,000 miles in, in retrospect, as the internal injuries to the car were too great to sustain.

In the accident, the deer had broken the radiator in half. There are a million and a half deer accidents in the US every year. This was the season, and everyone was super busy dealing with the collateral damage of hunting season.

Now my thinking led me to want to erase all deer from the American landscape. I wanted peace, and that might mean the erasure of deer. They were bags of meat that couldn't stay off the roads. What good were deer? They spread Lyme Disease. I imagined myself as the president sending helicopter gunships over rural America to erase deer as a species.

The chance encounter of a deer and an automobile on the dissecting table

of a rural highway had a sense of humor in it, but I wasn't certain that everyone could catch the double-entendre on "game" when I muttered, "Game over." I was more and more sure about the helicopter gunship scenario, because if the herds were thinned, there would be less damage to American motorists. At present, there are about 1.5 million accidents involving deer every year. I kept going over this fact that I had gleaned from my cell-phone while waiting for the tow truck. The highest rate is in Pennsylvania. It didn't say why, but it's the tiny roads and also the hunters chasing the deer in November. Hunters would be mad they couldn't shoot the deer themselves, as they are so proud of killing their autumn meat, and I knew they would be hardest to convince of the helicopter gunship scenario. I rehearsed my arguments. We should take a pro-active approach to clearing the roads. About 200 Americans die every year from these terrorists. In order to keep our children from flying through windshields to the sound of shattering glass, there is one thing we must do. We must stop the madness with helicopter gunships.

Orwell, George. "Politics and the English Lan-

guage." In WHY I WRITE (New York: Penguin, 1984).

Delaware League Standings

Delaware League Varsity Boys Basketball (8 games)

Margaretville	1-0	7-0
SKCS	1-0	8-1
Davenport	1-0	8-1
Gilboa	1-0	4-2
Downsville	0-0	3-5
Jefferson/Stamford	0-0	1-7
HTC	0-1	3-2
Roxbury	0-1	0-6
Windham	0-2	1-5

Delaware League Varsity Girls Basketball (8 games)

SKCS	1-0	7-3
HTC	1-0	4-2
Davenport	1-0	5-3
Windham	1-0	3-2
Stamford/Jefferson	1-0	5-4
Downsville	0-1	2-7
Roxbury	0-1	1-4
Gilboa	0-1	0-6
Margaretville	0-2	1-9

Delaware League JV Boys Basketball (5 games)

Margaretville	0-0	3-1
Gilboa	0-0	2-1
SKCS	0-0	4-3
Jefferson/Stamford	0-0	4-4
Davenport	0-0	3-4
Downsville	0-0	1-3

Delaware League JV Girls Basketball (4 games)

Davenport	0-0	10-0
HTC	0-0	1-1
Stamford/Jefferson	0-0	3-6

Delhi Man Arrested on Bench Warrant

SIDNEY - Sheriff Craig S. DuMond announced the arrest of 30-year-old Michael Vogel of Delhi.

On the afternoon of December 27th, 2022 Delaware County Sheriff's Deputies were contacted by members of the Village of Sidney Police Department who stated that Michael Vogel contacted their office and

was willing to surrender himself in for his active Warrants.

Deputies contacted Vogel, who later surrendered himself to Deputies at the Village of Sidney Police Department. Vogel, was subsequently arrested for an active Bench Warrant out of the Town of Sidney for failure to appear.

Vogel was arraigned on the active Bench Warrant, in the Town of Sidney Court where he was released on his own recog-

nizance, directing him to appear in court at a later date to answer for said charges.

HELP WANTED

Roxbury Central School has the following opening:

Network Specialist/IT Coordinator

RCS is seeking a Network Specialist/IT Coordinator. Full-time, 12-month, competitive civil service position. Candidates must meet minimum Civil Service qualifications & successfully complete the exam.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to: Maintaining Windows server domain, Google Edu+ domain & Cisco Networking infrastructure; Installation of hardware/software & diagnosing hardware/software issues; Training users on new software/equipment; IT Budget planning & preparation; Upkeep of inventory & management of Windows computers, Chromebooks & state mandates for apps/software; maintaining & updating phone system. Please send a letter of interest and resume by 1/31/23 to:

Dr. Joanne Shelmidine, Interim Superintendent
ROXBURY CENTRAL SCHOOL
53729 State Hwy. 30
Roxbury, NY 12474
EOE

HELP WANTED

Roxbury Central School has the following immediate vacancies:

Certified School Counselor
Certified School Psychologist
Certified School Social Worker

Applications may be submitted online at www.olasjobs.org, or in writing by 1/31/23 to:

Dr. Joanne Shelmidine, Interim Superintendent
ROXBURY CENTRAL SCHOOL
53729 State Hwy. 30
Roxbury, NY 12474
EOE



Letters to the Editor

Time to Hit the Brakes

When it comes to wind and solar, in the eyes of out of state landowners and developers Schoharie is "divide and conquer" territory. Each town is a separate target with limited resources to push off an assault. Until the permitting process begins, or the Journal or the Eagle can give us some advance notice, most of us are not aware of what is being pursued. A good example is the 20 meg solar project that, right now, is being proposed in Carlisle. There is no centralized facility for data collection that can provide a countywide overview of projects that are being proposed, engaged in the permitting process, completed, and/or abandoned. The development of renewables is pernicious and incremental and one day, after it's too late, we're going to look around and be not too happy with what we see. We need to be able to see the big picture. The county might want to look into the data collection and reporting issue but based on the county's government structure, that's all that it can do. For that same reason the county can not place an acreage cap the aggregate amount of land that can be used for wind and solar. Each one of our 16 towns needs to limit how many acres, maximum, they are willing to permit for renewable energy development. This may not stop the process but, it will certainly add another hurdle to developers. Residents should make it a point to attend their town meetings to make this point.

Now to get to the point. We depend on consistent, reliable baseload power, this is what is currently produced by fossil, nuclear, and hydro and lights our homes. Without adequate storage, something which does not exist yet and nobody is talking about, renewables are not going to replace this baseload power or do what the greens and politicians claim they will. The decommissioning of fossil power, development of renewables, and storage all must be parts of a balanced program, and it's not happening. What you are seeing is a subsidy bonanza for developers and a corresponding donation foodfest for the ruling party in Albany. As all of this has been going on, there have been some

serious, and credible, advances in the development of nuclear fusion which is capable of replacing all of our fossil energy without any carbon emissions <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/what-the-fusion-energy-breakthrough-really-means/ar-AA15n4UG>. This is a major breakthrough, and the optimistic outlook is that this can be both scalable and commercialized by 2030 but let's just say it takes another 10 years to really get things going. Just think how digital photography went from concept to being in everyone's pocket in a few short years. Same thing for electric vehicles, that went from concept and prototypes to mass production in less than 10 years. Overnight fusion is going to make all these solar and wind installations obsolete and losing propositions that developers are going to want to walk away from with the high probability that we are going to be left to clean up the mess. We need to put the brakes on wind and solar for a few years until we see where, and how, storage and fusion fit into the equation.

Ted Werner
Fulton

An Open Letter to the County Board

To Mr. Federice and Schoharie County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express my deep disappointment at your recent vote not to renew Dr. Amy Gildemeister's contract as Schoharie County Public Health Director, and to encourage you to revisit this decision.

The Schoharie County Board of Health (BOH) has unanimously voted to renew the contract. Was the confidence placed in her by this group of medical and public health professionals not enough to convince you that her contract should be renewed another 6 years? Are you better judges of her capabilities than Drs. Strasser, Korn, and Eckel, and health care experts Ms. Wollaber and Ms. Post? Have you served as Public Health Director as Mr. Stefanik has, or been as long term a member of the BOH as Mr. Skowfoe has been?

Do you realize the effect this decision has on the staff being able to function day to day? There are cur-

rently no RN's in the department, and without Dr. Amy, there will be no Senior management at the local level for problem-solving, hiring, and supervisory decision-making. From the NYS Department of health perspective, this is a serious matter, and could cause the local department to temporarily close.

Show me where Dr. Gildemeister has violated any of the NYS Dept of Health policies or regulations, especially during the recent and continuing pandemic, and I can assure you that if that had truly happened, the State would have sanctioned not only her, but the entire local Department, and you would have immediately been made aware of it. She is completely dedicated to this County and to the health and safety of its residents.

It has been my privilege to have worked in Schoharie County for about 46 years in many capacities, as a supervising RN, and also part of a staff of nurses being supervised by Master's or PhD-educated Health care providers. One important lesson I learned early on was that everyone's leadership style is different, but as long as they know the job and are good at it, get out of their way and let them do it.

Thank you for your serious attention to this unfortunate matter.

Kathleen J. Slater, RN,
BSN
Central Bridge

Thank You

As we leave 2022 behind and go racing into 2023 we at Middleburgh EMS would like to take the time to express the gratitude we felt for the support we have received from everyone. We asked for help and you all showed up. We would like to Thank each and everyone one of you that showed up for the meetings, sent letters and called. We just want to let everyone know we now have our contract signed by all the Towns we serve and are looking forward to 2023. Thank you all.

Members of Middleburgh
EMS

Civics 101

Happy New Year to all our Mountain Eagle readers. When you read this letter, it is on the anniversary of Jan 6th, 2021 - the day that will be remembered in history for years.

The current trend in our country is to erase our past, change our Values and Morals - condemn those

who believe that open discussions are the foundation of our Rights and Freedoms. Our Government is out-of-control in spending coupled with no oversight, fraud and mismanagement, runaway inflation, insurmountable rising debt and entitlements. An invasion of illegal immigration in violation of our laws.

I would like you all to actually 'read' our Founding Fathers Declaration of Independence and analyze what these few profound words actually meant.

The Declaration and the Constitution are America's founding documents. The broad language of the Constitution is illuminated by the principles set forth in the Declaration.

The "Declaration" is where the Founders outlined their moral vision and the government it implied.

Below are four excerpts from the most famous passage in our Dec of Ind.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

"SELF-EVIDENT" truths invoke the long tradition of natural law, which holds that there is a "higher law" of right and wrong from which to derive human law and against which to criticize that law at any time. It is not political will, then, but moral reasoning accessible to all, that is the foundation of our political system.

"That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,..."

We are all created equal, as defined by our natural rights; thus no one has rights superior to those of anyone else. Moreover, we are born with those rights, we do not get them from government - indeed, whatever rights or powers government has come from us, from "the consent of the governed"

Drawing by implication upon the common law tradition of liberty, property, and contract - its principals rooted in "Right Reason"-the Founders thus outlined the moral foundations of a free society.

"-That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government,..."

Knowing what had transpired, our Founders were aware that governments can in time become overbearing

and usurp the power of "We the People", therefore, as a reminder for future generations the above and below phrases were included.

"But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security."

Question: Was January 6th, 2021, saying that our government has become out of control of their responsibilities, duties, obligations - "destructive and failed us" - therefore, it is time to alter it???? Was this just the beginning of a people's revolt???

In closing, I would like to leave you with two quotes:

Samuel Adams: "To have a villainous "ruler" imposed on you was a misfortune; however, to electone yourself was a disgrace."

Alexander Hamilton: "If it be asked, what is the most sacred duty and the greatest source of our security in a Republic? The answer would be, an inviolable respect for the Constitution and Laws."

God Bless our Republic - a beacon of Freedom for all.

Richard Rossi
Denver, NY

CritoMarxist

These socialists suck up all the wealth and property that capitalism has to offer. Yet they want to change the system. All systems are corrupt - run by humans.

Usse 100 Questions and Answers states that there are three classes: elite, intelligentsia, and the proletariat. Classless?

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures...The Critomarxist claim democracy but violate the Fourth Amendment. An example is the Red Flag Law, without being charged with a crime your firearms are confiscated. Another example comes from Doctor Zhivago (which was banned by Stalin) where his home was turned into family units. Socialists are starting with hotels. Question will they turn over their mansions to be converted into family units? Will the wealthy socialist spread their money for equity? Turn over their papers (tax returns)?

Maybe Americans must first feel the pain that Nien Chens endured for being associated with capitalism in Mao's China (Life and Death in Shanghai). She spend 6 years in prison and the death of her daughter.

Walt Janczak
Sloansville

SCDC Supports Gildemeister

The Schoharie County Democratic Committee (SCDC) strongly condemns the method by which the Board of Supervisors voted on the renewal of contract for the Director of Public Health in Schoharie County and urges the Board of Supervisors to reconsider the matter at their January 3, 2023 reorganizational meeting.

Using procedural tactics and in direct contradiction to the unanimous approval of the Board of Health, which has hiring authority over the position, nine Su

Letters Continue on D1

Treadwell Man Arrested for Traffic Violation

DELHI - Sheriff Craig S. DuMond announced the arrest of 68-year-old Jeffrey P. Hall of Treadwell, NY.

On the afternoon of January 2nd 2023, Sheriff's Deputies observed a vehicle fail to obey a traffic control device while traveling on Meredith Street in the Village of Delhi. Deputies conducted a traffic stop and identified the driver as Jeffrey Hall of Treadwell, NY. A check of the vehicle's registration revealed it to be suspended due to an insurance lapse. A check of Hall's New York State driver's license revealed that his driving privileges were revoked in the State of New York.

Deputies then arrested and issued Hall Uniformed Traffic Tickets for Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle in the Third Degree, operating a Motor Vehicle While Registration is Suspended, both Unclassified Misdemeanors of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law. Hall was additionally issued tickets for Unlicensed Operator and Failure to Obey a Traffic Control Device, both Violations of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law.

Hall was released on tickets and is scheduled to appear before the Town of Delhi Court at a later date to answer the charges.

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MEVAC, Town Agree to One-Year Deal

By David Avitabile
MIDDLEBURGH - After months of discussions and negotiations, Middleburgh town board members Thursday approved a one-year contract with a five percent increase for services. There was no provision for monthly fees that had been the sticking point in the talks between the two sides.

Town board members held their year-end meeting Thursday with numerous residents extolling the virtues and good work of the ambulance squad. Board members then went into executive session with MEVAC officials to discuss a new contract. The current deal runs out this month.

When they returned to regular session, Councilman John Youmans made a motion, that was seconded by Councilman Pete Coppolo, to move forward with a one-year contract with MEVAC with a five percent increase for services, which had been included in the town's 2023 budget. All

four board members attending the meeting voted in favor and Councilwoman Carrie Shaul was absent.

Councilman Coppolo said he "would never vote for anything that meant losing MEVAC."

The two sides will have to negotiate again at the end of this year. Prior contracts had been for two years.

Since the summer, the two sides have been going back and forth on monthly fees for the community center which houses the squad. During the summer, Supervisor Wes Laraway asked that the squad pay \$800 per month for expenses for the community to cover fuel, electrical, and other costs. MEVAC officials then countered with an offer of \$200 per month, to which the town counter-offered \$500 a month. In November, the town approved a budget that included an increase in funding for MEVAC from \$38,288 to \$40,202. All the other towns that MEVAC serves, Broome, Fulton,

and Blenheim had previously approved new contracts with the squad.

Before the vote, speaker after speaker last week expressed their love of the squad and the work of the members and urged the board to rethink their position on charging MEVAC.

"Think long and hard as a board on how to remedy the situation," said Joyce Hodder of Breakabeen.

Bob Mohlebrook of Broome, a volunteer in his town, said MEVAC had a great crew.

"I can't see pushing the bills to the ambulance corps. They have problems of their own."

Former MEVAC volunteer Jackie Guntert said

she was "dismayed and discouraged" with the board's actions.

The squad is on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, she noted. MEVAC originally built its own meeting room "with our own funds," at the town highway garage.

"I find it so discouraging how this corps is being treated by the Town of Middleburgh," she added.

Former town Supervisor Jim Buzon noted that the squad is hit by inflation and fuel cost hikes like everyone else.

"If MEVAC can't afford to put fuel in their rig next December, what board member is going to jump up and give some money for them?"

MEVAC's Sigrid Wood once again noted that MEVAC gets less funding and covers a bigger area than other ambulance squads in the area.

MEVAC covers 197.6 square miles, 49.3 square miles in the Town of Middleburgh. Squad officials said the town is responsible for 63 percent of the calls and pays 62 percent of the contract.

Councilman Steve Hendrickson noted that the town has one of the smallest coverage areas and "we pay the highest percentage and (have) the shortest distance to travel."

MEVAC's Wes Andrew noted, "We go by the percentage of calls."

Supervisor Laraway

noted, "No one on this board doesn't love MEVAC and what you do. We're not trying to disband or sink MEVAC in any way or form. We're trying to keep you alive."

The town is only asking for in bills what the squad paid for before.

Former Village Mayor Bill Ansel-McCabe said his late mother was a former MEVAC member and had to utilize the services of the squad later in life.

"When my mother was sick, you knew someone was going to come," he said last week.

The town and village need the coverage, he said.

"You rather be over-covered than undercovered."

M'burgh Loses Out on Sewer Plant \$ Village to Re-Apply for \$2.7 Million in Funding

By David Avitabile
MIDDLEBURGH - Antonio Delgado's gain turned out to be Middleburgh's loss.

Just when it looked like the village's 219 sewer district users would be spared paying off \$2.7 million in bonds for the new sewer treatment plant, the United States Congress ended its session in December without approving a grant for the funds.

The village had applied for the grant under then-Congressman Delgado but then Governor Kathy Hochul tapped Congressman Delgado as the new lieutenant governor. Both were re-elected in November and though it remained alive after his promotion, Congress

failed to approve the "earmark" by the end of the year.

The effort is not yet completely dead, said Trustee Tim Knight on Tuesday, but it will not be easy.

"We have to go back to the starting line and reapply," said Trustee Knight, who had been working on the funding for more than a year.

"Throughout the past year, I have been working diligently with my colleagues on the Village Board to secure an earmark to pay off our new Wastewater Treatment Plant," Trustee Knight announced. "Required to fix our existing plant by New York State DEC due to infrastructure decline and flood damage, the

price tag came in at approximately \$5.7 million for this project - with our roughly 219 sewer customers on the hook for paying off \$2.7 million in bonds over the next 30 years.

"I began working on this important earmark request last winter so that we could eliminate such a hefty burden being placed on villagers. Long story short: we got the earmark thanks to former Congressman Antonio Delgado prior to his spring appointment as Lt. Governor, but then we lost it due to the arcane rules of the House of Representatives.

"Even though we elected a new Congressman in August, the House Leadership refused to restore Delgado's earmarks not only for the Village of Middleburgh, but all of New York's 19th District, because there was a vacancy at any point this year - and once a vacancy in office exists, these arcane House rules dictate that no Congressionally Directed Spending can be approved for that district. Despite Congressman Pat Ryan representing us the past four months - and him fighting the House Appropriations Committee to have our funding restored - it

was not included in the final legislative language.

"Needless to say, but I am very disappointed," Trustee Knight added.

"We all worked very, very hard to secure this funding to pay off this vital infrastructure project, so that we could take the next steps forward in expanding sewer to every resident in the village."

The funding is not dead, but much more work lies ahead, he said.

"Despite this dissatisfactory result, we are going to reapply for federal funding next year. Since this project has already been fully vetted and supported by two Congressmen, I am very confident that either Senator Schumer, Senator Gillibrand, or Congresswoman Stefanik will be willing to help us on this.

"I want to thank DPW Superintendent Nicholas Dunscombe and the Village Board for working on this funding request with me. Additionally, I also want to thank both Mr. Delgado and Mr. Ryan for supporting what would have been a \$2.7 million earmark for the Village of Middleburgh. It'll take more time, but I fully believe we will get this approved in the new year."

Valley Briefs

Free Parking in M'burgh Through January 1

MIDDLEBURGH - The parking meters are covered with metal Candy Canes by Rotary members and parking will be free in the Village of Middleburgh from December 1 through January 1, 2023.

Village board members approved the free parking at their November board meeting.

SCS' Bachanas to Retire in June

SCOHARIE - Long-time Schoharie elementary school teacher Melanie Bachanas will be retiring at the end of the school year.

Schoharie school board members accepted her resignation at their November 17 meeting. The retirement takes effect on June 30, 2023.

M'burgh Town to Get \$6K for Community Center Equipment

MIDDLEBURGH - The Town of Middleburgh is getting \$6,000 for much needed equipment at the community center on Cotton Hill Road.

Supervisor Wes Laraway announced at the town board's December meeting that the town will be getting \$6,000 in NYPA grants once it is approved by the county board.

The money will be used to buy pots and pans for the center kitchen and a big screen TV for the center. The town has been seeking funds for three years for the equipment, he said.

SCS Board Remembers Late High School Student

SCOHARIE - Schoharie officials and board members last week recalled a high school student who was killed in an ATV accident the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Superintendent David Blanchard began Thursday's meeting saying that their "thoughts and prayers are with the students and his family."

The student, Connor Summerfield, 17, of Howes Cave, a junior, was also a culinary student at the Schoharie CTE center.

Federice, Vroman to Lead County Again

By Timothy Knight
SCOHARIE - The Schoharie County Board of Supervisors required only one round of balloting to elect its leadership at Tuesday evening's organizational meeting, as Conesville Supervisor Bill Federice was re-elected to a fourth term as Chairman without opposition. Mr. Federice, who was first elected to the top

job in January 2020, received the support of all Republican Supervisors present; he was also backed by Gilboa Supervisor Alicia Terry, a Conservative, and Wright Supervisor Alex Luniewski, an Independent. Summit Supervisor Harold Vroman was also re-elected as Vice-Chairman without opposition.

Story Continues on B2



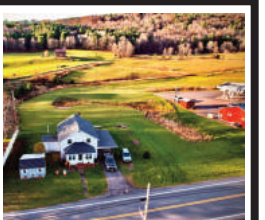
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Federice, Vroman, Continued from B1

Supervisors Phillip Skowfoe of Fulton and Sandra Manko of Sharon, the only elected Democrats on the board, made no nominations for either position, which essentially amounts to a "present" vote. It should be noted that Richmondville Supervisor Jeffrey Haslun joined the two Democrats on the Vice-Chairman vote for the second consecutive election.

In other business, su-

pervisors:

Approved unanimously the appointment of Seward Supervisor Earlin Rosa as a member of the Schoharie County Community Action Program, Inc. (SCCAP) Board of Directors and Esperance Supervisor Earl Van Wormer to serve as a Schoharie County Maple Festival Director. Mr. Haslun was also unanimously appointed to serve on the Schoharie

County Jury Board and the Schoharie County Law Library.

Approved unanimously the designation of the Mountain Eagle and another area publication as official newspapers. They also voted unanimously to appoint new County Administrator Korsah Akumfi as Budget Officer. County Historian Theodore Shuart was reappointed unanimously to his position.

Auto Racing News

By Tom Coughlin

The new year is finally here and with that a variety of events are filling our calendars very fast. Hope that you all had a chance to enjoy the holidays.

The ice racers of the Adirondack Motor Enthusiast Club-A.M.E.C. have listed a tentative 2023 schedule, as always all events are subject to safe ice conditions. It is always entertaining watching the various classes of cars compete as they race on the ever changing surface of the hard water and you never know when one of your favorite dirt or asphalt racers may show up, as Matt Delorenzo and Stephen Denton are regularly involved in this wintertime fun. You can also expect to see everyone's favorite flagman, Joe Kriss. Sunday, January 8 is still listed with a location yet to be determined and with the current weather pattern the odds are against any racing taking place. Sunday, January 15 is Lake Algonquin in Wells, as is Sunday, January 22. Packs Lake near Gloversville will host their first event of 2023 on Sunday, January 29, February 5 will see a return to Lake Algonquin in Wells.

Lake George has a winter festival on the weekend of February 11 & 12.

Warners Lake in East Berne holds their one event on Sunday, February 19. Lake George again has a two day event February 25 & 26, and the current schedule ends on Sunday, March 5 at Peck's Lake. Additional Saturday dates may be added if weather conditions dictate such a move.

Again everything is tentative as minimum ice thickness is required to allow for safe racing and locations can be changed at last minute. For up to date information check their website at www.icerace.com

The Electric City Riders have a few upcoming dates tentatively scheduled. The first event on their 2023 calendar for motorcycle and ATV ice racing will take place at Maple on the Lake at Warner's Lake in East Berne. Racing will take place on Saturday, January 28. The next event is listed for Saturday, February 11 at Sport Island Pub in

Northville on the Great Sacandaga Lake, and then the following weekend of February 18 & 19 is the Lake George Winter Carnival.

The Ranch at Carlisle will host motorcycle and ATV ice racing on Saturday, February 4. The program times are as follows. Gates open at 10:00 am., on-site sign up begins at 11:00, riders meeting at 1:00 pm., practice at 1:15 pm., and racing is scheduled to begin at 2:00 pm. The event is part of the New York State Ice Racing Championship sanctioned by the American Motorcycle Association. The Ranch at Carlisle is located at 442 Lykers Road in Central Bridge, N.Y. 12035.

Up to 20 different classes of motorcycles will compete depending on the number of participants in each division. Bleachers and heating stations will be available for spectators, along with food and beverages. Adult admission is \$15 and children 9 and under are free.

Racer entry fee is \$55 for the first entry and \$40 for each additional entry. For further information call 845-554-8718.

In an effort to help racers improve their off track maintenance program, which will hopefully translate into improved on track performance, Elmo's Speed & Supply of Burnt Hills, N.Y. will host a North East-Chassis Seminar on Saturday, February 25th. at the Polish Community Center located at 225 Washington Avenue, Extension in Albany, N.Y. 12205.

Chris Reckner of Elmo's Speed & Supply has lined up a full day of presentations by some of the top manufacturers in auto racing, thus offering anyone interested the opportunity to gain more knowledge geared toward the North East-Dirt Modified.

With a format of How to Keep it Simple & Tune for Success, Topics to be discussed include Basic Maintenance, Tire and Wheel preparation/ maintenance, Braking for success, Understanding exhaust for performance, Basic shock functions, Basic spring functions, Tuning your shock/spring package. And a question & answer session.

Guest speakers are tentatively scheduled from Bicknell Racing Products, Fox Shocks, Swift Springs, Wilwood Brakes, Gale Force Suspension, Henry's Headers & Exhaust, and Jam Performance.

A light breakfast is included and also lunch. Space is limited, so reserve your ticket now. Registration fee is \$120 per-person or a 5 person package for \$500. For those wishing to stay overnight, reduced lodging rates are available.

Door prizes will include Keizer Wheels, Swift Spring 4 pack, Complete Henry's Crate Exhaust, Mad Skins outer body kit, Complete set of Jam Performance/Fox steel shocks, and more.

To reserve a spot. Please call or text 518-429-4746, Emalcreckner17@gmail.com, or message their facebook page.

The historical & educational annual Gas-Up presented by the Hudson-Mohawk Chapter of the Pioneer Gas Engine Association will be held the weekends of June 10,11 & 17,18, 2023.

Glen Ridge Motorsports Park is tentatively planning to hold a pre-season Spring Fling-Meet & Greet on Sunday, April 23. More information will be coming out shortly.

For the artist out there, here is a little advance notice. Glen Ridge Motorsports Park-Kids Club will host their annual Banner Night on Sunday, July 2. So, start thinking and drafting your ideas. You have plenty of time, but it will be here before you know it and Banner Night has always been a great way for fans to show off their artistic talent and show their favorite driver or drivers support.

The Ridge is also asking that all drivers that would like to be included in a press release relating to their racing team/program to contact them either through the track facebook page or by email at lagrangemedia@yahoo.com. This is for all divisions DIRTcar 358 modified, DIRTcar crate 602 sportsman, Yurkewecz Auto Crushers pro-stock, Limited sportsman, Street Stock, DIRTcar Mini-Stock, Northeast Paving & Sealcoat Sling-shot All-Star & Junior.

All About Racing

By Ed & Betty Biittig

We arrived in Daytona Beach Shores on Sunday, New Year's day and will be settling into our digs and getting some rest. The trip was uneventful but still tiring for us senior citizens.

Next on our racing card will be Volusia Speedway for the Sunshine Nationals, January 18-21 when Northeast Modified young gun, Demitrios Drellos of Queensbury will try his hand at racing with the 602 Late Models for the second time since the close of the Big Block Modified season in the Northeast.

Just the past week, DIRTcar announced a big change in Pro Late Model and 602 Late Model division qualifying for the Sunshine Nationals. The following is the process as it was released by DIRTcar.

Thursday-Friday, Jan. 19-20

Every driver in the DIRTcar Pro Late Model and 602 Late Model divisions will draw at sign-in and be seeded into one of two Hot Lap/Qualifying groups in their respective division. Drivers will qualify against only the other drivers in their group, putting a maximum of eight cars on the track at a time for two timed laps.

Each driver's best time will be used to set that night's Qualifying Feature

lineups, staggered from fastest-to-slowest. The number of Qualifying Features for each division will be determined by car counts.

After Hot Lap/Qualifying, both divisions will then contest their set Qualifying Features - 20 laps, \$1,500-to-win each for Pro Late Models and 15 laps, \$1,000-to-win, for 602 Late Models. Each driver will earn points according to their finish in the Qualifying Features, giving everyone a final points total after the completion of Friday's events.

The top-20 drivers in the standings will be locked into Saturday's Championship Feature, while everyone else will be staggered into a Last Chance Showdown event on Saturday.

Saturday, Jan. 21

A re-draw will take place to set a portion of the Championship Feature lineups within the top-20 cars locked-in via points; the details of which will be explained at Saturday's drivers meeting.

Last Chance Showdown events will take another determined number of cars into the Championship Feature, followed by the addition of provisional starters at officials' discretion. Once the lineups are set, the Pro Late Models will run 30 laps for \$10,000-to-win, while the 602 Late Models will

contest 20 laps for a \$3,000 grand prize.

Every driver who starts at Last Chance Showdown or Feature will earn points toward the overall standings on Saturday, awarding the driver with the most points after the Championship Features with a special trophy as DIRTcar Sunshine Nationals champion of their respective division.

In other recent news from DIRTcar, local Modified star Marc Johnson of Guilderland is preparing for his trip to Volusia Speedway in February for the DIRTcar Nationals, February 15-18, 2023 when the Super DIRTcar Series will take to the track.

In six starts at Volusia during the DIRTcar National, Johnson has earned one top five finish, during last year's fourth event of the Florida series. Johnson is definite about his plans for the Florida trip, his 2023 plans are still in progress. Marc still has plans to race weekly at Albany-Saratoga and Lebanon Valley with his eye on winning the track title at those tracks.

In closing we wish everyone a Happy Healthy New Year for 2023 and let the racing begin as early as possible in the Northeast.

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

MCS Parent Asks for Training for Subs

By David Avitabile

MIDDLEBURGH - Middleburgh Central School should have training for its substitutes, school board members were told last month.

"We made the move here because of the school and because of my business in town," Sean Lawton told board members at their December 21 meeting. "We've experienced several fantastic staff members within the school district over many years. I personally have fond memories being this is my alma mater."

His three children enjoy MCS, and are well behaved, added Mr. Lawton, who ran for the school board unsuccessfully last May, but there are issues in the school.

"However, I find myself disappointed in what I see going on in the school. And knowing my kids are not quite to that place where they can advocate for themselves, I feel a necessity to step in.

"My concern is not just for my kids, but for everyone else's. Believe you me, I understand the predicament that you are in being understaffed with substitutes. That I believe is partially why you've been talking about raising the substitutes rate."

He added, "I at one point in time filled such a position for you in the school district.

"My concern is this, that within your great need, you're missing some very important things. Knowing the process I went through in order to teach students at the school, and knowing the circumstances that have taken place, within my own family and individuals in the school, my concern is within your vetting process for those you bring in to that substitute position."

Substitutes need more guidance, Mr. Lawton said. "There are things that are OK to say, and things that

are not OK to say, there are things that are OK to do and things that are not OK to do, but yet the school ofers no training for substitutes in regards to these things. I see negligence here, that concerns me. Never mind the circumstance that happened within my own family that brought this to my attention. I am concerned for the safety of my kids with individuals that are not trained. I believe you could mitigate that concern by offering training to all of your substitutes."

Safety is an important responsibility of the board and the district, he said.

"You have a responsibility to keep our students safe and I believe you missed the mark here.

"I am also concerned with

your process of investigation into circumstances that occur within the school. Unfortunately, I believe in your effort to be as professional as possible, you lose some of the humanness that is needed in having healthy communication. Responses that are matter-of-fact and succinct leave out compassion. That's as far as I can go."

Board members listened but had no response to the suggestions.

After the meeting, Superintendent Mark Place said, "With regard to Mr. Lawton's suggestion of providing additional training to substitutes, we believe that idea has merit and will pursue further with our administrative team."

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Jefferson's Cammer Finalist for NYS Teacher of the Year

JEFFERSON / GRAND GORGE - At the regularly scheduled meeting of the Otsego Northern Catskills BOCES Board of Education on December 21, 2022, Dr. Tarkan Ceng, Superintendent of Schools at Jefferson Central School introduced and congratulated Jefferson CSD elementary teacher, Andi Cammer, for being one of five finalists statewide for the 2023 NYS Teacher of the Year Award.

Ms. Cammer spent nearly her entire 32 year career at Jefferson Central School where she experienced the unique opportunity to teach each of the seven elementary grade levels. She spent twenty of those years as a first grade teacher and, in 2019, transitioned to serve as the district's K-6 reading teacher which allowed her to focus on her true academic passion - teaching children to read. During her career, Ms. Cammer offered a variety of high quality, unique experiences for her students including live animal visits, yearly dog sled rides, hands on



From left: Antoinette Hull, ONC BOCES Board President Jessica Hendrickson, Jefferson CSD Board President Andi Cammer, Teacher of the Year Finalist Dr. Tarkan Ceng, Jefferson CSD Superintendent Dr. Catherine Huber, ONC BOCES District Superintendent

learning and guest speakers. In 2003, Andi was selected as one of three national finalists for the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race's Teacher on the Trail Program. Since 2018, she has shared her passion for teaching with preservice teachers as an adjunct lecturer in the

Elementary Education and Reading Department at her alma mater, SUNY Oneonta. Ms. Cammer has continually dedicated time outside of the school day to enrich students and support colleagues through coaching and advisory positions, committee membership and a

variety of leadership roles within the district.

ONC BOCES Board of Education members commended and thanked Ms. Cammer for her dedication to the teaching profession and to her students and congratulated her for her well deserved recognition by New York

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Library News

Middleburgh Library
1/7 - Registration for Homeschool Science Fair - Calling all homeschoolers in grades K-12, sign up to join in on our first annual science fair! It will be a fun non competitive fair. All kids will receive an award and the public is invited to walk through, explore and ask questions. January 28th set up begins at 11am and the fair runs from 12-2. Some basic rules: No fire or explosions. No toxic or dangerous chemicals or animals. Nothing really messy/you're expected to clean up after yourself! Projects can be simple or complicated. Students can share typical projects using the scientific method, or research projects, constructed items, field notebooks and discoveries. Registration is required by January 7th. If you have any questions please email Rebecca.ryoung@mvlis.info. *The first 30 kids to sign up will receive a free tri-fold display board for their science fair display!
Drop-in Storytime - There is no Storytime in January. 1/10 - 1:00-4:00 PM - Mahjong - Come join the ladies in a fun afternoon of Mahjong. If you don't know how to play, they will teach you.
Creativebug - You're more creative than you think! Use your Middleburgh Library card and PIN to enjoy unlimited access to thousands of online art and craft classes available at Creativebug. Videos are produced by renowned artists and creative experts. You'll also find downloadable patterns, templates and recipes. Watch classes anytime, anywhere. Classes never expire, you can start and stop projects at your own pace. No pressure, just possibilities!

Please check our calendar on our website at www.middleburghlibrary.info for future programs. Also, don't forget our Facebook page.
Cobleskill Library
Thursday, January 5 the Library will open at 12:30. Staff and Trustees are meeting with the engineers regarding the library renovation and expansion.
Friday, January 6 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, January 6 and 20 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, January 10 and 24 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, January 10 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.
Wednesday, January 11 Using the Libby App at noon Did you get a new phone, tablet, or computer for the holidays? Want to learn how

to use it to access thousands of free ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines? Join Library Director Kim Zimmer for this free lunchtime presentation showing how to use the free Libby app to access digital content made available through your library.
Thursday, January 12 at 1pm Library Board of Trustees monthly meeting. The Trustees meet upstairs in the Community Room and meetings are open to the public.
Thursday, January 12 All Ages Craft Buffet 4-5:30pm. All ages are invited to join us for open craft time at The Community Library. We'll have tables full of craft supplies available for participants to use, along with plenty of snacks and beverages. 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!
Saturday, January 14 the Library will be closed in honor of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.
Tuesday, January 17 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, January 19 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, January 19 at 6:00pm 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 read-

ing, 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.
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.
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.
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>
Overdrive App users take note, the app will be discontinued this month. Overdrive is focusing on the Libby App which makes it very easy to borrow from the extensive collection of ebooks, audiobooks and magazines. All you need is your device, the Libby App and your Library card. If you need assistance, please stop in and staff will lend a hand. A lunchtime presentation will take place on January 11 at noon on using the Libby App.
The following museum passes are available for check out with your library card. The Adirondack Experience, The Empire Pass, The Iroquois Museum, and MiSci.

Each pass has specific access and one pass can be checked out for 7 days but they can't be used for special events at these locations. Please check each location for specific requirements prior to visiting.
You can also checkout games with your Library card. Visit the second floor near the teen area to see what we have. A special thanks to Games A Plunder for their support of this collection.
Tuesdays join your neighbors and make new friends during the Tuesday Knitters group! You can find them in the program room at 1pm. Bring your own supplies and learn something new while you chat, listen or just get in your zone.
The Library continues to offer curbside pickup.
A reminder that our weather closures will be posted on TV and our Facebook and webpage. 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
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 - so-

cialize, 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>
Middle Grade Book Group: Mondays, January 9 & 23, 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/MG-BookGroupSHO>.
Board of Trustees Meeting: Wednesday, January 11, 7pm.
Virtual UFO Club: Thursday, January 12, 10am. Work on projects and chat on Zoom. Signup: <https://bit.ly/SchoharieLibraryPrograms>
Story Celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: Monday, January 16, 3pm.
Open Craft Buffet: Monday, January 16, 3:30-5:30pm. Stop by and use our materials to create something fun!
Knitcetera at the Library: Tuesday, January 24, 10:30am-noon. Embroider, sew, knit, anything goes!
Learn to Crochet: Tuesday, January 24, 4:15pm.
Rensselaerville Library
Rensselaerville Library is changing its hours of operation to add evening hours on Tues, Weds, and Thurs. The new hours are: Tues and Thurs from 10-1 and 3-7, Weds from 10-1 and 3-6pm, Fri and Sat from 10-2, Sun and Mon: closed.

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Duanesburg Downs Schoharie

Valiant Effort in 71-19 Loss



Concentration -- Emily Lehoe shoots from the foul line in Wednesday nights game. Photos by Scott Keidong.



Schoharie's Lilly Echtner races for the ball, stretching to take control of it just ahead of Duanesburg's Kate O'Hanlon.



Alaina Martin scoring two second period points for Schoharie.



Indians' Julianna Slater and Allison O'Hanlon of Duanesburg wrestle for ball control.

Conesville Reorganizes for New Year

By Matthew Avitabile

CONESVILLE - The Town of Conesville held a brief meeting Wednesday evening with a number of resolutions for 2023. In the organizational meeting, the Town Councilmembers set a number of resolutions including: The Mountain Eagle as paper of record. Setting meetings for the new year.

Reappointing Judy Bradow as Town Hall Custodian. Reappointing Kim Young as Town Historian. Appointing Jennifer Sutton as Dog Control Officer. Reappointed Mike West as Town Attorney. Set rate for recycle attendants at \$14.20 an hour. Set the mileage rate at

\$0.655 per mile when a town official or employee used a personal vehicle for town business. Added Councilman Robert Proudman as an authorized signature in the absence of the Supervisor. Reappointed Jeffrey Laban as the West Conesville Water District Superintendent. Classified the Town Highway Superintendent position as a working po-

sition.

Designated NBT Bank as the bank of deposit and checking. Authorized the Town Highway Superintendent to stage vehicles in case of a weather emergency and to be able to plow private driveways in case of emergency. Set the rate of pay for the Board of Assessment review at \$14.20 per hour.

Set the rate for Planning Board members and secretary at \$75 per meeting. Resolved Lorraine Grogan as Park Coordinator. Reappoint Raymond Parshall and John Sweatman as Town Handypersons at a rate of \$16.30 per hour. Appoint Raymond and Lorraine Persall as Town Park Custodians. Reappointed Eric

Dahlberg to the Planning Board for a new six year term. Reappointed Marie Stuber as Town Assessor. Reappointed Richard Irwin as Code Enforcement Officer. Appointed Erica Weiss as Deputy Town Clerk. Deputy Town Highway Superintendent was left vacant for the time being. Reappointed Eric

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.
- Jan 10

• 6pm - The Llama Man - The Art of Martin Munoz and the Adventure of Creating an International English Library in Mendoza Argentina with books from Conesville, viewing of the Llama Man documentary followed by a Q and A with filmmaker Otto Ohle. at the Conesville UMC Chapel, 1295 State Route 990v. A short business meeting will follow. Light refreshments to be served. Free event open to the community. Presentation will also be on Zoom, zoom link will be shared in January.

January 14



Lindsey Giagni
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Roxbury FD BBQing Chicken

ROXBURY - Members of the Roxbury Fire Department will be firing up the pits for chicken barbecue on Saturday, Jan. 14 from 11 a.m. until sold out. Halves only, \$8/half.
July 15-23, 2023
 Tour of Sicily. Through July 25 with Rome extension. Small group with 20 available spaces. grouptoursite.com/rosemariekeller or call 800-438-7672 group #60918243
August 5-13, 2023
 U.S. National Park Tour. The Rockies, Arches, Yellowstone. 9 days. 13 days with Badlands and Mount Rushmore extension, through August 17. grouptoursite.com/rosemariekeller
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

Schoharie County Pays \$90,000 in Settlement with Oorah Over COVID Health Enforcement

Oorah has successfully concluded a federal civil rights case against local governmental officials. Schoharie County and its Department of Health have agreed to pay \$90,000 to Oorah, a non-profit operating two camp facilities in the county, as part of a settlement over claims the county violated the organization's constitutional rights. The agreement closes federal litigation initiated by Oorah in February 2021 which included extensive allegations of decades-long selective enforcement and attempts by the county to unfairly shut down

Oorah's operations. Earlier, Oorah had obtained a judgment in State Court against the same officials, where the Court concluded that Oorah's state due process rights were also violated.

In the settlement, Schoharie County agreed to rescind all the fines it imposed on Oorah for alleged code violations during 2020 and 2021 and to give Oorah fair treatment in its enforcement of regulations moving forward.

Oorah's February 2021 lawsuit claimed that the SCDOH infringed on its ability to fulfill its charitable mission by illegally

withholding permits, engaging in capricious inspections, not holding required hearings and violating Oorah's due process rights.

"We welcome this opportunity to move forward in our relationship with the county with a clean slate and hope for more respectful, fairer treatment," said Avrohom Brog, director of Oorah's The Zone Camp in Stamford. "Our goal is simply to operate our camp safely and in compliance with regulations while not compromising on our charitable mission to give our campers the summer of their lives."

MCS' Cammer Makes All-Tourney Team After Win in Northville

MIDDLEBURGH - Senior Troy Cammer scored 30 points in a huge 70-33 win for Middleburgh in the consolation game of the Northville Tournament during the Christmas break.

The Knights came out

strong outscoring Wells 21-5 in the first eight minutes. They stayed strong in the second quarter and led 43-11 at the half.

Eric Pickering added 14 points for the Knights and Lucas Shaw and Ethan Trombley each

scored 10 points. Shaw and Pickering each had three pointers.

The Knights will play Schoharie in the annual SchoBurgh Cup game Friday at SUNY Cobleskill. The girls will battle the same night.

Schoharie Promo Annual Community Meeting

Date: January 9, 2023

Time: 7:00 Pm

Where: Town/Village Offices

300 Main Street

Schoharie

All Residents, Community Leaders/Officials, Organizations And Businesses

Are Welcome

All Are Encouraged To Share Any Ideas Or Share Scheduled Events And Projects

Public Forum Set on Replacing Schoharie School Indian Mascot

SCHOHARIE - Schoharie Central School has scheduled a public forum at 6 p.m., Wednesday, January 18, to discuss the New York State Education Department order that calls for schools to end the use of Native American-themed logos and/or mascots or face the loss of state aid.

The forum will be held in the Junior-Senior High School auditorium.

In mid-November just minutes before the Schoharie monthly school

board meeting, SCS officials were notified by the New York State Education Department that all districts in the state have to retire their Native American mascots by the end of the 2022-23 school year or risk removal of school officials (administrators and board members) and loss of state funding.

Schoharie school is in no position to fight the mandate since the district gets about \$11 million each year in state aid,

Superintendent David Blanchard told school board members last week.

The district will now reach out to the public for some guidance, he said.

A public forum will be held on Wednesday evening, January 18, the day before the board's next meeting in January, Mr. Blanchard said.

Students, parents, and community members are invited to the forum and there will be discussion

about the change of mascot and the next steps in the process.

The final decision on a new mascot could be put out to a vote.

The Indian mascot has been removed this year from the district website replaced with a stylized S.

The discussion of a change should be nothing new at SCS, he added, as officials and the public have talked about the district mascot for years.

He noted that the district did not expend any funds on images of the Indian mascot in their \$19 million building project that transformed many areas of the high school. Now, the district is ready to embark on a \$24 million project that will renovate and update the athletic fields and in-

clude big change in the elementary school.

It would be prudent to decide on a new mascot before plans for the fields and elementary school are finalized so that the images of a new mascot can be incorporated on the fields and school, Mr. Blanchard said.

School board members have been mum on the issue and board President Terry Burton did not comment on the issue when the Mountain Eagle broke the story locally last month.

The Mountain Eagle ran a story earlier this year calling for the district to put the future of the mascot on the ballot, so the residents of the district decide on the mascot instead of the state. Several residents came to a board meeting,

but Mr. Burton said that a board meeting was not the proper forum to discuss the issue and no further discussion was held.

The use of the Indian mascot at Schoharie has been debated several times over the last 30 years and there have been periodic calls to remove it.

The latest attempt to remove the mascot was part of a bill in the state legislature that was proposed last year by State Senator Alessandra Biaggi, a Democrat who represents parts of the Bronx and Westchester.

State districts using Native American mascots and logos have been on notice from the State Education Department since 2001 that this day may eventually come.

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Town of Conesville Motor Equipment Operator Position

Full-time with Benefits

The Town of Conesville has an opening for a Motor Equipment Operator. Major functions of the position will include recurring manual work involving responsibility for the safe and efficient operation of various types of motor equipment and associated mechanical attachments. General instructions are received regarding routine work and detailed instructions are received regarding new or unusual assignments. Does related work as required.

Typical work included but not limited to operations of a dump truck, flatbed truck or similar type truck or single axis motor vehicle in connection with the removal of snow and transportation of various materials, tools, equipment, and supplies; Operates a loader or other general road construction equipment; Operates related minor equipment as workload demands; Performs preventive maintenance and general cleaning on assigned automotive equipment; Performs manual labor, such as loading trucks, digging ditches, flushing and cleaning culverts, shoveling snow, and road maintenance work.

Full performance knowledge, skills, abilities and personal characteristics: Good knowledge of the operation and maintenance of dump trucks, snow removal equipment, routine road construction equipment, and various other types of motor equipment and related attachment; good knowledge of traffic and other regulations governing the use of motor equipment and of the hazards and safety precautions involved in its operation; ability to perform routine maintenance, make emergency repairs and assist in general repair of the equipment; ability to understand and follow simple oral and written directions; willingness to respond to emergencies; dependability; good physical condition.

Minimum Qualification: Possession of a clean valid New York State CDL license (class B or higher). Must be able to pass a Town contracted physical exam and drug testing before starting work.

Starting Compensation: \$22.00 per hour, 75% town contribution to health insurance, 3% Town matching contribution to the New York State Retirement Plan. Full-time employees will receive a retention bonus of an additional \$4000 if continuously employed from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023 or a pro-rated amount if employed after December 1, 2022 continuously to November 30, 2023.

Interested candidates may request an application for employment from the Conesville Town Clerk at Conesville Town Hall, 1306 State Route 990V, Gilboa, NY 12076 during regular business hours or from:
https://www4.schohariecounty-ny.gov/PdfFiles/Personnel/Applicat_679.pdf

SCHA Receives Crucial Grant Previous Grant Essential for Needed Repairs Juried Plays Key Role

By Matthew Avitabile

SCHOHARIE - Nick Juried has done it again. Mr. Juried followed up on a 2022 grant to repair crucial elements operated by the Schoharie Colonial Heritage Association including the Palatine House and the Schoharie Railway Museum.

Ruth Ann Wilkinson said that the roof on the Palatine House turned out to be three times the original quote-- and that the repairs were necessary and immediate. Mr. Juried responded with a \$25,000 grant to assist. This follows a previous major Nicholas J. Juried Family Foundation grant that enabled major repairs to the railway complex and the Palatine House.

Mrs. Wilkinson called Mr. Juried "an angel for us."

The grant arrived last

week and that the SCHA was "delighted."

Furthermore, Mrs. Wilkinson said that there is concern about the railway car being out in the rain. There is hope that in time, there could be an exterior roof to save it from the elements.

"That would be a dream."

The efforts by Mr. Juried and SCHA allowed for the new train car roof, as well as painting the exterior. Mr. Juried's efforts also allowed for a repainting of the Palatine House. Mr. Juried's grant also allowed for new roofs on the railroad weigh station and the Palatine House.

John Wilkinson said that there is always a need. The buildings "need constant attention," he said.

He said that the organization is not just the



The excellent work on the train car. Photos courtesy John Wilkinson.

caretakers of the museum, but an entire culture, including the Schoharie Valley, farming, genealogy, and transportation. People come from across the United States to visit the railroad museum and the Palatine House.

"The Board is absolutely thrilled," to receive



The painting work on the Mill Building, the Passenger Car, the Weigh Station and the Palatine House was done by DeGross Painting, and the letters were made for us by True American Signs of Cobleskill.



The new roof on the weigh station.



The work on the Palatine House.

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Local Worship Services

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Christian Community Church of Faith

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

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

Middleburgh Reformed Church
 178 River St. Middleburgh
 www.middleburghreformed.org

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

Sharon Reformed Church
 Sundays 10:30 AM
 5868 State Route 10
 Sharon Springs,

The Warnerville United Methodist Church
 1615 NY7, Richmondville, NY 12149 Holds services every Sunday at 9 a.m.

(Children's Sunday School also at 9 a.m.)

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

(Children's Sunday School also at 11 a.m.)
 Pastor Mel 518-827-5126 or Melenamoore2323@gmail.com

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

Gallupville United Methodist Church
 120 Factory St. Schoharie, 12157

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

Our Lady of the Valley Roman Catholic Parish
 Saturday 5:45 p.m.
 Sunday 9:00 a.m.
 Wednesday 9:00 a.m.
 Virtual Mass available at

Facebook.com/our Lady-of-theValleyParish/
 Main Street at Wells Ave. Middleburgh

Rev. Tom Zelker, Pastor
 518-827-3301
 Olv2009@midtel.net

Evangelical Lutheran Church - Gallupville
 Sunday Worship begins at 9:00 am every Sunday, followed by Adult Study at 10:30 am and Children's Sunday School at 11:00 am.

Sarah's Pantry Second and Fourth Thursdays 12 noon-4pm

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

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

Schoharie Reformed Church
 258 Main Street

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

Summit UMC
 2870 State Rt. 10 service 10 a.m. Pastor Jan Benson

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

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

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

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

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

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SCHA, from Previous Page

further assistance from Mr. Juried. "They're jumping for joy."

"It helps us tremendously."

Mrs. Wilkinson said that the SCHA has been able to replace its furnace from a kerosene one to

a propane tank.

"It's quite a project," she said. The organization has been able to pay for the funds out of membership and antique dealer funds. The new furnace will pay for itself within two years, she

said.

The constant efforts at the museums have "come due" in the past year. "And there was Nick," she said.

"He's the star in our sky."



Work enabled by the Juried Foundation Grant on the Palatine House.



Work being done on the Palatine House.



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¹The Holiday Club balance and interest due is paid at club maturity time, which will be September 1st, 2023. Clubs can be opened between September 12th, 2022 and December 31st, 2022. Fees could reduce earnings on the account. Member FDIC.

Free MCS Meals for Students Ended Dec. 31

MIDDLEBURGH - When Middleburgh students returned from the Christmas break on Tuesday, January 3, students who do not have an approved application for free and/or reduced-price school meals will need to pay for their meals as they had done prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the pandemic, the federal government funded free school meals for all students regardless of need. In September, that federal funding expired. Throughout the fall, the Middleburgh Central School District Board of Education supported our administrative team's request to use funds within the district's

approved budget to continue providing free meals for all students. That extension is expiring December 31.

The cost of school meals for the remainder of the 2022-23 school year is as follows:

Elementary:
Breakfast: \$1.60
Lunch: \$2.70.

Junior-Senior High School:
Breakfast: \$1.60
Lunch: \$2.95

As a reminder, families can submit applications for free and reduced-price meals at any time throughout the school year. The free and reduced-price meals application is available online. If you are unable to ac-

cess the application online, please reach out to the main office of your school at 518-827-3600. Families who may not have qualified for the program prior to universal free meals being put into place last year may now be income-eligible due to lost jobs or reduced work hours.

In addition to receiving free or reduced-price school meals, there are additional benefits to participating in the National School Lunch Program, including reduced fees for students taking exams such as the SAT. More information about our meal program, including school meal menus, can be found on our website.

EAGLE TRAIL UPDATE BY BILL COMBS, JR.

Tales from the Trail

By Bill Combs Jr.,
Eagle Trail
Ambassador

As the snow starts to fly, the Schoharie Eagles are busy rebuilding their nest for the upcoming nesting season. This week in Blenheim, I found a new nest with one of the Eagles looking to be just transitioning into adulthood. The Eagles have been hanging out on the north and south side of the Schoharie Creek, near the Blenheim Bridge.

Viewing site #14, located at Mine Kill State Park, has been an active area recently with migrating Eagles coming down from the north. The migrating Eagles will stay the area in the winter. On the morning of December 14, I spotted seven Bald Eagles at the boat launch area. I was also able to photograph the two adults with a nest on the west end of the reservoir and I was finally able to read the numbers on his band! He (W73) was banded on May 21, 2008 in New York and



has been nesting at the park for the past nine years.

The Cobleskill, Schoharie, Seward, Central Bridge, Sloansville, Middleburgh, Gilboa and Franklinton Vlaie Eagles have all been busy rebuilding their nests. They have all survived another year and are ready to do their part in adding to the Eagle population in the county in 2023.

I've found a few more nests in Duanesburg, Preston Hollow and North Harpersfield and I'm also keeping an eye on the nests in East Worcester, Oneonta (2) and East

Davenport.

This is a great time of the year to get out on the Trail to watch or photograph Bald Eagles in Schoharie County.

I am available for private tours during the winter season on the Eagle Trail. If you are interested in a private tour, please contact me at nywild@gmail.com. Tours offer a chance for not just Eagle viewing, but also to get one-on-one wildlife photography tips and tricks.

-Bill Combs Jr
Schoharie County Eagle Trail Ambassador



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New Blenheim Fine Approved

By Joshua Walther
 BLENHEIM - The Blenheim Town Board held their first regular meeting of the year on Wednesday evening, where members continued to discuss the building permit fine, the proposed short-term rental law, and went on to list off twenty new resolutions for 2023.

The Board has been discussing a new building

permit fine for a few months now, wishing to deter anyone from refusing or forgetting to acquire a building permit before they begin construction on a new project.

While Supervisor Don Airey has his thoughts on why people wait until they're told to retroactively acquire said permit, he has gone on record several times to say that

it "will not stand," and that it's not fair to the rest of the residents that do it the right way.

To correct this behavior, the Board has held a public hearing for a new fine for beginning construction without a permit, with the maximum penalty currently resting at \$500.

On Wednesday, the public hearing was closed without further comment

from the audience, and the members unanimously agreed to approve the fine.

In other news, the Board briefly talked about the proposed short-term rental law to regulate rentals within the Town. While not as strict as some other towns, like Jefferson, Supervisor Airey still felt it was necessary.

After having it adver-

tised, the Board opened a public hearing for it, and they intend to keep the hearing running for a short while to garner comments from the community before they hold any further discussion or adoption.

Finally, the Board worked through twenty new resolutions for the new year. Many of them were relating to the reappointment of individuals

to the same positions they currently hold, such as the highway superintendent and the town justice.

However, there was one notable change. Blenheim has been missing a deputy supervisor for some time, and member Anne Mattice-Strauch graciously accepted the position, much to the approval of Supervisor Airey.

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FRIDAY, January 6, 2023

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Roofers Making Progress on New Ambulance Building

By Michael Ryan

WINDHAM - What's financially good for the Greene County Emergency Medical Systems Inc. goose may not be good for the town of Windham ambulance squad gander.

Steady progress is visible at the new ambulance headquarters which has been shingled, making it ready for interior finishing labors.

A platoon of roofers swarmed to the site between Christmas and New Year's, proving once again that many hands make light work.

"Those guys ran like a well-oiled machine," says town supervisor Thomas Hoyt, noting as much as \$250,000 has been trimmed from overall costs, going with 40-year asphalt shingles rather than metal sheeting.

Everything is now in place for electrical, plumbing and HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) crews to similarly flock to the scene.

Completion of the job, scheduled for this spring, will achieve the long-desired mission of improving ambulance personnel facilities.

The town is spending up to \$3.5 million on the Center that shall also serve as a new home base for mountaintop senior citizen activities.

That cost is nearly dou-



A platoon of roofers swarmed to the new ambulance building in Windham, readying the project for indoor finishing touches.

ble what local taxpayers approved borrowing, three years ago, before the pandemic hit and prices rocketed toward Mars.

Government leaders believe the investment is necessary and worthwhile, even as more money will very likely be needed in the immediate future, allowing the paramedic unit to keep meeting its high standards.

Councilman Ian Peters is the liaison between the town council and the local ambulance squad, also representing the town of Windham on the Greene County Emergency Medical Services Council, helping coordinate and instruct response teams throughout the county.

Peters, in a recent report to the town council, said \$3 per hour pay raises have been given to members of Greene

County Emergency Medical Systems (GCEMS), administrators of the so-called flycars.

Flycars provide paramedic service around-the-clock, every day of the year, elevating the level of in-the-trenches care for county residents.

It is widely agreed the salary increase is overdue and well-deserved. The change, however, will also be impacting municipal squads, such as Windham's, who possess fewer dollars to compete for staffers.

This has the potential to "upset the whole system," Hoyt said, due to the fact there are precious few paramedics to go around, possibly putting municipal squads between a fiscal rock and hard place.

"We are all, across the board, pretty equal right now but a blind man can

see what's going on down the road with ambulance service," Hoyt said.

"Little systems, like ours, will struggle even more to staff their ambulances. Everyone is having to go full time now. [The towns of] Catskill and Cossackie already went that route," Hoyt said.

Taxpayers already absorb the GCEMS pay raise through their county tax bills and could be forced to do the same on the town level.

No one begrudges the medics, EMT's and drivers getting better pay but Windham would be particularly hard-pressed, regularly employing two crews during the winter months when ski slopes are at their peak.

There is movement toward forming a mountaintop ambulance system, ultimately combining units in Windham and the

towns of Ashland and Hunter; also taking in Jewett, Lexington and Prattsville.

That merging is perhaps a year away if not further and meanwhile, Peters said Windham might bend so as not to break.

"At a certain point, if a [mutual aid] call comes in that is not an emergency, we are going to hold our crew," Peter said.

"We're all for mutual aid but there is a cost to having two crews. We can't let what's happening around us take our service somewhere else.

"If someone can drive themselves to the hospital we aren't going to go out," Peters said, emphasizing the problem is especially acute when called to back up the town of Hunter, a competitor for personnel.

"The mountaintop sys-

tem is probably the ultimate answer but that is going to take a lot of work to get done," Hoyt said. "In the meantime, it's getting tougher and tougher to get qualified people."

Windham ambulance administrator Davia Montie, in a report to the town council, said there are a lot of empty spaces, trying to write her schedule.

"I'm not sure what the answer is," Montie said, a dilemma faced not only by Windham as the town considers hiring another full time worker.

"This is a national trend," Hoyt said. "We have people who are very loyal but some of them are retiring and we are having trouble filling shifts."

"I'm not against adding a fulltimer but we have to look at the budget to make sure we have enough cushion in there to support it," Hoyt said.

Discussions are planned soon between Hoyt, Peters and Montie, possibly revising the job description for the administrator while evaluating how to respond to the new emergency services economic realities.

In a related matter, council members agreed to send letters of appreciation to ambulance workers Irene Bertone and Louie Leo who have retired.

Error Puts Cairo's Town Tax Levy Increase at 7.5%

By Andrea Macko, Porcupine Soup

CAIRO—Residents and officials got an unpleasant surprise this week when they discovered that Cairo's 2023 town tax levy increase is actually 7.5%—nearly 15 times higher than the 0.512897% that Town Supervisor Jason Watts said to expect when the Town Board adopted the budget back on November 7.

With that 7.5% far exceeding the state's 2% tax cap, the town board held a five-minute emergency meeting Thursday afternoon and adopted a local law to override the cap. But questions remain as to whether the board acted too late and exactly how the mistake happened in the first place.

"We realized just last night, notwithstanding the fact that we thought the tax levy was going to go up by 0.5 per-

cent, that when tax bills came out it is actually 7.5%," Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea explained during the emergency meeting.

"We don't know how this happened," he continued. "The only thing we can think of is there was some type of typographical or accounting error in the document that the town presented on the night of the public hearing."

According to tax bills available on the town's website, the tax rate per thousand of assessed value went from \$9.33 in 2022 to \$9.80 in 2023—an increase of 5.11%. Thus, property owners' town tax bills, not including special districts, are up 5.11%.

New York State law requires local governments to keep their annual tax levy increases at or below the cap or pass a local law to

override it. Back in October the Cairo Town Board held the required public hearing in anticipation of adopting such a local law, but never actually voted on it.

"So, now we are going to cover that base and then we can figure out what happened, so we don't get in trouble with the Comptroller's Office and we don't have to do all of the extra stuff that's required if you exceed the tax cap without having done the override," Rappleyea said. "So, the point here today is to do that and get this done."

According to the New York State Comptroller's Office website, "In the event that a local government or school district levies more than the amount allowable under the tax levy limit due to a 'clerical or technical error,' the local government or school district must place

the excess amount in a reserve in accordance with requirements as prescribed by the State Comptroller. These funds, and any interest earned, must be used to offset the tax levy in the following fiscal year. Further, if upon post audit, the State Comptroller finds that a local government levied taxes in excess of the allowable limit, the local government must place an amount equal to the excess in the reserve."

"I know people are upset, I know this is really a very, very emotional thing and the board is upset too. It's not something that they are taking lightly," Rappleyea said. "But now is not the time for incriminations or retributions, we have got to fix this—what we can right now—and then we will do what we can going forward."

Resident and local attorney Monica Kenny-Keff, one

of about six people in the audience, told Rappleyea that the state does not allow local governments to retroactively override the tax cap.

"This has to be in place and passed before the vote on the budget," she said.

"That may be true," replied Rappleyea. "But we are going to try and save it at this point. We are going to do all that we can, if it doesn't take effect and it's not effective, so be it. But we have to make that attempt. If it turns out that the tax override law is no good, then we have to do what we have to do with the Comptroller's Office."

"Anything above the tax cap is likely going to have to go into a reserve account and sit there until there is a full audit by the Comptroller's Office," Kenny-Keff said. "What you are saying is

correct, I'm not arguing with you," Rappleyea responded, adding that the board was not going to be taking public comment.

"This happened with one of my other towns across the river about eight or 10 years ago and, again, we did all that we could to minimize the damage," he added.

The board ultimately voted unanimously to override the tax cap, with Watts, Councilwomen Mary-Jo Cords and Debra Bogins present. Councilmen Tim Powers and Michael Flaherty were absent.

"Shame on you... all three of you, shame on you," resident Jimmy McManus told the board.

Kenny-Keff then started to ask why the emergency meeting was moved from 7 p.m. to 1 p.m. if Powers

Story Continues on C2



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BETTER THAN HEARSAY

A Stashed Apple Pie

By Michael Ryan

LEXINGTON - I never met Lois Jenkins or her husband Leo Jenkins in person although something about them has left a lasting impression.

Over the years we often talked on the phone about politics. Leo was the long-time Republican Party chairman in Lexington, a task his wife took over for the only imaginable reason. Leo was no longer here to do it.

And now Lois has evanesced, two days before Christmas, after flying for the first time and making some nurses laugh at Albany Medical Center.

She wasn't trying to be funny. She was just being Lois which meant always being simply elegant and sometimes positively spunky.

One of Lois's daughters, June, went to meet her Maker a month or so ago. There will be a service for them both in the spring at Pleasant Valley Cemetery in Ashland where Lois's mother and father are eternally resting.

Leo is likewise buried with childhood kin and one son, Arthur, in Maplewood Cemetery in Hunter, midway between where Lois and Leo grew up.

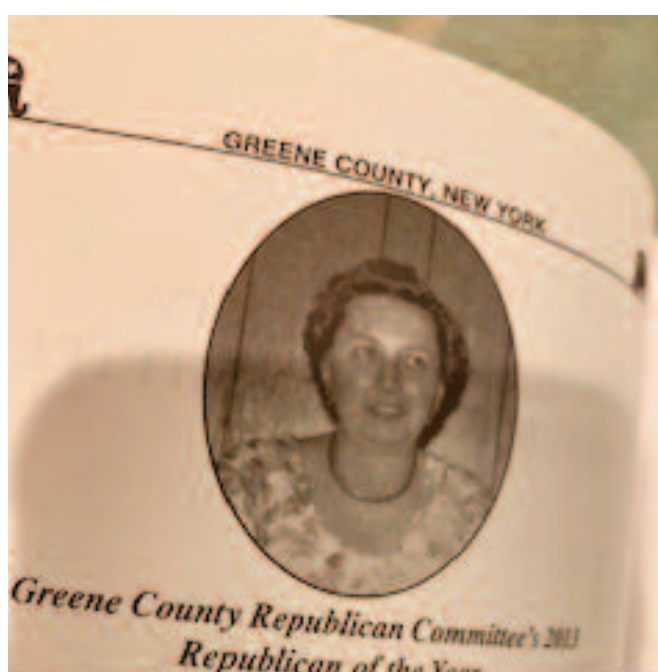
Arthur died young, in a car accident. His big brother Bradley is the eldest of four Jenkins offspring and as much a part of Lexington as the surrounding hills.

Lois was born and will forever be a Barnum from Big Hollow, out in the sticks in the town of Windham where she was raised to be a good God-fearing woman.

That never changed even as she taught her own two girls to be independent and "never depend on a man," says daughter Carol who lives on Long Island.

Lois and June will have their ashes set in familiar ground, passing the spot umpteen times in life. "Neither of them want anything fancy," Carol says.

Nothing fancy fits Lois to a T but she has also been known to be a "spitfire," Carol says, graciously sharing stories about her mom, the valedictorian of her class at Windham-Ashland-Jewett school and true blue dairy



Lois Jenkins, a decade ago, when named Greene County Republican Committee "Republican of the Year," even as family always came first.

farmer's wife.

Something felt immediately familiar about Lois and Leo. Maybe a better word is folksy or comfy-cozy. Snugger than bugs in a rug.

They met at a Dairyman's League youth farm group and got hitched in Big Hollow (or Maplecrest as it is called these days).

Nobody is sure when Lois started wearing delicate white gloves, which she did even when they were long out of style, and everyone thinks of her the same.

"She is a lady," says Brent Bogardus, chairman of the Greene County Republican Party. "She is a good politician too. She knew how to get things done."

The gloves would come off, if need be, for her GOP candidates, a feistiness and loyalty she charmingly displayed after being helicoptered to Albany Med for a heart attack and visited by Carol and Bradley.

"My brother and I went to see her," Carol says, laughing. "She looked at us in that way she does and said they were asking her a lot of stupid questions."

The way Carol tells it, her mom (a bit cantankerously) said, "They asked me what day I was born and what month I was born. Then they asked me who's the President so I set them straight."

"I told them it's that fool

Joe Biden. They think he's the President but he's just a puppet on a string," is the way Carol tells it, not needing to mention that her mother knew perfectly well President Biden is a Democrat.

Lois would have turned 89 this month, leaving behind grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. She takes with her the secret ingredients for sweet eating.

"My mom was a humble lady and devoted to her family," Carol says, noting she was also the longtime treasurer for the local Methodist Church Sunday school.

"She could be tough when she had to be but she was very, very kind. She would do things for people, quietly. She would be the one who made dinner for someone living alone or get a kid cleaned up for Sunday school."

"People would thank her and my mom would say, 'there's no need for that.' She honestly believed it was just doing the right thing."

"And my mom made the best apple pie," Carol says. "She didn't really have a recipe. She'd always say it was just a little of this and a little of that."

"Maybe I'm not supposed to tell you this but the year my mother-in-law passed away, my mom baked two apple pies. We hid one away for Thanksgiving."

Obituaries

Lois Jenkins

Lois Jenkins, beloved daughter of Julia and George Irish passed away peacefully at the hospital on Dec 23, 2022.

After graduating from Windham Ashland Jewett Central School she married Leo Jenkins and moved to Lexington.

In addition to helping on the family farm; Lois worked at the Thompson House in Windham for

many years.

She was active in various organizations such as DAR, Ladies Auxiliary, Republican Town Chairman and she enthusiastically participated in the Barnum Family Reunion for several years.

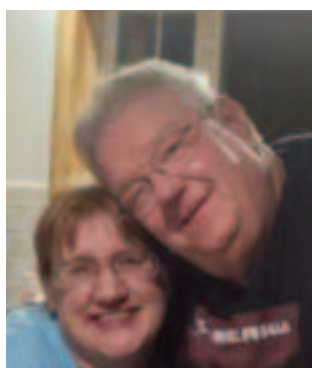
Lois was predeceased by her husband of 50 years Leo, her son Arthur and daughter June. She is survived by her son Bradley Jenkins, daughter Carol

Stoger, son-in-laws Ernie Stoger and Frank Hermance. She is also survived by five grandchildren (Courtney, Cristien, Michael, Susan and Dina), and three great-grandchildren (Johnathan, Sean, and Lilliah).

A memorial service will take place in the spring.

Arranged by the Aston-Basagic Funeral Home, Hunter, NY.

Richard Robert "Rodeo" Rhoades



worked as a welder for Tech Welding in Grand Gorge and as a welder for many years for Safe Way Scaffolding in Athens, NY before his retirement from there. This past summer he worked as a groundskeeper for Christmas's Windham House, Windham, NY.

Richard is survived by his wife of almost 20 years Jill (Worner) Rhoades who he married June 21, 2003. Also surviving are sisters, Carolyn Garvey and Barbara Rhoades, several nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was pre-deceased by his parents and brothers Gary Wank, Larry Wank and brother-in-law Ronald Garvey.

Richard also known as "Rodeo" loved a good time and enjoyed playing golf

and his guitar and attending stock car dirt races and hanging out with the pit crews. He also enjoyed going to rock concerts and going backstage with members of several rock bands such as the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, New England Rock Fest and friendship with Kivel Records owner John Kivel.

A memorial service will be held on January 7, 2023. Calling hours will be held from 10:30 - 12:00 pm at Decker Funeral Home, Windham, NY. A service will begin at 12:00. Interment will be held at a later date at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to your favorite charitable foundation.

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

I hope all had a great holiday season. We delivered gifts to Stratton VA Hospital for the Windham Rotary club and Post for the veterans.

The volunteer services passed them out for us as we were not allowed to enter the wards.

Also, I am proud to announce that Frank Devin Schlosser from [Windham-Ashland-Jewett school] came in sixth place out of 46 VFW posts in VFW District 3 NY representing VFW Post 1545. Congratulations on a great job.

I was away this past holiday season in New Orleans and visited the WWII Museum which was a fantastic experience. That brings me to give you a glimpse into one of our post's WWII veterans.

Her name is Louise McRoberts who served in Germany under General Patton's Third Army. As a member of our VFW Post, she was very instrumental in keeping our Post's Charter as Quartermaster under the Post Commander, Ron Delong.

From that point on we were able to rebuild our post with the modern improvements that we enjoy. She is a great lady and an inspiration to us all (I am thinking of her Blueberry Muffins as I write this)!

Her husband, Charles McRoberts was a Past Post Commander and WWII veteran also. These veterans are the foundation that we are built on.

This Sunday January 8th from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. we will hold a Breakfast of; eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns, juice, coffee and fruit. The cost is a good will offering. Hope to see you for the first time in 2023.

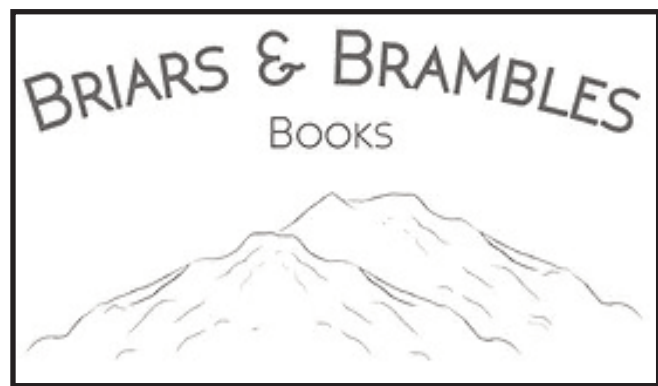
Marc Farmilette - Quartermaster Post 1545

Hunter FD Receives Grant

This award enables the Village of Hunter to relocate its fire station 0.15-miles west of its current site taking it outside of the regulatory floodway and the 100-year and 500-year flood hazard areas of the Schoharie Creek. The existing fire station and back building will be demolished and replaced with a municipal park with streamside access. Currently, the existing fire station becomes inaccessible during even

moderate flood events due to the undersized bridge. Relocation of the firehouse will allow for the expansion of the bridge and greatly alle-

viate flooding throughout the village. Thank you to the Greene County Economic Development Office for this info.



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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

Tax Levy, Continued from C1

was not available to attend.

"I thought we weren't taking public comment?" Bogins asked.

"You aren't taking public comment, but we are going to give it to you..." McManus said.

Watts made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the board left the room.

Porcupine Soup had sent an email Wednesday evening to all board members questioning the higher-than-expected tax increase; Cords and Powers responded.

"We are not certain at this point as to how this occurred or the consequences," Cords replied.

Powers said that while he had voted to adopt the 2023 budget back on November 7, he did so because Watts told the board that the tax levy increase was only going to be 0.5%.

"Had I known it was this I never would have voted to approve it," he said. "The emergency meeting was supposed to be at 7 p.m., but after I indicated that I was against overriding the tax cap and wanted to rescind the entire budget they moved the meeting to 1 p.m. They knew I couldn't be there due to work."

"I'm half tempted to call for Jason's resignation at the January meeting," Powers added.

Announcement of the emergency meeting, called Thursday morning, was posted on the door to town hall. No notices were placed on the town's website or Facebook page and, to date, there is no 2023 budget information available on the town's website.

A spokesperson for the Comptroller's Office did not immediately respond to a request for comment on whether Thursday's local law overriding the tax cap is valid or what specific repercussions the town could face if it is not.

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518-734-3352

www.Sainttheresas.weebly.com

Lexington / West Kill United Methodist Church

54 Greene County Route 13A

Lexington NY 12452

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Sunday morning

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Out Lexington Way

By Christine Dwon

Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Lois Jenkins who passed away recently.

Birthday greetings to Schyler Minew on Friday, Jan. 6.

Jan. 6 is also John Falke's birthday.

Debbie and Frank Valerio celebrate their wedding anniversary on Saturday, Jan. 7.

Happy birthday on Sunday, Jan. 8 to Diane Nash.

Tuesday, Jan. 10 is Nancy Bower's birthday.

Best wishes to all.

On the second Tuesday of each month (Jan. 10) you are invited to a Coffee Klatch at the Hunter Public Library, 7965 Main Street, from 10 a.m. to noon with light refreshments, coffee and tea.

The last Friday and Saturday of every month there is a book sale at the Hunter Public Library. Hours are Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Fill a paper bag with books for \$5.

The Greene County Department of Human Services Senior Nutrition Program menu for the week of Jan. 9 - Jan. 13 is as follows: Monday—Chicken Dijon, mashed potatoes, Monaco mixed vegetables, fruit cocktail; Tuesday—Ravioli, sausage, Italian green beans, chocolate mousse; Wednesday—Baked ham dinner, glazed carrots, sweet potatoes, cheesecake with strawberry topping; Thursday—

Pork chop with gravy, applesauce, scalloped potatoes, Sonoma vegetables, Jell-O; Friday-- Macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, 3-bean salad, 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.

The Town of Lexington Fire/Rescue Company Ladies Auxiliary is not going to hold any monthly meetings until April 11, 2023.

Tannersville food Pantry is held at the Tannersville Village Hall, One Park Lane on Wednesdays 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and the first Saturday of the month from 10:30 to 12:30. Call 518-589-6787 or email kaaterskillumc@gmail.com if you have questions.

There will be a Dinner Church potluck at the Lexington/West Kill UMC in Lexington on Friday, Jan. 13 at 5 p.m. This is a celebration of Three Kings Day. We will read scripture, sing hymns, enjoy Rosca de Reyes - Three Kings Bread decorated with dried fruit "jewels." And there will even be a

pinata. Please join us, families are welcome. Any questions please contact Pastor Amy Royal at 845-706-2296.

This week may have felt like Spring but we all know winter isn't done with us yet.

Please remember the HTC Winter Clothing Drive is in progress. Gently used winter clothing such as coats, hats, gloves, winter boots, etc., will be restyled, reused for someone else and can be dropped off at Tannersville Laundry Mat, 6023 Main Street, Tannersville where items will be cleaned for free. The school will pick up the items from there. If you have questions, please call 518-263-4256 or ddavis@htcschools.org.

In the plan ahead department - the Lexington/West Kill UMC Trustees annual TGIF Brooks Chicken BBQ will be held on Friday, Feb. 10 at the Lexington church.

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.

Happy New Year and 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.

Ashland Speaks

By Lula Anderson

The start of a New Year, a new beginning, but also, like the Roman god Janus, I am looking back as well as forward. We stand at the gates between the old and new and wonder what we should take with us, and what to leave behind. I go back, in my mind, to previous years' resolutions, and think of what I want to repeat, what didn't work out, and what I want to add. All in all, I feel that I have made progress in decluttering my life. My porch is passable, my living room is almost organized, my closet has a new rod to hang sweatshirts, my craft room (downstairs) has been gone through and unfinished projects donated. Still following the rule: One thing in, two things out. Also still concentrating on one thing at a time so I don't get overwhelmed. Set my mind on a task and DO IT, before moving on to something else. And the biggest: Don't Procrastinate! No matter how ugly the job, putting it on the back burner only gives me agita, getting it done feels so good. Just remember we all have to set time aside to sit back, put our feet up and have a nice warm cuppa.

Congratulations and Best wishes to Marie and Ken Smith on 69 years of wedded (bliss?). Happy birthday to Phyllis Pe-

tranelles (quilter).

Prayers for the traveling VFW group, and especially Tommy (Sparky) Bristol.

Special greetings to all of their Mt Top friends from Dottie and Jim Dunham. Through the marvels of technology, Dottie and my friend, Rose, were able to celebrate birthdays together. Marty and Joan Hudecek spent Dottie's 80th birthday with the Dunhams, and called mom, Rose on video call to celebrate Rose's 102nd. Speaking of Rose, her celebration started Friday morning and didn't conclude until 7:30 Monday night. Neighbor visits, lunch with me, phone calls from all of the family, a visit from her granddaughters and great-granddaughters, all made for a special weekend.

Greetings to all from Mary Aull, Chuck Bennet, Jimmy Kelderhouse, and Rita and Marcus formerly from the Platte Clove community. I have found the best presents don't come with bows. Remember, a visit or a phone call can be the best present for the elderly.

Don't forget the January Dinner Church at Lexington. They are planning a wonderful presentation.

WAJPL January meeting will be on January 16th.

Get well wishes and prayers to Frank Hermance, Louise Mudge's son, and all those who

are still "fighting the latest bug" going around.

Sympathy to the family of Lois Irish Jenkins, Elaine Soule Mann Grange, and to Carolyn Garvey on the passing of her brother Richard Rhoades.

AS I REMEMBER IT

We anxiously await January 6th, the Feast of the Epiphany, the day the Three Kings presented their gifts to the Baby Jesus. Now Christmas season is officially over, and it is time to take down our decorations. The tree is the first to go, as it is drying out and becoming a fire hazard. What do we do with it? Well, bring it outside of course. The strands of berries and popcorn stay on it, and if the tree is placed by a window, we can watch the birds feast. The tree can go in a bucket of sand, or dirt, and stay for quite awhile. Put peanut butter, honey and other "treats" on the branches and watch the birds come flocking. When it is too dry for the birds to nest in, the tree can be thrown on a brush pile for the rabbits and other small critters to nest in and be protected. A tree thrown in a pond makes a good place for fish to hide and spawn. Oh, the true wonder of a Christmas Tree. Love shared by many and all.

Happy New Year and may you all be blessed in 2023.

Holiday Extravaganza in Windham

By Michael Ryan

WINDHAM - The weather outside, and the feelings inside, were anything but frightful for the first ever "Holiday Extravaganza," last Friday night, at the Centre Church in Windham.

"This is going to be an evening of delight, music, mystery and surprises,"

Living Faith Community Church pastor Charmaine Rusin said, serving as exuberant Master of Ceremonies for the concert.

Pastor Rusin bubbled over with the spirit of the Christmas season as January Thaw-like temperatures reached a balmy 60 degrees in the

mountains, welcoming congregants from combined churches.

Only a few days earlier, the thermometer had plummeted to bone-chilling single digits following a two-foot snowfall.

Keeping her promise, Pastor Rusin shepherded several performers to the stage, opening the show

by humorously echoing her words as if she was speaking in a huge auditorium.

The intimacy of the little church was evident, however, as the "Living Faith Worship Team" had the opening set, led by Tiffany Chase seemingly singing from a heavenly place.

They were followed by a children's choir, innocently and charmingly singing "Away in a Manger" among other tunes, accompanied by Ed Blume on the bass and Sharri Cunningham on keyboards.

Next came a barber-shop quartet (uniquely containing one female member) and a scripturally-fun puppet skit with Potter Hollow Church pastor Nathan Miles being the voice behind the curtain.

Liz and Tim Buckner travelled over from the neighboring town of Ashland, joined by Angelo Parisi (owner of Ashes to Ashes Chimney Service) and the multi-talented musician/soundman Blume.

"This would not have been possible without everyone's help," Pastor Rusin said, noting the participation and cooperation of the local Mitchell Hollow Mission Church and Hope Restoration Church.



Holiday Extravaganza at the Centre Church in Windham was everything as promised, last Friday night, guided by (foreground left to right) Living Faith Community Church pastor Charmaine Rusin, Sherry Wack (the pastor's mother) and sound man/musician Ed Blume.



Barbershop Quartet (left to right) Jim Hitchcock, Mike Ebers, Bruce LaPierre and Sharri Cunningham, croon "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear."



Children's Choir lights up the Centre Church concert hall.



Soulful message of "WayMaker" is delivered in song by Angelo Parisi.

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The Prattsville Scoop

By Abby and Gabby
 PRATTSVILLE – Happy New Year and may 2023 be filled with happiness and all you have wished for with family and friends.

Many traveled for the Christmas holidays by car for just overnight visits. No airlines for them and that was probably a good thing. And then there were the brave souls who did some shopping between the Christmas and New Year holidays.

See accompanying picture of Santa's elves, in the persons of members of the American Legion Virgil E. Deyo Post 1327 and American Legion Auxiliary Virgil E. Deyo Unit 1327 - Diana and Arnold Jaeger, Nancy Orr, Nancy Kizyma, Marianne and Johannes Krause, Bob and Ginny Gurley, and VA staff Michele Ferraulo, R/T, 9th Floor and Dom of Voluntary Services and all around "go to" guy. Dom is also a veteran and reservist and we thank him for his service.

Heard from friends and one time area residents from out of town. In Oregon, the Chatfield sisters, Judy and Janet, are enjoying their respite from the summer and fall vegetable gardening, but they have all those lovely and palatable vegetables to be enjoyed now. Judy says she is still working on her Covid(?) quilt and plans on having it done soon. They are able to join Janet's children and grandchildren's in their many activities. Also in Oregon, one-time Gilboa resident Gerald Hubbard and his wife and their sons and their children have tons of family activities to take part in. In their spare time they enjoy formal dancing. Heard from Fritzie Martin, previous owner of

Traphagen's Honey Shop in Hunter, NY, who now lives in West Virginia with daughter Kirsten and husband Sean. Fritzie will be following the warm weather around the country. She will spend a lot of the winter months in Florida. We do miss their honey – their Linden was the best although many liked their Wildflower.

Larry and Sandy Case Hill sends greetings to all. Their family now is spread from Alaska to Missouri. They enjoy their grandchildren, Zoe and Reed, who live closer than Alaska but Alaska has great fishing. Sandy has our sympathy due her ongoing back trouble and Larry had his 442 (?) Car redone – "it is 1970 Oldsmobile 442 Pace car, white convertible and white top." Larry had back surgery and they now spend together time at PT.

Heard from Ron Fancher with the following news of his wife's (Freda Howard Fancher) cousin's passing – Clara Persons Hubbard. One time Prattsville resident Clara Persons Hubbard died on December 8 in Florida. Her parents were Gil and Dorothy Simmons Persons and the family lived in Huntersfield for years. Believe the house is now occupied by Jeremy Marsh. Clara was a 1960 graduate of Gilboa Conesville Central School and was 79 at the time of her death. Clara's mother Dorothy and Freda's mother Emma were sisters. There are many of her Simmons family still living in the Lexington/West Kill area. Our sympathy to all the family.

Benny and Sandy Kingsley Benjamin are like most of us grandparents, their time is spent on the grands' schedules. The granddaughters play a lot of the indoor winter sports so Benny and Sandy are on the road quite a bit watching the girls' games. Some where in their schedules Benny has time to take care of the "girls" horse, but Benny has always had time for equine activities, and Sandy continues her most recent hobby – making quilts. She says she is not that interested in doing the actual quilting but she enjoys assembling the quilt tops. Can understand that – both the horses and making quilts.

Did you get what you wanted from Christmas?



Can recommend a few books for winter reading – Fox Creek by William Kent Krueger and A World of Curiosities by Louise Penny. For this information you have to provide me with a cure for herniated disc and/or bulging discs, please.

A very lovely celebration was held for the 90th birthday of Connie Ruehl at the Grand Gorge Fire Hall on Sunday, New Year's Day. Much laughter and, of course, food with a wonderful birthday

cake. This will be a birthday remembrance for her next 90th birthday. What was this about a fancy boa? Happy Birthday Connie, you are special.

Still delivering Christmas gifts to veterans at Stratton VAMC, Albany, on the 9th Floor Residential Units. Gifts had been delayed for whatever reason and did not arrive until after Christmas. Luckily they were of the sort to be enjoyed by any and all in their social community rooms

so they were able to have their own usual bag full of gifts. Have to say thank you again for helping us help those who have to spend their time at the VA for whatever reasons and are not able to have visitors. Some of the most appreciated gifts were the product of ideas from our devoted donors. The gifts were what you wanted our veterans to have. Keep all ideas at the ready for next year, or share now.

The veteran adaptive sports skiers will be at Ski Windham Adaptive Sports Center on January 11 if you would care to join us, American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary Prattsville who are the sponsors of this day for our veterans, at 9:30 A.M. to welcome them and thank them for their service.

Make up birthdays and anniversaries: On December 31, Happy Birthday to Dan McGlynn. January 1, Happy Birthday to Janet Chatfield and CarliAnn O'Hara. Happy Birthday on January 2 to Lana Breigle. Happy Birthday to Ursula Gurley Lindley on January 3. On January 4 we wish Diane Cammer Eklund and Debbie Carman Happy Birthday – celebrate ladies.

On January 11 we wish Kimberly Jaeger and brothers Micah and Liam Truesdell Happy Birthday.

Let us know of your holiday celebrations. gurleyrv@gmail.com or 518-299-3219.

LOCAL HISTORY BY DEDE TERNS-THORPE

German Alps Festival

Christmas is now past, and hopefully, it was a good one for most. Soon the New Year will be here, and for many, 2023 will roll in like every other year, but for some, the New Year brings hope for a better year.

As the year ends, according to the available records, the German Alps Festival began 50 years ago, although it's also claimed as 1975. (A long time ago, either way!)

What a time that was on the Mountain Top. It brought fun and excitement, and additional jobs to the residents and numerous others; it filled hotel rooms, restaurants, and all other retail businesses profited.

A little story: I was the Superintendent at Devil's Tombstone Campsite that summer, and I had taken a second job as the evening nurse at the festival. I was fortunate to know the roads because as I arrived at the intersection of 23A and route 214, I could see the traffic towards Hunter from Tannersville was bumper to bumper; I turned around and went Ski Bowl Road, arriving on time. I was in awe when I saw the number of people, the size of the tent, the vendors, and the music. It was like a little city.

The paper wrote, "A vastly enlarged German Products Exposition, the first International Beer Exposition, and an ex-

panded outdoor art show are just three of many highlights of this year's fifth annual German Alps Festival; in the Catskills at beautiful Hunter Mountain, Hunter, N.Y." It was co-sponsored by Schwaben International, providing additional consumer goods.

Lucky's Black Forest Brass Forest Band of Schopfheim, Germany, played in a tent ("largest in the US") seating 5,000. Hang Gliding, Alpine horn players and bell ringers from Bavaria, wood carvers, a sculptor from Munich, Hunter's sky-ride, a vast antique flea market, and Hunter's new German Alps Import House were just part of the fun.

There was a Kasperle puppet show, a petting zoo, a giant sandbox, an amusement ride area, and of course, the Budweiser Clydesdale horses added to the twelve days of excitement.

The festival hosted continuous entertainment from opening to closing. Anyone who attended, and most locals did, would agree that the food was endless, from sauerbraten, wiener schnitzel, oversized pretzels, potato pancakes, cheeses, and of course, domestic and imported beers.

The Lancaster N.Y. Enterprise paper said that It opened on July 27, 1977, at noon, beginning with a parade on Hunter's



Main Street. The fact that the festival was just a half to three-quarters of an hour from the thruway, in either direction, made it even more popular.

The paper also told of the new Polka Festival scheduled that year.

"The first National Polka Festival, featuring 12 of the top-rated polka bands playing in what is said to be the largest tent in the United States, will be held August 19-21, (1977) at Hunter Mountain, Hunter, N.Y.

It was to have Polish, Slovenian, Czech, Ukrain-

ian, and German polka music. It was said that numerous Eastern European foods were to be available.

As a resident of the town, I applaud Orville and Izzy Slutzky for all the "firsts" they brought to the Mountain Top. Of course, that thank you goes to Ethel and Goldie, the Slutzky wives, who appeared to be I & O's greatest supporters. On January 9, 2023, it'll be 63 years since Hunter Mountain opened. Thank you, all.

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LEGISLATURE STUFF

Tying Together Bureaucratic Threads

By Michael Ryan

CATSKILL - An amendment to a local law recently approved by the Greene County Legislature will give property owners with disabilities and limited incomes a sweeter tax break.

The legislation increases the maximum income limit for those landowners from \$29,000 to \$34,000, meaning they can make more money and still remain eligible for existing exemptions.

And in a separate but related resolution, lawmakers agreed that persons 65 years old or over who own real property shall be exempt from county taxes up to 50 percent of the assessed valuation, under certain conditions

Those conditions include limited income of the owner or combined income of owners not exceeding \$34,000, applicable under "sliding scale" provisions within Real Property Tax Law.

While helping keep dollars in some pockets, lawmakers also doled out a few bucks as part of their usual year-end tying together of threads.

Keeping with a longstanding tradition, an agreement was authorized with the Greene County Agricultural Society, setting aside \$24,284 in grant funds to assist with the Greene County Youth Fair.

The festival originated in the mountaintop town of Ashland as a small 4-H Club celebration of kids and their agrarian projects.

It now draws thousands of visitors every August to Angelo Canina Park in Cairo, a no-admission-price event, one of the last of its kind in the State, receiving payments of \$12,142 in February and May.

In another perennial bequeathing, up to

\$5,265 in reimbursement grant funds was approved for the Greene County Federation of Sportsmen. The Federation of Sportsmen is a non-profit organization created for the protection, propagation and distribution of fish, game and natural resources throughout the county, using the dollars to administer their programs.

Lawmakers appointed Robert Monteleone of Haines Falls to a two-year term as an alternate representative for the local Fish and Wildlife Management Board, effective January 1, 2023.

Monteleone is the president of the Catskill Mountain Fish and Game Club, the co-sponsors, along with the Stoney Clove Rod & Gun Club, of the annual Children's Ice-Fishing Derby in Tannersville.

Lawmakers appropriated \$5,000 in the 2023 budget to the Greene County Historical Society for ongoing operations.

In so doing, legislators recognized the Society's role as a primary tourist attraction and the main repository of the county's historical legacy.

Equally important is the Greene County Libraries Association which will be supported with \$33,900 included in the county budget.

The funds are invested within the county's public libraries. The Association, of late, has been working on digitizing archival materials that reflect the county's rich history, according to their website.

"This is a collaborative project, including contributions from Cairo Public Library, Catskill Public Library, Heermance Memorial Library, and Mountain Top Library," the website states.

"The collections contain a variety of materials including historic photo-

graphs, postcards, maps, and genealogical records from local families," the website states.

Lawmakers again agreed to execute an agreement with the Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District for \$129,798 (paid in quarterly installments of \$32,449.50 each).

The annual pact allocates \$113,598 for district operations and \$16,200 for Stream Revitalization. GCSW was established in 1961 to facilitate the implementation of a major flood control project in Windham.

Since then, GCSW has developed a diverse conservation program which provides assistance to landowners, local municipalities and State and federal agencies.

In a related matter, lawmakers also re-upped an agreement for \$124,740 with GCSW and their Watershed Assistance Program.

The Watershed Assistance Program was set up in 2002, facilitating projects that support sustainable economic development of the mountaintop region.

Eric Rasmussen, the current chairman of the GCSW board of directors, was reappointed for a three-year term, starting January 1, 2023.

Also reappointed to the GCSW board of directors, for one-year terms, were legislators James Thornton (District 6, Ashland Jewett, Prattsville and Windham) and Michael Bullish (District 1, Catskill).

Rasmussen and other board of directors members will be paid \$50 for each day they are engaged in the performance of their duties and mileage for traveling to and from those engagements, at the going country rate.

MESSAGE OF HOPE BY SISTER CHIRYA

Be Still and Listen to the Power of Silence



Winter's darkness invites us inwards to hear God whispering, 'Please. Come. Closer. Marvel at the gifts I've bestowed. Discover abundance within. Make the light come from deep within you.'

The New Year comes in Winter and both invite us to be our most radiant selves, a radiance we find deep in the center of the stillness of the mind. When we watch the snowflakes tumbling, we are practicing the art of being still. Stillness is always nearby and not hard to find. However, I find it takes a dose of concentration. And sometimes a stern reminder - I mumble to myself, "Be still now."

Behind all creation is silence, the vital ingredient for all that is created. It is a power. Silence is the very foundation of our being, from which comes all our thoughts. However, we must understand the nature of the power of silence for

it to be used beneficially, as silence takes both a positive and a negative form. Physical silence refers to the absence of sound. People are normally fearful of this silence because it suggests absence of life or company - as when a person dies there is total silence afterwards. Mental silence refers to thoughts which give benefit because it is the absence of wasteful thinking and negative thoughts. This constant positive thinking creates serenity and is like a fragrance filling the room. It is an unspoken language which crosses all barriers, not a blank state or the silence of someone sulking, but rather the deep comfort and joy experienced after being relieved of some pressure or burden. The only thing required is "decrease the negative and accentuate the positive".

The way to know the real power of silence and

true freedom is through meditation. Stop, take a minute, and listen to the silence within you today. Practice going into the depths of silence and see how much you enjoy it. Any tiredness of the soul is removed. We feel rested and remain carefree. When the soul is tired it is restless and worried; we think I have to do this and that. In order to clean and energize the mind, observing one minute's silence when waking up and before starting any task helps clear the mind, think right and radiate the energy of success. From today, be disciplined and take a minute of silence when necessary to prepare your mind to be capable of creating the right response for everything that's going to happen.

Silence doesn't mean no talking, no sound. Simply concentrate. Still your attention and you create silence. Silence makes space for the mind to breathe and for creativity to blossom. Use the power of silence in every situation and experience peace and happiness. It is when the turbulence of my mind ceases and I stop being at war with myself that I can begin to make peace with the world. A New Year starts not from the change in the date and time. It begins, when you decide every moment is new, when you choose to make it so. You just need a new mindset to bring your best to everything you do.

Contact: Yvonne Chirya
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bkchirya@gmail.com
chirya.risely@peacevil-
lageretreat.org

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Kaatscast, The Catskills Podcast, Launches Season 4

The Catskill region's premiere podcast, Kaatscast, enters its fourth season this month, starting off with an episode featuring "Shea in the Catskills," a Phoenicia-area artist, tarot practitioner, facilitator, organizer + contemplative.

Kaatscast is an award-winning biweekly podcast focusing on Catskills history, community, arts & culture, sustainability, and tourism. Chronogram readers voted Kaatscast the #1 Regional Podcast in last year's Chronogram-mies.

It's available for free on all of the major podcasting platforms, including Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, and Spotify. Listeners can also tune in at kaatscast.com. The podcast turns 4 this year, with a back catalog of 81 episodes, all searchable by transcript text and subject tags.

Some highlights

Episode 3: Grand Hotels and Railroad Travel on the Mountaintop with historians Bob Gildersleeve and Jon Ham

Episode 6: Lights! Camera! Catskills! And a conversation with the Hudson Valley Film Commission

Episode 10: Forest History with Mike Kudish

Episode 11: Legendary Angler Joan Wulff at the Phoenicia Library

Episode 21: Schmidt's Sting Pain Index: a conversation with entomolo-

gist Justin O. Schmidt

Episode 23: Metal Detecting with the Delaware County Diggers at John Burroughs' Woodchuck Lodge

Episode 33: Bicknell's Thrush, featuring an interview with the NYS Museum Curator of Birds

Episode 37: Vintage Baseball with the Fleischmanns Mountain Athletic Club

Episode 40: Hiking Bramley Mountain: Fire Tower History with Laurie Rankin

Episode 43: Lunch with the Phoenicia Diner's Mike Cioffi

Episode 44: Talking Bats with Ulster County Legislator Kathy Nolan

Episode 48: Watershed Moments: NYC and the Catskills Past and Present

Episode 53: "Wisecycling" and a VIP Tour of Ulster County's Resource Recovery Agency

Episode 72: Rail Explorers

Episode 75: Native American Cairns on Overlook Mountain

Episode 77: Wiltwyck Cemetery and Crematory

Episode 78: Hunting with Copper Bullets

Episode 80: Sharkey the Sea Lion and Kingston's "Seal College"

Shows in production for 2023 include a tour of Acra, NY's Wave Farm; living peaceably with black bears; vintage sewing machine repair in Delancey; snowmaking at Belleayre;



plus another 20 Catskills stories!

The podcast has collaborated on programming with regional organizations including Sustainable Hudson Valley, the Jerry Bartlett Angling Collection, and Catskill Tri-County Historical Views. It is supported by local sponsors, including Ulster Savings Bank, the Central Catskills Chamber of Commerce, the Catskill Mountains Scenic Byway, and Hanford Mills Museum. The series is also listener-supported, and anyone can make a one-time or recurring monthly donation at Kaatscast.com.

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D D S C O M P A N I E S . C O M

TRADITIONALLY SPEAKING BY PAT LARSEN

Playing it Safe...

This very well might come off as a bit of a rant. I do go off on these tantrums on occasion and no, I'm not sorry. Sometimes, I'm in a quandary understanding my own generation. You will know who you are soon enough as I unwind and take another sip of coffee before continuing.

So, we're the Baby Boomers, right? By definition we're born from a post-war era between 1946 and 1964. Most are now between 56 and 74 years of age. We're resourceful by nature, typically hard working individuals who define ourselves by our professional accomplishments. We are independent, competitive, goal oriented, experienced and we value relationships. We are the cool kids. The socializers, the



travelers, the love of life people, the researchers who have made so much possible for our kids to do better and be better in their lives. Right?

Then why oh why are we now succumbing to a resignation as we get older to the aging process stripping us of our desire to live our best lives each and every day? Why? Is it because

we're "playing it safe?"

We've become "soft" as the captain described his army men in the familiar White Christmas movie back in the day...as a way of stirring up and shaking off the difficulties of life.

If today, the sun is shining and the sky is blue, are we lamenting about an ache and pain constantly complaining like it's a shock that we're experiencing to our dignity. Do you recall your Grandma ever complaining like our generation does? Never! The previous generation kept on going, pushing forward, knowing that your rest you rust...and so they created activities for the mind and body to embrace.

Ok, now I'll explain what set me off. It's daunting to hear over and over again

that people spend their days awaiting the next Drs appointment. There seems to be little to no push back or questioning the long exhaustive list of tests that get scheduled for even the minor aches and pains. How many are scheduled for body part replacements these days? When did that major surgery become the norm?

Ok, I know many are brought back to a state of wellness through these procedures. I've just never ever heard of some many now needing these procedures well in advance of the suggestions to find safe and effective exercise and movement programs along with weight loss measures to reduce the pressure on failing joints.

I also wonder where the Gentleman are from back in the day who attended and enjoyed all those church

and community dances. Now I hear excuses that these lads don't want to be the only "guy" in the class.

(Head shake and eye roll here with me...!) Is that why these gents leave this planet earlier than the ladies? Perhaps.

I'm so proud and happy to be part of a region right here in Greene/Schoharie/Albany/Northern Ulster Counties that many a Baby Boomer call home to. Right here, close by

There are places to participate in community efforts that I'm sure any Baby Boomers would love to be a part of. Right at THE SHAMROCK HOUSE there is my fitness program, two mornings a week, that are designed specifically for our generation. Early evenings on Thursdays there is Country Line Dancing every week. Let's not forget Irish

Set Dancing which is akin to a very cool Irish square dance. There's bands and parties that truly bless our area especially as we head toward spring. So very much to be part of and to live our lives as they were intended to be lived.

I hope you're encouraged by my intention for this column...let's show the youngin's how to do it...! Traditionally speaking, we're all they've got left to the simplicity and splendor of life as we celebrate every day.

Pat Larsen is a sometimes crabby always loving and welcoming fitness instructor that brings every 50's and 60's music to classes to facilitate your healthy movement. GUYS? What are you waiting for to join me?

This is your personal invitation. Ok?

Please contact Pat at 518-275-8686 or via email 518-275-8686.

Winter Story Walk on the Windham Path

If you are old enough to remember pet rocks or young enough to still enjoy the science corner in your classroom, you will love the new story walk on the Windham Path. The new Book is Rick the Rock of Room 214 by Julie Falatka and illustrated by Ruth Chan. The success of the Story Walk is proof that when people in the community decide to come together on a project they can get things done that will benefit everyone. Briars and Brambles Bookstore has been carefully selecting and providing books for the path and Windham Arts Alliance supplying the labor and equipment to install the story. This time the project added two volunteers from Living Resources, Rachell and Matthew, who help out at the Main Street Community Center. They worked all morning taping the story to boards so they could be hung along the path. Even snow and cold didn't stop the enthusiastic WAA volunteers from completing the project. Read the story with a child or just enjoy it yourself while getting some exercise on the beautiful Windham Path, a jewel in our community. It might be fun to find a rock and decorate it to remember the adventure. A pet rock would be happy for a nice warm place to stay.



Jen Schwartz at Briars and Brambles



Paul Trautman Scott and Tracy Berwick Hanging the Story

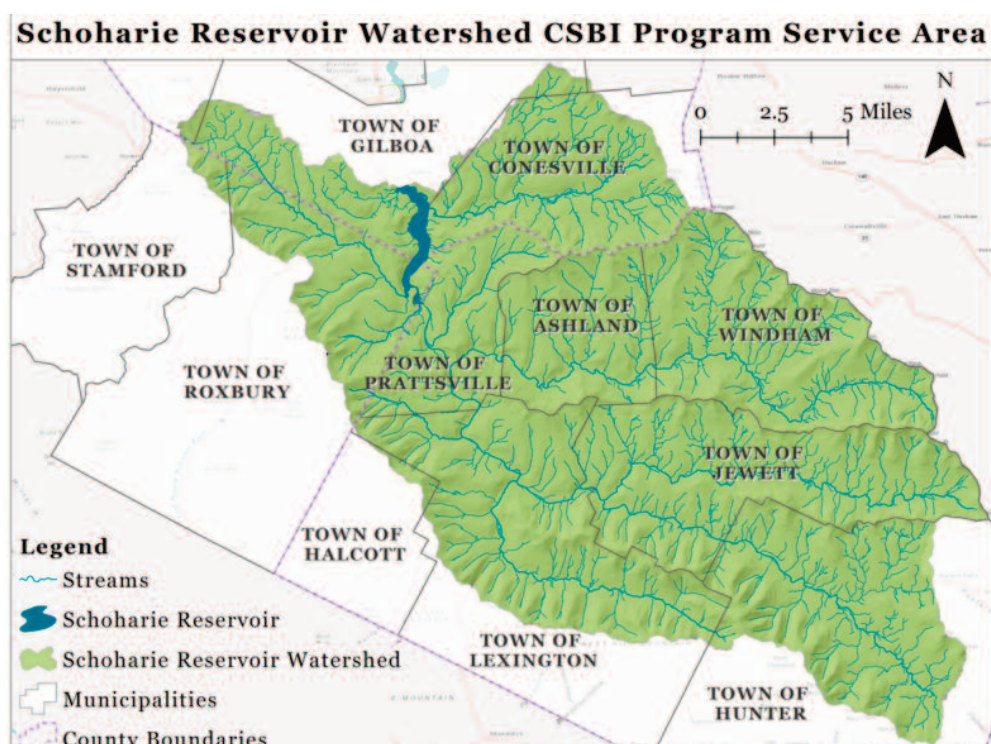


Rachell and Mathew help set up the Story Walk at MSCC

CSBI Now Recruiting Streamside Landowners for Free Plantings

The Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative (CSBI) at Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District (GCSWCD) is available to work with streamside landowners within the Schoharie Reservoir watershed to design and implement site-specific riparian (streamside) buffer plantings that help protect property, create beneficial habitat for fish and wildlife, and contribute to improving water quality.

CSBI has been working with local landowners who wish to establish a new buffer or improve an existing buffer by planting native trees and shrubs, since 2010. Participation in the CSBI program is free for eligible landowners, and GCSWCD provides and installs plants in areas adjacent to the stream at no cost. If your streamside property is mowed, is lacking trees or only has a single line of trees next to the streambank, is showing signs of



erosion; or if you are interested in implementing new techniques to maintain the health of your streamside land, then you may benefit from participating in this Initiative. Each streamside planting includes a variety of trees and shrubs that are native to the Catskill Mountain region, are suitable for growing in floodplains, and naturally occur in riparian zones. Once established, the

planting projects increase streambank stability as the above ground vegetation helps to slow the velocity of floodwaters while the deep underground root systems help to hold soils together – slowing or preventing future erosion. Additionally, these planted areas will filter out pollutants from stormwater runoff, and the flowering plants will attract birds and pollinators.

To find out more about this program, verify eligibility, or schedule a site visit, please contact GCSWCD's CSBI Coordinator, Laura Weyeneth, by email (laura@gcswcd.com) or phone (518-622-3620).

Subscribe to the Mountain Eagle! (518) 763-6854

HELP WANTED

The Town of Jewett Highway Department is accepting applications for full time employment. Great benefits (100% Health Insurance), NYSLRS, Paid Vacation, Personal and Sick Time, Most Holidays Observed. CDL REQUIRED. Applications may be obtained at the Town of Jewett Town Clerks office Monday thru Thursday between 10:30am and 2:30pm.

Art, Music, and Friends at WFA

Singer-songwriter Belle-Skinner's influences cover a broad range of genres from French chansons and Russian folk to contemporary alt-pop and rock. Her voice often draws comparisons to the likes of Joni Mitchell, Kate Bush, Jeff Buckley, Mary Hopkin, and Lana Del Rey.

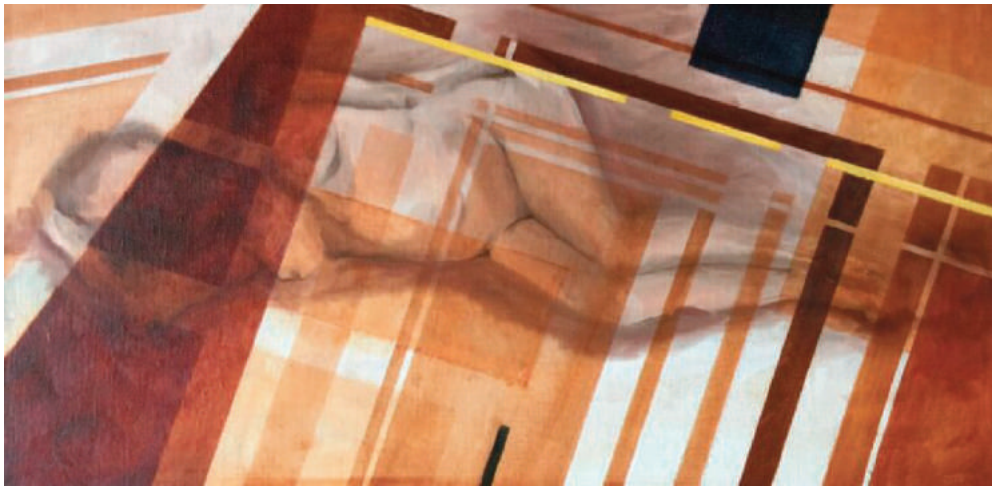
Contact director@windhamfinearts.com or call 518-734-6850 for more information.



Peter's Kill Falls by Rinaldo Skalamera



Seeing the Sky Diptych by Allison Russo



Barrier to Entry by Allison Russo



The Estuary by John Reinhardt

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H'Art and Soul Cming to Windham

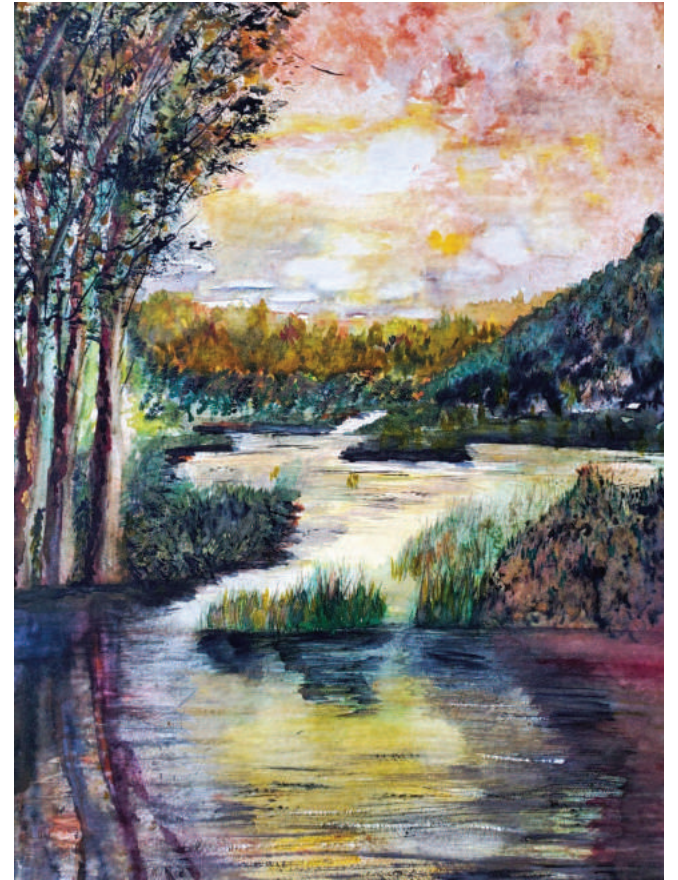
Windham Arts Alliance is excited to present H' Art and Soul, the first 2023 WAA art show at the Main Street Community Center. Several artists are showing their work for the first time with WAA. The show will be on display from January 6 to March 24, 2023 giving the community time to enjoy the exhibition. During the afternoon of the Opening Celebration on January 14 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm, we are looking forward to a demonstration and lecture by Peter Keitel on photorealistic painting. Peter will describe the history of this movement, which began in the 1960's, and then he will describe the stages in creating a Photorealistic painting. Finally, he will demonstrate his own process with examples of the materials he uses in his own work. His paintings are a joy to see.

The Opening and Meet the Artists Celebration will follow the demonstration on January 14, from 3:00-5:30 pm. During the opening, Windham Arts Alliance is also excited to present music by Scott Berwick. Scott, folk singer and songwriter, will play eclectic samples of old-time music, original compositions, and familiar songs. He is known for writing songs about the Mountaintop, the Catskills, and also encouraging audience participation. He is always a heart-warming addition to an evening of creative expression.

In conjunction with this show, there will be a second workshop at the Main Street Community Center. This presentation is scheduled for two Saturdays on February 11 and 18 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Laura Avello will teach these watercolor workshops. Many people in the community have been requesting this program. She will teach the special techniques that make watercolor painting unique. Participants will be given materials to use and will be able to take home a finished watercolor painting. To pre-register for this program please contact the Main Street Community center at www.mainstreetcenter.org or call (518) 734-4168

As artists, in any medium, we all put our heart and soul into each piece of work we create. This fine art exhibition will showcase works in any medium (except photography, which will have its own show later in the year) that the artists feel expresses their spirit, emotion, passion, personality, or sense of humanity and beauty. In other words, their heart and soul. The artists were asked to determine the meaning of this statement and the relationship it has to their art. This show will include works from established artists as well as emerging artists.

Hoping to allow artists to plan ahead, WAA is announcing that they are planning three more shows for the 2023 calendar year. In Focus (Photography Show) is scheduled from May 5 to July 28. Revisiting Our Landmarks and Historic Sites from September 1 to November 3. For this show each artist will be given a photo or postcard from the past and asked to make a creation showing what it is like today. This will be works in any visual arts media. The last show of the year is planned as a small works show called Art in Small Packages from November 17 to January 12, 2024. For more information, please



Mary King



Sherry Wack, Frosty Dawn



Nancy Cambell, Winterlight



Tully, The Soul of the Schoharie



Schoharie Creek, Oil on Linen

contact windhamartsalliance@gmail.com or look on the Windhamartsalliance.org website. The Main Street Community Center in Windham will also have information available at www.mainstreetcenter.org. In conjunction with each show there will be workshops, demonstrations, lectures and musical events. We want to thank the

Main Street Community Center for opening their hearts and allowing WAA to share their space and to have programs in their venue. Through this attitude of community organizations working together we are making the Mountaintop an even more wonderful place to live, work and visit. We also want to thank CREATE Council on the Arts for their help and support.

West Kill Brewing Celebrates NY With Flavor

By Michael Ryan

WEST KILL - Not just suds have been astir at West Kill Brewing which has welcomed a bubbling baby and flowed back to off-mountain roots.

A person might think Michael Barcone and Colleen Kortendick would be plenty busy, bringing a second daughter, Bernadette, into the world two days before Christmas, joining big sister Deladis.

The arrival of Bernadette was not simple, needing to temporarily relocate from the remote Spruceton Valley, at the furthest ends of the town of Lexington, to be close to the Albany Medical Center delivery room.

Then again, not much in life is child's play so as the family grows, the happily weary mom and dad continue to spread their wealth of wort.

Over the past six years, their local brewery and tap room have blossomed into a popular destination (despite its off-the-beaten-trail location or perhaps because of it, out where civilization meets wilderness).

Not resting on their lager laurels, West Kill Brewing, established in 2017 on a century-old ancestral homestead, has returned to its source in the downstream City of Kingston.

Michael spent his early youth in New York State's historic first capital where Barcone's Music

Company became a five-generation, iconic business.

He moved to West Kill when he was 11, leaving the mountains to earn a college degree and teach high school history in Boston.

It was there Michael made a sweet infusion with Colleen who, as fate would have it, is a descendant of a family of Wisconsin, beer-brewing extraction.

Blending malts and hops was initially a hobby for the couple that evolved into a dream and is now an expanding entrepreneurial success story.

A tap room has been built in Michael's boyhood haunts, at 602 Broadway, adding an artistic view of the Ulster Performing Arts Center, across the street, to the panorama of the Catskills, outside their home windows.

"We wanted to have another retail facility and Kingston felt like the natural spot," Michael says.

"A lot of our customer base in West Kill comes from the Hudson Valley and we're not far from the old music store.

"The reception has been great. We've been open for about a month. We have an indoor capacity of 54 and a huge, 3,000 square foot, outdoor courtyard," Michael says, operating with in-house management.

Big City and Small

Town clientele have different scenery but are served the same original West Kill Brewing beers along with ciders and wine exclusively from New York producers.

No production occurs in Kingston but the unique brews created in Rip Van Winkle country lose nothing in the trip to more metropolitan surroundings.

Coming to fruition on an historic 127 acre dairy farm, "West Kill Brewing aims to reflect the great place it was born," their website states.

"With a focus on locally grown and foraged ingredients and a soft spot for history, we have fun brewing beers that are as fascinating in origin as they are delicious.

"Beers with maple sap boiled in our wood fired evaporator, honey harvested from our hives, cherries picked from our orchard, creeping thyme plucked from our fields, and yeast cultivated from the Spruceton Valley."

For information on West Kill Brewing, located at 2173 Spruceton Road, telephone (518) 989-6001 or visit info@westkillbrewing.com.

Local hours are Friday and Saturday, 12-8 p.m. and Sunday 12-6 p.m. First come, first served seating (including large groups). Dogs are permitted in our outdoor areas and must be on a leash at all times.



BROOKIE
IS A CRISP AMERICAN LAGER, BREWED WITH IROQUOIS WHITE CORN GROWN IN THE MOHAWK VALLEY. A BEER, BEST CONSUMED WITH YOUR ROD AND REEL IN HAND.
12 FL. OZ OF LAGER
4.2% ALC BY VOLUME
ORIGINAL ARTWORK BY STEVEN WEINBERG @STEVEN_DRAWS

Brookie is a crisp American lager best consumed with rod and reel in hand.

Oatmeal Stout
OUR BREWERY CAT, TEDDY SURE LOVES A FRESH COAT AND THIS ONE HERE WAS BREWED IN THE HEART OF THE CATSKILLS USING NEW YORK BARLEY, WHEAT AND OATS ALONG WITH ENGLISH CHOCOLATE MALT AND ROASTED BARLEY FOR AN EXTRA SMOOTH VELVETY STOUT.
ONE PINT, 16 FL. OZ OF Beer ALC. 5.4% BY VOL.

Fresh Coat uses New York State barley, wheat and oats along with English chocolate malt and roasted barley for an extra smooth velvety stout.

MOON FARMER
INDIA PALE ALE DRY HOPPED WITH GALAXY, CITRA, AND EQUANOT 6.8%
MOON FARMER IS THE THIRD BEER IN OUR CATSKILLS HERITAGE SERIES; CREATED TO HONOR THOSE DETERMINED, INDUSTRIOUS, BOOTSTRAP-TUGGIN' INDIVIDUALS, WHO PROVED THEIR WORTH DAY-IN AND DAY-OUT.
ORIGINAL ARTWORK BY KIT CLARK

Moonfarmer is created to honor those determined, industrious, bootstrap-tuggin' individuals who proved their worth day-in and day-out.

KAATERSKILL
IPA
A SOFT AND BALANCED IPA DRY HOPPED WITH CITRA, MOSAIC, AZACCA, AND COLUMBUS.
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ORIGINAL ARTWORK BY STEVEN WEINBERG

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THE CATSKILL GEOLOGISTS BY PROFESSORS ROBERT AND JOHANNA TITUS

The Glaciers and Catskill Creek

In our last column (Dec. 23) we tried to answer one of our reader's questions Sherry Wack asked why was it that Schoharie Creek flows northwest while its nearby neighbor, Catskill Creek, flows southeast? We think we answered that question, but our answer triggered another question from another reader. Robert Dineen read our description of the upstream headward erosion of Catskill Creek, and he looked at our map and asked why Catskill Creek hasn't eroded all the way up to Schoharie Creek and diverted it. How come the upper Schoharie Creek does not turn east and flow into Catskill Creek, right there at Middleburgh?

We talked about this sort of thing recently. Did you read our September 23rd column? It was about a process called stream piracy. We described how the steep and erosive Kaaterskill Creek had, at the end of the Ice Age, eroded into the upper reaches of Schoharie

Creek and diverted (or "pirated") those waters. Something that is today called Lake Creek flows southwest from South Lake and then joins Spruce Creek, tumbles over Kaaterskill Falls and joins Kaaterskill Creek to flow east into the Hudson. It started out flowing southwest and then turned sharply to the east. Robert Dineen wondered why Catskill Creek hasn't done something similar.

The odd thing is that, in fact, it once did just exactly that. Take a look at our map. It shows the Middleburgh area just as the Schoharie Creek glacier had melted back to just a little north of that location. Behind the melting ice there had been a lake called Glacial Lake Grand Gorge. Its waters rose to a level of about 1,600 feet. But when the glacier had melted back far enough, there was the uppermost valley of Catskill Creek. That bottomed out at about 1,170 feet. Obviously, the waters of Lake Grand gorge



could have flowed through the village of

Franklinton and then down the Catskill Creek Valley (see the arrow on our map). And they did. The next time you find yourself driving uphill and north on Rte. 145 heading toward Middleburgh we want you to imagine the torrential flow of ice water that once tumbled down the valley. You are driving into that ancient flow. The process created a new lake at the 1,170-foot level; that was Glacial Lake Schoharie (black on our map).

So, why didn't that flow continue? Why doesn't Schoharie Creek turn east and flow into Catskill Creek - right now, today? We are not sure. But we can hypothesize. And we have to do a little speculation, something not always approved of in science. We find ourselves imagining what must have happened. For quite some time the Schoharie Creek glacier continued melting back to the north. All during that time Glacial Lake Schoharie lay behind it at a lake level of about

1,170 feet. Its waters continued to drain down Catskill Creek. Then, when the ice melted back all the way to the Mohawk River Valley, the waters of Lake Schoharie suddenly drained into that valley. The lake disappeared and the Catskill Creek spillway was abandoned.

That shouldn't be forever. We can well imagine that headward erosion of Catskill Creek will continue on into the future. Someday it will reach Schoharie Creek and pirate it. Then, for the second time in history, Schoharie Creek will turn east and flow into Catskill Creek, the victim of stream piracy. At least, that is our hypothesis.

This is the second column in a row that answers reader's questions. We encourage that. Do you have a question? Contact the authors at randjtitus@prodigy.com. Join their facebook page "The Catskill Geologist." Read their blogs at "thecatskill-geologist.com."

Letters to the Editor, Continued from A4

pervisors took advantage of the absence of two members and voted not to renew Dr. Gildemeister's contract, which had previously been unanimously renewed. In spite of her diligence in protecting the public during a worldwide pandemic, and working to enforce issues for public safety in our local water and waste treatment, Dr. Gildemeister was the target of anti-vaccination and anti-mask sentiments.

The SCDC cannot emphasize strongly enough that health science and sound public policy must be at the top of any list of criteria for the Director of Public Health, and Dr. Gildemeister embodied this approach. With direct blowback from those without any epidemiological or infectious disease expertise, she was steadfast in her efforts to protect the health of all county residents, regardless of their political leanings or other beliefs. The targeting of public health officials is a broader national issue of politicizing public health policy. It is a shame to see this happening on our Board of Supervisors.

The Board of Health voted unanimously to reappoint Amy Gildemeister to a second six-year term as Public Health Director. Members of that board who voted to reappoint Dr. Gildemeister were Drs. Roy Korn, Stephen Strasser, and Rebecca Eckel, Fulton Supervisor Phil Skowfoe, Debra Wollaber, Bonnie Post, and Clark Stefanik. Six supervisors tried to delay the vote on the matter until the January 3rd reorganizational meeting, however two supervisors representing a large number of county res-

idents were absent during the vote and it was narrowly defeated.

In spite of full support by the Board of Health, nine supervisors voted not to renew the contract for Dr. Amy Gildemeister as Public Health Director for Schoharie County effectively curtailing her position by denying her salary authorization. Those voting against her keeping her job were Mr. Federice, Ms. Hait, Mr. Leavitt, Mr. Luniewski, Mr. Rosa, Mr. Tavenner, Ms. Terry, Mr. Vroman, and Mr. Weinhofer. Voting to reappoint Dr. Gildemeister were supervisors Mr. Airey, Mr. Hampel, Ms. Manko, Mr. Skowfoe, and Mr. VanWormer.

The SCDC strongly supports reconsideration and the reappointment of Dr. Amy Gildemeister.

Schoharie County Democratic Committee

Nobody Should Die From Cervical Cancer

It's Cervical Cancer Awareness Month and the Cancer Services Program (CSP) of the Central Region wants to share some important and alarming information. In New York State, Black women are more likely than white women to be diagnosed with cervical cancer and to die from the disease. Recent findings from a U.S. study show that Black women are diagnosed with late-stage cervical cancer at a higher rate than white women. Late-stage cancer is cancer that has spread to other places in the body. Cervical cancer is much harder to treat in late stages with less

than 2 out of 100 women surviving past 5 years.

This is especially alarming because cervical cancer can be prevented. Here is what everyone should know:

Cervical cancer screening may save lives. Getting screened regularly can find the cells that lead to cancer so they can be removed before cancer grows. Screening also helps find cancer early when it may be easier to treat.

Screening begins at age 21. Anyone with a cervix ages 21 to 65 should be screened every 3 years with a Pap test. For some, using an HPV test may lengthen the time between screenings.

You can get screened even if you do not have health insurance. The CSP provides free screening to people ages 40 and older without health insurance who qualify. For people with insurance, most health insurers cover screening at no cost.

The good news is that, in a recent survey, nearly 70% of women 21 and older said they'd be more likely to schedule their screening after learning why it's important to find cancer early. The CSP hopes this information motivates everyone with a cervix due for cervical cancer screening to call their health care provider or call us at 1-888-345-0225 to see if you qualify for a free cervical cancer screening.

Mitzi Sackett
Public Education/Community Outreach Specialist
Cancer Services Program - Central Region

Iorio Park

I was happy to read in the Herald the great news that Cobleskill received a

grant to remove and replace Iorio Park. In the summer we enjoy using the public pool adjacent to the park. The pool, like the park, are tremendous village assets.

Although the pool itself is immaculate the bathrooms, like the park, need to be renovated. They are old, outdated and in need of paint. I am hoping that

some small portion of the grant may be dedicated for this purpose.

Bruce Castka
Cobleskill

THE TAPESTRY BY DR. DEBORAH HERODES

"How do you Measure a Year in the Life?" Please feel free to Sing Along

"Five hundred, twenty five thousand, six hundred minutes

Five hundred, twenty five thousand moments so dear

Five hundred, twenty five thousand, six hundred minutes

How do you measure, measure a year?

In daylights, in sunsets
In midnights, in cups of coffee

In inches, in miles

In laughter, in strife

In five hundred, twenty five thousand, six hundred minutes

How do you measure a year in a life?

How about love?

How about love?

How about love?

Measuring love

Seasons of love

Seasons of love

Five hundred, twenty five thousand, six hundred minutes

Five hundred, twenty five thousand journeys to plan

Five hundred, twenty five thousand, six hundred minutes

How can you measure the life of a woman or a man?

In truths that she learned

Or in times that he cried

Or in bridges he burned

Or the way that she died

It's time now to sing out

Although it's not the end

To celebrate, remember a year in the life of a friend

Remember the love

Remember the love

Remember the love

Measuring the seasons of love

Seasons of love."

When deciding what to write for this week's article,

lyrics came to mind, and so, in order to get some music in your head, I decided to reprint the song above. There

are so many good thoughts in this song, entitled "Seasons of Love." The first time I ever heard it, it reminded me of T.S. Eliot's poem, "Prufrock," where he "measures out his life in coffee spoons."

The nitty gritty of our lives, which pushes us forward to take care of ourselves and our families includes so many little things we rarely think about (the coffee spoons, the ringing alarm clocks, the smell of fresh laundry, the knock-knock jokes of our little ones, the announcer from the TV, saying, "come on down.")

No matter what your every day moments are, they are your moments, and they make up your year. The year may have been a good one, or the year may have been the worst ever, but with every sunrise and sunset, you lived your life. The year ahead offers you a new opportunity to recognize the little things in your life, because you WILL remember the BIG things.

My big things included a car accident, a seriously ill relative, many friends and past students' deaths, a spousal heart-blockage in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, while my husband and I were cruising slowly back to a U.S. hospital, tough family issues and COVID again, albeit mild. Other big things that rank in the positive reflections of the year included: cruising, unhurt passengers (my husband and myself) in a horrific car accident, new-found hope for a serious illness, an appreciation of the human mind and the doctors and nurses that possess not only the brains but the empathy to carry out their jobs, and a recognition of gratefulness to our government for providing COVID shots and boosters to keep us safe from a catastrophic result.

Turning the bad things into good things is always helpful when reviewing your year. We get through the bad things, hopefully, and when we do, we seldom think about the positive things that arose from the negative.

But...the little things, the things that brought me joy all year were my relationships, with my daughters, and my grandchildren, the ability to see well enough to write these articles (my eyesight is poor due to a retinal stroke, which left one of my eyes blind; my other eye is not much better,) campfires with friends and family at newly found campsites and a few well-loved, familiar ones, new found friends (old and young,) while producing a summer musical for children, watching my own grandchildren sing and dance on the stage, walking the beaches and trails in Maine, lobster, lobster and more lobster; new babies born into our family, the joys that came with face book photos of new lives, new friends, old friends, old students, family vacation reminders, a real "snail-mail" letter from a reader of my column, who took the time to find my personal address, write and thank me for one of my past articles, as it had helped her; the publication of my third book of poetry, the continual smile on the face of my sweet husband, despite the stressors of his life, and last but not least, the sand castles built with little hands on Atlantic Beach, North Carolina, where my mom and I had gone for decades, with my own children, and built sand-castles with them.

Of course, in any life, there are far more memories (good and bad) that happen, during

Story continues on D3



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MAKE ROOM FOR YOUR TREE

MARGARETVILLE (845) 586-3321

BOICEVILLE (845) 657-4177

DELHI (607) 746-7400

ONEONTA (607) 435-3280

STAMFORD (607) 652-2220

SIDNEY (607) 604-4394

ROSCOE (607) 290-4130

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 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 design. as agt. upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Daniel E. Hanchett, 176 Hill Road, Cobleskill, NY 12043. General Purposes.

LLC Notice
166 JAR LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 10/17/22. 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: RLN Properties, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on September 26, 2022. Office location: Schoharie 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: Richard McPartland, 348 Armlin Hill Road, Middleburgh, NY 12122. 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 Message By Beth LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-07-18. Office location: Greene County. United States Corporation Agents, Inc. designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to United States Corporation Agents, Inc.: 7014 13th Avenue Suite 202 Brooklyn NY 11228. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

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

LLC Notice
NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION NP3LSO LLC. Filed 11/30/2022. County: Schoharie. SSNY design. 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 Northwest Registered Agent LLC, 90 State St, Suite 700, Office 40, Albany NY 12207; 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.

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 13, 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 - Schoharie

Please be advised that the Schoharie Town Board organizational meeting will be at the regular scheduled meeting on Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, 300 Main Street, Schoharie.

Public Notice - Schoharie

I, the undersigned, hereby give notice that I have received the tax

roll and warrant for the collection of taxes in and for the town of Schoharie, Schoharie County, New York for the year 2023 and that I will receive taxes by mail or the drop box outside of the Schoharie Town Hall and in person at the Town Hall 300 Main Street.

Taxes may be received without interest by the collecting officer on or before the 2nd day of February or thirty days following the collecting officer's receipt of the tax roll and warrant, whichever is later. On all taxes received after such day, there shall be added interest of 1.00 per centum for the month of February or fraction thereof and an additional 1.00 per centum for each additional month or fraction thereof until such taxes are paid or until the return of unpaid taxes to the County Treasurer on June 1st after which a fee of 5% is added plus 12.00 per centum per annum from February 3rd pursuant to law. Tax rates per \$1,000 of assessed valuations are as follows:

County Tax 10.040052 Gen. Town Wide 1.579388 Gen Town Out 0.006829 Hwy Town Out 2.898104 FDI30 C.B. Fire District 2.560798 FP142 Scho Fire Prot. Dist 1.664143 LD130 C.B. Light Dist. 0.605581.

Signed Pamela Foland, Town Clerk

Public Notice - Greene County

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that there will be a Public Hearing on Greene County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to obtain the views of residents, public agencies, and other interested parties on the community development needs of Greene County and to discuss potential applications from the County for eligible CDBG 2023 Program Funding Activities, including Consolidated Funding Applications and Open Round Economic Development and Microenterprise Projects. Greene County anticipates one or more applications that utilize CDBG funds administered by the New York State Office of Homes and Community Renewal (OCR). The CDBG Program requires that the County conduct a public hearing in advance of the approval of applications and residents are encouraged to submit comments and suggestions on the utilization of CDBG eligible program funds. Comments and suggestions may be directed via email to planning@discovergreene.co

m or via mail to Greene County Planning and Economic Development, Suite 419, 411 Main Street, Catskill, New York, 12414.

Public Notice - Halcott

TAKE NOTICE, that I, the undersigned, Collector of Taxes of the Town of Halcott, Greene County, New York, have duly received the tax roll and warrant for the collection of taxes for the year 2023, and that I will receive taxes as follows:

At the Grange (upstairs) - Telephone (845) 701-1364
January - Wednesdays - 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and Saturdays 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. **FACE COVERING REQUESTED FOR ALL IN PERSON VISITS**
All other times by appointment or by mail - closed all legal holidays. Payments made by mail must be postmarked by the last day of the month.

SEEKING

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

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.

OPENING

Fine Art Photography Gallery Grand Opening Aug. 6 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment. Wildlife photographer with thousands of photos for sale. email: fritz12@aol.com

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.

HELP WANTED

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

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

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

HELP WANTED

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

Said public hearing will be held on Wednesday, January 18th, 2023 at 6:25 p.m. in the Greene County Office Building, 4th Floor, Legislative Chambers, 411 Main Street, Catskill, New York, at which time all persons interested in the subject matter thereof will be heard concerning the same.

Public Notice - Greene County

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that there will be a Public Hearing on the submission of a Greene County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application to the New York State Office of Homes and Community Renewal (OCR) for a grant of funds to implement a Microenterprise Assistance Program. Greene County wishes to obtain the views of residents, public agencies, and other interested parties regarding community needs prior to the submission of the Microenterprise Assistance Program Application. Greene County anticipates one or more applications that utilize CDBG funds administered by the New York State Office of Homes and Community Renewal (OCR). The CDBG Program requires that the County conduct a public hearing in advance of the approval of applications and residents are encouraged to submit comments and suggestions on the utilization of CDBG eligible program funds. Comments and suggestions may be directed via email to planning@discovergreene.co

Public Notice - Hunter

The Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) is seeking qualified entities for the demolition of structure in the Village of Hunter, Greene County on a property purchased pursuant to the NYCDEP funded Flood Buyout Program and approved by the Village. A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held on at 10:00 AM on January 12, 2023. Bids must be received at CWC by 3:00 PM, January 26, 2023. For bid documents please contact John Mathiesen or Timothy Cox at 845-586-1400. EOE

Public Notice - Prattsville

Take Notice, that I, the undersigned, Collector of Taxes of the Town of Prattsville, Greene County, New York, have duly received the tax roll and warrant for the collection of taxes for the year 2023, and that I will receive taxes as follows:

At the Grange (upstairs) - Telephone (845) 701-1364
January - Wednesdays - 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and Saturdays 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. **FACE COVERING REQUESTED FOR ALL IN PERSON VISITS**
All other times by appointment or by mail - closed all legal holidays. Payments made by mail must be postmarked by the last day of the month.

Public Notice - Bova

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to section 205-a of Highway Law, Scutt Mountain Road in the Town of Bova has been designated seasonal by the Highway Superintendent from December 1, 2022 to May 1, 2023. The road will be plowed from the intersection of Scutt Mountain and County Hwy 5 up one mile only.

Public Notice - Stamford FD

PLEASE BE ADVISED that the Town of Bova will hold their Organizational Meeting for 2023 on January 10, 2023 at 6 PM at the Bova Community Hall. The Regular Monthly Meeting will follow.

Public Notice - Bova

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Public Notice - Stamford FD

The Village of Stamford Planning Board will hold a meeting on Wednesday, January 11th, 2023 at 7:00pm at Village Hall.

Public Notice - Bova

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Public Notice - Bova

PLEASE BE ADVISED that the Town of Bova will hold their Organizational Meeting for 2023 on January 10, 2023 at 6 PM at the Bova Community Hall. The Regular Monthly Meeting will follow.

No postdated checks will be accepted.

A \$30.00 charge will be added to the total bill for each returned check.

Public Notice - Jewett

TAKE NOTICE, that I, the undersigned, Collector of Taxes of the Town of Jewett, Greene County, New York, have duly received the tax roll and warrant for the collection of taxes for the year 2023, and that I will receive taxes as follows:

TOWN OF JEWETT: Monday through Thursday 11:00AM - 1:00PM Jewett Municipal Building - 3547 Rt. 23C Jewett

Telephone - (518) 263-4646 (Ext. 1) Closed all legal holidays.

Public Notice - Bova

Payments made by mail MUST be postmarked on or before the last day of the month due.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE,

that taxes may be paid on or before January 31, 2023 without charge or interest. On taxes remaining unpaid after January 31, 2023, there shall be added one percent for February or the remainder thereof; two percent for March; three percent for April; four percent for May; five percent for June; six percent for July; and seven percent for August, at which time, the return of unpaid taxes is made by the collector to the Greene County Treasurer Pursuant to law.

Public Notice - Bova

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Bova Town Board on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 6:15 PM regarding the adoption of A Local Law Amending Local Law #4 of 2006, Providing for the Administration and Enforcement of the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code of the Town of Bova, New York. Copies of the proposed Local Law shall be available at the time of the hearing and shall be available at times prior to and after the hearing by contacting the Town Clerk for the purpose of inspection or procurement by interested persons.

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Please take notice that the organizational meeting for the year 2023 of the Stamford Joint Fire District Board of Commissioners of the Towns of Stamford, Harpersfield, Kortright, Gilboa and Jefferson, Counties of Delaware and Schoharie, New York, will be held on the 10th day of January 2023 at 7:00p.m. at the Stamford Firehouse, 111 Main Street, Stamford. This notification is being given to the news media pursuant to the provisions of Section 94 of the Public Officers Law of the State of New York.

Public Notice - Seward

Please be advised the monthly meeting will take place on January 17, 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.

Public Notice - Bova

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LEGAL ADVERTISING

The work includes providing all labor, materials, machinery, tools, equipment, and other means of construction necessary and incidental to the completion of the work shown on the plans and described in these specifications including, but not necessarily limited to the following:

Replacement of approximately 1,500 Linear feet of Sidewalks along CR 2A North Harpersfield Road and NY-10 in the Town of Jefferson. The project will address minor drainage issues, remove deteriorated sidewalks, and install new sidewalks, and install signage and pavement markings to bring all road crossings up to current safety standards.

This is a Town of Jefferson sponsored project funded by the CDBG program. NYSDOT Standard Specifications, officially finalized and adopted on January 1, 2023 as posted on the New York State Department of Transportation's website, must be followed by the successful bidder.

There are no M/WBE or DBE goals for this project. However, Contractors must take all necessary affirmative steps to assure that minority, women, and disadvantaged businesses are used where possible. This is a HUD Section 3 Project with contracting priorities for businesses that hire or are owned by low-income persons.

All job descriptions and job postings for work to be done on the Project by Awardee and its Subs must be posted on the New York State Job Bank here: <https://newyorkusnlx.com>

All job descriptions and job postings for work to be done on the Project by Awardee and its Subs must be posted on the New York State Job Bank here: <https://dol.ny.gov/career-centers/>

Awardee and its Subs must contact the closest YouthBuild program(s) to notify them about the Project, the jobs that will be made available and a contact person at the Project in charge of hiring. A list of career centers can be found here: <https://dol.ny.gov/career-centers/>

Awardee and its Subs must contact the closest YouthBuild program(s) to notify them about the Project, the jobs that will be made available and a contact person at the Project in charge of hiring. YouthBuild organizations are here: <http://youthbuild.org/our-programs/#map>.

Awardee and its Subs must contact local Public Housing Authorities and/or Section 8 programs located in project area for posting work opportunities on community bulletin boards, newsletters, websites and physical lobbies. Local PHAS listed here: <https://www.hud.gov/program-offices/public-indian-housing/pha/contacts>.

Project will have a sign visible from the street identifies the name of the project, provides the contractor and/or Section 3 Coordinators contact information and states: "This is a HUD Section 3 Project with hiring and contracting priorities for low-income persons and business that hire or are owned by them."

Staff at the Awardee, the General Contractor and their Subs that are in charge in hiring and contracting for the Project must review the HCR Section 3 Policy Manual, attend a training by HCR or HUD on Section 3 prior to the commencement of construction, and attend periodic additional trainings provided by HCR.

Company must have a policy of retaining records related to Section 3 performance and great extent feasible efforts, including the Section 3 Hiring Forms for itself and its Subs, for as long as program regulations (e.g. CDBG regulations) require, or where silent, for 3 years after completion of the Project.

Contract Documents, including Invitation to Bidders, Instructions to Bidders, Wage Rates, Bid Documents, Agreement, Special Notes, Specifications, Contract Drawings, and any Addenda, may be examined, at no expense, at the following link after Friday 1 2 / 9 / 2 0 2 2 : <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1f5vVw1zbyo6bH1XcvV7rSgLfE62r632?usp=sharing>

No questions or inquiries regarding this bid will be accepted within three (3) business days prior to the bid opening. Contractors MUST notify the Engineering Contact at the end of this notification to be placed on the official Plan Holder List, to receive Addenda and any other Bid correspondence. Bids received from Contractors other than those on the official Plan Holders List will not be accepted.

Addenda will be emailed from Greenman Pedersen, Inc (GPI) to Bidders listed on the official Plan Holders List. Bidders must acknowledge receipt of all Addenda by acknowledging each Addendum on page

1 of the Bid Form. Failure of any Bidder to receive any such Addendum or interpretation shall not relieve such Bidder from any obligation under this Bid submittal. All Addenda so issued shall become part of the Contract Documents.

Questions regarding the Contract Documents should be directed to Chris Cornwell, PE through email at: ccornwell@gpinet.com. Bidders shall promptly notify the Engineer of any errors, omissions, conflicts or ambiguity within the Contract Documents within 3 days of bid opening.

This is a LUMP SUM BID as described in the Instructions to Bidders. All bids must include the completed Bid Form, Non-Collusive Bidding and Disbarment Certifications, and Lobbying Certifications. No bidder may withdraw his/her bid within forty-five (45) calendar days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Each bid must be accompanied by security in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid in the form and subject to the conditions provided in the Instructions to Bidders.

Bids to be considered must be delivered in a sealed envelope to the offices of the Town of Jefferson located at 677 North Harpersfield Road, Jefferson NY by 12:00 pm on the day of the bid opening, JANUARY 12, 2023. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Town Board meeting that evening. Bids received after the above noted time will not be accepted. All sealed envelopes should be clearly labeled "BID: Town of Jefferson Sidewalks Project CDBG #580PF42-20".

The Bidder to whom the Contract is awarded will be required to furnish Performance, Payment, and Guarantee Bonds from an acceptable Surety Company for an amount not less than 100% of the accepted bid. The successful Bidder and all subcontractors must have an approved CCA-2 on file with NYSDOT prior to being awarded a contract. If the successful Bidder does not currently have a CCA-2 on file with NYSDOT, the Bidder may find the CCA-2 forms and instruction for completion online at <https://www.osc.state.ny.us/state-vendors/vendor/vendor-responsibility-forms/> redirect=legacy#Construction.

Successful bidders will be required to pay NYS DOL Prevailing Wage Rates.

The Town of Jefferson reserves the right to consider the bids for forty-five (45) days after receipt before awarding any Contract, and to waive any minor informalities in, and to reject, any and all bids. All bids are subject to final review and approval by the Town before any award of contract may be made. Receipt of bids by the Town shall not be construed as authority to bind the Town.

All work must be completed by June 30, 2023. In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4 and Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the Department of Transportation and Title 23 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 200, Title VI Program and Related Statutes, as amended, issued pursuant to such Act, hereby notifies all who respond to the related solicitation, request for proposal or invitation to bid that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged businesses enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability/handicap and income status in consideration for an award.

Owners Contact Margaret Hait Supervisor 677 North Harpersfield Road Jefferson, NY, 12093 607-652-7931 jeffersonwmsup@gmail.com Engineer's Contact Chris Cornwell, PE Project Manager, GPI 80 Wolf Road, Suite 300 Albany, NY 12205 518-852-4269 ccornwell@gpinet.com

Public Notice - Gilboa I, The Undersigned, Hereby Give Notice That I Have Received The Tax Roll And Warrant For The Collection Of Taxes In And For The Town Of Gilboa, Schoharie County, New York, For The Year 2023 And That I Will Receive Taxes In The Mail Or At The Gilboa Town Hall, 373 State Rte 990v, Gilboa, Ny 12076 Starting January 2nd, 2023. Tuesday Through Thursday From 8am-12pm & 1-3pm. Other Times By Appointment. Please Call For Evening Hours. Taxes Can Be Paid Online At: Webtownhall.Org/Schoharie Closed All Holidays.

Taxes May Be Received Without Interest By The Collecting Officer On Or Before The Thirty-First Day Of January Or Thirty Days Following The Collecting Officer's Receipt Of The Tax Roll And Warrant, Whichever Is Later. On All Taxes Received After Such Day, There Shall Be Added Interest Of 1.00 Per Centum For Each Additional Month Or Fraction Thereof Until Such Taxes Are Paid Or Until The Return Of Unpaid Taxes To The County Treasurer On June 1st After Which A Fee Of 5% Is Added Plus 12.00 Per Centum Per Annum From February 3rd Pursuant To Law.

Tax Rates Per \$1,000 Of Assessed Valuation Are As Follows: County Tax: 3,662,585.63; 8,379,033.00; 437.113164 General Town Wide: 362,457.08; 8,447,162.00; 42,908740 Highway Town Wide: 851,702.34; 8,447,162.00; 100.827040 Stamford Fire Dist; 44,588.84, 956,417.00, 46.620710 Gilboa Fire Prot: 109,500.00; 7,532,639.00; 14,536738

On Or Before The Thirty-First Day Of January Or Thirty Days Following The Collecting Officer's Receipt Of The Tax Roll And Warrant, Whichever Is Later. On All Taxes Received After Such Day, There Shall Be Added Interest Of 1.00 Per Centum For Each Additional Month Or Fraction Thereof Until Such Taxes Are Paid Or Until The Return Of Unpaid Taxes To The County Treasurer On June 1st After Which A Fee Of 5% Is Added Plus 12.00 Per Centum Per Annum From February 3rd Pursuant To Law.

Tax Rates \$1,000 Of Assessed Valuation Are As Follows In Order Of Item, Levy, Taxable Value Tax Rate/1,000 County Tax: 3,662,585.63; 8,379,033.00; 437.113164 General Town Wide: 362,457.08; 8,447,162.00; 42,908740 Highway Town Wide: 851,702.34; 8,447,162.00; 100.827040 Stamford Fire Dist; 44,588.84, 956,417.00, 46.620710 Gilboa Fire Prot: 109,500.00; 7,532,639.00; 14,536738

Public Notice - Gilboa I, The Undersigned, Hereby Give Notice That I Have Received The Tax Roll And Warrant For The Collection Of Taxes In And For The Town Of Jefferson, New York, For The Year 2023

At Jefferson Town Hall Schoharie County, And That I Will Receive Taxes In Said Town On Monday 3-7pm, Tuesdays 9:30-2:00pm. In Person, Or Put In Drop Box. By Mail To Po Box 34, Jefferson, Ny, 12093 Taxes May Be Received Without Interest By The Collecting Officer On Or Before The Thirty-First Day Of January Or Thirty Days Following The Collecting Officer's Receipt Of The Tax Roll And Warrant, Whichever Is Later. On All Taxes Received After Such Day, There Shall Be Added Interest Of 1.00 Per Centum For Each Additional Month Or Fraction Thereof Until Such Taxes Are Paid Or Until The Return Of Unpaid Taxes To The County Treasurer On June 1st After Which A Fee Of 5% Is Added Plus 12.00 Per Centum Per Annum From February 3rd Pursuant To Law.

Tax Rates Per \$1,000 Of Assessed Valuation Are As Follows: County Tax:

16.271849 Gen. Town Wide: 3.746255 Highway/Town Wide: 7.303610 Fd134 Stamford Fire Dist.: 1.744518 Fd B6 Jefferson Fire Dist.: 2.795841 Ld 136 Jefferson Light Dist.: 0.629434

Public Notice - Bids Wanted PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: That the Clerk of the Board of Schoharie County on the 24th day of January, 2023 at 11:00 AM local time at the Schoharie County Office Building, 284 Main Street, Schoharie, NY 12157 (Third Floor of building in Board of Supervisors Room) will publicly open and read all sealed bids and proposals received pursuant to this notice for the furnishing of work, labor and materials in connection with the Schoharie County Transfer Station Water & Sewer Improvements. Work for Contract No. 1 - General Construction will consist of furnishing all materials, equipment, and labor necessary for the installation of approximately 640 linear feet of 6" Water Service Pipe, 100 linear feet of 1" Water Service Pipe, 760 linear feet of 1.5" SDR 21 PVC Force Main, 100 linear feet of 4" SDR 26/35 PVC gravity sewer pipe, upgrading the existing sanitary pump station to a grinder pump station (including demolition of the existing pump station), furnishing a spare grinder pump core and providing to Schoharie County DPW, disconnection of the existing pump station to the existing sewage disposal field, a new leachate pump station, valves and fire hydrants, a corporation tap, curb stop, and 3/4" water service at the existing scale house, construction of a water meter pit on the proposed 6" water service, disconnection of the existing water piping from the existing well, demolition of the existing well pressure tank and pressure switch inside the Recycling Building and connection of new 1" water service to the existing 1" service, manholes, installing new single phase electric services to the leachate pump station and sanitary pump station from the electrical room, lighting, power circuits, control circuits, pump station control panels, and furnishing and installing all additional control equipment, including all associated excavation, backfill, fittings, appurtenances, water services and sewer laterals, control panels, structural wood posts, clearing, paving, disinfection, landscaping, testing, connections to existing water system and sewer system (including additional plumbing as needed at location of existing well pressure tank and pressure switch to be demolished), demolition of existing piping, thrust restraint, wiring, conduits, excavation, backfill, grading, bonding, panels, circuit breakers, transformers, and raceways all as further detailed in the plans and specifications.

Each bid must be submitted within a sealed opaque envelope. The name of the bidder and "Schoharie County Transfer Station Water and Sewer Improvements Project Contract No. 1 Bid Enclosed" shall be clearly marked on such envelope. The bids shall include all items listed in the "PACKAGE TO BE SUBMITTED WITH BID" which is included with the project manual. If a Bid is sent by mail or other delivery system, both the outside packaging and sealed envelope containing the bid within shall be clearly marked "Schoharie County Transfer Station Water and Sewer Improvements Contract No. 1 Bid Enclosed".

Schoharie County and its representatives will not offer or supply anyone the list of people that have obtained a copy of these bid specifications or cost estimates for the project prior to the opening of the bids. NO EXCEPTIONS ARE MADE TO THIS POLICY. Schoharie County reserves the right to waive any informalities in or to reject any or all bids submitted or to award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder who in the County's judgment makes the most advantageous proposal to Schoharie County.

All sealed bids or proposals must be received by the Department of Public Works of Schoharie County (393 Main Street, Schoharie, NY 12157) prior to 10:00 AM (one hour prior to bid opening) on January 24, 2023, the date on which all sealed bids or proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Public Notice - Seward Notice is hereby given that the Town of Seward Town Planning Board will hold a public hearing on January 24, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Offices at 795 Lowe Road, Cobleskill, NY, on the application for special

Plans and specifications may be requested by phone (518-382-1774) or by email to nobar@primeeng.com, from the office of the following: PRIME AE Group of NY, 100 Great Oaks Blvd, Suite 114, Albany, NY 12203

A fee of (\$25.00) Dollars will be required for each complete set of bidding documents (Project Manual), which includes electronic copies of the plans and specifications. PRIME AE Group of NY will accept payment in the form of a check only. Checks are to be made payable to the PRIME AE Group of NY Inc. No cash payments will be accepted.

Women and Minority Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply. Section 3 Businesses are encouraged to apply. Accompanying each bid must be a bid bond or certified check made payable to the order of Schoharie County in the amount of five (5%) percent of the bidder's maximum bid amount as a guarantee that if the contract is awarded to a bidder, said successful bidder will comply with the Notice to Bidders and the specification for the contract in accordance therewith. Said bid bond or certified check will be retained by Schoharie County, and upon completion of the contract, in accordance with said specifications, the said bid bond or certified check will be returned to the bidder.

On failure to comply with the Notice to Bidders and the specifications for said contract, the successful bidder shall forfeit the deposit as liquidated damages to Schoharie County. Every bid or proposal must contain a non-collusion affidavit executed by the bidder or his authorized representative. Separate Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to one hundred (100%) percent of the contract sum, will be required of the successful bidder.

The bidder to whom the contract will be awarded shall execute the contract and furnish required sureties within ten (10) days after the date of Notice of Award. Failure to do so will result in Bidder's forfeit of contract work and bid security. No bidder may withdraw his bid within ninety (90) days after the date set for the opening thereof. Any bid may be withdrawn prior to the above scheduled time for the opening of bids, or any authorized postponement thereof.

Schoharie County and its representatives will not offer or supply anyone the list of people that have obtained a copy of these bid specifications or cost estimates for the project prior to the opening of the bids. NO EXCEPTIONS ARE MADE TO THIS POLICY. Schoharie County reserves the right to waive any informalities in or to reject any or all bids submitted or to award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder who in the County's judgment makes the most advantageous proposal to Schoharie County.

All sealed bids or proposals must be received by the Department of Public Works of Schoharie County (393 Main Street, Schoharie, NY 12157) prior to 10:00 AM (one hour prior to bid opening) on January 24, 2023, the date on which all sealed bids or proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Public Notice - Seward Notice is hereby given that the Town of Seward Town Planning Board will hold a public hearing on January 24, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Offices at 795 Lowe Road, Cobleskill, NY, on the application for special

use permit, site plan and solar project approvals pursuant to both Town of Seward Local Law 1 of 2021 and the Town of Seward Zoning Law, to construct and operate a 20 MW-AC Utility-Scale Solar Energy System to be located in both the Towns of Seward and Carlisle at 190 Brown Road, tax ID nos. 33-2-1; 33-5-8 and 33-2-3.

At the time and place above all members of the public will be heard. **Public Notice - Middleburgh** Due to a scheduling conflict, the Middleburgh Joint Planning Board will be meeting on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month for the first part of 2023. The Planning Board will next meet at the Community Shelter Building 139 Cotton Hill Road, Middleburgh, New York at 7pm, Wednesday January 11th 2023, and thereafter on the second Wednesday of each month until further notice.

Public Notice - Seward I, Paula Monarch-Palmieri, The Undersigned, Hereby Give Notice That I Have Received The Tax Roll And Warrant For The Collection Of Taxes In And For The Town Of Wright, Schoharie County, New York, For The Year 2023 And I Will Receive Taxes At 105 School Street In Said Town On:

- Wednesday From 5:30 Pm - 7:30 Pm And Saturday From 8:00 Am - 12:00 Pm, Also;
- By Appointment. To Schedule An Appointment, Contact Me By Email At Wrighttown-clerk@yahoo.com Or Phone At: 518-872-9726,
- By Dropbox, Which Is Located On The Door Of The Town Hall, At The Address Listed Above

Mail-In Payments Are Recommended. Taxes May Be Received Without Interest By The Collecting Officer On Or Before The Thirty-First Day Of January Or Thirty Days Following The Collecting Officer's Receipt Of The Tax Roll And Warrant, Whichever Is Later. On All Taxes Received After Such Day, There Shall Be Added Interest Of 1.00 Per Centum For The Month Of February Or Fraction Thereof And An Additional 1.00 Per Centum For Each Additional Month Or Fraction Thereof Until Such Taxes Are Paid Or Until The Return Of Unpaid Taxes To The County Treasurer On June 1st After Which A Fee Of 5% Is Added, Plus 12.00 Per Centum Per Annum From February 1st Pursuant To Law.

Tax Rates Per \$1,000 Of Assessed Valuation Are As Follows: County Tax 12.834762 Gen. Town Wide 2.262452 Hwy. Town Wide 2.934706 Wright Fire District 1.288250 Wright Light District 0.280719

Public Notice - Delaware County The Delaware County Planning Board meeting schedule for the year 2023 is as follows: January 4, 2023 February 1, 2023 March 1, 2023 April 5, 2023 May 3, 2023 June 7, 2023 July 5, 2023 August 2, 2023 September 6, 2023 October 4, 2023 November 1, 2023 December 6, 2023

The meetings will be held at 7pm at the Delaware County Office Building. **Public Notice - Delaware County** The Jefferson Central School Board of Education has changed the January 17, 2023 meeting time from 6:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The meeting will take place in the library.

FreeDailyCrosswords.com

ACROSS

- 1) Place known for development
- 5) It usually has busy hands
- 9) Raised, as a bet
- 14) Diaper cream ingredient
- 15) Move through a kiddie pool
- 16) Hang in folds
- 17) Object of devotion
- 18) Wide-mouthed pitcher
- 19) Day of old Hollywood
- 20) Three things started by half
- 23) Small prop in the grass
- 24) "Ciao, Brutus"
- 25) A god of war
- 26) Before, in romantic poetry
- 27) Bests
- 29) Investment for the golden years
- 32) Brown ermine
- 35) South American country
- 36) Straddling
- 37) Three things started by half

- 40) Isles, to a Brit
- 41) Camp beds
- 42) Tootsie Pop portions
- 43) Republicans, briefly
- 44) Verb for Shakespeare
- 45) It's slung in campaigns
- 46) Pork purchase
- 48) Breakfast meat
- 49) Jetted bath, e.g.
- 52) Three things started by half
- 57) Card-game expert Edmond
- 58) Go on the warpath, verbally
- 59) Morsel for Miss Muffet
- 60) Two-tone cookies
- 61) The munchies, for one
- 62) "Anyone ___?"
- 63) Neglected to
- 64) Made a right turn on horseback
- 65) "Call of the Wild" vehicle

DOWN

- 1) Middle of a three-part body measurement
- 2) Blast from the past
- 3) The animal, not the dessert
- 4) Word with "conveyor" or "corn"
- 5) One way to avoid an accident
- 6) Anchor rope's hole
- 7) As previously mentioned, in footnotes
- 8) Gilpin of "Frasier"
- 9) Milk providers
- 10) Investigate thoroughly
- 11) Like leeches
- 12) "Lawrence of Arabia" is one
- 13) Cubicle feature
- 21) You are here
- 22) Enjoy immensely
- 26) Puts away groceries?
- 27) Choppers that can't fly
- 28) Mine discoveries
- 30) Work an ax on stage
- 31) Dr. Zaius and kin
- 32) Party just for guys
- 33) Small band
- 34) Beat on a tennis court, e.g.
- 35) "The ___ thickens"
- 36) Too dry for farming
- 38) Bakery treat
- 39) Perfectly vertical
- 44) Deprive of power
- 45) Tangled into a thick mass, as hair
- 47) DuPont fabric
- 48) Door attachment
- 49) Cranium
- 50) In and of itself
- 51) Created a sum
- 52) Wearing footwear
- 53) Spelling of "Beverly Hills, 90210"
- 54) Pharmacist's title
- 55) Suffix with "soft" or "hard," in tech
- 56) Bullets, in Vegas

START WITH HALF

By Timothy E. Parker

The Tapestry, Continued from D1

an entire year; one only needs to look at his/her calendar to remember all the chaos and joy of the year; but I encourage you to take a minute, without the use of your calendar, which, if it is anything like mine, is choked full, and see what memories (the good, the bad and the ugly) pop into your head. Once done, really think about the bad and the ugly and ask yourself how many of these negative situations turned out to have been

not worth the worry you put into them at the time. Try hard to remember 2022, with smiles, despite your losses, tough situations and lost income; truth is, YOU are still here to make the world better. YOU are still here to share love with others, and YOU are still here to make 2023 a year to remember. When you look back, as the song says, "remember the love," and when you look ahead, "how about love?"

EDITORIAL

We Need Your Input! Help Us Choose Our Person of the Year!

We need your help! It's that time of the year again! The Mountain Eagle is going to select several special individuals for honors in the next several editions. We will be running features on a person of the year for Schoharie County, for Delaware County, for Greene County, and finally an overall person of the year.

We welcome all of your nominations! Send us a note either via email at mountaineaglenews@gmail.com or via mail at the Mountain Eagle / PO Box 162 / Schoharie NY 12157. Let us know who you think is deserving of the praise and a few sentences why! We'll discuss with our team and select at least four people worthy of recognition. Depending on the nominations, we may also select several more people for Lifetime Achievement awards.

Send us your thoughts about the community leader, business owner, kind soul, teacher, student, unsung hero, silent workhorse, religious leader, local social butterfly, or none of the above that make our area a better place to live, work, and enjoy the bounties of Upstate New York.

Happy New Year, my friends! Big announcements and expansions for our paper starting next week! Thank you to our team and readers for making 2022 our most-read year since 1993 and for helping us get the word out about the area and our good causes.

Can't wait to do it again in 2023.

- Matthew Avitabile
Publisher

RUSTY AND LILA BY BILLY SHEARS



For more information or about syndication, contact Mr. Shears at shears-sw@protonmail.com.

WHITTILING AWAY WITH DICK BROOKS

Cabin Fever

The holiday season is now officially over. There are just a few signs of its

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GARDENING TIP OF THE WEEK BY BOB BEYFUSS

Salt Alternatives for the Homeowner



The pre-Xmas snow storm, followed by a rainy meltdown, gipped many of you from experiencing a White Xmas this year, but if you had to travel, it was probably a relief! But right after Xmas, a deep freeze, made travel even more dangerous once more. Any surfaces that appear wet are probably covered with black ice. Our local highway departments have been busy spreading salt for weeks now. Rock salt prices in NY have increased on average, 43% since 2015, from \$44.55 per ton to \$63.90 per ton, according to the county highway superintendents' association. Towns like Greenville, use about 1,000 tons of rock salt per year.

Rock salt takes a heavy toll on road structure. It reacts chemically with both concrete and asphalt, creating cracks. Pot-holes begin when water gets into tiny cracks in the road. As that water freezes, the freezing process creates forces that can easily break asphalt or even concrete. Soon, the cracks grow into bigger and bigger pot holes with every freeze and thaw. Of course, down here in Florida, we have fewer potholes, but we do have some serious issues with sinkholes that sometimes swallow houses or cars, overnight. Most of the parking lot near a strip mall that I like to shop at disappeared about three years ago and it has just now finally reopened!

It is not uncommon in

the Capital District/Hudson Valley for heavily traveled roads, such as the Thruway, to receive 40 to 80 tons of deicing salt per lane mile per year. That works out to about 15 to 30 pounds per linear foot. It is surprising that any roadside plants can tolerate that much salt, but most do. If they received a fraction of this much salt during the growing season, the roadsides would be devoid of vegetation. There is little the homeowner can do to change the road salt situation, but there are some alternatives to rock salt that may be used in the home environment.

Road salt, or deicing salt is mostly unrefined rock salt, containing about 98.5% sodium chloride. Calcium chloride is sometimes used when temperatures are extremely low (Rock salt is useless at temperatures below + 10 F) but it is about eight times as expensive as sodium chloride. Rock salt causes injury to plants by absorbing water that would normally be available to the roots. Even when moisture is plentiful excess salt can create a drought like environment. In addition, when salt is dissolved in water it breaks down into sodium and chloride ions. Roots readily absorb chloride ions and then they are carried through the sap stream to actively growing portions of the plant such as leaf margins and shoot tips. High levels of chloride are toxic and result in characteristic marginal scorch patterns. (Brown edges around the leaves)

Calcium chloride is not nearly as damaging. Calcium chloride can melt snow and ice in cold weather conditions as low as -25°F. Calcium chloride is fast-acting; within 20 minutes of appli-

cation at about 20°F, it will successfully melt twice as much ice or snow as traditional rock salt. Calcium chloride ice melt leaves less residue, making it a better choice for use around buildings, like commercial properties and municipal buildings. It also leaves less white or grey residue when tracked indoors.

Plants most likely to be affected by any salt in the home landscape are those that receive lots of salt laden snow. For example, if you routinely apply salt to your porch or steps or deck, the plants growing nearby are most at risk, especially if you continually shovel salty snow on top of their root systems. Likewise, plants along your driveway or roadside are more at risk than those in the backyard. Certain species of trees and shrubs are more sensitive than others to salt injury. Sugar maples are highly sensitive to salt damage, which is why they should never be used as roadside trees or even driveway trees. Norway maples are far more salt resistant.

So what are the alternatives? If you just want to improve traction, you can try using sand or kitty litter or even fine gravel. Keep in mind however that you will most likely be tracking these materials into the house along with the snow on your boots. Never use soiled kitty litter for this reason! Wood ashes have also been used for traction, but too much wood ash spread over your plants can raise the soil pH to damaging levels. Wood ash will also be carried in the house with the snow on your boots and it leaves an unsightly gray residue. Calcium chloride is, by far, your best choice for home use. It is well worth the extra cost!

former glory remaining. There are still Christmas lights that glow in the early winter dusk but they get fewer each night and soon will be gone except for those on the houses of the folks who celebrate the season all year round and don't bother to take their lights down, celebrating the Fourth of July by turning their icicle lights on. The massive herds of white lighted reindeer and blow up Santas seem to have started their annual migration to garages and attics or to where ever they summer over. Even those bastions of holiday spirit, the retail stores have abandoned Christmas, like fickle lovers, for the next holiday to come along promising full cash registers. Full, voluptuous displays for Valentine's Day greet the eye now while the few remaining Christmas items live on the discount tables. After all the anticipation and hustle bustle, there's always a kind of sweet sad, empty kind of feeling after the holiday season. I, for one, shall miss her and will remember her fondly.

However, with Christmas out of the way, we can now get down to the main business here in the north country--Winter! This year's is still a puppy and already it's gotten our attention a couple of times even before it was officially born. Too soon it'll be screaming and howling around the house, dropping a load in the yard and in general, making a nuisance of itself. I see folks out every day during this mild spell taking what may be their last walk until spring. Folks in the supermarkets are loading up on supplies, I personally picked up a barrel of flour, ten bushels of potatoes and

fifty pounds of salt pork and stored them in the cellar, I've hung the storm windows and banked the walls (the old ways die hard) so I'm ready. Now I can just sit and wait because I know it's coming.

The worst part of winter, other than having your runny nose freeze in your moustache, is dealing with cabin fever. Cabin fever sets in when you can't get out because of the inclement weather for days and days--just you, the family and the cats--for days and days. The batteries for the remote give out and the Television is stuck on the Home and Garden Channel. The light of your life has run out of reading material and is now mentally remodeling the whole house and describing it to you in great detail. The cats, who never liked you in the first place, have taken to running ahead of you and jumping into your chair, then glaring at you to do something about it. The supply of adult beverages starts running dangerously low. You haven't seen another living human being for days. You've stopped shaving and taken to go-

ing to the door every few minutes, throwing it open and yelling to no one in particular, "It ain't a fit night out for man nor beast!" in your best W.C. Fields voice which is really starting to get on your wife's nerves--things are getting tense and it's only the beginning of January.

Like our ancestors before us, we shall survive this. Like our ancestors before us, we know how to deal with North Country winters. Like our ancestors before us, we're going to Florida until it warms up!

Thought for the week-- Here are a few things to think about while you're snowed in. Pondering preserves sanity. Why do "tug" boats push their barges? Why do we call it "after dark" when it's really "after light"? Why do they sing "Take me out to the ball game" when they're already there? How come "wise man" and "wise guy" are opposites? and lastly--If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?

Until next week, may you and yours be happy and well.

whittle12124@yahoo.com



Local First Responders Help Buffalo in Aftermath of Blizzard

By Liz Page

STAMFORD – Local first responders headed to Buffalo on Dec. 27 to help with emergencies in a city that was paralyzed by 52 inches of snow, arriving after blizzard conditions had stranded people in cars, snowbanks and homes. All of those who responded agreed that "it was a different experience".

"We went into service right away," said Stamford Fire Chief Don VanEtten, who responded with Assistant Chief AJ Vamosy and Fire Captain Dusty King. The trio responded with the department's Argo, equipped with tracks to help them navigate the snow.

They left the Delaware County Emergency Services office in Delhi, where they received their deployment assignments, along with a team from East Meredith/Pindars Corners and the Trout Creek fire departments. Pindars Corners and Trout Creek responded track equipped side by side. Once they arrived at the emergency operations center, the three departments were assigned to different areas.

"We were sent to Buffalo Fire Station 32 in the city, which is truck/engine station. We were assigned to work out of the station with an American Medical Rescue (AMR) unit to handle any high priority calls, such as gunshots, stabbings and echo (highest EMS priority) EMS calls," said VanEtten.

They worked through the night until 7 a.m. on Wednesday morning. "We had almost no sleep, checking back into the Emergency Operations Center headquarters for Erie County."

Although they had their own sleeping bags and enough food for three days, they were actually put up in a downtown hotel and got breakfast at one of the few restaurants that were open. "We did use our own rations a few times, but it was nice to have a place to get meals."

East Meredith Fire Chief Dave Briggs agreed. They were deployed to a different station, Station 33. "The first night was a long night," said Briggs. The streets were still one lane and filled with stranded vehicles. They operated within a five mile radius of the station and calls took an hour to an hour and a half. "We had to go off on the side streets that hadn't been plowed." Some of their calls were for chest pain, or frost bite.

"We slept for a couple of hours on Wednesday then worked on the ARGO for a while, ate dinner and went back to work," said VanEtten. The ARGO can travel extreme terrain and is amphibious.

Fitted with tracks it can negotiate snowbanks and unplowed streets.

"The ambulance would respond as far as it could, then we would take the crew the rest of the way in with the ARGO and transport patients back to the ambulance if needed," said VanEtten. There was also a law enforcement unit responding with each call.

By the second night, Briggs said, navigation was much easier. That night they were staged out of the parking lot at the Tops supermarket that was the scene of a mass shooting earlier last year. "There were some areas that were flagged and we were told not to get out of the vehicle," said Briggs.

On the second night the Stamford crew was staged in downtown Buffalo and assigned to law enforcement, working with a state police unit from Troop A.

They all worked on responding to some of the 1,000 backlogged emergency calls. Calls that couldn't be handled in the midst of the blizzard. Stamford handled 29 calls., while the East Meredith crew handled 34 calls and Trout Creek handled more than 30 calls. Many were wellness checks to determine the status or outcome of the calls that had gone unanswered. They also helped the Buffalo Fire Department with two fire calls.

"The units that were deployed, handled so many of the backlogged calls that we were released a day early because they were able to suspend the night operations," said VanEtten.

VanEtten was charged with documenting each and every call they made, keeping track of the times, addresses and nature of the call. Briggs was doing for the East Meredith crew, which included Jerod Carrington and Alex Gicomelli.

"I'm glad that we went and that we worked. We weren't just standing around. The time went very quickly and we were exhausted," said VanEtten.

It took them about six hours to drive to Erie County, arriving around 8 p.m. Tuesday night. They didn't find much snow until they were almost there, about 45 minutes out from downtown Buffalo. "It really dumped all the snow in the city."

Briggs, who is retired from the state Department of Transportation, said the snow wasn't the big thing. It was the driving wind that caused drifting that left so many stranded. "It's an experience you won't forget," he said. He also praised the work of AMR and the Buffalo fire and police departments. He said everyone welcomed them and was grateful for the



Crew members from four Delaware County fire departments were deployed to the city of Buffalo in Erie County to help with the myriad of emergencies that occurred during the height of winter storm that couldn't be answered until the city began to dig out from the Christmas storm that paralyzed travel and resulted in more than 40 deaths. Pictured from left to right are: Dusty King, Stamford FD; Daryl McClenon, Kasey Bowker and Josh LaTourette, Trout Creek FD; Don VanEtten and AJ Vamosy, Stamford FD; David Briggs, Alex Giacomelli and Jarod Carrington, East Meredith/Pindars Corners FD.

help.

"It was a long two days," said Vamosy. "It was exhausting. It was a very different experience. It shows how different our lifestyle is from the city lifestyles. There were people out in the streets at all hours walking around. People there never sleep."

He, along with VanEtten and King, thanked those who helped get them ready and on the road for the trip. "We really didn't have a lot of time to get prepared. We were notified we were going late Tuesday morning and had to report to the Public Safety Building in Delhi by 3 p.m.. We had to get all the clothing we would need, sleeping bags, food, gas and everything ready. We can't thank those who came in to help us get ready to go and those who showed up to help us break down when we returned on Thursday enough. We wouldn't have been able to do it without them."

They were also very thankful that King was the third member of the crew, because he was able to keep the ARGO running after there was an electrical problem that kept the battery from recharging. "He was able to circumvent the normal process and get it going. He did the same thing for another department who saw us working on our machine. Their machine was having the same issue," said VanEtten.

"The death toll was at 35 on Tuesday and it was up to 40 when we left," said VanEtten. The death toll was continuing to climb as more people were located after being trapped, or stranded by the storm.

Another member of the department responded with his employer, taking a dump unit to Buffalo to help move the snow and yet another member was deployed with the National Guard.



SFD team works on the ARGO next to the fire station where they were assigned to help Buffalo catch up on the more than 1,000 backlogged emergency calls that happened during the height of the blizzard.



A view from the ARGO as the team from Stamford navigates the streets in Buffalo as equipment works non-stop to clear the streets after a blizzard paralyzed the city.



Stamford Fire Department officers with the department's pickup (2771) and trailer which holds the ARGO (2773) as they were ready to deploy to Buffalo on Dec. 27 to help in the aftermath of the blizzard that dumped more than 50 inches of snow on the city. Pictured, from left are Fire Captain Dusty King, Chief Don VanEtten and Assistant Chief AJ Vamosy. They spent two days in the city helping to answer emergency calls.

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DelCo Supervisors Organize for 2023

By Mary A. Crisafulli

DELHI - Several department head retirements led to new leadership appointments as Delaware County supervisors organized for 2023 on Jan. 4.

Penny Bishop, former assistant clerk, was appointed clerk to the board following Christa Schafer's retirement. Schafer had served as clerk since 1992, formerly the Department of Social Services account clerk since 1981. Sarah Gutliph was promoted to assistant clerk, replacing Bishop.

Carrara Knoetgen was appointed personnel officer to fulfill the remainder of Linda Pinner's term through April 2025 following Pinner's retirement. Pinner has served Delaware County since the early 1980s.

James Thomas was appointed Department of Public Works (DPW) commissioner, replacing Susan McIntyre, who served the county since 1995. McIntyre started her career at the solid waste composting facility, eventually becoming the director until 2019, when she was appointed DPW commissioner.

Kortright Supervisor George Haynes, DPW committee chairperson, thanked McIntyre for her time served for DPW. McIntyre's years of hard work and leadership helped to build what is now a sophisticated and efficient composting facility, he said. McIntyre stepped up as DPW commissioner even though the four-year term surpassed her planned retirement start, Haynes said. "You will be missed."

McIntyre thanked supervisors, department heads, co-workers, and media representatives for working in unison to keep DPW functioning. "It's made my life go a lot smoother." What department heads accomplish in meetings is only one small portion of the work done at DPW, McIntyre reminded meeting goers. "I want to recognize our number one asset, which is the employees." McIntyre then officially turned over the DPW keys to Thomas.

In other business, the reappointment of Stephen Hood as director of emergency services was met with opposition by Franklin Supervisor Jeffery Taggart. Following the meeting, Taggart said, the town board members and himself disapproved of Hood's leadership efforts. Franklin volunteer fire department staff have several concerns and issues with radio and dispatch calls, he explained. Volunteers responded to five percent of calls in 2022 due to missed dispatch signals, Taggart continued. No other supervisors opposed the appointment, and Hood was reappointed.

Hamden Supervisor Wayne Marshfield opposed the two-year reappointment of Joseph Ermeti as public defender at a salary of \$180,000 annually. While in favor of the appointment, Marshfield explained, he was not in favor of a pay increase for the position. According to Marshfield, the salary increased from \$105,000 to \$140,000 in 2022. In addition, he said the public defender budget has increased from \$457,000 to \$671,000. "We have supported this program well."

The state is expected to increase the required salary limits for this position to above \$200,000, said Davenport Supervisor Dennis Valente.

When the state increases the pay, it should be reviewed at that time, not prior, said Marshfield.

The resolution was passed with Marshfield alone in voting against it.

Bovina Supervisor Tina Molé was appointed chairperson to the board of supervisors for her seventh term. Delhi Supervisor Mark Tuthill was appointed vice chairperson, and Colchester Supervisor Arthur Merrill was appointed budget director.

Molé was sworn in as chairperson by Clerk Deborah Goodrich, after which she gave a speech recapping 2022. The last year was a time for renewed balance between work and the ongoing

pandemic, she said. "The implementation of programs for social reform and the rebuilding of our local economy were priorities as we distributed the American rescue plan funds." Over eight million dollars was invested in county operations, improvements to broadband coverage, workforce development, local community projects, and more, Molé said.

The most notable challenge of 2022, she continued, was a concern for ambulance coverage throughout the county. "As with all decisions of this board, we worked through the many different points of view and narrowly voted to enter into a contract with AMR to provide back-up ambulance service in support of our local emergency squads." American rescue funds were used to support the ambulance service at \$1.5 million.

Due to an increased public demand for transparency, Molé said the county developed a quarterly newsletter and continues to post on social media accounts to inform residents.

Another significant challenge, she said, was New York City's proposed Streamside Acquisition program. A county resolution opposing the program led to several meetings with stakeholders and educational tours of watershed programs and projects. Negotiations are ongoing to develop a "more robust lease based streamside acquisition program we presented," she said.

Construction of a new behavioral health building in Walton was completed in 2022, and ground broke on the construction of three new DPW facilities, she said.

A priority as supervisors shift into 2023 will be planning for new laws, regulations, and building codes in relation to New York State's Climate Action Plan passed in Dec. 2022, said Molé. "As county leaders we must commit to supporting our local communities as they face the changing landscape and be prepared to assist our residents with state mandates as



Bovina Supervisor Tina Molé gets sworn in as chairperson to the board of supervisors by Clerk Deborah Goodrich on Jan. 4. Clerk to the Board Penny Bishop holds the Bible for Molé



Former Department of Public Works Commissioner Susan McIntyre (left) hands the facility keys to James Thomas (right), her successor, at a board meeting on Jan. 4.

they are adopted and implemented across the state."

In conclusion, while workforce shortages continue, Molé thanked all county employees for their hard work, resourcefulness, and dedication.

Other appointments include Judith Garrison, democratic commissioner of board of elections for a two-year term; Wayne Shepard, director of office of the aging for a two-year term; Amanda Walsh, public health director for a six-year term; Scott Glueckert, Stop DWI coordinator for a two-year term; Charles Piper, director of veterans services for a two-year term; and Sylvia Armano, youth bureau director

for a one-year term.

Several committee appointments include:

Community services board, for a four-year term, Dotti Kruppo, Dr. Christine Rackley, and MaryAnn Geraghty.

Cooperative extension service, for a one-year term, Andes Supervisor Wayland Gladstone.

Delaware County Industrial Development Agency, for a three-year term, Bruce Dolph and Scott white.

Delaware County Planning Board, for a three-year term, Matthew Gray and William Outsen.

Health services advisory board, for a two-year term, Wayne Shepard, Colchester Supervisor Arthur Merrill, Sidney Supervisor Eric Wilson,

Walton Supervisor Joseph Cetta, Hamden Supervisor Wayne Marshfield, and Dr. Rohan Jayasena.

Soil and water conservation district board, for a one-year term, Meredith Supervisor James Ellis and Franklin Supervisor Jeffery Taggart, and Frank Bachler for a three-year term.

Tourism advisory board, for a three-year term, John Campbell and Merrill.

Youth bureau board, for a three-year term, Jamie Smith, Jeff Staples, Meghan Starring, Pamela Hladik, and Marshfield.

The next Delaware County Board of Supervisors meeting is scheduled Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 1 p.m.

Stamford Receives New Mack Truck



The town of Stamford recently received its new 2023 Mack plow truck. It replaces the 2008 Mack in the fleet. The 10-wheeler is the first automatic transmission for the town and will be doing the County Route 18, Roses Brook and Madison Hill run. Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation President and Executive Director Don VanElten (left) congratulates Stamford Highway Superintendent Jon Ballard. The \$270,000 truck, which has a stainless steel body, was paid for with a grant from the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation.



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The Substance Abuse Epidemic

Part 1: Acknowledgement of the Problem

By Robert Brune

CATSKILLS REGION - Traditionally, the start of the new year kicks off with renewed efforts to improve oneself. Making the choice to change anything in one's life begins with the admission that a problem exists. It is long past time for our community leaders and our local and state legislators to recognize and admit that the problem of opioid addiction exists and to acknowledge the devastating impact it has had on our local communities.

Richard A. Jenkins of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, a department of the National Institute of Health stated, "The current opioid epidemic in the United States has been characterized as having three waves (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2019 Cicarone, 2019), primarily based on overdose data. The first wave followed increased opioid prescribing during the 1990's which led to increases in prescription opioid deaths onward from 1999. This second wave has been dated to 2010 and reflected rapid increases in overdose deaths involving heroin. The third wave has been dated to 2013."

To properly characterize the severity of the opioid epidemic, now in a fourth wave, Margaretville Hospital on

their website recently announced they saved over 100 lives from opioid related overdoses in this past year dating to November 22, 2022. The previous year, they successfully treated 84 overdoses. These numbers are four to five times higher than the pre-Covid pandemic levels. For more than a decade, the CDC and National Institute of Drug Abuse have been sounding the alarm on this growing problem.

Just prior to the Covid epidemic, Assemblyman Chris Tague (R,C-Schoharie) had been working feverishly to find more treatment funding, but Covid dampened all efforts at the time. As with all the various experts, professionals, and politicians concerned about this issue, one can't get through a conversation without the subject of how the general public views this problem. Assemblyman Tague continues to urge people in Schoharie County, "We as a society have to leave the stigma out of it and we need to have a serious conversation because we are losing young people every day. It's very very sad." In dealing with the full scope of this situation, Tague's chief of staff claims, "All agencies are under-reporting". The assemblyman says that he had recently met with the Schoharie Fire and Sheriff's Department to

stress the importance of reporting whenever they use Narcan. Currently EMS are not required to report on overdoses. Tague believes they have the funding available for emergency services to start reporting.

The Margaretville Hospital/Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHealth) received a \$1,000,000 federal grant to fund the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program - Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome grant. With Julia Reischel as Program Director, this effort is intended to work with at least a half dozen other organizations related to Substance Abuse Disorder in creating more awareness by doing workshops and training on how to use Narcan. Julia Reischel has also done extensive work on tracking the data of the effects of the opioid epidemic but admits that under reporting is a significant issue. In addition, the NY State website that reports on overdoses and deaths contains information almost entirely provided by coroners' reports which can take several years to collect and update.

There's hope on the horizon concerning the lack of accurate and timely tracking of the escalating problem as Fentanyl and the other synthetic opioids that plague

our nation. This past month the White House has partnered with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Office of National Drug Policy using data from the National EMS System to track non-fatal overdoses. This new database will be updated every two weeks on Mondays. Yet, even this most recent development has its serious limitations. Bystander, non-EMS Narcan rescues, will not be included. So, what does that mean for our area here in Upstate NY? Julia Reischel says her work with all groups have trained and distributed 2,494 Narcan kits. It's great that so many lives will be saved, but the number of overdoses reversed by this effort will not reach the White House. The national database dashboard shows that there were upwards of 180,000 non-fatal overdoses in the United States for 2022.

On a federal level, Upstate has a new ally in Washington DC. Newly elected to the 19th District is Rep. Marc Molinaro. As County Executive of Dutchess County, Molinaro made tremendous strides in addressing Substance Abuse Disorders and the opioid epidemic. He's enthusiastic about bringing his experience in developing solutions to the opioid crisis that has troubled our area. Rep. Molinaro says,

"The opioid epidemic is the public health crisis of our lifetime. We would have said that before Covid, and we will say it now post Covid." Molinaro suggests the reason so many are suffering is that Substance Abuse Disorder and mental health, co-diagnosed, have gone ignored for decades. As Molinaro tries to settle into his new position, he won't be wasting any time. Assemblyman Tague's office has reported that they will soon be meeting with Rep. Molinaro to work together on bringing more effective solutions to the area.

Justin Hamm of the Schoharie County Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (SCCASA), which heads up a non-profit that provides significant awareness, workshops, and handles referrals to treatment, says, "In order to understand what Substance Abuse Disorder is, we need to realize that it is a disease that is treatable and preventable."

One of the most trepidatious observations of this epidemic taking so many lives and leaving behind so many broken families; 5 years ago, just as relevant today, a quote from Keith Humphries as cited from Mother Jones, a Stanford psychiatry professor who advised the White House (2016) on drug policy, "Without good data you have no

idea where to target your efforts nor if you're making any difference."

New York Attorney General Leticia James has secured approximately \$2 billion in settlements from pharmaceutical companies proven to be the key players in causing this opioid epidemic over the past couple of years. Albany's legislatures have an oversight committee responsible for the dispersal of these funds. It would make sense to create infrastructure for more accurate data and inpatient facilities in our local communities before the NYC lobbyists snatch up all this much needed settlement money before it can reach the upstate NY communities hit the hardest.

This month, as part of this series, we will examine other aspects such as treatment, law enforcement, and progress made related to Substance Abuse Disorder and the opioid epidemic.

For this article the Mountain Eagle has requested a comment on the opioid epidemic from Governor Hochul, Lt Gov. Delgado, and Representative Pat Ryan. Both Delgado and Ryan represented the 19th District which includes the Catskills region. Over the past two weeks they have not responded to emails, phone calls, or direct messages on social media.

Delaware County Offers Civil Service Exams

Principal Account Clerk - Typist

DELAWARE COUNTY PERSONNEL OFFICE ANNOUNCES

PROMOTIONAL EXAMINATION FOR PRINCIPAL ACCOUNT CLERK-TYPIST

EXAM #78645
DATE ISSUED DATE OF EXAMINATION LAST FILING DATE December 29, 2022 February 11, 2023 January 23, 2023

NOTICE: ONLY APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE DELAWARE COUNTY PERSONNEL OFFICE WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS EXAMINATION.

SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES WILL BE FOLLOWED

EXAMINATION FEE: A fee of \$15.00 is required for each separately numbered examination for which you apply. The required fee MUST accompany your application and be in our office by 4:30pm on the last filing date or you will not be approved to take the examination. Send or deliver your certified check or money order payable to the Delaware County Personnel Office. Write the examination number(s) on your check or money order. ****PERSONAL CHECKS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**** No refund of fees will be allowed whether or not you meet the minimum qualifications. You are urged to compare your qualifications carefully with the requirements for admission and file only for those examinations for which you are clearly qualified.

EXAMINATION FEE WAIVER: A waiver of examination fee will be allowed if you are unemployed and primarily responsible for the support of a household. In addition, a waiver of examination fee will be allowed if you are determined eligible for Medicaid, or receiving Supplemental Security Income payments, or Public Assistance (Temporary Assistance for Needy

Families/Family Assistance or Safety Net Assistance) or are certified Job Training Partnership Act/Workforce Investment Act eligible through a State or local social service agency. All claims for examination fee waiver are subject to verification. If you can verify eligibility for examination fee waiver, complete a Request for Examination Fee Waiver and Certification@ form and submit it with your application by the Last Filing Date as listed on the Examination Announcement. A Request for Examination Fee Waiver and Certification@ forms may be obtained in the Personnel Office or online at www.delcony.us click on departments and then personnel. Waivers will not be considered if filed after the last filing date.

LOCATION OF POSITION: DCMO BOCES, Norwich, NY 13815

SALARY: \$36,000 - \$39,000

DUTIES: This is highly important account-keeping work involving responsibility for performing complex account-keeping activities requiring either the full-time or substantial part-time operation of a computer. Work is performed under general supervision and in accordance with outlined policies and procedures but requiring the frequent exercise of independent judgment. This class differs from other classes in the series by virtue of the greater complexity and importance of the work performed and the limited supervision received. Supervision may be exercised over lower level clerical or account keeping staff. Does related work as required.

REQUIREMENTS TO TAKE THIS EXAMINATION: Candidates for this examination are limited to employees with 12 months of permanent status immediately preceding the date of the written test as a Senior Account Clerk, Senior Ac-

count Clerk Typist, Account Clerk or Account Clerk Typist under the jurisdiction of the Delaware County Personnel Office, AND

(1) Graduation from high school or possession of a New York State equivalency diploma and (2) four years of full-time paid experience which includes the compilation of financial accounts and records.

NOTE: Post high school educational training in a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university or business school in accounting, business administration, economics, or related field structured to prepare individuals for work involving accounting, bookkeeping, auditing, or related work may be substituted for experience on a year-for-year basis provided such training includes an equivalent of three semester credit hours in Accounting per year of training.

NOTE: The above educational training must include or be supplemented by a course in typing or the work experience must indicate the ability to type. NOTE: Part-time paid experience will be pro-rated toward meeting the full-time experience requirement.

Candidates claiming college credits MUST submit a copy of their official transcript(s).

RESUMES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR YOUR APPLICATION BUT WILL BE ACCEPTED ONLY AS AN ADDITION TO YOUR APPLICATION.

NOTE: Unless otherwise specified, all required experience must be full-time paid or its part-time paid equivalent. You are responsible for submitting an accurate, adequate and clear description of your experience. Omissions or vagueness will NOT be interpreted in your favor. Applicants for

examination must meet all minimum qualifications on or before the examination date with no tolerances allowed. If an applicant lacks the required experience or has not completed all required training at the time he/she submits an application, but is serving in a qualifying position or will complete all required course work by the date of the examination, he/she may be approved conditionally to take an examination pending verification of successful completion of all experience and training requirements.

NOTE: Rating of seniority is based on the length of continuous permanent classified service in the jurisdiction, with points added to an Eligible's passing score for each appropriate five year period or fraction thereof in accordance with the following schedule: Less than 1 year..0 points; 1 year up to 6 years..1 point; Over 6 years up to 11 years..2 points; Over 11 years up to 16 years..3 points; Etc.

A Guide for the Written Test for Higher Level Account Clerical is available at the New York State website: <https://www.cs.ny.gov/testing/testguides.cfm>. Candidates who wish a copy of the Guide should call or write the Delaware County Personnel Office, One Courthouse Square Suite #2, Delhi, New York 13753 (607-832-5678) or access our web site at www.delcony.us. Click on "departments," and then "personnel."

Scopes / Subjects of examination: A test designed to evaluate knowledge, skills and /or abilities in the following areas.

Understanding and interpreting written material: These questions test for the ability to understand and interpret written material. You will be presented with brief reading passages and will be asked questions about the passages. You should base your answers to the

questions only on what is presented in the passages and not on what you may happen to know about the topic.

Arithmetic computation with calculator: These questions test for the ability to use a calculator to do basic computations. Questions will involve addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. You may also be asked to calculate averages, to use percents, and to round an answer to the nearest whole number. You should bring with you a hand-held battery- or solar-powered calculator for use on this test. You will not be permitted to use the calculator function of your cell phone.

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Understanding and interpreting tabular material: These questions test your ability to understand, analyze, and use the internal logic of data presented in tabular form. You may be asked to perform tasks such as completing tables, drawing conclusions from them, analyzing data trends or interrelationships, and revising or combining data sets. The concepts of rate, ratio, and proportion are tested. Mathematical operations are simple, and computational speed is not a

major factor in the test. You should bring with you a hand-held battery- or solar-powered calculator for use on this test. You will not be permitted to use the calculator function of your cell phone.

Supervision: These questions test for knowledge of the principles and practices employed in planning, organizing, and controlling the activities of a work unit toward predetermined objectives. The concepts covered, usually in a situational question format, include such topics as assigning and reviewing work; evaluating performance; maintaining

work standards; motivating and developing subordinates; implementing procedural change; increasing efficiency; and dealing with problems of absenteeism, morale, and discipline.

PERFORMANCE TEST: Candidates who receive a passing score on the written test must also qualify on the typing performance test. You must pass both the written and the performance test to be placed on the eligible list. Since the performance test is qualifying (pass/fail), if you pass the performance test, your final score for the exam will be the score you got on the written test. The performance test is a test of keying speed and accuracy. It utilizes a standard keyboard and is given on a computer. The computer program requires no prior knowledge of software. The performance test is five minutes long, preceded by a three minute practice session. The text passage is displayed on the top half of the computer screen and candidates type as much of that passage as they can during the time available. In order to pass the test, candidates must enter the text at a rate of at least 35 words per minute with at least 96% accuracy. The maximum allowable number of errors at 35 wpm is seven. FOR THOSE WHO PASS THE WRITTEN TEST, YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THE DATE AND TIME OF THIS PORTION OF THE EXAM.

Candidates who fail the performance test will be permitted one retest that will be given on the same day as the original performance test.

PERFORMANCE TEST WAIVER POLICY: (1) The performance test will be waived for candidates who have passed a typing performance test at a rate of at least 35 words per minute.

Oberacker Sworn In, Receives Committee Posts

State Senator Peter Oberacker (R/C – Schenectady) took the oath of office today for his second New York State Senate term. Senator Oberacker was sworn in on the floor of the New York State Senate in Albany on day one of the 2023 legislative session.

“As we begin the 2023 legislative session we are faced with serious challenges across our state,” said Senator Peter Oberacker. “We are losing people at a record pace, inflation is wreaking havoc on household budgets, and public safety concerns are widespread. Real change is needed in Albany and I will be advancing policies that will lead to new opportunities for those who live and work in the 51st Senate District and throughout New York.”

Senator Oberacker also received his committee assignments for the new session. Senator Oberacker will serve as ranking Republican of the Senate Committee on Alcoholism & Substance Abuse and the Senate Committee on Transportation. Additionally, Senator Oberacker will serve on the senate standing committees on edu-

cation, finance, higher education, and labor.

Regarding his assignment as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Transportation, Senator Oberacker said, “Representing one of the largest senate districts in the state gives me a firsthand understanding of many of our transportation deficiencies. Infrastructure needs are paramount to improving our economy and public safety. I look forward to bringing these concerns to the forefront, and working with local government and highway officials to improve our roads, bridges, and railways.”

Regarding his assignment as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Alcoholism & Substance Abuse, Senator Oberacker said, “Heroin and opioid abuse have inflicted a great deal of pain on individuals and families in recent years. The COVID pandemic left even more people in need of help with addictions of all types and the rising influx of Fentanyl has further elevated this health crisis. We need to ensure those in need are able to access and receive the appropriate



Senator Peter Oberacker takes the oath of office on the floor of the New York State Senate at the Capitol in Albany. From left, Dean of the New York State Judicial Institute Honorable Kathie Davidson, Senator Peter Oberacker, Chief of Staff Ron Wheeler.

services.”

Senator Oberacker’s other committee assignments will allow him to focus on key concerns within the 51st Senate District and throughout New York State.

Regarding his Senate Finance Committee assignment, Senator Oberacker said, “Being named to one of the most critical committees in the senate is a major responsibility

and I look forward to utilizing my business background to bring a real world viewpoint to state budget negotiations. Over the past two years, the state has spent at an unsustainable record pace and it is time to return some sense of fiscal responsibility to Albany.”

Regarding his Senate Education and Higher Education committee assignments, Senator Ober-

acker said, “Our local public schools, colleges, and universities are vital to ensuring a prosperous future for our next generation. I look forward to continuing my work on both of these committees, fostering existing programs and exploring new methods of educating our students that will prepare them for success.”

Regarding his Senate

Labor Committee assignment, Senator Oberacker said, “Workforce issues are front and center in the new 51st Senate District. As we work to rebuild our local economy, it is vital that we develop positive working conditions that will reestablish New York’s position as a business beacon for employers and employees.”

LOCAL HISTORY BY KAREN CUCCINELLO

Robert M. McLaughlin

By Karen Cuccinello
I have always intended to do a little write-up on Robert as his last name is the same as my maiden/birth name. There does not appear to be any connection with my McLaughlin's as they came over about 90 years before my family and my family was mostly in Newburgh, NY.

Robert was born 1814/15 in NYS to John (1775-1851) and Elizabeth (McDougal, 1770-1852) McLaughlin. His parents were from Ireland and were living in

Stamford by the 1850 census. According to information in the 1855 Stamford census Robert was born in Schoharie County, listed his occupation as farmer and came to Stamford in 1820. Robert had three siblings that lived with him, listed as single with no occupation: Martha (1811-1867), Matthew (listed as an idiot in the 1850 census and died 1870 age 57) and Mary. I believe a brother John Jr. lived in Stamford before 1850 and sold him his house. He was com-

missioner of highways in 1854 and was an officer of the Stamford Fire Insurance Company in the 1860's-70's. The first advertisement I saw for him as a merchant was in 1864 when he was perhaps managing Odell's store. Then an 1868 advertisement listed the Stamford Clothing Store as the successor to B.C. Odell. Benjamin Clinton “BC” Odell (1837-1888) had the business in the early 1860's.

Robert, about age 55, married Phebe/Phoebe Donaldson, about age 37, (1832-1889), a tailor, March 9, 1869; they had no children. Phebe was from Roxbury the daughter of John and Betsey (Blish) Donaldson.



10 South Delaware - written on photo "To Spoor" - photo by John Hoagland

Robert sold his business a few months after Phebe died to William Beckley. Robert was in Hobart for a time before he died April 21, 1894. He and his wife are buried in Stamford Cemetery

(posted on findagrave.com). After checking the 1869 map and Daisy DeSilva's Stamford Village street index, in the Stamford Library history room, I found Robert's

store was at 116 or 118 Main Street and his house was 10 South Delaware Street. The house was later Ralph E. and Ethel (Bauder) Spoor's funeral home about 1946-1966.

1868 Bloomville Mirror Stamford CLOTHING STORE

The undersigned, having secured the services of a **First-Class Tailor,** is now prepared to manufacture to order: **Men and Boy's Clothing,** in every variety and style, from the best English French, and American coatings **German Diagonals, Broad Cloths, Cassimeres, &c.,** And also, a full and well selected stock of **Spring and Summer Goods,** which will be made up at the lowest possible **PRICES FOR CASH** and warranted to fit and give perfect satisfaction in every case. **GENTS FURNISHING GOODS, SILK, FUR, AND WOOL HATS** Ready-made Clothing, etc. **Cutting done to order, and warranted to fit, if properly made up.** We respectfully solicit a share of public patronage. **A. Schermerhorn, cutter. 2-89m8** **ROBT. McLAUGHLIN, Prop.** Stamford, Nov. 19.

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The Catskills Chronicle

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Rip Van Winkle

Volume 8, No. 1

mountaineaglenews@gmail.com

FRIDAY, January 6, 2023

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CWC Committee Gets FAD Updates

Watershed Regulations Negotiated

By Mary A. Crisafulli
 Catskill Watershed Corporation policy committee members discussed updates on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) draft revisions to the Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD) at a meeting on Dec. 3.

FAD negotiations have been ongoing since 2021, following recommendations by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine published in 2020. The report examined the efficiency of FAD in relation to the Memorandum of Agreement Watershed Objective (MOA) entered into between New York City Department of Environmental Protection

(DEP) and watershed counties in 1997.

The MOA was established to protect the economic vitality, development, and future growth of watershed communities. At the same time, various FAD programs sought to protect water quality in the watershed as a source of drinking water for New York City.

Some changes

Timothy Cox, CWC corporate counsel, provided an update on the negotiation progress. Slight changes to the CWC Stormwater Retrofit program have been reviewed by Cox and Jason Merwin, CWC executive director.

The retrofit program grants funding to municipalities, organizations, businesses, or individuals to implement and maintain stormwater. The addition of feasibility study funding for grant

applicants will satisfy NYC documentation requirements for program management and save applicants money, said Cox. Public wastewater treatment plants were added as qualified candidates for retrofit grants when previously it was limited to NYC-owned treatment plants, he continued.

Septic program

CWC Septic Maintenance program, intended to extend the life of septic systems by providing reimbursement of pump-out costs, is proposed to be extended to wastewater treatment plants for accepting waste from pump-outs, said Cox. Two municipalities have already expressed interest in accepting pump-out waste from CWC, he added.

If willing to participate, Merwin said, municipal treatment plants

continued on E4



Good Neighbors

Roxbury Girl Scout Troop 60674 held a food drive at the Grand Gorge Dollar General for the benefit of Dan's Food Pantry in Roxbury. They collected, bagged, delivered and shelved a van-load of food and personal care items to the pantry on December 20 just in time for folks to get food for their holiday celebrations. These girls are the hope for a bright future in our small town and we can't thank them enough for all their hard work. The girls are: Michaela Tucker, Olivia Bonci, Sam Heijnal, Lily Aulino, Abigail Bonci, Aria Camillone, Avery Cooper, Chloe Burgwin, Abigail Tucker, Natalia Camillone and Madeline Bonci. Scout leaders are: Katie Camillone, Jaime Phillips and Margaret Tucker. Donations of Food, Personal Care items and funds accepted and greatly appreciated! Dan's Food Pantry, PO Box 520, Roxbury, NY 12474. For information, please call 607 326-6060 or 607 326-6065. — Contributed photo



New Kingston...New Year!

Jen Adger, Kathleen Conkey and Lisa Tait, all of New Kingston, (left to right) celebrate the New Year in the light rain at the New Kingston Valley Association Ball Drop. More photos on E6.
 — Photo by Dan Flanagan

Roxbury Backs Hotel Repair Grant

Town Board Supporting Reed's Project

By Mike Martin
 The Roxbury Town Board approved a resolution in support of the RESTORE NY Application for the former Reed's Hotel property following a public hearing preceding the board's January 3 Organizational Meeting.

The purpose of the hearing was the potential repurposing the Reed's Hotel, a long abandoned and derelict property right in the heart of Roxbury using the Restore NY Grant funding. The property owner and his architect

bought in concept drawings showing what is possible on the property. The outline called for converting the old hotel building into a multi-purpose building with commercial and housing components.

During the public hearing, questions were raised about the routing of the small stream the crosses the property. Supervisor Allen Hinkley stated he thought there might be some different routing necessary. Also raised was a question on handicap access to the garden portion of the property towards the rear across the stream. The response was that an

arched handicap accessible bridge over the stream is planned. Another question concerned parking. It was noted that no on-site parking is planned; all parking would be along the road frontage.

Appointments

A resolution was approved to continue appointments to all committees as last year. The only potential change was Mike Hynes and Ed Raeder heading up the Personnel Committee.

Board Member Ken Davie was appointed Deputy Supervisor. Also appointed were Beth

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62 Years Of Yaekel Family's Ownership Ends With Margaretville Liquor Store Sale

By Brian Sweeney
An era came to an end in the village in late December when Margaretville Liquor Store owner Steve Yaekel completed the sale of the Margaretville Liquor Store.

The business will continue under new ownership, but for the first in more than six decades there will not be Yaekel family member at the helm.

Steve's dad, Chuck Yaekel, purchased the liquor store in 1960, as part of a "package deal" when his family also took ownership of a home on Swart Street. After serving in the military, he then studied accounting at Siena College in Loudonville.

Steve returned to the area and, in what was seen as a temporary position, began operating the store when health issues resulted in his parents relocating near Albany and putting the business up for sale.

Decided to stay

"I was actually running the store when my fiancée, Melanie, and I decided we wanted to stay in the area after we got married," Steve recalled.

They purchased the business around July 1981 and for the past 42 years, while the area has undergone numerous changes, the family-owned store has served as a key element of the Margaretville business community.

As one would expect, Steve has witnessed considerable turnover in the village during his long tenure. His own shop has remained largely the same, tucked into the center of the line of buildings

along Main Street. In terms of his operation, Steve said the most notable innovation he made was opening what was formerly the back-room storage area and converting this area to retail space. This expansion allowed for a considerable increase in the product selection.

Changing habits

In terms of the beverage alcohol industry, Steve has witnessed the shift from customers shopping for a special event type of purchase to more of a staple on the dinner table. He said this is especially on the wine side of the business.

"I can remember the day people would try to sneak out of the store for fear of being seen," Steve recalled.

Steve noted that area has also changed undergone a significant transformation.

"It was more of a farming-based economy when my father bought it. It was more of a self-sustaining community with three supermarkets, an appliance store, department store, hardware store, clothing store etc., all on the Main Street," Steve remembered.

He pointed out that "big box" stores did their damage and resulted in the demise of many family-owned stores. Steve said, when he purchased the business, it had become more reliant on the second homeowners. But, he added, "Over all the years it was the support and loyalty of the full-time people who we depended on."

While the Catskill Region has undergone a



Steve Yaekel recently completed the sale of the Margaretville Liquor Store, which had been run by his family since 1960. — Photo by Brian Sweeney

considerable transformation over the decades, Steve said he held one constant for his business: "We always wanted to stay on Main Street."

Steve recalled that they actually looked at some other locations to expand into about four years ago.

"Most (of those locations) were outside the village and we feared too big a negative effect

on the local economy if we moved out of the village. Main Street has been very good to us."

Since closing on the sale of the business and their building, Steve and Melanie have relocated to the Capital District. While the store will carry on, there's no doubt a key part of the community's history has come to an end after 63 years. Cheers to Steve!

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thrilled to close a few weeks later. Renovations begin soon and buyers are thrilled to have their own piece of the Catskills to enjoy!

Andes home

JUST SOLD! Congratulations to Diane on the sale of her beautiful Andes home which she built in 1966! Close to the village, park-like setting and direct access to the Andes Rail Trail. Listed by Jeffrey Ashton of Coldwell Banker Timberland

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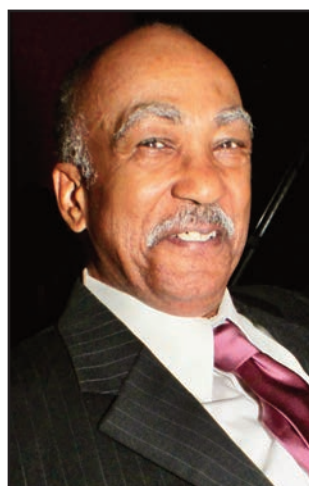
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Obituaries



James Ware

James "Jabbo" Ware, a jazz saxophonist, composer, arranger, music copyist and band leader, died on December 29, 2022, in a hospital in Poughkeepsie, NY, after a brief illness.

Mr. Ware was born in Rome, Georgia on November 16, 1942, and grew up there before moving to Chattanooga, and, when he was 17 years old, to Saint Louis. Jabbo had a host of strong women in his life — especially his grandmother Ada Hines — whose influence, he noted often, helped to shape the man he was.

Around 1960 he migrated to Saint Louis where he found his true calling and passion... jazz.

He moved into a Central West End neighborhood rife with jazz fans and jazz musicians, one of whom became his saxophone teacher and life guide, Harry Wynn. Mr. Wynn inspired young Ware to join a student band where he met two life-long friends, J D Parran and Alfred Netterville. Wynn taught him to copy his music exercises from the printed books by hand. Jabbo was extremely fulfilled by this exercise performing it daily and was later inspired to compose music for the St. Louis Black Artists Group (BAG) Big Band along with Parran, Oliver Lake, Julius Hemphill, and others.

By the late 1960s he was lured to New York City by his close friend and renowned baritone saxophonist, Hamiet Bluiett, with the promise of living at the center of the music world where he continued to learn from masters such as George Coleman. He plied his trade as a music copyist, arranger, and baritone saxophonist in

large jazz ensembles, working with Archie Shepp, Charlie Mingus, Slide Hampton, Frank Foster, Jaki Byard, Gil Evans, Muhal Richard Abrams, Hilton Ruiz, Jimmy Heath, Ron Carter, Jimmy Owens, Tito Puente, Eddie Palmieri, and many others.

Jabbo's signature contribution and dream fulfilled was performing and recording his own compositions from the 1970s onward. His big band, the Me, We and Them Orchestra, was conceived on Duke Ellington's model of individual voices focused through a performing family of musicians. His CD Vignettes in the Spirit of Ellington was a tribute to Ellington's influence on his music.

In 1991, he created a nonprofit organization, Y'All of New York, dedicated to promoting jazz through educating young people, composing, and performing. His composition, Migration, was written for full orchestra and selected for performance by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra in the late 1990s.

Beginning in the 1990s, James found a second home in the Catskill Mountains, enjoying the mountains, music, and people of Fleischmanns and, for the past 12 years, Roxbury.

Jabbo was preceded in death by his grandmother and grandfather, Ada and Horace Hines; his mother, Bernice (Ware) Black; step-fathers, James Welch and Robert Black; his aunts, Ola May Ware and Eddie Louise (Ware) Schropshire; and his uncles, Lamar Ware and Louis Ware, Jr.

Jabbo is survived by his loving and devoted wife Diana J. Mason; loving sister, April Esenwah-Butcher; brother Robert Black; uncle, Rudolph Ware; brother-in-law, Mike Butcher; and many beloved cousins, nieces, nephews, and extended family.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in memory of James Jabbo Ware to fund a music scholarship at Greenwich House Music School at <https://www.greenwichhouse.org/donate/>.

Roxbury Backs Hotel Repair Grant

continued from E1

Bush, Bookkeeper; Ralph Sprague, Deputy Highway Superintendent; Stephanie Seminara, Deputy Town Clerk; Carolynn Faraci, Deputy Tax Collector. Peg Ellsworth and Christine O'Shaughnessy were reappointed to the Historic commission. David Cowan and Kevin DePodwin were reappointed to the Planning Board.

Resolutions

- A resolution was passed to approved the contract for 2023 in the amount of \$3,500 with the Delaware County Planning Dept.

- A resolution was approved re-adopt the agreement for Building Inspector.

- A resolution was approved designating Supervisor Hinkley and Deputy Supervisor Davie as official signatories.

Resolutions were approved for contractual payments to: Roxbury Library Association, \$17,500; Legion Post in Roxbury and Grand Gorge, \$150 each; the Roxbury Senior Club, \$500; and the Catskill Recreation Center in Arkville, \$2,500 (contract needed before payment).

- A resolution was approved designating the Mountain Eagle as the official newspaper

- Approve NBT Bank N.A and Wayne Bank as official depositories.

Monthly meetings will be held on the second Monday at 6 p.m. at

Town Hall. Exceptions include the and the October meeting will be held on the 10th and the November meeting will be held Thursday, Nov.

9. The April and August meetings will be at the Grand Gorge Civic Center. The board's next meeting will be held February 13 at 6 p.m.

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PROGRAM SCHEDULE

1/6 Fri	6:00PM - Citizen News Bureau - Lori Fairbairn brings you the Weekend Weather report for the Catskill Region. 6:30PM - Watershed Agricultural Council - Learn about Forestry Best Management Practices being used while logging in the NYC Watershed. 7:00PM - Mostly Folk with Artie Martello - Artie's guest for this show is Sonny Ochs - a producer, radio program host and recipient of numerous awards for her dedication to folk music. She is Phil Ochs' older sister. 7:30PM - WARK Community Television Archives - a show on Ice Climbing. (Airdate Early 80s) 8:00PM - Focus on the Arts - Elizabeth Mami talks Chelsea Goodwin, Community activist, performer and DJ of In Goth We Trust on WIOX radio, Roxbury. 8:30PM - The Sonny Rock Show - Join Sonny as he visits with Sean Doolan, a magician from Magic on Main in Windham.
1/7 Sat	6:00PM - Delaware County News Update - Julia Marks and Matt Avitabile bring you the latest news from the Delaware County Region. 6:30PM - The Hiker Trash Husbands - Jeff and Moe are going west! Join them as they hike in New Mexico with the Oklahomo Hikers as they enjoy a hike in the mountains outside of Taos, New Mexico. 7:00PM - Downstaters - A comedy web series about two New Yorkers who leave big city life for the Catskills. In this episode, Jess & Beth prepare to visit downstate but they need to tackle mud season first. 7:30PM - Focus on the Arts - Elizabeth Mami talks with Peg DiBenedetto, author, about her first children's book. 8:00PM - Music on the Delaware - Tune in for a pre-recorded concert with John Colonna. John is a virtuosic and lyrical pianist who mixes many influences into a unique and vibrant sound.
1/8 Sun	6:00PM - Grocholl Homestead - Join Ashton's as she shares her tips on crocheting and how to start your seeds for your garden. 6:30PM - The Catskill Center - The Catskill Center's Jenny Flavin talks about the Steward Program. 7:00PM - WARK Community Television Archives - The Dictionary Game. Michael Finberg hosts two teams of four as they try to stump each other with "trick definitions". One of the four definitions is correct Tune in for the fun! 7:30PM - Chamber Connects - Ray Pucci talks with NYS Cannabis Control Board member Jen Metzger. 8:00PM - WARK Community Television Archives - WARK's Christine Cardone visits the All American Old Time Circus on its visit to Arkville. 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.
1/9 Mon	6:00PM - Focus on the Arts - Elizabeth Mamitalks with local author, Peg DiBenedetto about her book, Silver Dollar Girls. 6:30PM - WARK Community Television Archives - The Dictionary Game. 7:00PM - Mostly Folk with Artie Martello - Artie talks with Tom Chapin, an American musician, entertainer, singer-songwriter, and storyteller. He talks about his new album "Hold Our Ground", his music career and his brother Harry and his commitment to fight world hunger. 8:00PM - The Sonny Rock Show - Sonny talks with Debbi Calton. Debbi was a fixture and icon in the Philadelphia market. After leaving Philadelphia, she moved to the Hudson Valley. She now has her own online radio show on Outside FM. 8:30PM - Little Red Cottage of Nowhere - In this video, Andrea prepares for her chickens by building a chicken coop with (no experience) scrap wood and pallets.
1/10 Tue	6:00PM - Weekly Weather Forecast - Lori Fairbairn brings you the Weekly forecast for the Catskill Region. 6:30PM - Medicare With Robin - Join Julia Marks as she asks important questions about Medicare with Robin Williams, a licensed insurance agent. Tonight's episode: Medicare Savings Program. 7:00PM - The Hiker Trash Husbands - Jeff and Moe are going west! Join them as they hike in New Mexico with the Oklahomo Hikers as they enjoy a hike in the mountains outside of Taos, New Mexico. 7:30PM - Watershed Agricultural Council - Logging in the NYC Watershed. 8:00PM - WARK Community Television Archives - Music with the Kryptonites recorded at the Pine Hill Tavern (Airdate Early 80s).
1/11 Wed	6:00PM - Grocholl Homestead - Join Ashton's as she shares her tips on crocheting and how to start your seeds for your garden. 6:30PM - Focus on the Arts - Elizabeth Mami talks with local author, Peg DiBenedetto about her book, Silver Dollar Girls. 7:00PM - Medicare With Robin - Join Julia Marks as she asks important questions about Medicare with Robin Williams, a licensed insurance agent. Tonight's episode: Medicare Savings Program. 7:30PM - The Sonny Rock Show - Sonny visits the shop of Ron Stelkewicz, who is not only a musician but creates miniature art. 8:00PM - Citizen News Bureau - Jezz Harkin visits The Bearsville Theater and talks with Lizzie Vann, the owner. Lizzie also takes Jezz on a tour of the theater. 8:30PM - The Delaware County Chamber of Commerce presentation on Workforce Wellness: Cancer Screening Program.
1/12 Thu	6:00PM - Citizen News Bureau - Lori Fairbairn brings you the Weekend Weather Report for the Catskill Region. 6:30PM - Mostly Folk with Artie Martello - Artie's guest is singer/songwriter Lucy Kaplansky. 7:00PM - Downstaters - A comedy web series about two New Yorkers who leave big city life for the Catskills. In this episode, Jess & Beth prepare to visit downstate but they need to tackle mud season first. 7:30PM - WARK Community Television Archives - The Dictionary Game. Michael Finberg hosts two teams of four as they try to stump each other with "trick definitions". One of the four definitions is correct Tune in for the fun! 8:00PM - Music on the Delaware - Tune in for a pre-recorded concert with John Colonna. John is a virtuosic and lyrical pianist who mixes many influences into a unique and vibrant sound.

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Here's The Scoop

Going For A Spin

By Brian Sweeney

On more than one occasion, I've been accused to being "old school." In many cases, that term translates into being set in my ways. It's not usually a compliment.

It's not that I'm completely unwilling to change, it's just that breaking habits is usually a slow process for me. On the other hand, there have been a few times when I'm "all in" on embracing something new. For instance, back in the 1980s when Compact Discs (CDs) were introduced as a product for playing music, it didn't take me long to get on the bandwagon, so to speak.

I forget lots of stuff, but I still remember a good friend describing this new CD technology to me. "I read that these things are indestructible. You can pour honey on them, and they'll still play just fine." Sweet.

Sounds of silence

I had no intention of wasting good honey to test out this theory, but I was certainly intrigued by the benefits of CDs. It wasn't long before I was the proud owner of a CD player. I even remember the first disc I purchased by the band "Til Tuesday — from my New Wave period. The joy wore off a bit when the "Til Tuesday disc arrived from the music club in two pieces. So much for being indestructible!

Despite this initial drawback, CDs proved to a big improvement over cassette tapes. They were especially great for listening to tunes while driving. From a laziness standpoint, it was nice not to have to flip over an album.

Over the years, I've accumulated about 600 CDs. And, that thing about honey? — not true. I've never actually tested that sticky theory, but have firsthand knowledge that accumulated dirt and scratches can wreak plenty of havoc with music playback.

Truth be told, the makers of vinyl records were heard loud and clear in the early days denouncing the sound "quality" of CDs — even if they were in pristine condition. Not many listened. As was widely expected, the popularity of Compact Discs spelled doom for vinyl records. Until it didn't!

Looking up

With a bit of research, I learned that 2020 marked the first year in more than a generation that vinyl record buying surpassed CD sales. In recent years, even with decades' worth of CDs on hand and a subscription to streaming service Pandora, my wife and I have talked about "stepping back" into vinyl. Records, if you've ever listened to one, offer a much warmer sound than CDs. Plus, you can view great album artwork and actually read lyrics because they are printed in a legible size.

I'm pleased to report that our daughter, who knew of our interest in purchasing a turntable, made that happen with a Christmas gift to me! The present even came with records from a few of my favorite bands, including Todd Rundgren's Utopia and Steely Dan. The latter platter holds a special place in my heart as "Can't Buy A Thrill" is the album that I've listened to more than any other.

Full circle

Making this album an even more appropriate choice as the first one spun on our "return to vinyl" is the fact it contains the tune that put Steely Dan on the road to fame — "Reelin' In The Years." I feel like that's what I'm doing revisiting the past by spinning turntable times.

In a bit of good fortune, my habit of stating, "I'm not ready to throw this out," is paying dividends for once. Shockingly, I still have hundreds of albums from the olden days. In a nod to Beatles lore, I tried playing an album backwards and swore I heard the message: "Vinyl is NOT dead!"

CWC Committee Gets FAD Updates

continued from E1
will need to be retrofitted, funded by the city, to handle the additional waste. The retrofit will benefit residents using the plant by expanding treatment capacity, he added.

There are currently five treatment plants in the watershed the city has reviewed for the program in Tannersville, Grand Gorge, Pine Hill, Margaretville, and Brayntsville, according to Cox.

Only minor changes have been proposed to the flood program agreement, Cox said.

Proposed changes are with the city's legal

department for review, said Cox.

A new condition released on Thursday, Dec. 29, requires city representatives to meet with FAD stakeholders and partners by the end of February, Cox concluded.

Other action

Following CWC committee meetings, board members approved several septic program projects, including seven septic installations over \$25,000 in Jewett, Roscoe, Fleischmanns, two in Delancey, Hensonville, and Andes; and 13 additional costs for septic repairs in Windham,

three in West Shokan, Mt. Tremper, Walton, two in Denver, Prattsville, Napanoch, Stamford, Margaretville, and Roxbury. Additional funds for expanded septic costs were approved for homeowners in Fleischmanns and West Hurley. Two homeowners were approved eligible for second-time repairs for properties in Middletown, initially paid for in 1999 and 2010.

Following an executive session, board members authorized a low-interest loan application for 43270 NY-28 LLC in the amount of \$450,000 for the operation of a cafe at 43270

State Highway 28, Arkville. The loan was approved at a five-year adjustable interest rate of 4.5% over 20 years. Funds will be used to purchase equipment, renovation of facilities, working capital, and soft costs. Monthly payments will be made in the amount of \$2,892.05.

In other business, CWC board election nominations for 2023 are due Feb. 3. Nominees must be publicly elected officials in a watershed municipality.

The next CWC committee meetings and board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 7, starting at 9 a.m.

Andes Board Held Organizational Meeting

By Brian Sweeney
Supervisor Bud Gladstone made a series of appointments for the upcoming year, during the Andes Town Board's Organizational Meeting on January 3.

Appointments included Deputy Supervisor: Shayne Moshier. Committee appointments were as follows: Transfer Station, Town Hall and Justice Committee members will be: Shayne Moshier, Hall, and Dale Cole. Highway Committee: Bud Gladstone, Shayne Moshier and Ritchie Gabriel. Pool Committee: Dale Cole, Ritchie Gabriel, and Bud Gladstone. Construction Committee: Bud Gladstone and Shayne Moshier. Economic Development Committee: Thomas Hall, Shayne Moshier, and Dale Cole. Flood Commission: Bud Gladstone, and Shayne Moshier. Recreational Committee: Dale Cole, Thomas Hall, and Shayne Moshier. Delegate to Association of Town — any town board member.

Building Inspector and Code Enforcement Officer: Al Mohr. Planning Board Chairman: Harland "Sam" Dye.

Pool Director: Rachel Andrews. Health Officer: Michael J. Freeman, DO-MPH

Andes Town Board meetings will be held at the town hall on Route 28 on second Tuesday of each month at town hall, unless noted. During November, December, January, February, and March meetings will begin at 6 p.m. Meetings on all other months will begin at 7 p.m.

Meeting dates

The Planning Board will meet at the town hall on the second Monday month of each month at 7 p.m. The Zoning Board of Appeals meets at the town hall on the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. when necessary.

Official Depositories of Funds are: Wayne Bank in Andes, and NBT Norwich. Official Newspaper: The Reporter. Mileage reimbursement was set at the federal rate of 58 cents per mile.

Following a public hearing that preceded the Organizational Meeting, the board passed a resolution supporting an application for RESTORE NY Grant

funding to renovate the town's former highway garage.

The sale of the garage property to TAB Construction, owned by Andes resident Travis Balcom, was completed last month. His company submitted the high bid of \$80,000 last year to purchase the property.

The RESTORE New York Grant program application is being conducted on the town's behalf by the MARK Project Inc., a local economic development agency based in Arkville.

For renovations

Ms. Ellsworth said the grant program is specifically geared towards providing fundings to improve vacant, dilapidated, and surplus buildings. If the grant application is successful, the funds would be utilized to help with necessary renovations to bring it up to business standards for the new owner.

She explained that applications for the RESTORE NY Grant program must be applied for through a municipality on behalf of property owners. The former

highway garage property is in poor condition and Mr. Balcom plans to upgrade the building and utilize the property as the headquarters for his construction company.

Ms. Ellsworth said the deadline for submitting the grant application is January 27. The MARK Project will assist the town with Mr. Balcom will be required to pay a \$500 application fee to the town, which will then submit the funds to Empire State Development, along with the application.

The MARK director said she plans to personally deliver the application to Albany to ensure that the submission deadline is met.

In other business, Code Enforcement Officer Al Mohr's Building Department Report for December, listed the following activity. He said the department received 47 calls to office, 18 messages, held three office conferences, and three onsite conferences, conducted two AirBnB inspections, issued seven permits, and conducted 15 inspections, and three municipal searches.

Delaware County Deed Transfers

By or against	Town	In Favor of	Transfer Tax
Date: Jan. 3 BERNARD ALBERT F BERNARD ALBERT F (AKA) BERNARD ALBERT F JR BERNARD ANDREW	DAVENPORT	MONTGOMERY CLARENCE D JR	32.00
EKLUND FARMS INC	STAMFORD	PINKEY JILL E	640.00
SHAVER SANDRA KAY	COLCHESTER	BANKER LOUIS J	680.00
OLECHNOWICZ VINCE S (AKA) OLECHNOWICZ VINCENT S OLECHNOWICZ NANCY D	DELHI	CHAOJAREON JENNA O (TR) OLECHNOWICZ FAMILY TRUST DATED NOVEMBER 22 2022 (BY TR)	0.00
WHITTAKER DOUGLAS A OHARA ELLEN M WHITTAKER CYNTHIA L (SEE INST)	FRANKLIN	JACKSON HOLE HOLDINGS LLC	1,340.00



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

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

SACRED HEART CHURCH
27 Harper Street, Stamford, NY 12167
Phone: 838 910 9889

Masses: Saturday 4:30, Thursday 12:00pm, Friday 9:00am
Reconciliation is offered
Saturdays 3:30-4:15pm

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May-October
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Rev. Richard Dykstra

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14630 Main Street, Prattsville, NY 12468
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Sunday Worship 11 am
Rev. Richard Dykstra

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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

Roxbury Board Wraps Up Year-End Business

By Mike Martin

The Roxbury Town Board wrapped up business for 2022, with its Year-End Meeting on December 27.

All regular department reports were tabled until the organizational meeting on Jan 3.

It was noted that after the first year of operation at the Kirkside Park commercial kitchen's, the board may need to think about a storage area for dry goods and ingredients necessary to those renting the kitchen. Another consideration has been requests for the kitchen to be available all year, not just during summer-time.

Other business:

- EMT William Schryver gave a report on a revised quote for 24 new and seven rebuilt digital radios. The board will review the new quote and tabled any decision until next meeting.
- Supervisor Allen Hinkley reported that

numerous letters were received in supporting Short-Term

Rentals and regulation. Supervisor Hinkley suggested that the board take these letters under consideration.

The board was asked the board if any further discussion had been had concerning adoption of NYS minimum requirements for enforcement of the NYS Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code, and State Energy Construction Code which was tabled at the Dec 12 meeting. Supervisor Hinkley responded that Attorney Kevin Young was still reviewing the

language and it would be presented at a future meeting.

Supervisor Hinkley reported that The Inn at Kirkside was awarded a \$1.8 million grant from the Restore NY grant.

The board agreed to policy changes to the employee handbook by adding a sexual harassment hotline phone number, and added is a section on deferred compensation.

The board voted to approve the revised Highway Contract.

A draft Verizon cell tower lease on the Denver Water Tank was tabled.

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Welcoming Crew

The New Kingston Valley Association hosted its third annual New Year's Eve pageant featuring modern dance by the Three Fates; Old Father Time leaving town; and Baby Time rushing in. — Photo by Dan Flanagan

Events Calendar

Through January 7

1053 Main Street Gallery in Fleischmanns presents "Echo Chambers" an exhibition of multi-media work including artwork which uses manipulated images of darning stitched onto canvas. The show runs through January 7, 2023. Info: 1053maingallery.com

Through Sunday, Jan. 8

"Artists Choose Artists 2022," Margaretville's Longyear Gallery's 12th invitational show featuring the work of both Longyear Gallery members and some of their favorite guest artists working in different media is on display through Sunday, Jan. 8. Info: longyeargallery.org, or call 845 586-3270. Longyear Gallery is in The Commons, 785 Main Street, Margaretville.

Saturday, Jan. 14

The Delaware County Democratic Committee will hold an informational meeting for anyone interested in running for local office on the Democratic ticket. The event will be held on January 14 at the Hamden Town Hall, 37029 St. Rt. 10, Hamden from 2-4 p.m. Newcomers, lifelong Delaware County folk, boomers, millennials – all are welcome. Light refreshments, hot and cold drinks will be served. For more information, please visit: dcnydems.org

Tuesday, January 17-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. In this class, you will have the opportunity to complete an essay that you can submit for consideration in the New York Times Modern Love column. To register for this class, e-mail writersinthemountains@gmail.com. To register online, visit writersinthemountains.org. Class fee is \$125. This class is limited to ten students.

Saturdays, January 21 & 28

Writers in the Mountains (WIM) presents Publication Nuts and Bolts with Melissa Holbrook Pierson, a two-day intensive held online Saturdays, January 21 and 28 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Once you register and pay, you will be given instructions on how to join the class. To register, e-mail writersinthemountains@gmail.com. To register online, visit writersinthemountains.org. Class fee is \$45. Limited to ten students.



The Three Fates (Alana Siegel, Alexandra Martin and Annie Pevear, all of New Kingston) usher Baby Time into the crowd, country-style. Sherry Plummer and her dog Brody join in the festivities at the New Year's Eve Ball Drop in New Kingston. — Photo by Dan Flanagan

Info Meeting Planned For Potential Dem Candidates

The Delaware County Democratic Committee will hold an informational meeting for anyone interested in running for local office on the Democratic ticket. The event will be held on Saturday, Jan. 14 at the Hamden Town Hall, 37029 St. Rt. 10, Hamden from 2-4p.m. Newcomers, lifelong Delaware County folk, boomers, millennials – all are welcome. The event will offer an informal opportunity

to meet people who have run for office as well as those currently serving in local government. Information on the role of the town supervisor, town council member, town assessor and town justice will be explained as well as tips on petitioning and running an effective campaign. Light refreshments, hot and cold drinks will be served. For more information, visit dcnydems.org.

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POLICE NEWS

DELHI — Delaware County Sheriff Craig S. DuMond has announced the arrest of a Hamden man following an investigation into reports of animal neglect.

On December 20, Sheriff Deputies, were dispatched to a report of an animal abuse in the Town of Hamden. Information provided was that numerous animals were not being properly cared for on a property, including a lack of water, food, and proper shelter.

Deputies say the animals had inadequate food, bedding, shelter, and water troughs on premises were frozen, rendering the animal's incapable of drinking water. The owner of the animals was later identified as 33-year-old Henry Baird, of Hamden.

On the morning of December 23, Delaware County Sheriff Deputies, along with members of the Criminal Investigations Division arrived at the location of the animal neglect and arrested Henry Baird for a violation of New York State Agriculture and Markets Law section 353 – Overdriving, torturing and injuring animals; and failure to provide proper sustenance.

Following Baird's arrest, a search warrant was executed on the premises, which resulted in the seizure of a multitude of abused animals including Chickens, two Pigs, two Emu's, one goat, and one Peacock, which were later secured by members of the Delaware County Humane Society.

Baird was later released on an appearance ticket and is scheduled to appear at the Town of Hamden Court at a later date to answer the charge.

Members of the Sheriff's Office were assisted by the Delaware Valley Humane Society.

Shameful conduct

Speaking on the arrest, Sheriff DuMond remarked "In my opinion, neglecting defenseless animals rises to the same level as neglecting vulnerable individuals such as our children or the elderly. It is shameful that such conduct results in a release and issuance of an appearance ticket. I am extremely proud of the members of the Sheriff's Office that go

above and beyond every single day to protect the defenseless victims of our communities."

On the evening, December 27, Delaware County Sheriff's Deputies arrested a Hamden man on charges stemming from a Menacing Complaint in the Town of Hamden.

Sheriff's Deputies responded to a 911 call in the Town of Hamden for a reported menacing complaint. Upon arrival Deputies interviewed 49-year-old Hayes Hathaway.

Further investigation of the incident revealed that Hathaway had pushed the victim from behind, displayed an axe while verbally threatening to cause harm to the victim and then terminated the victim's electrical supply.

Deputies subsequently arrested and charged Hathaway with one count of Menacing in the Second Degree, a class A Misdemeanor, one count of Real Property Law, a class A misdemeanor, and one count of Harassment in the Second Degree, a violation. Brenna was released on appearance tickets returnable to the Town of Hamden Court.

Suspended license

Sheriff DuMond has announced the arrest of a Downsville resident for driving with a suspended registration. On Sunday night, January 1, Sheriff's Deputies were patrolling on State Highway state Route 206 in the Town of Colchester when they received a license plate reader alert on a vehicle with a Suspended Registration. Upon conducting a traffic stop, Deputies identified the driver of the vehicle as 23-year-old Damien Croley of Downsville. A check of Croley's vehicle registration was in fact suspended, due to Insurance Lapse.

Deputies subsequently arrested Croley and issued him uniformed traffic tickets for Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended/Revoked Registration, an unclassified misdemeanor, and No Stopping / Parking / Standing on Highway, a Violation of state vehicle and traffic law.

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

Sheriff DuMond has announced the arrest of a Downsville resident for driving with a suspended New York State Driver's license.

On Monday afternoon, January 2, Sheriff's Deputies observed a vehicle traveling on State Highway 30 in the Town of Colchester with an expired inspection. Upon conducting a traffic stop, Deputies identified the driver of the vehicle as 41-year-old Travis Kinch of Downsville. A check of Kinch's driver's license revealed that his driving privileges were suspended in the State of New York.

Multiple charges

Deputies subsequently arrested Kinch and issued him uniformed traffic tickets for Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle in the Third Degree, an unclassified misdemeanor, Unlicensed Operator, Uninspected Motor Vehicle and Failure to notify DMV of an address change, all violations of the New York State vehicle and traffic law. Kinch released on the uniformed traffic tickets and is scheduled to appear in the Town of Colchester Court to answer the charge.

A Walton resident has been arrested on operating a motor vehicle while the registration or privilege is suspended. Other motor vehicle violations were issued as well following a motor vehicle accident involving property damage.

On Sunday afternoon on December 11, Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched by Delaware County 911 to respond to a report of a motor vehicle accident with property damage in the Town of Walton.

During the investigation it was learned that Derrik Koehler, age 36, of Walton was the driver of the vehicle that caused property damage.

On December 31, Deputies subsequently arrested Koehler and charged him with operation while registration or privilege is suspended. He was also issued violations for improper plates, uninsured motor vehicle, unsafe tires, speed not reasonable and prudent, and unregistered motor vehicle. He was scheduled to appear in Town of Walton Court to answer the charge.

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THE TOWN OF HARDENBURGH HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT is seeking full time general help for our Highway Dept. located in Arkville, to perform general highway tasks. Starting pay average for our area with advancement and acquired skills. Top notch benefit package including NYS Retirement plan and fully paid health insurance plan. CDL preferred. Call 845.586.2223 for application and wage information. 3D16C

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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

The Town of Middletown Planning Board will be a holding public hearing in accordance with the Town of Middletown Zoning Ordinance for the following application:

Application 22-2 Georgianna Piskacek would like to do a 2-lot subdivision on Panther Drive in Fleischmanns. Tax map # 287-1-34.

Said hearing will be held on Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall, 42339 State Highway 28, Margaretville. At this time all interested parties will be heard.

John Nolan, Chairman JA6C

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF TAX ROLL AND WARRANT

Please take notice that I, Wendy M. Buerge, the collector of taxes for the Town of Hardenburgh, County of Ulster, State of New York, have received the tax roll and warrant for the collection of taxes within the Town of Hardenburgh for the year 2023, and that I will attend the Town Hall, 51 Rider Hollow Road, Arkville, NY from January 1 to January 31, 2023 from 9am to 2pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, except holidays, for the purpose of receiving taxes on said roll.

Please take further notice that taxes may be paid on or before January 31, 2023 without interest

or charge. On all taxes received after such date there shall be added interest of one percent (1%) of the amount of the unpaid tax for each month until taxes are paid or until the return of unpaid taxes to the County Treasurer pursuant unto law. A \$1 late notice fee will be charged for payments received in the month of May. There is a returned check fee of \$15 per check.

Please take further notice, that pursuant to the provisions of the Tax Law, the tax roll for the Town of Hardenburgh will be returned to the County Treasurer of the County of Ulster on the 1st day of June 2023.

Dated: December 28, 2022
Wendy M. Buerge
Town Clerk
Town of Hardenburgh JA6C

TOWN OF ROXBURY COLLECTOR'S NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF TAX ROLL & WARRANT

I, the undersigned Collector of Taxes for the Town of Roxbury, County of Delaware, State of New York, have duly received the Tax Roll & Warrant for the year 2023. The Tax Collector will receive tax payments in person on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in January 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at the Roxbury Town Hall, 56 Hillcrest Drive, Roxbury, NY except for January 17 and January 18. To speak with the Tax Collector you must now phone 607-326-6567.

Take further notice that taxes may be paid on or before January 31, 2023 without interest or charge. All taxes received after such date, there shall be added interest of one percent (1%) per month. February (1%), March (2%), April (3%). After April 15th, all checks must be certified. All unpaid taxes after April 30, 2023 will be returned to the County Treasurer pursuant to law.

Bonnie Walker, Tax Collector
Town of Roxbury 2JA14C

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE ARKVILLE FIRE DISTRICT

Please take notice that the organizational meeting for the Arkville Fire District of the Town of Middletown, County of Delaware, NY, will be held on the 10th day of January 2023 @6:00 pm, at the Arkville Fire House, located at 43365 State Highway 28, Arkville, NY.

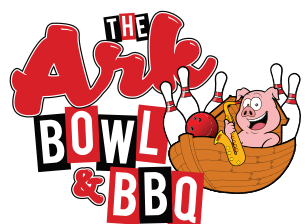
Please take notice that the regular monthly meeting will follow on this same date.

This notification is being given to the news media pursuant to the provisions of the Section 94 Of the Public Officers Law of the State of NY by the order of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Arkville Fire District.

Cheryl Roberts, Secretary JA6C

BOWLING NEWS

Team Name	W	L	High Game
Spillian	33	11	Leslie Gavette 171, Jessica Watson 164, Sue Wixon 153
ROI	27	17	
JM Lawncare	27	17	
Better Late Than Never	24.5	19.5	
JK Tinting	20.5	23.5	
Bye	0	0	High Series Jessica Watson 459, Leslie Gavette 434, Sue Wixon 410



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I'm Ray. At age 40 I became one of nearly 800,000 people who has a stroke each year. Fortunately, EMT's took me to the Hudson Valley's only comprehensive stroke center - it's part of the Westchester Medical Center Health Network, where they use every possible technology and technique to deliver the most advanced stroke care available. Thanks to incredible care from WMCHHealth - just a few months later I was back to working on cool animation projects and playing soccer with my daughter. **Incredible!**





The Cobleskill Herald

Serving Cobleskill, Sharon, Esperance, and beyond • A Section of the *Mountain Eagle*

Volume 8, No. 1

cobleskillherald@gmail.com

FRIDAY, January 6, 2023

518-763-6854

\$1.00

ZBA Dismisses Warming Ctr. Case

Follows Rally for Warming Center



The scene during the rally for the Warming Center at the Warnerville UMC Wednesday. Photo by Robert Duso. More inside.

Staff Report, Special Thanks to Robert Duso

RICHMONDVILLE and WARNERVILLE - Back to back events resulted in a major victory for

backers of the Warnerville United Methodist Church Warming Center.

The closure of the facility by Town of Richmondville officials set off

a firestorm that encompassed Schoharie County politics, non-profits, faith-based organizations, and even Albany media.

On Wednesday, backers *Continued on Page F8*

Motion to Reconsider Health Director Appt. Fails Chairman Federice Blasts County Democrats

By Timothy Knight
SCHOHARIE - Two weeks after the motion to reappoint Dr. Amy Gildemeister as Public Health Director failed in a contentious, divided vote following a lengthy Executive Session, a majority of the Schoharie County Board of Supervisors again decided against her continuation to lead the department on Tuesday night.

The face of Schoharie County's coronavirus response, Dr. Gildemeister became a polarizing figure during the height of the pandemic. Hailed as a hero by some and maligned as a tyrant by others, her tenure is now defined by a chaotic end-result where the Board of Health and the Board of Supervisors are in disagreement.

Unlike other department head positions, where the county board is ultimately responsible for the hiring and firing of individuals, the Public Health Director is subject to a two-step process where the Board of Health is responsible for employment status and the Board of Supervisors is charged with disbursing their salary.

By opposing the reappointment of Dr. Gildemeister on Tuesday, December 20th, supervisors effectively voted only to defund her position. Since

the Board of Health unanimously supported her appointment prior to that vote, she could theoretically continue to serve in her position for the next six years without payment.

The matter was brought back to the floor for discussion earlier this week by Fulton Supervisor Phil Skowfoe - who serves as Chair of the Public Health Committee - by motioning to reconsider the failed Resolution 118.

"It's been a very tough issue," stated Blenheim Supervisor Don Airey in his remarks. He continued, "You know, I voted

to reappoint Dr. Gildemeister and I accepted the outcome of that vote," but he expressed his displeasure with an unnamed county political committee that issued a public statement about the situation.

He commented, "They can afford such ideological forays, but I don't believe this board can." Arguing that supervisors must remain uninfluenced by county political committees, Mr. Airey also disputed the notion that the board's decision was somehow untoward due

Story continues on F2

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:

- Cobleskill (M-F, Golding Park, 103 High St.)
- 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.

Cobleskill - Board of Education Meeting

The Cobleskill-Richmondville Board of Education will be meeting on Mon Jan. 9th at 7:00 PM at the Golding Middle School Library. Meetings are also on the SCOPEG website.

Cobleskill - Town Board Meeting

The Cobleskill Town Board will be holding its monthly meeting on Monday, January 9th at 7:00 PM at the Cobleskill Firehouse. Meetings are also available on the SCOPEG website.

Sharon Springs - Board of Education Meeting

The Sharon Springs Central School Board of Education will be meeting on Monday, January 9th at 7:30 PM. The school is located at 514 State Highway 20 in Sharon Springs.

Esperance - Village Board Meeting

The Esperance Village Board will be holding its monthly meeting on Monday, January 9th at 7:30 PM at the Village Hall Meeting Room (113 Church Street).

Family Recovery Support Group

Every Wednesday evening from 5:30-7:00 PM., SCCASA hosts Family Recovery Support Group Meetings facilitated by Maggie Jackman Pryor, a Family Support Navigator, and Tom Moran, a Peer Engagement Specialist and Recovery Coach at 349 Mineral Springs Road.

Richmondville - Town Board Meeting

The Richmondville Town Board will be holding its monthly meeting on Thursday, January 12th at 6:00 PM at the Town Municipal Building (104 Municipal Lane off of Podpadic Road).

Schoharie - Board of Supervisors Meeting

The Schoharie County Board of Supervisors will be holding its monthly meeting next week - Friday, January 20th at 9:00 AM.

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.

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.

Two OFA Sr Congregate Meal Sites Open

Local residents are invited to enjoy noon-time meals and socialization during the month of January (except Jan. 2 & 16) at one of the Office for the Aging's two congregate meal sites:

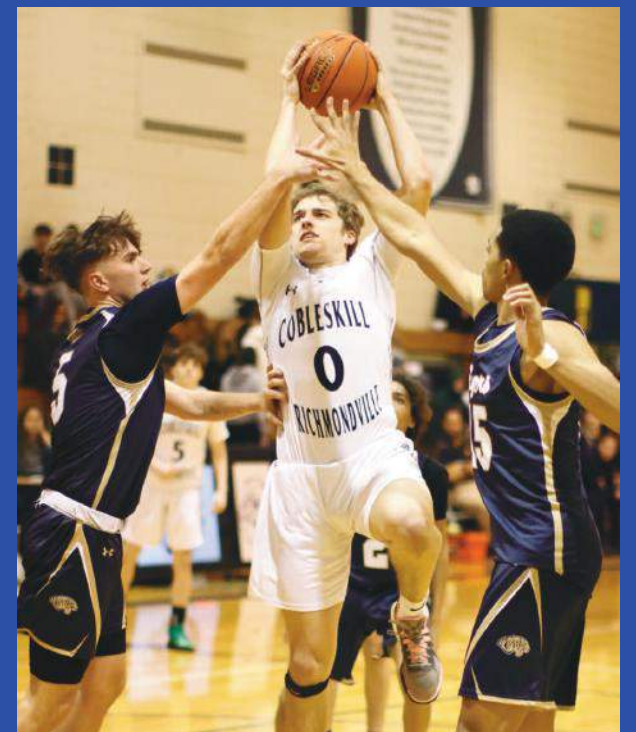
- Jefferson (Tues./Wed./Thurs.), Community Center, Rte. 10
- Sharon Springs (Mon./Wed./Fri.), Firehouse, 137 Beechwood Rd.)

Reserve a meal by calling Schoharie County OFA at 518-295-2001 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.

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. Monthly meal menus are available at The Center's front desk or by contacting OFA.

Bulldogs Win!



Knowing TY LaBarge #0 was a strong shooter the Tigers made every effort to keep him from getting to the basket. Bryce Hancock #5 and Kyle Webb #15 playing hard defense.



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War in Europe XXXIX

By Timothy Knight

Mournfully, we must welcome the second year of warfare on the European Continent. For this thirty-ninth dispatch covering the state of hostilities in Europe, I wanted to briefly turn away from the military situation and instead focus on the bigger picture of what this all means to our Ukrainian allies and to New Europe as a whole.

Following a year of brutal conflict in the Russo-Ukrainian War, it still feels vaguely surreal – at least from an outsider’s perch – that the Europe of my grandfathers has returned. Lend lease programs, pitched tank warfare, and war crimes committed indiscriminately against a civilian population are somehow in vogue again. Yes, this modern conflict does also entail the use of drone warfare, surveillance technology, and new forms of mass media propaganda.

Modern inventions aside, this conflict is ultimately a war centered on ideological notions that are hundreds – if not, thousands – of years old: nationhood and sovereignty. As we have discussed numerous times prior, Vladimir Putin’s war of conquest is based on the notion that not only should the former Soviet Union’s sphere of influence be reconstituted in eastern Europe, but

that the very concept of Ukrainian sovereignty is a post-Cold War myth. Obviously, our Ukrainian friends view this struggle very differently – and I would argue – are clearer minded.

Since the collapse of Moscow’s hegemony over the former socialist republics more than three decades ago, Kyiv has been caught in a cat-and-mouse game between Russia and Europe, as the former has sought to reuse Ukraine as a buffer to western expansionism and the latter has offered Ukraine a new future. Whereas the Kremlin desires subservience in the vein of Belarus’ regime, Europe has pulled out an open chair to Kyiv at the table of nationhood; I must interject, however, that said chair applies to most of Europe, as some persist in their own Cold War perversions of reality.

Kyiv, for its part, has proactively embraced not only its inclusion at the European table, but they have also consciously decided to be Ukrainian. Rekindling the spark of sovereign traditions can be difficult when your country has been occupied for centuries, but Kyiv has largely succeeded in this cultural project to the detriment of Moscow. Long viewed as a “borderland,” Ukraine has successfully enrooted old cultural and territorial

borders to distinguish itself, which is why Putin’s visions of reconstituting the USSR are now so laughable, because this endeavor does not belong to Kyiv alone.

Old Europe has slowly realized that the Baltics, Poland, and Ukraine are no longer the frontiers of a divided sphere of European influences, but a sovereign collection of nation states – which I refer to warmly as “New Europe” – that have cast off Russia designs in favor of western integration and cultural self-determination.

Ukraine’s fight is not only one of nationhood and sovereignty for themselves, but all of the New European nation states seeking to break the old world and forge ahead in this new century; this is a conflict to constitute a new order in Europe, one where eastern Europe possesses, maintains, and enforces its own sphere of influence to counter Russia.

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. Cheerio.

FCC Releases National Broadband Map

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has developed a national map of broadband service that will be used to allocate funding for future broadband service expansion. Do you have adequate broadband coverage at your address? Is your address adequately identified on the FCC map? We encourage you to go to the FCC site at Home | FCC National Broadband Map

(<https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/home>) and check your service address.

You do not need to do anything if the information is accurate. If the information is not accurate, place a location and/or availability challenge as needed. We

recommend challenging your service availability if the only available and viable provider(s) listed is or are via satellite. This is especially true if it is Space Exploration Holdings or a satellite provider that cannot provide Download speed of 100 mpbs or higher and Upload speed of 10 mpbs or higher.

Keep checking the FCC Broadband Map site for future ways to challenge the data especially if the Federal government continues to insist that satellite provides you with adequate service.

If you need assistance checking your information, please contact the Schoharie County Planning and Community Development Services Office at 518-295-8770.

Dr. Amy, Continued from F1

to all supervisors not being present for the final vote.

Moments later when supervisors voted on Mr. Skowfoe’s motion to reconsider, Mr. Airey changed his vote from in favor of the reappointment last month to against reconsideration. Richmondville Supervisor Jeffrey Haslun, who was absent from the December 20th meeting, voted in favor of reconsidering the appointment.

Mr. Skowfoe’s motion was denied by a weighted vote of 1,237 in favor to 1,411 against. Supervisors Werner Hampel of Cobleskill, Sandra Manko of Sharon, and Earl VanWormer of Esperance joined Mr. Haslun and Mr. Skowfoe in favor, while the remainder voted against. Schoharie Supervisor Alan Tavenner was absent.

Federice Blasts Press Coverage, Democratic Party Statement

Once Mr. Skowfoe’s motion failed, Board Chairman Bill Federice weighed in on the situation with some pointed comments about the local press coverage surrounding the initial vote and a statement



Friday, December 23, 2022

At 6:36 PM, Cobleskill Police arrested Robert Stevens, 43, of Sharon Springs, N.Y. for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree and one other vehicle and traffic law violation. He was issued traffic tickets to appear in Cobleskill Town Court on 01/31/2023 at 2:00 PM.

Wednesday, December 28, 2022

At 9:29 AM, Cobleskill Police arrested Shaquinn

Strong, 29, of Cobleskill, N.Y. for criminal trespass in the second degree. She was issued an appearance ticket to appear in Cobleskill Town Court on 01/10/2023 at 2:00 PM.

At 9:29 AM, Cobleskill Police arrested Amanda Vasquez, 33, of Cobleskill, N.Y. for criminal trespass in the second degree. She was issued an appearance ticket to appear in Cobleskill Town Court on 01/10/2023 at 2:00 PM.

Thursday, December 29, 2022

At 10:30 PM, Cobleskill Police arrested Theresa Clarke, 40, of Richmondville, N.Y. for ag-

gravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree and one other vehicle and traffic law violation. She was issued traffic tickets to appear in Cobleskill Town Court on 01/31/2023 at 2:00 PM.

At 7:26 PM, Cobleskill Police arrested Jonathan Weber, 25, of Guilderland, N.Y. for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree and three other vehicle and traffic law violations. He was issued traffic tickets to appear in Cobleskill Town Court on 01/31/2023 at 2:00 PM.

Police Blotter

At 7:26 PM, Cobleskill Police arrested Jonathan Weber, 25, of Guilderland, N.Y. for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree and three other vehicle and traffic law violations. He was issued traffic tickets to appear in Cobleskill Town Court on 01/31/2023 at 2:00 PM.

Friday, December 30, 2022

At 7:26 PM, Cobleskill Police arrested Jonathan Weber, 25, of Guilderland, N.Y. for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree and three other vehicle and traffic law violations. He was issued traffic tickets to appear in Cobleskill Town Court on 01/31/2023 at 2:00 PM.

Skowfoe Raises Procedural Concerns

“Usually, the oversight committee does the evaluation,” explained Mr. Skowfoe about the reappointment of department heads. Speaking as chairman of the oversight committee for the health department, he noted that nothing had been referred to the Public Health Committee about any issues involving Dr. Gildemeister.

He continued, “So, this all took me by surprise when Harold [Vroman, Chair of the Personnel Committee] called me at home.” Offering to discuss any issues with the Board of Health in Executive Session with the director excused, Mr. Skowfoe said the county board instead proceeded on its own track.

“It hasn’t followed a proper protocol throughout the whole thing,” stated Mr. Skowfoe. He explained, “You can condemn me if you want, but I did what I felt needed to be done and was the wishes of the Board of Health.”

Continuing, “...I feel that we look to them [Board of Health] for direction, they make the appointment; the only thing we did here today was you decided you wasn’t going to pay her. She can stay and work for nothing, and basically nothing you can do about it.”

issued by the Schoharie County Democratic Committee (SCDC) alleging that national coronavirus politics impacted the board’s decision.

Noting that there were other factors at play, Mr. Federice stated “All managerial, department head positions include the administrative, financial, and personnel responsibilities without exception.”

He continued, “And when the board evaluates whether we’re going to renew somebody, they evaluate the total body of work, including management of county employees by a department head, which also includes health department employees.” Mr. Federice did not elaborate on this point, but the implication was clear.

“Our local media whipped people up into a frenzy because they failed to present both sides of the story,” he commented. “What happened? I didn’t see it... I wonder how many people might change their minds if they had access to the facts that drove a majority of the supervisors to be opposed.”

Mr. Federice saved his strongest critique for local Democrats. Going where Mr. Airey had only alluded to, the chairman commented “I have a special place for the Schoharie County Democratic Com-

mittee and their public statement regarding the question of reappointing the public health director.

“This thing actually referenced conspiracy theories about being part of a nationwide push by anti-maskers and anti-vaxxers, questioning the motives of the Board of Supervisors... This 100% false allegation doesn’t have one scintilla of truth to it. Zero. I don’t know about any national conspiracy, but certainly not in small Schoharie County.”

Wrapping up his statement, Mr. Federice remarked that “This is the start of my tenth year on the Board of Supervisors. And in that time, every appointment or reappointment was a good faith, nonpartisan effort based on merit and not political, and I’m very proud of that.” Directing his comments to the SCDC, he said: “Shame on them.”

Sharon Supervisor Sandra Manko – one of only two elected Democrats on the county board – commented that, “Neither Phil nor I have talked to the Democratic Committee. I’m not responsible and neither is Phil for anything they put out.” She added, “As far as I’m concerned, they were out of line.”

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SUNY Basketball Defeats Russell Sage

COBLESKILL - The SUNY Cobleskill men's basketball team opened the 2023 portion of their schedule at home on Tuesday evening posting a 95-88 decision over the visiting Gators of Russell Sage College in non-league action. With the win the Fighting Tigers improve to 11-2 overall on the year while the Gators fall to 2-

7 overall on the season. Leading 42-39 at the break the Fighting Tigers connected on 16-of-31 shots, 51.6%, of the second half attempts including 7-of-10, 70.0%, from three-point range in the second half to secure the victory and extend their current winning streak to seven games. Junior guard Izhiah Pig-

ott, Brooklyn, N.Y., Urban Assembly High School/Dutchess Community College, led all scorers with a game high of 23 points to go with four assists while the Orange & Black received double/doubles from junior point guard Andre Starks, Rochester, N.Y., Fairport High School/Corning Commu-

nity College, with 14 points and 10 assists and junior center Markel Jenkins, Elmira, N.Y., Elmira High School/Corning Community College, with 13 points and 10 rebounds. The Fighting Tigers also received strong efforts from senior forward Justin Feldman, Chester, N.Y., Chester High School/Or-

ange Community College, with 17 points, five assists and four rebounds and from sophomore JaNyve Smith, Albany, N.Y., Bishop Maginn High School, who came off the bench to score 11 points and grab two rebounds in the win. Cobleskill will return to North Atlantic Conference (NAC) action over the weekend on Friday Janu-

ary 6 when they travel to Presque Isle, Maine for a league meeting with the Owls of the University of Maine-Presque Isle with tip-off slated for 7:30 p.m. prior to a trip to Bangor, Maine on Saturday January 7 for a conference contest versus the host Eagles of Husson University with tip-off at 3:00 p.m.

Bulldogs Win Over Cohoes

On the edge of your seat till the clock ran out, Bulldogs win 52-49. With only seconds left the Tigers set up for a three point shot. Ball off the rim clock runs out. BullDogs win this exciting game. Photos by Robert Duso.



Cohoes Tigers didn't hand this game away, they kept playing hard making this a very exciting game to watch. Nicalis Williams #14 and Bryce Hancock #5 double teaming Zowen Collins #23 at the net.



Ty LaBarge #0 kept the heat on all night in this game. Scoring 12 points, and directing the team on the court for the win.



BullDogs Zowen Collins #23, fires this one from the side. Zowen score 8 points for the night, and really worked the court with assists.

Senior Club Meeting in Sharon New Members Welcome in The New Year

By Alexis Pencar
SHARON SPRINGS - The Sharon Silver & Gold Senior Club will hold its next meeting at 12 noon on Friday, January 13th at the Office for the Aging's Meal Site in the Village of Sharon Springs at the Firehouse (137 Beechwood Road). The Silver & Gold Senior Club is made up of people from surrounding areas like Sharon, Cherry Valley, Cobleskill, Ames and beyond. Some Seniors grew up together and others are new to the area but everyone enjoys meeting new people.

With ages across the board, this group is warm and welcoming to all! If you are interested in making new friends or

would just like to add a new event to the calendar this winter, check this out!

Expect a delicious and nutritious meal of Chicken and Biscuit with Gravy, Brussel Sprouts, Harvard Beets, Angel Food Cake & Strawberries with Whipped Cream to be served on 1/13 with a business meeting to follow. Nancy Ackerbauer RD will make a presentation about the health benefits of hot tea.

Area Seniors interested in more information about the Club should contact Anne Lennebacker, President, at 607-547-9055. Those interested in attending the January 13th luncheon meeting must call the Spa Ritz Meal Site by

January 11th at 518-284-2883 on Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 10 AM and 2 PM.

This same Sharon Springs "Spa Ritz" Meal Site also offers congregate noon-time meals each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday in the month of January (except Jan. 16th). Included with the healthy, well balanced meal also comes socialization and nutrition coaching and even tips and tricks for cooking.

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.



Members of the Sharon Silver & Gold Senior Club enjoy their December Holiday Party with Gift Exchange that followed.



OFA Registered Dietician Nancy Ackerbauer serves up clamoring Seniors with a healthy and delicious salad! Nancy also provides a nutrition presentation on the topic of the month after lunch!



The luncheon meeting provides a positive opportunity for everyone to catch up, including celebrating those Birthdays in the month!

YOUR LOCAL HAPPENINGS FOR SHARON SPRINGS

Sharon Things

By Alexis Pencar

Hey Neighbors! Happy New Year! Wishing everyone health and prosperity this year! I cannot believe it's 2023! With so much to be grateful for, I'm excited for all the wonderful things our community has in store this upcoming year. The schedule for the 2023 Spring and Summer festival and events for the Village should be available soon, keep a look out for updates!

The weather has been a little bit of everything since we last published, from single digits and feet of snow to green grass and running streams, the extremes have been present these last few weeks as we have definitely roared into the winter season.

The Old Farmer's Almanac looks towards a large "January thaw" with colder temperatures to follow in February. The January average temperatures are predicted to be only 1 degree warmer with 6.5 inches of precipitation, 3 more inches

than usual. The Full Wolf Moon falls on Epiphany, today, January 6th, with only 72 days left until Spring arrives.

There has been ongoing construction near Cornerstone Place in the Village the last few weeks. Please use caution as you head down the hill on Main Street past the Library as there are large trucks and machinery stopping and pulling out. Another reminder to please note the suggested speed of 25 MPH while heading down the hill and a maximum of 30 MPH within the Village.

The American Legion Post 1269 of Sharon Springs is looking for new members! If you are interested in becoming an American Legion member, volunteering, or even donating to the many wonderful causes the Legion supports, please contact Commander Paul Todd at (518) 649-0024 for more information.

Sharon Springs Free Library

We wish all our friends, neighbors and everyone in our service area a very Happy New Year. Why not make this the year to take full advantage of everything the library has to offer. Come see us with the return to our regular winter hours; Monday and Thursday 10 - 6, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 3 - 6, Saturday 10 - 1. Check our Facebook page for unexpected weather-related or other emergency closings.

It's almost 2023, and we will all be a year older. Did you know that our population is aging? By the 2030's, one in every four N.Y. state residents will be 60 or older. As the national population ages, caregiving will be strained by rising demand and shrinking families. According to AARP, there were 7.1 potential family caregivers for every person over 80 in 2010. By 2030, that number may shrink to just 4.1 potential family caregivers for every person over 80. This is a good year to think about aging and long-term planning.

The Schoharie County Office for the Aging has a wealth of information

and resources available. Their mission is "to assist and advocate for our county's residents aged sixty years and older, and their caregivers, through programs and services designed to promote health, safety, dignity and independence." The office is located at 113 Park Place, Suite 3, in Schoharie. Their hours are 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. Phone (518) 295-2001 or explore their website <https://www4.schohariecounty-ny.gov/departments/ofa/> for more information.

Yoga is offered on Friday nights for a donation of \$10 to the instructor, but you must register in order to be on the call list in case of cancellations.

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) of-

fers 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.

More Success at the Gathering Place

Key Grant thanks to Juried Foundation, Celebrations

Editor's Note: We spoke with Gathering Place founder and director Kim Witkowski about a number of successes at the senior center, including a new major grant from the Nicholas J. Juried Family Foundation and a number of well-attended, well-appreciated events.

Below is what Ms. Witkowski has put together to cap an astonishing year of growth at the center.

What an amazing year of huge growth it has been for The Gathering Place 50 Plus Community Center. Our membership has grown to over 800 members in 2022. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think this Center would have such a positive impact on so many people in our aging population. We have added so many activities, events, and programs to keep everyone busy and learning new things.

I have personally witnessed so many positive transformations of members who started with us after either losing a spouse or partner, facing the difficult role of caretaker for a loved one, or finding themselves with limited options to get out into the community. The Gathering Place has become the place for anyone age 50 and above to



A scene from the New Year's Early Eve Celebration. Photo credit Kim Witkowski.

come to one place to find support, friendship, and a myriad of activities and programs that help people to remain independent and healthy for the rest of their lives. Our new Healthy for Life Wellness program's main philosophy is that no matter what their age, members have the potential to optimize their health and well-being in mind, body, and spirit using our multi-part approach. Regular exercise and physical activity provide numerous and far-reaching health benefits to older adults, including minimizing biologic and physiological changes that accompany aging. Of course, being healthy is not just about

our physical exercising; it has several areas that need to work together to truly create a healthy lifestyle. In our Healthy for Life Program, we focus on all areas including physical, social, emotional, intellectual, spiritual, vocational, and environmental. There are three important parts of our Healthy for Life Wellness Program's approach: Engage, Educate, and Evolve.

Due to the tremendous success and growth of our Gathering Place Family, and after speaking with Dottie Pickett, one of our Board members, and our Architect, Vince La Ganga, back in late summer, I contacted


Nicholas Juried to see if he would be willing to support us with building a second addition of a Great Room onto the Center where we could house our large events, as well as provide space to begin doing an adult daycare type program to help bring our many families dealing with the many challenges that come with aging. This would be a place to bring their loved ones that is safe and would help keep their minds and bodies engaged in living their best life. Nick agreed 100% to provide funding for this new addition, which will be named in his honor when it is completed. Unfortunately,

we ran into some site issues and the addition was temporarily delayed. We finally got the final approval to begin construction at the end of November. However due to these delays, when our contractor, On the Level Construction, was able to begin the work, we had the challenges of not only the impending Winter weather, but also the cost of all the materials had gone up dramatically. I again contacted Nick to let him know the update on the construction and the additional funding that would be needed to complete the project, and again, Nick sent me an email a couple of days later stating that he would be funding the ad-


ditional amount needed to finish this wonderful addition. We are beyond grateful for Nick's continued support of The Gathering Place.

We continue to work toward making The Gathering Place the place to go to meet all the aging adult's needs. We have been very fortunate to have added support groups, arts and craft classes, exercise classes, meditation classes, trips, as well as the many events and celebrations we have throughout the year. For more information about The Gathering Place 50 Plus Community Center or to join, please feel free to stop by 127 Kenyon Road, Cobleskill, NY or contact us at 518-823-4338.

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McAllister Sworn-In as County Judge

By Timothy Knight
 SCHOHARIE – The third story chambers of the Schoharie County Courthouse were a place of pomp and circumstance last Friday morning, as Cobleskill native Ryan T. McAllister was officially sworn-in as the new Schoharie County Judge.

Unopposed in the November Election to succeed longtime Judge George R. Bartlett III, who had reached the mandatory age for judicial retirement in New York State last year, Mr. McAllister was joined by his family, friends, mentors, and dozens of local dignitaries as he delivered his oath of office.

Mr. McAllister, a 2002 graduate of Harvard University, has a long career in public service. He worked as an Assistant Counsel to former New York State Governor George Pataki, Senior Counsel in the New York State Senate, and District Director for former Congressman John Faso in the 19th District.

Serving as Master of Ceremonies was Gerald Connolly, an Administrative Judge in New York State's Third Judicial District who worked with Mr. McAllister in Governor Pataki's office nearly two decades ago. He recounted his initial fears that he and the young Ivy Leaguer would have little in common.

"I resigned myself to the

idea that I had little in common with someone who is frankly use to playing at a different level in the legal field than myself," remarked Mr. Connolly. He continued, "How happy I became when I learned how wrong I was."

Extolling Mr. McAllister's work ethic and personal virtues, he lauded the young judge's commitment to "His faith, his family, his country, and his integrity." He also fondly recalled Mr. Bartlett's service, noting "The sense of his responsibility to his county and to his community always shown through."

"He's gonna be the kind of judge who will fairly decide the cases and controversies before him," stated Mr. Faso. The former congressman added, "He has the skills and the background and the temperament to be an outstanding judge." In addition to serving as district director, Mr. McAllister also interned for Mr. Faso and worked as his policy director during the 2006 gubernatorial campaign.

Richard Wesley, a Judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit who Mr. McAllister clerked for, recalled their time together as one of "real companionship." He remarked, "Ryan reflected to me the person that I knew he was on the way to becoming: an individual, incredibly keen intellect, and unpar-

alleled drive. Ryan wouldn't stop until he had the answer."

Even as the ceremony culminated in Mr. Wesley swearing-in Mr. McAllister for Schoharie County Judge, others believe this position to be a stepping stone for a future that was once within grasp.

A Republican, Mr. McAllister was nominated by former President Donald Trump in 2020 to serve as a United States District Judge for the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York, but his nomination was not considered by the United States Senate, and it eventually lapsed.

New York State Assemblyman Chris Tague, who introduced elected officials and dignitaries, pointed out that "I don't know how long we're going to be able to keep you in Schoharie County as our judge, because once we take back the White House, my guess is you're going to be up for a federal judgeship and it's well deserved."

His comments were echoed by Congresswoman Elise Stefanik. "I too agree with Assemblyman Chris Tague that he is going to be committed to Schoharie County, but we are hopeful that in the future – whether it's a decade from now – that he will be serving on the federal bench because he will be that caliber of a judge."



Ryan T. McAllister was sworn-in as the new Schoharie County Judge by Appellate Judge Richard Wesley last Friday morning in the Schoharie County Courthouse. Photo by Timothy Knight

Iroquois Museum Thanks Supporters

HOWES CAVE - The Iroquois Museum would like to thank the many businesses that have continued to support us throughout the year. The Nicholas Juried Foundation was so generous with the gift of an outdoor elevator and new outdoor signage. Along with new floor and seating in the outside amphitheater and updated collection storage units. Cobleskill Stone was so nice to give ten

loads of crusher run delivered to the Museum at no cost. Hannaford gave multiple donations for the Teacher's Appreciation Event and we were chosen for the Bloomin' 4 Good Program for the month of December.

Sterling Insurance Company gave the Museum \$2,000 for public programming. Walmart Distribution Center, Stewart's Shop, and National Grid all gave the Museum's

Educational programs \$1,000 each. Fenimore Assets Management gave \$350, Harva Company and Midtel each gave \$250 and the Bank of Richmondville gave \$100 to the general operating.

We are very grateful for all of these wonderful and generous donations to the Iroquois Museum. We would not be able to do what we do without the support of these fine organizations.

We Need Your Help!

Please help stop industrial solar facilities from taking over our county!

Important meetings:
 January 10th, 2023:
 at the Carlisle Town Hall,
 Crommie Road, Carlisle 7pm.

January 24th:
 Seward Town Barn, Lowe
 Road 7pm. Bring a chair.
 Bring a chair!

Come say no to the proposed solar panels at 190 Brown Road in the towns of Seward and Carlisle.

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Bulldogs Battle Hudson Blue Hawks



Lucas Myers #16 slips this one over for a point in the second game.



Hudson's Brian Curran #11 picked up a point in the first game with this ball being sent into secondary. Hudson won the match 3-0.

NOTICE

A vacancy exists in the Schoharie County Health Department in the position of
PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR

Starting Salary: \$54,810 (CSEA grade 18)

The work involves responsibility for planning, preparing and completing projects relative to an emergency-ready public health department. Incumbent upgrades, integrates and evaluates local public health preparedness for responses to terrorism, pandemic diseases, and other public health emergencies with federal, state, local, private and non-governmental organizations. These efforts are intended to support continuous improvement of a national system of public health emergency preparedness that uses Centers for Disease Control preparedness goals and associated measures to monitor public health system response performance. Incumbent may be assigned either to lead major projects or complete phases or projects. The work may also involve the coordination of grant-funded activities with other municipal departments, collecting and analyzing data, and preparing documents necessary for community and economic preparedness activities. The work is performed under the general supervision of the Public Health Director. Does related work as required.

This will be a provisional appointment; permanent appointment will be contingent upon successful completion of a Civil Service examination and becoming reachable on the resulting eligible list.

Candidates interested in being considered for this 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 9, 2023.

Applications may be obtained in the Personnel Office or online at: www.schohariecounty-ny.gov

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

(A) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a master's degree or higher in Public Health; OR

(B) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a bachelor's degree in a health-related field; and two (2) years of professional experience in planning, implementing or administering a health program; OR

(A) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with an associate's degree in a health-related field; and four (4) years of professional experience in planning, implementing or administering a health program.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: This class requires frequent travel. Incumbents will be required to possess a valid, appropriate level, New York State Motor Vehicle 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****



ABOVE: Lucas Myers #16, and Sean Rose #8 up for the block. Bulldogs seemed to be struggling with coordination in the first game.

LEFT: Michael Rice #11 for the Bulldogs makes sure this one went back over the net. The team started to rally in the second game, and their spirits picked up as the game progressed. Photos by Robert Duso.

Letters to the Editor on Page A4
 Send us yours at
[cobleskillherald@gmail.com!](mailto:cobleskillherald@gmail.com)



Forgotten Schoharie County

Sharon Springs a Star in Original Vacation Movie

By David Avitabile

It starts at the Atlantic Ocean in Massachusetts and does not end until the waters of the Pacific Ocean in Oregon. After leaving the Bay State, U.S. Route 20 winds its way through that bowels of Albany before emerging again in more scenic Schoharie County.

Drivers head west through Esperance, Sloansville, Carlisle, before ending in the unique town of Sharon. The four-lane highway (it used to be two lanes) then continues west on the Cherry Valley Turnpike and to the rest of the country.

Anyone who has traveled Route 20 in Schoharie County knows that it one of the most scenic roadways in the country. Interesting hamlets, quaint villages, rolling hills, babbling creeks, populate the vistas of the road.

Obviously, architectural photographer John Margolies saw the beauty in Route 20, especially as its winds its way through the Town of Sharon.

When Mr. Margolies was choosing vintage photos and postcards for the 1983 classic movie National Lampoon Vacation, he came upon an early postcard of Sharon, probably post-war, most likely the early 1950s.

As the strains of the song Holiday Song by Lindsey Buckingham play in the background (make sure you listen for the barking dog at the end of the song), postcards and photos flash on the screen. After a postcard of the "Western Portal of the Kittatinny Tunnel on the Pennsylvania Turnpike," pops up a beautiful color card of Route 20 in Sharon, titled Greetings from Sharon Springs, N.Y."

Notice how much narrower the road was before the state came through and enlarged it in the early 1950s. Wayward cars were held on the road by wire and vertical concrete posts.

According to the website YesterYear Reto, which chronicled all the postcards used in the opening sequence, described the Sharon Springs cards as, "The second postcard is "Greetings from Sharon Springs, New York." Sharon Springs is a small village of just over 500 people (as of the 2010 Census) in Schoharie County,

about 20 miles west of Albany.

The director of Vacation, Harold Ramis (most people remember him as the highly intelligent Egon Spengler in Ghostbusters) knew of Mr. Margolies.

The opening stills and vintage postcards (there are 52 in all) shown over the opening credits were culled together by Mr. Margolies, an architectural photographer who Mr. Ramis called "one of the principal documentarians of American, roadside architecture." Mr. Ramis knew Mr. Margolies, and decided his collection of postcards and photographs would make appropriate imagery for the opening of the film. Some of the "postcards" were not even postcards but still photographs done up to look as such.

On the DVD of Vacation, Mr. Ramis mentions that the vintage postcards in the opening title sequence were supplied by Mr Margolies, who dedicated much of his life to documenting roadside Americana in books like Roadside America or Signs of Our Time. The director said that when vintage postcards were unavailable, he "created" them from Margolies' original photographs by cropping them and fashioning them into a style akin to an old postcard.

Mr. Margolies, who died in 2016, was an architectural critic, photographer, and author who was noted for celebrating vernacular and novelty architecture in the United States, particularly those designed as roadside attractions, according to Wikipedia. Starting from the mid-1970s, he began to photograph sites during long road trips, since he was concerned these sites would be displaced by the growing modernist trend. He was credited with shaping postmodern architecture and recognizing buildings that would be added to the National Register of Historic Places through his documentary work. Starting in 2007, the Library of Congress began to acquire his photographs, and created the public domain John Margolies Roadside America Photograph Archive in 2016, consisting of 11,710 scans.

To those who are not familiar with the Chevy Chase classic, National Lampoon's Vacation, often referred to as simply "Vacation," is the 1983 road trip comedy starring Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo, Randy Quaid, and John Candy. Supermodel Christie Brinkley makes her acting debut, with special appearances by Eugene Levy and Brian Doyle-Murray. The film was directed by 80s comedy icon Harold Ramis and written by fellow 80s movie legend John Hughes. The story is based on Hughes' original short story titled Vacation '58, which had appeared years earlier in National Lampoon Magazine.

National Lampoon's Vacation was successful immediately, with a low budget of \$15 million, the film earned \$60 million during its first run of theaters in the United States. Based on this success, five sequels have been produced.

The Griswolds never actually drive through Sharon Springs in their pea-green Wagon Queen Family Truckster station wagon on their way from the Chicago suburbs to Walley World in California.

Of course, when they finally get to Walley World, they find that it is closed and Clark "Sparky" Griswold (Chevy Chase) goes to a local sporting goods store, buys a BB gun and takes the park guard, John Candy, hostage.

The SWAT team, of course, is summoned, and as they are being handcuffed, park owner Roy Walley (a spoof of Walt Disney played by Eddie Bracken) arrives. Bracken, by the way, is from my hometown of Astoria, New York. Roy understands Clark's desire for the perfect family vacation and decides not to file criminal charges against the Griswolds.

The closing credits include a photo montage of their trip with the final photo showing that the family flew back to Chicago rather than endure another drive.



The postcard.



The route of the Family Truckster.



LEFT AND ABOVE: Scenes from the movie, including the Family Truckster.

Family Support Meetings in Schoharie!
 Family Support Services will be available at our "new" office location at 597 E Main St Cobleskill
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Warming Center, from F1



The scene during the rally in support of the warming station Wednesday afternoon. Photos by Robert Duso.



Another rally-goer during the Wednesday event.



Pastor Maryellen Moore speaks to a television crew Wednesday.

of the warming center held a rally starting at 3:30pm.

The event was then followed by a the Town of Richmondville Zoning Board of Appeals meeting at 5pm. Rally-goers and local officials both at-

tended the meeting, which resulted in a major change.

The ZBA voted unanimously to drop the case against the warming center and the United Methodist Church. While there could still be other interactions between the

Town government and the church, for now the effort appears to be closed.

Due to the timing of the meeting and rally, there will be more information in coming editions.



The church's attorney Fred Mohs.



Scott Barton licensed architect, and code enforcement



Board Chairman Steve Swenson speaks during the meeting.

There's Plenty More Schoharie County News Inside!