

DELHI BUDGET WORKSHOP QUARINO 1,000TH POINT



The Mountain Eagle

Serving Schoharie, Delaware, Greene and Northern Ulster Counties

Volume 8, No. 9 mountaineaglenews@gmail.com

FRIDAY, March 3, 2023

\$1.00

Park Use & ATV/UTV Travel Law Top Kortright Discussion

By Mary A. Crisafulli
KORTRIGHT - Kortright council members discussed baseball field and park use in Bloomville and proposed legislation permitting ATV and UTV travel on town roads at a regular meeting on Feb. 20.

Resident John Rockefeller was unanimously appointed as park coordinator and liaison following his presentation on park use.

Rockefeller advised council members that the Catskill Mountain Little League Club will utilize the baseball field for practice twice a week starting in April. The club is constructing a ball field and, once complete, will no longer use the town field, he said.

Councilmember Lynn

Pickett strongly opposed permitting the club or any organization, including the school, to use the field with liability concerns. She vowed to resign as a council member if a child were injured at the park and sued the town. "More information is needed before this is approved," Pickett said.

Supervisor George Haynes said the town's insurance holder is aware of the use by both the club and the school district, though he agreed to reach out again for more information. Haynes added that the town does not have a rental policy on the park, leaving it open for use regardless.

Councilmember Michael Pietrantonio informed Pickett

the school has utilized the field for years and stated the park is for public use.

Various residents have requested park benches be installed, he reported. In addition, Rockefeller said residents have asked to use the park on Memorial Day to host a community picnic in honor of the firefighters and veterans. No action was needed on the request since the town does not have a rental policy for the park.

In another discussion, Chris Caiazza presented the board with additional information regarding proposed legislation permitting ATV and UTV use on town roads. Caiazza and other local individuals plan to approach several towns to pass similar legislation. The

hope is to unite Stamford, Kortright, Harpersfield, and Jefferson in legislation naming their yet-to-be-developed organization as liaisons for permitting such vehicles, said Caiazza. Once legislation is passed, the organization will contact property owners to develop ATV and UTV trail systems similar to the state snowmobile trails.

Pietrantonio said Kortright wants to avoid taking responsibility for the permitting process and would like to see the legislation meet state regulations regarding such vehicles on roadways.

Haynes requested Caiazza draft legislation that all towns consented to before approval for consistency of the program. Caiazza agreed

to draft the legislation and meet with other town councils before the next Kortright council meeting.

In other business: Council members agreed to name the new roadway to the town sewer plant Municipal Way.

The clerk will advertise accepting bids for mowing the town hall, cemetery, sewer plant, and water plant due by noon on Friday, Mar. 17.

Council members approved the contract with Headwaters EMS for ambulance services town-wide. The organization will provide service to Kortright, Stamford, and Harpersfield and has requested the towns to contribute to the estimated \$320,000 annual

budget based on property tax-assessed values. They have secured one ambulance, which is expected to operate on a 24-hour, seven days week basis.

Councilmembers passed a resolution to meet county adjustments in tax exemption status for individuals 65 and older. The legislation raised the salary limit from \$15,000 to \$22,000 for a 50% exemption. The exemption percentage decreases until a salary maximum of \$27,700, which receives no exemption status.

Town Clerk Kristin Craft reported all taxes for the year had been collected.

The next Kortright council meeting is scheduled Monday, Mar. 20, at 7:30 p.m.

Joe Beck Senior Scholar Athletes Named

Those athletes, who live in the spirit of the late Joe Beck, are tapped each year to receive scholarship awards. The awards are presented at the halftime break between the Delaware League Basketball Championships each year. This year's recipients included, the following:

Charlotte Valley: Elizabeth Gerster Downsville: Stephanie Foote Gilboa Conesville: Anna Tompkins Hunter Tannersville: Hedda Flynn South Kortright: Akasha Finkle Stamford: Shannon Hartwell Gilboa Conesville: Tristan Meli South Kortright: Emerson Comer Windham Ashland Jewett: Leon Honge Certificates of nomination were presented to: Downsville: Gavin Brunner Hunter Tannersville: Garrett Legg Windham Ashland Jewett: Amanda Nilsen

\$1.2 Million to be Delivered WAC Nutrient Management Credits

By Mary A. Crisafulli
WALTON - Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC) Director Ryan Naatz announced financial issues with the nutrient management program credits - which left several watershed farms without funding - had been resolved. According to Naatz, WAC expects approximately \$1.2 million will be received from the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in April.

Nutrient management credits aid farmers' implementation of a nutrient management plan which maps out how to properly spread manure on their farm with minimal risk of water con-

tamination. Eligible reimbursement expenses include manure spreaders, barn cleaners, custom services, and lime. Approximately 142 watershed farms participated in the program in 2020.

DEP did not disperse funding in 2022 due to concerns about duplicate applications, Naatz explained.

Dairy farmer and newest WAC council member Barbara Hanselman said communication with farmers on funding needed to be improved. She explained that farmers who purchased large pieces of equipment found themselves acquiring credit due to not receiving

due credits and having no knowledge of the issue.

Naatz apologized for the communication error and informed Hanselman a letter was recently sent to affected farmers. "It is fair to say there will be a number of hardships in the short term," he said. The reconciliation is a "tremendous sigh of relief." Moving forward, Naatz said, program funding will be held in an independent account to alleviate future issues.

Council member Jennifer Grossman reported on economic viability grant programs in another discussion. A marketing reimbursement grant round was completed at the end of February, focusing on social media marketing, website development, and more.

According to Grossman, the Farms and Forests in Transition Reimbursement Program applications are limited. The program is offered to farms seeking pro-

fessional services in transition, estate planning, or succession planning. The program should be reevaluated to include farms East of the Hudson Watershed since eligibility is currently limited to farms west of the Hudson, said Grossman. Farms both east and west are a part of the watershed, and economic viability is a core component of what WAC does, she added.

In other business: Along with Hanselman, Jeff Willson was welcomed as a new board member.

Due to delays caused by the global pandemic, WAC audits for 2021 and 2022 are still being completed. The 2021 audit is expected to be completed soon, followed by the 2022 audit in the spring.

Dave Cammer was reappointed as an executive committee member.

The following WAC council meeting is scheduled Tuesday, Mar. 28, at 10 a.m.

Pistol League Scores

Team and High Individual Match Scores
02/17/2023 Match XVII:
Delhi defeats Rockdale: 1059-15X to 1034-15X
Walton defeated Stamford: 1083-11X to 991-11X
Top shooters for Walton were: Justin McAdams 282-4X; Glenn Bowker 271-5X; Brian MacRabie 266-1X; and Joe Yambor 264-1X
Also shooting for Walton were: Dennis Bennett, Michael Noviello, Kris Bowker, Bill McAdams, Jeff Yambor, John Noviello, and Ryan Boice
High Scores for Stamford were: Jim Hitt 270-2X; John Wyckoff 263-5X; Ric Cammer 233-2X; and Maynard Vance 225-2X
Other Stamford shooters were: Mark Gifford, Trent Martin, and Bill DeSilva
Oneonta defeated Sidney: 1061-11X to 986-9X

| | |
|------------------|------|
| Win/Loss Record: | |
| Stamford | 17-1 |
| Walton: | 14-3 |
| Oneonta: | 8-10 |
| Rockdale: | 5-12 |
| Sidney: | 5-12 |
| Delhi: | 3-14 |

Bushel Hosts A Dream Workshop With IONE On March 12

DELHI — On Sunday, March 12, 2-4 pm, Bushel is pleased to host "Building a Dream Community," a special workshop led by IONE, "keeper of dreams," and Rachel Condry, Deep Listening practitioner. This event is free and open to the public. It takes place at Bushel, 106 Main Street, ground floor, in Delhi.

In this workshop participants will explore the world of dreams and dreaming. What does it

mean to listen in dreams? What sounds do you hear in dreams? What happens when we share our dreams with others? What if dreaming is the key to future building?

This in-person dream workshop will be led via zoom by the legendary IONE. To attend, please register in advance on Bushel's website at bushelcollective.org/events/building-a-dream-community-workshop/.

INDEX

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



COLDWELL BANKER
TIMBERLAND PROPERTIES
Real Estate Salesperson
Carol Spinelli
By Appointment: **845.664.4711**
www.CarolSpinelli.com
75 Bridge Street | Margaretville NY 12455

2022
TOP AGENT AT
COLDWELL BANKER
TIMBERLAND PROPERTIES



GIVEN TO THE TOP 8% OF
ALL SALES ASSOCIATES WORLDWIDE

Delaware Academy Holds First Budget Workshop

By Mary A. Crisafulli
 DELHI - Delaware Academy Central School District Board of Education held its first budget workshop during a regular meeting on Feb. 27.

Anticipated spending for the 2023 to 2024 fiscal year is \$21,540,719, a decrease of \$27,704 from the current budget year. The allowable tax cap limit is 2.12%. However, predicted revenues leave the budget with a nearly \$118,000 deficit. No tax levy has been proposed at this time.

In the coming fiscal year, foundation aid is anticipated to increase by about 3%, said Assistant Superintendent Carey Shultz, which makes up approximately \$7 million in aid.

Significant increases to the budget are due to contractual, salary, and benefit increases, said Shultz. The BOCES budget has increased by a little over 3%, the highest growth seen in years, he said; however, the school receives aid to offset the costs.

Significant decreases are attributed to paying off debt over the current fiscal year, Shultz explained.

A five-year financial plan is being developed to keep track of debt and tax cap predictions.

In continuing building the budget, Shultz said, outstanding variables include evaluating personnel and program structures, finalizing department budgets, and ensuring changes align

with the district's mission, goals, and instructional priorities. State aid runs are expected to be finalized in April.

The next budget workshop is scheduled Mar. 13 at 5 p.m., followed by a capital project workshop.

In another presentation, senior class officers' request for a senior trip to Ocean City, Maryland, was approved. Students are scheduled to depart on June 5 through June 7, the school district will provide transportation. Approximately 40 students have expressed interest in attending the trip. Students will take an adventure cruise to Assateague Island, play paintball, and visit the beach and boardwalk. Class officers have raised over \$9,000 and secured a grant through the O'Connor Foundation. Student out-of-pocket cost is estimated at \$225. A final fundraiser will be held to offset trip costs for students who choose to participate.

In other business: Nancy Piper, math teacher, is set to retire effective July 1. Ashley Gillespie was hired as an aide at \$14.20 an hour. Jamie Snyder was hired as a non-instructional substitute aide at \$99.40 daily.

Several athletic instructor appointments were made, including Micaiah Abts, weight room, for \$2,823; Connor Broesler, JV Girls Softball, for \$3,058; Todd Bruce, modified tennis, for \$3,669; Melissa Emilio, varsity track and field, for

\$6,338; Al Ferrara, softball program assistant, for \$1,000; Terry Legg, assistant varsity track and field, for \$6,187; Phil Neumann, varsity baseball, for \$6,187; Shawn Neumann, JV baseball, for \$4,540; Jennifer Richar, girls modified softball, for \$2,378; Jennifer Sanford, varsity tennis, for \$5,581; Kurt Spangenburg, girls varsity softball, for \$6,187; Brett White, softball, as volunteer; and Michael Winner, boys modified baseball, for \$2,378.

Delaware Academy is expected to receive \$8,500 in restitution following the settlement of the class action lawsuit against Juul, an e-cigarette manufacturer.

Superintendent Kelly M. Zimmerman's employment contract was renewed for July 1 until June 30, 2028, for \$149,661 annually.

The board approved a merger with Downsview Central School District for the spring season in the following sports; boys' modified, JV, and varsity baseball, girls' modified, JV, and varsity softball, and modified and varsity track and field.

Board members accepted a \$5,000 donation from the Helfgott-Renfroe Foundation for nursing and elementary classroom supplies.

Board members accepted another donation of \$105 from St. John's Episcopal Church for the backpack program.

The next board of education meeting is scheduled Monday, Mar. 27, at 5 p.m.

IN MEMORIAM

Wanda Schukal

GRAND GORGE - Wanda Schukal was born in France, went to school on Long Island, then obtained a degree in art from Queens Community College.

While she was an accomplished cook and wood heat cook, she was also a scholar in Native American Turquoise jewelry and very knowledgeable about antique rugs. She, with her husband Frederick, own the Antique Knot, in Stamford.

Her greatest love, after finding her way to Grand Gorge, along with her husband of 52 years, was working to grow things organically. She was the co-founder of Grand Gorge Garlic and Maple, where she enjoyed growing some of the region's best organic garlic & maple syrup.

Together Frederick and Wanda built a sugar house from the original post and beam outdoor kitchen, disassembled from the historic Thorington farm house.

Her organic garlic and maple was popular at the Hudson Valley Garlic Festival and more recently she had grown blue potatoes and French shallots.

She loved the Grand Gorge property, where they moved 17 years ago. They found it on a trip to Cooperstown to attend a chimney sweeps guild summer workshop. They stopped in Margaretville for tea and walked over to Coldwell Banker's Timberland Properties and grabbed a real estate flier. They called about the property six months later, luckily, it had become available for a second time. They purchased it, then after, the 12 acres owned by their neighbor Pete Pitzer.

The rest is kind of history.



Wanda, Frederick and nephews planted thousands of Blue Spruce trees on the property and enjoyed its rich surroundings. "She was a lover of all things natural and from the earth," said her younger sister Yvette.

She believes it is her sister's "clean living" that helped her battle her cancer twice before. "She gave it a good fight. I think it was her clean, healthy and natural lifestyle that allowed her to live to 71.

For those who knew her, Wanda went out of her way to make people feel included.

"She loved the people in the community and the vibe of the whole town. She loved

her neighbors, her garden, growing the garlic and maple and she enjoyed the garlic festivals. She was a beautiful person inside and out."

Her artistic ability and knowledge was passed on to her three younger sisters. "She was a mentor to us all, in so many ways."

Wanda passed away at her Grand Gorge home on Feb. 20. She is survived by her husband Frederick, sisters, Veronique, Yvette and Michele, as well as her brother Bernard, along with many loving nieces and nephews and two great nieces.

Wanda was also co-founder and secretary of Sleepy Hollow Chimney Supply Co. in Brentwood, NY.

Recruitment Event Postponed

By Mary A. Crisafulli

DELHI - Delaware County Personnel Officer Carrara Knoetgen announced, at a human resources committee meeting on Mar. 1, the civil service recruitment event was postponed due to weather concerns on Feb. 21. The preliminary date is now Wednesday, Mar. 15, at the Southside Mall in Oneonta. For updates check cdworkforce.org and to register call 607-432-4800 or email margaret.burkett@labor.ny.gov.

According to Knoetgen, the additional time will allow for more event publicity. Knoetgen will also seek participation from other Delaware County Departments at the event.

A virtual job fair is also scheduled for Mar. 15, which

Delaware County will participate in. For more information and registration email emai1pers@co.delaware.ny.us.

There are over 80 job openings listed on the county website at delcony.us.

In another discussion, Knoetgen reported a job posting for a deputy director of veterans affairs will be posted this week. Following Director Charles Piper's retirement announcement for July a temporary deputy position was developed for training purposes. Piper anticipates an individual requiring at least two months of training before transitioning into his role, said Knoetgen. "I would like to provide a little more time than that," she added. It is

her understanding there are already several prospective applicants for the position.

Knoetgen will attend an online training program provided by New York State Civil Service Institute. The course will run through June and Knoetgen will be required to complete assignments monthly regarding civil service law. She said that the material covered is a major component of the personnel officers' position, and the course will provide networking opportunities.

Committee members entered an executive session to discuss contract negotiations and personnel issues. Committee Chairperson and Meredith Supervisor James Ellis did not anticipate any action to be taken following the session.

The next human resources committee meeting is scheduled Wednesday, Apr. 5, at 1 p.m.

Quarino Makes 1,000th Career Point



Conor Quarino is flanked by his mom and dad, Kelly and Jim Quarino, with the ball marking his 1000th career point with the South Kortright Rams. Quarino scored 44 points in Tuesday's sectional semifinal, marking the occasion before a large Delaware League crowd. He now joins the 1000-point list at SKCS. He will be back in action this Saturday in the Section IV, Class D championship game.

William Alton
 Licensed Real Estate Salesperson

Office: 607-433-1020
 Cell: 607-221-9339
williamalton@howardhanna.com

Howard Hanna
 Real Estate Services

75 Market St. Oneonta, NY 13820

CONESVILLE
COUNTRY STORE

GAS - DIESEL - FOOD
 1275 State Route 990V • 607-588-4111

PIZZA PLUS

607-588-4070
PIZZA WINGS SUBS
 57166 Rt. 23 & MORE! Grand Gorge, NY

LEVEL UP TECH SUPPORT LLC

Computer/Server Repair
 Hardware & Software Sales, Support and Installation
 Wired and Wireless Networking
 Consulting

[leveluptechsupport.com](https://www.leveluptechsupport.com)

Contact us today for a free estimate

LEVEL UP
 Your Local I.T. Solution

CJ Karcher
 SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

cj.karcher@leveluptechsupport.com
 (607) 727-7213

HELP WANTED

Roxbury Central School has the following vacancy:

Tennis Coach
 For the Spring 2023 season

Please submit letter of interest by to:
 Tanner Ludwin
 Athletic Director
 ROXBURY CENTRAL SCHOOL
 53729 State Hwy. 30
 Roxbury, NY 12474
 EOE

ACE

Railroad Avenue Supply Co. Inc.

5 Railroad Ave. Stamford NY 12167
 607 652-7103

Mon - Fri 8 - 6 • Sat 8 - 4 • Sun 9 - 1

THE ANTIQUE KNOT

An important source for tribal and village carpets and kilim.

Museum quality rug hand wash service available

Your Catskill Mountain Connection and a point of reference.

Visit us at the old bank

74 Main Street
 Stamford NY 12167
<http://theantiqueknot.com>
 631-338-4996

WCCRC Expands Its Sphere of Influence With Local Towns and Villages

CATSKILL REGION – The Western Catskill Community Revitalization Council (WCCRC) continues to seek willing governmental partners in the Northern and Western Catskill region to revitalize main streets; improve regional housing stock; offer expertise with its grant writing capability; revitalize or replace mobile homes; improve other homes and dwellings; purchase, renew, and manage apartment complexes; help local individuals through financial counseling and partner with like-minded organizations / governments to improve the overall economic well-being of the population within our service area.

Though some organizations have struggled to survive through the pandemic and economic downturn, the WCCRC has revitalized its own future by continuing to develop relationships and partnerships with local officials over the last two and a half years. “I attribute our growth and success to the leadership of our Executive Director and the work ethic of the staff at WCCRC,” said Bob Melia, who was recently elected chair of the WCCRC board of directors. “Antonia Besculides, our executive director, has motivated the staff to believe in their mission, stretch their skill sets, expand their minds to think creatively and to always keep the well-being of our citizens in their hearts and minds as they move forward with the WCCRC vision of improvement and revitalization of our towns and villages.”

WCCRC developed or greatly expanded its relationship with the following towns / villages as evidenced by the grants they helped write and manage over the last three years: Ashland \$400,000; Conesville \$425,000; Gilboa \$500,000; Jefferson \$925,000; Stamford \$500,000 and Summit \$500,000

Dan Palm, a lifelong resident of the Stamford area and chairman of the board during the pandemic, has presided over many organizations that were in need of a disruption and change in management to improve the organization. “WCCRC is a great turnaround story and one that is near and dear to me” said Palm. “Seeing the board come together to right the ship was especially gratifying for me as I realized that the work of the WCCRC benefits the lifelong residents of our area, and simply said, these residents are my family, friends and lifelong acquaintances. The first thing we needed was a competent and personable leader who could mend relationships with local officials and expand the business processes that existed to leverage the know-how of the staff and apply these processes in an efficient and scalable way.” The WCCRC found this leadership in Besculides as evidenced by the success the organization has experienced under her leadership, according to Palm.

There are challenges and obstacles to overcome if WCCRC wants to continue its growth trajectory within its service area. As ABesculides explained it, “Success comes easier when we are able

to establish a trusting working relationship with like-minded officials that can facilitate the integration of our staff at WCCRC with the trustees and employees of the towns and villages.” Harold Vroman, supervisor for the town of Summit stated, “WCCRC has written and administered several housing rehabilitation and mobile home replacement grants for the town of Summit, bringing millions of dollars into our community. They are easy to work with and do an excellent job.” With this success, Vroman and Western Catskills want to leverage what they accomplished and believe that they can continue to make significant difference with the housing stock within the town of Summit.

“I’ve had the pleasure of working with Western Catskills Community Revitalization Council and it was a very positive experience,” said Jefferson resident Sue T. “All the staff were very professional and caring. From taking care of all the paperwork involved in the job, to finding an extremely qualified contractor. The contractor showed up when he said he would, brought enough workers to do the job, and was done in a very short period for the amount of work there was. I would not hesitate to recommend Western Catskills. We are very fortunate to have Western Catskills filling such a great need in our area.”

“I would like to express my gratitude for being able to work with such a wonderful group of people at Western Catskills,” said Stamford resident June C. “Everyone is so kind and understanding they feel like family...only on a professional level. I think people who need the services of Western Catskills would be impressed by the care the staff makes to be sure the customer is happy.”

An up-and-coming service offered by WCCRC is the free financial counseling offered to the residents in our area. Eileen Knott, the housing and financial counselor, indicates “prudent use of income, savings, social security and other assets can improve the livelihood of our residents. Financial anxiety is significantly reduced by our counseling. I am gratified that we can ease the worries of my clients through free counseling offered by WCCRC.”

A significant part of the overall business model of WCCRC to improve housing is the upkeep and management of four apartment complexes in the Stamford / Grand Gorge area. Because of the management by WCCRC and the grants received or facilitated by WCCRC from Housing and Urban Development (HUD), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rural Preservation Programs and other agencies, these complexes are the best kept apartments in the area. There are rarely vacancies and waiting lists generally fill any vacancies quickly. “We believe our greatest value add is the ability to offer a quaint, well-kept apartment to a lifelong resident of the Stamford or Grand Gorge area” says Maureen Schermerhorn,

the property manager for WCCRC. “Residents like living here and we like managing the apartments for their benefit.”

When local government officials evaluate this model; the economic gains for the local area can be significant. The HUD dollars, USDA grants and Rural Preservation services all benefit the area economy through job creation, construction, reintegration and income retention by tenants (so they can spend their marginal increased income in the local town). Towns in the area can experience an economic shot in the arm through a good relationship with WCCRC. The apartments managed by WCCRC go well beyond economic revitalization. They improve the standard of living of the residents through extended independent living. Security measures in the complexes along with emergency pull cords in each unit in two of their complexes provide safety, piece of mind and extended independent living. When asked about the receptivity of this from area mayors and supervisors Melia noted: “One or two officials are still reticent of the model we utilize to improve housing and the economic revitalization that we offer. Our success has enabled us to focus on towns and officials where receptivity and good relations exist, and we are able to respectfully bypass towns and officials that do not want to engage with us. When we analyze the housing improvements and apartments WCCRC offer to our neighborhood, there is an influx of discretionary income, revitalization and community reintegration that occurs. Many towns are now seeing this and are partnering with WCCRC.” WCCRC has a service area that is just under 1,000 square miles. They service significant parts of Delaware Schoharie and Greene counties, which includes 24 municipalities. As WCCRC moves forward, it will focus on those municipalities that can readily see the benefit of a trusted business relationship with WCCRC and will use WCCRC to provide enhanced housing and economic stimulus through improvements in housing.

“We look forward to deeper relationships with the towns that see the benefit of WCCRC services and facilitate our efforts in their jurisdictions,” said Melia. “We have a foundation with most mayors and supervisors in our area that will enable us to bring additional benefits to the towns and neighbors we seek to serve.”

As for the future of WCCRC, it will continue with its traditional services as described above, and its success over the last couple of years to bring new opportunities and growth to the area 2023 will be a year of continued expansion in both its traditional role as well as other new opportunities. WCCRC is exploring activity and funding from the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act as well as the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act, a \$4.2 billion dollar bond issued by New York State designed to

strengthen resilience from disasters caused by climate change and provide funding for green building projects, invest in land conservation, and help areas recover from extreme weather events. Exactly how WCCRC participates is coming into clearer focus and will be the topic of a second article on WCCRC in the

spring / summer of 2023.

The WCCRC is a 501(c)3 not for profit Rural Preservation Company working under the auspices of New York State Homes and Community Renewal. Their mission is to cooperate with community members including local, state, federal, or other civic organizations for the improvement

of housing, mixed-use, commercial, and civic buildings. They accomplish this by assisting with or providing the planning, development, renewal, ownership, or management of the property. Their goal is to achieve revitalization and economic development throughout the northwestern Catskill region.

Documentary Film Coming to Delhi March 10

Deep Listening: The Story of Pauline Oliveros is a documentary film that tells the story of the iconic composer, performer, teacher, philosopher, technological innovator, and humanitarian, Pauline Oliveros. The film is currently touring the world through special screening events that includes a stop in Delhi, NY on Friday, March 10, 2023 at 7:00pm at the Okun Theater Farrell Hall, SUNY Delhi. The film’s director, Daniel Weintraub, and executive producer, IONE who was also Oliveros’ partner in life and art, will be available for a question and answer session after the film.

Oliveros was an early electronic musician, a rare female amongst notable post-war American composers, an accordion player, a teacher and mentor to musicians and artists around the world. She was an adept innovator that created everything from tools that allow musicians to play together while in different

countries, to software that enables those with physical limitations to create beautiful music. On the vanguard of contemporary American music for six decades, her story illuminates how we got to where we are and where the future will take us in the worlds of music, the philosophy of sound, and the art of listening.

The film screening is part of a project to build a Deep Listening community in the Western Catskills organized by Rachel Condry, a Delhi resident who studied composition with Oliveros and later became certified as a Deep Listening practitioner. Her project is made possible thanks to grant funding from the A. Lindsay and Olive B. O’Connor Foundation and the Delaware County Arts Grants, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and adminis-

tered in Delaware County by the Roxbury Arts Group.

In the weeks following the free film screening, there will be a series of free in person Deep Listening Workshops that explore Deep Listening practice as defined by Oliveros. On Sunday, March 12 from 2:00 - 4:00pm Ione will lead a very special Dream Community workshop at Bushel Collective. Rachel Condry will lead workshops that explore various entry points to the practice at Bushel March 19, April 2, and April 16 from 2-5pm and virtually on April 11th. Deep Listening practice uses listening meditations, a gentle movement practice (listening through the body) and listening in dreams to explore consciousness and expand our awareness. The practice is accessible and open to all who are interested. For more information please visit the Bushel website <https://www.bushelcollective.org> or www.rachelcondry.com/deep-listening.

Successful Film Screening at Bushel

By Nouha Semmar

DELHI – What’s better than a great, cozy, and warm watch party on a chilly winter night? That’s exactly what the community of Delhi did to start their weekend. The film screening of the movie Latcho Drom took place on Friday, February 17th, 2023, from 7pm to 9pm at Bushel, 106 Main Street, Delhi. It was open to the community of Delhi and a free program to attend. About fifteen people came to the screening, and among them was Bovina resident Jonathan Kane, who picked the movie. Known as the power drummer to NYC’s downtown/experimental rock music scene, Jonathan co-founded no-wave behemoth Swans, and has performed and recorded with La Monte Young, Rhys Chatham, Dave Soldier, and Laurie Anderson, among others. He is the leader of Jonathan Kane’s February. Kane’s compositions have been featured in modern dance performance, television, theater, and films. He continues to tour and record internationally, appearing on over 75 records and counting. He chose this movie because it’s very rare to find, and an extremely pleasing cinematic experience.

Bushel invites the community to propose films for future screenings. This month’s movie was Latcho Drom (“safe journey”), a 1993 French film written and directed by Tony Gatlif. The film is about the Romani people’s journey from Northwest India to Spain and consists primarily of music.

The movie started in Northern India, where people found a way to be happy through dancing and singing even though they were really poor. Their traditional wear and music cheered the atmosphere. Then, they went to Egypt. And again, the entire scene consisted of dancing and singing. The

journey took them to Turkey, where we saw a lot of local vendors and kids selling different things to get a little bit of money. Music was a huge part of the culture, and kids were learning it too and tried to imitate how the older people were singing. We also saw people swaying and chanting while others prepared food. Passing through Romania looked very challenging since the weather was extremely cold and they didn’t have adequate supplies or clothes to provide warmth. They also suffered from hunger. The highlight of passing through Hungary and Slovakia was stopping to pray to their Gods. The voyage took them to France next, then Spain.

Spanish people were very fond of their music and traditional dancing: “Flamenco”. However, their living conditions weren’t very good since they used bricks to close windows and didn’t have appropriate housing conditions.

This was a very emotional and moving film that impacted the viewers and made them emotional. Community Film Picks is a once-a-month film night at Bushel taking place on third Fridays at 7 pm. For information please email: info@bushelcollective.org. March’s film is The Bad Seed (1956, directed by Mervyn LeRoy) on March 17, 2023, picked by Anne Elizabeth Moore.

History Hour by Karen

Every 3rd Wednesday 10 am
Starting March 15, 2023
Stamford Library
History Room
117 Main St. Stamford
View assorted slide shows of Stamford, check out the scrapbooks & post cards or bring something to share.

All are welcome!
For information call 607-652-5001 or email karenc@midtel.net

Call us for your plumbing needs!
30303 St Hwy
23 – Stamford,
NY 12167
607-652-7951



SUNRISE
HEATING FUELS, INC.



652-7951



Letters to the Editor

What Are We Letting Happen?

Many people including us moved to this area due to its beauty, wholesomeness, and both historical and agricultural atmosphere. Many who grew up here stayed for the same reasons. A great place to raise our children. BUT, what are we leaving for their children, our grandchildren and their children? I find it very scary to think that they will have no place to play or grow food if we continue to let these so called "Green energy" facilities take over our county. We were a thriving agritourism county with many visitors from out of the area enjoying vacationing here. "This is supposed to create jobs" they say.

No, it is taking away many jobs. Who wants to come to look at this unsightly mess of a solar sea on the way to Howe Caverns, Secret Caverns, Cobleskill Fair, Iroquois Indian museum, campsites in the area, and so many other attractions? These businesses will all lose business. What happens when the prime farmland is all covered with solar panels and you can't grow hay to feed the cattle or sell to other thriving businesses like the "Saratoga race Track" there is a definite trickle-down effect on everyone involved!! That means loss of revenue, not gaining a respectable job! I used to love to take a ride to Sharon Springs to visit the quaint shops enjoying the nostalgic welcoming homey feeling. Now I can't stand the ride past the solar mess all on route 20, and it's getting worse!!! I feel bad for that town. They try so hard to keep the nostalgia as it should be.

"Solar Panels are recyclable" you will be told. They are mostly made of glass, which has low value as a recycled material. They also contain, silicon, silver, copper, cadmium, and lead. When these break down this gross toxic stuff leaks! And since they are glass, they are hard to transport without breaking costing thousands at decommissioning time. I ask how is going green. OH MAYBE we will all turn green from the toxicity!! Who knows what it will do to us? I for one do not want to find out! Our Karst soil in this county is very fragile and cannot handle filtering out chemicals. I have talked to people in Montgomery and Fulton counties who state how their property has been ruined by water disturbance from the access road and Solar Panel installation. What were previously safe wells and

beautifully landscaped lawns are now ruined. Water continues to run all summer and into the fall across the lawn making it impossible to mow and coliform bacteria showed up in their wells! Do we want this happening to us?

We are told that sheep will graze around the panels and drink the runoff from the panels. A couple in Johnstown told me that due to the drought last summer, the sheep died at the industrial solar facility near them. HMMM, was it the drought or leaking chemicals?

I bet many people in the area remember when the bluebird was endangered and now they are out of danger. However, unfortunately crashing into solar panels as many birds do will most likely put them back on the list if these solar fields continue to take over our county. There is also the bald eagle trail to consider and the long-eared bat which I might add is going on the endangered list at the end of march! You can help our county for us now and future generations by attending meetings, and supporting keeping our prime farmland as farmland and not industrial solar facilities.

Important Stop Solar meetings in regards to the 300 Acre Solar Panel Proposal On 190 Brown Road in the Towns of Carlisle and Seward
3/14/23@ 7PM-Carlisle Town Hall
3/21/23@ 7PM- Seward Town Barn-Lowe Rd. Bring a chair.

Marjorie Lawston

Land Use Decisions

You have probably read that there is a new subdivision being proposed for Middleburgh and there has been some discussion regarding it. You need to step back and take a look at some recent history to get a good understanding of what is going on. Comments were made by someone who, not only is a good citizen, but looks out for the community, and I can easily understand his taking issue with the process involved in making decisions on land use in Middleburgh; i.e. issuing building permits. You only need to go back a few years and his front yard was across the street from an area that should have been designated a national, or at the very least state, historic site and all of a sudden, he's looking at condominiums. Put yourself in his position and most would agree with him. While we are not going to be able to put that Genie back in the bottle, we need to take a look at why things are

the way they are and what you can do about them.

Schoharie county is a big area with only 29,714 residents and it is wacked up into 16 towns with 3 or 4 population centers. Cobleskill has a population of 6080, Middleburgh 3746, Schoharie 3205, and Richmondville 2610. Take that away and you don't have too much population spread out over what's left. For example, Blenheim has a population of less than 400 and Broome about 900. These are extremes, but the point is that, when it comes to planning and zoning boards where land use gets decided, the pool to draw from is tiny. Add to this the fact that apathy and complacency run rampant and you find that getting residents to fill these slots is not an easy task. On top of this we have a legacy of large families that have lived here for a long time, and it is impossible not to see their names, or those of their relations, popping up in these slots. This is not an exclusive club. These are unpaid public service jobs, and we need to be thankful that there are good citizens stepping up and doing them. Any resident who wants to get on a planning or zoning board only needs to make an application to the town or village board and wait for an opening. When a building permit is issued it is not a surprise and it is not done in some secret star chamber. The meetings are scheduled well in advance and they are all public. You only need to reference the county or village website to find out when and where they are being held. If you want to know what's going on and get ahead of anything that you might not agree with, show up at the meetings, or better yet, get yourself on one of the boards.

Ted Werner
Fulton

Another Mineral Springs Accident

Today brought word from the neighbors of yet another traffic accident on Mineral Spring Road in the Town of Cobleskill, where speeding is the norm, and few accidents ever make the news.

Last summer, residents of Mineral Springs got together and circulated a petition requesting that the current speed limit

of forty-five miles an hour be lowered to thirty-five miles an hour between Wag Way and Dow Street, an approximately one-half mile stretch along the most densely populated part of the road.

Thirty-nine people signed the petition, including one school bus driver, who, until two weeks ago, picked up the children next door to us. At that time he said that picking up children in Mineral Springs made him more nervous than any of his other stops did, as he was forced stop along a sharp bend in the road with poor visibility, around which drivers habitually speed..

Having the support of the Cobleskill Town Board for this petition, we were confident that the application would be granted. It was not.

According to the DOT, the speed limit was determined on the basis of a study of how fast vehicles actually travel on Mineral Springs Road. The study failed to take into account that there are twenty-six residences with driveways off the road, a working farm, and an active church along the half-mile stretch of Mineral Springs Road where the speed change was requested.

Apparently there was neither any thoughtful consideration of the volume of traffic on the road, which includes commercial tractor trailers that barrel down the road daily, despite the fact that along several stretches there is virtually no shoulder on either side of the road. Our road is also the route of choice for vehicles entering or exiting I-88, Cobleskill-bound traffic from the south, and those wishing to avoid the village traffic.

There is a long, hard bend in the road with a dozen driveways on it, that just about straightens out at our house. Vehicles traveling west along it have terrible visibility and only a couple of seconds to straighten out before hitting (sometimes literally) a narrow bridge over a creek and encountering a blind incline that tops out at the terminus of Greenbush Hill Road.

There have been five accidents directly in front of our house in the eight years we have lived here. Our neighbors have their own accident counts and stories, going back decades.

Our neighbors also have children. Two east-bound buses pick up children from the house

across the street. With no shoulder to pull over on, the buses sit in the road just a couple of seconds' driving time over the blind rise. A third bus stops and picks up children along that long, hard turn. That's the bus with the understandably nervous driver

It was close to 7:30 a.m. today, Wednesday, March 1 when Ashley Dempsey put her two children, ages 4 and 6, on the school bus in front of their home at 699 Mineral Springs Road. The bus proceeded about 1/4 mile west around the sharp curve, beyond the blind spot, past Borst Noble Road on the right, and were at the next bend in the road when it was rear-ended by a fuel truck.

As Ashley later noted to Robin, "We were so lucky the kids were already on the bus, and not just climbing up the steps into it," when the accident happened.

We think it's criminal that we who live on Mineral Springs Road have to count on our luck.

Theodore B. Shuart
Robin E. Ressler
697 Mineral Springs Rd.
Cobleskill

Hoop Season Ends for Delaware League Girls

DELAWARE LEAGUE – No one advanced to the semifinal action of Section IV, Class D this week as South Kortright fell to Oxford 50-39 in quarterfinal action on Saturday, after advancing from the opening round with a 48-33 victory over league rival Stamford/Jefferson last Thursday.

Addy Eckert led Thursday's win with 20 points for the Lady Rams, while teammate Katherine Reinshagen added another 12 points in double figures.

For Stamford, McKenna Hoyt led scoring with 12 points and 11 rebounds as they finished their season at 13-8.

In Saturday's quarterfinal, Carlee Dropp led the Lady Rams with 15 points, Katherine Reinshagen scored 13 and Addy Eckert added nine points. They finished their season at 17-5 as the Delaware League champions for

their 13th straight season and first place team, ending league play at 8-0.

In other opening round action, Hunter-Tannersville fell 40-33 to Odessa-Montour and Windham fell to Richfield Springs 57-42.

Hedda Flynn led

Hunter's scoring with 17 points as they finished their season at 9-7.

In Windham's game, Amanda Nilsen scored 15 points and teammate Ashtyn Hansen added 14 points as they finished their season at 12-8.

Costly Repairs at Stamford Wastewater Treatment Plant

By Liz Page

As the village of Stamford looks to develop its budget for the new fiscal year, unanticipated costs at the village's wastewater treatment plant will temporarily raise rates for sewer customers in the village.

Trustees were given three options to help pay for the needed repairs.

The options included raising sewer rates \$10 per unit and revisit the costs again next year. The second option was to raise the rates \$10 per unit on June 1, 2023 and drop it back to a \$5 increase per unit on June 1, 2024. The third option creates a special project fee for two years to cover the cost of the window replacement and paving. That would increase the sewer rate by \$12 per unit for the two years. Village trustees would then revisit the costs after two years.

Sewer rates have not been increased in the village since 2018.

During their February meeting, board members approved the purchase of vinyl windows to replace those at the sewer treatment plant, which could save as much as \$35,000 in costs.

Lucas Flachs, sewer plant manager, had anticipated the cost of the windows to

be much higher, seeking to install anodized aluminum windows that would hold up to the chemicals used inside the plant. His safest recommendation was to have them installed all at the same time by a certified contractor.

At the February meeting, Trustee Robert Orcutt had received a quote on the windows that was much lower, due to the fact they were standard vinyl frames that could be installed by village crew members. Provided the windows carried a warrantee and met with New York City's operation and maintenance criteria, the lower cost windows were approved.

An article in the Feb. 24 Mountain Eagle said the trustees approved the purchase of windows that would substantially reduce costs to sewer district customers.

It will not, however, negate an increase in the sewer rates, as approved. Sewer bills will still increase by \$12 per unit, beginning with the new fiscal year and remain in place for at least two years, after which, the sewer fees may be revisited.

The additional cost per unit will get the village through the costly repairs that are needed at the plant.

Stamford Rotary Club Annual



NAPA Parking Lot
Stamford

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

Take-outs only:
\$9.00 Halves



Upstate NY Karaoke/DJ Services
Weddings, Club Dates & Private Parties

DJ Victor Lara
Karaoke/DJ Entertainer
Over 200 Thousand Song Catalog
All Digital & CD Setup
State Of The Art Sound & Equipment

518-768-8066
vlara@rocketmail.com
Facebook.com/DJVictorLara

SPRAY FOAM SOLUTIONS INC
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
607 435-7930
Free Estimates & Fully Insured

David A. Rikard, Esq.
rikardlaw@yahoo.com
• Tel: 518-299-3333
• Fax: 518-299-3331
Yes, We Do Personal Injury!

Law Offices of David A. Rikard

P.O. Box 68, 14602 Main Street
Prattsville, NY 12468

Circle of Life Ambulette Services
607 538-1734

Wheelchair & stretcher transports
Medicaid approved NY DOT # 32940

255 Maple Ave
Hobart NY 13788
Fax/Billing 607 538-9681
circleoflife@stny.rr.com

SERVING DELAWARE, OTSEGO, SCHOHARIE & HERKIMER COUNTIES

THE SCHOHARIE NEWS

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

Volume 8, No. 9 mountaineaglenews@gmail.com FRIDAY March 3, 2023 518-763-6854 \$1.00

M'burgh Village to Seek Sewer Plant Funding

Village to Re-Apply for \$2.7 Million in Funding

By David Avitabile
MIDDLEBURGH - Middleburgh village officials are "cautiously optimistic" of winning \$2.7 million in federal funding to help pay off the new sewer treatment plant. Officials had hoped to get the funding last year but were derailed when Congressman Antonio Delgado was named lieutenant governor. 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. At a special meeting Monday night, village board members agreed

to try again. "We resubmitted our application in hopes of either Congresswoman Elise Stefanik or Senators Gillibrand and Schumer seeing through the Village of Middleburgh's request from last year to pay off the \$2.7 million in debt remaining on the sewer project," said Trustee Tim Knight who has spearheaded the funding request. The village is also seeking some extra help this time around. "Additionally, New York State Assemblyman Chris Tague is also submitting a letter in support of our funding request." Trustee Knight had hoped to get the funding

last year and remains helpful for 2023.

"I am cautiously optimistic. We have proven the necessity of this project to our previous two representatives because of the overwhelmingly positive impact it will have for our residents here in Middleburgh, so I am hopeful it will receive serious consideration, and hopefully, be resubmitted for full funding this year in Congress."

The future of the request could come soon, though the funds would not come until next year if approved.

"We would know by the spring if any of our representatives are plan-

ning to sponsor it to their respective Appropriations Committees, but it wouldn't be finalized until Congress adopts its funding package for Fiscal Year 2024."

Last year's bid for funding ended in disappointment.

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.

"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," Trustee Knight said at that time.

"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."

Valley Briefs

2023 Village Of Middleburgh Meeting Schedule

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

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

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

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

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

Village Residents Receive Info on Tax Exemptions

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

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

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

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

Corned Beef Dinner to Benefit Special Olympics

MIDDLEBURGH - Drive by and pick up a homemade corned beef dinner with cabbage, potatoes, carrots, and, of course, soda bread on Sunday, March 19 at Our Lady of the Valley parking lot on Chestnut Street in Middleburgh. Serving from 3:30 to 6pm. Suggested donation \$15. Proceeds to benefit our athletes competing in the Special Olympics of the Capital District. Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 4475.

M'burgh Names New Village Attorney

MIDDLEBURGH - Middleburgh village officials appointed Fred Mauhs as new Village Attorney at a special meeting Monday night.

Mr. Mauhs, of Richmondville, is originally from Tarrytown.

He replaces Shawn Smith who had to resign when he became district attorney for Delaware County.

M'burgh School Looking at \$113K Budget Gap

By David Avitabile
MIDDLEBURGH - As they continue their work on the 2023-24 budget, Middleburgh officials are looking at a modest budget gap after getting news of an average increase in state aid.

Officials are looking to close a budget gap of almost \$113,800 after they received word earlier this month that the district will be getting a state foundation hike of three percent. Overall, the state aid revenue hike will be 2.52 percent or about \$311,200, according to the governor's initial estimates. The final aid figures are usually higher after the state legislature reviews the amounts.

As of February 15, the current preliminary budget stands at \$24.47 million, up by 2.78 percent or \$661,748. Most of the increase is in the area of employee benefits due to a hike in health insurance costs.

In order to close the budget gap, which is much smaller than in prior years, officials will have to decide whether to increase the tax levy, allocate more fund balance, or reduce spending, according to Superintendent Mark Place.

The district appropriated \$920,815 in fund

balance to reduce taxes for the current school year and thus far has estimated \$950,000 for the 2023-24 school year.

Officials have currently factored in a tax levy hike of two percent which would increase the levy by \$202,000 to \$10.3 million to the current \$10.1 million. Board members will have to decide whether to increase this total to close the budget gap. The district can hike the tax levy as much as 3.83 percent or \$387,000 to \$10.49 million and stay within the state limit, Mr. Place said.

While budget deliberations continue, officials will be realigning/adjusting the budget for: budget requests/requisitions such as software/subscriptions, materials, and supplies, contractual; BOCES services; out-of-district placements (tuition); actual and anticipated placements; long-range plans to reflect replacements up to three years.

Thus far, the biggest increase is in health insurance.

At the first budget development meeting of the season on February 1, board members were told that health insurance rates will be going up by seven percent and that

this rate is final. Prescription costs are projected to increase by 20 percent, but those numbers will not be finalized until next month.

As of February 15, the two hikes could send employee benefits from \$6.88 million to about \$7.48 million, a hike of about \$596,000 or 8.67 percent.

A rollover budget would be \$24.74 million. The newest proposal is down by \$170,000 since the first budget meeting.

Thus far, instructional salaries are down by about \$322,000 from \$11.3 million to around \$11 million, mostly due to anticipated retirements. Overall, salaries are up from \$16.5 million to about \$17.1 million, about \$643,000. Debt services costs are up by about \$177,000 from \$1.86 million to around \$2 million.

Officials still have questions about the payment in lieu of taxes revenue from the Middleburgh Meadows development near the supermarket.

The district received \$18,154 in PILOT payments for the 2022-23 school year while the estimated payment was \$46,546. The anticipated amount for next year is \$22,523 as there are 10 units "constructed but unsold," Mr. Place said.

The board will get another budget update when they meet on March 15 at which they will discuss buildings and grounds, transportation, general support, the debt service budgets, the fund balance project, and a general budget review.

Another budget development session is set for March 29 to discuss the instructional/technology/athletics budgets, employee benefits budget. If needed, there will be a review of the tentative budget and a revenue review on April 5. The state aid is sometimes finalized around April 1 along with the state budget. Board members are scheduled to adopt a spending plan on April 19. A public hearing is set for May 3 and the public vote is on May 16.



Lisa Tenneson Broker / Owner

Maintenance-Free Living

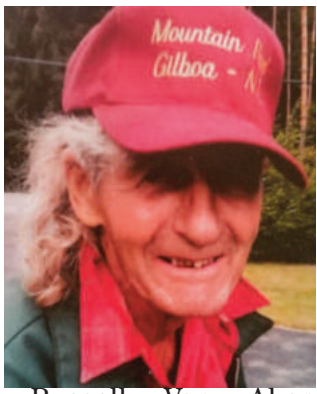
These units are stand-alone. Offer spacious, sunlit great room with large deck and garage. Condo options: 2-3 BR, number of interior and exterior upgrades. Build to suit & price accordingly. Walking distance to village and supermarket. No moving, gardening, or snow removal. Country living without the maintenance.

Starting at \$254,750

308 Main Street • Middleburgh NY
www.FourStarRealtyGroup.com
(518) 940-HOME



Obituaries Russell Van Aken



Russell Van Aken passed away peacefully on February 19, 2023, at his home in Conesville, with his niece Heidi by his side.

Born 93 years ago on January 2, 1930, Russell was an extremely good-natured soul who greeted everyone with a smile, a story and loved to laugh. He wanted to learn about everything new to him and would pry a story or information out of you and sometimes even take notes about the experience. Russell's friends were countless and his foes were few. He lived a modest life in a small cabin but was never lonely one single day of his life. He enjoyed a good trade and used the barter system more than most. He

also loved to use the word "tasty" to describe a vintage car or truck and was an excellent mechanic.

Russell was a US Army veteran, who trained as a sniper and later progressed to being an instructor at sniper school. He was also a heavy equipment repair specialist for the US Army Corps of Engineers. After his service, Russell returned to Conesville where he cut and sold firewood for his business, Mountain Fuel. Russell also sold used car parts out of his junkyard and he surely was the most valuable antique on the property.

He loved his guns was an excellent hunter, woodsman, marksman and spent a lot of time outdoors. He loved mother nature and she loved him right back.

Russell never married nor had children, but was adored by all his family and friends. The man was surely one in a million and will be severely missed by all that knew him. Russell is survived by three sisters: Rose Peaslee, Elizabeth Ledda,

and Elanore Thompson; niece: Heidi Van Aken and great-niece: Amelia; nieces and nephews: Scott Van Aken, Randy Cole (Pat), Rodney Cole (Ingrid), Del Cole (Donna), Jeffrey Ledda (Heidi), Edward Ledda (Denise), Sandra Ledda, Felicia Ledda, Jeanette Carayol (Moses), Rosemary Cummings (Kevin), Kindy Peaslee, Bill Peaslee, Andrew Peaslee (Jill), Vicki Cammer (Chris). Russell was predeceased by his parents: Frederick and Elizabeth Van Aken; brothers: Arthur and Douglas Van Aken; sister: Freda Carington; niece: Virginia Van Aken

A Memorial service will be held at 1:00PM on Sunday, March 5, 2023 at Coltrain Funeral Home, 134 River Street, Middleburgh, NY with Pastor Dottie Morris officiating. Visitation with Russell's family will be from 12:1:00PM, prior to the service.

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

Support Conesville Grant Effort

CONESVILLE - The Town of Conesville and Conesville Historical Society is asking for the public's assistance in submitting a grant request to the Office of Elise Stefanik.

Specifically, the Town is preparing to submit a Fiscal Year 2024 Community Project Funding Request to Congresswoman Stefanik's Office for the restoration of the Couchman House. Aside from preserving this historic home built by Peter Couchman in 1872 it will serve the dual purpose of becoming the Town of Conesville municipal building and a much more suitable repository for historic

artifacts and documents for the Town and surrounding areas.

The cost of this work is estimated at about \$240,000 which would take the Town of Conesville several years to obtain through a combination of sources including grants and local fundraising.

The town was not given very much time to submit our application. As such, requested letters (or emails) of support are needed no later than March 3rd and may be sent to me at federicebill@gmail.com or dropped off at Conesville Town Hall. Help and support are greatly appreciat-

ed.

Also, the following is suggested verbiage for the letter of support. Anyone completing a letter or email should feel free to edit it or entirely use their own words.

The sample letter is below:

Dear Congresswoman Stefanik,

I wish to register my support for the grant application by the Town of Conesville for the restoration of the historic Couchman House in Conesville with the intent of preserving the history of the home built in 1872 by Peter Couchman and to move town functions from the current location which is not well suited nor sized for the Town's needs. This effort by the Town of Conesville will not only preserve the history of the Town but Schoharie County as well.

MCSAA Meeting Notice

On Thursday, March 16, 2023, the Middleburgh Central School Alumni Association will hold its spring meeting at 10:30 AM at the Middleburgh Public Library. Alumni participation is needed to continue to

move forward with plans of interest for all alumni. Information about the MCSAA can be found on the school website at www.middleburghcsd.org/about-us/alumni. Please mark your calendar and join us on March 16.

Learning to "Dig It" At Capital Region BOCES

SCHOHARIE – Schoharie High School junior Savannah Traverse takes directions on how to operate a backhoe from Capital Region BOCES Construction/Heavy Equipment Teacher Matt Millard during an outdoor lab last week.

Traverse, who aspires to a career as either a heavy equipment operator in the military or an agriculture teacher, was preparing to test her agility with the backhoe by picking up a PVC pipe hooked to a rope and tennis ball with one of the teeth of the bucket and setting the pipe down

on top of a traffic cone.

The Schoharie teenager is one of more than a half-dozen women enrolled in the Construction/Heavy Equipment program this year taught by Millard and Matt Hitchcock. There are a total of 76 students from Schoharie, Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk, Cobleskill-Richmondville, Duanesburg, Middleburgh, Sharon Springs and Berne-Knox-Westerlo schools enrolled in the program.

Students in the two-year program learn the knowledge and skills necessary to enter construc-

tion industry or pursue further education in college or technical school. They learn everything from maintenance skills and how to construct a building to equipment operation, including use of a plow, dozer and front end loaders used to clear and remove snow.

Enrollment is currently underway for the 2023-24 school year. For more information on career and technical school programs, go to <https://www.capitalregionboces.org/career-technical-education/courses-programs/>.

M'burgh to Vote on Upping Exemption for Emergency Workers

By David Avitabile
MIDDLEBURGH - Middleburgh village officials are expected to vote on increasing a tax exemption for firefighters and EMS workers.

The public hearing is set for Monday at 7:15pm in the village hall on Main Street. The increase in exemption would be Local Law #1.

If approved, the local law would give firefight-

ers/EMS workers with two years of volunteer service a 10 percent property tax exemption starting in 2025.

The current tax exemption is two percent for firefighters/EMS, so the cost to the village would be around \$1,400 or so, according to Trustee Tim Knight.

Board members discussed the issue last month and were in favor

of it.

The workers are dedicated and "that's worth it," Trustee Knight said.

Mayor Trish Bergan said the increase would be an incentive for firefighters and EMS workers. "They deserve it," she added.

The town and other municipalities, including the schools, could also enact the increased tax exemptions.

PDQ Quilters Meeting

The Peaceable Day Quilters (PDQ) quilt guild will be gathering for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 07, from 10:30 am until noon at the Fusion Church hall, 375 North Grand Street, Cobleskill, NY. The featured program will be a demonstration by Robbie Sutton on some ways to utilize

left-over selvages to make useful objects, rather than just throwing them away or using them to tie up tomato plants. Members who volunteered to make dog and cat blocks for upcoming charity projects are encouraged to bring their completed blocks to this meeting. Other members will be show-casing their

recent projects in the Show and Tell section. Also, kits will be available for those who signed up for the upcoming workshop in May with nationally-known designer Sue Pritt. All are welcome, and a special invitation to join us is always extended to area and visiting quilters from beginner to experienced.

Reformed Church Showing Ruth

MIDDLEBURGH - The Middleburgh Reformed Church is hosting a viewing party, which is free and open to all.

The viewing is called Ruth, based on the book of Ruth

and filmed in front of a live audience at Sound and Sight Theater in Lancaster Pa.

casters Pa.

This remarkable story of second chances is one of Sight & Sounds Theatre's most beloved productions.

Journey alongside an ordinary woman whose faith in God ignites a chain of events that change the course of his-

tory.

All are Welcome Sunday March 12th, 4:00pm

Middleburgh Reformed Church, River St. Middleburgh

A light supper will be served during intermission.

No 'Liddle' Feet: Schoharie Teen Turns Passion into Career at BOCES

SCHOHARIE -- Most teens learn to drive a car when they are 16, but by that age Schoharie High School Senior Keegan Liddle had years of experience operating heavy equipment.

Now, the 18-year-old is pursuing a career in the operators union after refining, honing and expanding his skills at the Capital Region BOCES Career & Technical Education Center.

Liddle is among more than 60 students from Schoharie, Schenectady and Albany counties enrolled in the Construction/Heavy Equipment Program on the Career & Technical Education Center – Schoharie Campus.

"Coming to BOCES, I have learned the differences in the various brands of equipment and learned skills I wouldn't have learned on the farm or doing construction with the family," Liddle said during a break from operating a dozer.

Students in the two-year program learn the knowledge and skills necessary



Keegan Liddle of the Heavy Equipment Program

to enter construction industry or pursue further education in college or technical school. They learn everything from maintenance skills and how to construct a building to equipment opera-

tion, including use of a plow, dozer and front end loaders used to clear and remove snow.

Faculty and staff praised Liddle's drive and determination.

"Keegan is a bright

young man who understands that hard work and determination will always pay off. When asked what he does outside of school his answer is always 'working'," teacher Matt Millard said.

Nancy Liddle (no relation) said the student "demonstrates all the framework outlined in (national SkillsUSA organization) — responsibility, teamwork, decision making, professionalism, excellent work ethic and more. These characteristics are preparing him for a successful future," she said.

Keegan Liddle said his interest in equipment operation started at a young age on the family farm.

"I grew up operating equipment. I started running heavy equipment when I was 12. It's just fun to operate and use," he said.

Keegan said his time at BOCES has been special because it has allowed him to expand his "I love coming to BOCES - it is like a playground for learning," Liddle said.

All About Racing

By Ed & Betty Biittig

By time you read this we will be on our way home from Florida so this effort will be based on the information we received from both Fonda and Utica-Rome Speedways from their award banquet this past Friday. The event took place at the Turning Stone Casino & Resort in Verona, N.Y. More than \$114,000 in point fund money was distributed by BD Motorsports Media LLC.

Competitors at both speedways who finished in the top-10 in their respective divisions were awarded trophies and photographed as a group.

The Sunoco Modified champions at each track were crowned and Savannah, N.Y.'s Matt Shepard took home \$6000 for his second consecutive and sixth overall Utica-Rome Speedway track championship on the strength of his 11-win

campaign.

On the Fonda side, Cropseyville, N.Y.'s Matt DeLorenzo received \$10,000 for his first track championship at Fonda since 2007.

In his annual speech Promoter, Brett Deyo thanked everyone for working with him during the shortages this past season. Deyo also announced a target date of this summer to officially purchase Utica-Rome Speedway from the Cole family.

Utica-Rome Speedway Slingshot competitors were honored and Blake Banek (\$250) was the champion in Junior Slingshots and Brett Putnam (\$500) was the champion in the All-Star Slingshots.

The Fonda Fair Four Cylinder divisions at each track were honored next. Matt Bukovan (Dual Cam) and Hunter Tarbania (Single Cam) represented Utica-Rome

Speedway while the brothers Ken Hollenbeck (Single Cam) and Kerrie Hollenbeck (Dual Cam) were the champions of Fonda Speedway. All four champions received \$400.

Seth Martin of Schoharie took home \$500 as the champion of the Limited Sportsman at Utica-Rome Speedway. Zach Dufel was the Limited Sportsman champion at Fonda Speedway and also received a \$500 payday.

Grand Gorge, N.Y.'s Beau Ballard received his second consecutive Pro Stock championship at Utica-Rome Speedway and a \$1,000 top prize.

Nick Stone, of Schenectady, N.Y., was a repeat champion at Fonda Speedway season with a \$1,500 payout as the champion of the Pro Stock division.

Durhamville, N.Y.'s Matt Janczuk added an-

other Utica-Rome Speedway championship to his name, claiming \$1,500 in the Crate 602 Sportsman division. He was also the American Racer Cup Sportsman champion for the second consecutive season, claiming another \$2,000 title.

South New Berlin, N.Y. native Payton Talbot nabbed his first career track championship in the Crate 602 Sportsman division at Fonda Speedway. Talbot's efforts awarded him with a \$2,000 payday.

Jackie Lape and the rest of the Lape Family presented a special Dave Lape Memorial award to Bobby Varin.

"This is an honor. I never feel like I belong with the names on the win list, and now to receive this award is very special to me," Varin said of receiving the first-ever Dave Lape Memorial Award.

Fonda and Utica-Rome Speedways open the 2023 racing season with



Seth Martin of Schoharie was crowned Utica-Rome Limited Sportsman Champion at the awards banquet this past Friday. Facebook photo

open practices on April 14 (Utica-Rome) and April 15 (Fonda) before racing begins the following weekend.

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

Library News

Middleburgh Library
 3/2 - 10:30-Noon - Computer & Internet Basics - Rescheduled from 2/23. Join Mary Carrier from the Mohawk Valley Library system as she teaches you about internet safety and privacy. Registration is required.
 3/7 - 10:45 AM = Drop-in Storytime - Join Miss Terry for this fun, interactive storytime geared toward little ones ages 0-5 and their caregivers! We will read books, sing songs and watch a short film based on our weekly theme. All children will go home with a coloring sheet and take home craft. No registration is required.
 3/7 - 12:00 PM - Embroidery Club - Join local artist Betty Pillsbury at our Embroidery Club. Bring whatever projects you are working on and enjoy the company of your fellow stitchers! Betty will not be teaching but will provide help if needed. No registration required. Refreshments will be provided.
 3/9 - 10:30-Noon - Internet Safety and Privacy - Join Mary Carrier from the Mohawk Valley Library system as she teaches you about internet safety and privacy. Registration is required.
 3/9 - 11:00-12:00 - Homeschool Explorers - Join us on the 2nd Thursday of each month through June for crafts, games, experiments, and lots of fun! This program is for homeschooled students ages 5 through 18. Registration is required.
 Creativebug - You're more creative than you think! Use your Middleburgh Library card and PIN to enjoy unlimited access to thousands of online art and craft classes available at Creativebug. Videos are produced by renowned artists and creative experts. You'll also find downloadable patterns, templates and recipes. Watch classes anytime, anywhere. Classes never expire, you can start and stop projects at your own pace. No pressure, just possibilities!
 Please check our calendar on our website at www.middleburghlibrary.info for future programs. Also, don't forget our Facebook page.

Cobleskill Library
 Friday, March 3 at noon Fan Favorites Book Club.

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

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

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

Tuesday, March 7 and 21 at 6pm Adult Gaming Group: Adult Gamers interested in role-playing games, card and board games are invited to gather at the library for fun and games with other game fans.

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

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

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

Tuesday, March 14 and 28 at 6:00 pm The Short Fiction Workshop: This monthly writing workshop for teens and adults features writing prompts, exercises, and moderated feedback sessions where authors working on short fiction can practice their craft, de-

velop new skills, and get constructive input from other writers.

Tuesday, March 14 at 6:00pm Do you love anime and manga? Or maybe you're curious about these Japanese stories but aren't sure how to get started? Check out our Anime Club for teens! We meet once a month to watch anime episodes, eat snacks, and try Japanese-inspired crafts. Open to 6th-12th graders (ages 11-18). No registration required.

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

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

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

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

Thursday, March 23 at 5:30 PowerPoint Basics Interested in learning how to use PowerPoint or Google Slides for presentations? This quick-and-easy work-

shop will introduce the basics including slide layout options, animations, and transitions. The library can provide laptops to learn on during the workshop, or you can bring your own if you have one. Free of charge; no reservation required.

Tuesday, March 28 at 6pm Teen Video Game Night Stop by for some video game time on our new Switch! We've got multiple controllers and some great games for groups, so bring some friends along! Open to middle and high schoolers (ages 11-18).

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tuesdays join your neighbors and make new friends during the Tuesday Knitters

group! You can find them in the program room at 1pm. Bring your own supplies and learn something new while you chat, listen or just get in your zone.

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

Tuesday, March 7 from 3-7pm a representative from Berkshire Farm Center & Services for Youth will be at the Library. Berkshire's mission is to strengthen children and families so they can live safely, independently and productively within their home communities. Berkshire will have information on becoming a foster parent. There are currently over 17,000 children in foster care in NY with more than 6,000 coming into care every year. Berkshire will be back April 18.

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

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

The Library continues to offer curbside pickup.

A reminder that our weather closures will be posted on TV, our Facebook page and web site. If

Cobleskill-Richmondville School District is closed the library will automatically move to a delayed opening at noon unless it is determined unsafe for staff to travel and then the Library will close.

To receive Library News by email 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.mvls.info/>

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

Art and Craft materials are always available during library hours.

Drawing Classes with Maeve McCool: Thursday, March 2, 4:15pm. All ages are welcome. Sign up: <https://bit.ly/DrawingwithMaeve23>

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

Teen Thursday: Every Thursday 5-7pm. Ages 13 - Young Adult Welcome! No registration required.

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


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

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

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

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

Your Library News is Brought to You By:



W. Whitman Books LLC
 Used, New and Rare Books
 Antiques, Collectibles & Art
 304 Main Street,
 Middleburgh, NY 12122
 Proprietors:
 H. Douglas Guevara

Phone: (518) 847-3377
 Email: w.whitmanbooks@yahoo.com
 Visit us on Facebook: [@bestreads304](https://www.facebook.com/bestreads304)

MY LITTLE LOCAL HISTORY COLUMN

The Changing Face of Main Street, Middleburgh, Part 1

By Angelique Piwinski

One of my enjoyments is to pick a location and explore its change over an extended period of time from a historical sense. In this case I'm going to write about Main Street, Middleburgh and talk a little bit about it. When you think of those two words "main" and "street", we think of a place called Main Street, but if we think more about the meaning of those words, Main Street is the main street of the village. Many hamlets, villages, towns and even large cities have a main street, although it may not always be called Main Street. Regardless, this is the place that historically has been central to the location where business and commerce are carried out and other things important to the life of the community can be found there.

In a previous article I talked about the history of postcards and how local photographers were critical to capturing rural scenes back in the day. These photographers roamed the area to create these postcards that people would purchase and write messages to send to family, friends and sometimes businesses. The importance of these local photographers cannot be underestimated, since they captured a slice of life, a moment in time in these places and typically would always include images of Main Street. So, when we take a look back in time at Main Street, Middleburgh, we are able to see the evolution on many different levels, through the lens of these wonderful photographers.

First in the 1890s and early 1900s we see a dirt road with usually a few horses and buggies, the commonly available method of transportation at that time.



We see high curbs because those carriages that would carry people would pull alongside the curb and the ladies and gentlemen would exit. The carriages usually were up quite high and the high curbs provided an easy method of getting into or out of the carriage, especially for the ladies with long dresses.

Depending on the era, local businesses would populate the buildings addressing the needs of the community. Travel was slower in those days in the late 1800s so you would typically see a couple of hotels along the way on Main Street. Of course, you would see saloons or as they are known today, pubs and bars plus some eating establishments. Typically, there would also be some clothing stores, a hardware store and other related businesses necessary for the townsfolk and of course houses of worship and a school plus a bank and a post office.

Main street was also the place that celebrations would occur. Many images depict parades commemorating various events.

It is interesting that as automobiles became more popular, the parking pattern on Main Street Middleburgh changed whereby vehicles would park at an angle to

the curbs in order to accommodate more vehicles. And today we are back to parallel parking with the sidewalks since main street is also a major thoroughfare for larger trucks which would not be able to fit if both sides of the street were parked at an angle to the curbs.

In this first article, I am including the earliest photographs in my collection dating to around 1903. In two subsequent articles I'll include later photos showing the evolution.

I'm including 4 photographs of Main St., Middleburgh taken very early in the last century, somewhere probably around 1905. You will note that Main Street is simply a dirt road. There are no cars, just a few horses and wagons. You will also note how high the curbs are. These were done on purpose, since the horse drawn wagons were much higher up than today's car doors. It was much easier to disembark onto the sidewalk when the curbs were much higher than street-level. Besides what lady wanted to get off their wagon onto a muddy street replete with horse manure. You will also note that there were specific places where you could cross the street and not have to deal with mud. I think about all the ladies in those white dresses!

I am taking an educated guess that one of the photos was probably July 4th, since everyone is quite nicely dressed and there are lots of flags flying, although many flags were typically commonplace at that time. It is particularly nice to see that practice coming back and many flags of all kinds flying in the town today.

I've enlarged a couple of sections of the one photograph, because I thought they were especially interesting. In the first one you can see a little boy looking at the photographer as the picture was being taken. The child might've been seven years old or so. That would make him 125+ years old today. So clearly no one in the picture would even be alive today, yet the streets were crowded with people having a good time.

The other enlargement was simply a little girl crossing the street with a horse and wagon hopefully waiting for her to pass. Although it's hard to see, there is a man behind the child and a man in front of the child. I just thought this was cute. The reason that it's a bit blurry is that photographers at the time used longer exposures to get as much detail and light in their pictures. The problem is that people and horses move and thus with a long exposure some



images get blurred. To be continued...



LITE 94.3 100.1 AM-1190
AMERICA'S BEST MUSIC
 Lite Talk Weekdays (6-Am-9am) With Doug Stephen & Ja Kershner.
 "America's Best Music" All Day..All Night Over 1000 Adult Song Selection. Local Weather 87 Times Per Day!
 Nascar-Yankees- Bulldog Sports.
 Regional Coverage:
94.3 AM-1190 Schoharie & Otsego Counties.
100.1 Schoharie, Montgomery & Fulton Counties.
Am-1190 All Above Counties.
LISTEN ON LINE: lite943radio.com
(518) 234-3400.

Fire Police Association Meeting March 16th

The Schoharie County Fire Police Association will hold its next meeting on Thursday, March 16th at the West Fulton Fire station at 7 pm. All fire department members are welcome to attend.

Community Calendar (Including Cancellations)

Ongoing
 • 2022 Adult Grief Support Group, Cobleskill United Methodist Church, 107 Chapel Street, Cobleskill, NY 12043, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
 • Free Story Times each Tuesday at The Book Nook, 645 Main St., Hobart. 2:30 p.m. for toddlers 18 months to 3 years and 4 p.m. for ages 4 and older.
 • Family Support Meetings
 Open Arms Recovery Resource Center 289 Main St Schoharie NY 4 till 7 Thursdays. call Chrystal @ 518 605-4180 for details.
 • Open Arms Recovery Resource Center
 289 Main St Schoharie NY 8:00 - 4:00 Tuesdays 8:00 till 7:00 Thursdays. Addiction and recovery information call 518 605 3867 for more details.
February 25
 COMMUNITY DANCE 2-4 pm
 With live fiddle music by Tamarack and Caller Paul Rosenberg
 At the Gallupville House, Rt 443 in Gallupville
 Fun, simple dances from the U.S. and around the World
 All dances will be taught: circles, contras, squares
 For every age and ability!
 Free!
March 22
 2023 Adult Grief Support Group
 Cobleskill United Methodist Church, 107 Chapel Street, Cobleskill, NY 12043
 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
 Helios Care adult grief support groups are free monthly drop-in groups open to all members of our community 18 and over. Groups are facilitated by staff specifically trained in grief and loss. Attendees have a safe and confidential place to focus on understanding the grief process, making sense of the strong emotions, and learning from other community members. Groups are free and open to all adults. Please call (607) 432-5525 to register. Visit HeliosCare.org for more information and resources.
April 26
 2023 Adult Grief Support Group

Cobleskill United Methodist Church, 107 Chapel Street, Cobleskill, NY 12043
 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
 Helios Care adult grief support groups are free monthly drop-in groups open to all members of our community 18 and over. Groups are facilitated by staff specifically trained in grief and loss. Attendees have a safe and confidential place to focus on understanding the grief process, making sense of the strong emotions, and learning from other community members. Groups are free and open to all adults. Please call (607) 432-5525 to register. Visit HeliosCare.org for more information and resources.
May 24
 2023 Adult Grief Support Group
 Cobleskill United Methodist Church, 107 Chapel Street, Cobleskill, NY 12043
 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
 Helios Care adult grief support groups are free monthly drop-in groups open to all members of our community 18 and over. Groups are facilitated by staff specifically trained in grief and loss. Attendees have a safe and confidential place to focus on understanding the grief process, making sense of the strong emotions, and learning from other community members. Groups are free and open to all adults. Please call (607) 432-5525 to register. Visit HeliosCare.org for more information and resources.
June 28
 2023 Adult Grief Support Group

Cobleskill United Methodist Church, 107 Chapel Street, Cobleskill, NY 12043
 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
 Helios Care adult grief support groups are free monthly drop-in groups open to all members of our community 18 and over. Groups are facilitated by staff specifically trained in grief and loss. Attendees have a safe and confidential place to focus on understanding the grief process, making sense of the strong emotions, and learning from other community members. Groups are free and open to all adults. Please call (607) 432-5525 to register. Visit HeliosCare.org for more information and resources.
July 15-23
 Sicily tour, small group 20 spaces available, extended to July 25 with Rome extension. 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 kellerr22@gmail.com
September
 Sicily tour, 13 days, with Rosemarie Keller.. In the midst of the Mediterranean, discover an island with personality all its own—full of flavor and teeming with one-of-a-kind art and architecture. From multicultural Palermo to breathtaking Taormina, each stop on this tour of Sicily reveals unexpected treasures. Visit goaheadtours.com/ZOM or call 800-597 0350



Lindsey Giagni
518-827-8888
 Call / Text
#YOUR518AGENT

“Catch Me If You Can: The Musical”

Schoharie Central School Performing Arts



Cast members of “Catch Me If You Can: The Musical” are rehearsing for a Schoharie Central School Performing Arts production. Tickets are on sale now for performances Friday, Saturday and Sunday March 10th through 12th. Photos by Scott Keidong.

Middleburgh Ice Rink Still Open

MIDDLEBURGH - The rink is located on Main Street within the fenced-in area on the corner of Main Street and Baker Avenue across from the library.

The rink is located on Main Street within the fenced-in area on the corner of Main Street and Baker Avenue across from the library.



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, 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

TSN DOCUMENT SERVICES CORP.

Local Grand Gorge office looking for seasoned office assistant versed in Micro soft office suite and customer service. Detailed oriented & enjoys a professional progressive working environment. Wish list includes 2nd language and Notary license. Website: titleservice.us \$18/hr. part-time.

Call Janet
607-588-4700
noon-4:30pm



Filmed in front of a live audience at Sight & Sound Theatres, this remarkable story of second chances is one of Sight & Sound Theater's most beloved productions. Journey alongside an ordinary woman whose faith in God ignites a chain of events that change the course of history.

Who: All are welcome

What: Viewing Party

When: Sunday, March 12th, 4:00 PM

Where: Middleburgh Reformed Church
River Street
Middleburgh

Why: Unity and fellowship

A light supper will be served during intermission

THE DDS COMPANIES

GAS DISTRIBUTION CONSTRUCTION

JOIN OUR TEAM!

ALBANY/CAPITAL REGION

- FOREMAN - Starting at \$40/hr
- OPERATORS - Starting at \$30/hr
- LABORERS - Starting at \$20/hr

Actual pay rates may vary depending on experience.

← SCAN TO APPLY NOW!

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

Homemade Breakfast & Lunch

Open Thursday, Friday, Saturday, & Sunday

Catering for all Occasions!

- Full Menu • Serving Beer & Wine
- Outside Seating • Dine-in/Take-Out
- Home of the Belly-Buster Burger •

Easy access for campers & large vehicles
Large Parking Lot
2102 St. Route 30
North Blenheim • 518-827-5588

DID YOU KNOW?

There are over 25,000 kids in care across NYS?

You can make a positive impact on children and families in our community!

BECOME A FOSTER PARENT TODAY!

Visit us at Berkshirefarm.org/foster
Or call us at (518) 456-1969

SCAN FOR MORE INFO

FOLLOW US @BERSKSHIREFARMCENTER

Letters Policy

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

MCS Announces Class of 2023 Top 5



MCS's Top 5 have college, then professional careers on the horizon. Middleburgh Central School District has announced the Class of 2023 Top 5. The five highest grade point averages belong to the following:
 Valedictorian: Sienna Kelley
 Salutatorian: Megan Bramer
 Honor Graduate: Riley Cronin
 "These extraordinary individuals have sur-

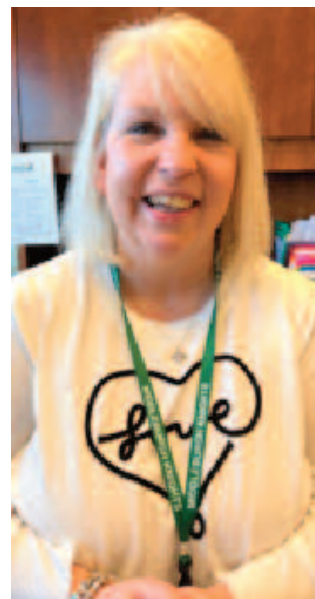
passed all of our expectations," Principal Matthew Sloane said. "They will be pursuing goals that are unique to each of them and show the diversity of student interest at MCS. We are proud of their accomplishments and wish them the very best as they finish their high school careers and embark on their next adventure."
 As is a tradition at MCSD, each of the top five has shared insight

on helping other students succeed, words to live by and reflections on their years at MCSD. In addition to their devotion to their academic work, the top five are involved in many extra-curricular activities, including the National Honor Society, Youth as Leaders, Student Congress, Drama Club and athletics. Their career goals are wide-ranging, encompassing such vocations as marine biology, nursing and agricultural business.

MCS Names New Head of Pupil Personnel Services

MIDDLEBURGH - Middleburgh Central School District has appointed Stella Ritter as its new Director of Pupil Personnel Services. Ms. Ritter has been an educator for over 30 years with experience as a classroom teacher, reading teacher, teacher leader and administrator. "We are excited to have Ms. Ritter joining the administrative team," Superintendent Mark Place said. "Her experience in special education and support services will provide strong leadership for MCS staff, students, and families."
 The Pupil Personnel Services office assists families and students within the guidelines of New York state mandates for both special education and homelessness. "Our office seeks to address the needs of the

Middleburgh school community in a manner that respects each individual's unique abilities," she said. Ms. Ritter said she is impressed by how professional and kind everyone is at MCSD and is excited to bring her personal and professional experiences to the mix. "As a parent of a special needs learner, I have grown exponentially in both knowledge of special education and advocacy for all students and families," she said. Visitors to the Office of Pupil Personnel Services will see a familiar face taking on a new role. Ellen Miller, who previously worked in the high school main office, has joined the Office of Pupil Personnel Services as its administrative assistant. Ms. Ritter replaces Sandra Pepicelli who left in January.



Ms. Pepicelli resigned as director of pupil personnel services at the December 21 board meeting. Her last day was January 13. Ms. Pepicelli had been with the district since July 1 and returned to the private sector.

Blenheim To Abandon Miller Road

By Joshua Walther
 BLENHEIM - On Wednesday evening, members of the Blenheim Town Board convened for their regular monthly meeting to discuss whether they should abandon the lower section of Miller Road. This choice has been plaguing the Board for quite some time, and recently, there has been pressure from a local resident for a consensus. In previous months, members have hesitated to abandon the segment of the road between the resident's property and Betty Brook due to a lack of information, tabling the decision until proper maps of the area were acquired. Now, the Board had the opportunity to decide whether they should go through with the aban-

donment process, or if they should renovate the road completely and bring it up to the standard of the rest of Blenheim's roadways. "If we were to bring that road up to town specs, it would cost a million dollars," said Town Supervisor Don Airey, making his opinion clear. "It serves no purpose to the town." With the rest of the Board members in agreement, a motion was passed to begin the process of pursuing abandonment of the short section of Miller Road, finally putting the matter behind them. In other news, the Board agreed to allocate several funds for a brush tractor rental and procurement of a camera for documentation purposes. Blenheim's highway

department has been urging the Board to consider renting out a brush tractor for a total of one month for the approaching spring, and their wish was granted on Wednesday when they were given \$7,200 for such a use. Additionally, the Board granted \$300 to purchase a camera at the town judge's behest, making the argument that Blenheim needed documented evidence for liability purposes, especially for the upcoming short term rental law. The final motion of the night was made when members approved a joint bake sale and car wash for the Gilboa Class of 2024. While the town hall buildings will host the car wash, the bake sale portion of the event will be held at the old Hitchcock Building.

Schoharie Central School Performing Arts Proudly Presents

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

THE MUSICAL

Based on the DreamWorks Motion Picture

Book by Terrence McNally Music by Marc Shaiman Lyrics by Scott Wittman Marc Shaiman

Director Jill Sholtes Assistant Directors Sarah Becker Alexandra Croft Dr. Timothy Solinger Choreographer Katherine Harvey

Originally produced on Broadway by Margo Lion and Hal Luftig
 Stacey Mindich Yasuhiro Kawana Scott and Brian Zeilinger The Rialto Group The Araca Group Michael Watt Barbara & Buddy Freitag Jay & Cindy Gutterman/Pittsburgh CLO Elizabeth Williams Johnny Roscoe Productions/Van Dean Fakston Productions/Solshay Productions Patty Baker/Richard Winkler Nederlander Presentations Inc. and Warren Trepp In association with
 Remmel T. Dickinson Paula Hero/Kate Lear Stephanie P. McClelland Jamie deRoy Barry Feinstein Rainerio J. Reyes Rodney Rigby Loraine Boyle Amuse, Inc. Joseph & Matthew Deitch/Catch Chernoff Joan Stein/Jon Murray

The World Premiere of CATCH ME IF YOU CAN was produced by the 5th Avenue Theatre. David Armstrong, Executive Producer and Artistic Director; Bernadine Griffin, Managing Director; Bill Berry, Producing Director

Arrangements by Marc Shaiman Orchestration by Marc Shaiman and Larry Blank

Performance Dates
 Friday, March 10, 7:00pm
 Saturday, March 11, 7:00pm
 Sunday, March 12, 2:00pm

Tickets
 Tickets go on sale Feb. 28th in the High school office.
 Call Pam Guest at: (518) 295-6635 option 2
 Adults \$10
 Children/Students \$8

Local Worship Services

Send us your local worship services at mountaineernews@gmail.com.
Christian Community Church of Faith
 Sunday 8:30 AM
 An Independent/Non-Denominational Church, 355 State Route 7, Richmondville,
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
 Sunday 10:30 AM, 326 Main St., Middleburgh
Middleburgh Reformed Church
 178 River St. Middleburgh
 www.middleburghreformed.org
 Worship 11 a.m.
 Food Pantry open Saturdays, 9-11 a.m.
Sharon Reformed Church
 Sundays 10:30 AM
 5868 State Route 10 Sharon Springs,
The Warnerville United Methodist Church
 1615 NY-7, Richmondville, NY 12149 Holds services every Sunday at 9 a.m. (Children's Sunday School

also at 9 a.m.)
Middleburgh United Methodist Church
 281 Main Street Middleburgh, NY holds services every Sunday at 11 a.m. (Children's Sunday School also at 11 a.m.)
 Pastor Mel 518-827-5126 or Melenamoore2323@gmail.com
Esperance-Sloansville United Methodist Church
 175 Main St. Esperance, NY 12066, at 11 a.m. on Sunday
Gallupville United Methodist Church
 120 Factory St. Schoharie, 12157
Delanson United Methodist Church
 112 E Shore Rd, Delanson, NY 12053
Our Lady of the Valley Roman Catholic Parish
 Saturday 5:45 p.m.
 Sunday 9:00 a.m.
 Wednesday 9:00 a.m.
 Virtual Mass available at Facebook.com/our-lady-of-the-valley-parish/
 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 Grovenors Corners Road in the hamlet of Grosvenors Corners, Carlisle meets for worship at 8:30 a.m. Sunday Morning.
The Sharon Springs United Methodist Church
 511 US-20, Sharon Springs meets for worship on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
Schoharie Reformed Church
 258 Main Street Schoharie, NY 12157
 In-person Sunday Worship Service 10:00am for all ages. All are Welcome.
 Pastors Michael & Sherri Meyer-Veen

Summit UMC
 2870 State Rt. 10 service 10 a.m. Pastor Jan Benson
Seventh Day Adventist
 2861 State Rt. 10
 Saturday Service 10 a.m. Pastor Reid 501-545-8351
Calvary Assembly of God
 960 Mineral Springs Rd. 10 AM Sunday service. www.cagcobleskill.org
First Baptist Church
 492 West Main Street, Cobleskill Sunday Service - 11:00 AM
Schoharie United Presbyterian Church
 314 Main St. Schoharie, Worship Service: 10:30 AM Sundays
Lawyersville Reformed Church
 209 Phillip Schuyler Road, Cobleskill 9AM service every Sunday
Sacred Heart Church
 Saturday, at 4:30pm Sacred Heart Stamford Sunday, at 8am St. Philip Neri, Grand Gorge Friday, at 12pm Sacred Heart in Stamford
Harpersfield Methodist Church
 343 Colonel Harper Dri-

veHarpersfield, NY Pastor Dawn Richards (405) 808-4407
 Thursday night service at 6 p.m., followed by a pot luck dinner and bible study.

BREAKABEEN GENERAL STORE

Fri, Sat, Sun: Pizzas, Beef Brisket • Mon-Fri: Pulled Pork
 Special Soups & Salads • Baked Goods
 115 2 Clauverwie Rd., Middleburgh, NY 12122
 Phone (518) 827-4731 • Fax (518) 827-4743

kw HUDSON VALLEY NORTH
 KELLERWILLIAMS. REALTY

341 Main Street, Middleburgh
 pearlrubytorres.kw.com/
 845-461-5132
 rureroack@aol.com

Teens Give Gift Bags to Catholic Charities

MIDDLEBURGH - The teenagers from Our Lady of Fatima in Delanson and Parish of Our Lady of the

Valley in Middleburgh have put together a donation of gift bags to Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego, and Schoharie Counties. They were well received and are very much needed.

If any of our Facebook friends and online faithful are interested in helping, they are still collecting items for Catholic Charities - your donated items can be left on the table in the Church

hall and they will make sure they get delivered. Listed below are some items that are requested the most by the individuals that we serve. A donation of any of these items meets an immediate

need for an individual or a family.

Caring Connections - Toiletries - Stewart's milk cards - Laundry supplies - Bath soap - Cleaning supplies - Towels & Wash Cloths



Schoharie FD Awarded NYPA Funds

Earlier this year the County Board of Supervisors awarded \$9000 of New York Power Authority funding to the Schoharie Fire Department. NYPA funding was used to purchase pagers, heat sensing cameras, a combustible gas detector, and protective footwear for our fire police and auxiliary members.

"While a text alert is a good notification for an alarm, a text provides limited information and doesn't provide members with all of the vital information that is communicated via the county paging system," says Asst Chief Marty Pierce.

for the fire police and auxiliary members to wear when responding to the scene of an emergency has been discussed in the past and NYPA funding will help make this happen. Asst Chief John Borst stated, "While these members are not actively engaged in firefighting operations, we feel that it is important for them to receive department issued protective footwear and not

have to purchase this equipment on their own or simply respond in non-protective gear like sneakers."

The NYPA grant and grant process outlined by the County was by far one of the easier grants SFD applied for. Chief Stinson said, "Thank you Schoharie County for making this grant process simple and thank you NYPA for helping us help our community."

"Our dept has written dozens of grants in the past and our chances were very slim in finding an agency that would consider our request for this equipment," said Chief Douglas Stinson. "Most grant agencies that help fund firefighter equipment purchases would consider these low-priority items, hence our request for NYPA funding which seems to have less restrictions on what can be purchased."

The heat sensing camera, also called thermal imaging cameras (TIC), are used at structure fires, fire alarm activations, dryer fires, car fires and search and rescue operations to help our first responders identify heat sources or victims in low-visibility and no-visibility situations. "Our department currently has (1) TIC and is super excited to have more so that more volunteers are able to use them when on scene," said President and Captain Jackson Goodman.



The new combustible gas detector is vitally important to keeping responders and residents safe while conducting fire investigations or when responding to many other emergencies including house fires, reported smell of propane or leaking fuel, car fires/accidents and search & rescue operations. The purchase of footwear

MONACO COOPER LAMME & CARR
Big Firm Experience
Small Town Connections
 1881 Western Ave Suite 200
 Albany, NY 12203
 www.mclclaw.com
 (518) 855-3535
 mstorm@mclclaw.com

BERETZ
SEASONED FIREWOOD AVAILABLE
ASH & BLACK WALNUT TREES WANTED
LOGGING FIREWOOD
STUMP GRINDING
 518-827-6464 cell 518-496-8636

GENERAL AND PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY
 Hazem Elbially, D.M.D. General Dentist
 Solomia Zhounirovych, D.D.S. General Dentist
 Gabrielle Aquino, D.M.D. Board Certified Pediatric Dentist

Coupon
invisalign Special \$3,399
 with this \$600 off coupon
 Regular price: \$3,999. Offer good for 2 weeks from video consult. New consultations only. email: schohariedentalny@gmail.com to schedule a video consult.

Extraction Special \$129
 Limited time only. Call for details. *Self pay patients only.

Schoharie Dental, PLLC
 VISIT US AT OUR NEW LOCATION
 229 Main Street, PO Box 129 • Schoharie, NY 12157
 www.schohariedentalny.com • Email: schohariedmd@gmail.com
 Phone: (518) 702-4145 Fax: (518) 702-4195

Accepting new patients ~ Accepting walk-ins ~ Accepting most insurances
Comprehensive Dental Care
 • Regular check-ups and cleanings
 • Digital x-rays
 • Ceramic crowns and bridges
 • Tooth-colored fillings
 • Root canals
 • Extractions
 • Implants
 • Dentures
 • Invisalign
 • Nitrous Oxide (children only)
 • Oral Conscious Sedation (children only)
 • Same day emergency visit

(handicapped accessible)
Open: Mon.-Fri. 9 am-5 pm
Saturday by appointment



Holiday Clubs ARE back!!

Deposit just \$20 a week for 50 weeks and you'll have \$1000 for holiday shopping, a vacation or whatever you wish!

170 Years
NBCoxsackie
 1852-2022

Join online or stop into your local branch to start saving today!

Serving Greene, Schoharie and Albany Counties

*The 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.

Gilboa-Conesville Central School School District Treasurer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Automatic & Hand Fired COAL STOVES

- Auto Burn up to 7 days
- 5 to 170,000 BTUs
- More Economical than Pellets
- No Chimney Needed

INSTANT FUEL REBATES

RICE COAL
 Call for pricing
 Limited time

Valley View Farm
 179 Seabury Rd., Berne
 Vvfstoves.com • John O'Pezio
(518) 872-1007 Call For Hours

STONE STOVE & "Berne" Coal
 (rice & nut coal)

HELP WANTED

Charlotteville General Store is accepting employment applications for the following positions: **Deli/ Counter Helper**

Information can be obtained at 668 Charlotte Valley Road Charlotteville, NY 12036 or by calling **607-397-9330**.

MABA Members Planning for 2023

By David Avitabile
MIDDLEBURGH - MABA members met again Tuesday to outline events for what they hope will be a successful 2023.

According to new President Sean Lawton, the members of the Middleburgh Area Business Association discussed roles within the organization in regards to the Fourth Friday and Miracle on Main Street events.

The meeting was the second since MABA officials came to the village board earlier this year and asked for help in keeping the organization alive. At a meeting earlier in February, it was decided to welcome community member into MABA and not just business owners.

At this week's meeting, "We divided responsibilities up into seven distinct categories and currently have most of these categories being overseen by

someone on the team. The categories include marketing, promotional design, finances, business liaison, communication/email coordinator, the 'day of events team and entertainment overseer.

"We are looking to develop a team of people from the community to help in each of these areas, especially the 'day of events team."

E-mails can be forwarded to mburghareaevents@yahoo.com

There is much work to be done, Mr. Lawton added.

"We are looking to continue to add to our many vendors that have historically participated and would love to see all previous vendors return this year."

The popular Fourth Fridays will feature a special treat this summer.

"In August we are plan-

ning to coordinate a more involved Fourth Friday geared around a carnival theme. We especially

need help for that particular Fourth Friday."

The next MABA meeting will be held on Mon-

day, March 13 at 7pm at Solo's Music event space, 322 Main Street Middleburgh.

"We welcome everyone to the table and are looking forward to a fantastic year," Mr. Lawton said.

Auto Racing News

By Tom Coughlin

The first thing that I need to point out is that I made a mistake last week and naturally I noticed it as soon as I hit the send button.

Anyway in NASCAR for 2023 the title sponsor for the truck series is Craftsman and I inadvertently used last year's title sponsor Camping World.

There has been a change of date for the pro stock/street stock seminar. It has been moved from March 11th. to Saturday, March 18th.

It is recommended that you arrive before 1:00 pm. The day will begin with snacks and drinks at 12:15 pm. and the program is planning to run from 1:00

pm until approximately 4:30 pm. This is a free event, with about 120 seats that are first come first served. It will still be held at 12 Sacandaga Road in Scotia, N.Y. 12302. There are hopes of possibly having some format of zoom, youtube, or facebook to view.

Last Friday night put a cap on the 2022 racing season at Fonda Speedway, Utica-Rome Speedway, and the Thunder on the Thruway Series, which combines the two facilities.

The biggest announcement all night was the presentation of the inaugural Against the Wind-Dave Lape Memorial Award. David's widow Jackie and his daughter Jessica Lape-Schwab, re-

flected on David's long racing career at Fonda and after hanging up his helmet his passion in overseeing the Fonda Speedway Museum. Jackie and Jessica recognized seven time modified champion Bobby Varin as the first recipient of this high honor, which represents Dave Lape's high level of respect, honor, passion, and his Against the Wind never give up attitude.

The next big news was when promoter Brett Deyo proclaimed that the final closing on the purchase of the Utica-Rome Speedway from the Cole family will hopefully take place in mid-summer.

The Turning Stone Resort in Verona was where everyone gathered to see

over \$114,000 in point fund money, presented by

promoter Brett Deyo of BD Motorsports Media L.L.C. as the the top ten in each division were recognized with track champions in each division being given the opportunity for a short interview with announcer Chris Moore.

Fonda Speedway Champions for 2022 were Matt Delorenzo of Cropseyville in the Sunoco Fuels modifieds, Payton Talbot of South New Berlin in the Swagger Factory Apparel crate 602 sportsman, Nick Stone of Schenectady in the Algonkin Motel pro stocks, Zach Dufel in the Montgomery County Office of the Aging limited sportsman, and Kenny Hollenbeck the Fonda Fair 4 cylinder (single cam) and Kerrie Hollenbeck the Fonda Fair 4 cylinder (dual cam).

Poultry and Feed
We sell day old broilers, ducks, guineas, etc.
All feed is in 50 lb bags
Call for appointment to pick up
Layer pellets with Marigold, \$13.50
22% broiler, grower, \$14.25
Sweet Sheep/Goat, \$14.50
Rabbit Pellets, \$14.50
Pig Grower Pellets, \$15.00

Cooper's Ark Farm
518 231 3858

EST. 1892
Charlotteville
GENERAL STORE
COFFEE IS ORGANIC & FAIR TRADE, ROASTED IN-HOUSE WEEKLY
SANDWICHES ARE MADE WITH BOARS HEAD MEATS & CHEESES
CARRYING LOCAL GOODS & PROVISIONS
(607) 397-9330
668 CHARLOTTE VALLEY RD., CHARLOTTEVILLE, NY 12036

Livingstonville
CREEKSIDE
Flea Market
Open every Sunday thru October
GPS: 554 State Route 145
For questions or vendor info, call (518) 545-7657

For the Love of Pets

Pet Tracks Pet Services

- Dog & Cat Boarding
- Doggie Daycare
- Pet Sitting
- Large Animal/Hobby Farm Care
- Overnight Care
- Dog walking
- Grooming
- Puppy Training
- Pet Taxi
- Post Surgery and Wound Care
- Veterinary Technician Care

(518) 650-1438
www.pettrackspets.com
pettracks@outlook.com
Lorraine Fancher, LVT
OWNER
Pet Tracks Pet Sitting
Licensed, Insured, Bonded
19 years experience

10% Discount with this ad

THE HORSESHOE CAFÉ
2102 State Route 30, North Blenheim, NY
(518) 827-5588

Call For Hours Take out/outdoor & indoor dining
Find us on Facebook!

GRÜNING Audioworks
Specializing in rackmounting vintage professional audio components
518-231-3044
Gaudioworks@gmail.com
www.gruningaudioworks.com

Parts and Service for Motorcycles, Snowmobiles, and ATVs
poor boyz
POWERSPORTS
1914 Route 145, Middleburgh, NY 12122
518-827-8388

Delicious Home Cooking Just Like Grandma's
MIDDLEBURGH DINER
If in town, visit the Duaneburgh Diner
Middleburgh Diner
Beer & Wine Fine Desserts
Serving Our Valued Customers Since 1948
"The Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Place For Family Dining"

MiddleburghDiner.com
122 Main Street (St. Route 145)
(518) 827-5182
Mon - Thurs: 6:30am - 7:00pm
Fri - Sat: 6:30am - 8:00pm
Sun: 7:00am - 7:00pm
Daily Specials Take-Out Banquet Room Small Parties Meetings Up To 60 ppl
VISA M-CARD DEBIT

MIDDLEBURGH PHARMACY
& Medical Supplies
Middleburgh Meadows (Next to Valley Market)
119 Market Street, Middleburgh, NY 12122
(518)827-7030
middleburgh.rx@gmail.com
MiddleburghPharm

99¢ Greeting Cards
Pet Medications & Supplies • Vitamins
Aromatherapy • Over-The-Counter Medications
Diabetic Supplies and Sugar-free Items
Medical Equipment: Wheelchairs, Walkers, Orthotics
Medterra CBD Products

MEDTERRA
CBD Oil | CBD Cream
CBD Good Morning Capsules
CBD Women's Health | CBD for Pets
30 Day Money Back Guarantee

LOOMACRES FIREARMS
\$10 NICS TRANSFERS/ONLINE ORDERS
BUY & SELL - NEW & USED
SPECIALTY ORDERS AND ACCESSORIES
LARGE SELECTION OF HENRY RIFLES,
VORTEX OPTICS AND VOLQUARTSEN FIREARMS
800.243.1462 www.wildlifeMS.com

BREAKABEEN WINE & LIQUORS
115 2 Clauverwie Rd., Middleburgh, NY 12122
(518) 827-5060

CENTRAL AIR
NO DUCT WORK NEEDED
Energy efficient
Whisper quiet
Heating capability
Free estimates
SIMMONS
Heating & Cooling
"Quality Work at a Fair Price"
(518) 848-5480

Circle of Life Ambulette Services
607 538-1734
Wheelchair & stretcher transports
Medicaid approved NY DOT # 32940
255 Maple Ave Hobart NY 13788
Fax/Billing 607 538-9681
circleoflife@stny.rr.com
SERVING DELAWARE, OTSEGO, SCHOHARIE & HERKIMER COUNTIES

Over 35 Years Experience
AARON'S ELECTRIC, INC.
LICENSED MASTER ELECTRICIAN
Trust your electrical needs to a professional
Residential & Commercial • Service & Wiring
Fire Alarm Systems • Insured
Generac Generator Dealer
(518) 827-7393
Aaron R. Wilsey, Owner

Lora Newell
Advertising Specialist at the Mountain Eagle
lora.mountaineagle@gmail.com
518-519-0671
Call or email me for all your advertising needs!

evenerablegroup
taming information technology
Network and technology support for businesses
W. Cody Anderson
Principal
cody.anderson@evenerable.com
Evenerable Group, Ltd.
PO Box 910
Middleburgh, NY 12122
888.2.TAME.TECH
888.282.6383
http://www.evenerable.com

New York PATRIOT Group
PLUMBING & HEATING
SHANE FOLAND-PROJECT MANAGER
518-231-8071
WWW.NYPATRIOTGROUP.COM
S.FOLAND@NYPATRIOTGROUP.COM

Contact NY Patriot Group:
Partners: Shane Foland
Robert Chase
Services on Pellet and Corn Stoves
Available 24/7/365

Windham Weekly

A Section of the *Mountain Eagle*

Volume 8, No. 9 windhamweekly@gmail.com

FRIDAY, March 3, 2023

\$1.00

Town Zoning Commission Forms In Windham

By Michael Ryan

WINDHAM - History continues to be made in Windham where a Town Zoning Commission has been established without a peep of protest.

Government leaders, at a meeting last week, announced the formation of the commission which will be studying the feasibility of rules and regulations that have traditionally been a very touchy subject.

The mere mention of zoning, over the years, has been considered an affront and unwelcome four-letter word, getting swiftly shunned.

Windham created a Comprehensive Plan, twenty years ago, containing a recommendation to look into zoning. It evaporated like spring mist.

Country life, however, is not the same as it once was with an influx of people in the past two decades, especially noticeable post Covid-19.

"The world has changed with the pandemic," town supervisor Thomas Hoyt says. "The idea of zoning was put out there twenty years ago.

"It was suggested the town ought to think about zoning and that didn't happen. It basically got thrown in the fire and left there."

An updated Comprehensive Plan was completed, last year, leading to the formation of an Implementation Committee to address the priorities set.

Goal #1 is to "maintain local control over land use while promoting qual-

ity commercial and residential growth that is in keeping with the existing character of the town."

And within that immediate goal, the five listed objectives are to:

—"Concentrate future growth and development in the designated hamlet areas and locations with access to centralized water and/or sewer infrastructure.

—"Ensure that any new development is in keeping with the town's historic character and preserves the scenic beauty upon which the tourism industry depends.

—"Protect scenic vistas and limit development on ridgetops.

—"Strengthen existing land use laws and explore creative land use tools and incentives that encourage low-impact de-

velopment.

—"Encourage the creative use of properties in residential areas to support the tourism economy, while protecting public safety, and mitigating potential impacts on neighboring properties."

Toward those ends, a new Noise Law has been written and modernization of the existing Site Plan and Setback regulations has taken place.

The next step is the Town Zoning Commission which will begin discussions in April, meeting monthly to produce possible land use legislation.

"This is not some radical, crazy thing. The last thing we want to do is over-regulate," Hoyt says. "When I bump into people on the street, I tell them this is to protect

what you have, not say you can't do something.

"The bottom line is we can't make any more land. We need to manage the land we have left in a responsible manner.

"We face real issues between Smart Growth and keeping Windham why Windham is Windham," says Hoyt.

"Hopefully this zoning process goes as well as what we have done before with the Noise Law and site plan and setback revisions."

The town has secured a \$72,000 grant to facilitate the effort, working with Delaware Engineering consultant Helen Budrock and her staff.

Familiar and new names comprise the Zoning Commission which can have no elected officials and includes some

residents who were part of the original Implementation Committee and are carrying forward.

The 11-member group is Lisa Jaeger, Robert Rhoades, Marianna Leman, John O'Grady, Richard Tollner, Matthew Rodrigue, Carol Shaw, Patricia Charbonneau, Dave McQueen, Michael Troccoli and Leonard Shapiro.

"This is going to take some time. We want to do a thorough job, not rush through it, make sure it is done right," Hoyt says.

"It's a very diverse group. Each member brings important experience and a different point of view to the table. They volunteer their time for the benefit of the community and are very dedicated," Hoyt says.

Prattsville Rewriting Comprehensive Plan

By Michael Ryan

PRATTSVILLE - Imagining the future and turning it into reality continues in Prattsville with the rewriting of the town's Comprehensive Plan.

A meeting of local business owners, community members and town officials took place, Monday night, moving forward on a process that has been in motion over the past few months.

It is expected to take a year to complete the journey which was undertaken for multiple reasons according to The Loberge Group, an engineering consultant brought in to provide guidance on the project.

"The town of Prattsville has experienced many challenges over the past 18 years since it last prepared a Comprehensive Plan," the firm states.

"In this timeframe, Prattsville's hamlet along

the Schoharie Creek was overwhelmed by flooding from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee.

"As a rural community with a year-round population of just under 800 and limited commercial and economic development opportunities, residents and business owners are forced to shoulder a disproportionate amount of the local tax burden for community services, infrastructure improvements, and long-term planning.

"While significant progress has been made since the 2011 flooding, Prattsville is in need of a fresh look at its current social, economic, and environmental conditions, and to consider new economic development, housing, recreation, and community opportunities along with enhanced storm and flood resiliency," the firm states.

"Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee in 2011 devastated the town, resulting in the loss of over 40% of all hamlet structures.

"As a result, Prattsville participated in the NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program resulting in the preparation of a Conceptual Plan (dated October, 2013) and Reconstruction Plan (dated March 2014).

"These plans identified strategies and associated steps to help rebuild a more resilient community.

"While significant progress has been made in restoring the town's Main Street, local businesses, housing, and infrastructure, more work is necessary to place Prattsville on firm footing to address existing challenges, plan ahead to successfully tackle future ones, and achieve continued success and growth.

"In addition, the 2013 and 2014 plans only focused on the hamlet and did not evaluate the remainder of the town or identify long-term strategies outside of the hamlet.

"A new Comprehensive Plan that incorporates smart growth ideals and practices will allow the town to evaluate and consider town wide issues and put forth a full com-

munity plan," the firm states.

"Moreover, the town of Prattsville successfully applied to the Hudson River Valley Greenway Grant Program in February 2022 for funding to begin Phase 1 of the Comprehensive Plan update project: "Vision Prattsville."

"NYS Department of State's (NYS DOS) Smart Growth Comprehensive Planning Grant Program funds will help leverage previously awarded funds to complete the remaining phases of the planning process.

"A new Comprehensive Plan that incorporates smart growth principles will place the Town of Prattsville on firm footing to address new challenges and position itself for continued strategic growth," the firm states.

"These are the beginning steps," says Nicole Allen, the director of planning for The Loberge Group, setting the stage for Monday's stakeholder's meeting.

"We have already done the initial Visioning," Allen says, circulating a survey seeking input from the citizenry on what is good about Prattsville or what might need to be better in order to keep up with changing times.

That survey sought responses to questions such

as:

—"In your opinion, what is the best part about living in or visiting Prattsville?"

—"Provide up to five key words that describe your Vision for Prattsville.

—"What measures would you like to see the town take to help achieve your vision for Prattsville?"

—"What services are most in need of improvement in the town of Prattsville (such as police, firefighting, EMS, youth, code enforcement, etc.)

—"Provide your level of support for the following types of development within Prattsville; small scale commercial, manufacturing/warehousing;

"Multi-family residential, single family residential, short term rental housing, senior housing, conservation land, historic preservation, renewable energy, recreational facilities and agriculture/forestry."

A second questionnaire was sent out, focusing on local business elements such as: "why did you choose to locate your business in the Town of Prattsville and how long have you been operating here?"

—"What do you see as

the most significant opportunities for economic development in Prattsville?

—"What are the challenges/obstacles to your business and business development in the Town of Prattsville?"

—"What steps could the Town take to improve problem areas/issues and the quality of life for you and your employees?"

—"What should the Town of Prattsville's economic development priorities be and how would you "brand" the Town?"

—"What types of additional businesses, services, or amenities should be encouraged in Prattsville that would complement your business?"

Many more talks and eventually public hearings will take place before the Comprehensive Plan is finalized. "The tentative plan is to have a public round-table next month," town supervisor Greg Cross says.

"We received 95 replies to the initial survey which is a pretty good number. This is definitely necessary to support the site plan review changes we made and to try to avoid the road of zoning at this point," Cross says.

**Get Your
Subscription
Today
518-763-6854**



WE WANT YOUR LISTING
Professional Market Value Report • Customized Marketing Plan
Successful Team Approach • High Quality Signage

For More Information Call 518.734.6600 or visit WindstarRealty.com
Catskill | Windham | Grand Gorge

LEGISLATURE STUFF

Weighted Voting Made Clear as Mud

By Michael Ryan

CATSKILL - It is called "weighted voting" and is nothing if not bewildering as the Greene County Legislature prepares to hold a public hearing on proposed adjustments to that system.

Lawmakers will host the citizen's input session on March 15 at 6:15 p.m. prior to their regular monthly meeting on what is a mandated action.

While there are changes coming to the system, given the minuteness of those changes, "at the end of the day this changes nothing," county administrator Shaun Groden says, only adding to the perplexity.

In simplest terms, the legislature does not use a "one person, one vote" formula for tallying decisions. Instead, each legislator has a number attached to their vote that, when all are tolled, equals 10,000.

There are 14 legislators representing 9 districts in the county. Their number is based on the percentage of the total county population within their district, although it's not that simple.

Three districts have multiple legislators including Catskill (4) and Coxsackie and Cairo (2 each) which are further divided, based on the 10,000 total.

Every ten years, when new federal census data is released, the weighted voting percentages have to be re-configured which is what is happening now and why the public hearing has been scheduled.

When all is settled in this cycle, three legislative districts will see either a small decrease or small increase: District 6 (Ashland, Jewett, Prattsville, Windham, minus 4), District 7 (Halcott, Hunter, Jewett, minus 7), and District 9 (Durham, plus 12).

The power of each legislator is measured by their chunk of the 10,000 pie. The latest figures will break down thusly: District 1, Catskill (618

each), District 2, Coxsackie (680 each), District 8, Cairo (725 each).

And with one legislator apiece, it will be: District 3, Athens (856), District 4, Greenville (817), District 5, New Baltimore (704), District 6, Ashland, etc. (878), District 7, Halcott, etc. (827), District 9, Durham (585).

It is both interesting and baffling to witness a legislative floor vote. In bygone days, the 14 "ayes" or "nays" would be easily counted.

Nowadays, a verbal roll call is taken and the Clerk of the Legislature must then drag out the calculator, attaching each legislator's weighted vote to their "aye" or "naye," doing the math and announcing the outcome.

For any measure to pass, it needs a majority of weighted votes (5001 out of 10,000). On the surface it would seem infinitely less complicated to reduce things to one man (or one woman) one vote, and call it a night.

However, under the weighted voting system, one legislator's vote can literally carry more weight than another's toward the 10,000 pool.

The vote of District 6 lawmaker James Thorington, who represents four mountaintop towns, for example, counts for 878 while the vote of each District 1 (Catskill) lawmaker counts for 618.

"I will admit it is a confusing thing," legislature chairman Patrick Linger says. "But we have done it for many years. It does work."

"This is similar to the Electoral College [used in Presidential elections] which makes it more fair for everyone involved," Linger says.

"This way, Catskill [with four legislators] doesn't have a big advantage over everybody. Population-wise, it is more evenly divided," Linger says.

County officials brought in an outside firm, The Benjamin Center at SUNY New Paltz, to prepare a

2022 Weighted Vote Recalculation Report.

The report states, "the first thing we had to do in order to adjust the weights for Greene County was to determine the population for each one of the [legislative] districts."

"In order to calculate the population of the districts, their boundaries were created in ArcGIS, and then the population was calculated from all of the census blocks within the districts utilizing the LATFOR prisoner adjusted data which removes the population from state prisons, and repopulates them in the census blocks they originated from prior to their arrest."

The principle behind the weighted voted calculations is "to assure that each individual has an equal chance to affect decisions regardless of where in the county they resided," the report states.

Even a dull-witted newsman can grasp all that until a series of graphs and charts are used to explain the system in more depth, containing lists of "percentage discrepancies" and "absolute deviations."

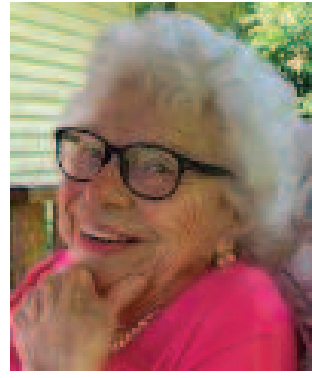
In a lengthy explanation of how the weighted voting system historically evolved and how various means are employed to arrive at the optimal voting end, the newsman is left in a dark maze.

Noting that Greene County has decided the 10,000 voting pool works best, the report states that due to that decision, "testing multiple systems with different numbers of total votes within the system was unnecessary."

Lucky for us. The report further states, "in a similar test of weighted voting, the difference between the Banzhaf score and the population proportion should be divided by the population proportion to determine the percent deviation," which to one newsman is as clear as Hudson River mud.

Obituaries

Louise McRoberts



Louise B. McRoberts, 98, of East Windham, NY, died Friday, February 17, 2023 after a brief stay at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany NY. Born on October 14, 1924 in Hollis, Queens, New York, she was the daughter of the late Helmuth and Erna Koster Kading. She married Charles (Mac) McRobert's on May 11, 1947 and was married for 55 years. Mr. Mrs. McRoberts moved from Hollis, NY to East Windham in 1963. She is survived by daughter Cheryl and her husband Bob Cupo of Berea, Ohio, her son Chuck McRoberts and his wife, Lorraine Rabl McRoberts of Windham, NY. Her grandchildren, Bob Cupo and Dylan McRoberts, her surrogate grandchildren Taylor and Kathleen Brandt, and nephew, William Kading.

Mrs. McRoberts is predeceased by her brother,

Hank Kading and her niece, Kathleen Kading.

She served in the Women's Army Corps in 1944 and was dispatched to a medical unit to help care for wounded soldiers returning to the US during the Battle of the Bulge. She was deployed to Germany and assigned as air-raid warden and also dispensed weekend furloughs to the soldiers. She was an active member of the mountaintop community. She was a cook (and "mom") at Camp Oh-Neh-Tah, a member of the St. James F. Carty, D.S.C. VFW Post 1545 in Windham as Quarter Master, a member of the Red Cross and Meals on Wheels. Louise was a den mother and vice-president of WAJ PTA, also a chaperone for student dances. A member of the Matron Order of the Eastern Star, vice-president of the Batavia Fish and Game Club. She was president of the Windham Hensonville Women's Group and a member of the Windham Senior Center. A short term Trustee of the Windham Library and Trustee of the Windham Hensonville United Methodist Church and member of the choir. A member of

The Red Hats and supreme baker and distributor of blueberry muffins.

She worked varying positions at Point Lookout, Windham Ski Slope, Hunter Mountain German Alpine Store as well as The Windham Journal with Sedonia

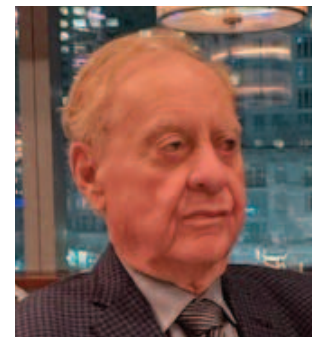
She received the Veteran of the year Award in 2014, and received the New York State "Liberty Award" presented by State Senator Cecilia Tkaczyk. She was able to participate in 2 Freedom Flights to Washington D.C. and also was able to take part of the Dream Flight in her 90's.

Louise left her mountaintop home with many a broken heart from across the country in hopes that fond memories will bring smiles and laughter in time

A Memorial Service will be held at the Windham-Hensonville Church in Windham, New York on May 13, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

Donations to the Windham-Hensonville United Methodist Church, 5296 SR 23, Windham, NY 12496, the Windham VFW, Post 1545, 5565 Rte 23, Windham, N.Y. 12496 or charity of choice in lieu of flowers.

Charles Brooks Slutzky



Charles Brooks (CB) Slutzky, 79 residing in Elka Pk NY passed away on February 27, 2023 at his home.

Charles B Slutzky was born January 20 1944 in Albany NY to Israel (Izzy) SLUTZKY, the founder of Hunter Mountain ski resort and Goldye Honigsbaum.

He graduated from Boston University and joined his father's construction company, I. & O. A. Slutzky, specializing in building bridges. He built and repaired numerous bridges in New York State. He was also President of Hunter Mountain Ski resort until it was sold

in 2016. He retired at that time.

Charles was an enthusiastic art and music lover. His special passion was classical opera, Puccini and Verdi in particular. He loved to frequent the Metropolitan Opera and Broadway musicals. He enjoyed New York city and everything it has to offer. He loved traveling to Europe and Great Britain.

He enjoyed skiing, practiced yoga and Pilates. His latest hobby was playing Petangue with his French friends and he often surprised them by winning the game.

Charles was a very compassionate, giving person and donated to many charities. He was always great company, his charm and humor were appreciated by many.

Charles was always extremely punctual, and honest to a fault. He was very reliable and always a man of his word.

CB is survived by his wife Natalia (Natasha) Davidian Slutzky, his children, William and Rebecca, daughter in law Shannon, grandchildren Owen and Jasmine, brother David and numerous cousins.

Charles was predeceased by his parents Izzy and Goldye, brother Michael, and daughter Tiffany.

Funeral services will take place on Wednesday March 1 at 12PM in Hunter Synagogue at 7879 Main St Hunter NY

Donations can be made to St. Jude Children Research Hospital online at www.stjude.org with dedication to Charles B SLUTZKY or to Shriners Children's Hospitals at www.lovetotherescue.org in memory of Charles B Slutzky.

"Our dearests never die, they just stop walking among us" (Ukrainian song)

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

Local Worship Services

Resurrection Lutheran Church
186 Main Street, Cairo, NY 12413
(518) 622-3286 / www.RLC.life
Online Worship (after 8:15am)
Inside Worship (8:15am, 9:15am & 10:30am)
Sunday School & Bible Study (9:15am)

Barnerville United Methodist Church
224 Shady Tree Lane Howes Cave
Sunday at 8:30 AM

Greek Orthodox Church of the Assumption
State Rte 23 Windham, New York 12496

(518) 734-4631 assumptionwindham@gmail.com

Hope Restoration Christian Fellowship
117 State Route 296, Windham
518-734-3826
www.hoperestorationchurch.net
Sundays 11:00 AM
Find us on Facebook
Tent Services begin June 26th

Living Faith Community Church
54 Route 56, Maplecrest, NY
518-734-4275
Sundays at 10:30 am
Find us on Facebook

Jewett Presbyterian Church
53 Church Street, Jewett, NY
518-424-2919
Sundays 10:00 AM
Find us on Facebook

Mitchell Hollow Mission Church
893 Mill Street, Windham, NY
518-332-7669
Sundays at 11:15 AM
www.Mitchellhollow.org

Windham-Hensonville United Methodist Church
5296 Route 23, Windham, NY
518-734-4122
Sundays 11:00 AM
Find us on Facebook

St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Catholic Church
5188 Route 23, Windham
518-734-3352
www.Sainttheresas.weebly.com

Lexington / West Kill United Methodist Church

54 Greene County Route 13A
Lexington NY 12452
AM Church Service 9:00 Sunday morning

Discover Life Church
14464 Main Street
Prattsville, NY 12468
518-299-3321

Website: <https://prattsvillechurch.com>

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

SPRAY FOAM SOLUTIONS INC
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
607 435-7930
Free Estimates & Fully Insured

\$7 Classifieds! 3 Column Inches! Call 607-652-5252

Out Lexington Way

By Christine Dwon
Town of Lexington Fire/Rescue Company annual Surface Ice Rescue Training was held Feb. 25 on a frozen pond in Tumbleweed, Spruceton. Attending were Chief Paul Dwon; 1st Assistant Chief Ray Clinton; 2nd Assistant Chief Michael Falke; 3rd Assistant Chief in Charge of EMS Operations Liza Dwon; Captain of Lexington BLSF Sarah Jordan, Firefighter Jim Buscarello, Firefighter Mike Collarone and Firefighter Bob Riccardella. All members of the Lexington Fire/Rescue Company are volunteers. They continue their training, are committed to keeping us safe and there in our time of need. They are true hometown heroes.



On Feb. 25, the Town of Lexington Fire/Rescue Company held their annual Surface Ice Rescue Training at a frozen pond in Spruceton. Taking part in the training were Chief Paul Dwon; 1st Assistant Chief Ray Clinton; 2nd Assistant Chief Michael Falke; 3rd Assistant Chief in Charge of EMS Operations Liza Dwon; Captain of Lexington BLSF Sarah Jordan; Firefighter Jim Buscarello; Firefighter Mike Collarone and Firefighter Bob Riccardella. Photo by Abigail Dwon

JoEllen Schermerhorn and George Slauson went to Aiken, SC for a few days to visit with JoEllen's brother Les. It was a very enjoyable trip, nice and warm and a wonderful visit with Les.

The Hensonville Hose Company's Fish Fry is back. You have a choice of fried fish, fried clam strips or chicken tenders, french fries or baked potato, coleslaw, dinner roll and brownie for \$15 a dinner. Dinners are available on Fridays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and April 7 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. To pre-order, please call 518-734-3040. The Hensonville Firehouse is located at 432 State Route 296, Hensonville.

The annual St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Luncheon will be held at the Windham-Hensonville UMC, Main Street, Windham on Friday, March 17 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For \$12 you will receive a corned beef sandwich, coleslaw, bag o' chips, dessert and a soda or water. There is free delivery available for orders of 3 or more in Windham-Hensonville. Pre-order or the day of the sale. Call 518-734-4122.

The next covered dish Dinner Church will be held on Friday, March 24 at 6 p.m. (please note time change) at the Lexington/West Kill UMC in Lexington. All welcomed.

If you would like to donate to the humanitarian aid for Ukrainian chil-

dren, women and men, there is a collection box at Van Dusen's Market, 4021 Route 42, Lexington. Warm clothing, coats, socks, thermal underwear, flashlights, nightlights, hand, foot and body warmers, sleeping bags, and letters of support are gratefully accepted and appreciated.

Lori Dippold's birthday is Friday, March 3.

Also celebrating a birthday on March 3 is Moira Taylor.

Saturday, March 4 is Ellen Levin's birthday.

Andrew Yachnes has his birthday on March 4.

Happy birthday to Carol Constable on Tuesday, March 7.

March 7 is Michael Barcone's birthday.

And also celebrating a birthday on March 7 is Glenn Ralph Hapeman.

Wednesday, March 8 is Brian Wilson's birthday. Best wishes to all.

The Town of Lexington Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary does not meet in March. Next meeting will be Tuesday, April 11, 7 p.m. in the Firemen's Room.

The Greene County Department of Human Services Senior Nutrition Program menu for the week of March 6 - March 10 is as follows: Monday—Chicken Divan, brown rice, carrots, fruit cocktail; Tuesday—Stuffed shells marinara, meatball, broccoli, cauliflower, chocolate mousse; Wednesday—BBQ pulled pork, coleslaw, baked beans, collard greens, fresh fruit; Thursday—Hungarian goulash, Monaco mixed vegeta-

bles, whole wheat egg noodles, fresh fruit; Friday—Fish Florentine, sauteed mixed vegetables, green beans, rice pilaf and rice pudding with raisins. The meal will be the meal that is delivered to all Greene County homebound meal clients. All persons over the age of 60 can receive a meal. Meals served at noon and suggested donation for each meal is \$4. Those wishing to receive a meal are required to call the respective location by noon, a day in advance. The number to call for the Senior Nutrition site at the Jewett Municipal Building, Route 23C, Jewett is 518-263-4392.

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

Thank you to all the highway crews.

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

A reminder that Daylight Saving Time starts Sunday, March 12. Your clocks go ahead one hour. Why are we still doing this?

First official day of Spring on the calendar is Monday, March 20. Mother Nature might have other ideas.

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

LOCAL HISTORY WITH DEDE TERNS-THORPE Professional Baseball Player –1906-1910 – Proprietor Of Doyle's Garage In Haines Falls

Slow Joe Doyle was born on a farm in Leonardville, Kansas, in 1881. Doyle, the youngest child of Thomas and Susan Taylor Doyle, was named Judd Bruce Doyle, but he wasn't fond of that name.

Young Mary Lackey of Tannersville frequented N.Y. baseball games and soon met Slow Joe. They were married in 1910. Mary was the daughter of the prominent Lackey Family, Michael and Julia Farrell Lackey, with homes in Tannersville and New York City. Mary's sister, Clara Lackey, was the editor of the Tannersville Times Newspaper and managed Tannersville's busy insurance and real estate office.

Judd, aged 15 years, 150 pounds, and 5'8" tall, played baseball for local team Leonardville Blues for three years before signing with them. Judd, even then, at a young age, was said to be known for his strong right arm.

Eventually, he ended up in New York. The paper said, "That was the start of an odyssey the likes of which still fires the dreams of boys today, taking Doyle from the pastures of Leonardville to the ball diamonds of New York City."

A 1907 paper said Doyle was one of the slowest workers in baseball. Games, at that time, were ten innings, and Doyle was so slow pitching that fans left the games early and were disgusted.

A 1957 report by the Chicago Tribune said that in 1910, radios announced that Doyle would pitch for the Highlanders (later the N.Y. Yankees), and there was a rush of fans to the phones to tell their folks they would be late for supper.

Before "Slow Joe," his first nickname was "Long-Winded," followed by "For gosh sakes, hurry up." "Slow Joe" finally stuck.

Doyle pitched professionally for the New York Highlanders from 1906 -1910. In his first major



DOYLE, N. Y. NAT'L

league appearance, he hurled a six-hit shutout. Sporting Life summed up his debut:

"For a minor leaguer to jump to New York and face (Nap) Napoleon Lajoie and his [Cleveland] fence breakers is a pretty big undertaking, and to hand them a shutout was a feat fully appreciated by the fans who cheered the newcomer heartily... Doyle ran a gamut of curves, a fast drop ball, spitball, change of pace and overhand, underhand and three-quarter delivery, and pitched the Cleveland Naps into a state of bewilderment." The press called Doyle, "the human snail, he must be getting paid by the hour."

His next game was also a shutout against the Washington Senators.

Doyle (and others) used spitballs, dirty balls smeared with mud or tobacco spittle. They were later banned by 1920.

Doyle began the year 1910 with the New York Highlanders but was soon sold to the Cincinnati

Reds.

Sadly, Doyle's professional career ended in 1915 from an injury to his pitching arm.

After his injury, Slow Joe and his wife, Mary Lackey, moved to the Mountain Top. They had three sons: Edward, Jerome, and Walter. Slow Joe Doyle opened Doyle's Garage, which spanned the creek at 23A & North Lake Road in Haines Falls. His family operated Doyle's until 1950.

Slow Joe died in 1947 at 66 yrs. and rests at Tannersville's Evergreen Cemetery.

His collector's baseball card contained an error which was quickly fixed. Those few sold cards are worth \$550,000 today.

It was fun studying Slow Joe Doyle's story. It's nice to see a farm boy growing up without much money, making it to the big league. That's history. Thank you, Judd Bruce.

Stay safe, take care, and thanks for reading.
Dede Terns-Thorpe/Hunter Historian

Pedrito Martinez Band: Afro-Cuban Folkloric Music Next Week

Saturday, March 11, 2023 @ 8:00 pm

ORPHEUM PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

6050 Main Street, Tannersville, NY 12485

Tickets Purchased Ahead: \$30 adults/\$25 seniors/\$7 students (Higher at-the-door ticket prices apply)

Call 518 263 2063 or email boxoffice@catskillmtn.org

(Note: Online ticket sales close 5 hours prior to performance time. After that, please call 518 263 2063 and leave a message for our box office team. One of us will

return your call to purchase tickets. Or, you may purchase tickets at the door)

Since settling in New York City in the fall of 1998, Pedrito has recorded or performed with Wynton Marsalis, Paul Simon, Bruce Springsteen, Dave Matthews, and Sting, and has contributed to well over 100 albums. A master of Afro-Cuban folkloric music and the batá drum, he has played and sung with dozens of Cuban rumba groups and contributed to several important films. Pedrito released a Grammy-nominated al-

bum in 2013. His second album was recorded in Cuba and released in 2016 featuring, Ruben Blades, Isaac Delgado, Wynton Marsalis, and Angelique Kidjo. In 2019, Pedrito and Cuban pianist, Alfredo Rodriguez, released a duo album with Quincy Jones as Executive Producer. In July 2019, Pedrito and Eric Clapton recorded a newly arranged version of Clapton's song, "My Father's Eyes," and on September 22, Pedrito and Clapton performed together at Clapton's Crossroads Guitar Festival in Dallas, Texas.

\$25 Digital Subscription
518-763-6854

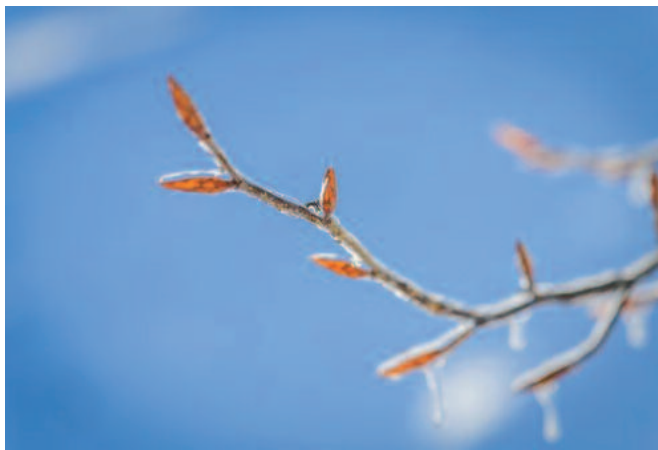
Learn to Identify Trees in Winter at Mountain Top Arboretum

Cost of Admission: Members Free, suggested donation of \$10 for non-members.

This is an in-person event!

Even in winter, even without leaves, our tree friends are still present, and are each distinctive enough to be identified. In this workshop we will first look at twigs, needles, and fruit of some trees in the classroom, and then head out and look at the bark, branching, and form unique to each species. Special attention will also be given to traditional medicinal and cultural significance of certain species, and the stories they tell. Dress warmly, and bring a hand lens or magnifying glass if you have one.

Rich Ring is a botanist and ecologist who has worked primarily on landscape ecology, natural areas inventories, habitat requirements of breeding



passerine birds, and rare plant species distribution and conservation. Previously he has pursued these interests across ridge, swale, and tussock for the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program, and the Alaska Bird Observatory. Raised in Washington County, New York, he began studying rare plant species across New York for the New York Natural Heritage Program in 2006.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO

VOLUNTEER?

We would love your help with greeting visitors or gardening. Find more information on our website <https://www.mtarboretum.org/volunteer>.

LOCATION: Mountain Top Arboretum

DATE: March 25, 2022

TIME: 10am - noon

ADDRESS: 4 Maude Adams Road, Tannersville, NY 12485

EMAIL: info@mtarboretum.org

PHONE: 518-589-3903

WEB SITE: www.mtarboretum.org

The Prattsville Scoop

By Abby and Gabby
PRATTSVILLE – Let's start off on a very happy and uplifting note. It is Toby Olivieri's 100th Birthday on March 4 and wants to remind you to send her birthday greetings. Toby Olivieri, P. O. Box 58, East Jewett, NY 12424. A few days' delay will prolong her celebration of reaching this momentous milestone. Happy Birthday Toby and so glad you are part of our community. Enjoy your day.

Continued gratitude and love to our medical professionals, healthcare workers, EMTs, and all essential workers. You are the best.

Got to see Joann Roman at, where else, Jim's Great American. Haven't seen her all winter but did notice that she had some cheery Valentine's Day decorations on her front door passing by her home. That was a spirit lifter as were her compliments. Nice to just exchange some positive news tidbits. Joann is able to give you some points of interest in our area we were not aware of. Keep exploring Joann and thanks for the information and compliments.

Our WTS (WhatThe-Soap) shop is now located on Main Street, Windham, behind the Wind Star building. Owners Matt and Melissa Peters were able to expand the store area and have immediately increased the number of exhibitors with lots of items that will say "just can't leave here without this." Lots of local artisans as well as soaps, lotions, etc. made by Matt and Melissa. Melissa's sugar facial scrubs do a good job and don't worry if you get a trace in your mouth, they taste good. They were closed on Wednesday we stopped by but they invited us in and showed us around their many displays. We also enjoyed just talking to them. Stop by their store.

Our sympathy goes out to the family of Louise McRoberts. What a lady and what a life! Had many chances to talk with her about her military service and exchanged novels that we thought the other would enjoy. Prayers to all.

Ten ladies of Prattsville – Carol Landers, Ginny Kennedy, Kathy Sherman, Shelly Brainard, Peg Robinson, Maggie, Joanne Dumphy, and daughter Joy, Areta Jaeger, and Diane Eklund – enjoyed lunch and each other's company at Sundees in Grand Gorge Friday afternoon. Peg Robinson's friend from Elka Park stopped by to visit her and she was impressed with all

aspects of The Mews where Peg lives. Nice to see Peg is integrating into our community but knew her before so know she is the type to join in activities. Hope to see you around Peg.

From Commander Chris Tompkins of the American Legion Virgil E. Deyo Post 1327, Prattsville, "Hello Banner Sponsors, Toward the end of 2022, we were looking for a way to try to continue our Military Tribute Banner program along Main Street, without costing you all a lot more money. What we came up with was to offer you all the opportunity to extend the length of time your banner will be displayed without having to purchase another banner at full price. What does this mean? For \$50, if your banner is still in good serviceable condition, we would display it for another two-year period. If you do not want to participate in this, you are more than welcome to request we return your banner to you. We will make arrangements with you for the return. If your banner is in unserviceable condition (severely torn or otherwise) we will contact you about your options. We would request that if you do choose to participate, you mail your payment as soon as possible so when Memorial Day arrives, we can have an accurate account for our display season. Mail checks to: American Legion Post 1327, PO Box 272, Prattsville, NY 12468.

Be sure to note on the check that this is a renewal for 2023-2024 display periods. If you sponsored more than one banner, be sure to note that as well. If you have questions, feel free to reach out. Thank you to all for supporting our banner program and continuing to support our American Legion Post. Sincerely, Chris Tompkins Commander, Virgil E. Deyo Post 1327" The Prattsville Banner program was an example to many other towns and villages, receiving many compliments, for starting their own banner programs for their veterans.

Peg Young got to spend some family time with her sister Karen to tend to sad family events. Our sympathy and love go to the ladies who lost both their mother Peg and father John during the past year.

Peg and Karen surely shared some of their fun times with their parents and sister Johanna.

To keep the family connections going, we mentioned Margaret Deyo

Lawrence of Lexington last week. Margaret is the first cousin of the late Margaret (Peg) Becker Wilkins. Margaret and Peggy were first cousins as well as being first cousins to Virgil E. Deyo. Margaret's latest gift of approximately 20 laprobes/afghans for veterans are absolutely beautiful and so very soft and colorful. They will keep you warm and given with love. Local veterans you are invited to enjoy these – just give me a call for getting one. You will love them.

Got a chance to have a phone conversation with Liz Lepage of the Mountain Eagle's Stamford office. Had worked with Liz close to twenty years ago when there was a Windham Journal office in Windham and she was in the Stamford office for the same newspaper group. She is still going strong and helpful as ever, assisting with my request. Thanks Liz.

Who says the IRS is not helpful? After running into a snag when filing a very simple return, until it isn't, I called the IRS help number. After the recording said it would be a seven-minute wait, was amazed that within two minutes a very patient and helpful Mr. Reese got on the line and guided me through the maze or whatever I was doing wrong – he didn't know either – and I was eventually able to file the return. Thank you Mr. Reese for your patience and assistance. The only time he laughed was when I said an expletive for being stymied once again.

Does anyone know where you can get shoes repaired or soles or heels replaced? With manmade soles, when they start to fall apart, they leave a trail of black chunks and crumbles.

Happy Birthday to Toby Olivieri and Nicholas Dibble (Ken and Karen Aurigema's grandson) on March 4. On March 7 we wish Joan Lane Ehlers and Bonnie Chase a Happy Birthday. Way out in Missouri, we wish Larry Hill a Happy Birthday on March 8. Larry stays up to date on his hometown events and happening by reading The Scoop. Larry and wife Sandy also let us know their family news by email and enquire about our community events. On March 10 it is Happy Birthday to Scott Haskin.

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

Ashland Speaks

By Lula Anderson

February: we always consider it one of the easiest months to get through as it is the shortest. It can be cruel, or it can tease us about the imminent arrival of Spring. The last few days were a definite reminder that winter is not over, but we have had some beautiful days to get outdoors and play. I'm writing this in February, so can't comment on how March is coming in, although while you're reading this the answer will be there. The wildlife is starting to reappear. I thought that I had gotten rid of my resident skunk, but the very first warm day he (she) was back under my house. Local farmers are mourning the loss of chickens to fishercats. Skiers have been sharing the upper slopes with bears. Yes, welcome to March, just remember we can still get snow and cold.

With the arrival of March is the question "When do we mess with the clocks again?" Don't forget to Spring Forward on March 12. One less hour of sleep, one more hour of daylight at night. The Spring solstice means that there are equal hours of daylight and dark, then the days start becoming noticeably longer.

Along with Spring comes the Burn Ban in NYS. No open outdoor fires from March 15 thru May 15. NO burning leaves, brush, or uncontained campfires/firepits. The high winds that we have been having this year dry out the top layer of grass and soil and make it easy for a single spark to start a massive brush fire.

WAJPL GoldenAgers meet the first and third Mondays of the month in their home downstairs in the Windham Town Hall in Hensonville. The next meeting will be on March 6 starting at 1PM. On March 13, we will be holding a fun day making candles. To sign up contact mtsunflower@aol.com. Materials are provided.

If you have signed up to see HAMILTON, Leave times are: 8:15 Prattsville ball field, 8:30 St. Theresa's, and 9 at Catskill Thruway. Please make sure to arrive at least 15 minutes early.

The WAJ drama students have been busy studying their lines for this year's production of ANNIE. Senior Citizen night which is open to all of the over 55 members of the school district will be on March 16. We will finally be seeing the return of the Dinner Theater rehearsal. Doors will open at 4:45 and the buffet, generously provided by Windham area restaurants will commence at 5. The play is set to begin at 6. Although this is a free rehearsal, we will be asking for your generous donation during in-

termission. We are proud to say that the senior citizens have enabled the drama students to upgrade their speaker and microphone systems with our donations. If you are coming, please call Lynn at 518-989-6867 and leave a message including your name, number of people, call back number, and date that you called. We need a general number of attendees so the restaurants can plan food donations. Thank you.

Don't forget the Windham Hensonville UMC St Patrick's corned beef sandwiches on March 17, starting at 10 AM. Menu includes corned beef on marble rye, cole slaw, chips, dessert, and a drink \$12

Hensonville Hose Company Fish Fry is back on Friday.

Next Dinner Church is at Lexington UMC on March 24 at 6 PM

Thanks to Mike Scarey who cooked up an excellent Pasta Dinner last Friday.

Prayers and sympathy to the family of Marion Quick formerly of Ashland. She will be long remembered for her honey.

AS I REMEMBER

While at the meeting, both guest speakers remarked that they had both worked at the same camp in Hunter. That brought to mind all of the camps that we had in this area in the past. For those coming up East Windham Mt, the first camp was Camp Oh-Ne-Ta, originally a Girl's Quest camp which was founded for the sisters of the boys who attended Boys Athletic League summer programs. The name means "Silver Hemlock". It was also known as Silver Lake for the large lake on the property. The camp is still in operation, although we don't see the signs as we are looking at the hiking access trail just past it. The next camp down the road was the Police Anchor Camp. As a teen, we referred to it as the "half-orphan" camp, as it was geared to children from single-par-

ent homes. Campers came from the Police Athletic Program in Westchester Co. for a two-week stay. There was a large garden and a large farm run by the Meier family. The gardens, cows, and chickens took care of many of the campers' needs, as well as a learning opportunity for "city kids". All are gone now, the buildings fell into disrepair and were torn down. The land was bought by Windham Equipment.

A fun summer campground was White Birches for family camping and activities, with a large lake and pavilion.

Turn up 17 to Jewett, go Goshen St, and in the 70's you could attend Tennis Camp on the land that was once Sunny Crest Villa. There was a main building plus guest cabins. Lessons were given during the summer.

In the 50's, there was a camp for underprivileged children just past the intersection of Bailey Road.

Follow Goshen to 296, and you'll come to the location of the former Camp Beecher. Turn up 23C and you'll come to Boy Scout Rd which is the official camp of the Rip Van Winkle Council. This is still an active camp that hosts a wonderful summer program for earning outdoor merit badges, including BSA LifeGuard, canoeing, all shooting sports, environmental studies, and outdoor camping skills. And a great chance to interact with wildlife.

Go down the road into Tannersville, then through Hunter where Camp Loyaltown is located. It is a wonderful camp for the handicapped.

As I just skimmed the surface, I think I will let you think for a week about how YOU spent your summers. Did you go to camp? Were you a counselor? We all had wonderful opportunities to experience nature, and many organizations let "those poor city kids" enjoy them too.



WRIP 97.9 FM
 From the Catskills to the Capital Region
 104.5 FM Stamford
 103.7 FM Catskill/Hudson
 97.5 FM Hudson Valley
 Streaming worldwide at rip979.com

Groundskeeper / Laborer Wanted
 Landscaping, Pruning, Mowing
 Tractors and Mowers • Experience Required
 Prattsville/Lexington Area
Reliable Transportation a Must
 Speak to Sal (516) 220-1928
 or (516) 458-9113

WALCUTT
 CONSTRUCTION & EXCAVATION
 Phone: 607-326-3335 Cell: 607-435-8303
 Demo · Drainage · Septic Systems
 Road & Construction Maintenance
 Home site development
 Dependable know how!

Got a tip?
 Call us! (518) 763-6854

List experts. Find experts.
Greene County
 Call us! (518) 763-6854

New York
PATRIOT
 PLUMBING & HEATING Group
 SHANE FOLAND-PROJECT MANAGER
 518-231-8071
 WWW.NYPATRIOTGROUP.COM
 S.FOLAND@NYPATRIOTGROUP.COM

BETTER THAN HEARSAY

A Bunch of Feathered Bums

By Michael Ryan
 CORNWALLVILLE - It's gotten pretty crowded around the bird feeder at my house, with winter being as icy as it was lately, making me think the old idiom about thin people eating like birds is bassackwards.

Fact is, the chickadees, blue jays, cardinals and wrens that start swilling as soon as the sun rises and don't stop until sundown are a bunch of bums.

They zoom in all day, perched patiently in the bare wisteria branches like planes idling on the runway at JFK while others stuff their faces.

And then, as the poet John Milton might say, all hell breaks loose with the little winged creatures clinging to the feeder sideways, right side up and upside down, grubbing seed before jetting off.

A few minutes later they return. Maybe all the back-and-forth is a ceaseless burning of calories so they never gain weight because otherwise

the flying hogs are eating me out of house and home. Actually their company is nice and got me wondering, where did the phrase "eating me out of house and home" originate?

Doing some delving, I discovered William Shakespeare first wrote it in one of his plays (Henry IV, Part II, act 2, scene 1) when landlady Mistress Quickly was asked why she called the cops on one of her lodgers.

"He hath eaten me out of house and home; he hath put all my substance into that fat belly of his," Mistress Quickly said, wanting him arrested.

That sort of attitude won't get you very far in Windham these days, being a tourist town and all, but Shakespeare seemed to do all right.

I have recently wondered where the expression "it's costing me an arm and a leg" came from since that's what buying all this bird food is doing.

Three centuries back, if someone had a portrait painted, the price wasn't based on how many people were in it, but rather the number of limbs.

The least expensive option was to just paint heads and shoulders. Throw in some arms and the cost went up, with legs running you the most money.

Letting the cat out of the bag? The story goes that hundreds of years ago it was common for street vendors to sell baby pigs in bags.

Some sellers were slicksters. Not sure how they expected to pull it off but they'd slip a cat into the bag instead of a piglet so if their sneakiness was uncovered before the deal was made...you get the rest.

A radio interview I once did with the legendary Windham brothers Kevin and Aubrey Dunbar came to mind, figuring out how the old expression "barking up the wrong tree" came into existence.

Kevin's nickname is "Dig It." He says he got

it in kindergarten, shoveling in the dirt one day at recess and it stuck. Everybody who knows him has always affectionately called Aubrey "Hound Dog."

In the early 19th Century, packs of dogs were commonly used for hunting. A pooch might chase a critter up a tree but not notice it had jumped to a different tree and keep woof-woofing.

"Hound Dog" never erred. He told me he'd be out with his hunting buddies and when the prey was spotted up in the tree tops, just for fun he would howl like a... you-guessed-it. Gotta' love those dudes.

I enjoy the phrase "raining cats and dogs," picturing what that would look like and dodging them, but nobody seems to be sure how it originated.

The closest I've ever come to experiencing it was during Hurricane Irene, back in the summer of 2011, standing on Main Street in Windham with a couple of volunteer firefighters, Greg Thorp and Michael Scarey.

It didn't feel like normal rain. It felt as if full buckets of water were being continuously dumped on our heads which explains that idiom.

Thorp and Scarey were out in the thick of it, helping save a woman clinging to a tree, swept off her feet by the pow-



Sun up to sundown, a crowd gathers at a front porch bird feeder in Cornwallville.

erfully rushing waters while a local school bus eerily floated past.

Raining cats and dogs, from what I've read, may have gotten its beginning in Europe due to a mix of bad drainage and lots of stray animals.

When there was a heavy rainstorm, many cats and dogs would drown and their bodies would afterwards wash up in the street so people apparently concluded they fell from the clouds.

On the opposite shore of the Strait of Dover, the Welsh had their own odd view of precipitation, saying it was "raining old

ladies and sticks." But I digress. It was once believed that birds weren't very smart because their heads were so small, limiting them to instinctual behavior.

And the old expression "it's for the birds" describes something worthless or useless, stemming from the gross habit the wingers have of sticking their beaks in piles of manure, searching for seeds.

As it turns out, the little beggars are geniuses and I am living proof. If birds are birdbrains, why am I the one being eaten out of house and home?

MESSAGE OF HOPE BY SISTER CHIRYA

Powerful Positive Words Energize and Heal

Whether it is your inner conversation or a conversation with someone about your health, relationships, career, finances, whatever you talk about, use the highest vocabulary you are aware of. Speak about what you would like to be and to accomplish, although it may not be your current reality!

Daily select and speak a positive pure thought and visualize being this thought. For your inner conversation use only powerful thought words like -

*I am a special soul. *Changing habits is simple for me. *Everything is perfect.

*I am on time. *I am successful. *Of course I will do it. *I will complete it.

*I always do it well. *My body is perfectly healthy. *My meal is healthy and tasty.

Such powerful positive words energize and have a healing effect on our mind and body. The longer you concentrate and merge this thought within, the amount of energy acquired is quite amazing. Every thought and word becomes a blessing and reality for ourselves, and others are

inspired to be their best hearing your words of appreciation and congratulations.

However, 80% of the time our behaviour and speech is unconscious; only 20% of time there is conscious awareness of what I'm thinking, feeling and saying. Imagine! Walking down the road and being 80% unconscious! As we talk, listen to something, speak on the phone, etc, our free space of awareness is often used up with limited things and we continue to lose spiritual energy. We may then look for solace in old habits, substance addictions, overworking, and attachments to external things and people. When confidence diminishes, depression advances!

Pay Attention, but without tension! Learn to be conscious and build inner strength. Recognize useless thoughts and replace them with a spiritual perspective. Free yourself from attachments. Don't give your mind permission to get disturbed. Our mind gets disturbed when we are not following through in life and behaviour with what we deeply believe in.

"Be the change you

wish to see in the world." - Mahatma Gandhi. When we realize our true identity of the soul as the separate inner being sitting in this physical body, we turn inwards. We take time to rest, and focus the mind, heart and emotions, connect with the divine, the Highest soul, God, and fill ourselves with His spiritual power. Our inner space becomes clean with meditation; a peaceful safe place of comfort is experienced within the self. Our inner sense of discernment also increases in this age where 'fake news' has emerged. We see ourselves personally moving forward and changing. It is the greatest gift I give to myself. I now can paint a picture of myself of how I want to be. When I begin to live like this I have confidence in myself. My head and heart are in sync. My thoughts, words and actions are the same.

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

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

Upgrade Your Home with a **NEW METAL ROOF**
 Guaranteed to Last a Lifetime!

LIMITED TIME OFFER
60% off YOUR INSTALLATION + TAKE AN ADDITIONAL **10% off**
 Install for Military, Health Workers and First Responders

STRONG AS STEEL WITH THE ATTRACTIVE LOOK OF VARIOUS ROOF STYLES

From Dimensional Shingles to classic styles reminiscent of Cedar Shake and Spanish Tile, an architectural roofing system by Erie Metal Roofs can enhance the beauty of your home while protecting your family and property for a lifetime.

Call today to schedule your **FREE ESTIMATE**
1-833-595-2093

ERIE Metal Roofs
 Made in the USA

GENERAC

Prepare for power outages today
 WITH A HOME STANDBY GENERATOR

\$0 MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

Contact a Generac dealer for full terms and conditions

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE
 CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE
(833) 480-1091

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty* - A \$695 Value!

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

TRUGREEN

Caring for next spring's perfect lawn starts now.

Save now with **50% OFF** Your First Application
 AMERICA'S #1 LAWN CARE COMPANY

Let the experts at TruGreen® provide a tailored plan that can help your lawn look its very best year-round.

TRUGREEN GUARANTEE TruGreen will gladly visit your property as needed between scheduled visits to ensure your satisfaction*

Our tailored lawn plans utilize the latest technology and techniques that help make your lawn green and healthy.

Our Healthy Lawn Analysis® will examine your grass and soil types and tailor your plan based on the results.†

Call for your **FREE, no-obligation quote today!**
1-855-407-0973

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

TRADITIONALLY SPEAKING BY PAT LARSEN RELATION...SHIPS

When one lives and works in a small community such as ours, the depth of this subject is bound to surface on occasion. At least that has been my experience, personally, and something often repeated among those individuals that I work with from a therapeutic point of view.

The word, relationships, by itself, can be seen from several different perspectives as I will attempt to demonstrate in this column.

I saw the word initially in two parts, as you can see by the title of this piece.

Relation, by itself, speaks to the way in which people, objects or concepts relate to one another. A familial "relationship" speaks to those connected by blood or marriage and possibly kinship.

The word, ship, is indeed curious in its attachment to the first, as in relationship.

My mind, as we know for those of you who follow me, works mysteriously in the world of metaphors and that's literally how I see this meaning.

First let's start with this concept.

Our external relationships reflect our own internal relationship with ourselves. Your primary relationship is with yourself-ALL others are a mirror of it. (bears re-reading, maybe outloud).

So with that in mind, and if you apply this principle to any issues or re-



peated "relationship" problems that come up... it's worth taking the time to look at yourself and how you're reacting from your own vantage point, FIRST.

Especially, if you're frustrated and repeating this pattern over and over. True understanding of this concept can sometimes take a cup of tea or something stronger and a sit down chat with yourself where you explore your own accountability in the matter at hand.

This is why it's so important. Far too often, I'm called in to help work with a matter where someone is stuck in an emotional rut. In reviewing the persons 'story' with them there's lots of finger pointing on their part, much more stress than anyone needs to carry to be healthy, and then no solutions to the situation.

"Papering over cracks" or pretending everything is ok doesn't solve anything except to further bury the issue behind the emotional wall that was created.

If you look closely at

the situations, with me as a guide, or by yourself you begin to exercise the habit of easily seeing problems within yourself or others as messengers and clues to finding lasting solutions to life problems. Doesn't that sound more promising than carrying around a back pack of resentments and ill will?

Before I conclude, because I'm pretty sure I've given you enough to think about for now. Let's look at the last half of this word...SHIPS. Here's the play on words, first, "ships" as in ships passing in the night...

"Ships" as in a vessel that takes sail, perhaps, not to return, "ships" that might contain yes, solutions within.

Another thing that I hear about way too often is that when problems keep continuing to get in the way of our relationships...people set sail and move on.

That's the saddest of relationship issues of all. Relationships take work, they require patience and compassion and kindness. Disputes necessitate courage to resolve. Especially with the elder community that struggles with memory and frustrations relating to illness and aging. Pulling up the anchor is heartbreaking and leaving a long standing relation behind is simply cruel in some cases.

Learn to accept and grow from bumpy roads. Just as we have to deal, on occasion, with detours and road closures, re-

sponding with patience is a gift you give to yourself and your loved one, whoever they might be.

We've come to know fear as of late as our default with the circumstances of the past three years. I'm constantly suggesting that we all learn from how that time felt and have the courage to embrace a loving attitude that will help you achieve a life of joy and happiness that you deserve.

BUILD MORE SOLID RELATIONSHIPS AND YOU'LL ALWAYS FIND HAPPINESS.

Pat Larsen, is a nationally certified clinical hypnotherapist who specializes in healing through the power of one's own story. If you or someone you know is seeking help in these areas, call Pat for a complimentary chat to see if she can help in any way. Many do call and find simple solutions

that hadn't been considered before. Don't hesitate.

Fitness Programs & Classes are taught by Pat for Baby Boomers and Seniors, age 50-70 years young @The Shamrock House in East Durham, mornings.

Contact Pat @ 518-275-8686 or by email, pelarsen5@aol.com for more info.

Two Windham Institutions Give Youth Clubhouse Members A Day To Remember

By Jonathan Gross

Let's take a moment for a little good news! Last Sunday at the request of Mountain Top Cares Coalition and the Youth Clubhouse, Windham Mountain and Windham Movie Theatre opened their hearts for the fourth annual Tubing adventure followed by a movie at the Windham Theater.

Kai Hillmann, Director of the Youth Clubhouses, and the thirty-nine kids and staff arrived at the Windham Mountain Adventure Park in the late afternoon. The younger ones looked at the tubes and the snowy hill with a mixture of awe and trepidation, the older kids knew it would be a long bus ride if they did not match the younger ones ride for ride! All got into the spirit of the moment, climbed into the tubes and slid down the mountain, holding hands, spinning wildly and yelling with joy!

After a bunch of runs, all were invited into the chalet and concession stand for pizza and a

drink. The amazing Adventure Park staff treated the group as family-the only difference was that this was a family that cleaned up after itself!

The next stop on this day to remember was the Windham Movie Theatre. Movie time! The kids were given a choice of which movie to go to and were loaded up with popcorn and soft drinks. Added benefit-Windham Theater is one of the few theaters with couch and tables up front-all now filled with clubhouses!

Chip Seamans and Susan Sommers of Windham Mountain and Pat Higgins of the Windham Movie Theatre acted with generosity and compassion by donating their time, staff and facilities. Far more important was showing Windham for what it truly is, an inclusive community that cares! This project demonstrated Windham at its best.

The Columbia Greene Youth Clubhouse in Catskill promotes long-term recovery and pro-

vides a safe, thriving environment for individual youth and the community at large. Under Kai Hillman's leadership, the Catskill Clubhouse and its members are being trained in the areas of prevention and recovery in the challenging world of substance use issues. Their goal-to personally grow and thrive and to give back to the community!

On the way home, the kids asked (an exhausted) Kai when the next field trip would be. Next year of course and perhaps a summer outing in the mountains as well.

Mountain Top Cares Coalition and the Youth Clubhouse work together sharing a mission to empower those we serve and their families through advocacy, referrals, education, and peer support, envisioning a world in which recovery from addiction is not only possible but celebrated, and where all who seek recovery have access to the care and resources they need to achieve their goals.

TRUGREEN

Caring for next spring's perfect lawn starts now.

Let the experts at TruGreen® provide a tailored plan that can help your lawn look its very best year-round.

Save now with **50% OFF*** Your First Application

AMERICA'S #1 LAWN CARE COMPANY

TRUGREEN GUARANTEE TruGreen will gladly visit your property as needed between scheduled visits to ensure your satisfaction*

Our tailored lawn plans utilize the latest technology and techniques that help make your lawn green and healthy.

Our Healthy Lawn Analysis® will examine your grass and soil types and tailor your plan based on the results.†

Call for your **FREE, no-obligation quote today!**
1-855-407-0973



GENERAC

Prepare for power outages today

WITH A HOME STANDBY GENERATOR

\$0 MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

Contact a Generac dealer for full terms and conditions

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE

CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE

(833) 480-1091

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty* - A \$695 Value!

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

Upgrade Your Home with a **NEW METAL ROOF**

Guaranteed to Last a Lifetime!

LIMITED TIME OFFER

60% off YOUR INSTALLATION + TAKE AN ADDITIONAL **10% off**

Install for Military, Health Workers and First Responders

ERIE Metal Roofs

Warranty: Limited Lifetime. Transferable to subsequent owner from original purchase. Terms and conditions apply. *Not available on roofs of the surface coating beyond normal wear and tear.

STRONG AS STEEL WITH THE ATTRACTIVE LOOK OF VARIOUS ROOF STYLES

From Dimensional Shingles to classic styles reminiscent of Cedar Shake and Spanish Tile, an architectural roofing system by Erie Metal Roofs can enhance the beauty of your home while protecting your family and property for a lifetime.

Call today to schedule your **FREE ESTIMATE**

1-833-595-2093

ERIE Metal Roofs

Made in the USA

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc. ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. Offer expires March 31, 2023. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on homesevices.compliance.com. All rights reserved.

(MORE) BETTER THAN HEARSAY

An Odd Night

By Michael Ryan
WINDHAM - One of the odder meetings of the Windham town council took place, last week, when representatives of the Windham Area Recreation Foundation asked to formally set up a private/public partnership.

No specific details were offered by WARF president Nick Bove and WARF board of directors member Drew Shuster about how the pairing between WARF and the town would operate or what specifically would be done.

Bove and Shuster did present an itemized list of "Maintenance Needed for the Windham Path," apparently suggesting WARF could somehow be involved in the upkeep which is currently handled by the town.

Reference was also made to WARF apparently helping raise outside funding rather than using only taxpayer dollars for preservation.

Government leaders, without requesting more information or discussing a possible arrangement, quickly said "no thank you" to the offer.

What unfolded next can be lightly described as a volatile situation. Tensions swiftly arose and heated emotions spilled over, ultimately resulting in the same outcome but leaving several unanswered questions.

It began routinely. "I don't have to tell you guys how popular the Path has become and how much of a valued asset it is for the community," Bove said, starting his presentation to council members.

Few people, if any, would argue about the magnetism of the Windham Path, drawing thousands of local residents and visitors every year.

It was created through the efforts of WARF and

Bove who came to the town council, several years ago, seeking seed money to follow what was then little more than a dream.

That dream became reality, constructing the Path on town-owned land, and Bove said, "there was an unwritten but good relationship with the town," saying the Path was "built [by WARF] at no cost to taxpayers."

"We are in our tenth year of the Path," Bove said, sharing photographs of spots that are showing wear and tear related to circumstances such as natural shifting of ground on bridge entrances and exits on the Path.

"This is a danger for pedestrians and cyclists," the Maintenance List stated, also stating, "the entire surface of the trail will need to be resurfaced with fresh stone dust," most likely a costly venture.

Government leaders had a copy of the Maintenance List but stayed succinct in their rejection of the WARF proposal without giving any particular reason.

"Gary takes care of maintenance on the Path," town supervisor Thomas Hoyt said, referring to local highway superintendent Gary Thorington.

"We got your list," Hoyt said. "We will look at what is pointed out. Gary will address those issues and make any necessary repairs. We will go from there so the public can enjoy the Path."

The first phase of the Windham Path officially opened on Memorial Day in 2013, followed by Phase 2 in 2015, according to the WARF website.

Maintenance was initially intended to be a WARF responsibility but along the way was turned over to the town, officials say.

Whatever has transpired since then, the town showed no inclination to-

ward partnering with WARF, revealing very strained relations, at best.

It is safe to say pleasantries were not exchanged. Bove did nothing to hide his disagreement with the council's decision, and council members very carefully chose their words, responding to him and Shuster.

"One person is very good at talking," Bove said, clearly referring to Hoyt, and then, directing his comment to the entire council said, "if any of you have an independent thought, it would be nice."

Shuster, gently moving Bove aside, said to council members, "as a taxpayer, I want to know why you aren't open to a partnership. Why use taxpayer's money if there is another option?"

"We partner with a lot of good people," councilman Ian Peters said. "We are not against public/private partnerships."

"Oh, Ian has a thought," Bove said.

Shuster said, "on social media, you always see the Windham Path mentioned. It would be wonderful to continue a public/private partnership. How can we promote the town without impacting taxpayers?"

"Taxpayers agree with what we are doing," councilman Wayne Van Valin said. "If we were making a stupid move for the taxpayers, we would have already done something about it."

Closing the matter, at least for the moment, Hoyt said to Bove and Shuster, "I would advise you to budget your money somewhere else. We will maintain our property. End of story."

A request for greater detail on the proposed partnership was emailed to Shuster, last week. No response was received by press time.

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

VFW POST 1545 – WINDHAM, NY WEEKLY UPDATE

We would like to thank all who attended our pasta dinner this past Friday. It was a great success night.

Would like to thank Michael Scarey, Eric and Debbie Goettsche, Gill Hughes, Lynn Verrengia and Jackie Kayata for all their help.

Thank all who donated to the Alliance 180 program that supports veteran and first responders with suicide prevention. Should you want more information regarding Alliance 180 you can go to www.alliance180.org.

VFW Commander-in-Chief Timothy Borland said one of the best services that the VFW offers is helping veterans file disability claims through VFW's network of accredited service officers. "We'll guarantee serv-



ice is done the right way," Borland said. "This ensures that we help veterans and family members of veterans."

The VFW-supported Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding VA Benefits Act, known as the GUARD VA Benefits Act.

Reintroduced in the new Congress with sixty-nine cosponsors, this bipartisan legislation would reinstate criminal penalties for unaccredited claim representatives who charge unauthorized fees for helping veterans file claims for VA disability compensation benefits.

These companies are incentivized to operate

outside of the law due to the lack of penalties. Cracking down on Claim Sharks is one of the VFW's top legislative priorities for the 118th Congress.

This week I would like to spotlight Richard Hughes. Dick was drafted into the Army in 1966.

After qualifying and completing Officers Candidate School, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant.

He became an officer in the Corp of Engineers and did a tour of duty in Vietnam. Upon discharge from the service, he rose to the rank of Captain. Dick has held several officer positions in our post.

We salute his service to our country.

Marc Farnillette, PDC – Quartermaster Post 1545.



You Deserve Better

We hope you agree.

**Subscribe by April 1st
and receive \$15 gift
certificates each from:**




Choose from:

- One Year Digital: **\$10/year**
- One Year Print Subscription: **\$25**
- Two Digital Subscriptions: **\$15**
- Two Print Subscriptions: **\$40**

Send your physical or email address below (or two if you purchase one for a friend) and mail to:

The Mountain Eagle, PO Box 162, Schoharie NY 12157 or call 24/7 at 518-763-6854 for instant service.

THE DDS COMPANIES

GAS DISTRIBUTION CONSTRUCTION



JOIN OUR TEAM!
ALBANY/CAPITAL REGION

- FOREMAN - Starting at \$40/hr
- OPERATORS - Starting at \$30/hr
- LABORERS - Starting at \$20/hr

Actual pay rates may vary depending on experience.

← SCAN TO APPLY NOW!

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

Get Your
Subscription
Today

518-763-6854

Broadway Returns to the Catskills



The performing cast of 'From Broadway With Love' at the Orpheus Theater in Tannersville

By Robert Brune
TANNERSVILLE — The Orpheus Theater put on a tremendous show this past weekend with a combination of local talents, Hedda Flynn and CJ Dunn-Cappelino of the Maude Adams Theater Hub (MATH), and a stunning cast from Broadway. Harley Yanoff, actor/performer, brought together a group of his friends from Broadway to put on a review of popular musicals including performers such as Caitlin Kinnunen, De'Lon Grant, LaDawn Taylor, Michael Seltzer, and Monica Rodrigues. Titled 'From Broadway With Love' was a Valentines themed delight.

The show was so impressive because of the chemistry between the performers. To begin the show a full cast ensemble gave a moving rendition of 'Season of Love' from the play Rent. The theater was nearly sold out and automatically you could tell this was a success by the reaction from the crowd after the first performance. Michael Seltzer's playful 'Can't Take My Eyes Off of You' (Jersey Boys) definitely helped draw the audience in more. Local talent CJ

Dunn-Cappelino, a theater superstar in the Tannersville area, was charming with his performance of 'When I'm Near the Girl I Love' (Finian's Rainbow). Then LaDawn Taylor blew the roof of with 'Knock On Wood' (Disaster the Musical) which got the audience up and out of their seats. Harley's interpretation of Hairspray's 'It Takes Two' was a crowd-pleaser as well. The first set was concluded with the musical skirmish of 'Take Me or Leave Me' (Rent) with Caitlin Kinnunen and LaDawn Taylor.

During the intermission, I had the opportunity to meet the parents of CJ Dunn-Cappinello. His mother was so proud and overwhelmed with happiness that she found the experience too difficult to describe. CJ's father Chris was gushing with praise for his son, explaining how CJ has had the full support of all his family and the community. Since CJ expressed a passion for the theater a couple of years ago, his father explains, "He sang in the house and in the car, but he's always been very modest about it. He had the opportunity to be on the

stage a couple years ago. Ever since we've been so proud, he's just been crushing it."

The second set began with the song 'Agony' (In the Woods) with De'Lon Grant and Michael Seltzer. Then Hedda Flynn lit up the stage with her version of 'Gimme Gimme' from Thoroughly Modern Milly. In her commentary with hosts Harley and Monica, Hedda had to say about her song selection, "I'm just so grateful to be able to perform this song in front of such a great audience.", followed by loud cheers from the local Hedda fans, friends, and family.

One of the many special moments of the evening was when Michael Spitzer invited a member of the audience to the stage. A woman named Jessica obliged and Michael serenaded her on stage with 'It Only Takes a Moment' from the classic Hello Dolly. LaDawn stepped up once again to do 'Helpless' the Hamilton version of the Neil Young classic. The grand finale was with the full cast closing out the night with 'For Good' from the Broadway hit Wicked. The interactions



Tony nominated for her role in The Prom, Caitlin Kinnunen singing 'Over the Rainbow' from the Wizard of Oz

of this cast singing together so seamlessly was stunning to watch, especially knowing they had only a few days of rehearsal.

Caitlin Kinnunen, nominated for a Tony Award for her performance in The Prom, expressed gratitude and appreciation for being invited to participate in this two-day event. In response to working with the local talents of Hedda and CJ, Caitlin said "It's magical, I love working with younger talents and really people of any age incorporating them on the stage or concerts with professional level actors because you can't learn this in a classroom. You know what's onstage and the magic that gets created. I love sharing it with them." In reviewing the biography pages of all the professional cast members, Harley did an exception job of gathering his Broadway friends with a history of giving back to the community.

Speaking with Hedda after the performance, I asked her if she made any special connections with the professional cast members. Hedda replied, "I feel like LaDawn took me under her wing, made

me feel really comfortable and safe in this space. She is really incredible." Hedda is looking forward to performing in Cabaret at the Red Barn in August. It turns out Hedda's mother Amy Scheibe is one of the primary producers of MATH and Hedda's response to working so closely with her mom, "She's hands off on everything. She's like, if you want something, work for it. If you need advice, I'll be there for you but I'm not going to tip the scale for you." Hedda's mother clearly has faith in her talent as a performer. Amy spoke on her daughter's experience with this production, "She just felt completely confident, and she belongs there. She's in high school and expressed an interest in a career in medicine, but now she's like 'I don't want to give up the dream, yet.' And that's just so amazing to see."

Amy Scheibe on the revival of theater in the Catskills, "It's kind of like bringing back the Catskills routine back to the Catskills. You know all the great entertainment of the '50's and '60', it has that feel to

it." Amy is especially looking forward to the Cash On Cash biographical performance on the history of Johnny Cash on Saturday April 1 at the Doctorow Center for the Arts.

CJ is looking forward auditioning for a role in the Addams Family play this Spring, which will be opening at the Phoenix Theater this coming June. He will, also, be returning to the Orpheus Theater for another run of The Rocky Horror Picture Show next Fall.

LaDawn Taylor's reflections on this experience at the Orpheus Theater, "This was incredible... (on working with Hedda) Honestly, she is so precious and a gem, young ladies like that, you want to encourage them to keep going. I was like, I got you girl, I got you." When we were finished talking, LaDawn reached out for a hug and, for a split second, I thought, 'Am I supposed to be hugging the folks I'm interviewing?' But why not? Even journalists need a hug now and then.

For Calendar of Events: <https://www.maudeadams-theaterhub.org/>



Broadway star LaDawn Taylor at the Orpheus in Tannersville recently featured in Donna: The Donna Summer Musical in NYC



Ensemble of the cast and hosts Harley Yanoff and Monica Rodrigues singing 'For Good' from the play Wicked

FIRE MARK INSURANCE AGENCY
 FINGER LAKES FIRE & CASUALTY CO
 PO Box 39 • 826 East Main Street
 Cobleskill NY 12043
 518-234-2121

We are a full-service property & casualty agency offering insurance coverage on

- AUTO • HOME
- LIABILITY • LIFE
- HEALTH
- WORKERS COMPENSATION

We offer the best coverage and price to fit your needs because we represent you.

Stop in to see Ray for all your insurance needs.
Ray Gillis
 ray@firemarks.com

LLC Formation

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

Belleayre Ski Patrol Annual Brooks BBQ and Dance

Saturday March 11th - BBQ from 4:00 to 6:30 P.M. Dance - The Blues Manuever Band 5:30 to 9:30 P.M.

**Belleayre Mountain Ski Center, Overlook Lodge
 181 Galli Circle Road - Highmount, NY 12441**

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

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

Buy some raffles! Lots of prizes!



THE TAPESTRY BY DR. DEBORAH HERODES

The 'Pontif'ications of Francis

"Judge not, Lest Ye Be Judged"

Although many were shocked and surprised at the recent pontifications of the world's Roman Catholic Pope, I was not. Over the past 10 years, Pope Francis has done his best to recognize society for what it is and religion for what it is. He does not attach religious dogma to society, although he holds with the scriptures of the Bible (at least, his interpretation of them,) in living his own life and when looking upon society.

If one could take the vestments off the Pope, for a moment, and look at the man, who lives every day in the clothes of the highest-ranking religious leader in the world, then one might see there is a man, who undoubtedly knows and cares about people in the LGBTQ community. As a member of the human race, and as a spiritual leader, the openness of his words, "Being Gay is Not a Crime," should be applauded by those of us who call ourselves either human and/or spiritual. He did not offer agreement with life choice in any way, shape or form, but he did say that "God loves his people," and so should all of His creations love each other. As far as allowance in the churches of Catholicism around the world, the Pope spoke of the need to allow all people the right and privilege of knowing God, in God's own house. To worship, to share and to love are all things necessary for the faithful and for the survival of the church itself.

Christians have had a hard time, throughout the ages, learning to accept anyone or anyone's practices that they believe may be against the translations of teachings of the Bible. Need I mention Saul? It doesn't take one long to recognize all the fighting that has gone on through the ages because of doctrine. The LGBTQ community is just the newest sect of people that are knock, knock, knocking on heaven's door or in many cases, on church doors for

entrance. Think of Martin Luther and the literal door he needed to use to open the minds of people.

It is difficult to believe, in this day and age, that so many still stand in judgment of each other. One would think the world has grown up a bit in its recognition of different values and different beliefs. It certainly is not for me to judge another or another's ways, as I'm not sure if my own ways, throughout the years, have been pleasing to God. I have read countless interpretations of the Bible, to try to make sense out of what the monks wrote down for believers to base their lives upon. Inspired scriptures and prophecies have left me wondering where the lessons for life and belief in the Almighty begin. Is the Old Testament simply a preparation for the New Testament or is the Old Testament the guidebook of the Jews?

Reading different translations and Christian articles can leave one spinning. I had always thought, when I was younger, the Bible was patriarchal, and although I believe it still is (due to its authors,) I have also begun to believe that in most cases, (in the Bible,) it is the woman who God places His faith in, for the most difficult of tasks. Forget Eve and Deliah and Lot's wife (blame had to be placed on them for their husband's actions.) Concentrate instead on Mary and Mary Magdalene, who the Bible spoke nothing or little of, after the resurrection. It was these two women, who were not afraid to be at the foot of the cross, despite the treacherous Roman guards, who could just as easily have killed them, as they had Christ. Think about the greatest story of human kindness, as witnessed in the book of Ruth. Ruth and Naomi's love for each other, despite one being a mother-in-law and one being a daughter-in-law, with no

remaining husbands, is uplifting. Think of Elizabeth, who was asked to have a child in her old age. She was to become the mother of John the Baptist. She had been barren but was chosen to give birth to the one who would baptize Christ. Think of the womenfolk of Lazarus, one who worked so hard to make Christ comfortable and one who, at her leisure, decided to spend quiet time with him. They were both believers in the face of their loved one's death and stood witness to the first and foreshadowed resurrection. I have reintroduced myself to all these ancient women and the parts they played in making the greatest story ever told, the greatest.

In today's world, we still haven't seen a female Pope (be patient, old traditions die slowly,) and I must believe it is because of the old teachings, written by men and carried out by men, but most importantly interpreted by men. But times are changing and the world's starting to understand that education belongs to all, as does the right to choose a religion and interpret a religion, the right to choose a lifestyle and profession. In this country, we are told to understand that there is a division between church and state, but we all know that doesn't happen very often; perhaps only in the removal of prayers in school after the pledge of allegiance.

I want to applaud the Pope for recognizing the hypocrisy of the church's believers and thank him for calling them out! He has his own beliefs in the scriptures and holds to them, but he also recognizes the need to follow the teachings of One who spoke of the greatest of all blessings ("And the greatest of these is love.") Go ahead and love thy neighbor and be welcoming to anyone and everyone who wants to be a part of your community and/or worship in your church; imagine what a world we would have!

A CONVERSATION ABOUT

Birds



This week we're discussing birds. For two reasons. One is that I have a raucous crowd of birds in my yard. The other is that it caused an earworm in my head. Most of you are too young to remember, but it's a song from the sixties. It starts "let me tell you about the birds and the bees and the flowers and the trees". So this week we're talking about birds. Next time, bees. Then flowers, and, of course then trees.

The reason I became fixated on birds at this particular time is that I have feeders just outside my window. As I sit at my desk I look out and enjoy them. I also curse the squirrels, but that's a story for another day. A week or so ago I saw my first Red-winged Blackbirds. They're a traditional harbinger of spring, and a noisy one at that. In fact, often we hear them before we see them...unless we host a bird snack bar, of course. When I let the dog out, I heard another bird call that I hadn't heard in some time. I grabbed my phone and pulled up the Cornell bird identification app. It's called Merlin and you can just turn it on and record bird calls. As they sing, the app pulls up a picture of the bird, its name and a recording of its song to listen to later. The app is free and does a whole lot more than that. Look for yourself at <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>. I quickly got readings for a Carolina Wren, an American Crow, a Dark-Eyed Junco, a Tufted Titmouse, a Black-capped Chickadee, a White-throated Sparrow and a Canada Goose. I was trying to ID the Wren, as it turned out, but hadn't even noticed several of the others because I'm so used to hearing them. Once I was recording what I smugly thought was a Raven and found out that the coarse "gronk" sound was from a Grey Heron passing overhead as it commuted between ponds.

If you have birdhouses, you may have noticed an interest in housing among the birds in the neighborhood. My Bluebird neighbors are shopping assiduously, Mama inspecting and having the final approval while Papa sits atop the domicile anxiously awaiting her decision. The Wrens start a little later, but they're a real melodrama in the process. Papa builds several twig nests, then perches near one and lets loose with a mating song that's big enough for a much larger bird. Mama comes and inspects all the offerings, and it's a real nail-biter until she settles in. I've

been evicted from my converted newspaper box/ hand tool storage box for the past five years. Neither of us will concede and we've learned to duck and cover whenever I have to go past their homestead.

For more specific information about our local birds, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Greene and Columbia Counties has a website with a page dedicated to our podcast "Nature Calls: Conversations from the Hudson Valley" at <https://ccecolumbia-greene.org/gardening/nature-calls-conversations-from-the-hudson-valley>. Episodes 3 (winter feeding), 13 (NYS Bird Atlas), 28 (grassland birds) and 50 (birds of prey) are all interviews with local author and bird expert, as well as Master Gardener Volunteer, Kathryn Schneider. Her book, "Birding the Hudson Valley" is available at bookstores and libraries.

If you have particular questions on any birding, gardening, ecology or climate change issues, the Master Gardener Volunteers can be reached by email at columbiagreengmgv@cornell.edu.

THE CATSKILL GEOLOGISTS BY PROFS ROBERT & JOHANNA TITUS

Ripples At Opus 40

Your stereotype of a scientist at work probably involves a white coated person sitting in a lab with beakers of fuming and toxic fluids all about. Bunson burners are keeping these beakers boiling. That person will likely someday die of some awful chemical related lung cancer. When we are at work it is not in a lab, it is outside. And we are almost certainly wearing blue jeans. Red checked flannel shirts and Indiana Jones hats are optional. Leather boots are very helpful. Our lungs have long been filled with fresh clean outdoors air. We try to stay healthy.

And that was how it was when we were working at Opus 40. We did what geologists do; we wandered around and looked. We watched as one geological feature after another came to light. Does that sound like fun? Well, it is. Like all geologists, we see those things that we have learned to see. The two of us have been out in the field here in the Catskills for decades so we know what to look for. Let's do one



of those features right now. Take a look at our photo. The man is standing on something that are called ripple marks. He is also standing on the bottom of a Devonian river channel, quite possibly the very same river we talked about in last week's column. He is looking in an upstream direction. Those ripple marks stretch left to right and there are a lot of them. Each ripple is roughly parallel to all of the others. What's going on here? Or, better, what was going on here? We geologists can look at the evidence and tell the tale.

These ripples have two slopes to them. The gentle slopes dip away from us; the slopes nearest us are steeper and shadowed. These ripples are thus asymmetrical. That is typical of what geologists call current ripples. About 385 million years ago, when this was a stream bottom, there was a river current flowing towards

us. It swept up and carried along river sands. Then those currents sculpted the sands into those asymmetric ripples. It gives us a vivid image of an ancient stream bottom. We took our turns standing there and looking upstream. We held our hands up and felt the river currents coming towards us and passing by, going downstream. We have written about things like this before. See our June 3rd column from last summer. You save these, right?

It was Harvey Fite who cleared this part of the quarry and exposed these ripple marks. We can't help but to wonder if he did all this on purpose. Were the ripples parts of his sculpture? We will never know that for sure but that's our best guess.

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

SK Rams Headed Back to Sectional Championship

DELAWARE LEAGUE – The South Kortright Rams are headed back to the Section IV, Class D championship game where they will look to defend their title this Saturday as they face Southern Cayuga at the SUNY Delhi Clark Sports Arena. At press time, that game was tentatively set for 4 p.m.

SK defeated league rival Charlotte Valley 83-65 in Tuesday's semifinal at SUNY Delhi.

Connor Quarino bucketed his 1,000th career point in the action, pumping in 44 points on the night to lead the win. He got help from teammate Troy Dianich with 14 points.

For CVCS Jameson Quigley led the battle with 24 points on the night and teammate Trevor Waid added another 19 points in double figures. The third-seeded Wildcats finished their season at 18-4.

Quarino also led the way for the Rams with 28 points in Friday's quarterfinal game, while teammates Josh Anderson and Troy Dianich chimed in another 15 and 12 points, respectively, in double figures.

The two teams traded

baskets over the first quarter of play, before the Rams began to pull away, owning a 10-point lead at the half and going on from there.

The Charlotte Valley Wildcats advanced to the semifinal with a 58-41 victory over Tri-Valley League Laurens/Milford.

Jameson Quigley led Davenport with 18 points, while teammates Trevor Waid and Cooper Wright added another 15 points each to the win.

CVCS jumped out to a 17-6 first quarter lead and

never looked back.

In the other quarterfinal involving another Delaware League team, Margaretville fell to Southern Cayuga 72-54 on Friday.

Christian Bravo led Margaretville scoring with 24 points and teammate Connor Wayman added another 12 points, but they were unable to overcome a big lead held by Southern Cayuga.

SC went on to defeat top-seeded Morris on Tuesday. They are seeded fourth in the tournament



Left: South Kortright's Darren Dengler (5) and Josh Anderson (12) sandwich Marathon's Bryce Hatman as he attempts to rebound a shot during Friday's quarterfinal game. SK advanced.

LEGAL ADVERTISING

the hours of 1:30 and 3:30. An appointment to review the assessment information may be made by telephoning the assessor at 518-299-3125.

Public Notice - CWC

The Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) is seeking qualified entities for the creation of an application database and transfer of data from an existing Microsoft Access database consisting of approximately 10,000 records. Bids must be received at CWC by 3:00 PM, March 23, 2023. For bid documents please contact Timothy Cox at 845-586-1400. EOE

Public Notice - Windham

Notice is hereby given that assessment inventory and valuation data is available for examination and review. This data is the information which will be used to establish the assessment of each parcel which will appear on the Tentative Assessment Roll of the Town of Windham which will be filed on

or before May 1st, 2023. The information may be reviewed, by appointment, in the Assessor's Office at 371 State Route 296, Hensonville NY 12439 on April 5th, 6th, 12th, 13th, 19th & 20th, 2023 between the hours of 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm. An appointment to review the assessment information may be made by telephoning the assessor at 518.734.4566 or email to: windhamyassessor@gmail.com

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF LOCAL LAW

The Greene County Legislature on February 6th, 2023, adopted Local Law Number 1 of the Year 2023, as follows:

LOCAL LAW NUMBER 1 OF 2023

A LOCAL LAW PROVIDING REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND AMBULANCE WORKERS PURSUANT TO SECTION 466-A OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW.

BE IT ENACTED by the County Legislature of the County of Greene as follows:

SUMMARY OF LOCAL LAW NUMBER 1 OF 2023:

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

The full text of this proposed Local Law Number 1 of 2023 is available for review in the office of the Clerk of the Greene County Legislature,

Suite 408, 411 Main Street, Catskill, New York 12414, and on the Greene County website: www.discovergreene.com.

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

Tammy L. Sciaivillo, Acting Clerk,

Greene County Legislature

PUBLIC NOTICE - TOWN OF WRIGHT

The Town of Wright, of Schoharie County, NY has completed the Annual Supervisors Report for 2022.

This document is on file with the Town of Wright Clerk and is available for public inspection during Town Clerk business hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Monarch-Palmieri

Town Clerk 2/25/2023

Public Notice - Gilboa Meeting Change

The Town of Gilboa has moved its Town Board meeting date and time to the Second Monday of each month at 6:30 pm.

Little League To Host Saturday Skills Clinics

The Catskill Mountain Little League is gearing up for the upcoming season and has announced three skills clinics across the region for youth baseball and softball players ages 6-12 years old. Clinics will be held at Delaware Academy from 8am-11am on Saturday, March 11th, South Kortright Central School from 10am -12pm on Saturday, March 25th and the Grand Gorge Civic Center from 10am to 12pm on Saturday, April 8th. The final clinic will

be led by Coach Nate Fish. Fish is currently the head coach of the Israel National Baseball team competing in the World Baseball Classic this month and has extensive experience teaching youth baseball. Fish has also coached for the Los Angeles Dodgers (Arizona Fall League), Yarmouth Red Sox (Cape Cod League) and founded the York Baseball Academy in New York City. All CMLL coaches or those wishing to assist in coaching a team this

season are encouraged to attend. The clinics are free to registered Catskill Mountain Little League participants. Non-registered players are also welcome to attend but parents/guardians will be required to sign an insurance waiver. Registration for the upcoming season is open until March 20 online at https://clubs.bluesombrero.com/catskillmtlly or by contacting the League Secretary, Heather Evangelista at (607) 437-7229.

WKC Holding Annual Meeting March 12

ONEONTA — The West Kortright Centre will have its annual meeting and membership gathering on Sunday, March 12 from 2-5 pm. This year's event is hosted by B-Side Ballroom at 1 Clinton Plaza Drive in Oneonta and features live music by Mike Herman, a small tasting menu with seasonal hors d'oeuvres - vegan, gluten free and vegetarian op-

tions included. The annual meeting agenda includes the presentation of the Dorothy Kelso Henderson Award for distinguished, long-term service to The Centre, a discussion about the past, present, and future of the organization, and the election of new members to the Board of Directors.

Tickets for the event are \$25/person and in-

cludes the meal. Cash bar. Reservations are required; RSVP by March 10th. West Kortright Centre membership is encouraged, but not required; Tickets as well as 2023 memberships can be purchased online, by phone, or in person. See www.westkc.org for details or call (607) 278-5454 for more information.

Who Remembers Blondey's?

Do you have memories of Blondey's to share with your neighbors?

The Hobart Historical Society is planning an event as part of its 2023 summer speaker series devoted to Blondey's, the beloved and perhaps a bit infamous restaurant/bar that closed in the 1970s after 50 years of serving food, drink, and spellbinding stories to three generations of appreciative clientele!

Owner Attilio Rivanera, born in northern Italy, was nicknamed Blondey for his shock of thick blond hair. He and his wife Liz met as children in NYC's Greenwich Village. After moving upstate, working on the railroad, farming, and raising a family, the couple opened Blondey's Spaghetti House on Township Road and began cooking up Italian specialties including pizza before pizza became popular in America.

After the repeal of Prohibition in 1933,

Blondey's obtained what is probably the oldest beer license in Delaware County.

Liz was a talented artist who painted Walt Disney characters at her tables to identify them for correct orders. She painted a name or design on a beer stein for each regular customer. The spirited artist-cook also owned a very fancy white Corvette!

"Liz was the one who showed me how to dance," Bob Clark told the Mirror Recorder back in 2012. "My grandfather took me there all the time when it was okay for kids to go to a family bar. Then when I got older, I went there alone. It was the best!"

"About 70 years ago," recalled Johnny (Foote) Wilson, "when we lived at the Montgomery Homestead, I would ride my pony, Remy, down over the hill behind Blondey's and wait for Liz to come out with a carrot. Many times it was not Liz but someone who'd had a lit-

tle too much of the malt and wanted to race back up the hill. Needless to say, clearly no contest!"

Blondey's was said to be "as roaring as the 20s" and Liz "saved the stories you can't print" for her lucky customers.

Back in the day there were two popular venues on Township Road just outside the village. Near Blondey's was Rapses' farm, where dances were held in a barn. Saturday nights on Maple Avenue in Hobart were roaring indeed, with cars racing up the road to their favorite haunts!

If anyone in the community would like to share memories, photos and/or memorabilia about Blondey's as we prepare for the series, please reach out to Peg Kenyon at : 5919 County Hwy 12, East Meredith, NY 13757 or kenyonmargaret@delhitel.net. Ideally, community members would join us one evening to tell their stories in person. Any contribution is greatly appreciated!

FreeDailyCrosswords.com

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down sections.

SOMETHING TO-DO crossword puzzle grid by Gary Cooper.

Copyright (c) Edited by Timothy Parker

DOWN crossword puzzle clues.

Conviction For Violating Order Of Protection

DELHI – Brandin M. VanTassel, 26, of Walton, New York appeared in Delaware County Court on February 27, 2023 and pleaded guilty to Criminal Contempt in the First Degree, a Class E Felony.

The defendant was arraigned by Acting County Court Judge Gary A. Rosa, on February 27, 2023 on a Superior Court Information which alleged that the defendant intentionally violated an order of protec-

tion.

After arraignment, the defendant pleaded guilty to the charge and admitted that he disregarded the stay away order of protection by sending multiple text messages to the protected party.

The defendant entered his guilty plea as part of a negotiated disposition wherein it is agreed that the defendant will be sentenced to serve 6 months in the Delaware County Correctional Facility, and then 5 years of probation

supervision.

The defendant was committed to the custody of the Delaware County Sheriff's Department following his guilty plea. Sentencing is scheduled for March 27, at 9:00 A.M.

Acting District Attorney Shawn Smith commended Officers Kathryn Mitchel and Zachary Finch of the Village of Walton Police Department for their hard work and thorough investigation of this case.

Delhi Woman Arrested Following Domestic Dispute

Delhi – Today, Sheriff Craig S. DuMond announced the arrest of 24 year old Amelia Taylor of Delhi.

On the morning of February 6th, 2023 Delaware County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a domestic dispute in the Town of Delhi where a report of a possible assault that occurred.

Deputies arrived at the residence interviewing both parties involved in the domestic dispute. At the conclusion of the investigation

patrols submitted for a criminal summons request through the Town of Delhi Court.

On 02/20/2023 patrols subsequently arrested Amelia Taylor serving her with a criminal summons for Harassment in the Second Degree, a Violation in NYS Penal law, returnable to the Town of Delhi Court at a later date.

Spring & Summer Are Almost Here! Don't waste your time cutting grass! CALL ME! Tommy (607) 538-9986 Free Estimates

EDITORIAL

Sign of the Times

Now that we're into March, we will start to see our area bloom, both literally and figuratively. I know that there's a lot more for the newspaper to cover, and as such, to get out to our readers.

One question that comes to mind is whether or not the direct effects of the pandemic on our area are over. I don't mean the use of masks or vaccines or quarantines directly. Instead, we observe many of the social changes, including the arrival of a number of new friends from out of the area.

On the cover of our Catskills Chronicle section we explore more about the impact on the real estate market. The market in Greene and Schoharie Counties is moving swiftly, as well. A combination of factors stemming from the pandemic and high interest rates may mean that many residents will not be able to purchase a home anytime soon.

The influx of money and people to the area has been an interesting phenomenon, and one that will likely be studied for decades from now. One question for our readers: do you believe that the pandemic's coattails are behind us or still with us? Send me your thoughts at mountaineaglenews@gmail.com if you'd like to have a letter to the editor in a coming edition!

- Matthew Avitabile
Publisher

MIGHTY MEAGAN AND THE LEGIONS OF LIGHT BY ELIZABETH M LIVINGSTONE

Sheriff Announces New Promotion

DELHI- Sheriff Craig DuMond announced that Sheriff's Office Civil Division employee Tammy Wagner, of Trout Creek has been promoted to Senior Civil Clerk/ Mrs. Wagner began her career at the Sheriff's Office in June, 2020 when she was hired as a Civil Clerk, accountable for the preparation, distribution and return of a variety of legal documents

Sheriff DuMond remarked, "I'm very proud to announce this promotion. As the Senior Civil Clerk, Mrs. Wagner will now oversee new responsibilities as the Delaware County Pistol Clerk where she will be directly accountable for handling all aspects of the Pistol Permit process, including the distribution, receipt, review and processing of all pistol permit applications and the amendment of issued pistol permits including additions, deletions, change of address, etc. I have the utmost confidence that Tammy will continue to serve the residents of Delaware County with the highest degree of professionalism and competency that she previously exhibited in her former position as Civil Clerk."

Speaking on her promotion, Mrs. Wagner states that she is looking forward to the challenge of the detailed oriented work required of the new position and added, "I love being able to stay with a great agency that I love."



that she is looking forward to the challenge of the detailed oriented work required of the new position and added, "I love being able to stay with a great agency that I love."

MIGHTY MEAGAN AND THE LEGIONS OF LIGHT WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY: ELIZABETH M. LIVINGSTONE



Introducing the Artist
ELIZABETH MAMI LIVINGSTONE, 60, is a Magical Realism artist and fantasy writer, living in the Catskill mountains of New

York. A lifelong animal rescue person, working with local animal groups and the ASPCA. She is a lifelong hospice and healthcare worker,

community and climate advocate. Gaia First Art and Graphics (formerly Art By Beth), is her business of more than 40 years, creating signage, murals

and fine art portraits. Elizabeth is an author of 4 books, several children's stories, and creator of the graphic art and literary magazine, The Legions of Light.

community cultural events, openings and exhibits.

Currently, her work has been selected in an international search for art and stories on Celtic Ireland and will be represented along with 150 artisans in a hardcover coffee table book called, Eye on Kerry.



RUSTY AND LILA BY BILLY SHEARS



For more information or about syndication, contact Mr. Shears at shearswm@protonmail.com. For more Rusty and Lila visit Billy's website PunkCartoons.com

THE MOUNTAIN EAGLE
 PO Box 162 • Schoharie NY 12157
 PO Box 278 • 9 Railroad Avenue Stamford NY 12167
 Phone (607) 652-5252 • (518) 763-6854 • Fax (607) 652-5253
mountaineaglenews@gmail.com
www.the-mountaineagle.com
 Published by Upstate Weekly News:
 Patrick Billings • billingsph@gmail.com
 Matthew Avitabile, Publisher • avitmw@gmail.com
 Robert Panico • rob@upstateweeklynews.com

TEAM AND SECTION INFORMATION
Delaware County / Mountain Eagle (Section A)
 Editorial
Liz Page • Section Editor,
 (607) 652-5252 mountaineagleliz@gmail.com
 Advertising
Gretchen Balcom • Director of Sales, Delaware County
 (607) 435-0795 • gretchenbalcommountaineagle@gmail.com • ataap16@gmail.com
Delaware County / Catskills Chronicle (Section E)
 Editorial
Brian Sweeney • Section Editor
 845-586-4655 • locustgrove@catskill.net
 Advertising
Gretchen Balcom • Director of Sales, Delaware County
Greene County / Windham Weekly (Section C)
 Editorial
Michael Ryan • Section Editor willardpatients@gmail.com
 Advertising
Sarah Nachin mountaineaglesarah@gmail.com
Schoharie County / Schoharie News (Section B)
 Editorial
David Avitabile • Section Editor dwavitabile@yahoo.com
 Advertising
Bradley Towle • Sales Associate mountaineaglebradley@gmail.com
Schoharie County / Cobleskill Herald (Section F)
 Editorial
Joshua Walther • Acting Editor joshwalther0@gmail.com or
cobleskillherald@gmail.com
Alexis Pencar • Reporter, Cobleskill Herald alexis.pencar@gmail.com
 Advertising
Mary Crisafulli • Watershed Reporter mountaineaglemary@gmail.com
Bradley Towle • Sales Associate mountaineaglebradley@gmail.com
 Reporters at Large: Michael Martin, Scott Keidong
 Joy Heckman, Jonathan Ment, Robert Duso, Lora Newell, Timothy Knight, Billy Shears, Robert Brune
Denise Leinbach • Consulting Director
Tony LaTorre • Advertising Associate
dleinbachmountaineagle@yahoo.com or 518-935-8353
Susie Walsh • Sales Manager at Large suzanwal5@aol.com
 The Mountain Eagle (PE 23510) is published weekly except for the weeks of Thanksgiving and Christmas for \$75 by Upstate Weekly News, PO Box 162, Schoharie NY 12157. Periodicals postage paid at Middleburgh NY.
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Mountain Eagle, PO Box 162, Schoharie NY 12157

and surrounding counties

WHITTLING AWAY WITH DICK BROOKS

Losing

It's a losing fight, dieting I mean. How come it's so much fun putting it on—a few dozen cartons of ice cream, a couple of cases of assorted "Little Debbie" products, a few cheesecakes, a couple of carloads of pasta and there it is! It just merrily plops on with all its wrinkles smiling up at you as your navel starts to resemble a Florida sunk hole. Everything is fine—tummy feels great, taste buds are alive and well, you're living large—then one day you realize just how large you're living. You start to notice little things, like how you've turned the full length mirror in the bedroom sideways because you no longer fit lengthwise, you haven't buttoned the top button on your pants for weeks, you frequently hyper-ventilate and take short naps on the floor during the morning sock wrestle and then there was the time in church when you bent over to tie your shoe and the little kids pulled their chairs up and began asking when the movie was going to start and so you decide it's that time again.

Richard Simmon's "Sweating with the Chubbies" video. A nice ten minute break and then Pilates until supper. A good hearty supper of two rice cakes and a cup of boullion, an hour or so of watching Dr. Phil shows on tape and it's off to bed, morning will come early.

In a perfect world, this plan would work and I probably could lose 50 pounds in a week but reality has a way of interfering. The alarm goes off—did you know that it's completely dark at 5:30? A guy could get run over out there on the road in the dark and its cold, safer to nap a little, at least until the sun is up. 8:30—can't run now, it'll put the day's schedule way off. Breakfast—couldn't find the twigs and bark, but there were three doughnuts left in a box on the counter—I was raised to not waste food and they were already in danger of becoming stale so I did the right thing, I'll make up for them on the old treadmill—found out that we don't own a treadmill so I watched six episodes of "I Love Lucy" and it was Lunch. The rice cakes tasted like styrofoam but some peanut butter and jelly

helped—it fact, they were downright tasty—so I finished the package. All this tired me out so I opted for a power nap instead of a power walk. After an invigorating nap, I had good intentions but when I went to put Richard and "Sweating to Pilates" in the VCR, there sat the tape of "Babe" that I've been meaning to watch for a while—so I did. After watching the video, I had a craving for ham for some reason so I cooked one for supper and made a nice potato salad to go with it. The Girl Scout truck arrived shortly after supper so I had one of the convenient single serving sized packages of Thin Mints and one of Do-se-dos, sat in the recliner until I dozed off and went to bed. Dieting just wears me out, but if worse comes to worse, I found this little wheel on the front of the bathroom scales and now I can lose weight any time and at any rate I want—try it—its great! Thought for the week—An unbreakable toy is useful for breaking other toys. Until next week, may you and yours be happy and well.

whittle12124@yahoo.com





Rip Van Winkle

The Catskills Chronicle

Serving the Central Catskills • A Section of *The Mountain Eagle*

Volume 8, No. 9

mountaineaglenews@gmail.com

FRIDAY, March 3, 2023

\$1.00

RE Interest Still Strong After 'Frenzy'

Low Inventory Biggest Hurdle To Overcome

By Brian Sweeney

Like much the rest of the nation, the Catskill Region experienced an unprecedented surge in real estate activity spurred by the coronavirus pandemic. While the frenzied buying has passed, regional real estate remains highly desirable.

The Catskills Chronicle surveyed agents from several area companies to attain their overviews of the market as we head into the spring and summer selling seasons. All the agents agreed on one point — the lack of inventory to sell is the only real impediment to meeting continued strong demand.

Steady popularity

Coldwell Banker Timberland Properties Agent Sean O'Shaughnessy, who is based out of the company's Margaretville office, noted that the area had steadily been growing in popularity long before the pandemic struck, and he sees that popularity continuing.

"I believe the last 20 years have been good for real estate in the Catskills as a younger generation embraced an area that had somewhat gone out of fashion and was rediscovered. The pandemic just took it to

another level as people realized that only two-and-a-half hours away was a place you could get away from the crowds," Mr. Shaughnessy commented.

He noted that bidding wars for properties are still occurring, but are far fewer in number and the prices are generally not reaching the highs experienced at the onset of the pandemic.

Lots of demand

To slow inflation, the Federal Reserve has been steadily increasing interest rates and that has translated into much higher borrowing costs for real estate buyers who need financing. Mr. Shaughnessy said, "This has certainly slowed the market a tad, but if there is a decent listing that comes on the market there is still a lot of interest out there."

Helping to offset higher interest rates is the fact that a decent percentage of shoppers are cash buyers.

Noting that it's hard to tell at this point of the season, Mr. Shaughnessy said his feeling is the cash buyers will be a little more numerous as we move into the new season and with the slight pullback in prices. He pointed out that the most sought-after listings currently span from anywhere from \$200,000 all the way up to a million.

Licensed Real Estate



This small cabin on four acres, just outside of Margaretville, sold last fall for \$272,500. — Realtor.com photo

Associate Broker Peggy Bellar is one of the founders of the Margaretville-based Catskill Dream Team agency. She agreed that the pandemic-inspired buying frenzy was unique, but was primarily a spike for a region that has continued to gain appeal as a rural haven.

She pointed out that at the "height" of the pandemic there was a frantic exodus driven by both fear of living in close proximity to others and the reality of entire families suddenly homebound. In many cases this was happening in small apartments.

"People fled in record proportions to enjoy all tranquility, space and

fresh air of the Catskills. But the draw of our area is nothing new! The lure of nature, especially when so close to major urban areas is powerful. Our idyllic mountains have been enticing people for centuries," Ms. Bellar related.

While it created a brisk selling environment, she said it's nice to see the "panic" buying subside, noting there is less urgency to make snap decisions.

Ms. Bellar said it's encouraging to witness a mix of young people buying homes to have more space and connection to the natural world and older people in various life transitions, some considering re-

tirement or downsizing options.

In response to the question regarding bidding wars, Ms. Bellar said those scenarios still exist, but are largely dependent on the listing. She explained that the "sweet rustic cabin on five acres" still gathers a lot of attention and in many cases is garnering multiple bids quickly. Likewise, houses that need a lot of work or have some undesirable issues, may see multiples as well, "but pricing is very critical and it may take a little longer."

She added, "As always the most important element is hitting the perfect sweet spot for pricing that will bring in the maximum number

of buyers. While we may not be seeing 23 offers on every listing, all you really need are a few offers, negotiated correctly, to obtain amazing results for a seller."

Regarding the steady rise in interest rates, Ms. Bellar pointed out that, not only do they influence how much money someone can borrow, but rising interest rates shake consumer confidence in many ways. She commented that an often-overlooked key to the impact of interest rates is that not only buyers are impacted. Sellers who currently have a low interest rate (or a home that is paid off) **continued on E2**

Catskill Rec Center Seeks Input On Growth Strategy

Arkville Facility Key Attraction For Fitness Folks

ARKVILLE — Officials at the Arkville-based Catskill Recreation Center (CRC), are seeking community input regarding the best means to grow the region's state-of-the-art exercise facility.

The CRC, initially funded by the Gould family of Arkville, opened its doors on June 6, 2014. Situated on County Highway 38 in Arkville (the cutoff road) it features a 25-yard lap pool, fitness center, community space, a sand volleyball court, a half-mile walking trail, and a community garden. It also boasts a boat steam

cleaning station for people to clean their canoes or kayaks for the paddling on New York City-owned reservoirs.

Originally built to serve the community as a place to foster health, fitness, and wellness through exercise and recreation, the Gould family has generously subsidized running the CRC during its founding years.

Eight years later, having suffered the crippling effects of the COVID pandemic resulting in a decrease in memberships, the CRC's challenge is to become financially independent.

"The CRC board is keen to honor the mission while seeking to create future financial stability for this essential community re-

source," said CRC Board President David Rainbird. "The CRC is a vital part of the community's economic development, and having a year-round facility promoting fitness, health, and wellness is essential to attract families and businesses to the area."

The CRC Board announced last week that long-serving Executive

director Becky Manning is stepping down from her position with the goal to spend more time with her family. She has run this unique center for the last eight years, and a search is now underway for her replacement.

With change comes opportunities, noted Mr. Rainbird. He noted that, with Ms. Manning's **continued on E4**

INDEX

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Obituaries.....E8 | Tri-County News.....D1 |
| Here's The Scoop.....E4 | Catskill Geologists.....D1 |
| Schoharie Valley & Co.....B1 | Editorial.....D8 |
| Windham Weekly.....C1 | Whittling Away.....D1 |
| Letters.....A4 | Classifieds.....D&E |

Get the Latest Online

For video, photo galleries, and breaking news, go to: the-mountaineagle.com or visit us on Facebook



COLDWELL BANKER
TIMBERLAND
PROPERTIES

TIMBERLANDPROPERTIES.COM
CATSKILLPREMIER.COM

SPRING INTO ACTION! BUY OR LIST NOW

MARGARETVILLE
(845)586-3321

BOICEVILLE/
MOUNT TREMPER
(845)657-4177

DELHI
(607)746-7400

ONEONTA
(607)435-3280

STAMFORD
(607)652-2220

SIDNEY
(607)604-4394

ROSCOE
(607)290-4130

RE Interest Still Strong After 'Frenzy'

continued from E1
may have reservations about changing this situation while interest rates are higher.

In what she qualified as a "highly unscientific" take on the number of cash buyers investing in the region, Ms. Bellar reported that the first three deals she put into contract in February were all cash deals. She said it remains to be seen what direction this trend will take.

Ms. Bellar said when interest rates were at the lowest and the stock market was booming, people who traditionally would be cash buyers decided to take out mortgages because they could earn more on their investments than they were paying in interest.

"Historically there are always a certain amount of cash buyers and I don't expect to see that change dramatically," she noted.

Ideal property

In terms of the most sought-after types of housing, Ms. Bellar said the "romantic vision" of the Catskills has many buyers in search of rustic cabins, ski chalets, and A-frames with some acreage. She explained that a lot of buyers are seeking such properties in the \$300,000-\$400,000 range. She added that farmhouses with original details and updated for modern life always do well and "striking ultra-modern homes can command top dollar."

Like others interviewed, Ms. Bellar said the lack of housing inventory remains a large obstacle for buyers and sellers. "There are lots of buyers looking but the sense of urgency has cooled a bit as they monitor interest rates

and wait for some inventory to open up."

One benefit of this situation is an uptick in buyers seeking vacant land and looking to build. Ms. Bellar said her office is seeing more people who may have started looking for a house who are now exploring building.

Asked for her market outlook, Ms. Bellar quoted famed Catskills naturalist John Burroughs who wrote, "I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in order." She stated, "Prices cycle up and down the same as interest rates...but the powerful draw of the natural world is not going away and perhaps will only grow stronger over time."

Robert Dillon is a licensed real estate agent who began working at Coldwell Banker Timberland Properties following a long career in the business in New York City.

He acknowledged there's been an expected slowdown since the pandemic-inspired housing craze, but noted that interest in Catskill Region real estate remains robust.

What's changed

Mr. Dillon said the biggest difference between now and the past few years is buyers are more aware of the possibility that buying through financing may have an issue of the bank appraising it. He explained that because appraisals are more about "what was rather than what is," it sometimes takes a bit of time for the comparison properties to catch up with the uptick in home pricing.

He said the impact from rising interest rates has been intriguing to witness. When

the rise in interest rates began, people were hurrying to the table to purchase and finance before the next quarterly rate increase imposed by the Federal Reserve. However, Mr. Dillon said, by fall 2022, while the rate hit a high the current buying market has not seen in their time of home ownership, there was a slowdown. With home prices steadily rising for the last 2 1/2 years previously and borrowing rates hitting new highs, it put people on the sidelines temporarily to "wait and see." These factors, plus the onset of the traditionally slow holiday period resulted in "a short reprieve in that volume of sales."

Ready for action

Mr. Dillon forecasts that, with the Fed stating inflation should soon to be heading where they want it to be for a more robust economy, that will most likely allow for both seller and buyer to jump back into the market.

"Either way, both in the midst of the 'frenzy' and since, there's still not enough properties to meet the demand," he said, lamenting the lack of properties for sale.

As evidence of ongoing demand, Mr. Dillon said he's recently lost two deals with his buyers. On one property, he had an accepted offer and then another buyer offered pretty much the same in pricing but also a "no contingency home inspection" which the seller took.

The other property his buyers lost out on was a multiple-offer situation after the property was only on the market for a week.

"My buyer offered

above asking, however, there were four other offers above asking and at more than my buyers were comfortable to offer," he recounted.

In another response to higher interest rates and values created during the past few years, Mr. Dillon stated, "Cash is still king." Towards this end, he sometimes suggests to sellers that, in reviewing offers, to not always jump on the higher offer, especially if it's financing. "Sometimes it's safer to take a bit less with a cash deal to avoid any of those appraisal issues that can come up."

In terms of the most sought-after properties, Mr. Dillon said there are more people seeking homes in the \$300,000 to \$650,000 range, which is much more competitive as opposed to properties from \$700,000 to more a million. He said there are quite a few of those properties in the higher price bracket. He pointed these homes may take a little longer time on the market, but they sell. As an example, he cited a property that just sold for \$1.175 million that changed hands in 2016 for \$460,000.

New marketplace

"I feel that therein lies a great insight to the 'new marketplace' in upstate real estate," he commented.

Looking ahead, Mr. Dillon said he's part of a third generation of his family finding solace and enjoyment in the Catskills and he fully expects this growing trend to continue.

"I see a new generation of people either discovering upstate New York or re-discovering and looking for that sweet spot to take time out from either

NYC or a close and crowded proximity to the city, and making memories with each other be it young children, couples or retirees in a more natural environment," he observed.

Licensed Real Estate Salesperson Katherine "Cricket" Keys is a member of the Catskill Dream Team real estate firm in Margaretville. A TV producer and real estate agent in Brooklyn, she joined the company several years ago.

Looking back at the sales pace that started with the pandemic, Ms. Keys remembered the strong sense of urgency to buy in the Catskills during the pandemic. She said that with the ability to work remotely people had the freedom to be anywhere and the Catskills is a coveted destination. Historically low interest rates were also a big contributing factor to the surge.

Still bidding wars

While the urgent home buying competition of two years ago has cooled, Ms. Keys pointed out that competitively priced turnkey properties are still producing bidding wars.

"Even the fixer-uppers with the right price tag are still generating multiple offers," she related.

Ms. Keys offered some figures to indicate how rising interest rates have slowed the market, to some extent. As an example, she said someone looking to buy a \$520,000 home at three percent interest rate of a few years ago, would have a monthly mortgage payment of \$2,192. With interest rates hovering around six percent now, that same buyer can only afford a \$370,000 home

for a monthly payment of \$2,218.

While the number of cash buyers hasn't really fluctuated, Ms. Keys said this group is representing a larger portion of the buyer pool now as many buyers seeking financing are waiting for interest rates to drop.

As for what types of properties are most in demand in today's market, Ms. Keys said homes that provide potential for Airbnb income are very popular. She said the \$300,000-\$400,000 price range for properties that have a unique "Catskills" vibe (rustic charm with maybe a fire pit or Great Room, chalets, A-Frames, log cabins, etc.) "are what we are still seeing bring buyers in droves."

Buyer insights

Looking towards the upcoming season, Ms. Keys said that, beyond interest rates, market confidence will influence the year ahead.

"We are also seeing record low inventory in the area and buyers are feeling that. It will be interesting to see how this year plays out. For sellers, we are not seeing a major drop in home prices - the low inventory is still working in their favor. It used to be that buyers could come up for the weekend and look at a handful of houses. Now, that is more difficult," she pointed out.

Another result of scarce inventory, Ms. Keys said, is the appetite for buildable vacant land is still strong. This is especially true with buyers who have given up on finding the perfect house and decided to build something to their specs and have control over the finished product.



Full Bar

Dine In
Take Out

Authentic Mexican Food
Everything made FRESH in-house

Open Fri.-Tues 4-10 pm
966 Main St, Fleischmanns • 845 254-4966

TAVERN FAVORITES ALL WEEKEND
Deck Dining
Indoor Seating
Takeout

LUNCH:
1-4 PM SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
DINNER:
THURSDAY AND SUNDAY 4-8 PM
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY 4-8:30 PM

746 Main St., Margaretville • 845 586-4882 • binnekill.com

TITO BANDITO'S
CATSKILLS TACO + TEQUILA BAR

NEW MENU
NEW BAR
+ KITCHEN TEAM

Indoor & Outdoor Seating + Takeout
Fri. & Sat. 4-9pm, Sun. 4-8pm
302 Main St., Pine Hill 845 254-3113 • titobanditos.com

DINE IN OR TAKEOUT

Support Local Restaurants

THE ANDES HOTEL
Full Bar, New Menu
Dine in or Takeout

Open at 3 pm
Tuesday through Sunday

110 Main Street, Andes
theandeshotel.com
845-676-4408

ROSALINO'S DINER

EAT IN • PORCH DINING • TAKE OUT

Wed.-Sun. 7 am-2 pm
Wed. 4-8 pm for Dinner

85 Main Street, Andes
845 676-4500



View of the Schoharie Valley from atop Pratt Rock.

Getting Out There

By Peter Manning

Hamlet Hike — Prattsville

Growing up in the suburbs, we played in the streets, school playgrounds, parks, and the undeveloped, leftover spaces. When we were little, our parents would drive us to a tiny park about a mile away. We called it the Running Park. Besides a couple of benches, there was a paved loop path, about a tenth of mile per circuit. This was the perfect antidote to hyper kids. Round and round we'd go, until we had enough.

As a parent, I've since employed like tactics with great success, and I thank my parents in a retrospective way for getting us out there. A key underlying point here is that these places exist. When there is foresight and persistence to integrate parks within our communities, the dividends are enjoyed by succeeding generations.

In the Catskill Region, we have an inverse relationship in comparison to the city. This region is largely defined by its expansive and preserved lands, while concentrated settlements occupy only a small percentage of the land mass. In a way, there is no shortage of parkland.

Need exposure

Often overlooked, however, is how these lands can be better connected to hamlets and villages and offer benefits to residents and visitors. The ability to facilitate these connections is largely dependent on landowners. In cases where New York City owns the land, many successful connections have been made, complementing the amenities in our communities.

Prattsville is a walkable hamlet in that sidewalks connect shops, the diner, the town hall, the village green and playground, the post office, the supermarket, and the Pratt Museum. Pedestrian crossings of Main Street (State Route 23) are also marked and signed.

The origins of the street network are attributed to Zadock Pratt. Although he is known for his tannery enterprises, and hence the widespread assault on hemlock trees, his biography reveals that he was said to have planted more than 1,000 trees in the hamlet. It's interesting

point out that Pratt possessed a special combination of leadership and inspiration that built not just streets and buildings, but a shared work ethic to achieve success.

Besides the town's name, Pratt is most well-known for Pratt Rock, the series of cliff carvings he commissioned during his lifetime. Located at the eastern end of the hamlet, Pratt Rock Park cannot be reached by the sidewalk, which ends, unfortunately, about a quarter mile short of the park. However, and fortunately, the sidewalk's terminus also coincides with a spur of the 422-acre Huntersfield Creek Unit, owned by NYC-DEP. The parcel extends upward and behind the hamlet.

Over the years, efforts to develop a hiking trail involved the NYNJ Trail Conference, the Huntersfield Christian Training Center, the Catskill Center, the Catskill Mountain Club, the Town of Prattsville, NYCDEP, the Greene County Soil & Water Conservation District, and many volunteers. With the .9-mile Huntersfield Creek Falls Trail loop now complete, a group of hikers recently gathered to enjoy a sunny morning.

Quite frigid at the start, my two sons took off, putting today's Running Park plan into action. There's a solid bridge to get you over the wetland and to provide access for mowing machinery. For such a short trail, so much is offered. Walking up through the old farm field, you immediately enjoy the views emerging with the gain in elevation.

At the top of the field a snow dusted Bearpen Mountain (3619') punctuates the skyline to the south. Entering the hemlocks the rushing water pulls you toward the ravine, which has several little waterfalls. We paused at the largest drop and discussed the remnants of an old dam, which may've been the hamlet's water supply at one time.

We then explored field and forest with the intention of connecting to Pratt Rock, which is on adjacent town land. Making this connection with a marked trail is a longstanding objective of the town, as is the restoration of Pratt Rock Park -- both sculpture and landscape. (Some 14 years ago, I walked from the sidewalk to the top of Pratt Rock with DEP staff. Their primary concern with a proposed trail was ensuring protection of the wetland, which is now handily accomplished by the bridge.) Moving across and up through white pines and hemlocks, the hiking group soon hit the unmarked trail that connects the park and its stone carvings with the ledges above. I'm guessing that many visitors to the park are not aware of these scenic ledges. If there's a ratio of shortest distance hiked and quality of viewpoint, these ledges rank extremely high.

Work continues

Revitalization activities have been pretty much ongoing in Prattsville since the devastating floods of Hurricane Irene in 2011. In 2019, the Pratt Museum and the town hosted an energized reception and a packed meeting at which renowned landscape architect Michael Van Valkenburgh (and team) presented revitalization concepts for Pratt Rock Park. For Van Valkenburgh, who grew up on a dairy farm in neighboring Lexington, this was a return to a landscape that inspired him as a youth and influenced his choice of career. Meanwhile, the partnerships that brought the Huntersfield Trail into being embody a collective spirit that seems to carry out the same motivational principles embraced and realized by town founder Zadock Pratt.

I know everyone enjoyed the hike. And two of the hikers reported that they returned to the trail the next day with friends and family. The juxtaposition of town and country is especially appreciated when you can move easily between them on foot. The simple pleasure of ducking off the end of downtown sidewalk to explore the local hinterlands stirs an excitement for adventure. Through fields, into woods, and alongside waterfalls, one's motion is paused by peaceful vistas of mountains and valleys, only to return to what becomes the beginning of the sidewalk.



Michelle Yost, GCSWCD, with hikers.

JAMROZY'S ARMY & NAVY

Military Items
Foreign & U.S.
From A to Z

Guns
Daggers
Medals
Uniforms

Route 28
Arkville, NY 12406

Call for Store Hours
845-586-2265

Jamrozywarrelrics@live.com

Buy & Sell

WADLER BROS. INC.

Quality Building Products

P: 845.254.5500 • www.wadlerbros.com

Property Exchange Sponsored by

TITAN Drilling Corp.

From well drilling to water testing, we meet every need. We will solve any/all of your water issues — from bacteria to clay and everything in between.

1-800-TO-TITAN 1-845-586-4000
263 County Route 38, Arkville NY 12406
titanwelldrillingny.com
We accept most credit cards.
Find us on Facebook

Pet of the Week

I'm Sunfish!

adopt me at:
Heart of the Catskills Humane Society
46610 State Highway 10 Delhi
607-746-3080 • heartofthecatskills.org

Sponsored by:
Christine O'Shaughnessy
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson

Call or Text: 607.287.0424
Christine@TimberlandProperties.net
75 Bridge Street, Margaretville NY 12455

COLDWELL BANKER PRIME PROPERTIES

Groceries, Kitchen & Home Goods

Home goods of margaretville

jessica olenych
845 586.4177

784 main street. margaretville. ny 12455
em: homegoods@catskill.net w: hgom.net

Give blood.

Every 2 seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.
American Red Cross

Margaretville Community Blood Drive
Sponsored by the Margaretville Hospital Auxiliary

Thursday, March 16, 2023
1:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Held at the Margaretville Fire Department
77 Church Street

Come give in March and get a \$10 Visa Prepaid Card by email. PLUS, get a chance to win a \$3,000 Visa Prepaid Card to help with gas or grocery expenses! You could be one of five lucky winners. Lend an arm; we'll lend a hand. Terms apply: rcblood.org/help.

For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org
Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

Here's The Scoop

Careful What You Read

By Brian Sweeney

“Why Are People Eating Oranges In The Shower On TikTok?” Good question. One I’m sure many people have been asking.

Before I get started, I’m not on TikTok, but apparently people on this social media platform can post things — many of them being really stupid ideas — and there’s always an audience ready, willing and able to follow these suggestions. This isn’t necessarily beneficial.

The reason I know about such stuff is that it seems like almost on a daily basis, my news feed contains a story about some TikTok trend that features the word “dangerous.” You’d think that common sense would come into play here. Maybe when folks see something on TikTok called “The Blackout Challenge,” the name alone would suggest this is not something to try at home. Or anywhere. I looked it up for the purpose of this column, but didn’t need to research this topic to know it’s definitely something that can have an unwelcome outcome.

What’s the benefit?

Which brings us back to the Eating Oranges In The Shower idea making the rounds of TikTok. At first glance, this plan seems innocent enough. Because I didn’t see any immediate red flags linking consuming an orange in the shower with a trip to the Emergency Room, I decided to see what all the fuss was about.

Turns out, the concept is: “People are trying out the TikTok trend of eating oranges in the shower because, supposedly, the shower’s heat enhances the smell and taste of oranges,” said registered dietician and nutrition writer Alyssa Northrop. “Peeling an orange in a steamy shower helps release that energizing aromatic citrus scent.” Grove-y.

The shower and fruit elevate each other, the article goes on to state. Well, at least that doesn’t sound dangerous. I’m just hoping no TikToker – as they are affectionately known — decides to promote the idea of consuming bananas in the shower. Those places are slippery enough!

What’s the benefit?

As I read deeper into this riveting article, it was explained that “The shower humidity may grab the essential oils of the orange, especially released when peeling it, and circulate the smell around the especially small space of the shower. Peeling an orange in a steamy shower helps release that energizing aromatic citrus scent.” Personally, I use beer soap. It’s both exfoliating and intoxicating. Plus, the “suds” wash right off.

Along these same lines, an added benefit of eating an orange in the shower, the article points out, is that it eliminates the sticky mess created by peeling an orange. That alone would make it worthwhile to me. Near the bottom of the story, it’s mentioned that this same aromatic effect can be realized by adding “a few drops of citrus essential oil” to the floor of the shower. Sorry — oil and water don’t mix!

I have an idea...

Pardon me, but I’m going to take this opportunity for a bit of shameless self-promotion. I have recently discovered (without the help of TikTok) a citrus-related taste treat I think lots of folks can enjoy. It’s easy too. Take a clementine, remove the skin (not in the shower) and place it the refrigerator for a few hours. The result is a slightly crunchy outside as you bite into a cool taste treat. If you’re adventurous and have good teeth, follow this same recipe, but place in the freezer instead.

Honestly, I can see my idea “taking TikTok by storm.” Or, maybe it’s simply not dangerous enough to have a-peel.



Sap Shine

Sap lines are a common sight at this time of year as producers work diligently to make maple syrup. New York State producers will participate in Maple Weekends on March 18-19, March 25-26. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day at most locations.

Check your planned destination for any exceptions. For open houses and special events, please visit: mapleweekend.nysmaple.com — Photo courtesy of Tree Juice Maple Syrup in Arkville

Catskill Rec Center Seeks Input

continued from E1
 couragement, the CRC Board has recently embarked upon a strategic planning process. The goal of this process is to help make the CRC financially sustainable as the facility works to recover from the hardships created by the pandemic. Through this

planning process the CRC Board is working to make the facility even better for the growing Catskill community. As a means of achieving this goal, the board is asking for community input for ideas to help ensure long-term growth and vitality. “We are very excited

to hear what the community thinks about the future possibilities for the CRC,” Mr. Rainbird said in a release. “We are exploring all options to increase fundraising and sponsorship opportunities to bridge the financial gap.” The Strategic Planning Committee has put

together a survey for community members. Please go to the CRC website at www.catskill-recreationcenter.org to find the survey. As a special thank you for participating, the CRC will reward everyone who contributes with two day passes.

Delaware County Deed Transfers

| By or against | Town | In Favor of | Transfer Tax |
|---|------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Date: Feb. 27 | | | |
| KRINGS DENNIS NEWSUM DANA OH TAE | STAMFORD | NEWSUM DANA | 0.00 |
| ROEFS GEORGE ROEFS KIRSTY | SIDNEY | DMOCHOWSKI JULIAN D | 860.00 |
| HUGHES ELLSWORTH (EXR) THOMAS CAROL (EXR OF) THOMAS GEORGE (SEE INST) | MASONVILLE | IORIO JUSTIN | 316.00 |
| STANTON DAVID E STANTON RHONDA J | WALTON | ARMSTRONG STEVEN R | 624.00 |
| CHOLULA-JIMENEZ KEISHLA M | DEPOSIT | IBRAGIMOV REGINA | 600.00 |
| LOKER MARK M LOKER PATRICIA A | WALTON | MCLAUGHLIN JOSEPH | 400.00 |
| HADZIPOLIHONIS KALLY (BY ATTY) VASILIADIS VASILIOS (ATTY) | TOMPKINS | SCIABARASSI SUZETTE LANGMAN ABBEY | 1,800.00 |



COLDWELL BANKER
TIMBERLAND
 PROPERTIES

Licensed Real Estate Salesperson

Christine O'Shaughnessy

Call or Text: **607.287.0424**
Christine@TimberlandProperties.net

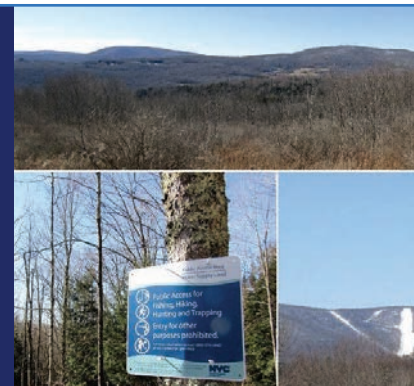
75 Bridge Street, Margaretville NY 12455

16 Pristine Acres

MLS# 137650

- Location Counts!
- Beautiful 16 acre Roxbury parcel
- Plattekill Mtn. views
- Great Building Site
- Bordered by 105 acres DEP land

Offered at \$265,000



Worship Service Directory

ADVENT CHRISTIAN MARGARETVILLE
 ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 109 Maple Street, Margaretville, NY 12455
 845-586-4601
 Sunday Worship Service, 11am
 Bible Study
 Wednesday 6 pm, April-November

BAPTIST STAMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
 40 Lake Street, Stamford NY 12167
 (607) 607 652-3713
 Sunday School, 9:45 AM, Worship 11:00 AM
 Pastor Waylen Bray:
 Associate Pastor Shawn Frazer
 We are here to help!

CATHOLIC ST. ANNE'S MISSION CHURCH
 375 Main Street, Andes, NY 13731
 Phone: 838 910 9889
 Mass on Sunday at 12 pm

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

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

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

CHRISTIAN CENTER – CONTEMPORARY CATSKILL MOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN CENTER
 629 Main St. Margaretville, NY 12455
 845-586-4848
 Our service time is 10 am Sundays

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

ORTHODOX CHURCH SAINT HERMAN OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH / CLOUD-BEARING MOUNTAIN RETREAT CENTER
 1714 Mountain Brook Road, Bovina, NY 13740
 Phone: 607 326-0052
 Sundays 10 am: Holy days, classes and retreats as announced
 info@cbmountain.org
 www.cbmountain.org

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MARGARETVILLE – NEW KINGSTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 October - May
 169 Orchard Street
 Margaretville NY 12455
 May-October
 5177 County Hwy 6
 New Kingston NY 12459
 Sunday Service 9.30 am.
 Tel: 845-586-4567

REFORMED CHURCH JAY GOULD MEMORIAL REFORMED CHURCH
 53837 NY Highway 30, Roxbury, NY 12474
 Phone: (607) 326-7101
 Time of Service
 9:30 am Sunday
 Rev. Richard Dykstra

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

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ANDES UMC
 327 Lower Main Street, Andes NY 13731
 10:30 am Sundays

HALCOTT UMC
 42 Bouton Road, Halcott NY 12430
 9:00 am Sundays

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

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

Worship Service Directory
 Sponsored By



A Time and A Place digital magazine. Covering business stories, columns, events, book reviews, pet care and the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce newsletter. Visit www.atimeandaplace-magazine.com

A go-to publication on where to shop, dine, play and do. Choose to sign-up to receive it monthly in your inbox.

WE'RE HIRING Job Fair March 23 In Grand Gorge

DELHI — A WE'RE HIRING! Job Fair is set for Thursday, March 23, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at ONC BOCES Northern Catskills Occupational Center in Grand Gorge.

Connect with motivated high school juniors and seniors for full, part-time, and summer employment. Meet adults who are eager to return to work.

Be prepared to interview applicants, accept resumes, discuss current job openings, and offer advice about how to prepare for employment with your company.

A \$25 registration fee for employers includes a six-foot table, two

chairs, refreshments during the event, and lunch for two people. Electric service is limited and will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

Event Schedule:
 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.: Exhibitor set up
 9:30-11 a.m.: Area schools will transport high school seniors to event. BOCES students will attend.

11-11:45 a.m.: Lunch will be provided to all exhibitors
 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.: Area schools will transport high school juniors to event. BOCES students will attend.

Note: The fair is open to adult job seekers

from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Promotion of the event will include radio announcements, print advertising, social media posts, and e-mails sent directly to job seekers.

To maximize promotion of your participation, please register by March 10.

The WE'RE HIRING! in-person job fair is a collaborative effort of Otsego-Northern Catskills BOCES, CDO Workforce, and the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce in Delhi.

Register online to attend this event via the Chamber at: delaware-county.org

**Want to ADVERTISE
 in the Catskills Chronicle?
 Call Gretchen Balcom
 845 586-6192
 or 607 435-0795**

BUSINESS SERVICES

To Promote Your Business, Contact Gretchen Balcom at 607 435-0795

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL SPRAY FOAM
845-594-7413

Kane DiBenedetto HomeFoamInsulation.net
 10+ YEARS EXPERIENCE | FULLY INSURED | FREE ESTIMATES

B&D MOTORS INCORPORATED
 Serving the Area Since 1979

Cargo Vans Available
 Daily, Weekly or Monthly Rates

U-HAUL

Full Service | Repair | Towing | U-Haul | Tire Sales

885 MAIN STREET • MARGARETVILLE
 845-586-3253 www.bdmotorsinc.com

JK & SONS FUEL OIL

Heating Oil • Kerosene • On/Off Road Diesel

Lowest Price GUARANTEED **845-586-4755**
www.jkandsonsfuel.com

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • FARM
 Family Owned and Operated

Circle of Life Ambulette Services
607 538-1734

Wheelchair & stretcher transports
 Medicaid approved NY DOT # 32940

255 Maple Ave
 Hobart NY 13788

Fax/Billing 607 538-9681
circleoflife@stny.rr.com

SERVING DELAWARE, OTSEGO, SCHOHARIE & HERKIMER COUNTIES

Bathrooms • Remodeling • Vinyl Siding
 Replacement Windows • Insulation
 Doors • Additions • Seamless Gutters

ROOFING EXPERTS

607-432-8326
800-252-2140

www.thepowellcompany.com

SPRAY FOAM SOLUTIONS INC

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL

607 435-7930

Free Estimates & Fully Insured

AUTO PARTS

We make **HYDRAULIC HOSES**

845-586-4600

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
 42812 State Hwy. 28
 Arkville, NY 12406
 Fax: 845-586-2441

"We Do It Better"

WALCUTT CONSTRUCTION & EXCAVATION

Phone: 607-326-3335 Cell: 607-435-8303

Demo • Drainage • Septic Systems

Road & Construction Maintenance
 Home site development
 Dependable know how!

- Websites
- Marketing
- Signs
- Printing

LOCUST GROVE enterprises
 Est. 1988

845 586-4655
locustgroveenterprises.com

TREE TOPS ELECTRIC

- COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL
- ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS & REPAIRS
- LIGHT FIXTURE INSTALLATIONS
- PANEL UPGRADES
- OUTLETS & SWITCHES
- NEW & OLD WORK
- LANDSCAPE LIGHTING
- FREE ESTIMATES

Proudly Serving Delaware, Ulster & Surrounding Counties

PATRICK BIFONE | 516.410.8591 | 516.468.9833
TREETOPSELECTRIC@GMAIL.COM

**INVEST IN
 YOUR BUSINESS**

**CALL GRETCHEN 845 586-6192
 TO ADVERTISE HERE**

Events Calendar

Through March 4

Liberal Arts Roxbury is hosting Phil's Ghost, an exhibition of album art honoring the late Phillip Lenihan, owner of the gallery under its previous entities, Orphic Gallery and the 8-Track Museum. Located at 53525, State Highway 30, Roxbury. E-nal info@liberalarts-roxbury.com.

Sunday, March 12

After a three-year hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic, Halcottville Fire Department members are making plans for the 26th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in beautiful downtown Halcottville. The parade is scheduled to kick off at noon. The Halcottville Fire Department Auxiliary is planning its usual free-will chili and sweet treats offering at the fire station following the parade. Fire departments, community organizations, individuals, anyone with a desire to be in the parade is welcome to show-up and participate. Carpooling is recommended as parking is limited.

Through March 12

1053 Gallery in Fleischmanns is presenting an exhibit titled DEPARTURES, including works by Janice La Motta, Kate Quarfordt and Christie Scheele. DEPARTURES is a survey of work made in response to the pandemic by 24 New York artists. The show will run through March 12. The gallery is located at 1053 Main Street, Fleischmanns. Info at: 1053gallery.com, phone 845 254-3461.

Thursday, March 16

A Margaretville Community Blood Drive will be held from 1:30-6:30 p.m. at the Margaretville Fire Department, 77 Church Street, Margaretville. Sponsored by the Margaretville Hospital Auxiliary. For appointments please visit: redcross-blood.org or call 1-800-733-2767.

March, 18, 19, 25, & 26

New York State producers will participate in Maple Weekends on March 18-19, March 25-26.10 am to 4 pm each day at most locations. Check your planned destination for any exceptions. Visit: maple-weekend.nysmaple.com

Through March 19

Longyear Gallery of Margaretville is pleased to announce the opening of "Members' Late Winter Group Exhibit," a new group show featuring the art of all Longyear Gallery Members. The exhibit will run through Sunday, March 19. Information at: longyeargallery.org, or call 845 586-3270. Longyear Gallery located at 785 Main Street, Margaretville.

Online Poetry Class Up Next WIM

MARGARETVILLE — Writers in the Mountains (WIM) presents Ekphrastic Poetry: A Jump Start from Other Art Forms and Everyday Objects, a six-week long workshop with Sharon Ruetenik, March 30 – May 4.

The class will be held online Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. Once you register and pay, you will be given instructions on how to join the class.

An often asked question of poets is where do you get your ideas. Frequently the incentive to write may be found in the the works of others. Here are a few examples. Consider the paintings of Kara Walker, Klimt, or Gauguin. Peruse your family

album or enjoy the majesty of Ansel Adam's photographs. Read the work of other poets from John Donne to Major Jackson. What film left you thinking for several days after its viewing? Explore the personal meaning of a beloved object, such as a coffee mug or Roseville vase, for inspiration.

During the first session we will look at samples and discuss how to begin our first piece. We will share our efforts throughout. The last session will be a presentation of our best work and a discussion of what we have learned from our classmates.

Until her recent retirement Sharon Ruete-

nik was the international student adviser, writing center coordinator, and a part-time instructor in composition and literature at SUNY Delhi.

Her poetry chapbook, The Wooden Bowl, illustrates the role of women from Eve to Dorothy. Ruetenik's work has appeared in print and online journals, most recently the anthologies Like Light and Prolific Press, Three Line Poetry, an online edition of The Catskill Mountain Region Guide, and the print journals Iconoclast and Evening Street Review.

She has taught poetry as a college instructor, for WIM, and at the

Ogden Library through a grant from the New York Council for the Humanities. In addition Ruetenik has functioned as a facilitator for the council leading discussions, including "World War I," "Aging," "The Politics of Food" and "The Muslim Journey". Ruetenik was awarded a fellowship at the Saltonstall Foundation of the Arts and Platte Clove.

To register, e-mail writersinthemountains@gmail.com. To register online, visit writersinthemountains.org. Class fee is \$125. Registration deadline is March 23.

The class is limited to ten students. Info at: writersinthemountains.org.

Halcottville St. Paddy's Parade Returns

HALCOTTSVILLE — The beloved Halcottville St. Patrick's Day Parade is returning on Sunday, March 12 with a noon starting time.

The fun outing along the hamlet's Main Street is returning following a three-year hiatus, resulting from the coronavirus pandemic.

The parade is making a return in strong fashion this year with the 26th annual St. Patrick's Day parade in beautiful downtown Halcottville promising to be a memorable event.

Along with the march down (and back) along the hamlet's main thoroughfare, members of Halcottville Fire Department Auxiliary is planning its popular chili and sweet treats offering at the fire station following the parade. Free

will donations welcome for the meal.

Fire departments, community organizations, individuals, anyone with a desire to be in the parade is welcome to show up and participate. Carpooling is recommended as parking is limited.

During the course of more than a quarter-century, the Halcottville St. Patrick's Day Parade has become a harbinger of spring — despite unpredictable mid-March weather. No matter the conditions, hearty marchers and spectators turn out each year to celebrate this iconic holiday. The Halcottville Fire Department is the primary organizer and members are excited about bringing back this festive event.



WIOX is live and local, produced and supported by YOU! That's community radio.

EVENTS CALENDAR

SPONSORED EACH WEEK BY



Meade Camp
Lic. RE Broker
c 917.399.3423



"Peggy" Margaret Bellar
Lic. RE Assoc. Broker
c 917.558.0447

10 Rosa Rd • Margaretville



Members' Late Winter Group Exhibit

Friday Feb 17, 2023 - Sunday March 19, 2023

Gallery Hours: Friday-Sunday, 11 am-4 pm



Robert Buckwalter



Temma Bell

785 Main Street, Margaretville New York 12455 845-586-3270
longyeargallery.org Longyear-Gallery @longyeargallery



MARGARETVILLE HOSPITAL AUXILIARY THRIFT SHOP
743 Main Street, Margaretville, NY • 845-586-3737
margaretvillhospitalauxiliary.com

OUR DAYS AND HOURS OF OPERATION ARE VARIABLE!
Check our **FACEBOOK** page or **WEBSITE** to see:
• When we are open
• Our latest posts with details
Call the **SHOP** for more information or to schedule a **DONATION!**
(845) 586-3737



Spring Is On The Way!

POLICE NEWS

DELHI — Delaware County Sheriff Craig S. DuMond has announced the arrest of 24-year-old Amelia Taylor of Delhi.

On the morning of February 6 Delaware County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a domestic dispute in the Town of Delhi where a report of a possible assault that occurred.

Deputies arrived at the residence interviewing both parties involved in the domestic dispute. At the conclusion of the investigation patrols submitted for a criminal summons request through the Town of Delhi Court.

On February 20, patrols subsequently arrested Amelia Taylor serving her with a criminal summons for Harassment in the Second Degree, a Violation in NYS Penal law, returnable to the Town of

Delhi Court at a later date.

Sheriff DuMond has announced the arrest of a Franklin man on Endangering Welfare of a Child and Sexual Misconduct charges.

At approximately 6:45 p.m. on Wednesday afternoon, February 8, Sheriff's Deputies received a Sex Abuse Referral alleging a 20-year-old man was engaging a 15-year-old female in sexual misconduct at his home in the Town of Hancock.

Further investigation revealed on or around the end of August 2022, Timothy Taylor confirmed to be 19 years of age of Franklin engaged in sexual misconduct with a 15-year-old female in the Town of Hancock.

On Thursday afternoon, February 16, Sheriff's Deputies sub-

sequently arrested Taylor on one count Endangering Welfare of a Child and one count of Sexual Misconduct due to the victim being unable to consent as they were under the age of 17. Taylor was processed and issued an appearance ticket to appear before the Hancock Town Court at a later date to answer the charges.

Sheriff DuMond has announced that a Mount Vernon resident has been arrested on a Suspended Registration of a motor vehicle and Displaying a Forged Inspection Certificate charges as well as other violations following a traffic stop.

On Saturday afternoon on February 18, a Sheriff's Deputy conducted a traffic stop for a NYS vehicle and traffic law violation in the

Town of Colchester.

During the course of the traffic stop the Deputy found the vehicle's registration was suspended due to an insurance lapse, and the vehicle was displaying an inspection sticker belonging to another vehicle. The Deputy identified the driver as 39-year-old female, Alkiesha Yates, of Mount Vernon.

Yates was subsequently arrested on the Suspended Registration and Displaying a Forged Inspection Certificate. She was also issued violations for an obstructed view and an unregistered motor vehicle. Yates released on appearance tickets and was directed to appear before the Town of Colchester Court at a later date to answer for the charges.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT

MAIN STREET OFFICE/RETAIL SPACE available. Prime turn key location in the Village of Fleischmanns with 640 sq ft., onsite parking, storage, and creekside access. \$900 per month, includes utilities. Please call Village Clerk @ 845-254-5514.

HOUSE FOR RENT for able-bodied person who can remove snow from church steps & walks and perform lawn care for church & parsonage, 5 BDRM, KIT, DNG RM,

LVG RM. \$850 per month, first, last & 1 month security deposit, Roxbury Methodist Parsonage, Tom Hinkley, Treasurer 607-435-8837

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED - Part-time mechanic. Tires and Service. B&D Motors, 885 Main Street, Margaretville 845 586-3253. D9TFC

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

HELP WANTED

Looking for experienced plumbers and or heating Technicians for the startup of new plumbing/heating division of Titan Drilling Corporation.

Possible management position for the right person. Competitive pay, health insurance, paid holidays, paid sick time and vacation, 401K and pension plan. Free uniforms.

\$10,000 sign-on bonus

(Paid over a 4-year period)
Please contact us at 845-586-4000

Tammy Wagner Promoted To Senior Civil Clerk

DELHI - Delaware County Sheriff's Office Civil Division employee Tammy Wagner of Trout Creek has been promoted to Senior Civil Clerk effective February 19, according to an announcement by Sheriff Craig DuMond.

Mrs. Wagner began her career at the Sheriff's Office in June 2020 when she was hired as a Civil Clerk, accountable for the preparation, distribution and return of a variety of legal documents such as summons and complaints, subpoenas, evictions, warrants of civil arrest, order of seizure, family court orders, civil documents, maintaining detailed records of civil accounts, receiving and processing Orders of Protection for service, as well as a multitude of other tasks.

Sheriff DuMond remarked, "I'm very proud to announce this promotion. As the Senior

Civil Clerk, Mrs. Wagner will now oversee new responsibilities as the Delaware County Pistol Clerk where she will be directly accountable for handling all aspects of the Pistol Permit process, including the distribution, receipt, review and processing of all pistol permit applications and the amendment of issued pistol permits including additions, deletions, change of address, etc. I have the utmost confidence that Tammy will continue to serve the residents of Delaware County with the highest degree of professionalism and competency."

Speaking on her promotion, Mrs. Wagner states that she is looking forward to the challenge of the detailed oriented work required of the new position and added, "I love being able to stay with a great agency that I love."



Tammy Wagner of Trout Creek has been promoted to Senior Civil Clerk effective February 19. She's pictured with Delaware County Sheriff Craig DuMond.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE

The Town of Hardenburgh will convene a Special Town Board Meeting at Town Hall at 51 Rider hollow Rd, to be held on March 9, 2023. At said Meeting the Board will conduct Town business that could not be conducted at the February 9, 2023 meeting due to a lack of a lawful quorum due to Board member illness. Immediately following this Special Town Board Meeting the Town will hold its Regular Monthly Meeting.

By order of the Town Supervisor
Date:
February 13, 2023
Wendy M. Buerge,
Town Clerk
2MAR3C

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Town of Roxbury
The Town of Roxbury is seeking to fill the following positions:

School Crossing Guard – part-time position. Applicants must be 16 years of age and available to work school days 7:30 am – 8:00 am and 2:55 pm – 3:10 school days with once per month early dismissal at 12:00 Noon. Pay is \$15.00/hr/
Water Clerk – part-time position. Applicants must

have general computer skills. Duties include maintaining accounts on a water software program, quarterly billing/receipting, reports, customer notices as needed and annual mailings. Compensation will be discussed further at an interview.

Eligible benefits for either position will be discussed at an interview.

Applicants may request an application from the Town Clerk's Office, 56 Hillcrest Drive, PO Box 189, Roxbury, NY 12474, by phone 607-326-7641 or at www.roxburyny.com.

Applications will be received through March 20, 2023. The Town of Roxbury is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Diane Pickett
Town Clerk
Dated: Feb. 28, 2023
MAR3C

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held by the Village of Margaretville Board of Trustees on March 22, 2023 at 4:45 pm at the Village Hall, 773 Main Street, Margaretville, NY to hear all persons interested regarding the proposed Local Law 1 of 2023 entitled "Adoption of

Local Law Authorizing Real Property Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Service Workers".

By Order of the Village of Margaretville Board of Trustees,
Diana Fronckowiak,
Clerk
MAR3C

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held by the Village of Margaretville Board of Trustees on March 22, 2023 at 4:50 pm at the Village Hall, 773 Main Street Margaretville, NY to hear all persons interested regarding proposed Local Law 2 of 2023 entitled "A Local Law Repealing and Replacing Local Law No 1 of 2007 Entitled A Local Law Providing for the Administration and Enforcement of the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code". The Public Hearing will immediately be followed by a regular Village Board meeting.

By Order of the Village of Margaretville Board of Trustees
Diana Fronckowiak,
Clerk
MAR3C

Hold Tight... It's Almost Spring!

The Catskills Podcast



Kaatscast
From Silver Hollow Audio

- ▶ community
- ▶ local interviews
- ▶ Catskills culture
- ▶ sustainability
- ▶ outdoors
- ▶ history

▶ kaatscast.com

NOW STREAMING:

Adaptive Sports Foundation at Windham Mountain

Subscribe for free, wherever you listen!

BOWLING NEWS

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

| Team Name | W | L | High Game |
|------------------------|------|------|---|
| Spillian | 52 | 24 | Kacie Thomas 183, |
| JM Lawncare | 45 | 31 | Birgitta Brophy 181, |
| ROI | 44 | 32 | Sue Wixon 169 |
| JK Tinting | 43.5 | 32.5 | |
| Better Late Than Never | 40.5 | 35.5 | |
| Bye | 0 | 40 | |
| High Series | | | Kacie Thomas 475, Birgitta Brophy 474, Linda Bosley 395 |



42366 NY-28 Arkville
TheArkBowl@aol.com
845 586-2695

Bowling • Dining • Bar • Music
www.TheArkBowl.com

Obituaries



James Finch

At age 95, James A. "Jim" Finch passed peacefully on February 24, 2023 at the Conesus Lake Nursing Home in Livonia, NY.

He was born on April 19, 1927, in Roxbury to the late Elicum and Elizabeth (O'Donnell) Finch.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his first wife Anna "Gladys" (Liddle) Finch, his second wife Melissa Finch, son Den-

nis Finch, sisters; Doris Martindale, Inez Wells, and Angie Finch, and his brother Joseph Finch.

Survived by his children Daniel (Karen) Finch of Livonia, Douglas (Bonnie) Finch of MD, Betsy (Larry) Cridlin of VA, Duane (Sonja) Finch of Newcomb, NY, and Bonnie (Tim) Barkman of Roxbury; 13 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, 18 nieces and nephews. Also survived by close friend Katherine "Katie" Manzolillo. Special thanks to the staff at Conesus Nursing Home.

Jim spent many years as a highly specialized welder building submarines for the US Navy at Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics in Groton, Connecticut. He returned to Roxbury and the family farm in Meeker Hollow where he started Finch's Welding, and his work is still

visible throughout the area. Some of his inventions were granted U.S. patents.

A Memorial Service to Celebrate Jim's Life will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 15, at the Jay Gould Memorial Reformed Church, 53837 State Highway 30, Roxbury, NY. Following the service there will be a time of fellowship and, at 3pm, interment at Vega Cemetery, Roxbury.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Jay Gould Church or Adult Teen Challenge, PO Box 249, Ozark, MO 65721 or online at teenchallengesusa.org. To send a condolence, or to share a memory visit: doughertyfuneralhomes.com

Margaret Castillo

With great sadness we share the passing of Margaret Castillo on February 27, 2023.

She was born to Jo-

seph & Margaret Harty on May 7, 1952 in Queens. In 1976 she moved to Margaretville where she remained until her passing.

Margaret was a loving Mother and Step-Mother, Grandmother, Sister, Aunt, and Great Aunt. Survived by her two boys Anthony (Cait) and Jonathan (Rachel), step-children Emily (Joseph) & Rosemary (Raul) & grandchildren (Anthony) Grant, Hailey & Alden. Her siblings Frank, Julia, Robert, James, Richard, Steven, Thomas, will all miss her terribly. She will be reunited with her parents, brothers Terrence and Michael, sister Elizabeth, and her stepchildren Elliot and Jose.

Her enjoyment in life was being a Mother, grandmother, and spending time with her family members. Some of her favorite things were a hot cup of tea

with a side of cookies, the simple pleasures of watching channel 7, playing her numbers and scratch offs, puzzles (Crosswords, Word searches, Jigsaw puzzles), singing along to "Gone with the wind". She loved going to the movies and taking her time walking through every aisle of most stores at the mall, sneaking a candy when she could. She would always put a smile on our

faces with her quick comebacks and wittiness which we all miss so much.

Margaret's services will be held at Hynes Funeral Home in Margaretville, New York on Saturday, March 4 between the hours of 1-4 p.m.

Immediately following the service we will be having a gathering at Margaretville Fire Department to celebrate her life.

ADVERTISE

in the Catskills Chronicle

Call Gretchen Balcom

at 845 586-6192

or 607 435-0795

Chamber Planning Breakfast

DELHI — Join the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce for Breakfast on Thursday, March 16 from 8:30 to 10 a.m. in the The Maple Room at the Hancock House Hotel

Business and Breakfast is a targeted networking and contact-building event designed to give you opportunities to meet and share your business information with other Chamber members. Informal networking begins with coffee, followed by a breakfast buffet. A brief Chamber update and a word from from event sponsor, 30-second pass-the-mic to all attendees, and door prizes complete our program. Bring a company swag item for the business card door prize drawings. Don't forget to bring your business cards to share

Register at delaware-countychamber.org. Cost is \$20 per person.

RCS Holding Kindergarten, Pre-K Signup

ROXBURY — Roxbury Central School will be holding pre-kindergarten and kindergarten registration on April 18th for the 2023-24 school year.

If you have a pre-school child born on or before December 1, 2019 please notify the Guidance Office at 326-4151, ext. 2019, as soon as possible to set up an appointment (you must have an appointment to register your child.



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

| | |
|------------|--|
| 3/3 Fri | 6:00PM - Citizen News Bureau - Lori Fairbairn brings you the Weekend Weather report for the Catskill Region. |
| | 6:30PM - WARK Community Television Archives - Michael Finberg talks with a Catskill Ice climber. Then they find some ice and learn some technique (Airdate Early 80s) |
| | 7:00PM - Mostly Folk with Artie Martello - Artie's guest is singer/songwriter Lucy Kaplansky. Lucy Kaplansky is an American folk musician well known nationally and internationally and is based in New York City. |
| | 7:30PM - The Delaware County Chamber of Commerce presentation on Workforce Wellness: Cancer Screening Program. |
| 3/4 Sat | 8:00PM - Music on the Delaware - Tune in for a pre-recorded concert with Randy Miritello. Randy was raised between upstate New York and the deserts of Arizona, writing songs of barroom brawls, murder, liquor, love lost and love found. |
| | 6:00PM - Delaware County News Update - Julia Marks and Matt Avitabile bring you the latest news from the Delaware County Region. |
| | 6:30PM - Hiker Trash Husbands - Jeff and Moe hike Snowy Bushwhack to Halcott Mountain, a Trailless Catskill 3500 Peak. |
| | 7:00PM - Focus on the Arts - Elizabeth Mami talks with Lindsay Comstock, current curator of 1053 Gallery on main in Fleischmanns. Discussing the current exhibit, "Departures" which runs to March 12th. |
| 3/5 Sun | 7:30PM - Chamber Connects - The Delaware County Chamber of Commerce. Ray Pucci talks with NYS Cannabis Control Board member Jen Metzger discusses the work accomplished by the Office of Cannabis Management and the timeline for future action. |
| | 8:00PM - Music on the Delaware - Tune in for a pre-recorded concert with Mile 12. Mile 12 is a modern string band from Boston, known for their spirited blend of original and traditional Bluegrass, Folk and American music. Enjoy the last of this performance on CatskillsAir. |
| | 6:00PM - Grocholl Homestead - As we get closer to Spring, it's time to think about your garden. Join Ashton as she shares with us how to start your seeds for your garden and shares with us how to grow vegetables from seed. |
| | 6:30PM - The Catskill Center - Jazz Harkin talks with Jeff Senterman, Executive Director about the Center and funding from New York State. |
| 3/6 Mon | 7:00PM - WARK Community TV 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 - The Sonny Rock Show. Sonny with drummer Vito Luizzi, who has played with various artists including the Johnny Winter Band. |
| | 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. Enjoy the last of this performance on CatskillsAir. |
| | 6:00PM - Focus on the Arts - Elizabeth Mami checks in with the Roxbury Arts Group to see what they have going on during the upcoming months. |
| 3/7 Tue | 6:30PM - The Little Red Cottages of Nowhere - In this video, Andrea showcases her outdoor shower that she built for her guests. |
| | 7:00PM - Mostly Folk with Artie Martello - Coal miner's daughter, grand-daughter and great grand-daughter, as well as International charting singer songwriter Tiffany Williams discusses her 3rd studio CD with Artie. |
| | 7:30PM - 7:30PM - Downstaters - Jess & Beth join the local gym and find they might need to adjust their schedules and fashion accordingly. |
| | 8:00PM - Music on the Delaware - Tune in for a pre-recorded concert with Reggie Harris. Reggie Harris is a musician, storyteller and educator who has been a vibrant force in musical, educational and historical circles for over 35 years. Enjoy the last of this performance on CatskillsAir. |
| 3/8 Wed | 6:00PM - Weekly Weather Forecast - Lori Fairbairn brings you the Weekly forecast for the Catskill Region. |
| | 6:30PM - WARK Community Television Archives - The Dictionary Game (Episode 3). Michael Finberg hosts two teams of four as they try to stump each other with "trick definitions". One of the four definitions is correct Tune in for the fun! |
| | 7:00PM - The Hiker Trash Husbands - Join the hike as Jeff and Moe as they hike Snowy Bushwhack to Halcott Mountain, a Trailless Catskill 3500 Peak. |
| | 7:30PM - Focus on the Arts - Elizabeth Mami talks with Xan Peters, fine artist, Tufts teacher, podcast host, paleo artist. Amazing young talent. |
| 3/9 Thu | 8:00PM - Music on the Delaware - Tune in for a pre-recorded concert with fiddler Pat Reynolds playing a selection of Irish dance tunes. Now based in Clinton, NY, Pat has been playing fiddle since childhood, first in New York, then in the west of Ireland. |
| | 6:00PM - Grocholl Homestead - As we get closer to Spring, it's time to think about your garden. Join Ashton as she shares with us how to start your seeds for your garden and shares with us how to grow vegetables from seed. |
| | 6:30PM - Focus on the Arts - Elizabeth Mami talks with Lindsay Comstock, current curator of 1053 Gallery on main in Fleischmanns. Discussing the current exhibit, "Departures" which runs to March 12th. |
| | 7:00PM - WARK Community TV Archives - Michael Finberg talks with a Catskill Ice climber. They find some ice and learn some techniques. |
| 3/9 Thu | 7:30PM - The Catskill Center - Jazz Harkin talks with Jeff Senterman, Executive Director, about the Center and funding from New York State. |
| | 8:00PM - Music on the Delaware - Tune in for a pre-recorded concert with Bea Summers and Barb Acker. Two local singers, who perform a mix of classic country, rock, folk, and original music. Enjoy the last of this performance on CatskillsAir. |
| | 6:00PM - Citizen News Bureau - Lori Fairbairn brings you the Weekend Weather Report for the Catskill Region. |
| | 6:30PM - Mostly Folk Artie talks with James Kahn is a retired ER doctor, singer/songwriter and writer, and has published numerous articles as well as the novelizations of Poltergeist, The Return of the Jedi, The Goonies, Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom. |
| 3/9 Thu | 7:30PM - Downstaters - In this episode, Jess & Beth join the local gym and find they might need to adjust their schedules and fashion accordingly. |
| | 7:30PM - The Sonny Rock Show. Sonny talks with drummer Vito Luizzi. Vito has played with various artists including the Johnny Winter Band. |
| | 8:00PM - Music on the Delaware - Tune in for a pre-recorded concert with Blue Tonic. Blue Tonic is a four-piece band that plays mostly blues, but sometimes ventures into a bit of rock, country, early 1900s vaudevillian and honkytonk. Enjoy the last of this performance on CatskillsAir. |

CatskillsAir is community-based, grassroots television channel, reflecting the lifestyles, interests and concerns of the Greater Catskills Region.

Visit us at catskillsair.com



RITZ IN SHARON SPRINGS TWO DAYS OF SPECIAL WRESTLING PICS



The Cobleskill Herald

Serving Cobleskill, Sharon, Esperance, and beyond • A Section of the *Mountain Eagle*

Volume 8, No. 9

cobleskillherald@gmail.com

FRIDAY, March 3, 2023

518-763-6854

\$1.00

Republicans Nominate Caza for Clerk

By Matthew Avitabile

SCHOHARIE - The Schoharie County Republican Committee met Tuesday night to decide a number of initiatives for 2023, including several nominations for significant positions.

The board of supervisors room was filled with approximately 50 participants.

The first position on the ballot was the nomination for County Treasurer MaryAnn Wollaber-Bryan. County Board Chair and Conesville Town Supervisor Bill Federice praised Wollaber-Bryan during her first time, stating that the Treasurer and her team adapted well to the end of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Chair also said that Wollaber and her team were creating a new county finance system and invested money into state-endorsed funds that bring back \$1 million or more per year.

Federice said this was a major boost to the county budget.

Wollaber-Bryan spoke after the major balloting, and gave sincere thanks "from the bottom of my heart" to the people of the county and the Re-

publicans present for their faith in her.

County Clerk Race
The most significant item on the agenda Tuesday was nomination for Schoharie County Clerk. Longtime Clerk Indy Jaycox is retiring after 16 years on the job.

Jaycox nominated the Deputy Clerk, Schoharie Mayor Larry Caza. Jaycox cited Caza's 19 years of "phenomenal" service, stating that he knew the county office "inside and out."

She described him as "most knowledgeable, steady" and as a "true professional."

Jaycox highlighted Caza's role after the 2011 flood. Despite his own home being seriously damaged, he helped the county "every step of the way."

"He was there." Chair Federice also praised Caza, saying that "Larry is going to be a fantastic county clerk."

Caza's nomination was also seconded by David Lloyd, Michelle Price, Esperance Town Supervisor Earl Van Wormer, and Schoharie Town Supervisor Alan Tavenner.

Tavenner, who serves alongside Caza in local government called him a "great partner."



Schoharie Mayor and current Schoharie County Deputy Clerk Larry Caza spoke prior to the nomination vote. Photos by Matthew Avitabile.



Former Middleburgh Mayor Gary Hayes spoke prior to the balloting.

Gary Hayes, who served as Middleburgh's Mayor from 2000-2004 was nominated by Middleburgh's Chris Hubbard.

Hubbard cited Hayes' "approachability" and "professionalism."

Former Mayor Hayes spoke next, stating that he had had "great love for the area, our residents, and process of how we govern."

Hayes called himself an "influencer for betterment of our society." He added that he could "add something that cannot be bought or measured with money."

The candidate promised to bring the County Clerk's office "into the 21st century" and promised a platform of accessibility, professionalism, and accountability.

This was Mr. Hayes' fourth campaign for the office, including more recently in 2007 and 2011.

Mayor Caza spoke next, describing a "personal commitment" to his "job, the people I work with, and Schoharie County."

Caza described seeking the office of County Clerk as not aspirational or something to add to a resume.

He said that service was "part and parcel" of serving almost 20 years

in the office after being recommended by former County Clerk Peter Lopez.

Caza said that he enjoys serving people, including working at the Tory Tavern until it closed in 2014.

"We've come into the 21st century," Caza said.

In particular, the Deputy County Clerk said that much of the focus will be on the DMV office.

"We have professionals there—they get the job done."

Caza said that the "focus is the customer."

The candidate said that if elected, he would resign from being Mayor of Schoharie.

"One elected office at a time."

Caza stated desire to fit in the office, stating that Schoharie County

"should be and is known as a great community." County Republican

Chair and Assemblyman Chris Tague stated after the candidates' statements that "we're all Republicans here."

The counting of the ballots took approximately half an hour. Chair Tague said that the vote was "close" but had the candidates review the exact tally.

The Republicans also nominated Chair Tague and Marie McAllister as representatives to the state GOP.

Mr. Tague is seeking the statewide Republican Party chair, with an election set for later this month.

Tague praised the committee members and pointed out that three county offices, Treasurer, District Attorney, and County Clerk are presently held by women.

The committee also nominated Wells Farr and Matthew Coltrain for Coroner.

Cobleskill Briefs

Do you have any events you'd like to see featured in the Cobleskill Herald? Let us know at cobleskillherald@gmail.com.

Two OFA Sr Congregate Meal Sites Open

Local residents are invited to enjoy noon-time meals and good company (except holidays) 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 by 2 pm the day before you want to go. A suggested donation of \$4 is accepted from those 60 years old and older. Under age 60? You're welcome to participate and will be charged \$5.

Sharon Springs - Board of Education Meeting

The Sharon Springs Central School Board of Education will be meeting on Monday, March 6th at 7:30 PM. The school is located at 514 State Highway 20 in the Village of Sharon Springs.

Family Recovery Support Group

Every Wednesday evening from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM., SCCASA hosts Family Recovery Support Group Meetings facilitated by Maggie Jackman Pryor, a Family Support Navigator, and Tom Moran, a Peer Engagement Specialist and Recovery Coach at 349 Mineral Springs Road.

Richmondville - Town Board Meeting

The Richmondville Town Board will be holding its monthly meeting on Thursday, March 9th at 6:00 PM at the Town Municipal Building (104 Municipal Lane off of Podpadic Road).

Howes Cave - Music at Serious Brewing

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

Cobleskill - Board of Education Meeting

The Cobleskill-Richmondville Central School Board of Education will be meeting on Monday, March 13th at 7:00 PM at the Golding Middle School Library. Meetings are also available for viewing afterwards on the SCHOPEG website.

OFA Offers Grab & Go Meals at The Gathering

The Office for the Aging provides healthy grab and go meals for people 60 years +, 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. Interested individuals must reserve grab and go meals 24 hours in advance by calling 518-920-3757 and speaking to Judy between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Meals are available daily beginning at 11 a.m. One can take meals home to eat or stay at the Center and enjoy them with company. Monthly meal menus are available at The Center's front desk or by contacting OFA at 518-295-2001.

Upcoming Solar Meetings

Carlisle Planning Board Meeting, 3/14/23@ 7PM-Carlisle Town Hall, Crommie Rd. Carlisle
Seward Planning Board Meeting 3/21/23@7PM- Seward Town Barn-Lowe Rd. Bring a chair.

Schoharie County Chamber Of Commerce Hosts New Year, New Board

COBLESKILL - The Schoharie County Chamber of Commerce is hosting a New Year, New Board Breakfast on Wednesday, March 15th from 8:00 to 9:30 AM at The Gathering Place 50 Plus Community Center, 127 Kenyon Road in Cobleskill.

Please stop by and say HELLO, have some break-

fast, meet the new Board members and see what's new with the Chamber. If you have any questions or would like more infor-

mation, please feel free to contact the Chamber at (518) 295-8824 or at admin@schohariechamber.com



CHRISTY GILLESPIE-QUINN
LICENSED ASSOCIATE REAL ESTATE BROKER

518.231.4526
clyquinn@gmail.com

COUNTRY BOY REALTY
753 E MAIN ST, COBLESKILL, NY 12043

Offered at \$189,900

Cozy 2 Bedroom Ranch with Mountain Views
Don't Miss Out!

605 LAWYERSVILLE RD
SEWARD, NY

Not far from Cobleskill village, but feels like you're in the country!

COFFEE IN COBY

National Divorce?

By Timothy Knight

Author's Note: my continued analysis and coverage of the Russo-Ukrainian War will resume in next week's column. Thank you.

I typically stay away from national politics in my weekly columns because (1.) they needlessly divide readers, which I have no desire to contribute to, and (2.) I am naturally a middle of the road kind of guy politically, who does not really care for inciting folks for the sake of inciting them.

The same cannot be said for Georgia Republican Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene, however, as she recently suggested that there should be a "National Divorce" between Democratic and Republican States in our country. This kind of vitriol is not uncommon for Ms. Greene, who personifies the worst inhibitions of politicians these days, but this particular suggestion is as unAmerican as they come, in my opinion.

Not only has the question of "National Divorce" been settled before: it's unconstitutional and costly in terms of blood, sweat, and treasure (and it would inevitably lead to open conflict, especially in states that are equally divided like Arizona, Georgia, Nevada,

New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin); but it would create endless pockets of resistance within almost every state, leading to the Balkanization of our people.

With the exception of Oklahoma and Vermont (and pockets exist there, too), almost every state has both Democratic cities and Republican farm country, so how would you "divorce" those pockets of people from their ideological brethren? Besides for a program of forced relocation (how Russian), there would be no remedy. Furthermore, would you really want to create modern political states around a political or ideological formation as opposed to one of shared values, history, and culture?

I know there are many folks - on both sides of the aisle - who claim we are essentially two peoples at this point, but take a New York City liberal and a Boonville conservative to France, and the French will only see an American. What unites us as Americans is far greater than our divisions.

It is difficult for me to reflect upon what our forefathers went through during the American Civil War; a conflict primarily fought over whether hu-

man beings of one race should be able to possess other human beings from another race, and somehow believe that our modern infighting over culture war horseshit is remotely worthy of a "divorce" when they were able to reunite one hundred and sixty years ago with higher stakes.

When President Abraham Lincoln stated in the Gettysburg Address that, "It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced," it was a challenge for all Americans - both living at the time and now today - to dedicate themselves to the calling of ensuring our government of the people, by the people, and for the people does not perish from this earth.

Ms. Greene might fail that calling, but I do not believe most Americans will.

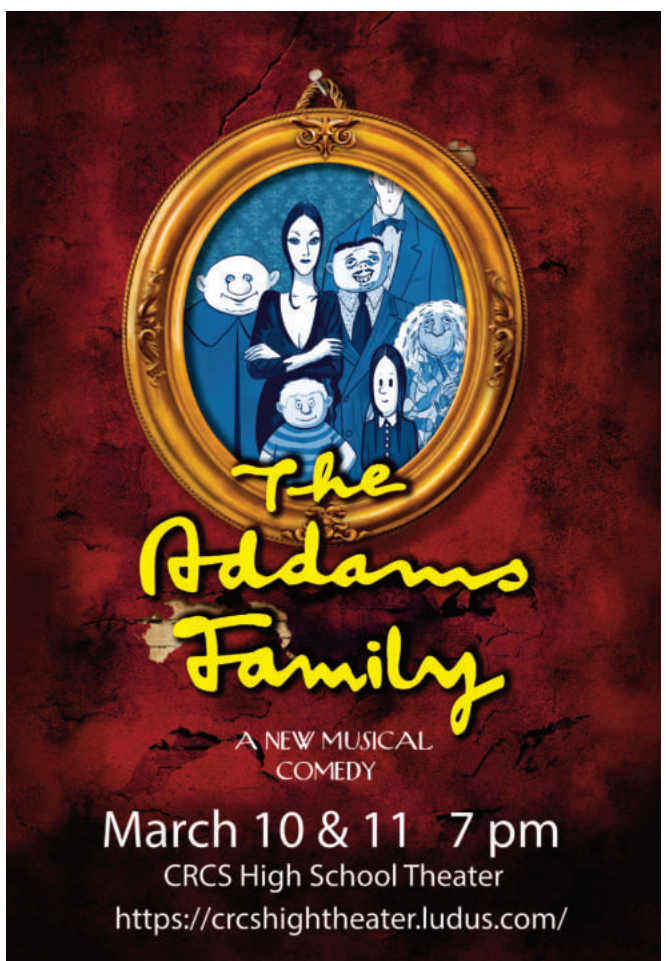
Greetings! I am planning a "mailbag" edition of Coffee in Coby soon, so please send any questions you may have for me about Schoharie County politics, the Atlanta Braves 2021 World Series title or whatever else, and it might just be included. My email is timothyknight93@gmail.com.

Seeking Info for First Responders

First Responders face daily and long-term stress while serving their communities. In response to the long-term effects of stress, members from Schoharie County first responder agencies have developed the Stress Management Assistance Response Team of Schoharie County (SMART). SMART was developed and trained to effectively recognize and respond to first responders who are experiencing emotional or physical symptoms from direct or indirect exposure to acute or chronic high stress inci-

dents. SMART will respond by listening, referring and supporting those in need. The team has received and continues to seek training to enhance peer support and assist in the well-being of first responders' mental health. This work will assist first responders to continue their invaluable work for the people of Schoharie County. SMART is comprised of Schoharie County first responders and clergy and is funded through generous donations from the public, businesses, and first responder organizations.

Members of SMART have attended and will continue to attend trainings developed by the International Critical Incident Stress foundation, in courses such as assisting individuals in crisis, group crisis intervention, and advanced group crisis intervention. In order to complete the trainings additional funds are needed to pay for the training materials and course. In an effort to raise additional funds to pay for training and other items necessary to assist fellow first responders SMART is having a "by donation" pancake breakfast on March 11th, 2023 from 7am to 11 am at the Cobleskill Fire Department. The public's support with this breakfast is appreciated. Any businesses or persons who may wish to contribute a donation may mail a check to Catholic Charities at 489 West Main Street, Cobleskill NY 12043. The check may be made out to Catholic Charities and please note that it is for SMART. SMART is assisted by Catholic Charities, a 501c3 charity and donations are tax deductible. Any money contributed will be directly used to assist first responders. SMART is available to any first responders 24/7 and can be contacted at 518-918-6844. All calls are confidential, and no record of the call is kept.



The Addams Family
A NEW MUSICAL COMEDY
March 10 & 11 7 pm
CRCS High School Theater
<https://crshightheater.ludus.com/>



LITE 94.3 100.1 AM-1190
AMERICA'S BEST MUSIC
Lite Talk Weekdays (6-Am-9am)
With Doug Stephen & Ja Kershner.
"America's Best Music" All Day..All
Night Over 1000 Adult Song Selection. Local Weather 87 Times Per Day!
Nascar-Yankees- Bulldog Sports.
Regional Coverage:
94.3 AM-1190 Schoharie & Otsego Counties.
100.1 Schoharie, Montgomery & Fulton Counties.
Am-1190 All Above Counties.
LISTEN ON LINE: lite94radio.com (518) 234-3400.

Murders & Funky Stuff Presentation by Sharon Historical Society

We're hosting a new event, and we'd love to see you there. Join us for "Murders and Funky Stuff in Schoharie County", on March 13th, 2023 at 7:00 PM (New York Time).

This presentation will be both in-person and available via Zoom. Attend in person at the Sharon Public Library Community Room (129 Main Street, Sharon Springs, NY)

Murder and commotion in minimal rustic upstate New York; Yes it's valid! From 1726 until 1974 around 35 homicides hit the news in Schoharie Region, NY. The book is stacked with pictures of genuine paper articles. A portion of the killings was hair-raising, some were hidden where no one will think to look and some are perplexing. I was a piece shocked at the number of spouses that killed their wives. The slopes and valleys of the province additionally offered some fairly fascinating out-of-control stuff as well. When you take a gander at the titles in the paper, what is your eye attracted to first? Suppose there is a tale about somebody winning 1,000,000 bucks, one more around 200 new positions, and a homicide. The vast majority of us, I accept, check out at the homicide first. Why? I don't have the

foggiest idea however we do. A portion of the sentence went to the hangman's tree, some to the hot seat, and a couple was even singed at the stake. I found a paper, gathered by a class at Hartwick School, NY, that recorded 140 hangings in all of New York State from 1673-1890. The strange and uncommon events that occurred in or close to Schoharie Province are sprinkled all through the killings. A portion of my top picks is the person who attempted to sell his better half for \$25, the one who dozed for a considerable length of time, the booby-caught house, and the alleged German government operative. This book additionally narrates individuals and spots that the troublemakers were in touch with. There are photos of the lawyers, prison, and town halls that they regularly visited. It appears to be that, previously, the Schoharie Region prison didn't have gained notoriety for keeping detainees inside their walls.

Karen McLaughlin Cuccinello has self-authored and self-published five local history books over the past few years: Schoharie County One Room Schoolhouses, The Schoharie Alps: History of Summit, Murder and Funky Stuff in Schoharie

County, Emergency Medical Services in Schoharie County, Schoharie County Clubs, and Lodges, etc. and Spanish American War Veterans with Connections to Schoharie County. Karen also writes for the local newspapers and historical societies, is a genealogist, Summit Town historian, archivist in the history room of a local library, a records management clerk, a member of the Association of Public Historians of New York State, a contributor to the Delaware County NY Genealogy and History website and has posted over 7700 photographs of grave-stones on findagrave.com. Karen has lived in upstate New York all her life.

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/murders-and-funky-stuff-in-schoharie-county-registration-567027994997>

Got a Tip?

Call Us at

518-763-6854

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



FRESH JUICING **100% NATURAL** **SMOOTHIE DRINKS**

The 5 Greatest Juicing Health Benefits

- Increased Vitamins & Minerals in your Diet.
- Potential Weight Loss.
- Increased Energy.
- Decrease Inflammation & Reset Your Body.
- Protect Against Disease.

Open for Breakfast & Lunch. Gift Cards Available.
Healthy options...Salads, Paninis & Buddha Bowls



BERKSHIRE
BECOME A FOSTER PARENT TODAY!
To learn how YOU CAN make a difference, please call (518) 456-1969 or visit Berkshirefarm.org/foster

A Saturday of Champions



Above left: Luke Yorke wrestling Wyatt Meade of Unatego-Unadilla Valley-IV. Luke would lose this bout and not move on. Luke gives 100 percent and should be proud of his accomplishments.

Above right: Luke Yorke took control of Wyatt Meade at this point but seemed to fall short toward the end of the bout.



Above left: -Liam English in bout 935 at the state finals, wrestling Trevor Bishop of Tamarac-II. Liam with guaranteed place 5th weight class Division 2, 126 lbs during the wrestling finals Saturday.

Above right: Ashten Healy would secure a guaranteed 5th place with this bout against Chris Noto. Ashten seems to be the one to keep an eye on in the years to come.



-Liam English wrestling Deakon Bailey of Tioga-IV. Liam was being held down. But not for long, he managed to get up and take the points. Photos by Robert Duso.

Ashten Healy wrestles Chris Noto of Honeoye Falls-Lima-V. Chris managed to get Ashten's leg and was controlled for a short time. Ashten managed to break away and continue the match.

The Bath or Shower You've Always Wanted
IN AS LITTLE AS 1 DAY



\$1000 OFF* | **No Payments & No Interest for 18 Months****
AND
Military & Senior Discounts Available
OFFER EXPIRES 3/30/2023

BCI BATH & SHOWER | **CALL NOW!**
(877) 529-9560

*Includes product and labor; bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires 3/30/2023. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. **Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify. See your dealer for details. ©2023 BCI Acrylic Inc.

Don't Miss Out!
Email us at
[cobleskillherald@gmail.com!](mailto:cobleskillherald@gmail.com)

American Legion's Boys State Now Accepting Applicants

By Alexis Pencar
SCHOHARIE COUNTY - Local American Legion Posts in Schoharie County are now accepting ap-

plicants for Boys State this June 2023. To be considered, reach out to start the application soon!

Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high

school students. This program allows students to become part of the operation of local, county, and state governments. Boys State was founded in 1935 as the idea of two Illinois Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy, and Harold Card, who organized the first Boys State at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield.

and recreational programs. Legion posts select high school juniors to attend the program and in some cases, individual expenses could be paid by a sponsoring post, a local business, or another community-based organization.

at the time of application. Have completed their junior year with at least an 80% or B average. Have at least one semester of high school remaining. Be a resident of New York State, or reside in another state but attend school in New York State.

Boys' State for New York is scheduled to be held from June 25 - June 30, 2023, at SUNY Morrisville in Morrisville, NY.

Since Boys Nation began in 1946, a number of its graduates have been elected to public office, including presidents, congressmen, state governors, and state legislators. Many others have been inspired to work for the campaigns of individuals seeking public office.

For more information please visit nylegion.net/boys-state/ or contact Paul Todd of American Legion Post #1269 at (518) 649-0024. Applications are due no later than close of business on April 13, 2023.

information can be found at empiregirlsstate.org.

According to The American Legion, at Boys State, participants learn franchised citizens' rights, privileges, and responsibilities. The training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county, and state governments. Operated by students elected to various offices, Boys State activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, choruses,

The next gathering for this Homeschool Group will be in March for a field trip to the local Sap House at Stone House Farm in Sharon Springs. Students will get to learn about the seasonal

maple syrup making that happens right in their backyard. Seeing and smelling the process in action, what better way to follow that up, than a private brunch with all the fantastic maple products to try! Please reach out on Facebook to RSVP for this event. Check out "Your Homeschool Village" on Facebook for more information!

Candidates for Boys' State must meet the following requirements: Be at least 15 years of age

Homeschool Group Flourished in February

By Alexis Pencar
SHARON SPRINGS - Last week on Thursday February 23, 'Your Homeschool Village' hosted their February Party at the Community Building in Sharon Springs. This was one of the largest gatherings yet with nearly 40 homeschool students all ready to exchange personalized valentines with their friends!

This group was first featured by The

Cobleskill Herald back in September while starting off with just a handful of homeschooled students. With the overall community bouncing back, this group is open and accepting of all!

The next gathering for this Homeschool Group will be in March for a field trip to the local Sap House at Stone House Farm in Sharon Springs.

Students will get to learn about the seasonal

maple syrup making that happens right in their backyard. Seeing and smelling the process in action, what better way to follow that up, than a private brunch with all the fantastic maple products to try! Please reach out on Facebook to RSVP for this event.

Check out "Your Homeschool Village" on Facebook for more information!

Supporting the Prom Project



By Vito Giambanco
COBLESKILL - This Wednesday I had the pleasure of sitting down with the coordinators of the Prom Project of Schoharie County and learning of their beautiful work.

The Prom Project's goal is to provide teens with beautiful prom dresses at no cost. Many families unfortunately cannot afford prom dresses due to the normal high prices. The Prom Project is eliminating that burden for these teens and their families. At the moment the organization holds about 450 gowns in all different sizes.

Lynnette Kubat said to

me "Seeing the immediate smile on their faces when they see the dresses is the best feeling."

They have no desired amount on how many dresses they are aiming for, any donation is accepted.

Currently, the Prom Project's inventory is held at the Cobleskill Methodist Church and the times to pick up dresses starts at the end of march and is held one day of the week and every Saturday. All information for pick up times can be found on their Facebook page. This past weekend dresses from the organization were seen at the "Night to

Shine, which is a formal event held for those with special needs covered in our paper recently. It is a truly remarkable event for all those involved.

The organization is always looking for volunteers to help. The goal is to become a 503-C non-profit organization, so they venture out in gathering more resources for the cause. The Prom Project also offers Men's prom clothing, jewelry, and shoes. They are looking for size 14 and up on dresses specifically to up that side of the inventory. All dresses are asked to be returned to help other teens have that experience.

Police Blotter



Thursday, February 23, 2023

At 4:02 PM, Cobleskill Police arrested Jon Shephard, 41, of Utica, N.Y. for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the second degree and two other vehicle and traffic law violations. He was issued traffic tick-

ets to appear in Cobleskill Town Court on 03/21/2023 at 2:00 PM.

Friday, February 24, 2023

At 12:00 noon, Cobleskill Police arrested Raymond Mojica, 41, of Cobleskill, on a bench warrant from Montgomery County. He was turned over to the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office.

At 11:15 PM, Cobleskill Police arrested Joseph Lawrence, 40, of Middleburgh, N.Y. for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the second degree, aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree, and three other vehicle and traffic law violations. He was issued traffic tickets to appear in Cobleskill Town Court on 03/21/2023 at 2:00 PM.

Declare Your Independence! Subscribe at the-mountaineagle.com

BUILD YOUR LEGACY WHERE LEGACIES ARE BUILT.

For over 100 years, Bassett has been a pioneer in delivering innovative care and fostering healthy rural communities.

Forbes 2022 AMERICA'S BEST-IN-STATE EMPLOYERS

Bassett Healthcare Network
JOIN OUR TEAM | bassett.org/careers

Are you at risk?
Get Screened for Risks of Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease
5 Screening Package for \$149
Call 866-870-0173

LIFE LINE SCREENING
The Power of Prevention



Forgotten Schoharie County Corporal James Tanner's Role in Documenting American History

By David Avitabile

WASHINGTON, D.C./RICHMONDVILLE - The room in the rear of the Petersen Boarding House on 10th Street in Washington, D.C., was filled with tears, cries, sobs, and anguish. Men surrounded their wounded leader as he lay diagonally across a bed that was too small for his six-foot, four-inch frame. The 56-year-old man laid on the bed bleeding from a gun shot he suffered at about 10pm the night before.

Shortly after 7am on Saturday, April 15, 1865, the leader took his last breath, and at 7:22am, Abraham Lincoln was declared dead. United States Surgeon General Dr. William Hammond crossed the lifeless arms of the 16th President across his chest. Secretary of State Edwin Stanton then muttered some of the most famous words in American history: "Now, he belongs to the ages."

How do we know the details about President Lincoln's last moments after he was shot in Ford's Theater the night before? Obviously there was no recording equipment nor were any photographs taken in the room after the President was moved there. We know these important events thanks to Corporal James Tanner who was born on a farm in Richmondville in 1844.

He joined the Union Army shortly after the Civil War broke in April 1861 in Fort Sumter, South Carolina. A Confederate artillery shell put him on his path with history.

James Tanner was born on April 4, 1844. He worked on the farm most of the youth and was educated in local public schools and graduated from high school at 16. He took courses at a business school for a year, and then taught public school for a few months in a neighboring school district.

He was just 17 when the Civil War broke out in April 1861. He enlisted in Company C of the 87th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment, and was quickly promoted to corporal. Corporal Tanner saw extensive action in the opening years of the war.

He saw action in the Peninsula Campaign from March to July, 1862, fighting at the Siege of Yorktown from April 5 to May 4, 1862, the Battle of Williamsburg on May 5, 1862, the Battle of Seven Pines from May 31 to June 1, 1862, the Seven Days Battles from June 25 to July 1, 1862, and the Battle of Malvern Hill on July 1, 1862. The last time he saw action was at the Second Battle of Bull Run in Manassas, Virginia, August 28-30, 1862. As Confederate artillery shelled his unit's position the last day of the battle shrapnel tore off his left foot and shattered his left leg below the knee. Union surgeons

amputated both legs about four inches below the knee.

With the Union Army in retreat, Corporal Tanner was left behind to be cared for by a local farmer's family. He was captured by Confederate forces and paroled after 10 days, he spent several weeks recovering in Fairfax Seminary Hospital in Virginia before being sent home to New York. He learned to walk with artificial limbs and for his service and injuries, he received a Civil War Pension.

After he returned to his home state, he won a position as deputy doorkeeper for the New York State Assembly, and then worked in a variety of positions of increasing responsibility for the next few months. During this time, he learned stenography and shorthand. It was these skills that put him in the back room of the Petersen Boarding House shortly after John Wilkes, an actor, shot President Lincoln during a performance of Our American Cousin in Ford's Theater.

In October 1864, a month before President Lincoln was re-elected, Corporal Tanner won an appointment as a clerk and stenographer in the Ordnance Department in Washington, D.C. On April 14, 1865, Good Friday, he was summoned to the Petersen House where Abraham Lincoln lay dying from an assassin's bullet.

"I was an employee of the Ordnance Bureau of the War Department and had some ability as a short hand writer," Corporal Tanner wrote 50 years after the fateful night.

"The latter fact brought me within touch of the events of that awful night. I had gone with a friend to witness the performance that evening at Grover's Theater soon after 10 o'clock a man rushed in and cried, 'President Lincoln has been shot in Ford's theater!'"

Also attending Grover's Theater, only a few blocks from Ford's Theater, that night to watch Aladdin was President Lincoln's youngest son Tad.

In another coincidence in late February and early March, 1864, the President attended several Shakespeare plays at Grover's Theater starring Edwin Booth, brother of John Wilkes Booth.

In addition, though John Wilkes Booth and President Lincoln were not personally acquainted, the President had seen Booth at Ford's Theatre in 1863. In fact, after the assassination, actor Frank Mordaunt wrote that President Lincoln, who apparently harbored no suspicions about Booth, admired the actor and had repeatedly invited him (without success) to visit the White House.

After it was announced that the President has been shot, "There was a great confusion at once. My friend and myself crossed to Willard's Hotel and there

were told the Secretary Seward had been killed (which turned out not to be true). The wildest rumors soon fill the air. I had rooms in the house, adjoining the Petersen House, into which the President had been carried. I found an almost solid mass of humanity, blocking the street. A military guard has been placed in front of the house, and those adjoining, but after telling the commanding officer that I lived there I passed up to my apartment. It was nearly midnight when Major General Augur came out on the stoop asked if there was anyone in the crowd who could write shorthand. There was no response from the street, but one of my friends on the balcony told the general there's a young man inside who could serve him. So it was that I came in to close touch with the scenes and events surrounding the final hours of Abraham Lincoln's life. I took my seat on the one side of a small library table. Various witnesses were brought in who had either been in Ford's Theater, or up in vicinity of Mr. Seward's residence. As I took down the statements they made, we were distracted by distress of Mrs. Lincoln, her frantic sorrow was distressingly audible to us. Through all the testimony given by those who had been in for theater that night, there was an undertone of horror which held the witnesses back from positively identifying, the assassin as Booth. Said Harry Hawk, "To the best of my belief. It was Mr. John Wilkes Booth, but I will not be positive." (Harry Hawk was one of the leads in the play at the theater that night.) And so it went. I finish transcribing my notes at 6:45 in the morning and passed back into the room where the President lay. The bed had been pulled out from the corner, owing to the stature of Mr. Lincoln. He lay diagonally on his back. He had been utterly unconscious from the instant the bullet ploughed into his brain. The stair stertorous breathing subsided a couple of minutes after 7 o'clock. From then to the end, only the gentle rise and fall of his bosom gave indication that life remained. The Surgeon General was near the head of the bed, his finger on the pulse of the dying man. Mr. Lincoln's pastor, the Reverend Dr. Gurley, stood a little bit to the left of the bed. I stood near the head of the bed and from that position had full view. The first indication that the dreaded end had come was at 22 minutes past 7, when the Surgeon General crossed the pulseless hands of Lincoln, across the motionless breast, and rose to his feet. Going to my apartment I sat down and wants to make a second longhand copy for Mr. Stanton of the testimony I had taken it was occurring in occurring to me that had wish to retain the one I had

written out that night."

The account was compiled by Arthur H. VanVorvis in the fall-winter 1967 edition of the Schoharie County Historical Review and reprinted Les Hendrix' The Slaughterers' History of Schoharie County.

Corporal Tanner; in Robert E. Mickel article on the Corporal for the fall-winter 1998 edition of the Historical Review also write of the night, "I have seen many assorted pictures of the deathbed seem and most of them have Vice President Andrew Johnson seated in a chair near the foot of the bed on the left side. Mr. Johnson was not in the house at all but in his rooms in the Kirkwood House. He knew nothing of the events of the night until he was aroused in the morning by Senator Stewart and others and told her he was president of United States. The deathbed seen at 7:22am described by Tanner places the Surgeon General near the head of the bed "Where he had been monitoring the President's condition. Mr. Lincoln's pastor, the Reverend Dr. Gurley, stood a little to the left of the bed. Mr. Stanton sat in a chair on the left where the pictures place Andrew Johnson. I stood near the head of the bed and Had full view of Mr. Stanton across the President's body. At my right Robert Lincoln (the President's son) sobbed on the shoulder of Charles Sumner, as the Surgeon General crossed the President's hands across this motionless breast.' At this point, Tanner said, 'Mr. Stanton raised his hand, tears streaming down his cheeks, a more agonized expression I never saw on a human countenance as he sobbed out the words, 'He belongs to the ages now!'"

There is some controversy on what exactly Secretary Stanton said when the President died. Some say it was "Now he belongs to the angels," other, "Now he belongs to the ages." A similar issue concerns what Booth said after jumping from the President's box onto the stage after shooting President Lincoln. Some say he exclaimed, "Sic Semper Tyrannis, Latin for Thus Always to Tyrants and the state motto of Virginia, while some say he shouted, "The South is avenged."

Of course it does not matter what Booth shouted after shooting the President or what Secretary Stanton said after President Lincoln died. The bullet from Booth's .44 caliber Deriger killed the President and forever changed history.

After April 15, 1865 Corporal Tanner retreated from the spotlight of history but remained active after the assassination.

He left the Ordnance Department in December 1865 and moved back to Richmondville. He took a job as a clerk of a committee in the state legislature, studied law with Judge William C. Lamont, and was admitted

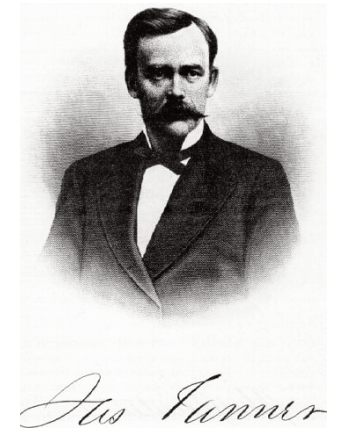
to the bar in 1869. He married Mero L. White, daughter of Alfred C. White of Jefferson, in 1866 and the couple had two sons (James A. and Earle W.) and two daughters (Ada and Antoinette).

Very active in Republican politics, Corporal Tanner won a patronage position as a clerk in the New York Custom House in New York City in 1869. He was promoted to deputy customs collector and served for four years under Chester A. Arthur, the Collector of the Port.

Corporal Tanner ran for a seat in the New York State Assembly in 1871, but lost in what many considered were fraudulent elections. He ran for registrar of deeds and wills in Kings County (Brooklyn), in 1876, but lost again.

Corporal Tanner was frequently called on to lobby Congress on behalf of veterans and made many speeches in favor of Benjamin Harrison's presidential candidacy. According to Wikipedia, he was appointed Commissioner of Pensions on March 23, 1889 and supervised the operations of the Bureau of Pensions for five months. His willingness to hire disabled veterans rather than party hacks and his desire to "treat the boys liberally" and loosen rules so that veterans could more easily qualify for pensions led to an investigation by Secretary of the Interior John Willock Noble, Corporal Tanner's superior. President Harrison then requested his resignation. He resigned on September 12, 1889. Leaving government service a second time, he opened a legal practice dedicated to helping veterans win pension claims against the federal government.

From 1889 until 1904, Corporal Tanner was a pri-



James Tanner

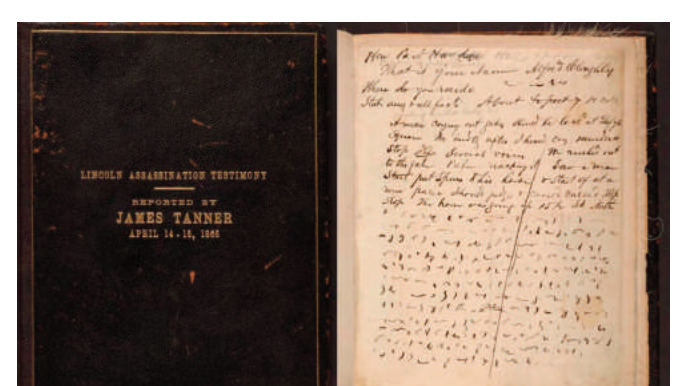
ivate pension attorney engaged in prosecuting various claims against the government. In January 1894, his legs were amputated a second time in an attempt to reduce the extreme pain from which he suffered.

President Theodore Roosevelt appointed Corporal Tanner to be Register of Wills for the District of Columbia in April 1904. He held the position until his death.

He was also very active with various veterans' organizations and the Red Cross.

As the Civil War generation began to pass into memory, the early 20th century found renewed interest in sharing stories about the war. During this time Corporal Tanner gave several public accounts of his role that night at the Petersen House. His son had also mounted his father's original notes—both the shorthand and the transcriptions—on linen, and the newly bound manuscript became an object of fascination.


He died a few minutes after 8pm on October 2, 1927 in Washington, D.C. with three of his four children at his bedside and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery with his wife, the same cemetery as Robert Todd Lincoln. A nearby amphitheater was named in his honor in May, 2014.





**Richmondville Family
Dental Practice PLLC**
303 Main Street • Richmondville, NY
(518) 294-6015

SUPERIOR VISION MADE LOCALLY



David Aidone
NYS Licensed
Optician

Dr. Tanya Devlin

**AIDONE
EYECARE**

20/20 Sale!

20% OFF* 20% OFF*
EYE EXAM PLUS EYEGLASSES

WHEN you purchase a complete pair of eyeglasses at time of exam.

*Does not apply with insurance plans or any other discounts and 20% off eye exam applies only with a complete eyeglass purchase.

3630 State Rte. 145 South, Cobleskill, NY 12043
Hours: Mon 9-1; Tues - Thurs 9-6; Fri 9-5; Closed Sat&Sun
Exams by appointment. Closed for Lunch 1-2.

**QUALITY.
CONVENIENCE & STYLE CALL TODAY (518) 234-2020**




**Visit our
Showroom!**

True American Signs
TrueAmericanSignGraphics.com Cobleskill, NY

YOUR LOCAL HAPPENINGS FOR SHARON SPRINGS

Sharon Things

By Alexis Pencar
Hey Neighbors!

Snow and more snow this past week with what looks like a break for next. Temperatures around freezing with lows staying not too far behind.

Snow removal crews have done an excellent job this year! A big thank you for keeping our communities safe!

The 2023 Sharon Springs Harvest Fest is now accepting vendor applications from farms, artisans, makers, producers, and food vendors! This year's Harvest Festival will be on September 16th & 18th, 2023.

Happy Birthday

A BIG Happy Birthday to my daughter, Aaria Pencar! She will be 7 years old this Sunday, March 5th!

Village Construction

Construction continued this week on Chestnut street. The massive trenches from the week prior were roughly filled causing several large holes across the road requiring slower speeds. The issue was quickly corrected by early week with the holes being filled in more.

This is in connection with the Water and Sewer Project backed by The Village.

Sharon Springs Rescue Squad

The Sharon Springs Rescue Squad is a cornerstone of our community! With many active members, they are always looking for new volunteers for Drivers, First Responders, Social Members, and EMTs. SSRS will fund any training that is needed. SSRS meets the first Monday of the month at 7 pm and would be happy to answer any questions about how you can support your community.

The American Legion Post 1269 of Sharon Springs is looking for new members! If you are interested in becoming an American Legion member, volunteering, or even donating to the many wonderful causes the Legion supports, please contact Commander Paul Todd at (518) 649-0024 for more information.

Sharon Springs Free Library

Our next book discussion is scheduled for March 17 at 6:00 pm in the library. The subject will be Susan Meissner's "The Nature of Fragile Things," a novel set in San Francisco in 1906, the time of the great earthquake and fire. We have large and regular-type copies available, and

it is also an e-book or audiobook on Libby.

March 12 is the date of the 2023 Oscars, but since we are still in Black History Month, we can take note of the fact that Hattie McDaniels was the first African American to win an Oscar in 1940. Since then, Hollywood has been criticized for a lack of roles for people of color and for a historical failure to recognize their outstanding performances when they do get parts. That is changing slowly. This year Angela Bassett was nominated for her performance in "Blank Panther: Wakanda Forever" and Rihanna's "Lift Me Up," from the Wakanda film was nominated for best original song.

Children's Reading Group is on Thursday mornings from 10-11 AM and includes storytime, crafts, and a snack for preschool and home-school children ages preschool to third grade.

For more Library information please contact (518) 284-3126.

Worship Services

The Sharon Reformed Church (6858 State Route 10, Sharon Springs, NY 13459) offers weekly service at 10:30 am. Contact at (518) 234-2387 for more details.

The Sharon Springs United Methodist Church (511 State Route 20, Sharon Springs, NY, 13459) offers weekly service at 10:30 am. Contact at (518) 284-2200

for more details.

The St. Thomas The Apostle Catholic Church (24 Maple Avenue, Cherry Valley, NY 13320) offers weekly mass at 10:00 am. Reminder: confession is available 30 minutes before every mass. Contact at (607) 264-3779 for more details.

The Zion St. John's Lutheran Church Seward (114 Mesick Ave, Cobleskill, NY 12043) offers weekly service on Sundays at 9:00 am. Contact at (518) 234-3222 for more details.

Cornerstone Baptist Church (7274 Route 10, Ames, NY 13317). Sunday Service is at 10:00 am. All are welcome. Contact (518) 673 3405

for more details.

Food Pantry

The Sharon Springs Food Pantry is an excellent local resource for all! They are located in the United Methodist Church on Route 20, across from the school (511 US Route 20, Sharon's Springs, NY 13459).

They are always accepting donations! If you or someone you know is in need of the Pantry, the hours are Thursday 9:00 am -10:30 am and 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm.

Senior Congregate Meal Site

Local residents are invited to enjoy socialization and a noon-time meal at Schoharie County

Office for the Aging congregate meal site in Sharon Springs (Mon., Wed. & Fri., Firehouse, Beechwood Rd.). Reserve a meal by calling OFA at 518-295-2001 by 1 pm on the day before you want to go. A suggested donation of \$4 is accepted from those 60 years old and older. Under age 60? You're welcome to participate and will be charged \$5.

To share community news, upcoming events, business specials, adjusted hours, birthdays, anniversaries, or even an outstanding resident, please reach out to: (772) 971-1410 or alexis.pencar@gmail.com.



A happy 'Snowwoman', complete with light-up eyes, a carrot nose, and a bean smile, waves to traffic heading down Main Street in The Village of Sharon Springs on Wednesday March 1st.

Don't Miss Out! Email us at cobleskillherald@gmail.com!

NOTICE

A vacancy exists in the Schoharie County Health Department in the position of

PUBLIC HEALTH TECHNICIAN
Starting Salary: \$37,736 (CEA grade 11)

A Public Health Technician performs sub-professional environmental health activities. The work is routine involving responsibility for making inspections and completing tasks in the environmental health program of any municipal health department. The work involves gathering information for use by the Public Health Director and Public Health Sanitarians in determining compliance with local and state sanitary code requirements. Depending upon assignments, the work is performed under the general or direct supervision of a technical superior who reviews reports and provides advisory assistance when necessary. 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 **MARCH 14, 2023.**

Applications may be obtained in the Personnel Office or online at: www.schohariecounty-ny.gov

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:
Possession of a minimum of 60 credit hours from a regionally accredited or New York State-registered college or university; including a minimum of 15 credit hours in the natural sciences. (Up to 6 applied science credit hours may be substituted).

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT:
This class requires extensive travel. Incumbents will be required to possess a valid, appropriate level, New York State operator's license, or otherwise demonstrate the ability to meet the travel needs of the job.

****In accordance with NYS Public Health Law, appointee must be fully vaccinated against COVID- 19 at time of appointment and provide proof of vaccination status****

NORTH AMERICA'S
#1 Selling Walk-In Tub
Featuring our **Free Shower Package**

SPECIAL OFFER

- ✓ Now you can finally have all of the soothing benefits of a relaxing warm bath, or enjoy a convenient refreshing shower while seated or standing with Safe Step Walk-In Tub's **FREE Shower Package!**
- ✓ First walk-in tub available with a customizable shower
- ✓ Fixed rainfall shower head is adjustable for your height and pivots to offer a seated shower option
- ✓ High-quality tub complete with a comprehensive lifetime warranty on the entire tub
- ✓ Top-of-the-line installation and service, all included at one low, affordable price

Now you can have the best of both worlds—there isn't a better, more affordable walk-in tub!

Call today and receive a **FREE SHOWER PACKAGE**

PLUS \$1600 OFF

FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Call Toll-Free 1-844-300-4274

SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase.

Call Today for Your Free Shower Package

1-844-300-4274

FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT | EASE OF USE | TRUSTED | BBB | LIFETIME WARRANTY

CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445

Friday's NYSPHSAA State Wrestling Championships at MVP Arena in Albany

Duanesburg-Schoharie & Cobleskill-Richmondville



Above left: Camden's Kolton Kelley jumps, trying to avoid a takedown attempt by Cobleskill-Richmondville's Liam English during their First Round 126 lb wrestling match. English won the match in a 11-3 major decision, advancing to the Quarterfinals, where he was defeated by a wrestler from Chenango Valley.

Above right: Duanesburg-Schoharie's Tyler Lloyd works Junior Beltran from Port Jefferson onto his back during their First Round 285 lb wrestling match. Lloyd won the match in a 4-1 decision, advancing to the Quarterfinals, where he was defeated by a wrestler from North Rose-Wolcott. Photos by Scott Keidong.



Above left: Cobleskill-Richmondville's Ashten Haley and Ryan Farley of Avon-Geneseo grapple for control during their First Round 110 lb wrestling match. Haley was defeated in the match, pinned in the second period.

Above right: Liam English of Cobleskill-Richmondville and Chenango Valley's Trevor Cortright grapple during their 126 lb Quarterfinals wrestling match. English lost the bout, pinned in the third period.

Scan for a FREE QUOTE!

Home • Auto • Life • Recreation

Our team of dedicated SEFCU Insurance Agents are ready to assist you with personalized, unbiased solutions. We work with over 30 top carriers to offer a wide variety of products.

Let SEFCU Insurance agency save you time and money by doing the shopping for you!



888-250-6689 | sefcuinsuranceagency.com

Ritz in Sharon Springs



Recent nutritious lunch with local Seniors at the "Spa Ritz" OFA in Sharon Springs.



Healthy meal offering at Sharon Springs "Spa Ritz" OFA in February. Photos by Alexis Pencar.

County Wide Paving

THE PAVING EXPERTS

SPECIALIZING IN RESIDENTIAL DRIVEWAYS
 Asphalt Paving • Seal Coating • Repairs
Say Goodbye to Your Muddy Driveway!

No job is too big or too small;
 we will work with you to get it done!

Spring Special
\$200 OFF!

Call for a FREE estimate!

Easy Financing Available
 Apply Online

BBB Rating: A+

518.416.8844
 countywidepavingcompany.com

High On The Hog
 BarbequeCo.com
518-827-7111

FULL SERVICE, ON-SITE CATERING OF ALL THINGS BARBEQUE

VALLEY MARKET PLAZA • 4448 RTE 30, MIDDLEBURGH, NY 12122
 OPEN THURS. 11AM - 7PM; FRI. & SAT. 11AM - 8PM; SUN. NOON - 6PM

Master of the Pig Roast!

Re-Opening Friday, March 3rd!

Like us on facebook

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

2023

NEW YEAR, NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Schoharie County Chamber of Commerce will be holding a breakfast to meet and greet the new Board Members

March 15 from 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM at The Gathering Place 50 Plus Community

Please stop by and say HELLO, have some breakfast, meet the new Board members and see what's new with the Chamber

CHAMBER
 CONNECTING COMMERCE & COMMUNITY

schohariechamber.com

Now's the Right Time

Take advantage of the new 30% Solar Investment Tax Credit (ITC) with PWRcell, Generac's fully-integrated solar + battery storage system. PWRcell will help you save money on your electric bill and be prepared for utility power outages. Plus it's compatible with most existing solar arrays.

SAVE 30% WITH THE SOLAR TAX CREDIT*

Call to request a free quote!
(888) 685-0881

Purchase a PWRcell and Receive a Free Ecobee Smart Thermostat Enhanced - valued at over \$189!*

*Scan the QR code for promo terms and conditions.

*Consult your tax or legal professional for information regarding eligibility requirements for tax credits. Solar panels sold separately.

FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL SPACE

66 Main Street Stamford, NY 12167

2,100 Square Feet \$825.00 a month

Contact: Ann Kochersberger 607 435 4921

THE Gildemeister Report

- **Employees: 'Tyrant,' 'Excellent'**
- **Lawsuit, Grievances**
- **County Office Conflict**
- **40+ Interviews**
- **COVID Policy Review**
- **Inside Dismissal Vote**

By Matthew Avitabile

SCHOHARIE — The December decision by the Schoharie County Board of Supervisors to end its financial relationship with Health Director Dr. Amy Gildemeister has sparked a controversy that has encompassed nearly every element of local politics.

Our newspaper has taken special care to not engage in speculation or rush out incomplete details about the Schoharie County government's actions and response from the state.

As such, we've spent the last two months compiling a number of different accounts regarding the role of Dr. Gildemeister in both county government and public health to get the most complete view to date.

We compiled the testimony of more than current and former county employees and local officials to get as much information as possible.

The Mountain Eagle has sparsely used pseudonyms for sources, but due to fear of retribution, we included several testimonies of individuals in such a fashion. We have deliberately obfuscated the current and former status of employees to reduce the chance of retaliation. None of those cited in such a fashion are current or previous elected office holders. In addition, we've spoken to others beyond those cited for background information. For the sake of clarity, Dr. Gildemeister is referred to as "director" even though her position is currently occupied by an interim director. Dr. Gildemeister resigned from the position as director on February 8th and has since been hired by the state health department.

As a writer's note, I entered into this process with a positive impression of several of the key players involved in this ongoing situation. This included Supervisors Bill Federice of Conesville and Phil Skowfoe of Blenheim, who this paper

endorsed each several times. It also included Dr. Gildemeister and Dr. Roy Korn. I have done my best to reach out to every relevant person I could get a hold of. At least one person I attempted to reach out to has passed away and several had out-of-service numbers.

There are areas of deep disagreement between those who support and oppose Dr. Gildemeister's tenure as health director. Both sides agree that the doctor is especially intelligent and that the health department is chronically understaffed, but for different reasons. However, the county board's non-reappointment of the director was either caused by severe mismanagement by Dr. Gildemeister or political payback by the board of supervisors, depending on the perspective.

It is important to compile the information and allow the reader to decide.

Context

The Schoharie County Board of Supervisors' December 20th vote to not reappoint Health Director Amy Gildemeister gained notable attention, especially after her nine years in the job. The resulting firestorm has, so far, not resulted in a complete view of the circumstances leading to the decision.

Much of the disagreement over a new six-year tenure is due to the unique circumstances in which New York handles local health administration. Since Schoharie County has fewer than 250,000 people, state law states that the position of "public health director may be employed in lieu of a commissioner of health" and that the position "with appropriate medical consultation, administers and manages the public health programs within a county."

This results in a unique and clumsy bifurcation of duties if four health directors leaving the county under various circumstances over the last fifteen years is any indication. The public health

director is chosen by and technically answers to the Schoharie County Board of Health, comprised of seven medical experts. The funding for the position (\$84,287 in 2022 according to public records) is provided by the Schoharie County Board of Supervisors, comprised of 16 elected members.

Furthermore, while the Board of Supervisors can technically withhold funding for the position, which it did in December, the authority regarding appointment comes from the state. State law states, "All appointments to the position of public health director and the appointment and arrangements for the medical consultant are subject to the approval of the State Commissioner of Health."

The decision to withhold funding for the position in December walks a fine line legally. The Board of Health voted unanimously in favor of a new six-year appointment, while the Supervisors voted nine to five with two absences against funding the position under Dr. Gildemeister's leadership. Due to weighted voting by population, had the two absent supervisors, Supervisor Jeff Haslun of Richmondville and Supervisor Wes Laraway of Middleburgh voted "yes," the measure would have passed.

In compiling several dozen interviews, it became clearer that perspectives on the dismissal were heavily influenced by the role of the individual speaking. Members of the board of health viewed the appointment issue as one of policy and qualifications. Members who voted to not renew the director's contract on the board of supervisors looked at the administrative details of the position.

Furthermore, interviews and a review of minutes from the county board of supervisors show one clear aspect. Had the vote regarding the appointment been taken with all members present, the result likely

would have been different.

The vote on the reappointment of Dr. Gildemeister had been tabled prior to the start of the December 20th meeting. When Supervisor Skowfoe requested the vote, Board Chair and Conesville Supervisor Bill Federice asked Mr. Skowfoe if he wanted to proceed with two prospective "yes" votes not being present. Mr. Skowfoe said yes, saying that the action was upon the advice of Board of Health member Dr. Roy Korn. Dr. Korn said that he did advise going forward with a vote, but not necessarily at that particular moment.

While Dr. Gildemeister has publicly thanked Supervisor Skowfoe, including later in this article.

The whole picture showed all respondents describing Dr. Gildemeister as an intelligent, motivated individual. She received mostly positive reviews regarding her grasp of policy, especially during the challenging period of the pandemic. Most of the testimonies we compiled indicated that Dr. Gildemeister struggled in running an active office.

The interviews resulted in a number of revelations not yet discussed in local press. Despite denials, Dr. Gildemeister was the subject of at least two written complaints and was described as being involved in a number of conflicts with at least three other county departments. Whether or not these conflicts were due to others or the director is for the reader to decide.

While there was supporting evidence in favor and opposed to Dr. Gildemeister's policy and administrative skills, the one portion that accrued no significant evidence was that the firing was a direct result of enforcing COVID policy. While several assertions were made regarding this, including citation of general frustration by supervisors several years ago and differences of opinion regarding the severity of the virus, the only docu-

mentation provided was a recent letter to the editor by Schoharie Supervisor Alan Tavenner, which did not rise to the level of recent accusations that the supervisors vote was an anti-vaccine or anti-mask sentiment.

We reached out to Mr. Tavenner twice for comment but did not receive a response.

Furthermore, much of the disagreement over perception came down to the knowledge at hand in December. Members of the board of health reviewed Dr. Gildemeister's own report and received updates from the board of supervisors through its representative from that body, Fulton Supervisor Phil Skowfoe.

Schoharie County's two-month struggle over who should helm the health department reached its zenith on February 6th. Dr. Amy Gildemeister tendered a letter of resignation addressed to the Schoharie County Board of Health due to "deliberately imposed conditions designed to severely restrict my ability to effectively carry out my duties as the Director of Public Health for Schoharie County." She stated in the letter the belief that the county board's actions were "reckless" and chose to "ignore the professional judgment and statutory rights and obligations" of the board of health, which "endangers the health and welfare of the citizens of Schoharie County."

She argues that the county board "damaged my personal and professional reputation and created a hostile work environment."

"Due to the barriers erected by the Board of Supervisors, I simply cannot accept the legal responsibilities for performing the duties of Director of Public Health," she wrote. She personally thanked Fulton Supervisor Phil Skowfoe for "his longstanding dedication to public health and his tireless work on behalf of the people of Schoharie County."

"Unsuited"

It all started very differently nine years ago.

Dr. Gildemeister joined the county government as Director of Public Health in September 2014 following time teaching chemistry and forensics at SUNY Cobleskill, SUNY Canton, and Clarkson University after receiving a Ph.D. in Environmental Health Science from the University of Michigan in 2001.

Many employees describe Dr. Gildemeister's tenure as difficult, and one that most describe as poor prior to the pandemic. The consensus of the employees we spoke to stated that the managerial tenure became worse over time after Dr. Gildemeister split the personnel into in-groups and out-groups.

The tipping point was pandemic, in which serious strain and changing state rules pushed the department and its director's leadership to the brink.

Most of the employees we spoke to expressed fear that if they used their names, they would be used by Dr. Gildemeister or the members of the board of supervisors against them. The word "retaliation" or "retaliate" was commonly used.

We received a list of nearly two dozen individuals who left the health department during the tenure of Dr. Gildemeister and were able to speak with a large number of them. We also were able to speak to a significant number of current employees in county government in and out of the health department.

One account from a nurse, Employee A, with 30 years of experience in the health department paints a difficult situation. The nurse stated that she retired due to what she described as "nonsense" during Dr. Gildemeister's tenure. During COVID, the nurse returned to the county health department after retirement to assist, but "decided it just wasn't worth putting up with Amy."



Pearl "Ruby" Torres
License R.E. Associate Broker
Keller Williams Realty HV North
341 Main Street, Middleburgh, NY 12122
845-461-5132
pearlrubytorres@kw.com
pearlrubytorres.kw.com



Own Your Own Mountain!
Ecker Hollow Road, Cobleskill, NY
115 acre parcel with amazing views, perfect for dream home or glamping, lots of trails, 375' deep well, shed, only 10 minutes to Cobleskill and less than an hour to Albany and Cooperstown areas.
\$325,000.00

