



THE RIVER REPORTER

Vol. 42 No. 49 ■ DECEMBER 8-14, 2016 ■ www.riverreporter.com ■ \$1.50

Joint effort for overdose death epidemic

By DAVID HULSE

HONESDALE, PA — In the past three years, at least 43 persons have died as a result of drug overdoses in Wayne County, according to Wayne County Drug and Alcohol Executive Director Jeff Zerechak as he reported to the county commissioners on December 1.

Two other deaths are still awaiting a final determination from the county coroner, he added. Drug overdose-related deaths are not always immediately determined, he said. People with dementia can accidentally overdose on prescriptions. Other deaths involving drugs to some extent may or may not be determined as overdoses.

Some comparisons about the seriousness of the problem can be drawn from a July analysis of Pennsylvania drug overdose deaths by the federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). The DEA found that “the 2015 statewide drug overdose death rate in Pennsylvania was 26 per 100,000 people, an increase from the reported 2014 rate of 21 per 100,000 people.

“According to the Centers for Disease Control, the national drug overdose death rate in 2014 (most recent available) was 14.7 per 100,000 people.”

By comparison, the DEA determined a rate of 35.6 per 100,000 Wayne County deaths were attributable to drug overdose. That rate is exceeded in the easterly two-thirds of the Commonwealth only by urban Delaware (35.82) and Philadelphia (45.93) counties.

The rate increased by 29% from 2014 to 2015, according to the DEA.

Warm hand-off

In their most recent response, officials of Wayne Memorial Hospital (WMH) and the Wayne County Drug and Alcohol Commission (WCDAC) joined forces in October to form the “Warm Hand-off” program to help get those released from the hospital after overdose medical treatment into a drug rehabilitation program. Wayne County helped leverage state and federal funding for the program.

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TRR photo by Isabel Braverman

Kids create decorations for town

By ISABEL BRAVERMAN

NARROWSBURG, NY — Local kids from Brownie Troop #448 gathered at St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church to create town holiday decorations. Led by Anie Stanly and Juliette Hermant (proprietor of local business Maison Bergogne) in collaboration with the Narrowsburg Beautification Group, the

children crafted “peppermint sticks.” Stanley cut rounds of birch tree, painted them white, and drilled holes in the bottom. The kids used a stencil to paint in the red stripes of the peppermint. Then sticks were inserted into the holes so they could be propped up all around town—in front of the post office and on the Main Street Deck, for example. The troop is for girls ages Kindergarten to third grade and is led by Antonia Nemec, who was on hand.



SPANNING 2 STATES, 4 COUNTIES, AND A RIVER THAT UNITES US



Victorian winter wonderland

Dickens on the Delaware

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Hawley Winterfest

A weekend of holiday treats

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Honesdale shelter closed this winter

By FRITZ MAYER

HONESDALE, PA — The warming shelter that has been located at the Grace Episcopal Church for the past five years, will not be opening this year according to Sue Erb, the shelter volunteer coordinator.

Erb said, “Concerns over safety and liability, along with not getting enough qualified volunteers, losing longtime volunteers... and limited church staffing are resulting in the closing of the shelter.”

“The first issue was uncertainty over the availability of local police if there would be serious problems with any guests,” Erb said. She had warned at Honesdale Borough Council meetings this year that if the police department were not staffed up, the Warmth in the Night Shelter might not open. But there were also other concerns.

“The matter of getting enough qualified volunteers also weighed heavily in our decision,” Erb said. “We lost several past volunteers due to moving from the area, death, health issues, and work and family commitments. Others said they would only return as volunteers if they are assured that police help would be nearby.”

“We had several inquiries from prospective new volunteers when we were recruiting earlier in the fall, but once they saw the requirements for volunteering, many of them chose not to volunteer or didn’t get back to us,” she said. “It’s one of those things that everybody seems to think operating a shelter is a great idea until they are asked to help or they see the requirements. Then they have a list of reasons why they can’t help. Or, they can only help for a couple nights during the whole season, which isn’t worth doing the training and background checks required. Additionally, not everyone is cut out for this type of volunteer work for a variety of reasons. It’s not always easy.”

She said that at this point in the season it is too late to try to get new volunteers because of the required training and background checks.

The church still plans to distribute coats, hats, gloves, and socks to homeless adults, along with other items, such as blankets, toiletries and some food. The church is not accepting other clothing and items not on the list.

Erb said church will still accept donations for the shelter, and they may be used for a limited number of one-night emergency motel vouchers for those in the most serious need on the coldest winter nights, or other imminent needs by the homeless. Checks can be sent to Grace Episcopal Church, 827 Church St., Honesdale, with the memo “For Warmth in the Night.” For information, leave a message at the church at 570/253-2760. The church will continue to coordinate with other local social service agencies in referring the homeless to services they may need. Wayne County Social Service agencies compiled a list of shelters in nearby counties and are making arrangements for transportation for the homeless during business hours Monday through Friday.

IN BRIEF

Bold Gold completes purchase of Sullivan radio stations

SULLIVAN COUNTY, NY — Bold Gold Media Group has completed its purchase of Sullivan County radio stations 98.3 WSUL, 95.9 WVOF-FM and WVOF AM 1240. Bold Gold closed on the Watermark Communications’ assets on November 30 and assumed immediate control of all station operations. The acquisition now combines Bold Gold’s current Sullivan County-based station, Thunder 102, with stations WSUL and WVOF.

“This marks a unique moment in local broadcast history, bringing together all of Sullivan County’s premiere commercial radio stations under one company,” said Bold Gold President Vince Benedetto. “We are very passionate about local radio and have enormous faith in the future of the Sullivan Catskills. We are honored to be a part of this community and to have the opportunity to serve the many listeners of these stations.”

Bonacic’s bill for off-hours arraignment signed

MIDDLETOWN, NY — New York State Sen. John J. Bonacic announced on December 1 that his bill to allow for off-hours arraignments outside of New York City (S.7209A) has been signed into law by Gov. Andrew Cuomo. This legislation was introduced at the request of the chief administrative judge and would amend the Judiciary Law, the Criminal Procedure Law and the Uniform Justice Court Act to allow for rotating arraignment parts among the local criminal courts within each county outside New York City.

This measure was designed to facilitate the availability of public defenders or assigned counsel for defendants in need of legal representation at arraignments, without unduly burdening local government or placing additional stress on each of the stakeholders in the system, including magistrate judges, law enforcement and indigent-defense service providers. The measure broadens the jurisdiction of local courts to conduct off-hours arraignments in special off-hours arraignment parts, staffed by the same judges who currently preside over arraignments.

“I’m pleased that this legislation has been signed into law, ensuring that defendants are provided their constitutional rights to counsel,” said Bonacic. “In addition to securing individuals constitutional rights, this legislation will save counties and municipal agencies time and money.”

Baker schedules meeting for Medicare beneficiaries

HAWLEY, PA — An APPRISE program counselor will be available at the Pocono office of Sen. Lisa Baker to meet with Medicare beneficiaries who have questions about their Medicare coverage and individuals who will be new to Medicare in 2016 and 2017.

The APPRISE program provides free, objective assistance to help people understand their Medicare and other health insurance benefits to assist them in making sound decisions about what is best for them. The Pike County APPRISE program is managed by Diakon Community Services under a contract with the Pike County Area Agency on Aging with funding provided by the PA Department of Aging and the Administration for Community Living.

As a courtesy to Baker’s Pike County constituents, an APPRISE counselor will be available at her office on Monday, December 19 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. by appointment only. The office is located at 2512 Route 6, the lower level (rear) of the Lake Wallenpaupack Visitors’ Center, just east of Hawley.

All appointments can be scheduled by calling the APPRISE program at 570/775-5550, ext. 1313. When scheduling your appointment, the APPRISE counselor will review your information and the items you will need to bring with you to the counseling session.

Casey warns on Trump pick

WASHINGTON, DC — Pennsylvania Sen. Bob Casey released a statement regarding President-elect Donald Trump’s selection of Congressman Tom Price to become the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS). Casey wrote, “Congressman Price has led efforts to end the guaranteed benefit of Medicare; Congressman Price has also supported efforts to turn Medicaid into a block grant program, which would adversely impact nursing home care for 250,000 seniors in Pennsylvania and 6.4 million seniors nationally. Turning Medicaid into a block grant program would also jeopardize support for millions of babies, because Medicaid finances approximately half of all the nation’s births. Congressman Price has also championed the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, which would deprive 20 million Americans of health care coverage and raise the cost of prescription drugs for seniors by reopening the ‘donut hole,’ which is the gap that has to be filled by a senior to pay for prescription drugs. The question I have for President-elect Trump and his administration is how nominating the architect of schemes to destroy Medicare and Medicaid is consistent with his promises to protect these programs?” See editorial on page 6.

THE RIVER REPORTER

The weekly newspaper that respects your intelligence

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Published by: Stuart Communications, Inc. • Office location: 93 Erie Avenue, Narrowsburg, NY 12764
Mailing address: PO Box 150, Narrowsburg, NY 12764 • Phone: 845/252-7414, Fax: 845/252-3298

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Official newspaper of: Sullivan County; towns of Bethel, Cochection, Lumberland and Tusten; Sullivan West, Eldred and BOCES school districts; and the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance

Subscription rate: \$72/2 years, \$42/1 year, \$30/6 months.
Published weekly on Thursdays. USPS 354-810.

Periodical postage paid at Narrowsburg, NY 12764 and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The River Reporter, PO Box 150, Narrowsburg, NY 12764.

Entire contents © 2016 by Stuart Communications, Inc.

EPIDEMIC

Continued from page 1

The hand-off begins at the hospital, where the stabilized patient is offered the opportunity to meet with professional drug and alcohol staff, who will be available “after hours, nights and weekends,” and given information and a number to call for help. For those who seek help, the next part is WMH notification of WCDAC through the county emergency control center.

“The population is key,” Zerechak said. “We need to be able to intervene” and quickly get the person out of the situation where the problem arose. “We respond and screen on the phone and start a bed search and arrange transportation. It’s a straight shot, from the hospital to rehab,” he said.

Responding to a concern from Commissioner Jonathan Fritz that drug users should not be deterred from seeking hospital treatment for fear of being forced into rehabilitation, Zerechak said the program is not mandatory. Drug users “often don’t feel well after an overdose. We may have later referrals,” he said.

“It’s a great program,” WMH CEO David Hoff said. “We want to increase community awareness for intervention and reduce the hopeless stigma.”

As configured now, the program is for Wayne residents, Zerechak said, and not everyone will be eligible. Those with associated mental health issues will need additional intervention. People with mental health issues have presented at WMH since the program began, some of them suicidal, he said.

“Drug and alcohol treatment facilities don’t have staff for these issues. The hospital is the first line of defense,” he said.

“We’re a conduit though?” Commissioner Wendell Kay asked. Zerechak responded in the affirmative.

Kay said it was important to “emphasize an integrated approach. There is seldom one aspect to these problems.” For example, he said that 67% of the county correctional facility inmates are getting psycho-tropic meds and most of them have mental health records. “We just want to increase the percentage of getting it right,” he said.

Anyone in Wayne with related personal concerns or seeking information should call WCDAC at 570/253-6022.

Hunting deer with bait, again, in Sullivan County

TOWN OF FALLSBURG, NY — On November 19, just before dusk, environmental conservation officers (ECOs) Bob Hodor, Matt Burdick, Melissa Burgess, Lt. Mike Bello, and a New York State Police Trooper concluded an investigation involving a hunting camp in the town of Fallsburg.

Members of the family camp had been ticketed in 2013 after an investigation revealed that all of the ground blinds and tree stands associated with the camp were heavily baited for the purpose of attracting deer. Earlier this fall, ECOs Hodor, Burgess, and Lt. Bello revisited the camp and found that the hunters were still using bait. This year’s investigation resulted in the ticketing of five hunters, all for the violation of hunting deer with the aid of pre-established bait.



Contributed photo
A New York State environmental conservation officer removes an illegal deer feeder from a property in the Town of Fallsburg.

County legislator talks up constitutional convention

By FRITZ MAYER

MONTICELLO, NY — Sullivan County Legislator Catherine Owens has periodically raised the issue of a New York State constitutional convention, which voters will be asked to weigh in on in November 2017. She did so again at a meeting of the Government Services Committee.

If the voters say “yes” to a convention, they will then elect delegates to the convention in November 2018. The current state constitution requires that three delegates be selected from each of the state’s 63 senate districts, and 15 be selected as at-large delegates representing the entire state.

The legislature would have the choice to further define the process. For instance, printouts Owens distributed brought up the question of whether delegates to the convention should be partisan or nonpartisan.

The print out said, “The argument for the use of partisan candidates is two-fold: they have campaign coffers and name recognition to draw upon; and party influence would be out in the open, not concealed. The argument for the use of nonpartisan candidates is that it gives those from outside government the chance to change what they view as wrong.”

There has not been a constitutional convention in New York State since 1967. If voters say they want one, the legislature will make the decision about whether members of the legislature are also allowed to be delegates to the convention, which would begin in April 2019. The convention would conclude in time for voters to accept or reject any proposed amendments by an election in November 2019.

In other business, the committee is considering a law mandating that all solid waste in the county be processed at county-owned facilities.

Eldred students learn self defense

ELDRED, NY — Students and adults gathered early at the Eldred High School gym on December 2 when the high school and the Parent Teacher Student Organization held a self-defense seminar. The seminar was open to kids age eight and up and involved adults and kids in a discussion of different types of awareness and self-defense applications.

Joseph Preston, a Barryville resident who has a background of studying a mixture of Korean, Japanese and Chinese martial arts, was the instructor.



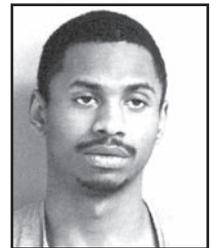
Contributed photo
Students of Eldred Central School District practice self defense drills.

Jeffersonville man sentenced to seven years

By FRITZ MAYER

MONTICELLO, NY — A 27-year-old Jeffersonville man has been sentenced to seven years in prison and five years of probation for illegally possessing a gun. He was also sentenced to three years in prison for possession of heroin with intent to sell, with the sentences running concurrently.

According to District Attorney Jim Farrell, Tyrell Simon admitted to the heroin charge that emerged in the wake of a car stop in the Village on Monticello in July of 2014, during which officers found seven grams of heroin.



TRR photo by
Tyrell Simon

A couple of months later, in September of 2014, he was arrested by the New York State Police after they found Simon in possession of 202 bags of heroin, suboxone and a loaded and stolen .22-caliber handgun. The handgun had been stolen from a residence in the Town of Thompson, and Simon also admitted to the weapon charge.

Under the terms of the plea agreement, Farrell said that the maximum sentence was nine years in state prison, and Farrell asked Judge Stephan Schick for the maximum.

Farrell described Simon as a “self-proclaimed street pharmacist of the most lethal kind” in requesting the maximum. Farrell said after the sentencing, “This defendant was selling heroin in Western Sullivan County and possessed a loaded and stolen handgun in pursuit of his illicit drug business. He was dealing poison. The New York State Police and the Monticello police put together a solid case against him and today he received a just punishment for his crimes. The sentence imposed today underscores my office’s commitment to holding drug dealers accountable and responsible for their crimes with state prison sentences.”

Simon also faces other charges in a federal indictment in White Plains for conspiracy to distribute heroin in Sullivan County. He was arrested in July of 2015 after an investigation by the FBI Safe Streets Task Force and the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York. He remains in federal custody pending the disposition of that case.

Deputies deliver Black Friday haul

By DAVID HULSE

HONESDALE, PA — There was a bicycle parked against one wall, another atop the solicitor's desk, and stacked boxes of "Big Wheels" flanked by oversized tubes of Crayola crayons on either side of the room. Stuffed toy animals watched the proceedings from atop a field of oversized bags filled with toys and games as the Wayne County Commissioners started their December 1 meeting.

The commissioners' meeting room was filled with donations collected by Sheriff Mark Steelman's deputies, who volunteered their time in the parking lots of Honesdale area stores collecting shoppers' donated gifts for the Wayne County Children's Christmas Bureau (WCCCB). Representatives of the bureau, which is formed annually



TRR photo by David Hulse

by the Honesdale Area Jaycees, were on hand to accept the massive donation.

Had this been a show of recovered stolen goods, the sheriff said, an inventory and value estimate would have been on hand, but in this case Steelman admitted that he had no idea how much all the stuff was worth. Several county employees waited outside in the hall and went into action with hand-trucks afterwards in order to clear enough space to allow the regular agenda.

Commissioner Wendell Kay recalled that the bureau was already a long-established tradition when he began his practice in 1981. "Thank you on behalf of the county and all those you've helped," he said. Parents were asked to sign up for the bureau in October, and the bureau distributes the gifts for children of Wayne County low-income families this week.

Sullivan sheriff's scholarship awarded

MONTICELLO, NY — Sullivan County Sheriff Michael Schiff has announced the recipient of the 2016 New York State Sheriffs' Association Institute Criminal Justice Scholarship. This year's scholarship was presented to Arianna Fassetta of Neversink.

Fassetta is a sophomore at Sullivan County Community College and is majoring in criminal justice. In presenting the scholarship check in the amount of \$250, Schiff said that he is glad to see more women studying for careers in criminal justice.

In the photo with Arianna Fassetta, are Schiff, left, SUNY Sullivan Interim Presi-



Contributed photo

dent John Quaintance, and coordinator of criminal justice/assistant professor Robert Eiler.

County recognizes air patrol anniversary

By DAVID HULSE

HONESDALE, PA — Wayne commissioners Wendell Kay, left, Brian Smith and Jonathan Fritz are pictured with Major James Bruck and Major Alan Highhouse of Scranton Composite Squadron 201 of the Civil Air Patrol, based in Lake Ariel. The two officers appeared at the commissioners' December 1 meeting to receive formal county recognition of the 75th anniversary of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP).

The CAP was organized under the Office of Civil Defense on December 1, 1941 and played a big role in domestic defense during WWII, which began less than a week later at Pearl Harbor. Today, the CAP has 56,268 youth cadets and adult members in some 1,400 squadrons nationwide. There are 1,674 members in Pennsylvania, and the local squadron has members in Wayne, Wyoming, Susquehanna, Pike and Carbon counties.



TRR photo by David Hulse

While it remains a fully civilian group, CAP has recently been designated as the auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. Most volunteer members are not pilots, and the local squadron is seeking new members. For more information, email Capt. McCormick at anmckormick@gmail.com, or visit GoCivilAirPatrol.com.

Dime Bank donates to The Cooperage Project



Contributed photo

Pictured are Jill George, The Dime Bank senior vice president, left; Chase Holl, The Dime Bank commercial lender; Kay Reynolds, The Cooperage project director; Ryanne Jennings, The Cooperage Project executive director; Pennell Whitney, The Cooperage Project director; and Edward Cremo, The Cooperage Project director.

HONESDALE, PA — The Dime Bank has donated \$6,000 to The Cooperage Project, which includes a \$1,000 Gold Sponsorship and \$5,000 to support The Cooperage's Romping Radishes program, a series of healthy-living classes for kids. Romping Radishes at The Cooperage is part of the Earned Income Tax Credit program that it conducts as an Educational Improvement Organization. A variety of hands-on and interactive activities are intended to challenge young people to think about the importance of maintaining a healthy diet and an active lifestyle. All parts of being well, including physical, mental and emotional wellness, are discussed in the classes.

The next Romping Radishes will be held

on Saturday, December 10 at 11 a.m., upstairs during the Main Street Farmers' Market. This month's topic is "Healthy Holidays!" (see page 20).

Via a press release, The Dime Bank said it believes a solid community is built upon strong relationships, and The Dime Bank is excited to support The Cooperage Project, a not-for-profit organization based in Honesdale, which continues to provide multiple community gatherings, learning opportunities, a farmers' market, and space for dozens of events and performances year-round.

For more information on The Cooperage Project call 570/253-2020 or visit www.thecooperageproject.org.

Catskill Mountainkeeper opposes new anchorages

NEW YORK STATE — Under pressure from the oil and shipping industry, the U.S. Coast Guard is considering a proposal to establish 43 new anchorages for oil barges along the Hudson River from Yonkers, NY to Kingston, NY. These anchorages would serve the oil industry by creating an outlet for oil arriving by rail into the Port of Albany, and would dramatically increase oil transportation along the Hudson River.

This proposal comes during an on-going 50-year effort by the public to clean up the Hudson River from historic contamination from industrial waste-products such as PCBs. The historical contamination of the Hudson, and the on-going environmental threats to the river are documented in a film by Jon Bowermaster titled “The Hudson: A River At Risk.”

Catskill Mountainkeeper commented on the proposal saying they strongly oppose an increase in traffic for

tankers and barges carrying tar sands oil and highly-volatile Bakken oil along the Hudson River. The environmental group says tar sands oil, in particular, poses an unacceptable risk to the Hudson, as it is heavier and denser than water. In the event of a spill, this tar sands oil would sink directly to the river bottom and make remediation extremely difficult if not impossible.

“This is an inappropriate, unnecessary, and unacceptable use of a public resource. We cannot tolerate an increase in traffic for tankers and barges carrying dirty tar sands (technically called bitumen) and Bakken oil, materials perhaps impossible to remediate once spilled and that would jeopardize all of the progress made in cleaning up this magnificent river, while simultaneously putting surrounding communities at grave risk,” said Kathy Nolan, Catskill Mountainkeeper senior research director.

“Increased shipping on the Hudson River also directly conflicts with existing and planned tourism activities along the river, such as kayaking, boating, ice-sailing and other recreational activities. The anchorages themselves would adversely affect planning for and use of local riverside areas and trails. Parking large commercial ships right next to New York communities causes adverse visual impacts along with the environmental and public health risks. Given these, and other potential negative impacts, Catskill Mountainkeeper opposes these new anchorages, and demands a full Environmental Impact Assessment of this proposal, along with public hearings and a detailed site-specific analysis of each of the proposed sites addressing all possible environmental, health, and safety impacts, as well as conflicts with existing and planned river and riverside tourism plans.”

Congress may approve Delaware River program

By FRITZ MAYER

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN — According to the advocacy group Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR), it seems likely that Congress will pass the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act (DRBCA) this year.

A post on the FUDR website says, “We just heard that the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act (DRBCA) will be included in the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (WRDA). While nothing in Congress is a sure thing until it happens, based on what we’re hearing right now, it is expected that both the House and Senate will approve the WRDA bill by the end of this week and send it to the President’s desk for passage into law.”

The office of Congressman Chris Gibson did not immediately respond to a question regarding the accuracy of the FUDR statement. Check www.riverreporteronline.com for updates.

com for updates.

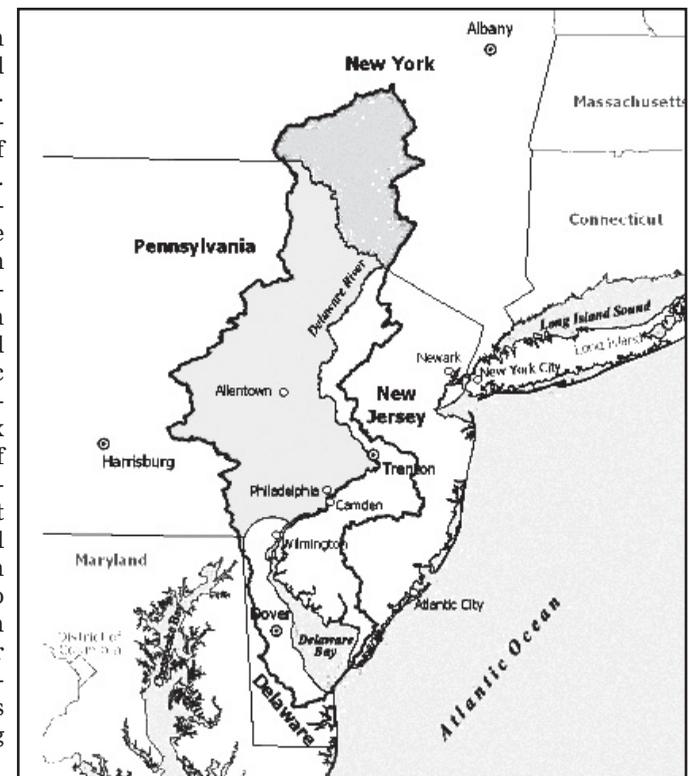
The Delaware River Basin Conservation Act creates a restoration program for the river and the basin within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Through the program the federal government would provide \$5 million to fund restoration and protection activities throughout the basin, which would be pursued through grants that could be distributed to state and local governments, nonprofits and universities.

The basin provides drinking water to over 15 million Americans including residents of New York City and Philadelphia.

The Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed (www.delriverwatershed.org) writes, “The Delaware River is the longest undammed river east of the Mississippi, traveling 300 miles from its headwaters in Hancock, NY down to the Delaware Estuary and Bay. The Watershed spans New York, Pennsylvania,

New Jersey and Delaware through one of the most densely populated areas of the mid-Atlantic region. Within the Watershed’s boundaries are roughly one million acres of wetlands and about 50% is forested. Significant ecological and recreational assets include the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (one of the country’s most visited national parks, the more than 400 miles of waterways designated under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers program), six National Wildlife Refuges, and the highly complex Delaware Estuary, which is one of the most important shorebird migration sites in the world. This vast river system not only provides vital habitats for a rich variety of fish and wildlife species, but it’s also home to more than eight million residents, provides drinking water to another eight million people living outside its boundaries, and is critical to the economic well-being of the mid-Atlantic region.



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EDITORIAL

The federal poverty level and social services

According to the U.S. official Federal Poverty Level (FPL), 14% of families living in upstate New York are living in poverty. But the FPL was developed in 1965 and has not been updated since 1974. It is no longer considered a realistic measurement of poverty even by government agencies that assess poverty levels to determine whether individuals or families are entitled to benefits.

Agencies, therefore, use multiples of the FPL to determine eligibility; for instance, the New York School Breakfast and Lunch Program uses eligibility based on a family's earning up to 185% of the FPL to qualify for free or reduced lunches.

To get at a more realistic measure of poverty and need, the United Way of New York State (UWNYS) has joined a national program which identifies people who are Asset Limited, Income Constrained and Employed in a program called ALICE.

In a report (tinyurl.com/htnt84p) about ALICE, UWNYS writes, "We have produced this report to give an identity and voice to the people who work hard, often at more than one job, yet still struggle to make ends meet, whose wages are not sufficient to sustain them and their families, and who are one small emergency away from a major financial crisis.

"What this report shows us is startling—that 44% of all New Yorkers are ALICE or live below the FPL. This means they are not earning enough to 'get by' based on a Household Survival Budget that uses conservative estimates of monthly expenses for housing, child care, food, transportation, health care and taxes."

According to the report, 46% of the 27,524 families in Sullivan County are ALICE families.

Many people receive assistance from the federal or state government to make up some of the difference between what people earn in wages and the cost of living in New York. The report says that ALICE and poverty-level families in the state receive \$83.2 billion in government

and nonprofit spending aid. However, because of the way the funds are distributed, that is not enough to bring poverty and ALICE families to sustainable levels of income.

Against that background, there is a lot of talk in Washington, DC about stark changes to social service programs that have benefitted consumers for decades. President-elect Donald Trump campaigned on a promise not to touch Social Security and Medicare.

But Trump picked Congressman Tom Price to become the Secretary of Health and Human Services. Price has long been an advocate for ending Medicare as it now exists. He wrote recently in an opinion piece, "Nothing has had a greater negative effect on the delivery of health care than the federal government's intrusion into medicine through Medicare." He has also said he wants to turn Medicaid into a voucher system program.

Republican efforts to privatize Social Security, at least partially, are also being discussed again as they have been by every Republican President since Ronald Reagan was voted into office in 1980. President George W. Bush tried to do the same thing in 2004, but he was unsuccessful because too many lawmakers were fearful of the political backlash such a move would spark.

It's not clear if this time around the efforts regarding Social Security, Medicare and other programs will actually succeed, because it's not clear where members of the House and Senate stand on these issues.

The Congressman-elect who represents Sullivan, Delaware and Ulster counties, John Faso, said during the election that he wanted to strengthen Social Security and Medicare to ensure that the programs would be available to future generations. A decade earlier, however, he said that partially privatizing Social Security might be beneficial because it would be a boon to Wall Street.

The *River Reporter* sent an email to Faso's office asking for clarification about his positions on Social Security and Medicare but did not receive a reply. We suggest you contact your congressional representatives and let them know how you feel about these vital programs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Obamacare mandate comes from Romneycare

The *River Reporter's* editorial on Obamacare (11/17-23) was informative and correct in saying "Republicans... have long railed against the individual mandate." What might have been added is that the mandate began as a Republican idea developed by a Republican think tank. Further, it was a Republican governor of Massachusetts, Mitt Romney, who embraced the individual mandate in the state's medical insurance program as a way, he said, to prevent "freeloaders" from gaming the system.

Republicans began "railing" against the Republican idea of the individual mandate when Obama embraced their idea.

Bill Duncan
Woodbourne, NY

[THE RIVER REPORTER welcomes letters on all subjects from its readers. They must be signed and include the correspondent's phone number. The correspondent's name and town will appear at the bottom of each letter; titles and affiliations will not, unless the correspondent is writing on behalf of a group.



Contributed photo

Scouts collect charitable donations

MILFORD, PA — The *Webelos I Den*, run by leader Barbara Donon and assisted by Milford Boy Scout Den Chief Joseph Crowley, recently collected food items and monetary donations for Cub Scouting's monthly theme of "citizenship." All donations were delivered by the boys and families to their choice of food pantry or other local charitable service in need, such as the Pike County Ecumenical Food Pantry in Milford. For more information about Milford Cub Scouts call Brandy Laube at 973/903-2832 or email milfordpack71@gmail.com.

Holiday Community Dinner

MONTICELLO, NY — The organization A Dose of Kindness will host its third free Holiday Community Dinner on Sunday, December 18, at 4:30 p.m. at the Ted Stroeble Center. The dinner welcomes the homeless, elderly, otherwise needy or those who may be alone for the holiday season.

Donations are sought; food, financial help or new toys are welcome. For more information visit www.facebook.com/adoseofkindness1 or call Carlos Torres at 845/741-7475 or Devon Spagnoli at 845/423-0988.

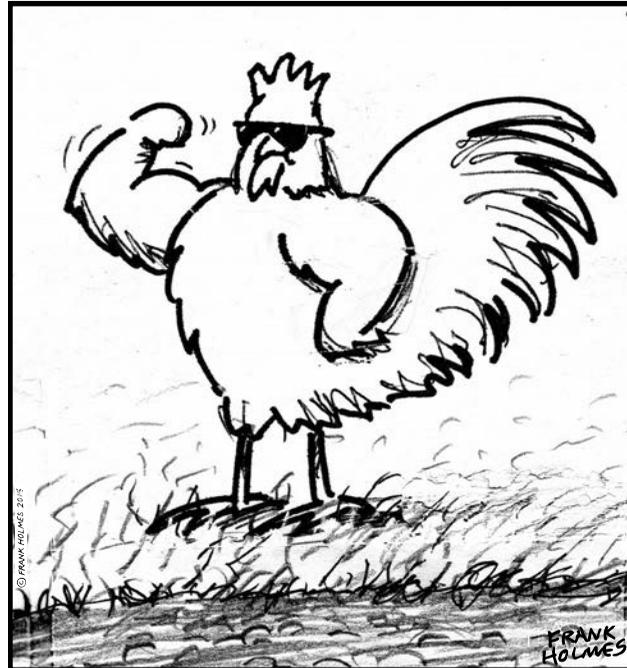
QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Vote for the man who promises least; he'll be the least disappointing."

— Bernard M. Baruch

Letters are printed at the discretion of the editor. It is requested they be limited to 300 words; longer letters may not be printed, or may be edited down to the appropriate length. No letters or My Views in excess of 600 words will be printed. Deadline is 1:00 p.m. on Monday.]

DR. PUNNYBONE



Why the Chicken Crossed the Road

MY VIEW

By David Poulson

Medical transport services under pressure

One in three Americans lives in rural areas where getting urgent medical care for events like cardiac emergencies, stroke and trauma are extremely difficult due to the distance of appropriate medical facilities. Since 1990, over 22% of America's hospitals have closed.

Getting timely, appropriate medical care is deadly serious. Trauma doctors refer to the first hour after a traumatic injury as the "Golden Hour" because during this critical window, the right kind of medical care can lead to vastly better outcomes with regard to saving lives and preserving quality of life. Eighty-five million Americans who live more than one hour from a hospital with a Level 1 or Level 2 trauma center by ground transport can only access these centers within the Golden Hour because of air medical services. For these Americans there is literally no way to get appropriate emergency care without air transport.

Emergency air medical transport providers, which most often use helicopters, provide a high level of life-saving care that involves highly-trained nurses, paramedics, pilots and state-of-the art medical equipment requiring professional maintainers. The crew only responds when called upon by a first responder or physician; they do not self-dispatch. And when called, they go immediately, helping to expand the reach of hospitals and trauma centers and ensuring that rural communities maintain access to medical care. Air medical transport providers operate in one of the most regulated industries in the country.

There is an unsustainable problem, however: air medical service providers are being squeezed by drastically low government reimbursement rates and some insurers who refuse to negotiate in good faith. The result is that the burden of paying for air medical transport is being shifted to insured beneficiaries, and worse, real lives and rural communities are being put at risk.

Being ready to deploy advanced aircraft and highly-trained crews 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days of the year, costs about \$3 million annually per air base. LifeNet of New York is an air medical transport provider

in New York State. More than 70% of our transports are reimbursed by either Medicare, Medicaid, other government sponsored insurance, or are uninsured. Unfortunately, the current reimbursement rates under these programs are dramatically below our costs. The average Medicare reimbursement is about 50% of actual transport costs.

If a provider is reimbursed substantially below costs for seven out of every 10 transports, it means the remaining transports are essentially paying for the whole system. While most private insurers are good actors who pay at or close the full billed charges, there are some in the industry who will not negotiate in good faith and refuse to recognize the true cost of services.

So how do we preserve critical air medical transport services for communities all over the country with a solution that is cost-effective, fair to patients and stakeholders, and durable?

First and foremost, we must fix the dramatic shortfall in Medicare reimbursement by passing S. 1149 and H.R. 822, federal legislation that helps bridge the gap in payments versus actual costs and enables the issue to be studied in depth. The Medicare fee schedule for air transport was set in 1998 and was completely disconnected from actual cost data; this status quo cannot hold. At the local level, states must take similar action to align reimbursement rates for Medicaid with the true costs of service. And lastly, insurers and air medical transport providers must work in good faith to forge fair in-network agreements that recognize the value of air medical services for all Americans.

Air medical transport is essential for rural communities to have access to high quality, timely trauma, cardiac and stroke care. It is time to act to preserve this critical service.

[David Poulson is vice president of Air Methods, LifeNet of New York with bases across Upstate New York, including Harris next to Catskill Regional Medical Center, Fultonville, Hornell, Potsdam, Seneca Falls, Wallkill, Watertown and Windsor.]



MIXED GREENS

By Carol Roig

More than ever

In 2001 I was working as a grant writer for several arts institutions in Manhattan, including organizations that provide arts instruction for inner-city youth. When the World Trade Center was attacked on September 11, 2001, I was on a commuter train headed into the city for a meeting with one of those clients. We postponed the meeting for one week, and so on another glorious brisk autumn day I found myself about a mile from Ground Zero, discussing the complexities of a request for arts funding so soon after the devastating attack that had thrown the city into emotional and economic trauma. How could we frame the relevance of our mission in what felt like an altered universe? "Now more than ever" was the phrase I heard over and over again in the following weeks and months as we found ways to assert the enduring value of our work in the face of violent disruption. What we needed then more than ever was to restore stability, discipline and inspiration for young people coping with trauma, and to remind New Yorkers of all ages that beauty survives and sustains us.

In recent weeks I've heard the phrase "now more than ever" from at least a dozen organizations dedicated to environmental and economic justice, responding to what looks like a significant setback in the November elections. And they're right. The action now is centered on efforts at the local and regional level where citizens can affect policy and initiate significant projects. Our active engagement just became more important than ever.

So here are some actions I plan to double down on in the coming year, "now, more than ever." I will work to reduce my personal energy footprint every way I can by making my house more energy efficient and by being mindful of my day-to-day energy use. I will buy local whenever possible, and support local businesses and agriculture. I will continue to learn. I will seek reliable, unbiased information about renewable energy technology and help my neighbors and civic leaders separate real science from myth on issues like electromagnetic fields and other concerns about renewable energy technology and business models. I will continue to advocate for environmental justice and a sustainable local economy based upon smart growth and a living wage. I will continue to focus attention on the impacts of climate change on human health and safety, and to seek practical solutions. I will preserve my sense of humor and work to create trust and mutual respect around these issues.

The science of global warming hasn't changed, and neither has the conviction shared by a majority of Americans (documented by the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication), regardless of their political affiliation, that climate change is real, human driven, and harmful to future generations. They also favor action to control GHG emissions, fund renewable energy development, and provide incentives for solar installations and fuel efficient vehicles (climatecommunication.yale.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/2016_3_CCAM_Global-Warming-U.S.-Presidential-Election.pdf).

That's a lot of common ground to celebrate, and it's time to get to work.

Tree lighting at Bon Secours

PORT JERVIS, NY — On Thursday, December 1, Bon Secours Community Hospital hosted a tree lighting ceremony with members of the community and staff. Guests, including New York State Assemblyman Karl Brabenec and City of Port Jervis Mayor Kelly Decker, first enjoyed a festive celebration indoors in the hospital's cafeteria dining area with traditional Christmas carols sung by the Concert and Chamber Choir of Port Jervis. Afterward, Bon Secours Charity Health System CEO Dr. Mary Leahy welcomed guests, and Director of Mission Debra Sheridan gave an invocation. Everyone then headed outside for a tree lighting ceremony and a big surprise. As the group gathered outside and the choir continued caroling, a Port Jervis Police Department vehicle with lights flashing pulled up by the Christmas Tree—and to the delight of the children as well as the adults, out stepped Santa and Mrs. Claus. During the celebration, Santa and Mrs. Claus, seen at right, graciously posed for photographs and distributed gifts to the children.



Contributed photo

■ OBITUARIES

JOAN K. FAUST

Joan K. Faust (nee Frederick) passed away at home on November 27, 2016. The Armitage Wiggins Funeral Home of Kearny, NJ handled private arrangements with the professional assistance of Patrick Harrison from The Rasmusen Funeral Home.

Joan was born in Forest Hills, NY and spent her youth in Wilkes Barre, PA and lived much of her married life in Kinnelon, NJ. She and her husband Howard retired to their river-front cabin in Beach Lake, PA 25 years ago.

Joan loved keeping busy with crossword puzzles. She enjoyed birding as her hobby and was a member of the National Audubon Society. She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Howard C. Faust, and her daughter and son-in-law Nancy and Keith Andrews along with several nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers kindly consider a donation to The Shriners Hospital for Children, 2900 North Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL, 33607.



RUTH M. HARTMAN

Ruth M. Hartman of Benton Center passed away on Sunday, December 4 2016 at Keuka Comfort Care. There will be no services. Donations in honor of Ruth's struggle can be made to University of Rochester, 300 East River Road, Rochester NY 14623. Please specify: Pulmonary Vascular Disease Department-Social Worker fund. Ruth is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Lisa and Richard Harper of Benton Center; also a son, Eric Hartman of New Smyrna Beach, Florida; her wonderful grandchildren Forrest Hartman of Florida and Drew Harper of Benton Center. She leaves behind two precious nieces and her loving family at St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

GLENN SWENDSEN SR.

Glenn Swendsen Sr. of Narrowburg, NY, a lifetime farmer entered into rest on November 26, 2016 at the Sullivan County Adult Care Center Liberty, NY. He was 81.

The son of Clarence and Esther Conklin Swendsen, he was born June 6, 1935 in Honesdale, PA. He was the widower of Thelma Thompson Swendsen, who preceded him in death in May 1998.

He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean Era and a member of Kelly Ratner Post #198 Disabled American Veterans. He was a director and treasurer of the Sullivan County Farm Bureau for 25 years, a past member of the Town of Cochection Planning Board as well as the Cochection Town Board. He was past president of the Cochection Preservation Society, which he founded, and treasurer of Birch Spring Hunting Club, which he co-founded. He was a member of the Sullivan County Soil and Water District, Sullivan County Extension Service, the Cochection Republican Club and past vice president of the Upper Delaware Alliance.

Glenn is survived by his dear friend Laverna Krause and his lifelong friend William Dexter of Narrowsburg. He is survived by his two sons, Glenn, Jr., and Steven of Narrowsburg, NY; two daughters, Debbie of Narrowsburg, and Susan of Beach Lake, PA; 17 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; one step-grandchild and several nieces and nephews. In addition to his wife he was predeceased by his daughter Louise Davis, his son Thomas Swendsen, one sister Shirley Bagailuk and two brothers Harold and Ellis Swendsen.

A special thank you to Steven's wife Julie for all her help and for the care she gave to Glenn.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, November 30 at Stewart-Murphy Funeral Home, 34 Upper Main St., Callicoon, NY. Interment followed at Hillside Cemetery, Damascus, PA.

Memorial contributions may be made to the patients care fund at Sullivan County Adult Care Center Sunset Lake Road, Liberty, NY or the Kelly Ratner Post #198 Disabled American Veterans.

■ COMMUNITY CURRICULUM

'Save energy, save dollars'

MONTICELLO, NY — Homeowners and renters can learn to reduce energy consumption and lower energy bills at free workshops titled, "Save Energy, Save Dollars," presented by Cooperative Extension Sullivan County (CCESC). The first will be on December 14 at 5:30 p.m. at the Monticello Housing Authority, Evergreen Community Room at 76 Evergreen Dr. The second will be on December 15 at 6 p.m. at Action Toward Independence on 309 East Broadway, Suite A.

The workshops are sponsored by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. Pre-registration is required. Visit www.sullivanccesc.org, email sullivan@cornell.edu or call 845/292-6180. Donations for CCESC programs are appreciated.

Learn to crochet with textile group

LIBERTY, NY — Anyone interested in crocheting or knitting, regardless of skill level or age, is invited to join a new community service initiative that is launching on Friday, December 16 at Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County. The Intergenerational Textile Program is a public group that welcomes new members to learn how to crochet or knit a simple dishcloth or washcloth. Beginners and seasoned participants will receive patterns and instructional support from 4-H volunteers. This group is an outgrowth of the 4-H Youth Development program, which will be collecting items throughout 2017 for Sullivan County's Safe Passage Domestic Violence Program and the Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless.

Meetings are held on the third Friday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. at the CCESC offices on 64 Ferndale-Loomis Rd. Call 845/292-6180 or visit www.sullivanccesc.org.

Webster talks about 'Della'

PORT JERVIS, NY — The Hub @ Port Jervis Free Library will host William C. Webster, local author and retired teacher, speaking about his newest novel, "Della," on Tuesday, December 13, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. by the fireplace in the reference room.

Webster is a retired social studies teacher in the Delaware Valley School District and has just released his fourth book. "Della" tells the story of Della Paige, a quiet girl who grew up nearly unnoticed. Swept off her feet by a local star athlete, she finds herself married shortly after her high school graduation. What follows is a decade of physical and emotional abuse. As the story unfolds the reader follows Della's heroic journey of survival and rebirth.



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There is no charge, but reservations are required. Call 845/56-7313, ext. 5, email hub@portjervislibrary.org, or register in person.

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Snow Date: December 11th - Noon to 4pm

Cookies \$6 per pound

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Walk around the Parish Hall
and choose your cookies!

Local Christmas Toy Drive

The Narrowsburg Ecumenical Food Pantry is hosting a Open Your Heart Local Toy Drive. Donation Boxes for New toys will be in the Narrowsburg Post Office and in Back of local Churches, St. Francis Xavier & St. Paul's Lutheran and in Our Lady Of The Lake in Lake Huntington. There will be a Christmas Tree in Pete's Market with ornament tags on it with kids ages. If you would like to make a monetary donation checks can be made out to Ecumenical Food Pantry and in the memo please put toy drive. The Mailing address is Po Box 54 Narrowsburg, NY 12764. The Dead line for gifts and monetary donations is Dec 15th, 2016. If you have any questions please give Joanne Letendre a call at 845-252-3971.

NARROWSBURG NEWS

By Jane Luchsinger

“He’s on his way! He’s on his way!” I hope you’ve marked your calendars. Thanks to the Tusten Youth Commission, Santa should arrive approximately 8:15 p.m. on the Santa Express this Saturday, December 10 in front of The Union. The spirit will be bright as Santa and his helpers alight from Santa’s great sled and greet children ages one to 91 (there are “children” in all of us). There will be singing of Christmas carols and sparkling lights as Santa, Mrs. Claus, Rudolf, the Snow Queen and many more characters of the season entertain the crowd. Come down and be part of the fun.

Now in its fifth year, the Indie Mart will be located on the second floor of the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance. Some of you may be saying, “What’s an Indie Mart?” It is short for Independent Market, in other words the market of independent artisans, a place to see and purchase their work. The Indie Mart opened last weekend and will continue for the next two weekends, Saturdays 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays from 12 noon to 5 p.m. With approximately 14 vendors present, and vendors changing each week, the items vary greatly from weekend to weekend, so it would be wise to stop in both this weekend, December 10 and 11; and next weekend, December 17 and 18.

There will be handmade, one-of-a-kind jewelry, clothing for adults and children, ceramics, and food items as well. Yum! Last year there was honey, tea and handmade chocolate truffles. I can’t wait to see what treats creative cooks will bring to the market this year.

The Indie Mart has so many positive aspects. It is rewarding to know you have shopped locally, have purchased items made by local artisans and found the perfect gift for the special folks on your list, or maybe even yourself. Have fun shopping at the Indie Mart and have fun this holiday season.

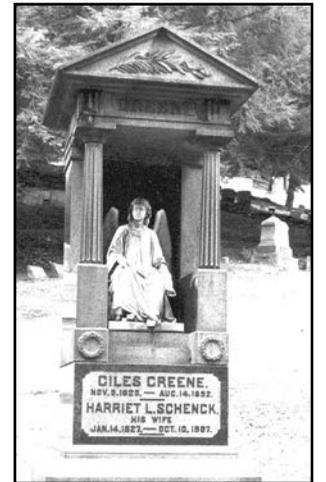
LOOKING BACK

By Ann O’Hara

Giles Greene was born in 1823, one of 12 children and a descendant of General Nathaniel Greene of Revolutionary War fame. The children were put to work at an early age, and Giles only attended school for two or three months a year. At 21, he went to work as a teamster for the D&H Gravity Railroad in Carbondale, PA. He soon found steady work on the construction of the Pennsylvania Coal Company Gravity Railroad from Hawley to Port Griffith, and when the railroad was completed in 1850 he was put in charge of Plane No. 19. In 1850, Giles Greene married Harriet Schenck, granddaughter of Revolutionary War hero Jacob Schenck. They had two children, Susan and Homer, a well-known attorney, author, poet and historian of Honesdale.

After a long career serving the railroad and his community, Giles Greene died in 1892 and was buried in the Glen Dyberry Cemetery in Honesdale, where his grave is marked by an elaborate monument commissioned by Homer Greene and designed by Jennie Brownscombe.

From the collection of the Wayne County Historical Society, 810 Main St., Honesdale. The museum and research library are open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a. m. to 4 p. m.



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Kindergarten teachers Megan Hobby, left front, and Jessica Ashcraft, left back row, pose with their students. Standing next to Ashcraft in the back row are Officer Jake Miller from the Monticello Police Department, firefighter Wayne VanderMeulen from the Monticello Fire Department, detective Travis Hartman, detective Brendan Pavese and officer Dylan Dainack from the Fallsburg Police Department, and assistant principal Rosemarie Romano.

A thank-you from Kindergartners to those who keep us safe

MONTICELLO, NY — Kindergarten teachers Jessica Ashcraft and Megan Hobby’s class has been working on what a community is and who is part of our community, and talking about Thanksgiving and what it means. The class was asked who in the community they were thankful for and why. As a class, they came up with the police officers and firefighters because they keep us safe.

The class made thank-you cards and

goodie bags, little “survival kits” for the Monticello police officers, the Monticello firefighters and the Fallsburg police officers. They had candies with different meanings behind them. For example, Life Savers were to remind the recipients of the many times they have been one, Starbursts were for energy, gum was to help them stick together, and Snickers were to help remind them to keep their sense of humor, just to name a few.

ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

Chess clubs at Crawford

MONTICELLO, NY — The Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library at 479 Broadway has a chess club for teens and adults. The next session will be on Saturday, December 10 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and players of all levels are invited to attend. A limited supply of chess boards will be available, but it is recommended that players bring their own.

For more information, please call Joanna at 845/794-4660 ext. 8. To see a full list of library programs visit www.ebcrawfordlibrary.org.

TAG and anime at the library

MONTICELLO, NY — The Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library Anime Club and Teen Advisory Group (TAG) are meeting on Thursday, December 8 at 4:30 and 6:15 p.m. respectively at the library, 479 Broadway. Anime Club participants will vote on an anime to watch during the program while wearing their best cosplay costume. Materials will also be provided for working on a costume during the program.

Teens who participate in TAG will earn one hour of community service credit for attending and participating. Find out how you can help with programs at the library. This is a fun way to earn community service and make a difference at the library, and in the community.

These programs are for teens ages 12 to 18 and do not require registration. The Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library is located at 479 Broadway. For more information call 845/794-4660, ext. 8, or email jgoldfarb@rcls.org.

BOCES Class Act Clinic is open

LIBERTY, NY — The Class Act Clinic, run and operated by the Cosmetology II students at BOCES' Career and Technical Education Center is open to the public. Hours of operation are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 to 10 a.m. and 12 noon to 2 p.m. It is located at Sullivan BOCES' Rubin Pollack Education Center on Ferndale-Loomis Road in Liberty.

The clinic offers a full array of salon services, at a minimal cost. They include a full range of beauty parlor services including artificial nails and fills, manicures, eyebrow tweezing, facials, waxing, haircuts, hair straightening and more. The goal of the students is to demonstrate their skill/talent, while pampering and beautifying members of the community.

For more information on the cosmetology program or the other programs available through the Career and Technical Education Center visit sboces.org or call 845/295-4152.

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wjff 90.5fm

From: Your Friends and Neighbors at WJFF

Warmest Wishes for a Joyous Holiday Season and a Happy New Year

Question of the week: Do you like presents or gift cards?



By Eileen Hennessy



Cathy Hermann, Cochection NY
 Gift Card, Cash preferred, What Ever



Stephanie Drongoski, Damascus, PA
 Presents so I can be surprised



Ed Edwards, Narrowsburg NY
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Heather Dobell, Cochection NY
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Pearl Imburgio, Welcome Lake PA
 Gift Card so I can get what I want



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BooBoo is an 8 year old smooth haired Chihuahua who was surrendered to the shelter with its playmate, Fuzzy Face, because their family was moving. This little guy is still a bit timid but will make a great best friend for a family who wants to give him some love and attention.

Boo Boo is sponsored by

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Snickers is about 5 years young with a handsome chestnut-colored short coat with white markings. He's friendly, gentle and well-mannered, house trained, lived with children and cats and a well-behaved female dog. Snickers originally came to the shelter when his owner passed away. Come meet this nice guy today and give him another chance at the good life!

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This 8 month old pit mix pup is mostly white with brindle patches and is a cheerful peppy affectionate fella who loves to play fetch as well as come over for hugs and kisses. Sit on the floor and he'll crawl in your lap like a lapdog. And play, play, play is the order of the day, every day. If you can devote the time and attention to po. Being very energetic he is best suited to a home with no small children or small pets.

Crash is sponsored by

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Sugar Ray - our gentle giant. He's a big coonhound with (we think) a touch of Great Dane. Sugar Ray is very sociable and has enjoyed meeting new people at a number of our offsite adoption events. He grew up with older kids and other dogs his size. We are looking for a home for him without small children or small animals. True to his coonhound nature, he loves to put his nose to the ground and run, so a secure fenced yard would likely suit him well!

Mr D is sponsored by

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Joseph A. D'Abbraccio, D.V.M.

Feral cat management

Ownerless cats may look the same, but there is a difference between a stray and feral cat. A feral cat is one that is born and raised in the wild with little or no human contact. A stray cat is one that has been abandoned or left from home and became lost. A stray cat is homeless but has already been habituated to humans. Stray cats learn to live on their own and adopt feral behaviors as their exposure to humans decreases.

Feral cats live on all continents except for Antarctica. Worldwide, there are approximately 100 million feral cats, with 60 million of them residing in the United States. Despite their ability to survive in the wild, feral cats have a shorter lifespan than pet cats.

Feral cats often live in groups, and seek the shelter of alley ways, eaves of buildings, trees, caves, or man-made structures. They may roam looking for food and water, but often sleep in the same location. Feral cats are skilled hunters who will eat small rodents and birds. They scavenge carcasses of animals or garbage bins. Cats are generally more active at night and therefore can be quite vocal during evening hours. They will hunt, socialize, breed and fight at night. The howls from these cats can be quite irritat-

ing to nearby humans trying to sleep.

Feral cats suffer a number of health issues including parasites (fleas, ticks and internal parasites), contagious diseases such as feline leukemia virus, feline distemper virus, feline immunodeficiency virus and rabies virus. Given the lack of veterinary care, a wound or other injury could progress to being fatal for a feral cat. All of these diseases play a contributing role to shortening the life of a feral cat.

There are a number of programs that help to address feral cat populations. Trap, Neuter and Release (TNR) programs are a hallmark way of controlling feral cat populations. These programs will humanely trap feral cats and partner with a veterinary service to have them spayed/neutered and vaccinated. Before they wake up from anesthesia, their ear will be "tipped" to allow for easy identification from a distance regarding their vaccination/reproduction status. Supporting these programs is vital to controlling the feral cat population.

Additional ways to help are shown in the sidebar below.

[Contact Dr. D'Abbraccio at www.facebook.com/CatskillVeterinaryServices, www.catskillvetservices.com, or jdabbraccioldvm@icloud.com.]

What can you do to help manage feral cats?

1. Financially support volunteer efforts and TNR programs. Call local humane societies and rescue organizations to find out where to donate funds.
2. Stay safe. Remember that feral cats are afraid of people and may lash out in self defense. Never approach or corner a feral cat. Allow him or her to come to you. Leave trapping to the professionals. Incorrect trapping can injure you and the cat.
3. Feed responsibly. If you feed a feral cat, you may be helping one kitty, but contributing to the overall feral cat problem. To avoid inviting feral cats to your house, feed your own pets indoors.
4. Put up a no vacancy sign. Close openings in garages, sheds and under porches where feral cats may seek shelter.
5. Appeal to their senses. Cats have a very keen sense of smell. Use commercial or natural odor repellants to discourage visits to your garden or flower beds. Place motion-activated lights or noise traps (cans of beans, bells) that will deter jumping on cars and fences.
6. Call in the special forces. Report feral or stray cats to the authorities that can help them.



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SPCA pictures with Santa

ROCK HILL, NY — The Sullivan County SPCA presents its eighth annual "Pet Pics with Santa" on Sunday, December 11 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will be held at the Rock Hill Firehouse, Glen Wild Road. All pets and family members are invited. The

price is \$15, and pictures will be available online only.

All proceeds benefit the Sullivan County SPCA.

Professional photography will be provided by Ferguson Studios, Liberty. For more information call 845/796-3120.



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*Send this form and a \$15 payment to: The River Reporter,
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to have your message included.*



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Celebrations: let there be Light

The fascinating history of Christmas lights

By ISABEL BRAVERMAN

Thomas Edison invented the first practical electric light bulb, so it only seems fitting that an associate at his company invented the Christmas light. Edison was known for unveiling his creations in extravagant ways; putting on a show to dazzle the audience. The presentation of Christmas lights was no different. Edison employee Edward Johnson displayed the first electrically illuminated Christmas tree at his home in Manhattan in 1882.

The press, perhaps wary of Edison's publicity stunts, didn't cover the event. However, a newspaper in Detroit picked up the story, according to Wikipedia, and "Johnson has become widely regarded as the Father of Electric Christmas Tree Lights."

While we may take Christmas lights for granted now, they weren't always an available commodity. Years after Edison and Co. debuted the lights, the average American consumer couldn't actually afford to buy them for their own homes. In 1900, the first known advertisement for Christmas lights appeared in *Scientific American Magazine*, and it suggests people rent the lights. At that time, a single string of electric lights cost \$12—around \$300 in today's money.

It took 25 years after that for the lights to become more popular. There were 15 companies in the business of selling Christmas lights, and in 1925 they formed a consortium called the NEMA Electric Corporation, the largest Christmas light manufacturer in the world. However, it would take even longer—the mid-1950s—for lights to become affordable for the average household.

But before there were lights, there was fire. Christmas trees were lit with candles, which—as you can imagine—was not safe at all. Trees were put up only a few days before December 25, and promptly taken down afterwards. The candles would be lit for only a few minutes at a time, with onlookers vigilantly watching it, buckets of water in hand. It was so dangerous that insurance companies wouldn't pay for damages caused by Christmas tree fires.

Of course, today's technology has improved, and we now have safe and affordable incandescent bulbs. There are generally three types of lights. The mini/fairy light is the most common one you'll see. The C7 are the larger lights, about the size of your thumb. And then there are LED lights, which are the most energy efficient.

From open-flame candles to dazzling displays of strings of bulbs that won't burn your house down (probably), Christmas lights have come a long way. Now it's all about which house can put on the biggest holiday light show.



By Gerbil (Own work) [GFDL (www.gnu.org/copyleft/fdl.html)], via Wikimedia Commons

The first Christmas tree lights were candles—obviously not the safest choice.

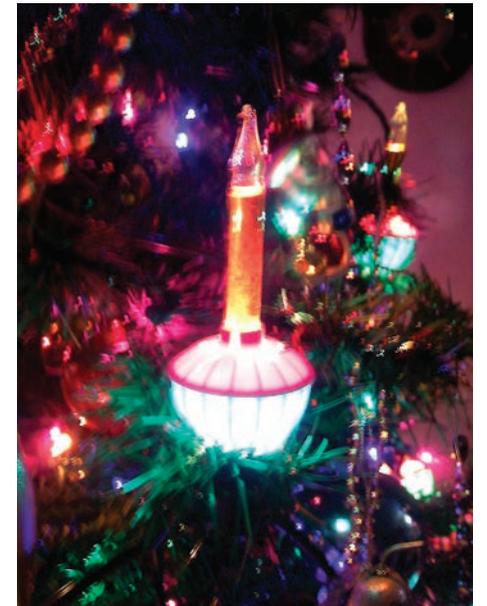


Photo by D. Patterson, public domain via Wikimedia Commons

So-called "bubble lights," featuring a "candlestick" containing fluid in which bubbles percolate upward when the bulbs heat up, became popular in the 1940s and can still be purchased today.



By DR04 (Own work) [CC BY 3.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/)], via Wikimedia Commons

Today's Christmas trees are decorated with small incandescent bulbs, in colors or white.

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Merrymaking



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Carolers serenade passersby at a previous Dickens on the Delaware.

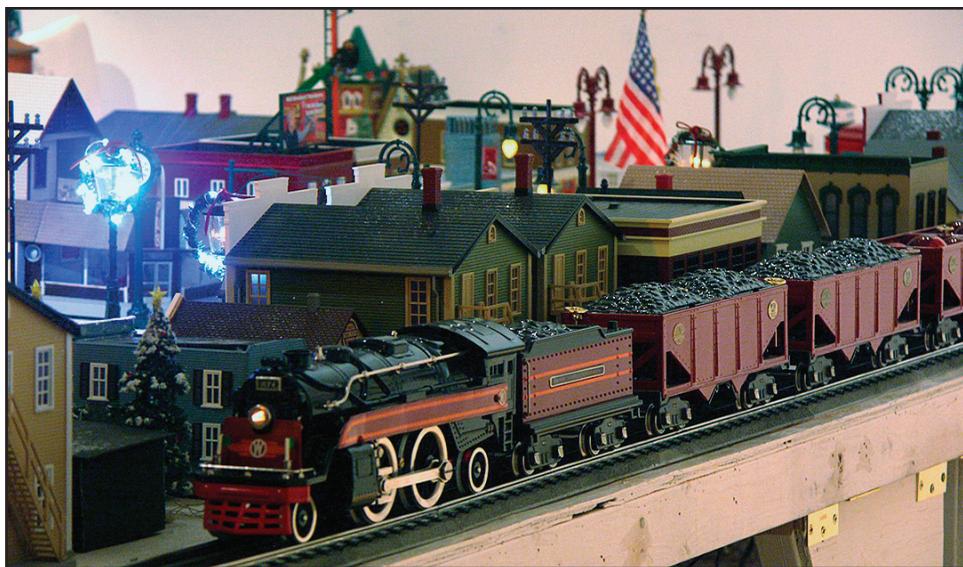
Dickens on the Delaware

CALLICOON, NY — On Saturday, December 10, the quaint hamlet of Callicoon will be transformed into a town-wide Victorian Wonderland for your holiday pleasure. With many buildings dating back to the Victorian era, Callicoon's downtown makes a perfect setting for the strolling carolers in period costumes who will be serenading the public with holiday music and good cheer.

Activities will extend from Upper Main Street to the Delaware Youth Center. Downtown shop hours will be extended to

7 p.m. There'll be a holiday market at the Western Hotel from 12 noon to 5 p.m. and a holiday market annex from 12 noon to 5 p.m. at the Delaware Youth Center; you can take a complimentary horse and buggy ride from one to the other. There will be a holiday portrait studio, book emporium of local authors, dance performances, Victorian harp music, hoop races, Santa, gift wrapping and more.

A map and detailed schedule of events will be available the day of the festival. For details visit tinyurl.com/j4d6a2h.



Contributed photo

All aboard Trains on Main

LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — The Livingston Manor Chamber of Commerce and the Catskill Art Society will throw a grand opening party for Trains on Main, the annual holiday train spectacular, at the CAS Arts Center at 48 Main St., on Saturday, December 10 from 1 to 4 p.m. This nostalgic trip back in time features handmade model trains on view in windows up and down Main Street.

During the party, CAS will host a holiday card-making workshop for children. Participants are welcome to drop in anytime. At 2 p.m., kids can visit with Santa

Claus, and at 3 p.m., musicians and singers from the Livingston Manor Central School will perform in the galleries for a free public concert.

On December 17 from 1 to 4 p.m., CAS will host a train-themed ornament-making workshop for children. Participants are welcome to drop in anytime.

Trains on Main will be on display at the CAS Arts Center, Morgan Outdoors, and other businesses around Livingston Manor throughout December. Visit www.catskillartsociety.org.

'What's podCASTING got to do with it?'

LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — Filmmakers Zac Stuart-Pontier and Marc Smerling will talk about "Story Telling through Podcasting" on December 10 at 4 p.m. in the Wulff Gallery at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum (CFFCM). The presentation is sponsored by Morgan Outdoors.

Stuart-Pontier is a Sullivan County native and the son of CFFCM Executive Director Glenn Pontier and **The River Reporter** publisher Laurie Stuart. Smerling is a fly fisherman. They created the Emmy Award-winning HBO series "The Jinx" and are now collaborating on a podcast series "Crimetown" from Gimlet Media. "Crimetown" debuted on Sunday, November 20 (visit <https://gimletmedia.com/show/crimetown>).

Podcasts are digital audio files available on the Internet for downloading to a computer or portable media player. The event is free, but the numbers are limited. Light refreshments will be served. Call CFFCM at 845/439-4810 for reservations.

German mass

HONESDALE, PA — Rev. Richard A. Mowery and the congregation of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 7th and Church streets, will host its annual German Christmas Service on Sunday, December 11 at 4 p.m.

The liturgy, Christmas carols and prayers will be in German. The Rev. D. Michael Bennethum, administrative executive for the bishop of the Northeastern PA Synod, will officiate. Refreshments will be offered following the service, including an assortment of Lebkuchen cookies.

The church building is handicapped accessible from 7th Street. For more information call 570/253-1444 or 253-2782.

Church choir holds Christmas concert

HONESDALE, PA — St. John's Roman Catholic Church Choir will hold its annual Christmas concert on Sunday, December 11 at 2 p.m. at St. John's Roman Catholic Church on Terrace Street. The music will run from traditional favorites such as "Joy to the World" and "For Unto Us a Child is Born" from Handel's "Messiah" to gospel and contemporary sounds. Featured vocalists are Steve Saylor, Priscilla Tagle and Keith Lewis on "O Holy Night."

Accompanists will be Theresa Gumble on piano and organ, Sue Apgar on both wind and brass instruments, Jerry Swendsen on bass, and John Gardas on drums. John Propeak is the director. The concert is free and open to the public.

Ladore holiday craft fair

WAYMART, PA — The 14th annual Festive Holiday Craft Fair will be presented by the Salvation Army/Ladore Conference Center on Saturday, December 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the PARC/Pavilion at Ladore Camp, 287 Owego Tpk. Parking and admission are free.

Crafters will have a wide range of products on hand to offer, making this a great place to find one-of-a-kind gifts. Lunch will be available to purchase. Proceeds from the event will benefit the The Salvation Army-Ladore programs.

Holiday Artisans' Market

HONESDALE, PA — On Sunday, December 11 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., The Cooperage Project will host its fifth annual Holiday Artisans' Market. It will showcase the work of many talented artisans of the Upper Delaware Region. You'll find a selection of unique handcrafted gifts for friends and family. Enjoy live music from local musicians throughout the day, as well as farm-to-table eats from Anthill Farm Kitchen.

Among the artisans at the market will be The Barnwood Gallery, Myrtle Avenue Bakehouse, Mount Pleasant Herbary, Jewelry by LaPierre, From Drab to Fab, Wood Winery, Willow River Gallery, Garage Glass Beads, bachestinks, Babbling Brook Studio, Good Korma, BriarWood Farms and many more.

Indie Holiday Market

NARROWSBURG, NY — A market of goods for gift-giving, produced by independent local artisans, food producers and craftsmen, opens for two weekends in the DVAA recital hall, second floor, 39 Main St. It's open Saturday and Sunday, December 11 and 12, and 17 and 18. For more information see Narrowsburg News on page 9, or visit <https://www.facebook.com/IndieNarrowsburg>.

'A Winter's Tale'

HONESDALE, PA — The Cooperage Project, 1030 Main St., will host another Shakespeare play on film, "A Winter's Tale," as part of its "Such Sweet Thunder: Shakespeare on Film" series on Thursday, December 8 at 7 p.m.

Dr. Robert Dugan will introduce the play with a brief background and orientation. "You can do anything to Shakespeare," Dugan says, "except change the words. Once you alter the language, it is no longer Shakespeare."

After the screening, there will be an opportunity for conversation and the sharing of impressions. The event is free, but donations are welcome.

Continued on page 20

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MERRYMAKING

Continued from page 18



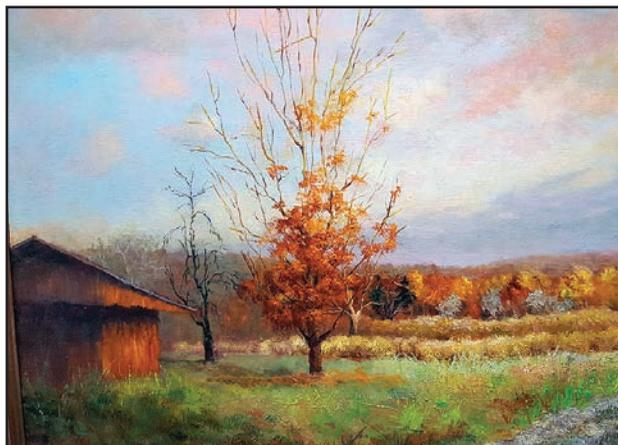
Contributed photo

Sullivan County Community Chorus

WOODBOURNE, NY — The Sullivan County Community Chorus, under the direction of Conductor Kevin Giroux, will perform its 40th annual Winter Concert on Sunday, December 11 at 2:30 p.m. at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 6317 Route 42. The theme for the concert is “Remembering the Past, Celebrating the Present, and Looking to the Future: Celebrating 40 years of Choral Tradition in Sullivan County!”

It will feature special guest performers from the Nesin Cultural Arts Center, the Young Children’s and Treble Makers Choruses, directed by Amy Phillips. It will also feature the Sullivan Chamber Singers, comprising members of the chorus selected through an audition process.

In appreciation for the 40 years of support from the community, there will be no admission charged, but free-will donations will be accepted. Immediately following the performance, there will be a reception. The snow date is Sunday, December 18 at 2:30 p.m. For more information call 845/439-4458.



Contributed photo

Lisa Hannick, who painted this work in oil, will lead a painting workshop at the Art Factory.

Winter Extravaganza at Art Factory

WHITE MILLS, PA — The Art Factory, 736 Texas Palmyra Hwy., Route 6, will hold its Winter Extravaganza on Sunday, December 11 from 12 noon to 3 p.m., with free mini-workshops, about 20 minutes long each. These workshops are a preview of classes that will begin in January, on subjects including photography; oil, acrylic, water color and abstract painting; figure drawing, sketching, printing and pastels; and beading and wire wrapping.

The Art Factory also has a large selection of handmade, one-of-a-kind, reasonably priced works of art for holiday gift-giving needs. It is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. For more information call 570/251-1181 or follow Art Factory on Facebook.

Children’s Christmas play

HURLEYVILLE, NY — The Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop’s (SCDW) children’s theatre will present an original play for children, by children, “Nuttin’ for Christmas,” on Friday, December 9 and Saturday, December 10 at 7 p.m. and on Sunday, December 11, at 1 p.m. at the Sullivan County Museum.

Mekayla Perneszi, a senior at Fallsburg Central High School and a junior board member of the SCDW, wrote the play, based on the holiday song of the same name. Mekayla and Megan Grieco are co-directors. Admission costs \$7.

The family show, “Miracle on 34th Street—the radio play,” will follow the children’s play. Admission costs \$10. To attend both shows, tickets cost \$15. Bring a new, unwrapped toy and take \$2 off your ticket. Desserts and beverages are included. Visit www.scdw.net or call 845/807-7212

A Romping Radishes holiday

HONESDALE, PA — The Cooperage Project, 1030 Main St., will host Romping Radishes, a healthy living class for kids, on Saturday, December 10 at 11 a.m. It will be held upstairs during the Main Street Farmers’ Market. This month’s topic is “Healthy Holidays!” Special guest John Farrell will be there to play special holiday music at the Farmers’ Market.

Farrell is an internationally acclaimed songwriter, author and peace educator. The program is geared toward kids in grades K through two, but all ages are welcome.

This class is made possible by a grant from the Wayne Memorial Health Foundation and support from our community. See page, as well as a recent grant from The Dime Bank (see page 4.)

Continued on page 21

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MERRYMAKING

Continued from page 20

Holiday House Tour and raffle

MILFORD, PA — The Upper Delaware GLBT Center, Inc. (UDGLBT) will hold its inaugural Milford Holiday House Tour on Saturday, December 10, from 3 to 7 p.m. It is a self-guided tour of eight distinctive Milford homes, whose owners have graciously opened their doors to allow visitors to peek inside and see how each interprets the holidays. The tour begins at the UDGLBT Center at 201 W. Harford St., where participants can pick up admission tickets and maps. Tickets cost \$20 for adults in advance (\$25 the day of the tour) and \$10 for those under 18; visit www.udglbt.org.

Leading up to the house tour is a holiday wreath raffle. From now until December 9, 11 Milford area merchants (Ambience Furniture and Fine Gifts, Artisan Exchange, Denim or Lace, Dona Helene Salon, Ghiggeri's Fine Olive Oils and Balsamics, Milford Craft Show, Naked Bagel, The Patisserie, The Village Farmhouse, Willow, and the Forklift Café in Dingmans Ferry) are displaying holiday wreaths that have been made by the merchant or local artists and craftspeople. Raffle tickets are available at each location displaying a wreath.

All the wreaths will be on display at the Upper Delaware GLBT Center on December 10 for one last chance to win. The day will end with the UDGLBT Holiday Party at 8 p.m. at the Best Western in Matamoras. For more information visit www.udglbt.org.

Winterfest

HAWLEY, PA — Hawley's Winterfest will take place on December 9 to 11. Events on Friday include a beer tour (pick up a beer tour card at one of nine participating bars, including the Boat-house Restaurant, Cocoon Coffee House, The Dock on Wallenpaupack, Glass Wine Bar & Kitchen and more). The tour will continue throughout the three days. Also on Friday there will be a concert of traditional carols and Medieval and Renaissance sacred works, sung by the Virgin Consort at the Hawley Presbyterian Church.

On Saturday and Sunday, businesses and organizations from Trish's Bagels and Gresham's Landing to the Wayne/Pike Workforce Alliance will provide holiday specials like hot chocolate, Santa visits and photos, holiday music and more. On Saturday, Miss Elly's Antiques & Such, 518 Church St., will offer horse and carriage or wagon rides (\$8 and \$5 per person respectively) from 12 noon to 4 p.m. Among the Sunday delights will be a Christmas campfire at Silver Birches, with s'mores (free for kids 12 and under), hot chocolate, music and canoe races; excursions on the Winterfest Flyer, a Stourbridge line train making 45-minute round trips to the



TRR file photo

Horse and buggy rides are only one of a myriad of attractions at Hawley's Winterfest.

Lackawaxen; the annual Ritz Christmas show; and a variety of Winterfest breakfasts and brunches. For a full schedule with details of all events, visit www.hawleywinterfest.com/winterfest-events.php.

Visit the Historic Western Hotel & the newly reopened fireside dining room. Perfect for your Holiday Party or a memorable family dinner.

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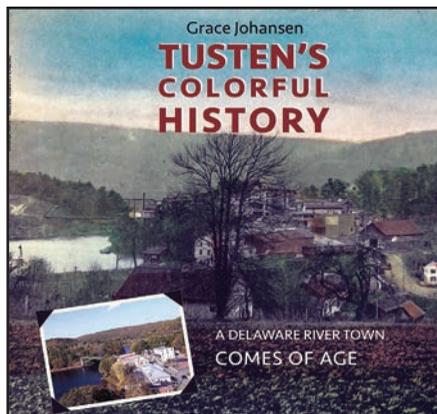
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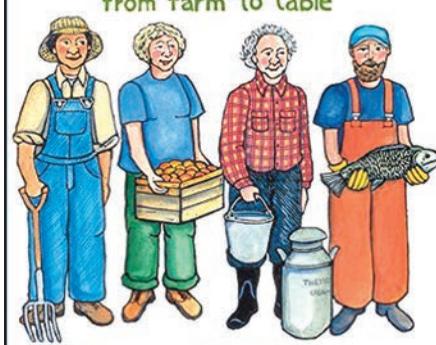
Grace Johansen
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HISTORY**
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COMES OF AGE

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'Tusten's Colorful History' book launch

"Tusten's Colorful History," book by Grace Johansen. Tusten Historical Society, \$14.99. Conceived by the late Grace Johansen, founder and president of the Tusten Historical Society and for many years the writer of *The River Reporter's* "Did You Know?" history column, this is a softcover coffee table book chock full of historical information and rare images dating back to the 1700s. A book launch is planned for Thursday, December 8 at 3 p.m. at Signature Gifts, Delaware Arts Center, 37 Main Street, Narrowsburg, NY. Copies will be available at Signature Gifts.

BEFORE WE EAT
from farm to table



Pat Brisson Illustrated by Mary Azarian

Contributed photo

'Before We Eat: From Farm to Table'

"Before We Eat: From Farm to Table," by Pat Brisson, PA Farm Bureau's State Women's Leadership Committee, \$10. Orders by calling Bonnie LaTourette at 570/729-8499 by December 30.

This book shows young readers what must happen before food can get to our table to nourish our bodies and spirits, beginning in the fields with those who plant, weed and pick the vegetables, then covers the farmers who feed and care for the animals that supply our meat and milk. The book follows the food through the system of packaging, trucking and selling in the market.



■ IN MY HUMBLE OPINION

By Jonathan Charles Fox

This is not a paid endorsement

I'm fascinated by commercials featuring celebrities lending their names to a wide variety of products and services, understanding that advertisers are under the impression that those endorsements will influence the public. As a rule, I don't believe that we in the Upper Delaware River region fall into any particular demographic, nor are we what said companies are looking for, since folks like us (IMHO) tend to have a mind of our own and aren't easily swayed by smoke and mirrors.

Back in the day, during my "15 minutes" of fame, I was somewhat visible (as a nerdy teen) on TV shows like "Diff'rent Strokes," "One Day at a Time," "The Jefferson's," "Three's Company," "All in the Family," and (ironically) "FAME," which put me on the map, so to speak. As a result, there were offers, and I did hawk a few products, like soup, breath mints and cigarettes (times were different back then), and I was the official "spokesboy" for Atari Video Games (tinyurl.com/jgx9vk8) during the '80s.

Flash-forward to my life in the Catskills, where my dubious "celebrity" is overrated, but gives me a warm fuzzy feeling every time someone acknowledges my participation in the community, more so than any given moment in "La La Land." I'm still unsure, after all these years, that anyone actually gives a hoot about my humble opinion on anything, much less what kind of soup one should consume, but nonetheless, people ask. Over the last seven days, Dharma the Wonder Dog and I have been running on empty, attending a slew of events, including holiday markets and parties, where local artists and entrepreneurs are showing their wares, selling homegrown goods and services and encouraging us all to do what we do best: shop local.

Last Monday the folks at Bold Gold Media (www.thunder102.com) officially announced their acquisition of WSUL and WVOS radio stations. I ran into BGM founder and CEO Vince Benedetto at the Sullivan County Visitors Association (SCVA, www.scva.net) annual dinner and holiday meeting, where his excitement over the news was infectious. Vince told me that "his team" (including the folks at the "new" stations) are the "best in the business" and that "the future looks bright for Sullivan County." Congrats all 'round.

During the SCVA dinner, awards were given out to some most deserving folks, including Dan Hust (**Catskills Confidential**) for his amazing contributions to that periodical and the county; Elaine Giguere, (www.art-salliancesite.org), who received the STAR award for individual achievement in her field; and Jennifer Grimes (www.countryhousearealty.net) for her company's solid performance raising awareness of the beauty of living and/or vacationing in our neck of the woods. New York State Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther, SCVA President Roberta Byron-Lockwood and Linda Cellini (representing NYS Sen. John Bonacic) were all present to hand out the awards, and Byron-Lockwood gave a glowing key-note address regarding the future of Sullivan County. The SCVA does not need my endorsement, but if your business is not a member, you are missing out on some great opportunities.

Following the lovely tree-lighting ceremony last Friday night in Kauneonga Lake, where (in true country style) Mrs. Claus arrived by fire truck, Dharma picked out



TRR photos by Jonathan Charles Fox

The Delaware Valley Arts Alliance's Elaine Giguere, left, is honored at the Sullivan County Visitors Association annual dinner and awards ceremony. She received the organization's STAR award for individual achievement, recognizing her contributions to the arts community in Sullivan County.



Mrs. Claus arrives in holiday style, via fire truck, for the annual tree lighting ceremony and cookies and cocoa party sponsored by the FD in Kauneonga Lake last Friday night.



This is one of jewelry designer Lori Rae Silvers' sparkling creations, one of many items from local artists and entrepreneurs on sale at the Holiday Market at Bethel Woods

Santa and his helpers arrive at Bethel Woods last Saturday as part of the festivities surrounding the annual Holiday Market held on the grounds of the original 1969 Woodstock Music Festival.

a festive red velvet dress and sat on Santa's lap for her traditional seasonal portrait, while I perused the array of goodies people were snatching up for gifts during the annual Holiday Market (www.bethelwoodscenter.org). I schmoozed with the vendors, none of whom attempted to bribe me for an endorsement. Although I admire them all to a fault, there were a few stand-outs in the crowd, including the incredibly talented Chiaki M Cameron, whose delicate Eggshell Ornaments (www.etsy.com) are stunning; life-of-the-party Lori Rae Silvers (www.lorirae.com) whose jewelry sparkles with magic; and local potters Ellany Gable and husband Franco Lo Pinto (www.honeyhillpottery.com). The last were almost too busy selling pottery to chat, but managed to pose with a customer who was "thrilled to be purchasing local artists' work." Dr. Jenise Parris (www.beautywaterbyjp.com) was mobbed (as were all vendors!) by people eager to learn how her (locally sourced) skin-care products are produced. Although she, too, was not looking for any kind of endorsement (especially from my crinkly, wrinkled old face) I will tell you that I use them, and they work. When I met Jenise, she promised that her products would make my skin "glow," and they do, I swear to you, they do.

The word "endorsement" is defined as "giving one's public approval or support to someone or something," and it is my great pleasure (even though you most likely don't care) to do so. If I've left your name off the list, it is simply due to space constraints. I heartily endorse every single vendor, artist and company that tirelessly produce locally crafted goods and services to the equally supportive community that surrounds us all. Here at **The River Reporter**, we are all about community, and you all have our full support. This is not a paid endorsement.

AUCTION Building Material



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Online Bidding Only!

Online Bidding Begins to Close
Friday, December 9 @ 7pm

Payment & Pickup Location: Gordon Kinzinger Auction Facility: 2944 Lake Ariel Highway (191 S), Honesdale, PA 18431

Highlights: Approx 8 -10 Kitchen Cabinet Sets ~ Flooring ~ Pressure Treated Lumber ~ Doug Fir Lumber ~ Doors ~ Insulation ~ Kitchen & Bath Items ~ American Standard Toilets & Sinks ~ Countertops ~ Roofing ~ Composite Decking ~ Pine T&G ~ Rail Kits ~ Underlayment ~ T1-11 ~ Lighting ~ Mouldings ~ Many New Tools ~ 4200 Watt Generators

Payment & Pickup: Saturday, December 10 from 8 - 3 in Honesdale

Preview: Friday, December 9 from 10 - 6 pm

Terms: 13% Buyer's Premium w/ 3% Discount for Cash or Check

See website for Details!

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The River Reporter's 21st Annual 2016 READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

- Personal Fitness Trainer _____
- Pest Control _____
- Pet Boarding Kennel _____
- Pet Pampering _____
- Pet Day Care _____
- Pet Grooming _____
- Pet Groomer _____
- Pet Trainer _____
- Pharmacy _____
- Photographer _____
- Photography Studio _____
- Physical Rehab Center _____
- Physical Therapist _____
- Picture Framer _____
- Place to have a Baby _____
- Plumber _____
- Plumbing & Heating Supply _____
- Podiatrist _____
- Politician _____
- Pool Builder/Contractor _____
- Postmaster _____
- PreSchool _____
- Radio Personality _____
- Real Estate Agent _____
- Real Estate Attorney _____
- Real Estate Company _____
- Real Estate Website _____
- Recreation & Entertainment _____
- Recycle & Transfer Station _____
- Rehabilitation Services _____
- Rental Center _____
- Retractable Awnings _____
- Roofer _____
- Roofing Contractor _____
- Salvage Company _____
- Septic Service _____
- Spa or Personal Pampering _____
- Storage Center _____
- Sunrooms _____
- Surgeon _____
- Tailor _____
- Tanning Salon _____
- Tattoo Parlor _____
- Tax Preparation _____
- Teacher _____
- Temp Agency _____
- Therapeutic Massage _____
- Towing Service _____
- Truck Center _____
- Tuxedo Rentals _____
- Veterinarian _____
- Veterinarian Clinic _____
- Vocational Technical School _____
- Waiter/Waitress _____
- Waterproofing Basement _____
- Weight Loss Center _____
- Well Driller _____
- Window Replacement _____
- Window Treatments _____
- Women's Health Center _____
- Yoga Studio _____
- Yoga Teacher _____

Shopping

- Antique Store _____
- Antiques/Collectibles _____
- Auto Dealer Domestic _____
- Auto Dealer Foreign _____
- Auto Dealer PreOwned _____
- Auto Parts Store _____
- Baby Gifts _____
- Baby/Kids Store _____

- Beer Distributor _____
- Boat Dealer/Rental _____
- Boat/Marine Service _____
- Bookstore _____
- Botique _____
- Bridal Shop _____
- Camera Shop _____
- Card Shop _____
- Cigar Shop _____
- Clothing Store _____
- Clothing Store Men _____
- Clothing Store Women _____
- Collectibles Store _____
- Computer Sales _____
- Consignment Shop _____
- Convenience Store _____
- Craft Beer Selection _____
- Craft Supply _____
- Department Store _____
- Electronics _____
- Ethnic Food Store _____
- Fabric Store _____
- Farm Equipment Retailer _____
- Farmers Market _____
- Flea Market _____
- Flooring Store _____
- Florist _____
- Formal Wear _____
- Furniture Store _____
- General Store _____
- Gift Shop _____
- Gold/Silver Buying _____
- Golf Apparel/Accessory Store _____
- Grocery Store _____
- Hardware Store _____
- Hobby Store _____
- Home Décor _____
- Jewelry Store _____
- Kids Clothes _____
- Knit Shop _____
- Liquor Store _____
- Local Sweet Corn _____
- Locally-made products _____
- Lumberyard _____
- Mall _____
- Medical Equipment _____
- Motorcycle Shop _____
- Music Store _____
- Musical Instrument Store _____
- Novelty Shop _____
- Outdoor Recreational Vehicles _____
- Outlet Shopping Complex _____
- Party Supply Store _____
- Pet Store _____
- Pet Supplies _____
- Place to Buy Art _____
- Place to Buy Pool/Spa _____
- Pool Table or Game Store _____
- Pottery Studio _____
- Poultry Market _____
- Produce Local _____
- Rare Coin Dealer _____
- Religion/Spirituality Store _____
- RV Sales/Service _____
- SeafoodStore _____
- Sewing Machine Service/Supply _____
- Shoe Store Child _____
- Shoe Store Local _____
- Ski Shop _____
- Speciality Store _____
- Sporting Goods Shop _____
- Tattoo/Ear Piercing Shop _____
- Tire Sales/Service _____

- Toy Store _____
- Tuxedo Rental _____
- TV/Electronics _____
- Vacuum Cleaner Store _____
- Vintage Shop _____
- Wellness & Personal Style _____
- Winery/Vineyard _____

Community

- Ambulance Squad _____
- Amusement/ Fun Park _____
- Animal Shelter _____
- Art Gallery _____
- Atmosphere _____
- Bed & Breakfast _____
- Bowling Lanes _____
- Canoe Livery _____
- Campground _____
- Chamber of Commerce _____
- Chicken BBQ (Volunteer) _____
- Cider Mill _____
- Civic Club or Organization _____
- College _____
- Community Festival or Street Fair _____
- Conference Center _____
- Dance Studio _____
- Day Trip _____
- Fair _____
- Family Night Out _____
- Farm Market _____
- Fire Department _____
- Golf Course _____
- Historic Site _____
- Horseback Riding _____
- Hotel _____
- Law Office _____
- Library _____
- Live Music Venue _____
- Artist _____
- Author _____
- Celebrity _____
- Farm _____
- Getaway _____
- Golf Pro _____
- Musician/Band _____
- Potter _____
- Local Products _____
- Locally Produced Beer / Spirits _____

- Locally Produced Cheese _____
- Locally Produced Eggs _____
- Locally Produced Meats _____
- Locally Produced Maple Syrup _____
- Locally Produced Wine _____
- Meditation Center _____
- Movie Theatre _____
- Museum _____
- Neighborhood _____
- Pancake Breakfast _____
- Parade _____
- Penny Social _____
- Place to Hold a Prom _____
- Places to Play Bingo _____
- Place to Take out of town guests _____
- Place to Take the kids _____
- Playhouse Theatre _____
- Post Office _____
- Private School _____
- Radio Station _____
- Resort _____
- Shopping Area _____
- Ski Lodge _____
- Special Area Attraction _____
- Sullivan Renaissance Project _____
- Wedding Reception Location _____
- Winery _____
- Youth Center _____
- Youth Program _____

HOW TO VOTE: Please print clearly your choices for "THE BEST" from the categories listed. Best choices are limited to Delaware, Orange, Pike, Sullivan and Wayne counties. You may also VOTE ONLINE: www.RiverReporter.com/BEST

HOW TO ENTER: NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Additional ballots are available at **The River Reporter** office at 93 Erie Ave, Narrowsburg, NY. **Ballots MUST be complete and include full name, address and phone number of voter.** All ballots must be received by December 15, 2016. Employees of **The River Reporter** and **Stuart Communications** are permitted to vote but not eligible to win prizes. Entries that are late, damaged, illegible or missing voter's name will not be eligible. One entry per person. Mechanically reproduced or Photocopied entries are not eligible. A business, organization or person may win no more than three (3) categories. Winners will be chosen based on the number of votes received by December 15th, 2016.

HOW TO WIN PRIZES: All ballots will be included in a random drawing for prizes. Drawing will be held in January 2017. No duplicate winners. BEST Winners will be notified in January 2017.

OFFICIAL "BEST" BALLOT ENTRY FORM

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

- Name _____
- Address _____
- City, State, Zip _____
- Phone _____
- E-mail _____

- I am a current subscriber
- I buy TRR on newsstands
- Sign me up for a free 4 week subscription

PLEASE MAIL COMPLETED FORMS TO:

The River Reporter "BEST"
PO Box 150, Narrowsburg, NY 12764

or DROP OFF AT:
93 Erie Avenue, Narrowsburg, NY 12764

The River Reporter's 21st Annual 2016 READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

THE BEST BALLOT IS BACK!

We have revamped our ballot and it's better than ever! We ask that you simply vote for the people, places or businesses that you think are the BEST. Thank you for your participation and we look forward to receiving your votes. If there is a category that we are missing, let us know!

We will publish our 2016 WINNERS in our annual Readers' Choice Awards "BEST" supplement in January 2017. Remember, you can always vote online at riverreporter.com/best

Good Luck to all!

Food

- Appetizers _____
- Atmosphere _____
- Authentic Meal _____
- Bagels _____
- Bakery _____
- Bar Atmosphere _____
- Bar Overall _____
- Barbecue _____
- Barbecue Food _____
- Beer Selection _____
- Best Bagel Shop _____
- Breakfast Buffet _____
- Breakfast Menu _____
- Brunch Buffet _____
- Brunch _____
- Budget-friendly _____
- Buffet _____
- Buffet Chinese _____
- Burger Place _____
- Burrito _____
- Candy Shop _____
- Catering _____
- Cheese Steaks _____
- Chicken Wings _____
- Chinese Restaurant _____
- Chocolates _____
- Coffee _____
- Coffee Shop _____
- Deli _____
- Desserts _____
- Diner _____
- Dinner _____
- Dinner Specials _____
- Early Bird Specials _____
- Ethnic Cuisine _____
- Family Restaurant _____
- Fastest Take Out Service _____
- Fine Dining Restaurant _____
- Food Truck _____
- French Fries _____
- French Restaurant _____
- Fried Chicken _____
- Friendliest Service _____
- Gourmet Popcorn/Snacks _____
- Gourmet Restaurant _____
- Greek Restaurant _____
- Grocery Store /Supermarket _____
- Hamburgers _____
- Happy Hour _____
- Health Food Store _____
- Hoagie _____
- Home Cooking Restaurant _____
- Hot Dog _____
- Ice Cream Shop _____
- Indian _____
- Italian Restaurant _____
- Japanese Restaurant _____
- Kid Friendly Restaurant _____
- Latin Restaurant _____
- Local Watering Hole _____
- Local Winery _____
- Locally-Sourced Menu _____

- Lunch _____
- Lunch Bargain _____
- Lunch Under \$5 _____
- Martinis _____
- Menu _____
- Mexican _____
- Microbrewery _____
- Most Romantic Restaurant _____
- New Restaurant _____
- Off The Beaten Path _____
- Outdoor Dining _____
- Overall Restaurant _____
- Pasta Dish _____
- Pizza _____
- Pizza Place _____
- Place to Have a Cocktail _____
- Place to Have First Date _____
- Prime Rib _____
- Ribs _____
- Romantic Restaurant _____
- Salad _____
- Salad Bar _____
- Sandwiches _____
- Seafood _____
- Soup _____
- Sports Bar _____
- Steakhouse _____
- Sunday Brunch _____
- Sushi _____
- Sweet Shop _____
- Taco _____
- Tavern _____
- Tea Room _____
- Thai Cuisine _____
- Vegetarian _____
- Wedding Cakes _____
- Wine Bar _____
- Wine Selection _____
- Wings _____
- Restaurant - Delaware County _____
- Restaurant - Orange County _____
- Restaurant - Pike County _____
- Restaurant - Sullivan County _____
- Restaurant - Wayne _____
- Restaurant - Region _____

People & Places

- 55+ Active Adult Community _____
- Accountant _____
- Acupuncture _____
- Apartment Community _____
- Appliance Dealer _____
- Architect _____
- Assisted Living Facility _____
- Attorney _____
- Auction House/Service _____
- Auto Glass Repair _____
- Auto Mechanic _____
- Auto Painting Collision Repair _____
- Auto Parts _____
- Auto Repair _____
- Auto Service Station _____

- Baker/ Specialty Cakes _____
- Bank _____
- Bank Teller _____
- Barber _____
- Barber Shop _____
- Bartender _____
- Bathroom Remodeler _____
- Best Place to take a Zumba Class _____
- Best Place to Work Manufacturing _____
- Best Place to Work Overall _____
- Best Place to Work Trucking/Transportation _____
- Best Place to Work Warehouse & Distribution _____
- Builder/Developer _____
- Butcher _____
- Cable/Phone Provider _____
- Cancer Center _____
- Car Salesman _____
- Car Wash _____
- Career Training Facility _____
- Carpenter _____
- Carpet Cleaning _____
- Caterer _____
- CDL Driver Training _____
- Cell Phone Provider _____
- Chef _____
- Child Care Provider _____
- Chiropractor _____
- Christmas Tree Farm _____
- Clergy _____
- Coach _____
- College Local _____
- Computer Repair _____
- Cosmetic Dentist _____
- Cosmetic Surgeon _____
- Credit Union _____
- Custom Cabinetry _____
- Custom Framing Service _____
- Customer Service _____
- Dance School _____
- Day Care Center _____
- Day Spa _____
- Dentist _____
- Dermatologist _____
- Doctor _____
- Drug/Alcohol Treatment _____
- Dry Cleaners _____
- Elder Care Facility _____
- Electrical Contractor _____
- Electrician _____
- Emergency Room _____
- Emergency Services _____
- Employment Agency _____
- Engaging Facebook Page _____
- Event Planner _____
- Excavator _____
- Eye Care Center _____
- Eye Center _____
- Eyewear Store _____
- Family Doctor _____
- Family Practice _____
- Fertility Center _____
- Financial Planner _____
- Fireplaces/Woodstoves _____
- Fitness Center _____
- Fitness Equipment _____
- Flooring/Carpet Store _____
- Friendly Staff _____
- Funeral Home _____
- Furniture Store _____
- Garbage & Junk Removal _____
- Garden Center/Nursery _____
- Green Business _____
- Gym _____

- Gymnastic Center _____
- Hair & Nail Salon _____
- Hair Salon _____
- Hair Stylist _____
- Hardware Store _____
- Health Insurance Provider _____
- Health/Natural Foods _____
- Hearing Aid Center _____
- Hearing Aid Specialist _____
- Heating & Air Conditioning _____
- Heating Fuel Company _____
- Holistic Practitioner _____
- Home & Garden Store _____
- Home Builder _____
- Home Health Service _____
- Home Improvement Store Local _____
- Home Inspector _____
- Home Insulation Installation Local _____
- Home Renovation _____
- Hospital/ Medical Facility _____
- Hospital/Health Network _____
- House Cleaning Service _____
- HVAC _____
- Insurance Agency _____
- Insurance Agent _____
- Interior Decorator _____
- Interior Designer/Design Center Local _____
- Internet Provider _____
- Jewelry Watch/Clock Repair _____
- Kid's Camp _____
- Kitchen & Bath Store _____
- Kitchen Designer/Remodeler _____
- Landscape Supply Center _____
- Landscaper _____
- Landscaping _____
- Laser Hair Removal _____
- Law Enforcement Officer _____
- Law Firm _____
- Lawn & Garden Equipment _____
- Lawn Equip Sales & Service Local _____
- Lawyer _____
- Lighting Store _____
- Limo Service _____
- Local Hero _____
- Martial Arts School _____
- Mason _____
- Massage Therapist _____
- Maternity Unit _____
- Mattress Store _____
- Medical Spa _____
- Medical Specialist _____
- Modular Homes _____
- Mortgage Company _____
- Nail Salon _____
- New Business of the Year _____
- Non- Profit Organization _____
- Nursing Home _____
- Nursing Services _____
- Obstetrician _____
- Oil Company _____
- Optometrist _____
- Orthodontist _____
- Orthopedic Services _____
- Painter _____
- Painting And Decorating Store _____
- Painting Service _____
- Patient Care _____
- Patio Furniture _____
- Paving Contractor _____
- Pediatrician _____
- Personal Care Home _____

More on the other side

WHERE AND WHEN

Thurs., Dec. 8

Make your own holiday wreath
PORT JERVIS, NY — Class at the Hub at the Port Jervis Public Library, 6:30pm in the Community Room, 138 Pike St. Make and take home a holiday wreath. \$10 materials fee. Register at 845/856-7313, ext. 5 or thehub@portjervislibrary.org.

'A Winter's Tale'

HONESDALE, PA — The Cooperage Project, 1030 Main St., hosts Shakespeare's "A Winter's Tale" at 7 p.m., part of its "Such Sweet Thunder" Shakespeare film series. Dr. Robert Dugan will introduce the play. Conversation and sharing of impressions follows the screening. The event is free, but donations are welcome.

Tai chi class

HONESDALE — Sifu Master Christopher Lee offers instruction in traditional long-form Wu-style tai chi at the Honesdale YMCA, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8-9am. Classes also include training in Qi Gong. For those 18 and older. 718/963-3686 or 570/253-2083.

'An Evening of Words and Music'

MONTICELLO — "An Evening of Words and Music" (this time music with wine) at the Read it Again Bookstore, 6:30-8pm. The second event will feature the music of David Rosenberg, Alan Sorensen and others to be announced closer to the event. Free.

Fri., Dec. 9

'Miracle on 34th Street'

HURLEYVILLE — "Miracle on 34th Street—A Radio Play" will be presented by Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop at the Sullivan County Museum, December 9 and 10 at 8pm; December 11 at 2pm. Tickets: \$15. Desserts and coffee included in the ticket price. Bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to Toys-for-Tots and deduct \$2 from cost of your ticket. 845/701-9336.

Winterfest

HAWLEY, PA — Hawley's Winterfest takes place on December 9, 10 & 11. Area businesses and organizations provide holiday specials like hot chocolate, Santa visits and photos, holiday music and more. For a full schedule with details of all events, visit www.hawleywinterfest.com/winterfest-events.php.

Free computer support @ WSPL in Jeffersonville

JEFFERSONVILLE — Free computer support every Friday at Western Sullivan Public Library/Jeffersonville Branch, 10am-2pm. Have questions about a new device? Or an app that isn't working like you thought? Need help with a new computer or operating system? Get answers to these questions and more.

Pre-K story time

MONTICELLO — Pre-K story time every Friday at E.B. Crawford Public Library, 10:30am. This program helps develop early literacy skills with stories and crafts. 845/794-4660 ext. 5.

'Holiday Hilarity'

HONESDALE — Club Funny and The Cooperage Project present the Black Box Players in "Holiday Hilarity" at The Cooperage, 8pm. Watch the Club Funny team perform never before seen scenes and play improvisational games based entirely on audience suggestions. Suggested donation: \$10 with a donation to Toys for Tots, \$15 without a toy donation. 570/253-2020.

Sat., Dec. 10

'Miracle on 34th Street'

HURLEYVILLE — "Miracle on 34th Street—A Radio Play" will be presented by Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop at the Sullivan County Museum, December 10 at 8pm; December 11 at 2pm. Tickets: \$15. Desserts and coffee included in the ticket price. Bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to Toys-for-Tots and deduct \$2 from cost of your ticket. 845/701-9336.

Winterfest

HAWLEY, PA — Hawley's Winterfest takes place all weekend. Area businesses and organizations provide holiday specials like hot chocolate, Santa visits and photos, holiday music and more. For a full schedule with details of all events, visit www.hawleywinterfest.com/winterfest-events.php.

Glass-blowing demonstrations

PORT JERVIS — Special glass blowing demonstrations at Gillinder Glass Factory, 10am-3pm (last tour at 2:30). \$5 adults, \$4 children & seniors. Take a guided tour of the historic glass factory and watch talented guest artists demonstrate the time-honored craft of hand-blown glass. 845/856-5375.

Breakfast with Santa

HAWLEY — Breakfast with Santa at the Central Volunteer Firehouse, 9-11:30am. Cost: \$7 ages 12 and up, free under age 12. 570/949-4296.

VEX Robotics Competition

LOCH SHELDRAKE — The Fallsburg Jr./Sr. High School and SUNY Sullivan Robotics teams co-host a VEX Robotics Competition "Starstruck" at SUNY Sullivan Paul Gerry Fieldhouse. Doors open 10am.

Holiday craft fair

WAYMART, PA — The 14th annual Festival Holiday Craft Fair presented by the Salvation Army/Ladore Conference Center at the PARC/Pavilion at Ladore Camp, 287 Owego Tpk., 10am-3pm. Parking and admission free. Crafters offer a wide range of products. Lunch available to purchase. Proceeds from the event benefit the Salvation Army-Ladore programs.

Indie Holiday Mart

NARROWSBURG — Independent Narrowsburg presents the 5th annual Indie Holiday Mart at The DVAA Recital Hall, 2nd Floor, 39 Main St., Saturday 11am-6pm, Sunday 12noon-5pm. A collective of local artists come together to bring a holiday market full of handmade art, jewelry, knitwear, accessories, furniture, food and more. Buy directly from the artists. <https://www.facebook.com/IndieNarrowsburg>.

Chess club

MONTICELLO — Chess club for teens and adults at the E.B. Crawford Public Library, 11am-12:30pm. Players of all levels are invited to attend. A limited supply of chess boards will be available; if possible players, should bring their own. 845/794-4660 ext. 8.

The Cooperage farmers' market

HONESDALE, PA — The Main Street Farmers' Market, Saturdays through the winter months at The Cooperage, 11am-1pm. Food, locally grown produce, maple syrup, fresh baked bread and locally roasted coffee. 570/253-2020.

Romping Radishes holiday

HONESDALE, PA — Romping Radishes, a healthy-living class for kids, at The Cooperage, 11 a.m. Topic is "Healthy Holidays!" with guest John Farrell. For kids in grades K through two.

Dickens on the Delaware

CALLICOON — Join in the merriment and pageantry of Christmas Past with shopkeepers and townsfolk strolling about in Victorian garb at Dickens on the Delaware, 12noon-7pm. Free performances, strolling carolers, Holiday Market, ale houses, galleries and shops, holiday portrait studio, children's activities, Santa, horse and buggy rides and more.

Pet photos with Santa

HAWLEY, PA — The Wayne/Pike County Animal Response Team (CART) hosts a Hawley Winterfest event: Pet Photos with Santa, 12noon-3pm at the Honesdale National Bank/Hawley Branch. \$10 per photo by Danielle's Photography; on-the-spot photos with \$5 benefiting Wayne/Pike CART. There will also be baskets of pet goodies to raffie.

Holiday Trains on Main

LIVINGSTON MANOR — Livingston Manor Chamber of Commerce and Catskill Art Society throw a grand opening party for "Trains on Main," the annual holiday train spectacular, at CAS Arts Center, 48 Main St., 1-4pm. See the miniature trains up close, talk to the model builders and listen to live music. 845/436-4227.

House of Waters

HAWLEY — House of Waters at Harmony Presents in the Silk Mill, 8pm. The trio incorporates elements of West-African, jazz, psychedelic, indie rock, classical and world music into their unique sound. 570/588-8077.

Journey Through Bethlehem

BETHANY — Journey through Bethlehem: A Living Nativity at the Bethany Presbyterian Church, 4:30-6:30pm. Outdoor walking tours. Refreshments served. 570/253-6316.

Lackawaxen EMS Family Bingo

MASTHOPE — Lackawaxen EMS Family Bingo, Saturday, December 10th & 17, 7:30pm at Masthope Mountain Community, 196 Karl Howe Blvd. Open to the public.

Liberty Aglow Brunch

LIBERTY — Liberty Aglow Brunch; the theme for the Christmas Season is "Keep Christ In Christmas" at Lighthouse Ministries, 5 Triangle Rd., 10am-12noon. Requested donation \$5.

TASC (GED) Distance Learning information session

CALLICOON — A distance learning teacher from BOCES will be at the Delaware Free Branch of the Western Sullivan Public Library, 1-3pm. Obtain the information that you need to earn your high school equivalency (HSE) diploma. The TASC (GED) program is free to New Yorkers who need a High School Equivalency Diploma. 845/887-4040.

Holiday house tour

MILFORD, PA — Upper Delaware GLBT Center Inc. (UDGLBT) holds its inaugural Milford Holiday House Tour, a self-guided tour of eight distinctive Milford homes, 3-7pm. Tour begins at UDGLBT Center, 201 W. Harford St., where admission tickets and maps are available. Tickets: \$20 for adults in advance; \$10 for those under 18; \$25 the day of the event. visit www.udglbt.org.

'What's podCASTING got to do with it?'

LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — Filmmakers Zac Stuart-Pontier and Marc Smerling talk about "story telling through pod-casting" 4 p.m. in the Wulff Gallery at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum, 4pm. Sponsored by Morgan Outdoors. Free; refreshments. Reservations at 845/439-4810.

UDGLBT Holiday Party

MATAMORAS, PA — UDGLBT Holiday Party, 8 p.m. at the Best Western in Matamoras. Wreath raffle and more. For more information visit www.udglbt.org.

Sun., Dec. 11

'Miracle on 34th Street'

HURLEYVILLE — "Miracle on 34th Street—A Radio Play" will be presented by Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop at the Sullivan County Museum, 2pm. Tickets: \$15. Desserts and coffee included in the ticket price. Bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to Toys-for-Tots and deduct \$2 from cost of your ticket. 845/701-9336.

Journey Through Bethlehem

BETHANY — Journey through Bethlehem: A Living Nativity at the Bethany Presbyterian Church, 4:30-6:30pm. Outdoor walking tours. Refreshments served. 570/253-6316.

The Gift of Aromatherapy, an open house at The Sanctuary of Oils

HONESDALE — The Gift of Aromatherapy, an open house at The Sanctuary of Oils, 61 Commercial St. (The Holmes Bldg.), 1-4pm. Come experience pure essential oils and Mayasblends handmade blends and aromatics for your home or self-care. Drawings for free gifts; warm tea and snacks. 570/468-7350.

Winterfest

HAWLEY, PA — Hawley's Winterfest finds area businesses and organizations providing holiday specials like hot chocolate, Santa visits and photos, holiday music and more. For a full schedule with details of all events, visit www.hawleywinterfest.com/winterfest-events.php.

Talk on Frank Lloyd Wright

BEACH LAKE — The Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and friends will meet at the Berlin Township Community Center, 10:15am. All are welcome to attend the program, participate in the discussion, and stay afterwards for light refreshments. Sheila Vaswani gives a presentation "Frank Lloyd Wright: Lifelong Unitarian and Genius of Modern Architecture."

Indie Holiday Mart

NARROWSBURG — Independent Narrowsburg presents the 5th annual Indie Holiday Mart at The DVAA Recital Hall, 2nd Floor, 39 Main St., 12noon-5pm. A collective of local artists come together to bring a holiday market full of handmade art, jewelry, knitwear, accessories, furniture, food and more. Buy directly from the artists. <https://www.facebook.com/IndieNarrowsburg>.

Holiday Artisans' Market

HONESDALE — The Cooperage Project hosts the fifth annual Holiday Artisans' Market, 11am-4pm. The market showcases the work of many talented artisans of the Upper Delaware Region. You'll find a selection of unique handcrafted gifts. 570/253-2020.

Winter Extravaganza at Art Factory

WHITE MILLS, PA — The Art Factory holds its Winter Extravaganza, 12noon-3pm, with free mini-workshops, about 20 minutes long each. Workshops are a prelude to classes that begin in January in photography; oil, acrylic, water color and abstract painting; figure drawing, sketching, printing and pastels; and beading and wire wrapping. 736 Texas Palmyra Hwy. (Route 6). 570/251-1181 or follow Art Factory on Facebook.

Christmas Concert at St. John's
HONESDALE, PA — St. John's Roman Catholic Church Choir presents its annual Christmas concert, 2 p.m. at St. John's RC Church on Terrace Street. Traditional, gospel and contemporary music including a selection from "The Messiah." Free, open to the public.

Sullivan County Community Chorus
WOODBORNE, NY — Sullivan County Community Chorus performs its 40th annual Winter Concert at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 6317 Rte. 42, 2:30pm. Concert theme: "Remembering the Past, Celebrating the Present and Looking to the Future: Celebrating 40 years of Choral Tradition in Sullivan County!" Free; free-will donations accepted. Reception follows. Snow date Sun., Dec. 18, 2:30pm. 845/439-4458.

German Mass

HONESDALE, PA — Rev. Richard A. Mowery and the congregation of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 7th and Church streets, host the annual German Christmas service, 4 p.m. The liturgy, Christmas carols and prayers in German. Refreshments after the service. 570/253-1444 or 253-2782.

Bethel Author's Book & Photographer Fair

BETHEL — The Bethel NY Council of The Arts hosts a holiday book and fine art photography sale that features local authors and photographers at Catskill Distilling Company, 2037 Rte. 17B, 12noon-4pm. Free, open to the public.

Mon., Dec. 12

RJK Middle School Band/Chorus/Orchestra Winter Concert

MONTICELLO — The RJK Middle School Band/Chorus/Orchestra holds their annual Winter Concert in the Hughs Auditorium, 7pm. (Snow date December 13).

Toddler story time

MONTICELLO — Toddler story time, every Monday at E.B. Crawford Public Library, 10am. This early literacy program for toddlers and their caregivers uses rhymes, books, crafts and finger plays to develop skills that will help children get ready to read. 845/794-4660 ext. 5

Free computer support @ WSPL in Callicoon

CALLICOON — Free computer support every Monday at Western Sullivan Public Library/Delaware Free Branch, 1-5pm. Questions about a new device? An app that isn't working like you thought? Need help with a new computer or operating system? Get answers to your questions.

Communicating with Alzheimer's patients

MONTICELLO, NY — "Effective Communication Strategies" will be offered by the Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter at E.B. Crawford Public Library, 479 Broadway, 6:30-7:30pm. Explores how communication changes when someone has dementia; helps decode the messages delivered by someone with dementia; offers strategies to help communicate. 800/272-3900.

Tue., Dec. 13

Cheese making workshop

LIBERTY — Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County presents a cheese-making workshop for personal use on December 13, 14 & 15, in the new Catskills Kitchen at the Extension Education Center, 9am-4pm. Peter Dixon of Parish Hill Creamery, Westminster Artisan Cheese-Making, and Dairy Foods Consultant present this hands-on workshop. Cost: \$250 per person. 845/292-6180.

Tai chi class

HONESDALE — Sifu Master Christopher Lee offers instruction in traditional long-form Wu-style tai chi at the Honesdale YMCA, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8-9am. Classes also include training in Qi Gong. For those 18 and older. 718/963-3686 or 570/253-2083.

Wed., Dec. 14

3D printing for the Holidays

NARROWSBURG — Learn all about 3D printing at Western Sullivan Public Library/Tusten-Cochecton Branch, 5:30-7:30pm. Afterwards, the 3D printer will be available for public use from December 14 until December 21 for people to print gifts.

Monticello School Choral Extravaganza

MONTICELLO — The annual 4th and 5th Grade Choral Extravaganza takes place in the Hughs Auditorium, 7pm. (Snow date Dec. 15).

Cheese making workshop

LIBERTY — Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County presents day two of three-day cheese-making workshop, in the new Catskills Kitchen at the Extension Education Center, 9am-4pm. Peter Dixon of Parish Hill Creamery, Westminster Artisan Cheese-Making, and Dairy Foods Consultant present this hands-on workshop. Cost: \$250 per person. 845/292-6180.

Sullivan County Retired Teachers Association meeting

LIBERTY — Sullivan County Retired Teachers Association meets at Liberty Elk Lodge, 10:15am. Lunch served 12 noon. Cost: \$20. A music group from the Liberty Central School performs. Reservations due by Dec. 9, call 845/439-4706 or 482-3563.

Free computer support @ WSPL in Narrowsburg

NARROWSBURG — Free computer support every Wednesday at Western Sullivan Public Library/Tusten-Cochecton Branch, 4-8pm. Have questions about a new device? Or an app that isn't working like you thought? Need help with a new computer or operating system? Get answers to these questions and more.

Thurs., Dec. 15

Middle-Stage Alzheimer's Music Social

MONTICELLO — A free opportunity for people with middle-stage Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia to get out, socialize and enjoy interactive musical fun with certified music therapist Melinda Burgard. Held third Thursday of every month. Music Social is free, but preregistration is required. Call 800-272-3900 with questions or to RSVP.

Cheese making workshop

LIBERTY — Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County presents final day of a cheese-making workshop in the new Catskills Kitchen at the Extension Education Center, 9am-4pm. Peter Dixon of Parish Hill Creamery, Westminster Artisan Cheese-Making, and Dairy Foods Consultant present this hands-on workshop. Cost: \$250 per person. 845/292-6180.

Breastfeeding moms support group

HARRIS — Free support meeting for breastfeeding moms and their babies, led by a board certified lactation consultant, at Catskill Regional Medical Center, 10am-12 noon. Meets the first and third Thursdays of each month. Pregnant women invited too. 845/492-9027

Liberty High School concert

LIBERTY, NY — Liberty Central School Music Department holds a high school concert featuring the symphonic band, orchestra, mixed chorus and jazz ensemble (snow date Dec. 20.) Free, open to the public. 845/292-5400, ext. 2021 or thamblin@liberty12.org.

Tai chi class

HONESDALE — Sifu Master Christopher Lee offers instruction in traditional long-form Wu-style tai chi at the Honesdale YMCA, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8-9am. Classes also include training in Qi Gong. For those 18 and older. 718/963-3686 or 570/253-2083.

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Legal Notice

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: CONTINENTAL CAPITAL ESTATES LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/21/2016. Office location: Sullivan County, SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: THE LLC 199 LEE AVENUE, SUITE 1042, BROOKLYN, NY 11211. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF HIGHLAND PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: The Town Board of the Town of Highland, Sullivan County NY will hold a public hearing on the proposed Local Law #5-2016, a local law imposing a limited commercial solar energy generating facility land use moratorium in the Town of Highland, Sullivan County, New York. The Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday December 13, 2016 @6:50 PM at the Eldred Town Hall, 4 Proctor Road, Eldred NY. Copies of the proposed local law can be viewed at the Town Clerks Office during regular business office hours. All present will be heard for or against said proposed local law, written comments must be to the Town Clerk by noon on December 13, 2016. By order of the Town Board Doreen Hanson Town Clerk Dated November 21, 2016

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: 15 CROOKE REALTY LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/16/2016. Office location: Sullivan County, SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: THE LLC 3611 14TH AVENUE, SUITE 603, BROOKLYN, NY 11218. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: Haven Property Solutions LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 11/11/16. Office location: Sullivan County, SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process The LLC, 2458 Rte. 209, Wurtsboro, NY 12790. General purpose

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: 74TH STREET REALTY NY LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 9/20/2016. Office location: Sullivan County, SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: THE LLC 3611 14TH AVENUE, SUITE 603, BROOKLYN, NY 11204. Purpose: any lawful purpose

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC) Name: Bry-Iex, LLC. Filed: 9/20/16. Office: Sullivan Co. Formed in PA: 6/30/2006. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: Fisher Zucker Business Lawyers, 121 S Broad St Ste 1200,

Legal Notice

Philadelphia, PA 19107. Foreign add: 19 Nelson Drive, Southampton, PA 18966. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy Of Commonwealth Pennsylvania, 302 North Office Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120. Purpose: General.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Eldred Central School District is accepting sealed quotes for Security Services. The District Request for Proposal Packet is available in the District Business Office between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. The Proposal packet may also be obtained from the District Treasurer via e-mail at luisr@eldred.k12.ny.us. Quotes will be accepted until Friday, December 16, 2016 at 3:00 p.m., in the Office of the District Treasurer, Eldred Jr/ Sr High School, 600 State Route 55, Post Office Box 249, Eldred, New York 12732. The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals. Wendy Julkerski, District Clerk Board of Education Eldred Central School District

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC) Name: NY NEWFIELD III, LLC Arts of Org. filed SSNY 11/23/16. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY design agent of LLC upon whom process may be served & mail to Delaware River Solar PO Box 390 Calicoon NY 12723 General Purpose

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County Legislature of the County of Sullivan at a regular meeting thereof, held on the 17th of November 2016 duly adopted on said day, a Local Law No. 3 of 2016 a true and correct copy of the original thereof, and of the whole there of as follows: LOCAL LAW NO. 3 OF 2016 A LOCAL LAW TO ESTABLISH A SUSTAINABLE ENERGY LOAN PROGRAM IN THE COUNTY OF SULLIVAN Be it enacted by the legislature of the County of Sullivan as follows: The Code of the County of Sullivan is hereby amended by adding a new chapter titled "Energize NY Benefit Financing Program," to read as follows: ARTICLE I §1. Legislative findings, intent and purpose, authority.

A. It is the policy of both the County of Sullivan and the State of New York to achieve energy efficiency and renewable energy goals, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate the effect of global climate change, and advance a clean energy economy. The County of Sullivan legislature finds that it can fulfill this policy by providing property assessed clean energy financing to property owners for the installation of renewable energy systems and energy efficiency measures. This chapter establishes a program that will allow the Energy Improvement Corporation ("EIC"), a local development corporation, acting on behalf of the County of Sullivan, to make funds available to qualified property owners that will be repaid by such property owners through charges on the real properties benefited by such funds, thereby fulfilling the purposes of this

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chapter and fulfilling an important public purpose. B. The County of Sullivan is authorized to implement this Energize NY Benefit Financing Program pursuant to Article 5-L of the New York General Municipal Law. §2. Title. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Energize NY Benefit Financing Program Law of the County of Sullivan". §3. Definitions for purposes of this chapter, and unless otherwise expressly stated or unless the context requires, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated: Authority – The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, as defined by subdivision two of section eighteen hundred fifty-one of the public authorities law, or its successor. EIC – The Energy Improvement Corporation, a local development corporation, duly organized under section fourteen hundred eleven of the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law, authorized hereby on behalf of the County of Sullivan to implement the Energize NY Benefit Financing Program by providing funds to Qualified Property Owners (as defined in this chapter) and providing for repayment of such funds from monies collected by the Sullivan County Treasurer, as tax collector as a charge to be levied on the real property and collected in the same manner and same form as the real property taxes. Energy Audit – A formal evaluation or "assessment" of the energy consumption of a permanent building or structural improvement to real property, conducted by a contractor certified by the Authority, or certified by a certifying entity approved by the Authority, for the purpose of identifying appropriate energy efficiency improvements that could be made to the property. Energy Efficiency Improvement – Any renovation or retrofitting of a building to reduce energy consumption, such as window and door replacement, lighting, caulking, weather-stripping, air sealing, insulation, and heating and cooling system upgrades, and similar improvements, determined to be cost-effective pursuant to criteria established by the Authority, not including lighting measures or household appliances that are not permanently fixed to real property. Qualified Property Owner – An owner

Legal Notice

of residential or commercial real property located within the boundaries of the County of Sullivan that is determined to be eligible to participate in the Energize NY Benefit Financing Program under the procedures for eligibility set forth under this chapter. Renewable Energy System – An energy generating system for the generation of electric or thermal energy, to be used primarily at such property, by means of solar thermal, solar photovoltaic, wind, geothermal, an aerobic digester gas-to-electricity systems, fuel cell technologies, or other renewable energy technology approved by the Authority not including the combustion or pyrolysis of solid waste. Renewable Energy System Feasibility Study – A written study, conducted by a contractor certified by the Authority, or certified by a certifying entity approved by the Authority, for the purpose of determining the feasibility of installing a renewable energy system. §4. Establishment of an Energize NY Benefit Financing Program A. An Energize NY Benefit Financing Program is hereby established by the County of Sullivan, whereby EIC acting on its behalf, may provide funds to Qualified Property Owners in accordance with the procedures set forth under this chapter, to finance the acquisition, construction and installation of Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements and the verification of the installation of such systems and improvements. B. The funds provided shall not exceed the lesser of ten percent of the appraised value of the real property where the Renewable Energy Systems and/or Energy Efficiency Improvements will be located, or the actual cost of installing the Renewable Energy Systems and/or Energy Efficiency Improvements, including the costs of necessary equipment, materials, and labor and the cost of verification of such systems and improvements. §5. Procedures for eligibility A. Any property owner in the County of Sullivan may submit application to EIC on such forms as have been prepared by EIC and made available to property owners on the website of EIC and at the County Manager's offices.

Legal Notice

B. Every application submitted by a property owner shall be reviewed by EIC acting on behalf of the County of Sullivan, which shall make a positive or negative determination on such application based upon the criteria form a king a financing enumerated in subsection A of Section 6 of this chapter. EIC may also request further information from the property owner where necessary to aid in its determination. C. If a positive determination on an application is made by EIC acting on behalf of the County of Sullivan, the property owner shall be deemed a Qualified Property Owner and shall be eligible to participate in the Energize NY Benefit Financing Program in accordance with the procedure set forth under Section 7 of this chapter; provided that in no case shall a property owner that has received funds from another municipal corporation for the acquisition, construction and installation of Energy Efficiency Improvements and/or Renewable Energy Systems be deemed a Qualified Property Owner. §6. Application criteria A. Upon the submission of an application, EIC acting on behalf of the County of Sullivan, shall make a positive or negative determination on such application based upon the following criteria for the making of a financing: 1. The proposed Energy Efficiency Improvements and/or Renewable Energy Systems are determined to be cost effective by the Authority; 2. The proposed Energy Efficiency Improvements and/or Renewable Energy Systems will generate an estimated annual cost savings greater than the annual charge payments; 3. Sufficient funds are available to provide to the property owner; 4. The property owner is current in payments on any existing mortgage; 5. The property owner is current in payments on any existing real property taxes and has been current on real property taxes for the previous three years; and 6. Such additional criteria, not inconsistent with the criteria set forth above, as the County of Sullivan, or EIC acting on its behalf, may set from time to time. §7. Opt-in. Energize Finance Agreement A. A Qualified Property Owner may participate in the Energize NY Benefit Financing Program through the execution of an Energize Finance Agreement made by and between the Qualified Property Owner and EIC, acting on the behalf of the County of Sullivan. B. Upon execution of the Energize Finance Agreement, the Qualified Property Owner shall be eligible to receive funds from EIC acting on behalf of the County of Sullivan, for the acquisition, construction, and installation of qualifying Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements; provided the requirements of Section

Legal Notice

8 of this chapter have been met. C. The Energize Finance Agreement shall include the terms and conditions of repayment set forth under Section 9 of this chapter. §8. Energy audit, renewable energy system feasibility study A. No funds shall be made available for Energy Efficiency Improvements unless determined to be appropriate through an Energy Audit as defined in Section 3 of this chapter. B. No funds shall be made available for a Renewable Energy System unless determined to be feasible through a Renewable Energy System Feasibility Study as defined in Section 3 of this chapter. C. The cost of such Energy Audit and/or Renewable Energy System Feasibility Study shall be borne solely by the property owner but may be included in the financed amount if the work is approved. §9. Terms and conditions of repayment between the Qualified Property Owner and EIC, acting on behalf of the County of Sullivan, shall set forth the terms and conditions of repayment in accordance with the following: A. The principal amount of the funds paid to the Qualified Property Owner hereunder, together with the interest thereon, shall be paid by the property owner as a charge on their real property tax bill and shall be levied and collected at the same time and in the same manner as real property taxes, provided that such charge shall be separately listed on the tax bill. The County of Sullivan, shall make payment to EIC or its designee in the amount of all such separately listed charges within 30 days of the County's tax due date. B. The term of such repayment shall be determined at the time the Energize Finance Agreement is executed by the property owner and EIC, provided that in no case shall the term exceed the weighted average of the use full life of the systems and improvements as determined by EIC acting on behalf of the County of Sullivan. C. The rate of interest for the charge shall be fixed by EIC acting on behalf of the County of Sullivan at the time the Energize Finance Agreement is executed by the property owner and EIC. D. The charge shall constitute a lien upon the real property benefited by the Energize NY Benefit Financing Program and shall run with the land. A transferee of title to the benefited real property shall be required to pay any future installments, including interest thereon. §10. Verification and report A. EIC shall be responsible for verifying and reporting to the County of Sullivan on the installation and performance of Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements financed by such program. B. The County of Sullivan shall verify

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

By DAVID LEVINSON WILK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15							16		
17				18							19		
			20			21			22				
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27						28							
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50					51			52					
53				54				55			56	57	58
59					60						61		
62					63						64		

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ACROSS

- Tolerate
- Aunt _____
- LP measure
- Photojournalist Robert
- More villainous
- Time worth remembering
- Proceed effortlessly
- French approval
- Madam's partner
- Soused
- Hot
- Cable talk show since 2007
- Egg _____ yung
- He played W. in "W."
- Cost an arm _____ leg
- Go-ahead
- Duke Ellington's "Mood _____"
- Flipped animal of the Pacific
- Wear out, potentially
- 75 shares, e.g.
- Long-distance letters
- Songstress Eartha
- Color of "mountain majesties" in "America the Beautiful"
- Fog reduces it: Abbr.
- It's a bunch of dots and dashes
- Olympic sport from Japan
- Agnus _____
- Palindromic animal
- Israeli gun
- They're nothing to get worried about
- Veep before AI
- "This crossword makes no sense to me!"
- Oompah instrument
- Heart chart, for short
- Baseball general manager Billy and others
- Classic 1957 Bergman film "The Seventh _____" (and this is the seventh of this puzzle)

DOWN

- Abbr. on top of some emails
- It may be cocked
- Homer's donut seller
- Don't fold or call
- Boos
- Actress Mendes
- Fillmore in the White House
- Philippine seaport
- Simon Baker plays one on TV
- Neighbor of Uru.
- Insurrectionist
- Official stand-in
- Quite a few
- The "S" in RSVP
- "Where the Wild Things Are" author
- Funnel-shaped
- Surfer wannabe
- Black, to Blake
- Fork prong
- Burkina _____
- Gridiron star
- Where Regis Philbin went to college
- "As _____ and breathe!"
- "Roger that"
- Mel and Ed of baseball
- Notes for short people?
- Sch. near the Rio Grande
- Actress Janney
- Dish made with saffron
- Elevator annoyance, for some
- Taking too much
- Fires up
- Poking tool
- Finishes ahead of
- Name in a 1968 Beatles hit
- There's no truth to it
- Language suffix
- Want to undo
- Wall St. credential
- "Do the Right Thing" pizzeria owner

Answer to Last Week's Crossword Puzzle

S	B	A	R	R	O		O	W	N		E	D	S							
L	E	D	O	U	T		S	H	E	S		C	I	T						
A	M	O	U	N	T		H	O	H	O		O	S	U						
P	U	P	S	T	O	P		O	R	U		L	C	D						
O	S	T	E	O		A	M	P	U	P		O	L	E						
N	E	S				M	B	A	S		G	A	G	O	N					
						N	E	S	T		M	O	N	I	S	T				
						S	U	P	O	N	T	H	E	F	E	N	C	E		
T	E	N	E	T	S						E	R	A	S						
E	L	O	R	A							A	R	I	S			S	T	A	B
A	L	P				W	I	E	S	T		O	C	H	R	E				
R	O	E				H	O	G			U	P	F	O	R	I	T			
F	U	N				U	T	E	P			A	T	R	E	S	T			
U	T	E				P	A	A	R			S	W	E	A	T	Y			
L	S	D				S	N	O				A	O	R	T	A	S			

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Jennie recently received her Associate Brokers License in NY and PA. Jennie is e-Pro Certified and has her SRES Designation (Seniors Real Estate Specialist) NY1603121373 PMA#R002013.
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and report on the installation and performance of Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements financed by the Energize NY Benefit Financing Program in such form and manner as the Authority may establish.

§11. Effective Date This local law shall take effect upon filing with the Secretary of State.

Dated: November 23, 2016 AnnMarie Martin, Clerk Sullivan County Legislature

Diane C. Butler, LLC

Notice of Formation of Diane C. Butler, LLC Arts of Org filed with Secy. Of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on August 24, 2016 Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to principal business location: The LLC mailing address PO Box 135 Eldred, NY 12732. Purpose: any lawful activity, by Robert Lander II, Attorney at Law

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Chestnut Equities NY LLC. Filed 11/1/16. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 26 Heyward Street 4R, Brooklyn, NY 11249. Purpose: General.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC) Name: Labelle Enterprise LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 9/21/16. Office location: Broome County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process The LLC, 1594 State Rte. 7, Port Crane, NY 13833. General purpose.

COUNTY COURT: STATE OF NEW YORK

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
 IN THE MATTER OF FORECLOSURE OF 2015 TAX LIENS BY PROCEEDINGS IN REM PURSUANT TO ARTICLE ELEVEN OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW BY THE COUNTY OF SULLIVAN AFFECTING PARCELS LOCATED IN THE TOWNS OF BETHEL, CALLICOON, COCHECTON, DELAWARE, FALLSBURG, FORESTBURGH, FREMONT, HIGHLAND, LIBERTY, LUMBERLAND, MAMAKATING, NEVERSINK, ROCKLAND, THOMPSON AND TUSTEN
 SUPPLEMENTAL PETITION AND NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE
 Index No. 2015-2015

The above captioned proceeding is hereby commenced to enforce the payment of 2015 and/or other delinquent taxes as of 1/1/95 or thereafter and other lawful charges, which have accumulated and are liens against certain property. The parcels to which this proceeding applies are identified on the Supplemental List of Properties, which is annexed hereto and made a part hereof. This document serves both as a Petition of Foreclosure and a Notice of Foreclosure for purposes of this proceeding PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT ON THE 4th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2016, THE DEPUTY SULLIVAN COUNTY TREASURER, THE "ENFORCING OFFICER" OF THE COUNTY OF SULLIVAN ("TAX DISTRICT") FILED WITH THE SULLIVAN COUNTY CLERK THIS PETITION AND NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE ("PETITION") PURSUANT TO LAW.

Legal Notice

Effect of Filing: All persons having or claiming to have an interest in the real property described in such Petition and/or Notice of Commencement are hereby notified that the filing of such Petition and Notice of Foreclosure constitutes the commencement by the Tax District of a proceeding in the Court specified in the caption above, to foreclose each of the tax liens therein described by an in rem foreclosure proceeding.

Nature of Proceeding: This proceeding is brought against the real property and abandoned personal property only, and is to foreclose the tax liens described in such Petition and/or Notice of Commencement. No personal judgment will be entered herein for such taxes or other legal charges or any part thereof.

Persons Affected: This notice is directed to all persons, tax districts and other entities owning or having or claiming to have an interest in the real property described in such Petition and Notice of Commencement. Such persons, etc. are hereby notified that a duplicate of this Petition has been filed in the office of the Enforcing Officer of the County and will remain open for public inspection. Right of Redemption: Any person, etc. having or claiming to have an interest in any such real property and the legal right thereto may, on or before said date, redeem the same by paying the amount of all such unpaid taxes thereon, including all interest and penalties and other legal charges, computed to and including the date of redemption. Such payments shall be made to the Sullivan County Treasurer and mailed to: Sullivan County Treasurer, Government Center, 100 North Street, Monticello, New York 12701

LAST DAY OF REDEMPTION: The last day of redemption is hereby fixed as the 10th day of February 2017.

Service of Answer: Every person, etc. having any right, title or interest in or lien upon any parcel of real property described in such Petition and/or Notice of Commencement, including another Tax District, may serve a duly verified Answer upon the Sullivan County Attorney, the attorney for the Tax District, setting forth in detail the nature and amount of his or her interest and any defense or objection to the foreclosure. Such Answer must be filed in the Office of the Sullivan County Clerk and served upon the attorney for the Tax District on or before February 10, 2017 the date above mentioned as the last day of redemption. An Answer must allege either a legal defense justifying the non-payment of the taxes, and/or a legal defense to the Foreclosure proceeding.

Failure to Redeem or Answer: In the event of failure to redeem or file and serve answer by any person, etc. having the right to redeem or answer, such person, including another Tax District, shall be forever barred and foreclosed of all his or her right, title and interest and equity of redemption in and to the parcels described in such Petition and Notice of Commencement, and a Judgment of Foreclosure will be taken by default, and the Enforcing Officer will transfer the title of the property to the County of Sullivan, or to a third party in the discretion of the Enforcing Officer, Pursuant to the Judgment of Foreclosure. Any personal property deemed abandoned will also be conveyed to and sold by the County. The County reserves the right to retain exclusive gas and mineral

Legal Notice

rights upon its sale of the property. Right To Repurchase: Pursuant to a local law, the former owner will have the sole right to repurchase the property from the County from March 1st, through April 20th 2017. To participate in this repurchase program, you must pay all of the taxes (prior and present), interest and penalty, plus an additional ten percent (10%) of such amount (a fee in lieu of an auction), plus a surcharge in the amount of five percent (5%) of the equalized assessed value as stated on the 2015 or prior Tax Roll. Payment must be made no later than April 20th, 2017 at 5:00 pm, and must be made only by cash, certified or bank check or money order. Upon repurchase the County will reconvey the property back to the former owner subject to all liens of record that existed before the County took title. The only additional notice that will be provided of this right to repurchase will be by a single first class letter mailed to the address of the former owner contained in the County's records. Dated: November 4, 2016 State of New York) County of Sullivan) ss Kathleen Brawley Deputy Sullivan County Treasurer I, Kathleen Brawley, being duly sworn, depose and affirm under the penalties of perjury: I am the Deputy County Treasurer for the County of Sullivan. I have read this Petition and Notice of Foreclosure, which I have signed, and I am familiar with its contents. The contents of this Petition and Notice are true to the best of my knowledge, based upon the records of the Sullivan County Treasurer's Office. I do not know of any errors or omissions in this Petition and Notice.

Sworn to before me this

4th day of November, 2016
Kathleen Brawley
Deputy Sullivan County Treasurer

Notary Public

KATHLEEN BRAWLEY

DEPUTY SULLIVAN COUNTY
TREASURER
GOVERNMENT CENTER

100 NORTH STREET
MONTICELLO, N.Y. 12701

CHERYL MCCAUSLAND, ESQ.
SULLIVAN COUNTY ATTORNEY
THOMAS J. CAWLEY, ESQ., ACA
100 NORTH STREET
MONTICELLO, N.Y. 12701

COUNTY COURT: STATE OF NEW
YORK
COUNTY OF SULLIVAN

In the Matter of Foreclosure of 2015 tax liens by Proceeding In Rem pursuant to Article Eleven of the Real Property Tax Law by the County of Sullivan affecting parcels located in the Towns of BETHEL, CALLICOON, COCHECTON, DELAWARE, FALLSBURG, FORESTBURGH, FREMONT, HIGHLAND, LIBERTY, LUMBERLAND, MAMAKATING, NEVERSINK, ROCKLAND, THOMPSON AND TUSTEN.

PERSONAL NOTICE OF
COMMENCEMENT OF

FORECLOSURE PROCEEDING
Index No. 2015-2015
To the party to whom the enclosed is addressed:

You are presumed to own or have a legal interest in one or more of the parcels of real property described on the enclosed Supplemental Petition and Notice of Foreclosure. That parcel (s) is identified in the "List of Properties", attached to the Supplemental Petition and Notice. A legal proceeding to foreclose the tax lien on such property due to the failure to pay real property taxes has commenced. FORECLOSURE WILL RESULT IN THE LOSS OF OWNERSHIP OF SUCH PROPERTY AND ALL RIGHTS IN THAT PROPERTY, AS WELL AS ALL ABANDONED PERSONAL PROPERTY.

To avoid loss of ownership or any other rights in the property, all unpaid taxes, interest and other legal charges MUST be PAID TO THE COUNTY TREASURER PRIOR TO 5:01 p.m. on February 10, 2017 or you must interpose a duly verified Answer in the proceeding, if you have legal grounds to do so. You may make payment by sending a certified check, cashier's bank check, cash, Master, Discover, or Visa credit cards, or money order (no personal checks will be accepted) to: Sullivan County Treasurer County Government Center 100 North Street Monticello, New York 12701 Checks should be made payable to the "Sullivan County Treasurer".

You may wish to contact an attorney to advise you of your rights. You may be eligible to enter into an Installment payment plan prior to February 10, 2017. To apply for an Installment plan, contact the Treasurer's Office at 845-807-0200.

After February 10, 2017, a Court by means of a Judgment of Foreclosure WILL DIRECT the Deputy County Treasurer to transfer the title of the property to the County of Sullivan after which the Deputy County Treasurer will convey the property to the County of Sullivan by means of a Deed.

Should you have any questions regarding this notice, please call the Sullivan County Treasurer's Office at (845) 807-0200.

DATED: November 4, 2016

SUPPLEMENTAL LIST OF
PROPERTIES
2015-2015

TOWN OF COCHECTON

CO8.-1-3 Gerald B Sheppard Estate
CO8.-1-4.1 Gerald B Sheppard Estate
CO8.-1-5.1 Gerald B Sheppard Estate
CO8.-1-5.2 Gerald B Sheppard Estate
CO8.-1-5.3 Gerald B Sheppard Estate
CO8.-1-5.4 Gerald B Sheppard Estate
CO8.-1-11.3 Gerald B Sheppard Estate

Notice of Formation of 42&12 LLC. Arts of Org. filed with New York Secy of State (SSNY) on 11/3/16. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 4204 12th Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11219. Purpose: any lawful activity.

JAB TEAM LLC Art. Of Org. Filed Sec. of State of NY 11/1/2016. Off. Loc.: Sullivan Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process

Legal Notice

against it may be served. SSNY to mail copy of process to The LLC, 33 North Street, Monticello, NY 12701. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: 558 WEST 193 LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 9/29/2016. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: THE LLC 3611 14TH AVENUE, #603, BROOKLYN, NY 11219. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: 15 CROOKE II LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/16/2016. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: THE LLC 3611 14TH AVENUE, SUITE 603, BROOKLYN, NY 11218. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC) Name: NY NEWFIELD II, LLC Arts of Org. filed SSNY 11/23/16. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY design agent of LLC upon whom process may be served & mail to Delaware River Solar PO Box 390 Calicoon NY 12723 General Purpose

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC) Name: 296 Lake Street LLC. Filed 8/18/16. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 3141 44th St Apt. 10, Astoria, NY 11103. Purpose: General.

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC) Name: Helpful Networks LLC. Filed 9/15/16. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: C/O Jacob Brody, 128 Lux Rd, Calicoon, NY 12723. Purpose: General

WIRI WIRI SAUCE LLC

Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company The name of the limited liability company is: Wiri Wiri Sauce LLC Articles of Organization were filed with the New York Secretary of State's office on : October 7, 1026. The County in which the Office is to be located : Sullivan. The New York Secretary of State is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is : Wiri Wiri Sauce LLC 1 Kathleen Ct Kiamesha Lake, NY 12751

Notice of Formation of Shoreview EQ LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/3/16. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o NorthEnd Equities LLC, 1651 Coney Island Avenue, Ste. 530, Brooklyn, NY 11230, Attn: Charles Herzka. Purpose: any lawful act or activity for which an LLC may be formed under the NY LLC Law.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Eldred Central School District is accepting sealed quotes for Auditing Services. The District Request for Proposal Packet is available in the District Business Office between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. The Proposal packet may also be obtained from the District Treasurer via e-mail at

luisr@eldred.k12.ny.us. Quotes will be accepted until Thursday, January 12, 2017 by 2:00 p.m., in the Business Office, Eldred Jr/Sr High School, 600 State Route 55, Post Office Box 249, Eldred, New York 12732. The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals. Wendy Julkerski, District Clerk Board of Education Eldred Central School District

Notice of Formation of NorthEnd Shoreview LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/3/16. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o NorthEnd Equities LLC, 1651 Coney Island Avenue, Ste. 530, Brooklyn, NY 11230, Attn: Charles Herzka. Purpose: any lawful act or activity for which an LLC may be formed under the NY LLC Law.

LEGAL NOTICE
COUNTY OF SULLIVAN

Sealed bids for the following will be received by the Director of the Department of Purchasing and Central Services at the Sullivan County Government Center, 100 North Street, Monticello, New York 12701, (845) 807-0515, until 1:00 P.M. on Friday, December 23, 2016 at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read.

1. Early Intervention Transportation Fall and Summer Program (B-16-68)
 2. Rebid Dairy Processing Equipment (B-16-69)
- Bid Forms, including specifications, may be obtained from the Director at the above address, and all bids are subject to the terms and conditions therein set forth.
Dated: December 9, 2016

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Roscoe-Downsville-Livingston Manor toppled in Class D quarterfinals

By TED WADDELL

KINGSTON, NY — It was a real devil of a football game.

On Saturday, November 12, the Blue Devils of Roscoe-Downsville-Livingston Manor (R-D-LM) (2-9) battled on the gridiron against the Haldane Blue Devils (3-6) in a Class D regional playoff at Dietz Memorial Field.

Fittingly, the Veterans Day weekend contest was held on a field named for a WWII Medal of Honor recipient.

Robert H. Dietz, a native of Kingston, was killed in action on March 29, 1945 while serving as a staff sergeant in Company A, 38th Armored Infantry Battalion, 7th Armored Division during fierce combat in Germany.

“...S/Sgt. Dietz by his intrepidity and valiant effort on his self-imposed mission, single-handedly opened the road for the capture of Kirchain... an inspiring example of gallantry in the face of formidable odds...” reads in part his Medal of Honor citation.

Also fittingly, before the opening kickoff, the R-D-LM Blue Devils proudly entered the field carrying the American flag waving in a slight breeze.

At the 5:14 mark in the first frame, Haldane fired the opening round of the game with a 70-yard touchdown run by quarterback Brandon Twoguns.

The successful PAT cleared the uprights to put Haldane up 7-0.

On the first play of the second quarter, Nicholas Hill picked up six on a six-yard run to make it a 7-6 game. An errant snap by the center foiled the PAT attempt.

With 7:10 left on the game clock, Haldane’s Sam Giachinta capped it off with a 12-yard carry into the end zone.

John Hankel split the uprights to give Haldane a 14-6 victory on their way to the state semifinals. Haldane’s Sam Giachinta was named Most Valuable Offensive Player, as he rushed for 144 yards, a good percentage of his team’s total of 292 yards on the ground.

Nicholas Hill of R-D-LM was tabbed as Most Valuable Defensive Player. He was



Contributed photos by Ted Waddell

Haldane’s Sam Giachinta rushed for a 12-yard touchdown in the final frame and was later named the game’s MVOP.



Roscoe’s Connor Burk tackled Haldane’s star fullback Sam Giachinta.

credited with 84 yards on 15 carries, and had nine tackles.

As an interesting side note, the R-D-LM final roster was made up of a total of 25 players: 12 from Roscoe, one from Downsville, plus an even dozen from Livingston Manor—all in an effort to keep the spirit of high school football alive at three small rural high schools.

“The second touchdown [by Haldane] was the key... they got the touchdowns



Roscoe’s Nichols Hill was the first to tackle Haldane’s Joe DiGregorio. Hill was picked as the game’s MVDP.



Roscoe’s Chris Alexander hauled down Haldane’s QB Brandon Twoguns for a loss.



Roscoe’s Jacob May eluded a flying tackle by Haldane’s Luke Junjulas.

when they needed to,” said Fred Ahart, veteran coach of the R-D-LM Blue Devils.

“We worked all year for this game... we never gave up,” he added.

Ahart is in his 38th year as head of the varsity football program at Roscoe, and before that milestone, served as assistant coach for a decade.

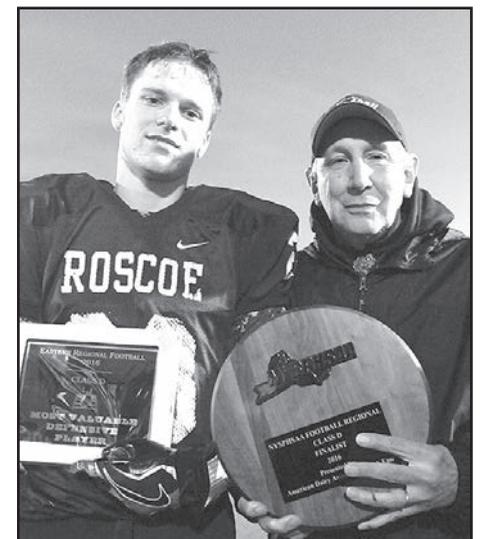
Ryan McConville is in his third year at the Haldane helm.

“Our kids continue to work hard, to believe in each other and do the little things... they improved as the game went along, and stuck with our game plan,” he said.

In the post game huddle, Roscoe’s John Rhodes fought back a few tears as he told his teammates, “The season’s over now, but we’re still family, [and] I love you guys so much.”

A sentiment that was echoed as the team held their helmets high against a lunar orb rising over historic Kingston.

For more photos, visit www.riverreporteronline.com and our Facebook page.



Roscoe’s Nicholas Hill was named the game’s MVDP and was joined in front of the lens by veteran coach Fred Ahart.

SOUNDINGS

Reservoir levels

December 6, 2016

Cannonsville: 24.7%

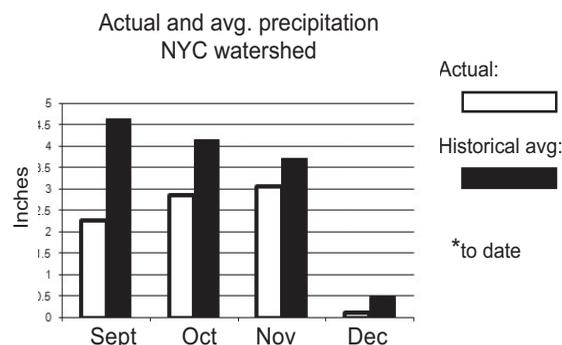
Pepacton: 52.3%

Neversink: 57.1%

Total: 59.1%

Normal Total: 81.8%

Total in 2015: 80%



RIVER TALK

By Scott Rando

Christmas for the birds

As some of us are taking those first trips to the mall for gift buying, or digging out the Christmas tree lights from the attic, others are checking binoculars, spotting scopes and other birding equipment in preparation for the 117th Audubon Christmas Bird Count.



TRR photos by Scott Rando

Cardinals can be found year round in the region and are attracted to feeders. This is a male; the females are a paler shade of red and brown. Their call may sound like a distinct two-part whistle, although most of their song is heard during the spring and early summer.

The Christmas Bird Count, or CBC, is done every year around Christmas. The dates this year are from December 14 to January 5. Local counts are organized by organizations or bird clubs and take place within pre-established 15-mile circles. If you feel you may be interested in participating in the CBC, visit www.audubon.org/join-christmas-bird-count.

You don't necessarily have to be an expert birder to participate; many groups split into teams that are led by experienced birders. There is still a week or more before counts will take place, but is best to contact organizers sooner than later, so

they have a headcount in order to plan on areas that can be covered with the counters they will have on hand.

Don't feel like traveling too far or don't want to get involved for a whole day? A good alternative is the Audubon Great Backyard Bird Count. As the name implies, you can watch your backyard or bird-feeder for as few as 15 minutes, if you wish, from the comfort of your living room. This count goes on for four days starting February 17. More information for this count can be found at www.audubon.org/content/about-great-backyard-bird-count.



Although many robins migrate south, there are a few individuals that will overwinter in the region if there is a food source available. Berries on plants form a large part of their winter diet. They are seen less often in the winter, because they roost on trees; their food source of earthworms on the ground is usually frozen.



Eastern bluebirds can be spotted during the winter here. Most of their diet is also berries during the winter. Their diet also includes insects, and they have been observed foraging around small streams during late winter or early spring during fly hatches.

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