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Legislator Appointed to National Committees

Monticello, NY - Sullivan County District 6 Legislator Luis Alvarez has been named to a number of committees of the National Association of Counties (NACo).

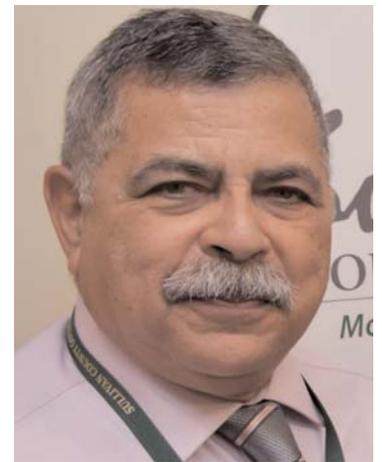
In a July 20 letter from NACo President Gary W. Moore, Alvarez was notified of his appointment to the national advocacy organization's Health Steering Subcommittee (as Vice Chair of Medicaid and Indigent Care), Healthy Counties Initiative Advisory Board, Large Urban County Caucus Steering Committee, Programs and Services Standing Committee, Rural Action Caucus Steering Committee, Veterans and Military Services Committee, and Immigration Reform Task Force.

"You were chosen because my goal is to build a talented and committed leadership team for NACo," wrote Moore to Alvarez. "Now is a critical time for our nation's counties, and your leadership in this committee is a serious commitment and responsibility."

Alvarez previously served as vice chair of NACo's Law Enforcement Subcommittee and began participating with the organization in 2017, when he was Chair of the Sullivan County Legislature.

"I strongly believe in NACo's mission and am proud to represent Sullivan County on its committees, which have national influence," Alvarez related. "While I remain committed to my constituents as their legislator, it's important to recognize that we're part of a larger system of government that constantly needs review and improvement."

NACo strives to unite America's 3,069 county governments. Founded in 1935, the nonprofit brings county officials together to advocate with a collective voice on national policy, exchange ideas and build new leadership skills, pursue transformational county solutions, enrich the public's understanding of county government and exercise exemplary leadership in public service.



SC District 6 Legislator
Luis Alvarez

Two recent retirements from the SC Sheriff's Office



Marilyn Bastone, front left, served 36 years in several assignments within Sullivan County Government, retiring as the Sheriff's Confidential Secretary. Joan Carbonaro, front right, served 24 years with Sullivan County and retired as the Confidential Secretary to the Jail Administrator. Sheriff Mike Schiff thanked both women for their many years of dedicated service.

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MYSTERIOUS BOOK REPORT - John McKenna

HER QUIRKY JOURNEY - Marilyn Borth

FALLSBURG NEWS - Larry Schafman

MOVIE TRIVIA - Frank Comando a/k/a Knarf

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LETTERS TO THE EDITORS:**

1. **ALL submissions** should be typewritten or in Microsoft Word.
2. Letters should contain no more than 300 words and must be typewritten. They may be emailed as Microsoft Word documents.
3. Letters should offer worthwhile comments and avoid libel or bad taste.
4. Letters must be signed with the writer's own name. No letter will be published without a signature.
5. The writer must provide his/her full name, address and telephone number (for verification). This information will be kept on file in the Gnome Home Inc. office. Telephone numbers will not be published.
6. Copies of letters or third-party letters will not be accepted.

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NO EXCEPTIONS. All press releases/article sent by email should be sent as **Microsoft Word Documents**. Photos or graphics must be in jpg format

More than ever, thank you for your support during these difficult times. Wishing everyone well.

ON THE FRONT BURNER: Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather in humility value others above yourselves.

Philippians 2:3

OBITUARIES**Patsy Ann Grey** of Neversink, NY

passed away at the Skilled Nursing Unit at Garnet Health in Harris, NY on July 14, 2020. She was 79. The daughter of the late Roger and Madeline Banta, she was born on January 2, 1941 in Ellenville, NY.

She graduated from Tri-Valley Central School in 1959 and attended Keuka College. She later received her bachelor's degree from SUNY New Paltz. Patsy worked at Tri-Valley High School as Ed Condon's secretary and then taught in the Secretarial Science department at Sullivan County Community College for many years. It was then that she took on her biggest endeavor of helping her husband, Bob manage their new business, Grey's Woodworks, Inc. In 1994, she and her husband retired and moved to Hutchinson Island, Florida where they were able to enjoy 15 years of the sun and sand along with playing lots of golf!

She enjoyed many hobbies and sports over the years. She snowmobiled, skied, bowled, played softball, crocheted, knitted and created many beautiful works of art in cross stitch. She was an avid reader and loved her morning crossword puzzles while sipping her coffee. Patsy was admired by many for her ability to create a beautiful dinner for 8 or 10 people with a half hour notice from her husband!

She loved to play the organ and sing! She was a member of the Grahamsville United Methodist Church where she was their organist for many years. She was also an organist and a member of the Revonah Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star. Patsy played and sang for many church services and weddings. Her soprano voice was angelic. She also served on the Tri-Valley Board of Education and was a member of the Grahamsville Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary.

On top of this, Patsy still found the time to be a loving and caring wife,

mother, grandmother and great grandmother! She was pre-deceased by her husband of almost 50 years, Robert Grey, who she adored. She is survived by her son, Gregory G Grey and his wife Shawna of Bloomington, Illinois and her daughter, Beth Ann Mickelson and her husband Robert of Neversink, NY. She also leaves behind five grandchildren; Ryan Mickelson and his wife Bernadette, Joseph Mickelson, Jon Mickelson, Robert Carson Grey, and Lindsay Summers as well as two great grandchildren; Jacob and Genivieve Mickelson.

Due to the current health crisis and travel restrictions, a graveside service and interment of her ashes at the Grahamsville Rural Cemetery has been postponed to a date still to be determined.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Skilled Nursing Unit at Garnet Health Medical Center-Catskills or to the Grahamsville Reformed Church.

**DAYS OF YORE....
Today's History****August 2, 1950**

The Board of Education of Union Free School District will sell at auction on August 14th the land and building and contents of former common schools at Halls Mills, Unionville, Mutton Hill, Greenville and Sundown.

Ranger John Barnes of Otisville, radio engineer for the Conservation Department, has been installing a new type of radio antenna for observer, Ed Lewis at the Red Hill Fire Tower. The new antenna may improve reception of his two-way set and increase the range of operation beyond the present 50 mile area.

Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Van Wagner of Ellenville are the proud parents of a baby girl born Sunday at the Veteran's Memorial Hospital. The baby weighed 7 lbs. She has been named Cathenne Anne.

Russell Curry was hurt in an accident which occurred at Curry on Friday evening when he was returning home from work. He was cut off by another car and had to swerve and in so doing was thrown from his motorcycle.

Camp 4-H Pines at Halls Mills on the Neversink River opened on schedule last Saturday with County 4-H Agent Karl Grant of Liberty in charge. (Contd. Pg. 3)

DAYS OF YORE...**Today's History -**

(From Pg. 2)

August 3, 1960

Mr. Robert H. Ingram, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ingram, Thunder Hill Road, Woodbourne. N.Y. has been named to the third quarter Deans List at the Agricultural and Technical Institute at Alfred, N.Y. Robert is a graduate of the Tri Valley Central School, class of 1959.

The Rev. William J. Guinan, Pastor of the Immaculate Conception Church at Woodbourne, which he founded three years ago, was recently elevated to Domestic Prelate by Pope Pius XXIII.

Mrs. Daisy F. Krum of Liberty died Wednesday, July 20th in Liberty Maimonides Hospital. She was born August 12, 1886 in Neversink, the daughter of William H. and Mary E. Low Hoyt. Mrs. Krum leaves her husband, Harrison S. Krum, Editor of the Liberty Advisor.

Mr. and Mrs. Oland Erath are the proud parents of a daughter, Laurie Ellen, born at Loomis Hospital, Wednesday, July 27th. Laurie Ellen weighed in at 8 lbs. 14 oz. Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Erath are the paternal grandparents and Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Bruce are the maternal grandparents.

On July 28, 1960, Howard Eisler, age 17 of Flushing, N.Y. and Richard Davidson, age 18, of Brooklyn, N.Y. were arrested by the B.W.S. Police under Section 70 of the Public Health Law, for swimming in the Neversink Reservoir. They were subsequently fined \$10 each. August 4, 1970 - Plans for a multi-million dollar ski resort in the Town of Neversink were announced this week by Moshe Mayer, internationally recognized development expert and president of Marcent Development Company, Inc.

The Lows Corners Baptist Church will hold their morning service at the stream this coming Sunday, August 9th. A class of young people will be baptized during the service. This is a custom of the early Baptist churches, to be baptized in running water out of doors. The congregation will meet at the church and go in a body to the stream.

(Due to an unusual amount of ads and legal notices, there was very little news in this issue of the paper.)

August 7, 1980

On Saturday evening, Ray and Betty McNamara celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary at a party given by their children, Mike, Pat and Terry, at the First Aid Building, Grahamsville. The party was catered by Helen Mickelson and her daughter, Cathy.

Eber H. Black, 86, of Woodbourne Road, Grahamsville, died Thursday, July 31, 1980 at Horton Memorial Hospital, Middletown. Mr. Black, a lifelong area resident, was born Dec. 9, 1893 in Grahamsville to Nathan and Eliza Simpson Black. He was the widower of Martha Mulford Black. He was a retired farmer and was a World War I veteran. He was a charter member of the Grahamsville Fire Department.

Sally Hasbrouck and Florence Krum along with Sally's grandsons Matthew and Scott Smith camped for two weeks at Mongaup Campsite. While they were there, they were camp "neighbors" to Don and Wanda Terwilliger.

Nature Column - Linda Comando

A tribute to the memory of all of the Townsman Ladies that we have lost and loved so much... Peggy DeWire, Avril Pappa, Joan Hall, Polly Hill, Joyce Lockhart, Jean Helthaler, Karen Curry and Barbara Slater.

The Bandits are on the Prowl

We often hear the familiar chatting-like sound of the raccoons who live in our neighborhood. Did you know Raccoons (*Procyon Lotor*) have a relatively large vocabulary of recognized sounds, including the adult raccoon's purrs, snarls, chatter, squeals, whinnies, growls, hisses and screams? Even young raccoon twitter, coo, cry and meow.

A raccoon is easily recognized by its black mask that covers its eye area, on a whitish face and the four to seven dark rings on its bushy tail. Its gray to black fur consists of long, moderately coarse, white and black banded guard hairs and short, fine, gray or brownish under fur. The belly is lighter colored. Most adult male raccoons in the Catskills weigh 15-18 pounds during fall harvest seasons, with females averaging 2-3 pounds less. A Raccoon may look like cute, cuddly bandits, but they can be quite fearsome when approached.

As omnivores, raccoons eat vegetation and meat. When food is scarce, raccoons aren't above scavenging human trash or eating roadkill and food from a birdfeeder!

Raccoons have 40 teeth, including 4 elongated and sharp canine teeth. The hind legs of the raccoon are longer than the front legs, giving them a hunched appearance as they walk or run. They have five toes on each foot. Their finger-like toes are long, thin and flexible giving the raccoon amazing dexterity.

Raccoons are not particularly social creatures. They are nocturnal and usually sleep during the day. Although raccoons are not considered to hibernate, families do congregate in winter dens to sleep through severe winter periods. They prepare for this period of winter sleep by storing fat on their bodies during the late summer and fall.

Sundown with its wooded areas near water provides an ideal habitat for raccoons. However, they are very adaptable creatures and are also found in suburbs and cities. A raccoon will make its den in a tree, an abandoned woodchuck burrow, a cave, a barn, or even a house!

Although some raccoons have lived up to 16 years in the wild, research indicates that the average life span is about three to four years. The principal causes of mortality in raccoons are man, predators, malnutrition and subsequently diseases such as canine distemper and rabies.

They may look like the outlaws of the outdoors, but raccoons are very clean creatures. They are known to wash their food in streams and even dig latrines in areas they frequent regularly.

In fact, its species name *Procyon Lotor*, literally means "washing bear." Actually, raccoons do not always dunk their food, even when near water, and will not hesitate to eat when water is not nearby. Many theories have been proposed to explain this strange habit, but so far, raccoons are the only ones that are sure why they "wash" their food.

Household Hints:**Make a trap to lure flying insects**

Who wants to play host to a bunch of gnats, flies mosquitoes, or other six-legged pests when you're trying to have a cookout in your yard? Keep the flying gate-crashers at bay by giving them their own VIP section. Place a bowl filled with apple cider vinegar near some food, but away from you and guests. By the evening's end, most of your uninvited guests will be floating inside the bowl.



Visitors Enjoy the Sweet Nectar at the Hummingbird Feeder



Grahamsville resident, Esta Jacobs sent this adorable picture of two raccoons that recently visited the birdfeeders in her backyard. While they are a cute site, the hummingbirds weren't too happy to find their usual sweet nectar had been gulped down by one of the raccoons!

Sullivan County Asks for Federal Aid Painful Decisions Loom if Congress Does Not Provide

Monticello, NY - With the Sullivan County Legislature discussing a sale of or layoffs at the Care Center at Sunset Lake, plus other layoffs looming, County Manager Joshua Potosek has issued a plea for the region's Congressional leaders to swiftly provide Federal aid.

"While our communities may outwardly look normal, this is a disaster of major proportions, and I can assure you that Sullivan County and its component municipalities have not dodged the fiscal fallout," Potosek wrote on July 31 to Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, along with Congressman Antonio Delgado. "We estimate that we're facing a \$10-\$20 million shortfall in our \$233 million 2020 budget, to say nothing of the grim prospects for 2021. While that may seem a small sum compared to other municipalities in your districts, it represents an incredible challenge for our rural County and our already overburdened taxpayers. My office and the Sullivan County Legislature are endeavoring to avoid a property tax hike by any means possible - including assessing an energy tax, exploring the sale of our nursing home, and, unfortunately, layoffs of up to 10% of our workforce."

The ongoing closures of both The Kartrite Resort & Indoor Waterpark and the Resorts World Catskills Casino Resort have already contributed to over a million dollars in lost sales and room tax revenues, prompting letters from Potosek to Governor Andrew Cuomo to permit safely limited reopenings of both properties.

"Resorts World Catskills' continuing closure is estimated to cost us \$1.3-\$2.1 million this year, and I'm sure an even greater amount with the State," Potosek wrote this week to the Governor. "Thus I am writing to you to request timely guidance that would allow casino resorts like Resorts World Catskills to reopen at appropriate capacities in Phase 4 areas of New York State."

Potosek on July 30 presented a grim fiscal outlook to legislators, noting that:

- Jobless claims are four times higher than the worst depths of the Great Recession in 2008-09

- Federal unemployment payments have soared past the \$26 billion mark, far exceeding the \$4 billion peak during the Great Recession
- The national unemployment rate is expected to hit 16% this year
- Sales tax payments did not fully recover from the Great Recession for seven years, with a possible repeat scenario for the COVID pandemic (assuming the virus is brought under control within the next few months)

"I know the State showed Sullivan County seeing a 3.3% increase in sales tax revenue year over year in July, but that's misleading," Sullivan County Treasurer Nancy Buck explained. "Last year at this time, the State 'clawed back' over \$2 million of our sales tax revenue due to 'adjustments' from the prior year, and so the increase this year is still far less than where we need to be. In fact, we're already a million dollars below where we were two years ago, before the casino and waterpark opened, and we certainly aren't collecting taxes on their room and food sales at the moment."

If Federal aid does not come through later this year, Potosek expects a minimum (and permanent) 20% across-the-board cut to the County's State aid, deepening the already growing deficit. According to a report just issued by the NYS Association of Counties (https://www.nysac.org/files/County%20Economic%20Update%20-%202017_24_20.pdf), losses could approach \$30 million in Sullivan County by 2021.

"Realizing where we were last year and where we are now is stunning," Potosek related. "The local, State and national economies were humming in 2019, but the arrival of coronavirus in 2020 completely obliterated that progress. And now we're looking at an extended period of desperately difficult finances, even if we ultimately get a handle on COVID itself."

"Congress needs to act now," urged Buck, "and make sure the aid comes directly to municipalities. If it gets funneled through the State, we may not see any of it."

Balsam Lake Mountain Fire Tower Reopened for Visitors

ARKVILLE, NY -- The Catskill Center is very pleased to announce that the Balsam Lake Mountain Fire Tower (BLM) in Arkville, NY will be reopening its top cab for visitors to stand tall above the treetops this coming Saturday, August 1st. Volunteers from the Catskill Center will be present at the tower on weekends and holidays now through Columbus Day.

To protect other visitors and the volunteers staffing the tower, hikers are required to wear a face mask when climbing on the tower, to use hand sanitizer before and after climbing the tower, and only members of the same party should climb together. Earlier in the season the tower had remained closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Fire tower volunteers will be available to provide information and hand sanitizer.

The current steel tower is 47-1/2 feet tall and was built on the mountain in 1919 for forest fire surveillance (the first original tower at BLM was built in 1887). Located on the summit of Balsam Lake Mountain, which stands at 3729' in elevation, the fire tower looks out over the central Catskills and offers a wonderful vista in all directions.

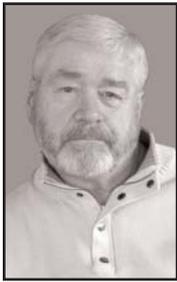
There are two main trailheads that can bring hikers to the top of Balsam Lake Mountain. One is located on Mill Brook Road from the north. It is a 5.9-mile out and back hike with an elevation gain of approximately 1147'. A second trailhead is located on Beaverkill Road from the south and is the shortest distance to the top at 3.5-miles roundtrip and with an elevation gain of about 1188' feet.

(Contd. Pg. 14)

A Private Cathedral

Mysterious Book Report No. 4 12

by John Dwaine McKenna



Whenever CWA Grand Master and Guggenheim Fellowship recipient James Lee Burke brings forth a new work of fiction, the world of mystery, thriller and crime readers and writers sits up and takes notice. We know it will be lyrically written and thought provoking . . . as well as exciting, violent and philosophical . . . all at the same time. Mr. Burke's ability to compare beauty and squalor, kindness and violence, as well as the struggle to do good by committing evil in the world – all in exquisite beautiful prose – is nothing less than magical. In his newest release (and 40th novel) entitled:

A Private Cathedral, (Simon and Schuster, \$28.00, 416 pages, ISBN 978-1-9821-5168-3)

James Lee Burke has created a genre-jumping, mind-bending and captivating yarn that many will consider to be the best of his 23 novels set in Louisiana and featuring an imperfect, tortured detective named Dave Robicheaux. The MBR is one of them.

As the novel begins, it's late in the 1990s. Dave Robicheaux is battling his addiction to alcohol, trying to get his job and his badge back and mourning the deaths of two wives; the first by violence and the second from disease. And, as if that's not enough to deal with, he has profound guilt and flashbacks from his time in the Vietnam War. The last thing he needs is to get sucked into one of the most bloody and deadliest criminal feuds in Louisiana history. But of course, that's just what happens when Dave comes to the aid of a pair of star-crossed young lovers named Johnny Shondell and Isolde Balangie.

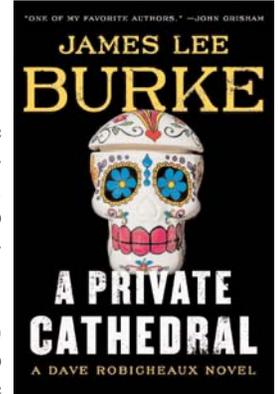
Johnny is a teen idol and a talented musician who's making his way up the pop charts. He and Isolde have discovered that they're soul mates, devoted to and enraptured by each other. Trouble is however, the Shondell and Balangie clans have been at war for centuries. Several generations ago, they devised a plan to keep from destroying each other. The pact is simple. Periodically, the weaker clan will send an immediate family member to be held as hostage by the other, which is why Johnny is being forced to deliver Isolde to his uncle for use as a sex slave. Dave Robicheaux, a modern knight-errant in tarnished armor, and his partner Clete Purcell are honor bound to intervene on behalf of the defenseless young couple. But when Robicheaux gets too close to Isolde's mother, who's the consort of a mobster from New Orleans, the Mafia Don puts out a contract on Dave and Clete. The assassin he calls forth is a terrifying ghostly apparition who travels through time on a spectral slave ship to wreak havoc on the present . . . where the battle between the forces of good and evil reach epic proportions.

Combining crime fiction with a hard-boiled noir thriller, and a dose of the paranormal, *A Private Cathedral* puts James Lee Burke in a dimension of his own. It's a place where angels fear to tread . . . and ordinary wordsmiths can only wish they could get to!

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“Watt's Up?”

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HUDSON VALLEY, NY- The Mid-Hudson Community Energy Engagement Program (CEEP) seeks to help homeowners and renters make informed energy choices, inform consumers of financing options for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects and products, help connect consumers with people and resources to implement those projects, and offer guidance throughout the process.

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) invites Mid-Hudson Valley residents to a Facebook Live event called “Watt's Up? Energy Stories with a Purpose” every Thursday at 5 pm, - an effort by local Mid-Hudson Valley educators to reach out weekly to consumers seeking answers about energy and energy efficiency. Each week a different topic surrounding energy is explored and discussion follows, local resources and programming that can help consumers with an energy issue or related topic.

All are welcome to participate via Facebook Live or via ZOOM, on the CCE Dutchess County Facebook page. To receive the ZOOM information to participate, email sw288@cornell.edu. Participants can ask questions and engage in the conversation.

For more information, connect with a Community Energy Advisor or find out more information regarding the weekly topic of Watt's Up by visiting the CCE Sullivan County (@ccesullivan) or Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (@ccedutchess) Facebook pages.

Facebook Event link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/741095166695855/>

Email Sean Welsh at sw288@cornell.edu for more information. To learn more about this and other Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County programs, contact sullivan@cornell.edu or call 845-292-6180 and leave a voicemail. For the latest CCE resources on public health and Covid-19, visit [http:// www.sullivanance.org](http://www.sullivanance.org).

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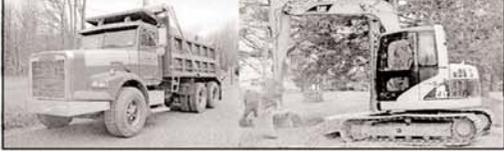
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NYS DEC Wilderness Rescue

Town of Shandaken

On July 26 at 3:40 p.m., Forest Ranger Martin overheard a call for an injured hiker on Giant's Ledge. Ranger Martin arrived on scene with Shandaken EMS and Big Indian Fire Department. The Chief of the Big Indian Fire Department reported a hiker suffering from heat stroke approximately five miles up the blue trail.

At 4:05 p.m., Ranger Martin entered the woods hiking toward Giant's Ledge from the CR 47 parking area. At 4:55 p.m., the Ranger located the ill hiker and his partner near the corner of Giant's Ledge and Panther Mountain.

The 42-year-old hiker from Ulster Park was dehydrated and suffering from severe cramping. After receiving water and food, the group hiked out to a waiting UTV on the Winnisook Trail and transported out.

Kaaterskill Wild Forest

On July 20 at 2:15 p.m., DEC's Central Dispatch was notified that a 72-year-old man from Galloway, New Jersey, slipped on wet rocks near Kaaterskill Falls causing an ankle injury.

Forest Rangers Breigle, Dawson, and Fox and Assistant Forest Rangers France and Lasselle responded to the scene. The hiker was immobilized in a vacuum air mattress and placed into a litter.

He was then carried out to a Ranger's vehicle and transported to the trailhead. The hiker stated he would seek additional medical care on his own.

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"If it grows by day, have it cut & split by Knight"

New York State COVID-19 Response

DEC personnel from across agency divisions and regions across New York continue to support the State's response to the COVID-19 public health crisis. Personnel from more than 20 New York State agencies are working on response efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19. DEC Forest Rangers' expertise in the Incident Command System (ICS) and experience in applying ICS to wide area searches and large wildland fire have made



them a key part of this statewide effort.

DEC Seeks Participants for 2020 Summer Wild Turkey Survey • Citizen Scientists Help DEC Monitor Turkey Population

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos today encouraged New Yorkers to participate in the State's annual survey for wild turkeys.

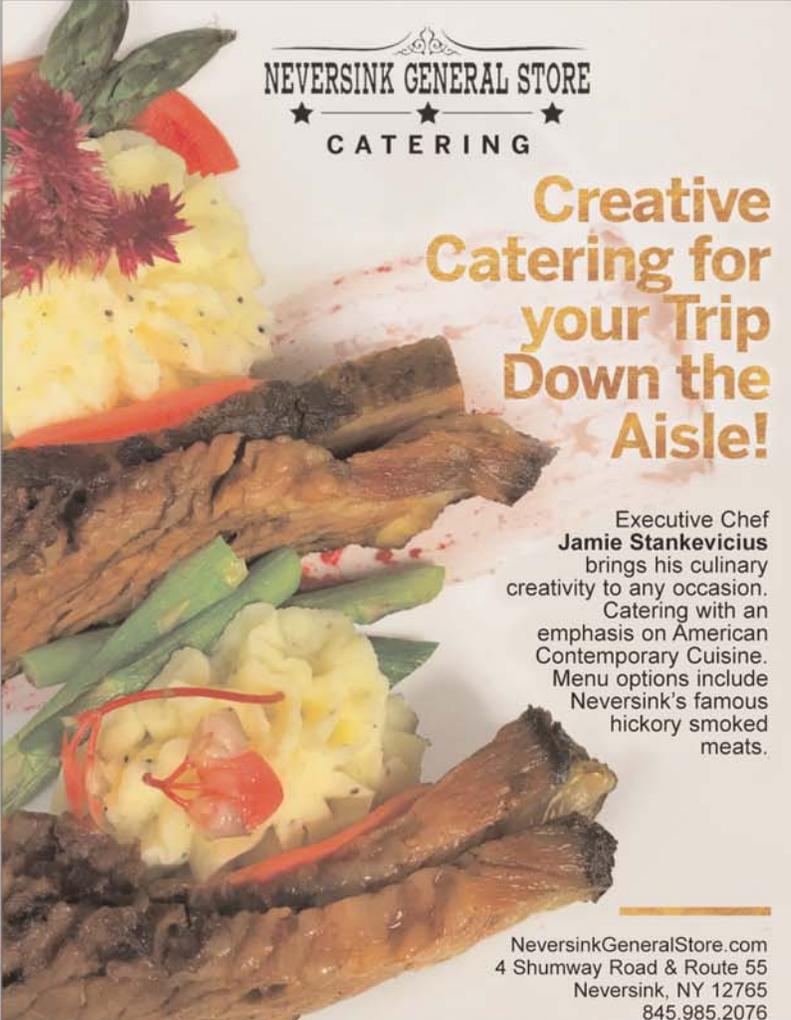
"Getting outside to hike, watch wildlife, and enjoy nature is a great outlet for our physical and mental health during these challenging times," Commissioner Seggos said. "While New Yorkers are out exploring fields and forests close to home this August, reporting turkey encounters is a beneficial way to partner with DEC in our wildlife management work to monitor the population of this popular game bird and we encourage New York's outdoor adventurers to participate in this annual survey."

Since 1996, DEC has conducted the Summer Wild Turkey Sighting Survey to track wild turkey populations and estimate the number of wild turkey poults (young of the year) per hen statewide. Weather, predation, and habitat conditions during breeding and brood-rearing seasons can significantly impact nest success, hen survival, and poult survival. This index allows DEC to gauge reproductive success and predict fall harvest potential.

During August, survey participants record the sex and age composition of all flocks of wild turkeys observed during normal travel. Those interested in participating can download a form directly on DEC's website at Summer Wild Turkey Sighting Survey form (PDF) along with instructions and the data sheet. Survey cards can be obtained by contacting regional DEC offices, calling (518) 402-8883, or e-mailing wildlife@dec.ny.gov (type "Turkey Survey" in the subject line). Participants can also submit observations on-line. Visit the DEC website and click "Summer Wild Turkey Sighting On-line Report" or go directly to this link for the Summer Wild Turkey Sighting Survey.

While exploring the scenic beauty of New York State this summer, DEC reminds residents to Play Smart * Play Safe * Play Local: Get Outside Safely, Responsibly, and Locally. Consistent with the NYForward phased reopening plan, DEC and State Parks are encouraging New Yorkers to recreate locally in their region (PDF).

Additional information is available on the DEC website: Summer Wild Turkey Sighting Survey; Citizen Science Initiatives; DEC Regional Office Contact Information



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News from Frost Valley YMCA

Although it is much quieter than usual for July, every day brings new developments as we find innovative ways to stay connected with our Frost Valley family, carry out our mission, and persevere ahead!



In an effort to keep you updated on the latest news from the Valley, below is some news we thought you might enjoy:

Space Available for Family Camp!

Several spots have opened up in our August Family Camp, and we hope to see you here in the Valley! While things will look a little different than usual, we know your family deserves time together in nature, relaxing and restoring together. Learn more!



East Valley Ranch Offers Privacy & More!

Many alumni and long-time Frost Valley families know that our best kept secret is about 17 miles from main camp at East Valley Ranch! Families and small groups can either stay in a yurt or in our East Valley Lodge, a B&B-style inn that overlooks green horse pastures and a babbling brook. Ask us about the possibility of having meals served in our dining room and even private horseback riding lessons, both of which we intend to begin offering after Labor Day Weekend! Enjoy miles of hiking as well as access to numerous Catskill destinations, including swimming holes, outdoor dining, and more.



Overnight Camp 2021 Registration is OPEN!

Just like our campers, we've been heartbroken that summer camp had to be cancelled this year; however, you can reserve your camper's spot now for next year! We know this will be the best summer yet - we have a whole extra year to make it great. We are eager to see all of our campers here in the valley next summer!

Providing for Our Community!

The Sullivan Fresh Farmers Market in Monticello was created to "help bring fresh fruits and veggies to a food desert community. It also helps to get produce to seniors and low income residents who lack transportation." Given our mission and values, we knew this was a perfect opportunity for the Frost Valley Educational Farm, and our first market was a hit! Learn More on the Blog

Internet Stations Available on Main Camp for Guests!

Right now, it's especially hard to fully unplug while so many important things are happening virtually. For that reason, our main camp summer lodging guests now have the opportunity to utilize specially assigned "Internet Stations" during their stay.





Why wear a mask?

Out of respect.
 When you wear a mask you are saying, I respect my neighbors.
 When you wear a mask you are saying, I respect nurses and doctors.
 When you wear a mask you are saying, I respect other people.
 We all need to show respect to one another in difficult times.
 Wearing a face covering is a small inconvenience to protect others. We have gotten through this crisis by standing together and doing the right thing. The right thing - the respectful thing - is to wear a mask.

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A Message from Music on Market!

We have exciting news for Music on Market! Virtual concerts will began Thursday, July 23, 2020. The was a series of three concerts every Thursday with the last concert being held on August 6 at 7:30 PM. To view please visit the Music Institute of Sullivan and Ulster Counties or the Music on Market Concert Series Facebook pages to view the livestream.
 Performers include David Fiedler, violin, Anastasia Solberg, viola, and Anik Oulianine, cello. Concerts will feature compositions by Mozart, Schubert, Villa Lobos, Clarke, and more.
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Zane Grey Plein Air presents a Benefit Online Screening of: "FIVE SEASONS The Gardens of Piet Oudolf"

to benefit A Single Bite: Putting Food On the Table for Children and Families in Need in Sullivan County



In mid-March when schools closed due to Covid-19, A Single Bite and Foster Supply Hospitality, shifted its food-based mission to provide meals for families in every school district in Sullivan County and has raised over \$135,000 to prepare and deliver more than 20,000 meals for local families in need. Support A Single Bite to continue its food and packaging of healthy meals produced locally in Sullivan County

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 Purchase eTickets: <https://bit.ly/2CQwWs8> • Donation: \$15.00 • Website: <http://ZaneGreyPleinAir.com> • Email: info@ZaneGreyPleinAir.com

ON PIET OUDOLF: Dutch garden designer, plant nursery man and author, Piet Oudolf is a leading figure of the "New Perennial" movement - his designs and plant compositions using bold drifts of herbaceous perennials and grasses which are chosen at least as much for their structure as for their flower colour

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The Scene Too

- Jane Harrison

Last Monday morning, I lost a friend. Guitar master AL DEFINO has passed on.



I met him for the first time when he started playing at the old NADIAS on Main Street in Hurleyville. His mastery of his instrument was undeniable. But beyond that, I met a very personable, charming, soft spoken man with a quick smile and thousands of wonderful stories of his life.

We spoke a great deal about his time in Belgium and, although it was not one of the European countries I had visited, the similarities to the countries I had, found us both wistfully reminiscing. Most particularly of the cafes and the bars with live music and the civility of the people "over there". He spoke a few different languages and regularly Skyped with his friends abroad.

We spoke a great deal too about his time spent, with his guitar, with The Rat Pack and the time he spent touring with SAMMY DAVIS JR. There was a sort of kinship developed there, founded on of all things, racism. He would never go into great detail, instead he would lower his eyes and shake his head saying how much he disliked playing the gigs with Sammy in this country because of the way Sammy was treated because of the color of his skin. About how they couldn't all go out for breakfast after a sold-out show at a major venue because he wouldn't be allowed in the restaurant. Sometimes even if it was a restaurant in the casino or hotel where they had just performed. It made no sense to Al, then or now.

But then he would perk up and talk about touring with Sammy in Japan and elsewhere and how he was treated with the respect for his talent and treated as a human being. And that Al loved touring abroad with him. I always got the feeling that Al saw something of his own personal experiences, being Jewish, in all of this.

We spoke of his decades of teaching at the esteemed Berkley College of Music in Boston. We spoke of the pitfalls of love and marriage. We spoke of smoking cigarettes and the difficulty of quitting. We spoke of so very many things.

The one thing that surprised me about him is that he LOVED people to come to his home. I don't think I have ever met anyone who was so overjoyed to invite someone in. He was still teaching anyone who wanted to learn. And though I couldn't play a guitar if my life depended on it, I did help him solve some minor computer problems from time to time, and maybe it was his Italian heritage but he was always trying to feed me! He always made his own 'sauce' every week, a fact that most people didn't know. And it was quite good!

Al was not without his struggles, which is something most people DO know. It made him difficult to be around sometimes. In the last few years, though, it was a different kind of struggle for him. A battle with throat cancer. Then with the CoVid pandemic, and what is still the enforced separation of people, this hit him harder than most.

I will miss Al. His passing has left a large hole in the musical community but also in the hearts of many, students, friends, family. We all take solace in the fact that he is now at peace, his struggles are over.

Stay safe, stay strong.
Until next time.....

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Her Quirky Journey

-Marilyn Borth

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Bali is Overrated and Doomed

Ever hear people talking about their trip or dreams of taking a trip to Bali, Indonesia? Or read the book Eat, Pray, Love and read

about it there? The sea is a constant shimmering crystal, relaxation is in the air, the weather is at a constant perfect temperature, everything is cheap, and so on. When I went there to stay for two months last year, I had these expectations in mind.



bike, then visit emerald green rice paddies and walk amongst them. In some places, the water is otherworldly clear and euphoric in which to sink yourself. Oh, and the food is divine-packed with flavors I've never experienced anywhere else. (Honestly, Indonesian



food is grossly downplayed and ignored in the Western world.) On top of all of that, everything tends to be cheaper there than here in the US, for example. (Contd. Pg. 12)

Her Quirky Journey

Bali is Overrated and Doomed

(From Pg. 11) However, what lies beyond these distractions is nothing short of disgraceful. The ratio of foreigners to locals is nearly 50/50. Therefore, the island is heavily Westernized. Granted, that may sound nice and it is easy to get around because nearly every local speaks English, but it was such a shame for me to witness such a unique culture heavily squandered. The foreigners there lack any sort of respect for the locals, who happen to be an impossibly kind, thoughtful, generous, and helpful people. In Canggu specifically, which is a "village" popular for the beach and surfing, appeared to me in ruins. It was littered with trash, sloppy drunken surfers driving motorbikes, foreigners more often than not arguing in the streets with locals and officials, and foreigners so often disrespecting the local religion (Balinese Hinduism), its symbols, practices, and celebrations.

Due to the immense amount of travelers in Bali, which has skyrocketed in recent years, the island simply can't keep up. The construction of hotels, restaurants, bar, clubs; the thick air pollution, growing number of vehicles; the rising prices of rent (which locals struggle to afford), the destruction of



beaches and natural resources. I could go on and on.

When I first went to Bali, I was simply expecting a gorgeous place to relax and meet like-minded folk and locals. However, I was disappointed at what I found. So, if/when you get to Bali, be aware that you certainly will not be the only Westerner and things might not be as beautiful as you'd hoped! Bali is Overrated and Doomed

Ever hear people talking about their trip or dreams of taking a trip to Bali, Indonesia? Or read the book Eat, Pray, Love and read about it there? The sea is a constant shimmering crystal, relaxation is in the air, the weather is at a constant perfect temperature, everything is cheap, and so on. When I went there to stay for two months last year, I had these expectations in mind.

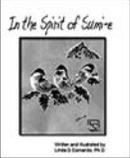
Boy, was I rudely awakened!



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Census Takers Beginning Local Visits on August 11 Sullivan Remains at Bottom of NYS Response Rate

Monticello, NY - If you haven't yet completed the 2020 Census form for your Sullivan County address, expect a knock on your door from a Census worker in a few weeks. Non-Response Follow Up, where Census Bureau employees go door-to-door for households that haven't self-responded through one of the three methods available (online, phone, or paper), is slated to begin the second week of August.

"Census takers will visit all housing units that have not responded to the 2020 Census questionnaire between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m., and may also visit households that have already responded in order to clarify information," said Freda Eisenberg, Sullivan County's Planning Commissioner and the Chair of the Sullivan County Complete Count Committee. "They will wear masks and follow social distancing and other health and safety protocols related to the COVID-19 pandemic."

"If someone answers the door, the Census takers will ask 10 questions to collect basic information about the household and people who live in it," explained Saraïd Gonzalez, Program Director of Sullivan 180 and Census Coordinator for the Complete Count Committee. "If they can't reach anyone on the first try, they will leave a 'Notice of Visit' note at the door. After the third attempt (and if the occupant does not self-respond in the meantime), Census takers will seek a reliable, nearby 'proxy' to collect the information necessary to complete the census. A 'proxy' could include a neighbor, landlord, letter carrier or real estate agent."

Census takers have a Constitutional duty to count everyone who lived in the U.S. as of April 1, 2020, regardless of immigration or citizenship status.

"Some people may be anxious about having an unfamiliar Census worker come to their door and will want to ensure they are not being visited by a scammer," affirmed Gonzalez. "Census takers will have a valid ID badge with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date. They may also carry Census Bureau bags and other equipment with the Census Bureau logo."

"No Census worker will seek to enter your home or ask for personal data beyond the official Census questions," added Eisenberg. "They will not ask for a Social Security number, money or donations, anything on behalf of a political party, or bank or credit card account numbers. They will also not ask about citizenship, immigration status or whether you receive public benefits. Completing the Census cannot get someone into any trouble; no one can be deported, lose benefits, or be arrested by participating in the Census."

Avoiding a visit from a Census worker is as easy as completing the 2020 Census form in one of the three ways to self-respond: online at www.my2020census.gov, by calling 844-330-2020 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 2 p.m. (844-468-2020 for Spanish speakers) or by mailing in the printed form if you have received one.

"Everyone living in Sullivan County, regardless of whether you are here full-time or a second homeowner enjoying the summer, should complete the Census for your address," urged both Eisenberg and Gonzalez. "Census data is used in allocating government representation and in the distribution of trillions of dollars of federal funding. It's been estimated that each person who is not counted can cost a community around \$30,000 in lost funding."

State Senate Passes Bills Co-sponsored by Metzger to Protect Public Health, Privacy in Contact Tracing, Election Outcomes, the Environment, and More

Hudson Valley and Catskills, NY...The State Senate passed nearly 400 bills last week, including many legislative initiatives sponsored and co-sponsored by Senator Metzger (SD-42) that will benefit the Hudson Valley and Catskills communities she represents. In addition to passing bills she introduced to close the rural broadband gap, increase the resiliency of the state's food supply system, and prevent toxic industrial chemicals from contaminating our water, the Senate also took action on bills she co-sponsored to protect public health, privacy in contact tracing, election outcomes, and the environment, and to expand employment in healthcare, among other initiatives.

"We passed a number of important bills to help Hudson Valley and Catskills residents, from reducing out-of-pocket costs for life-saving medications to protecting the confidentiality of information obtained for contact tracing, which is vital to keeping New York's COVID transmission rates low," said Senator Metzger. "We were able to address a number of needs and challenges facing our communities during this difficult time as we navigate this crisis together."

Below are highlights of legislation that Metzger co-sponsored.

Increasing Affordable Access to Insulin

S8255 reduces the cap on cost sharing for insulin to \$30 per month, helping to ensure affordable access for New Yorkers with diabetes who depend on insulin for their survival.

Supporting our Home Care Workers & Most Vulnerable Residents

It's critical that New York's frontline care workers have the resources they need to best protect and care for the vulnerable populations they serve, as well as for themselves. S8361 would require that Managed Long Term Care plans (MLTCs) reimburse providers of home care and personal assistant services for personal protective equipment (PPE).

Ensuring that New Yorkers Can Vote Safely in November

Several bills were passed to help ensure that New Yorkers can vote safely in November with the confidence that their absentee ballots will be counted. S8783A would temporarily allow the processing of absentee ballot applications prior to 30 days before the election. S8370B would give voters notice of any deficiencies in their absentee ballot envelopes and an opportunity to fix them. S8799A would temporarily provide that any absentee ballot be presumed timely even if it does not bear a dated postmark, as long as the ballot was received and time-stamped by the day after Election Day.

Guaranteeing Privacy in the Contact Tracing Process

Contact tracing is absolutely essential for fighting the coronavirus, and two bills passed in the State Senate to ensure that any personal information collected during this process will be protected. S8450C requires contact tracing information to be kept confidential and used solely for the specific purpose of preventing transmission of COVID-19 while S8448D imposes requirements for the use of electronically collected emergency health data during the COVID-19 emergency. The legislation requires that this information be expunged or de-identified within a certain time period.

Creating Career Pathways in Health Care

New York needs more healthcare workers, especially in rural communities, and S8278A, which passed the Senate, requires the NYS Departments of Health, Labor, and Education to establish a program that trains unemployed and underemployed individuals to enter our healthcare workforce.

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Message to Young People from Governor Cuomo

I have a message for young people: This is not the time to fight for your right to party. We are seeing a statistically significant increase in the COVID infection rate in 21- to 30-year-olds. Remember: Young people can get seriously sick and some will die from the virus. Young people can bring it home and give it to others inadvertently. To deliver the message, we launched a social and PSA campaign to communicate the hard facts to young people. If you treat COVID lightly, you may not live to regret it. Watch the ad go to:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_PSvyr8xJEO

State Senate Passes Bills Co-sponsored by Metzger to Protect Public Health, Privacy in Contact Tracing, Election Outcomes, the Environment, and More

(From Pg 13)
Identifying Recreational Opportunities within our State Park System for Active Seniors

New York is blessed with an extraordinary park system, and it's important to make sure that all can enjoy it to the fullest, including our seniors. The Senate passed S7765, directing the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation to post on its website an easily accessible senior trail guide, identifying walking and hiking opportunities in the state park system.

Prohibiting the Sale and Display of Hate Symbols

The Senate took an important step forward with the passage of S8298B to prohibit the sale and display of hate symbols on the grounds of public property, including fairgrounds, unless serving an educational purpose. The bill makes clear that known symbols of hate, including the Confederate flag, are prohibited from being sold or displayed at county and state fairs.

Closing the Fracking Waste Loophole

Fracking waste is hazardous waste, yet because of a loophole to the fossil fuel industry in federal law, this waste can be exported to New York from states like Pennsylvania and can be dumped, untreated, into landfills and municipal sewer systems. S3392 will regulate fracking waste as hazardous waste.

Balsam Lake Mountain Fire Tower Reopened for Visitors

(From Pg. 4) For both hikes it is suggested that hikers have the 10 essentials with them, such as a trail map and 2-3 liters of water, to prepare for a few hours out in the backcountry (full list here: http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/hikesmarttenessentials.pdf) For COVID-19 safety, the Catskill Center asks that visitors to the mountain please bring a mask and hand sanitizer with them.

"The hikes that lead to the top of Balsam Lake Mountain can be either day hikes or overnight backpack hikes, and a drive around that area of the Catskills (Arkville, NY) offers scenic mountain views, covered bridges, and a network of other trails. The state campgrounds nearby can be great to visit for the day, too," said Olivia Bernard, Visitor Experience Coordinator at the Catskills Visitor Center.

The five backcountry Catskill Park Fire Towers are owned and maintained by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) with support from the Catskill Center. A sixth Catskill Park Fire Tower is now located on the grounds of the Catskills Visitor Center (catskillsvisitor-center.org), having opened in the Fall of 2019. You can learn more about the Fire Towers of the Catskill Park on the Catskill Center's website at catskillcenter.org/fire-tower-project.

The volunteer program at the Hunter Mountain Fire Tower is a part of Catskill Center's Catskill Fire Tower Project. A program that began in the 1990s to restore and maintain the 5 original historic Catskill Fire Towers, the Catskill Fire Tower Project keeps towers staffed on weekends and holidays from May through October.

LEGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES

35th Annual Giant Pumpkin Party Cancelled

It is with great sadness that the Daniel Pierce Library announces that the 35th Annual Giant Pumpkin Party has been cancelled. With Covid-19 still affecting the U.S. and the current guidelines set for large gatherings, we have made the very difficult decision to cancel the Pumpkin Party. We are looking forward to next year's Pumpkin Party bringing lots of fun events, contests, and of course donuts!!!!

Statement by New York State Commissioner of Agriculture Richard A. Ball on Unsolicited, Mislabeled Packages of Seeds Being Sent From China

“Our office has received questions from a few New Yorkers who have received unsolicited packages allegedly sent from China that are marked as containing jewelry (or other items) but which actually contain plant seeds. Similar packages have been received in other states and the United States Department of Agriculture is investigating. **People who receive seeds should not plant or handle the seeds.** They should store them safely in a place children and pets cannot access and email USDA immediately at erich.l.glasgow@usda.gov. The NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, along with the United States Department of Agriculture, are asking that New Yorkers who receive seeds that they did not order, that are mislabeled, or are from a questionable source, **should not plant or handle the seeds**, officials said. They are asking to please mail the sealed package of seeds, the original packaging, the residents' contact information, and any additional relevant details directly to the USDA at:

Office of the State Plant Health Director of New York c/o
Christopher Zaloga,
United States Department of Agriculture
500 New Karner Rd.
Albany, NY 12205

The agency says the seeds which have not been identified could be invasive species, could introduce diseases to local plants, or could be harmful to livestock.

NY AG James Stops Fraudulent Broker from Selling PPE – IMPACT Medical Admits to Attempting to Sell Respirator Masks It Did Not Possess and Could Not Deliver

NEW YORK - New York Attorney General Letitia James today announced an agreement that will stop a fraudulent broker of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other medical supplies from selling PPE and coronavirus disease 2019- (COVID-19) related test kits as New York and the rest of the nation continue to battle the spread of COVID-19. A proposed consent order and

judgment

- submitted to New York State Supreme Court - seeks to resolve a lawsuit brought by Attorney General James last month against Frank Borgese and his company, IMPACT Medical & Surgical Solutions (IMPACT Medical), by barring Borgese and IMPACT Medical from selling PPE and COVID-related test kits until January 2023, and only allowing them to resume the business of selling PPE thereafter if each posts a \$100,000 bond. Borgese and IMPACT Medical attempted to take advantage of the desperate need for PPE at the start of the COVID-19 crisis by trying to sell governments and health care systems N95 and KN95 respirator masks which they did not have and could not deliver.

“When IMPACT Medical sold non-existent PPE, they put people's health and lives at risk,” said Attorney General James. “This reprehensible conduct is as illegal as it is immoral. Our actions today send a message to all purported dealers: New York will not allow this type of fraud or deception to stand, and we will fight it across the nation. I urge defrauded purchasers of PPE and other COVID-related supplies to contact my office immediately, and I urge all New Yorkers to continue to follow our tips on how to avoid potential scams before purchasing PPE.”

“The COVID-19 pandemic forced New York State to mobilize unprecedented resources and develop innovative solutions to provide PPE and other supplies to essential workers of the war against this deadly virus, and it's disgusting frankly that some companies tried to exploit that situation for their own financial gain,” Governor Cuomo said. “I applaud the Attorney General for taking decisive action to protect New York from IMPACT's half-baked attempt to sell non-existent PPE.”

Last month, Attorney General James filed a lawsuit against Buffalo-based Borgese and IMPACT Medical, alleging the two fraudulently solicited the state of New York, as well as hospitals and health care systems across the country, with fake offers of critically-needed PPE, including 3M N95 respirator masks. In some cases, Borgese and IMPACT Medical obtained purchase orders and substantial up-front payments from hospitals and health care systems, but still failed to deliver the promised PPE and were subsequently required to make large refunds. In the lawsuit filed last month, Attorney General James requested and was granted a temporary restraining order, barring Borgese and his company from selling PPE as the COVID-19 pandemic continued.

As part of today's proposed consent order and judgment - which is pending court approval - Borgese and IMPACT Medical admitted that neither of them is or was ever an authorized 3M distributor, that they did not possess the 3M-branded N95 respirator masks or KN95 respirator masks they advertised for sale, and that they could not meet the delivery times they provided for N95 or KN95 respirator masks. The proposed consent order and judgment also prohibits Borgese and IMPACT Medical from engaging in various deceptive or fraudulent practices in violation of Executive Law § 63(12), and bars them from selling PPE and COVID-related test kits until at least January 2023. Thereafter, Borgese and IMPACT Medical may only resume selling PPE and COVID-related test kits if they each post a \$100,000 bond, and would be required to provide periodic reports to the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) with details for any orders placed by a customer for PPE or COVID-related testing kits.

The OAG wishes to thank the Office of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Office of General Services for their assistance with this case.

Attorney General James' lawsuit against Borgese and IMPACT Medical is part of a broader investigation by the OAG into fraudulent and deceptive solicitations by sellers of PPE seeking to take advantage of the supply-chain disruptions and increased demand caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

(Contd. Pg. 18)

NY AG James Stops Fraudulent Broker from Selling PPE

(From Pg. 17) The OAG has been working with multiple agencies within New York state and with local agencies throughout the state, as well as with private hospitals and health care systems and with large manufacturers of PPE to identify and investigate those who are engaging in fraudulent and deceptive practices to sell significant quantities of desperately-needed masks, gowns, and other coronavirus-related supplies.

Attorney General James has also issued guidance to prospective purchasers of PPE on how to avoid scammers: "Tips to Avoid COVID-19 Procurement Fraud."

Any municipalities, hospitals, health care systems, or other large-scale purchasers of PPE and other coronavirus-related supplies that believe they have been targeted by someone charging excessive prices or using fraudulent or deceptive practices to sell COVID-19 related supplies, can report it to the OAG by calling (800) 771-7755, or by forwarding any suspicious email solicitations to the OAG at covidprocurementfraud@ag.ny.gov.

This case was handled by Assistant Attorney General David E. Farber and Senior Counsel Bryan P. Kessler, with assistance from Legal Analyst Iuliia Belyshkina - all of the Taxpayer Protection Bureau, and all under the supervision of Steven J. Glassman, Special Counsel in Economic Justice. Investigator Melissa Kaplan assisted with the investigation as well. The Taxpayer Protection Bureau is run by Bureau Chief Thomas Teige Carroll and Deputy Bureau Chief Scott Spiegelman and is a part of the Division for Economic Justice, which is overseen by Chief Deputy Attorney General Chris D'Angelo and First Deputy Attorney General Jennifer Levy.

Bill to Make New York's Food Supply System More Resilient Passes Legislature Work Group Would Identify Solutions to Issues Exposed by COVID-19 Pandemic

Albany, NY...Legislation designed to improve the resiliency of New York's food supply chain passed both houses of the State Legislature last week. The bill (A10607/S8561A) from Assemblymember Donna Lupardo and Senator Jen Metzger, the Agriculture Committee Chairs in their respective houses, would create a working group of stakeholders to provide guidance and recommendations on New York's food supply and related supply chain logistics in the wake of COVID-19.

"One of the lessons of this pandemic is the need to strengthen our regional food systems to help reduce our vulnerability to disruptions in national supply chains while also supporting local farms and food businesses," said Senator Jen Metzger (SD-42). "We need to re-evaluate state policies in light of what we've learned, build on innovative initiatives like Nourish NY, and bring new ideas to the table. This is an opportune moment that this legislation seeks to capitalize on to build back stronger

and better."

"The COVID pandemic exposed a number of fundamental weaknesses in our food supply chain," said Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo (AD-123). "This working group will help the state's agriculture industry adapt to similar disruptions in the future. There is no reason we should ever experience the bottlenecks in processing and distribution that occurred this year, causing food to be disposed of while food pantries and grocery stores struggled to keep up."

The legislation would authorize the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets, in coordination with the Commissioner of Economic Development, to establish a New York food supply working group. The group would include representatives from farming, food processing, food retail, food service, wholesalers, food transporters, labor, emergency food providers, academia, government representatives and others. Through a series of meetings and roundtables, policy recommendations would be advanced to strengthen and protect NY's food supply chain. Having passed both houses, the bill will now go to the Governor's desk for signature.

"The food supply chain in the U.S. has developed into a highly efficient, and in some cases complex, system," said David Grusenmeyer, Executive Director of the NY Farm Viability Institute. "Between the producers and consumers is a web of individuals and companies providing critical inputs, along with essential processing, transportation, storage, and marketing services. Disruptions can cause angst and concerns on both ends and all the way through the chain, as demonstrated by the pandemic last spring. That's why efforts like this to assess all the links in the food supply chain and foster understanding and communication between them is so important. It's sure to lead to quicker responses and fixes when things go awry."

"We are extremely grateful for Senator Metzger's and Assemblywoman Lupardo's ongoing leadership to strengthen New York agriculture and ensure expanded access to healthy food for all New Yorkers, especially at this challenging time for farmers and residents alike," said GrowNYC President and CEO Marcel Van Ooyen. "We look forward to working with state and city officials to make New York's food supply more resilient so that we can support farmers and increase food access to our most vulnerable citizens, now and in the future."

Throughout this pandemic, Metzger has been actively working with farms and food producers to provide assistance as they adapt to the crisis, and has bolstered initiatives like the state's farm to food bank program, Nourish NY, that support the purchase of New York farm products while at the same time addressing growing food insecurity. In June, she introduced a bill (S8504) that would double funding for the program using \$25 million of unallocated funding from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020 or other future federal stimulus funding.

Senator Metzger has also been vocal about the need to strengthen New York's food systems in her role as Chair of the Senate's Agriculture Committee, and in her recent COVID-19 online series, went into great detail on how the pandemic's disruptions to agriculture have only further illustrated the delicacy of the supply chain and the need to address it.

5th Annual

Wings & Wheels for Warriors



**Dash Plaques for first
150 Vehicles Registered!
6 Categories!
Over 50 Trophies!**

Saturday, August 29th 2020

Rain or Shine

9am to 3pm

Judging begins at 11am

Joseph Y. Resnick Airport

199 Airport Road

Ellenville, NY 12428

Benefiting the Disabled American Veterans

Family Fun • Plane Rides • Food

DJ Brian • Kid's Choice Award

*Proudly
Hosted By:*



FOR UPDATES PLEASE VISIT: www.facebook.com/WingsnWheelsforWarriors

The participant cost for this event is \$10 in advance or \$15 on the day of the show. If you wish to pre-register please fill in the form below and mail it to our office along with a check or money order **written to Disabled American Veterans**

Thank you for your support, we look forward to seeing you there!

Name: _____
 Email: _____
 Club Affil (if any): _____
 Address: _____
 City, St, Zip: _____
 Phone: _____

Vehicle Type (Please Circle One):
 Car Truck Bike Jeep Plane Tractor
 Vehicle Year: _____
 Vehicle Make: _____
 Vehicle Model: _____
 Applicants Signature: _____

Upon signing this form, the applicant agrees to release Sprague & Killeen, Inc. and anyone connected with this show, from any and all known and/or unknown damages, injury, losses, judgements, and/or claims that may be suffered by the entrant to his/her person or property. The applicant assumes full responsibility for his/her vehicle.

As New York begins to open allowing churches to once again open, we encourage our readers to contact their individual church or parish for updated information.

St. Mark's UM Church
68 Clinton St., Napanoch

**YARD AND
CLOTHING SALE
CLOSED
UNTIL
FURTHER
NOTICE**

**Sundown United
Methodist Church**

**Covered Dish
Supper**

5:30 pm

To be
Announced

*Sundown
United Methodist
Church Hall*

**Grahamsville
United
Methodist
Church**

**Saturday
Thrift Sale**

9:00 am
to 12 noon
To be
Announced

Thrift Sale

9am-12 noon
Luncheon
11 am - 12:30 pm
To be
Announced



**COLONIAL FAMILY
of FUNERAL HOMES**

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ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL MISSION

The Little Church with the Big Heart

**Sunday, 8 am Service of
Holy Communion, except:**

**Second Saturday of each month,
12:00 noon**

Music by Fred VanWagner
Coffee hour follows service

All are welcome!

5277 State Rt. 42 • South Fallsburg
845-436-7539
www.standrewsepiscopalmission.org

**CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

(Embraces Fallsburg, Neversink, Sundown and Ulster Heights)

6317 Rte. 42, Woodbourne, NY

Weekend Mass schedule:

Saturday afternoon: 4:30 pm
Sunday morning: 9:00 am and 11:30 am

Daily Mass Schedule: Monday morning 8:50 am; Tuesday morning 8:50 am; Wednesday morning No Mass; Thursday afternoon 5:45 pm; Friday morning 8:50 am and Saturday morning 8:50 am.

Saturday afternoon confessions: 3:45 to 4:15 pm

Rev. Ignas Dhas MMI, Administrator
(845) 434-7643



Sundown United Methodist Church

Peakamoose Rd., Sundown
Sunday Worship Service - 8:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study - 6:45 p.m.
Pastor Seung Jin Hong
845-985-2283
e-mail: Sundownumc@gmail.com

Grahamsville United Methodist Church

Rte. 55, Grahamsville
Sunday Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School for grades k-7 - 10:30 a.m.
Mid-week Bible Study opportunities available!

Regular Office Hours

Wednesday 9 am - Noon
Friday 3 pm to 6 pm

If you wish to make an appointment to talk to Pastor Seung Jin Hong please call 845-985-2283

For all other information contact Pastor Seung Jin Hong.
845-985-2283 • e-mail: Grahamsvilleumc@gmail.com

Grahamsville Reformed Church

*The Church with
a friendly welcome*

Pastor Kenneth Ronk

Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship Service 9:30 am
P O Box 238 - Route 55
Grahamsville, NY 12740
845-985-7480

**Claryville Reformed
Church**

Claryville Road
Claryville, NY 12725
845-985-2041

Worship Services @ 10:00 am

Church Hall available for rent
Call - 845-985-2041 for information



Loucks Funeral Home

**Geoff and Heather Hazzard
"Celebrating Life, One Family at a Time"**

79 North Main Street
Ellenville, New York
(845) 647-4343

St. Augustine's Chapel

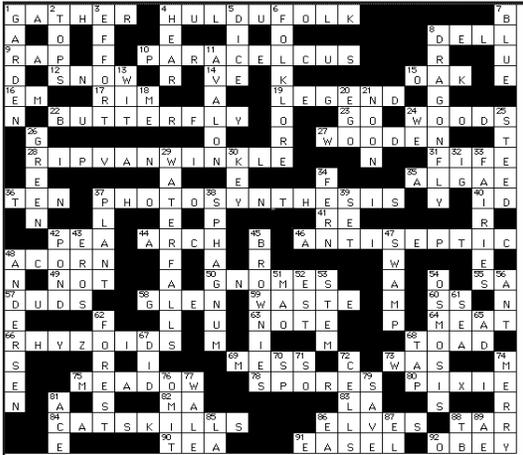
Watson Hollow Rd. • West Shokan, NY
Sunday Mass - 9:30 am
Holy Days 5:30 pm

Penance 9:00 am, 2nd Sunday of the month
Rev. Thomas P. Kiely, **Pastor**

AL-ANON MEETINGS- <http://www.al-anon.alateen.org>
 Mon- 7:00 p.m. United Methodist Church, 170 N. Main Street,
 Liberty • Thurs- 7:00 p.m. Immaculate Conception Church Annex,
 6317 Rt 42, Woodbourne
 Sat- 8:00 p.m. United Methodist Church, 170
 N. Main Street, Liberty

VETERANS always **Free** search of the Archives for fam-
 ily or history of Sullivan County at the
Sullivan County Museum,
 265 Main St., Hurleyville, NY.
 For information call 845-434-8044.

Ans to last week's Crossword



All Aboard! **Cancelled until further notice**

Join the Fun!
Play Mexican Train
FREE FUN
 every FRIDAY 1- 4 pm

in the upstairs meeting room
 at the Neversink Town Hall

Also
WANTED
 People to
 play cards

SUUJI WA TANSU NI KAGIRU
 answer

2	1	7	3	8	6	5	4	9
5	4	6	7	1	9	2	3	8
3	8	9	5	2	4	1	6	7
8	9	1	2	3	7	4	5	6
4	7	5	1	6	8	9	2	3
6	2	3	9	4	5	7	8	1
1	3	4	6	7	2	8	9	5
9	6	8	4	5	1	3	7	2
7	5	2	8	9	3	6	1	4

ARTISTS • CRAFTERS
 Need a website?
 Call us at 845-985-0501
 email: tvtownsman@yahoo.com
 or visit our Virtual Mail gnomehome.net

ST. PETER'S CHURCH

262 N. Main Street
Liberty, NY 12754
845-292-4525

Email: srectory1@hvc.rr.com

Parish Website: <http://www.stpetersliberty.com>

Facebook: St. Peter's Church, Liberty

Saturday evenings at 7PM: Mass in Spanish

Sunday mornings at 10 AM: Mass in English

We will continue to livestream our Sunday morning Mass on Facebook Live.

You can join us for Mass in person, or by logging on to <http://www.facebook.com> and visiting our page - St. Peter's Church, Liberty, NY.

** If you plan to join us for Mass in person, please see **PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES FOR IN PERSON MASS ATTENDANCE BEFORE MASS** we have put in place to keep us all safe.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Please note that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended. While the church is open for Mass, all individuals who are 65 years of age or older, those with underlying health considerations and those who are not yet comfortable attending Mass in person, are strongly encouraged to stay home and participate in the Mass on Facebook Live.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

For those who continue to join us for Mass on Facebook Live who would like to receive the Eucharist, you may come to the church following the conclusion of Mass to receive. Father Ed and Deacon Don will be waiting on the front steps of the church, weather permitting, each Sunday until 11:30 AM to distribute Holy Communion. They will only be able to offer the Eucharist in the hand. Please be sure to wear a face covering, maintain a distance of 6 feet from others, and most importantly, we ask that you follow the directions of the ushers.

DAILY PRAYER

Father will continue to gather with us in daily prayer Monday-Friday on Facebook Live. We will pray morning prayers at 9AM and evening vespers at 6 PM. You may send your prayer petitions to Father and he will include them in daily prayer.

FOOD PANTRY

Our food pantry is open every Saturday from 9am - 12noon. If you, or someone you know, could benefit from some help with food during these difficult times, simply come up the driveway next to the rectory and you will see us set up outside.

All are most welcome!

**** PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES FOR IN PERSON MASS ATTENDANCE BEFORE MASS**

- We ask you to arrive at the church no later than 9:30 AM for 10 AM Mass. (Please arrive by 6:45PM for 7 PM Spanish Mass.)
- When approaching the church, please keep in mind that all individuals and groups must keep a distance of at least 6 feet from other individuals and groups.
- Everyone must wear a face covering at all times.
- There will be hand sanitizer available for those who would like to use some before entering the church.
- Before entering the church, everyone will have their temperature taken using a contact free thermometer. Anyone with a temperature of 100 degrees or higher will be asked not to enter the church.
- Everyone will be escorted to a seat by an usher who has been designated and trained by Father Ed. Seating will be assigned from the front of the church to the back, and will be based on the next available seat, keeping social distancing in mind. Single individuals will be seated on one side of the church and families of 2 or more will be seated on the other side.
- There will be no holy water in the church.
- We will continue to send bulletins to parishioners electronically. There will be no paper bulletins in the church.

DURING MASS

- Please keep your mask on during the entire Mass, except for the brief moment when receiving Holy Communion.
- The collection will not be taken up in the traditional way. Instead, you may place your offering in the basket at the back of the church.



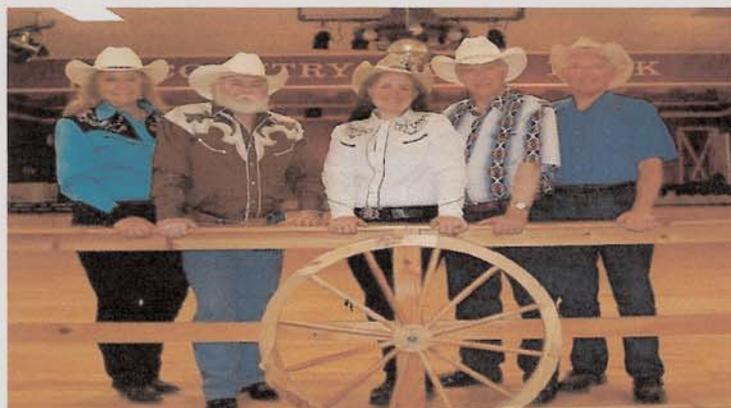
Free Concert's

In Big Indian Park

Big Indian, NY



August 16 Dick Bowden's Bluegrass Rangers 5-7



August 30 Country Express 5-7

These concerts are brought to you by the Big Indian beautification Committee if you would like to be on our schedule for next year or for more information or make a donation call Martie Gales at 845-254-5354



CURBSIDE PICK UP HOURS

Monday - 10:30 - 1:30
 Tuesday - 10:00 - 6:00
 Wednesday - 10:00 - 4:30
 Thursday - 10:00 - 6:00
 Friday - 10:00 - 4:30



LIMITED HOURS FOR ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Monday - 11:00 - 1:00
 Tuesday - Friday - 11:00 - 4:00



ESSENTIAL SERVICES

To maintain social distancing, we will only be offering copying, scanning, printing and browsing. Please follow signs throughout the building.

WE'RE OPEN!

LIMITED HOURS & SERVICES



Here's what you need to know.



FINES WAIVED

All library check outs will be fine free until September 7th.



LIMITED COMPUTER USE

Computers have been spaced 6 feet apart. Please call to make an appointment. Usage will be limited to 30 minute sessions.



BOOK DROP RETURNS

Please continue to return all library materials through our book drop ONLY.

Have questions? Reach us at 845-985-7233 or email us at dpl@rcls.org.



Daniel Pierce Library

328 Main Street | P.O. Box 268
 Grahamsville, New York 12740-0268 | 845-985-7233

<http://www.danielpiercelibrary.org>

**PLEASE CONTACT A MEMBER OF EACH ORGANIZATION TO MAKE CERTAIN OF CHANGES AND CANCELLATIONS
DUE TO COVID-19**

Many organization and municipalities are now using the internet to conduct meetings and to communicate with their members and the community. We welcome all organizations and municipalities who will be utilizing the internet to do so and to submit their contact information (URL) and we will post the information on our Calendar of Events.

Send your information to: tvtownsmen@yahoo.com

Town of Denning - <http://www.denning.us>

Town of Neversink - <https://townofneversink.org>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

8/16/2020 Claryville Fire Department **** All You can Eat Pancake Breakfast** 7am -12 noon

8/19/2020 Neverink-Rondout Antique Machinery Association Meeting - 7:30 pm

8/29/2020 Claryville Fire Department ****Annual Craft and Vendor Fair** 10 am- 4 pm

**** We will be following the CDC guidelines for Covid-19! Please remember that we will be doing everything possible to keep all of our members and customers safe and healthy**

Save the Date!

Due to the COVID 19 restrictions and concerns we had to make the difficult decision to postpone **Matthew Bertholf's Memorial Horseshoe Tournament** until next year. It has been **rescheduled for Sunday, July 11, 2021** and will be held at the Neversink Fire Department's Pavilion. Next year will be the **10th anniversary** of this tournament. Looking forward to seeing you then!!! Our 2020 scholarship recipients are Logan Cossack and Michael Babcock.

2020 Virtual Catskills Youth Climate Summit Thursdays, **Oct. 1, 15, 29; Nov. 12, 2020** via Zoom 3:30-5:00 pm Free for students grades 7-12 + advisor. If you have further questions or want to sign up, please contact Jeanne Darling (jmd30@cornell.edu) or call 607-865-6531.

TOWN OF OLIVE MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Unless otherwise noted, all **Town Board meetings** are held at the Town Meeting Hall, Bostock Road, Shokan at **7:00 pm**. Town Board Meetings are the **second Tuesday of each month** with the **audit/workshop meetings** being held the **Monday preceding the second Tuesday**.

Town of Olive Planning Board meets the **first and third Tuesdays of each month**. Meetings start at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall on Bostock Road, Shokan, NY. You can contact the Town Building & Zoning Department to confirm a meeting date if you would like to attend at 657-2015. If there is nothing on their agenda, they will cancel meetings.

COVID-19 ONLINE BEREAVEMENT GROUP

This on-line support group is new and is for those who have lost a loved one to Covid-19.

The link below goes to our page with all information.

Go to:

<https://hospiceoforange.com/grief-symptoms-can-be-heightened-during-this-current-community-health-crisis/>

Tri-Valley Elementary School

WANTED:

Local establishments to display student KINDNESS artwork

Contact Penny Hennessey in the Main Office at 985-2296 ext. 5306 or pennyhennessey@trivalleycsd.org.

All artwork and frames will be provided by the District and refreshed bi-annually.

**Time and the Valleys Museum
Searching for a Picture**

The Time and the Valleys Museum exhibit committee is searching for a photo of Helen Aldrich. If anyone has one please contact Phyllis Coombe at: phyllisncoombe@hvc.rr.com or 845-985-7530 and she will help to arrange to get the pictures.

**Claryville Volunteer Fire Department
Seeking Help to Celebrate
65th Anniversary**

Claryville Volunteer Fire Department will be celebrating its 65th Anniversary. They are asking anyone who may have pictures of the Fire Department if they could borrow them to make copies for this celebration.

Please contact Jean Keesler at jkeesler1@yahoo.com or call 845-985-7479.

**Time and the Valleys
One Room School Project**

Question??

Does anyone in the community have info about a possible Beaver Dam or Curry school? If so would you please share with our researchers? 845-985-7012

The Staff is also looking forward to hearing from community families whose ancestors might have experienced schooling at one room schools. We are specifically looking for the following pre 1920 items: lunch pails or boxes; children's clothing and toys; two 48 star flags; ice skates; bikes; pictures or other memorabilia of former schools.



Annual Meeting of The Neversink Association

On Sunday, September 6, 2020, at noon, members of The Neversink Association will meet at the Frost Valley Y Pavilion on the main campus, 2000 Frost Valley Road, Claryville. A BYO picnic is followed by the annual meeting. Members bring blankets or chairs and get to meet up with their neighbors who have been enjoying the summer in the "hollows, valleys and mountaintops" of the Upper Neversink River. (All COVID protocols will be observed).

Ed Ostapczuk will discuss his observations of the Neversink fishery, based upon interactions with USGS biologists and forty-plus years of fishing the watershed.

Kate O'Connor of the NY State Hemlock Initiative will deliver bio-control research and management updates on the hemlock wooly adelgid, an invasive forest pest which threatens the eastern hemlock in the Neversink watershed.

Andy Kremer will talk about the stream bank restoration on the West Branch of the Neversink River.

The Neversink Association Corporation is a non-profit social club that was founded in 1964 to "preserve and protect the flora and fauna" of the upper Neversink Valley. While the Association itself is not a charity and its dues are not tax deductible, the Neversink Association donates to many local charitable organizations that are similarly dedicated to education about, and protection of, the area's unique environment. New members are always welcomed. To join our association, please send \$20 per household to The Neversink Association, P.O. Box 134, Claryville NY 12725. See more information on Instagram or Facebook (www.facebook.com/neversinkassociation)

DEC Opens Wildlife Management Areas for 16-Day Window

State Lifts Restricted Access to Give Public a Peek During Breeding Season Slowdown at Important Refuges

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced today that several otherwise restricted Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in Jefferson and St. Lawrence counties will be opening to the public from Saturday, Aug. 15, through Sunday, Aug. 30, 2020. Portions of these WMAs are normally marked as "refuge" or "wetlands restricted areas" to allow waterfowl and other listed species to breed and raise young without interference from people.

During the 16-day period, Upper and Lower Lakes and Wilson Hill WMAs in St. Lawrence County, including the posted Wetland Restricted and Refuge areas, will be open to visitors each day from sunrise to sunset.

Perch River WMA in Jefferson County will also be open to visitors with two exceptions, the Mossentine parking lot and dike will be closed due to construction and Perch Lake proper will have limited hours. Visitors will be asked to keep a safe distance from all construction areas and obey posted signs. In addition, Perch Lake proper will be open starting at NOON until sunset daily. Access to lake will be by foot only.

Perch River WMA encompasses more than 8,000 acres in the towns of Brownville, Orleans, and Pamela. Perch River WMA can be accessed from State Route 12, Allen Rd., Buckminster Road, Vaadi Road, Cook Road, and Perch Lake Road. The Perch Lake proper (accessed by Perch Lake Rd.) will be open from NOON until sunset. Fishing will be allowed, but motorized boats are not permitted.

Upper and Lower Lakes WMA is located about two miles west of the village of Canton along State Route 68 in St. Lawrence

County. This WMA, the largest in the region, is an 8,757-acre upland/wetland complex between the Grasse and Oswegatchie rivers.

Wilson Hill WMA is in northern St. Lawrence County, approximately six miles west of the village of Massena off State Route 37. Situated along the St. Lawrence River, the 4,000-acre area consists of several large pools of open water marsh bordered by a combination of dense cattails, brushy wetlands, forest, and upland meadow. Fishing is not allowed in Nichols Pool.

DEC will be conducting habitat and wildlife management projects on the WMAs throughout the 16-day period. Please avoid operating machinery and pay attention to temporary signage. For additional information, bird lists, and maps, contact DEC's Regional Wildlife Office at 315-785-2263 or visit the DEC webpage.

While enjoying outdoor spaces, please continue to **PLAY SMART * PLAY SAFE * PLAY LOCAL** and follow the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)/New York State Department of Health (DOH) guidelines for the preventing the spread of colds, flu, and COVID-19:

- o Stay home if you are sick, or showing or feeling any COVID-19 symptoms, such as fever, coughing, and/or troubled breathing;
- o Practice social distancing. Keep at least six (6) feet of distance between you and others even when outdoors;
- o Wear a mask when you cannot maintain social distancing;
- o Avoid close contact, such as shaking hands, hugging, and high-fives;
- o Wash hands often or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol when soap and water are not available; and
- o Avoid unnecessary contact with surfaces that are often touched, such as doorknobs and handrails.

PLAY SMART * PLAY SAFE * PLAY LOCAL encourages New Yorkers to recreate locally, practice physical distancing, show respect for all outdoor adventurers, and use common sense to protect themselves and others.

CATCH AND RELEASE ANGLERS

HELP NEW YORK'S TROUT AND SALMON BEAT THE SUMMER HEAT

Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Trout and salmon are coldwater species and experience physical stress when stream temperatures climb above 70°F. Taking the following precautions can help protect New York's trout and salmon resources:

Avoid catch-and-release fishing for heat-stressed trout.

Trout already weakened by heat stress are at risk of death no matter how carefully they are handled.

Don't disturb trout where they have gathered in unusually high numbers.

It is likely that these fish are recovering from heat stress in a pocket of cold water.

Go to Plan B!

Consider fishing waters less likely to get too warm or fishing for a more heat-tolerant species, like smallmouth bass.

Fish Early.

Stream temperatures are at their coolest in the early morning.

New York State 2020-21 Hunting and Trapping Licenses Go on Sale Aug. 10 Call Center Hours Extended to Provide Assistance on Evenings and Weekends

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos announced today that hunting and trapping licenses and Deer Management Permits (DMPs) for the 2020-2021 season will go on sale Monday, August 10. With liberal bag limits and some of the longest seasons around, New Yorkers can enjoy hunting continuously from September 1 (squirrel) into April (snow geese).

"As more New Yorkers look for outdoor activities close to home, we have seen renewed interest in hunting and trapping for the quality recreational experiences these activities provide, especially here in New York State," Commissioner Seggos said. "Hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers enjoy small and big game hunting and this fall's hunting and trapping seasons will help bring a sense of normalcy to an otherwise challenging year. As always, safety is a top priority, and we remind all hunters to follow the key principles of hunter safety."

Licenses and permits can be purchased at any one of DEC's license-issuing agents or by telephone at 866-933-2257. The new hunting and trapping licenses are valid from Sept. 1, 2020 through Aug. 31, 2021, while annual fishing licenses are valid for 365 days from date of purchase.

New York's habitat serves a vital role in maintaining healthy and sustainable fish and wildlife resources. Purchasing a hunting or trapping license helps to support DEC's important conservation projects and ensures the future of natural resources for generations to come. DEC also encourages outdoor enthusiasts to consider purchasing a Habitat & Access Stamp each year. Funds from the \$5 Habitat & Access Stamp support projects to conserve habitat and improve public access for fish-and-wildlife-related activities. This year's Habitat & Access Stamp features a northern leopard frog. Last year's Habitat & Access Stamp featuring a bull moose was the most popular stamp in DEC history, with more than 25,000 sold.

Expanded Call Center Hours

Beginning Aug. 10, the DEC Call Center is accessible from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays through Oct. 1. Regular call center weekday hours will resume on Oct. 2.

Individuals should have the following items ready when buying a license:

1. Complete contact information (e.g. name, address, email address, telephone number);
2. DEC customer ID number (if applicable);
3. Proof of residency (e.g., driver's license or non-driver's ID with a valid New York State address); and
4. If purchasing by phone or internet, a valid credit card.
5. If not already entered in DEC's automated licensing system, individuals are required to provide proof of hunter or trapper education certification or a copy of a previous license for all hunting and trapping license purchases. For additional information, visit the General Sporting License Information webpage on DEC's website.

In July, DEC launched a new system for the sale of fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses. The new DEC Automated Licensing System (DECALS) includes user-friendly information to help users locate vendors, receive instant copies of a license, enter and view harvest information, and more.

Previous DECALS logins will not work in the new system. To access current accounts, click on the 'Sign Up' link on the new DECALS website and use date of birth and DEC customer ID number or a driver's license number to locate existing files and create a new login. Please call DEC's customer service line at

866-933-2257 with any questions.

Deer Management Permits (DMPs)

DMPs are available at all license-issuing outlets, by phone, or online through Oct. 1, 2020. DMPs are used to manage the deer herd and are issued through an instant random selection process at the point of sale. The chances of obtaining a DMP remain the same throughout the application period; hunters need not rush to apply. The 2020 chances of selection for a DMP in each Wildlife Management Unit are available online, through license issuing agents, or by calling the DMP Hotline at 1-866-472-4332. Detailed information on Deer Management Permits and this fall's Deer Season Forecast is available on DEC's website.

The new Hunting and Trapping Regulations Guide, which provides an easy-to-read compendium of all pertinent rules and regulations, is available on the DEC Hunting Regulations webpage. A summary of hunting and trapping regulations is currently available at license issuing agents, and copies of the full hunting and trapping regulations guide will be available at license issuing agents beginning Sept. 1.

On-line and In-Person Hunter Education Training Courses

All first-time hunters, bowhunters, and trappers must pass one or more courses before they can purchase a license. Traditionally, hunter and trapper education have been in-person courses taught by trained volunteer instructors certified by DEC. In April 2020, DEC began offering online hunter education courses in response to COVID-19. Be sure to check the DEC website about the availability of both in-person and on-line courses before registering. In-person courses have a field day where new hunters can get hands-on experience. All in-person courses are free of charge, but space may be limited. Currently, all in-person classes are cancelled through Aug. 31, but if and when they resume, will fill quickly, so be sure to sign-up early. Visit DEC's website for more information on materials, including a list of courses and course registration.

All the requirements to earn a New York State hunter education certificate can also be met by completing DEC's online hunter education course and passing the exam. Upon passing, participants will receive a hunter education certificate so they can purchase a hunting license. Participants must be New York State residents and the cost of the course is \$19.95. The online course can be accessed at DEC's website.

New York State is also offering a new online bowhunter education certification course. Upon passing, hunters will receive their bowhunter education certificate so they can purchase a bowhunting privilege. Participants must be New York State residents and the cost of the course is \$30. The online course can be accessed at DEC's website.

Opportunities for Junior Hunters and Trappers

To foster the next generation of hunters in New York, DEC has expanded opportunities for junior hunters (licensees aged 12-15) and trappers (under 12 years old) by designating special youth hunts for deer, wild turkey, pheasants, and waterfowl. These opportunities allow youth hunters and trappers to spend time in the field with experienced adults and gain the necessary knowledge and skills to become safe and responsible members of the hunting and trapping community. More information about these programs and other opportunities for junior hunters and trappers is available on DEC's website.

Remember: Hunt Safe, Hunt Smart!

The number of hunting-relating shooting incidents is declining, but even one incident is too many. Hunters can prevent injuries and fatalities by following the cardinal rules of hunting safety:

1. Assume every gun to be loaded;
2. Control the muzzle in a safe direction;
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until firing;
4. Be sure of your target and beyond; and
5. Wear hunter orange.

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(From Pg. 26) Tree stand falls are a major cause of hunting injuries. These hunting-related injuries and fatalities are easily preventable. Hunters are advised to use a full-body harness and fall-arrest system and stay connected from the time you leave the ground until the time you return. Check your stand (including straps and chains) every season and replace any worn or missing parts. The proper use of tree stands and full-body harnesses will help to prevent injuries and fatalities.

Keep Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Out of New York

Hunters should take the threat of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) seriously. CWD is always fatal to deer, elk, moose, and caribou. If introduced, CWD could spread rapidly and be practically impossible to eliminate once established, threatening the future of New York's deer population, hunting tradition, and many of the other benefits associated with deer. The most effective disease management strategy is to prevent CWD from entering New York. Hunters can help protect New York's deer herd from CWD by following these tips:

1. If you hunt any type of deer, elk, moose, or caribou outside of New York, debone your animal before bringing it back, and follow the law about importing carcass parts from outside of New York. See CWD Regulations for Hunters. DEC will confiscate and destroy illegally imported carcasses and parts;
2. Avoid natural deer urine products. Prions are shed in the bodily fluids (saliva, feces, urine) of infected deer before they appear sick. Prions bind to soil and plants where they remain infectious for years. There is no way to ensure that urine products are free of prions. Choose synthetic alternatives;
3. Dispose of carcass waste in a landfill, not on the landscape;
4. Hunt only wild deer and support fair chase hunting principles; and
5. Report any deer that appears sick or is acting abnormally.

Venison Donation Program

Anyone—not just hunters and anglers—can help feed the hungry by making a monetary contribution to the Venison Donation Program at any license issuing outlet. Individuals should inform the license sales agent if interested in donating \$1 or more to support the program. Since 1999, the Venison Donation Coalition has used these funds to process more than 330 tons of highly nutritious venison, the equivalent of 2.8 million meals served. For more information about the Venison Donation Coalition program, visit DEC's website.

Hunters: Want Older Bucks in New York? It's Your Choice

Many deer hunters dream of seeing and shooting a large buck. But there is great temptation for a hunter to take the first buck they see, often a young buck, when the opportunity presents itself. New York hunters can increase the likelihood they will harvest an older, larger buck, simply by choosing to pass up shots at young, small-antlered bucks. Older bucks create more rubs and scrapes, are more challenging to hunt, and yield more meat—all things that may enhance the deer hunting experience.

Many New York hunters are already voluntarily choosing to pass on young bucks. As a result, the availability and harvest of older, larger antlered bucks is increasing.

To see and take more, older bucks, DEC encourages hunters to work with neighbors and hunting partners to cooperatively reduce harvest of young bucks, improve habitat conditions, and ensure adequate harvest of antlerless deer.

Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

During the State's ongoing response to COVID-19, New Yorkers across the state want and need to get outside for a nature

break, which is good for physical and mental health. Take the PLAY SMART * PLAY SAFE * PLAY LOCAL pledge, and promise to use common sense to protect yourself and others when enjoying the outdoors. The new campaign encourages all New Yorkers to recreate safely, responsibly, and locally this summer and to always treat fellow outdoor adventurers with respect.

Hunters should also follow recommendations on DEC's website to help protect themselves and others.

Gillibrand Calls for HHS to Address Maternal Health Disparities and Support Pregnant People Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, alongside 14 Senate colleagues, called on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to address the agency's meek response to the public health needs of at-risk populations and pregnant people during the COVID-19 outbreak. The maternal health and mortality crisis has worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic. As of July 16, over 12,000 pregnant people have tested positive for COVID-19 and 35 pregnant people have died. Underserved populations have been hit especially hard by the maternal mortality and coronavirus crises due to overwhelming effects of the virus on communities of color and rural populations. In a letter to HHS Secretary Alex Azar, Gillibrand and her colleagues urged the agency to strengthen its efforts to protect pregnant people during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially for at-risk populations whose public health needs have been overlooked.

"The COVID-19 outbreak has placed an undeniable burden on our health care system and increased the urgency for stronger maternal health policies. Our country has the highest maternal mortality rate in the industrialized world, and during this public health crisis we must address the disparities that harm pregnant individuals across the country," said Senator Gillibrand. "The Department of Health and Human Services continues to ignore its responsibility to protect the public's health, in particular the health of the most vulnerable among us. HHS must adopt a plan to immediately provide critical resources and investments in maternal health care to combat this epidemic and ensure that racial disparities are addressed."

The maternal mortality rate in the United States is among the worst in the developed world. Over the past decade, New York State alone has experienced a 60% increase in maternal mortality. The maternal mortality crisis is particularly dangerous for people of color who are more likely to die from pregnancy related complications. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has stated that hospitalization of pregnant people has increased during the coronavirus outbreak, and pregnant Black and Hispanic individuals are infected at much higher rates. Gillibrand and her colleagues are urging HHS to improve data collection and public health communication, expand surveillance efforts, ensure the proper inclusion of pregnant people in COVID-19 clinical trials, and address racial disparities in health care outcomes.

Senator Gillibrand has been a continuous champion of robust maternal health care and health equity. Most recently Gillibrand called on Senate leadership to strengthen maternal health policies in the next coronavirus relief package. These solutions included extending Medicaid coverage for postpartum women, expanding Medicaid coverage beyond "pregnancy-related services", and provision's from Gillibrand's Modernizing Obstetric Medicine Standards (MOMS) Act to dedicate funding to states and hospitals to help reduce maternal deaths, and prevent and respond to complications arising from pregnancy and childbirth.

Senator Metzger Questions DOH Commissioner and Other Witnesses in a Joint Legislative Hearing on Nursing Homes during COVID-19

Hudson Valley and Catskills, NY...Health, Aging, and Investigations & Government Operations Committees of the State Senate and Assembly today held a public hearing to examine COVID-19 transmission and mortality rates in residential health care facilities. Senator Jen Metzger (SD-42), a member of the Senate Health Committee, questioned New York State Department of Health (DOH) Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker and other witnesses on lessons learned, nursing home visitation policy, and COVID impacts on for-profit vs. county-owned nursing homes. In addition to the DOH Commissioner, long-term health care associations, advocacy organizations, NYSNA and 1199SEIU members, and other parties provided testimony in the day-long hearing that concluded just after 9:00 pm this evening. The hearing, the first of two on residential health care facilities, is among a series of joint legislative hearings examining the impacts of COVID-19. The State Legislature recently held a hearing on higher education, and has also scheduled hearings on hospitals, jobs and employment, the veteran community, and elections—all areas of concern to communities in Senator Metzger's district, which includes Sullivan County and parts of Orange, Ulster, and Delaware Counties.

On today's hearing, State Senator Jen Metzger said: "I represent Hudson Valley and Catskills communities with nursing homes that were hit very hard and saw a tragic loss of life during the pandemic. New York State has an obligation to these families, and to all nursing home residents and the staff who care for them, to analyze and assess the policies, procedures, and conditions that may have contributed to those deaths. This is important for reasons of transparency and accountability, and is critical to making sure that we are as prepared as possible for any future surge. We have to learn from our experience to date.

"The report produced by the NYS Department of Health unfortunately does not provide the kind of rigorous assessment that we need to get to the bottom of why so many residents lost their lives during this pandemic. It's primary purpose is to defend a policy decision that has been criticized instead of examining the factors that contributed to, or protected against, fatalities in nursing homes. I urge that the needed assessment be undertaken.

"What has happened in nursing homes in New York is a terrible tragedy, and it would be valuable to undertake a comparative study of nursing homes that fared well in highly impacted regions compared with those that did not to try to understand which policies and procedures were effective and which ones contributed to an increase in transmission rates and deaths."

At the hearing, Senator Metzger also expressed concern about the isolation that nursing home residents have continued to experience, with many facilities still closed to visitors. Going for a prolonged period without seeing family and loved ones is hard on families and residents alike, and can take a toll on residents' mental and physical health. Several witnesses testified that they have observed cognitive decline in residents as a result of the lack of contact with family. Under current DOH guidance, about half of nursing homes are barred from opening their facilities to visitors due to positive COVID tests of staff within the previous 28-day

period. "It's important to strike the right balance between protecting the health and safety of our most vulnerable residents, and addressing the need for social connection," said Senator Metzger. With Sullivan County considering the sale of the county-owned Care Center at Sunset Lake, Senator Metzger asked questions of Richard Mollot, Executive Director of the Long-term Care Community Coalition, about the impacts of ownership structures on COVID transmission rates and deaths at nursing homes. Mollot said that based on data his organization has reviewed to date, residents in County-run facilities appeared to fare better than residents in for-profit facilities – a difference he attributed to a greater level of investment in patient care by public facilities more generally. Milly Silva of 1199SEIU's Nursing Home Division stated that for-profit owners made it very difficult for workers to access the paid sick leave they were entitled to, which could increase the risk of transmission.

Jen Metzger represents the 42nd Senate District, which includes all of Sullivan County and parts of Delaware, Orange, and Ulster Counties. Senator Metzger serves as Chair of the Agriculture Committee and sits on the Environmental Conservation, Education, Health, Energy and Telecommunications, Local Government, Women's Issues, Domestic Animal Welfare, and Legislative Commission on Rural Resources Committees.

A Message from the Neversink Town Historian

The NYS Historian has requested that Local Historians document the effect of the pandemic on the area they represent. In our area, I am the Local Historian for the Town of Neversink which of course, includes the communities of Neversink and Grahamsville and Claryville, right up to the Town of Denning, Ulster County line. It also includes part of Willowemoc.

I think this is an important idea, but would like to carry it further in that I would also like to include writing, art, photography. Specifically, I ask people to think about how your life has been changed due to Covid 19; how your family life has been changed; how your community has been changed.

I can be reached at historian@townofneversink.org.

Thank you.

Carol Smythe, Town of Neversink Historian

This year Arts Mid-Hudson is awarding ASK's Vindora Wixom a Special Citation in their 8th Annual Ulster County Executive's Arts Awards!

Vindora has been an ASK member since 1997 and served on the Board, with terms as the Vice-President and President, and was ASK's first Executive Director, a position she held from 2006-2019. ASK would not be what it is today without the steadfast and enthusiastic leadership of Vindora, and we are thrilled that she is being recognized by her peers in the arts community!

Vindora joins Matthew Pleva, Frank Waters, Rosendale Theatre Collective, Beth Humphrey, Marker Snyder, The Collier Family and Susie Linn in receiving an award this year. The festivities will take place online Thursday, August 27th. You can purchase \$10 tickets online.

Contact us at ask@askforarts.org or at 845.338.0333.

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PEYTON PLACE

At 8:00 pm Wednesday evening. First published in 1956, *Peyton Place* uncovers the passions, lies and cruelties that simmer beneath the surface of a postcard-perfect town. At the center of the novel are

three women, each with a secret to hide: Constance MacKenzie, the original desperate housewife; her daughter Allison, whose dreams are stifled by small-town small-mindedness; and Selena Cross, her gypsy-eyed friend ... "Peyton Place" was released in 1957, received an amazing 9 Oscar nominations. It still holds the record as the movie most nominated to have received no awards.

The film was the biggest film of 1958 financially. Later there would come a sequel (with none of the original actors) and a primetime soap opera. **Directed by Mark Robson, and starring Lana Turner, Hope Lang, Arthur Kennedy, Lloyd Nolan and Russ Tamblyn, Color, TV-PG. 157 min. CC. Lana Turner, Queen of the "Fallen Ladies" character, L. T. born Julia Turner on February 8, 1921 passed on June 29, 1995, was an American actress who appeared in over fifty films during her career, which spanned four decades. Discovered in 1937 at age 16, she signed a contract with Warner Brothers, but soon transferred to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.** The studio's co-founder, Louis B. Mayer, helped further her career by casting her in several youth-oriented comedies and musicals, including *Dancing Co-Ed* (1939), and *Ziegfeld Girl* (1941), the latter of which was a commercial success and helped establish her as one of the studio's leading performers. Turner subsequently co-starred with Clark Gable in the drama *Somewhere I'll Find You* (1943), the first of four films she would appear in with him.

(Contd. Pg. 29)



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Knarf's Classic Movie & Trivia
(From Pg. 28)

At 1:00 AM early Thursday morning
August 13, 2020 on TCM honoring
Lana Turner



THE POSTMAN ALWAYS RINGS TWICE

Turner's role as a femme fatale in the film noir, *The Postman Always Rings Twice* (1946) advanced her career significantly and established her as a dramatic actress it earned her acclaim with Bosley Crowther of *The New York*



Times deeming it "the role of her career." In addition to her film roles, Turner frequently appeared on radio programs throughout the 1940s, including *Suspense* and *The Orson Welles Almanac*. In 1952, she co-starred in the drama *The Bad and the Beautiful* (1952) opposite Kirk Douglas, portraying an alcoholic actress. Turner made her final film appearance with Gable in the drama *Betrayed* (1954). After the critical and commercial failure of *Diane* (1956), MGM opted not to renew Turner's contract. At the time, her films with the studio had collectively earned over \$50 million. Also available on; Amazon.com: Watch *Peyton Place* on Prime Video
<https://www.amazon.com/Peyton-Place-Lana-Turner/dp/B001NY71UO>

Quiz: In the film the "The Postman Always Rings Twice"

1. Who played the D.A?

In the film the "Cadillac Records"

2. Who played Etta James?

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Stay safe and stay well,
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