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Ye Olde Tri TOWNSDALE Valley "The Best Journal Published by a Dam Site!"



VOL. 16 NO. 48 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 DECEMBER 10, 2020 \$1.00

Mysterious Book Report John D. McKenna Pg 5 • *The Olive Jar* Carol La Monda Pg 6 • *The Scene Too* Jane Harrison Pg 11
Her Quirky Journey – Marilyn Borth Pg 11 • *Knarf's Classic Movie & Trivia* Pg 31

Latest News from your Town of Neversink Parks & Rec



Our Town of Neversink Community Ice Rink is almost ready!!! The crew has been working extremely hard to get the rink built and the ice ready for skating. The ice rink would not be possible without some very important people that we want to acknowledge: Preston Kelly and the highway crew who have been with us on this from the beginning, helping in every way they can; Gary Keller and John Erts who not only shared their expertise but gave us their time and the materials we needed; and Ric Coombe, Phil Coombe III, Dwight Coombe and Walt Zeitschel who gave so freely of their time from the very early mornings to the wee hours of the night. And a big shout out to the Grahamsville, Neversink and Claryville Fire Departments who have volunteered to help make the ice. All these people have done an incredible job to make our dream of a community ice rink a reality! And we thank them all! (Contd. Pg. 8)

Beginning of the Hybrid Model of Teaching in FCSD: One Observer's View



A beautiful feeling of excitement arose as parents in cars and bus drivers in their yellow vehicles returned to Fallsburg's Benjamin Cosor Elementary School to drop off their precious cargoes of children wearing masks and warm coats on a chilly November morning. The day was the first day of in-school classes after almost nine months of closed school buildings, without children and their teachers enjoying each other's company.

Everyone had been experiencing a sense of loss, loss of structure, loss of companionship, loss of close connection that a normal school day creates. The so-called "new normal" was challenging and uprooting in so many ways. On November 30, one could see the smiles on the teacher's faces, on the welcoming faces of custodians, cafeteria workers and administrative staff. They were so glad to be where they longed to be. (Contd. Pg. 4)

YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR
THE TOWN OF DENNING AND
THE TOWN OF NEVERSINK

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NEVERSINK NEWS: Hulda Vernooy
THE SCENE TOO - Jane Harrison
OLIVE JAR - Carol La Monda
MYSTERIOUS BOOK REPORT - John McKenna
HER QUIRKY JOURNEY - Marilyn North
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MOVIE TRIVIA - Frank Comando a/k/a Knarf

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.....
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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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Deadline for all submissions is 3:00 p.m. Friday for the following week's issue

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: Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that hath loveth another hath fulfilled the law. Romans 13:8

OBITUARY

Monty Duane LaHanko, of Grahamsville, passed away on November 26, 2020,. He was 66. He was the son of the late Alexander LaHanko and Kathrine M. Slater, born on September 16, 1954 in Ellenville, NY.

A graveside service was held on Friday, December 4, 2020 at Sullivan County Veterans Cemetery with full military honors.

Arrangements under the care of Colonial Memorial Funeral Home. For further information call 845-434-7363 or visit <http://www.colonialfamilyfuneralhomes.com>

To plant a tree in memory of Monty La Hanko, please visit Tribute Store at:

<https://tree.tributecenterstore.com/memorial-tree?oId=19146345>

NOTE OF SYMPATHY:

Our sincere sympathy to the family of Harold Buley, Jr. who passed away on Monday, December 7, 2020.

DAYS OF YORE...**Today's History****November 29, 1950**

No lives were lost last Saturday but damage was extensive in the worst recorded storm to hit this area. A combination of flooded streams and high winds caused damage to roads, utility lines and buildings throughout this section. Contractors working at Neversink and Downsview Dams on the N.Y.C. B.W.S. projects were hard hit.

Mrs. Henry TerBush reports an unusual visitor at her home a week ago. Attracted by the peculiar behavior of her cats (seventeen in number, believe it or not) she was surprised to see a bear cub ambling through the yard. He paused, she says, and glanced indifferently at the many cats, then continued leisurely on his way to East Mountain.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nielsen are the proud parents of a daughter who was named Judy.

At a recent meeting of the Junior Varsity basketball team, Ray McNamara of Lackawack, NY was

elected captain of the team for the 1950-51 season. Ray has excelled in football, basketball and baseball for Tri Valley. He is also Vice-President of the Sophomore Class.

November 30, 1960

Benjamin H. Sheeley, 92, one of Grahamsville's oldest residents, died November 25th in Liberty Loomis Hospital. Mr. Sheeley was born at Grahamsville on April 19, 1868, the son of Francis and Emily Hill Sheeley. He had been a school teacher and farmer and had been a member of the Methodist Church of Grahamsville for about 70 years.

Miss Wiltrud Klaeger of Woodbourne, formerly of Germany, was married Saturday, November 19th to James Costa, son of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Costa of Grahamsville, Rt. Rev. Monsignor William J. Guinan, performed the ceremony at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Woodbourne.

Lieutenant and Mrs. James H. Grey are the parents of a daughter, Cheryl Lynn, weight 7 lbs 14 oz. born November 28th at Albany, Georgia. The maternal grandparents are the Wilson VanWagners of Claryville and the paternal grandmother is Mrs. Russell Grey of Sundown.

A road map is what you use to find out where you made the wrong turn.

December 9, 1970

Eugene T. Lowe, son of William H. Lowe of Grahamsville and Mrs. Charles Dumond of North Syracuse, received a meritorious combat promotion to sergeant last month while on duty at Don Ha, Viet Nam with the 11th Marine Division for the past 18 months.

Services were held on Friday for Milo TerBush, 78, of State Road, Grahamsville who died on Tuesday at Hamilton Avenue Hospital in Monticello. He was born in Sundown on February 27, 1892 to Benjamin and Minerva Aldrich TerBush. He married May Countryman on August 23, 1926 in Eureka, N.Y. (Contd. Pg. 3)

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

(From Pg. 2) Among the survivors besides his widow are two sons, Arthur and Donald, both of Grahamsville and one daughter, Virginia Anderson of Grahamsville.

Richard Strangeway, Vice President of the Agricultural Teachers Association of New York, left Friday to attend the National Agricultural Teachers Conference in New Orleans as one delegate from New York. He was accompanied by his wife and daughter.

November 27, 1980

Roslyn A. Mierop and James C. Ward were married October 18 in the Immaculate Conception Church, Woodbourne with the Rev. John Haher officiating. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Mierop of Pond Road, Grahamsville. The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Leslie Ward of Apalachin, NY.

Missy Costa, Glen Hill, Scott Nyhof, Greg Grey, Tom Dexheimer and Mary Ann Gallagher attended and participated in the Area All-State Music Festival at Liberty High School representing Tri-Valley.

Arthur Burch, 84, of Andes Rd., Delhi, died Monday Nov. 17, 1980 at the Roscoe Nursing Home after a short illness. Mr. Burch was born Aug. 30, 1896 at Eureka, son of Burl and Florence Hornbeck Burch. He married Beatrice Carlile on May 29, 1922 in Ellenville. Mr. Burch was a retire school teacher having taught in rural grade schools for 23 years in the Grahamsville area.

Ulster County Department of Health seeks volunteers

Hi, this is Vin Martello, Director of Community Health Relations for the Ulster County Department of Health. We are experiencing a significant increase in new COVID cases and we need volunteers to make calls to reach individuals who have tested positive so that we can connect them to our Public Health Nurses for follow-up - and to make sure that we notify others who may have been exposed. Please help us end this pandemic and protect our community so that we can all get through this together. To volunteer or for more information email us at http://UlsterHelps@gmail.com.

Household Hints:

The Salt of the Earth So good for many things

The long dark nights of winter may be upon us but there are so many things that can add to the brightness of the holiday season. Even little things like:

Remove offensive odors from your stove with salt and cinnamon.

Polish your old kerosene lamp with salt for a brighter look

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.

Winterberry Bush a Real Santa Claus Bush

Once again, Mother knows best! The winter chill has arrived just in time to help prepare the new Neversink Parks and Rec ICE RINK! And just as winter landscape begins to look cold and drab we begin to see the warmth of the bright red berries of the Winterberry



(a/k/a Ilex verticillata, Black Alder – although is not a member of the Alder family, Feverbush or False alder) This familiar bush is best known around Tri-Valley as the Santa Claus Bush!

The bright red berries become quite vivid just as Old Man Winter arrives and Santa heads into town.

The Santa Claus Bush's half inch red berries persist on the branches long into the winter. The berries are a globose red fleshy fruit with a thin skin and fleshy fruit with a central pit. Winterberry is a member of the Holly (Ilex) family. It

is dioecious which means there are separate male and female plants. There needs to be at least one male plant in an area to pollinize the females in order to bear the bright red berries. The Winterberry will lose its leaves during winter. At this time of the year, only the bright red berries are left on the branches that offer a bright cheerful display in Mother Nature's winter landscape. It is a shrub that can grow to 16 ft. tall and can often be found throughout the Catskills preferring to form a dense thicket in moist areas, while in dry soil it will remain a tight shrub.

The leaves are sharply toothed, stalked, and are approximately 1 1/2 to 4" long, lance to ovate shape, pointed at the tips, deep green in summer, hairy on the underside, and turning yellow in autumn. The bark is clearly visible with a thin brown outer surface with whitish patches (lenticels). Twigs are slender, green on new growth, then brownish, with scattered light colored lenticels. Buds are small and may have a small persistent stipule, small leaflike appendage, on the side of the leaf scar. It bears white flowers with 5 to 7 petals that form clusters in the leaf axils in late spring and early summer. These little flowers eventually become the very attractive red berries that are now decorating the landscape and attracting many different winter songbirds. The berries are often used as an emergency food source for other wild animals including game birds, wild turkeys, and quail. They are also eaten by white-tailed deer.



The Native Americans used Winterberry as a medicine and named this bush, Feverbush, as they used the bark to heal cuts and bruises.

An unusual thing about Winterberry (Black Alder) is its wood which is white when freshly cut, then will turn blood red. In Norse and Irish myths the first humans were made of Black Alder wood. Back then cutting a bush down was forbidden because it was a symbol of the resurrection.

Today Winterberry is used to make furniture from the wood and the bark is used to tan leather and smoke fish and other foods. Winterberry contains so much tannin that it repels insect pests. The wood is very durable for underwater pilings.

Winterberry shrubs are now common in landscaping as they are prized for their ornamental value. They are valued by arts and craft enthusiasts. You will often see them in floral arrangements, wreaths and window boxes this time of the year.

Like the man in the red suit, surely the warmth of the Winterberry's bright red berries that dispel some of the chill we feel during the dark days of winter, is a gift.

Beginning of the Hybrid Model of Teaching in FCSD: One Observer's View



(From Pg. 1) Virtual classes are just not the same as being in a live classroom. Even with masks on, you could see the smiling faces of the young children, their parents and school personnel.



A Country Calendar
By Ann Higgins



2021

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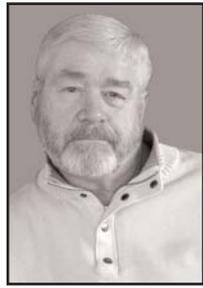
Welcome to the Hybrid Model at FCSD. How long it will last is uncertain because the Covid Virus is unpredictable. Now is a new beginning with the support of so many parents, so many educators, so many children, who have missed the comradery of being with their peers and being embraced



emotionally by their teachers, staff and caring mentors.

Ribbons, balloons and bright signs welcomed students back to the second home, the school building. Cold and rainy weather were no obstacle for all the warm hearts aglow on the road to and in the halls of Benjamin Cosor Elementary. Joy reigned throughout the day.





Eddie's Boy

Mysterious Book Report No. 428

by John Dwaine McKenna

It takes a rare and awesome talent to be able to invert the forces of good and evil –to make a stone cold serial killer into a good guy –but that's exactly what master wordsmith and Edgar Award-winning author Thomas Perry has done in his newest, and best in our opinion, of the four installments of his *Butcher's Boy* series, which began in 1982.

Eddie's Boy, (Mysterious Press, \$26.00, 288 pages, ISBN 978-0-8021-5777-5) opens in the present, in Yorkshire, England where retired American hit man Michael Schaeffer has been living in quiet and peaceful anonymity with his British wife for the past twenty years. But everything changes in an instant when a trio of unknown assassins strike without warning, and Michael, now in his sixties, must defend himself . . . as well as his wife, Meg.

The first pages of the novel begin with an angry Michael Schaeffer speeding away from his home in a stolen automobile with the three corpses of the inept hit men who've been sent to murder him. Knowing that his past could come back to haunt him at any time, the old hit man has always kept himself in top physical condition and had contingency plans in place to ensure the safety of his wife Meg –who is fully aware of her husband's past. She's now in hiding, while Michael heads out for Australia, hoping to find peace and safety.

He doesn't. No sooner than he's on the ground down under, than new attempts are made on his life, the body count rises, and Schaeffer realizes that his best hope of survival is to return to the United States and confront whatever demon from his past has returned to try and kill him. And as each new attempt is made on his life, Michael recalls an episode from his childhood and the lessons he learned from his substitute father, Eddie the butcher in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, fifty years earlier.

Once he's back in America, Schaeffer reaches out for help to a Justice Department Official named Elizabeth Waring –for whom he was once a confidential informant. By trading information with her, Schaeffer is able to determine who . . . and why . . . someone from his past has re-entered his life, and the action never stops as the old assassin uses all of his wiles and experience, plus every trick he's ever learned, to stay alive.

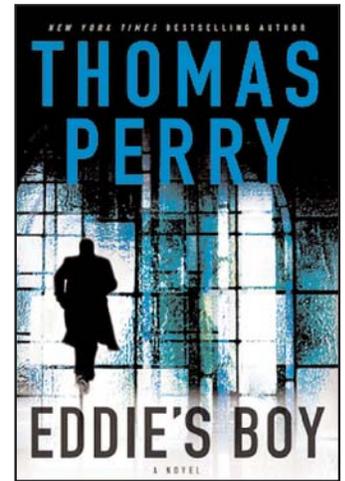
Eddie's Boy is wickedly twisted, dynamic and super well-plotted, leaving no doubt that Mr. Perry is not only at the top of his game . . . he's outdone everything he's written before. It's impossible to put down once you start reading!

NOTE: The novels in this series are *The Butcher's Boy*, *Sleeping Dogs*, *The Informant* and *Eddie's Boy*. All are highly recommended.

Like the review? Let your friends know, *You saw it in the Mysterious Book Report*, because the greatest compliment you can give is to share our work with others.

And Hey! Check out our combined website that's simple to use and easy as pie to leave your comments! We're looking forward to hearing from all of you.

<http://Johndwainemckenna.com> or <http://Mysteriousbookreport.com>



Interview With The Author: Thomas Perry

by

John Dwaine McKenna

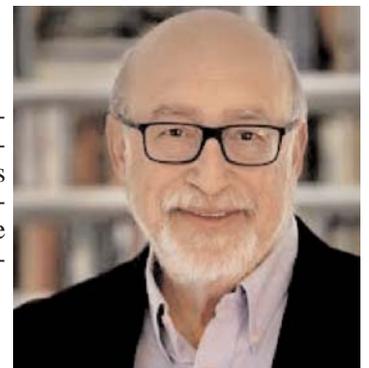
We're talking with Edgar award-winning writer-and Mysterious Book Report favorite-Thomas Perry, whose crime fiction has been entertaining us for some four decades. His work is always outstanding, erudite and compelling, as well as exciting and well-plotted. So with thanks for taking time to speak to our audience today, here's our first question:

When do you write?

When I started writing I had to steal brief snippets of time, like the hour before I left for work in the morning or my lunch hour at the office. Since around the beginning of 1990 I've stayed home and used time as though I had an unlimited supply.

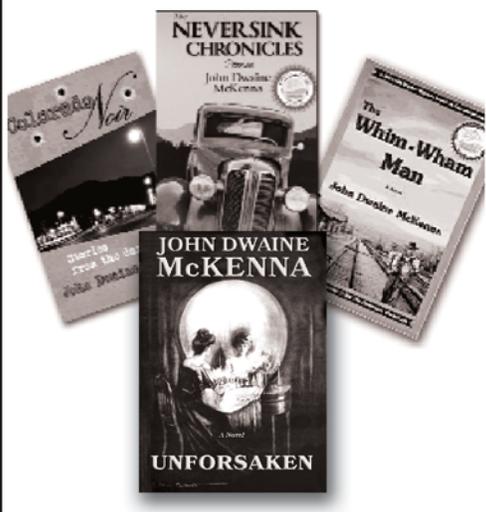
Where do you write?

We have a room that's connected to the kitchen with windows looking out on our patio, back garden, and pool where my wife Jo and I have desks a few feet apart. We spend most of the day there. It's where we both are right now.(Contd. Pg. 11)



www.thomasperryauthor.com
 Thomas Perry is the bestselling author of twenty-eight novels including the Jane Whitefield series and *The Butcher's Boy*, which won the Edgar Award.
 He lives in Southern California.

John Dwaine McKenna's Books
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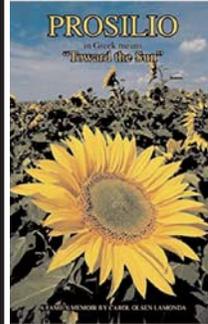
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The FamilyMemoir, PROSILIO...

... in Greek means "Toward the Sun," was written by Carol Olsen LaMonda. Carol writes the column "The Olive Jar" for *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman*. This local author has been busy guesting at book clubs who have chosen this local memoir as their book choice. **Feel the warmth of "Prosilio" as you read Carol's memoirs cuddled up in your favorite chair. It also makes a great gift!**



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The Olive Jar

By Carol Olsen LaMonda



Back in the Day

My good friend and traveling buddy, Ann, used to precede every memory with, "back in the day." I am not using her favorite saying, but I am saying, more and more, "Remember before Covid when we..." Recently, a few months ago, we celebrated a birthday with family. Of course, we sang "Happy Birthday", and I realized we only sang it once, not twice while washing our hands. Then we all yelled, "Don't blow on the candles but make a wish anyway." Remember when we would share Covid-less droplets with everyone on the icing?

Ah yes, times have definitely changed our living-with-Covid lifestyle.

I cannot watch a TV re-run or movie where the characters are only two-feet apart, mask-less, and, Oh-my-goodness, about to touch one another or, Heaven-forbid, hug or kiss. And they didn't even whip out their bottle of sanitizer after the unhealthy deed.

Speaking of sanitizer, I have them everywhere. They reside in each purse, each car, the kitchen and the bathroom. My hands could perform brain surgery if asked on a moment's notice.

I also remember when masks were for Carnival, Halloween, or Mardi Gras. Now everyone has a wardrobe of masks in all styles and fabrics. Masks have become the new Tee Shirts with logos for sports teams, photos of pets, and clever sayings written boldly so they can be read from six feet away. Compliments abound as strangers, who used to say "hello", now say, "I like your mask."

Six months from now, I hope we will be saying, "Remember when we zoomed, wore masks, and were not allowed to go into restaurants?" I hope we will be able to hug, and kiss, see a movie, and talk about Covid in the past tense. Someday, we will say "Remember when..." and recall how we made it through these dark days together.



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**Public Health Advisory
 Restaurant Employee Tests Positive for COVID-19**

Monticello, NY - Sullivan County Public Health Services has confirmed that an employee who works at **Cellaio, a restaurant in the Town of Thompson**, tested positive for COVID-19. There is currently no indication that the employee contracted the virus at the restaurant or impacted anyone else.

Public Health Services has determined that this individual was working at Cellaio, located at 888 Resorts World Drive in Monticello, during the following dates and times:

- o November 26 between 1:50 p.m. and 9:50 p.m.
- o November 27 between 1:50 p.m. and 10 p.m.
- o November 28 between 1:50 p.m. and 5:45 p.m.

“The restaurant closed on Monday and Tuesday, and a deep thorough cleaning was completed. Contact tracing was completed and known close contacts with other staff were identified and were placed on quarantine,” Sullivan County Public Health Director Nancy McGraw stated. “If someone thinks they have been exposed and develops symptoms, they should self-quarantine for 14 days and call their healthcare provider, or call Sullivan County Public Health Services at 845-292-5910.”

Representatives for the restaurant have confirmed that the employee followed all health and safety protocols while on property including wearing a mask at all times, and that the restaurant operates the highest commercially available air filtration system in the County, which greatly mitigates the chances of any public exposure.

The virus that causes COVID-19 most commonly spreads between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet, or 2 arm-lengths). It spreads through respiratory droplets or small particles, such as those in aerosols, produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, sings, talks, or breathes. These particles can be inhaled into the nose, mouth, airways, and lungs and cause infection. This is thought to be the main way the virus spreads. (Contd. Pg. 12)

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Latest News from your Town of Neversink Parks & Rec



Ric Coombe checking the connections

(From Pg. 1) So, you're probably wondering how this Ice Rink is going to work: Here are some of the details:

Where is the Ice Rink?:
The rink is located at the Grahamsville Fairgrounds pavilion.

Hours of Operation:
Tuesday & Thursday 7 pm-9 pm; Friday 6 pm-9 pm; Saturday 10 am- 2pm & 4 pm-9 pm; Sunday noon - 5 pm.

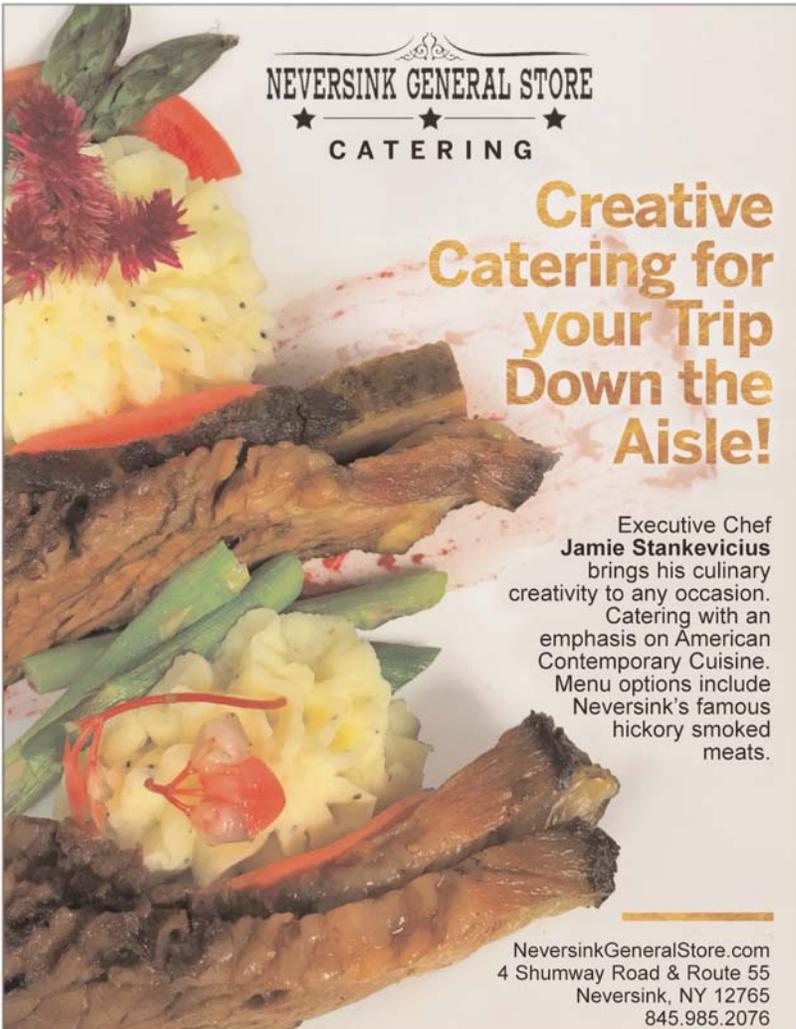
Rules of the Rink:

- o Skaters skate at own risk and are responsible for themselves and for any injury they may cause to other skaters.
- o COVID RULES: *Maximum 25 skaters allowed on ice* Face mask required * Maintain 6' social distancing while skating.
- o Children 12 and

- under must have an adult with them while at the facility.
- o All skaters MUST wear a safety certified helmet while skating, such as bicycle helmets; ski helmets; motorcycle helmets. Elbow and knee pads are recommended.
- o Skaters must skate at a sensible and safe speed in the same direction as other skaters.
- o Only ice skates allowed on the ice. Exceptions: shoes, sneakers, boots etc. are ONLY allowed for those patrons assisting others to learn to skate AND they MUST be cleaned on boot scraper mats prior to entering the rink.
- o No carrying children while on ice (including baby carriers).
- o No headsets, cellphones or hand-held electronic devices are to be used while skating.
- o No hockey, figure skating, speed skating, horseplay, games (such as Tag), inappropriate behavior or foul language allowed on the ice.
- o All patrons MUST skate in the same direction of all skaters. Direction may be reversed if all skaters comply.
- o Training tools, such as walkers with sliders only or folding chairs with rubber leg caps, may be allowed to assist with learning to skate.
- o No food or drinks allowed on the ice.
- o No smoking.
- o No littering.
- o If any of these rules are broken, patron will be required to leave the rink. Ice Rink Monitors, when on site, will enforce all rules. They will oversee the ice rink and their decisions MUST be followed

Ice Skates:

There will be no "daily loaner skates" available at the Ice Rink. Parks & Rec is asking for donations of any ice skates you may not be using so that we may provide them to patrons for use during the duration of the Ice Rink season. Ice skates can be dropped off at Town Hall. (Contd. Pg. 9)



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CATERING

Creative Catering for your Trip Down the Aisle!

Executive Chef **Jamie Stankevicius** brings his culinary creativity to any occasion. Catering with an emphasis on American Contemporary Cuisine. Menu options include Neversink's famous hickory smoked meats.

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Neversink, NY 12765
845.985.2076

Latest News from your Town of Neversink Parks & Rec

(From Pg. 8) Contact Cher at 985-2262 ext. 312 or via email at parksandrec@townofneversink.org for information on how to obtain ice skates for use.



Preston and the Highway crew worked hard to get up the walls

Rink Maintenance:

As this is your community ice rink, we hope you take ownership of it and help with the rink maintenance. Maintenance entails sweeping the ice at closing time to remove any ice shavings, turning off lights and locking the doors. If you would like to help with the ice rink maintenance, let Parks & Rec know via email at parksandrec@townofneversink.org or call Cher at 985-2262 ext. 312. We will be giving lessons on what it takes to clean the ice, but I am told it is not a time consuming or labor-intensive job! Let's all come together as a community and keep our Ice Rink skateable.

Opening Day:

You are probably asking "So when will it be open?" We are hoping to have the rink operational by December 12th, if not sooner. Be sure to check the Parks & Rec Facebook page and the Town of Neversink website for updates on the opening day!

On to other noteworthy news, entries are coming in for the Holiday House Decorating Contest. This year's prizes are amazing and all from our local businesses and artists. Included in the prize packages are: Eureka Studios art prints; Claryville Pottery mugs; Certificate to Story's Neversink Plant Company; Food cer-



Ric, Dwight and Walt finding just what they need in Ric's truck!

tificates for the Neversink General Store; Certificate from Zanetti's Auto Service Center; Certificate from Golden Shears Hair Salon; 25lbs of Hamburger from Thunder View Farms; Maple Syrup from Catskill Mountain Sugar House; Certificate from Blue Hill Caf ; Certificates for Claryville Fire Department Pancake Breakfast; and membership to the Time and the Valleys Museum. A big thank you to all the businesses and crafters that donated for this annual holiday event. Remember to drop your entry form off at Town Hall by December 8th. Judging will occur on December 10th & 11th. Good Luck!

While we will not be able to have our Town Tree Lighting Festivities and Elf Workshops this year, we will have our Town Tree and other sponsored trees decorated at Bicentennial Park by

Chris Parrow Pottery

Gifts that Keep on Giving



**Open Sat. & Sun. 11-5
through December**

**218 Twins Haven Road
(off Lackawack Hill Rd.)
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Happy Holidays!



Our ICE RINK construction in progress. Looking good!

December 13th. Some of the sponsors for this year's trees include Daniel Pierce Library, Golden Shears Hair Salon, Catskill Hudson Bank, Rondout Stream Program, our local Boy Scouts and TESSA. The TESSA tree will have mittens, gloves, scarves and hats available "for the taking" for those in need of some warmth during these cold winter months.

Parks & Rec has ornament kits for the children to make and help decorate our Town Tree. The kits will be available in the "Holiday Box" located outside the Town Hall main entrance. We ask that each child puts their name and date on the ornament. The ornaments will be hung on the Town Tree every year making our memories of this special holiday tradition.

This is the latest news from your Town of Neversink Parks and Recreation team. Keep reading *The Townsman* for our ongoing updates to events and activities here in the community.

Stay safe, be healthy and have wonderful holidays!
*(More just i n from Cher on the progress of the
ICE RINK - Pg. 12)*

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McGuire Road, Neversink, NY

Update on the Neversink Parks and Rec ICE RINK

The crew worked Sunday on the ice rink and we have a couple more pictures!



The Neversink Fire Dept spraying in the water to form the first layer of the ice



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Woodie Cyr**

Grahamsville, NY
And Surrounding Areas

Cell: (845) 943-0024
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10th plowing 50% off




John Erts, Ric Coombe, Patrick Coombe and Jacob Lucak (works for Thunder View Farms) cranking up the chiller to start freezing the ice..

Everyone has volunteered their time to make this rink a reality. What great community spirit we have!

The Scene Too

- Jane Harrison

Jane is resting her hand this week, but will be back.

We miss you and want you to feel better!

Interview With The Author: Thomas Perry

(From Pg. 5)

Are any of your characters autobiographical?

I think all of mine are partly autobiographical, including villains, women, and children, but the animals tend to be only in the sense that my animals do things I've seen animals do. I think writing fiction is a lot like what children do when they play--imagine they're a particular fictional person and act out an experience that person might have.

Why do you write?

Because I can't help it. After forty years at it, this is the main way I record and evaluate my thoughts about life.

Who inspired you to write?

My parents were both teachers, and I had an older brother and older sister. We all told each other stories and had lively discussions. Being the youngest increased the pressure to tell a good story.

How many books do you read a year?

I don't know. But I think of reading and writing as two halves of a single activity that occupies me for most of every day, and our house is always crowded with books, so the number each of us reads must be large.

What makes a character endearing?

A character is endearing if he or she demonstrates qualities we admire and if we feel the urge to spend more time with him or her. If you find an endearing character in one of my books you know that I've been charmed by her or him before you were.

Do you read reviews?

I read some, mostly in the same spirit as I read weather reports--to see if this will be rough sailing or a pleasant voyage. I think a writer's most important job is learning to be a better writer. Positive reviews feel great, but they teach you nothing. Negative reviews only help if they teach you what you should do differently next time.

It's been an honor, an inspiration and a privilege Mr. Perry. We're looking forward to your next project and thanks again for speaking with us today

Her Quirky Journey

-Marilyn Borth

<http://www.herquirkyjourney.com>



Pros and Cons for Teaching Online with VIPKID

I started teaching English online with VIPKID in January, 2016. It's been quite awhile now (over 3 whole years!), but I still love it. Before that, I taught English abroad in Thailand, South Korea, and a bit in Vietnam. However, since switching to working for

VIPKID, I've found my quality of life to have improved drastically. Why? Well, here are the pros of teaching with VIPKID:

PROS

1. Making my own schedule and taking as many vacations and/or working as much as we want
2. I'm provide with a blank week every week and can open times I'm available. Then, students show up! There's no minimum or maximum amount of hours to work!
3. Can work from anywhere with an Internet connection and quiet background
4. Being able to wear just about anything I want while working-- especially yoga pants!
5. No commute, since I work from home!
6. More time for my special interests and hobbies
7. Only have to teach students one-on-one for 25 minutes at a time
8. Great pay! After working there for over three years, I make about \$23 USD per hour or so (depends on bonuses and such)
9. I can travel the world and live in a plethora of countries across the globe with the salary I make and with this job
10. Getting a glimpse into Chinese culture and getting to know each student personally
11. Requirements are straightforward: only primarily need a Bachelor's degree and be a native English speaker from North America (experience definitely helps, though)
12. All teaching materials are made and provided for you in PowerPoint format
13. No grading or preparing! Simply teach what's provided, then write a few sentences of feedback for the parents!
14. Feedback from parents on how you're doing
15. Mostly wonderful and fun students!
16. Possibility for raises
17. Possibility for other work other than teaching, like interviewing potential candidates and others

CONS

1. Sometimes some difficulties contacting people in the head office
2. Randomly negative feedback from parents, which can negatively affect your "rating"
3. Lack of camaraderie with co-workers, except for in Facebook groups
4. VIPKID only hires native-English speakers from the USA and Canada
5. Can be repetitive-- but, then again, so can most jobs!
6. Occasionally students that aren't very well-behaved
7. Occasionally feeling disposable one of thousands of other teachers
8. Not getting any recognition for doing something well; the company only tends to hone in on the negatives
9. Dealing with the time difference, since VIPKID teachers have to teach on China's timezone from around 9 AM to 10 PM (It's the worst when working in the USA, since the best times to work are from around 4 AM to 9 AM or so)

Teaching English online has been incredibly rewarding- and I'm not the only one who thinks it's amazing! If you want more information on VIPKID or other online teaching English jobs, feel free to comment or contact me at <http://herquirkyjourney.com/contact-me> ! I'd be happy to help you and answer any and all of your questions!

Public Health Advisory Restaurant Employee Tests Positive for COVID-19

(From Pg. 7) "While COVID-19 safety protocols were followed, exposures can be unintentional," McGraw noted. "This illustrates the critical fact that individuals can have no symptoms but still transmit the virus to others if they are infected."

Positive COVID-19 Case at Wurtsboro Restaurant

Wurtsboro, NY - Sullivan County Public Health Services has confirmed that an employee at the **Wurtsboro Diner & Café** tested positive for COVID-19.

Public Health Services is advising that anyone who was in this restaurant, located at 60 Sullivan Street in Wurtsboro, on the following dates may have been exposed to coronavirus:

- o November 15 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.
- o November 17 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.
- o November 18 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.
- o November 22 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.
- o November 24 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.
- o November 25 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

"The employee was wearing a mask while working and is now quarantining. But this continues a rising trend of coronavirus cases in the Wurtsboro area over the past week," Sullivan County Public Health Director Nancy McGraw stated. "If someone thinks they have been exposed and develops symptoms, they should self-quarantine for 14 days and call their healthcare provider, or call Sullivan County Public Health Services at 845-292-5910."

At Least One Positive COVID-19 Case at Restaurant

Wurtsboro, NY - Sullivan County Public Health Services has confirmed that at least one individual at **La Mananitas**, a restaurant in Wurtsboro, tested positive for COVID-19. A second case linked to that one is likely, pending test results.

Public Health Services is advising that anyone who was in this business, located at 158 Sullivan Street in Wurtsboro, on the following dates may have been exposed to coronavirus:

- o November 27 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- o November 28 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- o November 29 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- o November 30 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- o December 2 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

"The restaurant has closed, and the individuals affected are isolating," Sullivan County Public Health Director Nancy McGraw stated. "If someone thinks they have been exposed and develops symptoms, they should self-quarantine for 14 days and call their healthcare provider, or call Sullivan County Public Health Services at 845-292-5910."

"We have identified a significant increase in cases in the Wurtsboro area in the past week to almost 17 new cases," she added, "and we want the public to be vigilant about following safety protocols."

The virus that causes COVID-19 most commonly spreads between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet, or 2 arm-lengths). It spreads through respiratory droplets or small particles, such as those in aerosols, produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, sings, talks, or breathes. These particles can be inhaled into the nose, mouth, airways, and lungs and cause infection. This is thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

(Contd. Pg. 13)

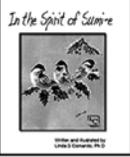


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Public Health Advisory

(From Pg 12)

For an updated list of testing locations, visit www.sullivan.ny.us.

The following parameters and protocols are based upon recommended preventive measures issued from the public health community. Follow these CDC guidelines to protect yourself and others:

- Stay at least six feet from other people.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick, even inside your home.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow and do not spit. Throw used tissues in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
- Be alert for symptoms. Watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19.
- Take your temperature if symptoms develop.

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Possible symptoms of COVID-19 include one or more of the following:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If someone is showing any of these signs, seek emergency medical care immediately:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

For more information on coronavirus, go to <https://sullivan.ny.us/departments/publichealth/coronavirus> or <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>.



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and to wish you the very
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Gillibrand Amendment Is In Direct Response to Last Week's Approval of Indian Point License Transfer by NRC Staff

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, filed an amendment to the American Nuclear Infrastructure Act of 2020 that would prevent the Nuclear Regulatory Commission from approving a license transfer for a commercial nuclear power reactor if there is an adjudication pending on the license transfer proceeding.

"This amendment is an important and necessary reform to the way the NRC does business. After failing to substantively respond to repeated calls by the Congressional delegation to fully address the state and local stakeholders' petitions and hold a public hearing, it is clear the NRC's business as usual approach needs to change. Congress must codify protections necessary to ensure a fair and transparent process where local residents are able to make their voices and concerns heard," said Senator Gillibrand. "By approving the American Nuclear Infrastructure Act without considering my amendment and others that I cosponsored to address nuclear safety and provide adequate funding for communities with decommissioned reactors and spent fuel storage facilities, the Environment and Public Works Committee missed an opportunity to strengthen and protect our communities hosting nuclear plants and spent fuel storage facilities. Nevertheless, I remain undeterred and will continue working to address all of these issues as the bill moves to the Senate floor."



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Fresh Pre-Cut Tree: \$35 any tree

Open: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm (Weekends Listed Below)

November 27, 28, & 29

December 5 & 6

December 12 & 13

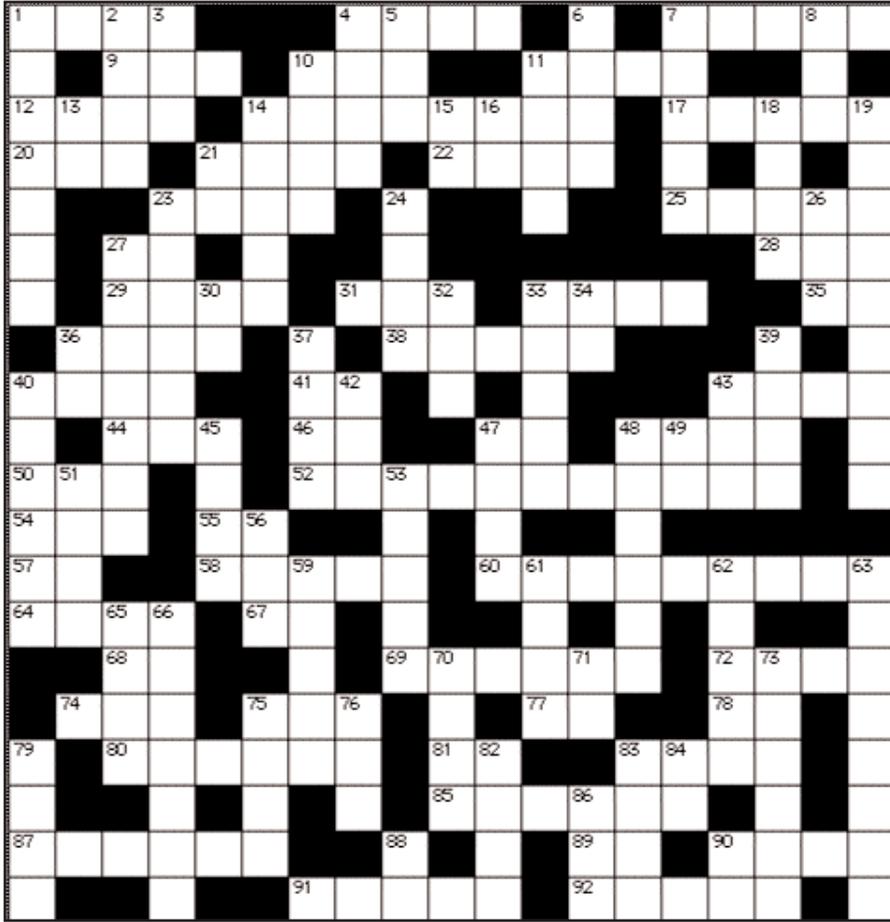
December 19 & 20

Weekdays by Appointment Only

86 Knight Road, Grahamsville, NY 12740

Phone: 845-985-7902

You Better Not Pout... - L. Comando



ACROSS

1 According to Moore, they did not stir on Christmas Eve
4 Rural road that Santa may travel down
7 Third planet from the sun
9 Avenue
10 Voyage; Good Journey
11 Persuade
12 Rudolph's was glowing red
14 Artist famous for our present day image of Santa
17 Formed for a particular purpose (2 wds)
20 A single item
21 Suspend
22 Red and

white striped candy
23 Without
25 Liquid astringent applied to the skin
27 Exclamation of surprise
28 Having three parts
29 Carbonated soft drink
31 Expert
33 Scandinavian Yuletide animal
35 The same way
36 Past tense of give
38 Type of canoe you might take to Quincy or Nyack!
40 Highly esteemed green stone
41 Mystical symbol
43 Santa's reindeer troupe

44 Gnome-like creature
46 Year
47 Knock Out!
48 Smooth creamy cheese
50 Another name for mother
52 German Santa Claus
54 Holly and
55 State of being
57 One's mother
58 Relating to the North Pole
60 Custom or belief handed down from one generation to the next
64 Expression of concern
67 Plural form of archaic thou
68 South-

west
69 Repeatedly going in to something
72 Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
74 Fasten
75 Allow
77 Delaware (abbrev)
78 Long Island
80 Respect
81 Southeast
83 The ordinary people
85 Island country off the southeast coast of China
87 One of the four divisions of the year
89 Artificial Intelligence
90 Self-referential
91 " 'Twas the Night Before Christmas" author
92 Goblet

DOWN

1 Sacred candelabrum used at Hannukah
2 Covering
3 Night before an event
4 Of elongated shape
5 Combining conjunction
6 Where many will be this year for the holidays
7 Acclaim
8 Duo
10 Small sweetened breads
11 Shape of a gnome's hat
13 Supported by
14 This week's Fun Page star
15 Before Christ
16 Louisiana
18 Inkling
19 Holiday to honor Christ

birthday
21 An exclamation of triumph
23 An important winter tool
24 What Santa carries on his back
26 Age
27 A school for special instruction
30 Language Engineering
32 Hearing organ
33 Short for alligator
34 Exclamation expressing agreement
36 Georgia (abbrev)
37 A child's play things
39 Meetings for communal work
40 Icon that adorns a well-known pancake syrup label created by Hadden Sundblom
42 Magnetic Resonance Imaging
43 Transient Ischemic Attack
45 To turn over
47 Retained possession of
48 Runners

on ice skates
49 Egyptian sun god
51 Egg-shaped
53 Pertaining to medieval Scandinavia
56 Leguminous plant native to Asia
59 Crowbar
61 Tall slender-leaved grass plant
62 Implementation or device
63 4th Cen-

tury Bishop of Myra; Patron saint of children
65 Largest continent
66 North Germanic language of Sweden
70 Artist known for Civil War Santa
71 Regarding
73 Twelfth sign of the zodiac
75 Member

of the Tri-Valley Lions Club
78 Decade
79 Short examination
82 Part of a roof
83 Correspondence
84 Indefinite article
86 Swish
88 In the direction of
90 A title before a woman's name

Sinterklaas Cookies

Leave a plate of these and a glass of milk for Santa!

- 2-1/2 cups butter, softened
2 cups sugar
2 cups packed brown sugar
2 large eggs
6 cups all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
1-1/2 teaspoons baking soda
1 teaspoon ground cloves
1 teaspoon ground nutmeg

Cream butter and sugars until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs. In another bowl, whisk remaining ingredients; gradually beat into creamed mixture. Divide dough into quarters; shape each into a 12-in.-long roll. Wrap in plastic; refrigerate overnight.

Preheat oven to 375°. Unwrap rolls and cut dough crosswise into 3/4-in. slices. Place 2 in. apart on ungreased baking sheets. Bake until set, 10-12 minutes. Remove from pans to wire racks to cool.

数字は単数に限る

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CRYPTOGRAM

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

4	18		22	6	20	19	2	3	12	20	10	2	22	7	20	3	21	8	4	18	8	19	2	3	12	2	7
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8	10	20	26	22	2	22	8	1	6	2	3	12	7	1	7	1	24	3									

WORDSEARCH

A W F X U P R A N C E R A R J
 V L I D A N C E R D B T W V Z
 E D O C X S A C I G N C R T U
 J R Y B J Z D P D A J H L B I
 S J T Y B I U R S O G L R V H
 K G N C B C W W U I F E P I H
 J K E O X C A H E D N I K X S
 R L Z M G H L L N N O A N E W
 O I Z E Q R S B O U W L I N D
 G S V T L I W D L O Z K P E A
 E B M W S S S N N I O G F H S
 D R I U F T L S F O T V I H H
 F N L K T M Q Y C W C Z B Y E
 Q V K Q J A X R E I N D E E R
 W L F V W S B H Q Y F G S N L

- SANTA
- CHRISTMAS
- COOKIES
- MILK
- ELF
- SNOW
- BLITZEN
- DANCER
- DASHER
- SLEIGH
- REINDEER
- RUDOLPH
- CUPID
- VIXEN
- DONNER
- PRANCER
- COMET

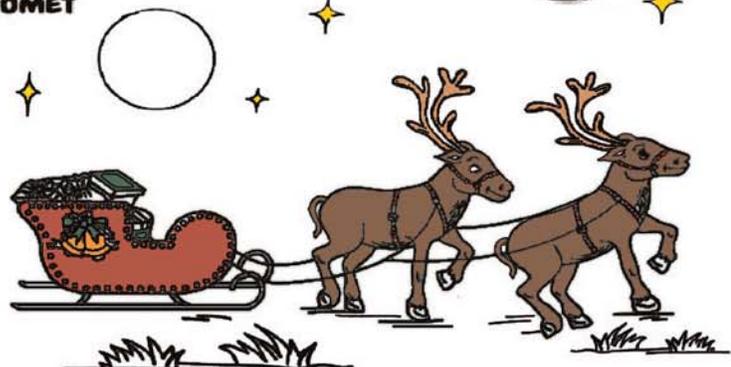
Kids' Holiday Fun Page
 L. Comando



Follow the dots to see whose coming to town and checking his list.



After Santa has checked his naughty and nice list, can you help him through the maze back to the North Pole?



What are five differences between the two pictures?



Cryptogram Key

20	17	8	21	18	15	12	4	2	9	19	10	6	3	1	5	16	23	22	7	26	25	24	14	13	11
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

2020 HOLIDAY HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST



The COVID Pandemic has put a damper on many of our activities this year.
**BUT IT CANNOT STOP US FROM DECORATING OUR HOUSES TO THE HILT FOR
 THE 2020 HOLIDAY!**

The Town of Neversink Parks & Rec is once again sponsoring the
ANNUAL HOLIDAY HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST

The rules are simple:

Any residence in the Town of Neversink is eligible for entry

And

Use as many lights and decorations as you want! Light up the skies with your house!

Judging will occur on Dec 10th & 11th with prizes given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. All prizes
 this year are donated by our local businesses and artists.

As we will not be having the tree lighting celebration this year, winners will be contacted
 by Parks & Rec and will also be announced via social media.



TOWN OF NEVERSINK
 Parks and Recreation

Please submit your entry on this form to Parks & Rec dept. at
 Town Hall no later than Tuesday, Dec. 8

Address of entry: _____

Family: _____

Phone # _____

LEGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES
PUBLIC NOTICE

**FREE NOTARY, PHOTOCOPIES
AND FAXING IN GRAHAMSVILLE**

William A. Brenner, attorney in Grahamsville, New York, has a sign on his office lawn stating: "Due to Crisis, FREE Notary, Photocopies and Faxing."

This free community service is to assist older townfolk and families without computers who have been affected by new federal and state assistance forms and pension and court forms requiring notarized signatures and immediate filing.

William A. Brenner

Intersection of Route 55 and 42
Grahamsville, NY 12740

**Tri-Valley CSD Board
Meeting**

December 17, 2020

Tri-Valley CSD Board Meetings are going to be on YouTube Live. Here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkl224vKQ8nAWhR6NVao24w>

**"Happy Chanukah from
Congregation Agudas Achim in
Livingston Manor, NY!"**

Chanukah, The Festival of Lights, begins on December 10, 2020. For Jewish people, this holiday celebrates the victory of a small group of dedicated soldiers, the Maccabees, over a tyrant king and his armies, intent on suppressing their human rights and forcing them to worship Greek gods. The Maccabees were able to retake the Temple in Jerusalem from the king's soldiers but needed to find a way to reconsecrate the synagogue ruins by keeping a menorah (a seven-armed candelabra) lit constantly. They found a vessel that contained a small amount of oil with which to relight the menorah and although hopeful, they realized it would likely only burn for one night. The miracle was that it burned for eight nights.

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Modern celebrations often include families deciding upon how to meet the Jewish mandate of "tikkun olam" or "repair the world" in the coming year, whether the decision is to help locally or globally in some way. Families will light a 9-candleholder candelabra called a hanukkiyah. Gifts are usually exchanged amongst families and friends. It is also traditional to eat foods fried in oil, such as latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganiyot (Hebrew for jelly doughnuts) to celebrate the oil found in the Temple. Even though we won't be frying up latkes like we usually do in our social hall before in-person services, please enjoy some festive foods at home! Check out reformjudaism.org for fabulous Chanukah recipes and more information about Chanukah.

Congregation Agudas Achim will celebrate Chanukah and Shabbat on Zoom on Friday, December 11, 2020 beginning at 7:00 p.m. for a social time and 7:30 p.m. for services. Please have your Menorah or Chanukiah ready to light together. Please email virtualshabbat@gmail.com or call President Judy Siegel, 845-798-0783 for the Zoom link.

Madness of the Q Local Booklaunch Attracts Many



There was a great turnout with a small (masked & socially distanced) group of in person and many virtual attendees at Gray Basnight's book launch of *Madness of the Q*, at Liberty Library last week - well over 40 in all.



"Madness of the Q is a wild and breathless pursuit with Sam Teagarden on the run, desperate to connect with the right people and evade the wrong ones from New York to Israel to Italy to Germany in a non-stop plot that reminds us of Dan Brown, Ludlum, Fleming, and maybe even a bit of Umberto Eco." - Best-selling author Thomas Perry, [The Butcher's Boy, The Burglar, A Small Town]

"This would make for an exciting movie in the Dan Brown genre. It's a thrilling story that you'll be glued to from start to finish!" - Eyes on World Cultures

More About Madness of the Q

Everyman hero and math professor Sam Teagarden returns for another breath-taking escapade. He debuted in *Flight of the Fox*, a political thriller where an encoded document risked changing American history. Now, Professor Teagarden is recruited into explosive mayhem, sparked when an ancient



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Attorney-At-Law

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biblical parchment is unearthed at a middle-Eastern archeological dig.

When news of the Q Document's discovery leaks, Jonestown-style suicides erupt across the globe among two fervent groups who alternately fear or cheer that it may repudiate the foundations of Christianity.

Professor Teagarden is recruited to decode the Q Doc, and finds his life threatened by the competing parties. Worse yet, government protection falls apart, leaving him alone and on a mad chase to outsmart sectarians and their opposing atheist cult.

Madness of the Q, available at Amazon.com, Barnes&Noble.com. Signed copies available directly from Gray or if you're nearby, at the Liberty Public Library. Hope to see you online on 12/3 - and do spread the word!

Give the Gift of Camping this Holiday Season

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos today announced that DEC gift cards and electronic gift certificates for stays and services at all DEC campgrounds are now available for purchase online.

"DEC camping gift cards are the perfect gift for campground-loving visitors," Commissioner Seggos said. "This year, DEC makes it easy to give the gift of camping with gift cards and electronic, print-it-yourself gift certificates available online. We have you covered for the upcoming holiday season with excellent camping opportunities at DEC campgrounds in 2021."

Gift cards and electronic gift certificates can be purchased online. DEC camping gift cards are physical cards mailed to the designated recipient. Electronic gift certificates will be emailed to the purchaser for printing and/or emailing to the recipient.

DEC operates 52 campgrounds and five day-use areas in the Adirondack and Catskill forest preserves. The summer camping season runs through the summer, with some facilities remaining open during fall foliage and hunting seasons.

For more information on DEC-operated campgrounds, including a list of campgrounds and schedules, visit DEC's website, or call DEC's Bureau of Recreation at 518-457-2500. To make reservations at any of these camping facilities, call ReserveAmerica at 1-800-456-CAMP (2267) or visit the ReserveAmerica website

If you wish to download this week's Church bulletin from St. Peter's, Libert, NY please go to: stpeters/bulletin

As New York begins to open allowing churches to once have services, 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



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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

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**

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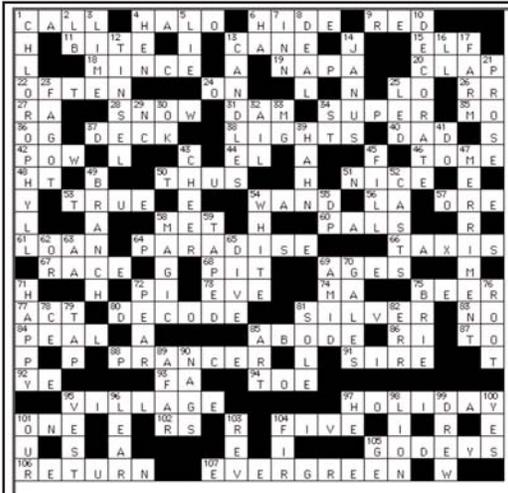
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AL-ANON MEETINGS- <http://www.al-anon.alateen.org>
 Mon- 7:00 p.m. United Methodist Church, 170 N. Main Street, Liberty • Thurs- 7:00 p.m. Immaculate Conception Church Annex, 6317 Rt 42, Woodbourne
 Sat- 8:00 p.m. United Methodist Church, 170 N. Main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

VETERANS always **Free** search of the Archives for family 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



SUUJI WA TANSU NI KAGIRU
 answer

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

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 email: tvtownsman@yahoo.com
 or visit our Virtual Mall
gnomehome.net

Tri-Valley CSD Board Meeting
December 3, 2020
December 17, 2020.
 Tri-Valley CSD Board Meetings are going to be on YouTube Live. Here is the link:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKl224vKQ8nAWhR6NVao24w>

Claryville Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting a Defensive Driving Course

Claryville Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting a Defensive Driving Course on Saturday, January 9th 2021 at 9:00 am. The cost of the class is \$40.00 per a person, payable to the Claryville Vol. Fire Department. (The fee covers your registration and workbook materials) Registration is required. To sign up call Chief VanDenberg at 985-2943 NO LATER than December 31st. Claryville Volunteer Fire Department (Warren Cole Fire Hall)

Join us for Sullivan 180's Walkthrough Wednesdays at Peace Love & Lights

Sullivan 180's Walkthrough Wednesdays at Peace Love & Lights at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts will be every Wednesday starting November 25th through December 30th. The walkthrough will start at 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Walkthrough Wednesdays allows guests to explore the beautiful holiday lights display up close and personal, out of the car, and in the midst of the magic before cars arrive. Admission is \$5, or bring a new unwrapped toy to be donated to the Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless and get in for free (first come first serve basis). Sullivan 180 is also challenging our community to get 500 residents to walk the one-mile route over the course of the six Wednesdays. If we reach this goal, a cash donation of \$500 will be made to the Federation and matched by Liberty NY Rotary Club! For more information on Sullivan180's Walkthrough Wednesdays please see the flyer below, and for other Peace Love & Lights offers or to purchase tickets, please visit: Bethel Woods Center for the Arts

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN
 (Never known to fail)
 Oh most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. (Make request)
 There are none that can withstand your power. Oh show me herein you are my Mother. Oh Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. (3x).
 Holy Mary I place this cause in your hands. (3x).
 Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. You must publish it, and it will be granted to you.

WTP

Ulster County Legislature Weekly Update For The Week Of December 7 - December 11, 2020

Monday, December 7

o 5:30 PM - Caucus: Democrats Powered by Zoom Meeting. Public Attendance by Phone (646) 558-8656, Meeting ID: 999 6240 8960

Tuesday, December 8

o 5:00 PM - Ways & Means Committee Powered by Zoom Meeting. Public Attendance by Phone (646) 558-8656, Meeting ID: 972 6259 3292

o 6:15 PM - Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 14 of 2020: A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 17 Of 2007, A Local Law To Create The Department Of The Environment And The Office Of Coordinator Of The Department Of The Environment For The County of Ulster
Immediately Following the Public Hearing - Special Legislative Session: Vote on Proposed 2021 Budget and Proposed 2021-2026 Capital Program

Powered by Zoom Meeting and available via vimeo livestream at <https://livestream.com/accounts/1512750/events/1824203>
Public Comment administered by "Call In Studio": Dial 205-ULSTER-0 or (205) 857-8370 to be connected. Written comments may be submitted to the Clerk via email to vfab@co.ulster.ny.us. PUBLIC COMMENT will be restricted to agenda items only.

o 7:00 PM (or immediately following Legislative Session) - Caucus: Democrats Powered by Zoom Meeting. Public Attendance by Phone (646) 558-8656, Meeting ID: 930 7428 9164

Wednesday, December 9

o 6:00 PM - Special Meeting of the Energy & Environment Committee Powered by Zoom Meeting. Public Attendance by Phone (646) 558-8656, Meeting ID: 969 3086 6209

o 6:30 PM - Environmental Management Council Powered by Zoom Meeting. Meeting ID: 974 4254 9615, Password: 278571, Dial In (929) 205-6099

Thursday, December 10

o 5:00 PM - Special Meeting of the Laws & Rules, Governmental Services Committee Powered by Zoom Meeting. Public Attendance by Phone (646) 558-8656, Meeting ID: 971 1547 6753

o 6:30 PM - Caucus: Republicans Powered by Zoom Meeting. Public Attendance by Phone (646) 558-8656, Meeting ID: 948 2723 7907

Friday, December 11

o No Meetings

Regards,

Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
Ulster County Legislature



**OPENING:
SATURDAY 11/21
2 - 4 P.M.**

**CURATED BY
ED MUES**

FEATURING:
CYNTHIA ALTORISO
TOM BOLGER
CHARLES BRODERSON
DUTCH PINK
LETIZIA GENTILE
ELINORE HOLLINSHEAD
GIAN KAMAL
PATRICIA PETERS
MARY SOCOLOF
NATALIE STOPKA

**CRAGSMOOR
ARTISTS
IN OLIVE
RUNS
NOVEMBER 21
JANUARY 9**

Attorney General James Calls on Congress to Ensure Equitable Access to COVID-19 Vaccine

AG James Leads Coalition Calling for Vaccine Access for Americans on Medicaid, Medicare, and Uninsured

NEW YORK - New York Attorney General Letitia James led a coalition of 13 state attorneys general to strongly urge Congress to allocate funding and codify coverage protections to guarantee that all people living in the United States are able to obtain a COVID-19 vaccine at no cost. Black, Latino, Native Americans, and senior communities are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, and are also more likely to be on Medicare, Medicaid, or uninsured. In the joint letter, the coalition calls on Congress to codify an interim rule providing the vaccine to Medicare recipients at no cost, to properly fund programs for the uninsured to cover administrative fees, and to increase financial support for Medicaid.

“An end to the COVID-19 pandemic is in sight, but we cannot rid this disease without equitable vaccine access,” said Attorney General James. “We must ensure there are no economic barriers to people receiving this lifesaving vaccine, especially those in communities most devastated by the pandemic. Every person in this country deserves free and fast access to the vaccines, and we remain committed to ensuring that happens.”

Recent reports show that 16 percent of American adults are uninsured, 19 percent of Americans are insured under Medicare, and 21 percent of Americans are insured under Medicaid. Americans insured under Medicare, Medicaid, and those who are uninsured are more likely to be Americans of color, whose communities are hardest hit by the pandemic. For example, one-third of Black Americans are insured under Medicaid, and Latinos are three times more likely to be uninsured than their white counterparts. Black Americans experienced a significantly greater COVID-19 infection rate and three times higher mortality rate than their white counterparts; while Latinos have had nearly three times as many COVID-19 cases as their white counterparts, and have a significantly higher hospitalization rate. The joint letter issued today lays out three actions for Congress to take in order to ensure equitable access to the vaccines. First, Congress should codify the recent Center for Medicaid & Medicare Services (CMS) Interim Final Rule allowing any vaccine authorized by the Food and Drug Administration to be covered at no cost to Medicare beneficiaries. Second, the Provider Relief Fund, which gives uninsured individuals access to the vaccine, must also cover co-pay or out of pocket fees, as well as costs for outreach to uninsured communities. Finally, Congress should provide states with additional financial assistance to supplement the Family First Coronavirus Response Act by ensuring that payment rates to providers are sufficient to allow Medicaid recipients to access the vaccine at no cost and providers to perform outreach to vulnerable communities.

The exact costs of the vaccines for patients remain unknown. However, studies have shown that individuals who are insured under Medicaid have lower vaccination rates than those with private health insurance.

Joining Attorney General James in signing the letter are the attorneys general of California, Colorado, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Virginia, and Washington.

This matter is being handled for the New York Office of the Attorney General by its COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force. The Task Force is dedicated to protecting New Yorkers and ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines. The members of the OAG Vaccine Task Force are: Senior Policy Counsel Jarret Hova, Director of Legislative Affairs Kate Powers, Special

Council for Economic Justice Steven Glassman, Consumer Frauds Bureau Chief Jane Azia, Investor Protection Bureau Chief Peter Pope, Internet and Technology Bureau Chief Kim Berger, Civil Rights Bureau Chief Jessica Clarke, Chief Deputy Attorney General for Social Justice Meghan Faux, and is led by Senior Advisor and Special Counsel Umair Khan.



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.

PLEASE CONTACT A MEMBER OF EACH ORGANIZATION FOR UPDATES ON OPENINGS

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

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

12/8 Town of Denning Board/Business Meeting 6 pm Denning Town Hall

Save the Date!

Matthew Bertholf's 10th Anniversary Memorial Horseshoe Tournament Sunday, July 11, 2021
Neversink Fire Department Pavilion.

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.

Claryville FD

Volunteers Needed for

Associate and Active Members

Please contact Chief VanDenberg
at claryvillefd@gmail.com
for any questions

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.

The Nutcracker at Wethersfield

The Nutcracker at Wethersfield a Covid-19 compliant Nutcracker, choreographed and directed by Troy Schumacher, will be streamed on demand, free of charge, directly following its run at the Wethersfield Estate, it was announced today by BalletCollective and the Wethersfield Estate. Beginning tomorrow Friday, December 4 and running this holiday season through December 23 at the glorious Wethersfield Estate in Amenia, NY (a two hour drive north of Times Square), this watershed live production will provide a guided immersive experience in a historical site.

Go to: <http://www.NutcrackerAtWethersfield.com>,
The free stream of The Nutcracker at Wethersfield will be available to watch on demand at www.NutcrackerAtWethersfield.com from December 23 at 5pm to December 26 at midnight.

This event will keep this beloved holiday tradition alive in a re-imagined, safety-compliant way that is unlike any other production of Tchaikovsky's masterpiece. The Nutcracker at Wethersfield is one of the only full-length ballets to be presented live during the pandemic in the United States.

Newly announced, The Nutcracker at Wethersfield will feature female party scene costumes by Oscar de la Renta, male party scene costumes by Todd Snyder, Christmas trees and decorations by Balsam Hill and wallpaper and fabric design by Schumacher Fabrics. There will also be a live music element at each event from The Metropolis Ensemble and the event's medical partner is Dr. Lipi Roy, an NBC News medical contributor.

Acclaimed filmmaker Annie Sundberg ("Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work," "Surviving Jeffrey Epstein") is producing

and directing a feature documentary about this historic production.

Invitations to attend the live event are limited due to current regulations and will be open only to underwriters of *The Nutcracker at Wethersfield*. In addition to underwriters and their guests, a limited number of invitations will be provided to families hard hit by the pandemic through the following community organizations: Willow Roots, Inc. in Pine Plains, Grace Immigrant Outreach in Millbrook, North East Community Center in Millerton, and Food of Life / Comida de Vida (Food Pantry of St. Thomas Episcopal Church) in Amenia Union.

Invitations to essential workers in the Rhinebeck community have also been extended courtesy of Van Lamprou of Del's Dairy Farm. These include teachers, medical personnel, and a restaurant owner who donated food to front line Covid workers.

The Nutcracker at Wethersfield will feature a roster of internationally acclaimed dancers, currently furloughed from New York City Ballet, including: Sara Mearns, Tyler Angle, Ashley Laracey, and Taylor Stanley, among others.

When guests arrive at the Wethersfield Estate they will be immediately immersed in a magical world, as if they were attending the ballet's famous party scene. The event will guide guests through all of the quintessential moments of the ballet, including the battle scene, the snow ballet and the Land of the Sweets, as they traverse the beauty of the historic manor house and the impeccably kept grounds and gardens of Wethersfield.

Each event will be completely compliant with New York's Covid-19 regulations, supervised by a team of medical professionals to ensure the safety of guests and artists. All of the dancers have quarantined for four weeks beginning in early November and maintain social distance from all guests. (Contd. Pg. 25)

The Nutcracker at Wethersfield

(From Pg. 24)

Guests will be limited to 7-8 socially distanced groups of 2-6 attendees in each group in order to ensure that the house never exceeds 25% capacity, and that no more than 50 people, including dancers, are together in any space at any time. Guests must wear masks throughout the experience. As the event progresses, guests will be taken through a range of indoor, heated outdoor and tented locations.

The event will provide a range of experiences, including a Nutcracker Party Scene themed tour through the manor house, an outdoor snow ballet, and a tented land of sweets, featuring creative direction and food design by Elizabeth Mayhew of The Dutchy.

"We are pleased that the public will be able to experience this unique production online for free," said choreographer and director Troy Schumacher. "For many, The Nutcracker is an annual tradition and we hope that The Nutcracker at Wethersfield will make this year's holidays sparkle a bit brighter."

The Nutcracker at Wethersfield is being underwritten by members of the Hudson Valley community and national arts lovers, to provide work for more than 50 dancers, designers, crew, and arts workers who have seen their livelihoods and purpose disappear this year. With theaters closed well into 2021, this unique opportunity provides each of these artists a lifeline and a chance to return to their craft.

Featuring Dancers

Sara Mearns, Tyler Angle, Ashley Laracey, Taylor Stanley, Mira Nadon, Erica Pereira, Ralph Ippolito, Eliza Blutt, Gabriella Domini, Savannah Durham, Claire von Enck, Emma von Enck, Malorie Lundgren, Mary Thomas MacKinnon, Miriam Miller, Davide Riccardo, Kristen Segin, Mary Elizabeth Sell, Mimi Staker, KJ Takahashi, and Cainan Weber.

About Wethersfield

The Wethersfield Estate, an acclaimed historical site situated in beautiful Dutchess County in New York's Hudson Valley, encompasses a neo-Georgian manor house, formal garden, and carriage house museum. The Estate was the home of Chauncey Stillman, grandson of James Stillman, Chairman of the National Bank, now known as CitiBank. The Wethersfield Foundation, which maintains and manages the Estate, focuses on access to the arts, culture and land conservation. The Wethersfield Foundation is pleased to partner with the BalletCollective to make *The Nutcracker at Wethersfield* possible.

About BalletCollective

Founded in 2010 by Troy Schumacher, BalletCollective creates and performs forward-thinking works that reflect the world we live in. BalletCollective commissions emerging, established and acclaimed choreographers, composers, writers and visual artists to collaborate on ballet-based works. BalletCollective exclusively performs commissioned, collaborative work.

BalletCollective's process fosters interdisciplinary inspiration and innovation. BalletCollective connects choreographers with composers; together they choose a non-performative artist. The trio exchanges ideas in their work and the season's curatorial concept. The visual artist or writer develops a work of source art for the composer and choreographer to utilize as inspiration for the piece and as a tool to ground the artistic conversation. The source art does not necessarily become part of the final work, but it could not exist without it. With each new collective there are new challenges, experiments, and ultimately new forms of expression that expand the definition of ballet for artists and guests alike.

BalletCollective has commissioned and performed more than

15 works with over 50 choreographers, composers, musicians, artists, designers, and dancers, including Karen Russell, James Ramsey, Ken Liu, Julianna Barwick, David Salle, Dafy Hagai, Judd Greenstein, and Cynthia Zarin. BalletCollective has recently presented at Gelsey Kirkland Arts Center, The Joyce Theater, Skirball Center for the Performing Arts, Guggenheim Works & Process, the Fire Island Dance Festival, and the Savannah Music Festival, and made its international debut at the Guggenheim Bilbao in August 2018.

This summer, BalletCollective followed similar stringent health and safety protocols, including a strict dancer quarantine, to successfully create and premiere *Natural History*, the first newly created and choreographed ballet since the start of the pandemic. For DonorsFor details about underwriting, visit NutcrackerAtWethersfield.com.

www.NutcrackerAtWethersfield.com

DEC Announces Application Period Now Open for Marine Fisheries COVID-19 Relief Funding

Applications Accepted through Dec. 31, 2020

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today announced that the application period to receive funding from the New York Marine Fisheries Relief Program is open beginning today, Dec. 1, until Dec. 31, 2020. Governor Andrew M. Cuomo yesterday announced \$6.7 million in federal funding is available from the program established by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security, or CARES Act, to assist New York's marine fishing industry following extensive economic losses resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

DEC worked cooperatively with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) to develop a spending plan for the funding to provide support for the state's seafood, commercial fishing, and recreational for-hire fishing industries.

Funding is available to eligible New York State residents who hold a valid marine permit or license issued by DEC for 2020 and the previous five years, with some exceptions considered as outlined in the spend plan. Eligible fishery sectors include commercial harvesters, for-hire fishing operations, marine aquaculture, and seafood distribution (dealers/processors/wholesalers). Applicants must demonstrate a greater than 35 percent revenue loss from fishery-related revenue caused by COVID-19 during the period Feb. 1 to July 31, 2020, over a minimum of 60 consecutive days, relative to the previous five years (2015-2019) for the same period. Applicants must demonstrate active participation in one or more of the fishery-related sectors in 2020 and previous years with documented fishing history.

Applicants are encouraged to review all criteria in the final fishery relief spend plan (PDF). Applications are available on DEC's website and will be accepted through Dec. 31, 2020. DEC will consider appeals from applicants deemed ineligible as part of a thorough and inclusive appeals process, while maintaining compliance with the federal program.

DEC is working cooperatively with ASMFC to distribute funding to approved applicants. Aid will be released and available to participants following approval of their application. As required by NOAA Fisheries, all funds allocated to New York State must be released to participants by September 2021. Some award recipients may be the subject of a federal audit.

For more information, email fisherydisaster@dec.ny.gov, call (631) 444-0473, or visit DEC's website.



Oh What Fun!
Storytime with Santa

Join us for a special holiday storytime
recommended for children 10 and under

Santa Claus is coming to town and will be making a special stop at the Daniel Pierce Library! Santa will read *The Night Before the Night Before Christmas*. Join us for this unique event via YouTube.

All children who register will receive a gift and hot cocoa to make at home! These items must be picked up from the library.


Swing by the library Tuesday, **December 15th** to pick up your special treats!
10 - 6 p.m.




Link for *Santa's Storytime* will be available on our FB page Friday, **December 18th**
5:00 p.m.



Registration is open to Tri-Valley residents.
Please register online at www.danielpiercelibrary.org

Happy Holidays!

Governor Signs Senator Metzger's Food Supply Chain Bill

Effort will identify solutions to issues exposed by pandemic

Albany, NY...New York State will look at strategies designed to strengthen the state's food supply chain under a bill (A10607/S8561) sponsored by Senator Jen Metzger and Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo signed into law this week. A diverse group of stakeholders will provide guidance and recommendations on New York's food supply and related supply chain logistics in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is Senator Metzger's 31st bill signed into law.

"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 supporting local farms and food businesses and becoming more self-reliant," 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. I'm pleased that this legislation was signed into law at this opportune moment to capitalize on and to build back stronger."

"On Wednesday, my committee co-hosted a budget hearing that focused on recent food supply chain disruptions," said Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo (AD-123), Chair of the Assembly Agriculture Committee. "The pandemic exposed weaknesses in the system that we must address for future disruptions and for long term sustainability. There is no reason we should ever see producers disposing of food while our grocery stores and pantries struggle to keep up."

Pursuant to a chapter amendment that will need to be passed when session reconvenes, the Commissioners of Agriculture and Markets and Economic Development, will work with Cornell, the state's land grant university, to issue a report by December 1, 2021. The original version of the bill called for the creation of a new working group.

Under this new initiative, representatives from affected industries and organizations will meet with government officials to offer recommendations to improve NY's food supply chain. The effort will include representatives from organic and conventional farming, food processing, retail food businesses, foodservice, wholesalers, distributors, food transporters, labor, emergency food providers, academia, local state and federal agencies, and others. All regions of the state will be considered, along with the interests of minority, women, and small and family-owned businesses. Finally, the report will include recommendations regarding potential changes to laws, rules, and policies, along with feasibility and associated costs.

"Our state's farmers faced new challenges, like all New Yorkers, in dealing with the pandemic and its impacts. It forced us to quickly adapt and deal with supply chain issues while we continued to work hard to produce the food we all need. New York Farm Bureau commends the work of our Agriculture Committee Chairs

for addressing future needs with this legislation, and we look forward to engaging with our fellow stakeholders to have a stronger, more resilient food system that supports us all," said David Fisher, New York Farm Bureau President.

"I can think of no better time than now, when we remember unanticipated shortages at grocery stores and distressingly long lines at food assistance providers, to focus on improving resiliency and accessibility of locally produced farm and food products. This valuable legislation will benefit farmers, food processors, and consumers, by recommending ways to strengthen and invest in a more robust farm and food system in New York for the years to come. I applaud Assemblymember Lupardo and Senator Jen Metzger's leadership, and Governor Cuomo and Commissioner Richard Ball in supporting this important legislation. I know all of my colleagues at Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and our Cornell Cooperative Extension partners look forward to the dialogue and work ahead," said Julie Suarez, Associate Dean for Land-Grant Affairs

Throughout this pandemic, Senator 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.

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.



DECEMBER 10 AT 7 P.M.

Brunel Sculpture Garden virtual Lecture

Brunel Sculpture Garden is community-driven cultural center committed to the cultural assets and practices of the Native American people of our region, native horticulture, and the photographic arts.

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Blue Mountains trout news

Newsletter of the Ashokan-Pepacton Watershed Chapter of Trout Unlimited, #559
P.O. Box 119, Phoenicia, NY 12464
December 2020

Banner above depicts Esopus Creek on November 30th from DEC PFR lot off Mt. Pleasant Road as the rains fell.

Not a trout was biting, at least for me. NYS Trout Management Plan: On November 25th New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) issued a press release announcing the release of the final New York Trout Stream Management Plan.

FYI: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/press/121862.html>

This plan is the outgrowth of public meetings DEC has conducted since 2017. And, it replaces their prior thirty-year old approach of managing NYS trout streams based upon a CROTS (Catch Rate Oriented Trout Stocking) approach. Major elements of the new plan are found here: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/111015.html> The entire plan can be read here:

https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/trout-streammp.pdf

The plan has been approved and the new direction DEC will take managing inland trout streams. There is also a categorization of trout stream reaches which can be found here: https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/tsmpreach-cat.pdf It is anticipated that Fishery Units in DEC Regions could modify this document yearly based updated information. DEC received 489 public comments on their draft plan proposal. These comments and a summary assessment can be found here:

https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/apc-drafttsmp.pdf

Of particular interest to the chapter, the Esopus Creek is now classified as Wild-Quality, and no longer will be stocked. Within the Esopus Creek watershed, Woodland Valley is classified as Wild/UnCat and Bushnellsville Creek is Wild-Quality. Additionally, the headwaters of Rondout Creek from Sundown upstream will no longer be stocked and classified as Wild-Quality, protecting the wild brook trout present. Furthermore, DEC has proposed trout season be broken into a season that allows harvest from April 1st through October 15th and a catch-and-release, artificials only season from October 16th through March 31st of the following year. Anything mentioned in this specific paragraph is still subject to public comment through January 25th, 2021.

Along with the March APW TU chapter newsletter, all recipients of that mailing received a letter from Mark Loete, chapter president, which was sent to DEC containing sentiments of the chapter board of directors regarding the draft Trout Management Plan, at that time. Basically, the board supported a Wild-Quality Esopus Creek classification. At this time the board also extends a hearty thanks to NYS DEC Region 3 Fisheries for their efforts developing the new Trout Plan and proposed regulations.

Comment Period Open for Proposed Trout Stream Regulations: As part of their Nov. 25th press release, DEC also proposed revised inland trout stream regulations based upon their newly approved Trout Management Plan. The public comment period on proposed regulations is open until January 25th, 2021. These proposed regulations can be found here: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/34113.html> under the Amendments to Trout Stream Sport Regulations. It is suggested the reader ignore 10.3 (b) --- pages 1 through 37--- and focus on 10.3 (e) --- pages 38 forward. If you wish to comment, email comments to: regulations.fish@dec.ny.gov or mail them to: Fred Henson, NYS DEC, 625 Broadway, 5th Fl., Albany, NY 12233-4753.

If you support the Esopus Creek classification as a Wild-Quality stream, please send an email stating such. Thank you.

Esopus Creek/Shandaken Tunnel:

Recently the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP) notified the chapter of the need to stop utilizing the temporary bypass to the Shandaken Tunnel intake, thus shutting down all water diversions from Schoharie Reservoir to the Esopus Creek. The temporary bypass allowed DEP to divert roughly 186 cfs through the Shandaken Tunnel while contractors worked to replace the large gates that control the flow of water into the tunnel. Prior chapter newsletters have reported on this activity on an ongoing basis.

Starting on the evening of November 30th DEP began making adjustments to the rehabilitation project up at the Shandaken Tunnel Intake Chamber and temporary bypass diversion. DEP decided that it is not safe for the divers to continue their work with the temporary bypass system operating at the same time. The swirling forces inside the shaft had caused the bypass system



pipe to break from its bracing on two occasions. It was fixed each time, but DEP decided that the bypass presented too much of a risk to the drivers who are working up to one-hundred-eighty feet deep in the shaft.

DEP consulted with NYS DEC about this issue and jointly decided to utilize a different plan to replace the broken flow-control gates. Essentially, DEP will replace the gates during a series of full shutdowns, during which time the tunnel will remain at zero flow for several weeks while the divers complete their work. The first shutdown began Nov. 30th and will last until early January. At that time, DEP will examine restoration progress, the hydrology in Esopus Creek, the snowpack in the mountains, etc. A second shutdown might then start in February if conditions are favorable. DEP estimates that the remaining gates can be replaced within three shutdowns, including the one that already started.

DEP and DEC will talk weekly to examine Esopus Creek flows and other conditions. If it is determined project restoration work needs to stop again for some reason, DEP can return the tunnel to service within forty-eight hours.

The installation of the permanent High Level Intake (HLI), for the Shandaken Tunnel, will proceed as planned. Permanent piping for the HLI will not be submerged in the shaft like the temporary bypass system, so it will not be subject to the same forces that are currently giving DEP trouble. (Contd. Pg. 29)

Blue Mountain Trout News

(From Pg. 28) DEP acknowledged Tunnel restoration, while maintaining diversions to the Esopus Creek, would be a challenging project requiring many adjustments, but is committed to work with the best interests of their water supply system and ecology of the Esopus Creek as a priority.

Bumblepuppy: This classic Catskill streamer was originated by Theodore Gordon (1854-1915), and later tied by his friend Herm Christian (1882-1975). Gordon wrote of his streamer, "The Bumblepuppy is great medicine--- there is no doubt about that." It's featured in Mike Valla's The Classic Streamer Fly Box, and there is more



than one version of this pattern. The fly shown here was tied by Herm Christian and was given to the late Roger Menard, a chapter member and author of My Side of the River. It now belongs to his wife Lisa, who lent it to Mark Loete to photography to share this image of Catskill fly-fishing history.

Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program (AWSMP): Even though Covid is a major challenge/issue facing us all, chapter members still virtually participate in several AWSMP working groups including the: Stream Ecosystem and Stream Access and Recreation Groups. Thanks to those who attend these informative and important meetings on the chapter's behalf.



Acid rain report: Jody Hoyt reported the following rain readings for November, as measured in Boiceville, NY. There were 8 measureable events with 6.95 inches of liquid participation, including a trace of snow, with a 5.3

weighed pH. By comparison in Nov. 2019 there were 7 such events with a total of 4.52 inches of liquid precipitation, including 1.0 inches of snow, and 5.8 weighted pH. Thank you, Jody, for your ongoing efforts. Rain fall on the last day of November caused the Coldbrook USGS gage to reach 9,000 cfs; one wonders what impact--- if any at all-- that flow had on redds of brown trout eggs from fish that already spawned. A recent Esopus Creek brown trout redd pictured left.

Membership: As of this newsletter, our membership stands at 111 members. Just as a reminder, as always new TU members can join for half the "regular" membership fee, or \$17.50, of which the chapter receives a \$15 rebate from National. This might make for as nice Holiday Present for someone you know. Applications: http://www.apwctu.org/pdfs/TU_membership_brochure2018_web.pdf For membership questions, contact me at: Tailwaters@Hvc.rr.com

Beyond our watersheds and other news:

The winter months fast approaching, included below are a few YouTube videos you might enjoy, plus other referenced readings.

For bamboo aficionados like me, you might enjoy this video: <https://youtu.be/FC9AMDgxttA>

For Beaverkill/Willowemoc lovers - Legendary Catskills Trout Fishing - Birthplace of American Fly Fishing: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=whgMV0_IMgY

For those of us old enough to fortunately recall Sparse Grey Hackle, plus former IBM'ers note the kind word about Big Blue while all note the special appearance of Nick Lyons: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHxSic6w4mU>

A digital issue of the Oct/Nov 2020 New York State Conservationist found here: <https://cloud.3dissue.com/129417/129610/151833/Oct2020NYSConservationist/index.html> Chapter board member/NYS DEC Forest Ranger Russell Martin is mentioned on page 14 for his efforts assisting a hiker, as he did recently with another hiker stranded on Cornell Mountain. Nice job Russell!

Greater Catskill Region Comprehensive Recreational Plan found here: https://catskillcenter.org/news/2020/11/12/release-of-greater-catskill-region-comprehensive-recreation-plan-marks-completion-of-catskill-master-plan-and-stewardship-hip-planning-project?mc_cid=3879be766e&mc_eid=72d88c32a5

Useful links: Ashokan-Pepacton Watershed Chapter Trout Unlimited: <https://apwctu.org/>
Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program: <http://ashokanstreams.org/>
CWC Watershed Currents: <https://cwconline.org/watershed-currents-e-news/>
Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District: <http://www.dcswcd.org/Stream%20Program.htm>
Esopus Creek hatching chart: <http://www.catskillangling-collection.org/>

NYC DEP Reservoir Levels-Releases: https://www1.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/drinking_water/release_channel_levels.shtml
Rondout Neversink Stream Program: <http://www.rondoutneversink.org/>

On behalf of the officers and board of directors of the Ashokan-Pepacton Watershed Chapter of Trout Unlimited, here's wishing you and your family members a happy, safe Holiday Season. Plus a healthy, prosperous New Years, and may 2021 be the start of better days ahead for all of us, with tight lines for those who pursue wily trout.



Until next year,
Ed Ostapczuk
Dec. 2nd, 2020

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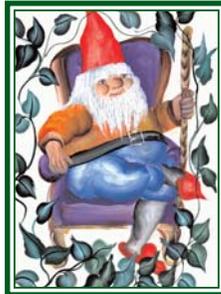
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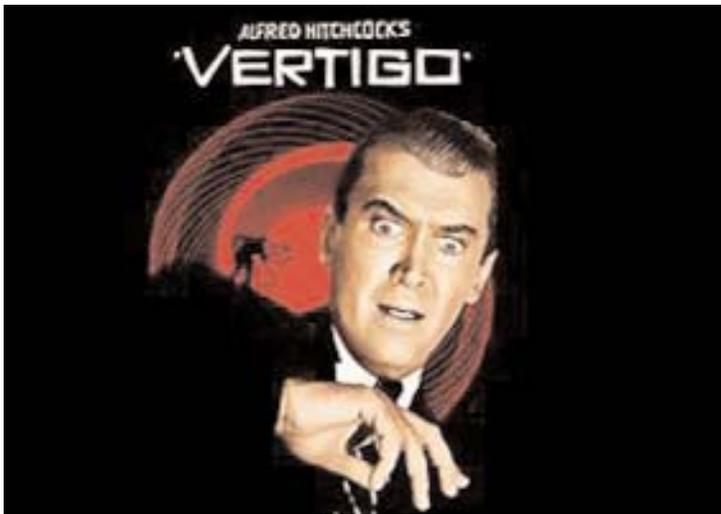
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(From Pg. 31)
KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE #2
ON TCM WEDNESDAY
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(Psycho-Drama, 2h 8m 1958, PG)



Alfred Hitchcock, who needs to hear more to enjoy

excellence in film? The story revolves around the beautiful Kim Novak a woman troubled by an unexplained terror.

Directed by Alfred Hitchcock, and starring James Stewart as John "Scottie" Ferguson,

Kim Novak as Madeleine Elster, Barbara Bel Geddes as Midge Wood, Tom Helmore Gavin Elster, Henry Jones as the Official.



KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE #3
ON AMAZON PRIME VIDEO

THE WHISTLEBLOWER
 (2011 | R | CC, 4.2 OUT OF 5 STARS,
 FROM \$2.99 TO RENT, FROM \$9.99 TO BUY)

Is protecting your country in the face of unbelievable odds that are treasonous in nature wrong?



This – ripped-from-the-headlines thriller – is inspired by actual events. **Kathy Bolkovac (Rachel Weisz)**, a Nebraska police officer takes a job as a peacekeeper in post-war Bosnia. Her expectations of helping to rebuild a devastated country are dashed when she uncovers a dangerous reality of corruption, cover-up and intrigue amid a world of private contractors and multi-national diplomatic double talk.



Directed by Larysa Kondracki and Starring Rachel Weisz, Vanessa Redgrave, Monica Bellucci, Drama, Suspense, Action

*Stay safe, the very best to you, and yours,
 Knarf Odnamoc,
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