

VOL. 20 NO. 50 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 DECEMBER 12, 2024
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Senate Confirms Elizabeth Coombe to Serve as Federal Judge in Syracuse

Elizabeth Coombe is the first assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of New York

Washington - The U.S. Senate on Wednesday approved President Joe Biden's nomination of a trailblazing federal prosecutor to serve as a U.S. District Court judge in Syracuse.



The Senate voted 52-45 to confirm Elizabeth Coombe for a lifetime appointment to the federal bench in the Northern District of New York.

Two Republicans - Sens. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Susan Collins of Maine - joined a united Democratic caucus in voting to confirm Coombe's nomination.

Coombe, 57, has served as the first assistant U.S. Attorney for the Syracuse-based Northern District.

Coombe made history in 2014 when she became the first woman appointed as chief of the criminal division in the Northern District's office.

She was the second of Biden's judicial picks for Central New York to be confirmed Wednesday.

Earlier in the afternoon, the Senate voted 50-49 to confirm former Rep. Anthony Brindisi, 46, to serve as a U.S. District Court judge in Utica.

Brindisi, who served one term in Congress and several terms in the state Assembly, will succeed retiring U.S. District Judge David Hurd in Utica. (Contd. Pg. 11)

The Tree is Lit as Santa Arrives

Sunday evening families, neighbors and friends gathered at Bi-Centennial Park in Grahamsville for the official countdown of the lighting of the Christmas tree. The tree was lit just in time for Santa, who arrived on a festively decorated Grahamsville Fire Department Truck with Mrs. Claus at his side. (More pictures on Pg. 4)



YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN

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

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

More than ever, thank you for your continued support.

On the Front Burner: And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

While they were there, the time came for her to have her child...

Luke 2:4-6

DAYS OF YORE...

Today's History

December 29, 1954

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Erts of Staten Island are the parents of a daughter, Virginia, weight 6 lbs. 3 oz., born December 26, 1954 at the Benedictine Hospital in Kingston. This is their third child. Mr. and Mrs. George Erts of Ladelton are the paternal grandparents.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. William VanBenschoten who celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary on Sunday.

Miss Valerie Zanetti, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Zanetti of South Hill, is vacationing over the holiday season after a busy autumn in New York where she is studying at the Traphagen School of Fashion. She is majoring this year in Costume Design and Illustration.

December 16, 1964

George Gorton, 73, died on December 12, 1964 at his home on the Woodbourne Road. He was born in Ulster Heights on May 11, 1891, the son of William and Katherine Rampe Gorton. He was married to Sarah E. Amthor in Ellenville, N.Y. on November 20, 1920. A retired farmer, Mr. Gorton made his home on the Woodbourne Road for the past twenty-five years. He was a World War I veteran. Surviving are his widow; two sons, Andrew of Woodbourne and George Jr. of

Middletown; a daughter, Marie Dean of Grahamsville; three brothers; a sister and seven grandchildren.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Gridley Jr. who became parents of a third son at Liberty Loomis Hospital on Sunday, December 13th. The baby weighed 6 lbs. 11 oz.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Manell of State Rd., Woodbourne are the parents of a daughter born December 11th at Liberty Loomis Hospital. The baby, Colleen Anne, weighed 7 lbs. 3 1/2 oz. Mr. Manell is a math teacher at Tri Valley Central School.

December 4, 2014

Jean Switzler, who served as Fire Commissioner for Claryville Fire District, a volunteer at Daniel Pierce Library, Deputy Town Clerk, Historian for the Town of Denning, and a master gardner passed away on November 26 at Orange Regional Hospital at the age of 90.

Jim Bernstein, a Biology major, competed on the SUNY Oneonta Men's Cross Country Team. The team competed in eight meets and finished third place at SUNYAC Championship and fifth place at the NCAA Atlantic Region Championships.

The Tri-Valley Theatre Club presented The Addams Family on December 5th & 6th.

The Tri-Valley FBLA invited local seniors to a free turkey dinner on November 20th.

Karl Allison celebrated his 92nd birthday on December 1st.

LOOKING BACK

by Beatrice Akerley

Published December 14, 1995

With winter approaching and the busy days of Autumn winding down, there is no better time to savor another batch of personal reflections from the good old days.

"Gonna git pretty cold this winter. Woolly caterpillars say so," echoes from my mother's Uncle Lon (Alonzo) as he sits by our kitchen stove rubbing his hands from the cold and mother bakes pancakes over our wood fire on a cold Autumn morning. Uncle Lon had been a farmer for many years working on a great many farms but never owned one of his own. And then one day he stopped by our house and he told mother, "he'd had enough slopping hogs and milking cows" and he came to visit a spell taking a place by our stove. Uncle Lon had very little schooling and he could barely write his own name but he was well schooled in nature. In early spring he was first to hear the peeps from the tadpoles and frogs in the pond. "Time to plow," he would say. Days are getting longer now and when Autumn came he was the first to see south bound geese and knew cold weather was just ahead.

During the evening in our lamp lighted kitchen we kids pressed him for stories and then listened wide eyed to tales of Indians, rattle snakes, wolves and now and then about the great Civil war. His beard was long and white reminding us of Santa Claus. He always smoked a corn cobb pipe using Plow Boy Tobacco.

The time Uncle Lon came for a visit and stayed a couple of years brings back many happy memories to my sisters, Edith and Esther and to myself as well.

Household Hint:

Cleaning with Holiday Spirit!

Did you know Vodka gets rid of smells from things like smoke, cooking, and pets? It can be sprayed on most clothing, in the air, and on furniture to get rid of any kind of funky smell that tends to linger. It also works as a disinfectant!

Nature Column - L. Comando

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

Red Berries of the Season - Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly

The mere mention of holly brings to mind the holiday season.

Holly is a very diverse evergreen. A genus of over 500 species of flowering plants in the family Aquifoliaceae, they are the only living genus in that family



They range in size from a 6-inch-tall spreading dwarf to a 70-foot-tall towering giant. Leaves may be small and spineless or large and armed. Berries can be red, orange, yellow, or black. Hollies are one of the few evergreens that can be grown in all 50 states.

Long, long before we went to the store to buy some silk holly for our annual Christmas décor, or planted ornamental holly in the garden holly was considered to be a sacred plant by some primitive cultures.

But even before that, holly had an interesting historical process responsible for the wide geographic distribution of genealogical lineages and cultural myths which is quite impressive. Ancestors of this group became isolated from the remaining Ilex (Holm Oak; family that includes holly) when the Earth mass broke away into the supermassive continents of Gondwana (present day South America, Africa, Arabia, Madagascar, India, Australia and Antarctica) and Laurasia (present day North America, Europe and Asia) about 82 million years ago, resulting in a physical separation of the groups and beginning a process of change of the Laurel Forests and Ilex to adapt to new conditions just waiting for humans to intercept and integrate the plants into their own cultures and traditions.

Eons later, early Europeans used holly as ornamentation during their winter solstice celebrations that occurred in late December. In the northern hemisphere, it was the longest night of the year signifying the gradual lengthening of days and coming spring - a cause for celebration. In Norse mythology, holly was associated with Thor, god of thunder, and holly plants grown by the home were thought to prevent lightning strikes. Ancient Romans used holly as decorations during Saturnalia, a festival dedicated to Saturn, god of agriculture and husbandry. Holly's symbolism of the new season made it an appropriate and a colorful ornament for winter festivities.

Over time, many customs from pagan celebrations were incorporated by Christians into religious holidays.

As holly was a common part of the winter landscape, it provided a free and easy way for even the poorest of families to decorate their homes for the Christmas holidays.

Holly berries are toxic to humans, resulting in nausea and severe stomachaches when ingested. Not so for some animals. Holly berries are a vital source of food for birds such as thrushes and blackbirds. Holly berries, which ripen in early winter, typically contain four seeds each. The birds that eat these seeds help scatter them for germination and the growth of new holly plants.

Today, holly is still used in our celebration of modern Christmas and winter holidays. While belief in their mystical powers may have dissipated, our American Christmas holly is just as beautiful as its ancestors, 82 million years ago. Now that is incredible! I wonder if Harry Potter knew all this when he chose holly for his wand?

The Tree is Lit as Santa Arrives

(From Pg. 1)



Thank you to Janna Walter for the photos

**Claryville Reformed
Church Presents:**

Gingerbread BASH

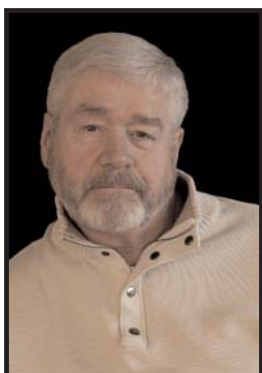
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When: Sunday Dec. 15, 2024
Time: 1:30-3:30 PM
Cost: FREE**

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Just in case you're wondering, we'll be re-running some of our best and most popular book reviews. They will be described as our *Legacy Mysterious Book Reports*. Send us a quick request if you have a favorite that you'd like to see again and we'll do our best to re-publish it.



The Man In Milan

Legacy Mysterious Book Report No. 111

by John Dwaine McKenna

Mysterious Book Report No. 428

Published Dec 10, 2020

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.

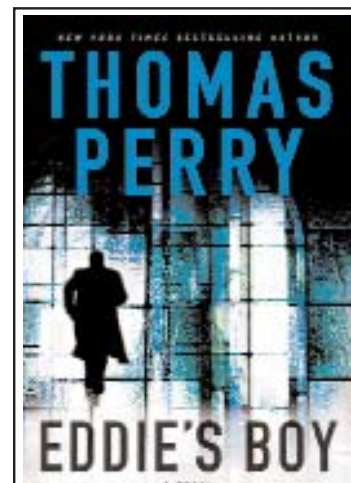
Check out our combined website that's simple to use and easy as pie to leave your comments. We're looking forward to hearing from all of you.

<http://Johndwainemckenna.com>

or

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Thank You!



**John Dwaine McKenna's Books
are now available at the
NEVERSINK GENERAL STORE**



The Olive Jar

by Carol Olsen LaMonda

Atonal

Just because I
can't sing
doesn't mean
that I won't
sing.

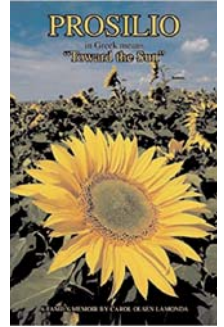
I am not joking. I seriously cannot carry a tune in a bucket. I think it is hereditary. I come from a long line of tone-deaf relatives. We all sing "Happy Birthday" in the key of "whatever!" It sounds like we are accidentally stepping on cats' paws.

At P.S. 30, we actually had to audition for a performing music class. I was told to take Music Appreciation. I figure someone has to be in the audience.

I will be in the audience of the Overlook Methodist Church in Woodstock on Sunday, December 22 at three o'clock listening to The Cantata. Come join me and be amazed at the Christmas Story put to music.

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!** *Prosilio* is available at Amazon or Barnes and Noble on-line as a soft or hard cover or as a downloadable e-book for Nook or Kindle. Go to: <http://amazon.com> or <http://barnesandnoble.com> and type in *Prosilio* in the search to order your copy of *Prosilio*



I admire people who can sing. I cannot. I try not to sing, which I love to do, where no one can hear me. My car, traveling alone or with Hudson, my lab, and the shower are my venues. And church. Sometimes I lip-sync, but sometimes I just join in with enthusiastic but fellow atonal singers.



Holidays at the DPL! Sharing in the magic of the season with visits and performances

By Lisa Carroll

GRAHAMSVILLE-It's been an incredibly busy week at the DPL! We're all feeling the holiday crunch, especially as our fall children's programs are coming to an end and we've had visits from the Tri-Valley Elementary UPK and kindergarten classes.

We were so happy to share our love for the Daniel Pierce Library with our youngest patrons during their holiday visit. The four kindergarten classes came on Monday, December 9, and shared stories, songs, felt stories and participated in making a beautiful pinecone owl. The three UPK classes visited on Tuesday, December 10, and shook their sillies out, participated in stories and songs and watched a beautiful rendition of *The Christmas Spider*, a play put on by DPL staff. Both groups were able to peruse our shelves and check out books. We absolutely love the partnership we have with the school and are so fortunate to be able to establish a love of our library (and of course, reading!) with our youngest community members.

We have a lot of special programs coming up, so hopefully you have all had the opportunity to sign up. We've planned another one, *Sounds of the Season*, which will be on Tuesday, December 17 and Thursday, December 19. There's no pre-registration required to participate, just join us and listen to the beautiful holiday music performed by three of our most favorite local musicians. On Tuesday, Mr. Clarence and Mrs. Jaishree Dow-Spielman will be here from 6:00 to 6:45PM. On Thursday, Mrs. Keira Weyant will be here, sharing her beautiful musical talent. Our reading room is decked out and ready to welcome the wonders of the season with festive music. Please join us on both or either dates and take a break from the hectic-ness of the season. Sit back and enjoy as the music soothes away the stress of the holidays and brings back the magic. It's going to be a fantastic evening out!

While you are here, I invite you to take a look at our special holiday book displays and check out a book or two. I pass by the table of holiday cookbooks every day and am inspired to start baking with all those delicious cookies on the covers. So, if you happen to need a few new recipes to try out while baking-or just found out that you're hosting Christmas dinner-we have what you need! There's no short supply of holiday (and every day cookbooks if you find yourself in a cooking slump) cookbooks available.

Since we're talking about books, have you read any recently that have really wowed you? I'd love to hear from you! Please send me a short email with the title and author of the book and a little bit about why you loved it so much. You can reach me at lcarroll@rcls.org. I would be pleased to pass along the information, both through this column as well as to our patrons. Nothing makes me happier than getting to recommend books to our patrons!



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Senate Confirms Elizabeth Coombe to Serve as Federal Judge in Syracuse

(From Pg. 1)

Coombe will succeed U.S. District Judge Glenn Suddaby in Syracuse.

Before Wednesday vote, Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., gave a speech on the Senate floor in which he touted Coombe's qualifications to serve as a federal judge.

"Beth Coombe has also been a trailblazing prosecutor for her entire career in Albany and Syracuse, the first woman to become a federal criminal chief for the Northern District," Schumer said. "I am proud to see her ascend to the federal bench."

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., recommended Coombe's appointment to Biden earlier this year.

Coombe gained notoriety as a federal prosecutor for her case against New York State Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, who was convicted of fraud in 2009. Bruno appealed and was acquitted by a second jury in 2014. He died in 2020.

Coombe has worked as a federal prosecutor in Upstate New York since 2003. She is a 1989 graduate of Hamilton College in Central New York. She received her law degree from the University of Michigan in 1992.

She has also worked as a staff attorney at the federal Securities and Exchange Commission's enforcement division, and as a trial attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Division from 1996 to 1997.

Coombe later worked as an assistant U.S. attorney in the District of Columbia from 1998 to 2003 before moving back to Upstate New York.

The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York spans 32 counties in Upstate New York. The court's judges are paid an annual salary of \$243,300.



Gillibrand Statement on Confirmation of Elizabeth C. Coombe to Serve on U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York

Washington, D.C. - U.S. Senator Gillibrand applauded the confirmation of Elizabeth C. Coombe to the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York. Senator Gillibrand recommended Ms. Coombe to President Biden earlier this year and she was nominated in August 2024.

"I am honored and grateful that the Senate has confirmed Elizabeth C. Coombe to serve on the United States District for the Northern District of New York," said Senator Gillibrand. "Ms. Coombe is an exceptional trial lawyer with decades of experience in the U.S. Attorney's office, and she has extensive experience handling complex criminal, civil, national security and administrative matters. Ms. Coombe will bring a brilliant legal mind to the bench, and I look forward to her tenure. I congratulate her on this well-deserved honor."

Elizabeth C. Coombe has served as the First Assistant United States Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York since 2018. She joined the Office in 2003 and previously served as Chief of its Criminal Division from 2014 to 2018. Earlier in her career, Ms. Coombe served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia from 1998 to 2003; a trial attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Division, Commercial Litigation Branch from 1996 to 1997; and a staff attorney in the Securities and Exchange Commission's Enforcement Division from 1994 to 1996. She served as a law clerk for Judge Diana E. Murphy on the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota from 1992 to 1994.

Ms. Coombe received her J.D., cum laude, from the University of Michigan Law School in 1992 and her B.A., summa cum laude, from Hamilton College in 1989.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

A great way to start the holiday season— “The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley” at Shadowland Stages

After attending last year's Shadowland Stages' production, “Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley” we were anxious to see this year's Christmas production at Shadowland Stages.

On Saturday evening, we enjoyed another heart-warming Christmas story at Pemberley – “The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley”

It was Christmas 1815. For Elizabeth Darcy, the plan was to have a perfect Christmas complete with a Christmas tree in the parlor with family and friends where they enjoyed the festivities at Pemberley.

We were downstairs in the servant's work area— an expansive, pastel green area centered around a large impressive fireplace where the servants found themselves in the midst of a holiday scandal filled with elaborate schemes, splendor and romance all ignited and pierced by pride.

The story reaches into class, privilege, chaos, family, forgiveness and love creating a captivatingly pleasant holiday show. Each character was well-established and alive making the production delightfully entertaining. The actors, all did an amazing job, under the impressive direction of Brendon Burke.

If you're looking to enhance your holiday season, “The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley” is a great way to put you in a holiday mood. You will witness the merrymaking journey that lead to a happy holiday season with friends, family and not to leave out the bustling housekeeper Mrs. Reynold's and those mouth-watering biscuits.

Truly a holiday story with big laughs, bigger surprises, and a beautiful night of theatre that will lift your holiday spirits that runs through December 22 at Shadowland MainStage.

Special Holiday Schedule:
Fridays & Saturdays at 7 PM
Saturdays & Sundays at 2 PM

Get your tickets now as **they are selling out very quickly.**
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Money in Your Pockets: Governor Hochul Proposes Sending 6.6 Million New Yorkers an Inflation Refund check as First Proposal of 2025 State of the State *Proposal Would Deliver \$3 Billion by Taking Excess Sales Tax Revenue Driven by Inflation and Giving That Money Back to Everyday New Yorkers*

As her first proposal for the 2025 State of the State, Governor Kathy Hochul today proposed New York State's first-ever Inflation Refund, which would deliver about \$3 billion in direct payments to around 8.6 million New York taxpayers statewide in 2025. This new refund would send a payment of \$300 to single taxpayers who make up to \$150,000 per year, and a payment of \$500 for joint tax filers making up to \$300,000 per year. Today's announcement is one of several proposals to help address the cost of living that will be unveiled as part of the Governor's upcoming State of the State.

"Because of inflation, New York has generated unprecedented revenues through the sales tax - now, we're returning that cash back to middle class families," Governor Hochul said. "My agenda for the coming year will be laser-focused on putting money back in your pockets, and that starts with proposing Inflation Refund checks of up to \$500 to help millions of hard-working New Yorkers. It's simple: the cost of living is still too damn high, and New Yorkers deserve a break."

Governor Hochul's proposed Inflation Refund is a one-time, direct payment that will reach New Yorkers throughout every corner of the State, as seen in the following regional breakdown:

Region	Estimated Recipients
New York City	3,645,000
Long Island	1,344,000
Hudson Valley	986,000
Western New York	620,000
Finger Lakes	542,000
Capital Region	502,000
Central New York	340,000
Southern Tier	263,000
Mohawk Valley	208,000
North Country	163,000
Total	About 8.6 Million

Governor Hochul is proposing this new Inflation Refund to help address the impacts of inflation on the cost of everyday goods in the years following the COVID pandemic.

In recent years, New York State has experienced growth in sales tax revenues that exceed historical averages. This growth has been driven largely by price inflation. With that in mind, Governor Hochul's proposal will use that surplus growth to provide a one-time payment to New Yorkers. This payment would be granted to New York State taxpayer filers regardless of homeownership or parental status.

New Yorkers who recently filed tax returns will be eligible for the payment. Taxpayers who are single, head of household, or married filing separately, will be eligible if their income was

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no greater than \$150,000. Resident couples filing jointly will be eligible if their income was no greater than \$300,000.

If this proposed Inflation Refund is passed by the State Legislature, payments will be made starting Fall 2025. Governor Hochul's "Money in Your Pockets" Agenda

This proposal is the latest step in Governor Hochul's ongoing commitment to help address the cost of living by putting money back in the pockets of New Yorkers statewide.

Since taking office, the Hochul Administration has delivered more than \$5.5 billion in supplemental payments, tax relief and rebates, as well as expanding access to child care assistance and paid leave for families and pregnant women.

These past efforts have included:

- o More than \$4 billion in tax relief for middle-class New Yorkers and homeowners.
- o Over \$600 million in extra payments for families receiving New York's child tax credit and the Earned Income tax credit
- o Expanded eligibility of New York's child tax credit to cover kids under 4 years old.
- o More access to child care assistance, with eligible families paying less than \$15 per week.
- o Nearly \$600 million in gas tax relief for everyday New Yorkers.
- o More than \$200 million in additional food assistance for low-income kids.
- o Expansion of New York's Tuition Assistance Program to make education more affordable.
- o The nation's first-ever paid prenatal leave law, so pregnant workers don't have to choose between a paycheck and a checkup.
- o Expansion of New York's paid family leave program to cover more workers statewide.

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Studio Artists Group

at the Daniel Pierce Library
Wednesdays from 9:30 - 12:30
Come paint with us!

Join this collaborative group as we create and inspire each other. Please bring any art supplies that you plan to work with to create your piece. Adults only.

Daniel Pierce Library

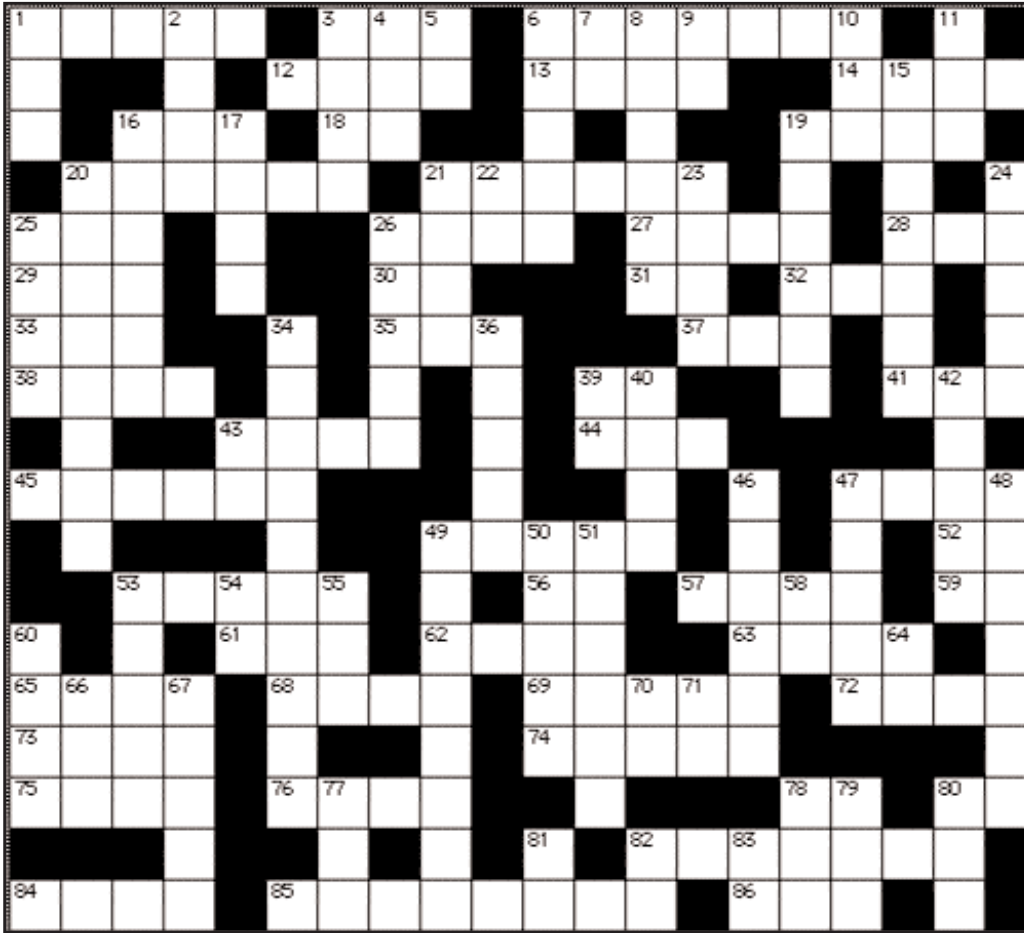
1st Friday BOOK CLUB

The first Friday of every month.

All adults welcome!



Sing a Song of Christmas-L. Comando



ACROSS

- 1 Cheerful
- 3 Night before an event
- 6 Old World song bird
- 12 Kiln
- 13 Ebb and flow
- 14 Mythical Scandinavian god
- 16 Congress Industrial Organizations
- 18 Extraterrestrial
- 19 Cut with small quick strokes
- 20 A trough for cattle to eat from
- 21 Moved rhythmically to music
- 25 One of the birds sent on the third day of Christmas
- 26 Vocal music
- 27 Christmas as a refrain in carols
- 28 Parapher-

- 29 Contribute to something
- 30 Sound of Santa
- 31 Used to express motion
- 32 Female sheep
- 33 Non-existent
- 35 An upper limb
- 37 Second day of the week
- 38 Brave act
- 39 Referring to myself
- 41 Plant fluid
- 43 "A Christmas Story" cure for using curse words
- 44 Sick
- 45 Inactive farmland
- 47 Slant
- 49 Corn salad
- 52 Roman

- 53 Job
- 56 Language engineering
- 57 Person admired for their courage
- 59 Used before a man's surname
- 61 Fruit of a rose
- 62 Cherished
- 63 Used to refer to everyone of two or more
- 65 Poetic form of listen
- 68 Young deer
- 69 Person acknowledged as holy
- 72 Kilogram
- 73 Image
- 74 Vehicles with runners that travel

- on snow
 - 75 Decorative painting
 - 76 Make musical sounds with a voice
 - 78 __, la, la, la, la, la, la, la
 - 80 At the age of
 - 82 Not sacred
 - 84 Religious song
 - 85 Hymn or chant
 - 86 Globe
- DOWN**
- 1 Adult human males
 - 2 Condensed moisture from the atmosphere
 - 3 At all times
 - 4 Animal doctor
 - 5 Half an em
 - 6 Wound
 - 7 Private Investigator
 - 8 Arrival of a notable event
 - 9 Regarding
 - 10 Victorious
 - 11 Pointed end

- of an object
- 15 Author of *A Christmas Carol*
- 16 Wax cylinder with a wick
- 17 Troll
- 19 Without sound
- 20 Relating to the Middle Ages
- 21 Portal
- 22 Indefinite article
- 23 Terrible fate
- 24 Emboss
- 25 End of the arm including the palm
- 26 Keen
- 34 Deep bank of snow
- 36 The night before Christmas she was in her kerchief
- 39 Third note of the major scale
- 40 River in Central Europe that runs through Germany
- 42 Siren
- 43 To such a great extent
- 46 Sugary pleasant tasty delights

- 47 Large solid piece of hard material
- 48 Miserly
- Dicken's character

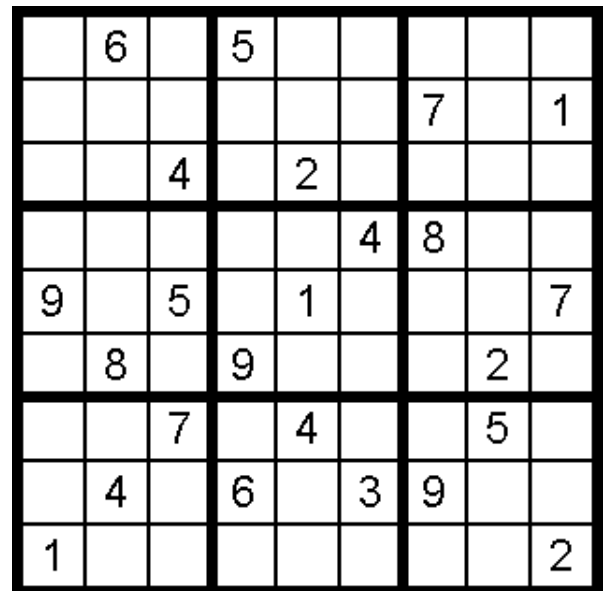
- 49 Twelve o'clock at night
- 50 Social division
- 51 Official messenger bringing news
- 53 Religious folk
- song usually associated with Christmas
- 54 Exclamation of surprise
- 55 Environmental Protection Agency
- 58 Egyptian sun god
- 60 Voucher
- 64 Informal greeting
- 66 Without any fuss
- 67 Famous U.S. fashion designer
- 70 Indo-European
- 71 North Dakota
- 77 Irish Republican Army
- 78 Hair of certain animals
- 79 Vestment
- 80 Plural present of be
- 81 Alternating current
- 82 Southeast
- 83 Commanding Officer

Swedish Pepparkakor

- Paper-thin and spicy, they are a beloved Swedish Christmas tradition
- 8 oz butter
 - 1 1/2 c white sugar
 - 1 tbs light corn syrup
 - 1 egg
 - 3 1/2 c all purpose flour
 - 2 tsps baking soda
 - 2 tsp ground cinnamon
 - 2 tsp ground ginger
 - 2 tsp ground cloves
 - 1/4 c orange juice
 - 2 tsp orange zest

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F
 In a large bowl, cream the butter and sugar. Stir in egg, corn syrup, orange juice and orange zest. Sift together the flour, baking soda, cinnamon, ginger and cloves; stir into the creamed mixture until combined.
 Roll dough out to 1/8 inch thickness and cut into shapes with cookie cutters. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes in the preheated oven. Cool cookies on wire racks.

数字は単数に限る



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

Kids' Holiday Fun Page

- L. Comando

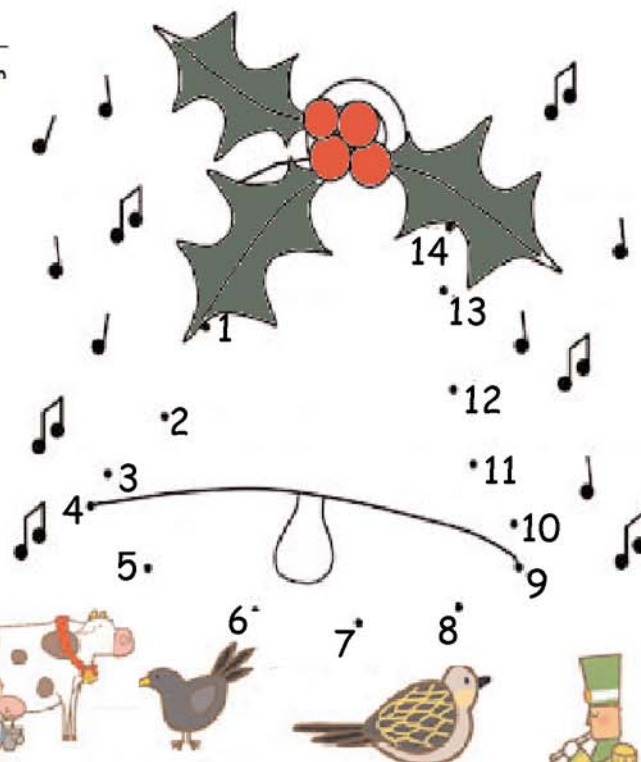
1 4 19 18 7 24 12 9 7 21 9 13 26 7 9 12 9 6 18 1 21 9 22 10

14 13 26 19 24 4 18 7 21 14 19 5 10 9 22 10 17 26 4 14 5 10

26 13 26 19 23 24 4 18 22 6 18 7 7 14 8 24 26 10

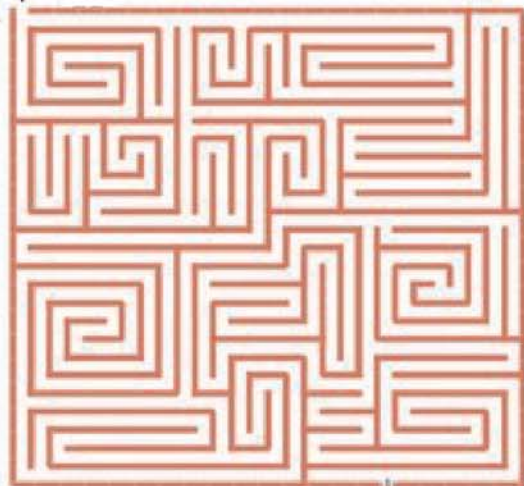
9 22 10 12 14 19 26 17 26 9 16 24 18 8 16 5

Find 10 Differences



Start

Help Santa to the packages



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



LEAPING CHRISTMAS LORDS DOVES
LAYING PARTRIDGE TWELVE HENS
MILKING SWIMMING MAIDS PEAR
SWANS PIPERS RINGS
DRUMMERS



Cryptogram Key

Finish

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

Rabid Raccoon Killed in Bloomingburg

Bloomingburg, NY - Sullivan County Department of Public Health has confirmed that a raccoon killed in the Bloomingburg area this week tested positive for the rabies virus.

"The raccoon was killed, and the property owners alerted Public Health, just as they should," said Acting Public Health Director Jill Hubert-Simon. "The head of the raccoon was sent to the State laboratory, where it tested positive for rabies."

Rabies occurs commonly throughout New York State, with the vast majority of cases occurring in wild animals, including raccoons, bats, foxes, skunks and woodchucks. Domestic animals account for less than 10% of the reported rabies cases, which most often include cats, cattle, and dogs. Wild animals may expose your pets if they are allowed to freely roam on your property in wooded areas.

Public Health will be working to provide another free clinic in the Bloomingburg area; please check the County website and local media outlets for updates.

What Can People Do to Protect Themselves Against Rabies?

Be sure your pets are up to date on rabies vaccinations. Vaccinated pets serve as a buffer between rabid wildlife and humans. Protect them, and you protect yourself and family. As a pet owner, it is your responsibility to ensure your pets are fully vaccinated.

Vaccines for dogs, cats and ferrets over three months of age are effective for a one-year period. Revaccinations are effective for up to three years. Pets too young to be vaccinated should be kept indoors.

Don't try to separate two fighting animals. Wear gloves if you handle your pet after a fight. Keep family pets indoors at night. Don't leave them outside unattended or let them roam free.

Don't attract wild animals to your home or yard. Keep your property free of stored bird seed, food garbage or other foods that may attract animals. Feed pets indoors. Tightly cap or put away garbage cans. Board up any openings to your attic, basement, porch or garage. Cap your chimney with screens. Don't feed, touch or adopt wild animals, stray dogs or stray cats.

What if Someone Is Bitten?

Encourage children to immediately tell an adult if they are bitten by any animal. Tell children not to touch any animal except their own.

Seek treatment for all animal bites and report contact with wild animals to Sullivan County Department of Public Health at (845) 292-5910.

If you can safely do so, don't let an animal escape that has possibly exposed someone to rabies. Depending on the species, it can be observed or tested for rabies in order to avoid the need for rabies treatment for people, or to avoid euthanizing and testing exposed unvaccinated pets.

This also includes bats, as bats can be difficult to keep out of buildings because they can get through cracks as small as a pencil. Methods to keep bats out (bat proofing) of homes and summer camps should be done during the fall and winter. If bats are already inside (e.g. in an attic or other areas), consult with your local authorities about humane ways to remove them. Bats have small, sharp teeth and in certain circum-

Tri-Valley CSD Board Meeting

Thursday,
December 12, 2024

at 7:00 p.m.
Secondary School
Lower Level Library

The meeting will be livestreamed on the District's YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/CHANNEL/UCKI224vKO8nAWR6N%20%20Vao24w/live>

stances people can be bitten and not know it.

For more information, please contact the Disease Surveillance and Investigation Department of Sullivan County Public Health at 845-292-5910.

Virtual Public Information Meeting December 18, 2024 - 11:00am

Registration Information and Documents are Available at the Project Website:

<https://participate.ulstercountyny.gov/kingston-rail-crossing-study>
Registration is required

Ulster County Transportation Council (UCTC) invites the public to learn about project findings of the Kingston Rail Crossing Study. Initiated in early 2023, the purpose of the Study is to evaluate safety along the West Shore Rail Corridor in the City of Kingston, NY, which includes six highway/rail grade crossings.

Over the past several years, the City of Kingston has experienced several pedestrian and vehicular accidents, including fatalities, along the CSX West Shore Rail Corridor. The Rail Crossing Study aims to evaluate the existing highway/rail crossing and trespass events along the rail corridor to identify solutions. The project goals include:

- o Enhancing the safety along the rail corridor
- o Assessing the current risks posed by hazards or vulnerabilities
- o Developing a comprehensive risk reduction strategy by applying appropriate mitigations
- o Providing recommended improvements to enhance safety including planning level costs and funding sources

The study considered both vehicular and pedestrian incidents at highway-rail grade crossings as well as trespassing hotspot locations along a 2-mile segment of the rail corridor within the City of Kingston. The plan considered mitigations and safety measures utilizing best practices and guidance from both the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as well as the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

Project staff will host a Virtual Public Information Meeting on December 18, 2024 at 11:00am to present the findings of this study. Registration is required.

To review the final document and to register for the public information session, visit <https://participate.ulstercountyny.gov/kingston-rail-crossing-study>



RUSSIAN MULE BREWERY

CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

4-7PM

12/7 - ANDREW MERCER

12/14 - JESSE NOREN

UGLY SWEATER PARTY

12/21 - ALBI BELULI

SANTA CON

12/28 - BJ HENDRICKSON

HOLIDAY PARTY!

FOR MORE INFO GO TO
www.russianmulebrewery.com

"DEC Does What?!" Podcast Episode 16 Now Available: When Disaster Strikes

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today released the latest episode of "DEC Does What?!", the bi-weekly podcast that features conversations with DEC experts about the agency's wide-ranging efforts to protect New Yorkers and the environment. Episode 16—"When Disaster Strikes"—takes a closer look at how DEC supported recovery efforts as part of the New York State Incident Management Team (IMT) operations in the city of Asheville, NC, following the devastation of Hurricane Helene in September 2024.

In this episode, hosts Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar and Chief of Staff Erica Ringewald welcome Division of Forest Protection Forest Ranger Captain Adam Pickett and Division of Communication, Education, and Engagement/DEC Region 5 Public Participation Specialist Erin Hanczyk to discuss their 14-day IMT deployments, which included helping to distribute food and water to impacted communities and coordinating communications and outreach to support recovery efforts in western North Carolina.

Adam and Erin also discuss navigating the challenges of deployment, including coordinating logistics between state, federal, and local agencies, maintaining healthy work-to-rest schedules during lengthy workdays, and lending support to fellow disaster response team members with families in impacted communities. They discuss how their experiences help inform incident response in New York, including the recent Jennings Creek wildfire.

Episode 16 also spotlights the latest environmental news and DEC initiatives, including the graduation of DEC's newest class of Forest Rangers, unique job opportunities with DEC, and a special holiday sale for The Conservationist, DEC's official bi-monthly magazine.

All episodes of "DEC Does What?!" are available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, YouTube, Amazon Music, and all major podcast platforms.

More information on "DEC Does What?!" is available on DEC's website.

<https://dec.ny.gov/news/podcast>



RURAL HEALTH NETWORK FITNESS CLASSES

The Ellenville Regional Rural Health Network offers a wide variety of FREE fitness classes for all ages and fitness levels.

 **CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE
DECEMBER FITNESS CALENDAR**

https://erhny.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/December-2024-Fitness-Calendar.pdf?utm_source=Ellenville+Regional+Hospital+Emails&utm_campaign=f4d7807856-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_02_23_02_39_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bba60ff6e-f4d7807856-499879025&mc_cid=f4d7807856&mc_eid=e96f95494c

MEDICATION TAKE BACK EVENTS

Keeping medications in a secure location and disposing of unused medication ensures that they are less likely to be consumed by those that they are not intended for.

Tuesday, December 17

Matthews Pharmacy
101 Canal St Ellenville
11:00am - 2:00pm

Monday, December 9

Catskill Pharmacy
16401 US-209, Kerhonkson
11:00am - 2:00pm

Friday, December 20

Ellenville Regional Hospital
Emergency Department Lobby
10 Healthy Way
8:00am - 12:00pm





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Live Music - Food - Drink

DECEMBER

28

AT 5:00 PM

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November 29, 30, & December 1

December 7 & 8

December 14 & 15

December 21 & 22 (depending on supply)

Closed December 24

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**Sundown United Methodist Church
Covered Dish Supper
5:30 pm
Jan 4, 2024**

Many items from the Indoor Yard Sale will be available for sale at the Supper. Come check them out.

Sundown United Methodist Church Hall

St. Mary's and St. Andrews Church
139 S Main Street • Ellenville, NY 12740

Mass Times
SUNDAY EUCHARIST
5:00 PM Saturday Evening
7:30 AM Sunday Morning
10:00 AM Sunday Morning
(Latin) 11:30 AM Sunday Morning*
(Spanish) 1:00 PM Sunday Afternoon
*Sung Mass 2nd and 4th Sundays

WEEKDAY EUCHARIST
8:00 AM Monday through Friday
9:00 AM Saturday

HOLY DAY EUCHARIST
Schedule will be listed in the bulletin
<https://smsaparish.org/bulletins>

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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, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday
Mass at 8:30AM.
Thursday, 3 pm Divine Mercy Chaplete followed by Mass

Saturday afternoon confessions: 3:45 to 4:15 pm
Rev. Ignas Dhas MMI, Administrator
(845) 434-7643

Grahamsville United Methodist Church

**Wishing you all
A Very Blessed
and Joyous
Christmas!**

Grahamsville & Sundown United Methodist Churches

Come and Join us for
in person Worship on Sundays.

Sundown UMC 8:30 am
Peekamoose Rd., Sundown

Grahamsville UMC 10:30 am
350 Main Street, Grahamsville

Pastor Harriet Wilkin
845-985-2283

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 @ 10:15 am
Rev. Ken Tenckinck, Pastor
Church Hall available for rent
Call - 845-985-2041 for information

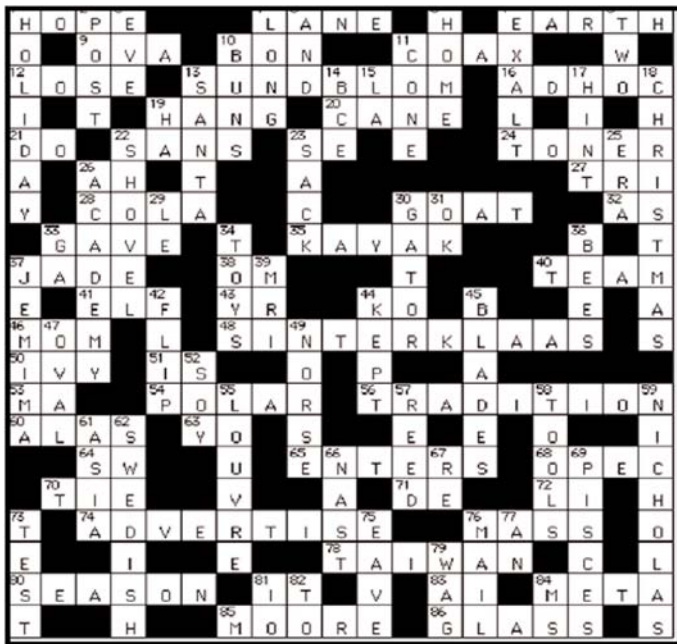


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Watson Hollow Rd. • West Shokan, NY
Sunday Mass - 9:30 am
Holy Days 5:30 pm
Penance 9:00 am, 2nd Sunday of the month
Rev. Thomas P. Kiely, Pastor

Ans to last week's Crossword




**Sundown
United Methodist Church
Covered Dish Supper**
Saturday,
January 4, 2024 5:30 pm
at the Church Hall
*Check out the tables with Yard Sale items
available for sale*
*(Covered Dish Suppers are held the
First Saturday of each month at 5:30 pm
at the Church Hall)*

Claryville Reformed Church Gingerbread Bash

This year, join us for our Gingerbread Bash where your family will build a gingerbread nativity while celebrating the birth of Jesus. More than that, you'll hear the Christmas story from the Bible, sing songs, play games, and discover the good news of Jesus through candy canes! Sunday December 15th 1:30-3:30 PM. Claryville Reformed Church Church Hall at 946 Claryville Road, Claryville, NY.

Registration is needed so there are enough supplies for each child/family. The link for registration is on the flyer on page 5.

\$17.5 BILLION in Lost Money

Every day New York State returns \$1.5 million to those who file claims here. Is any yours? To find out, go to:

<https://osc.state.ny.us/ouf> or <https://ouf.osc.state.ny.us/ouf>

Many have checked, and sure enough after following the directions and filing a claim, have received a check from the NYS Comptroller's Office. It only takes a few minutes to find



All Aboard!
Join the Fun!
Play Mexican Train
FREE FUN
every FRIDAY 1-4 pm
in the upstairs meeting room
at the Neversink Town Hall

Also WANTED
People to play cards

SUUJI WA TANSU NI KAGIRU
answer

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

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.

LLM CGC

Check the air quality where you are at:
<https://www.airnow.gov/>

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email: tvtownsman@yahoo.com
or visit our Virtual Mail
<http://gnomehomeinc.com>

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.

LOCAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

12/11/24	Town of Neversink Board Meeting 7:00 pm
12/17/24	Town of Neversink Zoning Board Meeting 7:30 pm
12/19/24	Neversink Fire District Commissioner Meeting 7:00pm
12/19/24	Denning Town Planning Board Meeting 6:00 pm Denning Town Hall
1/4/25	Sundown UMC Covered Dish Supper 5:30 Church

To all Local Municipalities, Civic Organizations, Churches, etc.

Please remember to send us your **Events Calendar for 2025** so that we may continue to post your meetings and events throughout the coming year. You may email them to: tvtownsman@yahoo.com
or USPS Mail - The Townsman, PO Box 232, Grahamsville, NY 12740

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.

Town of Denning - <http://www.denning.us>
Town of Neversink - <https://townofneversink.org>

Weekly Update for The Week of

December 2 - December 6, 2024

Legislative Committee Meetings are Livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature/streams>

Monday, December 9

- o 4:30 PM - **Public Works, Capital Projects & Transportation Subcommittee on Interviews for the Transit Riders & Intermodal Advisory Committee**, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building
- o 5:00 PM - **Ulster County Community Services Board, in the Ulster County Department of Mental Health**, 368 Broadway, Kingston
- o 6:00 PM - **Public Works, Capital Projects & Transportation Committee**, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston & Via Legislature Livestream

Tuesday, December 10

- o 5:00 PM - Board of Health, **CANCELLED**
- o 5:00 PM: **Caucuses: Democrats**, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston; **Republicans**, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
- o 6:00 PM - Board of Ethics, in the Ulster County Human Services Complex, Building 2, Veterans Agency Entrance, 100 Development Court, Kingston

The Following Public Hearings & Special Legislative Session are held in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston And via Livestream at <https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature>

- o 6:00 PM - **Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 14 of 2024** - A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster, Chapter 232 Living Wage, In Relation To Applicability And Compensation
- o 6:05 PM - **Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 15 of 2024** -A Local Law Amending The Ulster County Charter And Administrative Code By Deleting The Insurance Department and Renaming the Safety Department Risk Management
- o 6:10 PM - **Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 16 of 2024** - A Local Law Amending The Ulster County Charter And The Ulster County Administrative Code By Renaming Article XVI From Department Of Purchasing To Department Of General Services
- o 6:15 PM - **Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 17 of 2024** - A Local Law Applying The Salary Revisions Pursuant To The 2025 Ulster County Budget To County Officers Serving For Fixed Terms
- o 6:20 PM - **Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 18 of 2024** - A Local Law Applying Salary Revisions For Certain Elected Ulster County Officials Serving For Fixed Terms
- o 6:25 (Or Immediately Following Public Hearings) - **Special Legislative Session: Vote on the Proposed 2025 Budget & Proposed 2025 - 2030 Capital Program**

Wednesday, December 11

- o Fire Advisory Board **CANCELLED**:

Thursday, December 12

- o 4:00 PM - **Laws, Rules & Government Services Committee**, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston & Via Legislature Livestream
- o 5:00 PM (Or Immediately Following Laws, Rules & Government Services Committee) - **Ways & Means Committee**, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston & Via Legislature Livestream
- o 5:30 PM - **Ulster County Youth Board**, in the Restorative Justice & Community Empowerment Center, 733 Broadway, Kingston

Friday, December 13

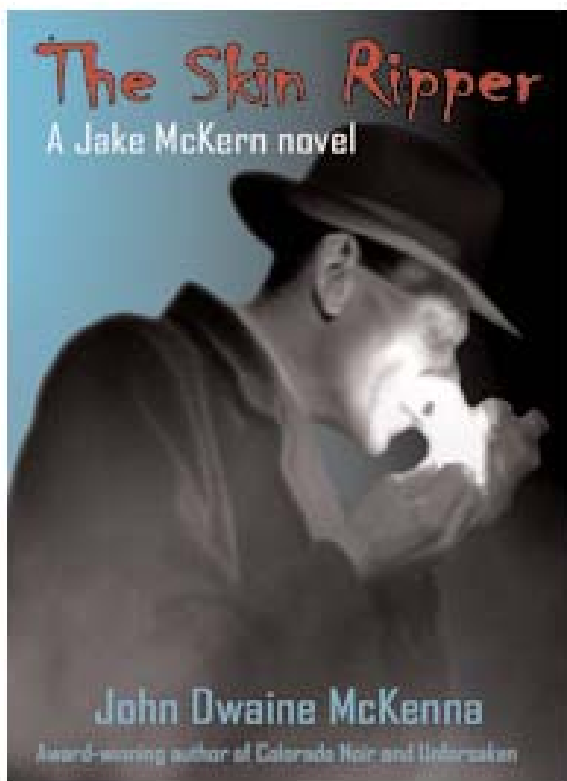
- o No Meetings

The Skin Ripper

A novel

John Dwaine McKenna

From the award-winning pen of John Dwaine McKenna comes a searing new novel five years in the making . . .



Recently promoted and just out of the hospital after a long recuperation from injuries he received while battling Lee Roy Morgan gang as they were trying to rob Colorado Commercial Bank, Colorado Springs homicide detective Jake McKern is on his first case . . . the double murder of an elderly couple who ran a small grocery on the 'Springs near west side . . . while at the same time, his personal life is crashing down around him.

With the only clue being a handwritten journal in an unknown and indecipherable language, the victims turn out to be Jews who survived Auschwitz and the horrors of the Shoah, the case suddenly takes on an international flavor with world-wide consequences.

The suspense ratchets up with each chapter as the beleaguered detective is drawn ever deeper into a morass of treachery, danger, and personal tragedy. It's Jake's darkest

hour and his greatest adventure to date!

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325 pages

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from Ellenville Regional Hospital

Remember, if you need medical attention or have any concerns about your health, our team is here to provide the care and support you deserve.

Together, we can make this season a healthy one!

Here when you need us most...

- Pain Management
- Physical Therapy
- Ambulatory Surgery
- Speech Pathology
- Subacute Rehab
- Wound Care
- Laboratory
- IV Therapy
- Digital Diagnostic Imaging
- Emergency Department
- Cardiac Rehabilitation
- Occupational Therapy

845.647.6400 | ERHNY.org

ERH Auxiliary presents a \$30,000 check to Ellenville Regional Hospital



Auxiliary President, Haze Gal, proudly presented a \$30,000 check to Steven Kelley, President and CEO of Ellenville Regional Hospital, on December 6, 2024. This generous donation will be used to continue improving the experience and care for our patients at Ellenville Regional Hospital.

Ellenville Regional Hospital extends heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated members of the Auxiliary for their unwavering hard work and tenacity in raising funds. These efforts directly contribute to sustaining Ellenville Regional Hospital's commitment to providing exceptional healthcare services to the community.

To continue supporting the Ellenville

Regional Hospital Auxiliary, we invite the community to explore our gift shop and stay tuned for upcoming events. Your participation enables the Auxiliary to make a meaningful difference in the health



Lulu and Smokey - Two Beautiful Cats Need a Good Caring Home



Lulu

Two beautiful cats are in need of a good, caring home. Lulu is a female black and white cat. She's about 13 years old. She is an indoor outdoor cat, but mostly indoor. She is very lovable and loves to play and be petted.

Smokey is the gray male tabby cat. He is about 12 years old and a big boy. He just loves to play, be petted, and loves his food.

He too is an indoor outdoor cat, but mostly indoor. I have been taking care of them for a month and have not let them outside, and they are fine with that.

Their owner was my brother who recently passed away and he had both cats for at least 12 years. They have had all of their shots, and will come with a supply of food, kitty litter and pans, bowls for food and water, and toys.



Smokey

The hope is to keep them together.

I would love to keep them, but have 3 dogs that would not take well to cats.

Only serious cat lovers will be considered.

If you are interested, please contact me.

Esta Jacob
856-866-1579 Cell
845-985-3937 Home
ejacob4848@gmail.com

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- (3" x 4") - \$30.00 per week
- (3" x 6") - \$45.00 per week
- 1/4 pg (4" x 5") - \$50.00 per week
- 1/2 pg (4"x8") - \$80.00 per week
- Full Page - 8" x 10" - \$100.00 per week
- Digital Flyer Insert - 8"x10 - \$100.00/week

Sign up for quarterly billing and get a 20% discount

.. Full Page Flyer for Local Municipalities and Organizations - one time fee- \$20.00 (once the flyer is inserted we will publish it each week through the week of the event)

As in the past, there is no fee for advertising for our local churches

Low Rates
 High Visibility!

Take a Gander at These Trees! Museum Hosts Themed Tree Exhibit All December



Hurleyville, NY - The Sullivan County Cultural Center (Museum) has its annual Holiday Tree Exhibit on display! The Sullivan County Historical Society hosts this event, where many different Holiday Trees are created by individuals and local organizations.



Holiday Trees are on display now through New Year's Day, Tuesday-Saturday from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at 265 Main Street, Hurleyville. Admission is free!

The Museum has opportunities to purchase holiday gifts such as history books, gift shop items and photographs by Frederick Cook from the Sullivan County Historical Society and the Frederick Cook Society.

For more information, call 845-434-8044 or email SCParks@sullivanny.gov.

SHADOWLAND
STAGES

THE WICKHAMS

Christmas at Pemberley

The sequel to last season's holiday hit, *Miss Bennet!*



"A romantic comedy that offers audiences the ability to "time-travel" to experience Jane Austen's point of view. Playful entertainment for the Holiday Season."

-BroadwayWorld

BY LAUREN GUNDERSON
AND MARGOT MELCON

DEC. 6 - 22

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FRIDAY & SATURDAY at 7 PM
SATURDAY & SUNDAY at 2 PM

FOR TICKETS - CALL 845.647.5511
BUY ONLINE AT SHADOWLANDSTAGES.ORG



GET YOUR TICKETS NOW

https://shadowlandstages.easy-ware-ticketing.com/events?mc_cid=1b165f1bb5&mc_eid=138a9b9d06

Show Dates
December 6 - December 22
Fridays & Saturdays at 7 PM
Saturdays & Sundays at 2 PM

Tickets
Evening performances: \$43
Matinees: \$39



FROSTY FUN IN THE VALLEY



Winter Break Day Camp at FROST VALLEY YMCA DEC 30, 2024 – JAN 3, 2025

- For Kids in Grades K-5
- Daily, 9:30 am – 4 pm
- FREE Transportation from Dollar General, Grahamsville

SCAN TO REGISTER



Slide into Winter with some frosty fun at Frost Valley's Winter Break Day Camp! Campers will have the opportunity to participate in activities like archery, snow adventures (weather permitting), broomball, arts & crafts, and more!

CALL: 845-985-2291 x 203

EMAIL: daycamp@frostvalley.org

REGISTER ONLINE:

frostvalleycommunity.campbrainregistration.com



Sundown
United
Methodist
Church



January 4, 2023
5:30 pm

Bring a covered dish to share
Enjoy good food and fellowship

and don't forget to check out the tables
filled with a variety of collectibles,
household items and more
that will be available for sale

Sundown United Methodist Church Hall
(Intersection of Sundown Rd., Peekamoose Rd. & Greenville Rd., Sundown, NY 12740)



Please Help Save Our School!

The Claryville Reformed Church and the Time and the Valleys Museum
are working together to preserve and open
the historic 1848 Claryville One Room School, and we need your help.

A donation of ANY amount will go directly to the 1848 Claryville School and help:

- inventory the many historical items.
- purchase acid-free storage supplies for artifacts, photos and documents.
- repair the building and restore the one room school interior.
- open the school to the public on a regular basis.
- provide programs for children and adults.

PLEASE make a tax-deductible donation today using the form below or go to www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org. This historic building is an important part of our fading past and should be preserved and enjoyed by all - your donation will make that happen!

Thank You!

Yes! I would like to make a donation to preserve and open the 1848 Claryville School.

_____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ \$500 _____ \$1,000 _____ Other

Please mail your check to:

Time and the Valleys Museum

P.O. Box 254, Grahamsville, NY 12740

or go online:

[www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org/
support/donate](http://www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org/support/donate)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Thank you so much for your donation.

Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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 845 985-7700 or join online: www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org

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- Double \$40
- Family \$50
- Patron \$100
- Patron Silver \$200
- Patron Gold \$500

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State & Zip: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Thank you for supporting local history and the Museum

Time and the Valleys Museum

P.O. Box 254, 332 Main Street, Grahamsville NY 12740

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Ashokan-Pepacton Watershed Chapter

BLUE MOUNTAINS TROUT NEWS

DECEMBER 2024

By Ed Ostapczuk



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

December Holiday Party and Chapter Meeting

Our "2024 Year-Ending Holiday Party" will be held on Wednesday evening, December 18, 6 PM at the Boiceville Inn. Please note the change in day of the week, date, and time for this cheery celebration. A light buffet dinner will be provided by the chapter for all members and guests in attendance, but participants need to purchase their own liquid refreshments.



For anyone so desiring, we will conduct a gift swap. If you wish to participate, please bring a wrapped gift with a value of about \$20. All participants will be given a ticket and tickets will be randomly drawn, allowing the ticket holder to choose a wrapped gift. This activity is not a requirement to be part of the Holiday Party, but merely a fun event for those wishing to participate.

Also please note, there are no scheduled chapter meetings for the months of December (other than the Holiday Party) or January, due to anticipated winter weather conditions. Hope to see you on December 18, and back again in February. Also, please check below for upcoming February activities.

From the chapter officers and board of directors, Happy Holidays to you and yours!

Guest queue up for the delicious food at the November TU Fund-Raiser dinner. Photo by Chet Karwatowski.

Fall Fund-Raiser Dinner - a Success!

As reported in the November newsletter, our Fall Fund-Raiser Dinner was a huge social and financial success netting the chapter \$6,593.79. However, sadly we had some technical issues when trying to send out our email newsletter the usual way. In an effort to send members a timely PDF copy instead, names of several donors got left off the extensive "thank you" list. We sincerely appreciate ALL the donors who contributed to the event, and apologize for that regrettable oversight.

In this newsletter we want to reiterate a full "thank you" list starting with our chapter Fall Fund Raiser committee consisting of John and Amanda Yanzek, George Holz, and Yuki Asada. Also, special thanks to Paul Schiavo, Stephen Zaima, and all chapter members and friends who assisted and worked this special assembly that evening. But most importantly, below is a complete list of companies, organizations, and individuals who made donations to the event in one way or another.

26 West Gym	Enterprises	John Shapiro
181 Cold Smoked	Forrest	Stewarts Shops
Adams Fairacres	Hutchinson	Susan's Pleasant
Farm	Kenco Outfitters	Pheasant Farm
Artistic Jewelry	Diane & Gary	Thruway Sporting
Yuki Asada	Kvistad	Goods
Auto Zone	Local Goods	Troy & Camille
Bardavon/UPAC	Mark Loete	Thornton
Joshua Caldwell	Bill MacFarlane	Tree Juice Maple
Camp Holz Fish &	Meadows Golf	Syrup
Game	Center	Trout Town Flies
Candlestock	Mornings Café	Union Grove
Catskill Crew	Oblong	Distillery
Catskill Outfitters	Bookstore	Wearable
Chef Zach Berger	Old Rhinebeck	Ceramics
Cheyenne Mallo	Aerodrome	West Kill Brewing
Pottery	Ed Ostapczuk	Steven Weinberg
Cortland	Lois Ostapczuk	Wiltwyck Golf
Del's Roadside	Overlook Bakery	Club
Dette Flies	Oyster Party BK	Woodstock
Emerson Resort &	Phoenicia Diner	Brewing
Spa	Peekamoose	Woodstock
Andrew Emrich	Restaurant & Tap	Chimes/Percussion
Exit 19 Kingston	Room	Woodstock Design
Filson NYC	Potter Brothers	Woodstock
Foster's Coach	Rail Explorers	Hardware
House Tavern	Robert Selkowitz	Andrew
Glo Woodstock	Shepherd Hills	Worthington
Day Spa	Golf Course	Amanda & John
Chris Hensley	Frank Skidmore	Yanzek
Hoffman	Robert & Lynn	Stephen Zaima
	Slattery	



*Royal Wulff, freshly tied.
Photo by Ed Ostapczuk*

Once again, thank you to everyone who made this Fund-Raiser the successful and memorable event it was.

Fly Tying Classes Begin February 8

Mark your calendars now; our winter fly tying classes will be held once again at the Olive Free Library on NY 28A in West Shokan, (Contd. Pg. 36)

Blue Mountain Trout News (From Pg. 35) NY on the following dates: February 8, 15, 22, and March 1 and 8. These are all Saturdays with classes held from 10 AM to 2 PM. These are FREE lessons, open to all chapter members and nonmembers alike. No experience or fly tying equipment or materials are needed; at each class, the chapter will supply these for new tyers wishing to learn.

Pre-registration will be required so we have sufficient materials and instructors, making this a positive experience for all involved. To register email Tony Coccozza at: fmailto:Flyfish@hvc.rr.com.

The classes are sequential in nature, in that tying skills expand upon techniques taught in prior weeks, so beginners should give serious consideration to attending all classes. Experienced tyers are always welcome to assist or just tie flies in the companionship of other fly tyers. In the months ahead, watch for a separate email reminder as these fly-tying dates get closer.



*A recent view of the turbidity in the Esopus Creek.
Photo by Ed Ostapczuk.*

Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program (AWSMP)

Our chapter remains an active contributing partner with AWSMP, working for the betterment of the Esopus Creek watershed upstream of the Ashokan Reservoir. On December 4, Tony Coccozza, Chet Karwatowski, and myself participated in an AWSMP Stream Ecosystem Working Group Meeting with representatives of NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC), NYC Department of Environmental Protections (NYC DEP), USGS Fisheries, AWSMP, and Mike Flaherty (AWSMP committee co-chair and retired NYS DEC Region 3 Fisheries Manager).

It was a productive agenda ending with discussion regarding recent Shandaken Tunnel diversions, the drawdown of NYC's Schoharie Reservoir, and a turbid Esopus. The point was made, and well taken, despite turbid Portal diversions, given current drought conditions, there was a level of Esopus Creek flows - turbid or not - required to maintain a healthy ecology. As of December 4, NYC's

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Schoharie Reservoir was at 4% capacity, or less than one billion gallons of water remaining. Watch for more information on this topic in future newsletters.

Acid Rain Report

Jody Hoyt reported the following November precipitation data, as recorded in Boiceville, New York. Finally, some much needed rain, and snow, fell locally! There were 5 measurable storms with a total of 5.03 liquid inches, including 8.3 inches of snow, having a weighted pH average of 5.6. By comparison, in November 2023 there were also 5 storms but only measuring 2.86 liquid inches, including 3.5 inches of snow, having a 6.1 weighted average pH. Thank you Jody for these longtime, ongoing efforts.

Membership

If you have membership questions or concerns, or know someone who wants to join our chapter, please contact Russell Martin at: mailto:rmartintu@gmail.com?subject=TU%20membership%20inquiry.

Until next time,

Ed Ostapczuk
December 5, 2024

Governor Hochul Signs New Law to Support Workers Facing Job-related Post-Traumatic Stress

Legislation S.6635/A.5745 Allows New Yorkers To Apply For Workers' Compensation For Extraordinary Work-Related Stress

Governor Hochul Invested \$1 Billion To Transform The Continuum Of Mental Health Care In New York

Governor Kathy Hochul signed new legislation to support working people who are facing job-related mental health crises. This law will allow any worker to file for workers' compensation for specific types of mental injury premised on extraordinary work-related stress. Signing this law continues Governor Hochul's commitment to addressing the mental health crisis in New York, including by investing \$1 billion to transform the continuum of care.

"New Yorkers work hard - and those who have experienced the unthinkable while on the job deserve to be treated fairly," Governor Hochul said. "The mental health crisis our country has experienced since the COVID-19 pandemic is unprecedented, and we need to do everything in our power to lend a hand to those in need. I'll never stop fighting for the working people of New York."

Through an agreement with the Legislature, Legislation S.6635/A.5745 will allow any worker to file for workers' compensation for specific types of mental injury premised on extraordinary work-related stress. This expands coverage to all workers in the State of New York; previously, only certain first responders were eligible for such benefits.

New York State AFL-CIO President Mario Cilento said, "We applaud Governor Hochul for taking an important step toward helping workers suffering from mental illness as a result of their employment. This law removes significant hurdles workers face when accessing care and benefits for workplace mental health claims. Thank you to Senator Ramos and Assemblymember Reyes for recognizing the need for parity for mental and physical workplace illness/injury.

This legislation builds on the Governor's commitment to strengthening the state's mental health care system and improving access for all New Yorkers. The Governor's FY 2025 Enacted Budget included \$20 million to continue expanding school-based mental health clinic satellites, \$19 million to provide critical care to young people outside of school environments, \$33 million to build supports for individuals living with a mental illness who are involved in the criminal justice system, and \$55 million to add 200 inpatient beds at state-

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SAVE A LIFE! DONATE! SHARE OUR STORY!



NICK NEEDS KIDNEY -TYPE O (IN SOME CASES TYPE A BLOOD COULD WORK)

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) progresses in stages and, if untreated, can lead to complete loss of kidney function. At CKD stage 5, when both kidneys fail completely, the only options for survival are dialysis or a kidney transplant. Nick is at stage 5.

If interested in donating please contact Westchester Medical Center and speak with a Living Donor Coordinator at 914.493.1990

More about our warrior Nick....

Nick was diagnosed with Tuberous Sclerosis Complex (TSC) at birth. TSC is a neurological disorder that produces seizures, tumors, and lesions that effect the organs of the body and can cause Autism. Nick has been battling with seizures his whole life from infantile spasms to adult grand-mal seizures. May 2019 we heard the worst news that Nick's function was under 10% on both kidneys. Since then Nick has had multiple surgeries so he could get the proper dialysis preformed. Nick goes in center for 4 hours 3 times a week. Not what the sweetest, kindest, 31 year old should be going through.

Nick has such a big heart and is loved by so many in our community. We all want Nick to have the best quality of life and going through dialysis does not provide that quality. We hope and pray a kidney comes to us and that Nick will be able to live a happy and healthy life doing what he loves and that is to bicycle all throughout our town making people smile. Nick is a big part of the community, he takes pride with his volunteer work with the EMS and is the Honorary member of the Monticello Fire Department.

Lets all band together for Nick and help him find a kidney so he can live life to the fullest!

*For any other questions
845.798.2077 nickneedsokidney@gmail.com*

 Follow Nick
[@nickneedsokidney](https://www.facebook.com/nickneedsokidney)

Season's Greetings from SHADOWLAND STAGES

Season's greetings! As the holidays draw near, all of us at SHADOWLAND STAGES feel immense gratitude for friends like you who've made this year so remarkable.

The year 2024 has been a time of both accomplishments and challenges at SHADOWLAND. In a time when the arts continue to face unprecedented obstacles, your dedication allowed us to persevere. Thanks to you, we brought the hit musical *Beehive* to life, laughed it up with *Lend Me a Soprano*, felt joy and pain in *The Garbologists*, and so much more. (And here's some news: our heralded production of *Dear Jack, Dear Louise* was so lauded that it's opening Off-Broadway in NYC in January!) Beyond our season productions, SHADOWLAND ACADEMY has been providing educational programs for kids and adults year-round. We successfully expanded our summer and fall educational offerings, providing more opportunities to inspire the next generation of artists.

Your presence, support, and contributions are the true driving forces that keep our programs and stages alight and thriving.

Your continued support is essential in bringing these visions to life. As we enter the season of giving, we humbly ask you to join our mission by making a contribution to SHADOWLAND STAGES. Ticket sales provide only about 50% of the costs of Shadowland's operations. Simply put, we NEED your support. Your generosity enables our creative journey helping us ensure a future where the arts continue to flourish, connect, and inspire our community.

Make an end-of-year tax deductible donation online at shadowlandstages.org/donate, or click the button below.

CLICK HERE TO DONATE

https://shadowlandstages.org/donate/?mc_cid=c27b6febf2&mc_eid=138a9b9d06

This holiday season, we also hope you can join us for *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley*, the delightful sequel to last year's holiday favorite, *Miss Bennet*. Step back into the world of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* and experience a story filled with warmth, humor, and a touch of intrigue. There's no need to have seen last year's show to fully enjoy this exciting holiday tale.

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW

https://shadowlandstages.easy-ware-ticketing.com/events?mc_cid=c27b6febf2&mc_eid=138a9b9d06

If you are looking for a unique gift this holiday season-immerse your loved ones in the world of drama, laughter, and unforgettable moments by gifting them a pair of tickets, a subscription, or a custom value of your choice. Our next season promises a lineup of exciting performances that will leave a lasting impression.

Purchase your gift certificate today and set the stage for an unforgettable 2025 with SHADOWLAND STAGES!

CLICK HERE FOR GIFT CERTIFICATES

https://easy-ware-forms.com/shadowlandstages/giftcertificate?mc_cid=c27b6febf2&mc_eid=138a9b9d06

As always, thank you for your incredible support. We look forward to welcoming you back to the theatre soon, and in the meantime, we wish you a joyful holiday season filled with warmth, creativity, and celebration.

CLICK HERE TO DONATE

https://shadowlandstages.org/donate/?mc_cid=c27b6febf2&mc_eid=138a9b9d06

THE WICKHAMS: CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY

By Lauren Gunderson & Margot Melcon;

*Directed by Brendan Burke; Running December 6th -
December 22nd on The MainStage
at SHADOWLAND STAGES*

Step into the festive world of *Pride and Prejudice*-with a twist! *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley*, the heart-warming sequel to last year's *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*, opens this weekend on Saturday, December 7th at SHADOWLAND MainStage. Written by Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon, this delightful story takes audiences downstairs to explore life at Pemberley during the holiday season.

The Wickhams brings warmth, humor, and a touch of holiday scandal to the stage. When Mr. Wickham, the dashing troublemaker and Mr. Darcy's old nemesis, makes an unexpected entrance, the servants at Pemberley must juggle their holiday duties, personal ambitions, and the task of keeping the peace. With the help of Mrs. Reynolds, the steadfast housekeeper, Cassie, the spirited new servant, and Brian, the hopelessly romantic groomsman, the holiday bustle at Pemberley becomes a heartfelt journey of family, class, and forgiveness-all wrapped in the spirit of giving.

Make SHADOWLAND part of your holiday tradition and experience the joy, warmth, and fun of *The Wickhams* this season!

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW

https://shadowlandstages.easy-ware-ticketing.com/events?mc_cid=7782efecae&mc_eid=138a9b9d06

\$43 (Evenings) | \$39 (Matinees)

Discounts available for groups of 10 or more!

Purchase tickets now or call the Box Office at (845) 647-5511.

Performances:

December 6 - December 22

@ SHADOWLAND MainStage, 157 Canal Street, Ellenville, NY

Special Holiday Schedule:

Fridays & Saturdays at 7 PM

Saturdays & Sundays at 2 PM

Don't wait-matinees are already selling fast!

Celebrate the holiday season with warmth, laughter, and classic Austen charm. We can't wait to see you there!

A Wilderness Search

On Dec. 1 at 2:30 a.m., Ray Brook Dispatch received a call from New York State Police (NYSP) for an overdue hiker on Allen Mountain. The caller reported his son Leo DuFour was hiking on Friday and expected back Saturday night. NYSP located the subject's car at the Mt. Adams trailhead, covered in snow. Forest Rangers led search efforts, with 59 Forest Rangers searching nearly 400 miles, primarily by foot, of rugged mountain terrain deep in harsh winter weather conditions. Rangers located one set of tracks on the trail leading from the subject's vehicle, but recent snowfall hampered tracking. NYSP Aviation utilized two helicopters to transport crews, drop off supplies, and conduct aerial searching as weather conditions allowed.

After more than eight days of an active search and despite continuous efforts using cell phone data analysis and the expertise of Allen Mountain hikers, Rangers have not located the subject. Given the harsh conditions, the search mission to locate DuFour transitioned to a recovery mission. The operation will upgrade to an active search if any leads regarding DuFour's whereabouts are realized.

Searchers utilized technical equipment, temporary basecamps, and extreme physical output to complete effective searches of tight drainages, thick forest cover, ledges and cliff bands, and swampy lowlands at elevations of more than 4,000 feet. The weather this week is expected to dip below zero, and with wind gusts of up to 40 miles per hour, the windchill at the summit is expected to be -20.

Due to the treacherous conditions-dangerous terrain, up to four feet of snow, whiteouts, and windchills below-it is no longer safe for anyone to continue searching using the methods and strategies in place since Dec. 1. Search efforts going forward will be based on thorough risk analysis to put effective searchers into high probability, unsearched areas to support Rangers' sustained commitment to bring Leo DuFour home. At this time, individuals should not attempt searching Allen Mountain.

Be sure to properly prepare and plan before entering the backcountry. Visit DEC's Hike Smart NY, Adirondack Backcountry Information, and Catskill Backcountry Information webpages for more information.

If a person needs a Forest Ranger, whether it's for a search and rescue, to report a wildfire, or to report illegal activity on state lands and easements, they should call 833-NYS-RANGERS. If a person needs urgent assistance, they can call 911. To contact a Forest Ranger for information about a specific location, the DEC website has phone numbers for every Ranger listed by region.

EC Releases 2024 Striped Bass Young-of-Year Survey Results

Second Consecutive Year of Poor Juvenile Production in the Hudson River

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today announced the 2024 Hudson River striped bass young-of-year survey results for 2024 depict a second consecutive year of poor juvenile production in the Hudson River. The index value, which provides an estimate of annual juvenile production for striped bass in the Hudson River, is generated through a beach seine survey at 13 sites in the lower Hudson River conducted bi-weekly from July to November. This is the 45th year of the survey, which provides important long-term monitoring information about striped bass and other fish species in the Hudson River.

"DEC's annual juvenile striped bass survey conducted in the Hudson River is a critical method for measuring the reproductive success and potential future abundance of the striped bass population along the Atlantic Coast," said DEC Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar. "Given the challenges striped bass are experiencing in other spawning areas and the poor results of the 2023 survey, this year's below average index

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Start at Route 28 and Reservoir Rd in Shokan 1.7 Miles
 ← Turn LEFT onto Monument Road
 Continue onto NY-28A West 1.8 Miles
 ← Turn LEFT onto NY-213 1.1 Miles
 → Turn RIGHT onto Krumville Road/CR-2A 0.8 Miles
 Gun Shop on LEFT

Start at Route 209 and 213 in Stone Ridge
 -Going Towards Olivebridge 7.5 Miles
 ← Turn LEFT onto The Krumville Road/CR-2A 0.8 Miles
 Gun Shop on LEFT

Bingo at the Monticello Elks Lodge

Every Tuesday at 7 PM
 46 North Street in Monticello
 For information
 contact Past Exalted Ruler Ronni Scannell
 at (845) 701-0695

value in the Hudson River heightens the concerns of the future availability of this critical resource as we approach the next decade."

The 2024 value for the DEC's Hudson River striped bass young-of-year index was 7.85 fish per haul. This value is below the long-term average, and for the second consecutive year, survey values were below the 25th percentile. The survey can be found on the Striped Bass webpage

<https://dec.ny.gov/nature/animals-fish-plants/hudson-delaware-marine-fisheries/striped-bass>

Juvenile prouction is an important part of rebuilding the coastal striped bass stock and is heavily dependent on environmental conditions in estuaries along the Atlantic Coast. The recent low values in the Hudson River add to concerns about striped bass production in other Atlantic coastal estuaries. The Maryland young-of-year index in the Chesapeake Bay also posted poor results in 2024, extending a string of poor annual reproduction events in the Chesapeake Bay to a sixth consecutive year.

New York State works cooperatively with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) to manage striped bass. In response to projections from the 2024 Stock Assessment Update (PDF)

https://www.asmfc.org/uploads/file/672288892024_AtlStripedBassAssessmentUpdate.pdf

the ASMFC Board will meet on Dec.16, to consider adjusting 2025 management measures to reduce fishing mortality and increase the probability of rebuilding the coastal stock of striped bass (meeting details (PDF)).

https://www.asmfc.org/uploads/file/672ceceapr35_AtlStripedBassBoardDecMtg.pdf

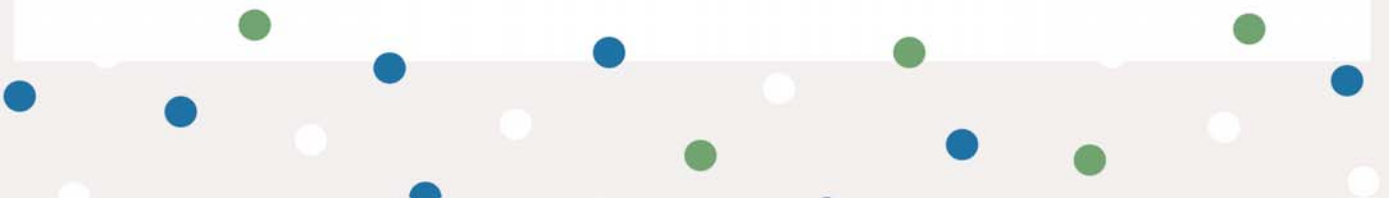


Ellenville Regional Hospital Auxiliary Gift Shop

BLOWOUT HOLIDAY SALE

50% OFF EVERYTHING!

**THURSDAY & FRIDAY
DECEMBER 19 & 20
10-3:00**



Vet 2 Vet

Caffeine &

Camaraderie



Every Monday

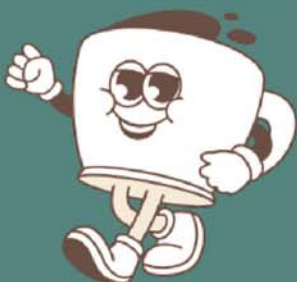


10:00AM - 11:00AM

Come join us along with other Vets to share some coffee and some stories.

**Place: 309 East Broadway
Monticello, NY 12701**

**Call 845-794-4228 for more
info, ask for Matt or Vinny**





Chair Yoga

Connect, Move, Breathe, Focus, Relax

Invigorate and Restore with the versatile and wonderful Chair as a prop to help you move better in your body. This practice will help to encourage and restore lost flexibility, stamina, balance and ease.

Benefits may include:

- improved lung function
- improved circulation
- improved mental and emotional health
- lower stress
- expand loving awareness toward self and others



A desire to nurture a healthy mindset and healthy body can change how we experience the world we live in.

Come play, connect, and be empowered.

Registration is required via the online library calendar; space is limited

Monday, December 9th

1:00pm—2:00pm

in the Robert D. Norris Community Room

Monticello-Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library
479 Broadway Monticello, New York 12701-1300 (845)794-4880
<https://ebcpl.org>



Action Toward Independence

Presents

Women's Empowerment Group



Join us on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of
each month

from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Discuss topics impacting women today, in a safe and judgement free environment. Opportunities to exchange ideas and share life experiences. Attend educational workshops and learn from guest speakers.

Be Inspired ~ Be Empowered ~ Be You

Location:

126 Seward Ave

Middletown, NY 10940

For More Information Call

845.343.4284

*Please RSVP
Seats are limited*



Eligibility & Pre-Registration is required.



Action Toward Independence
Serving & Empowering People with Disabilities



Find us on
Facebook





**JOSEPH P. DWYER
VET 2 VET OF SULLIVAN COUNTY**

Free Christmas Trees for Veterans

December 1st - December 15th

**To reserve your tree voucher please contact
our Veteran Peer Advocates,
Matt and Vinny at 845-794-4228.**

Limited quantity available!

**Trees Donated By:
Delaware Valley Farm and Garden
30 VIADUCT RD
CALLICOON, NY 12723**





Montigram President's Corner

Lori Orestano-James

Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre is a GEM in our community offering all types of arts events from music like the upcoming Sullivan Idol to first run movies in their stunning movie theater.

It was great to have Lourdesa Hunt share with us all that is going on in this little Hamlet with big spirit. We learned about the upcoming Sullivan Idol and discussed ways we can partner in this event in the future from Glenn and Naomi Mombrun Brill. Check out what is available to you especially during this Holiday Season at <https://hpacny.org/>

And, Rotary Ladies - we are planning an ALL LADIES Rotary Event. "Oh My Stars!" A Cabaret Style Burlesque Event is being held at HPAC on Friday evening, December 27, 2024 at 8pm. This is a ladies only event and all lady Rotarians, ladies interested in joining Rotary, or lady partners of Rotarians are invited. As we have special pricing, please email your reservation for this event directly to me or text me of your (or your partner's) intent. Info about this event can be found at <http://www.ohmystars.com/>



Comfort Closet - Remember to shop for items to donate to our Annual Comfort Closet Drive. Items needed are lap throws, fingerless gloves, shawls, large print puzzle books, comb/brush sets, lotions, gripper socks, etc... Think about what your grandparents would like. We will be collecting all items at our December 17th Holiday Party Meeting at 6pm at Albella Restaurant.

Program for December 10, 2024 Meeting: Livingston Manor 70th Anniversary Party at Liberty Elks Lodge, Liberty at 7pm. (Reservations were required)

Our Motto: Service Above Self - How have you meet that goal lately?

Dates to Remember can be found below.

Some upcoming important dates to mark on your calendar:

Livingston Manor 70th Anniversary Celebration, Liberty Elks Lodge, December 10th at 7pm. Cost \$40 per person. Ugly Sweater themed, so get ready to show us your ugly.

Liberty Rotary Annual Holiday Party December 12th Bridge & Tunnel. Cost \$35 per person. to sign up:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18X1DLc9bfwzGcflsZwY450Fb3YZ0zQ_QIQ8Dvm1Shto/edit?usp=sharing

Murph's Toy Drive - December 14, 2024 opens at 5:00pm at the Villa Roma Clubhouse.

Monticello Rotary Board of Directors Meeting - December 17, 2024 at 5pm.

Monticello Rotary Annual Holiday Party, December 17, 2024, 6pm. Albella Restaurant. Bring Guests. All Clubs are invited to join us to celebrate. Comfort Closet Collections will be done at that time.

Please bring lap throws, gripper socks, shawls, fingerless gloves, large print puzzle books, comb and brush sets, lotions, and other items you think your grandparents might like.

Santa, Chanukah Harry, and Rotary Ramblers Garnet Hospital Tour - Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 2:30 (meet at 2:15 to prepare in lobby of the hospital.) All can join us to distribute Blush Holiday Teddy Bears, sweet treats and photo ops while sharing some wonderful holiday spirit through song. Feel free to dress in a Holiday Spirit fashion.

No Meetings will be held on Tuesday December 24th or December 31st due to the Holiday.

Lastly, our meetings are hybrid. We would love to see you at our meetings either in-person or and/or Zoom. For those of you who attend regularly, we thank you for your commitment.

With Rotary Pride,

Lori Orestano-James

President Monticello Rotary 2024-2025

Stories

ROTARIANS SING FOR A GOOD CAUSE

On August 19th a group of close to 40 local musicians came together at the Michael Ritchie Big Barn on the grounds of The Center For Discovery in Hurleyville to perform in the 2nd annual Sullivan Sings project to benefit the Sullivan County Federation For The Homeless. Accompanied by a five piece combo band the singers formed a "We Are The World" style chorus under the direction of Cris Spinner to perform Bill Withers's popular tune Lean On Me. It was recorded by Gregory Fiske of Hard Drive Recording Studio and is now available for purchase. The donation to download the song is \$10 but there is opportunity to increase your donation to benefit the Federation.

The project is the brainchild of Cris Spinner, Vice President of the Monticello Rotary. She partners with Steve Schwartz owner of Steve's Music Center in Rock Hill to coordinate musicians and oversee all that goes into making this a success. And this year the chorus was sprinkled with Monticello and Liberty Rotarians. Brad Rutledge, Monticello and Barbi Neumann-Marty and Gary Siegel, Liberty, lent their voices to the chorus. In addition, Kathy Krieter, director of the Federation joined the chorus as well! Every person involved gives their time and talent freely for the cause. The end result is phenomenal!



You can support the efforts of all of these stellar community minded people who certainly exemplified the Service Above Self motto by purchasing the song. Your donation goes 100% to The Sullivan County Federation For The Homeless.

<https://sullivansings1.bandcamp.com/track/lean-on-me>

MURPH'S TOY DRIVE

Murph's Toy Drive is officially gearing up and partnering with Monticello Rotary. There are toy drop-off boxes at Kristt Kelly, Albella Restaurant and Wayne Bank in Monticello. Please consider bringing unwrapped toys and/or simple clothing such as hats, scarfs or socks for this holiday season. All items will be distributed by Julian Dawson of the United Way to every school district in Sullivan County. Yes! Everything stays in Sullivan County. A thank you to Josh Murphy for organizing this fabulous event. We are sold out for our dinner/dance at the Villa Roma Clubhouse on December 14th! We appreciate your on-going support! Thank you. (Contd. Pg. 47)

Montigram President's Corner

(From Pg. 46)

Shopping for Good - Editors Thoughts by Cris Spinner

It's the Giving Season! So many of us are out there purchasing items for all sorts of "Drives". Among the most popular are Toy Drives. Recently it was brought to my attention that the average buyer tends to purchase toys geared for "kids". But we have the pre-teens and teens to think about too! I did an informal poll on social media and received some great suggestions. So if you are looking for the older ones perhaps this list can be of some assistance...Happy Shopping!

Boys : Flannel PJ bottoms - Sports themed hats - Cool pencil case - Water bottle - Soccer ball - Football - Technic lego sets - Ear buds/headphones

Girls: Lotions - Makeup collections or kits - Nail polish - Hair clips - Fashion Accessories - Lululemon items

General: Art supplies - Clothes - Hoodies - Hats/gloves - Puzzles - Books - Board Games - Card games - Film camera with film - Gift Cards

Monticello Rotary Food Drive Fills Local Pantries

Thank you Sullivan County!! As always, we come together for our community! #ServiceAboveSelf

The Rotary Club of Monticello, NY Monticello Rotary Annual Food Drive is officially in the books! Thank you to the entire community for making this year's event a huge success

Here are the totals: (Drum Roll Please)

72 Cases of Food

98 Turkeys

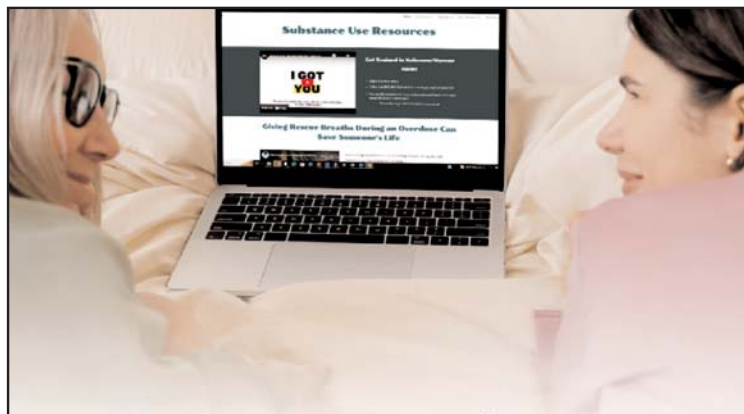
8 Hams



All foods collected went to United Way of Sullivan County and Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless .

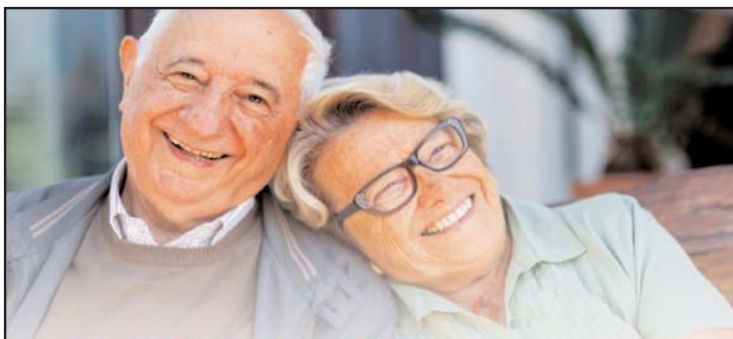
Congratulations on a job well done! Thank you to first year Chairperson Cris Cirillo Spinner and Committee Members President Lori Orestano-James (Lori James), Orshii Boldiis , Jackie Rutledge , Brad Rutledge , Bradlyn Brooks , Les Kristt , and Peter Alan Chester for running such a successful event. Thank you to Kathy Kreiter from SC Federation for the Homeless and Julian Dawson of United Way of Sullivan County for your help in reaching out to those in need and your constant support and assistance in helping us do our service. Thank you Village of Monticello, New York and Village Manager James Snowden for providing us the use of the Ted Strobel Building as well as assistance for set-up and clean-up. A great shoutout Monticello High School Interact students who assisted us. Without getting the word out, we would have never done this well. Thank you to Paul Ciliberto , Eddie Wilson , Mike Sakell , and Dawn Chernow Ciorciari from Bold Gold Media Group ; Derek Kirk and Fred Stabbert from Sullivan County Democrat; Jim Sebastian Mid Hudson News, and Bill Liblick and BettyJane Stevens for all the social media opportunities. And, the day would not have been complete without Joe Kavanaugh and his friends (AKA Pluto, Elmo, Donald Duck, Mickey Mouse, and The Cookie Monster) for provided great support and opportunity for kids of all ages become engaged in this important work.

Special thanks to all the amazing Rotarians who helped throughout the day. And, most importantly, thank you to YOU - our community!!! We couldn't do this without you!



Hope for the Holidays

Visit sudhelpulster.org to access vital resources like **Substance Use Supports & Services, Treatment Information, Narcan Training, and Recovery Support** to help you or your loved ones take the next step toward healing.



DECEMBER NEW HORIZONS: THE HEARTS PROGRAM: FOR ADULTS WITH DIMENSIA AND THEIR CARE GIVERS

Join us to discover valuable information about the HEARTS Program, a program that builds community while walking alongside persons living with dementia, their caregivers, and families. Presented by Reverend Eileen M. Daunt of the HEARTS Program.

Tuesday, December 17, 1:00pm
Ellenville Senior Housing Community Room
Call 845-647-6400 ext. 281 to register

THE FARM-ACY AT ELLENVILLE REGIONAL HOSPITAL

Come pick up some FREE healthy fruits and vegetables December 12 and 19, from 4 to 6pm!

**or while supplies last*

Location

Pick up is located at the back of the hospital.

Please drive past the hospital down to airport road, cars can line up near the employee parking lot behind the hospital.
 10 Healthy Way, Ellenville NY 12428
 Call (845) 647-6400 ext. 215 for questions.





Reserve your

Holiday Food Baskets

This holiday season, Vet 2 Vet of Sullivan County, would like to honor and support our brave Veterans. We are excited to announce our holiday food basket giveaway, providing a festive feast for those who served our country.

**WHAT'S INSIDE
HOLIDAY HAM WITH ALL THE FIXIN'S AS
WELL AS DESSERT**



**ALL REQUESTS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY
12/17/24 SO BE SURE TO SIGN UP ASAP!**

**TO RESERVE YOUR HOLIDAY
FOOD BASKET CALL MATT OR
VINNY @ 845-794-4228**



Pick up location will be at ATI
309 East Broadway Monticello NY





Join us for a musical performance by
Fisher and Kean



For this special holiday performance, the duo will be performing holiday classics.

Songwriters Deborah Anne Fisher & Paul Kean began playing together in 2017. They accompany each other in harmony & varied instruments, switching off on guitar, ukulele, bass & washboard percussion.

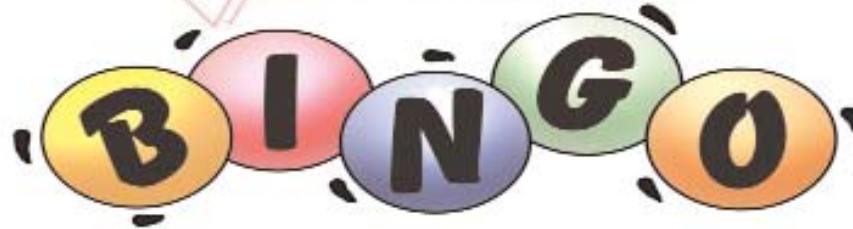
****Tuesday, December 17th, 2024***

6:30 p.m.

**If the weather is bad, please call before coming to make sure programs aren't cancelled/postponed.*

Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library
479 Broadway, Monticello, NY 12701 | (845)794-4660 | ebcpl.org





**Program
at
EBCPL**



Join us for a Monthly Library Bingo program! We plan to have 5 bingo rounds and the winner of each round will receive a prize.

*Each attendee will receive one (1) free bingo card. An additional card will be available for a suggested donation of \$2.00 with all proceeds going toward future bingo programs.

First come, first served; registration is recommended.
Please go to ebcpl.org or Call (845)794-4660 x4

**Wednesday, December 18th,
3:00pm-4:00pm**

**In the
Robert D. Norris Community Room**



Monticello-Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library
479 Broadway Monticello, New York 12701-1300 (845)794-4660
<https://ebcpl.org>



HOLIDAY CONCERTS

Inside the Sullivan County Government Center Lobby,
100 North Street, Monticello

12 p.m., December 4, 2024

10:30 a.m., December 6, 2024

11:30 a.m., December 11, 2024

12 p.m., December 12, 2024

10:15 a.m., December 13, 2024

1 p.m., December 13, 2024

11:45 a.m., December 16, 2024

1 p.m., December 16, 2024

10:30 a.m., December 17, 2024

1 p.m., December 17, 2024

10:45 a.m., December 18, 2024

12:30 p.m., December 18, 2024

10:30 a.m., December 19, 2024

12 p.m., December 19, 2024

10 a.m., December 20, 2024

12 p.m., December 20, 2024

Livingston Manor High School Band
and Chorus

Chase Elementary School Chorus

Fallsburg High School Instrumental
Chamber Groups

Benjamin Cosor Elementary School
Chorus

Sullivan West Elementary Chorus

Roscoe Elementary and High School
Choirs

Liberty High School Jazz Band

Liberty 5th & 6th Grade Chorus and
Liberty Middle School Honors Band

Mackenzie Elementary School
(Eldred) Band & Chorus

Monticello High School Emerging
Ensembles and Chamber Singers

Sullivan West High School Select
Choir

Liberty Mixed and Honors Choirs

Sullivan BOCES Choir

Fallsburg High School Treble Choir
and Chamber Choir

Tri-Valley Secondary School
Holiday Band

Monticello Middle School Groups



The Hypocrisy of the Biden Crime Family

Joe Biden's sweeping pardon of his son, Hunter Biden, is an outrageous abuse of power that highlights the two-tiered system of justice this administration has created. This unprecedented pardon, covering any and all offenses Hunter Biden committed or may have committed between January 1, 2014, and December 1, 2024, is a slap in the face to every American who believes in fairness and accountability under the law. It underscores that there's one set of rules for the Biden family and another for the rest of us.

For two years, I have been working with the Ways and Means Committee to investigate the Biden family's crimes, where we uncovered extensive evidence that proves this pardon was always a part of the Biden Crime Family's plan to illegally enrich themselves at the expense of the American people.

Not only is it a blatant attempt to evade accountability, but it also represents the blatant betrayal of Biden's promise to the American people. But I want to know your thoughts: Do you agree with President Biden's decision to pardon his son, Hunter Biden?

Making Our Government More Efficient

Vivek Ramaswamy and Elon Musk joined House Republicans this week to host a brainstorming session to lay the framework for how we are going to make our government more efficient and lower costs.

We must eliminate unused office spaces that are wasting precious tax dollars or ensure federal workers return to their desks. With only 6% of federal workers showing up in person on a full-time basis, we must sell underutilized properties and consolidate operations. In addition, the GAO found that 17 of the 24 federal agencies were using 25% or less of their headquarters building's capacity at the beginning of 2023.

American taxpayers deserve better—a more responsive, efficient government focused on fulfilling Congress's intended purpose.

President Trump's Commitment to Free the Hostages and Confront Hamas

If the Biden Administration refuses to act before January 20, rest assured that President Trump will take immediate, bold, and decisive action to free the hostages and seek justice for the innocent civilians killed on October 7 and in the days that followed. The Biden Administration has repeatedly abandoned Israel while emboldening our adversaries. Under President Trump's leadership, Hamas and any other terrorist group or country holding Americans hostage will face swift and severe consequences. I stand with President Trump and support any necessary steps to free the hostages and eliminate the threat posed by Hamas.

As your representative in Congress, my top priority is championing legislative initiatives that benefit you and your families. Each week, I review numerous bills and letters, engaging

in thorough discussions with members of our community to determine which actions to support and address your needs. Below are a few bills I recently cosponsored.

H.R. 7248 - FDA Modernization Act 3.0 - This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services Secretary to establish a process to qualify test methods to reduce or replace animal tests. The new methods must either 1) improve test predictivity for safety and efficacy or 2) reduce development time for drugs and biologics.

H.R. 10265 - the Securing the Northern Border Act - As the crisis at the Northern Border rages on under the Biden administration, Congress must do more to secure our Northern Border. This bill centralizes DHS' efforts on the Northern Border by creating a Northern Border Mission Center that will take the lead in coordinating the activities and personnel of Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the Coast Guard, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI). This will increase the efficacy of DHS' efforts and support President Trump's mission of securing our borders.

H.R. 7174 - Ensuring Pathways to Innovative Cures (EPIC) Act: The EPIC Act corrects the Inflation Reduction Act's misguided 'pill penalty' to ensure continued investment in life-saving small molecule drugs. By leveling the playing field, this bipartisan legislation safeguards critical research and innovation, offering hope to millions of patients who rely on these therapies for a better future.

Transparency in Congress and a well-informed electorate are vital to preserving our self-governing Constitutional Republic. My constituents deserve to know how their members of Congress vote, which is why I have explained every vote I have cast in Congress since I was first elected.

To read more about my votes and see the full list with explanations of all the legislation considered this week by the House, please click here.

I voted "Yes" on S. 3791, the America's Conservation Enhancement Reauthorization Act. This bill reauthorizes the American Conservation Enhancement program, investing in wetlands and habitat restoration projects across the country as well as strategies to reduce conflicts between wildlife and livestock. Reauthorizing this critical program will ensure that America's fish, wildlife resources, wetlands, and natural habitats are preserved for future generations. This bill passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 366-21.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 390, the Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area Enhancement Act. This bill directs the National Park Service to assess the suitability and feasibility of adding the rest of Saratoga County and Washington County in New York to the Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area in New York. The Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area was designated by Congress in 1996 and is one of the now sixty-two federally recognized National Heritage Areas throughout the United States. This bill passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 378-16.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 8219, the Lahaina National Heritage Area Study Act. This bill directs the National Park Service to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating Lahaina, Maui County, Hawaii, as the Lahaina National Heritage Area under the National Heritage Areas Act. This bill passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 378-25.

I voted "Yes" on S. 709, the Federal Agency Performance Act. The bill would require reviews of each agency's performance goals, increase data posted on Performance.gov, require at least 2 government officials to be designated and responsible for accomplishing agency performance goals. For too long, Washington bureaucrats have failed the American people and failed to accomplish their agency's mission. (Contd. PG. 53)

This Week with Claudia (From Pg. 52) This bill requires more transparency and accountability to ensure federal agencies work effectively and efficiently in serving the American people. This bill passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 389-6.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 9598, the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act. This bill would reauthorize the Office of National Drug Control Policy, along with various anti-drug programs run by the federal government. As the opioid epidemic continues to plague our communities, these programs are even more critical in the fight against illegal substances. This bill passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 399-1.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 9600, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 119 Main Street in Plains, Georgia, as the "Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Post Office". This bill would rename the Plains, Georgia post office after former President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn. President Carter graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1946 and served our country with distinction. President Carter and Rosalynn dedicated their post-presidency lives to expanding human rights and promoting peace, and in 2002 President Carter was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts. This bill passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 381-15.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 7198, the Prove It Act. While federal law already requires federal agencies to consider the economic impact of regulations on small businesses, many agencies simply ignore this requirement. This is completely unacceptable. This bill would require agencies to not only consider the direct impact of regulations, but also the indirect costs, and it creates a mechanism for small businesses to challenge regulations if the agency fails to consider the costs of the regulation on small businesses. Our House Republican Majority is committed to fighting for Main Street small businesses against Washington bureaucrats' desire to regulate small businesses into oblivion. I strongly supported this commonsense legislation and urge my colleagues in the Senate to send this bill to the President's desk for his signature. This bill passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 208-196.

I voted "Yes" on the Motions to Refer H.Res. 1608 and H.Res. 1609 to the House Ethics Committee. These resolutions would have directed the House Ethics Committee to release any reports or records of alleged misconduct by former Representative Matt Gaetz (FL). Under Congressional precedent, the Ethics Committee only investigates and releases information about currently serving members of Congress, and under rare circumstances, individuals seeking other elected or appointed offices. Former Representative Matt Gaetz has resigned from Congress, made it clear he does not intend to serve in the 119th Congress, and is not actively seeking another elected or appointed position. As such, in standing with Congressional precedent, I voted to refer these resolutions to the House Ethics Committee for further deliberation. These motions passed by a vote of 206-198 and 204-198 respectively.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 5349, the Crucial Communism Teaching Act. This bill directs the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation to develop a civic education curriculum and resources to teach the importance of democracy and the evils of communism. Sadly, shocking numbers of our Nation's youth view communism positively. 18% of Gen Z believes communism is fairer than capitalism, and 19% of Gen Z believes a dictatorship is the best political system. These beliefs are antithetical to our American values of democracy, liberty, and capitalism. Importantly, this bill does not impose any mandates on local school systems, but rather directs the memorial to create materials that schools can voluntarily use to reach the dangers of communism and totalitarianism. I strongly support this commonsense legislation and was pleased to see it pass by such an overwhelmingly bipartisan margin. This bill passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 327-62.



Welcome to Kirsten's New York Minute!

Here's what she's been up to this week:

1. Fighting to fund meal deliveries to seniors

Everyone deserves access to the nutritious meals they need to stay full and healthy.

This week, Kirsten sent a letter to House and Senate appropriators calling for \$1.842 billion in funding for the Older Americans Act (OAA) Title III-C Nutrition Program, which provides affordable meals to older adults by funding services like those provided by Meals on Wheels America. The funding would help deliver 251 million nutritious meals to 2.2 million older adults facing hunger nationwide, helping meet increasing demand for nutrition programs amid high grocery prices.

Read more. <https://wibx950.com/gillibrand-combatting-senior-hunger-ny/>

2. Leading the fight for the Equal Rights Amendment

To become part of the Constitution, a proposed amendment must be ratified by a two-thirds majority of Congress and by three-quarters of states. The Equal Rights Amendment is the only proposed constitutional amendment that has met these requirements but still has not been added to the Constitution. This is wrong, and Kirsten is leading the charge to get President Biden to direct the national archivist to publish the ERA before the end of his term.

This week, she spoke about the legal basis for the ERA and the importance of the amendment at an ERA digital town hall and in an interview with National Journal.

Read more. <https://www.nationaljournal.com/s/726958/qa-with-sen-kirsten-gillibrand/?unlock=MTVKAJ7JHP9SH7SX>

3. Confirming judges for NY

Qualified, thoughtful, and fair judges are the backbone of the American judicial system.

This week, Kirsten voted to confirm Judge Anthony Brindisi and Elizabeth Coombe to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York. Kirsten had previously recommended both judges' appointments to President Biden.

4. Watch Kirsten on Yahoo Finance

Kirsten spoke with Yahoo Finance about the need for cryptocurrency regulation, bipartisanship, and much more.

Watch here . [https://uk.finance.yahoo.com/video/sec-pick-paul-atkins-experience-231500905.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAKRTOcMUS1BJ0sWs57M-](https://uk.finance.yahoo.com/video/sec-pick-paul-atkins-experience-231500905.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAKRTOcMUS1BJ0sWs57M-ilk0AZzpjPwN215I-)

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5. Leading the way on the next generation of economic development

Kirsten has worked tirelessly to foster the next generation of research and development, technology, and advanced manufacturing in Upstate New York.

At the close of the Biden administration, New York is now among the nation's leading recipients of grant awards and prestigious designations for place-based innovation. (Contd. PG. 54)

Welcome to Kirsten's New York Minute!

(From Pg. 53)

Kirsten's efforts to support legislation like the CHIPS and Science Act and secure federal investments in tech programs across Upstate New York have helped solidify the state's leadership on this front.

Learn more about New York's place-based innovation investments and designations here.

<https://tableau.external.nsf.gov/views/NSFEnginesEDABBBRC/Page1StandardMap?%3Aembed=y&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y>

6. Helping constituents with Social Security Disability Insurance

When a Niagara County constituent needed help reinstating his Social Security Disability Insurance payments, he contacted Kirsten's office for help. Kirsten's team contacted the Social Security Administration and discovered that an error had been made on his record. Once the error was corrected, he promptly began receiving SSDI payments again.

Individual casework is Kirsten's top priority. If you need help with a federal agency, contact her here . <https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/help/help-for-new-york-ers/>



As we enter the holiday season, I want to take a moment amidst the hecticness down in Washington and in our daily lives to wish you a time of warmth and joy spent with loved ones.

With our first snap of winter weather, I also want to thank our road crews and first responders for their preparation and around-the-clock work keeping our families safe.

Every day, I'm thankful for the honor of representing you in Congress and fighting for our Hudson Valley priorities - here's some of how I worked to deliver for our communities this past week:

HELPING MAKE COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE

This year's FAFSA, the crucial form students need to apply for federal financial aid, is new, improved, and now open . Access the 2025-26 FAFSA here !

I'm proud that the FAFSA Deadline Act I helped pass will make the FAFSA easier and help students afford the education they've worked so hard for.

If you need assistance navigating and applying for federal student aid, don't hesitate to reach out to my office like Theresa did. Give my team a call at 845-443-2930 or send us a message here on my website .

CONGRATULATING OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES

I want to give a huge shout out to the Port Jervis and Burke Catholic high school football teams on their first-ever state championship appearances.

Congratulations on a wildly successful season - way to go!

DEMANDING BETTER FOR OUR TROOPS

The Secretary of Defense holds the lives of our most precious resource - our young men and women in uniform - in their hands.

Pete Hegseth is unqualified, unfit, and temperamentally unable to serve as Secretary of Defense.

Our troops deserve better.

I hope enough Senators will have the courage to stop acting like partisans, start acting as Patriots, and reject his nomination.

FIGHTING FOR CLEAN WATER

Every Hudson Valley family deserves clean water, which is why I've long pushed for GE to clean up its toxic PCB pollution in the Hudson River.

The EPA recently released the results of its five-year report on the state of GE's PCB cleanup in the Hudson River and the evidence was clear: GE failed to meet requirements.

On December 12, you can learn more about the EPA report and add your voice to the calls for a PCB-free Hudson River at the EPA's community meeting at the Great Room in Kaplan Hall on the Newburgh campus of Orange County Community College.

I'll keep fighting to hold GE accountable for the cleanup of the mess it made.

CELEBRATING VISIONARIES IN THE ARTS

Chris Silva and Stephen LaMarca have been life forces for the NY-18 arts scene for three decades, revitalizing the Bardavon and UPAC.

It was a privilege to honor them with a speech on the House floor to wish them a restful and happy retirement, knowing they inspired millions of audience members through the over 2,500 performances they brought to NY-18. Watch the speech here!
<https://x.com/RepPatRyanNY/status/1863705833629982886>

I also want to wish Bryan Zellmer the best of luck as he takes the reins at the Bardavon.

I'm looking forward to many more successful shows in the years to come!

GIVING THANKS WITH INSPIRING HUDSON VALLEY YOUTH

It was great to get in the Thanksgiving Spirit last Thursday with volunteers from Newburgh YouthBuild!

Along with Habitat for Humanity Newburgh and RECAP, they organized the first annual Newburgh Thanksgiving Community Dinner last week. They truly represent the very best of the Hudson Valley and I was so thankful to hear about their impactful work!

(Contd. Pg. 55)

Pat Ryan

(From Pg. 54)

MEETING WITH OUR WEST POINT CADETS

I recently returned to my alma mater at West Point and am grateful for the inspiring conversations I had with some of our future military leaders while there.

Our West Point cadets always leave me optimistic that the future of our nation is in good hands - they truly embody Duty, Honor, Country to the core.

I also enjoyed a very cool moment during my visit when I stopped by my old cadet company - F-1, Go Firehouse! - and spoke with cadet leaders who had set up an amazing display of the company's history and legacy.

Super proud of all of our great USMA cadets, especially those in the Firehouse!

HONORING SOJOURNER TRUTH

Ulster County is the proud home to one of our nation's most profound and trailblazing freedom fighters - Sojourner Truth.

I'm grateful that my team could join in celebrating Sojourner Truth Day with the unveiling of a plaque at the Ulster County Courthouse, the very location where she won her son's freedom.

Truth was a hero in our nation's march toward equality - let her continue to inspire us all.

MAY HIS MEMORY BE A BLESSING

It was absolutely devastating to learn last week that American-Israeli hostage Omer Neutra was murdered by Hamas.

To his family, friends, and all grappling with this unimaginable grief, my heart is with you.

Omer, you will not be forgotten. May your memory be a blessing.

THANKING OUR HOSPICE WORKERS

Hospice of Orange and Sullivan Counties provides invaluable care and compassion for loved ones and families.

I'm extremely thankful for their service to our community and that Maria from my team could join CAO Monica Bourgeois and the Hospice staff at its recent President's Breakfast.

SUPPORTING OUR SMALL BUSINESSES

Our family-owned businesses are the backbone of our local economies.

Thank you to our Hudson Valley businesses owners for being staples in our communities.

Last weekend's Small Business Saturday and every day, I'm working to make sure you have the resources you need to keep thriving.

REMEMBERING THOSE LOST TO AIDS

December 1 marked World AIDS day, when we remember those lost to this horrific disease.

We have made huge progress in the fight against AIDS and we must continue to push forward by supporting our dedicated healthcare workers, researchers, advocates, and programs like PEPFAR.

4th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Youth Summit

[Loch Sheldrake, NY] - The 4th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Youth Summit will be held on Friday, January 17, 2025, at SUNY Sullivan from 9am - 2pm, with a new, optional after-party from 2 - 5pm. The Summit is intended to inspire attending Juniors and Seniors to understand the importance of their voice and their ability to act for change. The day kicks off with a screening of Dr. King's famous speech, "Blueprint for Life" which focuses on the principles of belief in oneself, determination and commitment. Students will participate in workshops and collaborative activities designed to open their minds and hearts to greater service for themselves, their schools and their communities.

This year's keynote speaker is John Johnson, a dynamic communications specialist and mentor from Brooklyn, NY who is passionate about empowering youth who feel unseen and unheard to discover and activate their purpose. With over 10 years of experience, John has helped individuals and organizations worldwide develop effective communication strategies that drive personal and professional success. As CEO & Founder of JJS LLC, he now shares his powerful message through inspiring public speaking engagements, while continuing his love for creative expression through spoken word and cultural performances. John Johnson's engagement has been generously sponsored by grants from the Sullivan County Youth Bureau and Tobacco Free Action Communities.

Participating students will receive a certificate for 4 hours of community service, be treated to a delicious lunch sponsored by the My Brother's Keeper program at Monticello Central School, will receive an MLK journal courtesy of Action Towards Independence Inc. and a commemorative sweatshirt from Sullivan 180. Pre-registration is required and interested students should connect with their guidance counselor.

Sullivan 180 is partnering with a network of youth organizations to present the MLK Day of Service Youth Summit including Action Toward Independence, the Center for Workforce Development, Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County, Hope's Compass, Go Beyond Greatness, SALT (Sullivan Allies Leading Together), Monticello's My Brother's Keeper at Monticello Central School, the Sullivan County Youth Bureau, SUNY Sullivan, Tobacco Free Action Communities, and Today's Students, Tomorrow's Teachers. To find out more about the event or to find out who your school's MLK Day registration contact is, visit www.sullivan180.org

To learn more or get involved with the MLK Day of Service Youth Summit, contact Amanda Langseder, Sullivan 180 Senior Director of Prevention Programming at

amanda@sullivan180.org or 845-295-2681.



Holiday
**Gingerbread House
Decorating Fundraiser**

Thursday, December 12, 2024

5:30 to 6:30pm

Get into the holiday spirit with this
delightful evening for ALL ages.
Enjoy these festivities with
music and hot cocoa!

*Shhh...we got word that Santa will be at the
DPL for family pics!*

Tri-Valley residents.
\$15 supply fee per family.

Register at
www.danielpiercelibrary.org



To register go to:

<https://www.danielpiercelibrary.org/pages/index/229627/gingerbread-house-decorating-fundraiser>

Homeschooling Group

4th Tuesday of each month

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

at the Daniel Pierce Library

We invite all homeschooling families to join a self-guided group that meets monthly at the Daniel Pierce Library.

Together this group will share lessons, network, set up future field trips, have various guest speakers and programs.

You can also... borrow books, check out DVD's, access the internet, research online databases and utilize library space! (If you have a RCLS library card).

Please join in, the possibilities are endless!

**Text or call Dana
for more information:
845 707 – 2489**



**Beginning
September
24th**



Sullivan County Intervention Line for Parents and Teens

Are you a parent struggling with your family?
Are you a teen having problems at home?

Help is available now!

We are here anytime you need to talk.

Give us a call or send us a text and
someone will always be there to listen
and help you deal with your situation.



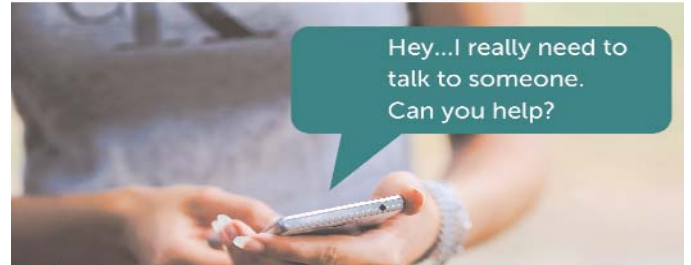
Text 845-372-1817
Call 866-372-2336

Calls and texts are answered 24/7

A program of the DRC

Sullivan County Text For Teens

Monday - Friday
4pm-10pm
Saturday
& Sunday
5pm-12am



Hey...I really need to
talk to someone.
Can you help?



Free & confidential support
Someone who can listen and help
Text as often as you need!

We're Here to Listen:
Bullying - Eating Disorders -
Self-Harm - Homeless/Runaway -
Pregnancy - Problems at Home -
Relationship Issues - LGBTQ+ -
Divorce - School Issues -
Substance Use -
Physical/Mental/Sexual Health -
and more!

Text "Start" to:
845-637-9486

OFF HOURS:
Call 1-888-750-2266, option 2



Text for Teens is supported by a Grant
of the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation



accessupports.org

Rewarding lives. Healthy communities.

COVID-19 Vaccines Save Lives

Who will you
protect?



Friends

Amigos

Family

¿A quien
protegerás?

Get the facts.



Familia

Obtenga los
hechos.

Talk to your
healthcare
provider about
the COVID
vaccine.



Comunidad

Hable con su
proveedor de
salud sobre la
vacuna del
COVID-19.

#VaccinateSullivan

For more information, visit www.sullivanyny.us



GET SIGNED UP TODAY FOR
OUR UPCOMING
CERTIFICATION CLASS !!

Contact:

Alyssa Wowk
(845) 645-6544

awowk@chowc.net

Sullivan County Department
of Social Services is looking
for families who can help
fulfill the **DESPERATE NEED**
for ages **8-18!**



**FOSTER HOMES
NEEDED!**



WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A Daniel Pierce Library Card?
Explore everything your library card gives you!





Read any way you like
Printed books, magazines, and newspapers, e-books, and audiobooks



Listen at home or on the go
CDs and music to stream or download



Get online and get going
Free Wi-Fi

Borrow movies, documentaries, TV series and more

Learn something new 24/7

Learn a new language with Rosetta Stone

Online classes and research materials ready when you are

Download the Libby App

Borrow instead of buy

Check out books, magazines, e-books, and audiobooks from all 47 RCLS libraries

Download the RCLS Gateway App

Entertain your kids – or yourself

Passes to Mohawk Preserve and the Jim and Faye Valley Museum

Unlimited access to thousands of digital comics, graphic novels and manga

There's even more to explore with your library card:

- ▶ Online programming, databases and research materials
- ▶ Export reading recommendations
- ▶ Internet access and computers to use

SIGN UP TODAY! It's FREE and easy!
Visit the Daniel Pierce Library for more details.

SHARE THE NUMBER

SPREAD THE WORD

CALL OR TEXT

988



CHAT

988LIFELINE.ORG

There is hope.



988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

VOICESUNITED4CHANGE'S VIRTUAL

YOUTH SUPPORT GROUP

JOIN US!



Join us for a peer led, mental health, lesson based virtual support group for teens ages 13-17. Together we learn about our mental health and do an activity together. This group is completely free to join, and all supplies for the activity will be sent to your home. Space is limited for each group!


Contact Rebekah at rumarbashar@asfl.org for more information.

EVERY 1ST & 3RD

WEDNESDAY

@ 6:30 PM






VOICESUNITED4CHANGE'S VIRTUAL

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

JOIN US!






Join us for a peer led virtual support group for parents of children with mental health challenges. Together we have time for conversation and an activity. This group is completely free to join, and all supplies for the activity will be sent to your home. Space is limited for each group!

Contact Anne-Marie at afreitas@asfl.org for more information.


EVERY 2ND & 4TH

WEDNESDAY

@ 6:30 PM

Veteran Peer Support



**Vet 2 Vet offers
Veteran Peer Support.
Call to speak with our Veteran
Peer Advocates.
We didn't fight alone while
we served, we don't need
to fight alone at home.**

Vet 2 Vet



**Sullivan County
NEW YORK**

NYC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program

Call or email us to register!

845-794-4228

vet2vet@atitoday.org

309 E Broadway Suite A

Monticello, NY 12701

in the still of the night

November 16, 2024
– January 4, 2025

Opening: Saturday,
November 16, 3 – 5 pm

seventh annual small works
show & concert fundraiser

ARTISTS In the show:

Lucy Aponte, Judith Boggess, Linda Champanier, Marie Cole, Mary Connelly, Jerry Curtis, Maxine Davldowitz, Carol Davis, KP Devlin, Ted Dixon, Robyn Ellenbogen, Ena Firinn, Gail Freund, Lynne Friedman, Denise Giardullo, Melanie S. Gonzalez, Melissa Harris, Martha Hill, Sue Horowitz, Pat Hough, Janette Kahil, Ava Kaloz, Martha Klein, Lisa Kole, Robin Kornstein, Nick Lacy, Carol LaMonda, Maureen Lohan-Bremer, Kate Masters, Mary McFerran, Ashley Middleton, Wilma Miller, Laura Wynn Montgomery, Meredith Morabito, Ann Morris, Grey Morris, Sylvia Mueller, Raymond Negron, Sean Nixon, Jacqueline O'Malley-Satz, Jacqueline Oster, Gina Palmer, Carol Pepper-Cooper, Bryan Perrin, Susan Shaftan Perrin, Tracy Phillips, Regina B Quinn, Elaine Ralston, Joe Reilly, Lubi Ruiz, Aleksandra Scepanovich, Roberta Sickler, Gopika Sidhu, Janet Siskind, Jan Sosnowitz, Michelle Spark, Judy Slanger, Kevin Sterne, Melissa Styles, Kathleen Suess, Cindy Sumerano, Alyssa C. Toohy, K. Velis Turan, Steven Walkenshaw, Joyce Washor, Nancy Winternight



OLIVE FREE LIBRARY

Curated by
**Nathalie Andrews and
Susan Shaftan Perrin**

4033 Route 28A
West Shokan, NY
olivefreelibrary.org
845.657.2482



OLIVE FREE LIBRARY'S EXHIBITION "Multiplicity: Together and Apart" OPENS JANUARY 18

The Olive Free Library Association is very pleased to present the exhibition *Multiplicity: Together and Apart* showcasing 11 artists whose works are presented as multiple pieces that are intended to work together and/or individually. The show, curated by Olive Library's Exhibition Committee member Jan Sosnowitz will run from January 18 through March 1, 2025 with an opening reception on Saturday, January 18 from 3 – 5 pm, and an artist's meet & greet event on Saturday, March 1 from 2:30 – 4 pm.

Jan Sosnowitz says about this exhibition, "I originally proposed a show of diptychs and triptychs, but after I chose these artists, it became clear that a broader scope was needed.... thus *Multiplicity: Together and Apart*. This show is based on the inherent curiosity and exploration evoked in producing visual art. Often, one is so intrigued with an aspect of their work that a second or third approach is warranted. And, what I find fascinating is the interaction between these pieces. Presented in this show are such explorations.... based on theme, color, format, concept, material, or mood. The variations can be vast or subtle. The diversity of personal interpretations was exactly what I was after. Included in *Multiplicity: Together and Apart* are the works by Nova Darkstar, Ted Dixon, Robin Factor, Pat Hough, Sarah Mecklem, Lowell Miller, Robert Ohnigian, Vincent Pidone, Alan Samalin, MJ Shepard, and Frank Tagariello."

Nova Darkstar: Nova Darkstar (they/them) is a visual artist, musician, filmmaker, and experience architect whose work explores themes of identity and belonging in the LGBTQ2IA+ community and beyond. Their multimedia projects often invite audiences to become active co-creators of liberative art. Nova holds an MFA in Visual Art from Lesley University and an MA in Counseling Psychology from the California Institute of Integral Studies. Nova Darkstar & their Invisible Band perform original R'n'B, disco, and electronic dance music throughout the northeast, spreading trans joy and happy feet. "I Dream a Prom Queen," a short documentary made in collaboration with Tania Barricklo, was an official selection for the 2024 New York Transgender Film Festival. "Color Me Trans," a coloring book for teens and adults is in the works. Recent gallery exhibitions include "My Home is Your Home," a solo show at M Galleries PNA (Washington, NJ) and group shows at Roxbury Arts Alliance (Succasunna, NJ), Gallery RAG (Gloucester, MA), and WAAM (Woodstock, NY). novadarkstar.net

Ted Dixon: Born in New York City in 1953, Ted Dixon has lived in the Hudson Valley since 1992 and since 2009 in Rosendale, NY. Dixon attended Fordham University, the Fashion Institute of Technology, and

School of Visual Arts. He worked for over 25 years as a web designer, and in 2009 began devoting himself full time to his artistic practice. Dixon's previous exhibitions have been on display at Susan Eley Fine Art, Hudson, NY; Montgomery Row Art Space, Rhinebeck, NY; Woodstock Artists Association & Museum, Woodstock, NY; ADS Gallery, Newburgh, NY; Arts Society of Kingston, Kingston, NY; Gallery at the Rosendale Theatre, Rosendale, NY; and Albany Center Gallery, Albany, NY. hereisted.com

Robin Factor: Robin Factor has a BFA and MFA in painting from Pratt Institute. She loves the thrill and power of creating environments with total autonomy -- directing all the characters in her universe, whether a character is a pencil line, piece of thread, or a mark of raw umber. How do they interact, do they love each other or resist, can they handle a third element, and how does that change the dynamic in their space -- can they stay? And most importantly, how can they become more than their parts and take on meaning? Her mixed media collages explore interior and exterior landscapes, and the uneasy duality between romanticizing and destroying landscape. The natural surroundings change with people's viewing and memory, and form fragments of their own internal landscape. These deconstructed landscapes are her way of creating a conversation between elements as they respond and react to each other, and between the viewer and the piece as they explore their own reaction to their environment. robinfactorart.com

Pat Hough: When Pat Hough was in kindergarten class, standing in front of a wooden easel, with a tall window to her left, she could see that it was snowing outside, big cloud-like flakes against a dark gray sky. There was a piece of blue construction paper clipped onto the easel, and Hough started painting the snowflakes on the paper with white paint. She became the snow. And that is how it all began. Art was everything and everywhere for Hough. Class artist in high school, art school, a painting studio in Tribeca. She spent many a Sunday afternoon visiting NYC art museums. Showed her work in exhibitions in Brooklyn, Manhattan, and upstate NY. Hough taught art and computer classes, retired, and moved upstate in 2022. After two years of painting and drawing, she began to make mixed-media collages and collagraphs. She continues to do so. And she is still becoming the snow. [instagram.com/pat_hough](https://www.instagram.com/pat_hough)

Sarah Mecklem: Sarah Mecklem was born in Kingston in 1946 and raised in Woodstock by her artist parents, Austin Mecklem and Marianne Appel. In 1956 the family moved to NYC where she attended art schools, eventually earning a degree in community arts program development from Empire State College. Sarah Mecklem has been a working artist in New York City, Kingston, and Woodstock her entire life. Her work as an arts educator, a community arts program director, and curator has consistently been informed by her work as an artist. And, likewise her work as a visual artist and printmaker, has been shaped by her interest in public art and the role of art in the community. In 1997 Mecklem moved back upstate to Kingston where she began working with materials found in her surroundings, using scrap wood, old linoleum, scrap metal, bottle caps, and cigarette butts. Participating in the vital arts community evolving there, Mecklem made pieces for the Biennial Outdoor Sculpture show. She has lived and worked in Woodstock since 2007. Mecklem's work has been exhibited at numerous venues throughout New York City and the Hudson Valley. [facebook.com/sarah.mecklem.7](https://www.facebook.com/sarah.mecklem.7)

Lowell Miller: The visual arts work with shape, color, light, mass—in a language that somehow "speaks" to us. But visual language is mute in the usual sense of communicating facts. We respond to the sensuous experience of art in deep hidden ways that remain...inarticulate. For Lowell Miller, words have an actual sensory presence in the brain beyond their apparent "meaning." They leap out across the synapses, landing on ordinary meaning, connotation, reference, association,...they dance and vibrate and sometimes collide. Rub one word against another and it can make heat, or fire. That heat

can generate an entirely new view. A view which itself may be...also inarticulate. Usually words exist in a linear aggregate that links them each to each, and so we use lots of them. Miller tries to get along without that, with just a few words. The process is so different from making visual art, but the pleasing aesthetic sensation when finally locating that last piece of the grand jigsaw puzzle is...the same.

lgmsculpture.com

Robert Ohnigian: Robert Ohnigian is a Woodstock, NY-based collage artist who paints with paper. From the most minimal materials, he reconstructs an archive in geometric form. His compositions are at the same time delicate and magnetic, derived from the tones of the paper that he observes in its aging process. The result of his work is familiar, like the chambers of our memory. Ohnigian's work is imbued with history. He was born in New York City in 1947 to a family of Italian and Armenian immigrants. Their ethnic experience greatly influenced his development as an artist. **ohnigian.com**

Vincent Pidone: Vincent Pidone is a Hudson Valley native, and a self taught artist.
madkingston.org/artist/vincent-pidone

Alan Samalin: After graduating from Cooper Union in 1967, Samalin opened a studio that has been active ever since. He created murals for the Metropolitan Transit Authority of NYC, the Port Authority of NY/NJ, City Arts of NYC, and private and corporate clients. He has exhibited in and around NYC over the decades, and now exhibits in the Hudson Valley, where he lives and works.
waamart.org/artist_page/alan-samalin

MJ Shepard: MJ Shepard is an award-winning artist and educator living in the Hudson Valley. She has taught art in public schools, community organizations, and at not-for-profits for more than 25 years. She has participated in residencies, fellowships, and community art programs in the Hudson Valley including Women's Studio Workshop, The O+ Festival, Wild Earth Wilderness School, the Center for Creative Education, the Good Work Institute, and Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture. Her mixed media photography won a Julia Margaret Cameron Award and received an honorable mention at the Worldwide Photography Gala Awards in Barcelona, Spain. Shepard is a mixed media artist working with paint, encaustics, digital and traditional print media, handmade paper, and sculpture. She co-founded Circle Creative Collective, a non-profit whose mission is to bring people together across cultural bubbles to share and preserve ancestral crafts and skills. **[instagram.com/shepardnusbaum](https://www.instagram.com/shepardnusbaum)**

Frank Tagariello: Frank Tagariello was born in Brooklyn, NY, in 1954 and began his career in 1978 as an art director at *Travel & Leisure* magazine after graduating from Pratt Institute. It was at *Travel & Leisure* where he got to take on assignments as a travel photographer, learning to capture environments and spontaneous moments quickly, all with a 35mm camera. Always drawn to strong color combinations, lighting, and people. All photos in this show have been taken recently with an iPhone camera in NYC, where Tagariello lives and works. Over the years, Tagariello's photographs have appeared in the *American Photography* annuals. His hero, the photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson, once said, "To take a photograph is to align the head, the eye, and the heart. It's a way of life." **[instagram.com/frankmtag](https://www.instagram.com/frankmtag)**

The Olive Free Library has created a platform to show and sell the art of regional artists, both established and emerging. This provides art enthusiasts a way to view, appreciate, and purchase local and regional artworks. The rural town of Olive does not have a cultural center, so the library converted its spacious, light community room into a gallery space. The response from both artists and the community has been overwhelmingly positive. **olivefreelibrary.org**

Multiplicity: Together and Apart

Exhibition Dates: January 18 – March 1, 2025

Opening: Saturday, January 18, 2025, 3 – 5 pm

Artists' Meet & Greet: Saturday, March 1, 2025, 2:30 – 4 pm

Olive Free Library Association

4033 Route 28A (PO Box 59 Mailing Address), West Shokan, NY 12494

Phone: 845.657.2482 / Email: helpdesk@olivefreelibrary.org / Website: olivefreelibrary.org

Please see images of artwork in the show enclosed in this press release. These images and others in high resolution are available by sending an email to thefessor@hotmail.com.



Alan Samalin, *Sampler no.31*, 2022. Acrylic on canvas (triptych), 29" x 29".



Sarah Mecklem, *Two in One*, 2024. Woodwork, 15" x 36".



Robert Ohnigian, *Untitled*. Paper collage and acrylic paint on antique book cover, 5.5" x 9".



Frank Tagariello, *USA*, 2024. Photographs, each 27" x 18".

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**"KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE
ON IMOB, AMAZON PRIME, NETFLIX**

BEYOND TOMORROW

(1940 / 1 HR. 23 MIN. PG)



The ghosts of three elderly industrialists killed in an airplane crash return to Earth to help reunite a young couple they initially brought together. Melton, Chadwick and O'Brien, rich but lonely heads of an engineering firm, invite three strangers to dinner on Christmas eve ... A film that defines the relationship between the spirit, the soul, and the physical body, and the illusions

of awareness. Relative to Einstein, we are the vibrations of reality –the grace of God. God's grace is our awareness, use it well, in truth, and grow into an Angel.

God Bless.....

(Contd. Pg. 67)

Answer to last week's Trivia Question: *What Women Want*
This weeks' Trivia question:

True or false: *The Heroes of Telemark* is about a World War II mission in Denmark.

KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE #2

The Christmas Chronicles

Netflix

(PG · 2018 · 1hr 44mi Fantasy/Family)

One of the best family Christmas movies! This Christmas adventure has lots of kid appeal and excitement in a quest to save Christmas.



Santa, played by Kurt Russell, instantly brings a high level of energy to this film.

Siblings Teddy (Judah Lewis) and Kate (Darby Camp) sneak onto Santa's sleigh on Christmas Eve. The sleigh

crashes and Santa loses his magic hat and sack full of toys, and then the reindeer go MIA. If Santa doesn't deliver Christmas in time, the world will descend into another Dark Age where violence and chaos rule the day. So the three of them set out to make things right by retrieving the lost items and getting Santa's elves to help repair the sleigh. Along the way, Teddy steals a car (well, borrows a stolen car, really), Santa gets thrown in jail, and Kate finds herself alone in Santa's workshop at the North Pole. Can the three work together to save Christmas?



Directed by Clay Kaytis, derived from a screenplay by Matt Lieberman. Starring Kurt Russell as Santa Claus, Judah Lewis as Teddy, Darby Camp as Kate, Lamorne Morris as Officer Jameson. **KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE #3**

The Christmas Chronicles II

(PG · 2020 · 1hr 44min · Fantasy/Family)

Netflix

You better watch out, you better not cry,
You better not pout, I'm Telling you Why?



Whereas the first film had more of a traditional Christmas story, Kurt Russell once again is a brilliant Santa Claus along with Goldie Hawn, who has what it takes for a really good Mrs Claus!! Darby Camp is back as Kate who along with Jack (Jahzir Bruno) have a very different adventure.

Kate makes a wish to Santa asking him to help her escape from her family, thinking they would be better off without her around. Belsnickel overhearing her wish, gets to work scheming his evil schemes to separate her from her family.



With Jack following her, the evil elf Belsnickel tosses Kate and Jack through a portal, which takes them to the North Pole where their adventure begins.

It's fun, exciting, heartwarming and a nice way to spend the holidays. It is an action-packed adventure for the whole family that's full of heart

The Christmas Chronicles 2 delivers a film that reminds us the story of family, the story of Christmas as one of love –love that is unconditional and ever present.

Wishing everyone a very happy holiday, and if you're planning on watching this movie, I hope you enjoy it as much as we did.



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