

PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN

Happy New Year 2021

Tri

Ye Olde TOWNSDAN Valley



"The Best Journal Published by a Dam Site!"

VOL. 16 NO. 52 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 DECEMBER 31, 2020 \$1.00

Mysterious Book Report John D. McKenna Pg 5 • *The Olive Jar* Carol La Monda Pg 6 • *The Scene Too* Jane Harrison Pg 11
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Let's Hear It For Some Holiday GOOD NEWS



SUNY Sullivan Staff were able to distribute over 100 holiday presents (aka toys) to children of our students who needed a little extra help this year. Our Good News Movement team raised over \$1,800 for this effort and wrapped all the gifts- thank you to all who contributed!

And More Good News: Our Food Insecurity Team Assists Students

SUNY Sullivan's Food Insecurity Team has given out over 70 food gift cards to students who are dealing with household food scarcity, along with dozens of complete Holiday Food Bags.



Many thanks to our community for the all of the contributions. If you would like to donate to our Food Insecurity Fund please follow the link below, and type "Food Fund" in the special instructions box.

Go to: <https://my.sunysullivan.edu/ICS/Alumni/>

Thousands of Masks Going Out



Liberty, NY - Sullivan County Public Health Services is working with the Emergency Community Assistance Center (ECAC) to distribute 1,500 face masks to 13 area food pantries throughout the County this week. An additional 2,500 masks will be distributed to low-income families, senior citizens, the Federation for the Homeless, and small private businesses with essential workers, in collaboration with the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce. (Contd. Pg. 9)

YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN

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

Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman (USPS #009 398 - ISSN 1558-9013) will be published weekly for \$40.00 per year by **Gnome Home Inc.**

EDITOR: Linda Comando - 985-0501
NEVERSINK NEWS: Hulda Vernoooy
THE SCENE TOO - Jane Harrison
OLIVE JAR - Carol La Monda
MYSTERIOUS BOOK REPORT - John McKenna
HER QUIRKY JOURNEY - Marilyn North
FALLSBURG NEWS - Larry Schafman
MOVIE TRIVIA - Frank Comando a/k/a Knarf

Email: tvtownsman@yahoo.com

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Subscription for *The Townsman* will be available in pdf format and will be delivered to you each week in your email that will be provided by you. *The Townsman* can easily be read on a computer, tablet or cell phone. The pages have been formatted so they can be printed out as a whole paper or a single page. We continue to encourage those who have home printers, to print out a hard copy and perhaps pass it on to a family member or friend who does not have a computer.

POLICY ON SUBMISSIONS AND LETTERS TO THE EDITORS:

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

Opinions expressed in *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman* belong to the writers and are not necessarily the viewpoint of *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman* or its staff.

To renew or receive a new subscription to the *Virtual TOWNSMAN*, in your email every week, fill out the form below and mail it to Townsman, P O Box 232, Grahamsville, NY or drop it in the box located on the porch of the First Aid Building in Grahamsville. Make checks payable to: *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman*. You may also sign up on line and pay with **Paypal** from the website: thetownsman.com

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A change of an email address must be received a month prior to change in order to make the necessary changes in our computer system. All changes are the responsibility of the subscriber.

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Please send your ad copy to: vtownsman@yahoo.com or by regular mail to: **The Townsman**, PO Box 232, Grahamsville, NY 12740

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

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

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

ON THE FRONT BURNER: Thus saith the Lord of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation and a great whirlwind shall be raised up fro the coasts of the earth.
Jeremiah 26:32

OBITUARY

Adam Joseph Trestyn On November 7, my son, our friend and brother, Adam Joseph Trestyn, passed through this world at his



home in Pioneer, California. Born and raised in Grahamsville, not the easiest child, he followed his own path around this world, settling in California his

adult life.

Predeceased by his loving sister, Melissa Ann Crover. He is sorely missed by his parents David and Teresa, his mother Judy, brother Ellery Crover, favorite niece Kia Paige Connor and friends and associates too numerous to mention.

Words can never express our sorrow though we thank all of those who offered us their prayers and words of comfort. His, Melissa's and faithful companion Spike's ashes will be set free with the wind blowing East off Thunder Hill to join the Universe.

A celebration of life, at an appropriate time, will be conducted in the future.

Ann Marie Luttinger-Yules, of Grahamsville, passed away on Monday, December 21, 2020. She was 72. She was the daughter of the late Theodore Luttinger and Mary Illeva, born on April 1, 1948 in Syracuse, NY.

Services were held privately at the convenience of the family.

Arrangements under the care of Colonial Memorial Funeral Home, for further information call 845-434-7363 or visit www.colonial-familyfuneralhomes.com

There are no events scheduled. You can still show your support by planting a tree in memory of Ann Luttinger-Yules. To plant a tree in memory of Ann Luttinger-Yules, please visit our Tribute Store

DAYS OF YORE...

Today's History

December 27, 1950

Memorial Hall was filled to capacity last Thursday evening to hear the first concert of the Tri Valley School Band under the direction of Mr. Arlington Visscher, Music Supervisor at Tri Valley. It is to be hoped that a tradition, the annual Christmas band concert, was born last Thursday night.

A Grahamsville woman was injured on Tuesday as the car which she was driving, careened off Route 52 near Liberty and overturned twice. Ferndale State Police said that the woman, Pearl VanWagner, was treated at the scene for multiple abrasions and released. The car, a 1937 Buick, was badly damaged.

New England's oldest man - 111-year old Jeremiah Campbellton - died in his sleep on December 23rd. Mr. Campbellton was orphaned when seven-years old when the Micmac Indians raided the lonely cabin where he lived, killed his parents and carried him into captivity. For six years he lived with the Indians, learning their language and ways. After his escape, the Indian woodcraft knowledge stood him in good stead and he ultimately became one of Maine's best guides.

December 28, 1960

Mr. and Mrs. William H. VanBenschoten of Woodbourne Road celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary and his birthday on Dec. 26th.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hansen of White Sulphur Springs announce the engagement of their daughter, Bertina Lee to Fred Nash, son of Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Nash of Neversink. Mr. Nash is a graduate of Tri Valley Central School and is employed in construction. No wedding date has been set.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bailey celebrated their 17th wedding anniversary on Christmas Day with a family supper and invited guests.34

Movies will be shown at the Neversink Firehouse every week. On Wednesday, Dec. 28th, "The 39 Steps", "Three Stooges" and a "Captain Video" serial were shown. These movies are free to residents of the Neversink Fire District.

(Contd. Pg. 3)

DAYS OF YORE...**... Today's History** (From Pg. 2)

December 30, 1970 "Christmas 1970" was definitely white and deep. In answer to all of the soulful pleas for snow, nature answered with a convincing coverage of six to twelve inches.

Congratulations, a bit belated, to Mr. Ralph Hornbeck whose birthday was on the 24th and to Doris and Ralph Hornbeck on their 49th wedding anniversary, which was on Christmas Day.

From a long time former resident, Mrs. Lee (Delia) Dayton. She writes, "We oldsters should count our blessings and not even mention our aches and pains." Enough said, she is happy at Binghamton with her daughter and family, the J. Buswells and son, but she has moments of nostalgia for Grahamsville and the "garage" where she spent so many happy hours visiting with good friends.

Conservation facts: The wall-eyed pike is not a pike at all, but is the largest member of the perch family. A porcupine can destroy two trees in a single night and has been known to cause damages ranging from \$10 to \$100 per acre. They feed largely on conifer bark and when they girdle a tree, it dies. The offspring from a single pair of flies, under ideal conditions, could produce in one year enough new individuals which if packed 1,000 to a cubic inch, could form a ball of flies 96,000,000 miles in diameter. (That's not a typo, folks, but I'd love to know where that statistic came from. B.S.)

December 18, 1980 -

Arnold C. Ackerley, 68, of Liberty, died Thursday, Dec. 11th at home. Mr. Ackerley, a lifelong resident of the area, was born February 2, 1912 in Morsston to Daniel and Edith Davis Ackerley. Survivors include Margaret E. McGuire Ackerley at home; six sons, Wesley, Eugene and Roy, all of Liberty; Richard and Arnold Jr. both of Grahamsville and Donald of Aschbach, Germany; six daughters: Marion Wegman of Swan Lake, Marjorie Fairbairne, and Virginia Keefer of Liberty, Caroline Johnson of Grahamsville, April Crary of Youngsville and Cindy Barber of White Lake.

The Raymond Curry family welcomed a newborn recently.

Happy 47th Anniversary to Mr. and Mrs. George Krom on Dec. 31st.

Household Hints:**Did Someone Leave a Wet Glass on your Furniture?**

To remove white rings left by wet glasses on wood furniture, mix equal parts vinegar and olive oil and apply it with a soft cloth while moving with the wood grain. Use another clean, soft cloth to shine it up. To get white water rings off leather furniture, dab them with a sponge soaked in full-strength white vinegar.

Nature Column - Linda Comando

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

Cardinals of Christmas

Christmas Day was definitely different this year. Then again, so was 2020! Many of us didn't mind the 18 inches of snow that fell last week. It made it feel like Christmas despite having to stay home any way due to COVID! Then came the heavy fog on Christmas Eve – a segue of the relentless rain that followed. By Christmas morning the Rondout Creek crept through our backyard; over 500 feet toward our house. The rushing water was about 70 feet from the back of our house! By afternoon the water began to recede leaving swaths of sand throughout the forest and temporary streams that became gullies. The beautiful Christmas snow was gone!

Despite it all, it didn't stop a pair of cardinals from feasting at the birdfeeder. It was cheery to see the bright red male, however the female, a pale brown bird with a warm reddish tinge on her wings, tail and crest blended in with the drab background of sand, mud and puddles!



Early in the evening of Christmas Day it began to snow. By the next morning there was just enough snow to cover up the sand and frozen mud puddles creating a showy background for the two Cardinals that were back looking for food. Once again, our back yard looked like the winter scene we often see on Christmas cards! The pair of songbirds gifted us with a medley of songs.

Our faithful winter friends, Cardinals don't migrate nor do they molt. Their plumage remains vibrant and full, especially during winter. While they are easily seen at bird feeders they may not be as easy to notice away from your feeder, at least not until you learn their loud, metallic chirping note and there is at least a dusting of snow. Cardinals tend to sit low in shrubs and trees or forage on or near the ground, often in pairs that typically remain together the whole year. The couple often stay together until one dies at which time the surviving mate will look for another partner.

Males can be aggressive when defending their territory, and they frequently attack other males who intrude. This tendency sometimes leads cardinals to fly into glass windows, when they charge an "intruding bird" that is really their own reflection.

Their breeding season runs from March to as late as September. The female will lay 2-5 eggs that are buff-white with dark marks. The female is the only one to incubate the eggs. The male's duty during this time is to feed her on the nest and protect their territory from intruders.

The female will incubate the eggs for about 12 days. When the eggs hatch, both will feed the young. The young leave the nest in 9-11 days after hatching. Each season the pair will attempt to raise two broods. A new nest will be constructed for a second brood by the female. The male continues to feed the first set of young for up to two weeks after leaving the nest. During this time the female usually will be incubating her second clutch keeping the male busy by continuing to feed the female, the first brood, and still protecting their territory.

Any males born this coming spring season will initially look like the female but by next winter they will have the more pronounced black mask, crest, and red feathers of adult males.

Cardinals will usually be the first birds to your feeders greeting you in the morning and the last birds to eat bidding you a good evening.

2020 certainly was a year of uncertainty, why would we expect Christmas to be different – from snow to floods and mud, then back to snow all within 24 hours! However, nothing could stop Christmas from happening, or the beautiful pair Cardinals cheerfully singing, reminding us of all the gifts that we may have overlooked this past year.

May the blessings of this Christmas season bring you a New Year filled with peace, love, joy and good health!

Happy New Year!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Editor,

A serious conflict of interest afflicts Sullivan County's misguided effort to privatize its public health care agencies. The Sullivan County Sunset Lake Local Development Corporation (LDC) was created to be an independent body by our legislature in August, to serve as a means to sell or lease the Care Center at Sunset Lake and the Public Health Department's Certified Home Health Care Agency. It now holds both a lease and the title to the Care Center. Its board is reviewing proposals from six candidates for leasing. The Chairman of the Board of LDC is Lowell Feldman, who says that his career has consisted of working for various companies, including his own, "taking over nursing homes," as he put it at an LDC meeting on December 18, 2020. At a public hearing on July 14, 2020, as recorded at 14:40 in the video, Feldman requested that he should be considered as "an interested party" if the sale of the Care Center was to go forward.

Feldman's zeal to own the Care Center is a conflict of interest to his position on the LDC. Whether or not you agree with him that privatization is the magic key to better management, the LDC was set up to further the interests of the County, the Care Center and its residents, not to further Feldman's interests. He can't seek ownership of the Care Center and simultaneously lead the entity assigned to impartially evaluate bids for that facility. Feldman was selected for the LDC by his close friend Robert Doherty, Chairman of our Legislature, who reportedly intends to inflict his buddy on other County boards. In this case, Doherty has put the fox in charge of the chicken coop. Since the health of our most vulnerable citizens is at stake, this is cronyism at its most sordid.

Yours respectfully,

Lise Kennedy 12/23/20
Neversink, NY

Cornell Cooperative Extension Curates ' All for Ag - Thank You Bags'

SULLIVAN COUNTY, NY -All year, our farms have navigated an extremely volatile market, while continuing the hard and consistent work of their profession, to provide food for our communities. They have adjusted operations, increased workloads, donated food, and time. We know that a strong local food system is an investment in our vitality and security. Agriculture represents one of the largest economic sectors in Sullivan County. Farms create direct economic benefits providing our residents with fresh, nutrient rich foods, while preserving the rural character that we so highly value.

This holiday season, Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County (CCE) will celebrate farmers with an "All for AG - Thank You Bag" to remind our producers that they are appreciated.

The public is invited to show their support by donating to the cause, and/or nominating their favorite local farmer.

To nominate a local farm or farmer for an All for Ag - Thank You Bag, or to donate, visit <http://www.sullivancee.org/events>.

Nominations can be anonymous, but must include a short description of why the farmer was chosen, and the nominee's contact information for bag delivery.

For more information, contact CCE Agriculture Program Coordinator Ashley Tully at 845-292-6180 Ext. 112 or aet92@cornell.edu.

CCE prioritizes the health, safety, and well-being of the communities we serve. CCE offers technical assistance by appointment, email or phone, and many programs and meetings have transitioned to online or outdoor spaces. CCE phone and email lines of communication are OPEN, and offerings can be found online at www.sullivancee.org.

A Country Calendar
By Ann Higgins



2021

Country Calendar Order Form:

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Number of Calendars @ \$6.00 each...

Ann Higgins

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AG James Issues Statement on New York Vaccine Equity Task Force Appointment

NEW YORK - Attorney General Letitia James today released the following statement on heAG James Issues Statement on New York Vaccine Equity Task Force Appointment

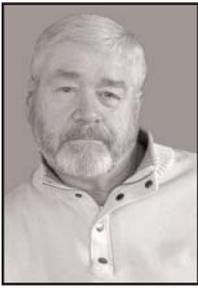
NEW YORK - Attorney General Letitia James today released the following statement on her appointment to the newly-launched New York Vaccine Equity Task Force:

"It is vital that New York does everything in its power to eliminate barriers between the vaccine and marginalized communities, which are also the communities most devastated by the pandemic. Without equitable vaccine distribution, COVID-19 will remain a plight throughout our state, and will cost us more lives. It is my honor to serve as a co-chair on this task force and help ensure our most vulnerable communities get access to vaccines as quickly and as efficiently as possible."

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John Dwaine McKenna's Mysterious Book Report 2020 Best Books of the Year

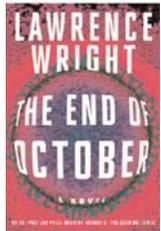
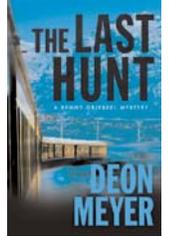


The year 2020 has been unusual to say the least. We've gone from a world class economy to a world class pandemic and thrown in a contested presidential election for good measure. These are indeed interesting times, and one of the best ways to cope is by reading good books and escaping into literature. With our warmest holiday greetings, and sincere hopes for a fabulous, happy and prosperous New Year . . . here are our Best Books of 2020.

Best Books of the Year 2020

MBR #404 The Last Hunt by Deon Meyer

An intricate, well-plotted suspense novel full of twists and turns. It begins when a cold case file is given to the Hawks, the Serious and Violent Crimes Unit of the South African Police Force. It involves the assassination of a private detective on the world's most luxurious train . . . and a deep dive into murder, political intrigue and a nation's awakening to the notion that their ideals, which sparked a revolution and set them free from apartheid, have been hijacked and sold for greed.

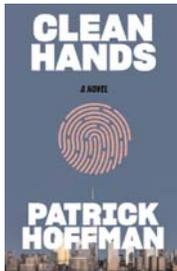
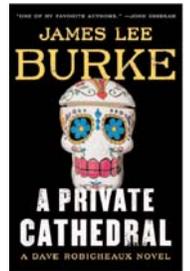


MBR #405 The End of October by Lawrence Wright

A stunning bit of drama that feels like today's news! The novel opens with the discovery of a new and previously unknown virus that's highly contagious and almost always fatal. When the epidemic is unknowingly spread to Mecca during the Hajj, three million are exposed from all corners of the world and the pandemic is on. And then, it gets even scarier!

MBR #412 A Private Cathedral by James Lee Burke

A genre-jumping, mind-bending, captivating yarn-and possibly the best of his twenty-three novels-featuring an imperfect and tortured detective named Dave Robicheaux. In the late 1990s, Dave is out of work, trying to get his badge back, fighting alcohol addiction and mourning the deaths of two wives. That's when he gets sucked into one of the oldest, most bloody and deadliest criminal feuds in Louisiana history.

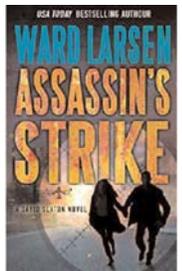


MBR # 411 Clean Hands by Patrick Hoffman

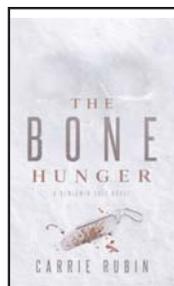
A mega-merger between two multi-billion dollar banks collapses and lawsuits have been filed with claims and counter claims. It's the highest stakes lawsuit a prominent Wall Street law firm has ever filed, and its survival-as well as the personal wealth of the partners-hangs in the balance. That's when a junior associate loses his cell phone, with most of the firm's secret case files on it. Then a high-priced fixer and ex-CIA officer named Valencia Walker is called in, and the real action begins and never stops in this propulsive thriller.

MBR # 413 Assassin's Strike by Ward Larsen

A kinetic and attention-grabbing thriller. It begins with a secret meeting between the presidents of Russian and Iran, to discuss the transfer of some outlawed, secret technologies, the use of which is a war crime, as well as crime against humanity. The two presidents and two interpreters are the only witnesses. But shortly after the meeting concludes, the Iranian interpreter is thrown to her death from a tall building by Iranian Revolutionary Guards. The Russian interpreter goes on the run to save her own life, and contacts the Americans for help. It becomes a desperate race of time for legendary assassin David Slayton to rescue the middle-aged woman in this pulse pounding adventure.



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



MBR # 415 The Bone Hunger by Carrie Rubin

An electrifying medical thriller, murder mystery and paranormal hair-raiser all rolled into one, featuring orthopedic surgery resident Benjamin Oris. He is the star pupil on a hip and knee replacement team under Dr. Kent Lock. The trouble begins when Ben discovers the severed leg of one of his patients while running in the park. This one has more twists and turns than the Alaskan Iditarod race! It will keep you guessing to the last page. (Contd. Pg. 19)

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The Poets Circle
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 Call To All Poets!**

We are proud to offer poets the opportunity to express their poetic creativity by showcasing their original works in our first ever virtual SCDW's - Poets Circle.

Audition Dates are:

- Sunday, December 27, 2020 at 6-8PM
- Monday, December 28, 2020 at 7:30 - 9PM
- Saturday, January 2, 2021 at 6-8PM
- Sunday, January 3, 2021 at 7:30 - 9PM

Performances to be held the weekends of January 22nd and 29th.

Auditions can be in person held at the Rivoli Theater at 5243 Main Street, South Fallsburg, NY or via Zoom.

To schedule an audition please contact Keith Prince at keithprince.scdw@gmail.com.

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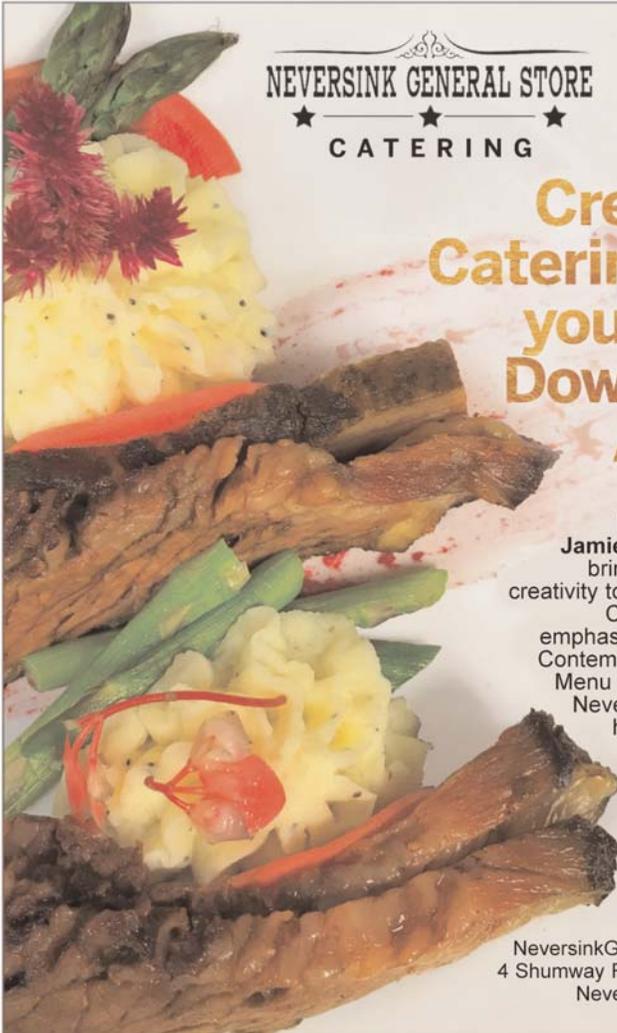
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"If it grows by day, have it cut & split by Knight"



In anticipation of Winter Storm Gail, Forest Rangers, along with other DEC staff, were deployed to various staging areas across the state to assist with the State's response. (Contd. Pg. 9)



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DEC Responds to *Winter Storm Gail* Statewide



(From Pg 8)

Forest Rangers were assigned to Dutchess County and Oneonta on Dec. 16, and to the High Peaks rest area, Warrensburg, Saratoga, Northville, and Lowville on Dec. 17.

Resources were moved as needed due to the changing track of the storm, including providing coverage to the Capital Region and I-81 corridor north of Binghamton. Following the closure of the highway, two crews patrolled and performed welfare checks on stranded motorists and helped shovel out tractor trailers and other vehicles.

Last week, ECOs, along with other DEC staff and state agencies, deployed personnel across the state in preparation for Winter Storm Gail. ECOs assisted with stranded motorists on highways, performed welfare checks, and responded to calls for assistance.



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Happy Holidays!

The Officers utilized snowmobiles, tracked UTVs, and four-wheel-drive vehicles in Ulster, Schenectady, Albany, Broome, Fulton, and Warren counties. One crew of ECOs worked overnight with local responders to reach a subject having a medical emergency while stuck in his vehicle in more than 40 inches of snow.

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Following her Push, Gillibrand Announces SNAP Increase and P-EBT Eligibility Expansion Included in Coronavirus Relief Package

• *As COVID-19 Has Exacerbated The Nation's Hunger Crisis, Senator Gillibrand Has Fought For 15% Increase In SNAP Benefits And Legislation To Expand Eligibility For The P-EBT Program For Low-income Children Who Were Previously Left Out*

• *Relief Package Also Includes Funding For Senior Nutrition Services*

Washington, DC - U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, announced that following her push, a vital 15% increase in SNAP benefits and her proposal to expand the Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) program are included in the latest coronavirus relief package. Senator Gillibrand also secured \$175 million for Older Americans Act Nutrition Services to support efforts to deliver nutritious meals for older adults. Food banks across New York and the country have experienced growing and unprecedented demand since March. In New York 13% of rural families depend on SNAP while 15% of those in metro areas rely on the program. Although the need for SNAP has drastically increased as many Americans have lost their jobs and are struggling to put food on the table due to the COVID-19 crisis, the 15% increase has not been included in previous coronavirus response packages. Senator Gillibrand's proposals will not only increase SNAP benefits for each family, they will expand eligibility by removing harmful barriers to access, and will put healthy and nutritious food on the table for families in need.

Emergency Heating Benefit Available Jan. 4

Liberty, NY - On January 4, 2021, the Home Energy Assistance Program's (HEAP's) Emergency Benefit component opens and will begin accepting applications.

Emergency benefits are available to assist eligible households with a heating emergency or a heat-related domestic emergency. Regular component benefits, if available, must be utilized first to resolve heating emergencies for eligible households.

Temporary relocation for housing emergencies, and propane tank deposits to obtain new propane vendors, are available under the Emergency Benefit component in emergency situations only, such as relocation due to eviction or when a home is uninhabitable.



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All applicants for the Emergency Benefit may apply via telephone or in person - not via the MyBenefits web portal. The phone number is 845-807-0142. Applications can be completed over the phone and do not require a face-to-face interview. Please call before coming to the Department of Family Services in Liberty, as offices are still operating on a limited-access basis.

The applicant must be facing a heating emergency or heat-related domestic emergency under one or more of the following conditions:

- The applicant's utility service is terminated or is scheduled for termination
- The applicant's electric utility service necessary to operate the primary heating equipment is terminated or is scheduled for termination

The Scene Too

- Jane Harrison

It's been a very disconcerting week ending with a surprise phone call from one of the Directors of S.T.A.R.S. on Christmas Day. I'm sure you've all heard and read about the avalanche that caused considerable damage to The Grand Lodge at Belleayre. The photos (courtesy of the Belleayre FaceBook page) are shocking! But even so, the cascade of rock, snow and ice came to rest exactly in the portion of the lodge where she, I and the other Directors have sat every year we attended the benefit for HEART OF THE CATSKILLS. The benefit didn't take place this year due to CoVid.



HEART OF THE CATSKILLS is a wonderful organization that operates a no-kill shelter. I adopted my Lefty and Missy Mags (not their names at the time) from them back in 2011. What impressed me more than anything was in addition to telling me about their shots and general health condition, they also clued me in on their personalities and the little quirks the staff had observed.

S.T.A.R.S. stands for Second Time Around Rescue & Sanctuary. This is also a wonderful organization but of a most unique kind. They maintain a strict limit on the number of kitties and Cocker Spaniels in their sanctuary because of the vision of the group. (Contd. Pg. 12)

Her Quirky Journey

-Marilyn Borth

<http://www.herquirkyjourney.com>



3 Emotional Days in Bagan, Myanmar

(Part One)

A year ago, I went on a short backpacking trip to Laos and Myanmar. As excited as I was to explore Laos (I'd heard pretty great things about it), I was far more intrigued by my impending 9-day trip to Myanmar (or, as it was once referred, Burma). From friends and fellow backpackers, I'd heard nothing but positive and glorifying reviews of the country as a whole. I simply couldn't wait to see it for myself. Due to its tumultuous past, Myanmar has an overall negative reputation. Their political past, civil unrest, and very recent genocides lead most people in the West to believe it's completely unsafe and off-limits to foreigners. Granted, their civil unrest is very real; there are some dangerous and off-limit areas for tourists in the country. However, not every spot on their map is unavailable and/or dangerous for exploration.



On top of all of that, Westerners simply don't know much at all about the country-me included! So, as usual, I sent myself to go backpacking in a place I simply knew nothing about in order to learn.

So, I continued my solo journey and left Laos (more on that in another post) to explore the highly-anticipated Myanmar.

YANGON (1 NIGHT)

I'd heard a lot about Yangon, which is the capital of Myanmar, and not a single word was enticing. I'd heard it wasn't worth much of an investigation, as it was heavily polluted, overpopulated, and didn't offer much at all in the realm of sightseeing.

When I first arrived in Yangon in the early evening, I immediately felt that what I'd heard was spot on. Getting a taxi from the airport was no small feat and, while slowly chugging along in their fume-drenched rush hour, I was overwhelmed by culture shock. The noise. The air. The traffic. The crumbling, snug, molding buildings. I simply wasn't into it.

Once arriving at my hostel in a sweaty, filthy, bug-eyed state, I checked in and tried to book a bus ticket for two days from then to Bagan. Bagan was actually my main reason for going to Myanmar at all due to their apparently mind-boggling sunrises with hot air balloons dotting the sky above a plethora of ancient temples covered in morning fog. 'Twas the season for it (October 1st to sometime in April) and I wanted all the views, not a sensory overload-causing city. (Contd. Pg. 12)

The Scene Too

(From Pg. 11)

They take in the elderly, the chronically ill, those suffering from badly healed injuries...in other words, the unadoptable. They love them, care for them and in association with certain vets, get them the medical attention they more than likely wouldn't get otherwise. In other words, they give them quality of life until they pass over that Rainbow Bridge. It is such a noble effort and one I'd not heard of before. It's a beautiful gift to these formerly suffering animals. And they are a legal 501(c)(3) Non For Profit tax exempt organization, as is the Heart of the Catskills. If you are on FaceBook, I suggest you check out both their pages.

On the CoVid front here in Sullivan County, really good going! 50-60 new cases each and every day all last week. I always thought the Sullivan County Dashboard online was the most comprehensive information to keep we who live here up to date on the latest information of this deadly virus. The more research I did, the more I found much was lacking, most particularly the number of active cases right now and in which towns. I don't much care the cumulative number since the start of the pandemic by itself, unless it is in relation to what's here now. "For the sake of privacy", the site says. Um...whose? And I take exception to the fact it is not updated in a timely manner, even though the dates say it is.

My older sister and my niece both tested positive for this virus. My sister was moved to the CoVid section of her assisted living facility (she is totally blind) where she remained for a bit over two weeks and was released on Thursday, CoVid free. My niece had been home. She called me two weeks ago on a Tuesday and told me what she'd been going through and the cause. I called her every day to check on her. A week ago Friday, she went back to work. I spoke to her that night. The next day I couldn't reach her. Or the following day, so I called her sisters and by Sunday night, we had a plan. By ten the next morning, we knew she'd been admitted to the hospital with CoVid related pneumonia. Where she remains today with no release date in sight. I've had pneumonia more than once. I know what it's like. But what she has is much worse but I won't tell her that. I can only pray. I'm staying positive. Stay well, stay strong Until next time.....

Her Quirky Journey

(From Pg. 11) However, upon trying to do so, the hostel staff told me that every, single bus was booked for the next week. They had absolutely nothing. Why? Because it was a national holiday, specifically Thadingyut Festival, and everyone and their mother was traveling in the country. Therefore, everything was booked. I was screwed.

I ran up to my dorm room and chucked my bags in my locker. While rummaging for my shower bag on the floor, undoubtedly grumbling to myself in pure rage, annoyance, and bafflement, the dorm door opened. A shadow walked in, was quite fittingly illuminated by the light behind it, and when he came into view, a cute boy introduced himself (of course it was a cute boy. What else would have distracted me from my chaos?). I clumsily picked my jaw off the floor, spoke to him (probably didn't say anything intelligible and looked a fright), then joined him and a bunch of other friendly hostel-goers for dinner.

We all instantly discussed the holiday and how almost none of us were prepared for it. However, the aforementioned cute boy said that he had a flight booked for the following morning to Bagan and that another underprepared hostelgoer and I should book that flight if we can (DONE!). (Contd. Pg. 13)



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Her Quirky Journey

(From Pg. 12) I checked immediately (duh), but wasn't really excited about the added \$90 expense. Then, there was the obstacle of booking a place to stay. Bagan was filled up accommodation-wise. So, when that same underprepared hostelgoer booked that flight and offered to share a private room with me (that was all he could get), I ignored my normally overly-safe self that was screaming, "NO!" and said, "Absolutely!"

So, all things were booked and, the following morning, I took a flight with two completely strange (yet very good-looking) men. Onwards and upwards, as they say!

BAGAN Day 1

We checked into Baobabed Hostel, which was the same chain as the one we stayed/met in Yangon (I highly recommend it if you stay in Myanmar, as they have them across the country and are awesome). Immediately after checking in, the three of us rented bikes from our hostel and rode around in the immediate area, taking in the nearby views.

That evening, we went to a hostel event where we caught a gorgeous sunset with views of the temples.



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We then headed back and naturally wandered up to the rooftop bar/pool (yeah, you read that right) and fully indulged in all the luxuries! There, we met a large group of diverse and wonderful travelers. We intended to end our evening early before meeting them to prepare for a sunrise view of the hot air balloons, but let's just say we did not at all fulfill our intensions! Worth it. *...to be continued.*

Attorney General James Issues Alert to Protect New Yorkers from Coronavirus Vaccine Scams

• *Guidance Issued as New York Begins*

Implementation of COVID-19 Vaccination Plan

NEW YORK - New York Attorney General Letitia James today issued an alert to warn New Yorkers about potential scams offering early access to a coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccine. While New York has begun the process of vaccinating nursing home residents, nursing home staff who regularly interact with patients, and high-risk medical workers, the vaccine will not become widely available to the general public in New York for several more months.

Consistent with federal guidelines, New York plans to offer vaccines next to long-term care residents and staff and other healthcare workers, then to certain essential workers, and finally to members of the general population, beginning with the people at highest risk for severe COVID-19 symptoms (such as those over 65 years old or with underlying health conditions like cancer or heart disease). New York has not yet announced a definitive timeline for distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine to any of these later groups. (Contd. Pg. 14)

Attorney General James Issues Alert to Protect New Yorkers from Coronavirus Vaccine Scams

(From Pg. 13) "We must remain vigilant about potential scams and ensure New Yorkers know the latest information regarding the COVID-19 vaccine. At this time, there is no government-authorized vaccine available to the general population in New York," said Attorney General James.

"Throughout this pandemic, scammers have found ways to victimize the public, with the vaccine distribution process being their latest method for fraud. My office remains committed to rooting out COVID-19 scams, and I encourage the public to report suspected illegal activity to my office."

The Office of Attorney General (OAG) continues to warn New Yorkers of anyone who calls, e-mails, or texts individuals offering access to a COVID-19 vaccine. In addition, some individuals may seek to use online platforms with similar schemes. Scammers may impersonate public health officials from organizations such as the Center for Disease Control (CDC) or the World Health Organization (WHO). They may also offer to ship a COVID-19 vaccine directly to homes, provide special access to vaccines or clinical trials, or sell special cold storage device for vaccines.

Here are some tips to help New Yorkers avoid vaccine-related scams:

- o Be wary of anyone calling or emailing you with offers of a vaccine and do not give out your Social Security number, personal credit card, or bank account information. No one from a vaccine distributor, health care company, or private insurance company will ask for this information.
- o If you have health insurance, you should not need to pay anything out of pocket to get the vaccine while the pandemic remains a public health emergency. If you don't have health insurance, the provider may only charge an administration fee. However, in many instances, you likely will not be required to pay the administration fee.
- o You can't pay to put your name on a list to get the vaccine or to get into a vaccine clinical trial.
- o If you get an e-mail about a COVID-19 vaccine or clinical trial, check the sender's email domain to make sure it matches the website of the organization sending the e-mail and be wary of clicking on any hyperlinks or providing any login or other personal information.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has authorized two COVID-19 vaccines for emergency use so far. The Pfizer/BioNTech's vaccine is authorized for use in individuals 16 years of age and older, while the Moderna vaccine is authorized for use in individuals 18 and older. If you have doubt about whether a vaccine or clinical trial is real, check with a licensed healthcare provider. For all up-to-date information pertaining to COVID-19 vaccine approval and distribution in New York, please visit: <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov>. Individuals may contact the New York State COVID-19 Hotline at 888-364-3065 for all COVID-19 related questions.

The OAG continues to surveil and monitor the state for potential scams designed to exploit public concern related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Scammers commonly exploit real public health concerns and use heightened public fear to prey on consumers and profit from frauds related to those health fears. If a consumer believes they have been the victim of an unlawful activity, they can report these incidents to the OAG.

Governor Cuomo Announces 140,000 New Yorkers Have Received First Vaccine Dose

Governor Cuomo: "I hope New Yorkers took our caution and celebrated smart. Celebrate smart, avoid shutdowns. That's what my season's greeting card says this year. Celebrate smart. I can understand the celebration, the religious significance. Lord knows after this year we need a break but be smart. And if we're smart then we can avoid shutdowns because we control our destiny. There is nothing preordained here. What will happen will be a consequence of our actions. A year where we felt out of control, we're actually in ultimate control because we control the spread of the virus by our actions. Celebrate smart and avoid shutdowns."

Cuomo: "Another issue popped up because every day is a new issue to deal with. Possible fraud by a health care provider. You're going to see more and more of this. The vaccine is a valuable commodity and you have many people who want the vaccine. You'll have fraud in the vaccine process. It's almost an inevitable function of human nature and of the marketplace. Vaccines are valuable and there will be people who break the law. We're looking at one health care provider who may have done that."

Earlier today, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that 140,000 New Yorkers have received the first COVID-19 vaccine dose to date. New York expects to receive another 259,000 doses this week, with 139,400 coming from Pfizer and 119,600 coming from Moderna. The Governor also announced that the state is expanding the priority populations eligible to receive a vaccine to include urgent care center employees, individuals administering COVID-19 vaccines, including local health department staff, and residents of the Office of Addiction Services and Supports' congregate facilities. Vaccines will continue to be distributed for high-risk hospital workers, federally qualified health center employees, EMS, coroners, medical examiners, funeral workers and residents and staff of Office for People with Developmental Disabilities and Office of Mental Health facilities. Next week, the state expects to expand this universe further with the addition of ambulatory care workers and public-facing public health workers.

New York State Expects to Receive 259,000 Additional Doses this Week -- 139,400 from Pfizer and 119,600 from Moderna

Priority Populations Expanding This Week to Include Urgent Care Center Employees, COVID-19 Vaccine Administrators and Residents of Office of Addiction Services and Supports Facilities

Vaccines Will Continue for High-Risk Hospital Workers, Federally Qualified Health Center Employees, EMS, Coroners, Medical Examiners, Funeral Workers, and Residents and Staff of Office for People with Developmental Disabilities and Office of Mental Health Facilities

7,559 Patient Hospitalizations Statewide

1,222 Patients in the ICU; 717 Intubated

Statewide Positivity Rate is 8.33%

114 COVID-19 Deaths in New York State Yesterday

Governor Cuomo: "I hope New Yorkers took our caution and celebrated smart. Celebrate smart, avoid shutdowns. That's what my season's greeting card says this year. Celebrate smart. I can understand the celebration, the religious significance. Lord knows after this year we need a break but be smart. (Contdl Pg. 23)

Goodbye 2020! What's next? - L. Comando

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Across
 1 Thick shake
 5 Product purchased in bars
 9 It comes after gold and silver
 14 Notion; visualization
 15 Skirt not as short as 1-Down
 16 Vietnamese capital
 17 Edible mollusk
 18 It's near the funny bone
 19 More fitting
 20 Design on the flag of Japan (2 wds)
 22- "_____ but no cigar!!"
 23 Printer's daggers; used as reference marks in printed matter
 24 English philosopher and founder of empiricism and political liberalism
 26 Weep; whimper
 29 State without support
 33 Unlike Flash Gor-

don's Ming
 38 One who lacks much
 39 On the side of a ship that is sheltered from the wind.
 40 Swiss currency
 42 Fruity drinks
 43 Remarks not directly related to the main topic of discussion
 45 When the market appears to be moving in one direction changes to the opposite direction (2 wdss)
 47 Get along
 48 Self-replicating material present in nearly all living organisms
 49 So old it's new
 52 Measures
 57 Formal agreement between individuals or parties
 60 Design on the flag of the United Kingdom (2 wds)
 63 Scrub, in NASA-speak
 64 Flirty woman
 65 "The Time Machine" race of people

66 Monetary unit of India
 67 Foreshadow
 68 Watermelon leftover
 69 Horse available for riding
 70 Soon, to a bard
 71 *CONTROL*'s nemesis

Down
 1 Really short skirt
 2 Go off-script
 3 Alternative to purchase, at the auto dealership
 4 Sri Lankan language
 5 Full of oneself
 6 Castor and olive
 7 Declare invalid
 8 Elton John plays one
 9 Handcuff
 10 Design on the flag of Canada (2 wds)
 11 Excited about
 12 Little 'piggies'
 13- Put on the payroll
 21 _____ prius (court of original jurisdiction); unless
 25 Moulin Rouge dance
 27 Counterbalance, as a claim
 28 Prickly husk
 30 Icelandic saga
 31 Nerd and dork

32 Scots Gaelic newspaper, with
 33 Sir's counterpart "The"
 34 "Frozen" queen 53 Contemptibly obnoxious person
 35 Restraint 54 Actress Shire
 36 Design on the flag of Lebanon (2 wds) 55 Low-cost prefix
 37- _____-di-dah 56 Loses control on the road
 41 Homer' Simpson's neighbor 57 3, 4 and 5 on most regulation golf courses
 44 Discharging undigested or waste material 58 Be right next to
 46 Walt Disney's "That _____ Cat!" (1965, remade in 1997) 59 Manage, somehow
 50 Cuban dance 61 Chinese prefix
 51 Satirical online 62 A domesticated bovine animal kept for milk or meat

Hearty Crock Pot Beef Stew

- 1 pound cubed beef stew meat
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon paprika
- salt and pepper to taste
- 2 cups beef broth
- 1 1/2 tablespoons teriyaki sauce
- 1 onion, chopped
- 3 carrots, sliced
- 1 stalk celery, sliced
- 2 potatoes, cubed
- 1/2 pound mushrooms, quartered
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 bay leaf

Place beef stew meat into a slow cooker. In a small bowl, mix together flour, paprika, salt, and pepper; sprinkle over beef stew meat, stirring to coat.

Stir in beef broth, teriyaki sauce, onion, carrots, celery, potatoes, mushrooms, garlic and bay leaf.

Cover, and cook on Low 6 hours, stirring occasionally.

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CRYPTOGRAM



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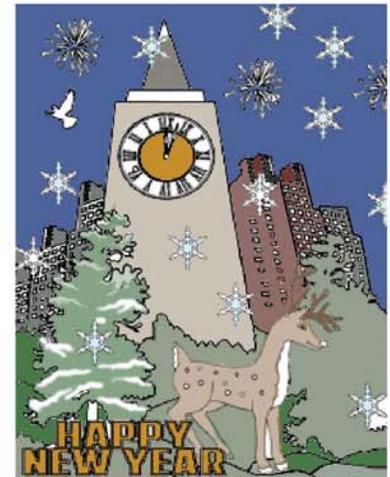
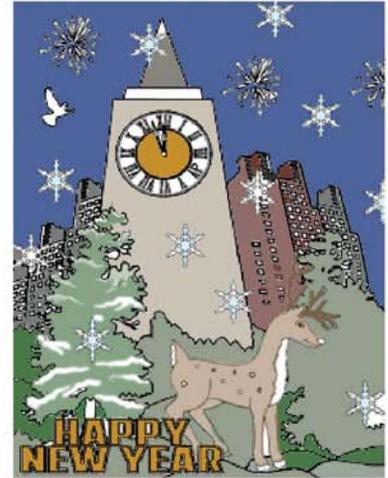
New Year's Wordsearch



- BALLOONS
- CALENDAR
- CELEBRATE
- CHEERS
- CLOCK
- CONFETTI
- COUNTDOWN
- GOALS
- HAPPY
- JANUARY
- MIDNIGHT
- NEW YEAR
- NOISEMAKER
- PARTY
- RESOLUTION



It's almost time! What are five differences between the two pictures?

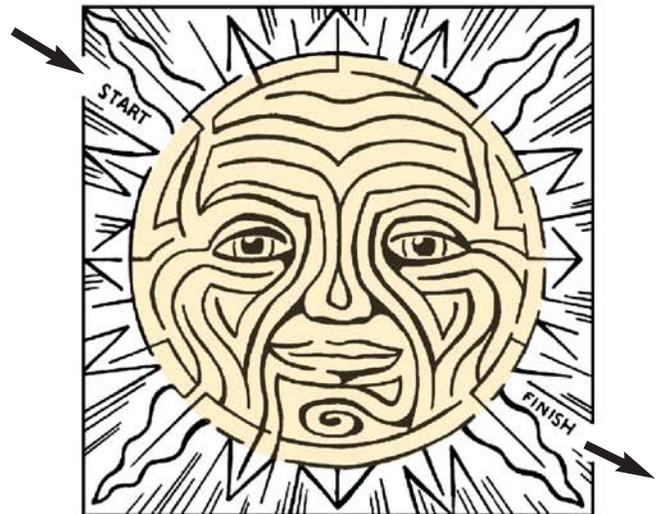


Follow the dots to complete the New Year message.

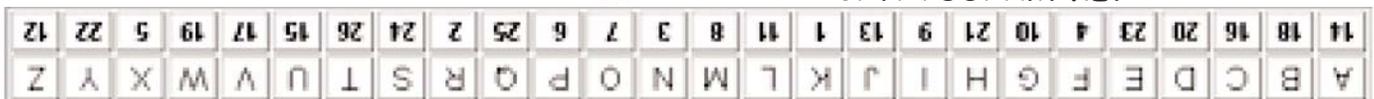
Kids' Holiday Fun Page

L. Comando

The sun is beginning its journey back North. Can you get through this maze?



CRYPTOGRAM KEY



Thousands of Masks Going Out

(From Pg. 1) These surgical face masks were purchased with funding made available to Sullivan County Public Health Services by the New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO) through a \$6,785 grant from the New York Health Foundation to purchase flu vaccine, masks, food boxes and gift cards at local grocery stores.

As many Sullivan County residents continue to encounter challenges associated with COVID-19, the ECAC and Sullivan County Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County (CCE) have been collaborating with Public Health to ensure people who are in quarantine have access to food, and to also ensure that face coverings and masks are available.



Sullivan County has had 2,629 confirmed cases of COVID-19 from March 13 through December 21, with 793 people on quarantine, the highest since May 29. Collaborations between non-profits, local government, school districts and others were initiated in February 2020 for help with food assistance and the ECAC was activated to deliver food, masks and medication to those most in need. The ECAC, staffed by the Center for Workforce Development and the Office for the Aging, remains active, and due to the rising number of cases over the past two months, the demand has increased, and resources are being depleted.

Sullivan County Public Health Services has also used these funds to provide at-risk community members who work at area manufacturing plants with flu vaccinations and masks to reduce their risk of complications of co-infection from the flu and COVID-19.

Rural Migrant Ministries is assisting in distributing masks to these communities. Many of these vulnerable individuals are also at increased risk for food insecurity due to COVID-19's impact upon sustained employment.

These funds will be used to provide supplemental food boxes and/or gift cards to families and individuals identified as at risk for food insecurity and/or are low-income and have been more greatly impacted by COVID-19. Food boxes and gift cards have been distributed to homes by the ECAC and CCE, and at community outreach flu clinics held by Public Health in several of the most vulnerable communities in Sullivan County.

For more info and to request assistance with a COVID-19-related need for food, medicine, shelter or other concern, the ECAC welcomes calls at 845-807-0925.

Senator Gillibrand Urged Appropriations Leaders To Invest \$6 Billion In The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program For Women, Infants, And Children (WIC) As 1 In 5 Parents Struggle To Feed Their Children

Washington, DC - U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand today announced that the bipartisan FY 2021 appropriations package includes \$6 billion in funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to address the growing hunger crisis. Nationwide, 1 in 5 parents do not have enough money to feed their children. Millions of Americans, especially women, continue to be affected by widespread business closures and subsequent job loss and more low-income households are relying on social safety nets to feed themselves and their families. WIC providers have reported increased need due to the pandemic and economic crisis, including in New York, where they have experienced a 3% increase in cases since February.

"With full funding for WIC included in this year's government funding bill, providers across the country will have more resources to keep low-income women, infants, and children fed. The pandemic and economic crisis have led many mothers to turn to social services for the first time - programs like WIC provide a vital lifeline for mothers to keep food on the table and makes healthy food and a healthy start to life accessible for all," said Senator Gillibrand. "I am proud to have fought for this important funding to support states as they work to combat the growing hunger crisis and I am especially pleased that this legislation includes \$90 million to continue WIC's essential breastfeeding education and support program. At a time when families are facing historic levels of hunger, funding WIC is one of the most important investments we can make."

Senator Gillibrand led a push for \$6 billion in funding -- including \$90 million to continue WIC's highly successful Breastfeeding Peer Counselor program, which provides vital peer-to-peer support, especially in underserved areas, and \$14 million for program infrastructure.

Fully funding WIC will protect eligible applicants from being turned away and provide resources to adjust for rising food costs. Additionally, funding is essential for timely and responsible program management and reasonable staffing levels to meet growing demand and the rising costs of operating during a pandemic - including modifying clinic spaces and purchasing additional technology to provide remote services.

LEGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES**Legal Notice:
Neversink Fire District**

Please take notice the re-organizational Meeting of the Neversink Fire District Board of Commissioners will be held on Tuesday January 5th, 2021 at 6:30pm at the Neversink Fire House, Neversink New York.

Tawny Shamro

Secretary Neversink Fire District 12/31

Ulster County Clerk's Office to Temporarily Close Motor Vehicle to the Public Due to COVID-19

Kingston, NY - Ulster County Clerk Nina Postupack has announced that the Department of Motor Vehicles will be closed to the public for health and safety reasons. This closure will begin immediately and is in effect until January 7, 2021.

The County Clerk's Office is following guidelines from the CDC and must close temporarily for in-person transactions. "Our primary concern is for the health and safety of our employees and the public," stated County Clerk Postupack. "This closure is mandated by the CDC and we will do everything possible to ensure a safe, socially responsible reopening. In-person services will be available again on January 7th and we encourage our residents to use online and mail options, as well as the drop-box until then."

When at all possible, residents are urged to complete their transactions online or mail routine transactions to the Ulster County Clerk's Office, PO Box 1800, Kingston, NY 12402. The Department of Motor Vehicles will have a drop-box outside the back-door of the County Office Building for plate surrenders and registration renewals. License renewals will also be accepted in the drop-box and appointments can be scheduled online. For other transactions or frequently asked questions, please visit the New York State DMV website at <https://dmv.ny.gov/>.

For further information, please contact Ulster County Clerk Nina Postupack at countyclerk@co.ulster.ny.us. Updates are available and appointments can be scheduled at the County Clerk's website clerk.ulstercountyny.gov. Updates will also be posted on the County Clerk's Facebook page.

"Let's Talk Sullivan," on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube

"Let's Talk Sullivan," the monthly podcast from Chairman Rob Doherty and Vice Chair Mike Brooks, is now available to view on our Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube pages.

Tri-Valley CSD Board Meeting

2) Thursday, January 7, 2021, anticipated proposed

Executive Session 6:00 p.m.,

Regular Meeting #14 7:00 p.m.

Whichever meetings are virtual

will be televised live on:

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

Statement from New York State Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker

"The State Department of Health has been made aware of reports that Parcure Community Health Network, an Orange County provider, may have fraudulently obtained COVID-19 vaccine, transferred it to facilities in other parts of the state in violation of state guidelines and diverted it to members of the public - contrary to the state's plan to administer it first to front-line healthcare workers, as well as nursing home residents and staffers. We take this very seriously and DOH will be assisting State Police in a criminal investigation into this matter. Anyone found to have knowingly participated in this scheme will be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law."

UC Executive Patrick Ryan issues Statement Following the Arrest of Two Kingston Men Charged with Murder

Following the arrest of two Kingston men, charging them



D'Janeira Mason

with the murder of 12-year old D'Janeira Mason at her home at 60 Van Buren Street in Kingston on Thursday, December 17, Ulster County Executive Patrick Ryan issued a statement following the arrests: "As we continue to grieve and mourn, we must at the same time ensure swift and sure justice for this heinous crime. Today's announcement of an arrest made in connection to this tragedy is welcome news, and I want to thank District Attorney Dave Clegg, the New York State

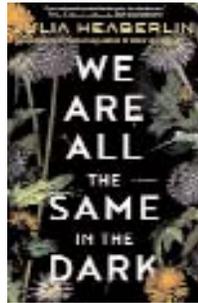
Police, the Ulster County Sheriff's Department, the City of Kingston Police Department, and the Town of Ulster Police Department for their work leading to this swift arrest. As a community, let us summon the collective will to stop this cycle of violence. We must do better."

John Dwaine McKenna's Mysterious Book Report 2020 Best Books of the Year

(From Pg. 5)

MBR #414 We Are All The Same In The Dark by Julia Heaberlin

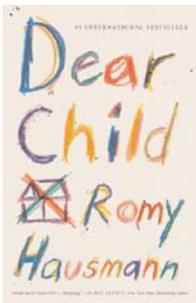
Begins in North Texas with the discovery of a nameless, wounded and mute young girl. She's missing her left eye and found lying in a pasture, surrounded by dandelions she's picked and placed there as a talisman to protect herself. Her discovery reignites the cold case disappearance of Trumanell Branson, and re-inflames the small Texas town where anger, suspicion and mob-mentality still seethe just beneath the veneer of a quiet, peaceful small town.



MBR # 423 Dear Child by Romy Hausmann

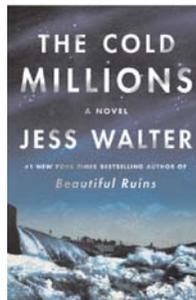
Already a runaway best-seller in Europe. It's the tale of a woman who's been kidnapped, held in a hovel and forced to act as a wife and mother in an insane pseudo-family. She manages to overcome her captor and escape, "But the end of her ordeal is only the beginning of her nightmare." The story is told in three first person points-of-view: by a young girl, whose entire life has been lived in the windowless cabin; the abducted woman; and the missing woman's elderly father. One of the most compelling, engaging and page-turning

psychological thrillers ever!



MBR# 421 Cold Millions by Jess Walter

The Labor Wars of the early twentieth century in Spokane Washington is the backdrop for narrators Rye and Gig Dolan, a pair of train-hopping drifters and hoboes. They're part of the International Workers of the World and their fight for free speech. It's a struggle between the haves and the have-nots to see who's going to get a bigger slice of the economic pie during a time, like now, of extreme income disparity. It begins in 1909 with a full-on riot, where the cops are busting heads and hauling the battered working stiffs off to jail.



MBR# 425 The Red Horse by James R Benn

The Red Horse is World War II historical fiction combined with a terrific murder-mystery. It's shortly after D-Day and Paris has just been liberated, but Captain Billy Boyle has paid a heavy price. He's hallucinating from stress, lack of sleep and



"It's Good to Know an old Country Lawyer!"

William A. Brenner ESQ.

Attorney-At-Law

**157 Main Street, (Route 55 at Route 42) P.O. Box 369
Grahamsville, NY 12740**

Very Important
Have you made a "Simple Will"?

- 1) Spouse with children or
- 2) Couples living together
- 3) Second marriages

[must personally meet and discuss your ideas, plans & options]

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845-985-7411

Email: williambrenner@hotmail.com • Fax: 845.985.0274 • NYC call Toll Free: 877.638.6011

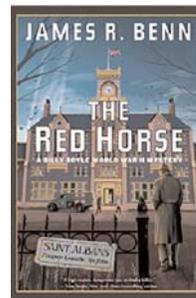
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Please call for availability first



the overuse of methamphetamines. He comes to at St. Albans, a secret convalescent hospital in the English countryside that's geared to handle high-value war-wounded patients with knowledge of Allied secret information. Boyle thinks he sees a murder when a high-ranking clandestine warrior leaps to his death from the hospital's clock tower. But did he? This one will keep you on the edge of your seat from start to finish.

That's it. Those are the best from our 2020 reviews and we hope you get a chance to read some, or all of them, and look forward to a better 2021, when the Mysterious Book Report will once again bring you some of the most exciting mysteries, thrillers, and crime fiction in print. Happy holidays to one and all and Merry Christmas from all of us, here at the MBR!

See more at:
Johndwainemckenna.com
 or
Mysteriousbookreport.com

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

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

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

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



Sundown United Methodist Church

Covered Dish Supper

5:30 pm

To be Announced

Sundown United Methodist Church Hall



Grahamsville United Methodist Church

Saturday Thrift Sale

9:00 am to 12 noon
To be Announced

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



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The Little Church with the Big Heart

Sunday, 8 am Service of Holy Communion, except: Second Saturday of each month, 12:00 noon

Music by Fred VanWagner
Coffee hour follows service
All are welcome!

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

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
(Embraces Fallsburg, Neversink, Sundown and Ulster Heights)

6317 Rte. 42, Woodbourne, NY

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

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

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



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

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

Regular Office Hours
Wednesday 9 am - Noon
Friday 3 pm to 6 pm

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

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

Grahamsville Reformed Church

The Church with a friendly welcome

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

Claryville Reformed Church



Claryville Road
Claryville, NY 12725
845-985-2041

Worship Services @ 10:00 am

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

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

Loucks Funeral Home

Geoff and Heather Hazzard

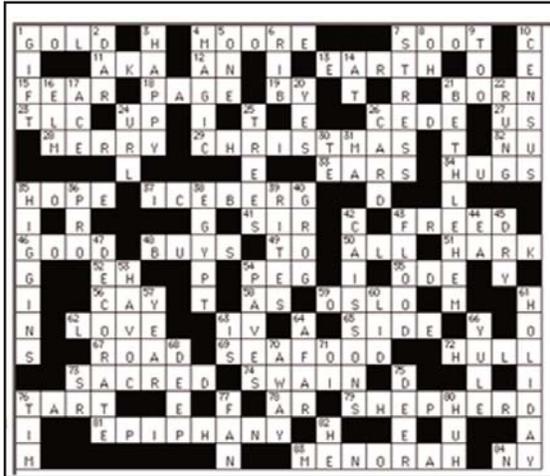
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AL-ANON MEETINGS- <http://www.al-anon.alateen.org>
 Mon- 7:00 p.m. United Methodist Church, 170 N. Main Street, Liberty • Thurs- 7:00 p.m. Immaculate Conception Church Annex, 6317 Rt 42, Woodbourne
 Sat- 8:00 p.m. United Methodist Church, 170 N. Main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

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

Ans to last week's Crossword



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

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

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 Call us at 845-985-0501
 email: tvtownsman@yahoo.com
 or visit our Virtual Mall
gnomehome.net

Claryville Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting a Defensive Driving Course

Claryville Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting a Defensive Driving Course on Saturday, January 9th 2021 at 9:00 am.

The cost of the class is \$40.00 per a person, payable to the Claryville Vol. Fire Department.

(The fee covers your registration and workbook materials)

Registration is required. To sign up call Chief VanDenberg at 985-2943 **NO LATER than December 31st.**

The event will be held t the Claryville Volunteer Fire Deparment (Warren Cole Fire Hall)

"Happy Winter from Congregation Agudas Achim in Livingston Manor NY!

Please join us on January 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. and stay on through the Oneg Shabbat. Email virtualshabbat@gmail.com to obtain the Zoom link and other information."

We welcome winter because it signals the turn of the secular new year and our thoughts look towards hope for calm and good health ahead in our nation and our personal lives. One positive outcome of these darkened last months is that people are still able to "visit" via Zoom and other technological platforms. Congregation Agudas Achim has embraced this technology and has added not only Shabbat services but members!

We have also added Shabbat services in February (2/12/21) and March (3/12/2021), months that we are historically not open due to the dangers and unpredictability of winter weather. Each service is held on the second Friday of the month and begins online at 7:00 p.m. with festive songs and music by Ira and Julia, The Levins, our cantorial duo. Then at 7:30 p.m. our services start, led by Rabbi Fred Pomerantz, and accompanied by Ira and Julia. The Levins stay on after services for the virtual Oneg Shabbat (celebration after the services) and create a "freilach" mood to carry us into the new week.

If you need more information, call Judy Siegel, our president, at 845-798-0783

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

Sullivan 180's Walkthrough Wednesdays at Peace Love & Lights at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts will be every Wednesday starting November 25th through December 30th. The walkthrough will start at 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Walkthrough Wednesdays allows guests to explore the beautiful holiday lights display up close and personal, out of the car, and in the midst of the magic before cars arrive.

Admission is \$5, or bring a new unwrapped toy to be donated to the Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless and get in for free (first come first serve basis).

Sullivan 180 is also challenging our community to get 500 residents to walk the one-mile route over the course of the six Wednesdays. If we reach this goal, a cash donation of \$500 will be made to the Federation and matched by Liberty NY Rotary Club!

For more information on Sullivan180's Walkthrough Wednesdays please see the flyer below, and for other Peace Love & Lights offers or to purchase tickets, please visit: Bethel Woods Center for the Arts

Ulster County Legislature Weekly Update For The Week Of

December 28, 2020 - January 1, 2021

Monday, December 28

- o 7:00 PM - Climate Smart Committee Powered by Zoom Meeting. Public Attendance by Phone (646) 558-8656, Meeting ID: 975 4366 8137

Tuesday, December 29

- o No Meetings

Wednesday, December 30

- o 12:00 PM - Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Board of Directors via Webex by dialing 1-408-418-9388. Access code: 132 607 7021#. Password is: 1234#

Thursday, December 31

- o No Meetings

Friday, January 1

- o New Year's Day - County Offices Closed

Regards,

Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
Ulster County Legislature

ASK - 2020 In Review

2020 has been a year like no other. While our 25th anniversary did not all go as planned, here at ASK we feel proud of all we accomplished and think it worth celebrating! None of it would be possible without your support. Click through to see the 2020 year in review.

At ASK we appreciate your continued support and membership throughout 2020, and thank you for your donations and future collaborations.

- o Starting 12/19, pick up a FREE 2021 Kingston Community Calendar. This year, the calendar features stunning photographs sent through the #ASK4Unity project.

- o Please join us this holiday season and help us help children by donating socks to keep their feet warm this winter. Donations will be accepted until January 1st. All sock donations will be hung on the Sock Tree located at ASK (97 Broadway, Kingston, NY 12401) and then donated to a charitable organization.

Your contributions make a difference! Especially during this unprecedented time, your donation is necessary to keep our community thriving. ASK is raising \$3,000 before the end of 2020 to support our mission of providing a space for artists to create and present their work. Please consider making a fully tax-deductible donation to ASK, and support the incredible arts community here in Kingston. To contribute now, please click

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=LDWKC9FVY6MAJ

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

CURATED BY
ED MUES

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

CRAGSMOOR
ARTISTS
IN OLIVE
RUNS
NOVEMBER 21
JANUARY 9

Governor Cuomo Announces 140,000 New Yorkers Have Received First Vaccine Dose

(From Pg 14) And if we're smart then we can avoid shut-downs because we control our destiny. There is nothing preordained here. What will happen will be a consequence of our actions. A year where we felt out of control, we're actually in ultimate control because we control the spread of the virus by our actions. Celebrate smart and avoid shutdowns."

Cuomo: "Another issue popped up because every day is a new issue to deal with. Possible fraud by a health care provider. You're going to see more and more of this. The vaccine is a valuable commodity and you have many people who want the vaccine. You'll have fraud in the vaccine process. It's almost an inevitable function of human nature and of the marketplace. Vaccines are valuable and there will be people who break the law. We're looking at one health care provider who may have done that."

Earlier today, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that 140,000 New Yorkers have received the first COVID-19 vaccine dose to date. New York expects to receive another 259,000 doses this week, with 139,400 coming from Pfizer and 119,600 coming from Moderna. The Governor also announced that the state is expanding the priority populations eligible to receive a vaccine to include urgent care center employees, individuals administering COVID-19 vaccines, including local health department staff, and residents of the Office of Addiction Services and Supports' congregate facilities. Vaccines will continue to be distributed for high-risk hospital workers, federally qualified health center employees, EMS, coroners, medical examiners, funeral workers and residents and staff of Office for People with Developmental Disabilities and Office of Mental Health facilities. Next week, the state expects to expand this universe further with the addition of ambulatory care workers and public-facing public health workers.

Governor Cuomo Issues Executive Order Increasing Penalties on Health Care Providers that Intentionally Disregard Vaccine Prioritization Protocols

Governor Cuomo: "Anyone who engages in fraud is going to be held accountable. The Executive Order I'm going to sign today says a provider could be fined up to \$1 million and revocation of all State licenses which frankly may be more of a deterrent than the \$1 million and that will apply to a provider, a doctor, a nurse, a pharmacist, any licensed health care professional. So, if you engage in fraud on this vaccine we will remove your license to practice in the State of New York. So, we are very serious about this and this is the type of fraud that will be uncovered on the old adage that people talk. People talk, we will find out, and it's not worth risking your license as well as a possible civil and criminal penalty."

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced he will sign an Executive Order increasing penalties on health care

providers who intentionally disregard the state's vaccine prioritization protocols. Under the new Executive Order, providers who knowingly administer the vaccine to individuals outside of the state's prioritization protocols may face penalties up to \$1 million, as well as revocation of all state licenses. Additionally, certification of vaccine recipients will now be mandatory as part of the State's vaccination process. This action comes following reports of a provider, ParCare Community Health Network, apparently obtaining and administering the COVID-19 vaccine by flouting state guidelines. The Governor has already directed the Department of Health and State Police to investigate the matter and the case has been referred to the office of Attorney General Letitia James.



Why wear a mask?

Out of respect.
When you wear a mask you are saying,
I respect my neighbors.
When you wear a mask you are saying,
I respect nurses and doctors.
When you wear a mask you are saying,
I respect other people.

We all need to show respect to one another in difficult times.

Wearing a face covering is a small inconvenience to protect others. We have gotten through this crisis by standing together and doing the right thing. The right thing - the respectful thing - is to wear a mask.

PLEASE CONTACT A MEMBER OF EACH ORGANIZATION FOR UPDATES ON OPENINGS

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

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

1/1/21 Town of Neversink Holiday - New Year's Day
 1/6/21 Town of Neversink Town Board Meeting - Organizational
 1/13/21 Town of Neversink Town Board Meeting - Rewgular
 1/18/21 Town of Neversink Holiday - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Save the Date!

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

TOWN OF OLIVE MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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

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

Claryville FD

Volunteers Needed for Associate and Active Members

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

Tri-Valley Elementary School

WANTED:

Local establishments to display student KINDNESS artwork

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

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

Enjoy a Virtual Tour Through the Catskills

Want to travel and learn about new places while staying safe? Check out TravelStorys GPS! It's an app on your phone that allows you to explore new places without a tour guide. Whether you go on the Gateway to the Catskills at: https://www.catskillmountainkeeper.org/r?u=axAfIIPaFTnh4FppUrA97FE8bO-Qnh5VQI87KERn9FcINlmM7O1wIqU29su1oZvXTovV2Z_7JFrobv5tQQ_kAkFGptMq0hyP4JD49Zru18o&e=bcff9b4954e87a9937341abb8272169c&utm_source=cat-skillmountainkeeper&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=decembernewsletter&n=4 or the Catskill Mountains Scenic Byway tour, at: https://www.catskillmountainkeeper.org/r?u=axAfIIPaFTnh4FppUrA97LqSdn9ZJQ_rxdzxxTaVDEavZ9WbXhDhKvXahSr_IxiAfXchtvfybEHJFIgyPy8o6GKrPg-aZqTl-DTLOBzhAw&e=bcff9b4954e87a9937341abb8272169c&utm_source=cat-skillmountainkeeper&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=decembernewsletter&n=5

You will have fun and learn something new. Grab your family, get in the car or check out these virtual tours of The Catskills!

To All: Municipalities, Civic Organizations, Churches, etc.

Please remember to send us your **Events Calendar for 2021** so that we may continue to post your meetings and events throughout the coming year.

You may email them to: tvtownsmen@yahoo.com

or

USPS Mail - The Townsman, PO Box 232, Grahamsville, NY 12740

or

Drop them in the Drop Box at the Grahamsville 1st Aid Building

Distant But Together: A Year in Review by the Numbers

KINGSTON, N.Y. - Three-hundred and fifty-nine days ago, County Executive Ryan took his oath of office for his first full term as Ulster County Executive. In his address to a packed crowd that had yet to learn the term "social distancing" he closed by stating, "...in a moment where we're increasingly divided and gridlocked at the national level, it's even more important that we step up and deliver at the local level. And that's what we're going to do here in Ulster County."

This year, County Executive Ryan delivered on that promise in ways that no one could have imagined back in January. Here is our 2020 in review by the numbers:

\$334.4 MILLION total budget appropriations laid out in the 2021 adopted budget.

\$120 MILLION Ulster County businesses received from the first round of the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) with the help of the Ulster County Department of Economic Development. The funding, provided through local lending institutions, has helped to preserve over 5,000 jobs.

\$48.5 MILLION dedicated to enhancing roads and bridges. This includes, among many other key projects, \$4.4 million to rebuild the Shawangunk Kill Bridge in Shawangunk, nearly \$3 million to upgrade the Maltby Hollow Bridge in the town of Olive, over \$2 million on the Sundown Bridge in the town of Denning, and \$10 million on overall road paving across the county throughout 2021.

NEARLY \$3 MILLION in total funding to rebirth the former IBM site, taking long-vacant buildings and putting them back to work as a hub for artists, designers, manufacturers, and creatives.

\$1 MILLION in savings by rightsizing staff at the Ulster County Jail to reflect declining inmate populations. The new arrangement will allow for the jail to be properly and safely staffed while realizing significant savings.

NEARLY \$900,000 to Mobile Mental Health. For the first time, Ulster County will place a full-time social worker into the Emergency Management Department. Residents who call 911 and are experiencing a mental health crisis will be able to be met with the response of a social worker as opposed to law enforcement. This will ensure a trauma-informed care response instead of incarceration.

300,000+ MEALS delivered through Project Resilience, a community fund and local food distribution efforts established to support residents impacted by COVID-19. Within 24 hours of its inception, County Executive Ryan secured over \$2 million dollars in funding and announced partnerships with municipal governments, local businesses, and not-for-profits supporting over 100 small businesses.

192,167 COVID TESTS administered in Ulster County.

98,160 ULSTER VOTERS participated in the 2020 General Election, the most in the history of the County.

\$37,500 FINE PER DAY sought by the NYS Attorney General's Office against Joseph Karolys for each violation for operating each of the three dump sites without the required State water pollution control permit. This came after County Executive Ryan wrote to the Attorney General in November 2019 calling upon them to take immediate action and investigate Karolys related to the dumping on his property within the Town of Saugerties due to the imminent harm that could be

caused by the dumping activities.

35,000+ CALLS to the Ulster County Recovery Service Center generating over 13,000 requests. The RSC supports members of the community on a wide range of issues and topics, from helping residents navigate through often complex county service needs to the ability to submit general inquiries and complaints. Born out of setting up an emergency COVID call center, the RSC offers live specially-trained County staff from numerous departments at a single point of contact.

30,000+ FACE SHIELDS created through a partnership of Project Resilience, IBM, and Dutchess County. The initiative produced much needed PPE for hospital workers, local police departments, and nursing homes throughout New York and Connecticut. What started as a small production effort became one of the largest community PPE production initiatives in New York State and possibly the nation.

28,700 FOLLOWERS on social media, an over 117 percent increase since last year

10,000+ HOUSEHOLDS joined a Telephone Town Hall with County Executive Ryan and Dr. Smith on COVID-19 seven days after the first positive case in Ulster County.

3,387 RESIDENTS recovered from COVID-19.

2040 REPORT was released by County Executive Pat Ryan. Ulster 2040, an action plan for creating a sustainable and "People-Centered Economy." The report outlines a bold, long-term vision for what our economy (and by extension our community) should and could look like in twenty years and it outlines specific recommendations and short, medium and long-term investments in four focused sectors to achieve that vision.

300 ENTERPRISE DRIVE hosted a free, socially distanced 4th of July Fireworks show sponsored by the law firm of Mainetti & Mainetti after Independence Day Celebrations were canceled throughout Ulster County due to COVID-19.

295 DAYS since the first Ulster County positive COVID-19 case.

162 PRESS RELEASES put out by the Office of the Ulster County Executive.

80 TOWN HALLS AND LIVE COVID BRIEFINGS held by County Executive Ryan where he answered questions live and unscripted from the public while announcing updates and new initiatives related to COVID-19.

61 GOLDEN HILL ROAD is the address of the former Ulster County Jail that is being converted into a major workforce and senior housing project. In partnership with the Ulster County Legislature and the newly formed joint Housing Advisory Committee, plans have been finalized to convert this dormant property into much needed housing. County Executive Ryan stressed that this type of housing will be accessible to frontline workers who've risked their lives during the pandemic and deserve a place for them and their families to live in dignity.

50 PERCENT RENEWABLE ENERGY through investments made in the 2021 Budget, Ulster County will be halfway towards its goal of 100% renewable energy by 2030. (Contd. Pg. 26)

Distant But Together: A Year in Review by the Numbers

(From Pg. 25)

14 DAYS after the first positive case of COVID-19, Ulster County opened one of the first county-run, drive-through testing clinics in the state by partnering with Nuvance Health. In the days following Ulster County was able to open a total of three county-operated testing facilities.

13 MOVIE NIGHTS held during the Ulster County Movie Night Summer Series. Presented free of charge to Ulster County residents and made possible by generous donations from nine community organizations, as well as a partnership with the Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce Foundation and Radio Kingston.

5 NEW DEPARTMENT HEADS appointed by County Executive Ryan: Human Rights Commission, Office of Economic Development, Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT), Ulster County Public Defender, and Ulster County Tourism.

0 PERCENT increase in the tax levy, after one of the most difficult financial times in Ulster County history, the 2021 budget also contained no layoffs and maintained - and in many cases improved - delivery of vital services across the board.

UC Exec Ryan Announces Additional Funding to Support Food Delivery for Seniors Impacted by COVID-19

*As a part of the next phase of Project Resilience,
County Executive Ryan announces expanded
senior meals program*

KINGSTON, N.Y. - County Executive Pat Ryan announced today that the next phase of Project Resilience will focus on supporting our seniors through the expansion of temporary food assistance. The Ulster County Office for the Aging, through the generosity of Project Resilience, has an opportunity to feed over 1,000 meals per week to seniors who had previously been on the waitlist due to a cap of state funding for senior meals. By leveraging Project Resilience funding to increase this program, the County will be able to serve an additional 17,000 meals over the winter to keep our seniors safe and well-fed. The Ulster County Office for the Aging has also received a generous donation from an anonymous donor in New Paltz for \$50,000 to increase the number of meals that this program can deliver. Future donations to this cause may enable other needy seniors to get delivered meals in this time of need. Meal delivery for this program will begin on December 21st and will run for at least 12 weeks.

"As County Executive, I am committed to ensuring that

our seniors are given the resources and food they need during this critical time," County Executive Ryan said. "This additional funding, secured through Project Resilience, will allow us to feed our seniors who have been impacted by this pandemic. With the help of the Office for the Aging and our great partners at Gateway Hudson Valley, we will continue to tirelessly advocate for and serve Ulster County seniors."

The Ulster County Office for Aging is honored and appreciative of two very generous donations earmarked for helping seniors," Susan Koppenhaver, Director of Office for the Aging said. "One was a grant from the Project Resilience fund at the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley for \$120,000 and the other was from anonymous donors who gave a New Paltz church a donation, with money set aside for seniors in the amount of \$50,000. With these two donations, we will be able to offer our waitlist seniors weekly home-delivered meals or meals ready to pick up through our partners at Gateway Hudson Valley, who is our meals purveyor, until the funding expires. We are most grateful for these gifts during these especially difficult times!"

County Executive Pat Ryan announced last week the next phase of Project Resilience. As the county continues to experience a resurgence in COVID-19 cases, Project Resilience will continue to serve as a vehicle to support those most vulnerable to the impacts of the pandemic. The next phase of Project Resilience will focus on supporting our seniors and our young people, addressing growing food insecurity by supporting our network of local food banks, and building support systems for Ulster County families that are living paycheck to paycheck. Project Resilience will begin re-activating its grassroots community fundraising today to support these efforts.

These areas of focus are identified by the Ulster County Recovery Task Force, whose goal has been to ensure a coordinated and compassionate response to the devastating socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on county residents. Since the outbreak of the virus, Ulster County has already seen a surge in SNAP applications, senior meals on wheels requests, and many other key services. Given the ongoing public health crisis and resulting economic dislocation, Ulster County anticipates these needs will continue to grow in scale and scope over the coming months. As informed by the Recovery Task Force, Project Resilience will respond to these challenges across Ulster County, and work to develop new ways to support residents.

As the needs of our county evolve over the winter, the County will continue to re-imagine Project Resilience to meet the needs of the Ulster County community. Project Resilience has raised \$900,000 to support our community through this difficult winter and will roll out support strategically on an ongoing basis. Project Resilience is made possible through partnerships with the United Way and Community Foundations.

Launched in March, Project Resilience started as a community fund and local food distribution efforts established to support residents impacted by COVID-19. Within 24 hours of its inception, County Executive Ryan secured over \$2 million dollars in funding and announced partnerships with municipal governments, local businesses, and not-for-profits. Since launching, Project Resilience has provided nearly 300,000 meals while supporting over 100 small businesses

Donations are accepted here through United Way. For more information on Project Resilience, please visit: <https://covid19.ulstercountyny.gov/project-resilience/>

Governor Cuomo Announces Moynihan Train Hall Project will be Completed by December 31, 2020

Project Will Be Completed On-Time and On-Budget Despite COVID-19 Pandemic

Named After the Late Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, New Train Hall in the James A. Farley Post Office Building will Provide World-Class Commuting Options while Honoring the Design of the Original Penn Station

New 255,000 square foot Train Hall Features 92-Foot High Skylight, Expands Penn Station's Concourse Space by 50%

Project Represents One of New York's Most Ambitious Transportation and Infrastructure Upgrade in Decades

Governor Cuomo First Announced Project in His 2016 State of the State Address

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced the Moynihan Train Hall, which the Governor first announced in his 2016 State of the State, will complete construction on December 31, 2020, with train operations beginning January 1, 2021. The 255,000-square-foot, \$1.6 billion project transformed the more than 100-year-old James A. Farley Post Office Building into a modern, world-class facility that dramatically upgrades and redesigns America's busiest transit hub, increasing the existing Penn Station rail complex's concourse space by 50 percent. Thanks to Governor Cuomo's leadership, the train hall will open on time and on budget, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

"New Yorkers have known for decades that Penn Station needed to be reimaged - and after years of work, the Moynihan Train Hall will open on time and on budget at the end of 2020," Governor Cuomo said. "This monumental accomplishment is a shot of hope as we come out of one of our darkest periods in our history and sends a clear message to the world that while we suffered greatly as a result of this once-in-a-century health crisis, the pandemic did not stop us from dreaming big and building for the future. The new Moynihan Train Hall is the embodiment of New York Tough."

Improving Penn Station, the linchpin of the transportation network in New York and across the northeast, has long been considered one of the state's and the nation's most critical infrastructure priorities. The idea for a train hall in the James A. Farley Post Office Building first emerged decades ago - but was mired in bureaucratic delays and faced repeated federal inaction. Thanks to persistent leadership from Governor Cuomo, major construction on the project began in 2017 and proceeded on-time and on-budget.

Named for the late United States Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a Navy veteran who represented New York State in the Senate for 24 years and championed the project, Moynihan Train Hall will house both Amtrak and Long Island Rail Road ticketing and waiting areas. All LIRR and Amtrak trains will be served by the seventeen tracks accessible from the train hall.

Despite the challenges of 2020, the project will be completed on time and on budget, thanks to the implementation of significant health safety protocols and innovative work schedules that kept workers safe. The \$1.6 billion project represents a public-private partnership between Empire State Development, Vornado Realty Trust, Related Companies, Skanska, the MTA/LIRR, Amtrak, and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and was delivered via a design-build partnership.

The new facility integrates clear, consistent state-of-the-art way-finding through dozens of LED and LCD displays for train information and messaging. The upgraded commuter experience also features designated customer service locations for each railroad service operator and a dedicated lounge for nursing mothers. A free public Wi-Fi network utilizing Wi-Fi 6 allows passengers throughout the entire train hall to seamlessly join conferences and meetings, view high-resolution movies, transfer large files and connect remotely.

Want to Keep Your Family Safe From Medications in Your Home?

Liberty, NY - The newly redesigned Sullivan County Drug Task Force, along with Sullivan County Public Health and Sullivan County Rural Health Network, is asking the public's input regarding the availability of drug drop boxes and other safe and responsible methods of drug disposal.

"The input gained will help direct our attempts to reduce the amount of unwanted or unneeded medication in our communities," stated Sullivan County Public Health Educator Jill Simon.

The public is urged to take the survey, which can be found on the Sullivan County Public Health Services Facebook page, or at : https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Drug_Disposal_Survey.

The deadline to complete the survey is January 15, 2021.

They're also encouraged to use the drop boxes to get rid of old or unwanted medicines.

"There are drop box locations around Sullivan County," said Nancy McGraw, Public Health Director. "Drop and go, there will be no questions asked when dropping off. Please: no liquids, needles or syringes."

Drop boxes can be found in these locations:

24/7 drop off

- o Village of Monticello Police Department, 2 Pleasant Street, Monticello
- o Town of Fallsburg Police Department, 19 Railroad Plaza, South Fallsburg
- o Village of Liberty Police Department, 159 N. Main St., Liberty

9a.m. - 5pm. only

- o Department of Family Services. 16 Community Lane, Liberty.

For more information, visit Sullivan County Public Health Services and Sullivan County Rural Health Network.

New York State Snowmobile Association Cautions Riders About Early Season Conditions and Potential Hazards

Trails Open After December 22nd

New York – December 22, 2020 - The snow has begun to fly in many parts of New York State, and snowmobile season is upon us. The New York State Snowmobile Association (NYSSA) and SLEDNY, Inc. reminds all riders throughout the state that local trails are not open until the local club has inspected and officially declared a trail as open and Thursday's blast of snow is likely to have hidden hazards on most trails. NYSSA urges riders to watch for club postings on trail conditions.

"Clubs have simply not had a chance following the recent storm to go out and do a full trail inspection and remove hazards." said Dominic Jacangelo, Executive Director of the New York State Snowmobile Association.

"We remind snowmobilers to take extra caution in the beginning of the season with snow having the potential to bury hazards. With only recent cold temperatures that snow is certainly hiding mud holes and fallen trees. On trails that are open, it is best to throttle back and take the extra minute to maintain control during your ride."

Safe snowmobiling requires the sharpest of senses and there is no room for alcohol on the trails. In addition, trails are designed with safety in mind and all riding should occur only in designated areas on those trails established and maintained by local clubs. NYSSA / SLEDNY, Inc. and all 220 snowmobile clubs encourage zero alcohol consumption while snowmobiling.

"Every year our club members throughout the state inspect local trails and deem them ready to ride," said Jim Rolf, Trail Coordinator of NYSSA. "We must encourage respect to those landowners who graciously allow trails on their lands. Before you put on your helmet and get on your snowmobile, we advise you to reach out to your local club for information on the trails in the area you will be riding as well as any other important information." Do not ride before the landowner and the club say the trails are open.

NYSSA also reminds riders of early season conditions which can, and do, include rocks, ruts, unfrozen water holes, fallen tree limbs, among other hazards which may be lying just below the freshly fallen snow. Despite the cold temperatures water holes are still in many areas – and most lakes have not frozen. Please reach out to your local clubs for information regarding trail closures.

Statement from Governor Cuomo on Federal Government Reversing its Policy on Testing Airline Travelers from the UK

"When British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced the UK had discovered a new variant of the COVID virus that could be 70 percent more transmissible, it became clear just how dangerous it was that the U.S. government did not require travelers to obtain a negative test result before flying across the Atlantic.

"New York did everything it could within the limited authority it has over international flights, and within days we were able to convince British Airways, Delta and Virgin Atlantic to voluntarily test passengers before they left the UK. I thank the airlines for their quick efforts.

"But testing travelers flying to just one out of 50 states was clearly not enough. I called for the federal government to reverse its policy and am glad to see that it has now done so. Testing people for COVID-19 before they get on planes is common sense. We cannot repeat the mistakes of the past, and we must continue to do everything we can to keep New Yorkers and Americans safe.

General Hiking Conditions: Be Prepared, It's Winter & It's Cold

Always remember to practice *Leave No Trace*. You can start with the 1st principle, Plan Ahead, and Prepare. By doing so, your chances of having a safer, more enjoyable hike will be greater.

Bring Winter Gear: With the latest storm, winter conditions are present at all elevations, with snow potentially deeper than a foot at higher elevations. Be prepared with traction devices, such as microspikes or crampons, on all hikes. When the mountains are thoroughly covered in snow, snowshoes are the best way to avoid post-holing. See the following gear to pack with you to stay safe and warm on your winter hike:

Essentials for Winter Hikes

- o Waterproof hiking boots with wool socks
- o Traction devices as there may be snow and ice on mountain summits
- o Extra warm layers to prevent hypothermia
- o Wind protectant layer for open overlooks and summits
- o Gloves and hat
- o Hand warmers
- o Headlamp with extra batteries - even if you plan to be down in the daylight
- o Plenty of food and water
- o A thermos of hot cocoa, coffee, tea, or soup to warm up or in case of emergencies
- o First aid kit
- o Emergency essentials you should always have in your pack:
- o Space blanket
- o Matches and fire starters

- o Pocket knife
- o Paracord or rope
- o Iodine tablets or water filtration system
- o Extra batteries

For more information, check out DEC's *Winter Hiking Safety Tips*

Before you hit the trail, check out DEC's Hike Smart NY page to learn about safety, best practices, and preparedness. While recreating in the Catskills, please follow the Hiker Responsibility Code, and avoid busy trailheads. Discover trails less traveled, and visit when trails may not be as busy.

Always remember your headlamp: Hiking in the dark can be dangerous when you are unable to see where you are going. There is a greater chance of getting lost or potentially injured while hiking without a headlamp. Even if you do not plan to hike after sunset, it is important to bring a headlamp in case you encounter unexpected delays. Avoid relying on phones for flashlights, as the batteries quickly die. Bring extra batteries and a back-up source of light as well to be safe. Trust us, it's worth it.

Check the Weather: Check the National Weather Service for current conditions and forecasts for the locations where you plan to recreate. Check both daytime and nighttime temperatures. Expect conditions to be much harsher on mountain summits. Exposed summits will most likely be windy. If conditions become unfavorable, turn around. You can always complete your hike another day.

Catskill Region Daytime Highs ~ Low to Mid 30s

Catskill Region Nighttime Lows ~ Low to Mid 20s

Layer Up: Temperatures can change significantly depending on your location, the time of day, and the elevation.

Prevent Hypothermia: Hypothermia occurs when your body loses heat faster than it can produce heat, causing a dangerously low body temperature. Stay safe and warm by wearing non-cotton, moisture-wicking base layers and wearing or bringing additional warm, waterproof, and windproof layers, a hat, mittens, and extra socks. Wear sturdy waterproof boots that are already broken in. Add or remove layers as needed to keep you warm without sweating through clothes. As sweaty clothes cool, they create ideal conditions for hypothermia.

- o Stay warm and dry to prevent hypothermia.
- o Cool wet weather is as dangerous as extremely cold temperatures.
- o During cool and rainy weather, wear a waterproof jacket with a hood or hat and waterproof pants.
- o Wear layers of non-cotton clothing that can wick moisture.
- o Pack rain gear and extra clothing as the weather can change quickly or you may have to spend the night in the woods.
- o During cold weather - dress properly.
- o Wear thermal undergarments that wick moisture.
- o Wear fleece or wool insulating layer.
- o Wear waterproof or water-resistant outer layers.
- o Wear thick socks, a winter hat, and gloves or mittens.
- o Wear waterproof, insulated boots.
- o Carry plenty of food and water - eat, drink, and rest often.
- o Being tired, hungry, or dehydrated makes you more susceptible to hypothermia.

Manage your time wisely: Be mindful of sunrise and sunset times, and plan accordingly. Start long hikes early to maximize sunlight hours, and always bring a headlamp.

Approximate Time of Sunrise: 6:47 a.m.

Approximate Time of Sunset: 7:19 p.m.

(Contd. Pg. 30)

General Hiking Conditions: Be Prepared, It's Winter & It's Cold

(From Pg. 29) Research your planned route ahead of time, and bring a map with you. Newly accumulated snow will cover the trails making them more difficult to follow. Keep your head up while hiking to remain aware of trail markers, and be sure to know where trail junctions are along your route.

Mountain Summits: Check the National Weather Service to prepare for the summit weather conditions. The weather is colder as the days are shorter. Be sure to pack appropriate layers to keep warm, especially on mountain peaks.

Ice Safety: Ice may be present on some smaller water bodies. Ice is not yet thick enough for walking or standing on. For your safety, please stick to the trails.

Trash in the Backcountry: DEC is receiving increased reports of visitors leaving trash behind after trips to state lands, waters, and facilities in the Catskills. DEC reminds outdoor adventurers to follow the principles of Leave No Trace and keep New York's environment clean by properly disposing of waste. See the Leave No Trace section below for more information.

Leave No Trace

Follow the Seven Principles of Leave No Trace to maintain minimal impact on the environment and the natural resources of the Catskills. Use proper trail etiquette to ensure an enjoyable experience for yourself and other: Plan Ahead & Prepare; Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces; Dispose of Waste Properly; Leave What You Find; Minimize Campfire Impacts; Respect Wildlife; Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Winter Trail Etiquette - Be Considerate of Others

Share the trails. Ski on one side, snowshoe on the other. Avoid crossing tracks to protect the quality of everyone's experience. Plan Ahead for Wet Gloves

It doesn't hurt to bring an extra pair of gloves in case yours get wet. Wet gloves will make your hands very cold and could make you susceptible to frostbite or hypothermia.

Pack it in, pack it out! Pick up all your trash and pack it out or dispose of it in a trash can. Natural items such as orange and banana peels and nutshells can take years to decompose. Pack those out too as we don't typically find those types of foods native to the Catskills.

Give the Gift of DEC Campgrounds

This holiday season, give the gift of a Catskill camping experience! DEC gift cards and electronic gift certificates for stays and services at all 52 DEC campgrounds are now available for purchase online at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/93802.html> DEC camping gift cards are physical cards mailed to the designated recipient. Electronic gift certificates will be emailed to the purchaser for printing and/or emailing to the recipient. Learn more about DEC-operated campgrounds, including a listing of campgrounds and schedules, on DEC's camping webpage. To make reservations at a camping facility, call ReserveAmerica at 1-800-456-CAMP (2267) or visit the ReserveAmerica website.

Give the Gift of Wildlife Conservation with a Lifetime Sporting License or Subscription to DEC's Conservationist Magazine

Are you looking for gift ideas this holiday season? DEC's lifetime sporting licenses make a great gift for outdoor enthusiasts. In addition, for a limited time, DEC is offering a one-year subscription to its award-winning Conservationist magazine at half price. Go to: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/4839.html>

Lifetime Licenses are available to New York State residents who

have resided in New York for at least one year prior to purchase (proof of residency required). Lifetime licenses may be purchased at any license issuing agent, by phone (866-933-2257), or online at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6099.html> with a current NYS DMV driver or non-driver ID containing a valid New York State address. Allow 14 days for delivery of Lifetime Licenses purchased online or by phone.

Lifetime Licenses may be purchased as gifts for residents under the age of 16 with the recipient's proof of age (birth certificate, passport) and proof of residency (parent/legal guardian proof of residency). Gift lifetime licenses must be purchased in person at any license-issuing agent. Lifetime fishing, trapping, or hunting licenses and privileges allow the licensed hunter to enjoy all the privileges of equivalent annual license items, but are valid for a lifetime (with appropriate hunter/trapper education requirements) - even if the holder moves out of state.

10th Anniversary Event Encourages New Yorkers to Spend the New Year's Day Weekend Holiday Enjoying Nature

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo encouraged New Yorkers to celebrate the New Year safely by spending time outdoors this holiday season at state parks, historic sites, wildlife areas, trails, and public lands across the state beginning January 1, 2021. Families across the state are invited to participate in one of the many walks and hikes being held across the state as part of the 10th Annual First Day Hikes program, a partnership between the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the Department of Environmental Conservation.

"In these challenging times, getting out into nature has been a major outlet for safe and healthy recreation for New Yorkers," Governor Cuomo said. "Whether you're taking a self-guided hike at a favorite park or discovering a new local trail this holiday season, New Yorkers have unparalleled options and destinations to embrace the outdoors this winter and bring in the New Year while remaining COVID safe and COVID smart."

With the Empire State Trail near completion, residents along the 750-mile route - the longest multi-use state trail in the nation - can enjoy the great outdoors while supporting tourism and community revitalization across the state. Information about the trail, including an interactive map detailing the route, designated parking areas, and nearby attractions is available on the project website.

Walks and hikes are family-friendly, and typically range from one to five miles and are being offered at more than 60 state parks, historic sites, DEC state lands, wildlife areas, Forest Preserve trails and environmental education centers. A list of New York State First Day Hikes, location details, format, pre-registration requirements and additional information can be found online at parks.ny.gov and dec.ny.gov. Interested participants are encouraged to check the details of their preferred host site and pre-register where required.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and requirements for safe outdoor recreation, there will be no large group hikes this year. The event options for hikes range from self-guided treks to staff- or volunteer-led hikes with a limited number of participants. All hikes are subject to regional COVID-19 limitations. Masks or face-coverings are mandatory, and capacity restrictions may limit participation so have some alternate locations in mind. Hikes will span Friday, Saturday or Sunday of January, allowing participants the time and space to social distance while still enjoying nature's winter wonders.

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**"KNARF'S CLASSIC
 STREAMING
 NOW ON
 NETFLIX & AMAZON PRIME**

in
**Jack London's
 The Call of the Wild**

(2020 | MPAA Rating: PG)
 (Parental Guidance Suggested)

This week we recommend "Call of the Wild" a legendary short story once memorably played by Clark Gable; streaming now on Amazon & Netflix. We are urging you to put away your cell phones, and grab your spouse, your children, grandchildren, and friends, then settle in for a wonderful heart warming tale of adventure of a human being and his best friend – a free roaming



Alaskan Lead sled dog – as told over the course of their lives. Prepare yourself for laughter, and tears along the bumpy road of love. They face new challenges at every turn while navigating the pitfalls of life. Enjoy the quest of a man who finds his destiny and a dog who finds his way home. **Directed by: Chris Sanders, and starring Harrison Ford, Omar Sy and Cara Gee.** Based on a short adventure novel by Jack London, published in 1903 and set in Yukon, Canada, during the 1890s Klondike Gold Rush, when strong sled dogs were in high demand. The central character of the novel is a dog named Buck. The story opens at a ranch in Santa Clara Valley, California, when Buck is stolen from his home and sold into service as a sled dog in Alaska. He becomes progressively feral in the harsh environment, where he is forced to fight to survive and dominate other dogs. By the end, he sheds the veneer of civilization, and relies on primordial instinct and learned experience to emerge as a leader in the wild. London spent almost a year in the Yukon, and his observations form much of the material for the book. The story was serialized in *The Saturday Evening Post* in the summer of 1903 and was published later that year in book form. The book's great popularity and success made a reputation for London. As early as 1923, the story was adapted to film, and it has since seen several more cinematic adaptations. **CC 4.2 out of 5 stars 1,793 Prime Video From \$5.99 to rent. From \$14.99 to buy.** Get it at: <https://www.amazon.com/Amazon-Prime-One-Year-Membership/dp/B00DBYBNEE>

(Contd. Pg. 32)



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*(From Pg. 31)***KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE #2**

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“50 First Dates” (PG-13 · 2004 · 1hr
39min · Romance/Comedy)



A 2004 American romantic comedy film directed by Peter Segal.



It follows the story of Henry, a womanizing marine veterinarian who falls for an art teacher named Lucy. Starring: Adam Sandler, Drew Barrymore, Rob Schneider, Sean Astin, Dan Aykroyd

KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE #3

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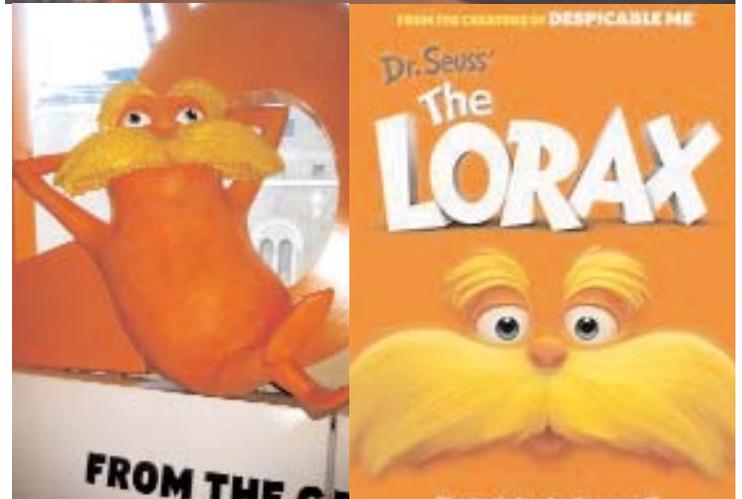
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**Dr. Seuss'
“The Lorax”**

(86 min, 2012, PG Genres Adventure, Animation, Kids
Subtitles English [CC])

Director Chris Renaud Starring Danny DeVito, Ed Helms, Zac Efron. From the creators of *Despicable Me* comes this spectacular Dr. Seuss adventure about a twelve-year-old boy searching for *The Lorax*: a grumpy, but charming creature who speaks for the trees.

Danny DeVito is Lomax



*Have a Happy and
Healthy New Year!*

*Knarf Odnamoe,
Gnome*