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Tri

# Ye Olde TOWNSMAN Valley

"The Best Journal Published by a Dam Site!"

**VOL. 21 NO. 8 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 FEBRUARY 20, 2025**

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*Knarf's Classic Movie & Trivia* Pg 66

## Kiwanis Clubs Wish Nursing Home Residents Happy Valentine's Day



*Kiwanis, Aktion Club and Care Center Staff displaying gifts*

The Monticello and Woodridge Kiwanis Clubs joined together once more to bring smiles to the residents at Achieve Rehab and Nursing Facility and the Care Center at Sunset Lake, which are both located in Liberty, NY. Kiwanis Hudson River West Lieut. Gov. Fran Amelio was also in attendance and enjoyed mingling with the residents.



*Assortment of Greeting Cards*

(Contd. Pg. 5)

## SCCO Presents Resounding Women: Music of Chaminade, Clarke, and Shaw

(Narrowsburg & Monticello, NY) To celebrate Women's History Month, The Sullivan County Chamber Orchestra (SCCO) will perform two free concerts in March.



They include piano trios and a solo cello work by three monumental maestras of composition: Rebecca Clarke, Caroline Shaw and Cécile Chaminade. The Musicians are: Akiko Hosoi (Violin), Kristen Jermé (Cello) and Gabrielle Chou (Piano). The free performances are Saturday, March 22nd at 2 PM in the Krause Recital Hall (37 Main St, Narrowsburg, NY) as part of the Salon Series presented by Delaware Valley Arts Alliance, and Sunday, March 23rd at 3 PM at the Landfield Avenue Synagogue (18 Landfield Ave., Monticello, NY). Admission to both concerts is free. (Contd. Pg 5)

Works by composers (from the top) Rebecca Clarke, Caroline Shaw and Cécile Chaminade will be featured in free concerts in Narrowsburg and Monticello on March 22nd and 23rd.

**YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN**

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

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 Telephone numbers will not be published.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

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

**More than ever, thank you for your continued support.**

**On the Front Burner:** Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you  
Colossians 3:13

## OBITUARIES

**James Morgan Brackman**, a resident of Loch Sheldrake, NY, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at the age of 87. He was born on February 11, 1937, in Ellenville, NY; he was the son of the late Morgan and Bertha (Wood) Brackman.

Throughout his life, James dedicated himself to his career as a Motor Vehicle Operator for the New York State Department of Corrections. He had a passion for outdoor activities, particularly hunting and fishing, and he found joy in playing the guitar. Above all, James valued the time spent with his wife and family.

James is survived by his wife Shirley Brackman, his three sons, Gregory Brackman, James Brackman Jr. and his wife Denise and Dennis Brackman and his wife Glenda, four grandchildren, Christopher, Evelyn, Shelby and Joshua. Additionally, he is survived by Shirley's daughters, Debra Gould and Donna Green, along with her granddaughter, Tamara Lee Defilippis who loved James as a father figure.

In accordance with James' wishes, there will be no viewing. A graveside service was held at on Saturday, February 8th, at Fantinekill Cemetery.

**Susan Rampe Nash** passed away peacefully at home with her husband by her side on February 14, 2025 in Neversink, New York.

She was born in Maimonides Hospital on June 30, 1950 to Dorothy and Delbert Rampe.

Susan graduated from Callicoon High School. She then went on to receive her LPN License from Delhi College then went on to receive her RN License from SUNY Sullivan. She married James Nash Sr. on May 22, 1982. She enjoyed working on the computer and quilting. She was very fond of her cats and love birds.

Burial will be at the East Cocheton Cemetery in the Spring.

Arrangements under the care of Colonial Memorial Funeral Home, for further information call 845-434-7363 or visit [www.colonialfamilyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.colonialfamilyfuneralhomes.com).

**Cristina Martinez-Alvarado** of Ellenville, NY passed away on Sunday February 16, 2025, with her family by her side. She was 80 years old. Cristina was born on March 9, 1944, in Puerto Rico to Rosario Montero and Anastacio Perez.

Cristina was a faithful communicant of St. Mary and St. Andrew's Church. A devoted mother, grandmother, sister, and friend, who touched the lives of many. Cristina dedicated her career to JM Originals in Ellenville, where she poured her heart and soul into her work. However, her true passion was her family. She cherished every moment spent with her loved ones, and her Sunday Suppers at home became a cherished tradition that brought everyone together. Known for her rice and beans, her warmth and generosity extended beyond her household as she often prepared meals for friends and neighbors.

Cristina is survived by her children: Luis Angel Roman, his wife Carmela, and their children Angel and Adrian Roman.; Juan Jose Roman, his wife Maria, and their children Johnathon and Brianna Roman and Jasmine and Ray Colon.; Nancy Ramos, her husband Edwin, and their children Jeanine Serrano, Cynthia Cornelius and Edwin Ramos Jr.; Marco Roman, his wife Ellen and their children James, Daniel and Nicolas Tucker; Lourdes Torres, her husband Manuel, and their children Cristina and Joseph Torres. Also surviving are siblings, Luisa Martinez and Anadel Lara as well as many great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews, including Sara Gutierrez and Noelia Melendez.

She was predeceased by her infant son, Jose Luis Roman and sons Carlos and Anastacio Roman; her siblings, Carmen Lamberti, Irma Robles, David Melendez and Maria Morales.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday February 22nd from 10am-12pm, with formal service at 12pm at Loucks Funeral Home in Ellenville, NY. Burial immediately to follow at Fantinekill Cemetery in Ellenville, NY. In celebration of a cherished life, the family kindly requests that, in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to assist with funeral costs. Your support during this time is deeply appreciated.

Personal condolences may be left for Cristina's family by visiting [www.loucksfh.com](http://www.loucksfh.com)

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

March 2, 1955

Once more the shiny buckets hang  
upon the maple trees  
And stubborn winter snowdrifts melt  
before a balmy breeze.

It's time for pussy willows and an  
early robin's song,  
Before you can believe it, spring will  
be along!

KUM TO KRUM'S

February 24, 1965

Edward T. Condon, Supervising Principal of Tri Valley Central School, has announced that three Seniors have been awarded Regents scholarships which may be applied toward tuition at any college in New York State. The winners are: Miss Lynn Bertholf, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Bertholf of Divine Corners; Miss Diane Kinne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Kinne of Liberty and Mr. Harry Schilddraut of Divine Corners.

March 5, 1975

Joseph Garcia, 43, of Woodbourne Rd., Grahamsville, died Friday at Community General Hospital, Harris. He was born May 22, 1931 in Blakely, Pa. to Cirilo and Frances Eavarone Garcia. He married the former Diane Sacona in 1958. Mr. Garcia was a science and biology teacher at Tri-Valley High School. He was also a member of the Immaculate Conception Church in Woodbourne. He is survived by his wife; three sons and a daughter; a sister and two nieces.

### Household Hint:

## Phone Shield

When you're painting or gardening, keep your phone clean and dry by sealing it inside a zip-top bag. You can still work the buttons right through the bag.

## Nature Column - L. Comando

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

## The Magical Birth of a Snowflake

This past week you may have caught a moment to escape back to simple winter childhood memories - catching snowflakes on your tongue, sleigh riding or making a snowman, rather than think about the hazards that a snow fall can bring.

The birth of each snowflake is not simple. A snowflake begins when a tiny dust or pollen particle comes into contact with water vapor high in Earth's atmosphere that coats the tiny particle and freezes into a tiny crystal of ice - the "seed" from which a snowflake will grow.

There are two basic ways that water vapor condenses to become a snowflake. The first way is to form facets, like a flat face on a 3D shape such as a prism. The crystal structure of frozen ice is a six-sided shape which is where the symmetry in a snowflake comes from. The second way a snowflake grows is to form branches as water vapor condenses on the first thing it touches.

The newly-formed ice crystal is heavier than the surrounding air and begins falling. While falling toward Earth through humid air, more water vapor freezes onto the surface of the tiny crystal. The water molecules of the vapor arrange themselves so that the hexagonal crystal structure of ice is repeated. The snowflake grows larger and larger as it falls. No two snowflakes are the same as each represents the conditions of temperature and humidity and water vapor the snowflake encountered during its fall.

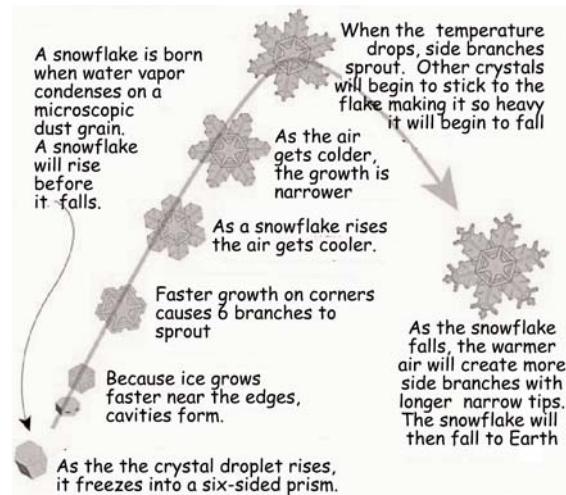
Some combinations produce flakes with long needle-like arms, flakes with wide flat arms or branching arms all emanating from the six-sided crystal structure of frozen ice.

Scientists have pondered the mystery of snow crystals since the early 1600s. In 1611 Johannes Kepler published a short treatise *On the Six-Cornered Snowflake*, which was the first scientific reference to snow crystals. Kepler wondered why snow crystals always exhibited a six-fold symmetry. He speculated that the hexagonal close-packing of spheres may have something to do with the morphology of snow crystals. Kepler was astute in recognizing that the beginning of crystalline symmetry was an interesting scientific question, and he also realized that he did not have the means to answer it. "Does some property of water vapor, or impurities in it account for its six-cornered shape, or must an external cause be sought? And why is the snowflake flat? Why does it not assume a three dimensional shape?" he wondered.

"Each single plant has a single animating principle of its own, since each instance of a plant exists separately, and there is no cause to wonder that each should be equipped with its own peculiar shape. But to imagine an individual soul for each and any starlet of snow is utterly absurd, and therefore the shapes of snowflakes are by no means to be deduced from the operation of soul in the same way as with plants." -- Kepler, 1611

During the mid twentieth century Ukichiro Nakaya performed a true systematic study of snow crystals by growing artificial snow crystals in the laboratory under controlled conditions. From his study Nakaya was able to describe the crystal morphology under different environmental conditions, which provided a clue, however, it still stands there is no complete scientific understanding of the physics of 'snow crystal formation' - a snowflake.

Isn't it amazing with all of the technology of today, a tiny snowflake still keeps this secret hidden? Perhaps that is why it seems so quiet and peaceful after a new snowfall. Maybe each little snowflake is put here just to let us know, we don't have all the answers - but rather just to enjoy its beauty and the magic of our own emotional memory bringing back lighthearted memories.



# LOOKING BACK

by Beatrice Akerley

Published February 8, 1996

The snow is coming down real hard outside but here inside our furnace is cranking out the heat, throwing out the warmth we are so badly in need of. Nervously I grab UD my afghan from the davenport, a gift from my sister Either, and wrap up snug and warm, and try to concen-trate on T.V. Wayne has his favorite football game on, and my mind goes way back... and the memory is so clear I can almost reach out and touch it.

It was February 2nd in the late 1920's, in the evening a"-und 7:30, when my husband Dan brought in a large cxunk of wood, so knotty it couldn't be split with an axe. I was puzzled - chunks were good for about three hours of heat but we were usually in bed by nine o'clock, and we couldn't afford to waste fuel, or anything else for that matter. Placing the chunk in our stove, he said, "Looks like a cold one tonight." I thought so too, for the dipper was already frozen in the ice in our water pail sitting in the pantry.

We were living on the Old Man Davis farm near Grahamsville. That summer we had grown a few hills of popcorn aiong with our other vegetables, and had saved a few ears of popcorn for any special occasion. That evening he (Dan) told Virginia to bring out an ear from the pantry which we shelled and Dan started cooking. Before long he had a large bowl filled with snow-white kernels and another batch popping on the stove. I brought out the water and placed it near the stove and thawed it out enough to loosen up the dipper. I had a bottle of lemon extract and made lemonade to go with our popcorn. We didn't have birthday cake, for we had already eaten it up for dessert for supper. It was Febru-ary 2nd - Arnold's birthday - and he had become thirteen that day. Huddled around the stove we all ate popcorn and drank all the lemonade we could hold. We laughed and the kids got Dan singing some of his old time tunes from way back.

When the party broke up about ten-thirty, the chunk was still glowing. Dan closed the draft on our, old stove, and with a smile he said, "Quite a night, wasn't it?" "It certainly was," I answered.

... and I still feel the same today when I think about that winter lemonade. It certainly was "quite a night."

## Fallsburg Student Builds Supply Closets to Support Classmates in Need

FALLSBURG - Not all heroes wear capes, but Ruth Mahnken of the Fallsburg Junior-Senior High School certainly earned one. Thanks to her selfless efforts, two hand-made closets filled with school supplies now reside at the elementary and high school buildings. She finally fulfilled her mission to provide basic necessities for students in need. Her upbringing and commitment to community service played a key role in bringing this project to light.



Even after moving to Fallsburg from Long Island in early 2020, Ruth remains an active member of the Suffolk County Girls Scouts. Through her tireless work helping the community and furthering the Girl Scouts' mission, she has earned countless badges and awards. But nothing can hold a candle to the Gold Award, which Ruth will receive later this year for building the supply closets.

The Gold Award is considered the most prestigious honor in Girl Scouts. Not only are troops who earn the award considered strong leaders and role models but they are also set up for success when it comes to college admissions and scholarships. The average grade level to earn this award is usually 11th or 12th grade, but Ruth will receive it as a 10th grader, making the honor much more significant.

The Girl Scouts also runs deep in Ruth's family, as her mother, sister, grandmother,

and great-grandmother were all troop members. The Gold Award was not her only motivating factor for building the closets; carrying on her family's legacy was also extraordinarily important. "They all got their Gold Award," said Ruth. "To be a part of that history in my family and to maybe, one day, even spread it [the legacy] further [is important to me]."

Ruth also credits her adversities as a decisive motivational factor for community service. As a child, she was diagnosed with Common Variable Immune Deficiency, or CVID, an autoimmune disease that prevents individuals from having an adequate level of antibodies, making them more susceptible to infections. After starting regular treatment for the disease, she started recognizing the significant impact of helping others.

"A lot of doctors said if I never got those treatments, I might not even be here today," said Ruth. "To be able to help kids that were going through a lot of the same thing as I was going through, and maybe didn't have the same things I had, [meant a lot to me]."

The school supply closet has remained a vital lifeline for many Fallsburg Central School District students. Thanks to her goodwill and determination, Ruth has cemented a legacy in the district that will live on in perpetuity.

## Kiwanis Clubs Wish Nursing Home Residents Happy Valentine's Day

(From Pg. 1)



*Kiwanis, Aktion Club and Achieve Staff greeting residents*

The residents were thrilled to be presented with little gifts - candy, stuffed animals, body lotion, Find the Word and Crossword Puzzles- that were accompanied by hand- made cards letting them know that they are being thought of and wished a Happy Valentine's Day. They also enjoyed the camaraderie. This was a group effort of both Kiwanis Clubs and their service leadership clubs consisting of Fallsburg Central School K-Kids, Monticello High School Key Club and The Aktion Club of Sullivan County, which is comprised of individuals from Arc Greater Hudson Valley, New Hope Community and The Center for Discovery. All these service clubs truly enjoy helping out in the community. The Middle School students in Ms. Amanda Curless' class also contributed beautiful cards to this project.

## SCCO Presents Resounding Women: Music of Chaminade, Clarke, and Shaw

(From Pg. 1) Cécile Chaminade was an internationally renowned pianist and composer who received numerous awards and was popular in the UK and US. Her piano trio is a vibrant work of romantic charm with lyrical brilliance. The four-movement work shows wonderful dialogue between all three instruments with lush melodies, playful rhythms and rich harmonies that showcase the immense talent of the first female composer awarded the Légion d'Honneur.

In the not-too-distant future, Rebecca Clarke composed a masterpiece of the 20th century. Clarke's Piano Trio is a compelling example of early 20th-century chamber music, blending impressionistic textures with modernist clarity and emotional depth. Composed in 1921, the trio explores bold harmonies, dynamic contrasts, and a dramatic interplay of voices, reflecting Clarke's innovative approach to form and color. By balancing moments of lyrical introspection with vibrant intensity, the work captures a unique and forward-looking musical vision, solidifying Clarke's place as a trailblazer in the chamber music repertoire.

Sandwiched in between these two extroverted masterpieces will be Caroline Shaw's *In manus tuas*. This is a meditative solo cello work inspired by Thomas Tallis's motet. Blending fragments of the original melody with Shaw's modern harmonic language, the piece explores the cello's expressive depth, creating a timeless and introspective soundscape.

Please email [nesinculturalarts@gmail.com](mailto:nesinculturalarts@gmail.com) or call (845) 798-9006 for further information. SCCO is a Nesin Cultural Arts supported project. Programs are made possible in part by funding from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathleen Courtney Hochul and the NY State Legislature, Episcopal Charities, St. John's Episcopal Church, Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation, Laura Jane Musser Fund, Sullivan County Legislature, Sullivan County Youth Bureau, M&T Bank Charitable Foundation, Delaware Valley Arts Alliance, NY Life Foundation, Walmart Community Foundation and Stewart's Shops.

## Legacy Mysterious Book Report No. 21

# Dark Sacred Night

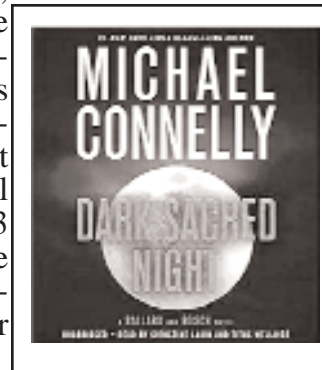
## Mysterious Book Report No. 363

February 21, 2019

by John Dwaine McKenna



After twenty novels, Michael Connelly's lonesome, jazz-loving and gifted Los Angeles Police Department Detective Harry Bosch is the most iconic and well-known sleuth in all of modern crime fiction. When the average lifespan of a serial character is about four books before the plots become repetitive and the character formulaic, it's a testament to Mr. Connelly's gifted writing that Bosch is fresher than ever . . . although getting older, the same as all the rest of us. And now, in his latest, *Dark Sacred Night*, (Little Brown, \$29.00, 433 pages, ISBN 978-0-316-48480-0), Michael Connelly effortlessly unites the old with the new when Harry Bosch teams up with Connelly's most recent creation, a tough, independent and competent female LAPD detective named Renée Ballard to solve a ten year old cold case.



The novel begins when Homicide Detective Renée Ballard, who's assigned to the night shift – known as *The Late Show* in LAPD slang – returns to her desk at Hollywood Station to find Harry Bosch rifling through the case file cabinets. He's looking for some records about an old homicide that's open, unsolved and has been gnawing at him for a long time. It concerns a young fifteen year-old runaway named Daisy Clayton who was brutally murdered and left in a trash dumpster. It's a crime that Bosch, who's now retired from the LAPD, just can't put out of his mind and is determined to try and solve. Likewise, Renée Ballard is curious, and gets drawn into the heartbreaking demise of the young woman whose entire life was still in front of her before she was killed and dumped as if she was worthless human garbage. But all human beings have a soul, and the pair of powerhouse detectives form an uneasy alliance to solve the case because, as Bosch says, "Everybody matters or nobody matters." But their tenuous partnership is put to the test when the case takes a surprise and sinister turn that may end in a gruesome death for one of them.

In *Dark Sacred Night*, Connelly once again puts his awesome talents on display and leaves the reader dying for more of the same, as he shows why he's the best that's ever been in the crime fiction genre!

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**John Dwaine McKenna's Books  
are now available at the  
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The collage features five book covers: 'The Skin Ripper' (A Juke McKenna novel), 'The Neversink Chronicles' (The John Dwaine McKenna), 'Colorado Noir' (Starting from the dark end), 'Unforsaken' (JOHN DWAIN McKENNA), and 'The Whim-Wham Man' (John Dwaine McKenna).



## The Olive Jar

by Carol Olsen LaMonda

# The Calm Within the Storm

When I listen to the news, my stomach contracts into knots of apprehension. As I listen to the weather forecast, I dread yet another storm of snow, then ice, then cold, then thaw that will turn all that wetness into a skating rink. I am tempted to not turn on the media at all, but being an ostrich doesn't help anything.

So what to do? What to do? My dad always said, "If you do not know what to do, do nothing." And so, I am following his advice. I am being a spectator until I can understand the rules of the game and know my strategies.

I am trying to be kind to myself until the world is kind (and warm) to me again. Kindness starts the morning with a routine. I make the coffee, stoke up the woodstove, take Hudson for an "OUT", and feed the birds. Then play Wordle.

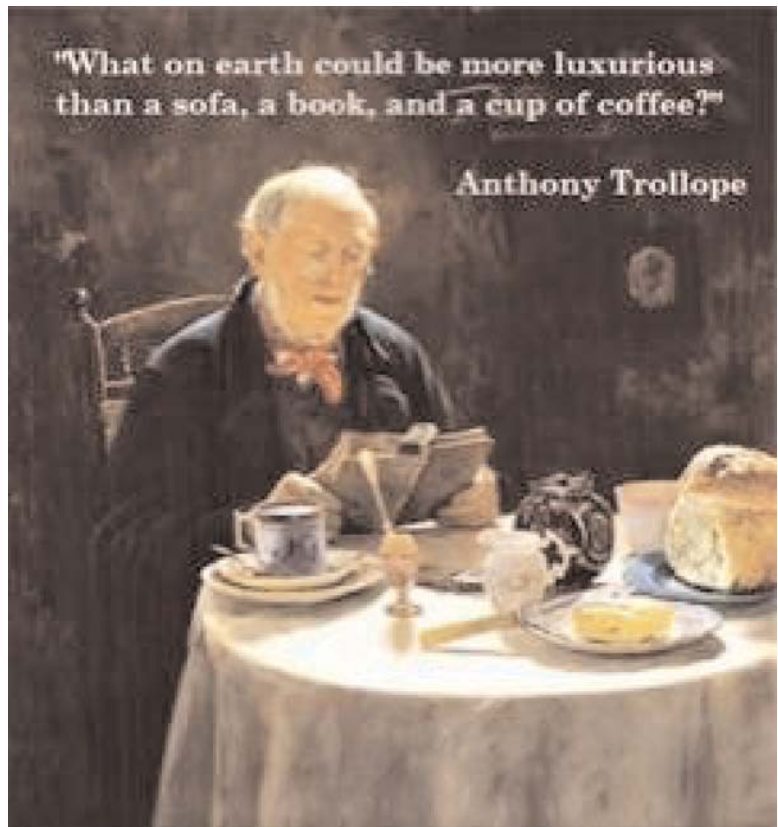
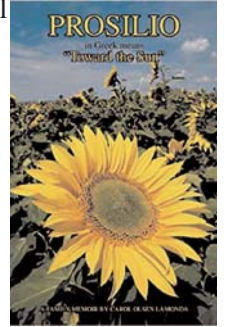
Household chores and errands and responsibilities get done with an equal dose of pleasant activities to neutralize the necessities. I sew something. I actually made a lap quilt that just needs the border sewed on. I read something. I watch a Netflix series, I call a friend. I play a mindless game like Candy Crush. I paint. I cook.

One good thing about the winter, and it is the only good thing I can think of that is good about winter, is that it encourages me to stay home. Right now my home is my fortress, my sanctuary, and my harbor from tempestuous waves of fear and chaos.

And my cupboard has chocolate and Salt and Vinegar Potato Chips. There is butter pecan ice cream in the freezer if all else fails.

### The Family Memoir, PROSILIO...

... in Greek means "Toward the Sun," was written by Carol Olsen LaMonda. Carol writes the column "The Olive Jar" for *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman*. This local author has been busy guesting at book clubs who have chosen this local memoir as their book choice. **Feel the warmth of "Prosilio" as you read Carol's memoirs cuddled up in your favorite chair. It also makes a great gift!** *Prosilio* is available at Amazon or Barnes and Noble on-line as a soft or hard cover or as a downloadable e-book for Nook or Kindle. Go to: <http://amazon.com> or <http://barnesandnoble.com> and type in *Prosilio* in the search to order your copy of *Prosilio*



## Sullivan BOCES Hosts 18th Annual Mock Book Awards to Inspire Literacy and Enrich School Libraries

School libraries are a cornerstone of education, providing students with access to resources that nurture curiosity, foster a love of reading, and support academic success. Beyond the rows of books and quiet study corners, school librarians play a vital role in enriching students' educational experiences by connecting them with books that match their interests and needs. Their efforts go beyond traditional roles, embracing innovative strategies to ensure the library remains a hub of learning and inspiration.

One such strategy is the use of events like the Mock Book Awards to enhance librarians' knowledge of newly published books and better serve their students. On January 14th, the Sullivan BOCES School Library System hosted its 18th Annual Mock Book Awards, an event that brings together school librarians from across the county. This collaborative initiative allows librarians to read and evaluate a curated list of books, engage in discussions about their merits, and select winners in various categories. The event not only celebrates literary excellence but also equips librarians with insights to guide their book recommendations.

The awards are divided into three prestigious categories: Newbery Medal (Children's Literature): Recognizing the most outstanding contribution to American literature for children up to age 14.

Caldecott Medal (Illustrated Picture Books): Honoring the illustrator of the most exceptional American picture book for children.

Printz Medal (Young Adult Literature): Celebrating works of literary excellence in young adult literature for ages 12 to 18. Eldred's School Librarian, Lori Bizjak, said, "This is my favorite event of the year. The Mock Book Awards energizes us and is a great resource to help put different books in our students' hands. It is just a wonderful experience."



This year's Mock Book Awards featured a robust selection of contenders. At the event's conclusion, librarians were able to choose from an array of well-reviewed 2024 publications to take back to their libraries. This hands-on access ensures that school libraries are stocked with engaging, high-quality literature that reflects the diverse interests and experiences of their students. "The team at BOCES is very insightful in getting the right books in our schools that will engage our students," said Bizjak.

The Mock Book Awards also serve as a valuable professional development opportunity for librarians. By immersing themselves in newly published books and engaging in critical discussions, they gain a deeper understanding of current literary trends and themes.



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

This knowledge helps them curate collections that resonate with students, whether they're seeking stories that reflect their own lives or exploring new perspectives.

According to Stephanie Byrne, Monticello HS Librarian, "The Mock Book Awards is the one event that made me want to become a school librarian. Discussing so many new books is invigorating and gives us insight into recommending different books to our students - books that will speak to them and they will enjoy." The role of school librarians has evolved significantly, with responsibilities now extending beyond managing books and assisting with research. They are technology integrators, curriculum collaborators, and champions of literacy. Events like the Mock Book Awards provide librarians with a rare opportunity to focus solely on books, reinforcing their primary mission of fostering a love of reading and lifelong learning.

"Libraries are gateways to discovery, imagination, and self-understanding. A librarian who takes the time to connect a child with the perfect book not only sparks a lifelong love of reading but also provides an opportunity for that child to see themselves and their experiences reflected in its pages. The right recommendation at the right moment can shape a child's future, nurturing curiosity, empathy, and a sense of wonder that lasts a lifetime," said Sara Haynes, School Library System Director at Sullivan BOCES. School libraries and the dedicated professionals who run them continue to be vital to the academic and personal growth of students. Through initiatives like the Mock Book Awards, they not only celebrate the power of storytelling but also ensure that every child has the opportunity to discover the magic of reading.





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## Ellenville Regional Hospital's Swift Response Saves Heart Attack Patient

During Heart Health Month, Ellenville Regional Hospital is highlighting the importance of rapid emergency response and expert cardiac care. A recent case serves as a powerful reminder of why quick action saves lives.

Jessica arrived at Ellenville Regional Hospital's Emergency Department experiencing chest and shoulder pain—symptoms that can often be mistaken for less critical conditions. Shortly after arriving to the hospital Jessica had a heart attack. Thankfully, the Ellenville Regional Hospital Emergency Department acted fast, immediately transporting Jessica to Vassar on a helicopter.



“When I got to the hospital, they took me right back, and thankfully they did because I was only there for a couple of minutes before I flatlined. Their rapid response is the reason I'm still alive. The quality of the doctors and nurses who brought me back and managed to get a helicopter to transport me to Vassar so I could have two stents put in truly saved my life.” states Jessica.

Thanks to this fast and decisive care, Jessica survived and is now returning to Ellenville Regional Hospital for cardiac rehabilitation, an essential step in recovery after a heart attack. Our cardiac rehab program provides expert guidance on exercise, nutrition, and lifestyle changes to support heart health and reduce future risks.

“The people there are amazing—they're so nice, helpful, and encouraging. After the heart attack, I had no energy. It's crazy to think how much a heart attack takes out of you. Staying awake for just an hour was a challenge.

But after two months of cardiac rehab at Ellenville Regional Hospital, my energy levels are about 85% better.”

During **Heart Health Month**, Ellenville Regional Hospital encourages the community to learn the warning signs of a heart attack—such as chest pain, shortness of breath, and discomfort in the arms, neck, jaw, or back. When in doubt, call **911 immediately**.

If you do need cardiac care after an event, Ellenville Regional Hospital is here to help. Ellenville Regional Hospital offers a full-service, community-based cardiac rehab program with a dedicated team to support your recovery. Our experts—including a cardiac rehab nurse, physical therapist, physician, clinical dietitian, and pharmacist—help you manage your heart condition, restore daily function, and prevent further disease progression. We're here to answer your questions and guide you toward a healthier future.

For more information on cardiac rehabilitation and heart health services at Ellenville Regional Hospital, visit [ERHNY.org](http://ERHNY.org) or call 845.647.6400.

## Song Writing Workshop with Composer Doug Robers at Farmarts Collective

Damascus, PA-- Farm Arts Collective continues its workshop series with a song-writing workshop led by song-writer musician and Farm Arts Collective composer Doug Rogers. Doug is a prolific song-writer and will be sharing his skills in a 2-part workshops to be held Thursdays February 20th and 27th at 6 PM at the Farm Arts Collective on Willow Wisp Organic Farm 38 Hickory Lane, Damascus, PA 18415. The workshop cost is



by donation or Pay-What-You-Can.

### SONG-WRITING Workshop #1 (February 20th)

Introduction, philosophy, technique, with song-writer Doug Rogers who has created many incredible and memorable tunes for the Dream on the Farm series. Doug will give participants a song-writing assignment which will be brought in the following week.

### SONG-WRITING Workshop #2 (February 27th)

Participants will share their compositions with each other and receive detailed feedback and next-steps advise from the teacher. The possibility of a continued song-writers' circle will be proposed.

### ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Doug Rogers has followed a dual-track career in music and theatre. He is currently a founding member and resident composer of Farm Arts Collective with whom he has written music and performed in the Dream on the Farm plays: *The Extinction Event*, *The Scientists*, *Tavern at the Edge of the World*, which featured his mini-opera, "The Hole in Sky," *The More Things Change*, *Conference for Those Still Living*. Other recent Farm Arts productions include *Trees*, *Shakespeare on the Farm*, and the and prior to that, Doug performed in *Courage with Tannis Kowalchuk* produced by NAACL Theatre (Governor's Island). Doug currently performs and tours with his band, *Beat the Devil*. Doug began his theatre career in his home state of Indiana where he founded Bloomington Playwright's Project and created the role of C.C. Showers in Jim Leonard, Jr's play, *The Diviners*. Doug moved to New York City and worked with Waterline Theatre Company and Jack Garret, producing the musicals *Les Trois Guitar fon du Camping* and *Bye Bye Incubi*, and *The Sea Devil*, for which he wrote music, lyrics, and book. He performed in plays by Ruth Margraff, Greg Armknect and Jack Garret. As a musician he performed with the NYC musical group, *The Gurners*, with Patrick Nimo, Doug Durning, Tony Trout, and Greg Armknect. In the 1980's Doug played bass with the no-wave band, the *Dilletantes*, along with Fred Ross, Ray Linehan, and Emily Jackson.



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# **NYSDOT Responds to Call by County Executive and Town Supervisor to Address Safety Concerns at Site of Rosendale Pedestrian Fatality**

KINGSTON, NY - Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger and Rosendale Town Supervisor Jeanne Walsh received a response earlier this week from the NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) to their joint letter calling on the agency to improve pedestrian infrastructure at the intersection of State Routes 32 and 213 in Rosendale, where a tragic pedestrian fatality occurred on the evening of January 16.

Regional Director Lance MacMillan responded less than two weeks after receiving the letter, stating that NYSDOT has contracted with an engineering firm to perform an independent study of this intersection. MacMillan wrote that a "comprehensive evaluation will be conducted" to make determinations about potential safety mitigations. The assessment is expected to take about eight weeks.

"I want to thank NYSDOT and Regional Director MacMillan for hearing our concerns and acting quickly to assess pedestrian safety needs at this dangerous intersection of two state roads," said County Executive Jen Metzger. "Many residents walk in this downtown area, and we hope to see meaningful improvements that will prevent needless tragedies like the death of Victoria Cooper."

"We appreciate the prompt action taken by NYSDOT and Regional Director MacMillan in addressing our urgent safety concerns," said Rosendale Town Supervisor Jeanne Walsh. "This independent study is a crucial step toward making our streets safer for pedestrians, and we are hopeful that it will lead to effective and timely improvements at this intersection."

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## **Delaware Valley Opera**

**Tshombe Selby in Concert Sat Feb 22, 2025 8pm, doors at 7pm**

**COME IN OUT OF THE COLD!!**

It's Black History Month! Don't miss this special event celebrating the African American influence on American Music - - - from spirituals to 20th century popular style. Tshombe Selby and Christopher Zander combine talents at the "Arts Nest" on Saturday, February 22nd 2025 in a very special evening of song.

Tshombe sang his first opera with the DVO and is now living his dream - - - singing with the Metropolitan Opera Company in New York City. He returns to the DVO to share his story and his musical heritage with us. So come, have a drink and a snack, sit back and enjoy a very special evening.

Saturday, February 22nd at 8:00 pm, doors open at 7:00 - - - \$20 admission "Arts Nest" at the DVOC, 6692 Route 52, Lake Huntington, NY 12752.

Buy tickets now



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## Studio Artists Group

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

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

### Daniel Pierce Library

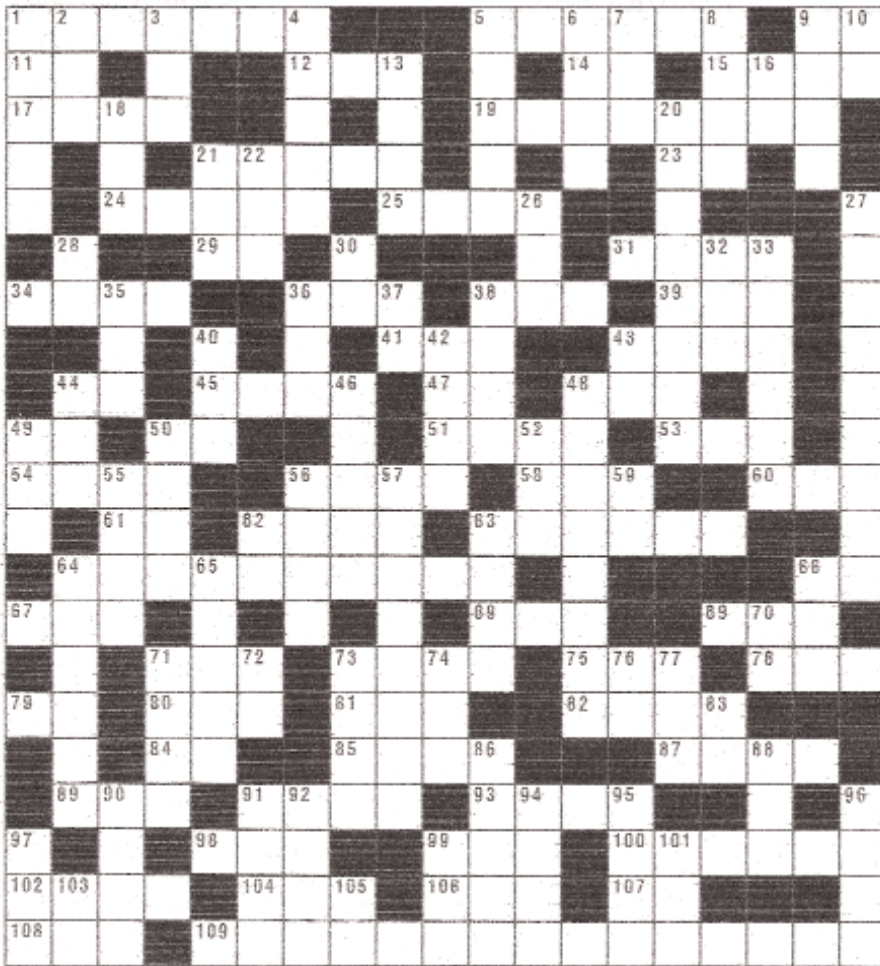
## 1st Friday BOOK CLUB

The first Friday of every month.

All adults welcome!



Ice Castles and Fairy Tales - L. Comando



**ACROSS**

- 1 What the little wishing star does
- 5 Hansel's sister
- 9 'Hi- \_\_, it's off to work we go
- 11 Informal hello
- 12 Mr. Thumb's first name
- 14 Negative response
- 15 First man
- 17 Archaic term for to
- 19 Author of "The Snow Queen"
- 21 Discards
- 23 Expressing location
- 24 Tourist town in the White Mts. of Arizona
- 25 Hindu goddess an wife of Rama
- 29 Indefinite article
- 31 Incredible superhero of recent years
- 34 Young lad popular in fairytales and nursery rhymes
- 36 Amusement
- 38 Frozen water

- 39 Originally called
- 41 Earlier
- 43 Russian ruler
- 44 Father
- 45 Past weekend's percipitation
- 47 Supported by
- 48 Four and twenty blackbirds were baked in one
- 49 Southeast
- 50 Exclamation of surprise
- 51 Mountain range in Saudi Arabia
- 53 Fabrication
- 54 Remunerated
- 56 Room over a stable
- 58 Outer edge years
- 60 Fall behind
- 61 Combining form of two
- 63 Gretel's brother
- 64 Her foot fit in the glass

- slipper
- 66 Either
- 67 Cushion
- 68 Mass of fish eggs
- 69 Large constrictor snake
- 71 Democrat
- 73 Fruit of the blackthorn bush
- 75 Noisy cry
- 78 Future Farmers Association
- 79 Advertisement
- 80 Hearing organ
- 81 Exaggerated long period of time
- 82 Cinderella lost this
- 84 Exist
- 85 What Little Jenny was
- 87 Sweet potatoes
- 89 Small woodland supernatural creatures
- 91 Tribulation
- 93 Informal 'obituary'
- 98 Friend

- 99 Lyric poem
- 100 US Arctic State
- 102 American humorist/columnist noted for her portrayal of suburban life
- 104 Lazy man
- 106 Small injury
- 107 Los Angeles
- 108 Combination of knitted stitches
- 109 A dwarf character in a fairy tale of the same name

**DOWN**

- 1 40" tall P T Barnum sideshow circus entertainer, Tom
- 2 Victorious
- 3 Combining form of new
- 4 Upper region of air beyond the

- clouds
- 5 Titan
- 6 No longer exists
- 7 Foot digit
- 8 Final
- 9 First name of Danish author of 'The Match Girl'
- 10 A mystic syllable
- 13 Living green carpet where fairies and elves hang out
- 16 Delaware
- 18 Label
- 20 She let down her long hair
- 21 Ocean
- 22 Female chicken
- 26 Part of a circle
- 27 Person who carries a message
- 28 Mother
- 30 An English bathroom
- 32 Meadow
- 33 Edible part

- of a seed
- 35 Central Intelligence Agency
- 36 To & \_\_; back and forth
- 37 North America
- 38 Electrically charged atoms
- 40 First Old English runic letter so named from the word of which it was the first letter
- 42 Zodiacal sign of Capricorn
- 43 Cirrus (abbrev)
- 44 Edible legume
- 46 Complete
- 48 Daughter of the king
- 49 Intelligence agent
- 50 Scandinavian

- god of myth who Wednesday is named after
- 52 Irish Republican Army
- 55 In the same place
- 56 Mythos
- 57 Legend
- 59 Title before a woman's surname regardless of marital state
- 62 Southeast
- 63 Rabbit
- 64 What Jack jumped over
- 65 Fantasy
- 66 Lamebrain
- 70 A preposition
- 71 Unable to hear
- 72 Mister
- 73 Fastened with stitches
- 74 Single unit
- 76 Used to express

- surprise
- 77 Lad
- 83 Each
- 86 Places where lines intersect
- 88 Title of a married woman
- 90 Bought
- 91 An office worker; clerk
- 92 Aluminum and potassium compound
- 94 Crooked
- 95 More than the average height
- 96 Spun wool
- 97 Evergreen
- 99 Nocturnal bird
- 103 Rhode Island
- 105 Mounted Police

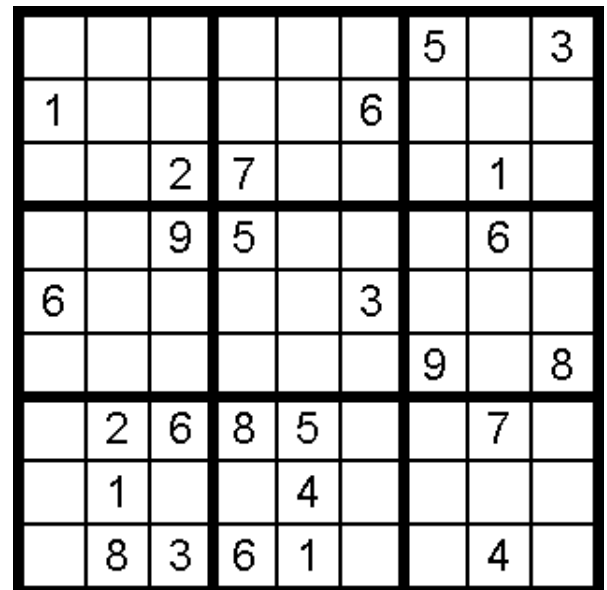
**From Scratch Saucepan Brownies**

- 1/2 c butter
- 2 sq. unsweetened chocolate
- 1 c. sugar
- 1/2 to 3/4 c. flour
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 c. chopped nuts (optional)

Melt the butter and unsweetened chocolate in a heavy saucepan. Remove from heat and stir in remaining ingredients.

Place in a 9 x 9 inch greased pan and bake at 350° for 25 to 30 minutes

数字は単数に限る



Cryptogram

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

Kids' It's Still Winter Fun Page

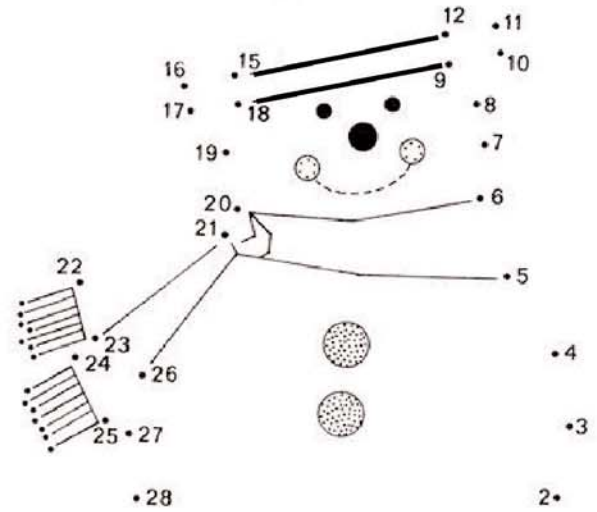
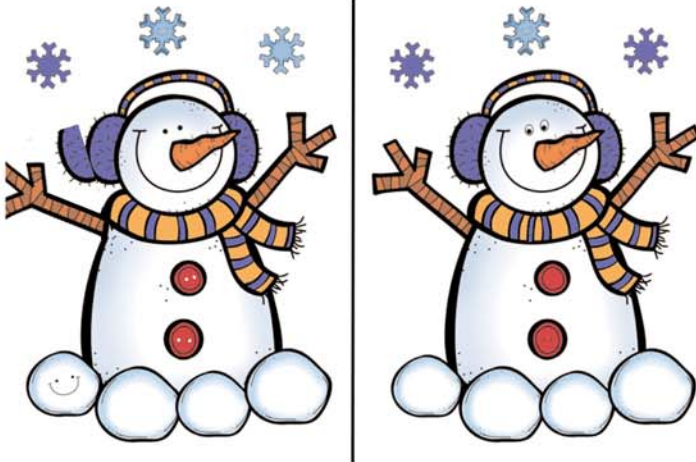
L. Comando

1 8 3 5 5 4 7 25 22 3 1 7 1 10 7 14 7 3 16 1 19 8 12 3

20 21 8 17 12 26 3 11 7 22 1 22 20 21 7 25 7 20 20 3 4 19

1 8 20 1 3 21 24 8 16 1 22 21 1 10 7 14 13

Can you find 5 differences?



Wintry Mix Wordsearch

SANSWEATERFGZRFSDOEFQPNB  
 NFMQWINTERSUSGLRSESSESNOWI  
 OMIXVBIMFLMPFLOPOACUFCHD  
 WITQCHRISTMASPESDZGOMNZE  
 MLTAFFOQERSKLINDANEMAMTC  
 AEEMSNOWFLAKESNXMMLNETNE  
 NONONCTXCLKJHGFMDSIRETUM  
 TBSAIIHALIOPOHOTCHOCOLATE  
 UXVICESREALIOSNOWBALLATR  
 SKIINGXZFOMDNAJACKETNMWQ  
 BOOTSIONYEQICESKATETUPWW

- SNOWFLAKES
- SNOWMAN
- MITTENS
- SCARF
- BOOTS
- ICESKATE
- SNOW
- WINTER
- FROZEN
- SWEATER
- DECEMBER
- COAT
- JACKET
- SKIING
- ICE
- SNOWBALL
- HOT CHOCOLATE
- COLD
- SLED



Cryptogram Key

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



## **LEGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES**

### **INVITATION TO BID**

Thunder View Farms LLC (Coombe) , 62 Brodhead Rd, Gramhamsville, NY are seeking bids for Access Roads, Heavy Use Area and HT Fence to be funded by the Watershed Agricultural Council. Prospective bidders will receive a bid package which contains a bid sheet with instructions to bidders, sample contract, plans and specifications. Bid packages may be obtained by contacting Elaine Poulin at the Watershed Program Office, 44 West Street, Walton, NY 13856 or by calling 607-865-7090 ext. 209. Prospective bidders must be in attendance for the full group site showing at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 6, 2025 at the Thunder View farmstead. Failure to attend will result in the rejection of your bid. Sealed bids must be clearly marked "Thunder View Farms Bid" and will be accepted on behalf of the landowner at the Watershed Agricultural Program Office at 44 West Street, Walton, NY until 11:00 a.m. on Friday, March 21, 2025 where they will be opened and read. Small and minority owned businesses are encouraged to apply. The Watershed Agricultural Council, Inc. reserves the right to reject any and all bids. E.O.E. 2/20

## **Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger Announces New Role for County in Addressing Critical Gaps in EMS Coverage**

### ***County to Apply for Municipal Certificate of Need, Pending Legislative Approval***

KINGSTON, NY - Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger has announced that the County will partner with municipalities and EMS Agencies to help close gaps in Advanced Life Support (ALS) service in underserved areas, based on a plan presented to the County Executive in January by Ulster County Emergency Services Director Everett Erichsen.

Under the plan, the County would apply for a Municipal Certificate of Need (MuniCON) to enable the County to partner with local EMS agencies for ALS coverage in targeted areas. The County Legislature is considering a resolution introduced by Legislator Jason Kovacs to authorize the application for the MuniCON.

ALS, in contrast to the Basic Life Support Service (BLS) typical of many volunteer EMS agencies, provides a higher level of medical care needed for more serious conditions such as heart attack, major trauma and stroke. ALS calls account for 60% of all EMS calls in the County, and filling gaps in this service is critical. The plan is consistent with the main function of County Emergency Services to coordinate and oversee emergency response. The County would enter into contracts with existing ALS providers and oversee billing and service,

## **Tri-Valley CSD Board Meeting Thursday, March 13, 2025**

**at 7:00 p.m.**

**at the Tri-Valley Central School District  
Secondary School Lower Level  
Collaboration Center  
Regular Board of Education Meeting.**

<https://www.youtube.com/CHANNEL/UCKI224vKO8nAWhR6N%20%20Vao24w/live>

with costs shared among participating municipalities and agencies. In addition to closing gaps in service to their communities, local governments also save time and staff resources on administering EMS contracts themselves.

#### **Other benefits of a County MuniCON are:**

- o Centralized oversight of contracts and financing and improved quality control;
- o Enhanced mutual aid and system-wide collaboration;
- o Increased support for EMS agencies to ensure sustainability.

"Ulster County, like many counties across the state, faces gaps in this life-saving service, and the County Department of Emergency Services can play a very valuable role, improving response times and patient care while also reducing the burden on municipalities for overseeing ALS contracts and financial reimbursements," said County Executive Jen Metzger. "I want to thank Emergency Services Director Everett Erichsen for developing this plan, and I also want to thank Legislator Kovacs for introducing the necessary resolution enabling us to apply for the Certificate of Need."

"Ensuring timely and effective EMS response is critical to the health and safety of our communities in Ulster County," said Everett Erichsen, Ulster County Department of Emergency Services Director. "By working closely with Municipalities and Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJs) and partnering with existing NYS Ambulance Service Operating Certificate holders, we are creating a more coordinated approach to EMS coverage. This collaboration is vital to strengthening our response times and enhancing the overall quality of care, ensuring that we are prepared to meet the needs of our residents both now and in the future."

"This resolution is a critical step toward ensuring that every resident of Ulster County has access to reliable and timely emergency medical services," said Legislator Jason J. Kovacs. "By applying for a Municipal Certificate of Need, we are putting the health and safety of our community first, empowering the County to fill gaps in ambulance services where they exist, and ensuring that no one is left without life-saving care when they need it most."

"This proactive approach emphasizes our continued commitment to addressing the challenges of sustainable, accountable, patient-centered EMS service in Ulster County," said Ulster County Deputy Director/EMS Coordinator Pamela Finnerty.

# Local Native American Portage Routes

*Virtual Program by Author Evan Pritchard*

Sunday, February 23, 2 p.m. Virtual Only  
Members: FREE, Non-Members: \$5



**A**presentation on the Native American portage routes of Rondout Creek, Chestnut Creek, Neversink River, Callicoon Creek and Delaware River.

**Evan Pritchard** is a descendant of the Micmac people, founder of Center for Algonquin Culture, and former Professor of Native American history and ethics at Marist College. He is the author of *Native New Yorkers, The Legacy of the Algonquin People of New York*. He is also the author of the widely praised *No Word For Time, The Way of the Algonquin People*, and many other books, including an Algonkian language series.

Time and the Valleys Museum

845 985-7700

Email: [info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org](mailto:info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org) to request link



# The People's Medicine: Herbal Remedies Through the Centuries

Sunday, March 2, 2025 2 p.m.

*Virtual only*

Explore a brief history of plant based medicine in North America, while meeting a few of the herbal allies we can easily find all around us. With Spring soon approaching, we will learn about contemporary and traditional uses for common medicinal and culinary plants of the Hudson Valley that can support our body during the seasonal transition.



*Alanna Birch is a clinical herbalist, holistic health practitioner and eco chaplain. Alanna supports people to cultivate greater emotional and physical resilience through herbal medicine, nutrition, nature connection and meditation. These pathways encourage us to discover, nurture and celebrate meaningful connections with our bodies and the more than human world. Go to: [www.alannabirch.com](http://www.alannabirch.com) to learn more.*

Members : FREE, Non-Members: \$5

Email [info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org](mailto:info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org) to receive a program link.

Non-members please go to [timeandthevalleymuseum.org/support/donate](http://timeandthevalleymuseum.org/support/donate) to make a donation.

Time and the Valleys Museum

332 Main Street, Grahamsville NY 12740

845 985-7700



# The People's Medicine: Herbal Remedies Through the Centuries

## Virtual Program by Herbalist Alanna Birch

### Sunday, March 2nd, 2 p.m.

[Grahamsville, N.Y.] The Virtual Program, The People's Medicine: Herbal Remedies Through the Centuries will be held on Sunday, March 2 at 2 p.m.. Herbal medicine is a vital part of our human story, offering an easily accessible, holistic way to effectively support greater health and well being. Explore a brief history of plant based medicine in North America while meeting a few of the herbal allies we can easily find all around us. With Spring soon approaching, we will learn about contemporary and traditional uses for com-

mon medicinal and culinary plants of the Hudson Valley that can support our body during the seasonal transition

Admission to this VIRTUAL ONLY program is FREE for Museum Members and \$5 for non-members. To join the program, please register by email at [info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org](mailto:info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org) and put Herbal Remedies in the subject line, or call 845 985-7700. A link will be sent to you. Non-members will be asked to please first make a donation on the Museum's website: [www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org](http://www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org).

**About the speaker:** Alanna Birch is a clinical herbalist, holistic health practitioner and eco chaplain. She offers 1:1 consultations, in person and online classes at the intersection of plant based medicine, deep nature connection and spiritual care. Alanna supports people to cultivate greater emotional and physical resilience through herbal medicine, nutrition, nature connection and meditation. These pathways encourage us to discover, nurture and celebrate meaningful connections with our bodies and the more than human world. Learn more about her work at [www.alannabirch.com](http://www.alannabirch.com)

**About the Time and the Valleys Museum:** Connecting Water People and the Catskills, the Museum is open Memorial Day through September, Saturday and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m., and other times by appointment. Located at 332 Main Street in Grahamsville (St. Rt. 55), Sullivan County, admission for adults is \$5, children under 16 \$2, and children under six are free.



#### **Museum exhibitions are interactive and both fun and educational for all ages:**

o Water and the Valleys, an exhibit on the history of the Rondout and Neversink watershed area from early geological times to the 20th century. This exhibition includes interactives such as a Native American artifact guessing game, grinding corn with a mortar and pestle, videos and more.

o **Tunnels, Toil and Trouble: New York City's Quest for Water and the Rondout-Neversink Story**, an interactive exhibit on NYC water supply system and the towns that were removed to build the system, which includes computer interactives, games, puzzles, videos and building a dam and tunnel.

o **1930s Lost Catskill Farm**, a farmhouse, outhouse, barn, electric plant, milk house and working waterwheel help visitors experience life in the 1930s through displays, videos, games and hands on activities.

The Time and the Valleys Museum is proud to be a Blue Star Museum, providing free admission to active duty military members (with ID) and up to five family members. This free admission for members of the military and their families runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day. For more information call 845 985-7700, e-mail [info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org](mailto:info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org) or visit [www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org](http://www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org). To schedule a field trip for schools, or group tour for children or adults, please call 845-985-7700.

10<sup>th</sup> Annual

# Wings & Wheels for Warriors

**Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> 2025**

Rain Date: Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>

9am to 3pm

Judging begins at 11am

**Joseph Y. Resnick Airport**

199 Airport Road

Ellenville, NY 12428

**Benefiting the Disabled American Veterans**

Family Fun • Plane Rides • Food •

DJ Brian • Kid's Choice Award

\$10 Pre-Registration • \$15 Day of Show

All Rides Welcome • Trophies • Dash Plaques

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INC.



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Napanoch NY

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Something for Everyone!



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MONUMENTS INSTALLED IN ALL CEMETERIES  
CREMATION MEMORIALS & BENCHES, MONUMENT LETTERING & CLEANING

**Sundown United Methodist Church  
Covered Dish Supper**

**5:30 pm**

**March 1, 2025**

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

*Sundown United Methodist Church Hall*

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

**Mass Times**

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

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

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

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

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

**Grahamsville United Methodist Church**

**Keep watching for the 2025 Thrift Sale Calendar**

**Grahamsville & Sundown United Methodist Churches**

Come and Join us for in person Worship on Sundays.

Sundown UMC 8:30 am  
Peekamoose Rd., Sundown

Grahamsville UMC 10:30 am  
350 Main Street, Grahamsville

Pastor Harriet Wilkin  
845-985-2283

*Grahamsville Reformed Church*

*The Church with a friendly welcome*

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

**Claryville Reformed Church**

Claryville Road  
Claryville, NY 12725  
845-985-2041



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

**Loucks Funeral Home**

**Geoff and Heather Hazzard**

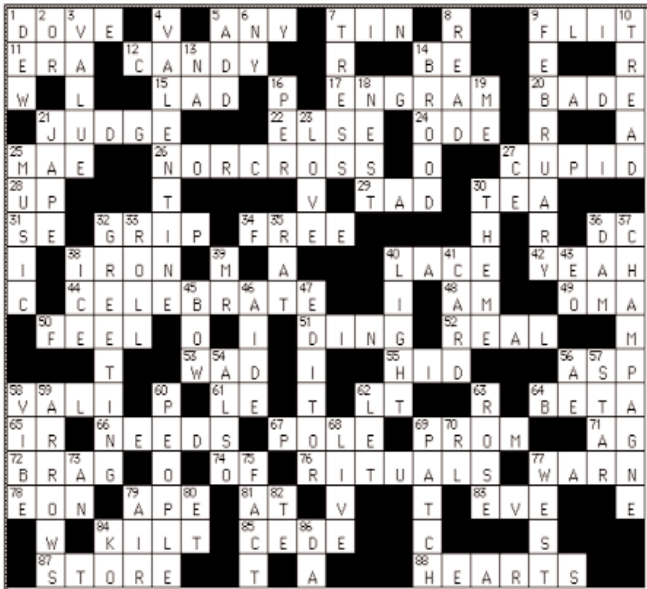
*"Celebrating Life, One Family at a Time"*

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

**St. Augustine's Chapel**  
Watson Hollow Rd. • West Shokan, NY

Sunday Mass - 9:30 am  
Holy Days 5:30 pm  
Penance 9:00 am, 2nd Sunday of the month  
Rev. Thomas P. Kiely, Pastor

Ans to last week's Crossword



## Sundown United Methodist Church Covered Dish Supper

Saturday,

March 1, 2025 5:30 pm

at the Church Hall

Check out the tables with Yard Sale items available for sale

(Covered Dish Suppers are held the First Saturday of each month at 5:30 pm at the Church Hall)

## Order Your 4 Free At-home COVID-19 Tests

• Every U.S. household is eligible to order 4 free at-home tests

Do you want 4 free Covid Tests Kits?

Go to: [CovidTests.gov](https://CovidTests.gov)

COVID-19 testing can help you know if you have COVID-19 so you can decide what to do next, like getting treatment to reduce your risk of severe illness and taking steps to lower your chances of spreading the virus to others.

Your order of COVID tests is completely free - you won't even pay for shipping. Want to know when your tests are coming? Sign up to receive email alerts when you order!

**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

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

## \$17.5 BILLION in Lost Money

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

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

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

Check the air quality where you are at:

<https://www.airnow.gov/>

**ARTISTS • CRAFTERS**  
Need a place to show and sell your crafts?  
Call us at 845-985-0501  
email: [tvtownsman@yahoo.com](mailto:tvtownsman@yahoo.com)  
or visit our Virtual Mail  
<http://gnomehomeinc.com>

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

## LOCAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 2/20/25 Town of Denning Planning Board Meeting 6:00 pm Denning Town of Town Hall  
 3/1/25 **Sundown UMC Covered Dish Supper** 5:30 Church  
 2/4/25 Claryville Fire District Monthly Meeting 6:30 pm  
 3/11/25 Denning Town Board & Business Meeting 6:00 pm Denning Town Hall  
 3/12/25 Town of Neversink - Board Meeting  
 3/16/25 Claryville FD **All You Can Eat Valentines Pancake Breakfast** 8 am - 12 noon  
 3/20/25 Neversink Fire District Commissioner Meeting 7:00pm  
 4/16/25 **Neversink Rondout Antique Machinery Association** 1st meeting of the year-Grahamsville Firehouse 7 pm

**TOWN OF OLIVE MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

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

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

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

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

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

**Ulster County Legislature****Weekly Update For The Week Of**

February 17 - 21, 2025

Legislative Committee Meetings are Livestreamed at

<https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature/streams>**Monday, February 17**

- o Presidents' Day Holiday - County Offices Closed

**Tuesday, February 18**

- o **4:30 PM - Audit Committee, KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, COB & via Legislature livestream**
- o **5:30 PM - Democratic Caucus, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston**
- o **6:15 PM - Republican Caucus, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston**
- o **7:00 PM - Legislative Session, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston & available via Livestream at <https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature>**

**Wednesday, February 19**

- o **8:30 AM - Ulster County Industrial Development Agency Governance Committee, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building Kingston**
- o **8:45 AM (or immediately following IDA Governance Committee) - Ulster County Capital Resources Corporation Governance Committee, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building Kingston**
- o **9:00 AM (or immediately following CRC Governance Committee) - Ulster County Industrial Development Agency Regular Board Meeting, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building Kingston**
- o **10:00 AM (or immediately following IDA Regular Board Meeting) - Ulster County Capital Resources Corporation Regular Board Meeting, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building Kingston**
- o **12:00 PM - Resolution Deadline**

**Thursday, February 20**

- o 1:00 PM - Ulster County Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board, at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County Offices, 232 Plaza Road, Kingston

**Friday, February 21**

- o No Meetings



Music Institute of Sullivan and Ulster Counties, Inc.  
[www.misucatskills.org](http://www.misucatskills.org)

**SONG CLUB at MISU**

Every last Saturday of the month  
 All ages and voices welcome

Song Club is a drop-in singing experience that builds community through singing original arrangements of familiar songs in a safe and welcoming environment.

The audience is the choir!  
 For more information visit our website

40 Market St. Ellenville  
[www.misucatskills.org](http://www.misucatskills.org)  
 845.377.3727



@Music Institute of Sullivan and Ulster Counties



@misucatskills

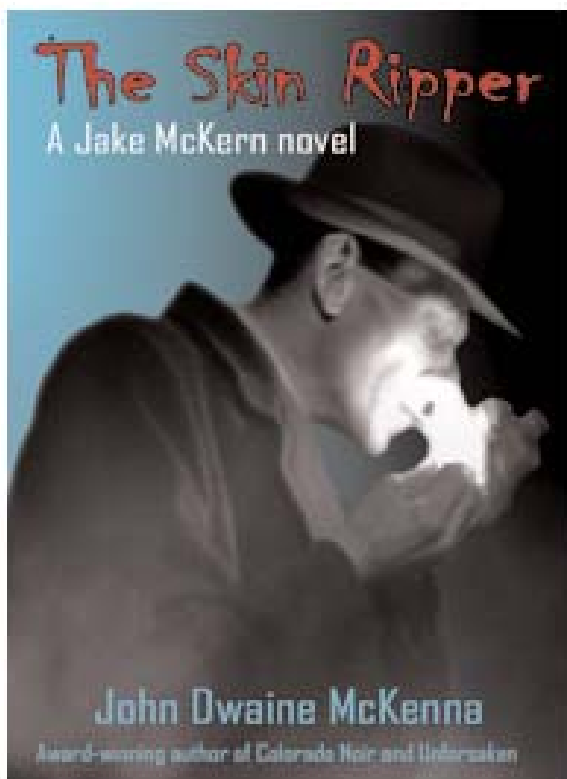


# The Skin Ripper

A novel

John Dwaine McKenna

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



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

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

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

hour and his greatest adventure to date!

ISBN 978-0-9896763-7-3

325 pages

Price \$19.95

Available Now at:

**Neversink General Store**

Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Apple  
And bookstores everywhere.

Tri-Valley Elementary School  
"INSPIRE SUCCESS TOGETHER"



GO BEARS!

## Tri-Valley Elementary School



### UPK REGISTRATION

If you have a child that will be 4  
years old by December 1, 2025 please  
call us at

845-985-2296 ext. 5405

Or send an email to:

[registration@trivalleycsd.org](mailto:registration@trivalleycsd.org)

and leave your name, your child's  
name and phone number where you  
can be reached.



# TRIVIA FOR A CAUSE MARDI GRAS STYLE

**SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2025**

**1:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

**(Doors open at Noon)**

**CASA MIA RESTAURANT**

**205 MAIN ST., HURLEYVILLE, NY 12747**

**\$25.00 per person**

**(includes lunch and dessert)**

**Door Prize; 50/50; Raffles.**

Wear your best Mardi Gras mask if you like  
(half mask only please)



Proceeds from this fundraiser will go to assist students and families throughout the Fallsburg Central School District.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK TO:  
KIWANIS OF WOODRIDGE, PO BOX 722, WOODRIDGE, NY 12789**

**Names attending:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**# Attending:** \_\_\_\_\_ **@ \$25.00 Each TOTAL DUE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Must be signed up by 02/20/2025 to be guaranteed a seat.**

## Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce Hosts NYS Budget Director Blake Washington for State of the State Address

Monticello, NY - The Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce proudly hosted New York State Budget Director Blake Washington at Resorts World Catskills yesterday, where he delivered a State of the State Address directly from Governor Kathy Hochul's office. The event provided local businesses, elected officials, and community members with valuable insights into the state's 2025 priorities and a platform to discuss key issues impacting Sullivan County.

The room was filled with elected officials, business leaders, and members of the public, all eager to engage in a meaningful dialogue with Washington. Attendees had the unique opportunity to ask questions and express concerns on critical topics affecting the region, reinforcing the importance of direct communication between state leadership and local stakeholders.

"People of Sullivan County can rely on their State Government to provide their needs right here at home." said Blake Washington, NYS Budget Director.

"As the uniting force for business in Sullivan County, our mission at the Chamber is to support, advocate, promote, and grow our incredible business community," said Ashley Leavitt, President & CEO of the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce. "Events like this are a testament to the power of collaboration and the importance of staying informed on policies that shape our future."

Mr. Washington oversees the overall development and management of New York State's fiscal policy, including the preparation of budget recommendations for all state agencies and programs, economic and revenue forecasting, tax policy, fiscal planning, capital financing, and management of the state's debt portfolio.

Blake is no stranger to Sullivan County. He is a proud graduate of Monticello High School and he began his career as a Probation Officer with the Sullivan County Probation Department, making his return to the region for this event especially meaningful.

**Sun Trail Storage** 

**Sun Trail** is a local family-owned business  
**God Bless America**

Located on the Corner of Hill Top Rd  
and Route 55 Grahamsville, NY



**Hours of Operation:**  
7 AM - 9 PM  
Every day of the week  
Call (845) 985-7923  
or  
(914) 672-3952

Please call for availability first

**Help your local business grow**  
**Advertise locally in**  
***The Townsman!***

Classified ads - \$5.00  
for the first 20 words/  
20 cents each additional word

**Display Ads**

1" Boxed ad (1"x3")-  
\$7.50 per week  
Business card ad ( 2" x 3")  
- \$15.00 per week  
(3" x 4") - \$30.00 per week  
(3" x 6") - \$45.00 per week  
1/4 pg (4" x 5") - \$50.00 per week  
1/2 pg (4"x8") - \$80.00 per week  
Full Page - 8" x 10" - \$100.00 per week  
Digital Flyer Insert - 8"x10 - \$100.00/week

**Sign up for quarterly billing and get a 20% discount**

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

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

Low Rates  
High Visibility!

# 2025 SULLIVAN COUNTY DMV winter schedule



mobile unit  
on location 10:00am - 3:00pm



<p><b>JEFFERSONVILLE</b></p> <p>Tues January 7</p> <p>Tues February 4</p> <p>Tues March 4</p> <p>License &amp; Registration Appts</p> <p>19 Legion Street, Jeffersonville, NY</p>	<p><b>WURTSBORO</b></p> <p>Thurs January 23</p> <p>Thurs February 20</p> <p>Thurs March 20</p> <p>Registration Appts Only</p> <p>2948 US 209, Wurtsboro, NY</p>	<p><b>NARROWSBURG</b></p> <p>Tues January 21</p> <p>Tues February 18</p> <p>Tues March 18</p> <p>Registration Appts Only</p> <p>210 Bridge Street, Narrowsburg, NY</p>	<p><b>HORTONVILLE</b></p> <p>Thurs January 16</p> <p>Thurs February 13</p> <p>Thurs March 13</p> <p>Registration Appts Only</p> <p>104 Lower Main Street, Hortonville, NY</p>
<p><b>LIVINGSTON MANOR</b></p> <p>Tues January 14</p> <p>Tues February 11</p> <p>Tues March 11</p> <p>Registration Appts Only</p> <p>95 Main Street, Livingston Manor, NY</p>	<p><b>GRAHAMSVILLE</b></p> <p>Thurs January 9</p> <p>Thurs February 6</p> <p>Thurs March 6</p> <p>License &amp; Registration Appts</p> <p>273 Main Street, Grahamsville, NY</p>	<p><b>LIBERTY</b></p> <p>Tues January 28</p> <p>Tues February 25</p> <p>Tues March 25</p> <p>License &amp; Registration Appts</p> <p>15 Sullivan Ave Liberty, NY</p>	<p><b>BLOOMINGBURG</b></p> <p>Thurs January 30</p> <p>Thurs February 27</p> <p>Thurs March 27</p> <p>License &amp; Registration Appts</p> <p>13 North Rd. Bloomingburg, NY</p>

Schedule an appointment on the county website [sullivanny.gov](http://sullivanny.gov) | County Clerk Russell Reeves



## Medicare 101 Zoom Webinar

Live

Tuesday, March 18, 2025  
6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Presented by:

James Farnham, MBA, MS  
Licensed Agent

Will you be turning 65 soon? Are you eligible for Medicare?

Please join us for this free live webinar as we learn about Medicare basics including, When to join, Prescription Drug Plans, Medicare Supplement Plans, and Medicare Advantage Plans (HMOs and PPOs). This program will simplify the choices you need to make, help you make well-informed decisions and explain what Medicare means to you! This is an educational event.

Advanced online registration required at [www.danielpiercelibrary.org](http://www.danielpiercelibrary.org). Those who register will receive an email prior to the event with a link and instructions on how to join the Zoom Webinar.



Daniel Pierce Library

328 Main Street | P.O. Box 268  
Grahamsville, New York 12740-0268 | 845-985-7233  
[www.danielpiercelibrary.org/](http://www.danielpiercelibrary.org/)



# ICE SKATING

## *Schedule*

**THURSDAY: 6:30-8:30 PM**

**FRIDAY: 6:30-8:30 PM**

**SATURDAY: 1-3PM & 6:30-8:30 PM**

**SUNDAY: 1:00-4:00 PM**

**MUSIC | ICE SKATING | ALWAYS FREE!!**

**@ Grahamsville Fairgrounds**



**Days & times subject to change, check  
Facebook for updates or text  
Tanya @ 845-807-7502**

# Governor Hochul Prepares to Deploy New York National Guard to Protect the Safety of Correction Officers, DOCCS Population and Upstate Communities

*Governor Committed to Safe, Secure Correctional Facilities and Has Ordered the Mobilization of the New York National Guard To Staff Facilities if Illegal Job Action Does Not End by Wednesday*

*Governor Has Provided Significant Support To Correction Officers, Including Increased Salaries and Benefits, Contraband Crackdowns, and Expanded Recruitment Efforts*

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced preparations to utilize the New York National Guard to protect correction officers who are currently on the job, individuals in DOCCS care and the communities surrounding these correctional facilities. The Governor also directed Department of Corrections and Community Supervision Commissioner Daniel Martuscello and senior Administration officials to meet with leaders from the New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association to call for an end to the unlawful work stoppage that is causing significant public safety concerns across New York.

"The illegal and unlawful actions being taken by a number of correction officers must end immediately," Governor Hochul said. "We will not allow these individuals to jeopardize the safety of their colleagues, incarcerated people, and the residents of communities surrounding our correctional facilities. I have directed my Administration to meet with union leadership to resolve this situation and have also ordered the National Guard be mobilized to secure our correctional facilities in the event it is not resolved by tomorrow. Correction officers do difficult work under challenging circumstances, and I have consistently fought for them to have better pay and working conditions and will continue to do so."

Governor Hochul is preparing to deploy members of the New York National Guard to DOCCS facilities tomorrow if the unlawful work stoppage does not end, and will begin to take appropriate disciplinary action as necessary. The Governor has also directed her Counsel to work with the Office of the Attorney General on legal mechanisms such as the Taylor Law which will compel employees to return to work.

Governor Hochul has worked with NYSCOPBA to improve salaries, benefits and working conditions for corrections officers. In March 2024, the union agreed to a collective bargaining agreement with the State of New York to improve working conditions for corrections officers:

- o Increased salaries and starting pay for new employees by \$6,500.
- o Increased Correction Officer location-based pay by \$500 to \$1,000 per Officer for downstate assignments.
- o Increased Correction Officer hazardous duty pay from \$200 to \$1,075.
- o Provides 12 weeks of fully-paid parental leave.

Governor Hochul has also fought successfully to pass new laws and implement administrative changes to protect corrections officers. This includes advancing legislation to authorize the use of body scanners in correctional facilities and securing funding to procure the deployment of this technology. The Governor also supported DOCCS implementation of the vendor

package program leading to large reductions in contraband entering our correctional facilities.

Governor Hochul has also expanded efforts to increase recruitment and hiring of new correction officers. This includes:

- o Introducing Article 7 language in this year's Executive Budget to amend the public officers law, in relation to residency requirements for certain positions as a correction officer, allowing recruiting from other states which would greatly expand the number of potential applicants.

- o DOCCS has contracted with OGS Media Services on a large-scale social media recruitment campaign that includes a multi-channel approach including social media, multicultural digital, streaming audio, video and static ads to better familiarize the public on DOCCS mission.

- o DOCCS Statewide Recruitment Unit has been running Recruitment Centers in various locations and currently is operating Recruitment Centers in the Destiny USA mall (Syracuse) and Champlain Centre mall (Plattsburgh).

- o In 2024, DOCCS recruiters attended 1,169 career fairs along with 54 multi day events.

- o DOCCS launched an advanced placement initiative to attract applicants with Correction Officer experience into our Correction Officer ranks at a pay rate commensurate to their experience.

- o In July 2024, the Department launched "CNY200", a regional hiring incentive promoting direct placement of Correction officer recruits to vacancies at Auburn, Cayuga, Marcy, Mid-State and Mohawk Correctional Facilities, upon completion of the training academy.

- o In August 2024, DOCCS expanded the regional recruitment initiative to Chemung, Dutchess and Franklin Counties which include Bare Hill, Elmira, Fishkill, Franklin, Green Haven and Upstate Correctional Facility.

- o Due to the success of this initiative it was expanded in November 2024 to Clinton and Ulster Counties which include Altona, Clinton, Eastern, Shawangunk, Ulster and Wallkill Correctional Facility.

- o In addition to continued efforts by the DOCCS recruitment team to pursue candidates for civilian positions at career fairs and community events, DOCCS has been very successful with recruitment via the HELPs program launched by the Department of Civil Service in April 2023.

## Statement from Senator Peter Oberacker on Hochul Prison Crisis

"New York's prisons are becoming war zones due to the Hochul Prison Crisis. Correctional facilities are on the brink of collapse, and Governor Hochul is making it worse. Assaults on officers have hit record highs, staffing levels have been gutted, and now Hochul is telling prisons that 75% staffing is 'good enough.' Her policies have emboldened violent criminals, weakened discipline inside prisons, and left officers without the back-up they need to do their jobs safely.

This isn't just mismanagement-it's a complete failure of leadership. The same soft-on-crime policies that made our streets more dangerous are now turning prisons into lawless battlegrounds. When will Governor Hochul finally take responsibility and fix this disaster?"



Sundown  
United  
Methodist  
Church



**March 1, 2025**

**5:30 pm**

Bring a covered dish to share  
Enjoy good food and fellowship

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

**Sundown United Methodist Church Hall**

(Intersection of Sundown Rd., Peekamoose Rd. & Greenville Rd., Sundown, NY 12740)





## Please Help Save Our School!

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

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

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

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

### Thank You!

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

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

Please mail your check to:  
**Time and the Valleys Museum**  
P.O. Box 254, Grahamsville, NY 12740  
or go online:  
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Thank you for supporting local history and the Museum

## Time and the Valleys Museum

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

# ✦ Daniel Pierce Library

## PBS Nova Documentary Inner Worlds



**Thursday, February 20, 2025**  
**6:00-7:30 p.m.**

Snow Date March 6th

Recommended for adults and students ten and up

Join local experts John Kocijanski & Irene Pease for an evening of exploration! We will watch the PBS Nova documentary,

Inner Worlds focusing on Venus & Mercury.

Lets discover these planets together with additional insight from our experts.

If you are curious about the galaxies, this program is for you.

Advanced registration is required at [www.danielpiercelibrary.org](http://www.danielpiercelibrary.org).

In the event of inclement weather, please check our website and social media for cancellations.



### Daniel Pierce Library

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## Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger Announces 2025 Ulster County Poet Laureate

KINGSTON, NY - Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger has appointed Mike Jurkovic, a published poet and music critic who lives in the Shawangunk hamlet of Wallkill, as the County's 2025 Poet Laureate. Jurkovic succeeds poet Kate Hymes of New Paltz, the County's first resident to hold this honorary title, which was created by the County Executive in 2023.

"Words possess the remarkable ability to bridge hearts and minds, uniting our community through the art of verse, and through his evocative poetry, Mike Jurkovic captures the essence of everyday life and invites us to explore the hidden beauty in our daily experiences," said County Executive Jen Metzger. "Congratulations on this well-deserved honor, Mike - we look forward to the inspiration and creativity you will bring to this role!"

Originally hailing from the South Bronx, Jurkovic has called Ulster County home for more than three decades. A cornerstone of the Hudson Valley poetry scene, he serves as the president and co-founder of Calling All Poets - a distinguished poetry organization and series that, this year, proudly celebrates 26 years of fostering poetic expression both in the Hudson Valley and on the international stage.

Jurkovic is known for his expressive and often surreal poetry, which has been featured in various literary journals and poetry readings across the United States, including New York City, San Francisco, Baltimore, and London. His work explores themes of everyday life, absurdity, and human connection. Some of his notable poems include "The Whereabouts of Heaven," "My Love Don't Dream, She Vignettes," and "Mediums Mystics and Madmen."

Jurkovic, a prolific poet and music critic, was nominated for the prestigious Pushcart American literary prize. His work has appeared in more than 400 magazines and periodicals, and he has published several full-length collections and chapbooks, including "smitten by harpies & shiny banjo catfish" (Lion Autumn Press, 2016), "Eve's Venom" (Post Traumatic Press, 2014), and "Purgatory Road" (Pudding House Press, 2010). His work has also been included in national and regional anthologies, and he is a monthly contributor to various magazines, including Elmore Magazine, Folk and Acoustic Music Exchange, and Chronogram. His column, "The Rock n Roll Curmudgeon," appeared in Rhythm and News Magazine from 1996 to 2003. He currently co-chairs the Music Fan Film Series at the Rosendale Theatre, and hosts NuJazz Xcursions, Mondays at

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9AM, on WVKR-91.3FM Vassar College.

"With the grand family of writers and poets in the Hudson Valley, I am humbled to serve as Ulster County Poet Laureate," said Jurkovic. "In this role it is my aim to highlight as many voices as possible."

"We are grateful for County Executive Metzger's commitment to the arts community in Ulster County, and we can all celebrate the appointment of Michael Jurkovic as our Poet Laureate for 2025," said Melissa Dvozenja-Thomas, Executive Director of Arts Mid-Hudson. "Promoting poetry across Ulster County enriches residents of all ages and backgrounds, and we commend County Executive Metzger for her ongoing support of the arts."

The Ulster County Poet Laureate program was instituted in 2023 by County Executive Metzger, and is an unpaid, one-year role. The Poet Laureate recites a poem at the annual State of the County address, leads workshops and readings, writes and publishes poetry inspired by local history and culture, participates in community events, and engages in educational outreach. Arts Mid-Hudson manages the process of the public call for nominations, inviting a panel of literary professionals and community members to select from the nominations, and promoting the appointment.

Information about the Ulster County Poet Laureate and the upcoming programs can be found at [www.artsmidhudson.org/uc-poetlaureate](http://www.artsmidhudson.org/uc-poetlaureate)



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# The Scholastic Art Awards for Sullivan, Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster Counties Honors another Year of Excellence

New Paltz: The Regional 2025 Scholastic Art Awards Program recently brought together talented young artists from Dutchess, Orange, Sullivan, and Ulster Counties to celebrate their creativity and artistic achievements. Organized in collaboration with the Hudson Valley Scholastic Art Affiliates, including Dutchess BOCES, the Enlarged City School Districts of Middletown, the Orange County Arts Council, and Orange-Ulster BOCES, the annual event was held at SUNY New Paltz on Friday, February 7.

This year, the Hudson Valley Regional Affiliate welcomed over 787 middle and high school artists, with an impressive 2,942 works of art adjudicated. Among the winners, 212 students received Gold Keys, 312 earned Silver Keys, 462 were recognized with Honorable Mentions, and five were awarded the prestigious American Vision Award for their exemplary artistic expression.

The keynote speaker for the evening was artist David Lionheart. He is also the founder and operator of the non-profit Play for Your Freedom: Veterans Wellness Programming, the author of Reflections of a Champion, the Executive Producer of the award-winning film PTSD: The Walking Wounded, the co-founder of First Team First: Student and Student-Athlete Mentorship Program, and an inventor, builder, and musician. Mr. Lionheart delivered an inspiring speech to our award winners, encouraging them to pursue their artistic passions confidently and purposefully. He left them with this statement. No matter where you are, be proud and work hard. Create outside of your box, and share our gift. Fail fearlessly until you've succeeded. Create balance and care for your body and mind. Seek inspiration and inspire others, and if you speak from your heart, one day, they will listen!

Lionheart's mission is to teach others about their potential and demonstrate how any one person can be a positive force for themselves and those around them-no matter what.

"This event not only showcases the incredible talent within our schools but also encourages the pursuit of artistic excellence among our students," said Susan Zieres, Arts in Education Coordinator at Sullivan BOCES.

Sullivan County students had an outstanding presence in the competition, with eleven Gold Key and twenty-seven Silver Key winners:

Liberty Central School  
 Quinn Allen - 1 Silver Key  
 Kaitlyn Bodolosky - 1 Silver Key  
 Angel Figueroa - 2 Silver Keys  
 Kylie Fuller - 1 Silver Key  
 Carlos Garzon Cruz - 1 Gold Key  
 Jennifer Jadan - 1 Gold Key, 1 Silver Key  
 Leonel Malaga Ventura - 1 Silver Key  
 Owen Moore - 3 Silver Keys  
 Savannah Pagan - 1 Gold Key  
 Lucio Ponce Vazquez - 1 Silver Key  
 Allison Vasko - 1 Gold Key, 5 Silver Keys  
 Giuliana Wagner - 3 Silver Keys  
 Rachel Yaun - 4 Silver Keys  
 Sebastian Yupanqui - 2 Gold Keys, 2 Silver Keys

Livingston Manor Central School  
 Tyler Gorr - 1 Gold Key, 1 Silver Key

Sullivan West Central School  
 Bridghid Reeve - 1 Gold Key, 1 Silver Key

Tri-Valley Central School  
 Devyn Callahan - 3 Gold Keys

According to Devyn Callahan, Tri-Valley student and 2024 American Vision Nominee and 2025 winner of three Gold Keys, "The thing I like most about Scholastic Art Awards as a whole is the fact that they bring so many aspiring artists together, growing the creativity and inspiration of so many. This program gives me something to look forward to in these winter times: a fun, friendly contest doing what I love. It connects me with so many other people with the same mindset and artistic outlook in life. I'm so glad to be a participant in the Scholastic Art Awards."

The coveted American Vision Award is a highlight of the competition. It is given to just five pieces that best exemplify originality and personal artistic style.

Students receiving a Gold Key Award in architecture, ceramics, design, painting, illustration, fashion, photography, digital art, mixed media, printmaking, sculpture, or film categories will have the opportunity to receive additional recognition. Their work is adjudicated on a national level by a panel of leading creative professionals. National Gold Medalists are announced in March and are honored during a special awards ceremony in June.

Kaitlyn Bodolosky, a Liberty student who has won over six keys in the last two years, said, "I am honored to be part of this exhibition and overjoyed that my perspective resonated with others. I truly enjoy this event because it showcases diverse works of art, each reflecting unique viewpoints, making the show amazing."

"On behalf of the Hudson Valley Regional Scholastic Affiliate, we are proud of the artistic accomplishments of our students. We wish our gold winners luck as their work moves through the National adjudication," stated Zieres.

Parents and community members are encouraged to view the artwork to show their support for these budding artists. The artwork will be displayed at SUNY New Paltz in the Fine Arts Rotunda from February 7 through February 28 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

## History of the Scholastic Arts Awards

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards is the country's longest-running and most prestigious scholarship and recognition program for creative students in grades 7-12. Since the program's founding in 1923, the Scholastic Art Awards have fostered the creativity and talent of millions of students.

Annually, 250,000 students in grades 7 through 12 participate in regional programs, and 50,000 receive regional awards and exhibition opportunities. More than 30,000 entries qualify for national adjudication, and 1,100 young artists and writers nationwide receive national awards. The Gold Portfolio Award recipients receive up to \$10,000 in scholarships, representing the highest level of achievement in the Awards.

Many of our nation's most accomplished artists and writers are alums of The Scholastic Art Awards, including Richard Avedon, Truman Capote, Frances Farmer, Joyce Maynard, Joyce Carol Oates, Sylvia Plath, Robert Redford, and Andy Warhol.

# Tech Tuesdays

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- ▶ *And more...*

Bring your own device or use our computers!

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# DEC Releases Hunting Safety Statistics for 2024

## Second Safest Season on Record in New York State

### Successful Youth Deer Hunting Pilot Program Report Released

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar today announced another safe year of hunting seasons, with 2024-25 seasons being the second safest on record. DEC released its annual report documenting hunting-related shooting incidents (HRSIs) and tree stand/elevated hunting incidents and the numbers are consistent with the low incident rates observed across the state in recent years.

“Hunting-related incidents are preventable when hunters follow safe and legal hunting practices and proper tree-stand safety measures,” Interim Commissioner Mahar said. “Thanks to New York’s exceptional Hunter Education Program and hunters adhering to New York’s hunting regulations, requirements, and firearm safety, hunting continues to be a safe and enjoyable activity for hundreds of New Yorkers and visitors each year.”

DEC documented 11 HRSIs in 2024, including four two-party firearm incidents and seven self-inflicted incidents. Unfortunately, one of the incidents was a self-inflicted fatality. Two incidents involved individuals who were not legally hunting. Hunting Safety Statistics are available on DEC’s website.

All first-time hunters, bowhunters, and trappers are required to successfully complete a hunter or trapper safety course and pass the final exam before being eligible to purchase a hunting or trapping license. These additional efforts to increase public awareness about hunting safety has resulted in a sharp decrease in hunting-related incidents from decades ago. For example, 166 HRSIs were reported in 1966.

DEC also documented 11 Elevated Hunting Incidents (EHIs) in 2024, though not all falls are reported. Of these incidents, nine involved hunters failing to wear a safety harness or failing to connect the harness to a tree. Two of the falls were fatal; the others resulted in serious injuries. All incidents could have been prevented by proper use of a fall-arrest harness system that remains connected to the tree. Additional information about EHIs is available on DEC’s website.

Elevated stand safety has become a regular part of New York’s Hunter Safety Program due to EHIs remaining a major cause of hunting-related injuries. The proper use of elevated stands and stand safety equipment helps to prevent injuries and fatalities. Used correctly, a harness and fall-arrest system keep the hunter connected from the time they leave the ground to the moment they get back down. Many, if not all, tree stand incidents are preventable when hunters follow the “ABCs” of tree stand safety:

- o Always remove and inspect tree stand before use;
- o Buckle full-body harness securely; and
- o Connect to tree before feet leave the ground and stay connected until descent.

Additional safety tips for hunters:

- o Inspect tree stand before use/replace worn or broken parts and straps;
- o Buckle full-body harness securely and use a tether and lifeline;
- o Check harness expiration date and replace if expired or damaged;
- o Notify other person/persons about the location of the tree stand and expected time of return;

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 Continue onto NY-28A West 1.8 Miles  
 ← Turn LEFT onto NY-213 1.1 Miles  
 → Turn RIGHT onto Krumville Road/CR-2A 0.8 Miles  
 Gun Shop on LEFT

---

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

## Bingo at the Monticello Elks Lodge

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

- o Use haul line to raise firearm or crossbow with quiver into the stand; and
- o Always carry emergency equipment such as a knife, cell phone, flashlight, and whistle inside a pocket (not inside a pack in the stand).

A video showing the proper way to climb into and out of a tree stand can be viewed on DEC’s YouTube channel. Youth Deer Hunting Pilot Program

In 2021, New York State authorized 12- and 13-year-olds with hunting licenses to hunt deer with a crossbow, rifle, shotgun, or muzzleloading firearm under the supervision of an experienced adult mentor in eligible counties. DEC recently released the latest Deer Hunting by 12- and 13-Year-Old Hunters report (PDF), highlighting the success of the first four years of the pilot program, as well as recommendations to make the program permanent. Read the report and learn more about youth big game hunting in New York State.

DEC encourages hunters to remember that every hunting-related shooting incident is preventable if hunters follow the primary rules of hunter safety:

- o Treat every firearm as if it is loaded;
- o Control the muzzle, keep it pointed in a safe direction;
- o Identify target and what lies beyond;
- o Keep finger off trigger until ready to fire; and
- o Wear hunter orange or pink.

More information on 2024 Hunting Safety Statistics and Elevated Stand Safety Statistics are available on DEC’s website.



# DOJ's Attack on Green Light Law Jeopardizes Safety and State Rights

A statement from Acting County Clerk Taylor Bruck, "I am outraged by the Department of Justice's decision to sue New York State over the Green Light Law. This lawsuit is a blatant overreach of federal authority into a state matter-one that has been in effect since 2019, making our roads safer and generating significant revenue for New York.

"The facts are clear: ensuring that all drivers, regardless of immigration status, are properly licensed and insured improves public safety. Since similar policies were enacted in other states, like New Mexico, the percentage of uninsured drivers has plummeted from 33% to less than 9%. The DOJ's attempt to rescind this law would force thousands of drivers into unlicensed and uninsured status, making our roads more dangerous for everyone.

"Beyond safety, the Green Light Law is an economic win for New York. The Fiscal Policy

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## Arts Nest A Fun Space for Serious Music



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Lyric Tenor  
**Black History Month**

delaware valley opera  
Council on the Arts

**Saturday**  
**Feb 22, 2025**  
**\$20 cover 7 - 9pm**

Institute estimates that the law generates approximately \$57 million in annual revenue for state and county governments, with an additional \$26 million in one-time revenue from fees and taxes. At a time when local governments are already stretched thin, the DOJ's lawsuit is not just reckless-it's fiscally irresponsible.

"Most importantly, this lawsuit is a direct attack on New York's right to govern itself. Driver's license policies have always been a state matter, and the Green Light Law fully complies with federal Real ID requirements. There is no justification for the federal government to meddle in a policy that serves New York residents, improves public safety, and strengthens our economy.

"The DOJ's actions are a political stunt at the expense of New Yorkers. This lawsuit must be dropped immediately. If Washington insists on pursuing this misguided legal attack, we will fight it every step of the way."

For questions or further information, please contact [countyclerk@co.ulster.ny.us](mailto:countyclerk@co.ulster.ny.us) or (845) 340-3040.



Daniel Pierce Library

**Mardi Gras**  
**Donuts**

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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**Thank You for your continued support!**

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# SAVE A LIFE! DONATE! SHARE OUR STORY!



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

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

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

### More about our warrior Nick....

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

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

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

*For any other questions*  
845.798.2077 [nickneedsokidney@gmail.com](mailto:nickneedsokidney@gmail.com)

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# The Daniel Pierce Library

## Spring Children's Programs 2025

*The library is a wonderful place to ignite your child's love of reading!*

Calling all caregivers and their little ones, ages 12 months to 4 years, who live in the Tri-Valley Central School District! We've got some awesome programs lined up just for you. The spring session will kick off the week of April 21st and run for eight fun-filled weeks. It's completely free, thanks to the kindness of our amazing community! Registration is a must.

### **Mother Goose Time (12-23 months)**

Beginning Wednesday, April 23rd

### **Toddler Time (24-35 months)**

Beginning Thursday, April 24th

### **Story Hour (3 and 4 year-olds)**

Beginning Friday, April 25th

### **Universal Pre-Kindergarten Story Hour**

Our "Story Hour on the Road" program visits the three UPK classes at Tri-Valley Central School. Children will be registered at school.

*Register  
Today!*



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## From President's Corner

Lori Orestano-James

Slip Sliding Away has been the mantra for the week. Hoping you are all safe and staying warm with this very busy week ahead doing the great work of the Monticello Rotary Club We Need Your Help!

Thanks to those who have already signed up!

We are still in need of assistance to handle the Welcome Table to the Heart-a-thon, Blood Drive, & Healthy Heart Wellness Fair. In addition, we will need assistance at the Smoothie Bike Table. The workload is easy, but coverage is needed at all to make the overall events a success. Please use this link to sign up today:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1pj0yATuz5R\\_2HwKm2yWF8eF7VtCPz-53/edit?usp=sharing&oid=113789192360592953299&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1pj0yATuz5R_2HwKm2yWF8eF7VtCPz-53/edit?usp=sharing&oid=113789192360592953299&rtpof=true&sd=true)

If you need assistance signing up, please reach out and I am happy to help. And please sign up today!

Heart-a-thon/Joint Blood Drive/Health Fair (More Tables Added)

The Monticello Rotary will be hosting the Monticello Rotary Healthy Heart Health & Wellness Fair from 10am - 4pm during the 47th Annual WSUL 98.3 Heart-a-thon on February, 21st at Resorts World - Catskills. This event is open to the public for free and includes mini-class sessions in Tai Chi with Pedro Tweed, Mindfulness in Motion with STEAM (a multigenerational movement class), No Equipment/No Problem with Coach Maggie Fitzpatrick, Hypnotherapy for Good Health with Licensed Hypnotherapist Albee Bockman, Hands Only CPR with Lee Karasik, Blood Pressure Screenings by SUNY Sullivan Nursing Students, the ever popular Sullivan 180 Smoothie Bike, NAMI - Healthy Mind and Stress, Sullivan County Public Health, New York Blood Center - Needs for a Healthy Heart, Sullivan Allies Leading Together (SALT), Gift of Life, and more. In total we have 23 Vendors and 10 Class Sessions. This is sure to be a well received addition to the day with lots of opportunities to participate and learn about what you can do to stay Hearth Healthy.

### Make Your Heart Pledge Today!

Of course our participation in the 47th Annual WSUL 98.3 Heart-a-thon is going strong. We ask that you make your donation through Team Rotary at <https://www.givegab.com/p2p/47th-annual-98-3-wsul-heart-a-thon/montirotyary2025> Give Us Your Blood!

During the Health Fair and Heart-a-thon, the Monticello, Liberty, and Livingston Manor Rotary Clubs will hold their Joint Club Blood Drive. Sheriff Schiff has been a staunch supporter of all of the Rotary Blood Drives donating at all that we have done over the last few years. As Honorary Chair, he has been assisting in getting new donor sign-ups and spread the word to help us reach our goal (we have 38 preregistered as of this morning - the most we have ever had as a pre-register list) which is so important as we are officially in a Blood Emergency in the Hudson Valley and New York State. When asked to help, Sheriff Schiff immediately said, "Yes.!" He said, "a Blood Drive is a way for everyone to save a life. You don't need to be a First Responder to save a life." He is happy to lend his name and voice in helping us meet this important need in our community. Anyone wishing to donate blood should register for a time at [https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/321501](https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/321501) Walk-in are also welcomed. Be Like Mike! Save A Life! Donate Now!

### Coldest Night of the Year - Karen Collura was in the House!

The Coldest Night of the Year is a National Program supported by Rotary International held annually on what is, by the calendar, The Coldest Night of the Year. This year, we were pleased to create a team called Monti Rotary & Friends. Jodi Goodman and Lori Orestano-James will be co-chairing this event which is being run locally by The Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless. Members of Rotary or friends may join the team by clicking here: <http://tpps://secure.e2rm.com/registant/ReturningRegistrantOptin.aspx?eventid=389906&langpref=en-CA&TeamID=1026771&Referrer=https%3a%2f%2fsecure.e2rm.com%2fregistant%2fTeamFundraisingPage.aspx%3fteamID%3d1026771%26langPref%3den-CA> To donate directly, click here: <https://secure.e2rm.com/registant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=1026771&langPref=en-CA>

You may join the team virtually for the walk as well...1.2 miles. Just walk with us from where ever you might be on that night (Florida, North Carolina, your treadmill in the middle of your living room), you can still participate. Just join the team, help us to raise funds, and we will create a live on our Rotary Facebook Page for you to join us.

Remember - for us, we will wrap ourselves in warmth in many ways. For many, the cold brutal nights exist regularly. Help us to help those keeping so many warm on those nights through their warming centers. By doing so, you are saving lives, and in some cases, of people you may know. Make a difference and join our Monti Rotary & Friends team today.

We were excited to have the local Chair Karen Collura at our meeting last week. The statistics she shared are staggering. Karen shared information about the event and thanked our club for all we do for not only this event and The Federation for the Homeless, but for our entire community. (See full story below)

### Program for February 11, 2025 - Karen Collura, Chair of Coldest Night of the Year

See Story Below

Agenda for February 11, 2025

1. Meeting Called to Order - President Lori Orestano-James
2. Pledge Of Allegiance - Past President Les Kristt
3. Introduction of Guests of Members - Full Membership
4. Guest Speaker -

Captain Andrew Alan - The Salvation Army

5. Committee Reports:

Taste of Sullivan - Helen Diehl

Heart-a-thon/Blood Drive/Health Fair - Lori Orestano-James,

Crystal Tweed/Les Kristt

SCFH Coldest Night of the Year Event - Jodi Goodman & Lori James

Rotary Radio - Rick Stein (Lori's Turn)

Interact/Ryla - Cris Spinner

6. Regional Updates/District Updates - District Meet Up (March 6, 2025 - Resorts World-Catskills)

7. Old Business

8. New Business

9. Happy Dollars

10. 50/50 Raffle

11. Adjourn

Link for Zoom Meeting Sign-on:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88506100931?pwd=MUNmWnhZanR6M2lCSy9McjNQSTBudz09> (Contd. Pg. 46)



## Montigram

(From Pg. 45) Looking forward to seeing you all for our meeting at Albella on Tuesday night at 6:30. For those needing the Zoom Link

:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88506100931?pwd=MUNmWnhZanR6M2lCSy9McjNQSTBudz09>

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

Dates to Remember can be found below.

Some upcoming important dates to mark on your calendar:

Heart-a-thon (see above)

Blood Drive (see above)

Healthy Heart Blood Drive (see above)

Coldest Night of the Year (see above)

Monticello Rotary Board of Directors Meeting - February 18, 2025 5:30pm (prior to the regular meeting)

District Meet-up 6am - 8pm Resorts World Catskills (Free if you bring a perspective Member)

Noted as see above so you sign-up and donate for all the events!

With Rotary Pride,

Lori Orestano-James

President Monticello Rotary 2024-2025

## Stories

### Monti Rotary Healthy Heart Health & Wellness Fair

Newly added on to this year's 47th Annual 98.3 WSUL Heart-a-thon is the Monticello Rotary Healthy Heart Health Fair in conjunction with Rotary Corporate Member Jeff Bank which has an amazing line up of interactive tabling agencies, movement mini-classes, and lecture learning opportunities all open to the public, free of charge from 10am -4pm. Tabling - New York Blood Center, Sullivan County Public Health, Sullivan 180 - Smoothie Bike, Hypnotherapy for Good Health, SALT (Sullivan Allies Leading Together) & Member Agencies, Gift of Life/Hands, Only CPR - Lee Karasik, Sullivan County BOCES New Visions/Nursing Program, SUNY Sullivan Nursing - Blood Pressure Screenings, NAMI, Sullivan County Drug Task Force, Sullivan County Office for the Aging, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Garnet Health: Know Your Numbers Cholesterol Screening, Fearless, EPIC (Every Person Influences Children), Cornerstone Family Healthcare, Sullivan County Workforce Development, Seven X Motors Healthy Heart Tips Table, RCLS (Library Services). MVP Healthcare, and Fidelis Care.

**Scheduled classes for the Health Fair:** Things In Motion-Mini Sessions, 10:00-10:30 Tai Chi with Pedro Tweed, 11:00-11:45 Mindfulness in Motion (Key to a Healthy Heart) STEAM, 11:45-12:15 No Equipment, No Problem with Coach Maggi Fitzpatrick, 12:45-1:15 Tai Chi with Pedro Tweed, 1:30-2:00 No Equipment, No Problem with Coach Maggi Fitzpatrick, 2:00-4:00 Labryinth: Walking and Seeing Your Way to a Healthy Heart - NAMI, Learn Your Way to a Healthy Heart- 45 min sessions, 10:30-11:15 Mental Wellness for a Healthy Heart - Lori Schneider, NAMI, 11:30-12:15 Healthy Eating for a Healthy Heart - Cornell Cooperative Extension, 12:30-1:15 Happy Heart through Hypnotherapy - Albee Bockman, Lic. Hypnotherapist, 1:15-2:00 Energy Healing for Self - NAMI, 2:15-3:00 Vision Boarding - NAMI, 3:00-3:45 Happy Heart through Hypnotherapy - Albee Bockman, Lic. Hypnotherapist

Co-chaired by Rotarians (and Sullivan County Democrat's

own) Crystal Tweed and Lori Orestano-James, this is sure to be a great event add-on. For more information, please contact [RotaryMonti@gmail.com](mailto:RotaryMonti@gmail.com) .

Thank you to Layla Mack, Emily Pine, and Dawn Ciorciari for flyer designs. Please note that tables and sessions are subject to change as additional vendors respond) Most Updated Flyer as of 2/17/25 - EP (Last Updated - February 10, 2025 - LM) (Last Updated - February 14, 2025 - DC)

### Be Like Mike! Save a Life! Donate Now!

EMERGENCY!!!! It is official that we are in a Blood Shortage Crisis and you can make a difference," says Sullivan Rotary's (Monticello, Liberty, Livingston Manor) Honorary Blood Drive Chair Sheriff Mike Schiff. Sheriff Schiff has donated at every blood drive held by the Rotary Clubs over the last 5 years - and that is a lot of blood. When it was announced last week that Sullivan County is in a Blood Crisis Emergency, the Sheriff was asked if he would help to reach the goal of this Blood Drive. Without hesitation, he accepted the request to serve. Sixty percent of the Sullivan County population is eligible to donate blood to any blood drives held. In total, only 2% of those eligible donate. Sheriff Schiff is proud to lend his support as this year's Honorary Chair sharing, "You don't have to be a First Responder to save a life! Donate Blood Now!" The Sullivan Rotary Clubs Annual Heart-a-thon Blood Drive during the Heart-a-thon is scheduled to take place from Noon until 6pm on Friday, February 21st at Resorts World - Catskills. Please sign up to donate blood remembering that each pint collected saves 3 lives. Sign-up today at [https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/321501](https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/321501) .

### COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

On February 22nd from 4:00-7:00 Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless is hosting the Coldest Night of the Year. The event begins at Dos Gatos, located in the Alder-Resorts World Catskills. From there we will embark on a 2k (1.2 mile) walk with the intention of feeling solidarity with those who experience this harshness of weather so very often through lack of shelter. This particular event is hosted in more than 40 cities across America on this night. We will be supporting the work done right here in Sullivan County for people who experience hurt, hunger and homelessness. Jodi Goodman and Lori Orestano-James have create a team for the Monticello Rotary. To join the Monti Rotary & Friends Team please click here:

<https://secure.e2rm.com/regisrant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=1026771&langPref=en-CA> To donate directly to the team, click here:

<https://secure.e2rm.com/regisrant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=1026771&langPref=en-CA>

Any questions or if you need assistance with the links, contact Lori Orestano-James at [LoriJames.Rotary@gmail.com](mailto:LoriJames.Rotary@gmail.com)

So, circle the date and get ready for a brisk walk on the Coldest Night of the Year!

### AND THE SURVEY SAYS

At our weekly meeting a spirited discussion was facilitated by President Lori Orestano-James surrounding our own personal "Why". A reflection of why we chose Rotary, what's great about it and what can we do to improve our work moving forward. The suggestion was made that a survey could be distributed to the membership that would result in a group reflection and a solid path forward to take action. To that end, we would like to form a committee to work on creating the survey. If you are interested in helping please contact Cris Spinner or Lori Orestano-James. We'd like to get to work as soon as possible. Your input will benefit us all!

# Purple Heart recipient from NY brings HOPE

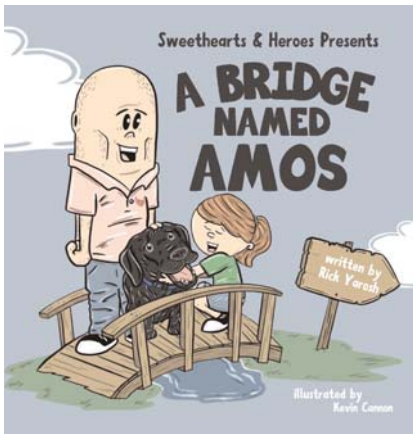
## Children's Book to NY Students: Feb24-27

Students in New York are gearing up for inspiring messages from a Purple Heart recipient who has written an illustrated children's book about his late service dog.

Sgt. Rick Yarosh, of Vestal, NY, a nationally renown motivational speaker with Sweethearts & Heroes, will read his new book, *A Bridge Named Amos*, to students in the following school districts:

- Monday, Feb. 24: Windham-Ashland-Jewett Central School District (9 a.m.)
- Wednesday, Feb. 26: Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School District (9 a.m.)
- Thursday, Feb. 27: Richfield Springs Central School District (9 a.m.)

Yarosh released *A Bridge Named Amos* last fall, during Veterans Day week. OESJ Elementary (NY) Art Teacher Kevin Cannon illustrated *A Bridge Named Amos*, an inspiring and honest book that teaches young children about the power of HOPE (Hold On, Possibilities Exist).



Told from Amos' perspective, the heartwarming book follows Amos' true story, from waiting for a hero to becoming one for thousands of people, especially Yarosh. Amos was a lovable black Lab that was born on Christmas Day.

Sadly, he died in October 2024, just as *A Bridge Named Amos* went to press.

Amos and Yarosh - a Windsor, NY, native who sustained life-changing injuries while serving in Iraq - traveled nearly 100,000 miles and logged more than 1,000 hours on the road together with Sweethearts & Heroes, a student empowerment and empathy activation organization.

During powerful presentations at hundreds of schools, they inspired students and adults to overcome challenges, celebrate differences and embrace empathy. Amos built a bridge to Yarosh for thousands of students - and vice versa.

"I'm thrilled to share Amos' legacy with our friends in New York," Yarosh said. "Everyone that met Amos loved him. I will always remember when we were at schools, and we met a child that was afraid of dogs. I would tell them that Amos was the per-

fect dog to help with that fear. He was the gentlest dog I've ever known. He was like my child. I was never lonely when Amos was there."

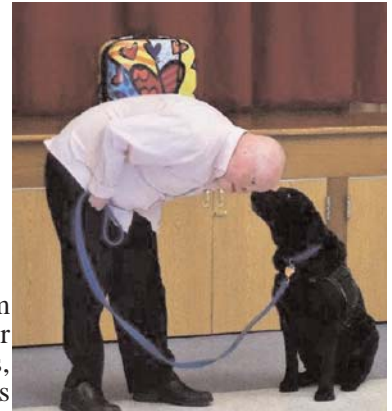
Yarosh is a husband, father of two and retired U.S. Army sergeant. He's also the expert on HOPE for Sweethearts &



Heroes, directed by Tom Murphy, of St. Albans, VT. For more than 16 years, Sweethearts & Heroes has made presentations to more than 2.5 million students from New England to Hawaii. For much of Amos' amazing life, he was a vital part of the program.



He looked a little sad, but I knew I could make him feel better. 19



Yarosh was deployed to Iraq in December 2005. On Sept. 1, 2006, he was severely burned by an improvised explosive device (IED) in Abu Ghraib. For half a year, he recovered at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, fighting through 2nd and 3rd degree burns on more than 60 percent of his body. His right leg was amputated below the knee. He also lost both ears, his nose, multiple fingers, and most of the function in his hands. He says the only

reason he would change that fateful moment is if he could bring back his brothers in arms that he lost in combat: Sgt. Luis Montes and SFC Anthony Venetz.

Yarosh has spoken to and inspired millions of people from all walks of life, including sports teams, schools, churches, military groups, and non-profits. For his heroic service, he received the Purple Heart. For more on Yarosh, please watch these short, impactful videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0lqjBwsRO2w>  
<https://vimeo.com/165322201> (Contd. Pg. 48)



I walked up and sat in front of him. 20

## Purple Heart recipient from NY brings HOPE

(From Pg. 47) Additionally, the Tunnel To Towers Foundation has built and dedicated a smart home for Yarosh and his family. He adopted Amos on Aug. 12, 2012, from Puppies Behind Bars, which trains incarcerated individuals to raise service dogs for veterans and first responders.

*A Bridge Named Amos* is geared toward readers in grades K-5 and features Cannon's vibrant work. The book is available on Amazon and Sweethearts & Heroes' Web site, and it comes with a free workbook.

Sweethearts & Heroes' other books include *Boredom School: For Those Bored in School*, a collection of captivating, humorous and thought-provoking poems by Pat Fish, BRAVE and Circle Specialist for the team; and *13 Pillows For Affective Teachers*, a novel that covers the themes of HOPE, Empathy and Action in the Sweethearts & Heroes curriculum. *13 Pillows* is based on real students and teachers that Sweethearts & Heroes has encountered. Murphy cowrote *13 Pillows* with Brian McKeon, of New York.

Sweethearts & Heroes offers a profound, engaging signature presentation that calls for HOPE (Hold On, Possibilities Exist), Empathy and Action; Circle, which is built on the ancient ritual of communicating in a circle to build compassion and empathy; and the BRAVE Youth Leadership Program, which trains older students in bully drills that they, in turn, teach to students in lower grades, thus creating a sustainable, student-directed initiative that can change a school's culture.

During this school year, Sweethearts & Heroes started offering Train the Trainer, which teaches current educators how to weave their own Circle trainings for future hires; and STEP (the Student Teacher Empathy Program), which teaches high school students how to present Sweethearts & Heroes' signature assemblies for students in grades K-2 and 3-5.

In September 2024, during National Suicide Prevention Month, about 140 students from seven Upstate New York schools attended Sweethearts & Heroes' first three-day - and phone-free - Youth Leadership Summit with Spartan Race at Killington Resort in Vermont.

Sweethearts & Heroes has also created The HOPE Classroom, a digital subscription service designed for various grade levels and different school sizes. This value-packed offering can allow Sweethearts & Heroes to be in every school in the U.S.

For more on Sweethearts & Heroes, find them here on social media

<https://linktr.ee/sweetheartsandheroes>

## Catskill Art Space (CAS) Presents an Exhibition of Work by Lauren Daccache, Elizabeth Orr and Eleanor White

Livingston Manor, NY-Catskill Art Space (CAS) will present an exhibition of work by Lauren Daccache, Elizabeth Orr and Eleanor White. The exhibition opens on Saturday, March 8, with an artist talk from 3 to 4 p.m. and a reception from 4 to 5 p.m.; it remains on view through April 26. The closing day of the exhibition will be marked by an Art and Ecology Symposium moderated by artist and writer Hovey Brock on April 26 at 4p.m.. The exhibi-

tions explore the relationship of humans and the environments they inhabit, with close attention to the degradation of consumerism, resource extraction and geopolitical conflict. With urgency and empathy, the exhibitions inspire greater ecological awareness and action.

Lauren Daccache's installation features work from her ongoing project "coming back is not just returning to a place," which explores familial patterns and domestic spaces within the backdrop of social and economic instability in Lebanon. Through a layered approach-combining her own photographs, family archives, historical ephemera, and found imagery-she constructs photographic composites, visual indexes, and site-specific installations. By shifting the context in which images are seen, the work questions how memory and perception shape our understanding of places and events.

Elizabeth Orr's work references architecture, blinds, fences, and ready-mades, constructed from modular sheet metal, glass, construction and found materials. Orr's exhibition places architectural interventions throughout the gallery, affixing a window to a wall, begging viewers to ponder what's behind the liminal surfaces. Joined by a new body of work utilizing Swiffer cleaning mops and neon lights, the exhibition explores themes of speculative technologies, climate change, queerness, and the body in relationship to digital space. Closely attune to the environmental implications of creating new work, the panes slide together and can be flat-packed, offsetting their carbon footprint, amount of material used, and shipping resources.

Eleanor White's work incorporates organic, textured, granulated, fibrous, powdery, glassy, chunky, and sharp materials. She works with crushed stones, dirt, charcoal, sulfur, bonded copper, iron pyrite, wood ash, dog hair, shed snake skins, feathers, sand, and porcupine quills. For her presentation, she will show a series of works on paper exploring the element lithium, its historical industrial uses, and its contemporary significance in lithium batteries. These works address its role in everyday products and the broader implications of resource extraction and exploitative land use. The materials in her works on paper reference the historical use of minerals in paint making, the role of stones as new-age panaceas, and the associative power of matter.

### About the Artists

Lauren Daccache (b. Dallas, TX) is a Lebanese-American visual artist raised in the United States and Beirut, Lebanon. She primarily focuses on long-term, image-based projects that explore the impact of time and age on people and places and the tension it creates between personal and collective memory. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally and featured in publications such as Vice Magazine, National Geographic, and Der Greif.

Elizabeth Orr lives and works in New York and Livingston Manor. Recent and forthcoming solo exhibitions include VIN VIN, Vienna (2023, 2021); 1708 Gallery, Richmond, VA (2022); Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC), Troy, New York (2016); and Bodega (Derosia), New York (2017, 2015). Group presentations, screenings, and lectures include Kunsthal NORD, Aalborg, Denmark (forthcoming, 2023); Sharp Projects, Copenhagen (2022, 2021); Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA (2019); CAC Brétigny, Brétigny-sur-Orge, France (2018); The Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (2017); Artists Space, New York (2015); (Contd. Pg. 48)



## Catskill Art Space (CAS) Presents an Exhibition of Work by Lauren Daccache, Elizabeth Orr and Eleanor White

(From Pg. 48) (2015); Anthology Film Archives, New York (2018, 2016); and The Swiss Institute, New York (2016). In 2018, she received a Public Affairs Grant Program from the US Embassy, and in 2016, she won the MAAF NYC award for her video MT RUSH (2016). She has taken part in various residency programs, including EMPAC at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Troy, NY), Shandaken (New York), Bemis Center (Omaha, Nebraska), Real-Time & Space (Oakland, CA), and Recess (NY, NY). Orr manages the estate of her late father, artist Eric Orr (1939-1998), and is on the board of KAJE, Brooklyn, NY. She lives and works in Brooklyn, NY, and graduated with Honors from the Bard MFA program in 2015.

Eleanor White is based in the Hudson Valley, NY. Her work has been included in exhibitions such as Prima Materia: The Periodic Table in Contemporary Art, Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, CT; Mountain High, Valley Low: LabSpace, NY; Artists Draw Their Studios, Hewitt Gallery of Art, Marymount Manhattan College, NY; Another World, charity postcard sale, Frieze London; Cross-Pollination, Boscobel House Gallery NY; Tick, Tock, Time in Contemporary Art, Lehman College; Case Studies, Gallery Aferro, NJ; Materiality, Westchester Community College, NY; and numerous exhibitions at Kenise Barnes Fine Art. Her work is included in The Montefiore Fine Art Program, The Deutsche Bank Art Collection, and many private collections. Eleanor received her MFA from the Maryland Institute, College of Art, Baltimore, MD, on a full Jacob K. Javits Foundation scholarship. She earned her BFA from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA. She has participated in several artist residencies, including the Bemis Center in Omaha, Nebraska, and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts in Sweet Briar, Virginia.

### Long-term Installations

Following a major renovation and expansion, Catskill Art Space reopened in October 2022 with a long-term presentation of James Turrell's *Avaar* (1982) in a custom-built gallery on the building's second floor. A room-sized installation, *Avaar* is an important example of the artist's early, wall-based "aperture" works, which function by creating two areas within a room. There is a "viewing space," where one stands to see and experience the work, and a "sensing space," which is an ambiguously defined area of diffused light. *Avaar* is one of the rare examples of Turrell's aperture works to make use of white lighting only; no colors will be present in the installation. This work is in the collection of the Seattle Art Museum, which has granted CAS a special long-term loan to exhibit the work. The presentation at CAS marks the first time the work has been shown since the 1970s, giving audiences from the Catskills and beyond the rare opportunity to experience a major Turrell work that has not been seen in nearly five decades.

On the second floor's central landing, Sol LeWitt's vibrant *Wall Drawing #992* unfolds in three sections, each consisting of 10,000 straight lines drawn in color marker, to create a mesmerizing arrangement of primary colors. On the fourth wall, presenting LeWitt's *Wall Drawing #991*, straight, arced, and organic lines will encompass the wall in black marker and pencil. The conceptual, minimalist artist conceived guidelines for his two-dimensional works to be drawn directly on the wall. Much like Turrell's *Avaar*, the LeWitt works were realized for CAS's space; in this instance, they are generously loaned by the artist's estate. This work was overseen by a draftsman, who determines the length and placement of the lines, and executed by five artists local to the area over nearly two weeks.

The newly realized performance space on CAS's second floor hosts British sculptor Francis Cape's *A Gathering of Utopian*

*Benches*—an installation of meticulous copies of benches built and used by communal societies. Cape's installations have always argued that design and craft express belief. *Utopian Benches*, which has toured extensively throughout the US, was built from poplar grown near Cape's studio in Narrowsburg, NY. To be considered both as contemporary sculpture as well as furniture that visitors can actively use, the benches reference the societies who first used them, inviting visitors to utilize them for exchange, discourse, and community. The installation, which is meant to be used by visitors both for contemplation and may be used for performance seating, overlooks an expansive wall of windows onto the Willowemoc Creek.

Ellen Brooks inaugurates an intimate gallery space, framed by a partially open staircase, with *Hang* (2022), an installation suspending over 30 feet of scrolls of film negatives from the ceiling. The artist hangs transparencies and negatives in all formats and from clips attached to the ceiling, mimicking the practice of film photography. Hanging negatives reference the surrounding natural landscaping, evoking a cascading waterfall with coils of film collecting on the ground floor gallery.

### About Catskill Art Space

Catskill Art Space (CAS) explores contemporary art practices of emerging and established artists. Through exhibitions, performances, classes, lectures, and screenings, CAS fosters creative community in the Catskills.

Established as Catskill Art Society in 1971, CAS reopened in October 2022 as Catskill Art Space following a major renovation and expansion of its multi-arts center, located in the picturesque hamlet of Livingston Manor in the Western Catskills. CAS presents a rotating slate of exhibitions, performances and other events featuring national and regional talents, alongside long-term installations of works by James Turrell, Sol LeWitt, Francis Cape, and Ellen Brooks. Learn more at [catskillartspace.org](http://catskillartspace.org).



*Elizabeth Orr, Window II, 2023, 24" x 11" x 2.5", Aluminum, glass, acrylic paint, wood*



*Lauren Daccache, Where Did The Onions Go, 2023, 40" x 58", Digital inkjet print on poster paper*



*Eleanor White, Between a Rock and a Hard Place (Thacker Pass), 2023, 47" x 27" x 2" (each), Soil gathered from Thacker Pass, NV mine site*

## Free Documentary Screening, with Filmmaker Q&A and Community Club Mixer

**WHAT:** Free Join or Die Documentary screening and community event

**WHEN:** Saturday, February 22nd, 2025

Film Screening: 2 PM

Doors open at 1:30 for seating and concessions.

Community Club Mixer: 4 PM

**WHERE:** Film Screening: Krause Recital Hall, DVAA 2nd Floor

37 Main Street, Narrowsburg, NY

Community Club Mixer: Big Eddy Brewing Co.

93 Main St, Narrowsburg, NY

On Saturday, February 22nd, DVAA and Tusten Social invites you to an afternoon of free events celebrating the joys and benefits of being a joiner!

Join us at 2pm in Krause Recital Hall for a special screening of the 2023 documentary *Join or Die*. In this feature documentary, follow the half-century story of America's civic unraveling through the journey of legendary social scientist Robert Putnam, whose groundbreaking book "Bowling Alone" research into America's decades-long decline in community connections could hold the answers to our democracy's present crisis.

Following the screening there will be a virtual Q&A with the filmmakers Pete Davis & Rebecca Davis.

Then at 4pm, the public is invited to head over to the Big Eddy Brewing Company where DVAA and Tusten Social will host a special "community club mixer". Come discover local sports teams, hobby groups, art collectives and community service organizations for folks of all ages to join!

*\*\*\*This event is made possible in part with generous support from the Wayne County Community Foundation.\*\*\**

### ABOUT OUR EVENT PARTNERS

Tusten Social is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering community connections in the town of Tusten and surrounding areas of Sullivan County, New York. Through strategic partnerships with local organizations, Tusten Social addresses unmet social needs with a particular focus on isolated community members.

[www.tustensocial.org](http://www.tustensocial.org)

### ABOUT THE SALON SERIES

Presented each year in the depth of winter, the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance's Salon Series offers audiences the opportunity to gather within the warmth of their community and experience intimate performances and creative events in Krause Recital Hall.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 8th, 2 PM**

"The Guest" with Clown Daddy

Clown Daddy is expecting a very distinguished guest, and preparations must be made! Join her as she sings, dances, and cavorts about in readiness for who's about to arrive. Enjoyable for all ages.

Clown Daddy, also known as Ellie J, is an actress-turned-clown blessed with a flair for physical comedy and a knack for puppet antics. Having trained at Atlantic Theatre Company in New York City and L'École Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq in Paris, she delights in testing the power of embodiment and catharsis in the organism of the performer. Her performances

lean towards vaudevillian slapstick, with a dose of rich emotions and just a smattering of metaphysical humor.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 15th, 2 PM**

"Conversations In Chi" with Jane Ira Bloom and Kazzrie Jaxen Soprano Saxophonist Jane Ira Bloom and Pianist Kazzrie Jaxen, who are also practitioners of Tai Chi and Qigong, perform together for the first time in an exciting, spontaneous exploration of the present moment. Embracing the energy of the March 15th Full Moon/Lunar Eclipse, they'll venture into the infinite beauty of the Chi Field, creating music which celebrates the joy and freedom of improvisation.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 22nd, 2 PM**

"Resounding Women: Music of Chaminade, Clarke, and Shaw" performed by the Sullivan County Chamber Orchestra Continuing DVAA's celebration of Women's History Month, the SCCO will perform two piano trios and a solo cello work by monumental maestras of composition. SCCO will perform a program of music by female composers, including Piano Trio No. 1 in G minor by Cécile Chaminade, In manus tuas by Caroline Shaw, and Piano Trio by Rebecca Clarke. Performers include Akiko Hosoi on violin, Kirsten Jermé on cello, and Gabrielle Chou on piano.

**SATURDAY, April 5th, 2 PM**

"It's About Time" featuring Eric Baylin

DVAA marks the start of National Poetry Month with a multi-sensory poetry happening, presented by Eric Baylin. Expect readings, musical accompaniments, improvisational multi-media collaborations and more! Eric will be joined by Kazzrie Jaxen and Sullivan County's Poet Laureate, Kevin Scot Graham.

### ADMISSION & LOCATION:

The Salon Series events take place at 2 PM in DVAA's Krause Recital Hall, on the 2nd floor of 37 Main Street, Narrowsburg, NY.

All events are free and open to the public.

In case of inclement weather, please check the DVAA website or social media for schedule changes:

<https://delawarevalleyartsalliance.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/DelawareValleyArtsAlliance/>

<https://www.instagram.com/dvartsalliance/>

### SUPPORT:

DVAA's programs are made possible thanks in part to the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency with support from the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature; the Sullivan County Legislature; the Nancy Stevenson Memorial Fund; the Fair Games Fund; the Heartland Embers Fund, our Business Sponsors; DVAA members; and individuals like you.

**WHAT:** Free Join or Die Documentary screening and community event

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Community Club Mixer: 4 PM

**WHERE:** Film Screening: Krause Recital Hall, DVAA 2nd Floor

37 Main Street, Narrowsburg, NY

Community Club Mixer: Big Eddy Brewing Co.

93 Main St, Narrowsburg, NY

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

### We Must Support Ukraine

On December 5, 1994 Ukraine signed an agreement wherein it would dispose of its nuclear weapons, which were the world's third largest nuclear arsenal, for a guarantee by the U.S., UK and Russia to provide Ukraine's security. Ukraine relinquished its nuclear weapons to Russia. Subsequently, Russia attacked Ukraine in 2014 and occupied Crimea.

In 2022 Russia attacked again and now occupies eastern provinces of Ukraine.

The United States should continue providing military equipment and supplies to Ukraine to belatedly comply with the security agreement we signed in 1994.

Maybe we should provide loans to Ukraine instead of grants of funds and equipment, or have Ukraine repay us with their abundant supply of rare earth minerals which we need. We are negotiating with Ukraine on this matter.

Unfortunately, Secretary of Defense Hegseth unwittingly significantly set back peace negotiations when he said Ukraine cannot go back to its pre 2014 borders, which relinquishes the Crimea and land in eastern Ukraine to Russia. He also said it is unrealistic for Ukraine to join NATO, and Europe must take on a greater role in its security. This is a capitulation to Russia before negotiations even start, and it could increase Russian threats to Europe.

Donald Moskowitz  
Londonderry NH

paint stewardship laws

"We are thrilled to be expanding our paint stewardship program further into Sullivan County so that households, businesses, and institutions can easily dispose of paint responsibly and sustainably," said Andrew Radin, PaintCare's New York Program Manager. "We're grateful for the important role that our partners play in making sure this initiative is successful."

#### How It Works

PaintCare makes it convenient to recycle leftover paint by establishing drop-off sites at local government facilities and paint and hardware retailers near residential neighborhoods. These locations are easy to find by visiting PaintCare's online site locator at [www.paintcare.org](http://www.paintcare.org) or by calling PaintCare's hotline number at (855) PAINT09.

Customers are encouraged to bring their paint in during normal operating hours (7:45 a.m.-2:45 p.m.) on the following days at the following locations:

- o Monticello Transfer Station: 91 Landfill Drive, Monticello; Monday-Saturday
- o Ferndale Transfer Station: 78 Lt. J.G. Brender Highway, Ferndale; Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday
- o Highland Transfer Station: 475 State Route 55, Eldred; Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
- o Mamakating Transfer Station: 164 Dump Road, Wurtsboro; Wednesday, Sunday
- o Rockland Transfer Station: 131 Overlook Drive, Livingston Manor; Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
- o Interim Western Sullivan Transfer Station: 433 Mitchell Pond East Road, Cohecton; Wednesday, Saturday

Any drop-off related questions can be directed to Kassie Thelman at (845) 807-0291 or [recycling@sullivanny.us](mailto:recycling@sullivanny.us).

The transfer stations accept both latex- and oil-based architectural paint products, including paints, stains, sealers, and varnishes. Paint must be dropped off in its original container with its original manufacturer's label. A full list of products accepted by the program is available on PaintCare's website at [www.paintcare.org/products](http://www.paintcare.org/products).

There is no cost to residents and businesses when dropping off their unwanted paint for recycling. A small fee on the sale of new paint - called the PaintCare fee - funds all aspects of the program, including paint collection, transportation, processing, and public education. The PaintCare fee in New York varies by container size: no fee for half-pint or smaller; \$0.45 for larger than half-pint up to smaller than one gallon; \$0.95 for one gallon up to two gallons; \$1.95 for larger than two gallons up to five gallons.

Businesses, organizations, and households with 100 gallons of paint or more to recycle may request a free pickup at their location. Some restrictions apply. More information and a request form can be found on PaintCare's website at [www.paintcare.org/pickup](http://www.paintcare.org/pickup).

The program has already collected more than 1 million gallons of paint since it began. In New York, over 30 million gallons of paint are sold annually, and it is estimated that about 10 percent of household paint goes unused. PaintCare helps ensure the "highest, best use" for paint collected in the program, including giving away good quality material as-is, recycling it, or putting it to another beneficial use. Most of the paint PaintCare receives is latex-based and can be remixed into recycled content paint by processors.

Visit [www.paintcare.org/NY](http://www.paintcare.org/NY) for more information about the PaintCare program.

## All 6 Sullivan County Transfer Stations Now Offer Paint Recycling Service *Customers Are Welcome to Drop Paint Off for Free*

Monticello, NY - The Sullivan County Department of Solid Waste & Recycling is pleased to announce the expansion of its partnership with PaintCare, having launched a successful paint recycling program at the Monticello Transfer Station last fall.

Every Sullivan County-operated transfer station will now serve as a drop-off site for PaintCare's Statewide paint recycling program, which allows households and businesses to recycle leftover paint, stain, and varnish conveniently and sustainably.

New York's paint recycling program comes in the wake of a paint stewardship law that was passed by the State Legislature in 2019. The law ensures that everyone who produces, sells, and uses paint works together to minimize, reuse, and recycle unwanted paint.

PaintCare is a nonprofit organization created and led by paint companies through the American Coatings Association (ACA) to manage leftover paint in states that have enacted

# Do You Get a STAR Exemption? You May Need to Renew It with the State Verification May Be Required to Keep Basic STAR

Monticello, NY - The NYS Department of Taxation and Finance this week began mailing letters to property owners who receive the Basic STAR property tax exemption, requiring them to provide verification information within 45 days in order to continue receiving the exemption.

“Due to the short response timeframe and the concern that letters might get lost in the mail, we want people to be aware that this is occurring - and more importantly, to find out if they are impacted,” noted Sullivan County Treasurer Nancy Buck.

“This is NOT affecting those who receive the Enhanced STAR exemption or get a Basic STAR reimbursement check,” explained Sullivan County Real Property Tax Services Director Christopher Knapp. “The State is sending out a letter, called Form RP-425-BR, only to property owners who get an actual reduction (not a physical check) on their property taxes via the Basic STAR exemption.”

The form requires recipients to register with the NYS Tax Department within 45 days of receipt in order to continue receiving the Basic STAR exemption.

## What to Do

If you have received the letter, promptly follow the instructions contained within it. If you have not received the letter but want to be sure your Basic STAR exemption will continue, contact the NYS Tax Department at 518-457-2036 any weekday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (Please do not call your local assessor or the Sullivan County Department of Real Property Tax Services, as they will refer you to the State.)

Be sure to have the following information on hand:

- o SBL (Section-Block-Lot) number of the property in question (listed on your property tax bill)
- o names and Social Security numbers for all owners of the property and their spouses
- o name of the school district where your primary residence is located
- o approximate date you purchased the property
- o names of the sellers (not required, but may help ensure you receive your credit before school taxes are due)
- o most recent school tax bill
- o address of any residential property owned in another state
- o legal name of the trust, if applicable
- o 2023 federal or state income tax returns for all owners and any owner's spouse who resides at the property

For more information, visit

[t https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/.](https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/)



## Introducing the Defund Government Sponsored Propaganda Act

As a former newspaper owner and publisher, I understand the vital role of balanced, non-partisan media. Unfortunately, these taxpayer-funded outlets have chosen advocacy over accuracy, using public dollars to promote a political agenda rather than report the facts. Under the influence of radical left-wing ideologues like Katherine Maher, PBS and NPR no longer uphold the American principles of free thought and open discourse. Taxpayer dollars should not fund political propaganda disguised as journalism. I introduced the Defund Government Sponsored Propaganda Act to ensure that federal funding is no longer used to perpetuate the blatant media bias that has overtaken these platforms.

READ MORE: GOP lawmakers set sights on PBS, NPR amid Trump's DOGE crackdown

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/gop-lawmakers-set-sights-pbs-npr-amid-elon-musks-doge-audits>

## Working to Make President Trump's Birthday a National Holiday

No modern president has been more pivotal for our country than Donald J. Trump. As both our 45th and 47th President, he is the most consequential President in modern American history, leading our country at a time of great international and domestic turmoil. From brokering the historic Abraham Accords to championing the largest tax relief package in American history, his impact on the nation is undeniable. Just as George Washington's Birthday is codified as a federal holiday, we must add Trump's Birthday to this list, recognizing him as the founder of America's Golden Age. Additionally, as our nation prepares to celebrate its 250th anniversary, we should create a new federal holiday honoring the American Flag and all that it represents.

This week, I introduced the Trump's Birthday and Flag Day Holiday Establishment Act to officially designate June 14 as a federal holiday to commemorate President Donald J. Trump's Birthday and Flag Day.

By designating Trump's Birthday and Flag Day as a federal holiday, we can ensure President Trump's contributions to American greatness and the importance of the American Flag are forever enshrined into law.

READ MORE: Rep. Claudia Tenney Unveils Bill to Designate Trump's Birthday, Flag Day as Public Holiday

<https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2025/02/14/exclusive-rep-claudia-tenney-unveils-bill-trump-birthday-flag-day-public-holiday/>

## Reintroducing the Susan Muffley Act to Restore the Pensions of the Delphi Salaried Retirees

In 2009, the Obama administration unjustly stripped over 20,000 Delphi workers of their hard-earned pensions. For nearly 14 years, the Delphi Salaried Retirees have been fighting to reclaim the full benefits they lost through no fault of their own. This week, I reintroduced the Susan Muffley Act to correct this grave injustice by restoring the pensions of all Delphi Salaried (Contd. Pg. 53)

## This Week with Claudia

(From Pg. 52)

Retirees, including the 2,300 impacted in Western and Central New York.

In addition to leading the introduction of the Susan Muffley Act in the 119th Congress, I have taken numerous legislative actions to restore the Delphi Salaried Retirees' pensions, including:

Voting in favor of the Susan Muffley Act when it passed the House of Representatives on July 27, 2022

Sending a letter to 15 senators encouraging them to support expeditious passage of the Susan Muffley Act in the U.S. Senate

Led a letter with six colleagues in the House of Representatives urging House leadership to include the Susan Muffley Act in the FY2023 Omnibus

Introducing a bipartisan amendment to include the Susan Muffley Act in the FY2023 Omnibus

Co-leading the reintroduced bipartisan Susan Muffley Act in the 118th Congress

Submitting an Appropriations Request to include language requiring the Department of Labor and Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation to explore ways to make the Delphi Salaried Retirees whole again

Releasing a documentary highlighting the Delphi Salaried Retirees in Western and Central New York (click here or the link above to view)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6mw2dH8pM8>

Introducing Legislation Pushing European Allies to Snapback UN Sanctions on Iran

Under the Biden administration, Iran grew more emboldened, bolstering its terrorist proxies worldwide with training, funding, and intelligence—all while expanding its nuclear stockpile. In contrast, within his first month in office, President Trump has taken decisive action to counter Iran's malign influence and has pledged to reinstate his Maximum Pressure campaign. However, our E3 allies must invoke snapback sanctions on Iran before the ability to do so expires this October. This week, I introduced legislation that would push the United Kingdom, France, and Germany, otherwise known as the E3, to snapback UN sanctions on Iran. Invoking snapback sanctions will restore all the UN sanctions on Iran that were lifted by the Obama administration's failed Iran nuclear deal. This bicameral and bipartisan resolution sends a strong message to the E3 that it needs to step up and stop enabling Iran's nuclear expansion. The time for snapback is now.

READ MORE: Europe must invoke 'snapback' sanctions on Iran, US lawmakers say, as Trump resumes 'maximum pressure'

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/europe-must-invoke-snapback-sanctions-iran-us-lawmakers-say-trump-resumes-maximum-pressure>

As your representative in Congress, my top priority is championing legislative initiatives that benefit you and your families. Each week, I review numerous bills and letters, engaging in thorough discussions with members of our community to determine which actions to support and address your needs. Below are a few bills I recently cosponsored.

**The PAST Act** - This bill protects Tennessee Walking Horses and related breeds from soring, the intentional infliction of pain on horses' feet and legs using caustic chemicals, chains, weighted shoes, hard objects, cutting, and other gruesome techniques to force them to perform a pain-based artificially high-stepping gait known as the "Big Lick."

**The Protecting Privacy in Purchases Act** - This important bill would prohibit the use of a Merchant Category Code (MCC) to track gun sales. The International Organization for Standardization capitulated to radical left-wing activists and created a MCC specific to firearm and ammunition sales, which

could be used to track individuals that buy these goods. I strongly oppose any backdoor attempts to track individuals who exercise their Second Amendment rights.

**The Death Tax Repeal Act** - This bill would permanently repeal the death tax that unfairly levies a costly tax on the transfer of property, land, and other assets from a deceased family member to the heirs of family farms and small businesses. Permanently repealing this unjust tax will provide relief for the more than 6,800 family-owned farms in New York's 24th Congressional District.

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

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

<https://tenney.house.gov/about/my-votes-explained>

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 692, the China Exchange Rate Transparency Act. This bill requires the Secretary of Treasury to instruct the U.S. Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to advocate for increased transparency and accountability from China regarding China's exchange rate arrangements. H.R. 692 would require the Treasury Secretary to direct the U.S. Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to advocate for greater transparency from China and stronger IMF oversight of its exchange rate policies. Specifically, the bill calls for: increased scrutiny of China's exchange rate arrangements through enhanced IMF surveillance, the inclusion of any significant discrepancies between China's exchange rate policies and those of other major currency issuers in the valuation of Special Drawing Rights, and greater emphasis during IMF governance reviews on China's role as a responsible participant in the international monetary system when assessing its quotas and voting power. This legislation aims to ensure that China's monetary practices are held to higher standards of transparency and accountability within the global financial system. This bill passed the House by a vote of 388-7.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 736, the Protect Small Business from Excessive Paperwork Act. This bill extends the deadlines for small businesses to report information about their beneficial owners to the Department of the Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). These requirements are a result of the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA), which was signed into law on January 1, 2021 as part of the NDAA for FY 2021. The CTA requires business entities to file certain identifying information about their beneficial owners, such as their full legal names, dates of birth, current residential or business street address, and unique identifying numbers (such as their passport or driver's license). The CTA generally defines a "beneficial owner" of a business as an individual who directly or indirectly either: (i) exercises substantial control over the business, or (ii) owns or controls 25 percent or more of the business's ownership interests. I am glad to see that the deadline for American small businesses to comply with the burdensome regulations of this law has been extended. Further, I have advocated for an outright repeal of the CTA and have cosponsored legislation in Congress that would do just that. As a former small business owner, I understand firsthand how burdensome federal regulations hurt hardworking Americans.

(Contd. Pg. 54)

## This Week with Claudia

(From Pg. 53)

I will continue to all I can at the federal level to oppose increased rules and regulations on our small businesses, and was happy to see this bill pass the House unanimously by a vote of 408-0.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 77, the Midnight Rules Relief Act. The bill would allow Congress to overturn multiple rules passed in the last year of a Presidential administration in one Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution. Current law only allows each CRA resolution to overturn one rule. Last year, the Biden administration rushed to finalize numerous partisan and oppressive rules that will harm the American people and exceed the President's authority. This bill will allow Congress to overturn these rules as quickly as possible to end the onerous rules and red tape imposed by the Biden regime. This bill passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 212-208.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 35, the Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act. H.R. 35 would make operating a motor vehicle while intentionally evading U.S. Border Patrol agents, or law enforcement agents assisting U.S. Border Patrol, a deportable crime and subject to prison time. Under this bill, aliens that are convicted of, or admit to, this offense would be ineligible for asylum and would be immediately removed from the United States. Further, this bill adds enhanced penalties if evasion from law enforcement results in serious bodily injury or death. I wholeheartedly support this commonsense legislation and will continue working with the Trump administration to bring an end to our crisis at the border. H.R. 35 passed the House by a vote of 264-155.



It was another eventful week fighting for our Hudson Valley community, including multiple townhalls where I had the chance to hear directly from you on your questions, concerns, and priorities. Please know that these conversations have a huge impact - they inform everything I do as YOUR representative.

Here's some more info on what I've been up to this last week to make our Hudson Valley community more affordable, more safe, and more free.

### A DIRECT LINE TO YOU

This past Tuesday, my team hosted a Telephone Town Hall so that I could hear directly from YOU about your priorities as we kick-off the new year and the new Congress.

I was heartened that so many of you - more than 22,000! - joined me on the call, with another 1000 people joining for my zoom on Wednesday.

I'll never stop fighting for you and our entire Hudson Valley community.

### HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY HUDSON VALLEY

Happy Valentine's Day, NY-18!

Special shout out to the students in Webutuck Central School District for participating in our Valentine's for Veterans program again this year, to show our veterans and veteran caregivers a little extra love for all they do for our community.

### FIGHTING TO LOWER COSTS

Lowering costs for Hudson Valley families is my number one priority. We're all feeling the pressure to make ends meet - I'll work with anyone and go anywhere to bring down the cost of living.

Read more about how I'm fighting every day to lower costs: New Pine Plains Herald: Amid Political Upheaval, Pat Ryan Keeps Focus on Affordability

<https://www.newpineplainsherald.org/articles/government/pat-ryans-fight-for-affordability-amid-economic-and-political-upheaval/>

### CONTINUING TO FIGHT FOR OUR VETERANS

Last week, news of the closure of the acute in-patient care unit at Castle Point VA rocked the Hudson Valley veteran community. I immediately joined local veterans and bipartisan colleagues to raise the alarm, calling for the VA to re-open the unit and restore full, in person medical care to our veterans.

This week, I escalated the urgent need for action, going directly to Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISN) 2 Director Joan McNerney, who oversees all administrative and clinical activities for the VA medical centers in the region, for answers.

Our veterans are heroes, and they have fulfilled their oath. I will not and cannot tolerate the VA not fulfilling theirs.

Read the full press release: Congressman Ryan Continues Fight For Veterans' Healthcare, Escalates Urgent Demand For VA Leadership To Re-Open 20 Inpatient Beds At Castle Point

<https://patryan.house.gov/media/press-releases/congressman-ryan-continues-fight-veterans-healthcare-escalates-urgent-demand>

### SAFEGUARDING YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

Last week, I told you all that I introduced the Taxpayer Data Protection Act, to make sure that your personal, sensitive data is protected from anyone who would try to do you harm.

You can read more about the legislation and my work to get it passed here: Daily Freeman: U.S. Reps. Josh Riley, Pat Ryan push bills to rein in Elon Musk

[https://www.dailyfreeman.com/2025/02/10/u-s-reps-josh-riley-pat-ryan-push-bills-to-reign-in-elon-musk/?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_content=tw-dailyfreeman&utm\\_campaign=socialflow&utm\\_source=twitter.com](https://www.dailyfreeman.com/2025/02/10/u-s-reps-josh-riley-pat-ryan-push-bills-to-reign-in-elon-musk/?utm_medium=social&utm_content=tw-dailyfreeman&utm_campaign=socialflow&utm_source=twitter.com)

### CONTINUING THE FIGHT AGAINST FENTANYL

Last week, my bill to curb drug trafficking and crack down on the flow of fentanyl into our community passed the House of Representatives.

I was one of two Democrats to co-sponsor the HALT Fentanyl bill because we need to take immediate action to get fentanyl off our streets and hold drug traffickers fully accountable. I am proud to be in this fight, and for the sake of my children, yours, and the entire Hudson Valley community, I will not give up.

Read more: Daily Freeman: Ryan's co-sponsored 'Halt Fentanyl Act' passes House

<https://www.dailyfreeman.com/2025/02/07/ryans-co-sponsored-halt-fentanyl-act-passes-house/>

(Contd. Pg. 55)

## Pat Ryan

(From Pg. 54)

### COMMEMORATING 116 YEARS OF THE NAACP

On February 12th 1909, the largest civil rights group in our country's history was founded.

The enduring legacy and impact of the NAACP is monumental, and I want to thank our local chapters for their continued collaboration for the betterment of everyone in the Hudson Valley.

### SUBZERO HERO PLUNGE

I want to recognize our first responders and local law enforcement officers for taking the plunge to raise money for the Alzheimer's Association!

Read more about the event and the Alzheimer's Association here: Mid Hudson News: Donations put several cops in cold water <https://midhudsonnews.com/2025/02/09/donations-put-several-cops-in-cold-water/>

### CONGRATULATING OUR NEW CLASS OF NYSP ACADEMY TROOPERS

Thank you for your commitment to public safety, and for representing the Hudson Valley with such bravery and valor!

Read more: Mid Hudson News: 17 Hudson Valley residents among 176 graduates of the NYS Police Academy <https://midhudsonnews.com/2025/02/07/17-hudson-valley-residents-among-176-graduates-of-the-nys-police-academy/>

### NEW YORK CIVIL AIR PATROL NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DAY

Always great to meet with the New York Wing, including Commander Col Bill Martin!

### CELEBRATING HELEN RINALDO'S 108TH BIRTHDAY

You can read more about Helen's incredible life here: Daily Freeman: Ten Broeck resident Helen Rinaldo celebrates 108th birthday

<https://www.dailyfreeman.com/2025/02/11/ten-broeck-resident-helen-rinaldo-celebrates-108th-birthday/>

### GRANTS CORNER

#### APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR:

BJA FY25 Improving Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Outcomes for Adults in Reentry

This funding opportunity seeks to enhance corrections and community supervision systems and community-based providers' capacity to address the substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and recovery support needs of people during incarceration and upon reentry. The goals of this program are to support the implementation or expansion of evidence-based and trauma-informed SUD treatment programming, as well as to promote the implementation of deflection as part of the treatment and recovery safety net, which helps persons in treatment stay in treatment, and prevents further and unnecessary contact with the criminal justice system.

Grants.gov Deadline March 27, 2025, 11:59 pm Eastern  
Application JustGrants Deadline April 3, 2025, 8:59 pm Eastern  
FY25 STOP School Violence Program

This funding opportunity aims to support school safety by implementing solutions to enhance school climate, establish school-based behavioral threat assessment and intervention teams to identify violence risks, introduce technologies like anonymous report-

ing tools, and apply other evidence-based strategies to prevent violence. The goal is to equip K-12 students, teachers, and staff with tools to recognize, respond to, and prevent acts of violence.

Grants.gov Deadline March 27, 2025, 11:59 pm Eastern  
Application JustGrants Deadline April 3, 2025, 8:59 pm Eastern  
New York State Community Reforestation (CoRe) Grant Program \$15 million is available for municipalities, nonprofits, and State agencies through the Community Reforestation (CoRe) Grant program for tree planting projects that expand, restore and create forested natural areas that serve urban populations. This competitive reimbursement grant program contributes to New York State's goal to plant 25 million trees by 2033, which will mitigate climate change impacts like extreme heat.

CoRe grant applications are due by Wednesday March 12, 2025 at 2PM ET

#### 2025 Renew America's Schools Prize

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is now accepting submissions for the 2025 Renew America's Schools Prize, a \$90 million investment in K-12 public schools and school facilities across the country. This three-phase opportunity will help districts build capacity, perform energy audits, and plan/implement energy improvement projects across a portfolio of school facilities.

Apply for the 2025 Renew America's Schools Prize by April 3, 2025, at 5PM ET

If you want to stay up-to-date on all of that my office is doing, I encourage you to follow along on our social media channels: Facebook and Twitter .

Please remember that my office is always here to help if you have a question or need assistance. You can reach us using the contact information above and below and we will do everything we can to connect you with the resources you need.

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

<https://patryan.house.gov/>



## Welcome to Kirsten's New York Minute!

Welcome to Kirsten's New York Minute!

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

### 1. Fighting for students

Access to quality education is a right and a stepping stone to success for all Americans. President Trump's threat to shutter the Department of Education is a reckless and unconstitutional move that would jeopardize vital programs that help New York's kids, families, and communities thrive.

Kirsten is committed to doing everything she can to protect New York's students, who would see academic support evaporate with the closure of the Department of Education. That's why this week, she stood alongside union leaders, elected officials, students, parents, and educators to warn of the disastrous consequences of President Trump's threats and to demand that the Department of Education remain operational.

(Contd. Pg 56)

## Welcome to Kirsten's New York Minute!

(From Pg. 55)

### 2. Working to lower prescription drug prices

No American should ever be forced to ration medication or skip refills because they can't afford lifesaving medication.

That's why Kirsten introduced the Capping Prescription Costs Act. This legislation would cap the annual out-of-pocket cost of prescription drugs at \$2,000 for individuals and \$4,000 for families with private insurance, making medications more affordable for hard-working Americans.

Read more. <https://www.wbfo.org/2025-02-12/gillibrand-introduces-bill-to-cap-the-cost-of-prescription-drugs>

### 3. Celebrating Lunar New Year

This week, Kirsten celebrated Lunar New Year alongside New York Assemblymember Grace Lee, Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine and constituents in Chinatown. She wishes all New Yorkers good health, peace, and prosperity in the Year of the Snake!

### 4. Promoting longevity

Knowing the key components of healthy aging is critical to ensure that Americans can age with dignity.

On Wednesday, Kirsten held a U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging hearing to discuss components of healthy aging, including longevity research, the positive impacts of nutrition and exercise, and disease prevention. Watch the hearing here. <https://www.aging.senate.gov/hearings/optimizing-longevity-from-research-to-action>

### 5. Fighting for dairy farmers

New York dairy farmers deserve to be paid a fair price for their milk.

That's why this week, Kirsten introduced the bipartisan Fair Milk Pricing for Farmers Act. This bill would require manufacturers to report dairy processing costs every 2 years, which would help dairy farmers make sure that their prices accurately reflect the costs of production.

### 6. READ: Kirsten's op-ed in CoinDesk

<https://www.coindesk.com/opinion/2025/02/10/why-we-need-a-bipartisan-stablecoin-bill>

This week, Kirsten published an opinion piece in CoinDesk explaining the need for a bipartisan bill to regulate stablecoins - cryptocurrencies whose values are pegged to U.S. dollars or dollar equivalents.

The op-ed followed the introduction of the bipartisan Guiding and Establishing National Innovation for U.S. Stablecoins (GENIUS) Act, which she introduced alongside Senators Bill Hagerty, Cynthia Lummis, and Tim Scott.

### 7. Helping New Yorkers with student loans

When a Kings County constituent needed to bring her federal student loans out of default, she contacted Kirsten's

office for help. After Kirsten's team contacted the Department of Education, the constituent's loans were brought out of default, and she enrolled in an income-driven repayment plan to make ongoing monthly payments toward her loan balance.

## Gillibrand Announces Legislation to Lower the Cost of Prescription Drugs *High Drug Prices Can Force New Yorkers Who Rely On Prescription Drugs To Cut Pills In Half Or Skip Doses Entirely; Legislation Would Help Ensure Life-Saving Medication Is Affordable For All*

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, ranking member of the Senate Aging Committee, held a virtual press conference announcing the Capping Prescription Costs Act, legislation that would cap the annual out-of-pocket cost of prescription drugs at \$2,000 for individuals and \$4,000 for families with private insurance.

"As President Trump rolls back initiatives to make health care more affordable for working families, I am proud to be introducing this legislation to address the astronomical cost of prescription drugs," said Senator Gillibrand. "No American should ever have to risk their health by skipping refills or rationing life-saving medication because they can't afford it. This legislation is a commonsense measure that would be life-changing for older adults and the millions of Americans with chronic conditions and disabilities, and I am determined to get it passed."

Senators Raphael Warnock (D-GA), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), John Fetterman (D-PA), Martin Heinrich (D-NM), Andy Kim (D-NJ), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Patty Murray (D-WA), and Peter Welch (D-VT) cosponsor this legislation.

Throughout her time in Congress, Gillibrand has fought to lower the cost of prescription drugs. In 2022, she helped pass the Inflation Reduction Act, which capped Medicare patients' out-of-pocket prescription drug costs at \$2,000 per year; empowered Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices; and regulated price increases by drug companies. She is an original cosponsor of the Medicare for All Act, which would provide every American with prescription drug coverage. In 2023, she joined a bipartisan push to lower out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs by limiting the use of harmful "copay accumulators," which prevent copay assistance from counting toward a patient's deductible or out-of-pocket maximum and make it harder for patients to afford their medications.



# Claryville Fire Dept.

1500 Denning Road Claryville, NY 12725

## All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast



**Sunday, March 16th**

**Serving 8:00 until 12 Noon**

**Adults: \$13**

**Senior Citizens (age 65 +): \$11**

**Children Ages 5-11: \$5**

**Under 5 Yrs. Free**

**Take-outs: \$13**

**Call 845-985-7270**

***We accept cash and checks only. ATM now available on-site!***

**Pancakes, French Toast, 3 eggs any style, Hash brown, Sausage,  
Man-n-moon, Spud-eggo, Oj, Coffee / Tea**

\$50 from the Breakfast Is Donated to the Claryville Reformed Church Food Pantry

# Homeschooling Group

4th Tuesday of each month

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

at the Daniel Pierce Library

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

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

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

Please join in, the possibilities are endless!

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



**Beginning  
September  
24th**



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





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



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



**Get online and get going**  
Free Wi-Fi

**Borrow movies, documentaries, TV series and more**

**Learn something new 24/7**

Learn a new language: HLL with Rosetta Stone

Online classes and research materials ready when you are

Download the Libby App

**Borrow instead of buy**

Check out books, magazines, CDs, DVDs and audiobooks from all 47 RCLS libraries

Download the RCLS Gateway App

**Entertain your kids – or yourself**

Passes to Mohawk Preserve and the Jim and L. Valleys Museum

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

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

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

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

**SHARE THE NUMBER**

**SPREAD THE WORD**

CALL OR TEXT

**988**



CHAT

**988LIFELINE.ORG**

*There is hope.*



**988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE**

VOICESUNITED4CHANGE'S VIRTUAL

# YOUTH SUPPORT GROUP

**JOIN US!**



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


Contact Rebekah at [rumarbashar@asfl.org](mailto:rumarbashar@asfl.org) for more information.

EVERY 1ST & 3RD

**WEDNESDAY**

@ 6:30 PM






VOICESUNITED4CHANGE'S VIRTUAL

# PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

**JOIN US!**






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

Contact Anne-Marie at [afreitas@asfl.org](mailto:afreitas@asfl.org) for more information.

EVERY 2ND & 4TH

**WEDNESDAY**

@ 6:30 PM

### Sullivan County Intervention Line for Parents and Teens

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

**Help is available now!**

We are here anytime you need to talk.

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



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

Calls and texts are answered 24/7

A program of the DRC

### Sullivan County Text For Teens

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



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



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

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

**Text "Start" to:**  
**845-637-9486**

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



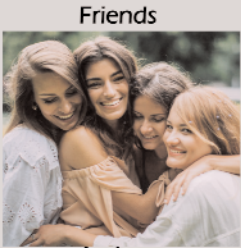
Text for Teens is supported by a Grant of the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation



Rewarding lives. Healthy communities.

### COVID-19 Vaccines Save Lives

Who will you protect?



Friends

Amigos

Family

¿A quien protegerás?

Get the facts.



Familia

Obtenga los hechos.

Talk to your healthcare provider about the COVID vaccine.



Comunidad

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

**#VaccinateSullivan**

For more information, visit [www.sullivanny.us](http://www.sullivanny.us)



GET SIGNED UP TODAY FOR OUR UPCOMING CERTIFICATION CLASS !!

Contact:

Alyssa Wowk  
(845) 645-6544

[awowk@chowc.net](mailto:awowk@chowc.net)

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



## FOSTER HOMES NEEDED!



Vet 2 Vet

Caffeine &

Comaraderie



**Every Monday**



**10:00AM - 11:00AM**

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

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

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



# Action Toward Independence

## Presents

# Women's Empowerment Group



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

from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

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

### Be Inspired ~ Be Empowered ~ Be You

Location:

126 Seward Ave

Middletown, NY 10940

For More Information Call

845.343.4284

*Please RSVP  
Seats are limited*



Eligibility & Pre-Registration is required.



Find us on  
**Facebook**



# Veteran Peer Support



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

**Vet 2 Vet**



**Sullivan County  
NEW YORK**

*NYC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program*

Call or email us to register!

845-794-4228

[vet2vet@atitoday.org](mailto:vet2vet@atitoday.org)

309 E Broadway Suite A

Monticello, NY 12701



## Join the DPL 2025 Reading Challenge!

Read ALL year and you could win a book or two!

Ready to dive into new adventures, explore fresh ideas and discover exciting worlds? The 2025 Book Challenge is here and it's open to readers of all ages! Whether you're a child just learning to read, a teen devouring every novel in sight or an adult looking for your next great read, this challenge is for you!

**Make sure to stop by the library and grab your reading log!**

- Set Your Goal – whether it's 5, 10 or 30 books, there's no limit!
- Read – explore new genres, authors and topics.
- Track Your Progress – add the titles as you go.
- Celebrate Your Success – complete the challenge by December 31, 2025 and be entered to win a book each time you fill out one side of your reading log!

**Challenge yourself and your family.**

**Expand your horizons with new books.**

**For ALL ages!**

**Read adventurously!**





New to the Daniel Pierce Library this year...

Introducing  
**Pages & Percs**

Join us for a brand new experience at the DPL  
Now you can sip, relax and read all in one place.

Get cozy and caffeinated while you enjoy a delicious cup of coffee and browse our book sale selection, located in our beautiful 1902 Room.

**You can:**

Enjoy a fresh cup of coffee from Happy Belly for \$2. Choose the perfect coffee pod for yourself at our front desk.

Pick out a book to buy and take home or dive into it right here.

Sit back, sip your coffee and enjoy a peaceful moment.

Whether you're looking for your next page-turner or just need a break, Pages and Percs is your perfect spot to relax and recharge.

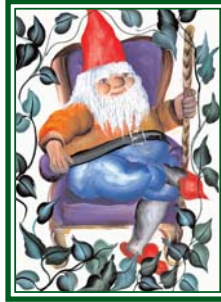
**Enjoy!**

## HELP WANTED

**Part time Bookkeeper**  
Call 845-321-1919

**Blooming Green Lawn  
and Landscape Sevice**  
Part time/Full time work.  
Salary based on experience.  
Call: 845-665-3348  
or 945-985-0516

**Classified Ads**  
**Only \$5.00 a week!**



*“KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE I  
ON AMAZON. IMOB, NETFLIX TCM  
MGM PRESENTS W.S.VAN DYKES  
PRODUCTION OF*

## *“Eskimo”*

**PRODUCED BY HUNT STROMBERG**

This film, viewed by me on Turner Classic Movies/ TCM. **Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer** has done humanity a great service by producing an epic film preserving the traditions of the indigenous culture of the Eskimo's. Translated by John Lee Mahin, from the books, “Der Eskimo,” and “Die Flucht ins Weisse Land, by Peter Freuchen, Published by Horace Liveright, Inc.

*There are no actors in this film “Eskimo,” with the exception of the characters from the Royal Canadian Police. The entire story is told by primitive Eskimos in native tongue, and in native custom, with titles and narration.*

*This expedition to the artic began in april 1932, and in november of 1933 this record was completed.*

The books by Peter Freuchen were notable for their “Frank”



discussion of the moral code of the Eskimos. This record attempts to present that code of a strange to some of us, lifestyle that was the primal lifestyle, and Creed belonging

to the indigenous peace loving Eskimos. They are tall on integrity, and are highly respectful of all life and people from the farthest wilderness of the endless North. Strongly enough this moral code is still alive today and practiced by hundreds of millions of people around the world. Cose to two-million continue practicing this moral code in north America alone, without the data of the hundreds of millions of the millinal population of today. A good example is the film “Fluidity,” which has a similar moral code.

Look for “Eskimo” on TCM, Netflix, Amazon Prime, Imob, or your preferred viewing choice...enjoy...

(Contd. Pg. 67)



Sell your handcrafted items online from your own little virtual shop at the

## **Gnome Home Virtual Mall**

Interested?

Send an email to:

**[gnomehomeinc@yahoo.com](mailto:gnomehomeinc@yahoo.com)**

**... or if you just want  
to have some  
‘gnome made’ fun..**

Visit the gnome's  
virtual on-line local shop  
at:

**<http://www.gnomehomeinc.com>**

Answer to last week's Trivia Question: **Casablanca**

**This weeks' Trivia question:**

Glenn Close stars in the remake of what 1961 *Disney* film?

(From Pg. 66)

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

**INDIANA JONES AND  
THE KINGDOM OF THE  
CRYSTAL SKULL**  
(2008)



The thing about high-grossing movies is that they are often disappointing sequels to greater films. No Indiana Jones fan in good conscience would recommend the 2008 installment, but here we are because it made a boatload of money.



Indy, a now sexagenarian Harrison Ford, takes on Soviet agents in search of a crystal skull with special powers, at the behest of a kid named Mutt (Shia LaBeouf).

The search leads to a reunion with old flame Marion (Karen Allen). And you if you work out the math on that one, you will know who Mutt is!

**KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE III**  
ON AMAZON, NETFLIX. IMOB  
**ADVENTURES OF DON JUAN**  
(1948, 1H 50M | ADVENTURE | TV-PG)



The story begins in the year 1620 when England and Spain are at odds, and heading toward war. Treason abounds in the highest ranks of the nobility. Fired by the presence of a weak king of France, and a strong, helpless, fair minded Queen (**Viveca Lindfors**), there is no one to defend the Queen, or her Crown. Don Juan discovers Duke De Lorca's evil plan and rushes to defend his country and his beloved queen.



Directed by Vincent Sherman. Starring; Errol Flynn, Viveca Lindfors, and Robert Douglas

*Stay safe, and stay well*  
**Knarf Odnamoc**  
**Gnome**