







"The Best Journal Published by a Dam Site!"

VOL. 21 NO. 10 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 MARCH 6, 2025

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Tri-Valley Lions attend Winterfest at the Grahamsville Fairgrounds on February 8, 2025



Left to right, Tri-Valley Lions - Maryann Cosentino, Merri White, and Membership Chair Patricia Menje at this year's Winterfest on February 8, 2025, at the Grahamsville Fairgrounds.

Pat Menje, Merri White and Maryann Cosentino manned the Tri-Valley Lions Table at this event and spoke with several visitors about the Tri-Valley Lions Mission and handed out membership applications to several in hopes to increase our membership base and hopefully attract new and younger folks to become members of our Club which benefits our community in so many ways. It was a frigid day, and all vendors and attendees had to brave the ice-cold temperatures.

The Tri-Valley Lions, which was chartered in 1977, is now in our 48th year of existence, and we are always looking for new members. Just as a reminder, The Tri-Valley Lions bring in donations and funding by selling sodas from our Soda Booth for events at the Grahamsville Fairgrounds, selling Chocolate Easter Bunnies, our Annual Journey for Sight Walk and Tag Day. Our funding allows us to continue to provide monetary and service support to Local Food Pantries, Tri-Valley School Community Service and Achievement Awards, Children's Eye Screenings, support for Diabetes, Lymphoma and Leukemia organizations, childhood cancer, WSUL Heart-A-Thon, Guiding Eyes for The Blind, and so much more. If you are interested in joining the Tri-Valley Lions or getting more information about our club, please contact Membership Chair, Pat Menje at 917-783-6253 or hvac-pat69@gmail.com or President Stephen Miller at 845-798-1981 or sgrecords@hvc.rr.com Stay well, safe, and warm.

YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN

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

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

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

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

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

More than ever, thank you for your continued support.

On the Front Burner:

Happy is the man that feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief. Proverbs28:14

OBITUARY

Sally L. Bonnell, age 81, of



Grahamsville, passed away peacefully on February 2025, surrounded by her loving family. She was born on April 24, 1943, to the James late Lyons and

Augusta Niven.

Sally was a dedicated and hardworking individual, having served as a manager at the credit union for many years. Her commitment to her work was matched only by her devotion to her family and community. She was an active member of the Ladv's Aide at Grahamsville Reformed Church, where she found joy in serving others.

In her free time, Sally enjoyed a variety of hobbies, including sewing, stamping, shopping, and traveling. She cherished her trips with her travel companion Fred, exploring new places and making lasting memories.

Sally is survived by her daughter, Kelly, and her husband Donovan Krzyzak; her grandchildren, Ashlyn Krzyzak, Noah Krzyzak, Wade Bonnell, and Hope Monforte; her brother, John Lyons and his wife Elizabeth, her daughter in law Patti Bonnell, her sister-in-law, Caroline Lyons; her niece, Heather Maces, and her nephew, Jim Dering. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, James Bonnell; her son, Scott Bonnell; her sister, Gina Dering and her brother-in-law Elmer; and her brother, James Lyons.

Sally will be remembered for her kindness, warmth, and her ability to bring people together. She was a cherished mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. Her memory will live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved her.

Memorial visitation will be on Thursday, March 6, 2025, at

Colonial Memorial Funeral Home, 396 State Route 52 Woodbourne, NY 12788 from 5-8:00pm. There will be a funeral service at the Grahamsville Reformed Church on Friday, March 7, 2025, at 11:00am.

Donations in Sally's name can be made to the Grahamsville Reformed Church or to Orange and Sullivan Hospice.

Arrangements were under the care of Colonial Family Funeral Home for further information please call 845-434-7363 or visit www.colonialfamilyfuneralhome.c

To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Mrs. Sally L. Bonnell please visit Sympathy Store.

George Dexheimer of Neversink, New York peacefully



passed on to be with the Lord, in the comfort of his home. February 26, 2025. He was 95 years old.

George was born in Goshen, NY to the late Harold

and Elizabeth Werner Dexheimer formerly of Liberty, NY. He was married for 71 years to his Liberty HS sweetheart Carol Nielsen Dexheimer who p assed in 2024.

He attended Liberty High School where he was active in the music department and valued on the football team. After graduating from High School, George served in the Air Force and in the Air Force Reserves, Korean War Era, earning a rank of Airman First Class. He was stationed in Greenland and often spoke of his responsibilities to keep the generators running.

George began his working career at an early age assisting at his father's service station in Liberty. (Contd. Pg. 5)

DAYS OF YORE.... Today's History

March 9, 1955

Mr. Amos Currey passed away at Middletown on Monday morning. He was born in 1865, the son of John W. and Martha Currey on Thunder Hill in Grahamsville. Surviving are his brother, Riley Currey of Unionville and four grandchildren.

Miss Rosemarie Singer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Singer of Sundown, a junior at the State University Teachers College at Cortland, has been named to the Dean's List for the fall semester.

Frank Hamilton, formerly of Grahamsville, who has been a purchasing agent at Lake Mohonk since 1942, has leased the building formerly occupied by Pine's Gift Shop in New Paltz and will open a furniture and gift shop sometime in April.

March 3, 1965

The Sundown Post Office has been moved as of last Friday. Mrs. Calvin Parrow is now the agent in charge. The new hours are 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday throught Saturday and is located at the rear of the Parrow home.

Miss Annabella Varga has accepted a position as vocal and instrumental instructor in the Newburgh School System where she began her duties on February 1st. Annabella is the grand-daughter of Mrs. Anna Varga of Big Hollow Rd., Grahamsville. She is a Tri Valley Central School graduate and attended Hartwick College. (Contd. Pg. 4)

Household Hint:

Pool Noodles in Your Closet!

Here's a closet storage hack you won't want to miss. Keep your dress pants, shawls or scarves crease-free the cheap and easy way by covering a clothes hanger with a section from a pool noodle. Cut the noodle to the length of the lower hanger rod. Then cut a slit the length of the noodle to make it easy to slip it onto the hanger.

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

Coyotes in the News

In this week's issue, on page 28 you will see an article sent to us from the NYS DEC reminding New Yorkers of strategies to avoid coyote conflicts.

Coyotes are firmly established throughout all New York counties except Long Island and New York City.



The Eastern coyote (Canis latrans) is an intelligent adaptable animal that has spread from upstate New York to the New York City line. And, strange as it may seem, coyote habitat improves near humans. For one thing the natural food supply of rabbits, rodents, squirrels and deer expands to include cats, small dogs, garbage, bird seed and pet food. By DEC figures there are 12,000 coyotes in New York.

Coyotes and feral dogs can interbreed and produce hybrid pups called coydogs which are sterile because their two DNA strains are incom-

patible. Coydogs have the reproductive cycle of dogs, not coyotes and give birth to sickly pups at the wrong time of the year (Jan.) when survival is virtually impossible. These factors keep the gene pool of coyotes separate from dogs.

Coydogs were seen at the leading edge of coyote range expansion from 1950 to 1970 but they were doomed to perish shortly after that.

Experienced woodsmen and DEC game wardens say there are probably no coydogs in New York now. So what we are hearing are Eastern coyotes. How did they get here? Scientists have two theories.

The first is that they were here already before the first Europeans came to North America. Early NY settlers had no word for coyote and wrote that "big wolves" and "small wolves" abounded in the thick woodlands. When pioneers cut down most of the forest, the coyote nearly disappeared along with beaver and wild turkey, and later rebounded as habitat conditions improved.

The second theory is that western coyotes extended their range eastward and adapted to the habitat of eastern America and Canada. Whichever theory is true, coyotes have been in New York since 1950 and are a permanent part of our environment.

The Eastern coyote looks like a skinny medium-sized police dog with thick fur and pointed ears. Its full bushy tail is carried pointed down. The animal is 4-5 feet long, tail included, weighs 35-45 pounds (males more than females).

If you hear a coyote family of five or six howling at night it sounds like the woods must be overflowing with coyotes. A few animals can make a tremendous amount of noise.

Our Eastern coyote forms a family of the adult pair and their pups of this year. Together they hunt and defend a home territory of 10-15 square miles against other coyotes. At the end of summer the youngsters are driven from the parents' territory and travel up to a hundred miles searching for vacant territory to claim for their own.

Eastern coyotes feed on whatever is in season and are superb mousers the year around. In spring their diet includes frogs, plants and insects; in summer berries and woodchucks; in fall small animals, and game birds; and in winter road kill deer and other carrion. In hunger emergencies coyotes attack and kill weakened deer.

Coyote predation on deer herds has proven to be a natural and good control according to DEC surveys over the past twenty years.

With old and sick animals culled out, deer numbers have risen along with growing coyote population in both northern and southern zones of New York.

The best way for farmers to protect livestock, especially at calving and lambing time, is to build fences around shelters in night pastures. A guard dog will usually keep coyotes away.

Pet owners should know that coyotes consider as fair prey cats and small dogs that roam free outdoors. Protect your pet by keeping track of it outside during the day and sheltering it at night. Owners of large and medium size dogs have little to worry about because coyotes (35 lbs.) know they're outmatched and trespassing on your territory.

DAYS OF YORE... Today's History (From Pg. 3) February 28, 1985

Mr. and Mrs. Sherm Kortright of Neversink announce the engagement of their daughter, Pamela, to Clifford Hamlin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hamlin of Liberty. Miss Kortright is a graduate of Tri-Valley High School. She is employed by the N.Y.S. Dept. of Corrections at Woodbourne as a Senior Stenographer. Her fiance graduated from Liberty Central High School and is employed by the Carpenter's Union #255 in Bloomingburg. An August wedding is planned.

Greg Grey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Grey of Grahamsville, recently completed an intership at Paul Revere Insurance Co. as part of the Harwick College Academic program. Gregory's internship was completed during the January term intensive study program at Hartwick.

February 16, 1995

Carl Richards and his Country Show Band will perform at Tri-Valley School on March 4th. Country singer, Josie Lou will make a special appearance.

More than 428,000 FFA members will promote FFA, agricultural education and the food and fiber industry during National FFA Week. This year's theme – FFA - The leadership Advantage. National FFA Week is held each year the week of George Washington's Birthday.

LOOKING BACK

by Beatrice Akerley Published February 15, 1995

I went from primer through eighth grade in a little oneroom schoolhouse in Grooville District #5. Every year a trustee meeting was held in the schoolhouse and my Dad was usually elected trustee.

A large schoolhouse wood chunk stove sat in the center of the room (up front). There were no screens on the large windows which meant insects of all kinds were as welcome as us kids and our teacher.

We were taught the Palmer method style of writing with its ovals, direct eclipse, and up-and-down movements without moving your arm (which I never did master)... and too loud whispering could earn you a sharp tap on the knuckles from your teacher's ruler. ... Most of the children brought their lunches to school in a pail.

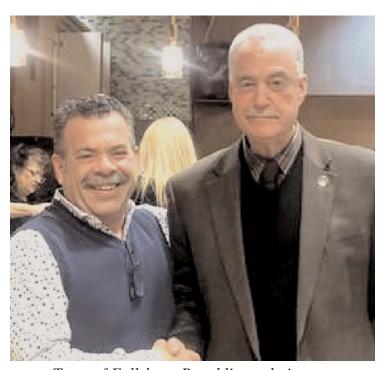
We learned arithmetic without a calculator... and once a year we went out into the hall to be examined by the doctor as our names were called.

All holidays were observed, including Arbor Day in the spring and Valentine's Day in the winter. Valentine's Day usually brought welcome excitement. Our teacher usually brought a treat for every one. I recall a teacher bringing tiny hearts with little love messages stamped on their faces one year. But the real thrill of Valentine's Day was centered around the mailbox at the front of the room, all decorated with hearts and flowers. It would hold the dozens of valentines my schoolmates and I would make and exchange.

Wall paper catalogs made the prettiest valentines as their pages were very bright and colorful.

And that was one day out of the year when a girl having a crush on a certain boy could just slip a valentine in the box and then steal a glance at him as he opened the envelope. Would he scowl or would he give her a smile? Pretty as the box was, it didn't make every one in that school room feel cheerful. In the eyes of us kids the valentine box was sort of a social reminder... one that could easily hurt tender feelings.

Sheriff Mike Schiff Wins Sullivan County GOP Nomination



Town of Fallsburg Republican chairman, Joe Perrello congratulates Mike Schiff on the Republican nomination for Sheriff.

The Sullivan County Republican Party held their annual nominating convention last night (2/26/25) at the Villa Roma Hotel in Callicoon.

Republican challenger Tim Dymond faced off against incumbent Mike Schiff for the party's endorsement for Sheriff. When the vote was held among the 15 town committee members, Sheriff Mike Schiff gained the most weighted votes at about 6800. Tim Dymond received only 100 weighted votes. 5400 weighted votes were cast by the committee to not endorse a candidate.

Sheriff Mike Schiff thanked the Republican Committee members for their support and pledged to continue his work on behalf of the citizens of Sullivan County.

The Sullivan County Conservative Party held their nominating convention of Monday night, February 24. Mike Schiff received the party's endorsement form reelection to Sheriff.

OBITUARY (From Pg. 2)

George Dexheimer –This experience influenced and developed his character traits of always being on time, doing his best work and helping anyone who needed assistance. The Dexheimer name in his community was synonymous with fair, honest and hard work.

While he had many additional part time jobs over the years, he retired after 36 years from the NY City Department of Environmental Protection with the Board of Water

Whether you knew him as George, Little Dex, Dexie, Dex, Dad, Grandpa or Pop, he lived a life rich in service to his family and his community. His strong work ethic and civic mindedness was a lifelong guiding force as was demonstrated by the numerous community organizations he strongly supported. He was also known as the person to call when help was needed whether that was for muscle, transportation, a meal, companionship, or a lawn that needed to be mowed, he would be there. He was a long-time member of Saint Paul's Lutheran Church serving in many capacities through the years and with a strong and powerful voice from the choir. It was during a church service and from that choir loft that he first saw his beloved Carol. He turned to his long-time choir partner, Vernon Beeseth, and said "I'm going to marry that girl". He did so in May 1952.

George was a 78-year member of the JC Young Hose Co. (Liberty Fire Dept), as well as a 65-year member of the Neversink Fire Department and served on the Neversink Ambulance squad. He was a well-respected member of the NYS Association of Fire Chaplins. George belonged to the Free and Accepted Masons, Sullivan Lodge #0521 for 71 years and served as a past District Deputy. He was so very proud and honored to be presented with his 70-year Masonic apron at a moving ceremony in March 2024. He was a member of the Liberty Elks Lodge #1545 as well as the American Legion Albany Post #1.

George is survived by his six children: Donna Myers (William), Christine Wegrzyn (Lori), Susan Manning (Paul), Alice Karsko (Mike), Tim Dexheimer (Tina) and Tom Dexheimer (Michelle). Pop took great pride in his 15 grand-children and 15 great-grandchildren and was loved by many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was predeceased by his sister Margaret Sherwood of Loudonville, NY

The Dexheimer family is so very grateful to all those who have helped us care for George over the past few years and to everyone who bestowed their love through physical care, visits, meals, cards, encouragement, and prayers. We would also like to extend a sincere and heartfelt thank you to all the amazing people at Hospice of Orange and Sullivan Counties. We were able to keep both of our parents at home and as comfortable as possible due to the extraordinary and compassionate care of the Sullivan West Hospice Team. Thank you so much Brandy, Robin, Cindy, Father Ben and Jinny.

Fire Department, Elk and Masonic Services will be held at the Harris Funeral Home (115 West Street Liberty, NY) on March 17, 2025, at 7:00 PM. The Funeral Service will be held at Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (24 Chestnut Street, Liberty, NY) on March 18 at 11:00 AM

with internment of both Carol and George to follow at the Liberty Cemetery (Cold Spring Road).

Friends and family are encouraged to join us for visitation and a celebration of George's life, following the internment, at the Neversink Fire Department Community Hall.

Memorial contributions can be made to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Hospice of Orange and Sullivan Counties, or the Neversink EMS Charles Nielsen Memorial Scholarship Fund c/o Neversink Fire Dept. EMS, PO Box 468, Neversink, NY 12765.

Dignified cremation will be provided by the Harris Crematorium, LLC. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Harris Funeral

Supporting Youth Mental Health in Sullivan County!

[LIBERTY, NY] Sullivan 180 is pleased to announce a partnership with three school districts to implement new mental health initiatives in Sullivan County School Districts. Sullivan 180 will work with Fallsburg and Eldred to implement a three-year Hope Squad Pilot in their middle and high schools. Additionally, Fallsburg, Eldred and Sullivan West schools will be participating in the SHAPE assessment to address their school mental health system.

Sullivan 180, with support from the New York State Office of Mental Health, is hosting a three-year pilot of the Hope Squad program with Fallsburg and Eldred districts at a middle and high school level. Hope Squad is an evidence-based peer-to-peer suicide prevention program built around the power of connection. The program is based on key prevention strategies that reduce the risk of suicide in youth. Students are nominated by their peers to become Hope Squad members; and to learn about mental health from a trained advisor while performing intentional outreach to struggling peers. Staff Hope Squad advisors and student Hope Squad members will work to create active Hope Squads in their schools.

"Peer support makes it more likely for young people to reach out for help when needed," said Mylene Ortiz, Sullivan 180 Youth Mental Health Program Manager.

SHAPE: School Health Assessment and Performance Evaluation System is a free web-based platform that allows school districts to assess their mental health programs and resources on both a district and building level. SHAPE provides a private workspace that schools can utilize to evaluate and improve the quality of mental health services and supports that are available, while discovering new resources that can benefit our youth. Fallsburg and Eldred will be participating in SHAPE at the middle and high school level. Sullivan West will participate at a district level

"We are grateful to all the school districts for prioritizing youth mental health and will continue to explore new opportunities to promote mental health and wellness throughout the county," said Meaghan Mullally-Gorr, Sullivan 180 Director of Health and Wellness.

To learn more about Hope Squad and SHAPE, email *Mylene@sullivan180.org*.

Legacy Mysterious Book Report No. 122 The Cuban Affair Mysterious Book Report No. 232

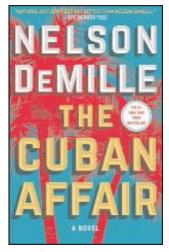


Published March 1, 2018 by John Dwaine McKenna

Who doesn't dream of sunny, warm days with an ample supply of cold drinks and an ocean to play in, when we're up to our ear-muffs in icy roads, snow and

sub-freezing temperatures, day, after day, after day . . . and if we can't actually go there, we can at least escape in literature to the sun-soaked tip of Florida, down to swinging Key West, where *The Cuban Affair*, (Simon & Schuster, \$28.99, 429 pages, ISBN 978-1-5011-0172-4) by MBR perennial favorite and master storyteller Nelson DeMille, kicks off at the Green

Parrot Bar. That's where a thirty-five year-old wounded Afghanistan war veteran, confirmed bachelor, and deep-sea charter fishing boat captain named Daniel Graham MacCormick-Mac for short-is drinking beer, watching the women, and waiting for a guy named Carlos to come down from Miami. Carlos is a Cuban expat and lawyer who's heavily involved with the anti-Castro movement in Miami. He may want to hire Mac and his boat, *The Maine*, for a few days. When he shows up, Carlos has in tow an older distinguished-looking Cuban gentleman named Eduardo, who's treated with all the respect of a Cuban Godfather. The third, and last member of the entourage is an early-thirties hottie named Sara Ortega, another Cuban-



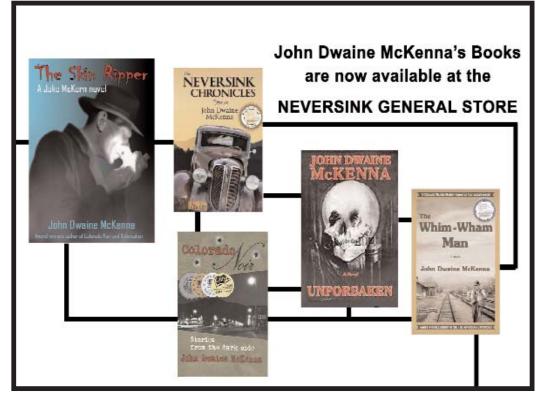
American who's involved in the movement to free Cuba from the communists. They want to hire Mac and his boat for a ten-day fishing tournament in Cuba, and use it for cover of a covert mission to recover sixty million dollars in cash that was hidden in a remote cave by Sara's banker grandfather on the eve of the communist revolution. Mac refuses . . . until he hears the payoff . . . three million American dollars. For a guy with a quarter-million in bank loans, who's struggling to make ends meet, it's irresistible. He's in. Mac and Sara will fly into Cuba as part of a Yale University tour group, while First Mate Jack Colby skippers *The Maine* down to the tournament. And so begins one of the most rollicking and timely caper novels to come along since the first Las Vegas casino heist. Written with the sure hand and light touch of an acknowledged

master of the genre, reading *The Cuban Affair* is just about the most fun you can have – and still keep your clothes on – during these long cold, and dark days of winter!e debut of an exceptional new talent!

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

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

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





The Olive Jar

by Carol Olsen LaMonda

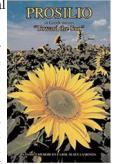
Insulation

They say March can come in as a Lion or a Lamb. Even without regard to weather, March has arrived in a roaring gust of chaos and confusion. The Lion has pushed the lamb aside.

The FamilyMemoir, PROSILIO...

... in Greek means "Toward the Sun," was written by Carol Olsen LaMonda. Carol writes the column "The Olive Jar" for Ye Olde Tri-

Valley Townsman. This local author has been busy guesting at book clubs who have chosen this local memoir as their book choice. Feel the warmth of "Prosilio" as you read Carol's memoirs cuddled up in your favorite chair. It also makes a great gift! Prosilio is available at Amazon or Barnes and Noble on-line as a soft or hard cover or as a down-



loadable e-book for Nook or Kindle. Go to: http://amazon.com or http://barnesandno-ble.com and type in Prosilio in the search to order your copy of Prosilio

It is scary times when I turn on the news with fear and trepidation. More upsetting than the stormy political weather is the fact that I feel useless and powerless to change the situation.

I am a "fixer." That's who I am and what I do. My frustration comes from the fact that I did not get fired from my job, as many have. I quietly 'resigned' myself to the fact that I cannot fix the world. My box of giant band-aids and my tube of "nice-and-good-alwayswins" are just not big enough for the times.

So, being an empath, I am hurting. I need to self-medicate...not with drugs or alcohol; I need the balm of friendship, of kindness, or solidarity, or righteousness. I wish I could just order them all on Amazon Prime with no shipping charges.

For now, I am trying to pad or insulate myself. I am doing so with self-care. I am avoiding confrontation; I am feeding my body healthy foods; I am surrounding myself with positive friends; I am being kind and caring to those who will accept me on my sabbatical as a until I can come up with a plan to FIX what is wrong with the world right now. Perhaps we need to put our heads and hearts together to coauthor a plan. Let's cooperate instead of commiserate.

I am hoping that within this month of March, we can morph that Lion of Chaos into a Lamb of Caring.



Celebrate Read Across America with the DPL! Mark Your Calendar with our Spring Programs

By Lisa Carroll

GRAHAMSVILLE-Attention all our young bookworms: come celebrate Read Across America with us all month long!

While Read Across America, an annual reading motivation and awareness program, is generally celebrated on March 2, the birthday of much beloved children's author Dr. Seuss, we have decided to celebrate the program first launched in 1998 by the National Education Association all month, giving our youngest patrons an opportunity to immerse themselves in reading.

It couldn't be easier to participate. Just come to the library, browse the many books available for checkout, take some home with you (or stay here) and READ! There is a reading log to complete (the same one we launched at the beginning of the year) and a bingo form to fill out for a chance to win a prize. While you have to pick up a copy of the reading log from the circulation desk (either adult or children's) the bingo form is printable from our website. Complete a side of the log-15 books total-to be entered to win a prize. The log is part of a year-long challenge and doesn't need to be completed in March, but if you're reading anyways it's a good idea to keep track. Bingo is just as easy; complete four squares and turn in the form.

We can't wait to see you! Come check out our fantastic picture books, our fabulous graphic novels and our amazing chapter books for beginner readers and those more comfortable with reading longer stories. Oh, and our non-fiction sec-

tion for those of you interested in facts!

In addition, there are a few upcoming programs you may be

interested in registering for through our website.

On Tuesday, March 18 from 6-8PM there will be a free live webinar on Medicare 101. If you are turning 65 soon or are eligible for Medicare this program, presented by James Farnham, MBA, MS, is for you. The webinar will cover Medicare basics including: when to join, prescription drug plans, Medicare Supplement plans, and Medicare Advantage plans (HMO's and PPO's). This educational program will give you the information you need to make well informed decisions. Advanced online registration is required. Those who register will receive an email prior to the webinar with a link and instructions on how to join.

On Saturday, April 5 from 10AM to 3PM we will be hosting our very popular 5 hour pre-licensing class for permit holders. This DMV approved course is mandatory for unlicensed students 16 and up looking to get their license. Students must hold a NYS "photo" permit to attend and the certificate garnered from the course is good for one year. Instructors Jerome and La June Black of J & J Driving School have over 25 years of experience and will help your child become a safer driver and gain confidence. The class fee is \$45. To secure registration submit checks to DPL payable to J & J Driving School prior to the class date and please remember to bring your lunch. While April seems far off, this program fills up very quickly so register ASAP.

Just as popular are our Spring LEGO programs. We just



announced the dates and seats are already filling up quickly. As usual, we will have four different programs. The Up in the Air LEGO programs will kick off with Up, Up & Away (grades 4-6) on Wednesday, April 9 from 3:00 to 4:30PM. It's a LEGO hot air balloon challenge. You'll need to think outside the brick and see how else you can use your LEGO pieces for this challenge. Then, the Treehouse challenge (grades 2-3) will meet on Wednesday, April 30, where participants will be asked to build their ultimate backyard treehouse. How high can you build it? The Balloon-powered Vehicle challenge (UPK-grade 1) will meet on Wednesday, May 7. Can you build a balloon powered car that goes? We bet you can. After you design your car, race against friends to see how far they can go. Finally, our youngest LEGO participants, those children ages 3 and 4 years old will meet on Wednesday, May 14 to participate in the Spring is in the Air LEGO program where your child's LEGO creativity will be sparked! What spring things can they design? Flowers, bugs, planes...the options are limitless. Please note: a parent or guardian must be present for your child to attend this program, as well as, provide transportation to and from the library. For our school age participants, there will be transportation provided by the school to the library but parents/guardians need to pick up their child from the library at the end of the program. Registration is open to Tri-Valley residents. If you would like your child to take the bus from school, please send a note to the elementary office no later than the Monday before their program.





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Visit the County Museum on March 13 To Meet a World Record-Holding Mountain Climber!

Hurleyville, NY - Housed in the Sullivan County Museum, the Frederick Cook Society is pleased to present an afternoon talk with Vern Tejas - world record-holding mountain climber - on Thursday, March 13 at 1 p.m.

Tejas is known for Mt. Denali's first solo winter ascent, the first solo of Mt. Vinson (Antarctica's highest), the first winter ascent of Mt. Logan (Canada's highest) and



lead guide for Col. Norman Vaughan's first ascent of Mt. Vaughan in remote Antarctica.

Last year, one of the Frederick Cook Society's volunteers opened an old cabinet in the back of the Cook Gallery and



discovered an envelope containing two small objects within bubble wrap. They turned out to be rocks taken from the summit of Mount Denali (also known as Mount McKinley). A note in the envelope explained that none other than Vern Tejas rappelled the mountain to collect these rocks, to help prove that Frederick Cook's description of the summit (as granite) was correct.

Dr. Cook is the Sullivan County native who explored both ends of the earth, as well as Greenland and Alaska. Doubters have challenged his claims for years, while the

Cook Society, located in Hurleyville, has quietly and resolutely defended his honor. Cook Society Executive Director Carol Smith had this to say about the situation.. "Cook's story, his persecution and subsequent redemption presents one of the most profound examples of how the media can manipulate public perception. It also speaks to the ways in which jealousy can corrupt power and foster hatred. Frederick Cook was loved and admired by nearly everyone he met, but exploration at the turn of the century involved regional and national pride, and Cook's rare talent and unprecedented success earned him the wrath of some very powerful people."

On Thursday, March 13, at 1 p.m., Tejas will present a talk about his extraordinary mountaineering career. He currently holds the world record for the amount of time taken to summit all seven summits consecutively. He is the first person to solo summit several of the world's tallest peaks.

And in 2002, Sports Illustrated named Tejas as one of the top 50 Alaskan athletes of the twentieth century.

When asked about his passion for climbing, Tejas replied, "I like being active in the physical world and doing something that is challenging and something that also might cross new barriers or new horizons, but it is metaphorical when you look into it deeply; it's really yourself that you are exploring. You really are discovering your own limits and finding your own uncharted waters. It plays back and forth between the real world and your internal world, and for me it's been a trip of discovery."

This fascinating presentation will be held at the Sullivan County Museum, 265 Main Street, Hurleyville, with doors opening at noon. The event is free - refreshments will be available, and donations are welcome.

2025 Sullivan County Arts & Heritage Grant Project Grants Up To \$2,500 Available

Narrowsburg, NY (March 2025) - Sullivan County nonprofit arts and community groups are invited to apply for the 2025 Sullivan County Arts & Heritage Grants (SCAHG) program, administered by the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance (DVAA).

Grants can assist artists and nonprofit organizations in producing and presenting cultural or heritage programming in Sullivan County, NY. Eligible projects must take place prior to December 31, 2025. The application portal will open on Friday, February 28, 2025 and the deadline for the 2025 grant cycle is Monday, March 31, 2025, at midnight.

SCAHG is made possible through a grant from the Sullivan County Legislature. The funding supports projects that focus on visual, performing, literary, media and folk arts; culture; architecture; regional history; and environmental arts. Groups that may apply include literary groups, libraries, theaters, music groups, historical societies, museums, community development groups, environmental groups, and the like.

The minimum grant request is \$500 and the maximum request is \$2,500.

Attendance at one of our upcoming grant info seminars is required for new applicants. The seminar will cover a range of information including conceptualizing your project, effective grant writing tips and tools, and contractual obligations for grantees.

To attend via Zoom on Wednesday, March 12, from 6PM - 7PM, or Saturday, March 22, from 12PM - 1PM, register online at delawarevalleyartsalliance.org/scahg/

We will also be holding an in-person grant info session on Tuesday, March 18, from 1PM - 2PM, at WJFF, 2758 NY 52, Liberty, NY 12754

Potential applicants may also schedule a meeting to discuss their application with Grants Manager, Tanner Simon, by emailing grants@delawarevalleyartsalliance.org.

For complete guidelines and to access the online application form, visit

delawarevalleyartsalliance.org/scahg/

Cornell Livestock Program Work Team presents Webiner Programs Join us for virtual workshops on Avian Influenza

and Getting Started with Laying Hens

LIBERTY, NY - Avian Influenza continues to spread fast across the country and in New York State. In response to this, the Cornell Livestock Program Work Team have developed two webinars to assist small farms and backyard laying flock owners to make informed decisions around getting laying hens and managing disease, while keeping abreast of the current status of HPAI and how they can keep it out of their flocks:

1. Raising Laying Hens for Eggs: Is it all it's cracked up to be?

Tuesday March 11th, 6:30pm - 7:30pm, via Zoom This virtual program is intended to explore local regulations for chicken ownership, expectations for your flock, and raising layers from chicks to egg-laying adults. Additionally, this workshop will go over the costs of owning a laying flock as well as the best practices and regulations for selling eggs. A question and answer session will follow the presentation. Interested participants can register at the following link:

https://tinyurl.com/GettingStartedLayingHens

2. Avian Disease and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza - the latest updates and what it means for poultry health

Tuesday, March 18th, 6:30pm - 8:00pm, via Zoom This virtual program welcomes Dr. Jarra Jagne of

Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine and Dr. Chad Wall of NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets for an evening of learning about avian disease, including Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). Topics to be covered include updates on the HPAI outbreak, the symptoms of HPAI, and common small flock diseases. Additionally, this workshop will go over HPAI disease look-alikes and the ins and outs of keeping your birds safe. Interested participants can register at the following link:

https://tinyurl.com/HPAI2025

Participation in these programs is free to all attendees, but registration is required! If interested in any of these opportunities, please click the links included to learn more and to register. Those with related questions can contact the CCESC office at (845) 292-6180 ext. 129 or mml249@cornell.edu. Many more agricultural programs and events are to come, so stay tuned!

Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County provides equal program and employment opportunities. The public can contact the office to request accommodations.

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McDonald's legendary energy, show-stopping piano skills, and hilarious storytelling will have you dancing in your seat! Joined by an all-star band of award-winning musicians and comedians, this high-octane concert blends rock 'n' roll hits-from Mustang Sally to Folsom Prison Blues-with side-splitting comedy. Critics call it a MUST-SEE EVENT!

Tickets are selling FAST-don't wait! Reserve yours today before they're gone: Call the Box Office: (845) 647-5511

Book online: shadowlandstages.org

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THE TOWNSMAN **MARCH 6, 2025** PAGE 15

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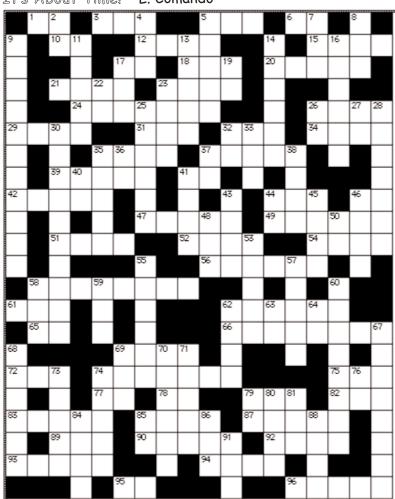
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It's About Time!- L. Comando



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Impossibly Easy Italian Chicken Pie

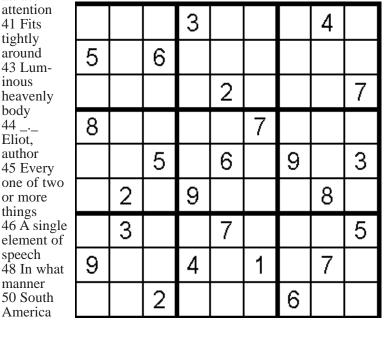
1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese 1 1/2 cups cut-up cooked chicken 1 1/4 cups shredded mozzarella cheese 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano leaves 1/2 teaspoon dried basil leaves 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder 1 can (6 ounces) tomato paste 1/2 cup Original BisquickTM mix 1 cup milk 1/4 teaspoon pepper 2 eggs

Heat oven to 400°F. Grease 9-inch pie plate. Sprinkle Parmesan cheese in pie plate. Mix chicken, 1/2 cup of the mozzarella cheese, the oregano, basil, garlic powder and tomato paste; spoon over Parmesan cheese.

Stir Bisquick mix, milk, pepper and eggs until blended. Pour over chicken mixture.

o Bake 35 minutes. Sprinkle with remaining mozzarella cheese. Bake 5 to 8 minutes or longer or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 5 minutes.

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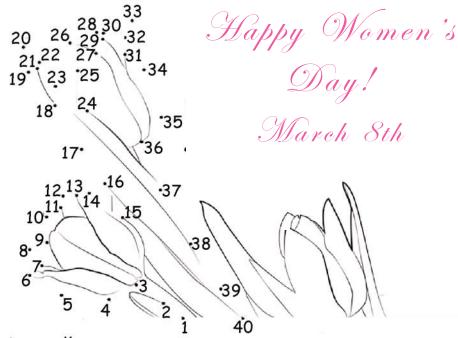


Find 5 differences between the 2 pictures

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LEGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Chapter 680 of the Laws of 2002 enacted General Municipal Law §209-cc, requiring the annual reporting of the presence of wild animals. Pursuant to this law, each person owning, possessing or harboring a wild animal as set forth in §209-cc must report its presence to the Town Clerk on or before April 1st, 2025.

A list of common names of animals to be reported is available at the Denning Town Clerk's Office, 985-2411, during normal business hours. Failure to file as required will be subject to penalties under the law.

Nancy Parrow, Town Clerk / RMO Denning Town Clerk March 1st, 2025

3/6

LEGAL NOTICE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING TRI-VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Section 6-d of the General Municipal Law of the state of New York, a Board of Education Meeting will be held on Thursday, March, 13, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. prevailing time at the Tri-Valley Central School District Secondary School Lower Level Collaboration Center. It is anticipated that the Board of Education will enter into Executive Session prior to the Regular Board of Education Meeting. The Executive Session will be held at 6:00 p.m. prevailing time at the Tri-Valley Central School District Secondary School Library prior to the Regular Board Meeting.

3/6

UC Executive Jen Metzger Announces 2025 Funding Opportunity for Housing Projects Supporting Affordability Up to \$1 Million also Available for Emergency and Supportive Housing

KINGSTON, NY - Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger has announced that the Ulster County Housing Action Fund (HAF) will open its second funding round on March 7, with applications due

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/UCKI224vK08nAW hR6N%20%20Vao24w/live

by May 16. The HAF will be accepting applications for a wide variety of project types intended to support construction, development, revitalization and preservation of housing that is both affordable and sustainable. For Round 2, the County will also offer up to \$1 million for emergency and supportive housing projects.

The Ulster County Planning Department will host a virtual webinar on March 18 at 6 PM to provide details about the HAF and the application process and to answer questions. To register for the webinar, visit https://ulstercountyny.zoom.us/meeting/register/via0J376QZ-3LXVbVm-lzg

The maximum grant amount and targeted affordability level for projects varies depending on the housing category. In general, the fund focuses on serving households making up to 80% of Ulster County Area Median Income (i.e., \$89,350 for a 4-person household, \$62,550 for a 1-person household). In exchange for receiving grants, housing projects funded through the HAF will be required to keep housing units affordable for a minimum of 50 years with a priority for projects that keep the housing permanently affordable. For full details and application materials, visit https://participate.ulstercountyny.gov/housing-action-fund

For Year 2, the following housing project types are eligible for funding:

o Development of new rental housing that is affordable to households earning up to 80% of Ulster County area median income.

(Contd. Pg. 18)

UC Executive Jen Metzger Announces 2025 Funding Opportunity for Housing Projects Supporting Affordability Up to \$1 Million also Available for Emergency and Supportive Housing

(From Pg. 17)

- o New affordable homeownership opportunities for households earning up to 80% of Ulster County area median income.
- o Housing Co-ops and Community Land Trusts: Preservation of existing affordable housing that will be owned and operated by tenants or in collaboration with a community land trust or non-profit organization.
- o Funding for emergency and supportive housing projects.
- o Funding for infrastructure that would directly support the development of affordable housing.

"Everyone in Ulster County should have a home they can afford, and we created the County Housing Action Fund to catalyze development of the quality housing we need around the county," said County Executive Jen Metzger. "We funded five great projects last year that are creating nearly 120 high-quality, energy-efficient, affordable homes, and I hope to see another great mix of housing proposals submitted in the coming months. In addition to supporting housing for rent and for home ownership, we also encourage applications for innovative emergency and supportive housing projects and are committing up to \$1 million per project to meet this need."

"I am excited to open up Round 2 of the Housing Action Fund and continue our great work," said Kai Lord-Farmer, Senior Planner and HAF Administrator in the Ulster County Planning Department. "My mission is to ensure that the HAF remains a sustainable and reliable local funding source that developers big and small can use to build affordable housing of all types for today, tomorrow, and far into the future."

"Access to safe, affordable housing is fundamental to a thriving community," said Ulster County Legislative Chair Peter Criswell. "The Ulster County Housing Action Fund is a critical tool in addressing our housing crisis, ensuring that working families, vulnerable residents, and our local workforce have stable places to call home. I strongly encourage developers, nonprofits, and community leaders to apply for this funding and bring forward innovative, sustainable housing solutions that meet the needs of our residents. Together, we can create lasting, equitable change for Ulster County."

The clearest path out of Ulster County's housing crisis is the creation of more units of affordable

housing," said Ulster County Legislator and Majority Leader Abe Uchitelle. "We know that this process works, and I'm excited to see what projects we might help get off the ground with this second round of funding."

Background

In August 2023, the Ulster County Legislature approved a proposal by County Executive Metzger to create a \$15 million Housing Action Fund to support the creation of healthy, energy-efficient, and climate-responsible housing units that serve households making up to 80% of Ulster County Area Median Income, with an emphasis on housing that serves the county's most vulnerable populations. The following year, the Legislature approved another proposal by the County Executive to dedicate 25% of occupancy tax revenues to the HAF on an annual basis.

In September 2024, the Housing Policy Oversight and Review Committee selected five projects for funding, all of which were approved by the Legislature. The Round 1 projects awarded last year included:

- o \$300,000 to the Affordable Housing Conservancy for the development of Harmony Hall, a 51 Unit Permanent Senior (62+) Affordable Rental Housing development in the Town of New Paltz.
- o \$500,000 to RUPCO for the Quality Inn Conversion Project in the Town of Ulster, an 83-unit permanently affordable and supportive housing development for homeless individuals or families with unmet housing needs.
- o \$400,000 to the Affordable Housing Conservancy for eight new affordable manufactured homes at the Gallis Hill Manufactured Home Park in the Town of Hurley.
- o \$400,000 to Ulster County Habitat for Humanity for the development of the Jeffrey Court project in the Town of Saugerties, a subdivision with 10 new affordable homes developed for homeownership.
- o \$400,000 to the Kingston City Land Bank for the Third Avenue Housing Development in the City of Kingston, an approximately 50-unit new, affordable housing development on a vacant infill site in the city.

The Housing Policy and Oversight Committee (HPOC) oversees the implementation of the Housing Action Fund, reviewing applications, and making recommendations to the County Executive for consideration.

For more information on the Ulster County Housing Action Fund, visit the Participate Ulster website here: https://participate.ulstercountyny.gov/housing-action-fund.





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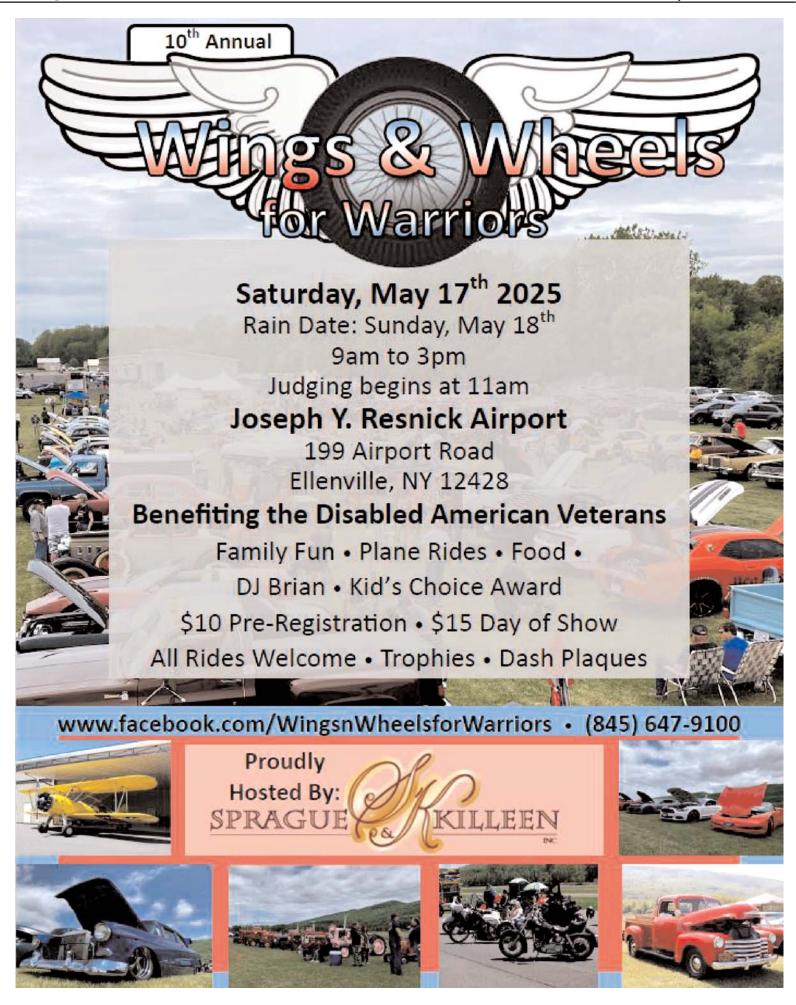
Monday, March 17th, 2025

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Grahamsville United Methodist Church

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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

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HOLY DAY EUCHARIST

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Rev. Thomas P. Kiely, Pastor



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ARTISTS • CRAFTERS Need a place to show and sell your crafts? Call us at 845-985-0501 email: tvtownsman@yahoo.com or visit our Virtual Mall http://gnomehomeinc.com

Sundown United Methodist Church Covered Dish Supper

Saturday,

April 5, 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

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!

\$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/

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.

THE TOWNSMAN

LOCAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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 St Patrick's Pancake Breakfast 8 am - 12 noon
3/20/25	Town of Denning Planning Board Meeting 6:00 pm Denning Town of Town Hall
3/20/25	Neversink Fire District Commissioner Meeting 7:00pm
4/1/25	Claryville Fire District Monthly Meeting 6:30 pm
4/5/25	Sundown UMC Covered Dish Supper 5:30 Church
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 <u>Town Board meetings</u> are held at the Town Meeting Hall, Bostock Road, Shokan at <u>7:00 pm.</u> Town Board Meetings are the <u>second Tuesday of each month</u> with the <u>audit/workshop meetings</u> being held the <u>Monday preceding the second Tuesday.</u>

Town of Olive Planning Board meets the <u>first and third Tuesdays of each month</u>. 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

Ulster County Legislature

Weekly Update For The Week Of

March 3 - 7, 2025

Legislative Committee Meetings are Livestreamed at https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature/stream

Monday, March 3

o 6:00 PM - Ulster County Traffic Safety Board, in the Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston

Tuesday, March 4

o 4:00 PM - Energy, Environment & Sustainability Committee, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston & Via Legislature Livestream o 5:30 PM - County Executive Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law 13 Of 2024, A Local Amending Article II Of The Administrative Code For The County Of Ulster (Local No. 10 of 2008) To Remove Certain Employment Restrictions, in the Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston

o 5:45 PM - County Executive Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law 14 of 2024, A Local Law Amending The Code of The County Of Ulster, Chapter 232 Living Wage, In Relation To Applicability And Compensation, in the Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Publing Vinceton

County Office Building, Kingston

o 6:00 PM - County Executive Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law 18 of 2024, A Local Applying Salary Revisions For Certain Elected Ulster County Officials Serving For Fixed Terms, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston o 6:00 PM (Or Immediately Following Energy, Environment & Sustainability Committee) - Economic Development, Planning, Education, Arts & Agriculture Committee, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston & Via Legislature Livestream

Wednesday, March 5

o 5:00 PM - Law Enforcement & Public Safety Committee, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston & Via Legislature Livestream

o 5:00 PM - Ulster County Community Services Board People with Development Disabilities, Mental Health, & Substance Abuse Subcommittees, Ulster County Department of Mental Health, 368 Broadway, Kingston

o 6:00 PM - Ulster County Human Rights Commission, in the Restorative Justice & Community Empowerment Center, 733 Broadway, Kingston

o 7:00 PM - Ulster County Planning Board, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston

Thursday, March 6

o 1:00 PM - Ulster County Non-Toxic Pest Management Committee, at the Department of Environment, 17 Pearl Street, Kingston

o 4:00 PM - Housing & Transportation Committee, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston & Via Legislature Livestream

o 5:00 PM (Or Immediately Following Housing & Transportation) - Health, Human Services & Human Rights Committee, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston & Via Legislature Livestream

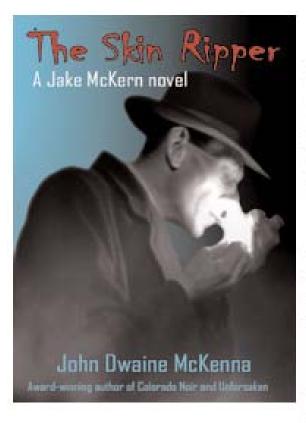
Friday, March 7

o No Meetings

The Skin Ripper

A novel
John Dwaine McKenna

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



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

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



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

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



DEC Reminds New Yorkers of Strategies to Avoid Coyote Conflicts

Sightings Expected to Increase as Spring Nears

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today encouraged New Yorkers to help do their part to prevent conflicts between people and coyotes. Coyotes are found in diverse habitats across the state, including rural farmlands, forests, and suburban and urban areas. Generally, coyotes steer clear of human contact. However, during the spring denning and pup-rearing period, coyotes may become more territorial and protective, leading to potential conflicts with people and pets. Additionally, if coyotes associate food sources like garbage or pet food with humans, they may lose their natural fear of people, increasing the likelihood of encounters.

To reduce or prevent conflicts with coyotes, DEC recommends the following steps:

- o Never feed coyotes.
- o Do not leave food outside. Pet food and garbage attract coyotes and other wildlife, increasing risks to people and pets. Simple strategies to ensure you do not unintentionally feed coyotes include:
- o Always feed pets indoors;
- o Prevent access to garbage;
- o Fence or enclose compost piles; and
- o Eliminate availability of bird seed, as concentrations of birds and rodents can attract coyotes.
- o Do not allow coyotes to approach people or pets. If you see a coyote, be assertive. Stand tall, hold your arms up or out to appear larger. If a coyote lingers, make loud noises, wave your arms, and throw sticks and stones.
- o Appreciate coyotes from a distance and teach others to do the same.
- o Do not allow pets to run free. Supervise outdoor pets to keep them safe from coyotes and other wildlife, especially at dusk and night. Small dogs and cats are particularly vulnerable.
- o Fence yards to deter coyotes. Ensure the fence is tight to the ground, preferably extending six inches below ground level, and taller than four feet.
- o Remove brush and tall grass around homes. Removing brush eliminates hiding spots for coyotes, as they prefer areas where they can remain unseen.
- o Encourage neighbors to follow these guidelines. Encourage others to be a good neighbor. Community-wide efforts are necessary to prevent coyote conflicts.

During spring, coyotes are more active and visible. Seeing a coyote occasionally is generally not a cause for concern. However, when coyotes exhibit bold behavior, show little fear of people, or are seen frequently during the daytime near residences, contact the Regional DEC Wildlife Office for assistance. In emergency situations, contact the local police department.

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!



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



JEFFERSONVILLE

Tues January 7

Tues February 4

Tues March 4

License & Registration Appts

19 Legion Street, Jeffersonville, NY

WURTSBORO

Thurs January 23

Thurs February 20

Thurs March 20.

Registration Appls Only

2948 US 209. Wurtsboro, NY

NARROWSBURG

Tues January 21

Tues February 18

Tues March 18

Registration Appts Only

210 Bridge Street, Narrowsburg, NY

HORTONVILLE

Thurs January 16

Thurs February 13

Thurs March 13

Registration Appts Only

104 Lower Main Street, Harlanvilla, NY

LIVINGSTON MANOR

Tues January 14

Tues February 11

Tues March II

Registration Appts Only

95 Main Street, Livingston Manar, NY

GRAHAMSVILLE

Thurs January 9

Thurs February 6

Thurs March 6

License & Registration Appts

273 Main Street. Grahamaville, NY

LIBERTY

Tues January 28

Tues February 25

Tues March 25

License & Registration Appts

15 Sullivan Ave Library, NY

BLOOMINGBURG

Thurs January 30

Thurs February 27

Thurs March 27

License & Registration Appts

13 North Ild. Bloomingborg, NY

Schedule an appointment on the county website sullivanny.gov | County Clerk Russell Reeves



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. 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/



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

Hiking the Catskills Then and Now

Paul Misko of *Catskill Forest Adventures* Sunday, March 23rd 2 p.m.

In Person and Virtual on Zoom Members: FREE, Non Members: \$5

Misko's multimedia presentation will show the equipment, food and clothing used by Catskill hikers in the 1800's, and the progression of equipment innovation. He will share the many funny and disturbing anecdotes found in the writings of John Burroughs and others. You will hear things about John Burroughs you never knew! The talk will close with a quick review of what every Catskill hiker should carry in their daypack.

Time and the Valleys Museum

332 Main Street Grahamsville, NY 12740 845 985-7700 info@timeandthevalleysmuseum.org







April 5, 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.timeandthevalleysmuseum.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!

\$25 \$50	\$100	\$250 _	\$500	\$1,000	Other
Please mail your check to: Time and the Valleys Museum	Name:				
2.O. Box 254, Grahamsville, NY 12740	Address:				
or go online: www.timeandthevalleysmuseum.org/	City:		State:	Zip;	
support/donate	Email:				

Got History?

Get Museum Membership & FREE Admission to over 30 Museums for only \$25 a year!

- Free admission to all in-person and virtual programs
- Free admission to the Museum and Catskill Farm
- Invitations to exhibit openings and special events
- Around the Reservoirs Newsletter
- Monthly historical and informative emails
- 10% discount in the Museum Shop
- FREE admission to over 30 other museums in New York State











Join NOW and get a free art catalogue!

Join at the \$100 (Patron) level for FREE admission to thousands of museums all across North America!

04	3 903-7700	or join online: www.t	inicandinevancys	museum.org
		Name:		
[] Individual	\$25			
[] Double	\$40	Address:		
[] Family	\$50			
[] Patron	\$100	City:		State & Zip:
[] Patron Silver	\$200			
[] Patron Gold	\$500	Phone:	e-mail:	

Benjamin Cosor Elementary School Announces Second Marking Period Honors

FALLSBURG - Benjamin Cosor Elementary School is excited to announce its Honor Roll and Superintendent's Honor Roll recipients for the second marking period. Students who achieved Honor Roll earned an overall grade point average of 3.0-3.5, while those who achieved Superintendent's Honor Roll earned a GPA of 3.6-4.0. The following students were recognized for their outstanding academic achievements:

Grade 4

Honor Roll:

Lukas Akers, Jalen Anthony, Raegan Atkins, Juliette Aviles Zelaya, Abigail Bensimon, Jaycole Brizuela Athenna Betancourt, Fuentes, Abigail Call, Sophia Carpenter, Ancel Chavez, Aubrey Curtin, Matthew DeMondo-Gernant, Giuliana DiCostanzo, Trinity Doolittle, Annabella Fisher, James Geagley, Jaime Giron Paredes, Pearl Gold, Jacob Guillen Matamoras, David Jimenez-Castillo, Meleny Juarez Cadena, Elias Lopez, Raymond Lopez III, Giavanna Mack, Sofia Madera, Ashton Mahodil, Lia Mora Ceron, Zoe Murry, Keysi Otero Deras, Zoe Otero Deras, Dove Picciotti, Mateo Quintanilla, Kenneth Reyes Sierra, Ashley Ruano Lopez, Aiden Santana, and Lillyann Vazquez.

Superintendent's Honor Roll:

Mila Anthony

Grade 5

Honor Roll:

Genesis Anderson, Amina Berisha, Santiago Brito Garcia, Amore Brown, Elijah Cruz, Samantha Darcy, Giada Evangelista, Brooklyn Fisher, Jax Frunzi, Katherine Giron Cabrera, Esther Grande Lagos, Jase Hermann, Olivia Hilliard, Josiah Hinton, Jackson Hockenberry, Brianna Johnson, Muhammed Kassama, Faith Kehlenbeck, Eliza Lagos Guardado, Steven Loja

Tenezaca, Enina Lulanaj, Braylee Maitland, Bryan Maldonado Alvarado, Zoya Meer, Anthony Mora Ceron, Jax Pillius, Jean Carlos Pineda Reyes, Taylor Simms, Mirey'ah Steele, and Elijah Torres.

Superintendent's Honor Roll:

Mila Arroyo, Jacob Boynton Torres, Ravyn Henry, Mason Li, Elizabeth McManus, Lincoln Oneal, Skyla Restrepo, Madax Simpson, and Tyler Torres.

Grade 6

Honor Roll:

Armani Alencaster, Janelli Anderson, Hayden Atkins, Bryan Balcazar Lavin, Kadija Bamba, Ava Berrios, Rocket Budde, Muhammad Dumbuya, Nelson Duque Moroy, Aleczandra Esparza, Taylin Frunzi, Lithsy Fuentes Ardon, Awa Gai, Valentina Garcia Delgado, Selina Lazroe, Alexandria Mann, Caleb Mapes, Theresa Medina, Grayson Mungeer, Harlow Oathout, Keylit Pineda Nieto, Katherine Serrano, Erick Rivera Moreno, Reves Robles-Hernandez, Christian Madison Samora, Blinera Selimaj, Gabrielle Spruill, Vences-Urquiza, Annabella Benjamin Wizwer.

Superintendent's Honor Roll:

Isaac Castillo Miranda, Aubrianna Clark-Wheat, Aaron Cubias, Anthony Frunzi, Kendra Rodriguez, Derrick Saravia, Blerina Selimaj, and Melanie Wang.

Creating Jobs with Clean Energky: Governor Hochul Announces Approval of 25th Renewable Energy Project by New York State Over Four Years

More Than 3.6 GW of Large-Scale Renewable Power in Clean Energy **Pipeline**

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced that New York State has permitted 25 large-scale renewable energy projects over the last four years, representing 3.6 gigawatts of new solar and wind power in the state's clean energy pipeline. The New York State Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission (ORES) has issued a final siting permit for the White Creek Solar project to develop, construct, and operate a 135-megawatt (MW) solar array in the towns of York and Leicester in Livingston County. This marks the 20th clean energy project approved by ORES since 2021, when it was created to accelerate permitting for renewable energy generation.

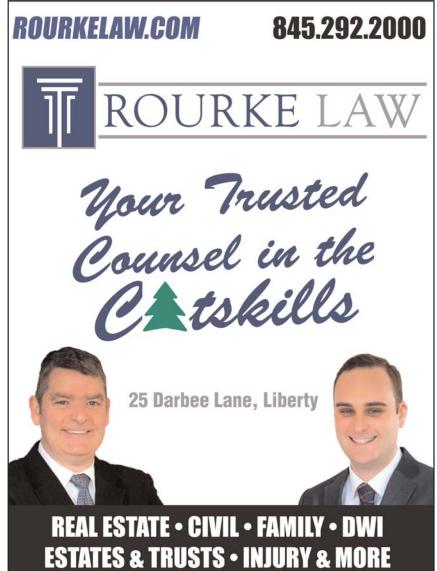
"The White Creek solar array in Western New York exemplifies New York State's progress toward creating a clean energy economy," Governor Hochul said. "With refined siting protocols through the establishment of ORES four years ago, New York is expediting permitting for clean energy projects to achieve a clean energy economy while creating good-paying jobs that benefit communities through-

out the state.'

The new solar facility will consist of the solar array and associated support equipment, along with an interconnection substation, fencing, access roads and an operations and maintenance building. The facility will interconnect to the New York electrical grid via a new point of Interconnection, located on a Rochester Gas & Electric transmission line.

The host community benefits include the creation of permanent jobs during operations, local property tax spending, local and regional spending, and host community agreements with the towns of York and Leicester, all without significantly increasing costs to local authorities, school districts, or emergency services. Benefits will also include public road enhancements, increased tax revenues to fund local infrastructure and public services, schools and other community priorities.

Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission Executive Director Zeryai Hagos said, "With the issuance of the siting permit for White Creek Solar, ORES continues to advance New York's nation-leading clean energy policies while



being responsive to community feedback and protecting the environment.'

The Office's decision for this facility follows a detailed and transparent review process with robust public participation to ensure the proposed project meets or exceeds the requirements of Article VIII of the New York State Public Service Law and its implementing regulations. The solar facility application was deemed complete on July 21, 2024, with a draft permit issued by the Office on September 13, 2024.

White Creek Solar is the 20th siting permit issued by ORES since 2021, which cumulatively represents over 2.9-gigawatt (GW) of new clean energy. The solar power meaningfully advances New York's clean energy goals while establishing the State as a paradigm for efficient, transparent, and thorough siting permitting process of major renewable energy facilities.

This decision may be obtained by going to the ORES website at https://ores.ny.gov/permit-applications.

New York State's Climate Agenda

New York State's climate agenda calls for an affordable and just transition to a clean energy economy that creates family-sustaining jobs, promotes economic growth through green investments, and directs a minimum of 35 percent of the benefits to disadvantaged communities. New York is advancing a suite of efforts to achieve an emissions-free economy by 2050, including in the energy, buildings, transportation, and waste sectors.

HOPE ALIVE 845 INVITES YOU



HOT DOG WITH AN OFFICER

SATURDAY APRIL 5, 2025 11AM - 3PM MONTICELLO HIGH SCHOOL FIELD

BLUE VS HOPE ALIVE 845 KICKBALL GAME @ 1PM

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!

GAMES / HOT DOGS / DRINKS

FREE ENTRY! ALL AGES WELCOME AND

MEET AN OFFICER AND HOPE ALIVE 845

WWW.HOPEALIVE845.COM



Museum and Library Parking Lot 332 Main Street, Grahamsville

- Murray's Chicken, BBQ'D to perfection by the Neversink Fire Department
- Delicious sides of baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw and split top roll from Wilson's Deli
- · Brownie from Frost Valley YMCA

Name:	
Address:	
Amount Enclosed:	# of Meals:
Email:	Phone:

Please send this form with your check to: Time and the Valleys Museum P.O. Box 254, Grahamsville NY 12740

Tech Tuesdays

A program for DPL Patrons

Every Tuesday 9 am - 12 pm

Receive help on a variety of basic tech topics including:

- ▶ Smartphones
 - ▶ Tablets
 - ▶ Laptops
- ► Website navigation
- Downloading apps
 - ► Social Media
 - Messaging Apps
- Streaming platforms
 - ► And more...

We are here to help!



DEC Announces 2025 'I BIRD NY' Challenge Program Encourages New Yorkers to Enjoy Birding Close to Home and on NYS Birding Trail DEC Announces Addition of 14 Locations to NYS Birding Trail

NYS Birding Trail

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today announced the March 1 start of the 2025 I BIRD NY Challenge for birders of all ages and abilities. The challenge provides opportunities to identify and learn about birds, and awards program finishers with a commemorative I BIRD NY Challenge patch and a chance to win birding-related prizes.

"No matter where you live or where you come from, birdwatching is a fun, easy, and affordable activity that can be enjoyed by people of all ages, abilities, identities, and backgrounds," DEC Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar said. "Now with nearly 400 locations across New York State, the NYS Birding Trail welcomes new and experienced birders to enjoy both migrating and resident birds in a diverse variety of habitats.'

New York State's wide-ranging habitat types, from the Atlantic Ocean's sandy beaches to majestic Catskill and Adirondack peaks, Great Lakes shorelines, and everything in between, create a birder's paradise that supports more than 450 different bird species throughout the year.

New and experienced birders can discover the thrill of birding with the NYS Birding Trail. This unique network of birding hotspots across New York State offers endless opportunities to connect with nature, whether marveling at owls in quiet woodlands, tracking shorebirds along scenic coastlines, or catching glimpses of majestic eagles along quiet rivers. The trail continues to expand with new locations added regularly through a nomination and vetting process.

DEC also announced the addition of 14 new locations to the NYS Birding Trail. The new locations include Rye Nature Center in the Hudson Valley Birding Trail Region and 13 Nassau County Parks, Recreation and Museums properties in the Long Island Birding Trail Region.

Birdwatching is one of the fastest-growing outdoor recreational activities in the U.S. According to the 2022 National Survey of Hunting, Fishing, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, 7.4 million wildlife watchers generated \$10.8 billion in New York State in 2022. This is up from four million New York resident wildlife viewers spending more than \$6.4 billion annually in 2016.

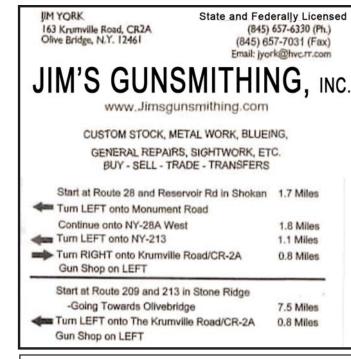
The I BIRD NY program was launched in 2017 to build on the State's efforts to increase access to New York's vast natural resources and promote no- and low-cost opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors and connect with nature.

"North Shore Audubon Society enthusiastically welcomes the Nassau County addition of its excellent public preserves and parks to NY State Birding Trail," said Peggy Maslow, North Shore Audubon Society.

"Birds are awesome!" said Maisie (11) and Sam (15), members of the WNY Young Birder Club.

The 2025 I BIRD NY Challenge (PDF) is open to all ages and ends Nov. 1, 2025. To complete the Challenge, participants must identify any 10 bird species of their choosing and submit a challenge sheet to DEC. More than 1,800 birding enthusiasts completed this fun challenge in 2024, the program's highest-ever number of participants.

Challenge sheets may be submitted online via SurveyMonkey or sent via email or mail. Entries must be received by Nov. 15, 2025. Entry forms are also available in Spanish (PDF). All participants will be awarded a commemorative patch, given a completion certificate, and entered into a drawing for great birding prizes. Two youth and two adult winners will be chosen. Participants will also receive an extra prize entry for provid-



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

ing a photo documenting their challenge experience.

Birding enthusiasts can visit I BIRD NY to access this year's challenge sheet, as well as find information on where and how to watch birds, upcoming birding events, a downloadable Beginner's Guide to Birding (PDF) (also available in Spanish (PDF)), and additional resources. Those interested may also opt to sign up for DEC's monthly birding newsletter, Words of a Feather, to have birding tips and tricks, NYS Birding Trail site recommendations, events, and more delivered right to their

DEC also reminds the public that Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is currently widespread in wild birds and mammals. The public can help minimize risk and the spread of disease by preventing contact between domestic animals and wild birds. The public is encouraged to report sick or deceased wildlife. In cases where field staff may be unavailable to collect samples or carcasses from the landscape and removal is necessary, use proper personal protective equipment, including disposable gloves, a mask and eye protection. Avoid direct contact with the carcass or fluids by using a shovel to transfer it to a tripled garbage or contractor bag, which should be placed in an outdoor trash receptacle. More information about HPAI, including how it is spread and which animals can be infected, is available on DEC's Animal Diseases webpage.

As always, participants are encouraged to Love Our New York Lands all year by practicing Leave No TraceTM principles and by recreating safely and sustainably.

Legislature Observes Black History Month With Speaker and My Brother's Keeper

Monticello, NY - Sullivan County legislators started their regular monthly meeting in February with an hourlong recognition of Black History Month.



District 8 Legislator Amanda Ward

events.

To that end, Town of Thompson Historian Al Dumas shared the story of Monticello native Roland Paramore, who served on Air Force One under Presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama.

"His service in the U.S. Air Force took him all over of the decorated airman. "He became the superintendent of the Presidential flight attendants and President Obama's chief attendant."

"As Sullivan County's first African-American legislator, I feel strongly that we should acknowledge and celebrate our history in the County, and inspire the next generation to strive to make a difference here - because they certainly can!" District 8 Legislator Amanda Ward stated, hoping in particular that the Monticello High School seniors and juniors in the room - members of the nonprofit My Brother's Keeper would be inspired by the day's



Town of Thompson Historian Al Dumas related the story of Monticello native Roland the world," Dumas related Paramore, who served aboard Air Force One during three different Presidential administrations.

"We have very good people here, people who have paid it forward and continue to bring us notoriety," he added.

"I think it's not just important to commemorate Black History Month, but anytime the Legislature takes a moment to commemorate our history, that's important," said the next speaker, Sullivan County Historian John Conway, who noted that even though the County's early population featured few Africanbeginning, those few have

ipated in the 1779 Battle of

played a role in important Sullivan County - dating back to before there even was a African-Americans partic-Sullivan County.



Minisink near Barryville, he said. A local African-American lost his leg in the Civil War and returned to make a career as a stonemason. Over the years, the population grew, until the famed Borscht Belt hotel industry brought a wave of migration from the South.

"The contributions of those African-Americans are too many to chronicle here," Conway acknowledged.

There was also a Narrowsburg development that was marketed to African-Americans during the segregated decades of the mid-20th century.

"Lucky Lake targeted middle-class African-Americans from NYC," he said. "And they reached out to celebrities in the city, like a young center-fielder for the NY [baseball] Giants by the name of Willie Mays, who became a homeowner and a spokesperson for Lucky Lake.'

Conway recently researched and wrote about another one of Lucky Lake's residents: Noble Sissle, a composer and lyricist who is credited with ushering in the Harlem Renaissance, which revitalized and mainstreamed African-American music, culture and art across the nation.

It was an apt tie-in with the theme of the guest speaker at the meeting.

"Have you ever stopped to think about your impact?" asked John Johnson, a Brooklyn-based motivational speaker who recently presented at Sullivan 180's MLK Day Summit. "Is your power being used to build or to break?"

Johnson related the story of a woman who grew up in Trinidad & Tobago but moved to the U.S. to pursue new opportunities.

"She became a mother with two children, expecting a third," he said, "but Johnson encouraged all she was devastated to learn the baby she was carrying for four months had no empathy and education heartbeat. Yet that baby lived. It is a dis- in order to be empowtinct honor and privilege to share with ered to make positive difyou that that baby ... was me."

He subsequently introduced his mother, who was in the audience, and

added that he shared this story to help others find their own inner strength. The two keys? Education and empathy.

"To me, education without empathy is not healthy," Johnson explained. "I needed people to show me empathy with their power, to show opportunity. Power + education + empathy = purpose."

He ended with this challenge to listeners: "How will you use your power to make a lasting, positive difference in your commu-



Anthony Ortiz spoke to the Legislature about My Brother's Keeper initiatives.

at sporting events, even garnering a grant to promote

Members of My Brother's Keeper are already headed down that road, and one of them - Anthony Ortiz - explained how they've focused on the problem of parent engagement

Guest speaker John

listeners to focus on

ferences in their homes

and communities



Members and leaders of Monticello High School's My Brother's Keeper attended the presentation and were themselves presented with certificates of recognition from the Legislature.

The entire video - including a poem presented by members of My Brother's Keeper - can be viewed at

https://sullivancountyny.granicus.com/player/clip/1855?view_id= 1&redirect=true.

To learn more about MBK, visit

https://www.monticelloschools.net/about-us/my-brothers-keeper.

Governor Hochul Expands Access to Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment for New Yorkers

- New Network Adequacy Standards To Reduce Appointment Wait Times and Make Provider Directories Easier To Navigate
- Regulations Adopted by the Department of Financial Services and Department of Health Build Upon Initiatives To Strengthen Health Care Statewide

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced that new network adequacy regulations for behavioral health services will now entitle New Yorkers to an initial appointment for behavioral health care within 10 business days of the request, or seven calendar days following hospital discharge. Under the regulations adopted by the New York State Department of Financial Services and State Department of Health, insurers unable to meet these timeframes will have to offer out-of-network mental health or substance use disorder coverage without increasing the cost for the consumer.

"New Yorkers deserve a speedy and effective process to receive the services they need," Governor Hochul said. "The regulations established by the Department of Financial Services and Department of Health will standardize wait times, allow for same cost-sharing and update directories - providing individuals more access to mental health and substance use disorder care statewide."

Additionally, insurers are required to update their provider directories to include clearer details on the availability of behavioral health services, including provider locations (city/town and zip code), telehealth availability and languages spoken by the provider.

The regulation establishes important consumer protections including:

- o Standard Wait Times: Initial appointment time of 10 business days or less, and other appointment wait time standards for insurers for behavioral health services;
- o Same Cost-Sharing: Requirements for insurers to assist consumers in accessing in-network providers within those standards. When an in-network provider is not available within those standards, the regulation will require insurers to allow access to an out-of-network provider who can meet those standards, at the innetwork cost-sharing rate;
- o Updated Directories: Specific information to be included in provider directories, including provider affiliations with facilities and restrictions on a provider's scope of services, such as age of patients or mental health conditions treated; and
- o Insurer Compliance: Insurers and managed care organizations must now submit to DFS and DOH an annual certification regarding an insurer's access plan that must include collection of data and monitoring of



its behavioral health network.

The DFS regulation, which applies to commercial health insurance plans, takes effect on July 1, 2025. A copy is available on the DFS website.

Additionally, DOH has proposed an identical regulation for HMOs - including Medicaid managed care plans, child health plus and the essential plan. This regulation goes into effect on July 1, 2025, and is available on the DOH website.

Today's announcement builds upon Governor Hochul's ongoing efforts to expand access to critical health services. Over the last two years, Governor Hochul has made multi-billion-dollar investments in safety-net hospitals, passed the largest Medicaid rate increases in more than a decade and announced \$2.6 billion in capital transformation funding to help transform and modernize New York's health care facilities.

Additionally, Governor Hochul signed legislation to prevent medical debt from negatively impacting New Yorkers' access to credit in 2023.

Governor Hochul has made strengthening mental health care statewide a priority of her administration. Adopted in FY 2024, her landmark \$1 billion multi-year plan has bolstered prevention efforts, greatly expanded community access to mental health supports, and has developed supports for New Yorkers with the highest needs. (Contd. Pg. 43)

Governor Hochul Expands Access to Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment for New Yorkers

(From Pg. 42) This investment is tripling the number of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics statewide, adding 42 new Assertive Community Treatment teams and creating 50 Critical Time Intervention teams - all crucial to providing outpatient care to help individuals live in their community. The Governor's plan has also created nearly 1,300 new units of specialized housing for individuals living with mental illness, with about 2,200 units in the pipeline to be developed.

Governor Hochul has also added 325 inpatient beds at stateoperated psychiatric centers - the largest expansion of this capacity in years - and restored 550 beds that were offline at communitybased hospitals. Under the Governor's direction, the state also established new hospital admission and discharge regulations to ensure quality care and safe, thoughtful discharge plans to help connect individuals leaving emergency and inpatient care with community-

The FY 2026 Budget continues this work by providing \$16.5 million to counties for Assisted Outpatient Treatment programs, \$10 million to expand Clubhouses, and Youth Safe Spaces and \$2 million to support community-determined wellness in historically marginalized neighborhoods. The Budget also proposes investing \$1.5 million to expand Teen Mental Health First Aid to 10th graders, \$4 million to establish hospital-based Peer Bridger Services and expand the Intensive and Sustained Engagement Teams, and \$160 million to expand forensic inpatient capacity on Ward's Island in New York City.

Additionally, Governor Hochul's FY26 Executive Budget invests \$1 million into strengthening oversight and compliance of commercial health insurance coverage, including through new surveillance, educating consumers and providers and assisting with complaints. The Governor's Budget also proposes a more robust process for holding managed care plans accountable for their performance by imposing additional fines on those failing to meet Medicaid model contract requirements.

NYS Environmental Conservation Police on Patrol

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Division of Law Enforcement enforces the 71 chapters of New York State's Environmental Conservation Law (ECL), protecting fish and wildlife and preserving environmental quality across New York. In 1880, the first eight Game Protectors proudly began serving to protect the natural resources and people of New York State. In 2024, the Division of Law Enforcement fielded more than 105,717 calls, resulting in Environmental Conservation Police Officers (ECOs) and Investigators across the state responding to more than 30,109 complaints and working on cases that resulted in 15,755 tickets or arrests for violations ranging from deer poaching to solid waste dumping, illegal mining, the illegal pet trade, and excessive emissions violations.

"Whether solving environmental crimes, safeguarding New York's natural resources and wildlife, or connecting with communities and inspiring the next generation of conservationists, Environmental Conservation Police Officers and Investigators have an historic legacy of protecting New York's air, land, water, and public safety every day and in every corner of the state," DEC Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar said. "I am proud of their tireless efforts to enforce New York's stringent Environmental Conservation Law by holding polluters accountable and promoting the safe, sustainable, and responsible use of the great outdoors, and encourage all New Yorkers interested in joining our ranks to learn how to become the next Environmental Conservation Police Officers."_

Animal Abuse Investigation - Jefferson County

On Jan. 30, Environmental Crimes Investigator Jackson responded to a call from a concerned resident who reported finding the carcass of an animal believed to be a coyote near Skinner Road in the town of Ellisburg. Investigator Jackson arrived at the location and determined it was a domestic dog that had been shot from the roadway. The next day, while following up with neighbors in the area, Investigator Jackson observed a small



Investigator Jackson with puppy found in Jefferson County

black and white puppy wandering near the area where the deceased dog was found. An investigation led Officers to the owner of both dogs and determined that the subject had been traveling through Jefferson County to either abandon the dogs or leave them with a friend when the larger of the two dogs jumped into his lap, causing him to crash his vehicle into a guard rail. Investigators say the subject then

allegedly shot and killed the larger dog out of anger. The subject was arrested and charged with aggravated unlicensed operation of a



way in Jefferson County

motor vehicle (misdemeanor), discharging a firearm over a pubhighway (misdemeanor),

abandonment of animals (misdemeanor), and aggravated animal cruelty (felony). He was arraigned in Jefferson County Criminal Appearance Court and is being held in the Jefferson County Jail until a future court date in March. Investigator Jackson managed to rescue the puppy found wandering in the area, and safely transported it to Jefferson County Animal Control office for a check-up and eventual rehoming.

Long Haul - Sullivan County

On Feb. 3, ECO Heckler and Lieutenant Bello observed a tractor trailer hauling what appeared to be dirt waste on Route 17 in the town of Bethel. The tractor trailer had a registration number displayed, which typically indicates a truck is hauling regulated waste, but the registration failed to note a company name or regulated waste haul number as required in New York

Officers followed the tractor trailer from a distance and observed it enter a previously registered solid waste management facility where it dumped its dirt load. While at the facility, ECOs observed a second tractor trailer tandem truck dumping similar fill material. The Officers investigated and determined both trucks were carrying dirt waste documented as restricted-use fill on their waste tracking documents. DEC's Division of Materials Management and Office of General Counsel confirmed the Sullivan County facility was not, nor was it ever, permitted to accept restricted-use fill. ECOs ticketed both drivers and the transportation company for both trucks for failing to produce regulated waste registrations, failure to display regulated waste permit numbers on two sides of a trailer, and transporting waste to an unauthorized facility.

ECO Heckler explains violations to drivers hauling restricted-use fill unlawfully in Sullivan County

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!]

From President's Corner

Lori Orestano-James

March has been roaring in like a lion as we march on through the Rotary year. We have the Taste of Sullivan coming up, the Rotary Meet Up, upcoming District and Region Meetings, BBQ planning, and so much more.

All hands are needed on deck as we bring in the

final few months of this Rotary year.

Rotary Meet Ups

Know of a potential new Rotarian? Now is the opportunity to join them and bring along to the District 7210 Meet Up at Resorts W orld - Catskills on March 6th. Grow our club and share The

Magic of Rotary!

Guest Speaker: Kate Svoboda from Bethel W cods Center for the Arts Education & Museum program shared all the great programming available through this local gem. Thank you to Ies Kristt for setting this speaker up. If you have a suggestion for a guest speaker, please let us know as we have some spots still available through the end of the year.



This Week's Program: Club Action: Speakers, Topics, and Needs - Oh My!

Agenda for March 4, 2025

- 1. Meeting Called to Order President Iori Orestano-James
- 2. Pledge Of Allegiance Rick Stein (Round 2)
- 3. Introduction of Guests of Members Full Membership
- 4. Program: Club Action: Speakers, Topics, and Needs Oh My!
- 5. Committee Reports:

Taste of Sullivan - Helen Diehl

Scholarship Committee - Marty Miller

RYLAUpdate - Lori Orestano-James

Rotary Radio - Rick Stein

Humpback Friday - Barbara Carr

Installation Date, Shana Bruestle - Next Week

- 6. Regional Updates/District Updates Meet Ups
- 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=MUNmWnhZanR6M21CSy9McjNQSTBudz09

Some upcoming important dates to mark on your calendar: March 25, 2025 - Scholarship Committee Meeting, Albella, 6:00pm

March 6, 2025 - Rotary Meet Up at Resorts W orld - Catskills, 6pm - 8pm. (Epicenter)

March 11, 2025 - Taste of Sullivan Committee Meeting - 5:30 - Albella

March 21, 2025 - Scholarship Applications Due

Humpback Friday, March 24, 2025 - Starter's, Broadway, Monticello, 5pm - 7pm

Taste of Sullivan - April 22, 2025, SUNY Sullivan, 6pm - 8pm Our Motto: Service Above Self - How have you meet that goal lately? Lastly, our meetings are hybrid. We would love to see you at our meetings either in-person or and/or Zoom. For those of you who attend regularly, we thank you for your commitment.

W ith Rotary Pride, Lori Orestano-James

President Monticello Rotary 2024-2025

Stories

Monti Rotary Scholarships Available

Attention all Monticello Central School District High School and Fallsburg Junior Senior High School Class of 2025 students: Monticello Rotary Scholarship Applications are available now from your School Guidance Counselors. Up to \$10,000 will be distributed to successful graduates to use in the next part of their life's journey. Application Deadline March 21st. For additional information, email RotaryMonti@gmail.com Application can be downloaded then submitted as indicated here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Bj3dyAlucDKRM_OsUWyON-AdyV1XPJ8u/view?usp=sharing

Monticello Rotary Healthy Heart Health Fair Rocked It!

The feedback is in! An amazing job with the Monti Rotary Healthy Heart Health & Wellness Fair imageimageim-

ageadding great communilearning tv apportunity during this year's 47th Annual 98.3 WSUL Heart-A-Thon imageim ageThank you to all those who participated as vendors and pro-



vided special classes throughout the event (noted below).

Special thanks to Monticello Rotarians Crystal Tweed and Iori Orestano-James for Co-Chairing and organizing this portion of the day, hitting it right out of the ballpark! Also to Joe Taylor, Angela Rein and their Team at Resorts W orld Catskills. VENDORS:

New York Blood Center, Vet 2 Vet, Alzheimer's Association, A Single Bite, SUNY Sullivan Nursing Students, SC BOCES Healthcare Students, Lee Karasik-Hands Only CPR, NAMI, Seven X Motors Healthy Heart Table, Garnet Health-Catskills, Hypnotherapy- Albee Bockman, Fearless, Sullivan County Office for the Aging, Sullivan County Public Health, Sullivan County Drug Force Task Force, Cornell Cooperative Extention, Sullivan 180, Cornerstone Healthcare, Fidelis Care, MVP, NY National Guard Countering Drug Task Force, Sullivan Allies Leading Together, EPIC (Every Person Influences Children, RCLS Library Services.

CLASSES: Tai Chi with Pedro Tweed, Mindfulness in Motion (Key to a Healthy Heart) STEAM, No Equipment, No Problem with Coach Maggi Fitzpatrick, Labryinth: W alking and Seeing Your W ay to a Healthy Heart - NAMI, Mental W ellness for a Healthy Heart - Iori Schneider, NAMI, Healthy Eating for a Healthy Heart - Cornell Cooperative Extension, Happy Heart through Hypnotherapy - Albee Bockman, Lic. Hypnotherapy Heart through Hypnotherapy - Albee Bockman, Lic. Hypnotherapist.

Flyers: Layla Mack, Emily Pine, and Dawn Ciorciari More pictures can be found here: https://photos.app.goo.gl/PCK16qxKJpr7a7c19

(Contd. Pg. 46)

Montigram

(From Pg. 45)

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Coldest Night of the Year W arms Hearts



A chilly yet heartwarming night at the Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless Coldest Night of the Year Walk with the Monticello Rotary Club of Monticello, NY & Friends Team. Monti Rotary Corporate Member Jodi Goodman of Garnet Health Catskills and Iori James co-chaired the Monti Rotary Team having a fabulous night of fun as the team came together to raise over \$2184 for the cause and having a blast doing it!!! You can still donate:

https://seure.e2mm.com/registrant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx ?teamID=1026771 Additional photos can be found here https://photos.app.goo.gl/uoYiTsLGv7PGCTf29

Rotary Joint Club Blood Drive Saves 150 Lives



The Sullivan Joint Rotary Club Blood Drive was a huge success. Honorary Chair Sheriff Mike Schiff was on hand to greet many of the donors and brought many new donors to the cause.

The most successful Blood Drive yet, the event realized 72 potential donors with 50 pints of viable blood. Cold and flu season takes a toll on eligibility to donate but, with each pint donated saving 3 lives each, 150 lives were saved through this event. W ay to go Sullivan County and the amazing Rotary Clubs for their work on putting this together.

MARCH 6, 2025



Never Ending Coat Drive Tops 1000 Coats!

Monticello Rotary Members, and United W ay of Sullivan County Chief Professional Officer Julian Dawson were on hand accepting over 400 coats from Senator Peter Oberacker during the Heartathon, topping the Never Ending Coat Drive at just over 1000 coats in total for distribution to those in need in Sullivan County. W ay to go Sullivan County and the Monticello Rotary Club. Shout-out to Monticello Rotarian Cris Spinner - Chair, and Committee Members Brad Rutledge, Jackie Rutledge, and Iori Orestano-James for AMAZING Service Above Self work on this event.



Monti Rotary Has Heart

The 47th Annual WSUL Heart-a-thon is officially in the books and what a great job by the Bold Gold Team and Committee. Caming in at just over \$80,000 to provide funds for the Prevention, Education, and Treatment Heart Disease, this event has been a staple in Sullivan County bringing together the communi-

ty for good. Monticello Rotary helped to reach this goal and was present throughout the day to lend support for the Heart—a-thon, Healthy Heart Health Fair, and the Blood Drive! Thanks to all who joined in to make this year another banner year!

More photos can be found here:

https://photos.app.goo.gl/osJvkJgzUKjHvXyh8

SAVE A LIFE! DONATE! SHARE OUR STORY!



NICK NEEDS KIDNEY -TYPE O

(IN SOME CASES TYPE A BLOOD COULD WORK)

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

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

More about our warrior Nick....

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

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

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

For any other questions 845.798.2077 nickneedsokidney@gmail.com

Follow Nick
@nickneedsokidney

WOODRIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT THIRD ANNUAL



AMERICAN MADE STIHL PRODUCTS

1ST PRIZE: STIHL MS 271 FARM BOSS CHAINSAW
2ND PRIZE: STIHL FS 94 R WEED WHACKER TRIMMER
3RD PRIZE: STIHL GTA 26 GARDEN PRUNER
4TH PRIZE: \$50.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO
ACE HARDWARE OF ELLENVILLE

DRAWING DATE: THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025



TO PURCHASE, PLEASE SEE ANY MEMBER OR STOP BY OUR FIREHOUSE THURSDAYS AT 7PM!



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

CHIEF NOLAN AKERLEY - 845.707.2975 ASSISTANT CHIEF ERIC AKERLEY - 845.707.1483

SPECIAL THANKS TO ACE HARDWARE OF ELLENVILLE, N.Y. FOR THEIR SUPPORT

ULSTER COUNTY'S TOP 10 EVENTS

Annual Mac & Cheese Bake-Off to Benefit Angel Food East

2pm on March 2nd 20 Saint James St, Kingston \$10-\$20

Free-\$12_

The Ashokan Center Maple Fest

10am to 3pm on March 8th 477 Beaverkill Rd, Olivebridge

16th Annual Local Ingredient Chili Challenge

12pm to 3pm on March 15th 10 Main St #501, New Paltz

-\$2-\$20

\$25-\$55—

Borscht Beit Comedy Club

→ 7pm & 9pm on March 15th

157 Canal St, Ellenville

Sangria & St. Patrick's Day

11am to 5pm on March 15th & 16th 714 Albany Post Rd, New Paltz

Check the website!



ULSTER COUNTY'S TOP 10 EVENTS

Ulster County St. Patrick's Day Parade

Line up at 11:30am with kickoff at 1pm on March 16th

Uptown Kingston @ The Kingston Plaza K

\$15-\$30---

> 37th Annual Shamrock Run

12:50pm SHARP on March 16th

238 Clinton Ave, Kingston

Boston Blackthorne St. Patrick's Day Bash

7pm to 10pm on March 16th

22 Rock City Rd, Woodstock

\$15-\$20

Free!

Free!

Ulster County Fiber & Cider Tour

10am to 3pm on March 22nd

Various locations around Ulster County

New Beginnings Farmstead Maple Weekend
Open House 2025

10am to 4pm on March 22nd, 23rd, 29th & 30th

2585 State Route 209, Kingston

Free!



PAGE 51 THE TOWNSMAN MARCH 6, 2025

Color Our World with LEGII at the Daniel Pierce Library Up in the AIR Program Spring 2025

3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Up, Up & Away (Grades 4-6) Wednesday, April 9

LEGO hot air balloon challenge. Think outside the brick and see how else you can use your LEGO pieces for this design! Team up if you'd like.

Treehouse (Grades 2-3) Wednesday, April 30

Build the ultimate backyard treehouse of your dreams, high up into the sky!

Balloon-powered Vehicle (UPK-Grade 1) Wednesday, May 7

Build a balloon-powered car that goes! Race your car with a friend and see how far it can travel.

Spring is in the Air (Toddlers Ages 3 & 4 years) Wednesday, May 14

This challenge will spark your child's imagination, inspiring them to think creatively about the limitless possibilities of what they can build with their LEGO bricks, from flowers and bugs to things that soar through the sky.

PLEASE NOTE: A parent or guardian must be present for your child to attend this program.

Imagine, create and learn with ATTO!

Registration is open to Tri-Valley residents. Advanced online registration is required at www.danielpiercelibrary.org. If you wish for your child to take the bus from school, please send a note to the elementary office no later than the Monday before the program.



Meeting with Border Czar Tom Homan

For the last two years, as a member of the Northern Border Security Caucus, I've been sounding the alarm on the growing crisis at the northern border. We've seen troubling trends, including 87% of individuals on the terror watchlist attempting to cross into the U.S. through Canada. Not only that, but drug smuggling along the northern border has skyrocketed by 1,153% in just two years. These serious issues were ignored by the Biden administration.

Yet just over a month after being appointed as Border Czar, Tom Homan has already met with the Northern Border Security Caucus, to discuss his work cracking down on criminal illegal immigrants, ensuring that those who pose a danger to our communities are deported. In addition, we discussed how we can keep our Northern Border secure.

I'm eager to continue collaborating with the Trump administration, especially on tackling the illegal immigration and drug crisis in our country. We've seen positive results under President Trump's leadership, and there's still much more to be done. Our focus must remain on protecting our communities and ensuring that we have the necessary tools to keep our borders secure.

Voting to Kickstart President Trump's Agenda

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6WcNG O0ts

House Republicans took the first step this week toward delivering on our promise to the American people: to craft a fiscally responsible budget that reins in out-of-control spending and lowers costs for hardworking families. With the national debt projected to reach \$59 trillion by 2035, it is imperative that we curb reckless government spending. This resolution establishes a framework for Congress to implement at least \$1.2 trillion in spending cuts, putting our nation on a path toward fiscal stability.

This legislation also enables Congress to advance President Trump's policy agenda, including securing our borders, reversing the Biden-Harris administration's harmful energy policies, strengthening our national defense, and most importantly, building on the success of President Trump's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA). Time is quickly running out to extend TCJA's pro-family, pro-worker, and

pro-growth tax provisions, many of which are set to expire at the end of the year. Passing a comprehensive tax package as soon as possible is critical to preserving historic tax cuts for small businesses and working families. If Congress fails to act, taxpayers in NY-24 will face a 25% tax hike, and nearly 6 million jobs could be lost nationwide.

By passing this resolution, we are moving a step closer to ensuring the Trump administration is able to implement the America First Agenda that Americans overwhelmingly voted for last November.

Creating State-Level Departments of Government Efficiency

DOGE is working diligently at the federal level to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse. It's time for state governments to follow suit. States like New York receive billions in federal aid annually, yet waste it on DEI initiatives and woke programs that are out of touch with the vast majority of Americans. It is imperative that these tax dollars are used properly and efficiently. This week, I introduced the State-Level DOGE Establishment Act to ensure that states create a DOGE commission to oversee the use of taxpayer funding and cut back on wasteful programs. If they refuse, they should not receive a dime of taxpayer money from the federal government.

READ MORE: Exclusive - Rep. Claudia Tenney Proposes Nationwide State-Level DOGE Commissions https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2025/02/28/exclusive-rep-claudia-tenney-proposes-nationwide-state-level-doge-commissions/

Calling for President Trump to Support Israel's Right to Sovereignty over Judea and Samaria

The Israeli people have an undeniable and indisputable historical and legal claim over Judea and Samaria.

Through the introduction of the Recognizing Judea and Samaria Act and the establishment of the Friends of Judea and Samaria Caucus, I have actively reinforced Israel's legitimate claim to its land.

Earlier this year, President Trump issued a statement that he would soon make an announcement regarding Israeli sovereignty over the region. In response, I led my colleagues in sending a letter to President Trump, urging his administration to recognize Israel's right to declare sovereignty over Judea and Samaria. His unwavering commitment to preserving Israel's history reflects his understanding that Israel's strength and resilience are deeply rooted in its connection to the past.

I remain dedicated to working with President Trump, Secretary of State Rubio, and Ambassador Huckabee to defend the integrity of the Jewish state and fully support Israel's sovereignty over Judea and Samaria.

READ MORE: GOP lawmakers push Trump to recognize West Bank as Israeli territory

https://www.foxnews.com/politics/republicans-trump-west-bank-israel

(Contd. Pg. 53)

This Week with Claudia

(From Pg. 52)

Introducing Legislation Urging the EU to Designate the IRGC as a Terrorist Organization

To defeat the IRGC, which is responsible for sponsoring terrorist attacks against innocent civilians across the globe, the United States cannot act alone. In 2019, President Trump designated the IRGC as a Foreign Terrorist Organization, symbolizing the United States' dedication to eradicating the world of this terrorist organization and its proxies. Now it's time for our EU allies to step up and follow suit. I introduced the Encouraging the EU to DESIGNATE Resolution this week, which urges our allies to join our efforts to combat the IRGC by immediately designating this group as a terrorist organization. This will send a strong message that the West is united against the IRGC's malicious actions and that we will hold them accountable for their vile acts of terrorism.

READ MORE: GOP lawmakers urge Trump to back Israeli sovereignty over Judea and Samaria https://www.jns.org/gop-lawmakers-urge-trump-to-back-israeli-sovereignty-over-judea-and-samaria/

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

H.R.1719, the Farm to Fly Act - This bill will promote the growth of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) through existing U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs, enhance collaboration, and ensure USDA's SAF definitions support the eligibility of American agricultural crops.

H.R. 1421, the Make American Flags in America Act - This bill requires that all American flags displayed on federal grounds or purchased by the federal government is 100% Made in America with American materials. Our American flag represents freedom and democracy across the globe and is a critical symbol of our national pride and all that makes our country great. Each year, I lead an appropriations letter demanding that we only fund the procurement of American flags made in America with American materials, and this bill would codify my efforts into law.

H.R. 1705, the Supporting Innovation in Agriculture Act - This bill would provide tax incentives to accelerate adoption of innovative farming technologies for U.S. specialty crop producers. Emerging, innovative farming technologies can be a significant way of increasing the domestic production of fruits, vegetables, tree nuts and other specialty crops while creating resilience in the supply chain. The Supporting Innovation in Agriculture Act will create an important tool to promote the diverse domestic specialty crop industry in western New York.

Transparency in Congress and a well-informed electorate are vital to preserving our self-governing Constitutional

Republic. My constituents deserve to know how their members of Congress vote, which is why I have explained every vote I have cast in Congress since I was first elected.

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

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 825, the Assisting Small Businesses Not Fraudsters act. This bill bars individuals convicted of certain financial crimes from receiving assistance from the Small Business Administration (SBA). Specifically, it prohibits those convicted of financial misconduct or fraud related to COVID-19 relief programssuch as Paycheck Protection Program loans, Restaurant Revitalization Fund grants, and Shuttered Venue Operators grants-from accessing SBA financial aid, except for disaster loans. The restriction also extends to small businesses with an owner, officer, director, or key employee who has been convicted of such offenses. This important bill will help protect SBA funds from going to financial fraudsters instead of hardworking Americans. This bill passed unanimously by a vote of 405-0.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 832, the Small Business Advocacy Improvements Act. This bill enhances the responsibilities of the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy by broadening its scope to include analyzing the impact and role of small businesses in the global economy and advocating for small businesses before foreign governments and international organizations to help shape regulatory and trade policies that may affect them. As a former small businesse owner myself I understand the pivotal role small businesses play in supporting our nation's economy, both domestically and on the international stage. I support this commonsense bill to allow the SBA to better support our small businesses. This bill passed by a vote of 396-15.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 818, the SPUR Act. This bill mandates federal agencies report on the number of first-time prime contract recipients that qualify as a service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses, HUBZone-certified small businesses, or women-owned small businesses. This data will allow the federal government to better support these small businesses competing in federal contracting. This bill passed by a vote of 384-25.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 788, the DOE and SBA Research Act. This bill directs the Department of Energy and Small Business Administration to collaborate on research and development efforts, aligning their shared mission, priorities, and requirements. It also underscores the importance of research security provisions. This bill will help strengthen our energy sector small businesses throughout New York's 24th District. This bill passed by a vote of 427 - 3.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 804, the Rural Small Business Resilience Act. This bill requires the Small Business Administration (SBA) to develop specific outreach policies and procedures for rural communities (Contd. Pg. 54)

This Week with Claudia

(From Pg. 53) and ensure that rural small businesses have full access to SBA disaster assistance, specifically tailoring outreach and marketing plans for SBA's Disaster Loan Program to address challenges rural communities face in accessing disaster relief. This bill is critical to ensuring NY-24 small businesses are able to access the critical assistance they require during natural disasters, such as snowstorms. This bill passed by a vote of 415-8.

I voted "Yes" on H.Con.Res.14, Establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2025 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2026 through 2034. This resolution sets the parameters for the upcoming budget reconciliation process. This is the first step today toward delivering on our promise to the American people: to craft a fiscally responsible budget that reins in out-of-control spending and lowers costs for hardworking families. This legislation also enables Congress to advance President Trump's policy agenda, including securing our borders, reversing the Biden-Harris administration's harmful energy policies, strengthening our national defense, and most importantly, building on the success of President Trump's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA). Congress must act quickly to preserve TCJA's pro-family, pro-worker, and pro-growth tax provisions, many of which are set to expire at the end of the year. If Congress fails to act, taxpayers in NY-24 will face a 25% tax hike, and nearly 6 million jobs could be lost nationwide. The passage of this resolution moves us one step closer to ensuring the Trump administration can deliver the America First Agenda that Americans overwhelmingly voted for last November. This concurrent resolution passed the House by a vote of 217-215.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 695, the Medal of Honor Act. This bill increases the annual pension received by Medal of Honor recipients from its current level set in 2002. Our Medal of Honor recipients embody the bravery, valor, and selflessness of all our servicemembers. This important bill will ensure that all our Medal of Honor are rightfully recognized and rewarded for their service to our nation. This bill passed by a vote of 424-0.

I voted "Yes" on H.J. Res 35, Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Waste Emissions Charge for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems: Procedures for Facilitating Compliance, Including Netting and Exemptions." This joint resolution of disapproval repeals the Biden Administration's ban on gas-fired water heaters to preserve consumer choice and keep costs low for American families. Americans depend on having a range of appliance options that suit their needs, often choosing affordable and reliable natural gas to power their homes. However, during his time in office, President Biden-backed by Congressional Democrats-pushed policies that targeted American fossil fuels while prioritizing environmental special interest groups over everyday consumers. These efforts restricted market choices and ultimately drove up costs for American households. Overturning these out of touch Biden admin rules will help drive down costs for American consumers. This bill passed the by a vote of 220-206, with one member voting present.

I voted "Yes" on H.J. Res 20, Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code,

of the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Gas-fired Instantaneous Water Heaters." This joint resolution of disapproval, which I was an original cosponsor of, overturns the unnecessary Biden admin regulation for consumer water heaters. The DOE rule, which was finalized on December 26, 2024, and would become effective on March 11, 2025, "prescribes energy conservation standards for various consumer products and certain commercial and industrial equipment, including gas-fired instantaneous water heaters, which are a type of consumer water heater." This rushed regulation was one of many harmful energy policies the previous administration shoved out the door that does nothing other than burden consumers and hard-working Americans. I'm proud to support President Trump's agenda of unleashing American energy dominance, and overturning draconian rules from the previous administration is a critical component to that agenda. This bill passed the house by a vote of 221-198, with two members voting present.



It was a busy week in Washington as I kept up the fight to make the Hudson Valley more affordable, more safe, and more free.

I wanted to take a moment to update you all on what I've been working on this week. But before we get to those updates, I also wanted to check back in on a very important topic: the quality and accessibility of your medical care in the Hudson Valley. I'll go into further detail below, but if you can spare a moment and haven't already, please take THIS SURVEY so I can best serve YOU!

https://patryan.house.gov/serving-you/optum-survey

VOTING AGAINST BUDGET THAT CUTS MEDICAID IN EXCHANGE FOR TAX CUTS FOR BILLIONAIRES

Every single day, I am fighting to make the Hudson Valley more affordable, more safe, and more free - this budget proposal does the exact opposite. The wealthiest 0.1% of Americans would each get a tax cut of over \$300,000 and Trump wants to pay for it by gutting health care and food assistance for over 150,000 Hudson Valley residents.

It's not just the immediate harm of gutting healthcare access, but also the long-term impact of adding more than \$4 trillion to the national debt. I'm doing everything I can to block these harmful cuts, protect our community, and make sure tax cuts go to the middle-class, not the ultra-wealthy.

Read the full press release: Congressman Pat Ryan Fights For Hudson Valley Families, Votes Against Budget That Cuts Medicaid In Exchange For Tax Cuts For Billionaires

https://patryan.house.gov/media/press-releases/congress-man-pat-ryan-fights-hudson-valley-families-votes-against-budget-cuts (Contd. 55)

Pat Ryan

(From Pg. 54)

FIGHTING TO PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY

Last month, I first raised the alarm about the "temporary" closure of the Poughkeepsie Social Security office. The closure left seniors without access to in person services in either Ulster or Dutchess counties, and unclear on when or if services would resume.

Now, the Poughkeepsie Social Security Office has shown up on the DOGE website under "savings," with "end of term" planned for 7/31/25.

This is entirely outrageous and unacceptable.

My team is working around the clock to make sure Hudson Valley seniors have access to their earned benefits.

STANDING UP FOR YOUR HEALTH CARE

My office has been hearing from folks across the Hudson Valley about a decline in care, especially at CareMount Medical and Crystal Run Healthcare, following their purchase by Optum. That's why I've launched a community inquiry to hear from as many folks as possible to directly inform my ongoing oversight.

Whether it's inaccurate billing, new or increased fees, or difficulty getting appointments, it's unacceptable for any corporation to be driving down quality and driving up costs. I'll keep pushing to get to the bottom of this and ensure every Hudson Valley family gets the care they deserve.

If you haven't already, please fill out THIS SURVEY and tell us about your experience with Optum in the Hudson Valley.

Read more: The Examiner News: Stone's Throw: A Bold New Step in the Sick Care Showdown https://www.theexaminernews.com/stones-throw-a-bold-new-step-in-the-sick-care-showdown/

SUPPORTING TRAA FIRST RESPONDERS HOLDING BIG DEFENSE COMPANIES ACCOUNTABLE

This week, the trade associations for the five biggest defense companies testified in Congress.

Those five companies got ~\$130B of taxpayer funds last year.

I asked them for ONE program to cut. Watch the response.

h t t p s : // x . c o m / R e p P a t R y a n N Y / s t a - tus/1894896238253728049

Maybe Elon Musk could stop gutting Medicaid and focus here instead?

GETTING YOU YOUR MONEY BACK

I'm joining my fellow New York sports fans in celebrating the end of this blackout, but our fight is not over yet.

It's time for Congress to pass my legislation, the "Stop Sports Blackouts Act," to make sure that companies who charge for a service they fail to provide are required to pay that money back. Every penny.

Read more: Lohud: MSG, Optimum blackout comes to an end as companies reach agreement https://www.lohud.com/story/sports/2025/02/24/msg-optimum-blackout-comes-to-an-end-as-companies-reachagreement/79998749007/

THREE YEARS OF WAR IN UKRAINE

This week marked 3 years since Putin's illegal invasion of Ukraine. The Ukrainians have fought with bravery and passion to defend their country and their freedom.

Abandoning Ukraine's security puts our own at risk, and is antithetical to core American values.

The country that I risked my life to defend doesn't bow down to dictators.

RECOGNIZING THE BEGINNING OF RAMADAN

Wishing all who are beginning their observance of Ramadan this week across NY-18 a meaningful and blessed holiday.

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 reporting 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 (Contd. PG. 56)

Pat Ryan

(From Pg. 55)

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!



Welcome to Kirsten's New York Minute!

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

1. Fighting for 9/11 survivors

The World Trade Center Health Program (WTCHP) is a lifeline for thousands of Americans who risked their lives to protect our country during its darkest hour. Now, as many of these individuals battle horrific health conditions as a result of their service, we must ensure they can get the health care that they deserve.

This week, Kirsten joined 9/11 survivors and responders, as well as a bipartisan group of her colleagues, to introduce legislation that would update the WTCHP's outdated funding formula to ensure that the program can continue providing medical care to new and existing enrollees who suffer from 9/11-related conditions. It is beyond time to get this passed, and Kirsten is committed to working across the aisle to do so.

Read more. https://www.newsday.com/long-island/politics/world-trade-center-health-oeubm5iq

2. Supporting first responders' mental health

Police officers, firefighters, and EMTs face unique stressors that put them at a high risk of developing PTSD and other mental health problems. We owe it to our first responders to provide them more support.

That's why this week, Kirsten introduced bipartisan legislation to establish a national mental health hotline for first responders and to expand mental health services for those on the frontlines.

Read more

. https://www.fingerlakes1.com/2025/02/26/gillibrand-haw-ley-introduce-bipartisan-bill-to-create-mental-health-hot-line-for-first-responders/#google_vignette

3. Leading efforts to restore the Long Island Sound

Decades of pollution had put the Long Island Sound's wildlife population, fisheries, water quality, and surrounding communities at risk.

This week, Kirsten reintroduced the Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Reauthorization Act, which would reauthorize \$65 million annually to continue restoration efforts that will preserve the Sound's long-term health.

Read more

https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/news/press/release/gillibrand-leads-effort-with-senators-schumer-blumenthal-murphy-to-reintroduce-65-million-annual-authorization-forlong-island-sound-restoration/

4. SSA begins issuing retroactive Social Security benefits

This week, the Social Security Administration began issuing retroactive payments to the millions of teachers, police officers, firefighters, and other public servants who were unfairly penalized by recently repealed SSA provisions.

These payments are a direct result of Kirsten's Social Security Fairness Act, which passed with bipartisan support last year and was signed into law by former President Biden. As a result, 2.5 million Americans, including 35,000 New Yorkers, are expected to receive retroactive payments and increased monthly benefits.

Read more

.https://www.silive.com/news/2025/02/social-security-begins-paying-retroactive-payments-and-higher-monthly-benefits-for-millions.html

5. Advocating for gun safety with Gabby Giffords

Commonsense gun safety legislation is vital to protect American children and communities.

This week, Kirsten met with her good friend Gabby Giffords to discuss ways to end gun violence and get deadly weapons off our streets. Kirsten is committed to working across the aisle to keep our communities safe and save lives. Watch part of Kirsten's meeting with Gabby here. https://x.com/gillibrandny/status/1895498679378952197

6. Helping constituents get their benefits

When a constituent's Social Security Disability Insurance checks were stolen in the mail and cashed by an imposter, he became gravely concerned about his ability to pay for his basic needs and requested help from Kirsten's office. Our team contacted the Social Security Administration, and the constituent was reissued checks for \$30,000 in critical funds.

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



Senator Peter Oberacker Announces Unanimous Passage of Life-Saving Bone Marrow Transplant Bill

ALBANY, Feb. 26, 2025 - State Senator Peter Oberacker proudly announced the unanimous passage of Senate Bill S3335, groundbreaking legislation aimed at significantly expanding the National Marrow Donor Program donor pool and improving access to life-saving bone marrow transplants for individuals battling life-threatening blood cancers such as leukemia and lymphoma.

"Today, we've taken a giant step forward in the fight against blood cancers," said Senator Oberacker. "This bill ensures that individuals suffering from leukemia, lymphoma, and other blood cancers will have access to the life-saving treatments they desperately need.

Senate Bill S3335 directly addresses the urgent need for a diverse background of marrow donors to meet the growing need for life-saving transplants. This bill creates a seamless way for New Yorkers to become registered bone marrow donors through routine transactions at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

"This bill means more matches, more transplants, and more lives saved," said Senator Oberacker. "We're making it easier to enroll as a donor and giving an opportunity to save a life. Together, we can ensure more families get more time with their loved ones."

NYS Senate's Earth Day 2025 Celebration

The Earth Day Celebration is for school children in grades K-12 from every corner of New York State. The Senate's goal is to encourage children to develop an awareness of the environment and its resources. Teaching children about the importance of recycling and waste reduction is critical as we face the environmental challenges of the 21st Century.

OUR Theme: Our Power, Our Planet! The Senate's focus is to emphasize the importance of recycling and waste reduction, to encourage the exchange of ideas about recycling and waste reduction among schools,

children and adults and to stimulate creative thinking about solutions to problems concerning recycling and waste reduction. We are asking students to create a poster that could be used as part of this campaign.

Deadline: All submissions must be uploaded to the website by April 11, 2025.

Instructions for Teachers: Please fill out your class and school information first, and then enter ALL your students on this form. Entries should be photographed and submitted electronically, preferably in jpeg or pdf format. Please enter each student individually, we can not accept a single PDF with all your students grouped together. Thank you.

Instructions for Parents of Homeschoolers: Please enter the parent name and email in the teacher fields, select the elementary school associated with your place of residence, and choose "Homeschool" for grade. You may optionally enter your child's grade next to their name.

For instructions and submission forms go to: https://www.nysenate.gov/earthday

Statement from Governor Kathy Hochul on Consent Award to End Work Stoppage at State Correctional Facilities

Mediator Martin Scheinmann has Released a Statement Outlining the Terms Agreed to by DOCCS and NYSCOPBA

https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/defau lt/files/2025-02/Combined_NYSCOP-BA.pdf

"My top priority is the safety of all New Yorkers, and for the past 11 days, I have deployed every possible State resource to protect the well-being of correction officers, the incarcerated population and local communities across New York. Working with a mediator, we have reached a consent award to address many of the concerns raised by correction officers, put DOCCS back on the path to safe operations, respect the rights of incarcerated individuals and prevent future unsanctioned work stoppages. I have the utmost respect and gratitude for the correction officers, civilian DOCCS employees, National Guard personnel and other staff who have done their absolute best to maintain order in our correctional facilities during this challenging period."



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

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.



Calls and texts are answered 24/7

A program of the DRC

COVID-19 Vaccines Save Lives

Friends

Who will you protect?



¿A quien protegerás?

Amigos Family

Get the facts.



Obtenga los hechos.

Talk to your healthcare provider about the COVID vaccine.



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

Communidad



For more information, visit www.sullivanny.us



Sullivan County **Text For Teens**

4pm-10pm



GET SIGNED UP TODAY FOR **OUR UPCOMING CERTIFICATION CLASS!!**

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

Contact:

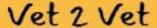
Alyssa Wowk (845) 645-6544 awowk@chowc.net



FOSTER HOMES

NEEDED!





Caffeine & Camaraderie



Every Monday



10:00AM - 11:00AM

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

Place: 309 East Broadway Monticello, NY 12701

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









Momen'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

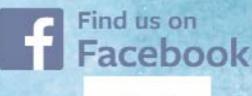
Middletown, NY 10940

For More Information Call 845.343.4284

Eligibility & Pre-Registration is required.











Plenke, R.SI/P

Sents are limited





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...

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.

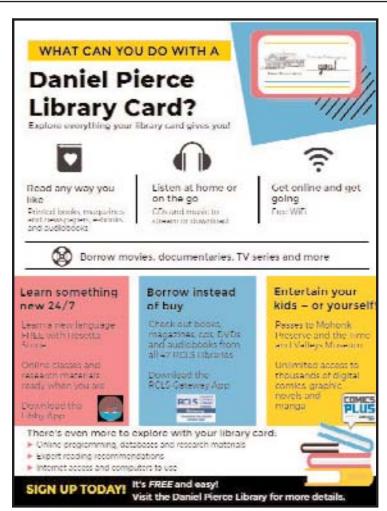
You can:

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

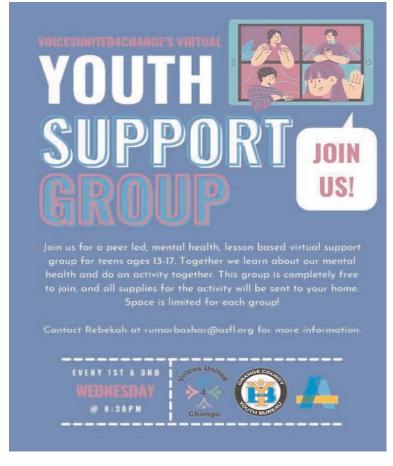
Pick out a book to buy and take home or dive into it right here. Sit back, sip your coffee and enjoy a peaceful moment.

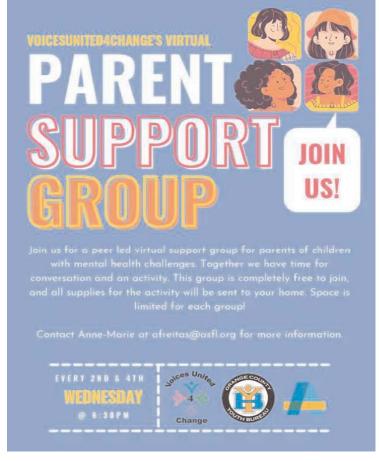
Whether you're looking for your next page-turner or just need a break, Pages and Percs is your perfect spot to relax and recharge.

Enjoy!









Hidden History: Native People and the Catskill Mountains with Justin Wexler of Wild Hudson Valley

Saturday, March 8, 1 - 2:30 p.m.

community room. You will enjoy a cozy

"coffeehouse" atmosphere with complimentary

beverages and snacks served.

For centuries, local Native People traveled and hunted throughout the Catskill Mountains. In the 18th century, secluded valleys became a refuge for families retreating from Euro-American settlement. This presentation will explore the identity of these communities and tell their story



you with a

different

Folk, Blues,

Thursday, March 20,

7:00-9:00p.m.

Ragtime



knitting & crochet group

Thursdays 2-3pm



Local **Food Pantries**

OPEN MONDAY 2-4 P.M

behind former Trail Nursery, 4073 NY-28, Boiceville

RONDOUT VALLEY FOOD PANTRY

RESERVOIR FOOD PANTRY

OPEN TUESDAY & THURSDAY 9-11 A.M. Serving Town of Rochester residents only

WINDOWS OF HEAVEN **FOOD PANTRY**

(845) 657-8444 OPEN FRIDAYS 10AM-2PM **GOOD NEIGHBOR FOOD PANTRY OF WOODSTOCK**

(845) 399-0376



Saturday Movie Matinee at the Library March 22 at 1pm It Ends With Us

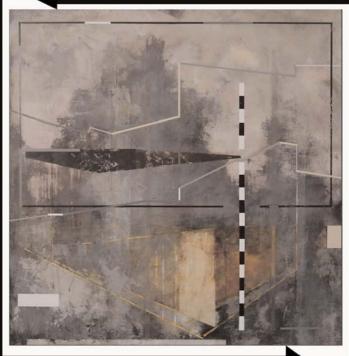


Guatemalan Worry MARCH 22 Doll Workshop

with Andrea Del Cid from the Reher Center in King

A Guatemalan legend says, "Tell your worries to the worry dolls before you go to bed and put them under your pillow. In the morning, the dolls will have taken your worries away!" Explore the story of Muñeca Quitapena and get creative by making your own Worry Dolls!

EXIT'S TRAGEDY



Nat Drake Jörg Madlener Wayne Toepp

3.22.25 - 4.27.25Opening Saturday, March 22, 4pm - 7pm



EXIT'S TRAGEDY

3.22.25 - 4.27.25Opening Saturday, March 22 4pm - 7pm

1053 Main Street Fleischmanns, NY 12430 Hours: Friday – Sunday 11am – 5pm

1053gallery.com

845.254.3461

@1053gallery

Front Image @ Wayne Toepp In a Dry Month



MEDICATION TAKE BACK EVENTS

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

Tuesday, March 18th Matthews Pharmacy

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

Monday, March 10th

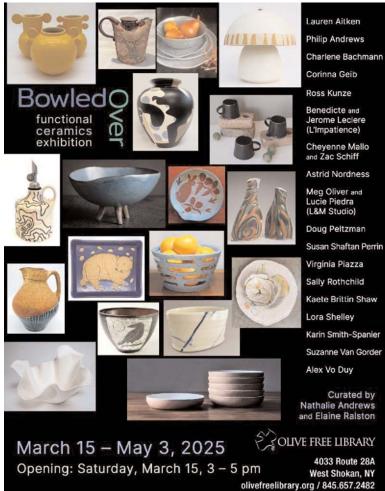
Catskill Pharmacy 16401 US-209, Kerhonkson 11:00am - 2:00pm

Friday, March 21st

Ellenville Regional Hospital Emergency Department Lobby 10 Healthy Way 12:00 - 4:00pm







OLIVE SENIORS

When: 2nd Thursday of the month, 1-3 p.m.

Where: American Legion Hall*

What: Guest speakers covering topics like CPR, wildlife, Ashokan Reservoir, etc. & visits from local vendors like the Catskill Visitor Center and

Fruition Chocolate

Shuffleboard: meets January-May every Tuesday

from 10 a.m.-noon**

* 26-28 Mountain Road, Shokan, NY; handicap accessible, bathrooms on site
** follows Onteora School District calendar and is cancelled when Onteora
schools cancel due to a weather event

OLIVE FREE LIBRARY

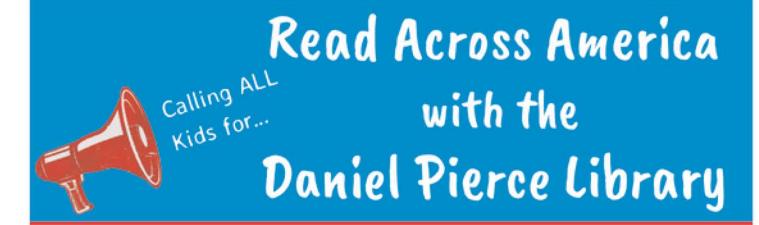
PIANO PLUS! CONCERT SERIES



Daria Podorozhnova & Terri Ji

with Inesa Sinkevych
Tickets: \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door

Saturday, March 29 4:00 p.m.



Celebrate with us!

Who reads? WE READ!

This March, visit the library to grab a reading log and BINGO sheet, and inspire your child's love of reading!



Read Across America is an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on March 2, the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss.

This year we will celebrate all month long!

"You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and READ to a child."
-Dr. Seuss



Daniel Pierce Library

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



Middletown Lions Club is a service organization consisting of your friends and neighbors dedicated to improving all aspects of our local community but especially sight, hearing, environment, childhood cancer, diabetes and hunger.

Contact Diane Youngs if you have any questions at liondiane1@gmail.com



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"KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE

(ON AMAZON PRIME AND/OR NETFLIX)

This week's film selections are in honor of Women's Day

Some realities are stark in this world. If you like wonderful performances that seem above Academy Award

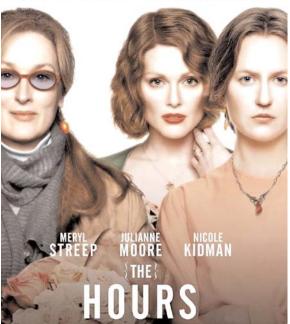
expectations, you will enjoy this film. At first you will not recognize her, but then you will love her, the Academy Award winner for this film, Nichole Kidman.

THE HOURS

(Rated NR, Age 15+ suggested – 1HR 55 Min, HD)

The Hours is a 2002 psychological drama film directed by Stephen Daldry and starring Meryl Streep, Julianne Moore,

BEST ACTRESS OF THE YEAR NICOLE KIDMAN



and Nicole Kidman. Supporting roles are played by Ed Harris, John C. Reilly, Stephen Dillane, Jeff Daniels, Mir-Richardson, Allison Janney, Toni Collette. Claire Danes, and Eileen Atkins. The screenplay by David Hare is based on Michael Cunning-ham's 1998 Pulitzer Prizewinning novel of the same title.

The plot focuses on three women of different generations whose lives are interconnected by

the 1925 novel *Mrs Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf. The women –Clarissa Vaughan (Streep), a New Yorker preparing an award party for her AIDS-stricken long-time friend and poet, Richard (Harris); Laura Brown (Moore), a pregnant 1950s California housewife in an unhappy marriage: and Virginia Woolf (Kidman) in 1920s England, who is struggling with depression and mental illness while trying to write her novel.

Answer to last week's Trivia Question: Danny DeVito

This weeks' Trivia question:

What Beetlejuice beauty was named after her birthplace?

(From Pg. 71)

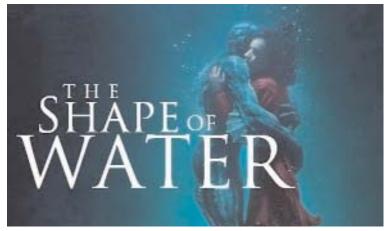
KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE II

The Shape of Water

(R · 2017 · 2hr 3min · Fantasy/Sci-Fi)
Pluto • Prime Video • Paramont
YouTube • Disney

The Shape of Water is a 2017 American romantic fantasy drama film directed by Guillermo del Toro and written by del Toro and Vanessa Taylor stars Sally Hawkins, Michael Shannon, Richard Jenkins, Doug Jones, Michael Stuhlbarg, and Octavia Spencer.

Set in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1962. Elisa a mute works as a cleaning lady in a hidden, high-security government laboratory. Her life changes forever when she discovers the lab's classified secret —a mysterious, scaled creature from South America that lives in a water tank. As Elisa develops a unique bond with her new friend, she soon learns that its fate and very survival lies in the hands of a hostile government agent and a marine biologist.



The Shape of Water was praised for the acting, screenplay, direction, visuals, production design, and musical score, with many calling it Del Toro's best work since *Pan's Labyrinth*. The American Film Institute selected it as one of the top 10 films of the year. The film received a number of awards and nominations, including thirteen nominations at the 90th Academy Awards, where it won Best Picture, Best Director, Best Production Design, and Best Original Score. It was nominated for seven awards at the 75th Golden Globe Awards, winning for Best Director and Best Original Score, twelve at the 71st British Academy Film Awards, winning three awards including Best Director, and fourteen at the 23rd Critics' Choice Awards, winning four awards. A novelization by del Toro and Daniel Kraus was published on March 6, 2018.

You could say, The Shape of Water is a fishy fairy tale. It is a haunting sci-fi love story like nothing you've ever seen before or dreamed that you ever wanted to see. It's pure movie magic.

KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE III SEPTEMBER DAWN

2007, Drama, History, Romance, 1 hr. 51 Minutes Google Play • Fandango • Amazon

September Dawn is a 2007 Canadian-American Western drama film.



The film is a fictional love story entwined with a controversial historical interpretation of the bloody 1857 Mountain Meadows massacre when members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) killed about 120 settlers who were on their way to California. The killing was done in a tranquil Utah field, under a banner of truce and friendship. Only a small group of children-most too young to talk and all too young to remember-survived.

Written by Cain and Carole Whang Schutter, September Dawn is love story between Emily Hudson, the daughter of the wagon train's pastor, and Jonathan Samuelson, the son of the local Mormon bishop.

Directed by Christopher Cain. Starring Jon Voight as Jacob Samuelson; Trent Ford as Jonathan Samuelson; Tamara Hope as Emily Hudson; Shaun Johnston as Captain Fancher; Terence Stamp as Brigham Young

> Stay Safe, Knarf Odnamoe Gnome