

Supers ax health director



Supervisors Wes Laraway, Alicia Terry, Earlin Rosa, Werner Hampel, and Alan Tavenner listen during privilege of the floor Tuesday. Mr. Laraway left before the vote not to reappoint Amy Gildemeister Public Health director. Supervisors gave no public reason for their decision.—Photo by Patsy Nicosia

Dr. Amy, who led COVID effort, now out of a job

By Patsy Nicosia
 Amid off-the-record allegations of backroom politics, no-mask grudges, and campaigns to ignore the law, supervisors voted not to reappoint Amy Gildemeister Public Health Director Tuesday. "They don't know what they've done," Phil Skowfoe, who chairs the Public Health Committee, said afterwards. Supervisors gave no explanation for the vote—which would have likely gone differently if two missing supervisors were there; it followed a long executive session that included Roy Korn, president of the Schoharie County Board of Health.

"I'm proud of the work we did during COVID and of everything else my staff has done. . . ."
 —Amy Gildemeister

The Board of Health had previously voted unanimously to reappoint Dr. Gildemeister to a second six-year term. Afterwards, Dr. Korn said the Board of Health would be disappointed by supervisors' vote; he tried to make a strong case for reappointing Dr. Gildemeister during the executive session, he said.

vote in executive session in November with the same results.

Missing Tuesday—the Friday meeting was postponed by Friday's storm—were supervisors Wes Laraway of Middleburgh—who left before the executive session to go back to work—and Jeff Haslun of Richmondville.

During Tuesday's executive session, Dr. Gildemeister said she was aware of what had been going on between the Board of Health and supervisors, but "I haven't been included in any discussions. 'It's happening all over the state,' she said, of Public Health officials losing their job because of decisions made during COVID—one of the reasons Dr. Gildemeister believes she's out. "It's not a 'me' thing."

As chair of supervisors' Rules & Legislation Committee, Mr. Laraway, had seconded the resolution reappointing Dr. Gildemeister; Mr. Skowfoe, of Fulton, had moved its adoption.

It's also likely that the Health Department's enforcement of water and wastewater and fire protection regulations played a role, she said, even though "we did our damnest to work with everyone." Dr. Gildemeister has no deputy so it's unclear how supervisors will fill the post. Afraid the writing was on the wall, Dr. Gildemeister said she's already been interviewing for other Public Health jobs. "It is what it is," she said. "We did our best. I'm proud of the work we did during COVID and of everything else my staff has done for the people of Schoharie County during an extremely difficult time."

If Mr. Laraway had continued to support the measure Tuesday, it would have passed. Mr. Skowfoe tried to force a vote before Mr. Laraway left by asking to move supervisors' resolutions out of order. That failed, 2,053-670.

After the executive session but before the vote, Cobleskill Supervisor Werner Hampel asked for a vote on postponing the decision until all supervisors were there at the January 3 reorganizational meeting; Mr. Skowfoe seconded the motion.

That resolution went down, 1,287-1,094. The resolution reappointing Dr. Gildemeister failed, 1,358-1,029.

"Yes, with reluctance," said Don Airey of Blenheim voting in favor of reappointment; "No, with no reluctance," said Earlin Rosa of Seward.

The vote followed a straw

work in executive session in November with the same results.

Who voted for, against

By Patsy Nicosia
 Under state law, it's the Board of Health—not the Board of Supervisors—that hires Public Health directors. And the Board of Health—Drs. Roy Korn, Stephen Strasser, and Rebecca Eckel, Fulton Supervisor Phil Skowfoe, Debra Wollaber, Bonnie Post, and Cark Stefanik—voted unanimously to reappoint Amy Gildemeister to a second six-year term as Public Health director.

"What they did was vote not to pay her," Mr. Skowfoe said after Tuesday's vote by supervisors. "What does that really mean? I don't know. "I don't think they realize what the repercussions are going to be. We don't have a very good track record, do we?"

Voting to delay the vote to reappoint Dr. Gildemeister until their January 3 reorganizational meeting were: Don Airey, Bill Federice, Werner Hampel, John Leavitt, Mr. Skowfoe, and Earl VanWormer. Opposing that motion: Peggy Hait, Alex Luniewski, Sandy Manko, Earlin Rosa, Alan Tavenner, Alicia Terry, Harold Vroman, and Steve Weinhofer.

Voting to reappoint Dr. Gildemeister: Mr. Airey, Mr. Hampel, Ms. Manko, Mr. Skowfoe, and Mr. VanWormer. Against: Mr. Federice, Ms. Hait, Mr. Leavitt, Mr. Luniewski, Mr. Rosa, Mr. Tavenner, Ms. Terry, Mr. Vroman, and Mr. Weinhofer. Voting is weighted by population: Cobleskill has the most votes—418—and Blenheim, the least—33.

Cobleskill gets \$ for Iorio work

By Jim Poole
 Cobleskill is going ahead with plans to overhaul Nick Iorio Park. The village received a \$400,000 grant from state Parks and Recreation for the project, Mayor Becky Terk announced Tuesday night. The project includes removing the Imagination Creation playground and putting in new playground equipment, a skate park and basketball and volleyball courts at the park off Campus Drive, the site of the village pool. Mayor Terk said the new features will be in the park's green space, which needs drainage. The total cost is \$535,000,

with the village providing \$135,000 in funds and in-kind services. Mayor Terk's idea is to move youth activities from Golding Park and Teen Town, which have been trouble spots for crime, and move them to Iorio Park, where everything would be in one place. The project is only the first phase of Mayor Terk's plans for Iorio Park. Looking ahead, she sees a walking path, pavilion, and "maybe some day," a community center. "This is a very big deal. I'm really excited," Mayor Terk said. Popular in its day, the wooden Imagination Cre-

ation was considered not up to standards by the village's insurance carrier earlier this year.

Work will begin next year, Mayor Terk said, though she didn't know when the first phase would be finished.

Holiday hours for T-J

The Times-Journal will have holiday hours this coming week. The T-J office will close at noon on Friday the 23rd and will also be closed on Monday the 26th. Shorter hours change the ad deadlines:
 9am Tuesday: Real estate, auto and arts and entertainment ads.
 4pm Tuesday: All other ads, including legal and classified ads.
 News deadlines remain the same:
 10am Tuesday: Social news, Looking Ahead, letters to the editor, library news and correspondence.
 8am Wednesday: All other news, including sports and obituaries.

Wood a winner in Santa game

David Wood of Middleburgh is the latest winner in the Times-Journal's Where's Santa? game. Mr. Wood found the tiny Santas hidden in ads for Cross Hill Heirlooms, Race Printing and Packaging and Cobleskill Outdoor Sports in last week's T-J. Mr. Wood won \$25 after his entry was drawn from the 151 entries last week. Where's Santa? continues this week, with three tiny Santas hidden in ads. Rules and an entry form are on page 6.



As the crowd watches, Jim O'Connor places a wreath for POWs on a stand during Worcester's Wreaths Across America ceremony on Saturday. Participants placed wreaths on veterans' graves. Story, more photos on page 13.—Photo by Jim Poole.



Obituaries

Carl Roberts

Carl H. Roberts, 82, of Sharon Springs, entered into eternal rest Saturday, December 17, 2022 at Albany Medical Center.

Carl was born December 6, 1940 in Schenectady, the son of Walter and Madeline Bellingher Roberts.

He graduated from Sharon Springs Central School in 1959. He furthered his education at Hudson Valley Community College.

Carl worked many jobs over the years. He worked at Comptone in Canajoharie; eighteen years at Burton (Klein Industries) in Cobleskill; fourteen years for the Town of Sharon Road Crew and several years for GTI Green Trucking. After retirement he spent time as janitor and substitute bus driver for Sharon Springs Central School. However his true passion was farming, helping his grandparents on their farm as a young boy. For many years he had beef cattle and then his own dairy for a few years. Until his health prevented it he helped his daughters with their sheep farm.

On October 19, 1968 he married the "love of his life,"

Helen Paris Roberts. They shared 54 wonderful fun-filled years together. He enjoyed many happy times with his family, especially the grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife, Helen; daughters, Carleen and Karen; son, George and his wife, Kari all of Sharon Springs; grandson, Donovan Roberts; granddaughters, Darienne Roberts of Port Orange, Florida; grandson, Levi Roberts of Sharon Springs; step-granddaughter, Ashley Coons of Richfield Springs. He also has a great-granddaughter, Scarlett of Richfield Springs. Carl is survived by his brothers, Richard (Diana) Roberts of Tavares, Florida and William Roberts of Sharon Springs; as well as many nieces and nephews. He is also survived by a very special cousin, Shirley Dingman Hoerle and her family.

He was predeceased by his parents; step-grandson, Tyler Woods; and great-granddaughter, Addison Cutter; and sister-in-law, Nancy Roberts.

Carl was a very active member of Zion St. John's Lutheran Church for many years serving as Treasurer and Church Council Member. He was also a member of Sharon Springs Rescue Squad for several years.



Carl Roberts

A funeral service will be held on Thursday, December 22, at 11am at Zion St. John's Lutheran Church, 114 Mesick Avenue, Cobleskill (Seward), with Pastor Wendy Cook and Pastor Paul Messner co-officiating. Spring interment will be in Slate Hill Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers contributions in memory of Mr. Carl H. Roberts may be made to the Sharon Springs Rescue Squad, 37 Beechwood Road, Sharon, NY 13459, or to Zion St. John's Lutheran Church, 114 Mesick Ave., Cobleskill, NY 12043.

Further information and the provision for online condolences may be found at www.merenessputnamfuneralhome.com.

Russell Wilday

Russell T. "Papa" Wilday, 84, of Carlisle, passed away on December 15, 2022 with members of his family by his side thereby ending his 20 year struggle with Parkinson's Disease. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Linda (Allen); his children, Tim (Rachel of Virginia), Karla (Colin Stephenson of North Carolina), Sheila (of Cobleskill), and Jennifer (Kevin Gavel of Galway), Cliff and Annie Hay (Cobleskill); his sister, Judy of Colorado; his grandchildren, Coleman (Jennifer Mills of Georgia), Sarah (of Gloversville), Russell G. (Joy of Florida) and Kristine Hay (of Cobleskill); his great-grandchildren, Quorra, Flynn, Everett and Eli (of Coleman), Samuel, CarolAnne, James and Melody (of Russell G.) as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Russell was the son of Ivan and Janice (Shafer) Wilday of Sharon Springs. He graduated from high school in 1955, and at age 17 got his foot in the door at General Electric in Schenectady, as a message carrier. From 1956-1959, Russell earned his Certificate of Apprenticeship as a Machinist for GE and worked in the Steam Turbine Division, Building 273. He completed a number of GE training programs and became a Methods Programmer. He was instrumental in programming machines to manufacture parts and increase power and efficiency of steams turbines throughout his lifelong career at GE.

Russell married Linda on July 21, 1962 and resided in Seward. In 1977, they moved to the Carlisle homestead where they raised their children and regularly hosted



Russell Wilday

their grandchildren and great grandchildren. "Papa" was a master videographer, leaving behind many priceless narrated VHS tapes of his grandchildren, holiday gatherings and family vacations. Throughout the years, Russell found time for travel taking his family on a vacation nearly every year. His children fondly remember camping in their pop-up camper and loading into the family station wagon for trips from Maine to Florida and states in between. Russell and Linda also made annual road trips to visit Tim and his family throughout his 23 year Air Force career (Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Virginia) and Karla and Colin in North Carolina. In 1993, Russell retired from GE after 38 years to help Linda care for their youngest grandchild, Kristine. Daily life with Kristine and summer visits with his other grandchildren brought Russell much joy. Those years between retirement and his diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease, were perhaps the most enjoyable and fulfilling days of his life.

Russell was a conservative and private man, and a proud supporter of our 2nd Amendment.

He enjoyed tinkering on anything with a motor in his "Last Chance" garage, snowmobiling, bowling, hunting and fishing. In the last 13 years of his life, Russell and his "favorite child," Willy the dachshund,

were inseparable. Sadly, due to the progression of his disease, in March 2021 Russell moved to the Edward L. Wilkinson Residential Healthcare Facility in Amsterdam, where his dedicated daughter Jennifer could usually be found, managing his care and adding priceless joy to his final years. He was visited regularly by Linda and Willy - whose antics brought comic relief to many other residents. Karla and Tim frequently traveled back and forth to New York to reminisce with Dad about the good times, our life lessons and his profound words of wisdom. Russell is remembered as a devoted and loyal family man who valued integrity, leading by example, and a strong work ethic. Papa's absence is felt deeply by his family, friends and dog.

The family is grieving privately over the holiday season but intends to have a Celebration of Life in the Spring on or near Russell's 85th birthday. We would like to thank the entire staff at The Wilkinson's Residential Facility for the services they provided for nearly two years. Thank you to Michael Fox Jr of Ottman Funeral Home, Cherry Valley for your gentle, comforting manner and escorting Russell on the final leg of his journey. Finally, the family would like to express our sincerest gratitude to Dr. Eric Molho, Director of The Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorder Center @ Albany Medical Center, for his decades of stable, realistic and compassionate care for Russell.

To honor Russell's memory, donations can be made to the Parkinson's Disease Research Fund @ Albany Med in Russell's name.

More obituaries on page 24.

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2. Patch interior floor as necessary and refinish entire floor.
3. Reinstall interior support post.
4. Repair broken window glass.
5. Inspect and repair exterior trim boards as needed.
6. Install Wainscoting and make minor plaster repairs.
7. Paint exterior of building.
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Or you can let it be full of love that we shared.
You can remember me and think only that I'm gone.
Or you can cherish the memory and let it live on.
You can live in the sorrows of yesterday
Or you can do what I would want for you.
Greet tomorrow with hope, love and go on.

Merry Christmas in heaven, honey We love you with all our hearts.
Love,
Mom, Tammy and Vicki

Hospital leader Stein retiring

By Jim Poole

Eric Stein, a point man for Schoharie County health care for two decades, is retiring at the end of the month.

Known for years as president of Cobleskill Regional Hospital, Mr. Stein has been Chief Hospital executive for Bassett's critical access hospitals, O'Connor Hospital in Delhi, Little Falls Hospital and CRH since last April.

It's at Cobleskill Regional, however, where Mr. Stein has had his greatest impact: stabilizing finances, improving facilities and building community confidence.

"I'm proud that this community has a positive relationship with the hospital," he said Monday.

"We're not perfect, but from the vast majority of the comments I hear, people are very thankful for the hospital and complimentary of the hospital staff."

It might not have been that way when Mr. Stein arrived as hospital president in October 2002.

"The outpatient area was so bad when I came, I had to shut it down," he said.

That changed. Mr. Stein's first project, approved by the hospital board, was putting a new roof on part of the building.

The second was a complete renovation of the outpatient area, which supports 20 Bassett clinics.

He's also overseen the expansion of the Emergency Department, a new ground-floor entrance and the addition of state-of-the-art tech equipment.

Much of that was financed via CRH's designation as a critical access hospital by the federal government. This meant the hospital is reimbursed at cost plus one percent for Medicare patients.

"This made us sustainably viable financially," Mr. Stein said.

"We're pretty up to date. I like to think we've been prudent stewards of hospital finances."

Not that there haven't been challenges along the way. Like many hospitals, CRH struggles with staffing, and money is sometimes an issue.

Possibly because of the pandemic, health care is more important to people, Mr. Stein said. But at the same time, people are more critical of the challenges brought on by staffing and financial shortages.

Nonetheless, Mr. Stein believes the community re-



Eric Stein

sponds to services at CRH, especially the clinics.

"We provide as much as we can locally and have good referrals to the medical center when necessary," he said.

Bassett has already named Mr. Stein's successor, Susan

Oakes Ferrucci, who's vice president of operations and chief nurse of the same critical access hospitals Mr. Stein serves now.

She's been at CRH for 14 years, and they've worked together at all three hospitals.

"In the universe of transition plans, this is one of the best," Mr. Stein said.

He'll miss the people—"the medical staff is great"—and the intellectual challenge of being in the dynamic field of health care.

Mr. Stein will remain as a consultant during the transition period, and he also has ideas about the future of health care here: treating patients at home, such as the tele-medicine system that started during the pandemic and continues.

"We have to re-define ourselves and put greater em-

phasis on non-bedded care, helping patients at home," he said.

"We have to maintain quality, patient satisfaction and the community's faith in our services."

Although the hospital and health care have been Mr. Stein's career, he's been a leader in the community: Chair of the College Council at SUNY Cobleskill, active in Schoharie Kiwanis and on the boards of the Schoharie Economic Enterprise Corporation, Literacy Volunteers and Helios Care.

"I'll continue... if they still

want me," Mr. Stein laughed. More seriously, he noted the similarities to his community work.

"They're all different organizations, but they're all connected in their mission of making this community better," Mr. Stein said. "That's a good thing."

He and his wife, Kathie, plan to travel a bit, but they also will remain in Schoharie County.

Other than that, he has no plans.

"I want to see how it feels to be retired," Mr. Stein said. "I'll play it as it comes."

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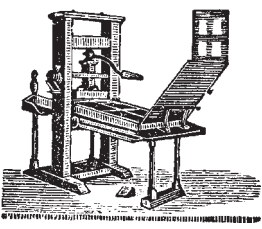
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Opinions

Yes, Virginia

Christmas, if you listen to the songs, is sleigh bells, cattle lowing, merry gentlemen and boughs of holly; in a word, tradition. Christmas editorials, like bells and holly, are traditional, but few scratch the surface of what the celebration really means. An editorial written as a reply to a letter written by a little girl asking, "Is there a Santa Claus," was published in the New York Sun in 1897. The editorial has been attributed to Sun editor Charles Dana, but it was actually written by editorial writer Frank Church. We know better than to question St. Nick's authenticity, but for the doubters out there, here it is:

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

"Dear editor:
I am 8 years old.
Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.
Papa says, 'If you see it in The Sun, it's so.'
Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?
Virginia O'Hanlon,
115 West 95th Street

Virginia, your little friends were wrong. They have been affected by the skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensive by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor we can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond. Is it all right? Ah, Virginia, in all the world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, nay, 10 times 10 thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."



Holiday heroes

Honoring fallen veterans at Maple Grove Cemetery, Worcester



Mare's Nest

By Patsy Nicosia

Saturday at about 1pm PST, Team Long Road touched the Pacific Ocean, 3,365 miles and almost six months to the day after they walked through the Town of Sharon on their way from Boston, Massachusetts to Newport, Oregon.

You remember them right? Retired US Maine Sergeants Major Justin Lehew and Coleman Kinzer, who crossed 12 states on the longest highway in the nation (Staff Sergeant Ray Shinohara joined them midway) to spread the mission of History Flight Inc., a non-profit working to locate the remains of more than 81,900 American service members still missing in action.

Not quite two years after I helped Natalie move from Colorado to Connecticut, the trip's still a blur, but somewhere, I have a photo of a Route 20 sign I took near Michigan City, Indiana.

"Hey, that's our Route 20," I told Natalie.

I didn't think too much of it when I met JD and Rocky at the top of Sharon Hill in June (Shino had yet to surprise-join them); if you live along Route 20, you know they haven't been the first and they won't be the last.

But to follow Team Long Road cross-country, through countless small towns, watch them hurry in and out of national parks before the roads closed for the winter, crushing the miles, and gathering friends and fans along the way has been quite the adventure.

This is what I wrote when I caught up with them in June, two weeks into their trip:

It's a long walk, crossing the country on historic Route 20, but retired Marine Corps veterans Justin Lehew and Coleman Kinzer are up to the challenge.

They're walking from Boston to Oregon as a way to raise awareness about still-missing service personnel—and as a way to raise funds to continue searching for their remains through the organization History Flight Inc.

They're calling their journey the Long Road Home and it is: 3,365 miles across 12 states.

They won't reach Oregon until November.

After walking through Schoharie County Sunday through Tuesday, when they crossed the Schoharie-Otsego County line into Cherry Valley, they're hoping the rest of the trip is...flatter.

"These are some big hills," Mr. Lehew said on a quick break at the top of Sharon Hill just after 10am Tuesday.

Together, Mr. Lehew, 52, from Fredericksburg, Virginia, and Mr. Kinzer, 44, from Kailua, Hawaii, have a combined 56 years of active duty between them.

Mr. Lehew said they average about three miles an hour and 20 miles a day, travel no matter the weather, and spend the night where they can.

Monday, they camped at the Carlisle Fire House. Tuesday, they were headed for a treat, a donated B&B in Cherry Valley.



Justin Lehew, in the foreground, Coleman Kinzer behind, crest Sharon Hill in June.

Along the way, people who've heard of their journey turn out to welcome them to their town, walk with them a ways, or just say thank you.

Tuesday, a small crowd organized by members of the DAR gathered outside Sharon Springs Central School to wait for them and help send them on their way.

They didn't do much physical preparation for the trip, Mr. Lehew said; for starters, how do you prepare for 3,000-plus miles?

"We're just winging it," joked Mr. Kinzer.

Along the way, they're making friends, seeing some of the most beautiful scenery in the country and drawing attention to their cause.

The two walkers are keeping track of their trip with a Facebook page, *The Long Road*, sharing their stops, photos of road signs, and stories.

In Carlisle, they learned about the late Marcus Heim of Middleburgh, a Distinguished Service Cross recipient with his own story.

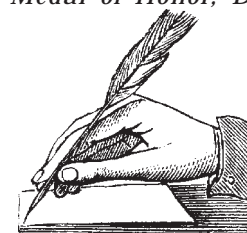
Mr. Heim was a member of the Legion of Valor, America's oldest veterans' service organization and made up of all of America's Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy



Nearly at their finish line, Team Long Road takes a selfie. From the left: "Rocky" Kinzer, "Shino" Shinohara, and JD Lehew.

and Air Force Cross recipients.

Mr. Lehew? He's the Legion of Valor's national commander.



Letters

Questions reps' stance

Dear Editor,
As we settle into the cold months of winter, keeping our homes warm remains a top priority for everyone in New York State.

Many in rural communities use propane to heat our homes and rely on timely deliveries throughout the season from a single supplier.

But sometimes, for whatever reason, our supplier is unable to make a delivery, and as consumers we have had no recourse to receive badly needed heating fuel from another propane company.

Fortunately, that has changed thanks to the emer-

gency home heating bill recently signed by Governor Kathy Hochul.

"By cutting the red tape that previously prevented these homeowners from utilizing alternate suppliers in emergency situations, this commonsense legislation prioritizes the well-being of our community by providing them with more options this winter season," said the bill's sponsor Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara.

The bill also for the first time creates a propane consumer bill of rights to further safeguard the protections put forward in this law.

With so many Schoharie County homeowners relying on propane for home heating, you would expect our local representatives in Albany to support such a badly needed protection.

But you would be wrong. Even though the measure passed overwhelmingly in the State Senate and Assembly, Republican State Senator Peter Oberacker and Republican Assemblyman Chris Tague both voted against the now-signed law.

Why would they leave their constituents out in the cold?

Greg Bucking Jefferson

More letters on next page.

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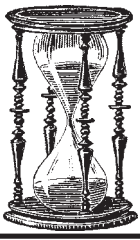
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Times Past

**74 Years Ago
December 23, 1948**

New York State hunters harvested an all-time record wildlife crop of 37,275 deer during the 1948 hunting season, according to Conservation Commissioner Perry B. Duryea. Of this total, 345 deer were taken in Schoharie County this year, as compared to 320 in 1947.

Howard Snyder, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Snyder, has been confined to his home with an ear ache this week.

The Cub Scouts held a Christmas party at the home of the assistant scout master, David Kniskern, Tuesday evening.

The Substitute Bridge Club met last Thursday with Mrs. J. Lewis DuMond. The club members presented Miss Phyllis Wheeler, who is to be married during the Christmas holiday, with a gift.

SHARON SPRINGS - The weekly meeting of the Rotary Club was held at the Twin Pines restaurant Thursday. There were 17 members and five guests present. The guests included: W.L. Gilbert of Cobleskill; D.S. Parce, Oneonta; S.D. Foote and W.J. Howe of this village and the speaker, E.S. Priddle of Syra-

cuse, who explained the operation of the dial phone system.

**45 Years Ago
December 21, 1977**

The Koble-Aires Junior Drum and Bugle Corps is actively recruiting new members from all over Schoharie county, according to Henry Mau, corps director. The Koble-Aires is not restricted to Cobleskill residents as has often been assumed in the past. Present members come from all over the county, including Middleburgh, Richmondville and Dorloo.

Mrs. Harold Joyce and son, Harold of Albany are spending Christmas and remaining for a week with Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Joyce and family. Sister Maureen Joyce of Albany will join the family on Christmas day.

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Mereness will have Christmas weekend guests, Mr. and Mrs. Alan Linck and son, Nathan of Glens Falls; Miss Margaret Mereness and David Mereness, both of Albany; also David's fiancée, Miss Maureen Collins and her brother, John Collins, both of East Greenbush; also, Ray Velez of Washington DC.

Mrs. Robert Jones entertained on December 10 at a



This photo from the Times-Journal collection is one of our favorite Christmas shots, and we publish it every holiday season. It's from 1935, when the Cobleskill Exchange Club had a Christmas party for kids at the Park Theatre. The kids probably aren't looking forward to seeing 'Hands Across the Table,' a romantic comedy starring Fred MacMurray, Carole Lombard and Ralph Bellamy. Instead, they're anxious to get to the party and meet Santa.

pre-Christmas luncheon at her home to observe the December birthdays of Mrs. Henry Van Deusen and Mrs. John Wadsworth.

Mrs. Gertrude Breymer will spend Christmas day with her daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Jones of Sharon Hill.

**24 Years Ago
December 23, 1998**

Bion and Anna Call attended the 50th wedding anniversary of Carl and Mae Hinkleman of Harpursville on Saturday, December 19.

The Italian-American Club of Schoharie Valley held its annual dinner/dance October 25 at the Best Western Inn at Cobleskill.

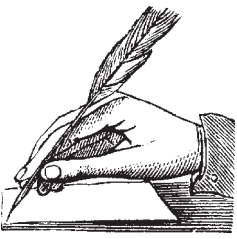
Interknitting recently honored its 10-year employees at a party at the Best Western Inn in Cobleskill. Among those in attendance were: Ernie Canilleri, Lenore Sossei, Carolyn Garner, Charlotte Rack, Evelyn Schwappe, plant manager Niall Muldoon, vice president of operations, Peter

Nitmann, James Reynolds, Doug Wilder, George Traver and Larry Decker.

The Middleburgh Central School most valuable players for the fall season were Jessica Weimer and Amanda Westerman for volleyball,

Tara Hamm for girls' soccer and Scott Heiser for boys' soccer.

Howard and Doris Wood attended the family Christmas party at the home of Donald and Crystal Cartwright on December 19.



Letters

An enduring tradition

Dear Editor,

Last October 28 David DePape broke into the Pelosi home in San Francisco to kidnap Nancy Pelosi, soon-to-be retired Speaker of the House, because he felt there was, "evil in Washington."

She wasn't home. So DePape beat her husband with a hammer.

Somehow Mr. Pelosi managed to survive though surgery to repair a skull fracture and serious injuries to his right arm and hands.

Mr. DePape planned to do the same with other people including California Governor Gavin Newsome, actor Tom Hanks, President Joe Biden's son Hunter and other politicians and their families.

Upon hearing about the attack on Mr. Pelosi, several Republicans laughed and made fun of the incident.

Do you think this is funny? If so, you can join the ranks of past Republicans.

In 1850, Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts made a speech that criticized President Franklin Pierce, his administration and Missourians in regards to the issue of slavery.

Two days later, Representative Preston Brooks (a cousin to one of those Sumner had referred to) went to a nearly empty Senate chamber and battered Sumner over the head more than 30 times with a gold-headed cane. Southerners applauded.

Former army officer (and later Confederate general) Braxton Bragg wrote the House should vote a thanks to perpetrator Brooks because "You can reach the sensibilities of such dogs only through their heads and a big stick."

Citizens from all over the South sent notes of congratulations (and dozens of new canes) to Brooks.

He was fined \$300. Sumner's injuries were serious.

His head was split open, and his injuries, along with mental wounds left by the beating, would keep him away from the Senate for most of the next four years.

The Congress was now, quite literally, divided into two (armed) camps as members took to carrying pistols to work.

I'm glad to see some of our esteemed traditions survive to this day.

Marianna Tomasino
Cobleskill

More letters on next page.

Merry Christmas!
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Cobleskill man dies after fire

A 74-year-old Cobleskill man died Friday from injuries he suffered in a fire at his Gordon Road, Cobleskill home the day before. Dale Miers was a Navy veteran, who served from 1967-69. He will be remembered from 5-7pm Friday at

the Mereness-Putnam Funeral Home, where military honors will be provided at 7pm. The Cobleskill Fire Department and ambulance, Sharon Springs and Carlisle Fire Departments, and the County FAST Team and am-

balance responded to the late afternoon call of a working structure fire at the Miers home. Firefighters at the scene said Mr. Miers was trapped inside in a wheelchair. Smoky conditions made fighting the fire difficult, they

said; several departments responded with tankers to help extinguish it. The cause of the fire is under investigation. Mr. Miers' complete obituary is on page 24.

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Police Blotter

Thursday, November 10

At 8:37pm, Cobleskill Police arrested Michael Meyers Jr., 21, of Cobleskill, for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the second degree and one other vehicle and traffic law violation.

He was issued traffic tickets to appear in Cobleskill Town Court on January 3 at 2pm.

Tuesday, December 6

At 9:55am, Cobleskill Police arrested Thomas Sharkey, 40, of Schoharie, for harassment in the second degree.

He was served a criminal summons to appear in Cobleskill Town Court on December 20 at 2pm.

Sunday, December 11

On December 1, State Police arrested Mohammad Selim, 37, of Rotterdam, for unlawful possession of cannabis following a motor vehicle accident. He was issued an appearance ticket returnable to the Town of Carlisle Court and released.

Monday, December 12

On December 12, State Police arrested Tyler M. Mitchell, 25, of Stamford, for criminal possession of a controlled substance in the seventh degree following a vehicle and traffic stop.

He was issued an appearance ticket returnable to the Town of Cobleskill Court and released.

On December 12, the Sidney Police Department arrested a Schoharie County man on a warrant from Delaware County Court.

The arrest is related to a burglary complaint filed by the Smoker's Choice in Sidney from July 14.

At the completion of the investigation, charges were filed with a Delaware County Grand Jury, which indicted Isaaah Mann, 21, and a Delaware County Court warrant was issued, police said.

However, before the warrant could be executed, Mr. Man was incarcerated in the Schoharie County jail on un-

related charges.

He has now been charged with: one count of burglary in the third degree, a Class D felony; one count of grand larceny in the fourth degree, a Class E felony; one count of criminal possession of stolen property in the fourth degree, a Class E felony; one count of criminal mischief in the fourth degree, a Class A misdemeanor; and one count of obstruction of governmental administration on the second degree, a Class A misdemeanor.

He was arraigned in Delaware County Court, released, and returned to the custody of the Schoharie County Jail.

Tuesday, December 13

At 3:57pm, Cobleskill Police arrested Kenneth T. Meyers, 28, of Cobleskill, on an arrest warrant from Cobleskill Town Court for two counts of criminal contempt in the second degree for disobeying a court order and violating an order of protection.

He was arraigned in Cobleskill Town Court at 6pm and is to return to Cobleskill Town Court on December 20 at 4pm.

At 3:57pm, Cobleskill Police arrested Kenneth T. Meyers, 28, of Cobleskill, for criminal mischief in the third degree, a Class "E" felony, for resisting arrest, and for un-

lawfully fleeing a police officer in a motor vehicle in the third degree.

He was arraigned in Cobleskill Town Court at 6pm and remanded to the Schoharie County Correctional Facility without bail to return to Cobleskill Town Court on December 19 at 10am.

Wednesday, December 14

At 8pm, Cobleskill Police arrested Kaitlin Meyers, 35, of Oneonta, for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree.

She was issued a traffic ticket to appear in Cobleskill Town Court on January 3 at 2pm.

Saturday, December 17

At 2:08am, Cobleskill Police arrested Raymond Mojica, 40, of Palatine Bridge, for harassment in the second degree.

He was arraigned in Cobleskill Town Court at 3:10am and is to return to Cobleskill Town Court on January 17 at 3pm.

At 11:35pm, Cobleskill Police arrested Robert Stevens, 43, of Sharon Springs, for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree and two other vehicle and traffic law violations.

He was issued traffic tickets to appear in Cobleskill Town Court on January 17 at 2pm.

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Songs for the season

Friends gather at the Little White Church in Cobleskill's Veterans' Memorial Centre Park to sing Christmas carols late Sunday afternoon. Anna Marie Collins and Pastor Ray Richards organized the sing-along.—Photo by Jim Poole.

Help...

MEVAC needs allies in talks with town

By Patsy Nicosia

If you're one of the people walking around because of MEVAC, now's the time to return the favor.

Stuck at an impasse with the Town of Middleburgh over their next two-year contract, MEVAC is hoping for a show of support at the town's year-end meeting next Thursday.

"The community has to come out and support us," MEVAC's Wes Andrew said Monday as volunteers made their case to about two dozen residents.

"We've answered their calls. They need to answer ours."

The year-end meeting is set for 7pm Thursday, December 29 at the Community Center.

Following the meeting, MEVAC expects to go into closed, executive session with Supervisor Wes Laraway and councilmen, where they'll make their final offer:

A request for a one-year contract with a five percent funding increase from the town.

That five percent is already in the town's adopted 2023 budget, however after seven months of failed negotiations, there's still no signed contract.

That five percent represents an increase of just \$1,900, Mr. Andrew said, and would bring the town's MEVAC funding from \$38,288 to \$40,202, far below what nearby rescue squads get from their communities, said MEVAC's Sigrid Wood.

The four other towns that contract with MEVAC have already signed contracts agreeing to the five percent increase.

In May, Ms. Wood said, they asked the town for a 15 percent increase.

Not only was it "flatly turned down," she said, but the town turned around and asked for \$800 a year to help with higher-than-expected expenses for things like heating and electricity at the Community Center.

MEVAC counter-offered with contributing \$200 a month—a figure based on twice the costs of fuel oil at the old ambulance barn—and a five percent increase

infunding.

"They rejected that as well," Ms. Wood said. "They came back with \$500 a month and no increase. That's where we left it."

If 15 percent sounds like a lot, it is, Mr. Andrew said. But after 53 years, they're not sure they can go on without it; equipment costs alone are up 17 percent since the fall.

Ms. Wood said SchoWright, which serves the Towns of Schoharie and Wright, asked for and got a \$6,000 increase for 2023; Duanesburg now pays the Esperance Rescue Squad, which covers a "sliver" of their territory \$102,000 a year; and Prattsville pays \$120,000 to the Ashland Rescue Squad.

"We did our homework and discovered we are greatly under-funded," she said.

Mike Hartzel, Schoharie County director of Emergency Services, said despite rumors, he has no "grand" plans of taking over MEVAC's coverage with a county ambulance—nor could anyone afford it: Even without payroll, it would cost \$300,000 a year.

"We're designed as backup when you need us," he said. "I can't put my third ambulance here. It wouldn't be fair to the 15 other towns."

Mr. Hartzel said the town's funding comes out to about \$50 a call.

"How can you put gas in your ambulances and get supplies for that?" he asked. "How do you stay in service?"

MEVAC Treasurer Tracy Pierce accused Mr. Laraway of trying to balance the town's budget "on the backs of MEVAC"; former Supervisor Jim Buzon said having an ambulance service at the Community Center—an emergency shelter—should be seen as a big plus.

Between the \$6,000 the town wants from MEVAC for building expenses and no increase, the squad is looking at a \$8,000 loss, Mr. Andrew said.

"The numbers don't work anymore. Now we're being asked to take less. If something happens and MEVAC goes away, the cost to bring it back would be insurmountable."

Warming station heads to R'ville ZBA

By Patsy Nicosia

The Warnerville United Methodist Church is taking its warming station to the ZBA.

Frederic Mauhs, attorney for the church, filed an application asking for a ZBA interpretation of Code Officer Jay Belifore's "cease and desist" order closing the facility on Monday.

While the ZBA could take up to 45 days to schedule a hearing and respond, it's a "humanitarian emergency," Mr. Mauhs said; he's asking the ZBA to issue its decision in seven days—or allow the warming station to reopen on an interim basis while the dispute is resolved.

"It's a very, very strong simple case," he said Monday. "We already have the authority. It's what a church does. It's central to its mission. It's more central than anything else."

In his application to the ZBA, Mr. Mauhs called Mr. Belifore's November 16 cease and desist order closing the warming station, a "train wreck of governmental actions completely

untethered from applicable law, that torpedoed the church's response, leaving the congregation devastated and the Schoharie County Department of Social Services scrambling..."

As a church, Mr. Mauhs said, the WUMC has every right to operate the warming station under the Town of Richmondville's Zoning Code; it also has a First Amendment right to operate the facility.

According to Mr. Mauhs, Mr. Belifore closed the warming station on grounds that it violated the state building code—something very different from zoning and "a conclusion he had reached without ever having inspected the facility."

Mr. Belifore then followed up with the written cease and desist order alleging only a zoning violation, he said.

Zoning determines which uses are allowed in a particular neighborhood; codes regulations regulates things like safety and construction materials.

"It's critical that the ZBA addresses this on an expedited basis or at least allow the church to reopen the warming center while it sorts it all out," Mr. Mauhs said.

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Jaqueway feels left out in Schoharie

By Patsy Nicosia

As the Town of Schoharie begins suggesting members to serve on its Comprehensive Plan Review Committee, Councilman Marion Jaqueway wants to know why she's being kept off the list.

Wednesday, Supervisor Alan Tavenner told the Town Board that he's gotten a few suggestions for residents willing to serve on the joint town-village effort, including Planning Board member Lisa Shaul and Councilman Ben Oevering.

"Why do I feel like I'm not wanted on that Comprehensive Plan?" asked Ms. Jaqueway.

"I feel like I'm getting shut out. I'd come back and report. I feel like I won't know what's going on without going to those meetings."

Mr. Tavenner said he's trying to limit participation from town officials to two.

He wants to see Central Bridge represented, he said, as well as businesses and agriculture.

"You want a good mix of people," he said.

But Ms. Jaqueway, who regularly attends Planning Board and Zoning Board of

Why do I feel like I'm not wanted on that Comprehensive Plan? —Marion Jaqueway

Appeals meetings on her own to stay informed, said she feels like she's being kept off the Comp Review Committee because she opposed the Borrego Solar project.

"What if someone is in favor of Highbridge? Or cannabis? Should they be kept off? I've always been open-minded. I would like to be involved. If you feel I'm a threat..."

In the audience of Wednesday's Town Board meeting, Ashley Boreali asked if there was a place for the "younger generation."

Town Clerk Pam Foland asked "Why can't we all be volunteers?"

Mr. Tavenner told councilmen to email him suggestions for Review Committee members.



Although Friday's storm closed schools and some businesses, a few people had fun with the snow, as this snowman at Cobleskill's Community Plaza attests.—Photo by Jim Poole.

IDA adjusts Spa PILOT

By Patsy Nicosia

You win some, sometimes you lose some.

With no action on the Sharon Springs Inc. project at the Imperial Baths, the IDA PILOT for the project, reduced for two years in part because of COVID-related supply chain issues will jump back up to where it's supposed to be.

In February of 2021, the IDA extended SSI's PILOT through the end of the year with conditions that included, for once and for all, financing.

Without the extension, SSI's 2021 PILOT would have jumped from \$7,680 in 2020 to \$48,547 in 2021.

In 2022, the project seemed to be as close as it's ever been to being back on track for the \$9.5 million project, so the IDA let the deal stand.

In July, developer and investor John Kwak told the IDA SSI had \$1.5 million in the bank and was ready to go; all he needed were the permits, he said.

But since then, nothing. "I haven't heard from him," IDA CEO Ron Filmer told the IDA Board last Monday.

"I'll get a hold of him, but the PILOT goes back to the

original. They will be billed for this. The reduced two years is over."

A handful of different versions of the Imperial Baths rehab as a Korean-style spa have been in the world for 14 years.

On the winner side, the IDA is in negotiations with the sale of its building and 13 acres on Mineral Springs

Road to Backyard Outfitters, which is running out of space at the old Guilford Mills site and needs to expand.

The business employs 24 and there's the potential to add another 12 positions with the expansion, representative Jake DiBari told the IDA in November.

Backyard Outfitters builds

backyard sheds; the expansion would mean constructing three buildings: 12,000 square-foot, 8,000 square-foot, and 6-8,000 square feet.

Backyard Outfitters has made a \$10,000 down payment on the property; the project would need to be approved by the Village of Cobleskill Planning Board.

SCS absences are a concern

By Patsy Nicosia

With a return to normal school activities comes the inevitable return of winter "bugs."

Schoharie Central School Administrator Dave Blanchard said Thursday that in November, both the elementary and high schools were seeing high numbers of students out sick.

At one point, Mr. Blanchard said, as many as 100-150 students from each school were out.

Numbers are now down to about half that, he said.

"It's not any one thing. It

could be the flu, COVID. We've had some cases of RSV. We've been very cautious the last 2½ years. Our immune systems have changed. We have to ride it out..."

But back-to-school means good things, especially during the holidays.

SCS has been working hard to make school fun and get students more engaged, Mr. Blanchard said.

A case in point: the holiday concerts, where 60 high school students participated in the choir performance.

"We've come so far," he said. "It's good to see our kids celebrating their success."

Schoharie seeks new site for recycling bin

By Patsy Nicosia

With its bill for leased space for its Central Bridge recycling bin jumping from \$150 to \$3,500 a year, the Town of Schoharie is looking at other sites.

Supervisor Alan Tavenner said Wednesday that Norfolk Railroad sent an "insulting" letter setting the increase.

They did the same to the Central Bridge Fire Department, which leases a small building, he said; in that case, the FD was able to "knock it down a few hundred."

Councilmen Floyd Guernsey and Ben Oevering suggested Central Bridge residents use the Town of

Esperance's recycling bin—or drive to MOSA.

"I think you misunderstand," Mr. Tavenner said. "People in Central Bridge pay taxes along with everyone else. And we can't tell them to go to another town. We can't make it a policy that they go to Esperance."

There was discussion about moving the bin to the Sewer Plant at the Business

Park, where the gate could be locked—something that would also stop people from filling it up with trash.

Or Mr. Tavenner said, "We can tell them we're not going to pay a damn nickel more for it and 'what are you going to do about it?'"

The Town Board agreed to send a letter to Central Bridge residents asking their preferences for the bin's location.

Letter deadline: 10am Tuesday.



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Dressed for winter...

A herd of bison makes it way through the fresh snow Saturday along Engleville Road in the Town of Seward.--Photo by Patsy Nicosia.

DOT: No to Cobleskill speed ask

Mineral Springs fine at 45mph

By Patsy Nicosia

The Town of Cobleskill's gotten nowhere in its efforts to get the speed limit on Mineral Springs Road reduced.

Actually they have: a letter from DOT saying it's not going to happen.

Supervisor Werner Hampel said he's hoping to find a work-around with the help of Schoharie County DPW Commissioner Dan Crandell.

Neighbors petitioned the town for the speed reduction from 45 to 40mph in the hamlet of Mineral Springs; the town then forwarded the request to DOT as required.

A letter from DOT denied the request.

"We've got two school buses, tractor-trailers...It's ridiculous. You can't even get out of your driveway the way people drive there," said Art Rumph, who lives in Mineral Springs and spearheaded the petition drive, after hearing DOT's decision.

After a review by the Region 9 Traffic Safety and Mobility Office, DOT determined the current speed of 45mph is appropriate—and suggested Schoharie County "consider improvements to the road. The County may want to review the existing signing to ensure it meets current standards and provides adequate warning of features such as intersections, driveways, and curves,"

Regional Traffic Engineer Tony Signorelli wrote.

Mr. Signorelli's explanation follows:

"The NYSDOT follows the practice of setting regulatory speed limits at the 85th percentile speed. The 85th percentile speed is a baseline value for which 85% of vehicles travel at or below.

"The consensus of traffic engineers throughout the industry is that the appropriate value for a posted speed limit sign will almost always be at or near the 85th percentile speed.

"Studies have shown that setting the regulatory speed lower than the 85th percentile speed typically results in increased speed differentials between vehicles.

"Some drivers will obey the lower posted speed limit while others will feel it is unreasonable and simply ignore it.

"This disrupts the uniform traffic flow and increases accident potential. Dramatic difference in vehicle speeds can lead to an increase in aggressive driving, tailgating, unsafe passing, and accidents associated with these conditions.

"Uniform predictable speeds provide for better accuracy when judging gaps in traffic, which is important for traffic entering from intersections and driveways and for pedestrians crossing the roadway.

"Furthermore, state directives recommend not placing more than 30 percent of drivers in violation of a new posted speed limit.

"This recommendation is based on safety as well as the legal concept of imposing an artificially low speed limit of a 'speed trap' which can be deemed by the judicial system as unreasonable, and therefore, unenforceable.

"The 85th percentile speed was measured on Mineral Springs Road. The current posted speed limit is at 45mph. The 85th percentile speed measured at 49mph.

"If NYSDOT were to lower the speed limit even 5mph to 40mph, 69 percent of drivers will be in violation for excessive speeding thus significantly exceeding the 30 percent of drivers in violation with a new speed limit.

"Based on previous information, the current posted linear speed limit of 45mph is appropriate for Mineral Springs Road, CR-1."

Resource Roundtable:

SEEC, MVEDD, County AG partner for energy help

The Schoharie Economic Enterprise Corp. (SEEC), in partnership with the Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Inc. (MVEDD), and the Schoharie County Office for Agricultural Development will hold a Resource Roundtable about energy efficiencies and what rebates, incentives, and credits are available for farmers, agri-

businesses, small businesses, homeowners, landlords, and renters, on Wednesday, January 18, from 5:30-7:30pm at the SEEC headquarters, located at 287 Main Street, in Schoharie.

Attendees are welcome to join in person or via Zoom.

The Resource Roundtable is an educational series that brings together experts well-versed in the programs,

grants and other resources available to Schoharie County.

This event in the series will feature Amanda Kaier, Clean Energy Community coordinator from MVEDD, with answers to questions about how people can save money through rebates, incentives, and credits available to New York State residents and businesses.

Schoharie County's Nickolas Kossmann, development specialist for Agricultural Business, will also be featured to assist with specific agricultural-related questions.

Topics will include energy-efficient technologies that fit the needs of the New York climate, energy audits, programs that suit residential, commercial, and agricultural needs, tax credits, funding

opportunities and more.

The presentation offers an opportunity to hear about consolidated resources tailored to Schoharie County that can help people take advantage of energy-related incentives that result in direct savings.

This event is free and open to the public. Registration is encouraged. Visit www.seecny.org for more information.

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Carlie Putorti takes a look at toys at the Joshua Project's Christmas for Kids free toy give-away last week at Fusion Community Church in Cobleskill. More than 400 families had a chance to get toys for the holiday.

All for kids: Joshua Project, friends serve up Christmas toys

Story and photos by Jim Poole

Families will have presents under the tree Christmas morning, thanks to the Joshua Project and its allies.

Joshua volunteers last week helped moms and dads—more than 400 families—select free gifts at Christmas for Kids at Fusion Community Church in Cobleskill.

The several-day effort was curtailed a bit by Friday's storm, but families still had opportunities to fill out wish lists.

Thousands of toys and clothes were on display. Many came from Walgreens, the Cobleskill drug store that closed last month.

"They called, and I went to see what they had," said Joshua President Pat Costello. "They had two rows of toys, and I asked, 'How much?'"

"They said a dollar apiece. They were very generous. Most of those toys were \$12 or \$15, I'm sure."

Although the Joshua Project also purchased toys, others pitched in, too, including Toys for Tots, St. Claire's Catholic Church in Colonie, Catholic Charities and State Farm Insurance and Dollar General, both in Middleburgh and both collecting points for donated toys.

The Kindness Is Foundation donated 400 children's books for the effort.

"The Joshua Project and Catholic Charities pretty much do this, but we have a lot of help," Mr. Costello said. "It's been wonderful."

All children also received pajamas, courtesy of the Magic Pajama Project in Cobleskill.

The emphasis of Christmas for Kids is on younger children, but older kids aren't



Volunteer Milan Jackson explains the toy layout to Amanda Porter and young Greyson Bouck.



Joshua Project volunteer Carrie Foland arranges toys for display.

forgotten. The Joshua Project purchased \$13,500 in gift cards for teenagers.

This year's Christmas for Kids was a little more costly for the Joshua Project, and the organization is seeking donations to replenish funds for its many other programs for needy families.

To donate, visit joshuaschoharie.org.

While Walgreens was generous with its steeply-discounted toys, the store also sold medical supplies—wheelchairs, walkers and more—to the Joshua Project at a 75-percent discount.

"We've already given some of those away to people who need them," Mr. Costello said.



Diane Stewart, one of the volunteers who, stands by with her clipboard and a bag full of toys.

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SCS forum will look at new mascot

January 18 at High School

By Patsy Nicosia
What should Schoharie Central School's new mascot be?

That's a question SCS will begin working on in January—and needs to have answered by June.

Last month the State Education Department sent out a memo reminding school districts that they need to comply with an order issued two years ago prohibiting the use of Native American imagery by the end of the 2023 school year.

Those that don't will lose state aid.

More than half of the SCS budget comes from the state, Superintendent Dave Blanchard said Thursday.

"We're not in a position to aggressively make a stand," against the ruling, he said. "The stakes are too high."

In its memo, State Education Senior Deputy Commissioner James Baldwin also said it will remove administrators and school boards in districts that don't comply.

SCS is one of about 60 schools in the state and 2,000 nationwide with some version of a Native American mascot.

Starting with a community forum Wednesday, January 18, at 6pm in the Junior-High School Auditorium, the night before the next school board meeting, Mr. Blanchard said,

! We're not in a position to aggressively make a stand.!

—Superintendent Dave Blanchard

they'll begin discussing a replacement mascot

Anyone's invited; more details will follow.

SCS has been preparing for the change for a number of years, Mr. Blanchard said, and nothing in the ongoing building projects have featured the SCS Indian.

But at the same time, time is of the essence, not just because of the state, but because SCS will begin work on its new athletic fields in 2023.

If the district wants to include the new mascot and imagery, Mr. Blanchard said, they'll need to come to a consensus on one.

In the Capital District, 12 schools use Native American mascots.

Some have already made changes—Mohonasen changed its from Native American Warriors to Warriors, but hasn't changed its logo; others, like Schoharie, are waiting for more information from State Ed.



Auto Racing Stuff

By Ed & Betty Biittig

Fonda Speedway announced, the first Dave Lape Memorial event will take place on Memorial Day, Saturday, May 27, featuring the Thunder on the Thruway Series for Modifieds, Crate 602 Sportsman and Pro Stocks plus a complete program of racing.

Supply Wagon Rentals of Johnstown have signed on as sponsor for the first of two Lucas Oil Empire Super Sprints event for 360 Sprints cars, Saturday, May 6, 2023.

Cliff Haslun of Sloansville is building a Vintage Late Model car for this upcoming season and will run with the Mohawk Valley Vintage Dirt Modified Series in 2023.

His son, Dan, is the announcer for the popular group of racers who promote the history of auto racing in the area and put on some exciting shows at area tracks when they visit.

On May 13, 2023 Afton Motorsports Park will honor Bill Ward, Sr., with a memorial race for NYPenn IMCA Modified Series.

Bill raced with the IMCA Modifieds at Afton during his racing career.

You may have already heard that the Patriot Sprint Tour President Mike Emhof made a very difficult statement to close out the 2022 awards banquet.

Emhof said it was one of the hardest decisions he ever had to make.

After thanking everyone that worked to make the PST successful Mike said, "It is a very sad day for me to tell you all that this will be the last Patriot Sprint Tour Banquet that I will have. I will not be scheduling any PST events in 2023 and beyond."

The PST ran for 20 years and after trying to find someone to take the reins of the organization with no success Emhof was forced to close the doors.

In closing he said he is now looking forward to next year with the CRSA Sprints and the MEM Parts Business.

The Short Track Super Series is welcoming Bicknell Racing Products to its list of sponsors for 2023. When the Sunoco Race Fuels checkered flag falls at every 2023 series event, drivers will celebrate in Bicknell Racing Products Victory Lane.

When the 2023 schedule for the All Star Circuit of Champions (ASCoC) was unveiled on Facebook and

other media outlets a few weeks ago, local fans noticed one exciting addition. Saturday, May 20, 2023, the 410 Sprint drivers will return to the "Track of Champions" for the first time in ten years and will be competing for \$10,000 to win.

The visit by the ASCoC marks the ninth time in Fonda Speedway history that 410 Sprints have competed at the track with each of the previous four events falling under ASCoC sanctioning.

Winners on previous visits were Shane Stewart in 2002; Daryn Pittman, 2003; Craig Keel, 2005; Danny Lasoski, 2006; Daryn Pittman, 2010; Tim Shaffer, 2011 & 2012 and Danny Dietrich in 2013.

According to the ASCoC website the ASCoC is one of the oldest traveling sprint car organizations in the country.

As we close out this effort we want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday season.

Until next week, send all news or comments to biittig@yahoo.com.

D-S downs Oneonta

Snow cancelled school Friday and along with it, most basketball and wrestling.

Wednesday, Duaneburg-Schoharie wrestling defeated Oneonta on the road, 36-20.

Duaneburg-Schoharie Sr HS (DSH) 36.0 Oneonta Sr HS (OSH) 20.0.

145: Zoey Lints (DSH) over Reilly Waltz (OSH) (Dec 10-4).

152: Jacob Schweigard (DSH) over Brighton Logue (OSH) (Fall 2:15).

160: Daniel Stealey (DSH) over Gideon Hendricks (OSH) (Fall 1:51).

172: Landon Straight (DSH) over Alan Michael Rubin (OSH) (Fall 3:43).

189: Mateo Goodhue (OSH) over Mason Welch (DSH) (TF 17-1 0:00).

215: Dalton Cooper (DSH) over Jayden Zakala (OSH) (Dec 11-4).

285: Tyler Lloyd (DSH) over Nason Renne (OSH) (Fall 0:16).

102: Double Forfeit.
110: Double Forfeit.

118: Marshall Mahar (OSH) over (DSH) (For.).

126: Tanner Tubia (OSH) over Caroline Ash (DSH) (Fall 1:43).

132: Scott Nicoella (DSH) over Nathan Hyde (OSH) (Fall 1:06).

138: Beckett Holmes (OSH) over Tyler Lewandowski (DSH) (Dec 9-5).

Also Wednesday, Berne-Knox defeated Middleburgh in boys basketball, 83-31.

Troy Cammer led MCS with 10 points, the only Knight in double-digits.

For B-K, Dayne Coates had 27 points, including eight three-pointers, and AJ Wright had 23.

At Canajoharie Wednesday, Schoharie won, 61-48.

Nathan Burke had 19 points for the Indians and Matt Bernhardt had 16.

For Canjo, Antonio Fairley led all scorers with 28 points, including three three-pointers.

In girls' basketball action, Canjo defeated SCS, 45-36.

Emily Lehoe led SCS with 15 points; for Canajoharie, Charlotte Nare had 13.

Middleburgh fell 66-21 at Berne-Knox.

C-R wrestlers edge Fonda/Johnstown

By Jim Poole
Cobleskill-Richmondville edged Fonda/Johnstown in wrestling last week.

The Bulldogs prevailed 42-34 on the Fonda mat.

The match started at 285 pounds, and Carols Torres registered a pin for the Bulldogs.

After a couple of forfeits in the lower weights, C-R got pins from Ashton Haley at 118, Liam English at 126, Ben Yorke at 132 and Luke Yorke at 138.

"Ripping off four pins... that was huge," Bulldog Coach Justin Kimball said.

Kyber Henry added a pin at 160, and after Fonda/

Johnstown earned a couple of wins, the match came down to 215 pounds, with C-R up 36-34.

"We moved Luke Pryor to 215, and the other kid took him down at first," Coach Kimball said. "But Luke pinned him in the second period, and that sealed the deal."

The Bulldogs' tournament on Saturday was cancelled by the weather. C-R may pick up another tournament or single dual meets over the Christmas break, Coach Kimball said.

The Bulldogs were to wrestle at Ravena on Wednesday, but that match was also set to be postponed.

C-R falls to Ravena in OT

By Jim Poole

Cobleskill-Richmondville lost to Ravena in overtime in boys' basketball last Tuesday.

The Bulldogs fell 57-53 on the Indians' home court.

C-R had the lead through much of the game but couldn't hold off Ravena.

"Every time we had a lead, we go away from what was working," Bulldog Coach Jon Rohacevich said.

And Ravena controlled their own boards.

"We gave up too many offensive rebounds," Coach Rohacevich said. "At one point in the second half, we gave up six in a row."

Zoen Collins led the Bulldogs with 17 points, and Ty LaBarge had 15.

"We've got to stop losing games because of the little things," Coach Rohacevich said. "We could be 3-2 or 2-3 instead of 0-5."

"We're competitive. We just have to take care of the little things down the stretch. We've got to figure it out quick."

The Bulldogs visit Schalmont Thursday and will play in the Fonda Tournament on the 28th and 29th.

Pistol League scores

Schoharie Pistol League results as of December 14.

"A" team

Cobleskill/Richmondville
R. Hemsley 271, L. VanDeusen 262, B. Hensel III 252, N. Stella 246, team total 1031.

VFW

C. Tubbs 278, S. Baker 274, J. Hitt 272, J. Hornbach 250, team total 1074.

West Fulton

G. Kaelber 272, J. Symons 264, D. Symons 259, P. Northrup 259, team total 1054.

Schoharie

F. Haynes 265, R. Stark 259, J. Wingfield 246, D. Potter 236, team total 1006.

"B" team

Cobleskill/Richmondville

M. Vance 239, D. Lambert 238, H. Mulbury 224, L. Prill 203, team total 904.

VFW

M. Moore 245, J. Lawton 228, M. Gifford 216, team total 689.

West Fulton

G. Meyers 241, T. Werner 234, D. Shaul 218, J. Northrup 128, team total 821.

Schoharie

E. Stark 192, team total 192. "A" team results: VFW defeated West Fulton, 1074-1054;

Cobleskill/Richmondville defeated Schoharie, 1031-1006.

"B" team results: Cobleskill/Richmondville defeated Schoharie, 904-192;

West Fulton defeated VFW, 821-689.



Photo by Rob Roney

December means snow... ❄️❄️

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Honoring vets for the holidays

Worcester reached out to honor the town's fallen veterans for the holidays on Saturday.

About 60 people gathered at Maple Grove and St. Joseph's cemeteries to place wreaths on veterans' graves as for the Wreaths Across America effort.

Members of the Rotary Club, Worcester Fire Department, Woman's Club, American Legion and others gathered for a ceremony before the wreath-laying.

"We're here today to say, 'thank you' for your service," said emcee Ed Serdy. "This is a united front of gratitude."

Pastor Russ Underwood of the United Methodist Church echoed those words in describing Wreaths Across America.

Across the nation, 1.2 million wreaths were placed on veterans' graves Saturday, he said.

"It's a wonderful thing to be a part of," Pastor Underwood said. "We're here to remember their lives."

Jim Gardner, who organized Worcester's Wreaths Across America, said people will shrug off eight inches of snow to place 495 wreaths on the graves of 90 veterans.

"That's a record for us," he added.

All present sang 'Amazing Grace,' and Liam Serdy played 'Taps' on a trumpet.

Individuals from the audience placed wreaths representing each branch of service, plus POWs, on stands before fanning out across the cemetery.



Laden with wreaths, a family heads out through Maple Grove Cemetery at Worcester's Wreaths Across America observance to honor veterans at the holidays.



Don Shalor places a wreath on a veteran's grave in Maple Grove Cemetery.



Liam Serdy plays 'Taps' during Worcester's ceremony.

Story and photos by Jim Poole



Emcee Ed Serdy talks about the importance of veterans' sacrifices and service.



Pastor Russ Underwood of the United Methodist Church describes the history of Wreaths Across America.



Pat and Hal Crispell hand out wreaths to those placing them.



Jim Gardner, who coordinated Wreaths Across America, notes that small red flags marks veterans' graves for wreaths.



Sue Birmingham places a wreath for Marines on a stand during the ceremony.



The audience sings 'Amazing Grace' as part of the opening ceremony.



Social Journal



\$ for Shelter

John McClure was the lucky winner of a 55-inch TV in a drawing at Brickhouse Bakery Monday; the fundraiser netted \$1,375 in ticket sales for the Animal Shelter of Schoharie Valley. From the left: Brickhouse's Rich Baumann, Vinnie Zaba and ASSV's Maggie Jackman Pryor.

Davignon lends hand at NG event

New York Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Emma Davignon, a Cobleskill resident, played a key role in a December 13 ceremony marking the 386th anniversary of the founding of the National Guard.

Airman 1st Class Davignon was one of two National Guard members selected to cut the National Guard birthday cake during a ceremony at New York National Guard headquarters in Latham.

Traditionally the oldest Guard member present is joined by the youngest Guard member in cutting the birthday cake.

The older servicemember represents the history and traditions of the National Guard, while the young Soldier or Airmen represents the future of the Guard.

Airman 1st Class Davignon, 18, just finished her training as a security forces Airman in the 109th Airlift Wing, based at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia.

She represented the future of the National Guard during the ceremony.

She was joined by 60-year-old Army National Guard Master Sgt. Jerry Swain from

Mount Morris, who represented the traditions and history of the National Guard.

It was an honor to be part of the ceremony, Airman 1st Class Davignon said.

She just completed training at the Air Force Security Forces Academy at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas on December 7 and is looking forward to joining her unit, she said.

She enlisted in the security forces, whose mission is to secure air bases both at home and overseas in combat zones, because of an interest in law enforcement, she said.

The National Guard claims December 13, 1636, as its birthday.

That was the date on which the legislature of the Massachusetts Bay Colony passed a law organizing separate militia companies into three regiments.

In New York, the first citizen-soldiers were members of the Burgher Guard, organized by the Dutch East Indian Company in 1640 to help protect New Amsterdam from their English neighbors in Massachusetts and Virginia.



Airman 1st Class Emma Davignon helps cut the cake at a ceremony marking the 386th anniversary of the founding of the National Guard.

Candlelight services for Christmas Eve

The **Barnerville United Methodist Church** will hold a Christmas Eve service Saturday, December 24 at 2pm at the church on Shady Tree Lane.

All are welcome. The **Warnerville United Methodist Church** will host a Christmas Eve candlelight service Saturday, December 24, at 4pm.

There will be no service Sunday.

The **Jefferson United Methodist Church**, Main

Street, Jefferson, will hold a candlelight service on Saturday, December 24 at 7pm.

All are welcome. There will be no Christmas Day service. Services will resume January 1 at 10:30 am.

The **Schoharie United Presbyterian Church**, 314 Main Street, Schoharie, will hold Christmas Eve services, "What Child is This?" worship, celebration and songs, at 7:30pm.

Calvary Assembly of God, 960 Mineral Springs

Road, Cobleskill, will hold its annual Candlelight Christmas Eve service at 7pm on December 24.

All are invited to attend the one hour family-friendly service, "Christmas Unwrapped," with lessons, carols, and communion. Call (518) 234-4182 for more information.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Richmondville, will hold a Christmas Eve service Saturday at 6pm.

There will be no service on Christmas Day.

The **Sharon Springs Reformed Church** will hold a Christmas Eve service Saturday, December 24, at 7pm.

The **Lawyersville Reformed Church**, Cobleskill, will hold a Christmas Eve service at 5pm on December 24.

There will be no service on Christmas.

There will be a Friendship Brunch Sunday, January 1, 9am; bring a dish to pass.

The **Schoharie Reformed Church**, Main Street, Schoharie, will hold a Christmas Eve Service, Sat-

urday, December 24, at 7pm.

The **Grosvenors Corners United Methodist Church** will hold a Christmas Eve service, Saturday, December 24 at 5pm; Christmas Day Service, Sunday, December 25 at 8:30am.

The **Sharon Springs United Methodist Church** will hold a Christmas Eve service, Saturday, December 24 at 7pm and a Christmas Day service, Sunday, December 25 at 10:30am.

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You do not need to be enrolled with the Chemical Dependency Clinic for these services.

Call (518)295-2031 for an appointment.

Open Arms Recovery Resource Center, 289 Main Street, Schoharie, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8am-4pm.

Mental health peer advocates are also available Thursdays, 11am-1pm. Services are free and confidential.

All Recovery meetings, Tuesday 5-6pm, at Open Arms, Schoharie.

Schoharie County Council of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse offers free family support services and has a family support navigator on staff to help individuals and families navigate the complexities of substance use disorder.

For more information, contact Chrystal Bushnell at (518) 605-4180, Bushnell. Chrystal@SCCASA518.org, or stop by SCCASA's new location, 597 East Main Street, Schoharie every Thursday from 9am-4pm.

Addiction Recovery Support Services through SCCASA, call (518) 605-4180 or (518) 605-3867.

Your source for information is the...

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Library News

Cobleskill

The staff, trustees and Friends of The Community Library wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season.

The library will be closed December 23-24 for the Christmas holiday and December 31 for the New Year holiday.

Tuesday, December 27 at 6pm, Short Fiction Workshop.

This monthly writing workshop for teens and adults features writing prompts, exercises, and moderated feedback sessions where authors working on short fiction can practice their craft, develop new skills, and get constructive input from other writers.

The award-winning Trivia Night@ the Library will return January 26. If you would like to be a 2023 sponsor, contact us.

Special thanks to The Friends of The Community Library for sponsoring the snack table.

There will be no StoryTime on December 28.

Want to learn a new skill, enhance your hobby skills, or try something new? Watch classes online, anytime from anywhere, just log in to Creativebug with your Community Library card and the last four digits of your phone number to get started.

Once you create an account you can save your progress and save your favorite videos. The library's landing page <https://www.creativebug.com/lib/communitylibrary>

Overdrive App users take note: the app will be discontinued this month. Overdrive is focusing on the Libby app, which makes it very easy to borrow from the extensive collection of ebooks, audiobooks and magazines.

A lunchtime presentation will take place on January 11 at noon on using Libby.

You can check out games with your library card. Visit the second floor near the teen area to see what we have. A special thanks to Games A Plunder for their support of this collection.

Tuesdays join your neighbors and make new friends during the Tuesday Knitters group.

You can find them in the program room at 1pm. Bring your own supplies and learn something new.

The library continues to offer curbside pickup and we still have free COVID-19 at home test kits.

A reminder that our weather closures will be posted on TV and our Facebook and webpage.

If Cobleskill-Richmondville School District is closed, the library will automatically move to a delayed opening at noon unless it is determined unsafe for staff to travel and then the library will close.

Sharon

Winter has officially begun, and we have had a good taste of getting snowed in.

Stock up on books and DVDs for the next storm or for your holiday break.

The library will be open its regular Saturday hours 10am-1pm Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24 and New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31, but will be closed Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2, 2023 for the holidays.

We wish everyone safe, healthy and blessed holiday celebrations.

New books have arrived, some by your favorite authors: Louise Penney, Rhys Bowen, Danielle Steele, Phillipa Gregory and Richard Paul Evans.

New books are on display on the table near our front door.

They are checked out for one week rather than two, so if you don't see one, just come back the following week and it might be there.

Better yet, put a hold on the one you want and we will let you know when it is available.

Check our Facebook page [facebook.com/sharonspringsfreelibrary/](https://www.facebook.com/sharonspringsfreelibrary/) or our website, [shsfreelib.mvls.info](https://www.shsfreelib.mvls.info) to see the new titles.

The MVLS collection of graphic novels and juvenile graphics has rotated, so there are new titles to browse in our library now.

Our non-holiday winter hours are Monday, 10am-1pm; Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 3-6pm; Thursday, 10am-6pm; and Saturday 10am-1pm.

Yoga is offered on Friday nights for a donation of \$10 to the instructor, but you must register in order to be on the call list in case of cancellations.

Middleburgh

December 26 - The library will be closed to observe the Christmas holiday.

December 27 - 10:45am Drop-in Storytime - Join Miss Terry for this fun, interactive storytime geared toward little ones ages 0-5 and their caregivers.

We'll read books, sing songs and watch a short film based on our weekly theme.

All children will go home with a coloring sheet or take home craft. No registration required

December 31 and January 2, 2023—The library will be closed to observe the New Year's holiday.

Creativebug - Use your Middleburgh Library card and PIN to enjoy unlimited access to thousands of online art and craft classes available at Creativebug.

Videos are produced by renowned artists and creative experts. You'll also find downloadable patterns, templates and recipes.

Watch classes anytime, anywhere. Classes never expire, you can start and stop projects at your own pace. No pressure, just possibilities.

Check our calendar on our website at www.middleburghlibrary.info for future programs.

Also, don't forget our Facebook page.

Schoharie

Teen Thursday: Every Thursday, 5-7pm. Come hang out in our Teen Room, socialize, create in our Makerspace, play board games, code with our Dash Robot, share book recommendations, and more. Ages 13- young adult welcome. No registration required.

Storytime with Yvonne: Fridays at 10am. Stories, songs, fun activities.

Writing Club (Virtual): Mondays at 6:30pm. <https://bit.ly/SchoharieLibraryPrograms>

The Schoharie Library will be closed Saturday, December 24.

Arts & Entertainment

NYSCA grants awarded to CREATE, Iroquois Museum

One regional arts organizations and another from Schoharie County have been awarded nearly \$200,000 from New York State Council on the Arts.

CREATE Council On The Arts has been awarded a grant award totaling \$49,500.

The Iroquois Museum in Howes Cave has been awarded a three-year grant of \$49,500 per year.

The awards come as a way to support the recovery of nonprofit arts and culture organizations.

Since the spring, NYSCA has awarded \$90 million to a record number of artists and organizations across the state.

CREATE Council for Resources to Enrich the Arts, Technology & Education is a tax exempt, non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide community support by expanding access to creative, cultural resources and economic opportunities in the region.

CREATE serves as the Statewide Community Re-grant arts organization for Greene, Columbia, and Schoharie Counties.

Since 1975, CREATE has provided information and essential services to artists, arts organizations, cultural and educational institutions, civic groups, community agencies, and the general public and continues to grow its outreach as a regional arts council.

The Iroquois Museum works to foster an understanding of Iroquois culture using art as a window and is a venue for promoting Iroquois arts and artists.

It also serves as an anthropological institution celebrating Iroquois culture and diversity.



The Iroquois Museum has been awarded a three-year NYSCA grant of \$49,500 per year.

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CATHOLIC CHARITIES

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Lyon repeats at SSCS spell bee



Some of the SSCS contestants listen to the rules. From the left, Trever Killenberger, Ryker Lasky, Tyler Lyon, Molly Parsons, Axel Salisbury, and Garrett Warner.

Tyler Lyon became a two-time champion Thursday, winning the Sharon Springs Central School two years running.

Spellers battled for more than a dozen rounds before Tyler, an eighth-grader, spelled correctly for the win.

Bella Cornwell, a seventh-grader, finished second; Elizabeth Gokool, a fourth-grader, was third.

Rounding out the field were: Hunter Bol-

ster, eighth grade; Garrett Warner, seventh-grade; Molly Parsons and Axel Salisbury, sixth grade; Trever Killenberger, fifth grade; and Ryker Lasky, fourth grade.

The Sharon Springs Historical Society sponsors and provides prizes for the event.

Russ Scimeca was the pronouncer with judges Superintendent Tom Yorke, and teachers Randi Korona and Tammy Behr.



Elizabeth Gokool, a fourth-grader, looks back for confirmation that she spelled her word correctly. Behind her are Tyler Lyon and Garrett Warner.



Eighth-grader Hunter Bolster was first up at the mic at Thursday's SSCS spelling bee.



For the second year running, Tyler Lyon, an eighth-grader, was the winner of the SSCS spelling bee.

Story and photos by PatsyNicosia

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Wishing you a Merry Christmas.

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Seventh-grader Bella Cornwell concentrates at the mic Thursday during the Sharon Springs Central School Spelling Bee. She finished second.



Judges, from the left: Tammy Behr, Randi Korona, and Tom Yorke.

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- ★ Bird Dog Peach-flavored Whiskey

Have a Merry Christmas!

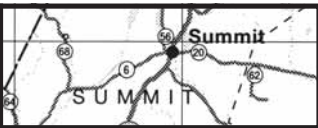
Holiday Gift Sets Available



The crowd watches as SSCS contestants tackle their words.

Times-Journal: All the news you need

Summit



By Karen Cuccinello

I was away last week so nothing local to write. We came home Sunday night to over a foot of snow which was quite a greeting back.

The Charlottesville Cemetery Association and friends put 89 "Wreaths Across America" wreaths along the fence in front of the cemetery instead of at the veterans' grave stones because of the snow.

Thanks to Jeff Shafer for plowing into the cemetery so the volunteers could park.

The cost of the wreaths is \$15, which was raised by donation, and the Charlottesville Cemetery Association would like to place wreaths again in 2023.

Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated and can be mailed to: Charlottesville Cemetery Association, 107 Charlotte Valley Road, Charlotteville, NY

12036.

Remember this is a way to honor our local veterans.

The Facebook page for Grace & Son/The Breakfast Club, at 139 Main Street, Jefferson, states they will be opening again soon.

December 25 - Merry Christmas.

January 8 - Pancake breakfast, 8-11am at Summit Conservation Club, 109 Club Drive, Summit, (518)287-1710.

January 15 - Charlottesville Firehouse breakfast, 8-11am.

January 21-22 - Stuffed pizza at Summit Conservation Club. Saturday noon-7pm and Sunday noon-4pm.

January 28 - Outhouse Races 1pm, sponsored by the Summit Conservation Club to benefit the food pantry. Dance to follow.

History
December 7, 1933

Cobleskill Index - Summit - Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Snyder were weekend guests of friends in Binghamton. Mrs. Flora Joslyn has been visiting Melora Ryder for a few days. Miss Lucy Wharton and Miss Alma Wharton were shoppers in Albany.

There is no school at present as the teacher, Mrs. Russell Houghton is ill of bronchitis. Mr. and Mrs. Luke Ryder were Thanksgiving dinner guests of relatives in Schenectady.

Mrs. Maurice Bradley, accompanied by her mother, Mrs. Mattie Zeh called on relatives in Warnerville.

Fenton Warner and wife, and Roy Hellijas and wife were supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Bradley.

It is estimated that nearly 200 people were served to dinner in the church basement on Thanksgiving day.



The Charlottesville Cemetery Association placed wreaths along the fence in front of on veterans' graves for Wreaths Across America on Saturday.

We wish to thank all who in any way contributed to the success of this affair.

Carlisle



By Chris Keefer

Greetings Carlisle. All good wishes for a Merry Christmas and a happy Hanukkah.

The only thing good about the early nightfall in December is touring around town to see everyone's holiday lights.

Another good thing is the heavy snow and subsequent trails the snowmobilers have left for easy hiking and skiing.

I plan to bust out my x-c skis and boots over the holiday break.

Thanks to our intrepid road crews for clearing the snow and keeping the roads safe.

Bundle up. It looks like more snow is forecast for Thursday and Friday this week, followed by intense cold.

Layers of clothing are good for keeping the heat bill down inside the house and essential when spending time outside.

Looking for a local country church to worship on Christmas Eve?

Try the Grovenors Corners United Methodist Church in the hamlet of Grovenors Corners. All are welcome.

Christmas Eve Service will be held on Saturday, 5pm, and a Christmas morning service will take place at 8:30am.

The Planning Board meeting and follow up article by the Times Journal regarding the proposed solar farm in Carlisle was informative.

This is a huge and controversial use of land in a place where we value our agricultural landscapes and environment, our views and our history.

Is this right for Carlisle? Consider putting a well-formed, and respectfully worded opinion in the Carlisle News.

According to the site map, which can be viewed and downloaded from the Schoharie County/Carlisle/Planning Board website (<https://www2.schohariecounty.ny.gov/>), the proposed solar

project would encompass a lot of wetlands where we birders consistently get sora rail and other interesting birds each year.

Speaking of birds, since Carlisle is the Birding Capital of Schoharie County, the snowfall brought all kinds of birds to my feeders.

With their natural food covered up, songbirds flock to feeders to tank up on the fuel they need to keep their metabolisms going. Birds, like most creatures active in winter, need extra rations to make it through those long nights.

Foods high in fat like suet and seeds are essential. While our bird feeders tend to be supplemental to the natural fare birds spend their days foraging, when heavy snow eliminates that source, our feeders become vital to survival.

We had four northern cardinals, two species of nuthatch, white-throated sparrows and juncos, and one song sparrow, but no tree

sparrows. Does anyone have tree sparrows?

Seems they were largely absent last year, too.

Blue jays, mourning doves, three woodpecker species and a swirl of chickadees and tufted titmice keep the whole scene active and entertaining.

A pair of crows have figured out how to navigate the suet feeder. They came early this year.

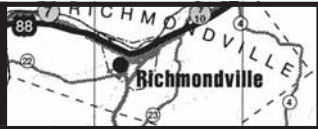
I'm wondering if it was the same pair that started hanging around in late winter last year, and with their intelligence, remembered the food source and how to get it this season.

What have you got at your feeders?

Send news of birthday wishes, glad tidings, special occasions, upcoming events, happy thoughts and good birds to carlisle.news12031@gmail.com or call (518)339-3664.

Merry Christmas to all.

Richmondville



By Ann Lape

Hi readers. Christmas is almost here.

Did you know Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states, including Hawaii?

Germany is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition in the 16th century, with Martin Luther adding the lighted candles.

In America, German settlers in Pennsylvania had community Christmas trees as early as 1747.

By the 1890s Christmas ornaments were arriving from Germany, but early 20th century Americans decorated their trees mostly with home-made ornaments, popcorn and berries.

There will be Christmas caroling in the Village of Richmondville on December 23, starting at 7pm and meeting at the Firehouse. All are welcome to participate.

Christian Community of Faith Church in West Richmondville will be having a candlelight service on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 4pm.

Richmondville United Methodist Church will have a candlelight Service on Christmas Eve, at 5pm.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church will have a candlelight service on Christmas Eve, at 6pm.

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Cobleskill will be having a Christmas Eve Mass at 5:15pm and a Christmas Day Mass at 8:30am.

If anyone has any news they would like to share in this column, feel free to contact me, Ann Lape, (518)813-2826.

However you celebrate the holidays, may they be filled with love, peace, and joy.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from My Family to Yours!

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Happy Holidays

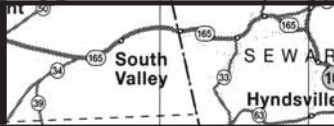
May all that is beautiful, meaningful and brings you joy be yours this holiday season and throughout the coming year! Thank you for your business!

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Cobleskill Appointment Center: 173 South Grand St, Suite 5 Cobleskill, NY 12043

South Valley



By Carol Brodie
Merry Christmas to everyone.

If you haven't already done so, there's still time to send Christmas cards and notes to those in the nursing homes. And even if they receive them after Christmas, I'm sure they will still be delighted to hear from you.

Send cards to Margaret Mabie, c/o Fox Nursing Home, Oneonta, NY 13820, and Cora Wikoff, The Marchand Manor, 121 Main Street, PO Box 265, Sharon Springs, NY 13459.

Services at the South Valley First Christian Church: Christmas Eve service at 7pm on Saturday, December 24 and Christmas Day service at 10am on Sunday.

There will be no Sunday school that day.

The services are open to all, so please come out and join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

So we got zapped last weekend with our first big major snowstorm of the winter.

It actually started Thursday evening, December 15, and by 9am the following morning, I measured 11 inches of snow in front of our house.

I started shoveling a small path to the road to clean out the mailbox, assuming our mailman would be late with all this snow. Not so.

I was maybe a third way to

the road when he came along at the regular time.

He stopped in the road and I ran back in the house to get my outgoing mail.

He trudged through the snow to meet me to take it and give me my mail.

He said he loves the snow, so I said, "Here," and went to hand him my shovel.

He laughed.

I still miss our former mailman Jim, but I am very thankful we have such a good mailman in Sam.

Later that Friday afternoon, Charley came up and plowed out for me with my John Deere tractor.

Then he came back again later Saturday afternoon and did it all again, after the snow had reached at least 17 inches or more.

Pat Mabie told me they had two foot of snow at their place on State Highway 165, and I told her it could possibly have been that deep here as well.

It was hard to tell because the wind blew it so much.

Thank you to our Town of Roseboom road crew, Superintendent Dan Gage, Denny Hoke, Cody Duncan, and Ray Auger, for taking good care of our roads during the storm.

We also lost our electricity twice last week. No idea why we lost it on Wednesday, December 14, around 7pm because the weather was fine and barely a breeze

outside. It was back on again about two hours later.

Then, during the storm, it went out again on Friday around 2:45pm and was restored around 6:30pm.

I'm thankful they seem to be getting the power restored a lot quicker these days than they used to a few years ago. **Birthdays and anniversaries**

Birthdays goes out this week to Conner Dahl who will be 19 years old, Dan Kiesow, Brandon Lundy, Marsha Mabie, Sharon Earing, Heather Webster, Kayleigh Brodie, Steve Tansey, Jim Herman, Mike Fox Sr., Helen Moore, Angelica Sorgen, Abby Dent who turns 22, Jim Webster, Carole Haslun, Tyler Houk who will be 16, and Dolores Weeks.

Happy anniversary to Bob and Allegra Schecter.

Expression of sympathy
I was sorry to hear that Ruth Ellen May, 65, of Esperance, died unexpectedly at St. Mary's Hospital on Friday, December 2.

She was the daughter of Ralph Gordon and Elizabeth "Betty" May and spent her younger years growing up in the heart of South Valley.

She was predeceased by her parents, as well as siblings Carolyn Mabie and James May.

She is survived by a sister, Linda Winnie, and two brothers, Stanley and Michael, as well as other family and rela-

tives.

To read the complete obituary and offer condolences to the family, go to the funeral home website: houghtalingandsmith.com

My birthday surprise

So I left you all hanging last week following my birthday train ride out of Richfield Springs.

As we were headed home, somewhere around Cherry Valley, I think it was, that Barb said she'd had a text from Becke Haas, who wanted us to stop by the church in South Valley.

Becke told her to make sure we came to the kitchen because there was a meeting in the sanctuary and she didn't want us to disturb them.

Well, I guess I can be a bit clueless at times. We got to the church and there were vehicles in the parking lot, but I couldn't understand why they would be having a meeting in the dark as there were no lights in either the sanctuary or the family center.

We were only going to be a couple of minutes so Mick stayed in the car and Barb and I went in the side doors to go to the kitchen.

Becke greeted us, giving me a big hug and wishing me a happy birthday.

Then she tells me she wants to show me how she has decorated the family center for the Christmas party that was coming up on Sunday.

I didn't suspect a thing because she knows I love how she decorates for events.

She threw open the double doors to the family center and the lights came on.

I was so surprised that I don't even remember if everyone yelled "surprise" or "happy birthday!" I was kind of in shock as I looked around at everyone there.

It was my first ever surprise party and boy, was I ever surprised, despite a couple things that should have made me suspicious.

And this wasn't even a "big" birthday. That won't be until next year.

Barb made me a chocolate

cake, beautifully decorated with a colorful hummingbird.

Among the 19 guests were Mick and Barb Kineke, Charley and Joanne Brodie, Steve and Donna Hatch and granddaughters Eleanor and Della Baran, Pastor Dan, Becke, and daughter Lily Haas, cousins Bev Brodie, Peter Brodie, and Lorri Meyers, Carole Haslun, June Hansen, Harvey and Connie Frasier, and Frank Wrisley.

Many others were invited but unable to attend, but still sent me cards and greetings.

Proper thank you notes will be going out soon, but I wanted to publicly thank everyone who had a part in this surprise party for me.

And thank you for the many cards, money, gift cards, and my niece Amy Sue Dahl for the little box of items she mailed to me.

Thank you to the Haas' as well for the beautiful hummingbird feeder, and to Lily for the beautiful hummingbird painting she did for me.

Thanks especially to Mick and Barb and Becke Haas for all the planning, decorating, and work you did in making my birthday special this year.

Pastor Dan, Becke, and Lily invited me as their guest, to celebrate my birthday, by accompanying them to the Candlelight Evening at the Farmers Museum, in Cooperstown, on Saturday afternoon, De-

ember 10.

We had a great time together as we strolled around the grounds, enjoyed some hot mulled cider, and rode on the horse-drawn wagon.

Then later, we enjoyed visiting as we dined at the Doubleday Café on Main Street.

Bits and pieces

Charley and Joanne Brodie attended the funeral for Peter Lewis, 63, of Maryland, at the Schenevus First Baptist Church on Saturday morning, December 17.

Joanne played the piano for the service.

Janet French-Kostbar delivered her delicious homemade Christmas cookies to relatives around the area on Sunday, December 18, as she made stops at Leland and Pat Mabie's, Mark and Debbie Anderson's, and George and Fran Mabie's homes.

A friend from Fort Plain texted me on Sunday evening telling me that the Fort Plain town barn had burned to the ground early that morning.

She said the barn and the snow plows are a complete loss, but the firemen were able to save the town offices up front, although they suffered a lot of smoke and water damage.

Call me at (607)264-3225 with any news you wish to share in this column. I'd love to include your Christmas parties, celebrations, and get-togethers. Also, if there are any birthdays I'm missing, call and let me know.

Seward



By Dana Cudmore
Seward Town Councilman Bruce Baxter of Patrick Road submitted his resignation Monday, December 12, at the town board's regular monthly meeting.

Mr. Baxter, a former highway superintendent, resigned effective December 31.

Town Supervisor Earlin Rosa can appoint a temporary replacement to fill the seat until the November 2024 elections.

At that time, voters will decide who will fill the two years that remain on the council member's term.

In other business, the board learned a percolation test failed on property the town is considering purchasing for a septic drain field—leach field—for the Seward hamlet's sewer district.

The board took no action on the issue at the meeting and will likely consult with Lamont Engineers of Cobleskill on the options available moving forward.

The board scheduled Thursday, January 5, 2023, as the day for their annual reorganization meeting.

The meetings are used to make annual appointments and designations, such as meeting dates and the town's official bank and newspaper.

The recommendations made at the meeting will be voted on at the town board's first monthly meeting of the year, tentatively Monday, January 9.

The board also paid the month's bills.

They approved payments totaling about \$40,000 for highway department expenses that included truck repairs, and about \$3,000 for other town expenses, according to Town Clerk Barbara Schaffer.

No town business on Saturday

Schaffer announced her office, which usually holds hours on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month, will be closed the day before Christmas.

The town's recycling center, also on Lowe Road, will also be closed that day for the holiday.

Lots to Celebrate

Here's wishing happy holidays to everyone, whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, Boxing Day, Kwanzaa, or all four.

Christmas Eve Services in Seward

The Zion St. John's

Lutheran Church announced it will hold its Christmas Eve service at 8pm at the church, 114 Mesick Road. A spokesperson for the church said there will not be services the following day, Christmas.

The church typically holds services each Sunday at 9am.

Public Bus service limits holiday hours

Schoharie County Public Transportation has limited hours and routes the next two Saturdays and Mondays due to the holidays. The bus is not offered on Sundays.

Only the Cobleskill Route 2 bus will run on December 24 and 31. The last run on both days will be at 2pm from Wal-Mart.

No service will be offered on the two observed holidays, December 26, and January 2, 2023.

Route service on other days is not affected.

The Route 10 service from Cobleskill to Sharon runs every Tuesday, including the Seward area -- if reservations are made in advance. The number to call is (518)234-0952.

The round-trip service is \$6 cash, or a \$3 token, available to seniors over the age of 60.

Support Your Local Food Pantry

The food pantry at the United Methodist Church in Sharon Springs is open Thursdays from 9-10:30am and from 5-6:30pm. It's also

open by appointment, by calling (518)284-2200. The church is located on Route 20, across from the school.

Food pantries provide non-perishable food items to those in need and gladly accept donations for sharing.

If you have news, events, or social items—birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, etc.—from communities in (and around) the Town of Seward, email me at dcmedia@aol.com.

Readers' feedback is always welcome.

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LEGAL ADVERTISING

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Worcester Central School District invites your firm to submit a proposal to assist the District with an anticipated capital construction project. Please submit five hardcopies and a digital copy of your proposal no later than January 4, 2023 to: Timothy Gonzalez, Superintendent of Schools, Worcester CSD, 198 Main Street, Worcester, NY 12197 tgonzales@wrcserscs.org; 607-397-8785. This request outlines the requirements for your proposal in more detail. Please have your proposal be specific and concise so that we may thoroughly review it. Additional requirements and format for the Proposal are listed in the Instructions For Proposers section of the RFP. Questions should be directed to the contact above and must be submitted in writing. The Worcester Central School District appreciates your interest in our project and we look forward to reviewing your proposal.

CAPITAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The District has been working with the assistance of BCA Architects & Engineers, to plan a capital project that will include:

- Worcester Main Building
 - Exterior Cafeteria Roof at Playground
 - Auditorium ceiling work
 - Weight room addition
 - Create copier alcoves
 - Main entrance redesign
 - HVAC upgrades
 - Security upgrades
 - Communications upgrades
 - Front lawn reconfiguration
- Bus Garage
 - Repaving of the front lot and entrance
 - Paving of the rear parking area
 - Exterior canopy at vehicle filling station
 - HVAC upgrades
 - Security upgrades
 - Lighting upgrades

The total proposed referendum project budget is \$6,977,501. The Worcester Central School District (the District) is interested in adding a pro-active and hands-on construction manager to the team to assist with developing this project, and oversee the day to day activities of construction. In any arrangement it is anticipated that the District, the Architect and the firm acting as the construction manager will cooperate and essentially work as partners to ensure that the project is of high quality and is completed on time and on budget. The District feels strongly that a cooperative team approach is the best method for completing a successful project. It is essential that your proposal emphasize experience with public K-12 school projects in New York State, not only by your firm but especially by the individuals or project team members who will be assigned to this Project. Dec22c5

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Owner invites the submission of Sealed Bid Proposals to furnish materials and labor to complete the Exterior Walking Trail & Pavilion Project No. 2022-019 all in accordance with the plans and specifications. This work is to be bid under SINGLE

PRIME CONTRACTS system, in accordance with the Wicks Law Reform, covering the work of all trades under one (1) contract as follows: Contract No. 5 – Site Construction Sealed Bid Proposals will be received until 2:00 p.m. prevailing time, on January 11, 2023, at the Worcester Central School District, 198 Main Street, Worcester, New York, 12197. Any bid may be withdrawn without prejudice prior to the official bid submission time or any publicized postponement thereof. Each prospective bidder may obtain bidding documents through our website (www.thebcgroup.com, Bidding). A payment of \$100.00 will be required for each set requested. PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS REMAIN THE PROPERTY OF THE ARCHITECT AND MUST BE RETURNED IN GOOD CONDITION WITHIN THIRTY (30) BUSINESS DAYS AFTER AWARD OF CONTRACT OR REJECTION OF BIDS. The plan deposit for one set of Plans and Specifications will be refunded to bona fide bidders returning Plans and Specifications to the Architect's office within 30 business days after award of Contract or rejection of bids. A partial refund of the plan deposit, in an amount equal to the full amount of such deposit, less the actual cost of reproduction of the Plans and Specifications shall be made to non-bidders and unsuccessful bidders for the return of all other copies of the Plans and Specifications in good condition within 30 business days following the award of the Contract or the rejection of the bids. Bidders wishing documents mailed to them shall include, in addition to the document deposit, a non-refundable check of \$15.00 per set for handling and postage. Checks shall be made payable to Bernier, Carr & Associates. Plan Deposit Policy, Plan Holders List, Pre-Bid Estimates, and a list of Addendum, if any, may be found at www.thebcgroup.com under Bidding. A pre-bid meeting will not be required. If any contractor would like to review the site at the district, you will need to set up an appointment with the Maintenance Mechanic II, Glenn Jaquish (607) 397-8785 Ext. 123. Bids shall be prepared as set forth in the Information to Bidders, enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing on its face the name, address and phone number of the bidder and the title of the project. Each bidder agrees to waive any claim it has or may have against the Owner, the Architect/Engineer, and the respective employees, arising out of or in connection with the administration, evaluation or recommendation of any bid. The Owner further reserves its right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities or defects in such bid either before or after opening. Each bidder must deposit with his bid, security in the form and subject to the conditions provided in the

"INFORMATION FOR BIDDERS". Attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirements as to conditions of employment to be observed and to the minimum wage rates to be paid under the Contract. No bidder may withdraw his bid within 45 business days after the date of the opening of bids. **ATTENTION OUT-OF-STATE BIDDERS**
Please pay particular attention to the Form of Proposal and its related forms in the Project manual. Out-of-State Bidders are required to complete the "Statement Concerning Authority to do Business in the State of New York for non-New York State Companies" located in the Form of Proposal package. There are three sections that must be completed. You must also have the Non-Collusion Certificate completed and signed and if you are a corporation, you must have the Resolution completed and signed. No bid will be considered when opened unless accompanied by a certified copy of your Authority to do Business in New York State. This is not to be confused with a sales tax certificate. The Authority can be obtained by contacting: New York State Department of State Division of Corporations 162 Washington Avenue Albany, NY 12231 (518) 473-2492 If the Certificate does not accompany the bid, the bid is

not valid. In the event you are of the opinion that you are not required to obtain the Authority To Do Business in New York state, and you are not a New York State Corporation, then you should complete the Statement Concerning Authority to do Business. You must complete two out of three sections. The top portion must be completed by all vendors needing to complete this document and then either the Individual Acknowledgement or the Corporate Acknowledgement, depending on the status of your business. By Order Of: Date: December 19, 2022 Wendy Elliott, District Clerk Dec22c5

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held on January 9, 2023 in Room 310 of the Schoharie County Office Building by the Personnel Officer in Schoharie, New York at 10:00 am until 12:00 pm on the matters of amending the Appendices of the Schoharie County Civil Service Rules. Such proposed changes are available for inspection during business hours in the Personnel & Civil Service Office in Room 310 of the Schoharie County Office Building in Schoharie, New York. C.J. Smith, Personnel Officer 3Jan5c5

TAX NOTICE

I, the undersigned, hereby give notice that I have received the tax roll and

warrant for the collection of taxes in and for the Town of Middleburgh, Schoharie County, New York, for the year 2023, and that I will receive taxes at the Town Clerk's office at 143 Railroad Avenue in said town Monday, 9am-5pm; Tuesday-Friday 9am-2pm. Closed Fridays, April 1-October 1. Taxes may be received without interest by the collecting officer on or before the thirty first day of January or thirty days following the collecting officer's receipt of Tax Roll and Warrant, whichever is later. On all taxes received after such day, there shall be added interest of 1.00 per centum for the month of February or fraction thereof and an additional 1.00 per centum for each additional month or fraction thereof until such taxes are paid or until the return of unpaid taxes to the County Treasurer on June 1st, after which a fee of 5% is added plus 12.00 per centum per annum from February 3rd pursuant to law. Tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation are as follows: County Tax, 14.275060 General Town Wide 1.910222 General Town Outside 0.006460 Highway Town Wide 2.591824 Highway Town Outside 2.278426 Middleburgh Fire Protection 1.422659 Dated: 12/19/2022. Signed: Renee Schmidt Town Clerk/Tax Collector 2Dec29c5



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CLUES ACROSS

- Product or __ (abbr.)
- Zodiac sign
- S. China seaport
- Former OSS
- Early English printer
- Aphid genus
- General's assistant (abbr.)
- Aussies
- Dissuades
- Make law
- Drench
- Soak in a liquid
- Male child
- It cools your home
- Small constellation
- To call (archaic)
- Explores beneath the Earth
- Commercial
- W. hemisphere organization
- You can find it in a can
- "Land of the free"
- 42 3/6 inches
- Footwear
- Challenges
- They hold things together
- Of I
- Partner to flow
- Not connected by kinship
- Worries
- Garlic mayonnaise
- A way to take by force
- Legendary English rockers
- Your consciousness of your own identity
- Fencing swords
- Silly
- Actor DiCaprio
- Encircles with a belt
- Mails a message
- Longing

CLUES DOWN

- Horse mackerels
- It can be viral
- Prickly plants
- Consciousness
- Type of sarcoma
- Tax collector
- Sun up in New York
- One who scorches
- Influenza psychotherapist
- Situated at an apex
- Communicative
- Forearm nerve
- Former CIA
- Folk singer DiFranco
- Employee stock ownership plan
- Large-scale
- School environment
- Remove
- Male parents
- Large rodent
- Weighed down
- Held tightly
- __ route: going there
- Explains again
- Exclamation of surprise
- Courteously
- Lying down
- Judge
- Forcefully took
- Loosely compacted sediment
- High mountain
- Portable conical tents
- Cereal grass
- Dining utensil
- Thoughtful
- Helps you walk
- Indicates near
- Midway between northeast and east
- Local area network

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Developmental Disabilities**Apply Now: <https://opwdd.ny.gov/form/apply-now>**NOTICE**

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and

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**Appointment to the position of PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE will be provisional. Permanent appointment will be contingent upon successful completion of a Civil Service examination & becoming reachable on the resulting eligible list.*

Candidates interested in being considered for a position must submit an employment application to the Schoharie County Department of Personnel & Civil Service, 284 Main Street, PO Box 675, Schoharie, NY 12157, (e-mail: civilservice@co.schoharie.ny.us) by the close of business on **JANUARY 3, 2023.**

Applications may be obtained in the Personnel Office or online at:
www.schohariecounty-ny.gov

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Public Health Nurse: Possession of a bachelor's degree in Nursing from a regionally accredited or New York State-registered college or university; **and** licensure & current registration to practice as a Registered Professional Nurse in New York State.

Registered Professional Nurse: Possession of an associate's degree in Nursing from a regionally accredited or New York State-registered college or university; **and** licensure & current registration to practice as a Registered Professional Nurse in New York State; **and** two (2) years of general nursing experience. (Part-time employment can be pro-rated to count towards full-time, based on number of hours worked per week).

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: These positions require extensive travel. Incumbents will be required to possess a valid, appropriate level, New York State operator's license, or otherwise demonstrate the ability to meet the travel needs of the job.

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Obituaries

James Dowdall III

James "Jim" Bernard Dowdall III, 73, resident of Livingstonville, passed away at Cobleskill Regional Hospital on Thursday, December 15, 2022 after battling a long-time illness. Jim was born on April 12, 1949 in Weehawken, New Jersey and was the third of 10 children born to James and Margaret (Secor) Dowdall.

Jim was a Corporal in the United States Marine Corps and served 13 months in Vietnam from 1967-1968 where he was a motor vehicle operator and mechanic. He was a proud veteran who earned many medals and certificates including Rifle Expert, National Defense Service Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Achievement Medal, and Combat "V."

Jim devoted his life to his family, who could count on him for anything. He had a passion for nature and enjoyed many hunting trips, although the latest hunting trips may have included a nap under a tree. A true sportsman, he was a member of the Middleburgh Rod and Gun Club. Jim loved listening to music and was a lifetime Grateful Dead fan. He loved driving and taking a ride was his daily therapy until recent months when he was no longer able to get around as well. You were almost guaranteed to meet Jim at Stewart's in Middleburgh, with a smile and time to visit about local news and life with friends.

He is survived by his loving wife, Lorraine Dowdall. Childhood sweethearts, they married on June 30, 1973 and have shared 49 beautiful years together. Jim was also blessed with three



James Dowdall III beautiful children, James B Dowdall IV, Melissa Dowdall Miller (Bruce Trobridge) and Joshua (Amy) Dowdall; he was beloved Pop to Emily, Christopher, Alexis, Matthew, Kaylyn and Emil. And he is survived by his siblings, Brian Dowdall, Margaret DeNoia, Patricia Hoffmann, Colleen (Bill) Buchanan, Charlene (Greg) Alpher, and Kathleen Dowdall; in-laws and his many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, and siblings, Kevin, Timothy and Bernadette Dowdall.

Semper Fi "Always Faithful" and Jim was just that in life and in faith, holding his family and his love of God dearly close to his heart.

A Mass of Christian Burial, in celebration of Jim's life will be at 9am on Thursday, December 22, at Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church, Main Street, Middleburgh. Burial with Military Honors will be in Saratoga National Cemetery, Schuylerville, NY.

Memorial donations in Jim's honor are requested to the Wounded Warrior Project, PO Box 758516, Topeka, KS. 66675-8516.

Please visit www.coltrainfuneralhome.com to share online condolences with his family.

Dale Miers

Dale W. Miers, 74, of Gordon Road, succumbed to injuries on Friday, December 16, 2022 due to an explosion at his residence that occurred the day prior.

Born July 27, 1948 in Cobleskill, he was the son of Loren W. and Dorothy (Brown) Miers.

Dale was a United States Navy veteran, proudly serving his country from 1967 until 1969 when he received an honorable discharge.

He loved hunting, woodworking, the outdoors and enjoyed welding. Most of all, he had a great sense of hu-



Dale Miers mor and loved to make others laugh.

Survivors include his children, Patricia (David, Jr.)

Wickham of Mechanicville and Christopher Dale (Kristina) Miers of Albany; his siblings, Sandy Miers of Albany, Marilyn Perrino of Roswell, Georgia, Linda Dramis of Zebulon, North Carolina, Loren "Butch" Miers of Cobleskill, Suzanne Crasper (Steve) of Leesburg, Florida; four grandchildren, Brittney, David III, Brandon and Brianna; and four great-grandchildren, Ellamae, Liliana, Matthew and Roan; and his extended family of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Dale was predeceased by his brother, Clyde Miers and sister, Janet Simpson.

Family and friends are in-

vited to a period of visitation to be held from 5-7pm on Friday, December 30, at Mereness-Putnam Funeral Home where military honors will be provided at 7pm. Spring interment will be in Slate Hill Cemetery, Town of Sharon.

Memorial contributions may be made to Cobleskill Volunteer Fire Dept., PO Box 697, Cobleskill, NY 12043, or Cobleskill Volunteer Rescue Squad, PO Box 451, Cobleskill, NY 12043.

Further information and the provision for online condolences may be found at www.merenessputnamfuneralhome.com.

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