

TIMES JOURNAL

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The hometown paper of Cecilia Tkaczyk.

Man sues to carry taser

M'burgh mayor brings suit; West: 'it's silly'

By Patsy Nicosia
Middleburgh Mayor Matthew Avitabile has filed a lawsuit in United States District Court arguing that he has the right to carry a taser. If he wins—and Schoharie County Attorney Mike West is doubtful he will—Mr. Avitabile said it doesn't mean he'll start carrying a taser on the streets of Middleburgh. But it doesn't mean he won't be carrying one either. "It's like someone with a pistol," Mr. Avitabile said. "You

It's not about me, but about the right of every citizen in the state of New York. It's a civil right. /

—Matthew Avitabile

don't advertise when you're doing it. I haven't decided." Mr. Avitabile, together with a the Firearms Policy Coalition and Firearms Policy Foundation, filed the lawsuit against Governor Andrew Cuomo in a December 22, 2016 civil action.

Mr. West said he became aware of the suit after District Attorney Jim Sacket received a summons as part of the suit. "It's just silly," Mr. West said. "Schoharie County doesn't make these laws. The DA just enforces them. It looks like Mr. Avitabile considers a taser a gun and so he's protected by the Second Amendment. But a taser is not a gun."

Mr. West said the county's response to the lawsuit will either be handled by an attorney assigned by its insurance company or himself. Should Mr. Avitabile win his case, the county's role will be small. "It just means Jim Sacket can't arrest him if he's caught carrying a taser," Mr. West said.

For Mr. Avitabile, the lawsuit is about fundamental rights, not just for him, but for everyone, he said. "A right is a right," he said. "They don't have to be exercised to be rights."

"Forty six out of 50 states allow people to carry a taser for self-defense. It's not just the

Second Amendment, but a bunch of related issues...fundamental rights."

Mr. Avitabile said he's long been interested in civil rights issues; that's what lead him to partner with the FPC and the FPF in the lawsuit.

"It's not a gun or an anti-gun issue," he said. "It bridges them both. It's not about me, but about the right of every citizen in the state of New York. It's a civil right."

According to the lawsuit, FPC and FPF, both of which advocate for fundamental rights, but especially for Second Amendment rights, have members "but for New York's ban on tasers and other electronic arms, would keep, carry, and in the appropriate circumstances utilize tasers and other bearable electronic firearms for self-defense."

The lawsuit also maintains that Mr. Avitabile "desires to purchase a stun gun or taser for self-defense and other lawful purposes in his home" but has "refrained from purchasing, owning, carrying or otherwise violating New York's ban on stun guns and tasers" because he fears prosecution under existing laws.

Tasers work by delivering a high-voltage electrical charge intended to incapacitate someone and were initially introduced as non-lethal weapons for police.

Teachers plan 'National Day'

By Jim Poole
Pulling schools and their communities more closely together will be the target of a gathering next week.

Organized by teachers around the area, the National Day of Action will cover topics ranging from school funding to drugs to volunteerism.

The event will be January 19, 4:30-6:30pm, at the Rodeway Inn—formerly the Best Western—in Cobleskill. It is open to the public.

New York State United Teachers is promoting the day and suggesting union locals present programs of their choice.

In some areas, that program will be a protest against President Donald Trump's selection of Betsy DeVos as Secretary of Education. Ms. DeVos reportedly is a strong advocate of charter schools.

Tellingly, the National Day of Action comes a day before Mr. Trump's inauguration.

But Dawn Townsend, president of the Cobleskill-Richmondville teachers' union, said political overtones will be muted at the local National Day of Action.

"We're looking to build on the connection between the community and our schools,"

she said. That means not only supporting schools—by fighting drug abuse and making sure there's enough funding—but also demonstrating that schools support the community.

To that end, the event will offer table space and speaking time to local groups, such as the Schoharie County Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse and Schoharie Area Long Term recovery.

Others are expected to attend also, Ms. Townsend said. "This is an opportunity to learn more and get involved," she added.

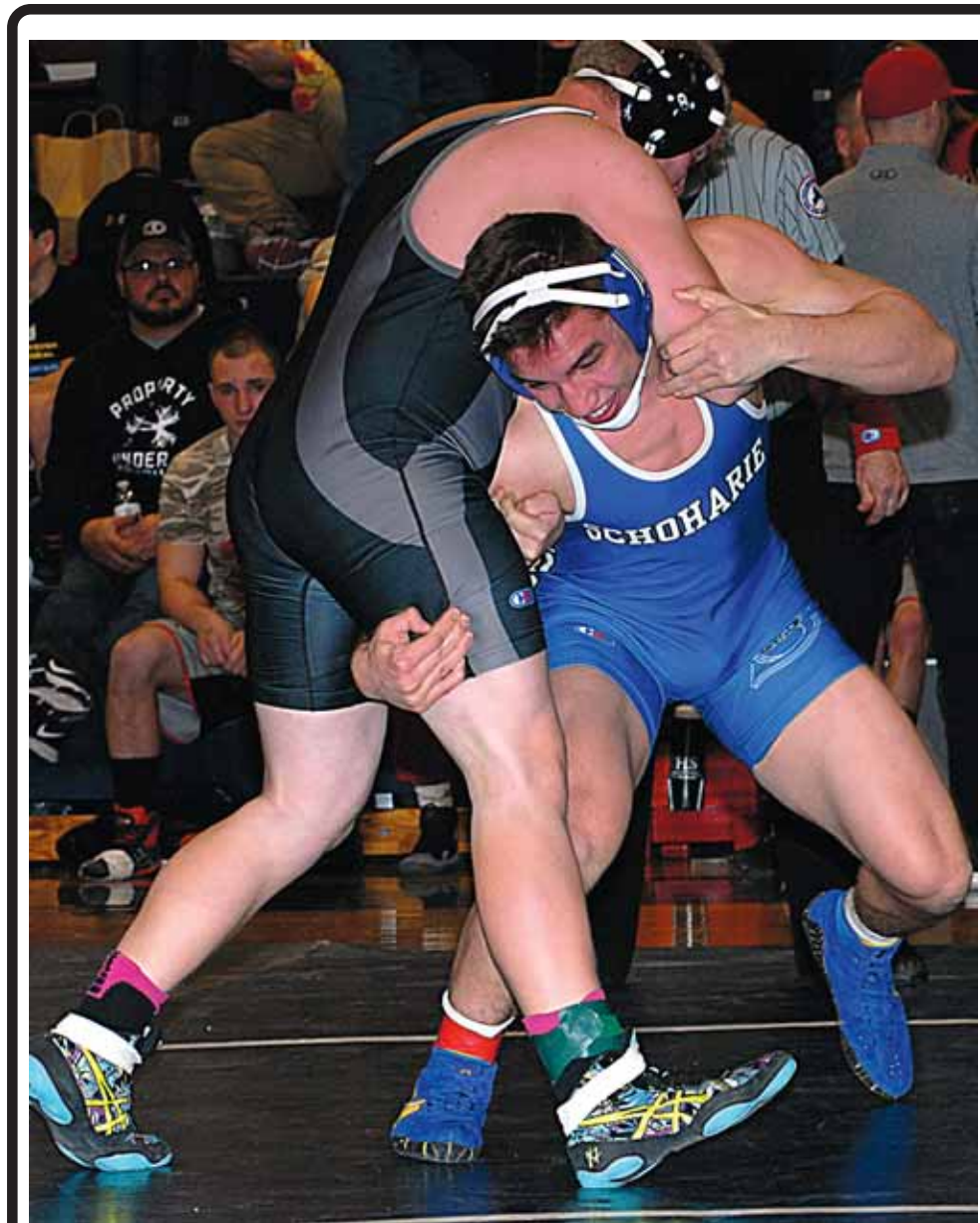
Helping to plan the National Day of Action are teachers' union presidents Natalie McKay of Schoharie, Joseph Narzynski of Middleburgh and Dave Lamouret of Cherry Valley-Springfield.

Teachers from other schools around the region are expected to take part, Ms. Townsend said.

"We're stressing the relationship between schools and community," she said.

"We want to support the community in more ways than just showing up for work."

Rodeway Inn is donating space for the event.



Warner's a winner

Dillon Warner of Schoharie takes down Kolby Polomcean of Walton-Delhi in the 182-pound class at the Oneonta Tournament Friday night. Warner went on to win his class to help the Indians to a ninth-place finish in the 16-team tournament. Cobleskill-Richmondville wrestlers took fifth place. Stories, more photos on page 12. —Photo by Jim Poole.

VanWormer to lead

Esperance super will chair county board again

By David Avitabile
In a split vote, Earl VanWormer was re-elected as chairman of the Schoharie County Board of supervisors Thursday afternoon.

Mr. VanWormer, of Esperance, received votes from 12 supervisors while former Chairman Harold Vroman of Summit received support from four supervisors.

Gilboa's Tony VanGlad, another former chairman, was re-elected as vice chairman in another split vote.

Mr. VanWormer, who has been on the county board since 1994, served a chairman for several years before taking over for Richard Lape of Richmondville near the end of 2015.

Voting for Mr. VanWormer were: Larry Bradt of Carlisle, Bill Federice of Conesville, Mr.

Lape, Alex Luniewski of Wright, Sandra Manko of Sharon, Leo McAllister of Cobleskill, David Simkins of Broome, Phil Skowfoe of Fulton, Shawn Smith of Blenheim, Chris Tague of Schoharie, Mr. VanGlad, and Mr. VanWormer.

Supporting Mr. Vroman were: Jon Bates of Seward, Pete Coppolo of Middleburgh, Peggy Hait of Jefferson, and Mr. Vroman. All four are Republicans, as is Mr. VanWormer.

The three Democrats on the board, Ms. Manko, Mr. Skowfoe, and Mr. Smith supported Mr. VanWormer.

Mr. Skowfoe is also a former board chairman. "It was a pleasure serving last year," Mr. VanWormer said after his election.

"I think we did some good things. We had some glitches, but we did the best we could."

The work on the county level is a collaborative effort, Mr. VanWormer added.

He thanked numerous people for their work, including the other supervisors, county attorney Mike West, the board's clerks, county administrator Steve Wilson, Treasurer Bill Cherry, and the county employees.

It was Mr. Wilson's first year as county administrator.

"I made mistakes, we all make mistakes. Steve, like everyone else, had a learning curve," Mr. VanWormer noted.

As for himself, Mr. VanWormer added, "I don't claim to be the best. I try to do the best I can do. I did that in the past and I will do that in the future."

He encouraged people to let him know about issues and their opinions.

I think we did some good things. We had some glitches, but we did the best we could. /

—Earl VanWormer

It is much easier to do a good job with input from the public, Mr. VanWormer said.

Mr. VanGlad received votes from 13 supervisors. Mr. Vroman got the other three votes. Voting for Mr. Vroman were Mr. Coppolo, Ms. Hait, and Mr. Vroman.



Kathy Pelton and neighbor Jacqueline Turnquist, both of Carlisle, share a laugh at a pussycat knit-in at CeCe's Wool House in Esperance Friday. The hats—pink and with cat ears—are for those going to the January 21 Women's March in Washington, DC and protest some of President-elect Donald Trump's remarks on sexual assault. Story, more photos on page 24. —Photo by Patsy Nicosia



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Cobleskill town officials and others stand in front of the 2017 plow truck financed with help from the USDA. The town took delivery of the new truck just before Christmas. From the left: Tim Benedict of HL Gage Sales Inc., Supervisor Leo McAllister, Highway Superintendent Mike Persons, and USDA area specialist Sanford Loucks Baer.

Cobleskill set for new year

McAllister thanks employees

By Patsy Nicosia
Town of Cobleskill Supervisor Leo McAllister started 2017 with one word for employees: Thanks.

At Monday's first meeting of '17, Mr. McAllister praised the work of employees like Highway Superintendent Mike Persons and Clerk Tina Ward.

"I think the employees in our town do a great job," he said, relating recent compliments from others about winter roads and Ms. Ward's efficiency.

"We all know, in the Town of Cobleskill in the winter, we don't have to worry about the roads," he said. "And Tina goes above and beyond. We really appreciate your work and wish we could reward it with a raise. Maybe someday."

Mr. McAllister also praised Judge Dawn Fiorillo for her work in securing grants for the court, most recently one for \$7,700.

Since Ms. Fiorillo's been judge, he said, the court's received about \$21,000 in grants for things like computers and other equipment and security—things the town would otherwise likely have to pay for.

Also Monday, Mr. McAllister and councilmen approved Mr. Person's request that Highway department employees be able to use Martin Luther King Jr. Day and President's Day as floating holidays.

That means they'll be work-

ing those days—like they almost always are—but be able to take two days off in the summer when they're not so needed.

"Whether it's snowing or not, no one can go far from the phone," Mr. Persons said. "And it usually is. It's not really a holiday."

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New truck to battle snow

By Patsy Nicosia
When the next big snowstorm hits, the Town of Cobleskill will be ready.

Just before Christmas, the town took delivery of a 2017 International that replaces one that burned up in an engine fire two years ago.

The \$193,000 all-wheel-drive International was purchased with a \$40,000 USDA grant, a \$133,000 15-year low-interest USDA loan, and \$20,000 from an equipment fund balance.

The plow equipment on the truck, which the town already had, is from Viking.

The truck, purchased from HL Gage Sales Inc. and manu-

factured in Harrisville, and has a seven-year warranty.

Supervisor Leo McAllister said he first began working with the USDA after sitting in on a workshop that explained how the grant and loan programs work.

The paperwork process was lengthy, he said, but by closing on the truck on December 21, 2016, the town was able to save about a percentage point on the interest rate; it's 2.07 percent and would have increased after the first of the year.

Highway Superintendent Mike Persons, who helped write the specs for the truck,

said one of its advantages is that it will accommodate an old-fashioned V-plow—a possibility that isn't out of the question.

"If we got a lot of snow, it's definitely something we'd pull out," Mr. Persons said. "With a V-plow, we can get through anything."

Mr. Persons said another plus for the new truck is that it can be—and is—run by a single operator.

"A lot of people don't realize

that there's just one guy in the truck," he said. "It saves on money and in a lot of ways, it's easier."

In the interim, between the truck fire and the new one, Mr. McAllister said, the town bought a used plow that they can use as a backup.

"I'm pleased with what we ended up with," he said. "This is a good truck and financially, things worked out well for us."

13-year-old arrested in swastika incident

State Police on Thursday arrested a 13-year-old boy in connection with swastikas spray-painted on buildings in Esperance.

Troopers charged the boy, whose name was not released, with 10 counts of making graffiti and one count of third-degree burglary.

The swastikas were painted on traffic signs, buildings and a church. Residents discovered the vandalism on New Year's Day.

Besides the spray-painting, State Police discovered that the basement of one building had been broken into, and there was graffiti in the basement.

Troopers collected evidence and interviewed residents and decided the boy acted alone.

They also believed the spray-painting was random and "did not target a specific person or group because of any perception or bias," according to a State Police news release.

Troopers said the boy was familiar with the swastika symbol from seeing it in video games and "and chose it because it was easy to draw," according to the release.

State Police do not expect further charges.

The boy is to appear in family court at a later date.



Obituaries

Peggy Krylowicz

Peggy (Yuille) Krylowicz, 72, of Western Turnpike, Delanson, died Friday, January 6, 2017 at the Albany Medical Center Hospital after a long illness.

Peggy was born August 16, 1944 in Niskayuna, a daughter of William B. and Gertrude (Young) Yuille.

She graduated from Schoharie High School and later, the Spencer Business Institute. She worked as an Administrative Assistant for RHI Consulting in Albany and later, for Mid-State Industries in Schenectady.

Peggy enjoyed ceramics, cooking, spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and her dogs, Lexi and Missy.

Survivors include her sons, Billy (Tracy) Bivins of Knob Noster, Missouri, Bruce (Karen) Bivins, of West Palm Beach, Florida and Jeffrey (Heather) Bivins of Esperance; seven grandchildren, Joshua, Travis, Keira, Cameron, Ariel, Derek and Emily; four great-grandchildren, Aria, Deliny, Tucker and Charleigh; her sister, Karlene (Brent) Wielt of Howes Cave; and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her parents, her husband Gregory, and her granddaughter, Brianna Bivins.

A private visitation was held at the Langan Funeral Home for invited friends. Burial will be later in the Esperance Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made in memory of Peggy to the Esperance Volunteer Fire Department, 115 Church



Peggy Krylowicz

Street, Esperance, NY 12066.
Visit www.langanfuneralhome.com to light a candle or leave a special message for Peggy's family.

Letter deadline: Monday noon.

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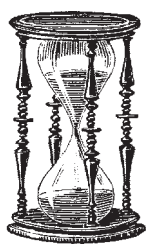
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Times Past

70 Years Ago
January 9, 1947

Cobleskill became the headquarters for New York City detectives, plainclothesmen and state police Tuesday as the body of Alphonse Ruocco, 28-year-old New York City alleged mobster, was brought to the Bundy Funeral Home after being killed by police and detectives Monday night as a six-day manhunt ended on a Schoharie County hillside near Broome Center in the vicinity of Gilboa.

John C. Eldredge of Cobleskill, World War II veteran, has purchased a grocery store at Hyndsville, operated by Herman Bates.

The town clock atop Zion Lutheran Church remains silent, but this is actually a safety measure. Village officials are trying to obtain a new flexible cable to replace the one now on the clock which is very near the breaking point.

Records compiled for Warnerville show that during 1946, cupid struck his mark seven times; an increase of five over the three preceding years when there were two marriages in 1945, '44 and '43.

30 Years Ago
January 7, 1987

Local developers Thomas L. Wright and Robert Mahar have purchased the old P&C market

in Cobleskill, the building village officials had planned to use for a municipal center.

Someone stole the Baby Jesus from the Lawyersville Reformed Church nativity scene sometime before the snowstorm hit Saturday morning as there were no tracks leading to the nativity scene.

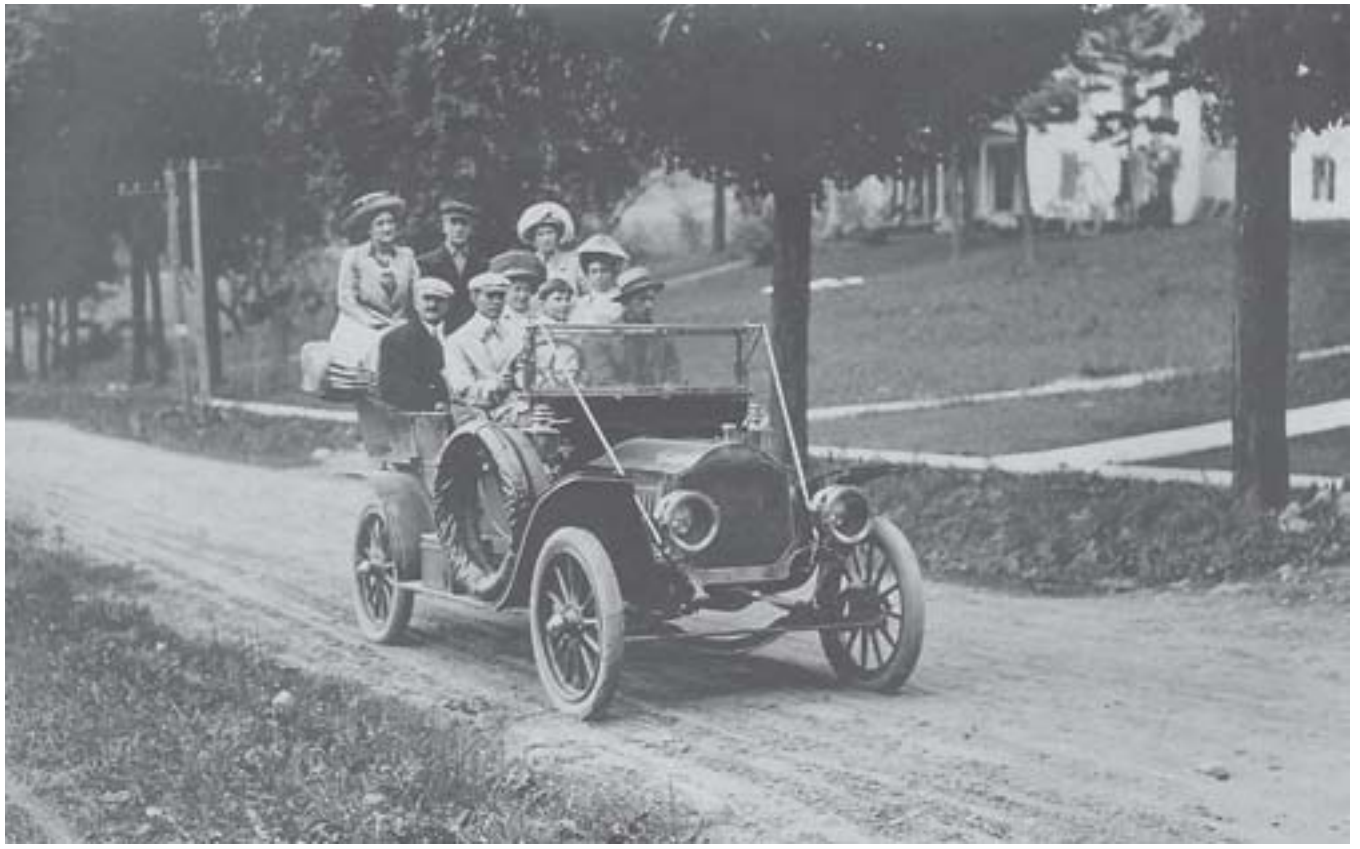
The Schoharie County Fire Chief's Association has endorsed James Sperbeck, formerly the fire chief of Richmondville, as the Schoharie County Fire Coordinator. Supervisors are expected to appoint Sperbeck to replace Chester Slater of Cobleskill, who now holds the low paying but prestigious position.

Julia VanDerwerken of Central Bridge left New Year's Day for Utah to resume her studies at BYU.

Fred Boreali was elected president of the Board of Directors of Howe Caverns effective January 1.

Interesting romances took place last year but the strangest and most talked about involved Prince Andrew and a commoner, and the moose who fell in love with a Vermont cow.

Congressman Sherwood Boehlert has nominated John P. Youmans of Middleburgh for admission to the U.S. Merchant Marines Academy at Kings Point.



Here's a great shot from the T-J files that's labeled only "Delvin Wessel's car." We assume that's Mr. Wessel behind the wheel—then on what's now the passenger's side. There's no location or date. Can anyone help? We do hope that Mr. Wessel wasn't traveling far with his eight passengers.

15 Years Ago
January 9, 2002

The first significant snowfall of the season made traveling difficult but didn't do much to relieve water shortages. Water Superintendent Jeff Pangman estimated the snow would yield about an inch of water "But we need that thawing action."

The year 2002 marks the 250th anniversary of the settlement of Cobleskill and several events are planned for celebrating.

Jenifer and Bill Fisher of East Worcester announce the birth of their daughter, Kierra Lea

Fisher on December 26 at Bassett Hospital, Cooperstown. She joins a sister, Shyanna, age 2.

Susan Diamond of Middleburgh has been elected to the national honor society, Phi Beta Kappa, at SUNY Albany.

Hope Coons is organizing the first annual Cobleskill town wide garage sale, part of the town's 250th anniversary celebration.

Richard Hanson of Middleburgh succeeded James Brown as chairman of the Schoharie County Board of Supervisors.



Letters

Our economy needs work

Dear Editor,
What will it take to improve the economy of Schoharie County?

It will take elected officials who understand that economic development is an active and complex undertaking, not a passive exercise of waiting for large-scale business (big box stores, amusement parks, casinos, etc.) to come to town and save the day. It's not about radio jingles or endless ineffective PILOT agreements.

It is about a clear vision for the county that has been considered, articulated, debated and documented in a comprehensive plan.

That is exactly what our local governments have failed to produce.

Instead, we hear giddy accolades for yet another convenience store which only serves to lock the county into a low-wage, strip mall economy and establishes the county as another rural area with low expectations.

Having no vision and no plan ensures that Schoharie County will, at best, become indistinguishable from a dozen nondescript suburban towns in Albany and Schenectady County.

The recent debate over the proposed Dollar General in Richmondville exemplifies the dysfunctional decision-making that has prevented the county from building a prosperous and sustainable future.

There was little meaningful discussion about the desirability or the real impacts of a chain store that targets a near poverty-level demographic, contributes little to the community beyond a few near minimum wage jobs and even refuses to build sidewalks to safeguard elderly customers who will likely cross a state highway and

navigate uneven terrain to buy a few household items (despite the parent company having the resources to operate almost 13,000 stores nation-wide).

More importantly, a Dollar General near the entrance to a rural village sends a clear message to visitors and potential residents: This community has a depressed economy, passively rolls over to out-of-place, trademarked architecture and has few prospects for a well-planned downtown containing a balanced mixture of shops, service businesses, restaurants and housing.

A store like Dollar General speaks not to quality of life but to desperation - the "we'll take anything because anything is more than we have now" mindset.

What should we do instead? The County Board of Supervisors should empower the County Planning Department to work with our towns and villages to develop a coherent long-term economic development strategy that is informed by current best practices and incorporates ideas that have been proven to help rural communities not destroy them: An emphasis on home and farm based entrepreneurial businesses fueled by the wide availability of reliable high-speed Internet access, non-traditional agricultural market expansion to encourage small diversified farm to table/restaurant operations and recreational/ecotourism initiatives to leverage Schoharie County's ultimate resource - natural, environmental beauty.

Zoning and land use laws should reflect not what we feel we have to accommodate, or have always accommodated, but rather encourage what we actually want for the future.

Families will not be lifted up economically in Schoharie County by working at convenience stores and certainly not by waiting for the Lowes, Home Depot or casinos that will never come.

We must also stop our endless hand wringing about the decline of dairy farming and the plaintive wait for more milk subsidies and instead, encourage small-scale, sustainable agriculture that is nimble and responsive to actual markets, understands economic and life-style trends and leverages non-traditional methods and opportunities.

Schoharie County residents will improve their lives by being in a county that provides the infrastructure and innovative environment necessary for Internet commerce, recognizes and responds to a changing marketplace and values and prioritizes a quality of life that attracts and retains young families.

It won't be easy to shift gears and create innovate and proactive strategies but, given that what we have been doing isn't working, it's time to rethink our future. It is time to develop a comprehensive, informed and effective economic development plan that relies on the knowledge of what has worked elsewhere and a vision for the future, not habits from the past.

It is time to dump the despera-

tion and adopt the willingness to do the hard work necessary to build communities our children and grandchildren will want to live and invest in.

Bob Nied
Richmondville

More letters
on next page.

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Schoharie County Judge George Bartlett, right, congratulates Assemblyman Pete Lopez after swearing the assemblyman in for his sixth term of office Friday night in Schoharie. At left is Bridget Lopez.—Photo by David Avitabile.

Sharon aiming to revive Rotary

By Patsy Nicosia
A meeting Thursday in Sharon Springs hopes to bring its 60-plus year-old Rotary Club back from the brink of extinction.

Pam Baxter, one of the three remaining members—the other two are John and Geri Dunne—is organizing the meeting, 6:30-8pm in the Community Room at the Sharon Springs Free Library.

Ms. Baxter believes in Rotary and what it can offer the community and said she has already had offers of support

and help in keeping the Sharon club going from District #7190 and the Cobleskill Rotary Club.

A couple of efforts to recruit new Rotarians over the past few months were unsuccessful, Ms. Baxter said, and though an informal decision was made to shutter the club, she pointed out it would be easier to than to start over from scratch—something that would require 10 members.

"I'm hoping we can get at least that many—10—to give Rotary a try and I'm committed to working on this until June," she said. "After that, we'll step back and evaluate where we are."

Ms. Baxter stressed that anyone interested in learning what Rotary is about—even if they're not necessarily interested in becoming a member—is welcome Thursday.

They don't also have to live in Sharon; it may be time to cast a wider net to places like Cherry Valley, Ames, Canajoharie, and Fort Plain, some of which have had their own Rotaries in the past, she said.

"Rotary has changed from the days when it was an old man's club," she said. "Maybe there's no longer a place for weekly dinner meetings. Maybe some of our meetings are e-meetings. I grew up here and there are so many people I don't know. If we can make it

easier for them to be active members, that could make all the difference."

As the Sharon Rotary's membership dwindled, many of its longtime projects—maintaining the Welcome to Sharon Springs signs and the Christmas crèche among them—were doled out to other organizations.

That's fine, Ms. Baxter said; it just means there's more opportunity to develop new projects, maybe something like supporting the community's pool.

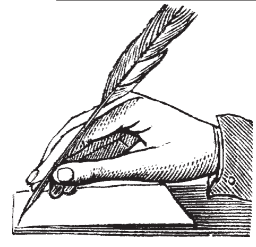
"And there's a lot to be said for Rotary's camaraderie and fellowship," she added. "I don't know my neighbors anymore. Rotary is a great way of bringing people together."

Ms. Baxter said she's long been impressed with Rotary's efforts and successes on the international level, things like working to eradicate polio or help dig wells in Third World countries.

"There's something for everyone," she said. "Come see what we're about, even if you don't join. Maybe you'll want to work on a project. Maybe you'll want to suggest one."

Until June, at least, Rotary will meet the second Thursday at 6:30pm in the library's Community Room.

For more information, show up Thursday or call Ms. Baxter at 306-1948.



Letters

Hacking was an attack

Dear Editor,
President-elect Trump and his followers are trying to blow off the Russian hacking incident as of little importance and 'only hacking.' No big deal. Why is it so hard for people to grasp that it is much more than that. To simplify:

1. Russia hacked and stole information from both political parties, other US institutions like the White House and state election boards.

2. Russia released stolen material through Wikileaks - for plausible deniability - as a weapon to undermine the credibility of and hurt specific people.

3. Russia launched disinformation and propaganda campaigns using an army of paid trolls and web bots in an effort to further weaken a specific candidate, and ultimately boost a Russia-friendly one.

4. Russia's goal is to weaken democracy across the world, by weakening NATO, the European Union, and allies of the United States.

5. Russia's operation evolved from hurting Clinton to boosting Trump because Putin believes he will weaken democracy at home, abroad, and

President-Elect Trump is easily manipulated.

6. The actions taken are a massive and coordinated operation involving GRU, FSB, the Russian military, and Russian software companies, all directed by Putin.

To make it even simpler, this Russian attack on the United States was the equivalent of Japan bombing Pearl Harbor.

The only difference is instead of an attack involving bombs and torpedoes aimed at destroying America's ability to defend itself with weapons, it was an attack aimed at destroying the very foundation of the democracy on which the United States is built.

We can easily re-build weapons, but can we repair the damage done to our democracy? Not if so many Americans are living in denial or taking sides with those who attacked us.

People can bury their head in the sand and deny this reality all they want, but that only helps Russia and its objective to make America not great again, but weaker than it has been in any of our lifetimes.

There are three unassailable facts here:

1. Russia committed an act of war against the United States.
2. It doesn't matter which party or candidate it helped or

hurt with its electronic warfare.

3. Anyone who doesn't understand this is either ignorant, stupid, or a traitor to the United States.

Linda Sheets
Cobleskill

Flaws show in Summit

Dear Editor,

I received our town's newsletter. In it our town supervisor, who also acts as our budget officer, explained the budget process. That process includes:

- Passing out budget work sheets to department heads, which represents their estimates of expenditures and revenues.
- Calculating the tax levy cap.
- Reviewing the work sheets and creating the tentative budget and the exemption impact report.
- Passing the tentative budget to the town clerk, and then to the town board for review.
- The board reviews the budget, there is a public hearing, and the budget is adopted.

What is missing from the list is the interaction between the department heads and our budget officer.

He should be asking "why" if any line item has been increased from the previous year.

If our budget officer is doing this, it's not mentioned.

I worked for Westchester County for over 20 years and was responsible for a \$30 million dollar budget. That budget was reviewed by our assigned budget officer and if any line item was increased over the previous year I had to justify that increase.

And by the way, "we deserve it" was not a valid justification.

The budget for the Town of Summit increases year over year with few, if any, questions from our town board members.

Our supervisor is paid \$1,000 each year to create the annual budget.

I'd be happy to receive \$1,000 to pass out a dozen forms and create two reports.

The real work is in the interaction with the department heads and evaluating the justifications.

I don't care how complicated our budget officer tries to make the budget process seem, in Summit it is flawed.

Rich Beller
Summit

Letter deadline:
Monday noon.

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Police Blotter

Sunday, January 8
The Cobleskill Village Police arrested Jason D. Shorb, 38, of Cobleskill on a Family Court Warrant. He was arraigned and sent to jail in lieu of \$500 bail or \$1,000 bond to return to court at a later date.

Saturday, January 7
The Cobleskill Village Police arrested Adam Benjamin, 23, of Clifton Park on charges of petty larceny. He was arraigned and released to return to court on January 10.

Friday, January 6
The Cobleskill Village Police arrested James T. Gavin, 32, of Cobleskill on charges of aggravated unlicensed operation. He was arraigned and released after posting \$100 bail to return to court on January 10.

Thursday, January 5
The State Police arrested Nicholas Gray, 29, of Richmondville on charges of public lewdness after they were called to the area of Exit 8 Plaza in Clifton Park for a report of a male allegedly exposing himself inside his vehicle near a local business. He was issued an appearance ticket to return to court at a later date.

Monday, January 2
The Cobleskill State Police announced the arrest of Brian D. Wright of Middleburgh on charges of driving while intoxicated after a traffic stop in the

Village of Middleburgh. He was processed and released on tickets to return to court on January 11.

Thursday, December 29
The Cobleskill Village Police arrested 13-year-old Sprakers boy on charges of unauthorized use of a vehicle. He was issued an appearance ticket and released. He was to return to Schoharie County Probation on January 3.

Saturday, December 31
The Cobleskill State Police arrested Robert A. Kennedy, 54, of Middleburgh following a joint investigation with the Schoharie County Probation Department.

Mr. Kennedy was charged with fifth-degree criminal possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor, according to police. The arrest followed a joint investigation that took place in the Town of Gilboa. Mr. Kennedy is to return to Gilboa court on January 12.

Friday, December 30
The Cobleskill Village Police arrested Robert Schmidt, 38, of Oneonta on charges of cruelty to animals. He was issued an appearance ticket and released to return to court on January 24.

Friday, December 30
The Cobleskill Village Police arrested Duane E. Condon Jr., 30, of Delanson on charges of

aggravated unlicensed operation in the third-degree. He was issued a traffic ticket to return to court on January 24.

Thursday, December 29
The Cobleskill Village Police arrested Brianne J.L. Scott, 25, of Cobleskill on charges of violation of the village noise ordinance. She was issued an appearance ticket and released to return to court on January 19.

Wednesday December 28
The Cobleskill Village Police arrested Brandon S. Roe, 23, of Sprakers on warrants on charges of third-degree attempted assault and second-degree harassment. He was arraigned and released to return to court on January 3.

Thursday, December 22
The Cobleskill State Police arrested Daryn T. Costello, 31, of West Fulton on charges of fourth-degree grand larceny after a month-long investigation into a stolen shotgun.

The arrest came after a joint investigation between the Bureau of Criminal Investigation and the Cobleskill State Police. It is alleged by police that Mr. Costello took possession of a Remington shotgun and then failed to properly return it to the legal owner in the Town of Middleburgh. Mr. Costello was processed and released on an appearance ticket to return to Middleburgh court on January 4.

Barratt among 19 new DEP police officers

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announces the graduation of 19 new police officers who were trained at the Staff Sgt. Robert H. Dietz DEP Police Academy in Kingston.

The new graduates will be immediately deployed to protect the City's water supply reservoirs, infrastructure, and the 2,000-square-mile watershed that stretches across parts of

nine upstate counties. The new graduates were honored Friday during a ceremony at the Ulster Performing Arts Center in Kingston.

"I would like to congratulate the new environmental police officers who are now officially members of the police force that patrols the largest municipal water supply in the United States," said DEP Acting Commissioner Vincent Sapienza, who presided over the graduation ceremony.

"Our police officers patrol 24 reservoirs and hundreds of water supply facilities that are spread across thousands of miles. Their around-the-clock work is vital to the safety and security of all New Yorkers."

Graduates include: **Kelly Barratt** of Schoharie County.

State launches website for pistol licenses

Senator James Seward has alerted pistol license holders that the New York State Police have launched a new website which includes instructions regarding license recertification.

235 North Prospect Street, Herkimer; 4030 West Road, Cortland.

"While I strongly disagree with the need for this recertification, I know that, as always,

judicious firearm owners will follow the law. With that being said, I want to do everything I can to make the process as easy as possible," said Senator Seward.

According to the NY-SAFE Act, passed in 2013, anyone holding a pistol license prior to the passage of the NY-SAFE Act has until January 31, 2018 to recertify his license.

The New York State Police had been tasked with creating the recertification procedure and just recently launched a website—<https://troopers.ny.gov/Firearms>—that includes the recertification form.

License holders can fill out the form online or print a paper version and return it by mail.

A link to the online pistol recertification form is available on Senator Seward's website at www.seward.nysenate.gov and his Facebook page at www.facebook.com/senatorjimseward.

Paper versions of the form can also be picked up at Senator Seward's district offices: 41 South Main Street, Oneonta;

SALT seeking projects for '17

SALT is seeking community projects that are in need of AmeriCorps National Civilian Corp (NCCC) volunteer labor. The application is brief and asks applicants to explain their project, the number of hours or labor requested, and the date of their project.

Groups provide the project, site supervisor and materials. NCCC volunteers will provide the labor and SALT will provide the coordination.

Groups can apply for volunteers by filling out the application on the SALT website, saltdevelopment.org.

The deadline to submit applications is Thursday, January 12.

NCCCs can help:
• Clear debris.
• Repair and paint public facilities.

- Clean up rivers and streams.
- Plant trees.
- Collect data.
- Research grants.
- File, make phone calls.
- Assist in historical preservation.
- Renovate and construct homes.
- Implement trail development and maintenance.
- Work on neighborhood and community revitalization projects, and many other things.

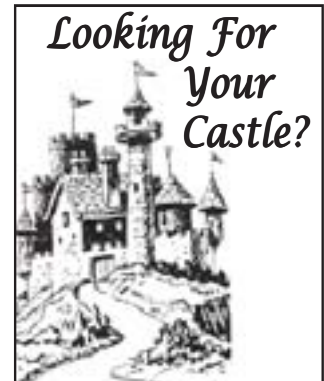
With enough projects, SALT will host a six to eight week NCCC round in March and April to help with projects around Schoharie County. AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps)

strengthens communities and develops leaders through direct, team-based, national and community service.

In partnership with non-profits – secular and faith based – local municipalities, state governments, federal governments, national and state parks, Indian tribes and schools, members complete service projects throughout the region to which they are assigned.

Currently, SALT is asking other community organizations and county agencies for community development projects that need volunteer assistance March 8 – April 21.

For more information contact Jin Kim at JinK@SALTDevelopment.org or 702-5017.



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Sports

Eagles edge 'Dogs, 58-55

Story and photos by Jim Poole

Cobleskill-Richmondville couldn't quite catch Duanesburg in non-league boys' basketball game last Tuesday.

The Eagles edged the Bulldogs 58-55 in the C-R gym.

The Bulldogs opened the game with a 6-0 lead and held a one-point advantage, 12-11, after the first quarter, but Duanesburg gradually pulled away before the half.

C-R kept the game close and tied the score late in the fourth quarter. Duanesburg got the advantage in the final minute to win.

"We played the first three minutes and the last three minutes," Bulldog Coach Jon Rohacevich said. "We've got to make sure we play the whole game."

Brennan Loder led the Bulldogs with 21 points, and Donovan Pacatte scored 18.

"Those guys played really

well," Coach Rohacevich said. "They've played great for me all season."

The Bulldogs were to play at Cohoes last night and host Schalmont on Friday.

"They're both decent teams," Coach Rohacevich said. "Our kids need to come out to play every single game now that we're back in league play."

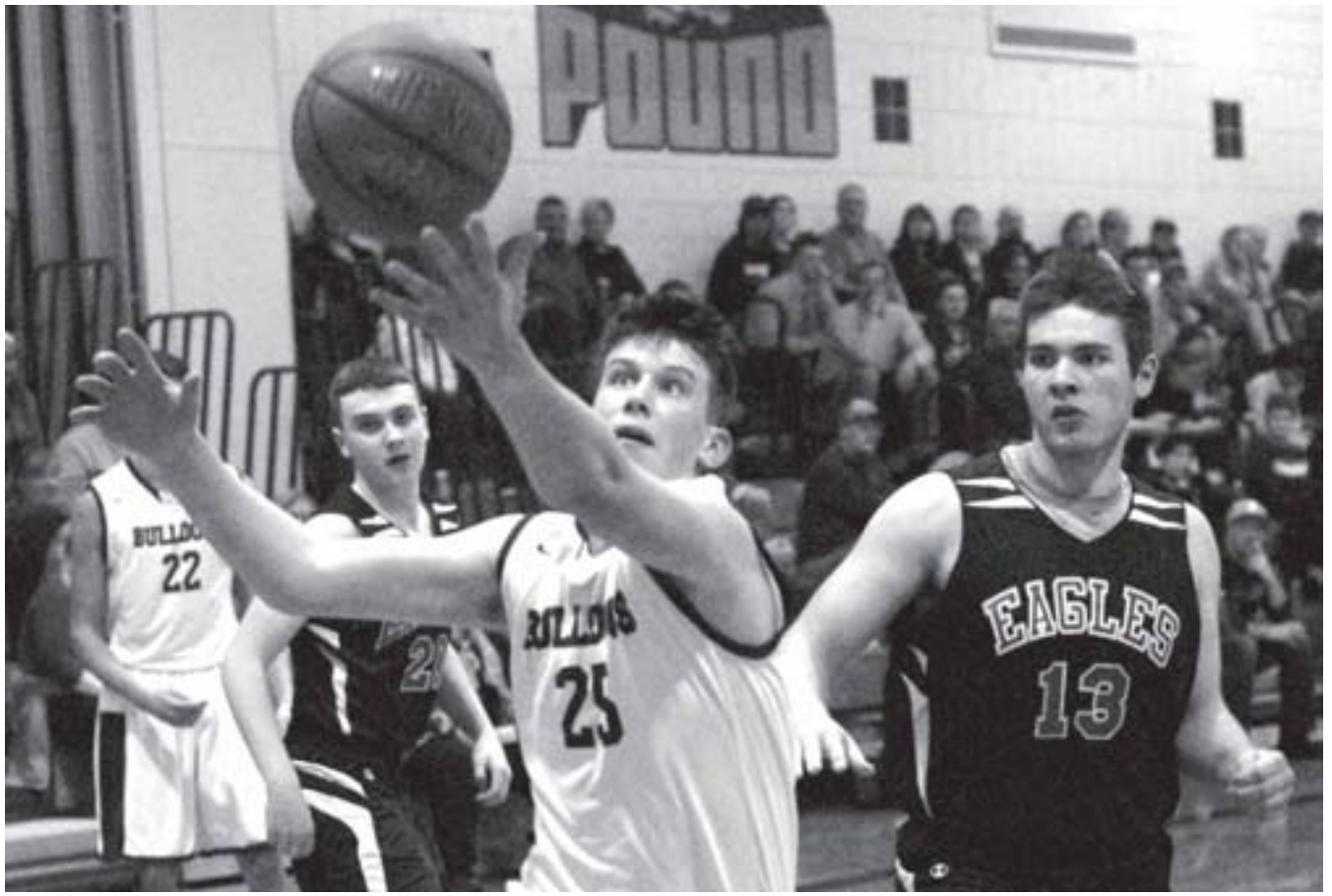
Duanesburg 58 Cobleskill-Richmondville 55 Duanesburg

Au. Onorati 4-6-17, Hulbert 4-0-9, Powers 5-0-11, Edwards 3-0-6, Lenehan 3-0-8, Al. Onorati 1-1-4, Lombardoni 1-1-3. Totals: 21-8-58.

Cobleskill-Richmondville
Loder 9-2-21, Lewis 3-3-9, Hitchcock 2-0-4, Pacatte 8-1-18, VanDerwerken 0-3-3. Totals: 22-9-55.

Duanesburg 11 16 16 15—58 Cobleskill 12 10 19 14—55

Three-point goals: Au. Onorati 3, Lenehan 2, Hulbert, Powers, Al. Onorati, Loder, Pacatte.



Cobleskill-Richmondville's Donovan Pacatte beats Patrick Powers of Duanesburg for two points in

Tuesday's game.



Bulldog Brennan Loder drives past two Duanesburg players in first-half action in Tuesday's game.

C-R girls fall to DA

By Patsy Nicosia

Cobleskill-Richmondville girls basketball fell to Delaware Academy on the road last Wednesday, 50-36.

The loss moved the Bulldogs' record to 5-4.

The 'Dogs were slated to host Cohoes last night, Tuesday, as they moved into the second half of the season.

"It was a tough game. Delhi is a good team," said C-R Coach Carlin Demarinis.

"We got off to a slow start and even though we closed the gap to nine after a run in the second quarter, that was the

closest we got."

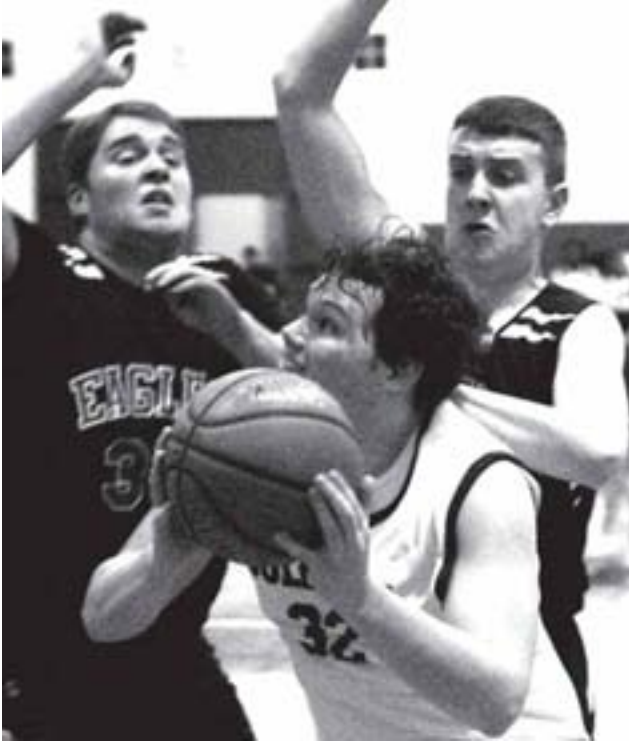
Allie Pacatte was the Bulldogs' only scorer in double-digits; she had 10.

Three DA players scored in double-digits, Coach Demarinis said, an edge her players just couldn't overcome.

"They outplayed us," she said.

C-R travels to Schalmont Friday and Monday they play at Scotia-Glenville.

Their string of away games continuing, the Bulldogs are at Lansingburgh next Wednesday, January 18, but at home the 20th against Catholic Central-Troy.



C-R's Mitch VanDerwerken looks to shoot while guarded by two Duanesburg players Tuesday night.

Big wins for SCS

By David Avitabile

The Indians scored two big victories last week downing Northville at home Friday and Galway on the road Tuesday.

Schoharie beat Northville 80-46 as Steve Alescio and Mitch Barton combined for 51 points and 12 three-pointers.

SCS led 15-8 and went on a 25-16 run in the second quarter to lead 40-24 at the half.

Barton led Schoharie with 28 points and Alescio scored 23. Each had six three-pointers. Jackson VanDerwerken added 14 points and four threes while Jon Morrell had one three.

Last Tuesday, Schoharie downed Galway 70-32.

Schoharie jumped out to a 21-9 lead after the first eight minutes and led 39-13 at the half.

Alescio led Schoharie with 19 points and five three-pointers while Barton added 17 points and four threes.

Blaine Rose scored nine points and Bryan Stolzenburg had one three-pointer. Jackson VanDerwerken scored 12 points on four threes.

In other games last week: **Middleburgh 50 Galway 34**

The Knights downed Galway at home Friday with a balanced attack.

C.J. Singer led MCS with 12 points and two three-pointers while Chad Boyles added 11 points and one three. Michael Weaver scored 10 points and Peyton Olsen added nine points and one three.

Milford 46 Sharon Springs 45

Nick Tomaszewski scored 28 points but the Spartans fell at home to Milford at home Wednesday evening.

Kameron Kelly added 10 points for Sharon. Wynn Williams scored 17 to lead Milford.

Tomaszewski hit three three-pointers while Seth Keller had two and Kelly one. Sharon trailed 11-7 after the first eight minutes and 18-15 at the half.

Canajoharie 64 Middleburgh 55

The Cougars won at home in the final four minutes as Peyton Olsen's scored his 1,000th-career point.

Olsen became the sixth MCS player and the fourth male to score 1,000 points when he hit a three-pointer to open the Knight scoring in the second half.

MCS was up by two with about four minutes to go.

In addition to Olsen, who had six three-pointers in the game, Chad Boyles and Will Bankston, up from the JV, had excellent games, according to MCS Coach Tim Pangman. Bankston had six points and did an excellent job on the boards.

Sharon Springs 55 Loudonville Christian 29

The Spartans outscored Loudonville Christian 36-12 in the second half to win at home last Tuesday.

Sharon led 11-7 after the first quarter and 18-17 at the half but took over in a 21-6 run in the third quarter.

Nick Tomaszewski scored 22 points to lead Sharon and had two three-pointers. Dane Walker added 13 points and two threes while Seth Keller hit three threes.

This week: MCS goes to St. JOE's, SCS hosts Mayfield, and Sharon goes to Milford Friday; MCS goes to Mayfield, SCS goes to Duanesburg, and Sharon hosts Franklin Tuesday.

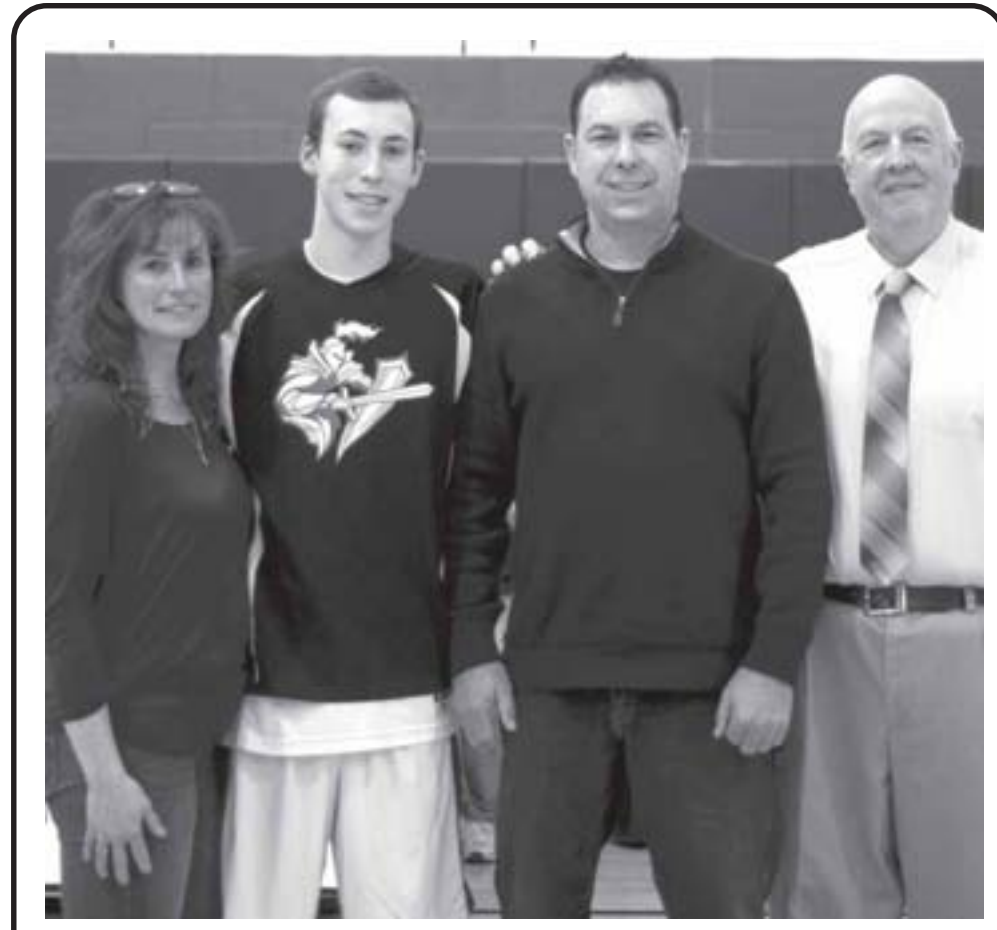
January 3 Schoharie 70 Galway 32

Schoharie
Vanderwerken 4-0-12, Beenhardt 1-0-2, Stolzenburg 1-2-5, Morrell 1-0-2, Rose 4-1-9, Teeter 1-0-2, Jankowski 1-0-2, Alescio 6-2-19, Barton 6-1-17. Totals: 25-6-70.

Galway
White 2-3-8, Smith 2-0-5, Restivo 2-0-5, Sowle 2-0-4, Williams 1-0-2, Kerry 1-4-6, Brownell 1-0-3. Totals: 11-7-32.

Schoharie 21 18 20 11—70 Galway 9 4 11 8—32

Three-point goals: Alescio 5, VanDerwerken 4, Barton 4, Stolzenburg, White, Smith, Restivo, Brownell.



Middleburgh's Peyton Olsen scored his 1,000th-career point last week and was honored Friday night along with his parents. From left are: Dawn Olsen, Peyton, Scott Olsen, and Middleburgh Coach Tim Pangman.

1,000 and counting... Another record for MCS's Olsen

By David Avitabile

Middleburgh junior Peyton Olsen became only the fourth male player in school history to score 1,000 points when he hit a three-pointer in last Tuesday's loss at Canajoharie.

Olsen, a shooting guard, scored 30 points in the loss, including the three-pointer to open the Knight scoring in the second half to give him 1,000 for his four-year career.

Olsen became the sixth

MCS player and the fourth male to score 1,000 points when he hit a three-pointer to open the Knight scoring in the second half.

He joins Tim Standhart, Gary Hamm, and Chris Hubbard as the only males to score 1,000 for the Knights. Two girls have also scored 1,000.

Standhart holds the school record with 1,438, according to MCS Coach Tim Pangman.

Olsen already holds the

school record for three-pointers in a game and in a career, which he set earlier this season.

Hamm holds the school record for points in a game with 55, according to Coach Pangman.

The Knights lost 64-55 at Canajoharie despite Olsen's 30 points.

The school marked the milestone at halftime Friday.

The Knights lost 64-55 at Canajoharie despite Olsen's 30 points.

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"The world is a looking glass and gives back to every man the reflection of his own face."

-William Makepeace Thackeray

C-R rallies to down New Leb

Story and photos by Jim Poole

Down one game, Cobleskill-Richmondville's volleyball team rallied to win three straight sets to defeat New Lebanon Monday night in the C-R gym.

The Bulldogs won 19-25, 25-20, 25-12, 25-17.

"It was an interesting match," said Bulldog Coach Brian LaVine. "In warm-ups, they didn't look like much, but they were really scrappy."

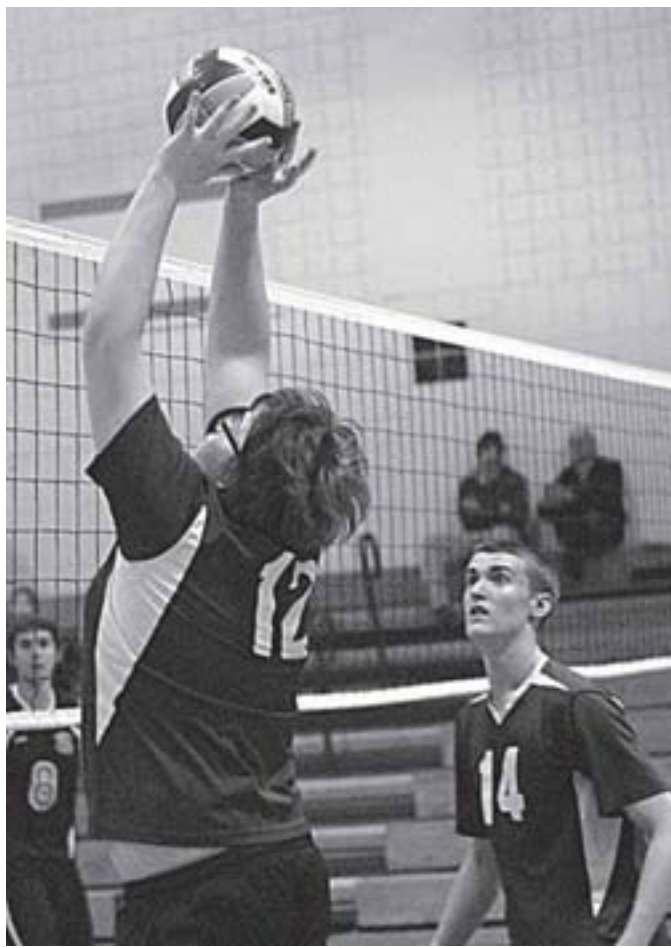
New Lebanon kept many balls in play in the first set and relied mostly on Bulldog mistakes after long rallies.

"After we stopped that bleeding, we had a little more success and then built on that," Coach LaVine said.

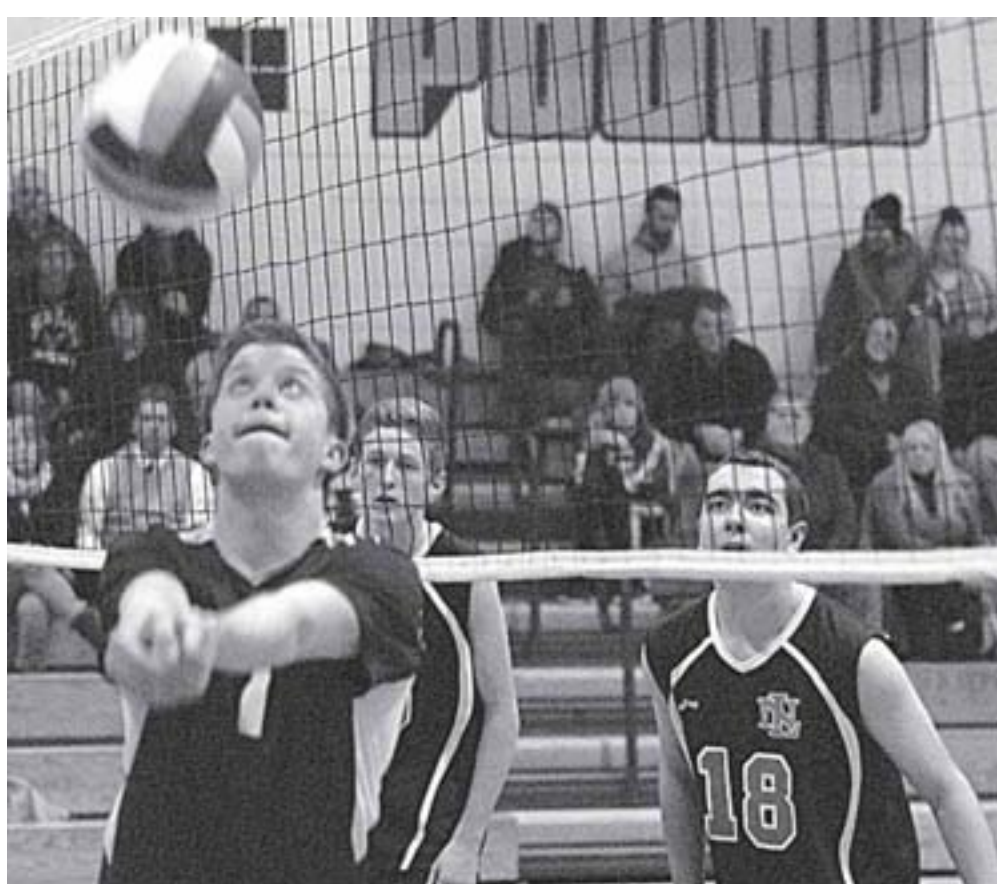
"I was really impressed with my bench. Gabe Ethier had a nice match, and Zach Holland did a good job. They're not going to score like Jake [Wayman], but they weren't making mistakes."

Ethan Chichester led C-R in serving, 22 for 23 and serving for 15 points. Spencer Tyrrell was 15 for 15 with four aces, and Chase Mahar was 16 of 17 with three aces.

Wayman had 20 kills, and



Bulldog Zach Holland gets up there to reach the ball as teammate Jake Wayman looks on.



Cobleskill-Richmondville's Spencer Tyrrell saves a ball at the net during the Bulldogs' victory over New Lebanon Monday night.

Ethier had five.

"It was a marquee night for Jake," Coach LaVine said.

Tyrrell had 23 assists.

In a match last Tuesday, the Bulldogs swept Berlin, 26-24, 25-16, 25-16 at Berlin.

Tyrrell led the Bulldogs by serving for 14 points and getting seven aces. Nathan Dostie was nine for nine serving and had three aces.

Wayman had 10 kills and four

blocks for the Bulldogs.

"They had no way to stop Jacob," Coach Brian LaVine said.

Brad McLaughlin added

three kills.

Tyrrell had 14 assists.

The Bulldogs, now 6-2, were to visit Taconic Hills on Tuesday, and they travel to Chatham on Thursday.

MCS blows away Canjo



Bre Palmatier of the Knights looks to pass the ball in the first half of Middleburgh's win over Canajoharie at MCS Wednesday night.



Middleburgh's Kelsey Terrell drives to the basket in Wednesday's win over Canajoharie.

By David Avitabile

Middleburgh blew open a close game in the third quarter to beat Canajoharie 65-33 Wednesday.

The Knights led 19-13 at the end of the first quarter and 32-21 before going on an 18-2 run in the third quarter to lead 50-23 heading into the fourth quarter.

Playing at home, the Knights shone on their outside shooting and defense.

MCS had some trouble getting on the inside in the early going, but the long-range shooting of Kelsey Terrell keyed the Knights.

Terrell opened the game with a three-pointer and then pushed the Middleburgh lead to 8-3 when she banked another three.

Lyndsey McCoy hit a long three to give MCS a 16-7 lead and then Terrell hit another three from the right side to give Middleburgh a 19-11 advantage.

The Cougars were able to cut the Middleburgh lead to three in the second quarter, but Bre Palmatier hit two threes to push the MCS lead back up to 32-21 at the half.

McCoy led the Knights with 17 points while Palmatier added 16 and hit three threes. Terrell scored 15.

In other games last week: South Kortright 52 Middleburgh 39

A big fourth quarter pushed South Kortright past Middleburgh at MCS Monday night.

The game was tied at 12-12 at the end of the first quarter. SK led 26-20 at the half and 35-30 entering the fourth quarter before going on a 17-9 run to end the game.

Kelsey Terrell led MCS with 12 points. Bre Palmatier added 11 and hit a three-pointer.

Mayfield 67 Schoharie 29

Mayfield jumped out to a 13-4 lead after the first quarter to down SCS at home Monday.

Mayfield led 37-16 at the half.

Katie Brisley led Schoharie with nine points.

Cherry Valley-Springfield 34 Sharon Springs 29 (OT)

The Spartans fell in overtime at home to the Patriots Monday night.

Sydney Seegers led Sharon with 13 points.

Kaylee Yerdon led CV-S with 10 points.

Middleburgh 55 Galway 47

The Knights came from an early deficit to beat Galway Friday night.

MCS trailed 18-14 after the first quarter but rebounded to lead 28-26 at the half.

Lyndsey McCoy led Middleburgh with 26 points while Bre Palmatier added 13 and Kelsey Terrell scored 12.

McCoy and Terrell had two three-pointers each while Palmatier had one.

Schoharie 48 Northville 43

The Indians came back to beat Northville at home Friday night.

led 23-22 at the half and 33-32 entering the final period.

Katie Brisley led Schoharie with 22 points and two three-pointers while Abby Wetsel scored 10 points and had one three.

Sharon Springs 31 GMU 24

The Spartans downed Gilbertsville-Mount Upton at home Friday night.

Sydney Seegers led Sharon with 12 points while Allison Cross added nine and Mary Fucci scored eight.

This week: MCS hosts Northville, SCS goes to St. JOE's today, Wednesday; MCS hosts St. JOE's, SCS hosts Berne-Knox, and Sharon hosts Milford Friday.

January 6 Schoharie 80 Northville 46

Schoharie Vanderwerken 5-0-14, Bernhardt 1-0-2, Morrell 2-0-5, Rose 1-0-2, Teeter 1-0-2, Jankowski 2-0-4, Alescio 8-1-23, Barton 11-0-28. Totals: 31-1-80.

Northville N. Reidell 3-2-11, D. Reidell 5-2-15, Jetty 6-1-13, Klingbeil 1-0-3, Ryan 1-0-2, Sitterly 1-0-2. Totals: 17-5-46.

Northville 8 16 11 11-46 Schoharie 15 25 18 21-80

Three-point goals: N. Reidell 3, D. Reidell 3, Klingbeil, Vanderwerken 4, Morrell, Alescio 6, Barton 6.

January 9 South Kortright 52 Middleburgh 39

South Kortright B. Dubonis 1-1-3, L. DuBonis 6-2-14, Finch 6-0-12, Laing 4-2-10, Reinshager 5-0-10, Brunson 1-1-3. Totals: 23-6-52.

Middleburgh Campbell 3-1-7, McCoy 4-1-9, Palmatier 3-4-11, Terrell 5-2-12. Totals: 15-8-39.

S. Kortright 12 14 9 17-52 Middleburgh 12 8 10 9-39

Three-point goals: Palmatier.

Mayfield 67 Schoharie 29

Schoharie Palmatier 1-1-4, Alescio 0-1-1, C. Wetsel 1-3-5, Brisley 3-3-9, Readdean 1-0-2, A. Wetsel 2-0-4, Williams 2-0-4. Totals: 10-8-29.

Mayfield LaFontaine 4-3-11, Dopp 5-1-11, Meca 4-0-10, Sheldon 8-7-24, Hampton 2-0-6, LaGrande 1-3-5. Totals: 24-14-67.

Schoharie 4 12 3 10-29 Mayfield 13 24 13 17-67

Three-point goals: Palmatier, Meca 2, Sheldon, Hampton 2.



C-R's Brad McLaughlin raps the ball back at New Lebanon in Monday's match.

Pistol League scores & standings

Schoharie Pistol League results for January 4:

Cobleskill/Richmondville

L. VanDeusen 286, C. Rose 277, M. Vance 263, H. Mulbury 250. Team total: 1,076.

VFW

J. Hitt 285, S. Baker 268, R. Cammer 268, J. Hornbach 255. Team total: 1,080.

West Fulton

H. Wyckoff 278, J. Symons 270, D. Symons 265, M. Shaul 263. Team total: 1,076.

Schoharie

R. Stark 262, R. Thayer 258,

B. Thayer 253, P. Gizzi 244. Team total: 1,017.

Cobleskill/Richmondville defeated Schoharie, 1,076-1,017. VFW defeated West Fulton, 1,080-1,076.

Anyone interested in joining the Schoharie County Pistol League can call Jim Hitt, VFW, (607)538-9503; Dick Shaul, West Fulton, 827-4687; Fred Haynes, Schoharie, 860-0084; Henry Mulbury, Cobleskill/Richmondville, 296-8491.

All teams can use more shooters; all matches are fired with .22 cal. handguns.

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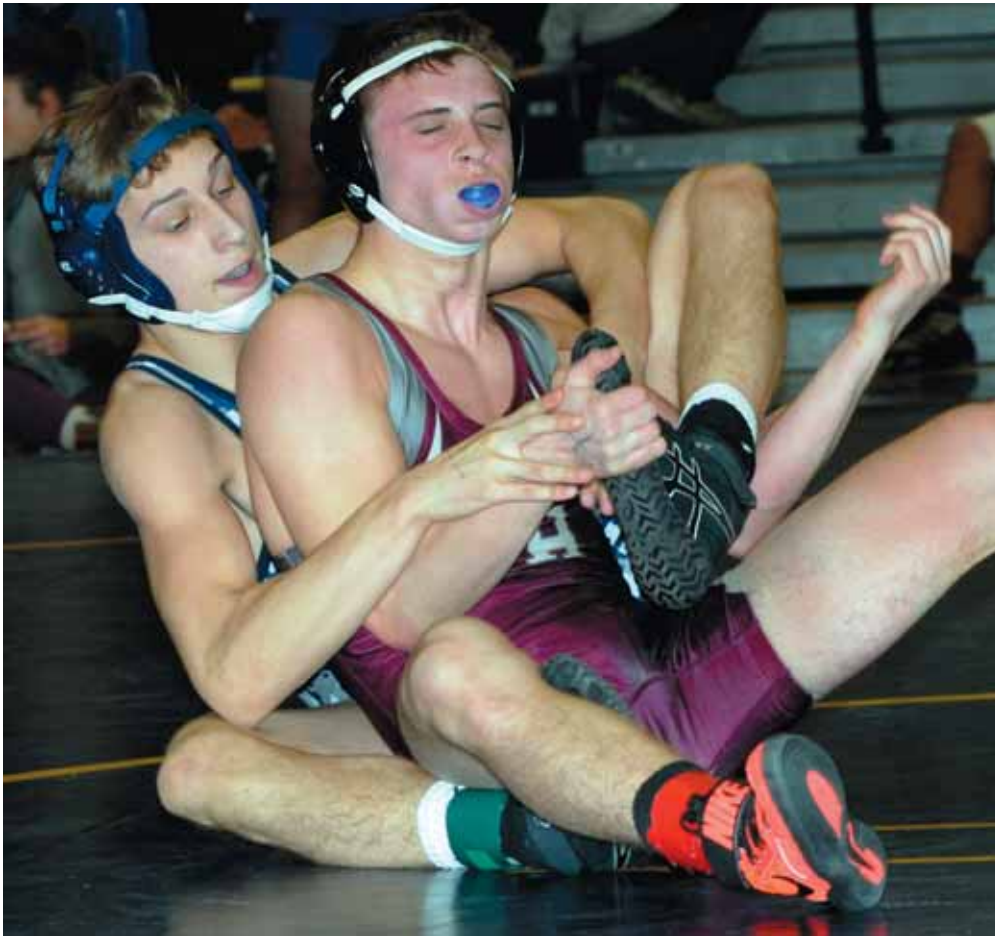
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C-R's Laine Pleickhardt, in back, has full control over Johnny Matrazzo of Burnt Hills in a bout at 145 pounds in the Oneonta Tournament Friday night.

C-R wrestlers 5th in Oneonta Rotary Tourney

Story and photos by Jim Poole

Cobleskill-Richmondville wrestlers took fifth place in the tough Oneonta Rotary Tournament over the weekend.

Led by Devin Cooper winning his class at 152 pounds, the Bulldogs totaled 119.5 team points in the 16-team tournament.

Burnt Hills won the tournament with 181.5 team points.

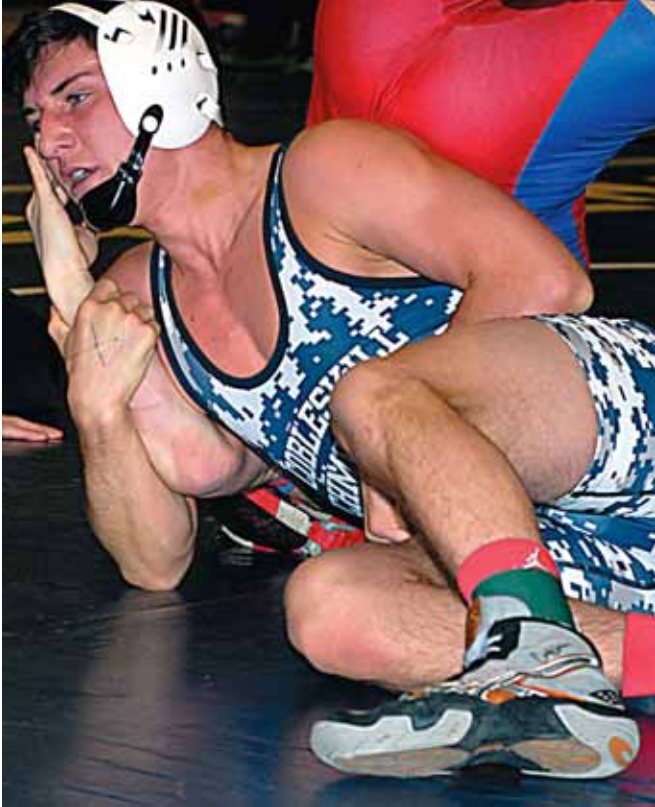
"It was a total team effort to get in the top five," said Bulldog Coach Justin Kimball. "Our kids wrestled very well."

Cooper pinned Jakai Townsend of Burnt Hills in the second period to win the championship round.

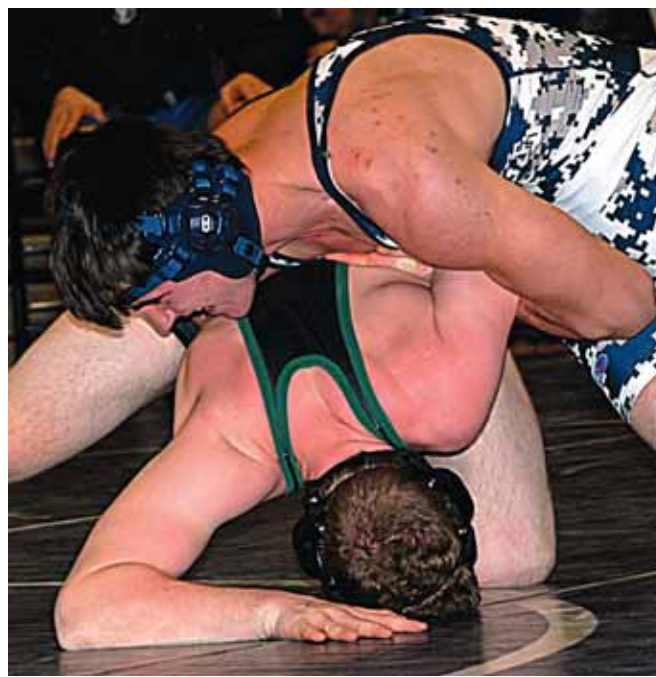
"Devin's win was huge for



Bulldog Hunter Edwards, on top, picks up points against Lucas Scott of Chenango Forks at 182 pounds at the Oneonta Tournament.



Wrestling at 126 pounds, Dan Hotaling of Cobleskill-Richmondville puts Hunter Martin of Owego on his back in the Oneonta Tournament Friday night.



C-R's Pat Nichols, on top, controls John Doodell of Liberty-Eldred-Sullivan West at 195 pounds in the Oneonta Tournament.

us," Coach Kimball said.

Two other C-R wrestlers, Deven Lampron at 138 pounds, and Ethan Cooper at 160, reached the finals but lost their bouts.

"Lampron did a nice job getting there, and Ethan was in a pretty close match when he had to force some things, and that got him in trouble," Coach Kimball said.

Gus Spohn took fourth at 106, and Laine Pleickhardt and Pat Nichols took sixths at 145 and 195 pounds, respectively. Dan Hotaling at 126 also had

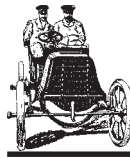
a couple of wins for the Bulldogs.

Earlier last week, the Bulldogs downed Albany Academy 48-24 in a dual meet.

C-R's Jeff Crooks won by a fall at 170 pounds, and Hotaling at 126 and Pleickhardt at 145 won decisions. The Bulldogs won by forfeits in six other classes.

"Laine wrestled extremely well," Coach Kimball said. "He had a really tough kid."

The Bulldogs visit Ichabod Crane on Thursday and host a modified "play day" with 13 other schools on Saturday.



Auto Racing Stuff

By Ed & Betty Biittig

Information came to us this week that Danny Varin has written a book.

"Smokescreen: The Tony Stewart-Kevin Ward, Jr. Incident" by Daniel Robert Varin is available on Amazon in paperback.

According to the Amazon introduction for the book, racer Danny Varin was in a perfect position to view the tragic events that unfolded on August 9 2014 that claimed young Kevin Ward Jr.'s life.

We spoke with Danny and, although up until the book release this week, Danny never wanted to talk much about what happened that night he has been dealing with his feel-

ings and emotions ever since. He was running directly behind Tony Stewart.

He saw what happened and although it was thought that night before he left the track that Kevin had lost his life, it hit Danny the hardest the next morning when it was confirmed on the news.

"I think that is when it hit me harder, the reality of the whole thing," said Danny when we spoke with him this week after learning about the book from his father.

According to Danny, he was having trouble coping with his emotions after the event and when he started hearing all the speculation regarding what transpired that night it frustrated him; the speculation and misinformation.

Danny was prompted by his father to start writing down his thoughts that became a journal of sorts.

He was subpoenaed to testify at the trial and most recently gave a deposition for the civil suit.

After laying out all his thoughts and feelings in his journal, Danny thought that turning his notes into a book would be a possibility and therapeutic for him and maybe help others rest a little easier.

As soon as we heard that Danny had written this book we ordered our copy from Amazon and we now have added it to our reading while in Florida.

In a talk with Carole Palmer this past week, we learned that Palmer Racing has big plans for the 2017 racing season.

As they did last year they will have Bobby Varin behind the

wheel for many events including DIRTcar Series events.

Through a deal that has been in the works for some time between Bobby Varin and Bobby Hearn, Palmers have purchased a new TEO that will be numbered double zero and will run at Fonda this season.

Dave Cruikshank is providing the engine to power the double zero while Palmers have purchased a back up motor from JPM.

Alton's racing will put him behind the wheel when possible at Fonda in his familiar No. 76.

We also spoke with Pete Demitraszek this week and learned that he has been able to secure the IMCA sanction for Glen Ridge and is attempting to get a DIRTcar 358-Mod sanction for The Ridge.

As of January 5, the Glen Ridge website stated divisions to run weekly this season will be Modifieds, Sportsman, IMCA Mods, and Cruisers.

Bi-weekly divisions are Outlaw Midget Series and Vintage Modifieds.

Pete is also looking at Slingshots if enough cars are interested.

Fonda will remain DIRTcar sanctioned in 2017.

Danny Johnson will call Fonda home on Saturday nights again this season.

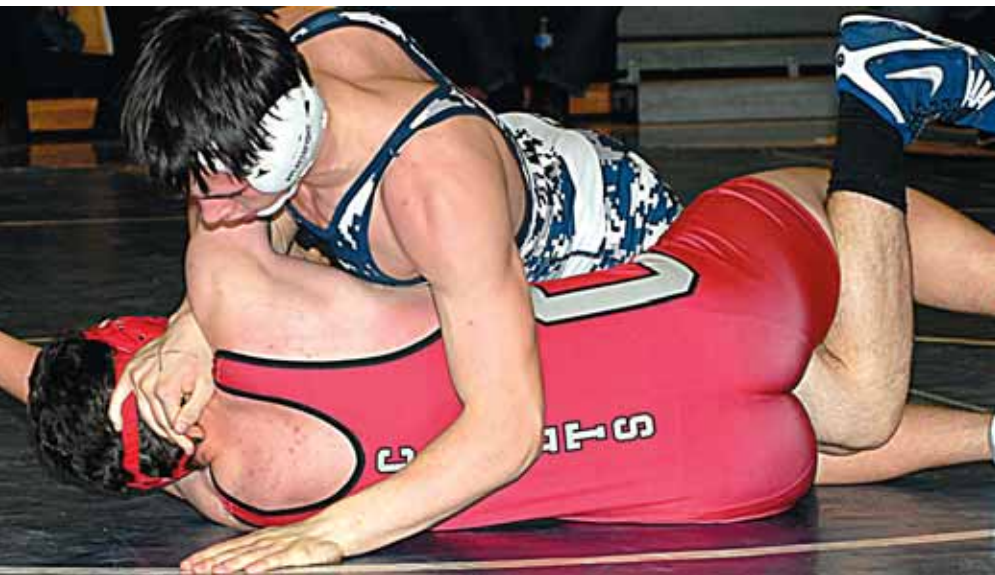
Toby LaGrange will return to assist Ron Szczerba with press releases and will handle Victory lane interviews.

Pete is currently looking at scheduling a meeting at the Winner's Circle to discuss the upcoming season, rules etc. with drivers and owners but at the time we talked with him he did not have a date.

We are in Florida and Christmas and New Year's are in the books so now we will start to hear the roar of engines at Daytona International Speedway as the competitors start to arrive for practice for the Rolex 24 Hours scheduled for January 28-29.

As we sit here we do think of all our friends up north in the cold but know that soon many of them will make the trip to sunny Florida for Speed Weeks 2017 that includes the DIRTcar Nationals at Volusia Speedway Park, February 14-25.

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



Cobleskill-Richmondville's Ethan Cooper starts to turn Camden Saunders of Carthage in a 160-pound bout in the Oneonta Tournament Friday night. Cooper earned a technical fall in the first period on his way to finishing second in his class.

Martin, Warner get SCS wins

100th win for Warner; Dom Kossmann Saturday

Schoharie wrestling placed ninth at the two-day Oneonta Rotary Tournament Friday-Saturday with Ryan Martin (170) and Dillon Warner (182), both posting wins for the Indians.

Warner also collected his 100th career win with his finals victory.

Austin Lints (120) placed second, and Dylan Hotaling (113) placed sixth.

"Oneonta is such a good tournament for these guys," said SCS Coach David Russell. "They see teams from all over the state and have great competition."

Warner recorded three pins and a major decision in Oneonta.

"He was impressive," Coach Russell said. "Martin did a nice job on his feet, getting many takedowns, and Lints wrestled well too—especially in his finals match, where he did a lot of good things out there."

Hotaling had two wins Saturday to finish sixth.

"He's showing some good potential," Coach Russell said. Thursday, SCS lost to WAC

opponent Berne-Knox-Westerlo, 46-22.

Hotaling opened the match with a forfeit at 113 and Lintz moved up to 126, where he won by major decision.

"He wrestled very well, especially on top," Coach Russell said.

Andrew Hahn followed Lints with a second period pin at 132 and Warner added six points at 182 with a :35 second pin.

"We had some good matchups with Berne and the kids did well," Coach Russell said.

"Shawn Kendle wrestled a tough match at 145, but stayed in the match the whole time."

This Wednesday, SCS hosts Canajoharie/Fort Plain in a WAC match-up beginning at 6pm in the high school gym.

The Indians will then host the annual Dominick Kossmann Memorial Tournament Saturday with action set to begin at 9am, also in the high school gym.

Teams competing are: Canajoharie/Fort Plain, Chenango Valley, Fonda-Fultonville, Salem/Cambridge, Schoharie, and Waterford-Halfmoon.



Schoharie's Austin Hahn, left, battles Robert Forlano of Burnt Hills at 126 pounds at the Oneonta Tournament Friday night.



Shawn Kendle of Schoharie, on the bottom, battles Nate Valla of Chenango Forks at 145 pounds in the Oneonta Tournament Friday night. Apparently in trouble here, Kendle reversed Valla seconds later and pinned him.

Town moves ahead with 100-bed shelter

Costs still a big concern

By David Avitabile
Middleburgh town board members agreed Monday night to move ahead with a new ambulance barn/100-bed shelter, but the future of the facility remains uncertain.

The building is to be constructed behind the town barn on Cotton Hill Road with \$3 million from New York Rising, but thus far costs have been an issue.

The bids for site work were opened last fall and came in much higher than expected. It had been hoped to complete the site work during the fall and winter and begin construction in the fall, but the bids had to be rejected and advertised again.

At a special meeting between town board and building committee members Monday night, officials placed a lot of blame on the engineers working on the project. Lamont Engineers was hired for the project but the firm had to subcontract out some of the design work. Delays in the completion of the drawings and budget estimates have delayed the project.

The mechanical and electrical drawings were supposed to be 100 percent complete by November but thus far are only about 30 percent complete and with dubious success, according to officials.

"He has some stuff scratched on there that's a joke," commented John Lawler of the building committee.

"This architect is laughing all the way to the bank," added Councilman Frank Herodes.

It is hard to have confidence when the sitework costs were expected to be around \$500,000 and came in about \$150,000 higher, noted building committee member and Highway Superintendent Dale Nunamann.

He suggested have the engineers make up out bids for a

100-bed and a 50-bed facility.

Town board members and some other building committee members disagreed.

Mr. Nunamann said not to downsize the building and go out to bid again.

"Let's go with it and see if we can afford it."

It was noted that if the town makes a "good faith" effort to construct the building within the budget, but cannot, the town will not be held responsible for the money spent.

Councilman Herodes added that there is little support for the project in the community.

"I don't believe the community is in favor of it."

Building committee member Stephen Weinhofer did note that the sale of land from the school to the town for the project was approved.

Councilman Herodes predicted that the project would come in under budget.

NY Rising wants the project to be built, Mr. Weinhofer said.

"They don't want this project to get dropped."

Mr. Nunamann noted, "They're not going to have to face the taxpayers when they can't afford this building."

Mr. Lawler added that going to bid for a 100-bed building and hoping it goes over budget is not in "good faith."

Downsizing the project to 50-beds when the public was told it would be 100 would not in good faith, Councilman Herodes noted.

Supervisor Pete Coppola suggested going with the 100-bed shelter.

"If we can't afford it, we can't afford it."

Board members unanimously agreed to go ahead with the plans for a 100-bed facility.

Mr. Coppola is to contact NY Rising about the town's concerns with the performance of the architects.

SCS to detail building project on January 25

Public vote could be in May

By David Avitabile

The public will get a detailed look at a proposed \$19.8 million building for Schoharie Central School later this month.

Schoharie Superintendent David Blanchard will give a presentation on the project which was given the go-ahead by board members last month and may go to district voters in May.

The meeting is slated for Wednesday, January 25 from 6 to 7pm in the high school cafeteria.

In addition to speaking about the proposed project, Mr. Blanchard will be offering tours of the buildings for anyone interested. He will also answer questions from the public.

"We will be seeking input from the community on the proposed project," he noted.

The proposed project jumped its first hurdle on December 14 when school board members unanimously and without discussion approved a resolution to develop the proposed building project for the junior-senior high school and elementary school.

The building project, if approved, would transform the junior-senior high school.

The renovations would touch almost every room and classroom in the high school. If approved by the voters, the project could start in 2018 and would take about 18 months to complete.

The district would get back about 82.8 percent of the cost in state aid, leaving a local share of about \$3.4 million, according to Mr. Blanchard.

The project, Mr. Blanchard added, would renovate the rooms and halls in each of the three floors of the high school.

The changes, he stressed,

are needed to improve the educational system at SCS as well as address safety needs.

A district building committee agreed that the renovation project would be a better way to go than to repair the buildings.

A building condition survey is required every five years and that review early this year revealed that about \$5 million in repairs was needed at the high school in addition to \$800,000 in work at the elementary school and \$2 million in the parking lot, Mr. Blanchard said.

The main part of the high school was built in 1926 and updated in 1932, Mr. Blanchard said.

Building committee members agreed that repairing the building was not the way to go, he added.

Repairs, he noted, are not state aidable, not comprehensive, and do not address the academic spaces in the building which are well below the current state standards.

Another negative point is that repairs, again not state aidable, would probably be needed again in another five years, he added.

Many of the repairs would address safety issues such as crumbling roof parapets and window sills.

If approved by voters, the project would then be headed for approval by the state education department. Bids would be solicited.

The hope would be to start construction in 2018 and to be done in about 18 months, according to Mr. Blanchard.

While one floor will be done at a time, swing space or mobile classrooms may be needed, he added.



Everyone watches sixth grader Logan Esposito spell a word in the first round of the MCS spelling bee last week.

Bramer wins MCS bee

By David Avitabile

Sixth grader Megan Bramer survived numerous rounds to emerge the winner of the annual Middleburgh elementary school spelling bee Wednesday afternoon.

Megan won on the word vertical. Fourth grader Hannah Brown finished second and sixth grader Zaina Islip came in third.

Among the words that the contestants had to spell were: botany, spatula, naturalist, fervently, pitiful, and oblivious.

Spelling bee contestants included:

- Fourth graders: Miranda Cancio, Hannah Brown, Kaylee Lawton, Cameron Esposito, John Henry, Selma Alshegaa, Derrick Fuller, and Lucas Shaw with Morgan Masterson and Devin Chichester as alternates.

- Fifth graders: Evan Shaul, Evan Becker, Mason Pembroke, Alexis Skowfoe, Brady Armlin, Trevor Loucks, Braiden Cole, and Tadhg Martin, with Liam Hooper and Kaitlin Nelson as alternates.

- Sixth graders: Megan Bramer, Danielle Freer, Logan Esposito, Lindsey Brown, Cody Sherwood, Chris Sperano, Zaina Islip, and Troy Cammer, with Hailie Fitzgerald as alternate.

The district-wide spelling bee will be in the high school auditorium this morning, Wednesday, starting at 8:45am.



Liam Hooper, a fifth grader, adjusts the microphone last week at the MCS elementary spelling bee.



Sixth grader Troy Cammer concentrates while spelling a word Wednesday afternoon.



Zaina Islip, a sixth grader, listens to the pronunciation of a word.



Fourth grader Lucas Shaw spells a word in the first round of the bee Wednesday afternoon.



Sixth grader Megan Bramer spells a word at the bee.



Judges Christina Snyder and Terry Burton, both teachers, listen as interim Principal Amy Tubbs pronounces a word.



Spelling bee contestants wait their turn in the Middleburgh elementary cafeteria Wednesday afternoon.

3 bees in a row for VanDerwerken

By David Avitabile

Eighth grader Ethan VanDerwerken notched his third straight Schoharie Central School spelling bee victory Thursday morning.

Sixth grader Gavin Thomas came in second place. Tying for third place were fifth grader Adrian Lindemann and Dylan Wayman-Bender, a sixth grader.

The annual spelling bee was held in the high school auditorium in front of students, teachers, staff, and parents.

This year's contestants included:

• Fourth graders: Sophia Watsen, Truman Loeper, Sean Harrington, and Jimmy

Alexander.

• Fifth graders: Sophia Styles, Adrian Lindemann, Andrew Martin, and Anna Mueller.

• Sixth graders: Dylan Wayman-Bender, Ethan Smith, Josh Mitchell, Kevin Lawyer, and Gavin Thomas.

• Seventh graders: Mia Rowe, Jacquelyn Sullivan, Trinity Santoro, and Erica Cater.

• Eighth graders: Mackenzie Heath, Ethan VanDerwerken, and John Blackwood.

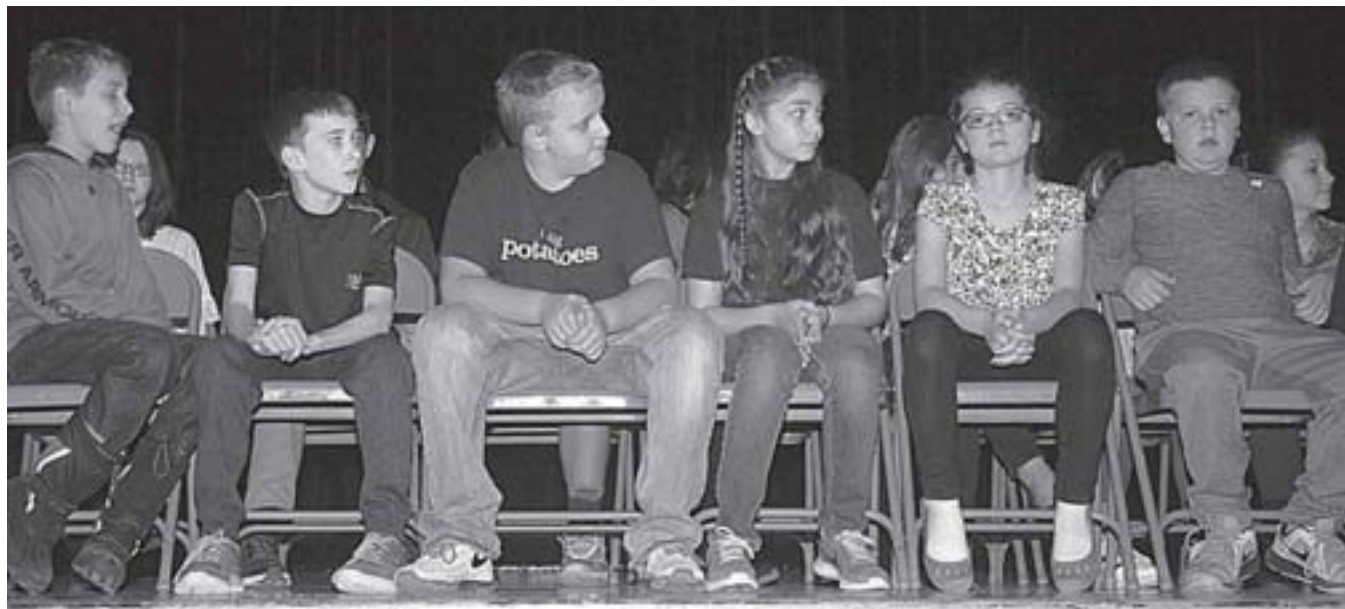
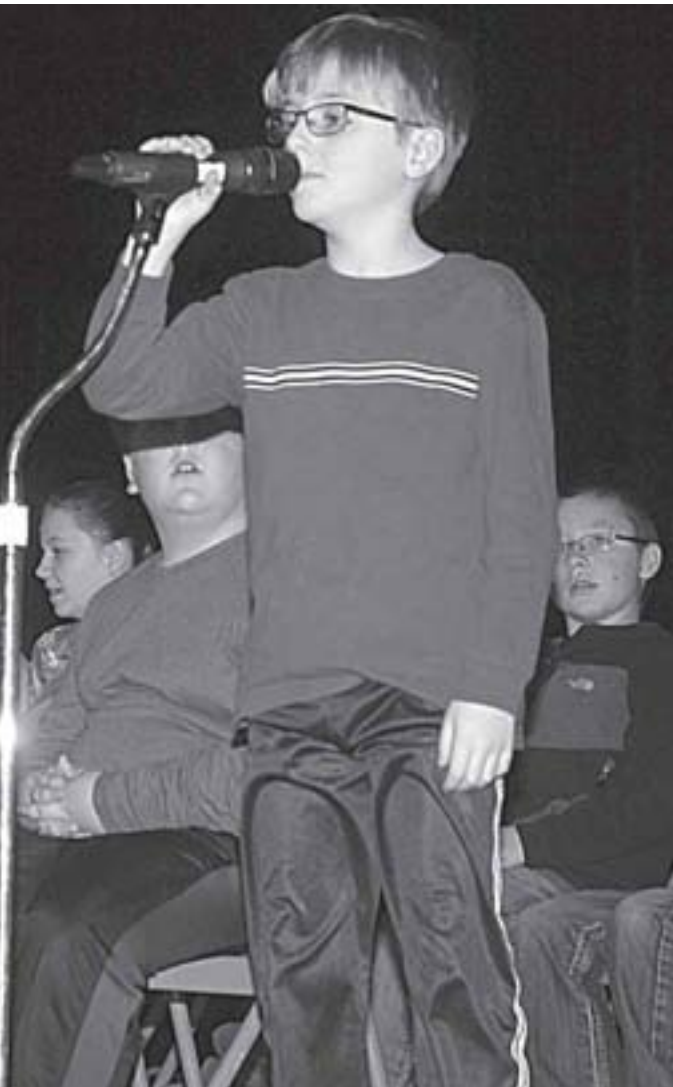
The winner now goes on to the state regionals in Schenectady in the spring.



Ethan VanDerwerken, second from right, won his third straight Schoharie spelling bee last week. Sixth grader Gavin Thomas, right, came in second place. Tying for third place were fifth grader Adrian Lindemann and Dylan Wayman-Bender, a sixth grader.



Truman Loeper, a fourth grader thinks before spelling a word in the Schoharie spelling bee Thursday.



A line of spellers wait their turn at the annual Schoharie school spelling bee Thursday morning in the high school auditorium.



Fifth grader Sophia Styles, contemplates before spelling a word Thursday.



Sixth grader Gavin Thomas spells a word Thursday morning. At right is high school librarian Marion Burghart, who served as pronouncer for the bee.



Judges Andrea Polikoski, the elementary principal, and Vanessa Repicky and Samantha Ballard of the EPTSO, listen to a speller Thursday at SCS.



Fifth grader Anna Mueller spells a word Thursday morning in the Schoharie high school auditorium.



Stewart's celebrates new shop Middleburgh village, town, and county officials,



along with Stewart's Shops representatives were on hand Saturday morning as Middleburgh store manager Missy Vedder cut the ribbon on the new shop on Main Street in Middleburgh.

Stewart's also donated \$1,000, left, to the Middleburgh Youth Commission for the construction of a new pavilion behind the store on village property. Members of the West Fulton Road and Gun Club and Shaul Roofing will be doing the work when the weather breaks.—Photos by David Avitabile.



Ethan Smith, a sixth grader, spells a word into the microphone Thursday morning.



Social Journal



Martha and James DeBar



1967



College Clips

Justin Davis of Richmondville has been named to the dean's list at Clarkson University for the fall 2016 semester. He is a freshman in the Army ROTC program while studying civil and environmental engineering. He is a 2016 graduate of Cobleskill-Richmondville High School.

Kara Estelle, a junior Health Sciences major from Stamford, was among approximately 900 Bob Jones University students named to the fall 2016 dean's list.

More than 1,200 students were named to the Fall 2016 dean's list at Hudson Valley Community College.

Local students include: **Parker Chase** of Preston Hollow, studying heating/air conditioning/refrigeration technical services. **Joshua Caricchio** of Schoharie, studying physical education. **Darian Kelly** of Sloansville, studying overhead electric line worker. **Dylan Roemer** of Summit, studying in the entrepreneurship program. **Taylor Collins** of Warnerville, who is studying in the non-matriculated academic program.

Nearly 1,900 students were named to the Fall 2016 president's list at Hudson Valley Community College.

Local students include: **Jenna Bisnett** of Cobleskill, business-accounting. William Collins of Cobleskill, electrical construction and maintenance. **Keane Neal-Riquier** of Cobleskill, business administration. **Rebekah Obenauer** of Cobleskill, nursing. **Paige Roberts** of Cobleskill, physical education. **Nathan Jones** of Esperance, mechanical engi-



Justin Davis

neering technology. **Allyson Liddle** of Esperance, physical education. **Emily Erwin**, Jefferson, individual studies. **Chloe Snyder** of Middleburgh, liberal arts and sciences—humanities and social sciences. **John Crescimanno** of Preston Hollow. **Wanda Lewis** of Preston Hollow, digital marketing. **Coryn Caricchio** of Schoharie, liberal arts and sciences—humanities and social sciences. **Damian Loucks** of Schoharie, civil engineering technology. **Jack Gigandet** of Schoharie, mechanical engineering technology. **Jeffrey Swezey** of Stamford, criminal justice.

Hudson Valley Community College student **Keane Neal-Riquier** of Cobleskill, was recently inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, the international academic honor society for two-year institutions of higher learning.

50th anniversary

Martha and James DeBar of Cobleskill celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary January 6. An anniversary dinner was held in Cherry Valley at the Rose & Kettle with their children and siblings and their families. Present were the couple's daughter, Jodie Rutt and fried Joe Sire; their son and daughter-in-law, Richard and Linda DeBar; their brother and sister-in-law, John and Susan Sagendorf; and sister, Hope Coons.

Looking Ahead

Pancake b'fast set in Charlotteville

The Charlotteville Volunteer Fire Department will hold a pancake breakfast to benefit the CVFD Sunday, January 15, 8-11am at the fire station.

There will also be a 50/50 raffle.

Akwesasne Mohawk and educator at the Iroquois Indian Museum as well as an instructor in Native American Studies at SUNY Cobleskill.

Mr. Tarbell will speak on "The Clash of Two Mohawk Wolf Clan War Captains." All are welcome. Free.

Tarbell next Cobleskill speaker

The next Cobleskill Historical Society meeting will be held Wednesday, January 18, 6:30pm in the Community Library and will feature Mike Tarbell, an

CCC of Faith breakfast at Zion

The Christian Community Church of Faith will hold a pancake breakfast Saturday, January 21, at the Zion St. John's Lutheran Church Hall, Mesick Avenue, Seward, 7:30-10am.

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Help for cabin fever

Depot Lane Singers kick off practices

With the holiday season over and winter promising to be around for a while, the Depot Lane Singers are offering interested singers the opportunity to escape "cabin fever"

as they begin to practice for their spring concerts. The Depot Lane Singers are a community chorus of 60-70 members.

Although they are based in Schoharie, they have participating membership from Albany, Montgomery, Otsego, Rensselaer, Schoenectady and Schoharie counties.

Rehearsals for the spring concert programs will begin on Tuesday, January 17 and will be held at the Depot Lane Theatre building in Schoharie, beginning at 7:30pm.

The theme for the spring concert season is "For The Good Times," a concert of remembering and sharing. Se-

ctions will contain a mix of the familiar and unfamiliar, remembering songs from past years and a sharing of music new to the singers.

The Singers will present two performances of the program. Concerts are scheduled for Friday, May 5 at the Duaneburg Reformed Presbyterian Church, and Saturday, May 6 at Schoharie High School. Both concerts will begin at 7:30pm.

The Depot Lane Singers were founded by the late Frances Tripp, former Schoharie High School music teacher.

Ms. Tripp organized the Singers in September of 1979 after her retirement from active teaching.

Currently under the baton of Artistic Director/Conductor Mitch Haverly, the Singers are in their 38th concert season of music making.

The chorus will be accompanied by Rhea Dawn Owens from Middleburgh.

Guest artist Leonard Tobler will assist with percussion on several of the selections. Mr. Tobler is from Voorheesville and has been a frequent guest artist for the Depot Lane Singers, having appeared in con-

certs during the 2006, 2009, and 2012 seasons.

A retired music teacher, Mr. Tobler is a graduate of SUNY Albany and SUNY Potsdam.

He has performed as a percussionist with the Albany, Schoenectady, Utica, and Catskill Symphony Orchestras, as well as the New York City Opera Orchestra at SPAC.

In addition, Mr. Tobler has been a drummer/percussionist for area appearances by the Three Irish Tenors and Aretha Franklin.

The Schoharie Colonial Heritage Association sponsors the Singers, and a portion of the proceeds from their programs are given to SCHA as part of their fundraising efforts.

The Depot Lane Singers encourage anyone who enjoys singing to join the group.

Students who are in ninth grade or above are also invited to sing. Although there are no auditions and experience is not required, it should be noted that the chorus sings in harmonies that can include up to eight separate parts. Practice CD's are provided to assist singers in learning the music.

For more information, contact Mitch Haverly at 872-2682, or via email at mitchellh2@aol.com.

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The Exchange Club of Cobleskill would like to thank all of the following businesses for their generous donations & support for our recently completed Christmas Gift Bag Giveaway. We distributed over 450 gift bags to K-2 students at Ryder School. We received our largest donations ever this year.

Again, thank you to these businesses:

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Also to the Times Journal for their continuing coverage of the Exchange Club events.

Knitting a message for Trump

Cat hats protest President-elect's words; headed to DC Women's March

Story and photos
By Patsy Nicosia

Needles clicking, skeins of yarn in every possible shade of pink at their elbows, dozens of women gathered around the table at CeCe's Wool Farm Store in Esperance Friday to knit a message for President-elect Donald Trump.

They're part of a movement to knit or crochet pink pussycat hats—officially, they're Pussyhats—for those who'll be marching in Washinton, DC on January 21, the day after President Trump's inauguration, in support of women's rights.

"Historically, knitting has brought people together, especially in rural communities," said CeCe's owner, knitter and former assemblywoman Cecilia Tkaczyk.

"This is a great way for people who can't march on the 21st to still do something"

The Pussyhat Project came out of California in response to comments President-elect Trump made publicly before becoming a candidate.

Whatever their exact shade or name, the handmade hats are all topped with a pair of meow-worthy ears.

"We have a man who's going to be President who bragged about sexual assault," said Ms. Tkaczyk. "This is a fun project—but it's a serious topic."

The knit-in at CeCe's ran from noon-7:30 and will be repeated this Friday, January 13, also from noon-7:30pm.

Throughout the day Friday, women stopped in to knit a hat or two, staying as long as they could before leaving, talking

! This is a great way for people who can't march on the 21st to do something. !

—Cecilia Tkaczyk

politics when prompted, but mostly talking patterns and stitches.

"Someone, I need help," said knitter Kathy Pelton of Carlisle.

Crocheter Marie Viscic of Knox is one of those who'll be marching on the 21st.

"If I didn't go, I might live to regret it," Ms. Viscic said. "It's an easy thing for me to do so I want to do it."

Also marching—and not knitting, but rather stopping by to pick up their hats—were Martha Harausz and Ellen Manning, both of Guilderland.

"Why? I want Donald Trump to know he doesn't represent me," said Ms. Harausz. "I taught for 36 years and I can't imagine teaching fifth-graders now with the things he's said. Is there anyone he hasn't mocked or bullied?"

Ms. Manning shared the same concerns and said she's also marching to remind the President—and Congress—that Americans have a right to express their concerns.

"He's really unfit to be President," she said. "I don't think



Marie Viscic, left, and Martha Harausz, center, look at a pussycat hat with Cecilia Tkaczyk, owner of CeCe's Wool House in Esperance, Friday in a protest knit-in. Knitters all over the country are knitting hats for those attending the January 21 Women's Marches in Wash-

ington, DC and New York City. The pink hats, with cat ears, symbolize President-elect Trump's comments bragging about sexual assault when he was a candidate.

he has a single policy I agree with..."

"We're just a bunch of ruffians," shouted Ms. Harausz from across the room to laughter from everyone.

Ms. Pelton and neighbor and friend Jacqueline Turnquist, also from Carlisle, worked side-



Cecilia Tkaczyk holds up a pussycat hat—officially a Pussyhat.

by-side, neither planning to march—though Ms. Pelton took part in anti-inauguration protests when George W. Bush was elected.

"I'm not a marcher," Ms. Turnquist said. "I don't like crowds. But this is something I can do."

Choosing her words care-



Marie Viscic crochets a hat. Ms. Viscic is planning to go to the Women's March in Washington, DC on the 21st.

fully, Ms. Turnquist said she's been doing a lot of reading into what Democrats could have done differently and why people voted for Mr. Trump, things she feels it's especially important for people in rural communities to figure out.

Ms. Tkaczyk had planned to march, but she has a work conference on the 21st.

Fallout from Mr. Trump's election has hit close to home for Ms. Tkaczyk.

The sign for her shop was one of those in the village vandalized by spray-painted swastikas. (See related story in this week's Times-Journal ; State Police are now saying that the 13-year-old arrested in the spree didn't act out of hate,

but rather because the swastikas were easy to paint).

Ms. Tkaczyk also had to sit down with her 17-year-old son after a bullying incident at his school involving a Trump sign.

Together, they were able to come up with a plan of action that won't get him in trouble the next time something like it happens.

Because everyone knitting and crocheting pussycat hats Friday believes there will be a next time.

"It's going to be a long four years," sighed knitter Rosemary Agat of Esperance.

Everyone's welcome to attend Friday's knit-in.

Donations to help cover the cost of yarn are also welcome.



Kathy Pelton of Carlisle, left, answers a question at Friday's knit-in in Esperance as neighbor Jacqueline Turnquist, right, works on a hat.



Cecilia Tkaczyk poses between pussycat hat-wearers Ellen Manning and Martha Harausz.

'Sister' vigils set in Cobleskill, Cooperstown

For those who can't make it to the January 21 Women's Marches in Washington, DC or New York City, sister events are in the works locally.

In Cobleskill, there will be a vigil that Saturday from 1-2pm at the corner of Main and Division Streets.

This will be a family-friendly event with no drugs or alcohol and no violence, verbal or physical. "We will stand together for our grandmothers, mothers, sisters, daughters, wives, partners, and friends," said Susan Spivack in a press release announcing the event.

"We're determined to move forward—not backward—for women's equality, regardless of a woman's race, ethnicity, religion, immigration status, sexual identity, gender expression, economic status, age or disability."

For more information on the Cobleskill event, contact Ms. Spivack at 234-3840.

For more information on this and other sister marches, go to www.womensmarch.com/sisters/.

For more information on the January 21 Washington, DC march, go to www.womensmarch.com/mission/.

In Otsego County, a rally and candlelight vigil will be held outside the Otsego County Offices on Main Street, Cooperstown, also on January 21, beginning at 4:30pm.

According to a press release, the purpose of the rally is to express support for issues of importance to women and families, including women's health and reproductive rights, as well as to promote human rights in general. The event is free and open to the public

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