



Nationwide

Thinking Insurance? Think Nationwide
Thinking Nationwide? Think Victor DeVito!

Text Now: 518-424-7865 or Call: 518-785-5054

Visit Our Full Service Website Including Instant Chat: www.victordevito.com



Victor F. DeVito, YOUR UPSTATE Elite Agency
Servicing All Nationwide Accounts - Auto-Home-Life-Business

Not all Nationwide affiliated companies are mutual companies and not all Nationwide members are insured by a mutual company. Nationwide is on your side, and the Nationwide N and Eagler are service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. 2015 Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. NPR-0784A0(12/15)



Get Your Rate Now!

The Greenville PIONEER

Friday, May 6, 2022 • \$1.50

Bridge tolls up on Rip Van Winkle

See page 4



LARGEST PAID CIRCULATED NEWSPAPER IN GREENE COUNTY

Six vying in hotly contested BOE election

By Melanie Lekocevic
Capital Region Independent Media

GREENVILLE — Voters in the Greenville school district will head to the polls May 17 to determine the fate of the \$33.7 million school budget and elect two members of the board of education.

Six candidates will be on the ballot for the two open seats on the board. They are, in alphabetical order: James Bucci, Kevin Bucci, Elaine Dykeman, David Finch, Jay Goodman and Glenn Yelich.

Candidates were asked to com-



James Bucci



Kevin Bucci



Elaine Dykeman



David Finch



Jay Goodman



Glenn Yelich

plete a questionnaire to let voters know where they stand on the issues. Their responses are presented in alphabetical order. Yelich did not respond to multiple requests to complete a questionnaire.

JAMES BUCCI

Age: 42
Family: Wife and two daughters

How long you've lived in the county: Lived in South Westerlo the last 17 years and approximately 27 years total in the GCS School

Occupation: Industrial Coatings Applicator / Owner www.BucciPainting.com

Are you an incumbent: No.
Previous elected offices, if any: High School Class of '98 Vice

President
Previous community service, if any: Religious Education Instructor at St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church (10 years); Youth Group Instructor at Horizon Christian Fellowship Church (2018- present); Student/Assistant Instructor at Starr's Karate (over 20 years); Assistant Leader Girl Scouts (2012-present); GS Encampment help/Small Boat-craft; Greenville Girls Youth Basketball 2017.

See ELECTION, page 12

Veterans group working to raise \$100K for memorial project



MELANIE LEKOCEVIC/CAPITAL REGION INDEPENDENT MEDIA

Members of the Northeast USA Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund presented their plans for a project at Greenville's Veterans Memorial Park at the intersection of Routes 32 and 81. Pictured, left to right, are Judge Bernard Malone, Tim Broder and Jim Sill. Broder and Sill are holding Challenge Coins, which commemorate those who offer substantial assistance to Vietnam veterans.

By Melanie Lekocevic
Capital Region Independent Media

GREENVILLE — A group dedicated to honoring Vietnam veterans has a monumental task in front of it — raising more than \$100,000 to honor the

fallen of Greene County.

Veterans Tim Broder and Jim Sill from the Northeast USA Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund presented their project at the April meeting of the Greenville Town Council for a memorial that will be located in Veterans

Memorial Park at the intersection of Routes 81 and 32.

The project includes a towering flagpole, bronze Battlefield Cross and black granite memorial stones engraved

See VETERANS, page 13



FILE PHOTO

A bronze Battlefield Cross will be the centerpiece of a memorial to the 17 Greene County troops who died in the Vietnam War.

Earth Day cleanup sparks season of volunteering

By Melanie Lekocevic
Capital Region Independent Media

NEW BALTIMORE — Downed trees, overgrown vegetation and litter are a thing of the past at the Hannacroix Creek Preserve after a small cadre of volunteers cleaned up the trail Saturday in honor of Earth Day.

"This is our spring cleanup for Earth Day," said Jeffrey Distin, land manager for the New Baltimore Conservancy. "We do Adopt-A-Highway here and our own property for our first get-together for spring cleanup."

The New Baltimore Conservancy owns the 140-acre Hannacroix Creek Preserve, which has two entrances — on Route 144 and on Madison Avenue — and manages the 30-acre Hudson River Interpretive Trail, which is owned by the town of New Baltimore, the group's past president, Peter Melewski, said Saturday.

The Conservancy took over the preserve about a year ago from the former owner, the Open Space Institute, Melewski said.

The preserve has long been a valuable resource in the community, and its importance only grew during the COVID-19 shutdowns



MELANIE LEKOCEVIC/CAPITAL REGION INDEPENDENT MEDIA

Volunteers removed downed trees and limbs, picked up litter and pruned overgrown vegetation at Hannacroix Creek Preserve and the Hudson River Interpretive Trail.

of 2020 and 2021, he said.

"This is about quality of life for the town

of New Baltimore and for Coeymans, for Greene and Albany counties," Melewski said.

"Hannacroix Creek Preserve and Long View Park showed their value during COVID. We were very, very busy during COVID — the parking lot was packed all the time because people were limited in what they could do and this was a location where they could get outside and interact with other people at a safe distance."

The volunteer group does a monthly cleanup in the warmer months, but the Earth Day cleanup is the first of the year.

"Today a lot of communities are doing a River Sweep, so we will be cleaning up along the Hudson River — cleaning up anything that floated into the river during recent storms," Melewski said. "We will be doing trail maintenance to make sure ditches are open for drainage, moving any trees that have fallen down, clipping and so forth."

Volunteers met in the Preserve's parking lot at 8:30 a.m. Saturday and geared up with heavy gloves, rakes, pruners, hand saws and a chainsaw, and set out along the path, clearing the trail where needed.

"We will do everything from litter pick-

See EARTH, page 15

MAILING LABEL HERE



0 91119 81003 1

Community Calendar

To have your organization's events added to our calendar, please enter them online at www.greenvillepioneer.com

Brought to you by

Carver
COMPANIES

PORT OF COEYMANS
SAVES YOU TIME
Connecting the world's like no other

Carver
MARITIME

Carver
STEVEDORING

COEYMANS
INDUSTRIAL PARK

For over 30 years, the Carver Company's Core Competencies consist of General & Marine Construction, Sand and Gravel Mining, Property Management, Port, Stevedoring, Terminal & Warehouse Management, Maritime and Logistics, and Tug and Barge Marine Towing.

MAY 2022

6 - "Clarkston" performed at Bridge Street Theatre, 44 West Bridge Street, Catskill, 7:30 p.m. Advance tickets at bridgest.org/clarkston-tickets/ or at the door half hour prior to performance. Visit bridgest.org for more information.

6 - Indoor Guided Tours at Thomas Cole National Historic Site, 218 Spring Street, Catskill. Face coverings required.

7 - 15th Annual Rip Van Winkle Wine, Brew and Beverage Festival, 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., at The Historic Catskill Point, 1 Main Street, Catskill. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$25 or online through Eventbrite.com. Event will be held rain or shine.

7 - "Clarkston" performed at Bridge Street Theatre, 44 West Bridge Street, Catskill, 7:30 p.m. Advance tickets at bridgest.org/clarkston-tickets/ or at the door half hour prior to performance. Visit bridgest.org for more information.

7 - Indoor Guided Tours at Thomas Cole National Historic Site, 218 Spring Street, Catskill. Face coverings required.

8 - "Clarkston" performed at Bridge Street Theatre, 44 West Bridge Street, Catskill, 2 p.m. matinee. Advance tickets at bridgest.org/clarkston-tickets/ or at the door half hour prior to performance. Visit bridgest.org for more information.

8 - Indoor Guided Tours at Thomas Cole National Historic Site, 218 Spring Street, Catskill. Face coverings required.

9 - New Baltimore Town Board meeting, 7 p.m., at Town Hall, 3809 County Route 51, New Baltimore.

9 - Greenville Board of Education meeting,

6 p.m., at MS/HS Library, Route 81, Greenville.

12 - New Baltimore Planning Board meeting, 7 p.m., at Town Hall, 3809 County Route 51, New Baltimore.

12 - Junior Awards at Greenville High School auditorium, 3 p.m., Route 81, Greenville.

13-14 - First Reformed Church Women's Rummage Sale, 248 Mansion Street, Coxsackie. On May 14, fill a bag for \$4.

13-15 - Indoor Guided Tours at Thomas Cole National Historic Site, 218 Spring Street, Catskill. Face coverings required.

14-15 - Friends of Purling Yard Sale, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Shinglekill Falls Bed and Breakfast, 508 Mountain Avenue, Purling. Participants will donate money to help fund community gardening projects such as the Mountain Avenue Bridge and the Welcome to Purling sign.

14 - Battle of the Brews, 12-4 p.m., 201 Water Street, Catskill. Tickets \$40, for 21 and older only.

14 - "Underscored" performed by Ephrat Asherie Dance, 2 p.m., at Orpheum Performing Arts Center, 6050 Main Street, Tannersville. Tickets \$15.

15 - Inclusive Bird Walk with Martha Harbison, 7:30 a.m., at Mountain Top Arboretum, 4 Maud Adams Road, Tannersville. Suggested donation \$10 for non-members. No advanced reservations necessary. In-person, outdoor program.

16 - Greenville Town Council meeting, 7 p.m., at Pioneer Building, 11159 Route 32, Greenville.

17 - Greenville Central School District Board of Education election and budget vote, 1-9

p.m., Scott Ellis Elementary School, Route 32, Greenville.

17 - Durham Town Board meeting, 7:30 p.m., 7309 Route 81, East Durham.

17 - Greenville Middle School Spring Concert, 7 p.m., at middle school, Route 81, Greenville.

18 - Cairo Town Board workshop meeting, 7 p.m., at Cairo Town Hall, 512 Main Street, Cairo.

18 - Greene County Rabies Clinic, 5-7 p.m., Angelo Canna Town Park, Cairo. Drive-up only. Call 518-719-3600 to pre-register.

19 - Greene County Fire Advisory Board meeting, 7 p.m., at Greene County Emergency Control and Training Center, 25 Volunteer Drive, Cairo.

20 - Clematis Garden Club spring social, 1 p.m., at American Legion Post 291, 58 Maple Avenue, Greenville. Presenter Peter Bowden will discuss "How Climate Change is Affecting Our Gardening."

21 - Spring Fling Flea Market, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at TGM American Legion Post 187, 94 Second Street, Athens. Setup for vendors begins at 7:30 a.m. Vendor applications are available on Facebook page or at the Post. Indoor spaces are 6'x8' for \$25; outdoor spaces are 10'x10' for \$35. Proceeds will go towards the Post's kitchen renovation project.

22 - Wildflowers of the Mountain Top Talk & Walk, 5132 Route 23A, Haines Falls. Hosted by Mountain Top Historical Society, 10 a.m., suggested donation \$5.

23 - New Baltimore Town Board meeting, 7 p.m., at Town Hall, 3809 County Route 51, New Baltimore.

We strive to inspire our diverse, well-rounded work force and management team to always perform at the highest levels of safety and professionalism. We deliver service by maintaining a reputation where our unquestionable Values of honesty and integrity drive our actions on and off the job.

494 Western Turnpike, Altamont, NY • Phone: 518.355.6034 • www.carvercompanies.com

Alzheimer's Notes

Honoring Mother's Day when Mom has Alzheimer's

By Marisa Korytko

For Capital Region Independent Media

Women are at the epicenter of the Alzheimer's crisis, and the burden on women is never more apparent than on Mother's Day, when families come together to celebrate their mothers and grandmothers.

Nearly two-thirds of the more than 6 million Americans with Alzheimer's are women. Not only are women more likely to have Alzheimer's, they are also more likely to be caregivers of those with Alzheimer's.

More specifically, over one-third of dementia caregivers are daughters. The disease places an unbalanced burden on women at work and at home, forcing them to make difficult choices about their careers, their relationships and their futures.

Celebrating Mother's Day, like other holidays, can be challenging when a mom is living with Alzheimer's. On these kinds of special occasions, a person with Alzheimer's may feel a sense of loss because of the changes being experienced as a result of the disease. At the same time, caregivers and other family members may struggle with figuring out how to celebrate with their loved one.

But Mother's Day can remain a meaningful and enjoyable occasion for families facing Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.

The Alzheimer's Association offers families the following tips for celebrating Mother's Day:

- Take a person-centered approach. Focus on what is enjoyable for the person with Alzheimer's, such as looking at family pictures or enjoying the person's favorite food. If they get overwhelmed in large groups, a small quiet gathering may be preferable.
- Keep it simple. Consider a celebration over a

lunch or brunch at home or where the person is most comfortable. Ask family or friends to bring dishes for a potluck meal or have food delivered by a local restaurant or grocery store.

- Connect with mom virtually. Schedule a FaceTime, Skype or Zoom call with mom and invite other family members to participate. Prepare ahead of time to ensure the platform you use is one your mom can access easily. Consider taking the call to the next level by adding a slideshow with favorite pictures of mom and cherished family photos.

- Join in. If the person with Alzheimer's lives in a care facility, consider joining in on any facility-planned activities.

- Don't overdo it. Sticking to the person's normal routine will help keep the day from becoming disruptive or confusing. Depending on the person's stamina, plan time for breaks so the person can rest in a quiet area away from noise and crowds.

- Adapt gift giving. Encourage safe and useful gifts for the person with Alzheimer's. If someone asks for gift ideas, suggest items the person with dementia needs or can easily enjoy. Ideas include: an identification bracelet, CDs of favorite music, comfortable clothing, favorite foods and photo albums of family and friends.

- Find support. Learn more about Alzheimer's in the Alzheimer's and Dementia Caregiver Center at alz.org/care. There you can also find more tips on supporting a family member with Alzheimer's, join the ALZConnected online community, and find more information about your local Alzheimer's Association chapter services and programs.

Marisa Korytko is the public relations director for the Alzheimer's Association Northeastern New York chapter. She can be reached at mkorytko@alz.org.

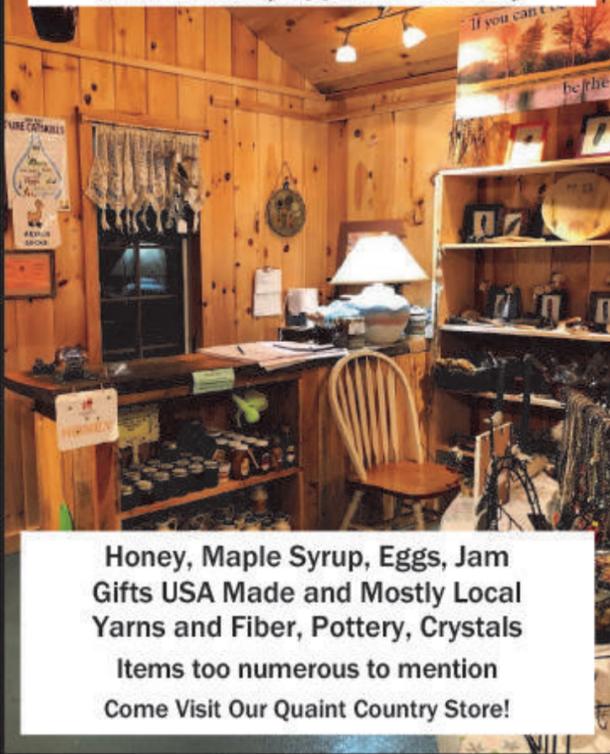
Cluckin' "A" Farm

680 West Road

Greenville, NY 12083

518-966-5157

Friday & Saturday 12 noon until 5:00
other times by appointment only



Honey, Maple Syrup, Eggs, Jam
Gifts USA Made and Mostly Local
Yarns and Fiber, Pottery, Crystals
Items too numerous to mention
Come Visit Our Quaint Country Store!

The Greenville PIONEER

Mark Vinciguerra
PRESIDENT

Warren Dews, Jr.

PUBLISHER
wdewsjr@gmail.com

Melanie Lekocevic

EDITOR
melaniel23@icloud.com

news@greenvillepioneer.com • www.greenvillepioneer.com
413-212-0130

ADVERTISING - All advertising requests must be made one week in advance.

NEWS DESK - News items must be received twelve days prior to publication.

OBITUARIES - Obituaries must be confirmed with a funeral home.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - Letters to the editor must include the author's name, address and daytime telephone number. Authors are limited to one letter every 30 days. Letters are published at the discretion of the editor and must be original content.

POSTMASTER - The Greenville Pioneer is published every other Friday by Capital Region Independent Media, 164 Main Street, Ravena, NY 12143. Periodicals postage paid at Greenville, NY 12083. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Greenville Pioneer, 149 Main Street, Ravena, NY 12143. The cost for a subscription is \$40 annually. For Customer Service issues call 413-212-0130 or email Wdewsjr@gmail.com



12077 STATE RT. 9W
WEST COXSACKIE, NY 12192

PHONE: 518-731-8008
COXSACKIEDENTIST.COM

NEWS MEDIA
ALLIANCE

REPORTERS, EDITORS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS
CREATE REAL NEWS. JOURNALISM YOU CAN TRUST.

#SupportRealNews

Police Blotter

Editor's Note: A charge is not a conviction. All persons listed are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Charges can be amended or dismissed.

STATE POLICE

■ Joel Couvertier, 40, of Round Top, was arrested April 9 at 9:16 p.m. in Cairo and charged with three counts of second-degree criminal contempt, a class A misdemeanor. His arrestee status was unknown.

■ Crystal Brunet, 42, of Utica, was arrested April 10 at 11:46 a.m. in Coxsackie and charged with second-degree introduction of contraband into a prison, a class A misdemeanor. She was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Kaitlyn Kortekaas, 27, of Cairo, was arrested April 10 at 8:40 p.m. in Cairo and charged with fourth-degree criminal mischief, a class A misdemeanor. She was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Richard Labrecque, 56, of Tannersville, was arrested April 10 at 3:27 p.m. in Tannersville and charged with second-degree criminal contempt, a class A misdemeanor. His arrestee status was unknown.

■ Gabriel DeJesus, 23, of Coxsackie, was arrested April 10 at 11:35 p.m. in Coxsackie and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a blood-alcohol content over 0.08%, an unclassified misdemeanor. He was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Malik Moran, 39, of Coxsackie, was arrested April 11 at 3:57 p.m. in Kingston and charged with aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle a class E felony, and operation of a motor vehicle with a blood-alcohol content over 0.08% and driving while intoxicated, both unclassified misdemeanors. He was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Pamela Coloton, 64, of Jewett, was arrested April 11 at 10:07 p.m. in Durham and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a blood-alcohol content over 0.08% and driving while intoxicated, both unclassified misdemeanors. She was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Anthony Harrell, 32, of Albany, was arrested April 11 at 11:49 a.m. in Catskill and charged with aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, a class E felony. He was released on his own recognizance.

■ Isiah Perez, 29, of Coxsackie, was arrested April 12 at 11:40 a.m. in Cairo and charged with first-degree prison contraband, a class D felony. He was held.

■ Kenneth Bowes, 62, of Cairo, was arrested April 12 at 6:28 p.m. in Cairo and charged with aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and operating a motor vehicle with a blood-alcohol content over 0.08%, both class E felonies; using another vehicle without an interlock device, a class A misdemeanor; and driving while intoxicated, an unclassified misdemeanor. He was released on his own recognizance.

■ Robert Stepper, 25, of Rensselaer, was arrested April 12 at 11:29 a.m. in Coxsackie and charged with second-degree aggravated harassment, a class A misdemeanor. He was released on his own recognizance.

■ Jeanette O'Neil, 45, of Catskill, was arrested April 14 at 3:13 a.m. in Catskill and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a blood-alcohol content over 0.08% and driving while intoxicated, both unclassified misde-

meanors. She was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Jessie Angel, 31, of Cairo, was arrested April 14 at 8:18 a.m. in Cairo and charged with second-degree criminal contempt, a class A misdemeanor. Her arrestee status was unknown.

■ Dameon Bodie, 40, of Coxsackie, was arrested April 15 at 12:37 p.m. in Cairo and charged with first-degree possession of dangerous prison contraband, a class D felony. He was held.

■ James Valentin, 53, of Cairo, was arrested April 15 at 11:38 p.m. in Cairo and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a blood-alcohol content over 0.08% and driving while intoxicated, an unclassified misdemeanor. He was released to a third party.

■ Keith Smith, 41, of Greenville, was arrested April 15 at 8:27 p.m. in Greenville and charged with third-degree criminal mischief, a class E felony, and third-degree assault with intent to cause physical injury, fourth-degree criminal mischief and endangering the welfare of a child, all class A misdemeanors. He was released on his own recognizance.

■ An unidentified 17-year-old female, of Selkirk, was arrested April 18 at 3:23 p.m. in Albany County and charged with first-degree reckless endangerment, a class D felony, and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon, a class A misdemeanor. She was issued an appearance ticket.

■ An unidentified 18-year-old male, of Ravena, was arrested April 18 at 3:23 p.m. in Ravena and charged with first-degree reckless endangerment, a class D felony, and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon, a class A misdemeanor. His arrestee status was unknown.

■ Shawntay Wellsey, 36, of Troy, was arrested April 18 at 5:40 p.m. in Catskill and charged with fourth-degree criminal mischief and third-degree bail jumping, both class A misdemeanors. He was held.

■ Aaron Bluschke, 48, of Earlton, was arrested April 19 at 1:13 a.m. in Coxsackie and charged with second-degree obstruction of governmental administration and resisting arrest, both class A misdemeanors, and driving while intoxicated, an unclassified misdemeanor. He was released on his own recognizance.

■ Troy Lynch, 28, of West Coxsackie, was arrested April 19 at 10:43 p.m. in Coxsackie and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a blood-alcohol content over 0.08% and driving while intoxicated, both unclassified misdemeanors. He was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Lisa Barbieri, 31, of Athens, was arrested April 20 at 10:28 a.m. in Cairo and charged with fourth-degree grand larceny, a class E felony. She was released on her own recognizance.

■ David Palmer, 40, of Athens, was arrested April 20 at 9:56 a.m. in Athens and charged with fourth-degree grand larceny, a class E felony. His arrestee status was unknown.

■ David Palmer, 40, of Catskill, was arrested April 20 at 9:56 a.m. in Athens and charged with third-degree criminal possession of a weapon, a class D felony. He was released on his own recognizance.

■ Anthony Younes, 24, of Windham, was arrested April 21 at 10:40 p.m. in Windham and

charged with operating a motor vehicle with a blood-alcohol content over 0.08% and driving while intoxicated, both unclassified misdemeanors. He was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Jadon Rose, 25, of Catskill, was arrested April 22 at 6:05 p.m. in Catskill and charged with endangering the welfare of a child and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon, both class A misdemeanors. He was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Jordan Dixon, 24, of Catskill, was arrested April 23 at 12:22 a.m. in Coxsackie and charged with second-degree bail jumping, a class E felony; fifth-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, a class D felony; and manufacture of drug-related paraphernalia, a class A misdemeanor. His arrestee status was unknown.

■ Perrin Tellock, 57, of Providence, Rhode Island, was arrested April 23 at 1:45 a.m. in Coxsackie and charged with seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, a class A misdemeanor. He was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Jeffrey Parish, 48, of Catskill, was arrested April 23 at 11:01 p.m. in Catskill and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a blood-alcohol content over 0.08% and driving while intoxicated, both unclassified misdemeanors. He was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Stacy Brodsky, 58, of Hunt-

er, was arrested April 23 at 11:08 p.m. in Hunter and charged with second-degree obstruction of governmental administration and resisting arrest, both class A misdemeanors, and driving while intoxicated, an unclassified misdemeanor. She was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Zackary Doyle-Engler, 28, of Gilboa, was arrested April 23 at 4:16 p.m. in Prattsville and charged with second-degree criminal contempt, a class A misdemeanor. Cash bail was set at an undisclosed amount.

■ Nakia Romeo, 43, of Voorheesville, was arrested April 23 at 6:36 p.m. in New Baltimore and charged with aggravated driving while intoxicated with a child, a class E felony; endangering the welfare of a child, a class A misdemeanor; and driving while intoxicated, an unclassified misdemeanor. She was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Shirlene Pechette, 51, of West Coxsackie, was arrested April 23 at 9:50 p.m. in New Baltimore and charged with driving while intoxicated and aggravated driving while intoxicated, both unclassified misdemeanors. She was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Jillian Rulison, 24, of East Durham, was arrested April 23 at 8:48 p.m. in Durham and charged with seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, a class A misdemeanor, and third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehi-

cle, an unclassified misdemeanor. She was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Rebecca Klob, 44, of Greenville, was arrested April 24 at 3:28 a.m. in Greenville and charged with driving while intoxicated, an unclassified misdemeanor. She was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Rebekah Briggs, 40, of Purling, was arrested April 25 at 1:55 p.m. in Cairo and charged with two counts of third-degree criminal mischief, a class E felony. She was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Giovanni Vargas, 26, was arrested April 26 at 12:12 p.m. in Cairo and charged with first-degree prison contraband, a class D felony. He was held.

■ Jodi Carey, 45, of Tannersville, was arrested April 26 at 6:55 p.m. in Tannersville and charged with third-degree assault, a class A misdemeanor. Her arrestee status was unknown.

■ Christopher Carey, 50, of Tannersville, was arrested April 26 at 6:57 p.m. in Tannersville and charged with third-degree assault, a class A misdemeanor. He was released on his own recognizance.

■ Ryan Wilsey, 31, of Ravena, was arrested April 27 at 9:21 p.m. in New Baltimore and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a blood-alcohol content over 0.08% and driving while intoxicated, both unclassified misdemeanors. He was issued an appearance ticket.



ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dale Ashby, Pastor
5830 State Rte. 81, Greenville NY 12083
518-966-4181
secretary.asburyumcny@gmail.com

In-Person Sunday Services & Sunday School

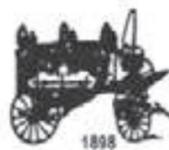
9:00 am

Services will be live streamed & also recorded to our YouTube channel – asburyumcgreenvillenyny each week.

Important information is posted on our website, www.asburyumc-greenvillenyny.com and our Facebook page, @asburyumc.greenville.ny as it becomes available.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

A.J. Cunningham Funeral Homes, Inc.



Our Family Serving Your Family for Over 115 years

Local Church Directory

First Baptist Church of Westerlo
Route 143, Westerlo
518-797-3927

Our Lady of Knock Shrine
State Route 145, East Durham
518-622-3319

Grapeville Baptist Church
Route 26, Climax
518-966-4265

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness
State Route 81, Greenville
518-966-8941

Preston Hollow Baptist Church
State Route 145, Preston Hollow
518-239-6544

Cornerstone Baptist Church
State Route 145, East Durham
518-634-7095

Dormansville United Methodist Church
Route 312, Dormansville
518-756-2812

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
County Route 41, Greenville Center
518-868-4043

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
State Route 81, Oak Hill
518-239-6727

Trinity Episcopal Church
Albany Hill Road, Rensselaerville
518-797-5295

Greenville Center Baptist Church
County Route 41, Greenville

Asbury United Methodist Church
State Route 81, Norton Hill
518-966-4181

Westerlo Reformed Church
State Route 143, Westerlo
518-797-3742

Durham-Oak Hill United Methodist Church
Route 22, Durham
518-239-6377

South Westerlo Congregational Christian Church
County Routes 403 & 406, South Westerlo
518-966-5094

Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church
Church Street, Cairo
518-622-3319

Medway Congregational Christian Church
Route 26, Climax
518-731-2106 & 518-731-8867

Greenville Christian Church
State Route 32, Greenville
518-966-4519

Medusa United Church of Christ
111 County Route 351, Medusa
518-239-4843

Christ Episcopal Church
State Route 32, Greenville
518-966-5713

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church
State Route 81, Greenville
518-966-8317

Send us your church listing!
news@greenvillepioneer.com

National Bank of Coxsackie launches new website

COXSACKIE – On March 25, the National Bank of Coxsackie launched its new Investor Relations website.

This effort was a part of the company's wide-spanning initiatives for 2022-25, aimed at continuing the growth/expansion of the National Bank of Coxsackie, while still enhancing shareholder value.

The new website will act as a repository for stock and financial figures, but will also include important news, FAQs and other updates.

NBC Bancorp, Inc. is a bank holding company and is the parent company of National Bank of Coxsackie. Investors in the National Bank of Coxsackie/NBC

Bancorp, Inc. will now be able to access relevant and up-to-date information on the status of their investment right through the Investor Relations website. Current stock quotes, charts, dividend histories, and even an investment calculator are all available right at their fingertips.

National Bank of Coxsackie President John A. Balli said he knows that providing this level of intuitive accessibility is key nowadays.

"Our new investor relations website is scalable, provides valuable financial information, promotes transparency and will serve our shareholders well as we grow," Balli said.

4898 SR 81 Greenville, NY 12083 • 518.966.8313
9 Main Street Ravena, NY 12143 • 518.756.3313

www.ajcunninghamfh.com

Curtis A. Cunningham - Scott M. Zielonko - Emily N. Evans

Bridge tolls up on Rip Van Winkle

By **Melanie Lekocevic**
Capital Region Independent Media

CATSKILL — Tolls on the Rip Van Winkle Bridge rose effective May 1.

Toll increases went into effect at all five of the bridges under the jurisdiction of the New York State Bridge Authority, including the Rip Van Winkle, Bear Mountain, Newburgh-Beacon, Mid-Hudson and Kingston-Rhinecliff bridges.

Costs are discounted for drivers with E-ZPass tags compared to those who do not have a tag and are billed by mail.

Cars, pick-up trucks and motorcycles with an E-ZPass tag now pay \$1.55, up 10 cents from the previous rate of \$1.45. Those billed by mail pay \$2, up a quarter from the previous \$1.75 rate.

Commercial vehicles, depending on how many axles, currently pay \$5.70 to \$17.10 per crossing with E-ZPass, which is an increase from \$5.30 to \$15.90. Those who are billed by mail pay \$7 to \$21, up from \$6 to \$18.



COURTESY OF NYS BRIDGE AUTHORITY

Tolls rose May 1 at the Rip Van Winkle Bridge and four other spans operated by the New York State Bridge Authority.

Drivers are charged at the electronic gantries on the Catskill side of the bridge; there is no toll for vehicles entering the bridge from the Hudson side.

“As part of a four-year, phased-in toll revision that started in 2020, rates will be increasing on May 1, 2022, and for a final time on May 1,

2023,” according to the New York State Bridge Authority.

The previous rates through April 30 were in effect since May 1, 2021.

The four-year phased-in toll increases began in 2020 when rates rose to \$1.25 for a discounted E-ZPass trip for a car or motorcycle, and cash payers paid \$1.50 for a trip across the bridge.

Rates are expected to rise again May 1, 2023, with E-ZPass customers paying \$1.65 per crossing, and Pay By Mail customers paying \$2.15.

The Rip Van Winkle Bridge is a 5,041-foot span that was first opened July 2, 1935, and connects Greene and Columbia counties.

When the bridge first opened in 1935, a trip across cost \$0.80 for passenger cars plus \$0.10 per passenger to a maximum of \$1, according to the Bridge Authority website. Trucks were charged between \$1 and \$1.50 and motorcycle drivers paid \$0.20, or \$0.35 with a sidecar. Tolls were charged in both directions, and there was a provision for one- and two-horse wagons as well.

Clematis Garden Club meeting, May 20

GREENVILLE — The Clematis Garden Club, of Greenville, is presenting Peter Bowden, popular radio, TV and garden personality and spokesman for Hewitt’s Garden Centers at the organization’s Friday, May 20, annual spring social at 1 p.m.

The event will be held at American Legion Post 291 at 58 Maple Ave., in Greenville.

Peter Bowden is a well-known, knowledgeable and humorous presenter and the Clematis Club welcomes the public to enjoy his presentation. Bowden will speak on “How Climate Change is Affecting Our Gardening” in the local gardening environment via a Power Point program. A question-and-answer session will follow.

Refreshments will be served followed by raffles and 50/50 drawings, rounding out the afternoon.

The Clematis Garden Club, a member of District, State and National Federated Garden Clubs provides education, resources, local civic beautification, networking and friendship to promote the love of gardening both inside and outside.

Clematis Garden Club is part of the largest volunteer gardening organization in the world and the 40 Clematis Club members are from Greene, Albany and Schoharie counties.

For more information, please call Jean at 518-966-4260.

Group files amended petition in Bosque lawsuit

By **Melanie Lekocevic**
Capital Region Independent Media

DURHAM — A local grassroots group filed an amended petition in its Article 78 lawsuit against the town board and the Bosque Development project.

The amended petition was filed by Cornwallville Residents for Rural Preservation on April 15.

An Article 78 proceeding is a legal challenge asking the court to repeal the decision of a governmental agency.

The grassroots group is asking the court to vacate the town board’s decision in the fall to issue a Negative Declaration of Significance determination for the project under the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

The board in late August and early October conducted the SEQRA review of the project over the course of two lengthy meetings and in October determined the development would have no impact or no significant impact on the surrounding community.

That decision spurred the grassroots group to file the Article 78 in court.

The Bosque housing development would build 12 high-end homes and a community barn in the Cornwallville Historic District. The property includes 95 acres, with two currently vacant plots proposed

to be subdivided to make a total of 13 lots for the siting of the 12 homes and the barn.

The project has generated substantial opposition from the local community with critics raising concerns about changing the character of the community, along with the project’s impact on traffic, water supply, lighting and other issues.

The amended petition was filed to include steps the town board has taken since issuing the negative declaration in the fall, including the approval of the preliminary plat and the town council’s decision to not reappoint Durham Historic Preservation Commission Chairman Patrick Ciccone, according to Margaret Doherty, one of the Article 78 petitioners.

The town board granted preliminary approval to Bosque’s plans in a 31-page resolution at its April 5 meeting.

Ciccone was not reappointed to his post earlier this year and said in March he believes the decision was directly tied to a letter from the historic group finding that the development would have significant impacts on the town’s historic district. In the wake of that town board decision, three of the historic commission’s remaining members — Ellen Fried, Rosemary O’Brien and Ken Mabey — resigned en masse in protest, leaving two members remaining on the commission.

Town attorney Tal Rappleyea confirmed at the board’s April 19 meeting that the town had received the amended petition, but said he could not comment on ongoing litigation.

“We did receive an amended petition in the lawsuit brought by the opponents to the Bosque subdivision and site plan,” Rappleyea said. “Obviously, we won’t walk about that in public. It’s just something we can’t comment on for litigation.”

Members of the group Cornwallville Residents for Rural Preservation own approximately 30 properties within the Cornwallville Historic District, with 12 of the properties directly adjoining the Bosque development site and several others in close proximity to the project, according to the group’s petition.

“CRRP members will be adversely impacted by the visual, noise and traffic impacts during the extended construction period and long-term residential use of the Bosque Development property,” according to the petition. “Moreover, they will be impacted because of the changes to the community character and degradation of the rural nature of the Cornwallville Historic District.”

The project was first proposed by Bosque Development in November 2020 and has been under review since that time.

Jan's Country Cuts



Walk-Ins Welcome

Call for an appointment
(518) 966-8349

BOOTH RENTERS CAN APPLY!

4841 NY-81 Greenville, NY
WED - SAT: OPEN 9:30AM-5PM • SUN - TUE: CLOSED

unvaccinated individuals must wear a mask

Carver
COMPANIES

The Pioneer of Integrative Solutions on Land and Sea



CONSTRUCTION



MARITIME



MATERIALS

Carver Companies fundamental belief has been to provide unparalleled service all while maintaining our values of honesty and integrity both on land and sea. We pride ourselves on our unmatched logistics services and superior products to our customers, partners and tenants. We work hard to inspire our diverse, well-rounded workforce and management team to always perform at the highest levels of safety and professionalism.

30+ Years
IN THE INDUSTRY

5 Ports
on the East Coast and Canada

2,000+ Pcs
OF EQUIPMENT

HEADQUARTERS: 494 WESTERN TURNPIKE | ALTAMONT, NY | 518.355.6034

WWW.CARVERCOMPANIES.COM



MELANIE LEKOCEVIC/CAPITAL REGION INDEPENDENT MEDIA

The village planning board, pictured, has begun its review of the amended site plan for the Empire Riverfront Ventures project in downtown Cossackie.



MELANIE LEKOCEVIC/CAPITAL REGION INDEPENDENT MEDIA

The Newbury Hotel project was originally approved as a four-story structure, but five stories have been built. The developer has submitted an area variance request and amended site plan for the project.

Hotel project under scrutiny as review process reopens

By Melanie Lekocevic
Capital Region Independent Media

COXSACKIE — The village planning board has begun its review of an amended site plan for The Newbury hotel project in downtown Cossackie.

The project has come under fire for not complying with the original site plan that was approved by the planning board in 2019, including exceeding village height requirements and building a fifth story when four were approved under the original site plan.

The new engineering firm hired this year for the multi-million-dollar construction project, Sterling Environmental Engineering, presented the amended site plan at a planning board meeting held in the auditorium of Cossackie-Athens High School on April 21.

In addition to the amended site plan, the firm also applied for an area variance with the village's Zoning Board of Appeals.

Planning Board Chairman Robert Van Valkenburg said the documents submitted by Sterling and the developer, Aaron Flach and Empire Riverfront Ventures, are currently under review.

Andrew Millspaugh, vice president of Sterling Environmental Engineering, presented the amended plan to the planning board Thursday. Another engineering firm submitted the original site plan in 2019, Millspaugh said.

Among the changes in the amended site plan is the addition of a 2,000 square foot kitchen addition;

a wrap-around deck on the north side of The Wire, the development's event center; and a larger footprint and height increase, including the fifth story of the structure.

Under the original plan, an old building on the site was to remain, the roof removed and three additional stories built on top of it, for a total of four stories. But according to the amended site plan that was not feasible and a new, larger building was constructed instead.

"The original approval was for the 6,000 square foot existing footprint of the office space of the foundry that was there, with plans to add three stories above that," Millspaugh said. "During the geotechnical and structural evaluation of that building, it was determined that it was unsuitable for reuse. The site plan amendment includes an increase in the footprint and an additional floor for five stories, which is what results in the need for the area variance with the ZBA."

The amended plan also calls for an increase in the number of parking spaces that would be provided from 160 to 218. To accommodate this increase, the developer is in talks with a neighboring property owner to purchase or lease land on which the parking spaces would be sited.

Mary Beth Bianconi, of Delaware Engineering, which works for the village, said the materials submitted by the applicant for the amended site plan are currently under review.

The project appears to be classified as a Type 1 action under the

State Environmental Quality Review Act, or SEQRA, which would require the long form environmental assessment — an extensive review of a project's impact on the surrounding community and environment, and is required under New York state law, Bianconi said.

The planning board voted unanimously on a resolution declaring the project a Type 1 action under SEQRA and its intention to serve as lead agency for the review.

Attorney Robert Stout, of the Albany-based law firm Whiteman, Osterman and Hanna, who represents the village, explained the review of the amended site plan and the area variance come under the jurisdiction of two different village entities — the site plan will be reviewed by the planning board, but before that board can make a determination, the zoning board of appeals will first have to decide on whether the request for a height variance for the hotel should be approved.

Resident Kim McLean asked how a project of this scope could be partially built without conforming to the original plan — and how no one caught the discrepancy before now.

"During the past couple of years, something seems to have gone terribly awry," McLean said. "I don't think anybody wants to see a vacant building on the river in downtown Cossackie that is too expensive to tear down and too expensive to complete. I think it is appropriate to ask how a project of this size got away from everybody."

Speaker Michael Finnegan wanted clarification on what was actually approved by the village back in 2019.

"My opinion is that it is too large, too high and not in keeping with the character of the neighborhood or the town. That is an opinion and it doesn't really matter at this point because duly elected folks and duly appointed people rendered a decision based on facts as they knew them at the time," Finnegan said. "What matters is what are the facts with regard to what was approved."

Finnegan inquired about several facets of the project, including how many hotel rooms were approved, the height of the building and the footprint.

Van Valkenburg responded that the planning board in 2019 approved 40 rooms and a building height of 45 feet. Millspaugh explained the increase in the footprint of the hotel.

"What was represented in the application was the footprint in the approved plan from 2019 for the hotel was 6,280 square feet and the footprint that is represented in the current submitted plan based on survey drawings is 8,460 square feet," Millspaugh said.

Finnegan asked how many stories were approved for the hotel.

Bianconi read from the original site plan that was approved in 2019, which indicated a four-story building was approved.

The building that is now partially built is five stories.

Finnegan said he does not chal-

lenge what the planning board initially approved, and that the developer should be required to comply with the terms of the original site plan.

"What this board approved is what should be built there," Finnegan said. "My personal opinion is that everything that exceeds that original approval should be removed. That includes the top floor, that includes additional square footage, whatever is in violation of the original approval should not be approved."

Resident Nathan Tailleu asked if there was legal precedent to issue an area variance for a building that has already been constructed.

"It would appear that a variance granted retroactively would be legally dubious, or are there similar cases which have happened where a variance is granted after the fact, a town resident sues, and what do the courts tend to decide?" Tailleu asked. "Do those variances stand up?"

Stout responded that the zoning board of appeals would have to make a determination using the same criteria that would apply to all such variances.

"It is possible to consider an area variance after the fact," Stout said. "Certainly it is not ideal, it is not how a variance should be handled, but there is precedent that exists throughout the state where that has occurred in the past."

The project remains under review at this time.

Cairo to reopen recycling center

By Melanie Lekocevic
Capital Region Independent Media

CAIRO — The Cairo Recycling Center will reopen after being closed since fall 2020.

The facility could be reopened by June, Town Supervisor Jason Watts said.

The town council voted April 20 by a 4-1 margin to reopen the facility. Watts and councilmembers MaryJo Cords, Michael Flaherty and Debra Bogins voted in favor of the resolution to reopen the recycling center. Town Councilman Tim Powers voted against it.

A similar resolution failed to pass at the board's previous meeting with an abbreviated board in attendance. Watts and Bogins were not at the meeting and the measure failed by a 2-1 vote in favor. A majority of the board must vote for a resolution to pass. Powers was the lone dissenter that time as well.

Watts presented the resolution a second time at the April 20 meeting.

"We will put it through again and see if it passes," Watts said. "I got a lot of feedback and phone calls from people."

Watts and Cords have said several times that numerous people have contacted the board asking that the facility be reopened.

The recycling facility, originally sited at Angelo Canna Town Park, was closed in October 2020 by a unanimous vote of the board because people were dropping trash, furniture and other items into the dumpster, which then had to be disposed of into the normal domestic garbage stream and the town was charged fees. There were also incidents of park staff being "harassed" by facility users, according to the 2020 resolution.

Powers said he feared the same problems would occur again.

"I asked you [Jason Watts] last week when I spoke with you if you were able to



MELANIE LEKOCEVIC/CAPITAL REGION INDEPENDENT MEDIA

The Cairo Town Council voted April 20 to approve the reopening of the town's recycling center at Angelo Canna Town Park.

get a guarantee from the county that the town wasn't going to be charged if that dumpster has to be emptied [into the regular trash stream]," Powers said to Watts.

Watts responded that he did not get confirmation of that from the county. Powers said he spoke with county officials about the issue.

"They said what they are looking for is it has to be fully secured, it needs to be fully manned when it is open, and if those dumpsters have to be emptied it is going to cost us \$115 per ton," Powers said. "So again, I am asking — why are we putting in a repetitive service?"

In previous meetings Powers said local residents have other options for disposing of

their recyclables, including the county transfer stations where both trash and recyclables are accepted, and through private trash hauling services.

Watts reiterated that he has been called by numerous residents asking for the recycling center to be reopened and said if the town is charged for disposing of trash and unrecyclable items, he would cover the cost himself.

"I keep getting asked about it," Watts said. "I also said if we get charged that I personally would pay the bill and then it will go after that. We made a big deal about it and I am hoping the town learned a lesson from it. I think a lot of people will keep more of an eye out because a lot of people don't want to lose the recycling center."

Powers said even if that is the case, reopening the facility will bring other costs for local taxpayers.

"We are still looking at the expense of putting up a higher fence so people can't get over the back fence to dump stuff in there at night," Powers said. "We are probably going to have to increase police patrols in the park to make sure nobody is in there, or put up a surveillance camera, plus pay somebody to man it when it is open."

At the previous town council meeting the board voted to increase the hours of a part-time town employee to full-time, with his increased duties including both staffing the recycling facility and cemetery maintenance.

Powers balked at the cost of the fence that would enclose the dumpster so off-hours dumping of inappropriate items would be prevented.

"OK, but how do we pay for this fence? Do we expect the other 6,000 people in the town to pay for that just because the handful of people that you talked to want it?" Powers asked.

Cords said there were a substantial number of people asking for the reopening.

"It's not a handful," Cords said. "We have had a lot of people come to our meetings to ask for it to be reopened."

Watts added the county would also look to see if there was old fencing that could be donated to the town for use at the recycling facility.

The vote passed by a 4-1 margin and the facility, which will again be located at Angelo Canna Town Park, could reopen in June, Watts said.

"I don't think it should reopen until everything is in place," Powers said, "including the fencing."

Wright's
CART-AWAY
Dumpster Rentals Made Easy!
Commercial & Residential
• Construction • Demolition • Roofing • Clean-Out Work
Cartaway, LLC is located in Glenmont, NY
518-439-0533

COLDWELL BANKER
PRIME PROPERTIES
60 Bryant's Plaza, Greenville, NY
518-966-4900 • CBPrime.com
Your Real Estate Connection

Simplified. Woods. XGenetics.
Kubota Zetor
GREENVILLE
SAW SERVICE, INC.
5040 Rt. 81 West • Greenville, NY 12083
Tel. 518-966-4346 • Fax 518-966-4647
JOHN BENSON, President
www.greenvillesaw.com

Letters to the Editor

Board of education election

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my support for Jay Goodman and Dave Finch for the upcoming Greenville Board of Education election.

I am supporting Jay and Dave because I know they share a strong and genuine commitment to the children and families of our community. They are focused on making sure our kids have opportunities to learn, grow, and succeed in whatever they choose in life. They know that this means supporting teachers and staff so they have the tools and resources they need to do their jobs well. They advocate and do the hard work to make sure our children have the best educational experience possible — balanced with careful consideration for the impact on local taxpayers and the realities of external factors like state laws and regulations.

As the parent of three children who attended Greenville schools, with my youngest currently at the high school, I have attended many school board and budget meetings over the years. I've

seen what a big job it is to serve as a member of the School Board, and I have a deep appreciation for the people who take on this role on behalf of our entire community. Not only do Jay and Dave have the dedication to do this job, but they have the knowledge, experience, and skills to do it well. They are collaborative, fair, and transparent. I've been really impressed recently with the information Jay has shared on his Facebook page to help community members learn more about the school budget. Both Jay and Dave have made themselves available to anyone who wants to learn more about their values, experience and ideas for our schools.

I hope that everyone will take the time to learn more about all the candidates and to cast their vote in this important election. I am confident that Jay Goodman and Dave Finch are the best candidates for Greenville Board of Education and I will be proud to cast my votes for them!

Rachel de Long
Greenville

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter of support for Jay Goodman and David Finch for the GCS Board of Education. I encourage all members of our community to come out to vote on May 17th from 1 to 9 p.m. in the Greenville Ellis Cafeteria.

Please do your research and exercise your civic duty, voting in the best interest of our children and the future of our school community.

It is critical to understand the role of the Board of Education. Their role is not to change state policy but to understand it and implement it fairly in the best interest of the school community.

The Board's role IS to:

- Cooperate to create a shared vision for the future of the school district

- Provide the resources necessary for students to achieve academic excellence and personal growth

- Develop a budget that will provide those resources.

- Keep open lines of communication with the larger district community

- Support a healthy school district environment for work and learning

In order to provide these necessary aims, a board member must be:

- An effective communicator
- A consensus builder
- A community participant
- A thoughtful decision maker
- An information processor
- A team player

Jay Goodman and David Finch meet these characteristics. If re-elected Jay Goodman and David Finch will continue to bring thoughtful, research-based guidance free of personal ideologies. They will continue to provide careful guidance in balancing the budget with a conservative approach that will not hurt the quality of education while providing meaningful tax relief.

Please turn out to vote on May 17th. A vote for Jay Goodman and David Finch is a vote for the future of our school and our community.

Emma E. McAneny
Westerlo

To the Editor:

If you live in the Greenville School District, I encourage you to vote in a very critical school board election on May 17th and urge you to SUPPORT candidates JAY GOODMAN and DAVE FINCH.

Dave Finch and Jay Goodman are both running for re-election. In addition to the experience they bring as incumbent members of the board, with Jay's background as an attorney and Dave's background as a teacher, they also bring invaluable experience with law and education. They have a proven history of creating fair, balanced budgets while not compromising their first priority, the education of the students. They vote with transparen-

cy, a listening ear, and a voice of reason. They have served diligently on our board during this turbulent pandemic period, sometimes under a great deal of stress from highly emotionally charged parents and they have done so with dignity and respect for others. Their willingness to serve another term after all this is a testament to their character.

Don't become complacent thinking this vote doesn't affect you or by thinking others will carry the vote; the future of your community is at stake.

Keep the FOCUS ON EDUCATION. Vote for Jay Goodman and Dave Finch on May 17th.

Elizabeth Nicosia-Britton
Project for Learning Inc.

To the Editor:

If you live in the Greenville School District, I want to let you know about a very important school board election on May 17th and urge you to support candidates JAY GOODMAN AND DAVE FINCH.

Both Jay and Dave have served on the board for the past three years, during what we can all agree has been an especially challenging time for our public schools. Jay and Dave, along with the rest of the GCSD board, helped maintain consistency in our schools and continued to do their job in putting together a fiscally responsible school budget and promoting a sound education for our children. They are both focused on improving GCSD schools to provide the best education experience for all students and improve our programs where needed.

Jay brings experience in negotiating, building consensus, problem solving, and de-

veloping strategy and policies through his career as an attorney and through volunteer work in Greenville and the greater Capital Region.

Dave has expertise in education as a retired Coxsackie school teacher (he is also the husband of a retired GCSD teacher) and in finance as a 20-year board member of a credit union.

The best thing for our school is consistency and a team that works well together. The volunteer members that make up the current GCSD board come from a variety of political and professional backgrounds. Each person brings their own perspective and expertise to the table, and they work constructively together for the good of ALL GCSD students. I am urging you to vote on May 17 for Jay Goodman and Dave Finch so they may continue the good work that has only just begun.

Jenn and Rob Dawson
Greenville

To the Editor:

A lot of people vote in general and local elections, but miss school votes. The Greenville School Board vote on May 17 this year is a critical one. I encourage ALL voters to turn out for this important school board cycle, cast their vote for Goodman & Finch, stand up to the tsunami of abuse the Bucci candidates and their supporters have waged against our school leaders since 2020, and help our District emerge from the pandemic united and stronger instead of polarized and weakened.

Also, if you DO diligently turn out for school votes, fill your car with registered friends who don't and bring them along! Voting is May 17 from 1 to 9 p.m. in the Greenville Ellis Elementary Cafeteria (at the corner of 32 and 81).

These are my top four reasons that I'm voting for Jay Goodman and David Finch — as a strategic joint ticket — and why I think you should, too:

1) Jay and David are both experienced leaders and incumbent members of the Board of Education that have helped to deliver balanced budgets in the past, and are eager to serve again for the greater good even after the brutality they've endured from the community during the madness of the pandemic. This is a telling testament to their character and their dedication to our school and kids, and ought not be taken for

granted.

2) The two Bucci Brothers on the school board ballot are running on a platform of chaos, which our schools don't need any more of after the last two years. James-bucci.com describes an agenda that simultaneously ignores State health mandates (in which case the school would lose millions in state funding), cuts taxes (but what school programs would they cut to balance the budget?), aims to rewrite the Common Core (which has already been replaced with NextGen standards), and more word salad I won't wade into the mud to tread. None of the decision making or jurisdiction for these initiatives rests with the local Board of Education — it would only introduce conflict in meetings, and be counterproductive to the important business the Board DOES need to get through.

If the Bucci's are sincere about making progress on their platform, and not just making a stink, they ought to take it to Albany instead of Greenville where State education policy is made. This misdirection suggests the Bucci's don't understand the basics of the offices to which they seek to be elected. And further, their public behavior suggests more than a lack of understanding — but a dark willfulness to disturb the peace at our school. The Bucci ticket is not one that will lead the school; it's a ticket that will tear it apart. To illustrate this point, look to the public record:

EXHIBIT A. Obtained via FOIA, James Bucci is the second signature on this threat against the members of the school board in February 2022: tinyurl.com/bucci22

EXHIBIT B. You'll notice that the other signatories from Exhibit A are amongst those that disrupted school days with on-campus protests in February, resulting in the Middle School and High School going remote before President's Week. The disturbance made the regional evening news: tinyurl.com/GCSCloses

3) As grateful as I am that two additional, fresh and very respectable members of our community are willing to step up and oppose the Bucci's, I'm strategically voting for the incumbents this year and hoping those new candidates will stick with it to run next year when the next two seats are up for election (and longtime incumbents may be less likely to seek re-election). This would avoid splitting what I perceive to be "the vote of reason" in favor of the Bucci's in a tight race and an exceptionally polarized year.

4) I'm concerned that if the toxic politics of the Bucci ticket win in this school election, it will reinforce and embolden the rising tide of anti-science, xenophobic, fragile politics in our area. These politics don't belong in public schools, and we need ALL VOTERS to turn out and defend our schools from it whether you have kids in the District or not. If you want to live in a world where reasonable, fact-checking, well-educated people lead it, start with the schools.

Please turn out to vote at Greenville Elementary May 17, and vote Goodman and Finch!

Sarah Gordon
Rensselaerville

THE PUBLIC NEEDS THE TRUTH; NOT SOCIAL MEDIA HEADLINES & FAKE NEWS.



KELLY'S PHARMACY
The Pharmacy That Puts You First



MEDICATION SERVICES

- Prescription Refills and Transfers
- Home Delivery
- Compounding
- Compounding for Pets
- Durable Medical Equipment
- Erectile Dysfunction Medication
- Immunizations
- Medication Adherence
- Medication Synchronization
- Medication Therapy Management
- Prescriptions for Pets
- Supplies for Physician offices

OVER THE COUNTER

- Pain Medication
- Cold and Allergy Medication
- Vitamins and Supplements
- Oral Health Products
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- First Aid Items
- Cosmetics
- School and Office Supplies
- Infant Care
- Hair Care
- Shower and Bath Items
- Sunscreen and Bug Spray

CARDS & GIFTS

- Home Decor
- Greeting Cards
- Special Occasion Items
- Seasonal Gifts
- Kid's Toys
- Candles
- Gift Cards
- Scarves, Purses and Tote Bags



Voted The Best Pharmacy in
Greene County For Two Years Running.
This award ceremony is put on by Greene County Chamber
of Commerce and voted on by Greene County residents.

TWO LOCATIONS:

4852 Route 81,
Greenville, NY 12083
518-966-4800

34 Hope Plaza,
West Coxsackie, NY 12192
518-731-4800

MATTRESS BY APPOINTMENT RAVENA

50% to 80% Less than retail stores

Anne Adams & Mike Adams

We have a warehouse showroom

TO SET A TIME TO MEET GO TO...

www.mbaravena.com

CALL / TEXT

ANNE 518-852-9379 MIKE 518-852-0071

COLLINS & SON

TRUCKING & EXCAVATING

SITE WORK • LAND CLEARING
SEPTIC SYSTEMS • ROLL-OFFS & MORE
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL • FULLY INSURED



COLLINS & SON, INC. - A NAME YOU CAN TRUST
In Business Since 1966 • Family Owned & Operated

BOOK A JOB NOW & SAVE

518-756-2070

Vandalism spurs bathroom closure

By Melanie Lekocevic

Capital Region Independent Media

CAIRO — Vandalism at the public bathrooms at Angelo Canna Town Park prompted the town council to close the facility for a portion of the time.

To provide a bathroom facility during off-hours, the council approved the rental of a port-a-potty at a cost of \$2,535 a year.

The permanent bathrooms at the park have been vandalized numerous times, causing costly damage, Town Supervisor Jason Watts said at the April 20 meeting of the council.

"We went through almost \$1,000 worth of stuff," Watts said. "Urinals, soap dispensers have been broken. There was feces all over the walls."

Other forms of vandalism included foreign objects being pushed down into the toilets, Watts said.

"We had cones stuffed in the toilet, rolls of toilet paper stuffed into them. It's every time we turn around," the town supervisor said.

The facility had to be pressure washed and Watts proposed that after that is done, the bathrooms be closed overnight.

"I am going to propose a resolution that would let us get a port-a-potty down there — it costs \$2,535 for the whole year and we would open the bathrooms up during the day when people are around to at least watch it a little bit," Watts said. "If there are any events, we would open up the bathrooms, but we can't keep replacing everything inside these bathrooms."

Watts said he spoke with the Little League coaches, who agreed to lock the bathroom doors after they finish games and practices so the bathrooms will remain closed during off-hours.

There are surveillance cameras in the park, but the vandalism is taking place inside the bathrooms, where cameras would not be permitted.

"We have cameras there, but we don't know what is going on inside the bathroom," Watts said.

No arrests have been made at this

time, Watts said.

The town council voted unanimously to approve the rental of a portable toilet from Big Top for \$2,535 for year-round use.

"We use it anyway during the winter-time because we shut the building down, but this will give us a place where we can lock the doors and someone can still go to the bathroom," Watts said.

Deputy Town Supervisor Mary-Jo Cords asked if the town could use a portion of its COVID-19 relief funds, awarded by the federal government, to pay for the portable toilet since it is a hygiene issue.

Watts said he will look into the matter.

In other parks news, Watts said he is considering using one of the town park's basketball courts for a dual use — as a pickleball court.

Pickleball is a sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong, and is played on a badminton-sized court with a modified tennis net, using a paddle and a plastic ball with holes, ac-

cording to USA Pickleball.

The sport is growing in popularity and can be played by people of all ages.

"There is a basketball court down at the town park, the one closest to the walking path, which is twice the size of the basketball court than we really need," Watts said. "I have been having a lot of people asking for pickleball. I went to Coxsackie, where they have a pickleball court — there was a line of people waiting to play pickleball, and they were of all ages. I guess it's a lot easier on your joints and it's more personable."

The existing basketball court can accommodate both sports with minor modification, the town supervisor said.

"I measured it out and the court is big enough for both a basketball court and two pickleball courts, so I want to get some pricing to see how much it would cost to just paint lines and the nets, for something else for people to do in the town park," Watts said.

He will provide costs and another update at the board's next meeting, he said.

Public hearing draws questions on solar law, viewshed

By Melanie Lekocevic

Capital Region Independent Media

GREENVILLE — A public hearing April 18 drew questions and comments on both the proposed amended solar law and the viewshed committee that is being established.

The hearing, officially to discuss the amendments to the town's law regulating commercial solar facilities, also drew attention to the viewshed committee that is now in the works.

Resident Anita Zibura asked how the two are interconnected.

"Can a request go in to put in a solar farm and if the committee has not yet determined where the viewshed should be, they cannot put a viewshed in after the fact, after the solar has been approved?" Zibura asked.

Town Councilman Joel Rauf explained the committee — which has not yet been set up but is in the works — would look at scenic areas of the town and determine which of them should be protected from development, including solar projects.

"The whole purpose of the future committee is to get out in front of this so we can determine what is valuable to us for our scenic view," Rauf said.

Town Councilman Travis Richards said there are no proposed solar projects looking to come into the town at this time.

"So I think this is the most important time to do this, when there is nothing on the horizon," Richards said.

The goal of the amended commercial solar law is to put updated rules in place in the event a solar array developer does want to come into the town, Rauf said.

Town Supervisor Paul Macko explained that if the town ultimately adopts the amended solar law, it would affect any new commercial solar developments looking to come into the community.

"This is part of our zoning law so anyone that wants to build a commercial solar array can't exceed these guidelines," Macko said. "This is for anybody that wants to develop a commercial solar array, this is part of the zoning law and this is the criteria they have

to meet. We don't have one in the works right now. This would be the bylaws and the rules and regulations to come in and place one within the town of Greenville."

The scenic viewshed committee is a separate, but related, issue. It would help to establish viewshed areas the town deems worthy of protection from solar or any other type of development.

"It's not specific to solar, but it is areas that would be protected for different reasons," Richards said.

The town currently has two state-designated New York State Scenic Byways, which are overseen by the Department of Transportation. There are 47 roads statewide designated as scenic by the state, with two of them in Greenville, according to the DOT website. They are 0.45 miles on county Route 35, and 0.8 miles on Platte Kill Road.

The town, however, is looking to designate its own areas of the community that should be protected as scenic areas under town law.

"We are probably in the coming weeks going to set up a committee where the committee can take a look at what we have to offer,"

Town Supervisor Paul Macko said. "We are fortunate that we are at the base of the Catskill Mountains and there are a lot of fantastic views... It's a million-dollar view."

A resident in the audience asked how big a proposed solar facility would be able to be, under the amended solar law that is being considered.

"The maximum size is 25 acres," Richards responded.

Resident Debra Macko asked how visible any new solar facilities would be from the road.

"Is it going to be where you drive down the road and there it is?" Debra Macko asked. "Or is it going to be off the beaten path? So far everything we see is right there, out in the open, and it's taking away our view of the landscape."

Town Councilman John Bensen said there are solar facilities in the area that are so far off the road that most people don't even know they are there.

"There are actually two that you don't see. Both are in Albany County — one is on North Road and you can't even see it from almost anywhere, it's back in the

woods," Bensen said. "The other one is up in Smith's Corners, and that is off the road quite a ways too, and you don't really notice that one unless you are looking for it. So they are sited pretty good."

Rauf added that frequently it is difficult to assess the size because of how the solar facilities are built.

"You don't realize how big it is," Rauf said. "The biggest set of panels at the intersection of [Route] 405 and Route 32, you can't see — you don't even know it is there, it is up on the top of the hill. It is double the size of what you can see."

The town board did not vote on the proposed amended solar law April 18 because the law had been sent to the Greene County Planning Board for its consideration. The town board may take a vote at the board's May 16 meeting depending on the county planning board's determination, Paul Macko said.

"Simply put, this is the ounce of prevention so we don't need a pound of cure," Rauf said. "It's absolutely being proactive."

HAPPINESS IS A WARM PUPPY AND A WARM HEART

Fuel Oil with a 30 Mile Delivery Service & Competitive Pricing
OR Switch from Oil to LP/Natural Gas - same day in some cases!

OUR FORMULA FOR SUCCESS IS VERY SIMPLE:

Low Prices + Quality Products + Great Service = Happy Customers



13640 US RT 9W
HANNACROIX, NY
WWW.CA-ALBRIGHT.COM

C.A. ALBRIGHT & SONS
EST. 1911 LLC

AUTO REPAIR • FUEL OIL • PROPANE
HEATING & COOLING SYSTEMS

518-756-3127



Chasin' Racin'

Britten claims 1st win of season at Albany Saratoga Speedway

By Mark Kane

For Capital Region Independent Media

I would have to say that the 2022 season opener at the "Great Race Place," Albany Saratoga Speedway, was a great success for all involved.

From the promoter side, the pits were packed, with overflow in the parking lot with over 175 cars making their way to the Malta speed plant that is celebrating its 57th year of racing. The fans were there early and they kept coming as the grandstands were filled with eager race fans that had some parking out on Route 9 and they were treated to a great night of non-stop racing action.

For the drivers it was a great payday on a really great early season racing surface that has seen its fair share of rain.

ALBANY SARATOGA SPEEDWAY

With extra money on the line, many top invaders made their way to the track and into the starting field including Larry Wight, Smith Racing Team cars of Darren Smith and Billy Decker, Danny Creedon, Mike Maresca, Jeff Taylor, Tim Fuller, Ryan McCartney and Chas Wolbert.

Wolbert made the long haul from Ohio for his maiden voyage in a Modified after moving up from Sportsman. Max McLaughlin, Kevin Root and Tim Murphy failed to make the feature.

With 43 NAPA Modifieds in the pits the draw was important and it was no easy chore for anyone to make their way into the 30-car heads-up starting field with the strong contingent of outsiders as well as the tough Albany Saratoga weekly NAPA Modified field. Heat race action found Matt DeLorenzo, Peter Britten, Anthony Perrego and Larry Wight picking up wins during the hotly contested heats that saw some big names going to the two consi's. The consi's were won by Ronnie Johnson after a spirited race with Matt Sheppard and James Meehan picking up consi 2 win.

It seems as if Peter Britten, the 2017 track champion, enjoys opening nights at Albany Saratoga after "Batman" picked up his third opening night win and the \$6,500 that went along with it after a great battle with early race leader Matt DeLorenzo as the two veterans ran hard and clean through lap traffic.

At the drop of the green it was DeLorenzo grabbing the early lead with Britten holding down a close second, with tight racing



CHASIN' RACIN' PHOTOS

Billy Decker came from deep in the pack to claim the hard-charger award.



CHASIN' RACIN' PHOTO

Peter Britten with Lyle DeVore after picking up the Albany Saratoga Speedway opener.

behind the leaders inside the top 5. The caution flew on lap 3 as James Meehan slowed.

Once back to green, DeLorenzo remained the leader with Britten, Larry Wight, Anthony Perrego, and Jessej Mueller holding down the top 5. On the move was 2020 champion Mike Mahaney as he moved into the top 5.

After working their way into the feature by way of the consi, Matt Sheppard and Billy Decker were picking their way through the tough field from the 25th and 27th starting spots. There was plenty of racing action throughout the field with a smooth 2- and 3-groove racing surface.

As the laps clicked away, DeLorenzo using the high side and Britten low remained the class of the field and started to put some real estate between themselves and the field as the battle in the top 5 was tight.

Once in heavy lap traffic Wight, 2021 champion Perrego, and Mahaney started to reel back in the leaders. In traffic, DeLorenzo would move to the bottom and continued to hold off a determined Britten, who was all over

the leader.

Just before the halfway mark the caution was out for Rich Ronca, who slowed and headed pit side. Once back to green DeLorenzo was on the bottom as Britten powered his way to the high side and got a great run down the back chute and would be the new leader at the flag stand. DeLorenzo fired right back but could only get to Britten's door as they ran nerf bar to nerf bar and could not make the pass as Britten remained the leader.

Mike Maresca was making his presence felt working his way into the top 5. Back in the pack Sheppard was still on the charge as he worked his way into the top 10 and was looking for more on the top side. With less than a handful of laps left, DeLorenzo was looking to get the lead back but lap traffic came into play, taking away his line as Britten held on for the popular win with DeLorenzo holding on for a fine second as Wight, Mahaney and Maresca — who has had a very good start in the 2022 season with many solid runs — rounded out the top 5. Sheppard ended up the night with a fine 8th and Billy Decker would finish 10th, both receiving the hard-charger award.

Other racing action found Cody Ochs picking up his first ever Sportsman win and the \$2,000 paycheck that went with it grabbing the early lead and never looking back with a great run.

The true veteran of the Pro Stocks across the Northeast, Rob Yetman, was the class of the field and put the \$1,000 paycheck in his pocket. Once again the Rookie Sportsman came to the track strong in numbers and it was Chris Crane Jr. picking up the



CHASIN' RACIN' PHOTOS

Matt DeLorenzo and Peter Britten race nerf bar to nerf bar for the lead, with Britten getting the spot and the win.



CHASIN' RACIN' PHOTOS

Cody Ochs grabbed the early lead and never looked back to claim his first-ever win at Albany Saratoga Speedway.

hard fought win with Paul Braymer holding on to win the Street Stocks.

BILLY 'THE KID' PAUCH

Back on April 9, Billy "The Kid" Pauch won an exciting feature at the Bridgeport Speedway, while finishing second was the "Kid's" kid, Billy Pauch Jr.

I understand drivers want to go out on top, not just fade away into the sunset and not be competitive as many do. For men like Billy Pauch, racing is in your blood and so is winning. One thing for sure — no fan would ever think Billy was anything but a champion.

Picking up a total of over 745 wins and numerous championships along the way behind the wheel of Big Block and Small Block Modifieds on the tough Pennsylvania and New Jersey tracks, Sprints, Asphalt Modifieds, Speedsters and as a racer's racer, I bet a few shopping carts at the store. Billy Pauch was and still is one of the very best at what he does, winning at 33 tracks in seven different states.

Here in New York we did not get to see much of the "The Kid," but when we did, all you could see was a hard-driving, elbows-up driver with a passion to race and win. He would dominate the big races out at the Fulton Speedway for years and brought the crowd to their feet when he beat the World of Outlaws at their own game at the Syracuse mile in 1994 and set the all-time fastest lap.

Well, my friends, if you never had the chance to witness the driving talents of Mr. Pauch, you may never have that chance. At 65 years young "The Kid" will be cutting back, as he says, and climbed from his Modified for the

last time. As I assume retirement is not a word in his vocabulary, keep your eyes open as he might just show up at a Speedsters race. I guess we will see. Over my years as a race fan, I have been lucky enough to witness some of the very best to ever turn left and Billy "The Kid" is one of them. The only ones that may be happy to see him walk away from the sport are his fellow drivers, as at 65 he is still showing them the fast way around a track. Then again, as a driver you want to beat the best so they too will miss "The Kid." There is a book that will be coming out May 15 by Buffy Swanson called "The Last Cowboy: The Life and Times of Billy Pauch."

MORE RACING NEWS

It seems that short-track racing is going to be taking another hit, not just here but across the country. This is not just a problem for American Racer but Hoosier as well. American Racer has stopped production on their dirt tires due to the lack of nylon and other materials needed to make their tires. As of right now there is a very short supply left for teams to get.

The Fonda Speedway until now has been American Racer as their tire of choice due to the point fund. Only certain compounds are going to be allowed so teams can get more life out of their tires and Hoosiers will also be allowed to give teams that option to keep teams on the track.

You can go to the American Racer website to read the letter that went out and also the Fonda site on what they are doing to help teams make it through this tough time. It seems it is not only tires that are a problem as many parts are also in high demand and short supply, as well, leaving some teams struggling to make it to the track.

I have said it before and I will say it again, PLEASE support those who support your local dirt track and the teams that put on the show for the fans. Let them know you seen their name on a car so they know their sponsorship money they are giving to teams is helping their own business.

The UpStater
COM

local news
**YOU NEED & TRUST
ALL IN ONE PLACE!**

QR Code

The
News-Herald PIONEER

VALENTINE
HIGH PEAK INSURANCE
AGENCY

More Than Great Rates
Trusted Advisors

HOME

AUTO

BUSINESS

LIFE

HEALTH

“I've bought property insurance and auto insurance from Valentine Insurance Agency for nearly 20 years, and they are simply the BEST. I owned many rental properties in Greene County, and renovated several buildings. Valentine not only found the appropriate insurance, but gave years of invaluable advice. Their knowledge of property and business in the local area helped me tremendously, and I have recommended them to everyone. Don't waste your time using anyone else.**”**

Jon T., customer since 2004

Keith W. Valentine, CIC, LUTCF and his team are *ready to serve* all of your insurance needs with *more companies, more choices, and more experience* which all lead to *BIG Savings* for you!

Take advantage of Valentine Insurance Agency's affiliation with SAN group and SIAA, the largest alliance of independent Insurance Agencies in the Northeast and Continental U.S., with over 3500 Members across 48 states writing more than \$9 Billion in total member premiums.

www.myvalentineinsurance.com

Contact Keith Valentine for a quote!
Office 518-943-3489 • Mobile 518-821-8244
KEITH@MYVALENTINEINSURANCE.COM

FROM RAY...
WE ARE MOVING!

CHIPPED TARNISHED & TORN
*IS NOT ONLY GOING TO HAVE NEW DIGS, BUT
A NEW CONCEPT IN THE WAY WE SELL TO YOU*

WE ARE NOW
SEASONS
OPENING MAY 1st

*WE WILL HAVE A SEASONALLY CHANGING COLLECTION
OF VINTAGE FURNISHINGS, DESIGN AND GIFTS*

*AS YOU KNOW, WE ALWAYS HAVE
A WONDERFUL SELECTION OF
MOTHERS' DAY GIFTS*

FOR THE GARDEN:
*Vintage Terrace Furniture, Artisan Pots, Topiaries,
Locally Sourced Flowers and Plants, Concrete and Stone,
Garden Statuary*

FOR THE HOUSE:
*Furnishings: MCM, Deco, Mirrored, Victorian, Regency;
Seasonal Tabletops, Unique Artisan Pottery Collections,
Vast Array of Antique Lighting*

SEASONS
270 ROUTE 405,
GREENVILLE, NY
Open Daily 10-4, Closed Tuesdays

Study: Don't blame weight gain on metabolism as you age

By John Grimaldi
For Capital Region Independent Media

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Weight loss jokes such as the one that goes, "I'm on a seafood diet. When I see food I eat it," might give you a laugh, but they won't help you lose weight.

After all, as we age our metabolism slows down and that's what causes those extra pounds. Right? Wrong! Researchers now tell us that metabolism, your body's process of turning food into energy, doesn't weaken with age, at least not until after you turn 60.

The Harvard Medical School defines metabolism as "the combination of all the chemical processes that allow an organism to sustain life. For humans, this includes conversion of energy from food into energy for life-sustaining tasks such as breathing, circulating blood, building and repairing cells, digesting food and eliminating waste."

Herman Pontzer, associate professor of Evolutionary Anthropology at Duke University, conducted a wide-ranging study of individuals between the ages of eight days and 90-plus years old. His research team assessed how many calories the members of each age group burned, keeping track of how body size and age affected the rates of burn.

"We found that there are four distinct metabolic phases in life. Zero to one years old, one to 20 years old, 20 to 60 years old and over 60 years old," Pontzer said.

Pontzer's study revealed that while children have a very high metabolic rate, or Total Energy Expenditure [TEE], for their size. It found that the metabolic rate between the ages of 20 and 60 remains fairly steady and that it doesn't slow down until we get to be about 60 years old or older.

The doctors at Harvard University note that the Pontzer study "challenges previously held beliefs that metabolism correlates closely with organ-specific metabolic activity throughout growth and development, such that it is very high in infancy, childhood, and adolescence, and progressively declines throughout adulthood and old age. Instead, the authors observed that BMR [Basal Metabolic Rate] was 30% higher than would be expected based on body and organ composition in children 1 to 20 years old, and 20% lower than expected in adults 60 and above. These deviations in expected TEE and BMR in childhood and old age support the notion that age-related metabolic changes may play a more important role than we previously gave them credit for. What's more, these results strongly suggest we may no longer be able to blame weight gain in middle age on a slowed metabolism."

John Grimaldi is editorial contributed at the Association of Mature American Citizens.

Bird flu found in NY wild birds

By Melanie Lekocevic
Capital Region Independent Media

ALBANY — Bird flu has been found in wild birds in several areas of New York state, but officials say there is no threat to public health at this time.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, or HPAI, is a virus that has been found in multiple bird species around the state, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The virus has been found in wild birds around the state, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation announced Wednesday. Infections have also been found in domestic bird flocks around New York and more than a dozen other states.

The outbreak in wild bird populations this week spread to bald eagles, with deaths in 14 states as the virus outbreak spreads.

No HPAI infections have been found in humans at this time and the virus does not present an immediate public health concern, according to the CDC.

"Avian influenza (AI) is caused by an influenza virus carried by free-flying wild birds such as ducks, geese, gulls and shorebirds," according to a DEC statement. "Generally, influenza viruses can infect some wildlife species without causing signs of disease, but new strains can emerge that cause illness with high mortality in both wild birds and domestic poultry. These strains are designated as highly pathogenic, or HPAI."

Outbreaks frequently occur when birds are migrating.

"HPAI outbreaks in wild birds are often cyclical and tied to migration when birds are concentrated in large numbers," according to the DEC. "As birds spread out on the landscape during the nesting season, disease transmission is expected to decrease."

State officials have taken steps in the past two months in an attempt to stem the spread of the virus, particularly among domestic bird flocks. The state Department of Agriculture and Markets on March 25



COURTESY OF PEXELS

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, or bird flu, has been found in wild and domestic birds of many species across New York state.

banned all live fowl shows and exhibitions, and in April all fowl auctions and other events where fowl are sold were prohibited.

Both bans will remain in place until further notice.

Officials believe the current strain of the virus originated in Europe and has been around for about two years.

"This recently detected HPAI strain likely came from Europe, where it has been circulating since 2020," according to DEC. "Since late November 2021, the HPAI H5N1 Eurasian strain began being detected across North America. This outbreak expanded rapidly in mid-March 2022 in North America and HPAI has been detected in many other states, including those that share a border with New York."

The first case of HPAI was found in New York in February on Long Island in a domestic flock. Since that time, the virus has been found in domestic poultry flocks, game-bird breeder facilities and shooting preserves, according to DEC.

HPAI has been detected in domestic chickens, pheasants and ducks in four counties statewide — Dutchess, Ulster, Monroe and Fulton. The virus has also been found in wild birds in Cayuga, Clinton,

Montgomery, Monroe, Onondaga, Seneca, Suffolk, Nassau, Livingston and Wayne counties.

Wild birds affected by the virus at this time include snow geese, Canada geese, tundra swans, mute swans, sanderlings, mallard ducks, redhead ducks, ring-necked ducks, wood ducks, hooded mergansers, great blue herons, bald eagles, great horned owls, snowy owls, cooper's hawks, red-tailed hawks, fish crows and turkey vultures.

The risk of a human contracting HPAI is low, but hunters can protect themselves by only harvesting game that appears to be healthy and is properly cooked to an internal temperature of 165-degrees Fahrenheit, which kills the virus.

"If handling wild birds, particularly waterfowl, gulls and raptors, individuals should follow precautions such as using personal protective equipment like masks, gloves and eye protection, and washing hands thoroughly," according to DEC.

Anyone who finds suspicious deaths of birds should report it to their local DEC regional office. Albany and Greene counties are in DEC Region 4, and the office can be reached at 518-357-2234.



Brightway Cleaning Service

Deep Steam Extraction
For your carpets, upholstery,
vehicle, & office!

518.756.2669
Raymond Magee - Owner



Challacombe Spray Foam

Providing Kitchen and Bathroom
Remodels and Spray Foam Applications

Call Today 518.528.0144
challacombeconstruction@gmail.com

www.ChallacombeConstruction.com

Nolan's customers save \$\$\$

What does your PROPANE PROVIDER do for you?




Family Owned & Operated Since 1965

Unbeatable Rates

JUST ONE REASON WE ARE

GREENE COUNTY'S #1 PROPANE PROVIDER

Why continue to overpay? Call Nolan today!

54 Mountain Road Ext. • Ravena, NY | **518-756-2010**
www.nolanpropane.com

Where to plant

By Bob Beyfuss

For Capital Region Independent Media

Now that May is here, gardening can begin in earnest!

In fact, some already started seeds and planning for this season's gardens. This is a good thing and sometimes we even get to harvest some of our earliest efforts later on in the summer. If not, well, we are only out the price of the seeds; our labor does not count because God does not detract from a human's life span those hours spent gardening.

Growing annuals does not require all that much planning to begin with because they are here and gone in a season, but planting a tree or shrub does require some foresight. This is especially true lately, as the price of trees and shrubs has increased dramatically. Sometimes I feel like I may have been in a coma the past several years — when I go to buy something for the

garden, which costs about one-third of what it does now.

Seeing beautiful perennials, trees and shrubs at your local garden center makes us all want to buy and plant them as soon as possible so we can enjoy them right away. I suggest that before you buy something expensive that you hope to enjoy for years to come, you spend a little time figuring out where it will thrive.

Most perennials, trees and shrubs will grow best in full sun, partial shade, or heavy shade. A tree or shrub that blooms spectacularly in full sun may fail to bloom at all in shade, whereas a shade-loving perennial, like ginseng, will croak in full sun, in short order.

Shade conditions vary in season and over time. The lilac shrub in your yard, which bloomed very well for 10 years in one spot, may now be shaded by a nearby tree and fail to bloom. Or the evergreen hedge has now grown to such a

level as to shade out the plants that grew so well years ago alongside it. A Kentucky bluegrass lawn that thrived for years beneath that tiny maple tree is now getting thinner and thinner every year because the tree has grown.

Here in Florida, plants grow ridiculously fast, I have come to learn. There is a live oak tree in my backyard here that has extended its dripline more than 20 feet in only the past 10 years and the lawn beneath it has been disappearing as a result. That's OK with me!

Drainage is another crucial site consideration and this too may change over time. Plants that can tolerate "wet feet" are relatively rare, but if your drainage is suspect, I suggest you test it first. Dig a hole 12 inches deep and 12 inches square, fill it with water and let it drain. Fill it with water again and if it drains completely in less than a day, the drainage is good.

Soil texture is also an import-

ant factor to consider. Our soils range from heavy, stony clay in the Catskill Mountains, to well-drained sandy loams in the Hudson Valley. Clay soils often can be amended by adding copious quantities of organic matter, such as compost or peat moss and even the sandiest soils can likewise be amended by the exact same technique.

Sadly, there is not much one can do about rock outcroppings, boulders and stones. Soil pH and nutrients also affect what can or cannot grow in any given location, as many plants do have exacting pH preferences, but these are factors that we can address over time. "Over time" is usually more than one season for drastic changes, however.

Susceptibility to pests is a topic I have already discussed as it pertains to deer predation, but it is also relevant to other plant pests that are predictable. Roses are among our most popular shrubs, but most roses are subject to all sorts of issues

from critters, insects and diseases.

I tend to discourage backyard apple tree orchards since they are subject to so many pests, as are plums and cherries. Peaches seem to be the least affected, but they too, often will fail to produce any fruit if certain pests appear. You can still grow these, but be prepared to spray!

The bottom line is to do a little research before you buy, not only to the site conditions you have to work with, but also to the specific needs of the plants you plan to plant. It is sad to see some beautiful street trees butchered by the local utility company because they were planted directly beneath power lines. It is not the utility company's fault when a homeowner or a municipality makes a bad decision in tree selection.

Reach Bob Beyfuss at rlb14@cornell.edu.

Positively Speaking

Hold your tongue

By Toby Moore

For Capital Region Independent Media

How often have you wanted to give someone a piece of your mind? If you're like me, very often.

The opportunity to tell someone off can present itself several times a day. Someone cuts you off in traffic, a family member did something wrong, or a co-worker gave you an attitude. Maybe your boss is being irrational. Someone said good morning rudely.

Boy, it feels great to tell someone off, doesn't it? There's nothing better than putting someone in their place: "I'll show them a thing or two. Next time they come around, they'll think twice about disrespecting me!"

Let me ask you a question. Did it make you feel good when you chewed out the person who insulted you? Did you feel satisfied, like you

accomplished something great? Or did you feel bad afterward and regret it? Did you end up apologizing later? Did it have unintended consequences like losing a relationship or a job?

I almost always regretted losing my temper and telling someone off. Often, I would apologize, but sometimes it's too late. The other person isn't always so forgiving; some words you can't take back.

One thing to remember is that we don't know what the other person is going through. We aren't walking in their shoes.

One time, I wanted to lash out at someone I thought had slighted me, but later, I learned he wasn't being rude, it was just my perception. He was dealing with the loss of a family member who died the day before. When I learned what happened, I felt terrible for being upset with

him.

I had a great job working at a hotel once. It paid the bills and more. It also left me plenty of time to pursue my dreams outside of work. Soon after I started, they had to lay off many other employees because they weren't getting enough business. That meant the employees still there had to pick up the slack.

When it was slow, there was a lot of work to be done, and it wasn't easy to keep up. When it was busy, it was impossible to keep up. There were too many jobs to be done and too little time. My new manager didn't hesitate to pull me aside and give me a tongue lashing when I couldn't get everything done.

I was very offended when she did this. In my mind, she didn't know what I was dealing with and was being illogical. I managed to keep my cool the first few times, but

one time after a strenuous morning, she brought me into her office, and I didn't hold back. It felt good at the moment; I showed her. A few minutes later, I wished I could take it all back. I knew that I had crossed the line. I apologized, but it was too late; I was out of a job.

I felt like she didn't understand and asked me to do something that wasn't possible. What if I had tried harder to be respectful and understand what she was going through? Maybe her manager was stressing her out and being unreasonable, and she was under pressure to perform. If I had calmed myself, realizing that perhaps she was suffering through something I didn't understand, I would have kept the job.

The problem with giving someone a piece of your mind is that it's almost always with a negative, critical or angry attitude. Negative

interactions with people are inevitable, but we can control our response to them. When somebody is mean, short-tempered or rubs you the wrong way, it's rarely about you. When we remember that, it's much easier to control our response, helping us respond with kindness and respect rather than blind anger. Responding with rage is unfocused, unwise, short-sighted and destructive.

The next time someone does you wrong, take the high road. It's a much more respectable response and will often make things better for you. It may not feel like the best response in the short term, but it will always work to your advantage in the long run.

Toby Moore is a columnist, the star of Emmy-nominated "A Separate Peace," and the CEO of *Cube-stream Inc.*

WHITTLING AWAY

by Dick Brooks

Cats are funny critters

By Dick Brooks

For Capital Region Independent Media

Cats are funny critters, I like them. I know that there are a lot of people out there who feel differently, you know those with the "I love cats — they're delicious!" bumper stickers.

To each his own. I've even met people who didn't like vanilla ice cream, if you can imagine that!

I think it's the attitude that gets to people fostering this love-hate thing. You can't make a cat do anything they don't want to do. Dogs do things to please you, they want you to love them. Cats want you to do things that please them and they don't much care how you feel about them as long as their needs are being met.

Bored or haven't had a good challenge in your life lately? Try obedience training your

cat.

Get a small choke collar, a 15-foot training leash and put them on your cat. Snap the leash smartly to get the cat's attention while pushing down on their hind quarters and say in a firm voice, "Sit." Unlike your dog, your cat will keep you entertained for several minutes and after you get untangled from the leash and stop the bleeding, you will find that you have both learned a lot.

Have you ever noticed that cats walk skinny and sleep fat? They also sleep a lot, preferring places high up and preferably forbidden. One of the few times a cat will forget his or her dignity is while napping. Belly up, paws crossed at weird angles, they pass their time in complete bliss, napping at least 20 hours a day. It's enough to make an insomniac like me green with envy.

Frequently at night, after a few hours of being enlightened by infomercials on cutical care and how to become a millionaire in real estate for a mere pittance of 37 easy monthly payments of \$19.99, I tear myself away from the softly glowing tube and gaze around the room. There is usually a furry lump on every soft object in the room, contentedly twisted into unconscious hair balls. I'd wake them up, but cats understand revenge and just how it works!

I've learned a lot from these small self-important puff balls, things like: when you're given affection, it should be received with the proper amount of respect; the pursuit of happiness isn't important, happiness is fleeting — cats don't mess with it, they learned generations ago to seek contentment, something humans haven't learned yet; and they

have taught me patience and how to love the frequently unlovable.

In return for being treated like royalty and fed on time, I am rewarded with gifts of cat toys deposited in my shoes and the amazing relief of pent-up stress that a warm, purring feline curled up in your lap can bring.

I have also learned through long experience with these little darlings when to stop petting, because nothing is more painful than a truly happy cat kneading in your lap.

Thought for the week — Bumper sticker seen in Woodstock: "Politicians and diapers should be changed frequently and often for the same reason."

Until next week, may you and yours be happy and well.

Reach Dick Brooks at whittle12124@yahoo.com.

Fitness Concepts

By Mary Schoepe

For Capital Region Independent Media

If you're a health-conscious person, then you know eating salmon and other fish does wonders for your health and waistline. However, as the world's wild fish supply rapidly declines, the ongoing debate over which is healthier — wild caught or farmed — is a controversial subject.

So, before you make your next seafood purchase at the grocery store, knowing where your fish comes from is crucial.

Aquaculture is the oldest (dating back to 1,000 B.C.) and fastest form of food production in the world. With more than 1 million

tons of fish being produced annually, farmed fish may seem like a good idea, but the reality is that most are raised in cramped (5,000-7,000 fish) open net, parasite-infected pens, which can lead to less healthy fish.

However, unlike their wild counterparts that feed on krill and small crustaceans, farm-raised salmon eat processed fish pellets that contain GMO corn, wheat and soy. Farmed salmon also have higher concentrations of PCBs, dioxins, flame retardants, pesticides and other toxins. Fish eaters who ingest these dangerous chemicals suffer from increased cancer risk and may experience decreased mental functioning.

According to Dr. Susan L. Schantz, people who eat 24 pounds or more of fish a year often have high levels of PCBs in their blood, resulting in memory and learning problems.

But on the other side of the aisle, there's wild-caught salmon, which is prized by chefs and home cooks alike. Known as one of the most nutritious foods on the planet, half fillets have 39 grams of protein, 13 grams of healthy fat and is only 281 calories.

According to the National Institutes of Health, when your diet is packed with enough healthy omega 3s, it can help protect you from developing cardiovascular disease, cancer, Alzheimer's, dementia and

age-related eye conditions.

On the other hand, half fillets of farmed salmon have 412 calories, contain slightly more omega 3s, much more omega-6 fats and three times the amount of saturated (bad) fat.

Conversely, wild salmon is also higher in minerals including potassium, zinc and iron.

There's also a specific season for wild salmon and if you're getting it from the middle of May to September, it's probably farmed. So be sure to ask.

Both wild-caught and farmed-raised salmon have their advantages and drawbacks including their carbon footprint, sustainability and affordability.

Fish caught in the wild have falling populations and/or are swimming further out to sea. This means the fishing boats are going to burn more fuel to make the round trip. And while eating wild-caught fish can contribute to the growing environmental strain, many fish farms damage natural ecosystems as well.

Ultimately, the choice comes down to how you feel about contaminants, the environmental impact, taste and cost. There is no black and white answer — do your own research and ask questions so you can make an informed choice for yourself and your family.

CMH donates \$33K in medical supplies to Ukraine

HUDSON — Columbia Memorial Health has announced it has joined the global humanitarian response to the war in Ukraine by donating more than \$33,000 in medical supplies.

The war has created critical shortages of basic supplies that are essential to providing effective medical care to wounded Ukrainian civilians.

The donated supplies, totaling more than 22,000 items, include bleach wipes, face masks and surgical gowns, caps and shoe covers. The donation was made in response to a request from the Rev. Wolodymyr Paszko of Saint Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Hudson.

Dorothy Urschel, CMH chief operating officer, said: "The world is responding to the

humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and we are grateful and proud to have a small role in that response. At our core CMH is a community-centered health care organization, and as we have seen elsewhere with the overwhelming global response to the war, our community in this moment extends to the people of Ukraine."

"I want to thank Columbia Memorial

Health for their generous donation," Paszko said. "The supplies are already on their way to Ukraine. I also want to thank the entire community not only for their donations but also for their understanding of what is happening in Ukraine, and how it is a problem for the whole world."

Sunny skies for 2nd day of Brinkerhoff race series

By **Melanie Lekocevic**
Capital Region Independent Media

COXSACKIE — Mostly sunny skies greeted cyclists on the second of the two-day race series that makes its way through Coxsackie and Athens every spring.

It was a far cry from the first day of the race series held two weeks before.

The first day of the Trooper David Brinkerhoff Memorial Race Series was held April 9 and saw a steady downpour and dreary, chilly weather that made the race route more challenging than ever.

But day two of the two-day series, on April 23, was a different story.

Sunny skies and temperatures in the high 50s made for a much more pleasant ride for the dozens of cyclists who head to the area each spring.

The two-day series — considered a premiere early spring race

in the Northeast — typically draws athletes from around the region and even as far as Canada.

Despite the weather, Day 1 of the race on April 9 drew over 100 cyclists, though many did not complete the route.

Field A — the most experienced group — was led by Chris Prendergast, who completed the loop in 2:23:13. He was followed by Liam Flannery and Daniel Nuzzo-Mueller, who tied for second place at 2:26:51, according to race results posted on bikereg.com.

Cyclists in Field A ride the longest route at 62 miles.

The next group, Field B, rides a 50-mile loop. That race was won by Brian Oliver at 2:02:50. Coming in second and third place were Daniel Smith and Giorgio Valente, who completed the route in 2:04:14 and 2:05:18, respectively.

Athletes in Field C complete a 38-mile route and were led by

Evan Boyle with a race time of 1:31:49, followed by Gregory Hoge at 1:34:32 and Stephen Owens at 1:34:33.

The women-only groups, Field D, complete a 38-mile route.

Field D: Women 4/5 saw first place won by Evan Kujawski with a race time of 1:48:47 and second place went to Annie Hines at 1:50:51.

Field D: Women P/1/2/3 was led by Katherine Rusch at 1:46:41, Caitrin Huysman at 1:50:46, and Caroline O'Dwyer at 1:50:47.

The second day of the race series, April 23, saw a three-way tie in Field A, with Curtis White, Cormac Daly and Michael Margarite tied at 2:22:02.

Field B was led on Day 2 by Turner French with a race time of 2:01:41, and a nine-way tie for second place at 2:01:49 by Peter Gunn, Charlie Stein, Giorgio Valente, Ryan O'Donnell, Brian Oliver, Paul

Luttik, Kris Judd, Wyle Solomon and Steve Beaulieu.

The winning cyclist in Field C was Evan Boyle with a race time of 1:31:57, followed by Jacques Franey at 1:32:29, and a third place tie at 1:32:30 by Eziel Hernandez, Patrick Carney, Chris Dilallo, Justin Eichenlaub, Frederick Boehrer and William Kelley.

Field D: Women 4/5 saw a four-way tie for first place by Evan Kujawski, Lindsey White, Ellie Seery and Megan Kelly at 1:45:54, followed by a three-way tie by Carolyn McCann, Annabelle Malloy and Natalie Gulla at 1:45:56, with Camille Hove coming in third at 1:51:21.

Field D: Women P/1/2/3 was won by Lucie Vagnerova with a race time of 1:45:53, a second-place tie at 1:45:54 for Haylee Johnson, Camille Bergeron-Parent, and Roos Voorend. Third place was taken by Erica Adelberg and Michelle Pem-

berthy at 1:45:55.

The Trooper David Brinkerhoff Memorial Race Series was formerly known as the Johnny Cake Lane Spring Series and was renamed in 2007 in honor of state Trooper David Brinkerhoff, a Coxsackie resident who died in the line of duty at age 29 from a gunshot wound he sustained in a shootout with a suspect April 25, 2007.

Local roads are not closed for the race each year but traffic is briefly delayed as competitors pass through on the 12-mile loops. Racers ride in three to five laps, depending on experience and ability.

Racers line up in the parking lot at the Coxsackie-Athens High School campus before heading out on the route that spans Coxsackie and Athens. Funds raised from the event are donated to several local charitable organizations each year.

The race series is hosted by the Capital Bicycle Racing Club.

Grandma Mackey's Diary

1951 life in Medusa

Transcribed from her diary by
Kathy Saurer Osborne

Sunday, May 6: Fair. Chuck stayed the night and went on the train in the A.M. I went for Joyce to Eufemia's. Went to Church. Mareia Morse here for the day.

Monday, May 7: Fair. Hung out wash and brought it in. Went calling on the people on my list for Church. Didn't get much. Addie and I went for a ride after tea. Called on Gene later. She took her portable to Joyce and brought the little one back to be fixed. Am tired. Stopped in Durham and asked Olive and Izora over Wednesday for the day.

Tuesday, May 8: Fair. Mended and did the ironing. Did a few odd jobs. The girls are at Youth Fellowship at Giffins. Called Delite this A.M. They are all right. She took a case of eggs to Albany this A.M. and wasn't home when I first called.

Wednesday, May 9: Fair and warm. Got

dinner pretty ready and went for Olive and Izora. We had a nice time, I did anyway! Sent deviled eggs to W.C.T.U. by Mrs. Wright. Don phoned not to wait supper for him. He had business. Our Church meeting is tonight. Have mine done except for Earl Palmer.

Thursday, May 10: Fair. Gertrude went to Home Brew. I cleaned bedrooms etc. Gene ate dinner with me and then we went to Albany for some things for the truck and car, left them at Herman's. Gene's birthday.

Friday, May 11: Rain. Cleaned living rooms and did everyday work. Made cake for Adrienne's prom. Gene got the pictures of Chuck and Joyce. They are all good. Later: Chuck came, went to Albany and got Joyce, and they went to the Jr. Prom. She had an orchid. He had a three-day pass.

Saturday, May 12: Fair. Made pies and Gertrude a cake. Chuck and Joyce left for Albany to try her test about noon. They came back about 6 P.M. and went to the races. They

brought me a beautiful bouquet. Don had to work this Saturday.

Sunday, May 13: Fair. I went to Church. Chuck left about 8.30 A.M. for Virginia. Had a nice Mother's Day. Lite, Philip and JoAnn came in the evening.

Monday, May 14: A beautiful day. Hung out wash, ironed some, brought in the big wash. Children at school. I took Joyce to Greenville.

Tuesday, May 15: Fair and warm. Cleaned the porch and got part of the furniture out. Am very tired tonight. Gertrude called on Louise in late P.M. Addie and I went for a ride. Middleburgh, Schoharie (cemetery), Gallopville, Knox Westerlo saw Lite and Joann. Home in time for Ted Mack. Harrah!

Wednesday, May 16: Fair and warm. Finished my ironing. Looked after odd jobs. Finished put-ting out porch furniture. Cut tulle from Adrienne's evening gown etc. Gertrude at Alice Finche's. Children at school. Evening

we mowed the lawn.

Thursday, May 17: Fair. Rain tonight. Cleaned bedrooms and did everyday work. Straight-ened up the porch etc. Girls stayed to the ball game.

Friday, May 18: Cloudy. Cleaned living rooms. Gertrude dusted. She did washing for Adele. She's going to Rensselaerville with Eleanor Farmer for the week and I did her ironing. Gertrude has gone to Grace Gifford's Stanley Party. She asked Beulah to come for her. Spring Concert tonight. Expect Joyce home. Later: We went to the concert and came home and watched the fights. Joyce came with Don.

Saturday, May 19: Fair. Made two pies and did Saturday work. Don worked on the pump at the creek. Addie and I went up to see the Summer battleship at the Port of Albany. Lots of sailors (and girls). Had dinner at Petite Paris and home. No one here. Guess they've gone to the races. Very tired tonight.

Sunmark
CREDIT UNION

MORTGAGES
100%
FINANCING

Dream
BIGGER

sunmark.org/dreambigger

Based on credit approval. Some restrictions apply. Speak to a Sunmark representative for details.

ELECTION, from page 1

College: BA Economics, Siena College '03; GCS High School Regents Diploma '98

What do you think is the top issue facing the Greenville school district? What would you do to address this issue if elected?

Top Issue facing school district: Voting "YES" to everything: Every budget presented, every capital improvement, every new weird curriculum, every new technology, every new vehicle, every new mandate. These "Yes" votes often cost money. We can vote "No." We can bring balance to our decisions. We can show some restraint. We can make our own decisions as part of our community instead of following everyone who claims to be an "expert."

The issue of face masks was hotly debated in Greenville before the state mandate was lifted. Where do you stand on this issue?

All the science and theology can be debated all day. When all the dust settles down we find that this issue has nothing to do with masks and everything to do with upholding a parent's right to make decisions about the health and well-being of their child. Every family must make the decision that best fits them. GCS Faculty/Staff also has the right to their person and are the sole decision maker in regard to mask wearing. As far as laws, regulations or mandates go, it doesn't matter what a rule is labeled. If a rule is unconstitutional or harmful to the students, then we have an obligation to not enforce it and defend those that can't defend themselves against such rules. This applies even if it's hard or if we could get in trouble as board members. An oath is an oath.

What would you like voters to know about your candidacy for the board of education?

RESTORATION — In the darkest place, even the faintest faraway light becomes so apparent. While many lives have been darkened and shaken by the chaos and overwhelming issues of recent years, we are excited about the awakening that has already commenced. There is a growing number of individuals that on their own have made the realization that most, if not all, of our institutions have planted some bad seed. We know this because of the chaos and difficulties we have been harvesting more and more often. Let not your hearts be troubled. People are waking up and can see the truth and are desiring a restoration of sound thinking and approaches to life. We are desiring to make budgets using reason and math, not feelings. The people are desiring structure, not disorder. We (brothers James Bucci and Kevin Bucci) with God's help (yes, I said it) intend to bring RESTORATION back to the GCS School District.

We are offering:

1) Two fresh pairs of eyes not clouded by being part of the tired system and fad of new-age thinking. Eyes that just might find some places to minimize taxes levied. Eyes that might see a way to minimize taxes without compromising foundational learning.

2) Two sets of working man's hands ready to uphold the rights of each parent to make decisions over their children's health. Decisions about mask wearing, vaccines, testing and other forms of religious expression are for families to decide, not members of a board or someone who thinks they are more of an expert than a student's Mom, Dad or Guardian.

3) Two Greenville Graduates that care about all members of our district, including our teachers. There are a few teachers still at the school that taught us as students and who now love our kids. These and all teachers/staff deserve to have the right to their body respected. Why should the students possibly lose a great teacher, because of coercion? Teachers/staff in our community should not be threatened with losing their jobs if they don't allow themselves to be violated with swabs and testings and be forced to provide their specific health information to their employer.

4) Two Dads that want to restore the focus of a traditional education including reading, writing and old-school math. Teachers have been forced to learn and teach ever-changing "common core" programs that change names every couple years with minimal training and are just confusing. Plans must be put in place to restore a more consistent and less confusing programs. In addition, the incoming Critical Race Theory programs that have started being introduced must be rejected. Many of these programs oppose Judeo-Christian values and create victims instead of victors.

5) Two God Fearing men that

will take an oath to the U.S. Constitution and abide by it. Two men that will not engage in unconstitutional actions against the students and faculty (even for \$3.5 of \$16 million in extra money GCS received from the state and federal government for doing so).

Restoration is too great of a task for two new board members, but it's not too big for God. He is left out of too many conversations. If each of us in this district does our part, and each of us takes time to appeal to Heaven for wisdom, understanding and strength, then all things are possible. We can see the light through the darkness. Can you? Please come alongside us, bring us your experience and ideas, help us be successful in this — restoration.

KEVIN BUCCI

Age: 36

Family: Wife and three children.

How long you've lived in the county: Lived in Greenville/West-erlo for the last 33 years of my life.

Occupation: Home Inspector/Utility Locator www.BucciEnterprises.com

Are you an incumbent? No

Previous elected offices, if any: None

Previous community service, if any: Greenville Volunteer Fire Company, Greenville Day Participant, Greenville Rotary

Education: Graduated GCS 2003, attended ITT and Columbia-Greene CC

What do you think is the top issue facing the Greenville school district? What would you do to address this issue if elected?

The issue closest to my heart at GCS is bullying. As a youth, I never appreciated being bullied just because of those I chose to befriend. Kids that have had to defend themselves from physical violence have been suspended and punished for things they did not bring about. Others are able to bully and violate the code of conduct over and over with limited repercussions. Sometimes there are no consequences for bullying.

Inconsistencies with discipline is not helpful. Who wants to go to school when they are freaked out about getting beat up? Rules at school have a purpose and should be objective. Mental illness is a real issue and has been climbing and climbing. To hear local students and parents at recent board meetings expressing the real-life situations that have been occurring at GCS have been cutting me to my heart.

These incidents and disciplinary issues are supposed to be tracked. I am excited to work closely with the new superintendent to find out why the inconsistencies exist, when the lax disciplinary actions may have started to become acceptable, and when they became the norm. It is important that those who are helping to create proper environments for learning be acknowledged and that those who are a detriment be properly disciplined. If we are going to have rules, then we should enforce them. While confidentiality is of the utmost importance for those involved, as a board member with the superintendent I hope to bring transparency to these issues. With the rest of the board we can hopefully make sure school policies are better enforced and monitored to assure kids are safe and can focus on learning.

The issue of face masks was hotly debated in Greenville before the state mandate was lifted. Where do you stand on this issue?

It all goes back to bullying. If you want to wear a mask, wear a mask. If you don't want to wear a mask, don't wear a mask. As a GCS staff member, student or parent, if you bully or discriminate someone because they are or are not wearing a mask or vaccinated or tested or whatever else you can think of, it's still bullying and there is no place for it in the school.

What would you like voters to know about your candidacy for the board of education?

I am here (with my brother James Bucci, who is also running) to be the voice for the parents and members of the district who are afraid of the repercussions that can come when one brings their concerns into the public square. There are many parents with children who have been judged and treated poorly at schools because their parents raised concerns to administration or to past boards. There are people even at the school who worry about losing their job if they speak up or voice their opinion about serious issues regarding students and staff. I'm sure all parents will not agree with me on all issues, but I will do my best to be a voice for these parents and the kids. In addition, there are kids that may not have the strongest support or defense on the homefront. These kids need a voice

as well. I will do my best to be a voice for all these listed who would otherwise be ignored.

ELAINE DYKEMAN

Age: 65

Family: Married

How long you've lived in the county: I have lived in Greene County for 24 years and the past five years have been in Greenville.

Occupation: I am a retired public school administrator with previous experience as a school social worker.

Are you an incumbent? No.

Previous elected offices, if any: I currently serve on the Greenville Country Estates HOA Board and my two-year term will be up for re-election in 2023.

Previous community service, if any: I am currently a member of the Athens Paddock Club (eight years). This is a philanthropic organization that raises funds through donations for the Greene County community, including awarding scholarships each year to graduating high school seniors.

College: BA SUNY Potsdam; MSW SUNY Albany; NYS School District Administrator Certification, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

What do you think is the top issue facing the Greenville school district? What would you do to address this issue if elected?

A concern that frequently rises to the top is school taxes and how this money is spent and why.

To help alleviate this concern and others that come up, I support the district's decision to hire a communication specialist to speak on matters that are important to the community.

The issue of face masks was hotly debated in Greenville before the state mandate was lifted. Where do you stand on this issue?

It seems that the mask-wearing requirement in school districts has come to an end. If this issue comes up again, I will listen to the guidance on this matter from local and state health departments and consider the impact of health and safety for students and staff. We know that having children get in-person learning is paramount in their education process. I would not want to see virtual learning take place again unless all other options have been considered.

What would you like voters to know about your candidacy for the board of education?

My educational and employment experience will allow me to serve as an effective School Board Member. I am able to work as part of a team to achieve consensus and reach planned goals. As a board member I will work to develop policies that support the overall success of students and encourages them to become lifelong learners.

DAVID FINCH

Age: 62

Family: Wife and two children.

How long you've lived in the county: Lived in Greenville 28 years

Occupation: Retired teacher, full-time farmer

Are you an incumbent? How long? I have served on the board for three years.

Previous community service, if any: Coaching Little league, Babe Ruth, AAU Basketball, 4-H leader, high school baseball.

College: BS in Education, MS in Educational Technology, MS in Elementary Education

What do you think is the top issue facing the Greenville school district? What would you do to address this issue if elected?

There is a growing teacher shortage throughout the United States caused by a long list of issues. We at Greenville Central School have our share of these problems. With teacher retirements, teachers leaving for better opportunities and a general short supply of teacher candidates, the district has been having and will continue to have issues finding great teachers. Teachers of special areas like Technology, Language, Math and Science are very difficult to attract to GCS.

Early on in the pandemic, teachers and school staff were called heroes for the effort they all were putting forward to support the students of this community. We witnessed teachers going above and way beyond the normal scope of their duties to try to educate children under impossible situations. Teachers are now concerned about a changing climate in the school among students and in the community that may affect how they are able to help our young people learn. Everyone plays a very important role in producing a graduating student that is well-rounded, well-educated and ready to take on a world outside of the small confines of the Greenville School District. Parents and teachers should strive to continue the

traditional roles in supporting the growth and success of each child. The community has a large role in supporting the mission of making GCS a school we all can be proud of. Through the continued support of the budgets that the school board has put together over the past years, our school has been able to carefully and efficiently improve the school experience for each student.

One obvious area of improvement is our sports facilities. With the guidance and careful planning of former Superintendent Sutherland, the board, with much community input, was able to improve our buildings and fields to a level of new pride for the school. The school buildings and facilities that we have are a precious asset to the community. It takes a lot of effort, time and money to keep them in presentable shape. All of this comes from the community support of your school's budget. If people or even school board candidates have questions or suggests for how we might better prepare the budget, then I say, "Where have you been?" We have been working on the budget since October. No one has come to the budget meetings to share their thoughts.

Every school has a lot of work to do to get our children back to the levels they would have been if this pandemic had not occurred. No one is better equipped to perform this task than a great teacher working with supportive parents.

The issue of face masks was hotly debated in Greenville before the state mandate was lifted. Where do you stand on this issue?

I think the first letter for COVID, C should stand for confusion. This whole pandemic has been mishandled by many people in medicine and government from almost the start to a point of mass frustration and confusion as to what to do or even think. COVID-19 and the pandemic is a medical issue and belongs in that field's arena. Government at various levels got involved because some decisions had to be made at that level, such as mandates and the lockdown. The government's mis-messaging and flip-flopping on information and guidance, many times changing for political reasons rather than sound medicine and science, has confused most people. Some to the point where they feel like they can no longer trust information about the subject regardless of who is presenting it.

Add to that misinformation, rumors, web searches that will yield anyone's point of view and a lack of patience by people just wanting this to be over helped to prime much of America for some kind of pressure release. I am married to a scientist so it is difficult for me to believe that COVID isn't real and that masks don't work. No, I don't think a mask made out of Grandpa's old T-shirt is going to stop the coronavirus but for over 100 years some of the smartest people in the world, doctors and professionals in the science field, have been wearing them for their protection. But it has to be the right, effective mask. The attitude about wearing masks in school has changed over the last two-plus years as the pandemic has been part of our lives. First, after the lockdown when all the students went into remote learning and the school board began working on our re-opening, most people, including the board, where in favor of doing anything required to get the students back into school. The board spent many hours with Superintendent Sutherland and the principals trying to figure out a plan that would work and satisfy the states requirements. Let's remember that with the work of the superintendent, we provided some kind of in-person graduation ceremony for our seniors over the last two years, which was much different than most schools in NYS.

When the state started to remove requirements in other places, like stores, but continued the mandate for schools, people started to question the necessity of the mandate. This led to a discussion the board had with some vocal members of our community. Some spoke of the effectiveness of masks, the constitutional rights of the school and state to develop the mandate and its enforcement, and if the school board itself had the right to violate the mandate and allow the students to enter school without protection. That meeting ended with much less contention than it started. A few days later, the governor ended the mandate requirement for schools.

Many items are mandated for schools as well as other government organizations, like towns and villages. I have done research, have received advice from lawyers and believe that a mandate is the law. The school board had to follow the law. When people suggest that the

school could violate the law, as a former teacher I wonder what we would be teaching the children. Second, I wonder what else people might feel the school could set aside in order to go their own way. As a school board, we have to represent all stakeholders and there are many people on multiple sides of this issue.

What would you like voters to know about your candidacy for the board of education?

First, I would like to thank the community for their support for me in the past, continuing to support the school budget and the outreach by many district residents sharing their thoughts and praise for the school. The school budget is one area where we can actually see what our tax dollars are used for, educating our young people. The last three years have been a very challenging time to be a school board member in many schools across the country. We are volunteers, there is no form of compensation for the hours we put into this service. During this period of time, we have had many, many meetings and most have lasted deep into the night. Members need to be aware that they don't just represent their children but all the children of the district, all the parents of the district and all the taxpayers of the district. So a narrow focus on items to be changed can lead to a very frustrated board member because change is affecting many children, change can be expensive and it should be given very serious consideration. I think we have a very good, functioning school board right now. We don't all agree and we always ask many questions on every topic.

The board is now discussing some changes on how we operate our meeting and creating opportunities for more community input, which the board desires. Some of the discussions the board had surrounding COVID resulted in changes to how the school operated. Most of those decisions had to be made during a time of huge uncertainty among the public and the experts. But we were the school board members at the time and we had to make the best choices. We have a new superintendent, who is off to a great start. Superintendent Bennett is excited about the future of our school and I would like to continue to work with him to help bring the children out of the pandemic and move forward. There are still some changes and improvements I would like to see come to GCS and with my experience in education might help to make them happen.

JAY GOODMAN

Age: 48

Family: Wife and two children.

How long you've lived in the county: I have lived in the county for 13 years.

Occupation: I am a lawyer who focuses on energy law, regulation and policy.

Are you an incumbent? How long? Yes, I was elected in 2019.

Previous community service, if any: Greenville Planning Board, Alternate Member, four years (Feb. 2018 – present); Member, Board of Directors, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Capital Region, four years; CYL baseball coach, three years.

College: Vassar College (B.A.); Yale University (Ph.D.); Albany Law School (J.D.)

What do you think is the top issue facing the Greenville school district? What would you do to address this issue if elected?

Too many students in grades 2-8 have reading and math skills that are one or more levels below grade level. I have been working with my fellow board members to address this issue by approving funding for summer school and critically evaluating testing data along with district plans to improve student performance. As a board, we supported district efforts to keep the schools open as much as possible during the pandemic because student learning suffered when classes were remote. I also worked with David Finch and the rest of the Board Policy Committee to strengthen the board's oversight of curriculum and establish a formal curriculum review process. If re-elected, I would continue using the board's oversight authority to ensure that the district is doing everything it can to improve student learning while working within the state-mandated tax cap.

The issue of face masks was hotly debated in Greenville before the state mandate was lifted. Where do you stand on this issue?

I voted with the board to make masks an individual choice effective as soon as the statewide mask mandate was lifted. While the mandate was in effect, the district was legally required to follow it – board members take an oath to uphold the

Oak Hill & Vicinity...

By Mary Lou Nahas



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Blossom Dearie continued to perform when she was in her 80s.



COURTESY OF ANNE KEARY

Blossom as a child in East Durham seems determined even then. Thanks to Anne Keary for collecting and sharing the family pictures.

By Mary Lou Nahas

For Capital Region Independent Media

Every spring when the trees flower and the daffodils bloom, I think of singer-song writer Blossom Dearie, who was born April 28, 1924, in East Durham to Henry A. Dearie and his wife, Margarete, who had three sons from a prior marriage.

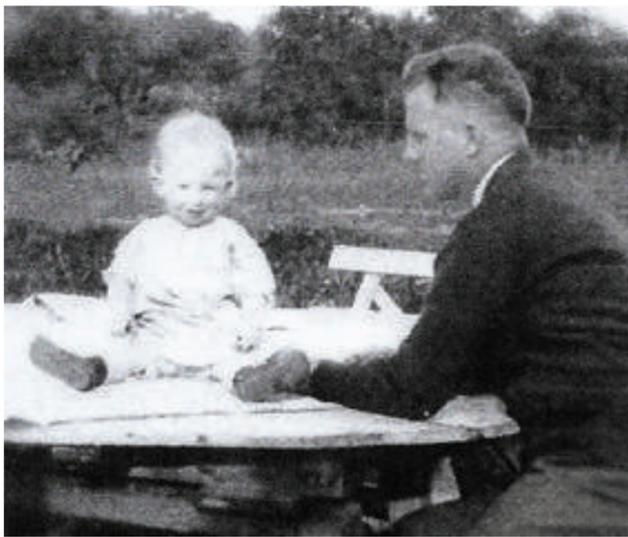
She was reportedly named Blossom because a neighbor delivered peach blossoms to her house the day she was born. Or some say her brothers picked them and brought them to her and that they were pear blossoms.

Blossom grew up in her parents' home on Stonebridge Road Extension.

The Oak Hill Acorn newspaper, published by Carl Ratsch on Dec. 6, 1934, reported "Durham Center Has Gay Thanksgiving Party. Popular Hostess Entertains. One of the high spots of Town of Durham society life was the recent party given by Margarete Dearie for her sons, James, Walter and Francis Birchett. The assembly included the following guests: Mr. and Mrs. Paul Treyer and daughters, Ernest and Helena Millett, Clarence and Helen Mackey, Mrs. Chas. Francis and sons, Gladys Haskins, Helen Haskins, Ruth Proper, Irene Gates, Bonnie Lee York, Blossom Dearie and Stella Pumphrey. Paul Wilson, Sheldon Ives, Carl Vining, Howard Winegard, and Carl Ratsch. The group enjoyed games, music, cards and dancing. The boys returned Sunday to Washington, D. C. where they resume their engineering duties."

By the age of two, Blossom could pick out songs on the family piano. Piano lessons began when she was about five. Accounts say Blossom was classically trained as a pianist and that she switched to jazz in high school. I've always wondered where she was "classically trained" and just recently read that at 10, while living with her stepbrother in Washington, D.C., she received instruction in the classical compositions of Bach and Chopin.

Blossom attended high school in Cairo where the yearbook says she was an accompanist for the Glee Club for three years; a member of art club; her hobby was collecting records; her favorite expression was "Are you kidding?" and that her



COURTESY OF ANNE KEARY

Blossom at age one with her father in East Durham.

nickname was Babe.

In her high school class were people some of you will remember: Harriett Abrams (Sis), Phyllis Allen, Carol Duncan, Anna Gustavson, Jeannie Knoblock, Walter Scholer, Maude Goff, Virginia Hempstead, Walter Hoare, Edward Jones, Sally Jones, Jack Knapp, Joseph Kruppenbache and Josephine Maggio.

The class prophecy announces: "Blossom's wish had come true. She is now a full-fledged model, in demand continually by such firms as Life, Mademoiselle, Esquire, Red Book, American Mag., Cosmopolitan, the Rota Gravuer, and Rouges Gallery. When Blossom's in the dumps, she takes her mind off her troubles by playing the blues on her grand piano. She doesn't play 'Am I Blue' or anything like that; she resorts to the classic, 'Deep Purple.'"

After high school in the mid-1940s Blossom moved to New York City to pursue a music career. She first sang with a group and then embarked on a solo career. She travelled to Paris in 1952, where she met Norman Granz, owner of Verve Records, who signed her to a six-album contract between 1956 and 1960. In 1966 she began traveling regularly to London to play in a night club and recorded four albums on the Fontana label.

Although she had achieved international fame major labels did not seem interested in her, so back



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Blossom's childhood home has recently been restored.

Happy birthday, Blossom Dearie



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This photo of Blossom in her New York apartment was widely used for publicity.



COURTESY OF ANNE KEARY

Blossom's mother was a widow with three sons when she came to East Durham and married Henry Dearie. Many area residents remember him.

Apparently, this speaking her mind could apply to more than just her music, as some local residents remember.

Blossom Dearie liked songs with the word "spring" in the title. In 1956, she recorded "It Might as Well Be Spring" by Rodgers & Hammerstein (singing in French), as well as "A Fine Spring Morning," which was composed by Marty Clark and Bob Haynes.

Even if you don't think you know Blossom, I believe many of you have heard the popular ABC TV math show "Schoolhouse Rock!" The television series began in January 1973 and taught numeracy to a generation of American kids! You can see it on YouTube today.

Or you might have heard the famous Hires Root Beer commercial that Blossom recorded for television. The company then made an album "Blossom Dearie Sings Rootin' Songs." The album was available for 50 cents and two bottle caps and included versions of "Days of Wine and Roses," "I Left My Heart in San Francisco" and "Fly Me to

the Moon."

She wrote the song "Hey John" after John Lennon did an imitation of her on the David Frost show in London.

If you want a list of her recordings, check her website: BlossomDearie.com and the Facebook page Blossom Dearie. Anne Keary did a wonderful presentation about Blossom at the Durham Community Center in 2020. The program was attended by people who had known Blossom the person in East Durham and people who had no personal connection but loved her music, which is continuing to grow in popularity.

Today the Dearie house in East Durham is owned by Daniel Rodriguez and Kane Sarhan.

"We've tried to preserve as much of the original house as possible," Daniel said. "At the house were two of Blossom's pianos as well as documents about her record label."

Kane said, "It's been such an awesome experience to get to know her story and childhood home."

Happy birthday, Blossom!

ELECTION, from page 12

law.

The issue was complex and my legal background helped me understand the nuances. As a board, we consulted with our legal counsel. The state Department of Health ("DOH") established, and periodically extended, the mask mandate. The mandate created a legal obligation for school districts to follow its requirements. In January 2022, one trial-level state court ruled that the DOH commissioner did not

have the authority to establish the mandate and that court invalidated it. New York state appealed the decision and an appellate court reinstated the mask mandate while it considered the appeal — meaning that school districts had to continue complying with the mask mandate. The state lifted the mask mandate before the appeals court issued its decision.

What would you like voters to know about your candidacy for the board of education?

I take my responsibility as a board member seriously and approach it with respect and integrity. I believe in transparency, open communication, collaboration, consensus and accountability. I am an advocate for students and staff and for the schools to have the resources they need to educate and support our kids.

The most important part of my effort as a board member has been working with the board and the district to balance student needs with

fiscally-responsible budgets. I believe it is critical for us to invest in our kids' education so they are prepared to succeed in whatever path they choose after graduating from GCSD. This means ensuring that we hire and retain good teachers, that we provide diverse opportunities for learning and extracurricular activities, and that we invest in our facilities.

I support a fiscally conservative approach to district budgeting that meets these needs, plans for future

contingencies, is sustainable in future years without forcing cuts to teachers/programming, and recognizes the need to moderate taxpayer impacts.

We've made significant progress during my first term, but there's more to do. I would be grateful for the chance to continue this work in a second term and ask for your vote on May 17.

GLENN YELICH

Did not respond to multiple requests to submit a questionnaire



Building Your Dream Home?

National Bank of Cossackie can Help You with a Construction Loan¹

- We're one of the few lenders that offer it!
- Only 11% down required with NO PMI
- Single closing with flexible disbursement schedules
 - No points, application, credit bureau, application or inspection fees
 - Competitive rates



Apply online in minutes at nbcoxsackie.com

Serving Greene, Schoharie and Albany Counties



¹Pending credit approval. 11% down required. Rates and terms may change without notice. NMLS Co ID # 816880



SELKIRK, NY

UP TO **\$18.25/HR** STARTING



NOW HIRING
PRODUCTION & YARD POSITIONS

TEXT "APPLY" TO **518-888-7040**



Helping Harvest
Grocery store for families in need!



SNAP, Credit and Debit Cards Now Accepted!

OPEN: MON, TUES, THURS, SAT 10-2 • WED, FRI 2-6

2480 US Route 9W, Faith Plaza, Ravena
518-756-9091 • www.HopeFullLifeCenter.org

WE ACCEPT ALL N.Y. STATE DEPOSITS

- ✓ NO WAITING AT MACHINES
- ✓ WE PAY MORE 
- ✓ BOTTLE DRIVE'S FUNDRAISERS
- ✓ WE COUNT FOR YOU
- ✓ PICK UP SERVICE

I wanted to thank everyone within the Ravena / Coeymans / Selkirk communities for their continued support over the last year. It has been difficult at times but we have managed to get through it and provide a helpful community service. We are back to regular business hours Mon - Fri 10am - 5pm / Sat 10am - 3pm / Closed on Sundays

Currently, with the volume of bottles and cans we are only taking drop offs - bring in your empties, place them in a designated area, we take your name and then give you the earliest time frame to come back or any time thereafter to collect your money. Since opening in July 2018, we have helped raise approximately \$52,500, which is almost 924,000 bottles/cans for 50 different organizations which anyone can donate to.

We look forward to servicing the community in the future. If you have any questions regarding operation, donations or fundraisers please reach out....

Shane DeCrescenzo
Just Makes Cents
Bottle & Can Redemption Center
518-577-3084
Justmakescents6@gmail.com

GLASS ♻️ PLASTIC ♻️ CANS





JUST MAKES CENTS
6¢ BOTTLE & CAN REDEMPTION

GLASS ♻️ PLASTIC ♻️ CANS



MELANIE LEKOCEVIC/CAPITAL REGION INDEPENDENT MEDIA

Volunteers with the New Baltimore Conservancy, pictured in the Preserve's parking lot, geared up with rakes, pruning shears and saws for Saturday's cleanup initiative.

EARTH, from page 1

up, Adopt-A-Highway and trail maintenance, like cleaning up downed trees and brush and general pruning and clipping,” Distin said. “We don’t remove anything we don’t have to, but anything that is obstructing the trails and things that came down during the winter.”

Mark Peckham is property manager for Long View Park and is a member of the Conservancy’s board of trustees. Maintaining the natural resources of New Baltimore is an important mission, he said.

“We care deeply about the community,” Peckham said. “This is our legacy to the community, to try to keep this open space and these parks available for everyone to enjoy. You have to have accessible trails and make it worth people’s while to come and enjoy the properties.”

Michelle Wagner is a new member who joined the group a few months ago.

“I am getting ready to retire and I am going to need things to fill my day and I use the

trails, so I figured I might as well help out now that I have time and don’t have to cram everything into a weekend,” Wagner said with a smile.

The Preserve was an important resource for Wagner’s children when they were young. More recently, she brought her young grandson to the trail and he enjoyed it.

“When my kids were growing up, they were here all the time,” Wagner said. “I had never been here until a couple of years ago and I’ve been using the trails ever since. It’s a hidden gem in the community. The trail and Long View Park are extraordinary.”

For new resident Michele Brown, the Conservancy and their programs and volunteer activities have created a welcoming atmosphere during a trying time.

“I just moved to New Baltimore on March 20, 2020, right as the [COVID] shutdown was starting, which is not conducive to meeting neighbors, so I was glad that the Conservancy was doing events to meet neighbors,” Brown said. “I like the outdoors and I wanted to get to know people.”



YOUR LOCAL FUNERAL HOME FOR 60 YEARS!



A family owned funeral home, started in 1968 by Ben Meyers of Alcové. In recent years taken over by his son, Stephen; who lives in Ravena.

For personal service, flexibility and cost savings on your cremation and burial needs. Just 13 miles from downtown Ravena. I know people do not like to talk to the tax man or funeral director, but if I can be of any help at the time of need, please feel free to call.

Stephen Meyers - Where the name on the sign out front matches the guy you talk to.

*Burials starting at \$2,835
Cremations starting at \$995*

741 DELAWARE AVENUE, DELMAR, NY 12054

(518) 439-5560

WWW.MEYERSFUNERALHOME.COM

WE'RE HIRING AT
Pine Lake Manor

An All Inclusive Family Vacation Resort

Seasonal
Full & Part-Time Housekeeping

Please Call 518-966-5745
Come Join the Family!!

WWW.PINELAKEMANOR.COM



Make a Bold Statement

Add beauty and value to your outdoor space with maintenance-free Cultured Stone® veneers.

For over 50 years, Cultured Stone® has been the preferred stone veneer manufacturer among those who value aesthetic, efficiency, and precision.

Visit **GNHLumber.com** to learn more.



Greenville | Windham | Latham



Brian Hemlock and John Barr of TCI NY join RCS High School students on their annual field trip to the “Trail of the Fallen” to honor those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. Located near West Point the students participated in a day-long team-building exercise with military staff. TCI sponsored part of the trip. There is an ever-expanding mound of stones, benches, and painted rocks placed in memorial to the lives lost during military conflicts. The students decorated four rocks of their own and took turns carrying them up to the memorial.

“It is important that we as a country and a community, remember and appreciate all of those who have served in the United States Armed Forces,” said Mr. Hemlock. “We have both active and retired military working at TCI.

Over the years, TCI has developed a strong partnership with RCS High School awarding scholarships to RCS High School Seniors and providing rewarding paid internship opportunities. The company now employs several former interns in good paying full-time jobs with benefits.

Lisa Patierne, Principal at RCS, said, “Not every student will go onto college. TCI provides students with paid worked based learning opportunities that can lead to a promising career.”

“This private-public partnership between TCI and RCS is a perfect example of career exploration and readiness that is paramount to developing a skilled workforce” states Brian Williams, Executive Director of the Capital Region Workforce Development Board.

To apply for a job at TCI, please call John Barr at 518-756- 9997. For more information, please visit our website at www.tci-ny.com.

DEC: Southern pine beetle expands north

ALBANY — The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation have announced that southern pine beetles (SPB) were found farther north than previously documented and in greater numbers, suggesting their range is expanding and populations are on the rise.

Southern pine beetles are destructive forest pests that pose a significant threat to the state's pine forests, particularly pitch pine forests like those found in the Albany Pine Bush and Minnewaska State Park Preserve.

"DEC, in partnership with OPRHP, will continue to proactively work to combat the environmental threats that the SPB poses to New York's treasured forestland and the impacts we are seeing from our changing climate and the in-

crease in severe weather events, which influence SPB survival and movement," DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos said. "Our ongoing strategies will help mitigate the impacts of SPB in the Hudson Valley and help slow the spread by removing infested trees and manage susceptible forests using thinning and prescribed fire activities to increase forest health and resiliency."

"Southern pine beetle poses a real threat to some of our most fragile ecosystems and iconic landscapes, which could have a large impact in multiple state parks, including Minnewaska State Park Preserve, Schunnemunk Mountain State Park, Hudson Highlands, and Taconic State Park," said OPRHP Commissioner Erik Kulleseid. "We will continue to partner with DEC to identify potential SPB infestations, allowing us the ability to react

quickly and hopefully mitigating any largescale damage before it occurs."

A joint research project between DEC's Division of Lands and Forests and OPRHP's Division of Environmental Stewardship and Planning resulted in a new trap detection of southern pine beetles at the Saratoga Sand Plains Wildlife Management Area in Saratoga County.

Additionally, significantly larger trap catches of SPB were documented at locations in the Hudson Valley where SPB were previously found, and several infested trees were discovered in Taconic State Park, the first infested trees to be identified outside of Long Island.

Ecologically sensitive pitch pine habitat in upstate New York will increasingly be at risk if SPB populations continue to increase and expand.

DEC, OPRHP, the Albany Pine Bush and other partners have been monitoring SPB movement for several years in the areas of the state north of the known infestations in New Jersey and Long Island.

Since 2016, SPB had been detected in low numbers in insect traps in the Hudson Valley, but the recent increase in trapped beetles may mean they will soon be established north of Long Island. Trapping efforts in Schunnemunk, Minnewaska and Taconic State Parks produced SPB numbers only previously seen on Long Island.

The three infested pine trees in Taconic State Park were found near Sunset Rock during joint survey efforts by DEC and OPRHP crews. A DEC strike team removed and destroyed the infested trees in cooperation with OPRHP staff.

"We have known for some time

that restoring the globally rare ecology of the Albany Pine Bush is benefiting many rare plant and animal species and reducing the risk of uncontrolled wildfire," said Neil Gifford of Albany Pine Bush Preserve. "It turns out that the forest thinning, and prescribed burning may also protect the preserve's iconic pitch pines from a new threat, southern pine beetle. This approach has the added benefit of reducing the harmful effect of southern pine beetle and other forest pests and diseases."

SPB attack primarily pitch pine and red pine but will attack additional conifers when outbreaks occur. DEC encourages the public to report any signs of SPB that they encounter in pine forests (outside of Long Island) by emailing pictures and location information to foresthealth@dec.ny.gov.

— PAID ADVERTISING —

Attorney

DIVORCE \$389 - Uncontested divorce papers prepared. Only one signature required. Poor person Application included if applicable. Separation agreements. Custody and support petitions. 518-274-0380

Auto Donations

Drive Out Breast Cancer: Donate a car today! The benefits of donating your car or boat: Fast Free Pickup - 24hr Response Tax Deduction - Easy To Do! Call 24/7: 855-905-4755

Auto Donations

Wheels For Wishes benefiting Make-A-Wish® Northeast New York. Your Car Donations Matter NOW More Than Ever! Free Vehicle Pick Up ANYWHERE. We Accept Most Vehicles Running or Not. 100% Tax Deductible. Minimal To No Human Contact. Call: (877) 798-9474. Car Donation Foundation d/b/a Wheels For Wishes. www.wheelsforwishes.org.

Education / Career Training

TRAIN AT HOME TO DO MEDICAL BILLING! Become a Medical Office Professional online at CTI! Get Trained, Certified & ready to work in months! Call 855-543-6440. (M-F 8am-6pm ET)

Education / Career Training

COMPUTER & IT TRAINING PROGRAM! Train ONLINE to get the skills to become a Computer & Help Desk Professional now! Grants and Scholarships available for certain programs for qualified applicants. Call CTI for details! (844) 947-0192 (M-F 8am-6pm ET)

Events

ANTIQUÉ LOVERS TAKE NOTE! BRIMFIELD IS HERE - ALL SHOWS! May 10-15, New shows open daily! BrimfieldAntiqueFleaMarket.com. 2022 Show Dates: May 10-15, July 12-17, September 6-11.

Finance

ARE YOU BEHIND \$10k OR MORE ON YOUR TAXES? Stop wage & bank levies, liens & audits, unfiled tax returns, payroll issues, & resolve tax debt FAST. Call 888-869-5361 (Hours: Mon-Fri 7am-5pm PST)

Health

ATTENTION VIAGRA USERS: Generic 100mg blue pills or generic 20mg yellow pills. Get 45 plus 5 free \$99 + S/H. Call Today. 877-707-5523

Home Improvement

The Generac PWRcell, a solar plus battery storage system. SAVE money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 Down Financing Option. Request a FREE, no obligation, quote today. Call 1-888-871-0194

Home Improvement

Never Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again! Complete Care Home Warranty **COVERS ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES.** 30 DAY RISK FREE. \$200.00 OFF + 2 FREE Months! 866-440-6501

Home Improvement

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 866-393-3636

Miscellaneous

BEST SATELLITE TV with 2 Year Price Guarantee! \$59.99/mo with 190 channels and 3 months free premium movie channels! Free next day installation! Call 888-508-5313

Miscellaneous

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off and 0% financing for those who qualify. PLUS Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-763-2379

Miscellaneous

DIRECTV for \$79.99/mo for 12 months with CHOICE Package.

Watch your favorite live sports, news & entertainment anywhere. First 3 months of HBO Max, Cinemax, Showtime, Starz and Epix included!

Directv is #1 in Customer Satisfaction (JD Power & Assoc.) Some restrictions apply. Call 1-888-534-6918

TV Internet Phone

DISH TV \$64.99 For 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet.

Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Promo Expires 1/21/23. 1-866-595-6967

ELEVATORS • STAIR LIFTS • WHEELCHAIR LIFTS • RAMPS

• Sales • Rentals • Service • Buybacks
New and Reconditioned Lifts

Stay in the home you Love!

Locally Owned & Operated

THE ALBANY Lift Company

Stairlifts • Elevators • Wheelchair Lifts • Ramps

747 Pierce Road, Clifton Park NY 12065
(518) 393-2274 • (888) 558-LIFT
www.thealbanyliftcompany.com

Visit Our Display Center: 747 Pierce Road, Clifton Park, NY, 12065

Call today and receive a **FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF**

SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB

1-855-916-5473

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445

EASE OF USE CERTIFIED
MADE IN TENNESSEE
BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS
LIFETIME LIMITED WARRANTY

FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT

Prepare for power outages today

GENERAC

WITH A HOME STANDBY GENERATOR

\$0 MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

Contact a Generac dealer for full terms and conditions

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE
CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE
(877) 516-1160

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty*
- A \$695 Value!

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

Upgrade Your Home with a **NEW METAL ROOF**

Guaranteed to Last a Lifetime!

LIMITED TIME OFFER
60% off
YOUR INSTALLATION
+
TAKE AN ADDITIONAL 10% off
Install for Military, Health Workers and First Responders

ERIE Metal Roofs

STRONG AS STEEL WITH THE ATTRACTIVE LOOK OF VARIOUS ROOF STYLES

From Dimensional Shingles to classic styles reminiscent of Cedar Shake and Spanish Tile, an architectural roofing system by Erie Metal Roofs can enhance the beauty of your home while protecting your family and property for a lifetime.

Call today to schedule your **FREE ESTIMATE 1-855-492-6084**

Made in the USA

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. Offer expires June 30, 2022. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on homeservices.compliance.com. All rights reserved.

DENTAL Insurance

from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company

Call to get your **FREE Information Kit**

1-855-225-1434

Dental50Plus.com/nypress

Product not available in all states. Includes the Participating (in GA: Designated) Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, NY, call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C2500); Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P150OK; TN: P150TN). Rider kinds: B438, B439 (GA: B439B). 6208-072

tripadvisor **Dutch Apple CRUISES & TOURS**

Located at 141 Broadway Albany, NY 12202 Next to USS Slater

HUDSON RIVER SIGHTSEEING CRUISES SUNSETS - LIVE MUSIC FOOD - FULL BAR INSIDE & OUTSIDE DECKS

518.463.0220 DUTCHAPPLECRUISES.COM

Prepare for Power Outages & Save Money

GENERAC PWRCELL
SOLAR + BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEM

PWRcell, Generac's fully-integrated solar + battery storage system, stores solar energy that can power your whole home during utility power outages and save you money on your electric bill.

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!

ACT NOW TO RECEIVE A \$300 SPECIAL OFFER!*

| (888) 871-0194

\$0 DOWN FINANCING OPTIONS!*

*Offer value when purchased at retail.
**Financing available through authorized Generac partners. Solar panels sold separately.

NEW YORK HOMEOWNERS:

Do you need a **New Roof** and **Help** paying for it?

*Any leaking, visible damage, or roof age, may *qualify you!*

Do you need **Energy Efficient Windows & Help** paying for it?

*Drafty windows, energy cost too high, you may *qualify!*

HELP IS AVAILABLE EVEN IF YOU COULD PAY CASH

YOU MAY *QUALIFY THROUGH NEW RELIEF PROGRAMS

Qualify Today: (800) 944-9393
or visit **NYProgramFunding.org** to see if you *qualify

**Enrollment is only open during a limited time. Programs, appointments, and installations are on a first come, first serve basis in your area.*

Approved applications will have the work completed by a quality repair crew provided by: HOMEOWNER FUNDING. Not affiliated with State or Gov Programs.

Living on Purpose

Nevertheless, not my will but thine be done

By Dr. Billy Holland

For Capital Region Independent Media

God's general will is His Word and knowing the divine wisdom of His knowledge reveals who He is and what He demands from us.

You see, no matter what we have been taught, abandoning our will to God is not an option for those who seek to be an overcomer for His glory. I sense a burden this week to talk about the danger of living, however we want instead of obeying what God is saying.

Jesus is quoted in Luke 22:42, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless, not my will, but thine be done."

Many fail to understand the Bible is not just a dialogue between real people who lived many years ago, but it is also a living revelation meant to speak to the heart of the listener today. The topic of the human will being surrendered to God is the foundation of the Christian life, and yet there has never been a more unpopular subject. It's not a secret that most people want all that God has, but rarely consider what God demands from us.

Though rarely mentioned, our carnal nature is so deceptive and rebellious that it's common for people to believe God is not paying attention to what we say or do. The few who become serious and take the time to fast and pray for discernment will discover the sobering truth that our depravity defends disobedience with denial.

Our emotions couldn't care less

if we are spiritually wandering out in left field wearing a blindfold as long as our will can remain in control of our decisions. Adam and Eve chose to live according to their ideas despite God's warnings and sadly this rebellious attitude is alive and well today and can only be harnessed through continuous spiritual warfare.

Many pray that God will have mercy on them, but invest little effort to be transformed by the renewing of their mind. We want Him to help us and deliver us from our problems, but often are not willing to lay down our will so that we can embrace His. We desire to live independently while proclaiming to be a Christian, but fail to comprehend we cannot manage both successfully.

In Matthew 6:24, Jesus plainly said, "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

A master is anything that enslaves us and when it comes to worldly adoration He uses money as an example of anything that we love more than God. Christ in Luke 6:24 relays a sobering statement about those who refuse to listen to His voice or live by His demands and yet still call Him their Lord. I passed someone on the side of the road yesterday holding a sign that said, "Jesus wants to be your Savior and your Lord."

Each child of God has been

called to do many things and has a unique role to play in His Kingdom. Our gifts, talents, anointing and personalities are all different and He desires to use each one to accomplish His perfect plan.

With those who are born again, life has been drastically changed because we are now building from a brand new spiritual blueprint. The plans and desires that we had in our old life may not look anything like what God has chosen for us to do now.

The Christian's call has certain responsibilities and for the rest of our days it is up to us to discover what they mean and how to accomplish them. The beginning of wisdom is the fear of God, which means we must operate in His strength and attitude for His plans to be successful. Those who attempt to compromise by combining their will with God's will or to allow denial to lead them into a seemingly innocent rebellion will discover that no matter how excited or diligent they are to execute their goals, things never seem to pan out.

Even if they forcefully push them through until they are exhausted from their labors, they are left empty and extremely dissatisfied. Why? Because they have yet to learn that God does not accept or bless our sacrificial offerings if they are given on our terms.

Until we remove ourselves from our throne of control, we have not truly yielded our will to Him.

Learn more about the Christian life at billyhollandministries.com.



Because you care!

Sometimes, things don't always work out at home for a child.

New York's Office of Children and Family Services estimates that 130,000 children around the state live with a grandparent, an aunt or uncle, or other family member. Some even live with close family friends. When a family member or close family friend assumes the responsibility of caring for a child, that's called **Kinship Care**.

Perhaps you are a kinship care provider, or know someone who is. If you are, you do it for all the right reasons. **Because you care.** But there's good news. St. Catherine's Center for Children has launched a new program to support kinship caregivers in Albany, Schenectady, Greene and Ulster Counties. The program connects caregivers like you to a variety of community and public support services, providing you with the tools you need to succeed. Want to learn more? Call us at the number below, or email kinshipcare@st-cath.org

St. Catherine's Center for Children
40 North Main Avenue, Albany, NY 12203
www.st-cath.org • 518-453-6700



Now Renting! THE FALLS

The Falls luxury apartment complex

A 100 year old school renovated into a 116 luxury apartment complex located in the Historic Hudson Valley Region.

- 1, 2, 3 bedroom apartments
- Lots of indoor/outdoor amenities
- 22 acres property

Tenants are responsible for paying electric & gas.

- INCLUDED WITH RENT:** Use of all amenities: * 30 seat movie theatre * indoor spa * gym * yoga room * children's room * adult lounging * pool lounge * outdoor pool
- WiFi and Cable • Dedicated off-street parking • 9x9 storage in full basement setting
 - Use of all common areas • Trash & recycling rooms located on each floor
 - Pet friendly • Elevator access to each floor • Smoke-Free Community
 - Pre-wired for high speed Internet/TV technology



jmscollective.com/thefalls

Rentals@JMSCollective.com

518-719-1600

Be A Better Gardener

A Thoreau awareness of climate change

By Thomas Christopher

For Capital Region Independent Media

Sometimes insights come from unexpected sources.

Twenty years ago, Dr. Richard Primack, a botanist at Boston University, changed his focus from tropical rainforests to what was happening in response to climate change in the woods and fields of Massachusetts. In particular, he began to study the effects of the warming climate on phenology, the scheduling of natural biological events such as bird migrations or the bloom time of various wildflowers in the spring.

To make sense of this, he needed not only observations by himself and his students of contemporary phenologies, he also needed historic records against which to compare them. I was fascinated to learn that he found the latter in the writings of one of my heroes, Henry David Thoreau.

Thoreau is best remembered today as the author of the literary classic "Walden" and the political essay "Civil Disobedience." He was also, however, a dedicated observer of nature as expressed in the countryside of his hometown, Concord, Massachusetts.

Thoreau took hours-long walks daily and recorded in his journals what he had seen, starting in 1837 and continuing until 1861 (the year before his death). When Dr. Primack explored these journals, especially those covering the 1850s, he found a treasure trove of relevant data. For example, Thoreau had noted the bloom times of some 300 species of native plants, as well as the arrival time of various migrating birds and the dates when specific trees and shrubs began to leaf out in the spring.

By comparing Thoreau's observations with his own and those of his students, Primack was able to chart the phenological changes that had occurred as the climate has warmed an average of 3-degrees Celsius. What he found was that different types of organisms reacted differently. A fundamental change was that of the native trees and shrubs, which are now leafing out some 10 days earlier in Concord than they did in the 1850s.

That may not sound like much, but in fact, it's enough to markedly disrupt the general phenology of the woods. The new leaves provide food for plant-eating insects, spurring a population spike that is relied on by songbirds to feed their chicks. Yet the songbirds have not reacted to climate change to the extent



Henry David Thoreau, pictured in 1856.

of the trees, shrubs and insects, so they now run the danger of arriving after the spike of insects has passed.

Additionally, some invasive plants that have been introduced into the landscape such as Norway maples, Japanese barberries and Tartarian honeysuckles, have reacted more strongly than the native trees and shrubs, leafing out earlier so they now have an additional advantage. As a rule, these invasives do not

support the native insects.

The difference in reactions to climate change has another implication for the ecology of the woods. Spring wildflowers have reacted less to the warming than trees, perhaps, Primack theorizes, because the wildflowers while dormant remain below ground, whereas the trees are exposed to the air, which warms before the soil does. The wildflowers used to emerge first, taking advantage of the sunlight

that filtered through the still-bare tree canopy. Now the earlier leafing trees are threatening to shade out the wildflowers.

Weather records reveal that climate change is increasing another hazard to our wildlife. Climate change has simultaneously led to a weakening of the jet stream in the upper atmosphere, making southward intrusions of northern, frigid weather a common feature of our northeastern springs. This has led to a seemingly contradictory situation in which earlier springs are frequently matched with hard frosts late in the season.

These frosts can be fatal to flowers, young leaves, and even newly emerged insects. The native flora and fauna can typically recuperate from such setbacks, but they weaken these organisms. Hotter summers increase plants' needs for water, increasing the danger of drought.

To succeed at their craft, gardeners need to be aware of the changes that climate change is wreaking. This knowledge should also encourage them to become advocates for taking the steps necessary to combat climate change. Because alert gardeners are well informed about natural systems – including phenology – they are well prepared to become advocates for environmental action in their communities.

To hear more about Dr. Primack's work, and his advice on the role gardeners can, like Thoreau, play as citizen scientists, log onto the Berkshire Botanical Garden's Growing Greener podcast at www.berkshirebotanical.org/growinggreener.

Be-a-Better-Gardener is a community service of Berkshire Botanical Garden, located in Stockbridge, Mass. Its mission, to provide knowledge of gardening and the environment through a diverse range of classes and programs, informs and inspires thousands of students and visitors each year. Thomas Christopher is a volunteer at Berkshire Botanical Garden and is the author or co-author of more than a dozen books, including Nature into Art and The Gardens of Wave Hill (Timber Press, 2019). He is the 2021 Garden Club of America's National Medalist for Literature, a distinction reserved to recognize those who have left a profound and lasting impact on issues that are most important to the GCA. Christopher's companion broadcast to this column, Growing Greener, streams on WE-SUFM.org, Pacifica Radio and NPR and is available at berkshirebotanical.org/growing-greener.



Call us at 518-966-4623



Local, proven professionals offering quality, low cost

Auto, Home Business & Life Insurance

10734 Rte. 32, Greenville

Online at WCAgency.net

TREE SERVICES



SEVENZOCKS
TREE SERVICES

Commercial – Residential

www.sevenzocks.com

- Tree Trimming and Pruning
- Large Tree Removal
- 60 ft Bucket Truck
- Free Estimates

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

GREAT PRICES • FULLY INSURED

518-635-4111 • 1277 Rte 9W, Selkirk (2 miles south of Jericho Drive-In)



NOW HIRING LABORERS

- ✓ Full-time Employment
- ✓ Benefits
- ✓ Opportunity for Growth
- ✓ Competitive Pay Scale

COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION TODAY

at TCI, 99 Industrial Park Lane, Coeymans
or email your resume to hr@tci-ny.com
518-756-9997

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The Greenville Pioneer wants to hear from you. Send information about upcoming events and news to news@greenvillepioneer.com.

(We need to have announcements at least two weeks in advance.)



Social Security Matters

Must working husband enroll in Medicare at age 65?

By Russell Gloor

For Capital Region Independent Media

Dear Rusty: There is confusion between my husband and me on when he should file for Medicare.

My husband will be 64 in July. While he does plan on continuing to work to age 67 and continuing with his employer's insurance plan, I believe there's a requirement that he file for a certain part of the Medicare retirement plan at age 65, otherwise there's some penalty at some point in the future after retirement.

There's lots of confusion with this, and I'm hoping you can explain exactly what the process is in filing for Medicare at age 65 and after reaching full retirement age.

Also, please comment on whether continuing with employers' insurance is an option or if you should file for Medicare at age 65.

Signed: Confused About Medicare

Dear Confused: There are two main parts of Medicare to be

aware of for this discussion — Part A, which is coverage for inpatient hospitalization services, and Part B, which is coverage for outpatient services (doctors, medical tests, etc.).

Medicare Part A: Assuming your husband is eligible to collect Social Security when he turns 65 (he needn't be collecting it, only eligible to), there will be no premium associated with Medicare Part A (thus no penalty if he delays claiming it). If his employer coverage is "creditable" (which is a group plan with at least 20 participants), then he can defer enrolling in Part A until 1) his employer hospitalization coverage ends, or 2) he starts collecting his Social Security benefits (enrolling in Part A is mandatory for those who are collecting Social Security after age 65).

He may also wish to check with his employer's HR department to see if his employer plan requires him to enroll in Part A when he turns 65.

However, if your husband enrolls in Part A and has a Health Savings Account (HSA) through his employer, any contributions made to his HSA account after the month before he is 65 will be subject to an IRS penalty and become taxable income.

Medicare Part B: There is a monthly premium associated with Part B, but if your husband has "creditable" health care coverage from his employer when he turns 65, he can simply defer enrolling in Part B until his employer coverage ends and there will be no Late Enrollment Penalty for waiting.

When his employer coverage ends, he will enter an eight-month Medicare Special Enrollment Period (SEP) during which he can enroll in Part B without penalty. But if he doesn't enroll during (or before) his SEP and enrolls in Part B later, he'll be subject to a Late Enrollment Penalty which would increase his Part B premium by 10% for each full year he goes without "credit-

able" coverage after age 65.

FYI, your husband can also enroll in Part B shortly before his employer coverage ends and specify that he wishes his Medicare coverage to start on the first of the month following the end of his employer coverage (to avoid any gap in coverage).

When your husband enrolls in Part B, he must also enroll in Part A (at no additional cost). FYI, Part B premiums can increase yearly — the standard 2022 Part B premium is \$170.10/month.

There is another Medicare element called "Part D," which is coverage for prescription drugs. Prescription drug costs are not covered by Medicare Parts A/B and such coverage must be acquired separately if desired. When your husband's prescription drug coverage from his employer plan ends, he'll need to separately acquire (through a private insurer) drug coverage during his SEP, or there will be a separate Part D late enrollment

penalty for acquiring drug coverage thereafter.

The bottom line is this: If your husband's health care coverage from his employer is "creditable," he can simply defer enrolling in Medicare until his employer coverage ends, and there will be no late enrollment penalty for doing so (unless he waits beyond his SEP to enroll).

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

HAND, from page 1

with the names of the 17 troops with ties to Greene County who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Vietnam War.

The memorial fund group is an offshoot of the Northeast USA Vietnam Veterans Reunion Association, which hosted an annual reunion for Vietnam veterans in Freehold and later Greenville for 20 years. The event each year drew hundreds of veterans from across the country.

Now, the organization has formed the memorial fund to build a monument to the fallen.

The project comes with a hefty price tag — in total, the estimated amount needed to be raised is \$102,723, Broder said.

The group is working with Delaware Engineering to develop the plans for the project, which will include an 80-foot-tall flagpole with an internal hal-

yard to make it easier to raise and lower the flag — the ceremonial flag will be 20-feet by 38-feet.

"That flag is almost the size of this room, that is how big that flag is going to be," Town Supervisor Paul Macko said, referring to the large meeting room at the Pioneer Building.

The flagpole will be among the highest structures in the town.

"By contrast, the top of Prevost Hall, the dome of that building is 65 feet so this flagpole will tower over the top of that by 15 feet," Macko said. "So it should be the focal point when you are coming down [Route] 32 south or up at the top of the hill — it should be the focal point when people are coming into town."

The flagpole alone is expected to cost \$17,387, and the ceremonial flag will be \$849. The two everyday flags, at 12 feet by 18 feet, will cost another \$763.

The black granite monument

will cost about \$19,700.

"The stone that we are getting — fortunately we are lucky to have it in this country, it comes from India. There is no place in the United States where you can get a purely jet-black granite," Broder said. "It is mined out of India and that is where they got it when they made the veterans monument in Washington D.C. COVID, of course, slowed that down in India, but it is such a valuable commodity that they are bidding on it on the ships — it is sold before the ship even gets into the port, so we are fortunate that a quarry in Vermont has slabs of this and we were able, with a deposit, to hold onto those slabs."

The centerpiece of the display will be a 44-inch-tall bronze Battlefield Cross, at a cost of \$7,500.

The monument will be engraved with the names of the 17 troops from Greene County who died in the war — Arnold Melvin Hull, William Michael Bagshaw, John Francis Dedek, William John Dolan, John Irwin Cameron, Donald Wyszomirski, James Ronald Oakley, Paul Lewis, Paul Edward Albano, Norman Wilbur Clearwater, Michael Joseph Rowcroft, Mark Vedder Schmidt, Ronald Francis Hock, Eugene Jerome Curless Jr., Harry Joseph Sickler, Robert Bruce Schampier and Tunis E. Rappleyea Jr.

The names will not be engraved in alphabetical or chronological order. They will be presented in no specific order in order to enable the group to add additional names if any are identified later on, Broder said.

The memorial stone presently in the park will be temporarily removed in order to excavate and put down a new foundation, Broder said.

"The existing stone that is there now is tipping pretty good, so while we are doing this, we will fix that," Macko said.

In addition to the names of the fallen, the memorial will also include the logos of the town of Greenville, Greene County and the Challenge Coin that is presented to those who substantially support Vietnam veterans. There will be a map of Vietnam engraved on one of the two memorial stones, and the following statement: "The Northeast USA Vietnam Veterans Reunion Association is honoring those of Greene County who paid the ultimate sacrifice as a result of the Vietnam War. We are dedicating this monument to all the residents of Greene County. We are dedicating this flagpole to all residents of the town of Greenville who welcomed us for the 20 years the reunions were held in Greenville."

One of the stones will also honor veterans who returned home from the war but later died as a result of injuries, exposure to the herbicide and defoliant Agent Orange, or other causes.

"I did receive a number of calls and emails from people who said their brother died of Agent Orange, or they know someone who committed suicide, things like that," Broder said. "We honor and remember their sacrifice, too."

The names of the 17 fallen troops will be presented precise-

ly as they appear on the national Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington D.C., Broder said.

Other costs involved in the project include \$25,000 for labor and services, including excavation, concrete work and a crane to install the flagpole, as well as various other expenses.

Delaware Engineering loaned the group the funds to pay for the flagpole. Sill said the cost just for shipping and handling alone kept rising.

"The shipping costs on the flagpole just kept going up, up, up," Sill said. "So that is why we had to get it right away."

Shipping costs rose from \$500 to \$1,400 just over the course of two weeks, Broder added.

Delaware Engineering also made an undisclosed donation to the project, Broder said.

The goal is to have the monument and flagpole installed over the summer and be ready to do a dedication ceremony Sept. 17, according to the group.

In addition to seeking donations and grants, the group is also looking for additional information about the Greene County residents whose names will appear on the monument. Broder said an article about the project that appeared in the Greenville Pioneer in January led to several calls from family members from as far away as Florida, and the group is hoping to gather more information about the veterans for use during the memorial ceremony slated to take place in September.

SAVE THE DATE
Hudson Berkshire Beverage Trail
WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL
MAY 28 & 29, 2022
THIS IS A RAIN OR SHINE EVENT
 Columbia Co. Fairgrounds, Chatham, NY
AWARD-WINNING WINERIES, DISTILLERIES AND CIDERIES FROM NY AND MA
 Information & tickets available on-line at:
www.hbwinefest.com

COMPUTER PROBLEMS?
Geeks on Site
 Friendly Certified Computer Repair Experts
 Simply mention coupon code **42513** and get **\$20 OFF** any service you need!
 Call Now for a FREE Diagnosis
1-866-848-0045

Leaf Filter
BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE
EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!
15% OFF & 10% OFF
FINANCING THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET!
CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE
1-855-478-9473

Saving a Life EVERY 11 MINUTES
I'm never alone
Life Alert® is always here for me.
 One touch of a button sends help fast, 24/7.
Life Alert® Batteries Never Need Charging.
For a FREE brochure call:
1-800-404-9776

Crossroads Ford
518-756-4000 • 2351 Rt. 9W Ravenna, NY • (Just 10 miles South of Albany)

ALERT! These NEW VEHICLES just landed & WON'T last long!

FORD BRONCO SPORT BIG BEND 1 available
FORD F-150 3 available
FORD EDGE 5 available
FORD RANGER 3 available

PRE-OWNED SPECIALS

2016 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500
 Work Truck, 4x4, 4dr, Double Cab, Power Windows/Locks, FLEX Fuel, 4.3L V6, Auto, Bed Liner, Tow Package, 89,127 Miles.
\$29,995

2016 NISSAN ROGUE S
 AWD 4dr Crossover, Power Windows/ Locks/ Mirrors, A/C Climate Control, Automatic, AUX Input, 94,699 Miles.
\$17,245

2020 FORD TRANSIT CONNECT WAGON XLT
 4dr, LWB PASSENGER Mini Van, Dual Sliding Doors, Power Windows/Locks/ Mirrors, 40,886 Miles.
\$33,990

2018 VOLVO XC90 MOMENTUM
 2.0L I4, Auto., AWD, 4Dr., SUV, Alloy Wheels, Great Tires, Leather Interior, Pano Moonroof, Full Power, 84,021 Miles.
\$35,995



**BUYING
OR
SELLING?
CALL TODAY
FOR A
FREE CONSULTATION**



**COLDWELL BANKER | PRIME
PROPERTIES**

**WE PRICE TO SELL,
PROVIDE TOP NOTCH MARKETING
& WE NEGOTIATE STRONGER!**

**CALL US TODAY!
518.966.4900**

11573 State Route 32, Unit 8B | Greenville, NY 12083

WWW.COLDWELLBANKERPRIME.COM