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The Greenville PIONEER

Friday, August 26, 2022 • \$1.50

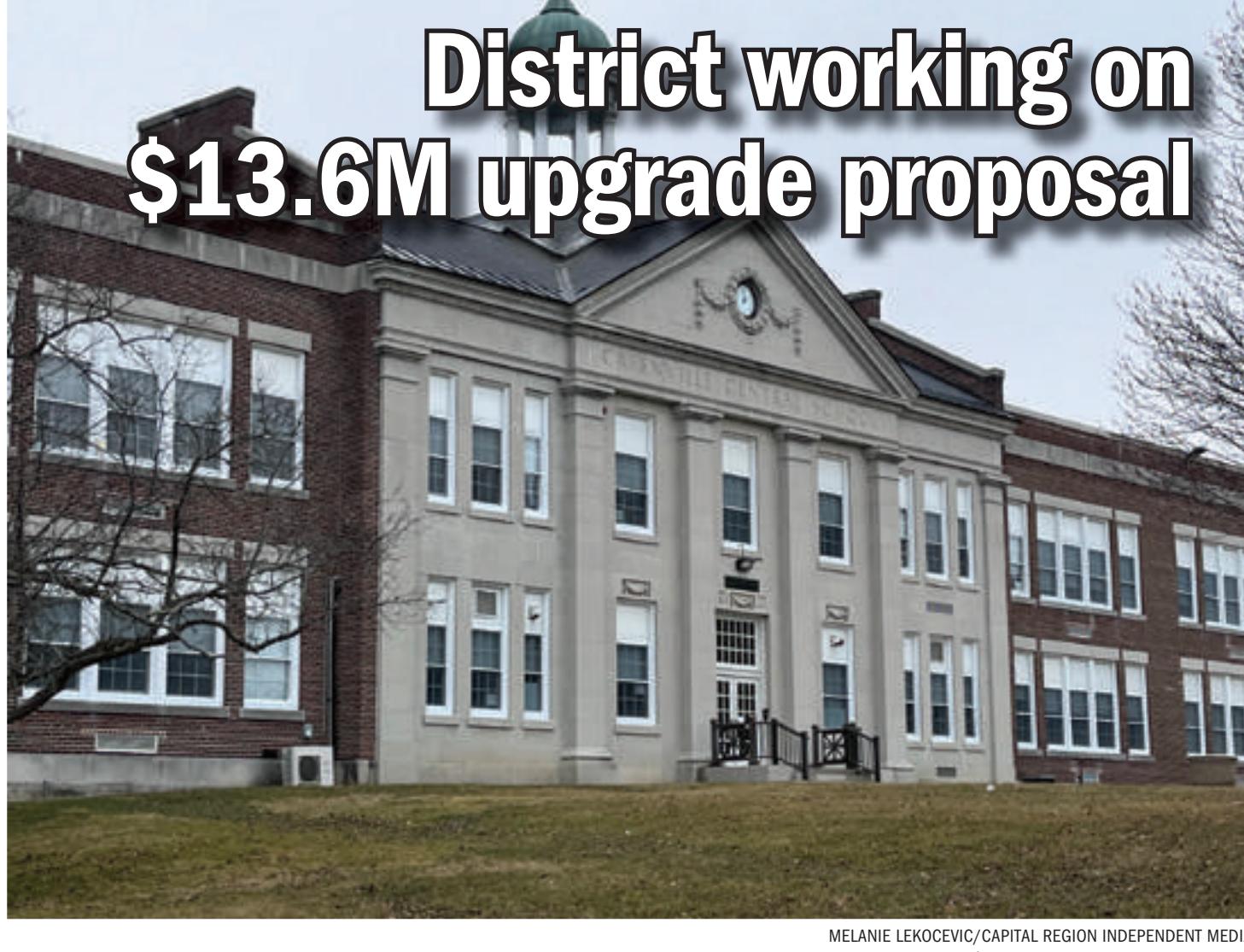
LARGEST PAID CIRCULATED NEWSPAPER IN GREENE COUNTY

Grant could infuse millions of dollars into town

See page 13



District working on \$13.6M upgrade proposal



MELANIE LEKOCEVIC/CAPITAL REGION INDEPENDENT MEDIA

Scott M. Ellis Elementary School is in line to receive the biggest chunk of funding and upgrades under the proposed \$13.6 million renovation plan.

By Melanie Lekocevic

Capital Region Independent Media

GREENVILLE — The school district is working to put a \$13.6M tax neutral project to the voters in December.

Matthew Schools, of SEI Design Group, presented the plan as it currently stands at the board of education's Aug. 8 meeting.

The August presentation was a follow-up to an April meeting where the design group presented preliminary plans for the project.

"This largely is a review for the board tonight," Schools said. "We presented on a more local level and then came to the board with what we had prioritized. Everything started with the building condition survey process and we've boiled everything down into a prioritized project."

Under the proposal as it currently stands, the middle/high school would see the addition of an art suite, art classroom renovation, roof restoration, improved ventilation, asbestos abatement and exterior masonry renovations.

"One of the bigger things we are looking to do is put an addition on the building to create a dedicated middle school and a dedicated high school art room," Schools said.



MELANIE LEKOCEVIC/CAPITAL REGION INDEPENDENT MEDIA

Greenville Middle/High School would see nearly \$2.4 million in renovations if voters approve the proposal in a December vote.

"Right now, they are in one space that really could be the space that one single art room should take up, so essentially they are two small art rooms. We want to add a little to

the building and re-equalize the art rooms so they are essentially equal but larger col-

See DISTRICT, page 19



Joel Rauf

Rauf resigns from town board

By Melanie Lekocevic
Capital Region Independent Media

GREENVILLE — Town Councilman Joel Rauf has resigned from the Greenville Town Council.

Rauf, who has moved out of the town, submitted a letter of resignation to Town Supervisor Paul Macko, which Macko read during the Aug. 15 meeting of the town board.

"I am tendering my resignation as a member of the town board," Rauf said. "I am no longer eligible to fulfill my duties as my residency is no longer in the town of Greenville."

Rauf said he enjoyed working on behalf of the town. He was last re-elected to a four-year term on the board in 2019.

"It has been my pleasure to work with the board and the town employees to provide the taxpayers with services needed, along with the pleasantries of our wonderful small-town lifestyle," Rauf said. "It is my wish that the board continue with the firm belief that the town is a great treasure and that the residents want to preserve the beauty that attracts the people that continue to live and prosper in our small town."

The town board unanimously accepted Rauf's resignation "with regret," Macko said.

The board will next seek to appoint a replacement.

"If anybody knows anybody or can give us some names, we will be

See RAUF, page 19

Town eyes pond dredging project

By Melanie Lekocevic

Capital Region Independent Media

GREENVILLE — The pond in the center of Greenville is filled with green algae and water levels are low, so the town is looking to drain, dredge and refill it.

The water, located in Veterans Memorial Park at the intersection of Routes 32 and 81, is at a very low level due to the summer's drought. In fact, the water is so low that in the center of the pond there is a small "island" of greenery that is normally under water.

A green film of algae also covers the top of the pond.

The town is looking to dredge the pond and clean it out. Pond dredging involves collecting and removing sediment and other materials that have accumulated in the water.

The town council put the project out to bid but did not receive any responses from contractors. At the Aug. 15 meeting of the board officials decided to put the project



MELANIE LEKOCEVIC/CAPITAL REGION INDEPENDENT MEDIA

The town council is looking to drain and dredge the pond at Greenville's Veterans Memorial Park.

The pond is covered with a green film and the water table is about 3 feet lower than usual.

out to bid a second time and look at doing

the work in-house as well.

The last time the pond was dredged was

in 1997, Water Superintendent Leroy Bear

said.

Water levels are several feet lower than usual due to a lack of rain and the drought that prompted a statewide alert to conserve water.

"We might as well open it up and let it drain," Town Supervisor Paul Macko said of the pond. "There's hardly any water in there now."

No bids for the dredging project came in. Town Councilman Travis Richards asked about doing the project with town resources instead.

"Is it feasible that we do it ourselves, seeing as how no one bid the last time?" Richards asked.

Macko responded that it could be done.

"We could drain the pond and then dump some fill material in for a base to back the excavator in," Macko said. "We've known we had a problem for the last couple of years and this year, being such a dry summer, it's kind of complicated the problem because the water table in the pond is down

See TOWN, page 19

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Community Calendar

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

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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.

AUGUST 2022

- 29-30 - Summer Garden Pop-Up with Bill Clark, 4-8 p.m., at Scribner's Catskill Lodge, 13 Scribner Hollow Road, Hunter.
- 29 - Greenville Central School District Board of Education meeting, 6 p.m., at Greenville Middle/High School, Route 81, Greenville.
- 30 - Yoga in the Park, 9 a.m., at Cairo Public Library, 15 Railroad Avenue, Cairo.

SEPTEMBER 2022

- 1 - Cairo Planning Board meeting, 7 p.m., at Cairo Town Hall, 512 Main Street, Cairo.
- 2 - Summer music concert hosted by Community Partners of Greenville, 6-7:30 p.m. at the gazebo at the intersection of Routes 32 and 81, or in Prevost Hall in inclement weather. Michael Benedict Jazz Vibes will perform.
- 2 - First Fridays Catskill, on Main Street in the village of Catskill. Free admission.
- 3 - Annual Lawn Party Fundraiser, 4 p.m., at Eli Hutchinson House, 1440 County Route 351, Rensselaerville.
- 5 - Labor Day. All town and village offices closed.
- 6 - Durham Town Board workshop, 7:30 p.m., at Durham Town Hall, 7309 Route 81, East Durham.
- 10 - Oktoberfest, starts at 3 p.m. at Nussy's Bier Garten, 57 Ravine Drive, Round Top.
- 10 - Athens Cultural Center: Second Saturday's Film Series, 8:30 p.m., at Athens' Historic Riverfront Park, Athens. Film: "I Dream Too Much." Free admission.

10 - Cultivate Catskill's 2nd Saturday Trunk Sales, at Bridge and Water streets in the village of Catskill. Cars \$5, trucks \$10.

- 10 - Hudson-Athens Boat and Lighthouse Summer Tours, departure times 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., from Athens Riverfront Park. Book tickets at <https://www.catskillmountainferry.com> or call 914-589-7773.

10 - Light Up the Barn Fundraiser supporting New Baltimore Conservancy's restoration work at the barn at Longview Park, 1886 River Road, New Baltimore, 5:30-9 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person.

- 11 - Fall Fling Flea Market and Craft Fair, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at TGM American Legion Post 187, 94 Second Street, Athens. Vendors are welcome, visit Facebook page for more information.

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

- 14-18 - 25th Annual Catskill Mountain Thunder Motorcycle Festival, at Blackthorne Resort, 348 Sunside Road, East Durham.

17 - Greene County Vietnam Veterans Monument Dedication, 1 p.m., at Veterans Memorial Park, intersection of Routes 32 and 81, Greenville.

- 17 - Catskill Food Festival, 12-6 p.m., at Dutchman's Landing Park, Catskill. Rain or shine. Free admission.

17 - Town of New Baltimore Yard Sale Day, townwide, starts at 9 a.m., New Baltimore.

- 17 - Siuslaw Model Forest BioBlitz citizen science program, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Agroforestry Resource Center, 6055 Route 23, Agra. Cost: \$105 for one, \$200 for two.

Free of charge.

- 18 - Skywalk Arts Festival 2022, park next to Rip Van Winkle Bridge, state Route 23, Catskill.

19 - Greenville Town Board meeting, 7 p.m., at Pioneer Building, 11159 Route 32, Greenville.

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

21 - Program: "Learn to Grow Ginseng," 4-6 p.m., at Agroforestry Resource Center, 6055 Route 23, Agra. Cost: \$15.

- 23-24 - Greenville Day Weekend, at George V. Vanderbilt Town Park, on Town Park Road. Visit cpog.org for final schedule, which will be posted in September. Free admission.

29-1 - Flyday Music Festival, at Blackthorne Resort, 348 Sunside Road, East Durham. Visit www.flydaymusicfestival.com/tickets to purchase tickets.

OCTOBER 2022

- 1 - Dinner Among the Pines, annual fund-raising event for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia & Greene Counties, 6-8 p.m., at Agroforestry Resource Center, 6055 Route 23, Agra. Cost: \$105 for one, \$200 for two.

1-2 - Colors in the Catskills Fall Festival, 12-6 p.m., at Hunter Mountain, 64 Klein Avenue, Hunter. Free admission.

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

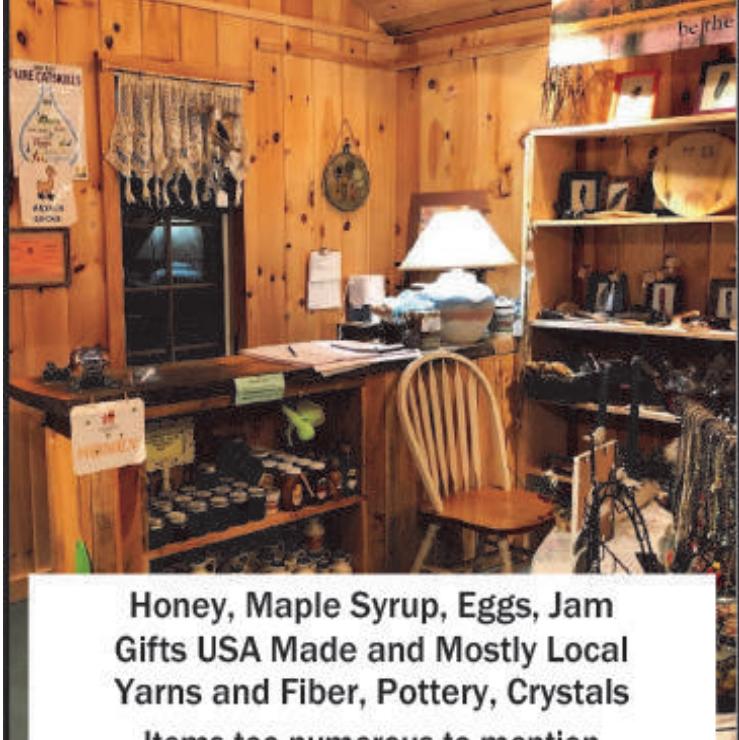
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Greenville Pioneer signing up readers for website access

By Melanie Lekocevic
Capital Region Independent Media

GREENVILLE — Capital Region Independent Media, the publisher of TheUpstater.com, the Greenville Pioneer and the Rensselaer News-Herald, has installed Wallit subscription management software to better service its readers.

Wallit's software will allow TheUpstater.com to register users of the website to better target stories to their interests.

Readers of the website will be asked in the coming days to register by providing their name and email address. Information will be kept confidential and will not be sold. It will only be used to register the reader for continued access to TheUpstater.com.

There will be no cost to visit the website and news content at this time, but registration will be required in order to continue accessing the news, sports, videos, community calendars, archives and other content on TheUpstater.com.

Wallit President and CEO Warren Dews Jr., who is also publisher and vice president of Capital Region Independent Media, said the partnership between the two companies will result in multiple benefits for readers.

"We're really excited about this collaboration," Dews Jr. said. "Capital Region Independent Media offers high-impact, quality content to its readers and Wallit's cutting-edge technology will enhance and ensure an excellent delivery of these services."

When readers access TheUpstater.com, a registration request will pop up on their screen asking for their name and email address. Registration will be simple and will only take a few seconds.

"We want to make the process as easy as possible for our readers," Dews Jr. said.

Wallit's software will allow TheUpstater.com to register users of the site to allow future communications to these readers and power marketing efforts as well. Wallit's best-in-class software will create a seamless, simple registration process, he added.

Readers can expect to complete the registration process by the end of August.

Police: Tannersville man dies fleeing traffic stop

By Melanie Lekocevic
Capital Region Independent Media

DURHAM — A Tannersville man died when he allegedly fled from police during a traffic stop and fell down a rocky embankment, according to state police.

Christopher Stanton, 40, from the village of Tannersville, died in the incident.

On Aug. 8 at approximately 11:31 p.m., state police stopped a 1994 Ford F-150 pick-up truck for a traffic stop on county Route 67 in Durham.

When a trooper approached the vehicle, an occupant of the truck fled on foot from the front passenger seat, police said.

The man, later identified as Stanton, had multiple felony bench warrants, according to state police.

Stanton fled into a wooded area on the west side of the road.

"The trooper entered the woods in an attempt to locate Stanton and observed him laying at the bottom of a steep rock embankment," according to police. "The trooper made his way down the embankment and rendered first aid until

additional emergency personnel arrived."

First responders from the Greene County Sheriff's Office, Greenville Rescue Squad and Greene County Paramedics arrived on the scene and provided rescue and first-aid assistance.

Stanton was airlifted by helicopter to Albany Medical Center where he was pronounced dead from his injuries.

The investigation is ongoing and is being conducted by the New York State Police and the Attorney General's Office.

The Greenville PIONEER

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Vollor joins National Bank of Coxsackie

GLENMONT — The National Bank of Coxsackie announced that Jennifer Vollor has joined their team as the new branch manager for their Glenmont location.

Vollor comes to National Bank of Coxsackie with both management and banking experience. She joins NBC most recently from Sidney Federal Credit Union, where she was a branch manager. Her prior experience includes being a banker and assistant manager for Citizens Bank.

"I am super excited about joining the NBC team," Vollor said. "I look forward to working with everyone as we continue to build a strong branch



Jennifer Vollor

in Glenmont. It is a wonderful feeling to be part of a hometown community bank that takes pride in their staff and

makes their customers feel like family."

She added that she is happy to join the Glenmont community.

"Glenmont is a beautiful area," Vollor said. "I am looking forward to getting to know all of our customers and the local community."

National Bank of Coxsackie CEO John A. Balli said he is glad to add more talent to the team.

"The potential for growth is outstanding," Balli said. "I look forward to continuing to work with such a strong team to help serve the Capital Region's financial needs."

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

■ Thomas Powers, 51, of Catskill, was arrested Aug. 4 at 12:35 p.m. in Catskill and charged with second-degree aggravated harassment, a class A misdemeanor. He was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Franklin Tierman, 31, of South Cairo, was arrested Aug. 4 at 10:55 p.m. in Cairo and charged with criminal contempt and aggravated family offense, both class E felonies. His arrestee status was not reported.

■ Joseph Briggs, 43, of Hensonville, was arrested Aug. 5 at 1:50 a.m. in Durham and charged with aggravated unlicensed operation of a vehicle and driving while intoxicated with a previous conviction in 10 years, both class E felonies, and use of a vehicle without an interlock device, a class A misdemeanor. He was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Shannon Provant, 29, of Glendale, Arizona, was arrested Aug. 5 at 10:07 p.m. in Catskill and charged with one count of tampering with physical evidence, a class E felony, and two counts of manufacture of drug-related paraphernalia, a class A misdemeanor. She was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Haley Rahim, 23, of Jamaica, New York, was arrested Aug. 5 at 10:07 p.m. in Catskill and charged with seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, a class A misdemeanor. She was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Steven Saavedra, 21, of Catskill, was arrested Aug. 7 at 3:46 a.m. in Saugerties and charged with operation of a motor vehicle with a blood-alcohol content over 0.08% and driving while intoxicated, both unclassified misdemeanors. He was released to a third party.

■ David Wells, 58, of Coxsackie, was arrested Aug. 7 at 1:47 a.m. in Coxsackie and charged with second-degree burglary of a dwelling, a class C felony; third-degree criminal mischief and first-degree criminal contempt, both class E felonies; and manufacture of drug-related paraphernalia and seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, both class A misdemeanors. He was held.

■ D.M. Terry, 24, of Albany, was arrested Aug. 6 at 10:25 a.m. in Coxsackie and charged with second-degree contraband to prisoners, a class A misdemeanor. Terry was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Shaquan Jordan, 29, of Brooklyn, was arrested Aug. 6 at 12:30 p.m. in Coxsackie and charged with second-degree introduction of contraband into a prison, a class A misdemeanor; and first-degree introduction of dangerous contraband into a prison and fifth-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell, both class D felonies. Jordan was released on their own recognition.

■ Louis Morelli, 64, of Catskill, was arrested Aug. 7 at 8:11 a.m. in Catskill and charged with second-degree criminal contempt/disobeying a court order, a class A misdemeanor. He was released on his own recognizance.

■ Peter Koys, 44, of Tinton Falls, New Jersey, was arrested Aug. 7 at 7:27 a.m. in Hunter and charged with driving while intoxicated, an unclassified misdemeanor. He was issued an appearance ticket.

■ April Giddens, 40, of Brentwood, was arrested Aug. 7 at 1:34 p.m. in Coxsackie and charged with second-degree introduction of contraband into a prison, a class A misdemeanor. She was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Nicole Dwyer, 19, of Rensselaer, was arrested Aug. 8 at 4:53 p.m. in Rensselaer and charged with petty larceny, a class A misdemeanor. She was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Stanley Hillard, 63, of Freehold, was arrested Aug. 8 at 9:12 p.m. in Greenville 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.

■ Isiah Perez, 29, of Coxsackie, was arrested Aug. 9 at 10:54 a.m. in Catskill and charged with assault while confined in a correctional facility, a class D felony. He was held.

■ Erick Ornano, 26, of the Bronx, was arrested Aug. 10 at 9:40 a.m. in Catskill and charged with seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, a class A misdemeanor. He was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Jorge Gil Garcia, 19, of Yonkers, was arrested Aug. 11 at 3:10 p.m. in Catskill and charged with petty larceny, a class A misdemeanor. He was released on his own recognition.

■ Roberto Perez Peguero, 27, of the Bronx, was arrested Aug. 11 at 3:10 p.m. in Catskill and charged with petty larceny, a class A misdemeanor. He was released on his own recognition.

■ Matthew Thompson, 59, of New Baltimore, was arrested Aug. 11 at 10:27 p.m. in New Baltimore and charged with second-degree menacing/weapon, a class A misdemeanor. He was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Michael Catalano, 45, of Acra, was arrested Aug. 14 at 1:33 a.m. in Cairo and charged with second-degree criminal trespassing and second-degree criminal contempt, both class A misdemeanors. He was released on his own recognition.

■ Christian Kirmsner, 48, of Brooklyn, was arrested Aug. 14 at 1:32 a.m. in Hunter 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 Harvey, 53, of Watertown, was arrested Aug. 13 at 9:14 p.m. in Coxsackie and charged with second-degree introduction of contraband into a prison, a class A misdemeanor. She was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Paul Ruby, 38, of Saugerties, was arrested Aug. 13 at 11:10 p.m. in Athens 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.

■ Franklin Tierman, 31, of South

Cairo, was arrested Aug. 14 at 8:51 p.m. in Greenville and charged with second-degree burglary/dwelling, a class C felony, and aggravated family offense, a class E felony. He was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Michael Catalano, 45, of Acra, was arrested Aug. 14 at 12:28 p.m. in Cairo and charged with second-degree burglary/dwelling, a class C felony, and second-degree criminal contempt and endangering the welfare of a child, both class A misdemeanors. He was held.

■ Gwendolyn Deffreitas, 35, of Schenectady, was arrested Aug. 14 at 9:25 p.m. in Coxsackie and charged with second-degree contraband to prisoners, a class A misdemeanor, and first-degree prison contraband and fifth-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, both class D felonies. She was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Ian King, 35, of Albany, was arrested Aug. 14 at 11:08 p.m. in Durham and charged with seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, a class A misdemeanor, and first-degree operating a motor vehicle impaired by drugs and driving while ability impaired combined drugs/alcohol, both unclassified misdemeanors. He was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Bobbie Prime, 61, of Port Henry, was arrested Aug. 15 at 2:50 p.m. in Coxsackie and charged with second-degree contraband to prisoners, a class A misdemeanor. Prime was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Atniel Pagan, 22, of Catskill, was arrested Aug. 17 at 9:30 a.m. in Cairo and charged with assault causing injury to a person under 7

years old, a class D felony, and endangering the welfare of a child, a class A misdemeanor. Pagan was held.

■ Atniel Pagan, 22, of Catskill, was arrested Aug. 17 at 9:30 a.m. in Cairo and charged with burglary of a dwelling causing injury, a class B felony. Pagan was held.

■ Zachary Radick, 40, of Preston Hollow, was arrested Aug. 17 at 11:19 p.m. in Greenville and charged with first-degree operating a motor vehicle impaired by drugs, an unclassified misdemeanor. He was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Jason Morano, 43, of Saugerties, was arrested Aug. 17 at 3:30 a.m. in Catskill and charged with third-degree criminal trespassing, a class B misdemeanor. He was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Stephen Drobner, 29, of Delmar, was arrested Aug. 16 at 7:50 a.m. in New Baltimore and charged with second-degree criminal trespassing and second-degree criminal contempt, both class A misdemeanors, and aggravated family offense, a class E felony. His arrestee status was not reported.

■ Shannon Joseph, 38, of Schenectady, was arrested Aug. 17 at 2:06 a.m. in New Baltimore and charged with seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, a class A misdemeanor, and 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.

■ Michael Jubak, 34, of Catskill, was arrested Aug. 19 at 1:16 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 misdemeanors. He was issued an appearance ticket.

years old, a class D felony, and endangering the welfare of a child, a class A misdemeanor. Pagan was held.

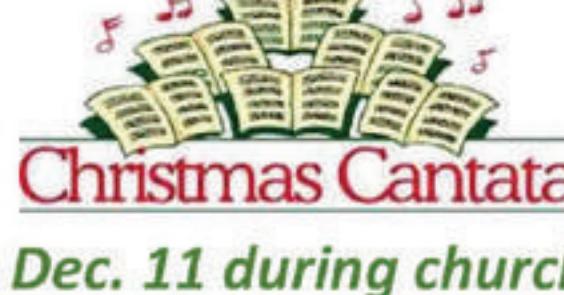
■ Atniel Pagan, 22, of Catskill, was arrested Aug. 17 at 9:30 a.m. in Cairo and charged with burglary of a dwelling causing injury, a class B felony. Pagan was held.

■ Zachary Radick, 40, of Preston Hollow, was arrested Aug. 17 at 11:19 p.m. in Greenville and charged with first-degree operating a motor vehicle impaired by drugs, an unclassified misdemeanor. He was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Gerard Landi, 72, of Athens, was arrested Aug. 18 at 1:09 p.m. in Coxsackie and charged with operating an unlawful electronic sweepstakes, a class E felony, and second-degree promoting gambling and possession of a gambling device, both class A misdemeanors. He was issued an appearance ticket.

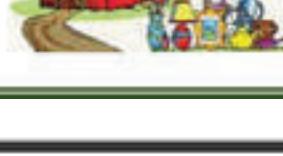
■ Heather Becker, 27, of East Durham, was arrested Aug. 18 at 6:48 p.m. in Durham and charged with second-degree obstruction of governmental administration and resisting arrest, both class A misdemeanors. She was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Michael Jubak, 34, of Catskill, was arrested Aug. 19 at 1:16 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 misdemeanors. He was issued an appearance ticket.



**Dec. 11 during church.
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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

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

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

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness
State Route 81, Greenville
518-966-9941

**Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter Day Saints**
County Route 41, Greenville Center
518-966-4043

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

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

Greenville Center Baptist Church
County Route 41, Greenville

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

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

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

**South Westerlo Congregational
Christian Church**
County Routes 403 & 405, South Westerlo
518-966-5094

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

**Medway Congregational
Christian Church**
Route 26, Climax
518-731-2106 & 518-731-0887

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

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

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

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

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

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Remembering Mary Louise Whitsell

By Isabel Kropp
For Capital Region Independent Media

GREENVILLE — Mary Louise Whitsell had a love for the outdoors and felt drawn to the Greenville Town Park where she would walk her dog every day.

She was kind to everyone she met at the park and made many friends. One of her friends, Linda Anderson, spoke of Mary and how they first met.

"I met Mary walking my dog at the park in Greenville," Anderson said. "She was walking her two dogs, and my dog found her before I did. I was a little worried because my dog was fearful and scared of people, but right away he liked her."

Whitsell carried a bag of dog treats with her for the canines she met in the park. Subsequently, Anderson saw Mary often in the morning at the park.

Mary was originally from Detroit, Michigan, where she spent the early years of her life. The family moved to New Jersey soon after due to her father's work. Then her family relocated to Greenville about 22 years ago. Whitsell had had early retirement from Levi's and was 50 at the time.

Whitsell died on Dec. 14, 2020, from complications due to COVID-19. People whose lives she had touched wanted to celebrate her life as an involved member of the local community.

"She touched people in many different parts of the community," Anderson said. "I knew her from walking in the park, but she was very active in Irish dancing. She was just a lovely person, and she makes me smile to think of her."

Many wanted to remember



ISABEL KROPP/FOR CAPITAL REGION INDEPENDENT MEDIA

Artwork in honor of Greenville resident Mary Louise Whitsell.

Mary because of her amazing personality and contributions to the community. Mary would often bake brownies for the library staff. Her death shocked those who were close to her and employees at the Greenville Public Library. They wanted to memorialize the woman who is remembered as "fun, and friendly, and resilient," Anderson said, "a woman who would continue to walk the park even after hip and knee surgery."

Members of the library and close friends decided on a bench in that very park, a place she frequented and where she made many friends.

"I would like people to know that the bench in the park is for someone to remember a fun-lov-

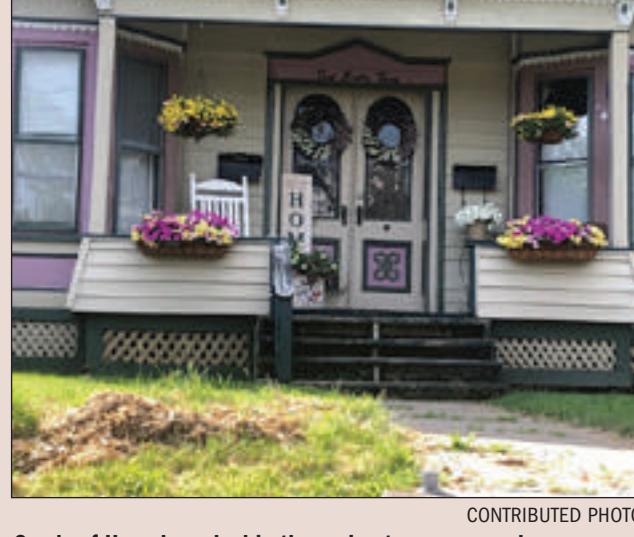
ing person, and when they sit there, they can think about it and carry some of her qualities on," Anderson said.

Anderson worked closely with Maria Soler, another of Whitsell's friends, to effect the project.

Recently some art appeared on Mary's stone.

"Someone painted this on Mary's stone," Soler said. "I don't know who, but I think it's the same person who paints other rocks that are around. I think Mary would like it! She loved listening to the birds, the sound of the creek. She loved walking when there was a misty rain. She said it reminded her of Ireland."

GOOD NEWS STORIES



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Seeds of Hope launched in the spring to encourage homeowners to spruce up their properties and add some curb appeal to the community

GOOD NEWS!: A simple change can reap big rewards

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Here's the latest in our ongoing "Good News! Stories" series. Sometimes, it's the simple things that can make a big difference.

By Melanie Lekocevic

Capital Region Independent Media

ley said. "I really want to get together and talk about getting some bulbs to plant in the fall this year so in the spring they will [bloom] around the mailboxes."

Moving forward, the group is hoping residents will take more steps to spruce things up around town.

COEYMAN — It's a simple concept that could reap an aesthetic reward — prettying up our mailboxes to add some curb appeal to the community.

That's what volunteer Joan Radley and the new organization Seeds of Hope are trying to do with her campaign to clean up and pretty up the neighborhood.

"The main objective is to get people to clean up around their mailboxes," Radley said.

"If you can imagine — if you rode down Route 143 and the mailboxes were all flowery and pretty, it would really make a big impression."

Seeds of Hope was started in the spring of this year and brought some local homeowners on board, but they are hoping their campaign continues to grow next year.

It's an easy way to add some visual appeal to the town, she said — clear out the weeds, straighten up the mailbox if it's crooked and plant some pretty flowers. And it's cost effective, too.

"We came up with this because we felt it was an inexpensive way to go — just plant a few flowers around your mailbox," Radley said. "You go to the mailbox every single day, six days a week, so why not make it a pretty destination?"

Radley is hoping the Seeds of Hope message and campaign gets out to more homeowners, particularly as 2023 will mark the town's 350th anniversary, with plenty of pomp and circumstance to go with it.

"Next year for the 350th anniversary, we are going to push again to see if we can get more people involved," Rad-

ley said. "With all of the activities that will be going on with the 350th anniversary, there will be lots of people coming into the town," Radley concluded. "If the town was spruced up, it would be great."

The park project presented some challenges, such as being too shady for many types of plantings and a couple of large trees that hampered their efforts, Radley said.

With the festivities planned to celebrate the town's anniversary in 2023, cleaning up the neighborhood will be even more important, she said.

"Next year, with all of the activities that will be going on with the 350th anniversary, there will be lots of people coming into the town," Radley concluded. "If the town was spruced up, it would be great."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

One of the mailboxes that was fixed up due to the Seeds of Hope campaign this year.

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Capital Region Independent Media joins broad antitrust lawsuit against Facebook, Google

By Jared Stamm

For Capital Region Independent Media

In late July, Capital Region Independent Media, which publishes newspapers in Albany, Greene and Washington counties as well as Rutland County, Vermont, filed a complaint against Google LLC and Meta Platforms, Inc., formerly known as Facebook, Inc., in the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York.

The suit references a recently concluded antitrust investigation into the digital advertising market and found that the anticompetitive and monopolistic practices of Google and Meta have had a "profound effect upon our

country's free and diverse press, particularly the newspaper industry."

It also states that Google and Facebook conspired to "further their worldwide dominance of the digital advertising market in a secret agreement they codenamed 'Jedi Blue,'" by unlawfully conspiring to manipulate online auctions that generate digital advertising revenue.

The Fitzsimmons Law Firm in Wheeling, West Virginia, is now representing more than 40 ownership groups who collectively publish about 225 newspapers in 22 states and the District of Puerto Rico.

"Capital Region Independent Media is the first and only media group in New York

state that has an active case in litigation," said Clayton Fitzsimmons of the Fitzsimmons Law Firm.

Capital Region Independent Media owner Mark Vinciguerra said he'd read about the beginnings of this case, "and as a small independent publisher, I wanted to make certain publications like ours were being represented. I didn't want it to be just the large players."

Vinciguerra said the newspaper industry is not being fairly compensated by the big tech companies for the content it provides.

"Tech companies like Google and Facebook use our headlines as a lure to get people to interact with their platforms and then they don't have to pay for their right to do that,"

Vinciguerra said. "That's unfair."

"They've already struck deals with the music industry and with the film industry [for just compensation]," Vinciguerra added. "It's just the newspaper industry in the United States that is still left out."

The suit filed by Capital Region Independent Media charges that as a direct result of antitrust violations committed by Google and Facebook, "newspapers in New York and Vermont . . . are currently under a very real threat to their existence. Without redress, these newspapers, and hence the citizens of New York and Vermont, may well end up in a 'news desert.'"

Chamber of Commerce president steps down

By Melanie Lekocevic

Capital Region Independent Media

CATSKILL — Jeff Friedman, the longtime president and executive director of the Greene County Chamber of Commerce, is resigning from the organization at the end of September.

Friedman, who has been a steadfast advocate for Greene County businesses and for economic development, started with the chamber in February 2013 and has headed up the group for nearly a decade.

"I told the board I would stay until the end of September," Friedman said Thursday. "They are working on a plan to search for a replacement and they are also making plans for how the chamber will operate in the interim between my departure and the new person."

Friedman will join his family's business, which is headquartered in Clifton Park, but he will continue living in Catskill.

"My brother has a contracting

company, a floor-care company, and it's been growing steadily for quite a while," Friedman said. "He asked me to come in and partner with him in the company and manage the business end."

For Friedman, the move is a return to what he did before he joined the chamber.

"It takes me back to my roots, which was general contracting and commercial real estate development, which was what I did before the chamber," he said. "It's a new challenge. I just decided the time was right. I spent a lot of time at the chamber and I love the job. I love the chamber and I love Greene County. I love what I do, but this was an offer and a challenge that I felt I needed to take."

The Greene County Chamber of Commerce thanked Friedman for his service and announced the search for a replacement has begun.

"The board of directors and I are grateful for all the time and energy



Jeff Friedman

Jeff has committed to the chamber over the last nine-and-a-half years and the impact he has had on the chamber and its member businesses," Greene County Chamber of Commerce Board Chair Nicole Bliss said. "We are happy for him as he takes on a new challenge and wish him well. The board has es-

tablished a Search Committee that will be tasked with finding Jeff's replacement. If you happen to know of anyone who may be interested in such an opening, please feel free to direct them to me for consideration."

The organization posted a job listing for a new president/executive director on its website Wednesday.

"The President/Executive Director serves as the visible leader of the Chamber, as communicator, facilitator and interactive community planner; responsible for the development, implementation and assessment of Chamber programs, projects and events to ensure each member business's investment in the Chamber meets their needs," according to the job listing.

The job requires education and/or experience in business or marketing, strategic planning, budgets, finance, supervisory skills, and an understanding of the issues for area businesses, residents and elected

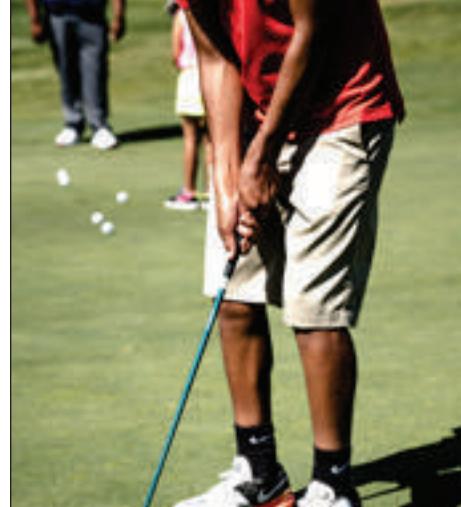
officials.

A salary range for the position is not listed.

Friedman said he has appreciated working with the chamber for nearly a decade and has seen significant growth in the organization's role in the community during that time.

"The chamber has seen substantial growth and taken a greater leadership role in helping businesses, our local economy and our communities thrive," Friedman said. "I have had the honor to work with an exceptional group of business owners, executives and community leaders without whose extraordinary efforts and dedication Greene County's growth and success would not have been possible. I am confident that the chamber is in a strong position to continue to meet and exceed the needs of our member businesses and our county, and I wish it nothing but the greatest success under a new leader."

Bethlehem Chamber Golf Outing, Sept. 19



COURTESY OF PEXELS

The annual Bethlehem Chamber Golf Outing will be held Sept. 19.

DELMAR — The Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce hosts its 37th annual Golf Outing on Monday, Sept. 19, at the Orchard Creek Golf Course in Altamont.

Sponsorship and registration are open to the public and members of the Chamber.

"This is one of the important and fun events we hold each year," said new President Terri Egan. "This fundraising event allows the Chamber to fulfill its mission to assist businesses and the community in the Capital Region. We support 400 member businesses in more than two dozen zip codes in Bethlehem and surrounding areas."

The chamber encourages businesses to come play for the fun of it, network with others, and enjoy a barbecue. It also provides an opportunity to reward hard-working employees.

"While play was suspended during the COVID years, we did get a chance to host last year, with more than 80 golfers registered," said Egan. "We hope to have even more participants this year. We appreciate the support from all our sponsors and want to recognize our top Eagle sponsors this year: Windsor Companies, Owens Corning and The Spiney Group."

Registration is \$165/person or \$660/foursome, prior to Sept. 3. After that deadline the price is \$175/person or \$700/team. Prizes are

awarded for: the best team score; individual score; Putting Contest; the School's Out, Inc Longest Drive for Ladies; Crossroads Ford Longest Drive for Men; Carver Industries Closest to the Pin for Ladies; and Quality PM Closest to the Pin for Men.

Each player will also receive a team photo magnet, sponsored by Sunmark Credit Union.

Individuals or teams can also purchase

a Super Pass which allows each player one Mulligan, one Stromboli (string to get closer on one hole), Pay-the-Pro and Putting Contest entry.

Players may register online at <https://bit.ly/390EvZh>, or go to the chamber's website at www.BethlehemChamber.com and click on "Chamber Events."



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Vets group seeks donations for monument

By Melanie Lekocevic
Capital Region Independent Media

GREENVILLE — They served their country in its time of need, and now they need a helping hand from their community.

The group that is building a monument to Greene County's Vietnam veterans needs additional donations to make the project a reality, and time is running short.

Volunteers from the Northeast USA Vietnam Veterans Reunion Association are working to build a monument honoring the 17 troops who died in the Vietnam War who have roots in Greene County.

The monument, which will honor Vietnam veterans from all over the county, will be built at Veterans Memorial Park in Greenville, at the intersection of Routes 32 and 81.

"The project consists of a memorial containing an 80-foot flagpole, twin black granite monuments etched with the names of the fallen, and a centerpiece Bronze Battle Cross," according to the group.

The monument is scheduled to be dedicated Sept. 17 at the park.

The organization has been working to raise more than \$100,000 for the project, and there is still a sizable gap in the funds that need to be raised.

"As many are already aware, the Northeast USA Vietnam Veterans Reunion Association has been attempting to raise funds to install a monument dedicated to the 17 Greene County residents who lost their lives in the Vietnam War, in Greenville," organizer Tim Broder said. "They need \$112,000 to com-



FILE PHOTO

The Bronze Battle Cross that will be part of the monument dedicated to the memory of Greene County's fallen troops in the Vietnam War.

plete the monument and have raised roughly only half of that thus far and the dedication is scheduled for next month, Sept. 17."

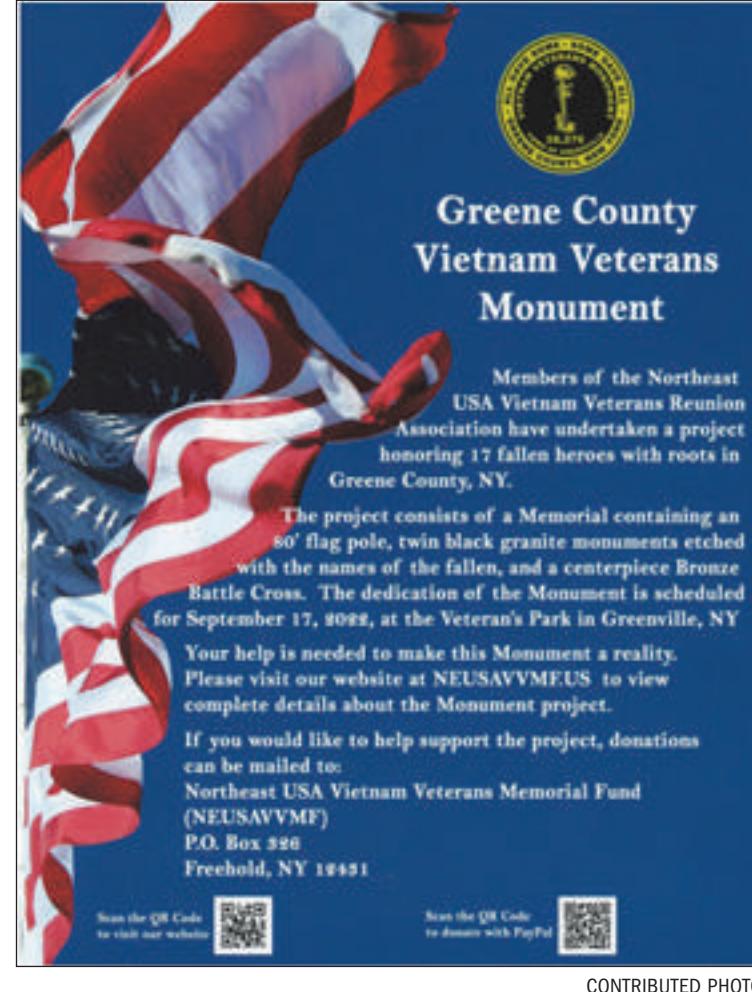
The flagpole alone is expected to cost \$17,387, and the ceremonial flag that goes with it will be \$849, according to the organization. The two everyday flags, at 12 feet by 18 feet, will cost another \$763, Broder told the town board during a presentation in May.

The black granite monument,

which will be engraved with the names of the 17 fallen troops, will cost \$19,700.

At the centerpiece of the monument will be a 44-inch-tall Bronze Battle 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



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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.

Anyone wishing to donate to the

monument's construction can do so by mailing a check to Northeast USA Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 326, Freehold, NY 12431 or visit the website www.neusavvmf.us. Companies can also provide assistance through in-kind services, which would lower the cost of the project and the amount that must be raised.

Walk fights pancreatic cancer

DELMAR — An annual walk in Delmar next month will support research in the fight against pancreatic cancer.

The 2022 Lustgarten Foundation Albany Capital District Walk for Pancreatic Cancer Research typically draws hundreds of walkers, all aimed at the same cause — raising funds and awareness to support research into pancreatic cancer.

The 19th annual walk will take place at the Elm Avenue Town Park in Delmar on

Sunday, Sept. 11.

The walk has drawn more than 600 walkers in previous years and raised well over \$100,000 most years.

"Our in-person 2019 walk attracted over 600 participants and raised a bit over \$152,000," said organizers Shari and Neil Piper. "Faced with a pandemic and its economic ramifications, our local 2020 virtual walk was able to raise over \$68,000 and our 2021 in-person/virtual walk raised over

\$110,000."

Over the course of the previous 18 walks, the organization has raised over \$1,400,500 in the Capital District.

The event's corporate sponsors over the years have included AngioDynamics, St. Peter's Health Partners: Medical Associates, Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery, NYRA, Albany Gastroenterology Consultants, Unger Electric, Harris Beach PLLC, BJ's Wholesale Club, Jessica Richer

Group at Hanna Commercial Realty, Pioneer Savings Bank, SABIC, and TAJ Fine Indian Cuisine. Trade sponsors have included Dunkin Donuts and Price Chopper.

To learn more about pancreatic cancer, the Lustgarten Foundation and the walk, please call 518-475-1200, e-mail Albanywalk@lustgarten.org, visit the Lustgarten website at lustgarten.org/albany, or check out the Albany Capital District Walk for Pancreatic Cancer Research Facebook Group.

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Glam treatment for Fido and Fluffy

By Charlene Marchand

For Capital Region Independent Media

As I was preparing to shower for the second time today, after working outside in this lovely but hot and sticky 90-degree-plus weather, I had a flash that I that I had not recently addressed bathing and grooming in this column – theirs, not ours!

Without further ado, will begin a three-part series of columns today. Though I don't think we'll rival the Masterpiece Theatre series supreme, we shall nonetheless sharpen your kitty and doggy spa skills.

First and foremost, consult your veterinarian if your animal has a skin problem requiring a special-needs shampoo. For the rest of us, a top-of-the-line product yields excellent and consistent results. All Systems, Cindra, Pure Pet, Miracle Coat, and BioGroom are just a few reputable and reliable ones, with #1 All Systems leading the charge.

Do not use people shampoo, liquid detergent or your equine preparation on your pampered house pet. The pH is not in cor-

rect balance.

The next most important step is to put some shampoo in a pail or pot, add warm water, and mix thoroughly to create a nice soapy solution. Now, wet your animal thoroughly with warm or tepid water, being careful to avoid eyes, ears and mouth.

Now use a washcloth to distribute the soap, massaging legs, neck, trunk, tail and all other body parts. That washcloth will get you to those hard-to-reach places. Don't forget those bottoms – remember how diligently your parents worked to keep your baby bottom clean! Use a damp cloth to do heads and ears.

Now the most critical part of the process has arrived. Rinse first with warm water, then rinse the entire body with tepid water, and then rinse again with a cool spray. I tell my clients to pretend that the first rinse didn't exist and proceed with rinse two and three to get the job done properly.

Wipe the coat backwards during the rinsing to eliminate any soapy residue that will cause itching and scratching later on. Now towel dry as completely as

possible – don't be stingy with the terry.

If Buster or Miss Sassy Kitty will allow, use a dryer on a cool setting, blowing backwards to give them an exquisite, puffy 'do. Getting the coat dry to the skin is almost a necessity. Air-force dryers made for your pets are exceptional in the results you get, i.e., a very dry coat.

When actively showing in conformation, my German shepherd dogs were bathed the day before the show, the morning of the show, the afternoon if they won Breed and went on to the Group, and bathed when home to remove the mousse, gels, sprays, and other show grooming preps. They never had "dry coat" or skin issues. Remember – water grows coat!

Another point of information – if your dog is shedding, four or five warm baths in a row will hasten the shedding process. We do this all the time. Shortening the shed is a good thing.

For a dog in normal coat, a tepid bath is to be desired. Avoid temperature extremes. Use lots of treats and soothing praise, and Buster will be jumping for joy when bath time rolls around. And although Miss Sassy Kitty may need a bathing bag to keep her calm, repetition coupled with positive reinforcement is the key to learning and enjoying. Let's go bathe!

Feel free to call us with any questions at 518-828-6044 or visit our website at www.cghs.org. Our Food Bank is open to any from the public in need of pet food or for those wishing to donate food from 11:30 a.m.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sadie is a 4-year-old shepherd mix, pictured with CGHS/SPCA Adoption Counselor Kylie Hulbert. She was surrendered due to her previous owner having too many animals in the home. She does get along with other dogs, but we're unsure if she's ever been around cats before, so we suggest management at home. Due to Sadie's timid nature, we aren't placing her with children. Sadie can be timid when she first meets people, but she's an absolute sweetheart when she opens up!

to 4:00 p.m. daily. Spay/neuter clinics for cats are \$86 male or female, including a rabies vaccination and a 5-in-1 feline distemper combination vaccination. Nail clipping services are available every Saturday from 10-11 a.m. at the shelter for a donation of \$10 for cats and \$15 for dogs (currently prepaid only).

Charlene Marchand is the chairperson of the Columbia-Greene Humane Society/SPCA Board of Directors. She may be contacted at cghsaar@gmail.com.

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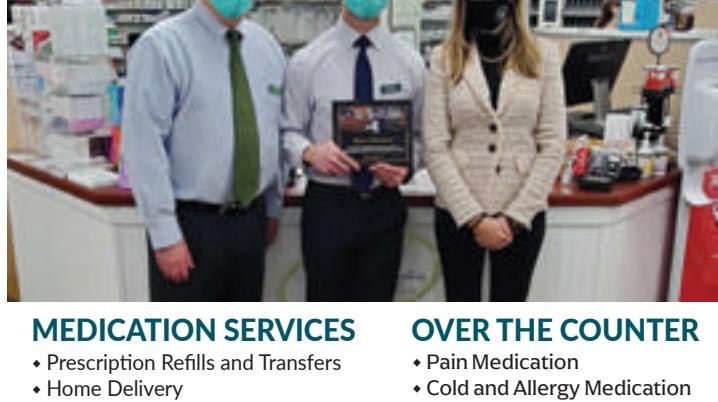


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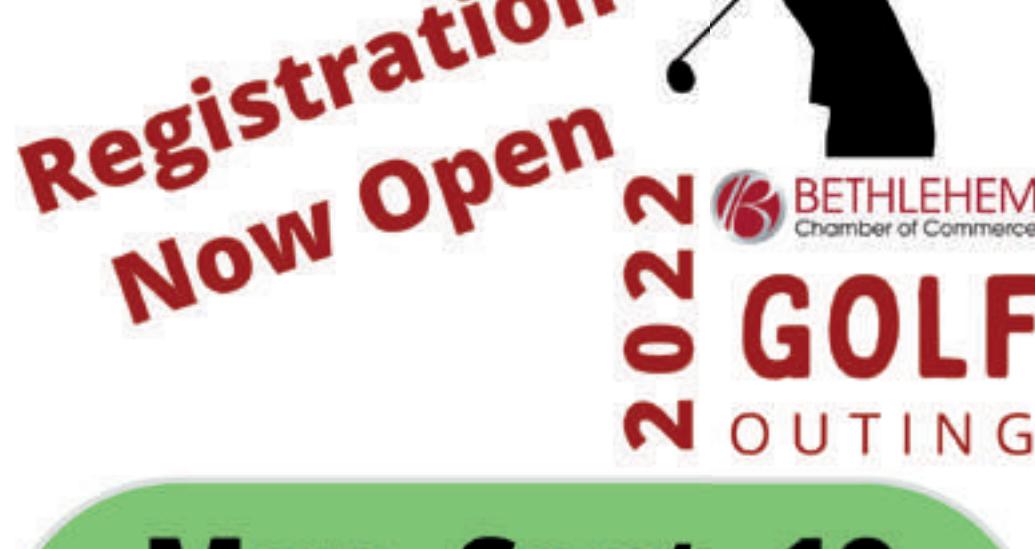
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Chasin' Racin'

Track championships at Fonda Speedway



By Mark Kane
For Capital Region Independent Media

Where has the 2022 racing season gone? Did we not just get the green flag on opening night with layers and layers of clothing?

No, it was 90 degrees and the checkered flag fell on the season-long track championships at Fonda Speedway. When all was said and done it was Matt DeLorenzo claiming his second Modified Track Championship (2007) to go along with his 2, 358 championships (2004-2005) and is well on his way to claim the Albany Saratoga Speedway Modified Championships as well.

The popular driver has always been a contender, but this year he came out on fire and the blaze still burns behind the wheel of the potent 3D machine.

With Matt behind the wheel and brother Mike turning the wrenches they have become a force to be reckoned with. It is tough to win a championship and always has been in the Capital District due to the amount of talent that has filled the pits on a weekly basis through the years. To win two in the same year is going to be something DeLorenzo can do.

With Fonda's championship in the record books, and if he can continue on as he has weekly at the "Great Race Place" where he has four wins, he may just get himself another championship. The entire DeLorenzo team has been working hard to keep their hot rod ready as they have been using the same car at both tracks, making it even tougher getting it turned around for the next night and always starting mid-pack. The last win at Albany Saratoga was aboard team mate Brian Gleason's 3G ride. For a team that was not going to be a regular weekly at the start of the season at Fonda Speedway that all changed with such a great start to the race season. With his kid's softball season coming right in the middle of race season, or I guess the other way around at times, it was made possible for Matt to pursue both Fonda's SUNOCO Modified and Albany Saratoga's NAPA Modified championships. Sometimes a little late to the track, sometimes making some long trips, but it seems they made it work with family, race team, softball and the everyday life of the DeLorenzo's.

CHAMPIONSHIP NIGHT

It was Championship Night at



Nick Stone picked up 10 wins on the season on his way to his fourth Pro Stock championship at Fonda Speedway.

the "Track of Champions," Fonda Speedway. Wow, it was sure a hot one in the old covered grandstands, but that didn't keep the fans home. What a great view to once again see the race cars of yesteryear sitting on pit road as they had in the past before moving the pits over between turns 3 and 4.

The Mohawk Valley Vintage Dirt Modified Series (MVVDMS) once again had a fine field of cars who are on the track to race and put on a show. Many of these drivers are former racers, winners and champions, and now they are just having fun bringing the history of racing back one lap at a time.

Last week when point leader going into the SUNOCO Modified feature Matt DeLorenzo suffered mechanical issues and would finish 21st, the points chase had become a whole lot closer. Last year's co-champions Ronnie Johnson was now only eight points behind and Rocky Warner went into the final event with a 14 point disadvantage.

Out of the 3 it would be DeLorenzo with the best starting position going off eighth, with Johnson and Warner starting inside the top 12.

At the drop of the green it was Brian Gleason looking for his second win of the season with the early lead into turn 1 with rookie Tucker O'Connor and Pep Corradi in the top 3. With Gleason out front Craig Hanson was on the move, as was DeLorenzo, both working their way to the top 5.

The caution flew when Darwin Greene scattered the field in turns 3-4. Once back to green Gleason returned to the lead as O'Connor was holding his own in second as Hanson had worked his way to third and started to work on O'Connor.

It was R.J., Ronnie Johnson, on the move and now had the 3D in his sights as the 111 of Demetrios Drellos was just outside the top 5 as the caution flew for Jessica Friesen, who came to a stop on the back stretch just about the same place she did the week before.

On the restart it was Gleason back to the front, with Hanson moving to second and DeLorenzo moving to third in turn 1 as Drellos was still on the move. The racing was heating up in the top 5 with Gleason and Hanson swapping the lead as there was tight action between DeLorenzo, Drellos, and Johnson. The 93 of Danny Varin and 1 of Rocky Warner were on a charge and just outside the top 5. Still in command at the halfway flags Gleason, Drellos, Hanson, DeLorenzo and Johnson held down the top 5.

Starting to work over Gleason, Drellos made his move down the front stretch and became the new leader at the flag stand and would stretch out to a comfortable lead as Varin continued to work his way through the top 5 and into second after a late race charge from the 13th starting spot.

Following Drellos and Varin to the line was the 2022 Fonda Speedway SUNOCO Modified Champion Matt DeLorenzo, Gleason, Hanson, Warner and Johnson rounding out the top 7.

602 SPORTSMAN

Much like the SUNOCO Modified championship, the Swagger Factory Apparel 602 Sportsman was going to come down to the last race after Payton Talbot became the new points leader over Chad Edwards just last week.

Now all Talbot had to do was hold it, starting 12th and Edwards in 11th, and try to stay out of trouble. Easy, right? The green flag was out and the race for the championship was on. Together the two contenders worked their way through traffic as up front Stephen Gray would lead early before Greg Hlavicek would lead lap 5.

The fine run for Gray ended after he backed his ride into the outside wall between 1 and 2. After working his way from the eighth starting spot, Troy Zilles would power his way to the lead. Lap after lap, Zilles hit his marks and was able to turn back all restart challenges.

Oh, and as far as that race for the championship, picking up his first ever Fonda Speedway championship is Payton Talbot with a fine second-place run with Edwards third, and Troy Palmer and Brandon Gibbons rounding out the top 5 in another competitive 602 feature.

I have watched this young gun Payton Talbot over the last two years and he is the real deal, with plenty of talent behind the wheel and a great personality to go with it. He has that go-to-the-top-and-dig attitude or he can dive low and work his way through traffic, and not with the front bumper. There is a bright future ahead for Payton and the entire team.

MORE RACING

The Algonkin Motel Pro Stock championship found Nick Stone picking up championship No. 4 after picking up his 10th win of the year. After grabbing the lead from Luke Horning, Stone never looked back with Luke Horning, Chuck Dumblewski, Ivan Joslin and Beau Ballard rounding out the top 5.

The Montgomery County Office for the Aging Limited Sportsman found Josh Kane pick up his second win of the year and with Zach Dufel eighth-place finish was enough for him to become the 2022



Mike Mahaney had a change of luck and a really fast race car to pick up the NAPA Modified win at Albany Saratoga Speedway.



Payton Talbot added his name to the Fonda Speedway record books, picking up the 602 Sportsman Track Championship.

champion.

Another Warner is looking for a race win as young Corky Warner picked up a heat race and a fine second in the feature. The Fonda Fair 4 Cylinder Champions were Ken and Kerrie Hollenback as they continue to dominate the class.

Chasin' Racin' would like to congratulate all of the 2022 Fonda Speedway track champions and their teams. Job well done!

ALBANY SARATOGA SPEEDWAY

As the point race ended at one area track the points championship is starting to heat up at Albany Saratoga with only three point races left as Matt DeLorenzo sits on top of the points with Peter Britten, Mike Mahaney, Ken Tremont Jr. and Marc Johnson in the top 5.

Of the five drivers, only DeLorenzo has not added his name to the "Great Race Place" record books as track champion.

The NAPA Modifieds made their way to the track on a perfect night for racing with a smooth, fast racing surface that would produce some great side-by-side racing action throughout the night, and there was plenty of action.

As the Modifieds took Rich Peterson's green flag it was Scott Huber grabbing an early lead with the Hunt's XLS7 power plant under the hood with James Meehan and Derek Bornt holding down the top 3. On the move was 2020 point champion Mike Mahaney working his way to the top 5 by lap 2 after starting eighth and third by lap 5.

Out front Huber continued to lead as Mahaney worked his way around Meehan down the back straight for second. Mid-pack there was a tight battle going on lap after lap as Britten and Jack Lehner battled for seventh as Tremont Jr. and Johnson were swapping the ninth position. As Mahaney started to close the gap and was now all over the rear deck of Huber, it was Britten working his way to the top 5.

Lap 16 would find Mahaney with a big run out of turn 2 and would be the new leader going into 3 with Huber, Meehan, Ronca and Britten, and Keith Flach staying right with the leaders in sixth. Once out front, Mahaney built a comfortable lead until the one and only yellow was out for Jeremy Pitts, who sat on the top side between turns 3 and 4 brought the field back to Mahaney.

Back to green and it was all Mahaney as he powered his way into turn 1 as Britten would grab the second spot from Huber. However, Huber would find his way back around Britten to retake the posi-

tion and would hold on for a strong second behind Mike Mahaney with Peter Britten, Keith Flach and Adam Pierson rounding out the top 5 after a nice run late in the event and an outstanding battle with Kenny Tremont Jr. who hung on for sixth. Point leader Matt DeLorenzo was eighth in a great battle inside the top 10, with Marc Johnson and Jack Lehner much of the feature.

In other action, Chris Jakubiak picked up his first ever 602 Sportsman feature after starting ninth and making a move to the top to take the lead after a late race yellow. A graduate of the Limited Sportsman after four wins to his credit last year is another of the young drivers to keep an eye on as he gets more and more seat time.

There is one thing for sure — there is no lack of talent working their way to the top of the 602 Sportsman class here in the Capital District. What they do and in what direction they head there is a bright future here at our local tracks.

Early race leader Travis Billington, along with Andrew Buff, Jeff Washburn, current point leader Tim Hartman Jr. rounded out the top 5. The Pro Stocks found Luke Horning with the win over Rich Crane, Jason Casey the new point leader, Shane Henderson and Chuck Towles rounding out the top 5. The Limited Sportsman found Phil Arnold with his first win, as did Mike Bussino, picking up his first in the Street Stocks.

The racing at Fonda is on a break until after the Fonda Fair. Once back to racing action, it will bring us to the year-end Fonda 200 weekend with \$53,000 on the line to the winner, to be held Sept. 15-17. Rain date is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 18.

The year-end racing event for Albany Saratoga Speedway, Malta Massive Weekend, will be held on Sept. 23 and 24. Rain date is scheduled for Sept. 25. Don't forget they still have regular racing for the next three weeks.

Utica Rome will be holding their year-end event, the STSS race, the New Yorker 50 Halmar International Elite, on Sunday, Sept. 4. This will be a \$25,000-to-win race with a \$80,000 total purse.

Thank you for your continued support of the sponsors that help make racing possible at our local tracks. A huge thank you goes out to the track promoters as without them there would be no racing.

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GARDENING TIPS

BY BOB BEYFUSS 

By Bob Beyfuss

For Capital Region Independent Media

This is the time of year we harvest many of our favorite vegetables.

The following tips will ensure that you get the best possible quality from your efforts.

There is still time to plant some fall crops such as beets and salad greens. Lettuce seed will not sprout in hot soil. Sow the seed and water. Then lay a board on top to keep the soil cool until the seed sprouts!

• Beans, green, yellow or purple podded: Harvest when still thin and about 3 to 4 inches long for best quality. Keep cold and humid and use as soon as possible.

• Beets: Harvest beets about 2 inches in diameter. If allowed to get much larger, they become woody, especially in warm, dry weather. Remove all but about 1 1/2 inches of tops. Wash and refrigerate immediately.

• Brussels sprouts: Harvest after frost in early to late fall. If sprouts

have not begun to form by mid-August, pinch the tops off the plants.

- Cabbage: Harvest when head becomes solid and firm. Outer leaves should possess a uniform green or purple color (depending on type). Excessive water uptake by plant roots causes splitting. To prevent mature heads from splitting, twist plants enough to break several roots. Store cabbage in crisper and use within one to two weeks.

- Carrots: Harvest when small and succulent, but flavor gets sweeter after frost. Do not let them get over about 1 inch in diameter. Always pull largest carrots in the row. Remove tops and wash before transferring to refrigerated storage.

- Corn, sweet: Watch for signs of ripeness for earliest harvest. Corn silks darken and dry out as ears mature. As kernels fill out toward the top, ends become more blunt instead of pointed. Pick sweet corn in the milk stage, when a watery, white juice squirts out of a crushed kernel.

- Eggplant: Harvest when fruits

are near full size for whatever specific variety you are growing but still firm, shiny and bright in color. Older fruits become dull colored, soft and seedy. Keep cool and humid.

- Horseradish: Harvest when roots have reached maximum size in late fall or early spring.

- Honeydew melons: Harvest when yellowish to creamy white with a soft velvety feel. The rind should be slightly soft at the blossom end and have a faint, pleasant odor.

- Muskmelon: Harvest at three quarters to full slip. When stem separates readily from the fruit under moderate pressure and leaves a circular depression, the full slip or ripe stage has been reached. Outer rind should not have any green color. If melons are fully ripe, store in refrigerator. If not, store in cool area.

- Watermelon: Harvest when fruits are full size, have a dull surface and creamy colored (not yellow) spot on the bottom where they contact the ground.

- Onion: Ideal bulb diameter is 2 to 4 inches. Pull all onions when tops fall over. Remove adhering dirt. Do not harvest when soil is wet. Let dry for a day or two with tops on; then clip 1 inch above bulb before storing in a cool dry place. Harvest green onions when 6 to 8 inches tall.

- Potatoes, Irish and "new": For Irish potatoes, a good tuber size is 2 to 3 inches in diameter. Individual preference is the rule here. Harvest "new" potatoes at any size but generally do not dig before tubers are 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 inches in diameter. Let potatoes dry several hours in garden after digging. Do not expose potatoes to sunlight for any length of time. Remove adhering soil but do not wash before storage. Store in cool, dry area.

- Squash: Harvest when fruit is 4 to 6 inches long for yellow crook-neck squash, 6 to 8 inches for zucchini and yellow straight neck and 3 to 4 inches in diameter for white scallop. Glossy color indicates tenderness. Spaghetti squash can be

harvested while still green and left outside to gradually turn yellow in a week or two. Harvest winter squash when fruits are full size, the rind is firm and glossy and bottom (portion touching soil) of fruit is cream to orange colored. Light frost will not damage mature fruit. Squash, like cucumbers, are susceptible to chilling injury; do not store at cold temperatures for more than two to three days.

- Tomatoes: Harvest when they are fully colored but still firm. Harvest red tomatoes for eating fresh cooking or canning. Do not can overripe tomatoes! If necessary, pick mature green or slightly pink tomatoes and ripen at room temperature, out of direct sunlight.

- Turnips: Harvest when roots are 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 inches in diameter, but before heavy fall frosts. For greens, harvest leaves 4 to 6 inches in length. Keep topped turnips cold and humid.

Reach Bob Beyfuss at rlb14@cornell.edu.

When is it ripe?

By Bob Beyfuss

For Capital Region Independent Media

This is the time of year we harvest many of our favorite vegetables.

The following tips will ensure that you get the best possible quality from your efforts.

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Positively Speaking

Be like Semmelweis

By Toby Moore

For Capital Region Independent Media

When trying to make a positive change in the world, you may sometimes encounter resistance.

The opposition will usually come from those who cannot understand your vision. They may spread rumors, lies and false accusations. They may ridicule and make fun of you, and your reputation may suffer.

When this happens, don't be discouraged; be joyful. These types of people wouldn't give you the time of day unless they knew you were about to do something extraordinary.

Throughout history, those who tried to make a difference almost always faced incredible odds. When you find yourself in this position, take the high road, and stay persistent.

In the mid-1840s, Ignaz Semmelweis, a Hungarian physician practicing medicine in Vienna, Austria, found himself up against

fierce opposition.

Some historians say, in 19th century Vienna, it was safer for a woman to give birth in the streets than in a maternity ward. The statistics showed that 18% of childbaths ended in death for the child, and often the mother when assisted by a male doctor. The prevailing theory in those days was that children were naturally shy around male doctors, and the shyness resulted in their death.

During this time, Ignaz Semmelweis was in charge of two maternity clinics. One clinic was also a medical school where doctors taught medical students many different aspects of health care. They learned how to assist in childbirth, do an autopsy and much more. The other clinic was for women who couldn't afford actual medical practitioners. This second clinic was staffed mainly with midwives.

Oddly, it was the second clinic that pregnant women tried to gain entrance to. The clinic run by midwives had a much higher chance of survival than the first one run by doctors and medical students.

Semmelweis was desperate to find a reason why this was the case. Over time, he began to notice that doctors and students in the first clinic often went to assist in childbirth right after performing an autopsy.

He suspected the doctors and students were covered in the disease of the dead. At this point, germ theory had yet to be developed. It was thought by most that foul odors and evil spirits were the cause of disease and death.

Semmelweis suggested that doctors and students wash their hands for 30 seconds in a chlorinated lime solution after performing an autopsy before assisting in childbirth.

Right away, his recommendation was met with scorn. He was ridiculed and mocked. The medical community was offended by the notion that their hands weren't clean enough and could be the possible cause of the excess mortality rate.

Despite much opposition, for a

time he successfully implemented the practice of handwashing at his clinic, which cut the mortality rates down to 1%. Although handwashing profoundly reduced mortality rates, Semmelweis couldn't articulate why.

The medical community at large resoundingly rejected his ideas. Even some of the doctors in his clinic opted not to believe handwashing had any effect. One doctor claimed they shouldn't have to wash their hands because doctors are gentlemen!

Soon, two doctors from his maternity clinic banded together and had him thrown out. Without his status as a physician in the ward, he had no credibility. With his reputation destroyed, he increasingly became more and more outspoken. Sadly, very few in the medical community would listen.

Some physicians who practiced hygiene before Semmelweis became so offended that they stopped washing their hands altogether. Mortality rates tripled as a direct

consequence.

In the face of rejection, he increasingly became more and more outspoken. Doctors across the continent mocked him and thought he was a buffoon.

It wasn't until two decades later that doctors began to realize he was right and his reputation was restored. Thanks to people like Semmelweis, handwashing in medical facilities is an utmost priority. Millions of lives have been saved as a result.

You will encounter opposition when you're trying to make the world a better place. Maintain your faith, keep your vision and do the right thing. You never know what could happen; like Semmelweis, you might end up saving the lives of millions.

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

Fitness Concepts

To skip or not to skip

By Mary Schoepe

For Capital Region Independent Media

"Breakfast is the most important meal of the day" is a phrase most of us are familiar with.

Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, superintendent of Battle Creek Sanitarium, coined the phrase back in 1894 to market his newly invented breakfast cereal, Corn Flakes. And today, many health professionals firmly believe that eating breakfast kick starts your metabolism, prevents blood sugar imbalances and reduces hunger throughout the day.

There are also numerous studies that have found those statements to be true including one study done at Tel Aviv University. Researchers found that breakfast eaters "lose more weight when they ate the

majority of their calories in the morning" compared to those eating more throughout the day and at night.

However, that study and others like it are being challenged. For example, a 16-week study published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition showed that regardless of whether participants ate or skipped breakfast, their metabolism was exactly the same at the end of the study as it was on day one.

Additionally, their body fat percentage, appetite suppression, waist circumference and lean body mass remained very similar between the two groups.

Surprisingly enough, other studies found that breakfast skippers reduced their overall calorie intake by up to 400 calories a day!

So who do you believe? Today's post

weighs the pros and cons so you decide what's right for you. But as always, please consult your doctor before making any changes that might affect your health.

To Eat — Numerous studies consistently found that breakfast eaters had better protection from becoming overweight or obese than breakfast skippers.

To Skip — However, there's a good deal of evidence showing that people who skip breakfast might have an advantage when it comes to fat burning and weight loss.

To Eat — Research shows that breakfast eaters lost more weight when they consumed the majority of their calories in the morning compared to those that took in more calories later in the day.

To Skip — The average person can experience improvements in blood sugar

control when they have their first meal of the day between the hours of 10 a.m. and noon.

To Eat — Starting your day off with breakfast can help you avoid snacking on unhealthy foods in between meals.

To Skip — Studies indicate the health benefits of skipping breakfast improves insulin sensitivity, improves your ability to use fat for fuel, improves blood pressure, reduces cravings and improves your ability to lose or maintain weight without counting calories.

So in the end it all comes down to what works best for you. Some people do very well eating breakfast, while others do best skipping it. The only way to determine what is right for you is to experiment and see what happens.

It's all a matter of personal preference.

Grandma Mackey's Diary

1951 life in Medusa

Transcribed from her diary by
Kathy Saurer Osborne

Sunday, Aug. 26: Fair. Chuck and Joyce went to Mass. Lite and Philip came for JoAnn. We had a good time. They were here to dinner. JoAnn went reluctantly home with them.

Monday, Aug. 27: Fair. Joyce didn't go to work. I washed. Chuck started for Portsmouth, Virginia, about 10 A.M. Drove the Lincoln. They are trading it for something else. I went for Gene at Seibert's. She doesn't feel good. Stomach upset. Joyce goes to work tomorrow. Don has to go in for a meeting and she is going along.

Tuesday, Aug. 28: Fair. Ironed our clothes and some of Gene's. She feels better today. Had a big ironing. Helped Gene some this P.M. Don came from Albany about 6:30.

Wednesday, Aug. 29: Fair. Hot. Did Joyce's washing and ironing. Delite

called and said Minnie had cucumbers for us so this P.M. Adele, Gertrude and I went for them. Had a lovely lot. Will have a nice lot of pickles. Very warm this P.M. Don staying down and went to Catskill to see about his new teeth. Allyn and Adele are looking at "Cisco Kid."

Thursday, Aug. 30: Fair and hot. Made three pints of corn (canned), 7 pints of sweet pickles and 6 quarts of dill pickles. Took Gertrude to Aunt Theresa's between times. Very warm.

Friday, Aug. 31: Fair and hot. Cleaned bedrooms and living rooms and made more pickles. Don took Adrienne's things to her and I went for Joyce

WHITTLING AWAY

by Dick Brooks

Loser wanna be

By Dick Brooks

For Capital Region Independent Media

It seems that everywhere one looks these days the main topic is that of weight loss. It is one of the perennial subjects of talk shows and news programs. I guess it's one of the signs of the times we live in that we're going to have to put up with.

There was a time in our past where a few extra pounds were looked on with favor; it was considered a buffer against hard times. In ancient China, the more corpulent you were, the higher your rank.

A glance in the mirror tells me I would probably be the emperor.

I've always admired Buddha, but not necessarily for his girth, so maybe it's time to do something about it myself.

I don't intend to model myself after the current group of painfully thin young female starlets that are so often in the news because unlike the current crop of teenagers, I really do listen to the news reports and one can only hear the words "anorexic and bulimic" so many times before one gets the idea this might not be the proper path to follow.

It's the other catchwords from the weight shows like, "Diabetes and High Blood Pressure" that have caught my attention and have made me decide to alter my rather bulbous appearance, although I have considered getting a Goodyear T-shirt and renting myself out for football games.

Most authorities on the subject suggest simply cutting back on the amount of food eaten and increasing your exercise level — yeah right! Like, whose going to do that?

I've tried most of the major diets and they all have worked. Unfortunately, for them to continue working, one would have to have one's mouth sewn shut. So I've decided to give it a little thought and develop my own diet/weight-loss program. If it works as well as I think it will, I could market it and make a fortune. If you're rich, nobody cares what kind of shape you have.

I will forgo the exercise part, having fallen victim to the slick ads for several of the exercise machines touted in early-morning infomercials. They seem like a great idea at the time, but quickly become boring and, worst of all, they make you all sweaty!

I'm sure if a study was done it would be discovered there is at least one exercise machine hidden and dust covered in every attic and garage in America. You have one, don't

you? It would have been cheaper to join a gym, although the idea of driving to a gym and then spending my time walking on a treadmill or using a stair-climbing machine when I have stairs at home that I don't enjoy climbing just seems kind of silly.

In my case, at least, it all comes down to the diet.

Mentally reviewing the history of recent diet trends, it was first the push against calories — you had to keep track of the calories consumed daily. This fluctuated wildly because it varied due to the size of the portion and how it was prepared. Mainly you lost weight only because you had to lug around a calorie-counting book listing the calories in common food. This book was the size of the average unabridged dictionary.

Then it was the carbohydrates that were bad. I liked that one because you could eat a cow at a sitting as long as you passed up the lima beans.

Then fats had their turn at the plate, so to speak. Turns out there are good fats and bad fats; the problem is knowing which to swallow and which to spit out.

I've developed my diet with the thought that it would be simple and easy of follow. Tree bark will be a mainstay. I can't find it listed in my calorie book, it has no known fats and is very low in carbs. It would certainly meet your body's need for fiber; regularity is important to one of my age.

Three or four pails of water a day will take care of hydration.

You are allowed a snack — I would recommend eating a cup of dry oatmeal, followed by a pail of warm water. I guarantee you will have no hunger pangs afterward.

I think I'll recommend a daily box of Twinkies also — they contain more preservatives per serving than any other food known to mankind. Again, at my age, this is an important consideration.

Following this diet should result in losing weight faster than the national debt rises!

If you try it, let me know how you made out. After thinking it over, I think I'll wait a while. Does anybody know where I can get a Goodyear T-shirt?

Thought for the week — "Everything is funny as long as it is happening to somebody else."

— Will Rogers

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

Reach Dick Brooks at whittle12124@yahoo.com.

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Grant could infuse millions of dollars into town

By Melanie Lekocevic
Capital Region Independent Media

GREENVILLE — The town is applying for a NY Forward grant, which if successful could infuse millions of dollars into the community.

Debbie Von Atzingen, of Community Partners of Greenville, described the application process and how the town is seeking community input at the Aug. 15 meeting of the town board.

The deadline to apply is Sept. 23.

The NY Forward grant is new in the state this year; it builds on the state's current Downtown Revitalization Initiative, or DRI, which was aimed at larger communities.

"About six years ago, the state came out with a grant for towns. It was called the Downtown Revitalization Initiative, but it was only for big towns," Von Atzingen said. "But this year, on July 25, it came out with something called New York Forward. It's a grant and it's targeted for small rural towns."

Gov. Kathy Hochul announced the NY Forward grants aimed at smaller communities on July 13. The program is funded through \$100 million in this year's enacted state budget, Hochul said.

"NY Forward is meant to serve smaller communities and support local economies that often have a feel and charm that is distinct from larger, metropolitan urban centers funded through DRI," according to Hochul's office.

Volunteers at Community Partners approached Town Supervisor Paul Macko and said they would like to spearhead the application process for the town. If the town is granted the award, it could provide several million dollars for a variety of projects townwide.

"There are 10 regions in the state of New



FILE PHOTO

Prevost Hall could be one of the projects in line for funding if the town is able to secure a multi-million dollar NY Forward state grant. The town is looking for community input into the types of projects that should be included in the grant application.

York. Each region will get \$10 million and they divide it up into two grants," Von Atzingen said. "It will be \$4.5 million that we could get, or the region could divide it up into one grant for \$4.5 million and two at \$2.25 million, so \$2.25 million would be the minimum grant we could get, so we are going to go for it."

Community Partners on Aug. 2 filed a letter of intent with the state and formed a preliminary group of 10 volunteers on the team that will be tasked with completing and filing the application. Members on the team repre-

sented both public and private interests, as both types of projects are eligible for the grant.

"Towns are anticipated to submit a 20-page application describing a collection of large and small projects, both public and private, aimed at improving the community, creating jobs and unifying the town," Von Atzingen said.

On Aug. 22, Community Partners was scheduled to hold a public meeting to get community input into the types of projects residents would like to see included in the application. The meeting was held too late

for publication in this issue of the Greenville Pioneer.

There are other ways to submit your ideas for proposed projects.

"We want to hear from the public and get its ideas," Von Atzingen said. "At the summer concerts we have been polling some people and asking them what they want from the town, and also on social media (Facebook), if you go to the Greenville NY Community Page there is a four-question survey. When we put all these ideas together, we will decide what the projects will be."

There are many kinds of projects that will be eligible for the grant, she said.

"They don't want one giant project," Von Atzingen said. "They want one good-sized project and some medium projects. For instance, we could continue putting in the lamp posts or continue with the sewer [project]. We could have streetscapes, we could look at emergency care. We could work on Prevost Hall — they want something historic. They want a little bit of everything. They want little towns to come together."

The grant is also targeted at bringing more business into small communities, she added.

Von Atzingen said that since this is the first year for the small-town grants and the application period is brief, it could give Greenville a good chance at getting the funding.

"They are going to give this for 10 years and I feel that if we can strike while the iron is hot, we have the best chance," Von Atzingen said. "In two or three years, other communities are going to get all their ducks in a row. I want to go for it this year and next year."

The town board voted unanimously to issue a letter of support for Community Partners to file a grant application.

The grant awardees will be announced in late 2022, according to the governor's office.

Survey: Pollinators in NYS imperiled

ALBANY — New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos announced the release of a multi-year survey of hundreds of pollinator species in New York state.

Dozens of species are either critically imperiled or at risk of becoming imperiled, the survey found.

The Empire State Native Pollinator Survey 2017-2021 provides the foundation for future pollinator research and conservation efforts.

"This new multi-year survey provides critical baseline information about hundreds of pollinator species in New York," Seggos said. "With the assistance of our academic and other expert partners, the survey helps assess the health of these species, which are critically important for our environment and our economy, and identifies recommendations to help restore pollinator populations in the future."

In 2016, concerns over global declines in pollinators led to creation of New York's Pollinator Protection Plan, which called for an inventory of the state's native pollinators. With support from the Using New York State's Environmental Protection Fund, DEC contracted

with the New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP) to develop and implement the survey.

The goal of the project was to determine the conservation status of a wide array of native insect pollinators, including four groups of bees, two groups of flies, two groups of beetles, and two groups of moths. Butterflies were not included because the current status of butterflies is better understood than the other species studied.

To help design the survey, NYNHP assembled a team of experts from DEC, the State University of New York (SUNY) College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF), Cornell University, SUNY Cobleskill, the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the American Museum of Natural History, the New York State Museum, Vermont Center for Ecotrust, and the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.

During the project, biologists conducted hundreds of field surveys across the state, compiled data from museum collections, and reviewed observations from citizen scientists. Hundreds of volunteers provided tens of thousands of insect specimens, photographs, and obser-

vations.

In total, biologists gathered more than 230,000 insect records.

Using data from the study, NYNHP

scientists generated maps of cur-

rent and historical distributions and seasonal observation charts for 451

species.

"One of the biggest take-aways from our New York State Pollinator Protection Plan was the critical need for continued research to broaden our understanding of pollinator decline," state Agriculture Commissioner Richard A. Ball said. "We have been working to ensure funding is consistently directed in this area and have seen tremendous results with research conducted by Cornell, and now with this survey, which provides us important insight into our pollinator populations and the future of this crucial sector to agriculture."

Findings from the study confirm concerns about the health of some pollinator populations in New York state. The survey found that between 38% and 60% of the species studied are potentially imperiled or critically imperiled.

Although the survey documented 16 bee and fly species for the first time in New York state, recent

sightings or records could not be confirmed for 79 pollinator species previously recorded in New York. The study found that more than one-third of the native pollinators surveyed are at risk of becoming extinct in New York.

"NYNHP is proud to continue our mission of documenting the status of New York's biodiversity with this report on our native pollinators," said Erin White, zoologist and project coordinator with the NYNHP. "We could not have done this without our dedicated partners and community scientists who allowed us to reach far and wide throughout New York. It is a sobering finding that more than a third of native pollinators surveyed are potentially imperiled and I hope this will prompt swift conservation actions to benefit these species."

Pollinator populations can be helped by conserving habitat, controlling invasive plants, changing mowing regimes, converting lawns into meadows, paying attention to the siting and density of honeybee hives to reduce competition and spread of disease to native species,

controlling deer browsing of the undergrowth, retaining logs and snags in forests, and reducing unnecessary outdoor lights for nocturnal species.

Consistent with the Pollinator Plan, DEC is advancing actions to protect habitats and further research to study the causes of pollinator loss.

Pesticides also represent one of many factors that stress pollinators, and neonicotinoids, in particular, have been identified as a group of pesticides that, in general, are highly toxic to pollinators.

Reducing pesticide use is another key way to help pollinators and earlier this year, DEC announced actions to limit the unrestricted use of pesticides that can harm bee and other pollinator populations. DEC is reclassifying certain products containing the neonicotinoid (neonic) insecticides imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, and acetamiprid as "restricted use" to ensure applications are limited to trained pesticide applicators in specific situations.

Restricting the use of these pesticides enables DEC to collect new data to determine where, when, and how they are used, as well as their potential impacts.

For more information, go to DEC's website at www.dec.ny.gov.

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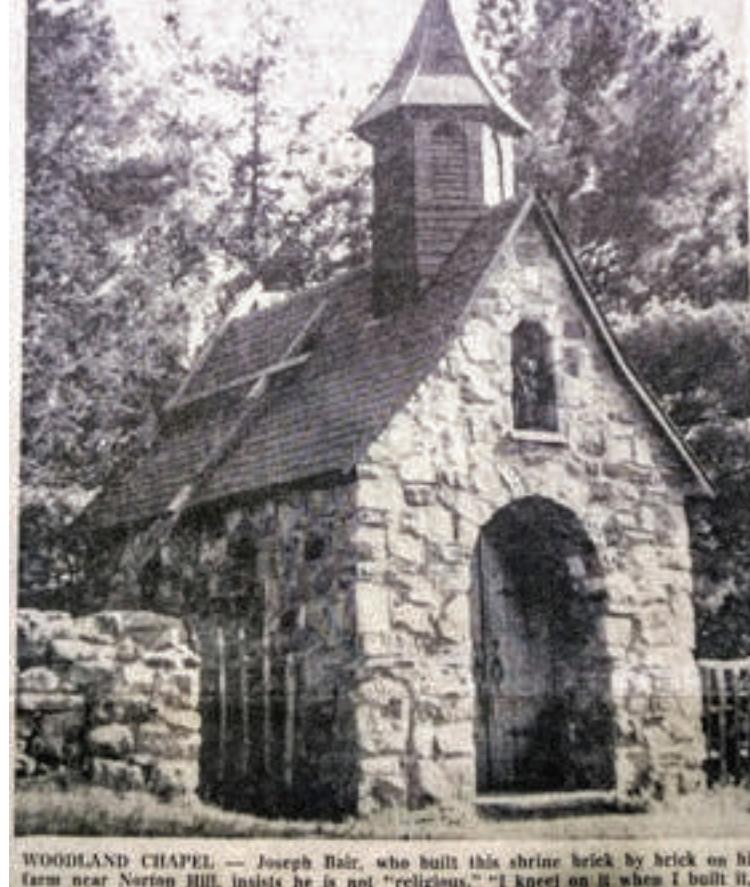
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Oak Hill & Vicinity...

By Mary Lou Nahas



WOODLAND CHAPEL — Joseph Bair, who built this shrine brick by brick on his farm near Norton Hill, insists he is not "religious." "I kneel on it when I built it," he adds.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The photo of Bair's chapel appeared in the Knickerbocker News in an article by Peggy Dell. It is still standing today, on private property.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The farmhouse where guests relaxed is no longer standing.



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Guests who stayed at his farm in the summer remembered the good times they had.

The story of Joseph's Farm

By Mary Lou Nahas

For Capital Region Independent Media

This week in a Facebook history page someone asked about Joseph, who built the chapel on his farm on Wright Street in East Durham.

Several years ago, a family from New Jersey who had vacationed there many years ago contacted me looking for information so they could bring their father back to see what had been a special place for them years earlier. I started looking for information and thanks to responses from other folks who had known Joseph, I was able to piece much of his story together. I thought I'd share that part of the history Oak Hill and Vicinity with you today.

Joseph Bair came from Germany, "Rottweil, in the Province of Wurttemberg," he told Peggy Dell, who wrote about him for the Knickerbocker News. His family were blacksmiths, but Joseph learned to bake and cook and came to America in the steerage of a ship.

When he arrived in America the "lady at the agency" introduced him to a nice-dressed man who could speak German and wanted Joseph to cook on his boat: "I saved my money, all. It added up, all the time. I had read about the Catskills, and in 1940 I came up to see for myself how it was up here. It was true, the beauty of the hills. So, with my savings I bought this place. I was through cooking."

He bought his farm on Wright Street: "A hundred acres. The Moore lady had it, then the O'Hara boy got it. He died. The wife died too. Then I bought it. In 1940."

That is the story that was published in the newspaper.

I was referred to Werner W. Rentsch, who started coming up to Ravine Farm when he was about 10 years old and continued coming to East Durham every summer for 10 years or more; most of those summers he stayed at Joseph's Farm.

Werner Rentsch is well-known for his painting of horses. He is a lifetime member of the American Academy of Equine Art and served as its president from 1994 through 2008. He has had nine one-man shows and his work was shown in 12 museum exhibitions and in more than 40 juried group shows in America.

For the past several years, Werner has spent time in Africa and his most recent work is of painting of African wildlife. Werner shared some photos of his paintings of Joseph with me.

I emailed Werner, saying I had been referred to him as someone who might have knowledge of Joseph. He almost immediately called me and we had a long, fascinating conversation.

Werner said his memories are that Joseph came from the Black Forest area of Germany, coming to America just before World War II. Joseph saved some money, cooking on the yacht belonging to the Schaefer Brewery Brothers.

In case you don't know (as I



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rentsch shared a close-up painting of Joseph Bair.

didn't), the original Schaefer brothers, Frederick and Maximilian Karl Emil Schaefer, were natives of Prussia. They came to the U.S. in the 1830s. Maximilian brought the recipe for lager beer with them.

In time their operation proved highly successful, rising into the No. 6 slot among American brewers by 1871. Max's son took over as president until his death in 1923. In time, the firm had a large brewery complex on Park Avenue in New York City and caves for lagering its beer along the East River. In the early 20th century, it sold the valuable plant real estate and opened a new brewery in Brooklyn. By the 1950s, Schaefer was the No. 5 beer in America.

So, it isn't surprising the Schaefers spoke German, had a yacht, and needed a chef when Joseph arrived in New York just before World War II. But Joseph didn't like the other workers on the yacht, so he quit, and because he liked the mountains, he came up on a bus to Durham and started walking around and found his farm for sale.

Ravine Farm and the Butterfly Farm were just up the road and he made friends with the owners and their guests.

Joseph never had a car (I heard from an individual who drove him to medical appointments at the end of his life). Money didn't seem to be particularly important to him; he never spent any money, Werner said. He told the reporter he had "no income, no car, no electricity." When he was hungry, he picked every kind of green and cooked it.

"I walked to my neighbors, and they gave me some milk and cheese, but I was so hungry that on the way walking home I ate and drank everything. So, I helped out with work until they gave me a cow. Then I had my own milk and cheese. My only buying was for flour, salt, stuff like that. A supermarket would starve if it had me for the customer."

According to Werner, Joseph took in a few guests. He ground grain and made delicious black bread. He made wine and hard cider and sometimes ice cream.

"He never seemed to be working hard but never not working," Werner said.

He had a wonderful vegetable garden — okra, tomatoes, corn squash, grapes, flowers. He would

pick up stones and built stone walls and a chapel. He made walking trails with benches and signs. Werner helped Joseph build the chapel, it took him years because he would work only a couple of hours at a time. The chapel with a place of beauty and imagination and little girls in the area dreamed of having their wedding there.

Werner said Joseph was in constant contact with his family in Germany and read all the time usually in German. While Joseph built a chapel and was sometimes referred to as Holy Joe, he was not all that religious. The marble altar he carved himself with simple tools. He made statues for the altar and carved Madonnas and icons for his property. He loved music and statuettes, Werner said.

Werner visited Joseph's home in Germany and had such good memories of Joseph's Farm, where he spent so many summers. He offered to buy it, but Joseph said it wasn't for sale. So Werner bought a place in Jefferson.

Werner still has a painting of Joseph on his horse in front of the barn. Someday when we can gather again, I hope Werner and others who remember Joseph can get together for a program about Joseph.

I was interested to find in the Town of Durham Bicentennial flyer Joseph's Shrine is listed under places of interest, along with Hedges Homestead, the Hervey Street Bridge, the Butterfly farm, the Icicle House, the Durham Auction Barn, the Electric Farm and Hope Farm Bookshop.

When Joseph died, he was buried in the Freehold cemetery. His barn burned, the house burned, the horses and cows went back to Ravine Farm, the property was sold to someone else. The Bischoff family who first started my quest to find out about Joseph's Farm were able to come up to visit with people who knew him and to see that the chapel still stands.

Is this all of the story? Not really; there are many versions of Joseph's story because people have different memories and stories about Joseph, his family and property in Germany, his farm here. One thing is certain — he made an impression on many who knew him. I'm glad folks still ask about him.

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Jacy Polyak of TCI NY (blue hard hat) talks about his job with the summer campers from the Riverview Missionary Baptist Church.

Summer Campers Get Insiders Tour of TCI NY

The Riverview Missionary Baptist Church summer campers came into TCI for their annual information session on how transformers are recycled and hands-on tour of the state-of-the-art facilities.

Brian Hemlock, President of TCI said, "We love having the campers come in to show them what we do. We introduce them to a real work environment." Mr. Hemlock spoke about the importance of transformers and their role in the energy grid.

"We also like to have some fun," says John Barr, Operations Manager. "This year we treated the campers to ice cream from Mr. Ding-A-Ling. We talk and kid around. I always ask the campers who wants to come to work for TCI?"

Jacy Polyak was one of those campers six years ago. He recently came to work at TCI after graduating from the BOCES program. Jacy spoke to the campers about his job at TCI.

"I like what I'm doing. Taking apart the transformers. It's fun. I like the hours are steady. You'll understand why that's important when you go to work."

To find out more about working at TCI, call John Barr at (518) 756-9997 or go to www.tci-ny.com for more information

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Living on Purpose

Those who desperately seek God shall find Him

By Dr. Billy Holland

For Capital Region Independent Media

I realize that my thoughts are not that important, but what God has to say contains the power to change what man cannot change.

May we choose faith over fear and allow our hope to be larger than our doubt! Did you notice I said we have the choice to decide which side we are going to believe? Yes, but brother Billy, how can I choose life? Well, Deuteronomy chapter 30 is an amazing place to start when trying to comprehend God's plans for our lives.

Verse 19: "This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you, life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live."

These instructions and promises were being directed to the nation of Israel, but we can also incorporate spiritual principles like this into our lives today. God is saying to everyone that obedience unto Him will empower and renew our minds while imparting a clearer understanding of His perfect will.

Our responsibility is to hear His word and then speak it forth in faith as we press forward in our quest to surrender our will so that we can accomplish His will.

Men and women have always had choices to obey God or be rebellious and He is declaring that our decisions have much to do with whether we are blessed or cursed.

We also notice that following His commands is associated with long

life, while on the other hand, refusing to have a reverential fear of His holiness will bring judgment. Having a carnal nature always leads us to deeper levels of corruption and wickedness.

Do not confuse your current path with your destination. Just because it's cloudy and storming today does not mean the sun will not shine tomorrow. We can have joy and peace on the inside no matter what is happening around us.

An African proverb says, "However long the night, the dawn will break," which reminds us of the passage found in Psalm 30:5: "Weeping may last through the night but joy comes in the morning."

The human spirit is stronger than anything that can happen to it because it is eternal. May we always remember that if we are walking with God, Satan can never defeat us. The devil is allowed to tempt and influence us so that we might be discouraged and make wrong choices, but the Bible promises in James 4:7 that if we have the perseverance to resist him, he will flee.

Satan came to Jesus in Matthew chapter 4 and Christ stood strong against him. We read in verses 10 and 11, "Then Jesus said to him, away with you, Satan! For it is written, you shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve. Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him."

As many of you know, my wife is a two-time cancer survivor. She

has walked through many dark valleys, but today we rejoice as she has been cancer-free for 10 years. She agrees with the old saying that it's not how many times you fall down, it's how many times you get back up!

When we are facing a crisis, we have three choices: We can let it define us, we can let it destroy us, or we can let it strengthen us. Cancer or any disease cannot stop love, shatter hope, dissolve faith, destroy peace, silence courage, steal eternal life or conquer our spirit.

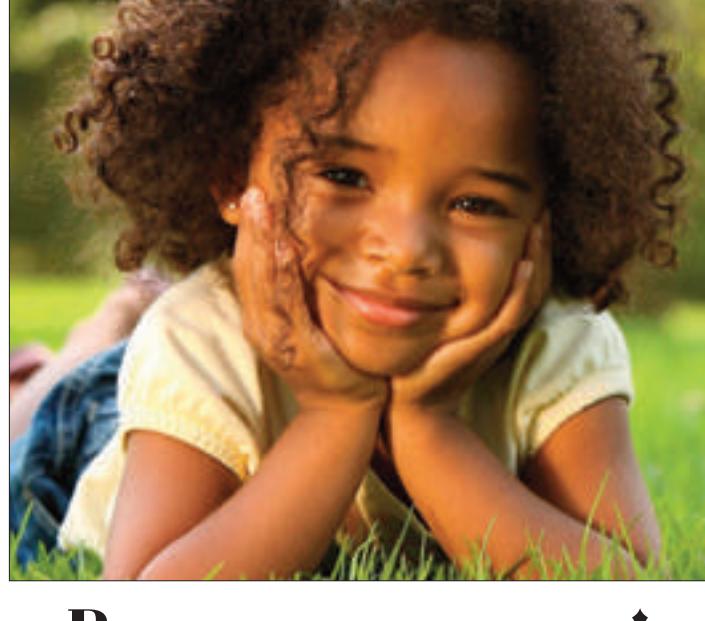
I Timothy 1:7 reminds us, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

Faith does not go to bed and pull the covers over our head. The Bible talks a lot about spiritual warfare, which is a reality for every Christian soldier. My book is called, "Receiving Our Healing - Going to War on Our Knees" and reveals that God wants to give us miracles, while also explaining what He requires from us.

Mental, emotional, physical and spiritual healing is included in the blood atonement of Christ and within this covenant, we can receive His promises. Nonetheless, to walk in the power and authority of His Spirit, we must know who He is in us, and who we are in Him.

Jesus is our deliverer, our healer, our Redeemer and Savior, the king of kings, and the Lord above all lords.

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Social Security Matters**Must I pay income tax on Social Security benefits?****By Russell Gloor**

For Capital Region Independent Media

Dear Rusty: I do not recall the rules on my income tax obligation for Social Security benefits. Can you please explain these rules to me?

Signed: Senior Taxpayer

Dear Senior Taxpayer: I'll be happy to review the rules about income tax on Social Security benefits for you.

If your combined income from all sources is low enough, your Social Security benefits aren't subject to being taxed by the IRS. But some of your Social Security benefits will become taxable if your combined income from all sources exceeds certain thresholds, and the thresholds are dependent on your tax filing status (single or married).

If you file your income tax as "married-filing jointly" and your combined income from all sources (both taxable and non-taxable income) is less than \$32,000, then your Social Security benefits aren't taxable. But if your combined income as a married couple is between \$32,001 and \$44,000, then half of the SS benefits you received during the tax year becomes part of your taxable income. And if your combined income as a married couple exceeds \$44,000, then up to 85% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year becomes part of your taxable income. Those SS benefits will simply be included as part of your taxable income and taxed at whatever your normal IRS tax rate is.

If you file your income tax as a "single," the thresholds at which Social Security benefits become taxable are different. Single filers with a combined income of \$25,000 or less pay no income tax on their benefits. But single filers with combined income between \$25,001 and \$34,000 will have half of their SS benefits received during the

tax year become taxable, and single filers whose combined income exceeds \$34,000 will see up to 85% of their Social Security benefits become taxable. These single filer thresholds apply also to those filing as Single Head of Household or Qualifying Widow(er), and to those filing as "married-filing separately" if they lived apart for the entire tax year. But the threshold is zero dollars for married couples who file separately but lived together at any time during the tax year.

To clarify what "combined income" is – the IRS uses something called your Modified Adjusted Gross Income, or "MAGI," to determine if your Social Security benefits should be taxed. Your MAGI is your normal Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) from your tax return, plus any non-taxable income you may have had, plus 50% of the Social Security benefits you received during the tax year. If your MAGI is over the thresholds described above, a portion of the SS benefits you received during the tax year will be included in your taxable income. If it is not, you pay no income tax on your benefits.

To be sure you're aware, when you file as "married/jointly" income from both partners counts when determining your MAGI for income tax purposes.

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RAUF, from page 1

filling a vacancy," Macko said.

A replacement is not expected to be appointed at the board's next meeting Sept. 19, he added.

There are four remaining members of the town council. In addition to Macko, board members include Richard Bear, Travis Richards and John Bensen.

In other town news, Stephanie Ingalls was appointed to the Greenville Public Library's Board of Trustees. Ingalls was appointed unanimously by the board at the request of Library Director Barbara Flach.

Ingalls' term is effective Aug. 17 and will run through Dec. 31, 2026.

Ingalls was appointed unanimously by the town council.

The town council also announced that Greenville's Townwide Yard Sale Weekend will be Sept. 23-25. Maps with participating homes will be available

that weekend and residents who want to hold a yard sale can apply to be on the map, Macko said.

"That corresponds with Greenville Day," Macko said. "Anybody that wants to get on the map should pick up a sheet and select the dates that you want to have your yard sale."

The deadline to apply to be included on the map is the week of Sept. 19. Forms can be picked up at Pioneer Town Hall, 11159 Route 32, Greenville.

Greenville Day is a weekend-long celebration of all things Greenville. Events will be held beginning Sept. 23 at around 4:30 p.m. in George V. Vanderbilt Town Park, Macko said. The festivities will continue townwide Sept. 24, including a fireworks demonstration at night.

Town board members and other volunteers will be distributing free hot dogs and soda at the park during the event.

DISTRICT, from page 1

lectively."

Scott M. Ellis Elementary School would see renovations to classrooms in the front wing of the building, new heating system boilers, roof restoration, ventilation upgrades, plumbing upgrades and restoration of exterior masonry.

The elementary school would also see safety enhancements including construction of corridor connections leading to exit stairs on the first and second floors, as well as a new art room on the first floor, and a new music suite on the second floor. A multi-purpose gym addition would also be built under the proposal, and there would be plumbing and electrical upgrades.

Several classrooms, including a pre-K room and a 5th-grade classroom, would be expanded, including the addition of a restroom to the pre-K class.

Both buildings would be in line for roof restoration.

"The district has done a very good job in the past keeping up with roofs," Schools said. "Right now, the approach is to apply coating to existing roofs that are in very good condition but just need more life to them — that's a trend we are looking to continue and it has already been happening in the school district."

Asbestos abatement is typically included in renovation projects on older buildings, as is restoration of exterior masonry on brick structures, Schools said.

If there is money left over when the main components of the project are completed, there are other jobs that could be undertaken, such as renovations to classrooms in the rear wing at the elementary school, door and hardware replacement, a new copy center, relocation of the guidance office and an additional restroom. Alternate projects at the middle/high school could include replacement of the cafeteria and auditorium, as well as mechanical heating and ventilation units, if funds are left over, according to the plan.

"Alternate scope is like a wish

list," Schools said. "It will be designed and if money is available, they would be included in the project."

One component of the original plan presented in April was the addition of a pre-kindergarten classroom, but Schools said they have since learned that that part of the project would not be eligible for state funding, so it has been removed from the plan.

"When considering an addition to the school we looked at the numbers the way New York State Education would look at your numbers. They would look at the number of students you have and the number of classrooms that you have and say you don't need any more classrooms," Schools said. "When they say that, based on the math, it means you can't get money from the state to add a new classroom."

The elementary school is in line for more renovations than the middle/high school in the current proposal, Schools said.

"We are looking at focusing in on the elementary school in this capital project," he said. "It hasn't had nearly the same amount of attention as the middle/high school."

The total cost of the project would be \$13,655,000, with \$11,278,233 going to renovations to the elementary school and \$2,386,767 for the middle/high school.

Of the total project cost, 95% is anticipated to be eligible for state aid and the project would have no impact on the tax rate for local taxpayers, Schools said.

The district is expected to finalize the concept design in September and the board would approve the preliminary budget in October. A newsletter outlining the details of the project would go out to district residents and a public information meeting would both be scheduled for November, with voters making the final decision in December.

If approved, the project would go out to bid between January and March 2024. Construction would begin in April 2024 and is expected to conclude in August 2025.



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