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LARGEST PAID CIRCULATED NEWSPAPER IN GREENE COUNTY

Volume 14, Issue 12

Legislation to support EMS

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BOCES recaps academic offerings

By Kayla DeMicco Capital Region Independent Media

The Greenville school district, working in conjunction with Questar III BOCES, offers a range of educational opportunities that may differ from what you remember from your school days.

Questar III BOCES officials gave a presentation at the May meeting of the board of education to talk about the educational programs that are offered and to share success stories from students past and present.

Dr. Gladys Cruz, district superintendent of Questar III BOCES, was absent from the meeting due to prior obligations. In her place, Chief Operating and Innovation Officer Harry Hadjoannou represented her.

Questar III Associate Superintendent Jim Niedermeier reported a decline in attendance. He noted that attitudes toward Career and Technical Education (CTE)

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Mailing label

HERO program prepares teens for high-paying careers

By Marlene McTigue Capital Region Independent Media

On a recent hot and steamy Tuesday morning, 13 juniors from high schools all over the region converged on Vanderbilt Town Park as they had been for the past four weeks. Their goal? To make essential improvements.

We're not talking about picking up litter or mowing the grass here. These students are a part of the Questar III BOCES HERO program. And HERO may not stand for what you think.

It's the Heavy Equipment Repair and Operations program, a two-year program based on the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) curriculum.

Open to juniors and seniors throughout Greene, Columbia and Rensselaer counties, the program allows students to learn how to operate and maintain large, construction-related equipment. Types of equipment include backhoes, dozers, front-end loaders, excavators and forklifts. The students also learn how to diagnose and repair common issues with diesel engines and heavy machine operation.

As students worked at the park that Tuesday morning, the class was widening the road leading to the back of the park. The group, all young men in this section although there is one young woman in the senior group, was made up of a mix from many Capital Region schools. They came

from Greenville, Cairo, Coxsackie, Catskill, Germantown, Red Hook and Taconic Hills high schools.

Erik Nicholson, heavy equipment instructor for Questar III BOCES, and Kaitlin Myhre, teaching assistant, were running the crew at Vanderbilt Park. "I was asked to be an instructor and I said that I would give it a try because this kind of a program was not available when [I was] young," said Nicholson. "So, I thought, this was something I could do to help the kids. I think it is a great program and I think they should take advantage of it."

"I've been doing this since I was probably 14 years old so going on 40 years now," he continued. "I learned it because my father had his own exca-

vating business, and we always did our own site work, and I did my own work for years."

Students participate in the HERO program for two years.

"We get juniors in the a.m. and seniors in the p.m., so they are here for two years, and we have them for half of a day each class. They normally report to our school in Durham, which is on Route 145, even though the rest of the CTE programs are in Hudson," said Nicholson. "We are located in Durham because they have the space that someone donated, eight acres where the kids can run the equipment and they also have the opportunity to get their CDL license when they are in the program."

Nicholson says the Greenville park job has been a great opportunity for the kids to see what they can accomplish with their skills while helping in the community.

"We were asked in the fall about working for the park. We had to clean out an entire section in the back and widen all the parking lots, we put some drainage in and did some work on the trails," he said. "Now we are widening the road out of the park, because when people are here, they are always parking on the lawns. So, we were able to add more parking. We also cleared a whole section in the back, and we also cleaned sections of material that were left from like 35 years ago."

See HERO, page A2



MARLENE MCTIGUE/CAPITAL REGION INDEPENDENT MEDIA

Students in the HERO program learn how to operate and maintain heavy equipment in the construction industry.

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Horses of Unbridled: Second chance sisters

This Day in History JUNE, 14

2015 Gypsy Rose Blanchard's mother, Dee Dee, found stabbed to death

1777 Congress adopts the Stars and Stripes



EDITOR'S NOTE:

This is Part II of a two-part historical series about Timothy Murphy, a little-known local soldier who made major contributions to the American Revolution, perhaps more so than any other private soldier in the Continental Army. At the end of Part I, Murphy had fired two shots that killed a pair of high-ranking British officers, throwing the British into disarray and encouraging the French to enter the war on the side of the Americans, Bryant wrote. Here is the second installment in Murphy's story.

Part II: Timothy Murphy: Patriot, soldier, scout, citizen

By Garth Bryant Reprinted with permission from Greenville Local History Group

After Saratoga, Murphy returned to the main army.

Along with the rest of the Army, he suffered through the terrible winter of 1777-78 at Valley Forge, where the entire army came close to dying of disease and starvation. Having survived, Murphy was reas-

signed in July of 1778 and sent to the Schoharie Valley with three companies of riflemen. Their mission was to protect the frontier settlements of New York who suffered continual attacks from British Loyalists and Iroquois.

The Schoharie Valley was of particular importance to General Washington as it was considered the breadbasket of colonial

America. It was supplying around 80,000 bushels of wheat a year to help feed the Army.

Just before he left for Schoharie, Murphy's pre-war home in the Wyoming Valley was attacked by Tories and Iroquois. Three hundred sixty-one people were slaughtered. Murphy probably knew all or most of them. This event seemed to harden Murphy and he

would spend the next four years on the New York frontier defending the settlements there and seeing they didn't suffer a similar fate.

During these years he would take to long-range scouting. He began dressing like an Indian and learned the Iroquois language so he could more easily move among them. He took to repaying the

Iroquois savagery with his own savagery. In addition to his double rifle, he carried a knife and a tomahawk.

He would claim to have personally killed more than 40 Iroquois and scalping half of them. He participated in the 1778 attack on the large indigenous village of Unadilla following the In-

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HERO, from page A1

The students leave the program well equipped for employment, according to Nicholson and Myhre.

"These kids get tons of certifications while they are in program. We do stop-the-bleed training, they get their OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 while they are in the school. They get flagged certification. They get a small masonry certification," said Myhre.

Nick Gerken of Greenville High School feels the program is setting him up for a profitable future. Gerken, who has already started his own landscaping business, sees the value of attending.

"It's been great so far. I'm learning a lot and I'm really going to try to apply it to my business. I really like learning to do new things everyday — getting to do what most people can't. This is a great opportunity that I got to take so I am grateful for it," said Gerken.

Gerken explained how the school day looks in the HERO program.

"We go right to Durham instead of normal school and we're there from 8-11. Then you go back to

your home schools. During your time there (at the program) you could be doing some classwork. If it's nice outside you go out all day and learn new things," he said.

Cody Kavanaugh of Germantown High School said he is enjoying the program.

"I thought it was a great opportunity to get my OSHA certifications and CDL. The program is awesome," said Kavanaugh.

Brad Vavrina, of Germantown, who has already received his flagger and OSHA 10 certifications, joined the program because he is interested in a career that will allow him to travel out of state.

"The instructors are nice, and the program is fun," said Vavrina. "I like leaving school and doing something more interesting than sitting in a classroom all day."

And though the school year will be wrapping up soon the HERO students aren't done yet.

They will also be making improvements at the Durham Museum and working on putting in animal runs for the Ag Science program at the Durham Questar building.



MARLENE MCTIGUE/CAPITAL REGION INDEPENDENT MEDIA

A student operates a skidsteer loader at Vanderbilt Town Park as part of the HERO program at Questar III BOCES.

MURPHY, from page A1

dian massacre of Cherry Valley. The following year he participated in the Sullivan campaign to destroy the Iroquois villages on the upper Susquehanna River system. This campaign did much to destroy the power of the Iroquois.

After this campaign, Murphy's enlistment in the Continental Army expired. Unwilling to leave Schoharie, he enlisted in Peter Vrooman's 15th Regiment of the Albany County Militia. Under this command he continued his patrolling to protect his adopted home.

Patrolling deep into Native American lands meant Murphy was almost always badly outnumbered in his encounters. His stories are full of events where he had to fight his way out of an ambush or flee for his life, sometimes running for miles to escape.

One time after outrunning a large war party, he hid in a hollow log while the Indians camped nearby for the night. After a long night, a very uncomfortable and angry Murphy decided to shoot the last departing warrior out the end of the log and run for it again. During the Sullivan Campaign, Murphy and 25 others were surrounded by more than 100 braves. After two previous failed attempts, Murphy finally cut his way through the hostiles and he and eight others survived. The other 17 were killed.

In 1780, Murphy's luck ran out. He and Alexander Harper were ambushed and taken prisoner. They were bound and were being taken back to some Iroquois village where the great Murphy would be tortured. During the night the two Americans freed themselves. They hid their opponents' weapons and methodically knifed and killed their captors in their sleep.

These are just a few of the many stories of the dangers Murphy faced in his life as a scout. That he managed to survive seven years of fighting is amazing. That he did so without even being wounded is miraculous. By taking the fight to the Iroquois' homes, he put fear into them.

No place remained totally safe from Murphy and his scouts. Unable to understand the technology of his

very rare double rifle, the Indians couldn't understand how he could fire without reloading. When added to his uncanny ability to avoid death or injury, the tribes began to prescribe magical powers to Murphy. This became such a problem that the British put a large price on his head. This reward was never collected.

Later in 1780 Murphy met Peggy Feeck on a scouting trip that passed through the hamlet of Fulton. His men soon noticed that most of Murphy's scouting trip now detoured through Fulton. Murphy had fallen in love. When he asked Peggy's father for her hand in marriage, he was turned down.

Despite his heroic service to his country and community, he was considered by her father to be an uneducated man of little means. Undeterred, he convinced Peggy to elope with him. She climbed out her bedroom window and he whisked her away on horseback to Duanesburg, where they were married. With the marriage already consummated, Peggy's father accepted Murphy into the family.

Shortly after his marriage, the second defining event of Murphy's military career took place. Perhaps the ever-vigilant Murphy was temporarily distracted by his newfound wedded bliss. Who knows?

Whatever the reason, General John Johnson managed to launch a surprise attack on the Schoharie Valley on Oct. 17, 1780, with a force of about 1,200 Tories, Indians and British regulars. Murphy, after skirmishing with the invaders on the Valley floor, took refuge in the Schoharie Valley's Middle Fort, known as Fort Defiance, with his new bride and about 200 others.

After a prolonged fight the fort commander, Major Woolsey, was inclined to surrender. Murphy, who knew all too well what atrocities would be committed if the garrison surrendered, refused to allow it. Two times the British approached the fort under a flag of truce to talk surrender terms. Each time Murphy fired over their flag, refusing to let them approach.

Woolsey then called for a white

flag to be raised. Murphy threatened to kill any man who did so. Woolsey then called for Murphy's arrest, but no one would carry out

the order. When the British truce flag approached for the third time Woolsey drew his pistol and threatened to kill Murphy if he fired again. Murphy reportedly said "I will die before they shall have me prisoner," and fired his third shot.

After that, Woolsey gave command over to Colonel Vroman and spent the rest of the fight hiding in the fort. The British soon gave up and went on to unsuccessfully attack the lower fort. Without Murphy's steadfastness, the Schoharie Valley may today be remembered for one of the worst massacres of the Revolution instead of for its heroic defense. The day after the attack the Schoharie Valley was in ruins. Homes and barns burned, animals killed, and crops destroyed. The dead were waiting to be buried. Johnson had instructed his forces not to burn the farms of the Tories who lived in the valley.

These farms stuck out like a

sore thumb in the devastation of the valley. Murphy led a force out of the fort and burned them all to the ground. Murphy always insisted he

hated Tories more than the Iroquois.

Stay tuned for the third and final installment in the life of Timothy Murphy.



ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Eunice Kim, Pastor
5830 State Rte. 81, Norton Hill, NY 12083
518-966-4181
secretary.asburyumcny@gmail.com

In-Person Sunday Services & Sunday School

9:00 am

Services will be live streamed & also recorded to our YouTube channel – [asburyumcgreenvillenyny](https://www.youtube.com/channel/asburyumcgreenvillenyny) each week.

Important information is posted on our website, www.asburyumc-greenvillenyny.com and our Facebook page, [@asburyumc.greenville.ny](https://www.facebook.com/asburyumc.greenville.ny) as it becomes available.

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

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

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

Preston Hollow Baptist Church
State Route 145, Preston Hollow
518-239-8544

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

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

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

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

Freehold Congregational Christian Church
County Routes 67, Freehold
518-947-8823

Greenville Center Baptist Church
County Route 41, Greenville

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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

■ Alvia Maldonado, 57, of Niskayuna, was arrested May 21 at 9:52 a.m. in Coxsackie and charged with second-degree criminal contempt, disobeying a court order, a class A misdemeanor. Maldonado was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Samuel Bodwell, 63, of Greenville, was arrested May 21 at 11:30 a.m. in Greenville and charged with second-degree menacing, a class A misdemeanor. Bodwell was transported to central arraignment.

■ Michaela Gluc, 36, of Catskill, was arrested May 23 at 11 p.m. in Athens and charged with second-degree obstructing governmental administration and resisting arrest, both class A misdemeanors. Gluc was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Robert William Hen-

nings, 31, of Neptune City, New Jersey, was arrested May 25 at 9:05 p.m. in Durham and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a blood-alcohol content over 0.08% and driving while intoxicated, both unclassified misdemeanors. Hennings was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Nikolas Pajares, 27, of Hunter, was arrested May 25 at 2:18 a.m. in Kingston and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a blood-alcohol content over 0.08% and driving while intoxicated, both unclassified misdemeanors. Pajares was released to a third party.

■ Veronica Kennedy, 34, of Saugerties, was arrested May 26 at 12:36 a.m. in Durham and charged with aggravated driving while intoxicated with a blood-alcohol content over 0.18% and driving while intoxicated, both unclassified misdemeanors. Kennedy was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Andrew Robinson, 31, of Catskill, was arrested May 27 at 9:09 p.m. in Westerlo and charged with petty larceny, a class A mis-

demeanor. Robinson was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Christopher Connolly, 28, of Yonkers, was arrested May 27 at 1:08 p.m. in Windham and charged with aggravated driving while intoxicated with a blood-alcohol level over 0.18% and driving while intoxicated, both unclassified misdemeanors. Connolly was issued an appearance ticket.

■ John Liberta, 73, of Athens, was arrested May 30 at 12:55 p.m. in Athens and charged with acting in a manner injurious to a child less than 17, a class A misdemeanor. Liberta was released on his own recognizance.

■ Michael Conti, 48, of Hudson, was arrested May 31 at 2:13 p.m. in Cairo and charged with unauthorized use of a vehicle, a class A misdemeanor. Conti was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Michael Watson, 38, of Coxsackie, was arrested May 31 at 9:48 p.m. in Coxsackie and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a blood-alcohol content over 0.08% and driving while intoxicated, both unclassified misdemeanors. Watson's ar-

rest status was not reported.

■ Bailey Rose LaTourette, 24, of Catskill, was arrested June 1 at 3:52 p.m. in Cairo and charged with unlawful dissemination or publication of an intimate image, a class A misdemeanor. LaTourette was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Paige Glavin, 20, of Mountain Lakes, New Jersey, was arrested June 2 at 12:39 a.m. in Tannersville and charged with driving while intoxicated and operating a motor vehicle with a blood-alcohol content over 0.08%, both unclassified misdemeanors. Glavin was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Samantha Rodriguez, 56, of Athens, was arrested June 2 at 10:30 a.m. in Athens and charged with second-degree criminal trespass, a class A misdemeanor. Rodriguez was released on her own recognizance.

■ Malinda Cassimore, 44, of South Cairo, was arrested June 2 at 10:28 p.m. in Cairo and charged with seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, a class A misdemeanor. Cassimore was

issued an appearance ticket.

■ Desiree Neu, 43, of Catskill, was arrested June 3 and charged with third-degree assault, a class A misdemeanor. Neu's arrest status was not reported.

■ Malik Aaron Washington, 24, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was arrested June 4 at 11:19 p.m. in Athens and charged with first-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, a class A felony; third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, a class B felony; second-degree criminal use of drug paraphernalia and seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, both class A misdemeanors; and operating a motor vehicle impaired by drugs, an unclassified misdemeanor. Washington's arrest status was not reported.

■ Marcus Wilson, 28, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was arrested June 4 at 11:19 p.m. in Athens and charged with first-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, a class A felony; third-degree criminal possession of a con-

trolled substance, a class B felony; and second-degree criminal use of drug paraphernalia and seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, both class A misdemeanors. Wilson's arrest status was not reported.

■ Aaron Gleason, 45, of Leeds, was arrested June 6 at 9:15 p.m. in Cairo and charged with second-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, a class A felony; third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, a class B felony; and seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance and two counts of criminal use of drug paraphernalia, both class A misdemeanors. Gleason was held with no bail.

■ Wayne Bernardo Rich, 22, of Haines Falls, was arrested June 7 at 12:14 a.m. in Hunter and charged with third-degree criminal possession of a weapon, a class D felony, and second-degree menacing, a class A misdemeanor. Rich was issued cash bail in the amount of \$25,000.

Legislation to support EMS takes a step forward



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

State Sen. Michelle Hinchey, D-41, speaks on the Senate floor before passage of the EMS bills.

By Doug LaRocque

Capital Region Independent Media

ALBANY — For years, rescue squads around upstate New York have been pushing their state representatives to change the landscape for EMS. That push gained the support of lawmakers on both sides of the political aisle when the New York State Senate approved a package of legislation that addresses several key challenges facing EMS providers.

The bills create three new reimbursement resources, would expand the ability of ground-based ambulance services to administer life-saving blood transfusions, and would deem EMS an essential service. This last of the three components has a far-reaching impact in that it requires all municipalities to provide their constituents with an

ambulance service, just as they currently must do with fire service.

This does not mean each town or city has to have their own agency. It can be a cooperative effort with other localities, but it would have to be formalized, not just a “handshake agreement.”

Washington County's Town of Hampton Supervisor Dave O'Brien likes the legislation. His town is one of the smallest population-wise in the county and does not currently have nor can afford its own ambulance squad.

Hampton currently relies primarily on the Skenesborough Rescue Squad in Whitehall for ambulance coverage, for which the town makes an annual “donation” to the organization.

O'Brien says if this legislation becomes law, they will have to actually negotiate a contract.

“This is not a bad thing,” he said.

O'Brien feels it will spur more consolidation efforts and eventually force the county to become more involved as well.

State Sen. Michelle Hinchey, D-41, was one of the legislation's prime sponsors.

“EMS is a pillar of our health care system, especially for New Yorkers living in rural and medically underserved communities where a drive to the hospital could take upwards of an hour,” Hinchey said.

She added that local EMS providers are in a crisis.

“They face severe challenges from inadequate reimbursement to onerous rules that prevent them from delivering life-saving care, like blood transfusions, all while the demand for their services increases,” she said.

Hinchey is hopeful the legislation will also pass the Assembly before the session ends.

The Assembly has already acted on the blood transfusion component of the legislation, approving two bills co-sponsored by Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner, D-113.

The assemblywoman said the bills provide that ambulance services and advanced life support first responders may store and distribute blood so as to initiate and administer transfusions.

Woerner said as it stands right now, “New Yorkers experiencing a severe illness or trauma, such as a life-threatening car accident, are not able to receive blood until they arrive at a hospital, unless they are transported by an air ambulance.”

She added that in these cases, it makes sense to allow a transfusion

in what could be a lifesaving window of time.

Increasing revenue sources
The bill sponsored by Hinchey would also allow EMS providers to receive Medicaid reimbursement for treating patients at the scene of an injury, transporting to approved health care destinations, such as a mental health facility or an urgent care facility, and facilitating a connection to a doctor via telemedicine.

Currently, volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers may be eligible for a personal income tax credit of \$200. If passed by the Assembly and signed by Gov. Kathy Hochul, the legislation would increase that amount to \$800. It is meant to entice more people to become first responders.

As of press time, it was unknown if the Assembly will act on the legislation.

NEWS, from page A1

programs have changed, and the district is facing more challenges. To address these issues, they are developing more programs to serve students with disabilities.

Two students spoke about their experiences in CTE programs.

Raymond Henderson, enrolled in the EMT and health careers course, which offers college-level education, shared his opportunity to attend a conference where he demonstrated skills like performing CPR and administering medication.

Colin Gabler, participating in the dual enrollment program, has earned 50 credits toward his associate degree in Computer Science while still in high school. This program allows Gabler and other students to access these opportunities at little to

no cost to their families.

The program provides students, including those with learning disabilities, the opportunity to learn in their desired fields. Students can work and learn alongside professionals, enhancing their education and career prospects.

The New Visions program, available across the Capital Region, is designed for high school seniors seeking professional opportunities while earning college credits. Partnered with various colleges and hospitals, the program offers students hands-on learn-

ing in their desired fields.

According to Niedermeier, the medical program is the most popular, with 75 applicants. To meet the growing interest, Questar is planning to start a second program to enable students to get the experience.

Learning to pause

Aging with Grace



PAT LARSEN

Every column I write is usually about a topic taken from the pages of my life as a Baby Boomer trying to navigate this constantly changing world.

In this particular case, it was extremely cathartic to sit at my tablet and begin

to unwind and reflect. I was trying to make some sense out of an especially intense situation that I had no play-book for.

As a parent, we think once our kids hit adulthood we'll be free and clear to just co-exist. Guess again. But maybe you knew this.

The actual subject doesn't really matter, in truth.

My intention is to share how I was able to move forward so as to buy some time to get my head on straight before saying stuff I would be hard pressed to walk back.

So, here's the solution that I found to be the best fit to help all parties save face. Who knows, maybe if you find yourself in the same situation as I did, you'll remember this MAY be a reaction you can take.

Before I tell you what I discovered (I'm sorry, I'm being a terrible tease, aren't I?), let's chat a bit about the relationship between adult kids and we, the emerging elders, the Baby Boomer category, that still pulls some weight.

Not so long ago, we were the rule makers, the solution seekers, the breadwinners... right?

Retirement, in most cases, brought about a deep, long, peaceful sigh of appreciating all the fruits of our labor.

We were the role models, the wise ones, the sit-back-and-take-it-all-in generation. Good for us!

If you, like me, had kids at a younger age, mostly early 20s, then we are now currently faced with children in their late 40's to early-to-mid 50s.

If fate was kind and all the i's dotted and the t's crossed, the adult children are well into their careers and their kiddos are giving them hell. There's lots and lots of pressure, as we well recall.

I'm not sure who coined the phrase "mid-life crisis," but it's a real thing that we are now witnessing among our own families.

It's a very hard thing to watch, to sit quietly by and often not be able to help with because... it's called "ADULTING" and they have to make their own way through to the other side of their lives.

Finally, I'm getting to my point. Wait... before I take the deep dive and share, let me pour another glass of wine... OK, I'm back.

Stuff's going to come up that implicates our own

(my own) inadequacies as younger parents. Questions from the adult kids have definitely made it sound as though there was complete incompetence on my part.

To say I felt like my back was to the wall when asked about things that happened 30 years ago, that I had long since forgotten about, really hit home. The pangs of guilt, then fury, were all intermixed and heart breaking. I felt like a failure.

Then this happened... as you know, this is my favorite phrase.

I asked this question. Can we just "hit pause" for a bit so that you (the adult child) and I could gather our thoughts?

THAT worked. Both parties took a breath, I had a good cry, and only then could we come back to the issue at hand.

We were refreshed and lovingly capable of reaching an amicable solution to a simple issue that all of us could bring our experience to. All parties would find their way back to their centers.

Something as simple as a question, a request and then an agreement to take a breath and hit PAUSE.

It's not always that simple but with enough focus in advance it actually can be just that.

Pat Larsen lives, plays and works in Greene County, NY, with her husband of 50 years and their pup, Lily. A recent recipient of the prestigious Top Five Change-makers award in Greene County, Pat proudly brings programs to Baby Boomers and seniors weekly. Please contact Pat at 518-275-8686 to chat.

Community Conversations



Get To Know

This is a way a business can speak to readers. Talk about their team and how important the local community is to them. Tell readers about some key points they might not know about them. Reconnect with their customers and/or connect with new ones.



Ask the Expert

This is a 5-10 minute segment on a specific topic that can help our readers. For example: What is the best way to save money? How to grow vegetables indoors? How to keep out the cold?



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For more information and to book your ad please contact: Marlene McTigue at 518-545-8441 or Marlene.mctigue@nyvtmedia.com



Local CAP Squadron awarded Commendation of Honor



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Cairo-based Civil Air Patrol was awarded a Commendation of Honor by Greene County legislators.

CAIRO — The Vanguard Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol, which meets in Cairo, was recently awarded a Commendation of Honor by Greene County legislators.

The award was presented to Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Sean Neal by legislators Matthew Luvera (Catskill), Edward Bloomer (Athens), Sherry True (Cairo) and Patty Handel (Durham).

The commendation was presented at the squadron's 16th birthday party. Also in attendance at the party as esteemed guests were U.S. Rep. Marc Molinaro, Assemblyman Chris Tague, Greene County Sheriff Pete Kusminsky, NY Wing Commander Col. William Martin, Deputy Chief of Staff Cadet Programs Major Christian Granda, Director of Cadet Programs Major Mike

Cassidy and Assistant Commander of Cadet Programs North Major Kayla Sieberg.

Vanguard Composite Squadron meets every Thursday evening from 6:45-9:15 p.m. at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 186 Main St. in Cairo.

The cadet program accepts applicants from age 12-18 years old and there is an adult program as well.

Obituary: Charity E. Blake



Charity E. Blake

HANNACROIX — Charity E. Blake, 53, of Hannacroix, passed away on Friday, May 24, 2024, at her residence.

She was born on Saturday, June 13, 1970, in Al-

bany, the daughter of Donald and the late Janet (née Lounsbury) Berkhofer.

Charity graduated from Greenville High School and went to work for the New York State Teachers Retirement System as a benefits examiner.

If you knew Charity, then you knew how beautiful and angelic her voice was. She loved to sing and could often be found at weddings and funerals as the vocalist. She also loved going on cruises, cooking and baking, crocheting, and spending time with her grandchildren, family and friends.

In addition to her father Donald, Charity is survived by daughters Taylor (Steven) Haley and Brittany (Daniel) Gerety; sisters Darcy

(Gene) Muntz and Jennifer (Dave) Millious; as well as her grandchildren, Emaleigh, Kora, Harleigh, Seth, Benjamin and Luke; and her nephews Austin and Dylan Muntz.

A memorial calling hour was held on Saturday, June 8, from 10-11 a.m. at Onesequethaw Reformed Church, 11 Groesbeck Road, Feura Bush, with the service immediately following.

Donations may be made in her memory to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 840692, Dallas, TX 75284-0692, or Onesequethaw Reformed Church 11 Groesbeck Road, Feura Bush, NY 12067.

Condolences may be left at www.ajcunninghamfh.com.

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Dr. Liz has advocated for mental health awareness throughout her life thus far and strives each day to make her treatment room a safe place for her patient's to discuss all aspects of their health.



Shelly has been working in the field of grief and bereavement for over 20 years. She believes in building community around grief and loss; and seeks to normalize grief as a healthy response to any change.

Second chance sisters: The Unbridled journey of Lucky and B's Wild Rush

Horses of Unbridled



SUSAN KAYNE

In the serene embrace of dawn at Unbridled Sanctuary, a day of profound reflection unfolded earlier this year.

It was Jan. 15, 2024, a day etched in the heart of Lucky, a Thoroughbred mare whose eyes hold stories deeper than the scars of her past. This date marks her "Savaversary," a term we at the Sanctuary lovingly use to celebrate the day a life was saved from despair.

It's the anniversary of Lucky's rescue from the slaughter pipeline, marking her rebirth into a realm of compassion and love.

Savaversary (n): A commemorative day marking the anniversary of a horse's rescue from dire circumstances, such as the slaughter pipeline, abuse, neglect, or a fate grim and deleterious. It's a day that signifies a new beginning, a second chance at life, and the unwavering promise of love and care. Celebrated annually, it's a poignant reminder of the transformative journey from despair to hope, from forgotten to cherished.

But this Savaversary, marking the sixth year since her liberation, holds a deeper significance. It's not just the tale of Lucky's salvation we commemorate, but also the heartrending rescue of her half-sister, B's Wild Rush.

Their stories, intertwined by the blood of their mother, DrivingMissBertie, and a near tragic fate, are heartrending reminders of the unspoken demise that many Thoroughbreds suffer in pain and silence.

Born into the echelons of racing royalty, Lucky and B's Wild Rush descended from a lineage graced by speed and agility. Lucky's journey at Unbridled began on Jan. 15, 2018, when she was saved from shipping to a slaughter plant in Canada.

Before Unbridled rescued Lucky, her life was marked by triumph and turmoil:

Picture her elegant figure, draped in a fiery red coat, commanding the spotlight in every post parade. Her beautiful face, distinguished by a striking white blaze, shone beneath her blinkers. Imagine her triumphant return to the Winner's Circle — adrenaline pulsating, sweat glistening, nostrils flaring — her neck arched in the sweet victory.

Lucky's brilliance on the racetrack led to six victories, amassing \$117,500 in earn-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Susan Kayne and Lucky, face to face: A moment of deep connection and understanding, symbolizing the heartfelt bond and unspoken promises made at Unbridled Sanctuary.

ings. Yet, her racing career took a toll — arthritis, damaged cartilage and bone spurs are residual reminders of her sacrifice. To compound the physical insults she endured while racing, a botched upper airway "tie-back" surgery, a procedure to increase airflow, left her voiceless to express her discomfort or needs.

At the age of 16, drained of her spirit and vigor, Lucky faced a grim fate. She was taken to the New Holland Auction in Pennsylvania, where she was bought by a horse meat broker. Skinny, bitten, bruised, and sick, coupled with the infirmity of a huge, fused and calcified ankle, Lucky seemed destined for a tragic end.

However, Lucky's life was about to change. Thanks to the generosity of Unbridled's supportive community, funds were raised to rescue her. Her arrival at Unbridled marked a new beginning. With abundant love, skilled care and nourishment, she transformed from a dispirited and weary horse to the lively, joyful mare now known as "Miss Independence" and "The Snack Queen." Her favorite treat is Ricola Herbal Cough Drops!

Over five and a half years into her safe, celebrated, and protected life at Unbridled, Lucky's once tired eyes now sparkled with a zest for life. As Lucky reveled in the security of her peace and protection, the life of her little sister, B's Wild Rush, was in trouble. Deadly big trouble.

On Nov. 1, 2023, the dire circumstances of B's Wild Rush turned Unbridled's attention to an urgent appeal of fundraising to rescue the 19-year-old mare. With the inspiring legacy of Lucky's successful journey before us,

Unbridled set forth to extend its embrace to save B's Wild Rush.

Weakened from the auction circuit and exiled from the powerful energy that had carried her through 19 starts and six victories, B was reduced to a barcode. Despite winning \$163,365 herself, and producing offspring who earned another \$500,000, B's worth equated to what little weight remained on her bones.

Her successes did not shield her from a harrowing fate. On the broker's lot she was emaciated, wounded, and tied to a piece of equipment. For B's Wild Rush, who once charged down racetracks with fierce courage and determination, and nurtured foals with her own life, this was a cruel end.

On Nov. 2, 2023, B's Wild Rush entered the protection of Unbridled. Upon arrival, our hearts sank. This majestic mare was a mere shadow of her former self. Frightened, lacerated, lame from hoof abscesses and starving, her plight was a stark reminder of the neglect she suffered.

Under the dedicated care at Unbridled, her journey of recovery is taking flight. Her coat, once lackluster, is regaining its sheen; her eyes, once clouded with despair, now glimmer with rejuvenation. Her transformation stands as a vivid illustration of the Sanctuary's commitment to care, healing and renewal.

The saga of Lucky and B's Wild Rush transcends mere survival; it challenges us to confront and rethink the destiny of countless Thoroughbreds like them. Their rescue underscores an urgent need for systemic reform to hold the Thoroughbred industry



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A bond of love: Shari Benjamin Raymond with B's Wild Rush. Her sponsorship extends not only to B and her sister Lucky, but to several more horses at Unbridled, including Arnie the Mule.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

B's Wild Rush in a moment of uncertainty: Tagged for slaughter, tethered, wounded, and waiting for a lifeline.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Strength reborn: B's Wild Rush's remarkable transformation at Unbridled.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lucky's first day at Unbridled: Her wounds dressed, her sickness treated. A warm safe space.

accountable for the lifelong protection of horses like Lucky and B's Wild Rush. Their stories, though marked by triumphs, too often culminate in tragedy.

At Sanctuaries like Unbridled, where second chances bloom into lives of dignity and care, contributions, be it through donations, sponsorships or spreading awareness, can pivot the fate of these noble creatures, ensuring a life of respect and love beyond their racing and breeding days.

As Lucky and B's Wild Rush rest in the peace and tranquility of Unbridled, their

reunion is more than a touching moment; it symbolizes the enduring mission of the Sanctuary. Their story is a testament to the boundless compassion of those dedicated to the protection and welfare of these gracious animals.

From the depths of my heart and echoing the silent voices of Lucky and B's Wild Rush, I invite you to join Unbridled in this crusade for change. Your support can ignite a movement, transforming the narrative of Thorough-

breds from forgotten athletes to cherished souls.

Together, let's champion the inherent worth of every equine as sentient beings whose lives are as precious as our own. Join us in this journey of compassion and transformation at Unbridled Sanctuary.

Susan Kayne operates the horse rescue organization Unbridled Thoroughbred Foundation, on the border of Albany County and Greenville.

Where did white paint go?

Whittling Away



DICK BROOKS

I went to the hardware store the other day. My mission was simple — buy some white paint. Little did I realize that I was biting off more than I could chew without a degree in decorating.

They used to make white paint. I have some old cans in the cellar that actually say "white" on them. Paint was available in all the primary colors. My short-term memory may have gone the way of my nehru jacket but my long-term memory gets better as I age, in fact I can now remember things clearly that never happened, but I do remember asking for black paint and getting a can handed to me. The same for blue, green and so on.

My quest for white paint, however, crashed upon the shoals of decorating diversity. Did I want Egg-Shell White, Arctic Winter White, Fish Belly White, Grandma's New

Bloomers White, or the 40 different shades of the ever-popular Off White?

I realized that I may be in over my head, said I needed a moment to muse about it and wandered off down the aisle.

Maybe I was too hasty attempting this on my own. I called the Queen into consultation. She told me to bring home the color charts with whites on them. I gathered an armful of the little color sample slips and staggered off home.

There were 37 different whites. How wise I was not to attempt this choice alone! My Queen quickly weeded out the lesser whites and taped the selected ones all over the area

to be painted. After a week or so of discussion and decision making the selection was made — Navajo White.

I returned to the hardware store armed with my solo color chip and ordered a gallon of Navajo White. No problem — the clerk looked up the magic formula, squirted nine different colors into the can, shook it for the allotted amount of time and presto — Navajo White!

On my way home I had time to ponder — who makes up these color names anyway? How does one get to become a color namer, and does it pay well? Are they proud of what they do, do they stick their chests out and proudly declare, "I'm a color namer!"

or do they hide what they do from family and friends? How do they come up with the thousands of names required, and is there a lot of stress involved? Will there be a reality show based on their profession?

I glanced over at my can of Navajo White paint and wondered how it came to be named. Frankly, I can't think of anything about the Navajo or his life that has anything to do with the color white. Was it the last white of the day to be named and the namer just came out with the first thing that came to his or her mind or was there an unknown story here? I guess I'll never know.

Upon reaching the castle,

I pried the lid off and looked into the can. It was just as I had suspected. There inside, in spite of all the names it had hidden behind, was my old friend — White Paint.

I cheerfully went to work with my brush until I remembered that I needed to get some blue paint for the trim.

Thought for the week — I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose-fitting clothing. If I had any loose-fitting clothing, I wouldn't have signed up in the first place!

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

Reach columnist Dick Brooks at whittle12124@yahoo.com.

Conceive, believe, achieve

Positively Speaking



TOBY MOORE

The adage “no one is an island” reminds us that we are social creatures, usually with the need to collaborate and thrive in community. We often lean on others for emotional, physical or logistical support to achieve anything significant.

Sometimes, this help is minimal: a kind word, a small favor, or a pat on the back. At other times, achieving our goals demands a collective effort, like assembling a team of experts for a business venture or a passion project.

But here’s the thing: While walking your path in life, especially when chasing a dream, you may often feel like you’re on a solitary journey, and that’s because, in many ways, you are.

Although there are shared dreams, usually your dream is your unique vision, and even with a team behind you, the weight of the endeavor can still feel entirely your own. Especially when taking on the financial risks, pouring all of your time into it, working without pay, and facing the ramifications of each decision head-on.

In these moments, you must cultivate the inner voice that tells you, “You’re more than enough; you have what it takes.”

Think of an aspiring author. Having a successful book will involve feedback from friends, family, an agent, an editor and a publisher, but putting words on a page is solitary, and the chances are that the book will likely never see the light of day.

My dad was an author and published three books. His choice to become a writer at 50 didn’t feel natural initially. He was an entrepreneur, and writing was new to him.

When he started to write his first book, “Playing with the Enemy.” He’d write about 30 pages at a time, then have me read through it and give him notes. I knew nothing about writing a book, but he needed someone to bounce ideas off, so I did what I could.

As I read each draft, I could hear him muttering at times, “How on earth will this get published?” or “I’ve never done this before — what’s next after I finish writing?” His doubts were audible yet charming.

As I heard my dad muttering doubts, I reminded him of a quote by Napoleon Hill that he had repeated to me hundreds of times since I was a child: “Whatever your mind can conceive and believe, it can achieve.”

Although he was no stranger to this belief, it was an “aha!” moment for him.

And sure enough, as he continued to work on his drafts, his tone started to

change. The man who had instilled this mantra in me was now living it in real time, conceiving and believing his path to publication.

His enthusiasm was contagious; during a chat about an unrelated topic, he’d excitedly exclaim, “I’ve got it! I’ll send the manuscript to every publisher in America!” It was like a light bulb moment; the gears had finally clicked into place, illuminating the pathway ahead.

So, he implemented his plan and started sending the

manuscript to publishers. Some publishers took months to reply, while others didn’t bother responding at all. He didn’t allow discouragement to set in.

Though he had yet to secure a publisher, he had already succeeded in his heart. He knew it was only a matter of time and used it wisely.

He consistently refined each draft, honed each word, and polished each paragraph. In his mind, he was not just waiting for a publisher; he was preparing for one.

After months of effort, a publisher finally bit. They struck a deal; the book saw multiple printings and enjoyed success.

My dad’s journey is a testament to the universal principle of “conceive, believe, achieve.”

His story points to the idea

that no matter the dream or the challenges ahead, the most critical resources — faith, vision and perseverance — are already inside us, ready to be tapped into to achieve success.

Toby Moore is a columnist, the star of Emmy-nominated “A Separate Peace,” and the CEO of Cubestream Inc.




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Things may be closer than they appear



MICHAEL SALTZ

Normally, I don't pay much attention to my birthdays, and this one should be no different. Here I am, now 84, and if that's not a number to ignore, I don't know what is.

I like to think that it doesn't matter how old you are after a certain age, if it ever did. Even more, what's magical about being 84, other than it's one numeral higher than 83? At this age, I suppose that's nothing to sneeze at, but there's no reason to make a big deal out of it. I mean, it's certainly not one of those so-called milestone birthdays like 65 or, I don't know, 100. So why, you might reasonably ask, have I chosen to make note of this one?

Maybe it's because it's the age that my mother was when she died. Clearly, I'm not following in her footsteps that I know of. On the other hand, who knows? Just because something hasn't happened today doesn't mean that it can't happen to-

morrow. As the writing on the car mirror says, things may be closer than they appear.

Besides, I've been a lot closer to death before than I think I am now. Twenty-five years ago, I had a heart attack. There were no painful symptoms, just a brief tightening band across my chest that lasted no more than a few seconds while I was on an elliptical trainer. My wife urged me (gently) to go to the emergency room, but I refused (semi-stoic that I am, or, more likely, desiring to see doctors as rarely as possible; so much of my early life seemed to be comprised of doctors, hospital stays, and long stretches of time at home in bed). The next day, when I could barely keep my eyes open, my wife (more forcefully) insisted that I go to the emergency room. This time, I agreed, and sure enough, I'd had a heart attack.

For the next week, I drifted in and out of consciousness (far more out than in), but I clearly remember thinking, "If this is what dying is like, it's not so bad." And then, I woke up one morning with my stepdaughter and wife sitting beside me in the cardiology ICU. And that was that. Something had certainly turned out to be closer than it appeared until it wasn't.

Is it odd? I don't think too much about my death or future. They just sit there waiting to happen, with me or without me. On the other hand, my future life

(finite as it may be) is guaranteed to be less long than when I was 19. On the other hand, when I was 19, I was hardly sure that it would last until the next day, much less as long as it has. Things may be closer than they appear. Or not.

I could, of course, be writing about something else today. How about Israel, or Zionism, or anti-Semitism? Can we give it a rest?

How about Donald Trump (once again). Are his eyes open or closed? Does it matter? Or Stormy Daniels or Michael Cohen? Or, maybe, Trump's Greek Chorus of sycophants saying the things the court forbids him to say? Please, no!

Or maybe something closer to home, like the proposal to imprison the center of the hamlet of Craryville, NY, within a giant solar array. Hmmm. Maybe soon, but not today. But then, things may be closer than they appear.

What then? I'm thinking of the young man I was at 19 when the future was a confusing, confounding, incoherent mess. I hardly recognize him anymore; he's a stranger to me. Yet I can conjure him up without great effort; give me a moment or sufficient motivation, and he's there. I shudder at the thought. But because I know that I can conjure up that younger self, I know that he is still with me, within me, gone but never forgotten.

Is it any surprise that song-

writers have embraced that idea? Jim Steinman wrote a song titled "Objects in the Rear View Mirror May Appear Closer Than They Are." His early life still haunted him.

"And though the nightmares should be over

Some of the terrors are still intact

I'll hear that ugly, coarse and violent voice

And then he grabs me from behind

And then he pulls me back

But it was long ago, and it was far away

Oh God, it seems so very far

And if life is just a highway

Then the soul is just a car

And objects in the rearview mirror

May appear closer than they are"

"Objects" was one of the many Steinman songs that Meat Loaf recorded as part of the second album of his "Bat Out of Hell" trilogy, a series that contained many highly emotional and dramatic songs. Released in 1993, 16 years after the original "Bat Out of Hell" album, many were quick to think the song was about Meat Loaf's own very difficult, much-abused childhood, but it wasn't. Nonetheless, as distant as he felt from his early days, his monsters still haunted him as they did Steinman, they still affected him, still lived inside him. Things may be closer than they appear.

The monsters of my past were nowhere near as dramatic; they were merely chaotic. Where was I in the world, what was I/who was I in the world, how did I fit into the world, could I fit into the world? I had no answers. Until, that is, I began to find something. I went to a rehearsal of a play, "An Epitaph for George Dillon." Suddenly, I began to see the world in a whole new light, a world that, perhaps, existed in a more contained place, a world I could more easily understand, create and control — a place from which I could begin to create a life. That was 65 years ago, a long time by anyone's measure, a lifetime ago, a whole person or two or three ago. And yet I remember him — that 19-year-old me — clearly; he still lives within me. Things may be closer than they appear.

Roseanne Cash approached the idea a bit differently. In her song "Closer Than I Appear," she is the object seen in her rear-view mirror. What she sees is her fear of vulnerability born out of loss and her struggle to overcome it so that she can fully love again.

"Lock all the doors and turn out the lights,
we'll work this thing through till we get it right.

But if I seem angry and cold or I don't speak at all,
it's just that old fear
'cause baby, I'm closer than I appear."

The song appears on the album, "Rules of Travel," released on March 25, 2003. One of the album's songs, "September When It Comes," is sung with her father, Johnny Cash.

"When the shadows lengthen
And burn away the past
They will fly me like an angel to

A place where I can rest
When this begins, I'll let you in

September when it comes,"

Johnny Cash died on Sept. 12, 2003, just six months after the album was released. Things may be closer than they appear.

And so, it is my birthday — 84 years old, another number in a long string of them. It's been a life in which I've seen a lot and done a lot. It's been a life with few regrets, although one that's had its share of pain and loss. It's also one that's been full of accomplishment but, at least as important, full of the love of family and friends. As Meat Loaf sang on the first "Bat Out of Hell" album, two out of three ain't bad.

And my future? It stretches out long and unending before me; I don't see an end, any more than I saw an end to my wife and I being together when we first started dating 40 years ago. I still don't. But you know what they say: Things may be closer, blah, blah, blah.

MEET MELANIE LEKOCEVIC

Melanie is an accomplished journalist for theUpStater.com and provides breaking news for the community that she loves. Her experience and knowledge really shines throughout her work.



You can contact Melanie with any story ideas or tips at Ravenanewsroom@gmail.com

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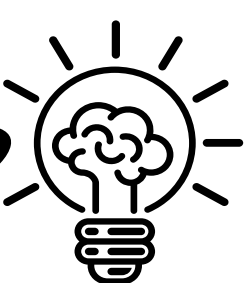


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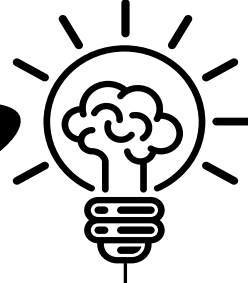
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Community Calendar

JUNE 2024

14 - Cocksackie Downtown Block Party, on Mansion, Reed and South River streets. Live music, special food and drink on offer, shops will be open late.

14 - Trivia and Name That Tune, 6:30 p.m., at The Shamrock House, 2388 Route 145, East Durham.

15 - Second Annual Honda 50 Run, 1848 Route 145, East Durham. Registration at 11 a.m., kick-off at 1 p.m. Four-hour bike ride is \$50 entry fee, barbecue to follow at \$20.

15 - Third Annual Schoharie Turnpike-Kaaterskill Clove Road Rally, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Dutchman's Landing Park, Main Street in Catskill. Cost is \$100 per car. To register call 845-657-6982.

15 - Concert in the Catskills: Jackson Dean and Alana Springsteen, at Historic Catskill Point, 1 Main Street, Catskill. Doors open at 6 p.m., concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$37 for general admission, \$60 pitt pass, \$85 VIP. Visit concertinthecatskills.com for more information.

17 - Greenville Town Board meeting, 7 p.m., at Pioneer Town Hall, 11159 Route 32, Greenville.

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

19 - Drive-Up Rabies clinic, 5 p.m., at Angelo Canna Town Park.

21 - Trivia and Name That Tune, 6:30 p.m., at The Shamrock House, 2388 Route 145, East Durham.

21 - Jazz at Glens Falls House with the Bill Goodwin Trio, doors open at 6 p.m., 230 Winter Clove Road, Round Top. Tickets are \$18.

22 - Greene County Cruisers Classic Car Show, starts at 10 a.m., at Angelo Canna Town Park in Cairo. Free admission.

22 - Nation of Language performs at Glens Falls House, doors open at 7 p.m., 230 Winter Clove Road, Round Top. Tickets are \$35.

22 - The Summer Party at The Thomas Cole House, 6:30 p.m., at 218 Spring Street, Catskill. Email jgreim@thomascole.org for reservations.

22 - Bridge Street Belly Dance, 7:30 p.m., at Bridge Street Theatre, 44 West Bridge Street, Catskill. Tickets are \$25.

28 - Trivia and Name That Tune, 6:30 p.m., at The Shamrock House, 2388 Route 145, East Durham.

29 - Dancing Dream, an ABBA tribute band, performs at McGrath's Pub, 1848 Route 145, East Durham.

29 - Freehold Airport Open House and Fly-In, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at 3981 Route 67, Freehold. Free admission.

29 - Sixth Annual Nathan's Ride, hosted by Red Barn Riders, 11:30 a.m., a Vanderbilt Town Park on Route 32, Greenville. Registration is from 9-11 a.m. on the day of the event. Cost is \$20 donation per person, free T-shirts to first 100 registrants. Charity run to assist family of local young man with special needs.

JULY 5

5 - First Fridays at Athens Cultural Center, 5-7 p.m., at 24 Second Street, Athens.

5 - First Fridays Catskill, 5 p.m., various locations in Catskill.

13 - Second Saturday Trunk Sales, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at 145 Water Street, Catskill. Cars are \$10, trucks and vans are \$15.

13 - Saturday Tours: Hudson-Athens Lighthouse, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., from the Athens shore. Free admission.

14-20 - Catskills Irish Arts Week, at Michael J. Quill Irish Cultural & Sports Centre, 2267 Route 145, East Durham.

17-21 - Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival, at 1 Poultney Road in Oak Hill. Visit GreyFoxbluegrass.com for tickets and more information. Ticket prices vary.

25-28 - Greene County Youth Fair, at Angelo Canna Town Park, Cairo. Free admission. Visit thegreenecountyouthfair.com for schedule of events and more information.

Grandma Mackey's Diary

1953 life in Medusa

Transcribed from her diary by Kathy Saurer Osborne

1953

• **Sunday, May 3:** Rain. Up late. I went to church. Gene worked half a day at Effie's. Read and rested the rest of the day.

• **Monday, May 4:** Fair. Took out the kitchen windows and washed them this forenoon. When Stubby came back he did the washing and I hung it out. It dried nicely and I have it in and most of it put away. Adele went with Porter. Gene went after work and had her hair washed and set. Don has taken off the storm windows and now is mowing the lawn. Mr. Cutler (Herbie) called on Don tonight. He came from Cairo, lives there.

• **Tuesday, May 5:** Rain. Fair tonight. Did the ironing and some for Gene. Swept and did everyday work. Went to the store. Gene and Stubby went to Hudson to get the polyps taken from his nose. She brought me two pretty African violets. Don brought a load of children from school. Heard Ed Goff had a stroke.

• **Wednesday, May 6:** Fair. Did everyday work. Washed the painted kitchen ceiling and some of the side wall. Cut down some bamboo plants, etc. Addie called this forenoon. Eddie Waldron came down and offered me fertilizer for my flowers. Gene got it for me, used a little on her roses and gave me the rest. Don is working on the lawn.

• **Thursday, May 7:** Cloudy. Washed walls in the kitchen and the plastic ruffle around the windows. Very tired tonight. Rose called a few minutes. Adele at school and Don working. He got a letter from Mr. Bronson, also a card. Haven't heard from Joyce yet. Gene and Stubby took some things to Ed McNeney's sale Saturday.

• **Friday, May 8:** Fair. Showers tonight. Oil-mopped congoleum halls bedroom and kitchen. Used the vacuum on the rugs. Washed out a few things. Had a note from Joyce. Don and Adrienne have gone riding. Adri-

enne just got her "permit." Tonight is the Junior Prom. Betsey Gifford is here. Tina and Dave and Eddie have all gone. Sent a letter to Joyce.

• **Saturday, May 9:** Rain A.M. Fair P.M. Did everyday work. Dusted, etc. P.M. Addie and I went to Westerlo. He paid insurance and then we went to see Delite. Stayed for supper. Had a nice time. Don did the lawn and is now giving Adrienne a driving lesson. Gene got a short letter from Joyce. They're OK. I got a Mother's Day card and pretty hankie.

• **Sunday, May 10:** Fair. Gene's birthday. Didn't feel very well but went to church. The minister was only fair. Rested in P.M. In the evening saw "By the Light of the Silvery Moon." Good! Got a pretty hankie from Gene and a door chime from 'Lite.

• **Monday, May 11:** Fair and warm. Got Don's room all cleaned and the bedding aired. Also, Gene's ironing done. 'Lite

called and I had a letter from Joyce. Am tired tonight. Later: Don came late from work. 7 P.M. He had many calls just now. Butch has a new red convertible. Beautiful! Stubby and Gene took Lite and JoAnn for a ride in it.

• **Tuesday, May 12:** Fair. Gene did the washing. I hung it out. Have most of it in. Hand-washed some and ironed slips, hankies and some of Gene's things. She's helping Ethlyn paper on her day off. Don worked late again.

• **Wednesday, May 13:** Showers fair part of the time. Did the ironing and put away clothes. Mended, etc. Janice Baitsholts here for tea. Don has so much to do he had to go out after supper. 'Lite and Philip were here a few minutes this forenoon. Had been to Dean's and Minton Richmonds for fence posts. Expect to go to visit Olive and Izora tomorrow. Addie is taking me.

• **Thursday, May 14:** Cloudy. Got breakfast, put up

lunch, etc. Made beds and did Thursday's cleaning. Addie came and took me over to Olive and Izora's. Had an awfully nice visit. Came home about 4. Had a letter from Joyce. The Eufemias started for there today. (I think) Don is mowing the lawn. It grows fast with so much rain.

• **Friday, May 15:** Rain all day! Vacuumed rugs, handwashed and ironed a little. Racheal in to see Gene. Gene and Stubby went to Albany this P.M. Had a note from Joyce. Adrienne came with Don, they went back to Greenville for a driving lesson. Gene went to Albany and got a new yellow dress pair of shoes and an umbrella. Later: Rocky knocked out Jersey Joe in the first round!

• **Saturday, May 16:** Fair. Did necessary work. At 10 A.M. we started for Ravena to the conference. Large crowd. Had a nice dinner. Mostly church business. Home at 5 P.M. Tired! Got supper, washed dishes, etc. Gene and Stubby went out.

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A brief history of Pride Month



COURTESY OF METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS

Pride celebrations serve to highlight the contributions of people who identify as LGBTQ+ and shed light on any issues currently facing this community.

Each June, the public comes together to celebrate Pride Month. It is a time to recognize all people, but particularly those who comprise lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and other communities.

Pride celebrations serve to highlight the contributions of people who identify as LGBTQ+ and shed light on any issues currently facing this community.

Pride Month celebrations

can take many forms, with some including parties, parades, proms, and even protests. Pride events have taken place in some shape or form since the LGBTQ+ liberation movement occurred in the

1970s. Modern-day Pride celebrations can be traced back to New York City, and an event called the Stonewall Uprising.

In the mid-1960s, the Stonewall Inn was a popular gay bar, and one of the few

establishments that welcomed drag queens and allowed dancing. Homeless gay runaways often took refuge there each night.

Police raids frequently took place at gay establishments during this period in time. On June 28, 1969, the police arrived at Stonewall and reportedly assaulted customers and arrested 13 employees and patrons who were in violation of liquor laws. They also took into custody individuals who were not conforming to a New York statute requiring gender-appropriate clothing be worn in public.

Although the raid was a shock, the clubs patrons started to fight back.

The Stonewall Riot incident gave rise to protests elsewhere, and became a unifying incident upon which equality-based advocacy for these groups was built. For so long certain people lived in the closet and hid their real identities. Pride Month emerged as a way to achieve equal justice and opportunity for LGBTQ+ individuals and recognize their many contributions to society.

Although there were previous uprisings to Stonewall as well as various pride-based parades around the country throughout the years, President Bill Clinton officially declared June as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month in 2000. President

Barack Obama expanded the observance in 2011 to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month. Informally, June is referred to simply as Pride Month.

The rainbow flag, which is now the unifying symbol of the LGBTQ+ community, first appeared in the 1970s. Previously the symbol for gay pride was a pink triangle, which had a suspect history and was even linked to Nazi Germany. Harvey Milk, an openly gay San Francisco politician and activist, tasked artist Gilbert Baker with coming up with a unifying symbol for the gay community, and the rainbow flag was born.

While the rainbow flag is the most widely recognizable flag associated with the LGBTQ+ community, various other flags are used in bisexual and transgender communities.

Many major cities host pride parades. New York City's annual Pride march resumed in 2022 in-person after being canceled in the years prior due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Cities and towns offer various Pride offerings in June, including street fairs, art exhibits and townwide decorations that feature the rainbow flag prominently.

People of LGBTQ+ communities can celebrate Pride in June, but also come together again in October for LGBT History Month.

C-GCC launches new GED testing site

HUDSON — Columbia-Greene Community College announced the opening of a new GED (General Educational Development) testing site located within the Professional Academic Center (PAC) on campus.

Serving as the sole GED testing site between Albany and Poughkeepsie, the site will expand access to essen-

tial educational resources for Columbia and Greene County residents and beyond.

With the unveiling of this testing site, individuals seeking to obtain their GED certificate will now have a conveniently located facility, eliminating the need for extensive travel. The Columbia-Greene Community College GED testing site offers a local solution for residents

pursuing further education and career advancement opportunities.

“Establishing the GED testing site reinforces the college’s commitment to serving the educational needs of the community,” said Dr. Carlee Drummer, president of Columbia-Greene Community College. “Offering a convenient and accessible location

for individuals to earn the GED certificate empowers residents to unlock pathways to higher education and career success.”

Opening the GED testing site at Columbia-Greene advances the college’s mission to bridge educational gaps and promote lifelong learning within the region. Collaborating with Columbia-Greene

Workforce New York, the college streamlines the process for individuals seeking to enhance their academic credentials and expand employment opportunities.

“For many individuals, obtaining a GED certificate represents a crucial step towards achieving their academic and professional goals,” said Amanda Karch, executive di-

rector of Columbia-Greene Workforce New York. “Opening this new testing site provides the necessary support and resources to help individuals succeed in their educational pursuits.”

To schedule a GED test or obtain more information about the testing site, contact Columbia-Greene Workforce New York at 518-697-6510.

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CHASIN ' RACIN ' : FONDA SPEEDWAY RETURNS AFTER THREE WEEKS OF DOWNTIME

By Mark Kane

For Capital Region Independent Media

The Memorial Day weekend usually produces some great racing action in the Capital District, and this year "The Great Race Place," Albany Saratoga Speedway, kicked it off in a big way.

Once again, a great field of cars assembled in the pits and the fans were parked out on Route 9. Saturday it was off to "The Track of Champions," Fonda Speedway, after three weeks of downtime to get the second race of the season in the books.

Well folks, Fonda Speedway is back. That old girl was smooth and fast. A big thank you has to go out to Brett Deyo and everyone else who had any part of turning that track around 100% to produce the racing fans were treated to Saturday night. Well, that was before the rains came, ending the night prior to features.

ALBANY SARATOGA SPEEDWAY

Efficiency must have been the word of the night at Albany Saratoga with the lineup of qualifying and features for the full pit area, but that just seems to be the norm. Heat races went off one right after the other, as one heat left the track the next was coming out and ready to take the green for another action-packed heat.

The NAPA Modified feature had 667 Matt Depew with the early lead with rookie Brandon Darrah 14B all over the leader, with Brian Calabrese 21C having the

mid-pack after starting deep in the field. With the rookie Darrah still in command the caution was out after a tangle off turn 4 that found David Schilling 20 sitting on the front stretch infield. Back to green Darrah would lead the NAPA Modifieds into 1 as the High Slider Jesse Mueller quickly worked his way to second, with Jeremy Pitts working his way to third. Former champion Marc Johnson and last week's winner, Jack Lehner 2, had worked their way into the top five in the first 10 laps. Using the high side with perfection, Mueller would be the new leader on lap 11 with a power move through turns 3 and 4. Once out front Mueller left Darrah to deal with Lehner, Marc Johnson and Pitts as Matt DeLorenzo was now just outside the top 5 and battling for more.

Don't look now but here comes Peter Britten 21A, who has been nothing but plain and simple, bad FAST each week coming from deep in the talented starting field; this week it was 25th. The caution would bring the field back to Mueller with Darrah, M. Johnson, Lehner and DeLorenzo, who worked past Pitts for fifth before Don Ronca slowed.

Back to green and Mueller again had the lead as M. Johnson moved to second and Lehner to third as Darrah battled Pitts for fourth and fifth, with DeLorenzo losing two spots.

Making his return to the racing wars was Todd Ryan in his 19 ride, who would



Marc Johnson picked up the DiCarlo Auto Body 358 Shootout at Albany Saratoga Speedway.

MARK KANE/FOR CAPITAL REGION INDEPENDENT MEDIA

racing hard and nerf bar to nerf bar.

As the laps wound down Johnson would make one last ditch effort out of turn 4 but it was Mueller in for the win after using the high side with perfection holding off Marc Johnson, Jack Lehner, Peter Britten and Brian Calabrese rounding out the top 5.

In other action on the night Marc Johnson won his second in the Modifieds by picking up the Di Carlo Auto Body 358 Shootout win over early leader Andrew Buff, Robert Bublak Jr., Matt DeLorenzo and Chris Curtis rounding out the top 5.

win, his 30th, that now has him back in front as the All-Time win leader with Rob Yetman with 29 wins. Following Duell to the checker was Jason Casey, Kyle Hoard, Chucky Dumblewski, and Rick Crane in the top 5. The Limited Sportsman had Nick Brundige in with the win and Chris Stalker getting the Street Stock win.

FONDA SPEEDWAY

I am not sure what has been done to Fonda Speedway over the last few weeks, but if that is any indication of the new track surface we are going to get each week it

not seem to be any issue. For those who had written that old girl off, once again Brett Deyo was right there not thinking of giving up. I hope to God he can put this behind him and move on with the remainder of the season and that old girl behaves herself. Maybe she has met her match.

Before the rains came the track was just what everyone was looking for—smooth, fast and even the constant hole in turn one was gone. Doing the best they could to get the show in running, the show quick before the rain hit, but Mother Nature had a

for that first win and championship, this is going to be a great year at the "Track of Champions," Fonda Speedway.

Other action on the weekend found Matt Sheppard pick up the win at Utica Rome Speedway, fourth of the year with Rocky Warner, Jessica Friesen, Pat Ward and Mike Maresca rounding out the top 5.

MORE RACING

Over at the "Valley of Speed," Lebanon Valley Speedway, it was the "Ravena Rocket," Keith Flach, picking up the Modified feature with Brett Haas, Kolby



MARK KANE/FOR CAPITAL REGION INDEPENDENT MEDIA

Jessey Mueller used the high side to perfection to pick up the NAPA Modified win at Albany Saratoga Speedway.

best seat in the house, running third. Lap 5 would find the lead change hands with Darrah the new leader out of turn 2 as the battle in the top 5 was heating up, with Jesse Mueller 19 ending up on the top side.

Back in the field, Matt DeLorenzo 3D and Marc Johnson 3J were racing hard

bring out the last caution along with Derek Bornt. Back to green and again it was Mueller with the lead, but Marc Johnson was never far off his back bumper.

The on-track racing stayed tight as they were racing 3-wide for the top 5 with Pitts, Calabrese having a good season, and Britten

The Sportsman feature was dominated by Brendan Gibbons in the Dave Boisclair 02 ride that he took over a few weeks back with Craig Wholey, Zach Buff, Taylor Wason and Dan Grignon rounding out the top 5.

It was Kim Duell picking up the popular Pro Stock



MARK KANE/FOR CAPITAL REGION INDEPENDENT MEDIA

Fonda Speedway is back on track with a smooth, fast racing surface as Stewart Friesen 44, Demetrios Drellos 111, and Mike Maresca 7MM pick up heat wins before the rain hit.

is going to be one great season of racing action on that old girl.

Oh, as I have said before, Fonda Speedway has given promoters fits for years. When she's good, she's fast and smooth with 3-wide racing; when she is bad she has a mind of her own. The ruts were gone and the rocks did

different idea. The heat winners for the three Modified heats have all been Fonda Speedway Track Champions during their careers—Demetrios Drellos, Stewart Friesen and Mike Maresca. With a solid field of past champions in the weekly Modified wars and along with a great field of young guns looking

Schroder, Marc Johnson and JR Heffner rounding out the top 5.

In the 358 Modifies it was Andy Bachetti picking up the win.

Please remember to support those who sponsor our local dirt tracks as well as the teams that put on the show for us, the fans.



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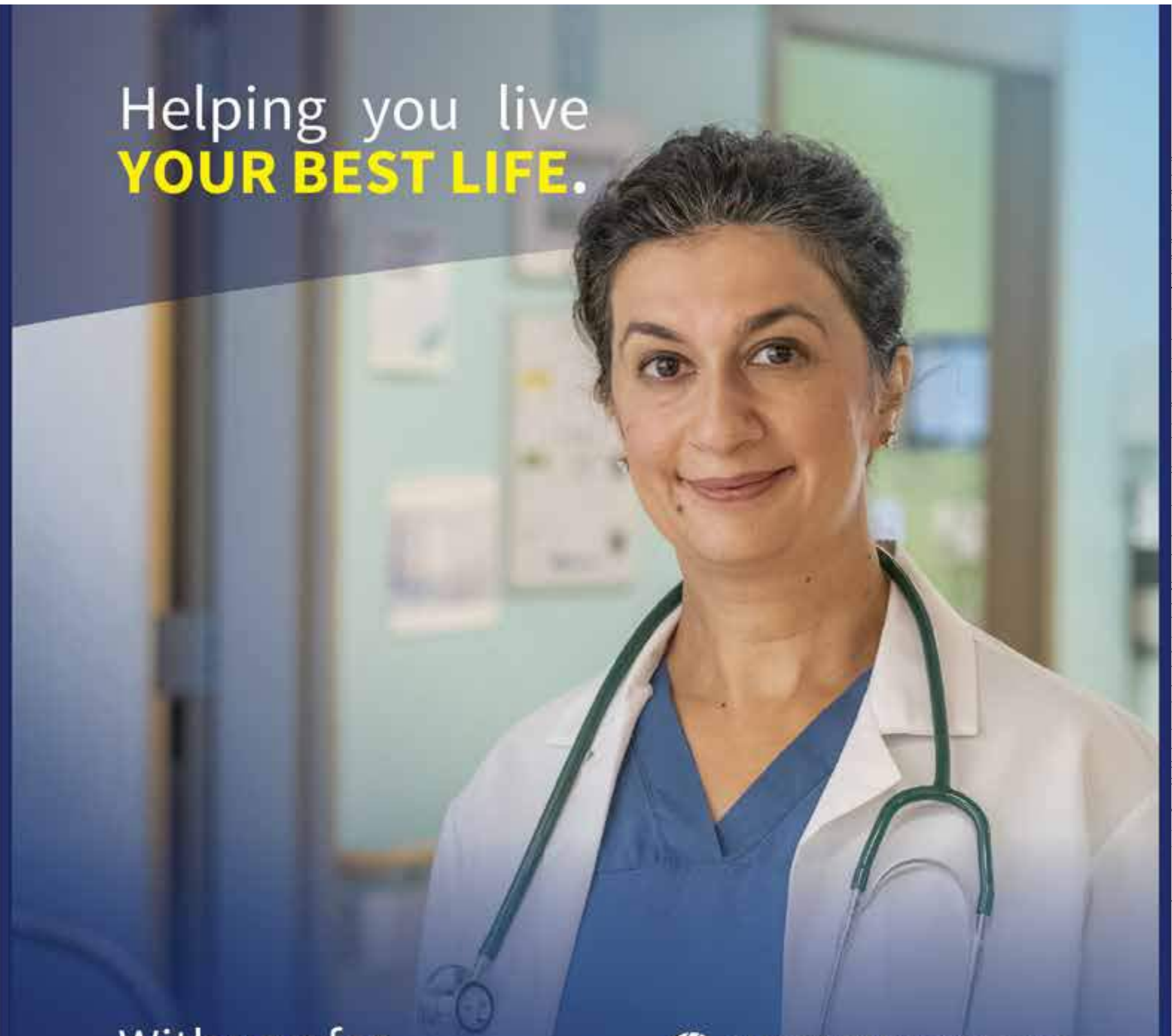
Demetrios Drellos hits the race track.



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Do others respect your relationship with God?

Living on Purpose



DR. WILLIAM HOLLAND

The Christian and the non-Christian are supposed to be different. In fact, so different, the Bible says that once a person becomes spiritually transformed they become an entirely new creation.

This includes the potential for their minds to be renewed into a way of thinking that is much more in line with God than the natural world. The

born-again followers of Christ are considered His disciples, while those who have not yet had this spiritual experience remain in bondage, serving the dark side within their default condition. Since there are only two different spiritual identifications, they are not cozy with each other and have little in common.

Over the years, many Christians have not embraced this idea of being somewhat weird and generally incompatible. So, they reasoned that compromising was a great way to blend in with everyone else. However, it's not mentioned anywhere in the Bible about trying to figure out a way to be accepted by the world.

The Apostle in I Peter 2:9, when discussing the Christian life, writes, "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that should show forth the praises of Him

who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

A critical point in being a new creation is to not be ashamed so others notice there is something unique about you. This special something is the love of Jesus Christ.

Just a few years ago, society had a considerable amount of respect and reverence for the things of God. Of course, it's not like this today and much of the decline is blamed on Christians not walking the walk, along with science and scholarly historians criticizing God's existence.

Hypocrisy over the years was being closely monitored by the world and today most people are just not impressed. All of this on top of the tremendous surge of immorality and a new wave of aggressive social politics causes some Christians to feel intimidated to stand for what they believe.

Many have allowed the fire of the Holy Spirit to cool off because they secretly desire to live in sin. As church members became more lukewarm, and the fear of a judging God and the demand for repentance was no longer a threat to the sinner, the lost felt comfortable and now we can hardly tell them apart.

When the Holy Spirit is ignored, spiritual discernment fades. Our hatred for sin dissipates along with our agape love, a desire to pray and worship God, and a burden for lost souls among other things. It's called drifting away from the shore, while others describe backsliding as a fire that burns down to just embers and ends up just smoldering.

How does this happen? Instead of continually praying for a stronger awareness of God's presence, people decide they love the world more than they love God. As

the passion and determination to obey divine truth becomes less important, the conscience defends all sense of guilt. Free will unanimously votes to embrace the darkness and serving self becomes the accepted way of living.

Since God has temporarily allowed the devil to manage the world, he is using technology as a part of his strategy to distract and lure Christians into a love affair with pleasure. He realizes the carnal mind wants to be entertained and is always vulnerable to self-satisfaction. If he can convince God's people that doing whatever they want is alright with God, he has already won the battle.

Remember, Satan tempted Eve with a deceptive and clever line of reasoning.

This is spiritual warfare. Yes, there are pockets of Christians who have awakened and rededicated their

lives to God. This remnant is now singing, "I have decided to follow Jesus" and this excitement of spiritual revival is needed now more than ever.

May I ask, where do you stand today? Are you drifting down the river of complacency? If you were to face God today, would you be filled with joy, or would you be embarrassed with how you are living? Talk to Him today and ask Jesus to change you into what He died for you to be.

Giving Him control of your life is the best decision you will ever make.

Dr. Holland lives in Central Kentucky where he is an ordained Christian minister, community chaplain, and author. Discover more about the Christian life and his new book about miracles, "Receiving Our Healing" at billyhollandministries.com His email is psalmz103@gmail.com.

Bank of Greene County announces promotions

Donald Gibson, President & CEO of the Bank of Greene County, announced employee promotions across the bank. "Due to the continued growth and success of the bank, it is my pleasure to announce we have promoted several dedicated employees to positions of increased responsibility within various departments,"

Gibson said. "It is particularly rewarding to see first-hand how well our employees have grown their careers with us over the years."

Kayla Pinnella has been promoted to talent acquisition and recruitment specialist in the Human Resources Department. Kayla joined the bank in 2016. Most recently, Pinnella

held the role of manager of the bank's Customer Service Center.

Da-Naysia Walker has been promoted to assistant branch manager in Greenport/Hudson. Walker joined the bank in 2022 as a teller in the Greenport/Hudson branch and has been steadily promoted through FSR and FSR II.

Alicia Barnett has been promoted to financial services representative II in the Catskill Commons/Catskill Main branches. Barnett joined the bank as a financial services representative in Catskill Commons in February 2022.

Kadie Wilber has been promoted to financial services representative II in the

Catskill Commons/Catskill Main branches. Wilber joined the bank as a teller in May 2020 and was promoted to a FSR in March 2021.

Michael Boan has been promoted to financial services representative in the Greenport/Hudson branch. Boan joined the bank as a teller in July 2023.

Cindy Burch has been promoted to financial services representative in the Copake branch. Burch joined the bank as a teller in June 2022.

Wilkenson Francois has been promoted to financial services representative in the Greenville/Westerlo branch. Francois joined the bank as a teller in June 2020.

Bass season opens June 15



COURTESY OF DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Open season for bass begins June 15.

The open season for largemouth bass and smallmouth bass, begins on June 15 and extends through Nov. 30, according to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Not only are there plentiful waters to fish for bass, but many provide outstanding opportunities to catch trophies.

There's a reason why New York draws national-level bass fishing tournaments every year. Special fishing regulations exist for some waters, so be sure to check the current fishing regulations before heading out to fish.

If you're interested in taking that next step and going "beyond the bobber," give bass fishing a try. A spin-casting (push-button) or medium action spinning rod rigged with a soft stick bait "wacky-style," is very popular and can be very effective in catching both species. It's great for kids, too, because fishing it really just involves casting it out, letting it sink

to the bottom and reeling it in with a twitch-pause action. Most times, bass will strike on the drop.

Some other popular lures include crank baits, spinner baits and tube jigs.

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How populism will impact the economy and society

The Retired Investor



BILL SCHMICK

"If left unchecked, the trend in income inequality in this country will continue to widen. It will lead to an increasingly dysfunctional economy, heightened political polarization, paralysis and a level of anger and mistrust that this nation has not seen since the Great Depression."

~ "Income Inequality: The Trend is Not Your Friend," Bill Schmick, Oct 26, 2012

The country is divided. Immigration and the economy are leading election issues. Inflation has soured attitudes. Labor unions are on the rise. Students are demonstrating

and demanding we divest U.S. holdings in Israel. If I said that all the above issues are related and have a common economic cause, would you believe me?

We have seen all of this before. Maybe not in the exact same way but in the 1930s and 1960s, dissatisfaction, unrest, what's fair and what's not led to conflict, assassinations, changes in economic and social policies and ultimately to regime change. Political analysts call it populism, "a political approach that strives to appeal to ordinary people who feel that their concerns are disregarded by established elite groups."

Gathering populism around the world indicates to me that regime changes are coming. In the latest New York Times/Siena polls of swing states, 69% of respondents said that both the economic and political systems in this country need major changes or should be entirely torn down. You might ask, how did we get to this place and, more importantly, where are we going?

While history does not repeat itself, it can generally rhyme, and a look back to our founding fathers might help us

gain perspective. The philosophies of Thomas Hobbes and John Locke were popular back then and gained influence with those who drafted our Constitution and form of government.

The natural state of mankind in short was a state of war of one man against another. Call it survival of the fittest, dog eat dog, or free market capitalism, the concept is the same. The way to escape this natural chaos is through a social contract to be agreed upon by the people to be governed and the government. It is where concepts such as fairness, equity, equality and community come together.

Our political and economic system developed and succeeded because we melded the two ideas together in a system of checks and balance where free markets existed and flourished.

While not perfect, democracy thrived and functioned somewhat like a pendulum. When one or the other idea gained too much sway in the country, conflict arose. These crises triggered changes in laws, regulations and existing practices correcting abuses

and extremes until the system gradually righted itself and swung back the other way.

These cycles are multi-year occurrences, and we have many of them in our history. At times, the pendulum bordered on the extreme, but thanks to our system of government these so-called regime changes have kept us in business. Some of our greatest breakthroughs as a country have come from these changes. The Civil War was one exception. We managed to survive even that bloody event, but it took several generations before that regime change was reconciled and repaired.

Our present problems are the result of a swing in the pendulum that has us so far in one direction that the nation is truly unbalanced. The "winner takes all" atmosphere of free markets and capitalism has, over the past 40 years, reached an extreme. Income inequality among Americans has reached a point where even the Roman Empire had a lesser degree of income inequality.

I have been warning readers of the consequences of this condition as far back as 2010.

In a column entitled "Income Inequality: The Trend is Not Your Friend," I wrote "If left unchecked, the trend in income inequality in this country will continue to widen. It will lead to an increasingly dysfunctional economy, heightened political polarization, paralysis, and a level of anger and mistrust that this nation has not seen since the Great Depression."

That time has come to pass. Next week, I will explain how and why that inequality occurred with the full cooperation and urging of corporations and both political parties. We will also examine the role the Federal Reserve Bank played in this disaster and how we are still applying outdated 40-year-old policies to fix something that requires radical new approaches.

Bill Schmick is the founding partner of Onota Partners, Inc., in the Berkshires. Bill's forecasts and opinions are purely his own and do not necessarily represent the views of Onota Partners, Inc. (OPI). None of his commentary is or should be considered investment advice. Anyone seeking individualized

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How do disability programs affect Social Security's budget?

Social Security Matters



RUSSELL GLOOR

Dear Rusty:

I read with interest an analysis of the history, reasons and financial costs of the SSI (Supplemental Security Income) and SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance) programs.

My question is, specifically, what portion of the Social Security budget goes toward SSI and SSDI vs. for regular SS retirement income for those who paid into the fund during their working lives? How are the costs of SSI and SSDI covered by the federal government? When did these two sections of the budget enter the law and what was the impetus behind them?

Signed: An Inquiring Mind

Dear Inquiring Mind: No part of Social Security's "budget" is used to pay SSI (Supplemental Security Income). SSI is a means-tested general assistance program

for disadvantaged children and needy disabled adults and aged seniors who have very little income and very few assets.

Federal SSI benefits are paid from the government's General Treasury, not from Social Security Trust Funds. SSI is jointly administered by the person's state of residence and the Social Security Administration, and the state usually provides additional benefits to supplement the financial assistance provided by the federal government under the SSI program.

The Social Security Administration only administers the SSI program, it does not fund it.

By contrast, SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance) benefits are for employed Americans who become disabled and unable to work full-time. SSDI benefits are meant to provide limited income replacement for the disabled worker, and those benefits are paid from a separate Social Security "DI" (Disability Insurance) Trust Fund.

The DI fund receives a portion (0.9%) of the FICA SS payroll taxes every American worker pays on their earnings and is used to pay disability benefits to eligible American workers who are unable to perform "substantial gainful activity" for a year or more.

The eligibility criteria to collect SSDI are very strict,

but those approved receive their benefits from this separate DI trust fund, not from Social Security's Old Age and Survivors Trust Fund. Payroll taxes collected for disability purposes are deposited in the DI Trust Fund as interest-bearing government bonds, and those DI assets are redeemed as needed to pay SSDI benefits. FYI, SSDI (disability) benefits stop when the person reaches full retirement age, at which point the beneficiary is automatically switched to regular SS retirement, and after which their benefits are paid from the regular "OASI" Trust Fund.

"Regular" Social Security retirement benefits, spousal benefits, dependent benefits and survivor benefits are paid from Social Security's Old Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) Trust Fund, which receives most (5.3%) of the 6.2% FICA Social Security tax withheld from the paychecks of American workers.

As of the end of 2022, the OASI Trust Fund held about \$2.7 trillion in interest bearing government bonds. Neither SSI or SSDI affect this "regular" OASI Trust Fund — only true SS retirement benefits and benefits for dependents of the retiree are paid from the OASI Trust Fund (As an aside, Social Security reform is needed to prevent the OASI Trust Fund from being fully depleted in 2033).

To answer your last questions, the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Trust Fund was established in 1956, after which SSDI benefit payments to eligible disabled American workers began. Federal "Supplemental Security Income" (SSI) assistance was codified into law in 1974. And, as you likely know, Social Security retirement, spousal and dependent benefits were enacted in the 1930s, before the first monthly Social Security check was mailed in January 1940.

The impetus behind these programs? Avoiding poverty for the neediest among us. Without these programs, at least 22 million more Americans would be living below the poverty line.

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'Love Our New York Lands' photo contest

ALBANY — New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar announced the launch of the 2024 "Love Our New York Lands" photo contest.

The online contest will feature five monthly themes through mid-October, with the winning images receiving prizes and featured in statewide digital and print campaigns to help increase awareness of important principles and guidelines that encourage safe, accessible, respectful and sustainable use of public lands.

"Every day, New Yorkers are outside enjoying DEC public lands and want to share their experiences by capturing beautiful images," DEC Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar said. "Building upon the success of DEC's annual fall foliage photo contest, DEC's multimedia will feature winning photos that help represent the many ways visitors can access, feel welcome, and 'Love Our New York Lands' to protect natural resources for future enjoyment and appreciation by all New Yorkers."

Each month of the Love Our New York Lands contest will have a different theme. June's theme is "Pride" to highlight the importance of sharing state lands with all New Yorkers, including the LGBTQIA+ community, and ensuring a safe and welcoming space. Seven winning pictures will be chosen that represent each color of the rainbow Pride flag: pink, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and indigo/violet. The Pride



COURTESY OF DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

A photo contest by the state's Department of Environmental Conservation celebrates state lands and the beauty they have to offer.

pictures will be used next year in a curated compilation similar to this year's image created by DEC, pictured, among other potential uses.

Prizes will be awarded to the winning entries. Photos will be judged on the following criteria: originality; artistic composition; technical quality; and whether the photograph showcases people enjoying New York's outdoor activities safely and responsibly.

Pride Month submissions should be emailed to social@dec.ny.gov by June 30 with the subject line "LONYL Photo Contest." Full name, the DEC land where the image was taken (if applicable), and Instagram social media handle should also be included. Themes for future months of the contest will be announced later this summer.

New York state has many wonderful opportunities to

get outside and enjoy activities year-round, including birding and wildlife viewing; warm-weather adventures such as swimming, biking, and horseback riding; cold-weather pursuits such as skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling; and even more challenging adventures like geocaching or rock and ice climbing.

The Love Our New York Lands campaign, launched in 2020 by DEC and State

Parks, encourages all users of state-owned lands to recognize that these lands are shared by all of us, our families, and our neighbors, and we all need to take care of them.

The campaign includes guidance on Leave No Trace principles so visitors can do their part to help ensure these special places are protected for future generations. Love Our New York Lands encourages vis-

itors to be respectful of other visitors in these shared spaces. Visitors are asked to share trails, treat people with kindness, and leave things as they found them for others to enjoy. Visitors are encouraged to think of themselves as responsible for helping protect these irreplaceable destinations for future generations.

More information is available on DEC's website at dec.ny.gov.



Pickleball 518

READ FULL STORIES AT WWW.PICKLEBALL518.COM



SENIOR SHOWDOWN AT SOUTHERN SARATOGA YMCA

The Clifton Park YMCA is hosting a tournament exclusively for players 50 years old and older



FLUTTERS OF HOPE PICKLEBALL CLASSIC TOURNAMENT:

Date: June 15 & 16, 2024 - Rain date June 22nd & 23rd at the McGregor Links Country Club. Spots Available.

Pickleball Summer Camp
<https://students.arbitersports.com/programs/pickleball-kids-camp-2024>
 Meet your instructor **Michelle Jones:**
 Go To FB page: **Power of Pickleball**
 No prior pickleball experience needed

PICKLEBALL KIDS CAMP AT AVERILL PARK HIGH

Averill Park School District is offering a "Pickleball Kids Camp" through their Community Education Program. For kids ages 10-16 there are two separate sessions at Averill High School tennis courts: July 8-11 and August 12-15, 8:30am - 12:30pm. The cost is \$105.

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Ledgers and diaries

By Mary Lou Nahas

For Capital Region Independent Media

For 30 years I have been collecting information about Oak Hill and Vicinity.

I am always pleased to come across an old diary that recorded what the writer was doing daily. One of my first purchases was the diary of Helen Tripp, who lived in the brick house as a girl. It is small, written in pencil, and covers only about three months of one year there, but I've used the information in stories and articles and even in a book and a national magazine.

I paid \$75 for that diary and am glad I did, even though I later found the information had been transcribed and shared. I could have gotten the stories for nothing, but it is special to me to have something Helen herself owned while living in the house as a young woman.

Early ledgers are also exciting finds. They may be in rough shape today but were of top quality when new: leather-bound with beautiful handmade heavy paper. I wonder what they originally cost?

A favorite of mine is the Day Book of Lewis & Philo Hickok, 1832. These brothers from Greenville owned the brick house in Oak Hill about then. It is exciting to see their handwriting and read what they were recording.

The leather-bound account book of Jacob Bogardus, 1799, is wonderful until you open it and find it had been used as a scrapbook; pasted over the beautiful handwriting and entries regarding Augustine Provost and other early settlers are color pictures clipped from 1950s magazines with recipes for tasty treats like Ginger Minute Tapioca, from third prize winner Miss Elizabeth B. Dean, Dundee, NY. There are many recipes for meat loaf: I find the helpful hint of a Country Friend: M.B. of Rensselaer that chicken fat and butter make a cake of better texture than all butter. A tablespoon of salt to four of alcohol will effectively remove grease from clothing. There are quilt and crochet patterns glued firmly over the elegant early handwriting; I've never been able to successfully remove them. Fortunately, only about half of the pages were used as a scrapbook. Many of these old ledgers were not valued for history. I am sorry about that.

Another ledger with marbled boards, front and back, and leather spine is completely covered with firmly pasted-down newspaper clippings. These clippings are carefully fitted into every inch of the book, including the front and back covers. Some are national stories, some are poems, jokes, some are just fictional stories. While I can see the beautiful ink cursive writing through a few of the pasted articles, I can't read a single original sentence. Fortunately, a number of the articles are local columns from the newspaper, telling what people were doing. Those I find interesting and will share some of them with you.

- Conesville Items: Conesville is in want of a doctor.

- Wm Smith lost a valuable cow.

- Wm. Patrie lost a colt with the horse distemper.

- Harter Brandow and Wm. Patrie have traded farms.

- Peter Richtmeyer and Romaine Brand have gone to New York with a fine lot of poultry.

- Many of our farmers have sold their buckwheat to the Eagle Bridge grist mill firm at 50 cents per bushel.

- Donation held at Conesville, Wednesday eve for the benefit of Rev. Goss, receipt \$52.

- Another Conesville Column reports:

- Local news is a scarcity.

- Edith Laymon has returned from a visit in Durham.

- Nelson Murphy, of this town, was buried last Saturday.

- Mrs. J. H. VanStauberg is suffering from sever illness.

- Artemas Brown is doing a job of mill-writing at Kortright, Del. Co.

- A little skirmish at the Bridge recently. No damage, done, no one hurt.

- Geo. Lewis and Burton Tousley of Strykerville are speculating in hen fruit.

- We congratulate ourselves that there are no candidates in this town for School Commissioner.

- Mr. M. Patrie has the sympathy of the entire neighborhood for his misfortune in losing his barn and contents by fire.

- All persons wishing to purchase cooper work of any kind will do well to call on M.S. Champlin. All work warranted.

- A more accommodating and better man than Postmaster at Manorkill, than the present incumbent, Mr. W. Phelps, would hard to find.

- Frank Hagadorn recently had his three sheep sheared. The united weight of the three fleeces was 36 pounds.

- Four of the seven parties arrested at Mackey's Corner last week, and taken



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Many early ledgers were reused as scrapbooks. Clippings and pictures were firmly glued in place.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Helen Tripps' small diary provides a view of her daily life in the brick house.

to Livingstonville for trial, charged with participating in tarring and feathering Mr. and Mrs. Contine, were found guilty of assault and battery, and were each fined \$20 or 50 days in limbo. It is rumored that the trouble is not ended yet.

Darius Partridge, of this town, is at work on the Mammoth Hotel, which is at present being built by Mr. Geo. Harding, of Philadelphia. It is situated on the summit of South Mt., Hunter, Greene Co. He informs us that they have at present over 400 men employed on the grounds helping in its construction, besides, many others working elsewhere in connection with the hotel. The work is being pushed forward under the direction of the most competent foremen in this state or Pennsylvania, and all under the careful management of Mr. J.G. Scribner, a gentleman who is fully qualified for the position. There are over 80 teams employed at present in hauling material and upholstery from Catskill, Malden and elsewhere. The managers contemplate the completion of the hotel by July 1, at which time it will open for the summer season, 115 loads of furniture have been received and put in place in the hotel.

Mr. Page T. Hoagland of Gilboa, Schoharie County, is now a resident of Nebraska.

A.A. Hoagland, who is now in Plattsburgh will soon remove his family to that point. We learn that Mr. H. is employed in B & M Carship there, and has an engagement with the Company for one year.

A.A. Hoagland has gone to Plattsburgh to work in the B & M Car shops. His son, P.T. Hoagland, started on Monday last for Plattsburgh expecting to work in the shops also.

Dr. George Ingraham, formerly located in East Durham, and who is staying in Catskill this winter, bought out a drug store at Amsterdam, at which place he will be removed about April 10. The region of country found about Hervey Street and South Durham was settled by Capt. Asahel Jones, Deacon Obed Hervey, a Mr. Boumhourd, John Butler, Elder Arnold, Henry Bartell and perhaps other. This was in 1788.

Olive, a 15-year-old daughter of this town, dropped dead last Saturday while doing housework. She had seemingly enjoyed her usual health up to the moment of her death, when she suddenly fell forward on the stove, and before she could be placed on a bed, was a corpse.

Farmers are just beginning haying.

Grass throughout Toles Hollow bids fair for a good crop.

Anyone wanting shingles made will do well to call on Chas. Brink.

Singing school is held one night each week at the Toles Hollow school house.

Daniel T. McGary is doing a fine business, and why not, for he is a fine honest chap.

A very nice and expensive monument has been erected in the Manorkill Cemetery to the memory of Joseph Scovil.

The many friends of Luman Matice of Shew Hollow will be pleased to learn that he has returned from Utica, where he went last fall to be treated for derangement of the mind. He is much improved physically and has entirely regained his mental health.

- Suicide at Oak Hill

At the upper portion of the village of Oak Hill in the tenement house of Wm. Paddock, on Sunday morning, July 3rd, Mrs. Julia Smith was found dead in her bed. Coroner Wm. Stefens of Cairo was summoned, who held an inquest, resulting in the following verdict: We, the undersigned jurors, find from all the evidence given, that Mrs. Julia Smith died by her own hand, by taking an overdose of laudanum, between the hours of 10:30 p.m. Saturday and 6:45 a.m. Sunday morning, July 3, 1881. Emerson Ford, foreman, Hiram Alger, Andrew J. Hagadorn, Harry Tiffany, Ransom Arnold, Wm. Alger, Israel De Witt, Ernest Stryker, C.S. Hand, S.N. Osborn, Norman Traver. Mrs. Smith leaves several children, five in all, to mourn her loss. She was the wife of Mr. Silas Smith, who left home last Thursday and did not return until summoned Sunday by the sad news of her sudden death.

- Oak Hill: Mrs. Ransom Arnold is failing in health.

- Mrs. H.E. Rockefeller has potatoes in bloom.

- Hiram Alger has been to Canada to purchase horses.

- Report says that Silas Smith has sold his team of mules.

- Miss Emily Cheritree is to spend this summer at Oak Hill.

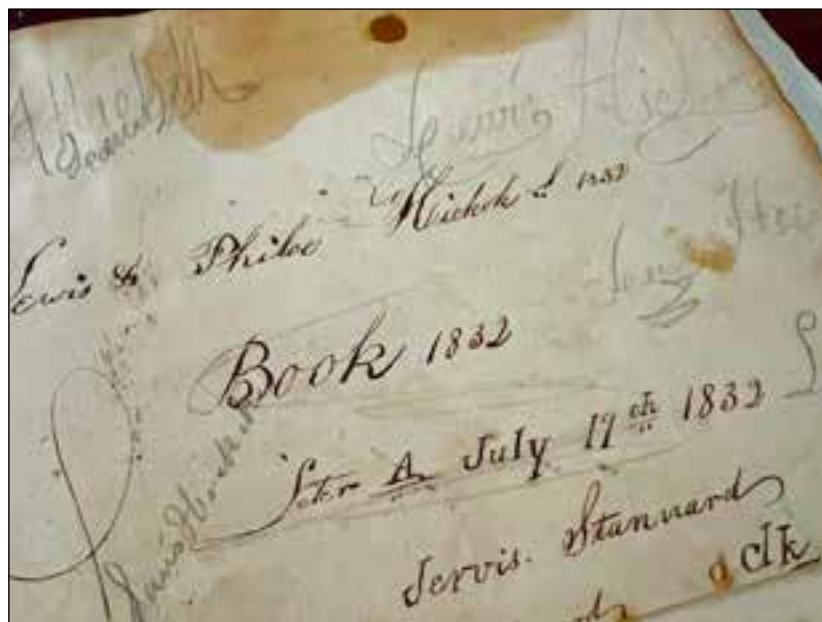
- Miss Olive Cheritree is taking a trip to Europe, where she will remain during the summer.

- R. H. King, of Prattsville gave a lecture on Temperance Sunday evening 29th in the Presbyterian Church of Durham.

- While Mrs. J. Greene was sawing a bedstead post, the saw slipped, cutting a chord in her wrist, inflicting a bad wound.

- J. Terbush's funeral, held at the Episcopal Church, last Wednesday, was largely attended. Rev. H. C. Brayton officiating.

- Oak Hill: District school has closed.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

I learn things about Lewis and Philo Hickok, who likely built the brick house in Oak Hill, from their ledger from 1832.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sadly, to me, the ledger that records information about Augustine Provost is covered with color photos of foods and recipes. I'd like to know more about Provost and his neighbors.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

There are several drawings of houses in the Hickock ledger, I wonder if this one is an inspiration for the brick house?

- Tulle lost a valuable horse last week.

- Frank Nunnally is in Troy visiting friends.

- Rueben Moss has moved on his farm in Cornwallville.

- Farmers about here are engaging laborers at \$13 per month.

- Rev. Gaylord preached his farewell sermon, Sunday afternoon, 27th.

- Doc Smith of this place, purchased of W. Hagadorn a cat which rumor says is about 23 years old.

- Mrs. Alice Peck has been seriously ill for the past four weeks with typhoid fever. Her father, Dr. James Conyes of Iowa has been attending her for the past week. She is slowly recovering.

These local columns provide a picture of the life in Oak Hill and Vicinity at that time. The dates are not usually given but can be guessed at. I love that it is mentioned that Hiram Alger went to Canada to purchase horses and Olive Cheritree was going to Europe that year. Some of the stories are awful and sad; others just everyday occurrences.

I also have a lovely small handbound book, "Everybody's Guide: Things Worth Knowing," comprising valuable information, recipes and tables, for the mechanic, merchant, lawyer, doctor, farmer and all classes of workers in every human effort. The book is by R. Moore, author of "Moore's Universal Assistant and Complete Mechanic, Etc.," copyright 1884. Not locally written, it does publish a lot of useful information or at least information thought to be useful; it is well worn. I'll share some of that one day, but today I'll just

share the information from a newspaper, clipped out and pasted on a first page of the book.

POTTER'S HOLLOW: A largely attended meeting of citizens was held on Saturday last to consider the offer made by the Society of Friends of their meeting house, provided the same should be used as a non-sectarian church. Justice Hobert Poultney presided and it was to incorporate a church society under the name Potters Hollow Union Church. John D. Loost, Joseph A. Rowe and Samuel W. Russell were selected trustees. The offer of the Society of Friends was unanimously accepted as was the donation of Joseph A. Rowe of a plot of ground upon which the meeting house can be located. The Society of Friends have maintained a meeting as this place for more than 80 years and the discontinuance of their meetings removed one of the most honored landmarks of the community.

Mr. Wallace Bear and Miss Viola Bouck are married.

Wool sells for 15 cents per pound.

The town board will meet on June 20 to decide the question of constructing an iron bridge over the Catskill creek on the Oak Hill Road.

The action of David Young vs. Douglass Clapper for damages occasioned by the shooting of plaintiff's dog by the defendant, occupied Justice Radick's court last week and resulted in a verdict of plaintiff of \$10, plaintiff was represented by the Hon. J.H. Mather and Judge H. Pultney and defendant by Messrs. Cowels and Faulk.

E.M. Sheldon, agent for the McCormack mowers, was in town Sunday.