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\$2M hangs in the balance

Sullivan West waits for state aid number

By NICK ROES

JEFFERSONVILLE, NY — Sullivan West is hoping for the best and preparing for the worst as the state aid formula is being hashed out in Albany.

The district stands to lose \$2 million in foundation aid—a 17 percent drop—according to a proposal the governor pitched earlier this year.

“Other schools face similar cuts,” said Sullivan

West superintendent Dr. Kathleen Bressler at the April 16 school board meeting. “But we were the second-hardest hit in the county. This means we’ll be getting the lowest amount we’ve received in the past 10 or 12 years.”

According to the state education department, \$11.4 million in aid was approved for Sullivan West for the 2024-25 school year. The proposed cut would bring that number down to \$9,451,051.

To put the numbers into perspective, Sullivan West received \$10.3 million in 2016-17, which means the district will get less aid next year than it did eight years ago—if the cut goes through.

Hold harmless

At a press conference on April 15, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said she would postpone ending the “hold harmless” provision that guarantees no district will receive less aid —Page 4



Honesdale Parks and Rec photo

From left, standing: Sue Miele, Michelle Gilder, Dana Scott, Melody Robinson, James Hamill; front, kneeling: Andrea Chapman and Bonny Cousins.

More apple trees for Apple Grove Park

Honesdale plans April 27 bonfire with wood from removed trees

By JEFF SIDLE

HONESDALE, PA — A small, welcoming park known as Apple Grove now has a dozen new trees that will help the park live up to its name.

The original apple trees had stopped fruiting and, because of their poor condition, created a hazard. They were removed recently by Honesdale’s Department of Public Works.

The Honesdale Rotary Club stepped up. It applied for grant funding at the district level to pay for new apple trees. The young trees were planted on April 14 by Rotary members and other volunteers.

A bonfire is planned for April 27. To prepare, the Department of Public Works stacked wood from the removed trees. Hamill said it will coordinate with the Honesdale Fire Department for a safe, controlled burn.

“The public will be welcome to bring food, games and spend time enjoying each other’s company,” said Hamill.

Fun in the shade

The park, bordering the Dyberry Creek, is located along Fair Avenue and is adjacent to Veterans Park and the Honesdale Pool.

“We’re fortunate to live in a community that steps up in big and small ways,” said Honesdale Councilman James Hamill. “Apple Grove has been a popular spot to enjoy nature and fellowship with neighbors. So it’s extra special to see a project like the renewal of the apple grove with the efforts of the Honesdale Rotary and exciting future plans for this shared public space.”

Historically, the park has been used as a gathering place. It’s been used for picnicking and fishing, and for cooling off in the Dyberry’s clean waters on a hot summer afternoon. People launch tubes to float downstream, or just spend time alone with nature, reading a book under the shade trees.

Other improvements are planned at the park, including the installation —Page 4

NYC to give Delaware Aqueduct update

Repairs to the world’s longest tunnel, 20 years in the making, are entering their final phase

NARROWSBURG, NY — This June, the \$1 billion Delaware Aqueduct project—a 20-year effort to repair the longest tunnel in the world—will enter its final phase.

The NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will connect a new 2.5-mile bypass tunnel to structurally sound portions of the aqueduct, permanently rerouting water around a leak that releases some 35 million gallons per day.

Making the connection will require shutting down the Delaware system for eight months, starting in October.

Unforeseen complications—such as an unusually dry, hot summer—will drive all “go-no-go” decisions throughout the shutdown, says the DEP.

The Upper Delaware Council (UDC) will host Jennifer Garigliano, DEP’s Water Resources Management director, for an update on the repairs. The public is invited to attend the session, set for 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 2, at the Upper Delaware Council office, 211 Bridge St.

A Zoom option is offered upon request.

Twice delayed

Originally set to begin in October 2022, the repair project has been delayed twice. A March 2023 dewatering exercise, when the tunnel was not at full capacity, revealed more extensive and —Page 2

IN BRIEF

Lawyers help revive K-9 program

MONTICELLO, NY — Sullivan County's K-9 program was put on pause several years ago, when one dog died of an illness and another was hit by a car.

Earlier this year, Sheriff Mike Schiff decided to revive the program and assigned a deputy, who is now training at the Orange County Sheriff's K-9 Academy.

Martin Rutberg and Lawrence Breslow of the Rutberg Brelow Law Firm donated \$5,000 recently toward the purchase of a new dog and equipment for the program. The sheriff's office honored them during the April 18 meeting of the county legislature.

"Budget limitations for special units are always a concern," said Schiff. "We appreciate this important donation which will help us re-establish our K-9 program."

K9 officers help with a range of duties, such as tracking suspects, controlling crowds, detecting illegal drugs, locating human remains and identifying explosives, among many other talents.

Stroudsburg man sentenced for torturing employee in Iraq

STROUDSBURG, PA — Ross Roggio of Stroudsburg, PA, has been sentenced to 70 years in prison for committing heinous acts in the Kurdistan region of Iraq.

This landmark sentence follows the second-ever conviction under the federal torture statute, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

According to court documents, Roggio, 55, arranged for Kurdish soldiers to abduct and detain the victim at a Kurdish military compound, where Roggio suffocated the victim with a belt, threatened to cut off one of his fingers, and directed the soldiers to repeatedly beat, choke, tase, and otherwise physically and mentally abuse the victim over 39 days.

The victim worked at a weapons factory Roggio was developing in Iraq. In connection with that project, Roggio exported firearms parts and tools without the required U.S. government approvals. He also illegally trained foreigners how to operate and manufacture the M4 automatic rifle.

The torture and arms export violations were investigated by the FBI and Homeland Security Investigations in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security.

"The sentence imposed by the court demonstrates the seriousness of Ross Roggio's crimes and brings some measure of justice for his torture victim," said U.S. Attorney Gerard M. Karam for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. "Violence against the dignity and human rights of any victim cannot be tolerated, and our office will continue to prioritize and pursue those who would do so in violation of federal law."

Night for students interested in the military academies

DUNMORE, PA — High school students and their families are invited to attend an information session about military service academies from 5 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 30, at Dunmore Junior Senior High School, 300 West Warren St.

U.S. Rep. Matt Cartwright (D, 8) is offering this free event to familiarize students with the application and nomination process for applying to the academies.

Local educators are also invited.

"Each year, my office has the honor of nominating Northeastern Pennsylvania's best and brightest students who possess a strong desire to serve their country," said Cartwright. He said students will be able to talk with representatives from the academies—including the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, The U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, The Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, and the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY—about "the rigorous academic and leadership training that these academies have to offer."

Attendees can also meet with Cartwright's staff. For more information or to RSVP, call Tammy Aita at 570/341-1050 or email TammyAita@Mail.House.Gov.

Jeffersonville bridge to close for 2 weeks

JEFFERSONVILLE, NY — A portion of New Bridge Street in the Village of Jeffersonville will be closed for approximately two weeks while the Sullivan County Division of Public Works repaves County Bridge 351, located south of the intersection of New Bridge Street and State Route 52.

This section of New Bridge Street will be closed to all traffic starting at 8 a.m. on Monday, April 29.

PA Republicans move to crack down on undocumented migrants

HARRISBURG, PA — Pennsylvania House Republicans recently convened a press conference to address undocumented migrants in the state, fueled by what they say is the Biden administration's failure to secure the southern border.

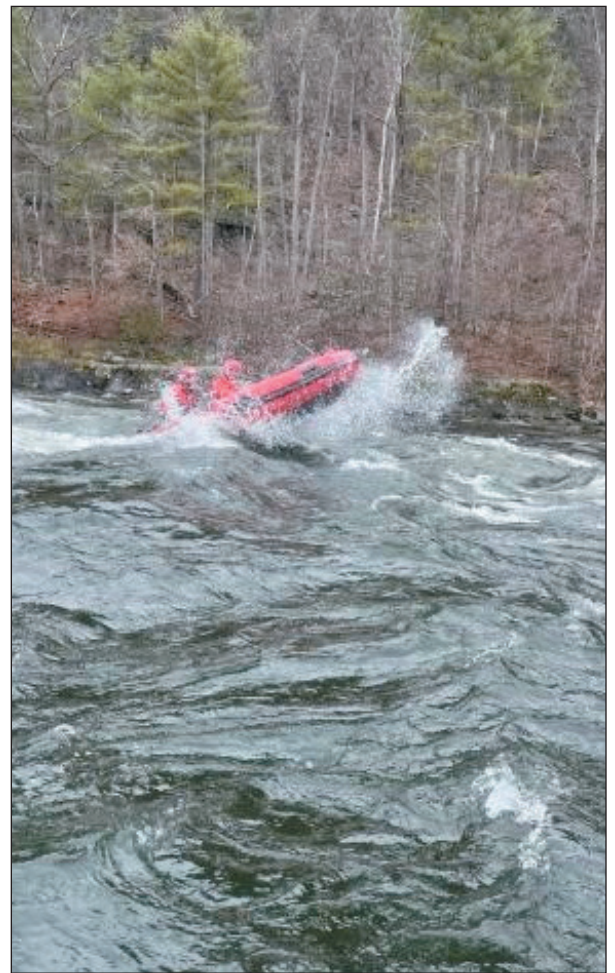
They introduced legislation to prohibit sanctuary cities or counties in Pennsylvania, saying they bring the national border to local neighborhoods.

Sanctuary cities limit their cooperation with the federal government in enforcing immigration law. They may prohibit police or city employees from questioning people about their immigration status. According to a list compiled by the Center for Immigration Studies and updated on April 12, Philadelphia and Lancaster, along with 13 counties (Allegheny, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Franklin, Lehigh, Lycoming, Montgomery, Montour, and Northampton) offer sanctuary.

The GOP lawmakers also seek stronger measures to address crime committed by undocumented migrants. This follows an incident in February in which seven undocumented migrants were charged with attacking two police officers in New York's Times Square.

PA Rep. Martina White (R, Philadelphia) proposed legislation to require bail of \$1 million for assaulting police officers.

PA Rep. Donna Scheuren (R, Montgomery) proposed legislation to crack down on squatters and to require that local authorities cooperate with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement should a squatter be in the country illegally.



NYS DEC photo

Rangers train for fast-water rescues

NARROWSBURG, NY — On April 11, forest rangers with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation took to inflatable rescue boats on the Delaware River. The 21 rangers received American Canoe Association instruction in how to rescue stranded people in fast-moving water.

AQUEDUCT - Page 1

faster infiltration of groundwater than expected. Extra time was needed to install additional pumps to safeguard workers, who will be 700 feet underground.

Before the shutdown, all four Delaware system reservoirs—Cannonsville, Pepacton, Neversink and Rondout—will be drawn down more than usual, depending on the amount of rainfall, to create voids that will help to reduce the effect of storms.

DEP says the shutdown will not affect public recreation.

The Delaware Aqueduct bypass tunnel is the largest repair project in the 177-year history of New York City's water supply system. It runs 600 feet under the Hudson River from Newburgh to Wappinger. The 85-mile-long aqueduct



Photo provided

Jennifer Garigliano of the NYC Department of Environmental Protection speaks to the Upper Delaware Council.

typically conveys about half of New York City's drinking water each day from reservoirs in the Catskills.

After Garigliano's presentation, the UDC will hold its regular monthly business meeting, which will include status reports from the Delaware River Basin Commission, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the National Park Service and the UDC executive director. There will be an opportunity for public comment.

To request the Zoom link, call Stephanie Driscoll at 845/252-3022 or email stephanie@upperdelawarecouncil.org.

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Feuding Highland officials to meet with mediator

Town board works on improving communications

By RUBY RAYNER-HASELKORN

HIGHLAND, NY — May 9 is the day two Town of Highland officials will sit down with mediators to work out their differences.

Supervisor Johnny Pizzolato and board member Kaitlin Haas have been at loggerheads about a number of issues, such as moving the warming center from the town hall to a church, how bills are paid and reviewed, and decisions by the personnel committee, among other matters. Pizzolato was first elected in November and says his decisions reflect the change residents voted for. Haas is a veteran board member who says her institutional knowledge is being ignored. They have moved beyond mere disagreement to an open hostility that was breaking down communication on the board.

The Dispute Resolution Center (DRC) will act as mediator. Its executive director, Miriam Frankl, said DRC serves four counties—Orange, Putnam, Sullivan, and Ulster—and mediates family, landlord/tenant and neighbor disputes. Frankl said the DRC also has experience facilitating mediations among town board members, with 70 to 80 percent of cases resulting in some type of resolution.

The goal of the DRC is to help parties in conflict reach practical agreements and mutually acceptable solutions, Frankl said. Although feelings may come into the discussion, DRC does not provide mental health counseling.

Mediators are demographically diverse and come from a range of career backgrounds, Frankl said. They go through

training, work as an apprentice or mentor, and are required to retrain regularly. Much of the training is approved by the New York State Court System, she said.

At the April 9 town board meeting, Pizzolato and Haas told the **River Reporter** they were waiting for confirmation from the DRC.

Toward better communication

Continuing the communication improvement theme, the town board will be purchasing 10 more email addresses so that every board member will have one.

Councilwoman Laura Burrell said the technology committee suggested using the town emails to “streamline communication, using security, using dedicated emails, not personal email, which allows us to have greater protection for volunteers, elected officials, as well as staff.”

Pizzolato agreed. Having all members use town email will give the board “clear and guaranteed communications moving forward,” he said.

Bounced emails have caused issues with setting up different committee assignments.

“We’re emailing other people to get a hold of some people,” he said. “Emails are bouncing,” which has caused problems setting up committee assignments.

Akt said that if an email bounces, just “pick up the phone and call me.”

Burrell said “It’s hard to make that requirement,” in asking board members to use town email.

Tree brings rare moment of unity

A new tree for Heroes Park in Eldred ushered in a moment of friendly agreement.

The 9/11 Memorial, in partnership with Bartlett Tree Experts and the NYC Board of Education, approved Heroes Park for a “survivor tree,” which honors the Callery pear tree nursed back to health after the collapse of the Twin Towers.

Students have planted hundreds of seedlings while educating others about the history of 9/11. The seedlings now stand over 10 feet tall and are ready for permanent homes. Heroes Park will be one.

Resident Andy Boyar asked the Highland Town Board for its approval to apply to the 9/11 Memorial. The entire board and audience clapped and cheered after the board unanimously gave its consent.

Boyar noted that the tree comes at no cost to taxpayers. Akt volunteered to help with the planting.

Boyar told the **River Reporter** he expects the survivor tree to be planted by Arbor Day, April 26.

The extra email addresses will cost the town a little less than \$50. The board decided not to require that its members use town email.

Special counsel hired for Highland conflict of interest

Vote on five-year highway contract with raises is postponed

By RUBY RAYNER-HASELKORN

HIGHLAND, NY — Javid Afzali of the Harris Beach law firm will serve as special counsel in Town of Highland zoning and planning board matters where the town attorney has a conflict of interest.

The attorney for the town and planning boards, Steven Mogel, has previously recused himself from matters related to the Barryville Oasis, an out-of-compliance restaurant co-owned by the supervisor, Johnny Pizzolato.

Afzali was hired at a special town board meeting on April 16.

Board member Tom Migliorino confirmed that Afzali will handle cases in which conflicts of interest arise, but he could not say whether the Oasis will be among them.

Pizzolato said Afzali was hired to handle another case involving Caroline Akt, the wife of board member Jim Akt, and the zoning board of appeals—not his Oasis business. He said there was as yet no special counsel to handle matters related to the Oasis. The hiring of special counsel for conflicts will be done on a case-by-case basis, he said.

The **River Reporter** has found that the Oasis is operating with a valid liquor license. The NYS Liquor Authority confirmed there is a cidery license valid not only for Pizzolato’s main business in town, the Stickett Inn, but also for the Oasis, his branch location. The businesses can serve New York State spirits only.

However, the license does not seem to have been submitted to the code enforcement officer. It is among 10 outstanding items the code enforcement officer identified last summer.

Pizzolato told the **River Reporter** that his business was undergoing a reinspection last week that would provide more information.

Highway contract delayed

The board put off the highway department contract for the second time. The contract was tabled at the March meeting because Mogel, the town attorney, was not present and had not reviewed it.

The contract guarantees raises for highway workers over the next five years. Because they are the town’s only full-time employees, said Pizzolato, it’s important to

offer them the contract as proposed.

Councilmembers Jim Akt and Kaitlin Haas said it may be difficult to find funds to cover the raises. But Pizzolato countered that money from CHIPS (Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program), a state program that funds local roads, will be enough.

Haas said CHIPS funding is not a guarantee.

The personnel committee negotiated the five-year contract with the highway department’s union representative. In March, Akt and residents expressed their concerns about the length of the contract, the cost to the town, and the absence of the town attorney at the contract negotiations.

At the April 9 town board meeting, Pizzolato asked for a vote on the latest version, which he said remains substantively the same but has since been reviewed and “stylistically” edited by Mogel.

However, board members Akt, Haas, Laura Burrell and Tom Migliorino had not received the new version for review. “I don’t feel comfortable voting on this,” said

Haas. “I haven’t ever read it, and it’s a long contract.”

Haas also wanted to know if the contract included a clause that would allow the town to break it before five years.

“I don’t see why it’s an issue” to put off the vote, said Burrell.

Other personnel changes

The board made other personnel changes, as follows:

- Helene Hoffman will serve as planning and zoning secretary and has been offered the part-time code enforcement clerk position.

- Stephanie Helm will stay on as planning and zoning clerk but, because of child care responsibilities, won’t be able to continue long term. The board hired her in March under a 30-day provisional officer.

- Malory Greenfield was also offered a 30-day provisional job in March to serve as code enforcement clerk. She declined the job.

- Ted Knitter will fill the open alternate position on the planning board.

\$2M HANGS - Page 1

than it did the year before. The provision offers stability: No district will have to face a sudden drop-off in funding—even if they've lost students or have a large surplus—so that it can better plan its budgets.

But Hochul said foundation aid needs “a closer assessment.” A funding study will “track down where the money is going to waste,” she said.

In January, Hochul proposed ending hold harmless because so many schools in New York have lost population. At another press conference on April 17, she continued to emphasize its effects. “We get caught in these ruts,” she said. “Education funding—why are we still funding schools on the same formula we had in 2008? It doesn't account for population, up or down? The population of students has gone down a lot, and we're literally funding empty classrooms.”

Hochul's proposal has been criticized for hurting rural schools. Robert Lowry, deputy director of the New York State Council of School Superintendents, said state aid cuts would hurt rural schools the most.

“Schools may now be serving fewer students than in the past, but most are doing much more for their students and their families, helping with needs beyond academics—providing mental health services, health and dental clinics, child care and after school care, food assistance and adult literacy instruction, for example,” he said in testimony to the state senate and assembly on February 1. “In rural communities, a school may be the only agency where families can find the help they need. Absent health services provided by schools in many rural communities, low-wage parents would need to go without pay to travel to seek health and mental health services for their children.”



RR photo by Nick Roes

The April 16 meeting of the Sullivan West school board.

Sullivan West state aid

2024-25: 11,400,426	2018-19: \$10,917,676.98
2022-23: 11,068,375	2017-18: \$10,582,479.36
2023-24: 11,068,375	2016-17: \$10,296,015.35
2021-22: 10,745,996	Source: NYS Department of Education (https://stateaid.nysed.gov/sams)
2020-21: 10,433,006	
2019-20: 10,433,006	

Sullivan West has lost 43 percent of its population since the district was created in 1999-20. Back then, the district had 1,755 students and has been steadily losing students ever since. In 2022-23, there were 995 students enrolled.

Preparing Plan B

The governor and state legislature are still haggling over the budget details. A possible bright spot is what's being called a “conceptual budget”—a handshake deal that does not have the force of law but restores the hold harmless provision.

But Sullivan West is prepping its Plan B. “We're still exploring areas of reduction,” Bressler said. “Even if tomorrow we get all the hold harmless money back, we know we're at risk for next year.”

Jeff Bishop, communications director

Sullivan West enrollment

2022-23: 995	2016-17: 1,007	2010-11: 1,276	2000-01: 1,672
2021-22: 984	2015-16: 1,023	2009-10: 1,339	1999-20: 1,755
2020-21: 997	2014-15: 1,090	2008-09: 1,313	Source: NYS Department of Education (https://data.nysed.gov/lists.php?type=school)
2019-20: 1,014	2013-14: 1,134	2007-08: 1,386	
2018-19: 1,046	2012-13: 1,171	2006-07: 1,413	
2017-18: 1,060	2011-12: 1,210	2001-02: 1,642	

for NY Sen. Peter Oberacker (R, 51), said Thursday he was in Albany as budget negotiations were getting busy. He could not confirm whether the hold harmless provision would survive.

“We have seen nothing from the education portion of the budget,” he told the **River Reporter** on Thursday. And, he added, “We have not seen the final school aid runs”—the final list that shows the state aid breakdown by school.

“That's a major problem for school districts,” Bishop said, since they must finalize their spending plans before they are put up for a vote. This happens annually on the third Tuesday of May.

NYS Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther (D, 100) struck a more hopeful note on Thursday. “We're doing a restoration,” she told the **River Reporter**. “But it's not over

‘til it's over.”

Without knowing next year's final budget numbers, Sullivan West is struggling to come up with contingency plans for staff cuts that will have the least impact on student programming. Bressler is working on a three- to five-year plan that will preserve jobs, review all positions for retirement, look for grants and possibly restructure the administration.

If the hold harmless provision is not restored in the final state budget, faculty members will be informed of any necessary changes to their schedules.

“We're keeping our fingers crossed,” said school board vice-president Kathleen Meckle.

Editor's note: Pamela Chergotis contributed to the reporting of this story.

Tusten Youth can expand, thanks to county funds

By RUBY RAYNER-HASELKORN

TUSTEN, NY — The Tusten Youth Commission will get more county money than the \$10,000 they believed they would be awarded.

Of the \$150,000 in county funds available, the county legislature awarded Tusten Youth \$27,500 on April 18.

Of the total, \$7,500 is designated for holiday events. Tusten Youth said the county was disappointed that the organization would not be hosting its Fourth of July celebration because the entire county looked forward to attending.

Tusten Youth had previously held its Fourth of July celebration on the firemen's field. This year its application was denied by the owner, Rick Lander, who said the event would interfere with his business during a popular holiday weekend.

The Sullivan County Youth Bureau director, Kristen Kitson, met with Tusten Youth and commended the program.

Crystal Weston from Tusten Youth said the group won't be hosting anything on the Fourth but plans to continue its Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning programming through the summer.

Award breakdown

The county grant breakdown is as follows:

- Holiday celebrations: \$7,500
- Museum: \$1,500
- Summer Art & Garden Club: \$1,500
- Tusten Recreational Program: \$10,000
- Unplugged: \$2,000
- Winter Fun: \$5,000

Pavilion not yet out for bid

By RUBY RAYNER-HASELKORN

NARROWSBURG, NY — Tusten's contested pavilion project still has not gone out to bid, as the town awaits minor money-saving adjustments to the architectural design recommended by the building department.

Supervisor Ben Johnson now expects the request for proposals to go out in May and that the town will start receiving bids by June or July.

But bids will give only an initial idea of the cost. Johnson said the pavilion will eventually need to include a flush toilet built to planning and zoning regulations. The initial

plan does not include the toilet, so the cost estimates won't include them either, he said.

One resident noted the difficulty in accessing the project without knowing the real full cost.

Resident Iris Helfeld, who has been critical of the project, said it's being driven by the board, not the people. Most people in the Narrowsburg flats don't want the project moving forward, she said. Johnson said the board is obliged to consider the entire town, not just the wants or needs of one small area.

“The board has to understand that we serve all the residents of the Town of Tusten

and have a public park that's been there for decades that's used by all the residents,” he said. “I believe that when you look at it in totality, we may be very short-sighted for not doing something because we have a portion of the public that doesn't want it because they live there. I think it's something the board needs to consider when they make the decision but I don't think it should be the whole decision. We have heard concerns from people who live in the flats and have made concessions.”

Many families in town have attended board meetings to support the project.

APPLE GROVE - Page 1

of new playground equipment and the refurbishment of the park's disc golf equipment.

“It's the parks committee's intention to have [the disc golf baskets] pulled, fixed, painted and replaced in the park in a planned way,” Hamill said. “Currently, there doesn't appear to be a layout designed for disc golf practice or play.”

A dog park is also in the planning stages. The borough board has already received bids. The project was tabled at the March council meeting and was on the agenda for April 22.

Wayne Highlands celebrates student achievement

Outstanding scholar-athletes, winning robotics team take a bow

By ANNETTE KULICK-HICKEY

HONESDALE, PA — There was much to celebrate at the Wayne Highlands school board meeting Wednesday night.

The board marked the achievements of the district's outstanding seniors and a victory by its robotics team.

Three graduating seniors from Honesdale High School were recognized for their outstanding achievements at the April 17 meeting. Claire Campen, Lucy Harrington and Joseph Taraschuk rank in the top 15 percent of their class. All three students are exceptional members of the National Honor Society.

Campen of Hawley played on the school's field hockey team for four years, including two years as captain. She will pursue elementary education and special education at Monmouth University.

Harrington of Honesdale is a varsity tennis captain and a cheerleader for the boys' basketball team. She will attend Coastal



Camo-Bots photo (camobots.com)

The winning robotics team.

Carolina University to pursue a degree in business and marketing.

Taraschuk of Honesdale is a varsity basketball captain who also participates in varsity track and field and varsity cross-country. He will attend Marywood University with a focus on history and secondary and special education. He plans to continue running cross-country for Marywood.

Following welcoming introductions by Honesdale High School principal Dr. Peter Jordan, each student spoke and thanked family members, teachers and mentors that helped them along the way.

The board vice president, Thomas Fasshauer, praised the students for their success and willingness to give back to the

community. Gregory Frigoletto, the district superintendent, commended the students on their ability to do the hard work but have fun at it too.

Real-world engineering

Camo-Bots, the high school robotics team that includes students from Honesdale and Western Wayne, won their district and regional meets and are now competing against the best student engineers in the world.

Patrick Blaskiewicz, Honesdale's assistant principal, said the Camo-Bots are now in Austin, TX for the World Robotics Competition sponsored by For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST).



RR photo by A. Kulick-Hickey

Outstanding scholar-athletes (from left): Lucy Harrington, Joseph Taraschuk, and Claire Campen.

FIRST gives students the opportunity to experience real-world engineering through robotics competitions. It is a worldwide organization that includes hundreds of thousands of high school students. Learn more at Camo-Bots.com.

'We couldn't do it without you'

Wayne commissioners honor the county's valiant volunteers

By JAMIE FALGIE

HONESDALE, PA — "Service to others is a hallmark of the American character, and has the unique ability to bring people of all backgrounds together in common cause."

So say the Wayne County Commissioners in their proclamation honoring National Volunteer Week, April 21-27, 2024.

At their April 18 meeting, the commissioners said volunteering is essential in bringing communities closer together. In this time of growing social isolation, it helps people feel more socially connected.

One of the busiest volunteer programs in Wayne County is the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), which is funded through the Americorps Senior program and sponsored by Diakon Community Services. Working closely with the Area Agency on Aging, RSVP helps community members 55 and older find volunteer opportunities. Best of all, the program allows members to choose how, where, and how frequently they want to volunteer.

Mary Grace Pedroso, the director of the RSVP in Berks, Pike, and Wayne counties, attended the commissioners' meeting along with nearly a dozen RSVP members to em-



RR photo by Jamie Falgie

Seated (from left): Jean Pollaro, Liz McGonigal, Maryellen Fillebrown; standing: Pamela Gerlach, Brian Smith, Jocelyn Cramer, Wendell Kay, Diana Torre, Maureen League, Melodie Leon, Christopher Barton, Mary Grace Pedroso, Dawn Houghtaling, Mary Ursich, and James Shook.

phasize the program's importance.

"Our focus here in Wayne County is to help seniors live independently for as long as possible, with as much dignity as possible," Pedroso said.

In 2023 alone, the program's 115 volunteers delivered more than 91,000 meals, assisted nearly 11,500 food pantry clients, and called seniors via its senior chat program, along with many other similar tasks.

Mary Ursich, an administrator for the Area Agency on Aging, chimed in. "We really couldn't function in our senior centers, meal programs, our food pantries," she said. "None of those programs would function without volunteers."

This week not only recognizes the RSVP volunteers but the hundreds of youth coaches, PTA members, Scout leaders, and others who volunteer their time and talents throughout the county.

The proclamation ended with this powerful last line: "[We] encourage residents to recognize the positive impact of national service in our community; to thank those that serve; and to find their own ways to give back to the communities."

If you have any questions about volunteering in Wayne County, visit the county's website at <https://waynecountypa.gov/173/Volunteer-Program>.

MY VIEW

BY MICHAEL KOSSOVE AND SUSAN J. SCHOENBECK

Vaccinations save lives

For World Immunization Week, consider the repercussions of not vaccinating your children

World Immunization Week, celebrated in the last week of April, aims to recognize the long-term effects that the opposition to vaccination has on the lives of children. It also highlights the collective action needed to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease.

Remember me:

I was eight years old when a measles epidemic broke out in my neighborhood. My parents did not believe in vaccination. One night I came down with the characteristic rash and the common cold-type symptoms. My parents thought that my signs of measles would eventually all go away.

They had no idea about the secondary effects of measles. They didn't know about subacute sclerosing panencephalitis, which is a progressive neurological disorder that can occur with measles.

Kids with measles can develop memory loss, jerky movements and seizures. Some go blind. Those affected could progress to a persistent vegetative state before they die.

My parents couldn't wait until I was born. Now they come to visit my grave occasionally with heads bowed down. Their faces seem sad. Do they have regrets? The child they hoped for was forever broken by their decision not to vaccinate.

Remember me:

It was the summer of 1954 when I got sick. I was five years old. I couldn't move or breathe on my own. In the hospital, I was put into a metal tank called an iron lung. I had polio.

I spent 10 weeks confined in the iron lung. When they took me out, I went through extensive rehabilitation to get my damaged muscles to partially work again.

I grew up wearing leg braces and walking with crutches.

Now I'm suffering from post-polio syndrome, and many of my initial problems have returned. Every day I feel the long-haul effects of my initial poliovirus infection.

There was no vaccine for polio when I contracted it, but there is now. If the vaccine existed at that time, I know my parents would have had me first in line to get it.

If I had been vaccinated, I would not be feeling the daily pain, weakness and exhaustion that comes from infection by a virus. Now parents can guard their children against polio.

Remember me:

It was in 1980 when I caught the mumps. My parents were anti-vaxxers, so I was never immunized against mumps.

Following the initial onset, I developed meningitis and encephalitis. In addition to losing part of my hearing, I became sterile.

This would have never happened if my parents had immunized me against mumps.

I was the only kid in the neighborhood who caught it. All the rest were immunized.

I paid the price of my parents' willful neglect. I carry the awful effects of mumps with me all the days of my life because I was not vaccinated.

Remember me:

My mother was an anti-vaxxer. When it was suggested that she should be immunized against rubella, she refused.

She was pregnant with me when she came down with a case of measles.

As a result, I was born deaf. I had cataracts in both eyes and multiple other problems. This could have all been avoided if she had been immunized.

Other children born to mothers infected with measles suffered cardiovascular oddities that could not be repaired. Some babies died, although surgeons tried to repair the damage their little bodies had from measles.

You can't imagine what life has been like for me because my mother refused an immunization. Every mother gets a choice to protect their child from vaccine-preventable diseases. I wish mine had taken responsibility to safeguard me.

Remember me:

I was never immunized for childhood diseases because my parents were anti-vaxxers. They did not listen to scientists and medical professionals who cautioned people to vaccinate to prevent the spread of whooping cough.

I developed whooping cough when I was 12. Since then, I have suffered from chronic lung problems, visual problems and epilepsy.

If only my parents had immunized me, my life could be so different.

Thank your parents if they and you were vaccinated to prevent little kids from suffering for a lifetime with the endless repercussions of whooping cough.

Michael Kossove is professor emeritus and adjunct professor of microbiology at Touro University, School of Health Sciences, New York City. Prof. Kossove is a polio survivor and an international public speaker.

Susan L. Schoenbeck, MSN, R.N. is adjunct faculty at Walla Walla University School of Nursing in Portland, OR. She is a polio survivor.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Congress: on top of the appliance situation

I thought Marc Molinaro was our U.S. Representative in Congress, but it looks like maybe we got the Maytag Repairman instead.

This week the U.S. Congress, led by Molinaro and his GOP colleagues, is scheduled to debate no fewer than six bills dealing with home appliances:

H.R. 6192—Hands Off Our Home Appliances Act

H.R. 7673—Liberty in Laundry Act

H.R. 7645—Clothes Dryers Reliability Act

H.R. 7637—Refrigerator Freedom Act

H.R. 7626—Affordable Air Conditioning Act

H.R. 7700 — Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act

These are not serious people. Molinaro, Speaker Johnson and the rest of the GOP in Washington view politics as performance art, creating fake outrage over non-existent problems while ignoring the very real issues we face at home and overseas. We deserve better.

Jeffrey Muchnick

Livingston Manor, NY

April is Grange Month

For the Pennsylvania State Grange, April holds special significance as it marks Grange Month, a time to celebrate our storied history, notable achievements and continued commitment to rural advocacy and community service.

We invite you to join in the statewide recognition of the importance of agriculture and rural advocacy, and the positive impact of local granges in Pennsylvania and across the country.

The grange is our nation's oldest fraternal farm and family organization, dedicated to the betterment of rural life through community service, education, legislation, and fellowship. The roots of the Grange Movement run deep in Pennsylvania since its inception in 1873. Today, more than 170 local and county granges serve as a gathering place, where ideas can be shared and challenges addressed in an open and respectful forum.

Over the years, these discussions have sought and led to improvements in agriculture and rural life. From bringing electrification and mail delivery to small towns, to expanding broadband access and the availability of telemedicine, the grange has worked to connect friends and families to an ever-growing world. Through our collective efforts, we honor the legacy of those who came before us while striving to create a brighter future for generations to come.

I encourage all Pennsylvanians to join us in celebrating Grange Month and to learn more about the vital role that the Pennsylvania State Grange plays in our communities. Together, let us sow the seeds of cooperation through non-partisan rural advocacy, ensuring that the spirit of the grange continues to flourish across our great state.

Matt Espenshade

President, Pennsylvania State Grange

Mifflintown, PA

Molinaro: NY-19 is in crisis

NY Gov. Kathy Hochul should declare a state of emergency, allowing more funds and resources to be prioritized for addressing the opioid epidemic.

According to the New York State Department of Health, in 2023 Broome, Sullivan and Greene counties had among the highest opioid overdose rates in New York State.

You can't help but be alarmed by these grave statistics. With Broome, Sullivan and Greene being in the top five for overdose rates in 2023, NY-19 is now the epicenter of the opioid crisis. I'm calling on Gov. Hochul to declare a state of emergency, because this is the greatest public health emergency of our lifetime and should be treated as such.

As [Dutchess] county executive, I pioneered a stabilization center model that allowed anyone suffering from a substance use disorder to get immediate help. It's a model that has been successfully replicated across the state.

DR. PUNNYBONE



Stool Softener

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

**"The sun does not shine
for a few trees and
flowers, but the wide
world's joy."**

— Henry Ward Beecher

■ SNARKY NEWCOMER OPINES, BASELY BY LEAH CASNER

Bird is the word

Gently tapping, my Aunt Fanny!

We were startled awake by a horrible banging that sounded as if our old pipes were exploding simultaneously throughout the house, too loud and close to be the quarry down the road blasting its mountain apart. I peeked out the window to see a woodpecker jackhammering the window glass, ignoring both its own name and the data in the study “Carousel,” penned by the famous naturalists Rodgers and Hammerstein, which proved that “Woodpeckers peck it on wood!”

WOOD, you silly bird, not the glass of the bedroom window before we’re out of bed.

For birds, tis the season!

I was sitting idly on the porch, wondering if it were time to put out the feeders for hummingbirds, when one flew up the front steps, looked at the empty spots to the right and left where the feeders were last year, then gave me a very birdily expressive look of “Well?” before swooping off. Obediently, I grabbed the feeders from the garage, washed, filled and hung them up.

On a morning I had not been woken by a head-hammering wacko woodpecker, I looked out to see a rather gorgeous bird on the arm of a chair on the porch. The bird was extremely pretty, its feathers all fluffed up, with a black head and pure white body. Very cool looking. My eyes aged and bleary, and before my coffee, I wondered if it were a stray chicken of some breed that I didn’t know—which is all of them—maybe an Etruscan Panda-toned Fluffington. It didn’t seem impossible.

We have been away from New York City long enough that it took me a few minutes to recognize a pigeon, especially as this one was far more glamorous than the usual.

But we don’t have pigeons in Equinunk and as far as I know (not at all) they do not migrate. Homing pigeons, not wandering pigeons, right? Perhaps, like us, it had tired of the city and come for the quiet. But if so, it was not enjoying the peace as it might have, hanging around with the eagles by the river, but was instead acting like a teenager dragged on vacation who simply will not enjoy it. Just sitting and defecating.

I asked about lost pigeons on assorted internet places: a local email digest, some Facebook pages. A friend wondered if it was one of our neighbors’—who, we had not known, kept pigeons.

But of course. This was not the first time one of their strays showed up at our house. We are just through the woods, down the hill and over a stream from their place, a simple path and natural escape route for anything not over-encumbered by rational thought. I’m just hoping they don’t get it into their heads to start rearing musk ox.

They confirmed that, yes indeed, two of their delicately bred special pigeons had accidentally gotten out. That’s why she was so pretty, and perhaps why she was sticking around instead of flying off.

The neighbor came over with a net, which broke before he even managed to get the bird in it. He propped open a cat-carrying cage on the lawn and prepped it with bird seed to lure the birdie in, but she was cleverer than we were and now on alert. She snuck into the cat carrier and ate the seed when we weren’t looking.

We humans were struggling to catch a literally bird-brained critter, who was both outwitting us and really enjoying crapping all over our porch, to go by her prodigious plethora of poo.

A few days later we realized we hadn’t seen her all day. Another night and day, she still had not appeared. We figured that (yes, I have to say it) the pigeon had flown the coop.

To my great surprise I was a little bit sad. My husband was decidedly not. Because, poop the pigeon? Nevermore.

■ EDITORIAL



Photo contributed by Empire State Local News Coalition.

On March 20, publishers from across the state, including **River Reporter** publisher Laurie Stuart, stand with NYS Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal, center right in suit, who sponsored the Local Journalism Sustainability Act. The \$30 million annual tax credit refund for the hiring of journalists is now part of the state’s FY2025 budget.

Local news coalition efforts are successful

By LAURIE STUART

When the Local Journalism Sustainability Act was included in the One House Senate budget with an allocation of \$20 million, publishers across the state were ecstatic. Understanding that it was a tax credit refund of one half of a reporter’s salary, up to \$50,000, it turned into a game changer for small publishers with fewer than 100 employees. Publishers quickly organized into a news coalition with over 200 paper members, hired a lobbyist, instituted a grassroots campaign including common editorials and advertisements and traveled to Albany to rally and advocate for the provision’s inclusion in the FY 2025 budget.

Understanding the importance of local news and the role it plays in the community, Brad Hoylman-Sigal, the Senate bill sponsor, said it was important that “democracy not die in

darkness.” Up until the final moment, it was unclear whether the measure would be included.

Through negotiation with Senate and Assembly leaders and representatives of the governor’s office, the final bill was expanded to \$30 million for three years. The money will be allocated with \$4 million set aside for new hires, and the remaining \$26 million to be split equally between media outlets with more than 100 employees and media outlets with fewer than 100 employees for employee retention. The cap per company was raised from \$200,000 to \$300,000.

New York is the first state in the country to officially recognize the vital role journalism plays in its communities and access to this tax credit refund will help this newspapers and others to continue to cover the communities most vital news.

It’s good news for everyone.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - Page 6

The expansion of this model, paired with emergency funds and resources to provide long-term treatment and crack down on drug trafficking, can and will save lives.

Rep. Marc Molinaro (R, NY-19)

Washington, D.C.

Kudos on the New York budget

Counties applaud New York Gov. Kathy Hochul, Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Carl Heastie for reaching an agreement on a state budget that makes historic investments in housing, mental health care, education, elections and public safety while protecting local taxpayers from significant new state mandates.

As the administrative arm of state government, counties are always striving to work collaboratively with our partners at the state level, and a perfect example is the final budget’s wind-down of the Countywide Shared Services Initiative. The agreement reached in the budget honors the state’s funding commitment for projects submitted prior to January 31 while also relieving local government staff—who are already stretched thin from the burdensome requirements of this outdated program. In addition, the enacted budget extends the school bus stop arm camera program which has proven to be successful across our state.

In the end, all state budgets are a series of compromises, and

we appreciate state leaders for working with counties to craft legislation that will bring New York State into compliance with the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling on real property tax foreclosures. While not a perfect solution, the compromise reached in the budget is fair to property owners, taxpayers and county governments that are charged with enforcing New York State tax law.

We are disappointed that state leaders could not reach an agreement on legislation to achieve fairness in the short-term rental market. Counties will continue to advocate for legislation that levels the playing field between hotels and short-term rentals and empowers local governments to collect outside revenue that reduces the local tax burden while also enabling new investments in tourism and hospitality.

We look forward to working with the governor and state legislators throughout the rest of the legislative session on this and a host of other urgent issues facing local governments, including rescuing local EMS systems that are in crisis across the state, strengthening local recycling programs, and addressing the severe and chronic shortages in the local government workforce.

Daniel McCoy

President, New York State Association of Counties
Albany, NY

[The **RIVER REPORTER** welcomes letters on all subjects from its readers. They must include the correspondent’s phone number. The correspondent’s name and town will appear at the bottom of each letter.

Letters are printed at the discretion of the editor. It is requested they be limited to 350 words; longer letters may not be printed, or may be edited down to the appropriate length. No letters or My Views in excess of 800 words will be printed. Deadline is 1 p.m. on Friday.]



■ OBITUARIES

STEPHEN H. BARNES

Stephen H. Barnes, a lifelong resident of the area, passed away on Sunday, April 14, 2024, at the Care Center at Sunset Lake, Liberty, NY. He was born in Minisink Ford, NY on November 26, 1946, the son of the late Emmett and Christine (Roberts) Barnes, the youngest of their five children. He was 77 years old. Stephen was a graduate of Eldred Central School, Eldred, NY.

Stephen owned and operated the Minisink Ford Auto Sales, Barryville, NY, for over 40 years. He was a member of the Lions Club. He was a life member of the Yulan Rod and Gun Club. He was a former Town of Highland Supervisor. He was an avid stock car racing fan and also enjoyed going to flea markets.

He is survived by his daughter Robin Diepen Hindley and her husband Donald, of the state of Florida; son Norman Barnes of the state of Florida; grandchildren Kevin Diepen, Leslie Diepen, Steven Barnes and Nathan Barnes; brother Peter Barnes of Barryville; sister Shirley Coughlin and her husband Tom of Florida, NY; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Stephen is predeceased by his wife Mary Ann, his brother John R. Barnes, sister Dorothy Barnes-McGill, sister-in-law Jennie Barnes and niece Christine Coughlin.

Services will be private at the convenience of the family.

The family would like to express their gratitude to the staff of the Care Center at Sunset Lake for providing care to Stephen in the last months of his life.

Donations can be made in Stephen's name to: Sullivan County SPCA, 104 Rock Hill Dr. Rock Hill, NY 12775 or the American Diabetes Association, PO Box 7023, Merrifield, VA 22116-7023.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Harrison Rasmussen Funeral Home, Barryville, NY 845/557-8010.

Registration opens for LCSD summer enrichment program

LIBERTY, NY — Registration is now open for the Liberty Central School District (LCSD) summer enrichment program. But you have to hurry; it closes on Tuesday, April 30.

There are numerous workshops offering opportunities for learning and development.

This free program is available for LCSD students currently enrolled in kindergarten through 11th grade. Workshops will be held from 7:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Mondays through Thursdays in three sessions: July 8-18, July 22-August 1 and August 5-15.

The program offerings and links for registration are available at www.libertyk12.org/academics/summer-enrichment-2024/.

In the event of an excess of applicants, a lottery system will be used to select participants.

Parents and guardians will be notified of workshop acceptance by June 1. Transportation, as well as breakfast and lunch, will be provided for participants.

For more information, email Marianne Serratore, interim assistant superintendent of schools, at mserratore@libertyk12.org or call 845/292-5400, ext. 2063.

■ DEATH NOTICES

Anthony Barbato

Anthony Barbato, 74, of Honesdale, PA, passed away April 13, 2024 at Gardens at Wyoming Valley in Wilkes Barre, PA. Anthony was born April 1, 1950 in Brooklyn, NY.

Patricia (McCaffrey) Howell

Patricia (McCaffrey) Howell, 82, of Nashville, TN and formerly of White Mills, PA, passed away April 16, 2024. Patricia was born May 2, 1941 in Brooklyn, NY. There will be no funeral services.

Jane Olsen

Jane Olsen, formerly of Callicoon, NY, passed away on April 13, 2024. Funeral services were held April 18 at Stewart-Murphy Funeral Home in Callicoon. Burial will be in the Callicoon Cemetery.

Marjorie A. Wassmer

Marjorie A. Wassmer, 89, of Bohemia, PA, passed away December 28, 2023 at home. Marjorie was born May 20, 1934 in Flushing, NY. A memorial service will be held Saturday, May 25, 2024 at 3 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 401 Church St. in Hawley, PA. Inurnment will be in Green Gates Cemetery following the service.

■ NARROWSBURG NEWS

BY GREG TRIGGS

The how and when of being informed

According to Wikipedia and the 2020 United States census, Tusten, NY has a population of 583 households, representing 376 families, for a total of 1,415 people. Among those 1,415 people are 1,416 proud opinions because there's always someone who can't make up their mind.

We are a community that inspires passion, which is a good thing.

In the pursuit of an informed opinion where should one go? Look no further than www.townoftusten.org for answers, and a full schedule of and agendas/minutes from board meetings—all of which are held in the town community room and are open to the public. Comments and concerns are welcomed, and usually part of each agenda.

The Water and Sewer Committee meets the first Monday of each month at 9 a.m. The Parks and Public Spaces Committee meets the same day at 5 p.m. If you have concerns specific to those areas, you are invited to attend.

The planning and work session for the Tusten Town Board is the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. During those meetings, the monthly town board agenda will be reviewed and solidified. The agenda

will then be acted upon at the monthly town board meeting on the *second* Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

The Zoning Board of Appeals is scheduled to meet every second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The scope of its work is defined by the State of New York as being “an administrative body, of limited jurisdiction and powers, designed to function as a ‘safety valve’ to relieve the pressure of rigid and inflexible provisions of zoning regulations.”

The Planning Board is scheduled to meet every fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. According to www.ny.gov, the role of the planning board “includes the review of site plans, special use permits, and subdivision plans along with the planning board's active role in creating the municipal comprehensive plan.”

Many meetings are broadcast via Zoom. The links are available on the town website.

Worth noting that if there are no agenda points, many meetings are postponed until the next month. The latest information is always available online.

Critical to know as Tusten makes its way to 1,417 informed opinions.



Contributed photo

Doug Sandberg, left, host of the weekly program “Let’s Talk Vets” on Bold Gold Media, is pictured with Kathy and Brendan Weidan, the founders and owners of the Narrowsburg Union, housed in the former Narrowsburg School. They stand by a commemorative flag made by Damascus resident Jeff Dexter honoring some of the veterans who graduated from the school.

Free workshops from MacGyver Secret for Veterans

NARROWSBURG, NY — Veterans in the Upper Delaware River Valley can participate in a free two-day workshop led by Lee Zlotoff, creator of the classic television program “MacGyver” and author of “The MacGyver Secret,” to be held on Saturday, May 4 and Sunday, May 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Narrowsburg Union.

Each day will include three one-hour sessions with breaks. The building is handicapped accessible and there is ample parking.

The workshop introduces veterans to The MacGyver Secret. This is not therapy, a person involved with the program said. “The MacGyver Secret is a practical tool to tap into one’s ‘Inner MacGyver’ to solve

creative, technical or personal problems—using nothing more than a pen and paper.”

The goal is to give participants easy access to their hidden capabilities. And no one is required to speak or share about themselves, so everyone’s privacy is respected.

“My dad was a WWII vet and, though it wasn’t called that back then, he struggled with acute PTSD, and I wish he had a tool like this to help him—and my family—to deal with all that,” said Zlotoff.

Co-sponsoring the event are Kathy and Brendan Weidan, owners of the Narrowsburg Union, a repurposed former public school that’s now a mixed-use commercial property and event space. The Union also offers cultural and community services and activities.

In addition to complimentary light breakfasts and lunches each day, participants will have the chance to win a free American flag wall sculpture created and donated by Damascus resident Jeff Dexter. The flag is designed to commemorate graduates of the Narrowsburg School who served in the armed forces.

The flag is on display in the history gallery of the Union.

Registration is required and is limited to 25 people. For further information and to register, visit www.narrowsburgunion.com/new-products/veterans-workshop, or call 845/252-3100.

From farm to classroom

Local maple farmer teaches elementary students to make maple syrup

MONTICELLO, NY — Kindergarteners at George Cooke Elementary School had sweet fun when local maple farmer Todd Mitchell visited recently.

Students in the classes of Mrs. Leibman, Mrs. Ferentinos, Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Vandermulen were excited to learn how maple syrup is made.

They listened closely as Mitchell explained the process, including how to tap a tree to bottle the syrup. Mitchell's presentation concluded with a delicious treat for the students: a waffle served with breakfast sausage topped with homemade whipped cream and fresh maple syrup. Students also received a piece of maple candy to take home.

From the smiles across the room, it was clear students enjoyed the maple-themed breakfast and savored each flavorful bite.

The sweet lesson culminated with a chance for the students to create their own books about maple syrup, applying what they learned into a project that will serve as an everlasting keepsake.

Contributed by the Monticello Central School District.



Maple-y goodness awaits during a presentation on the making of maple syrup.



Preparing the sweet treat for Cooke School students. The kids had just learned how maple syrup is made.



Photos contributed by the Monticello Central School District

A sweet time was had by all when Cooke School kindergarteners learned how maple syrup is made.

Program for farm operators open in Wayne County

WAYNE COUNTY, PA — The Wayne Conservation District will manage the Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) in the county for active farm operations.

The program is a chance for farmers to install soil and water conservation practices that benefit both the environment and farm management.

Applications are due to the district office by Tuesday, April 30 at 4:30 p.m., and an on-farm pre-application meeting with district staff is required.

The Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) was created through the Clean Streams Fund established by the FY2022-2023 Pennsylvania State Budget.

Join the Heart Walk

POUGHKEEPSIE AND HIGHLAND, NY — The Hudson Valley Heart Walk combines the Dutchess-Ulster Heart Walk and the Tri-County Heart Walk into one event, set for Saturday, April 27 on the Walkway Over the Hudson. Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m., and the program starts at 9 a.m. on both sides of the bridge.

Celebrate Independent Bookstores Day at your favorite indie bookstore

DELHI, NY — The Lost Bookshop will participate in the 11th anniversary of Independent Bookstore Day on Saturday, April 27.

The shop will hold in-store giveaways (including a year of free audiobooks from partner libro.fm), a used-book sidewalk sale and the reveal of the limited edition Indie Bookstore Day bookmarks, designed by local young folks.

The day ends with a party to celebrate the community, held from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Independent Bookstore Day (Indie Bookstore Day) was established in 2013 to promote, celebrate and highlight the value of the independent bookstore community. The

ACAP provides financial and technical assistance for the implementation of best management practices on agricultural operations within the commonwealth. The state conservation commission administers ACAP, and local implementation is delegated to participating conservation districts.

ACAP was dedicated \$154 million from the Clean Streams Fund to reduce non-point source (NPS) pollution in commonwealth streams, rivers and waterbodies.

To schedule a pre-application meeting, call Jamie or Zach at 570/253-0930.

To learn more, review the eligibility requirements and obtain the application, visit wayneconservation.com/993/Agriculture-Conservation-Assistance-Prog.

Steven Kelley, president and CEO of Ellenville Regional Hospital, is the chair. Mary Jo Cipollini and Karina Gonzabay will share their stories of surviving heart disease. Learn more and register at www.heart.org/hudsonvalleyheartwalk.

day has been observed on the last Saturday of April every year since 2013. This year over 900 stores are participating across the country.

Independent Bookstore Day is organized by the American Booksellers Association, a national nonprofit trade organization that works with booksellers and industry partners. It focuses on the success and profitability of independently owned book retailers, and assists in expanding the community of the book.

The Lost Bookshop opened in 2023 at 120 Main St. and sells a variety of fiction, nonfiction and children's books.

Contributed by the Lost Bookshop.



Photo contributed by Wayne Memorial Community Health Systems

A past Women Only symposium, sponsored by Wayne Memorial Community Health Systems. It's a chance to learn and laugh with other women—and have lunch too. The symposium for 2024 will be held on Friday, May 3 at the Ladore Conference Center in Waymart, PA.

Wayne Memorial to hold women's symposium

WAYMART, PA — Wayne Memorial Hospital's 23rd Women Only Luncheon Symposium (WOLS) takes place beginning at 8 a.m. on Friday, May 3 at the Ladore Conference Center.

The event offers nine fun and educational workshops—your choice of which three to attend.

This year's choices include gentle yoga, how CBD is used for wellness, elder finances, online security measures, seed starting and more.

"It's a variety selected by our WOLS committee," said Wayne Memorial Community

Health manager Carol Kneier. "We try to mix up fun and information, so participants can literally learn, work out, maybe laugh and have lunch all in just a few hours."

The symposium, which runs until 2 p.m., kicks off with a keynote presentation titled "Lighten Up and Recharge with Laughter," by comedian/podcaster Jeannine Luby.

The day concludes with a buffet lunch and door prizes.

Space is limited and a registration fee of \$50 is required. To receive a brochure, email tuttle@wmh.org or call 570/253-8990 or 570/253-8422.



FOOD

in the Upper Delaware



JUDE'S CULINARY JOURNEY
BY JUDE WATERSTON

Alice at Tiffany

Before moving full-time to Callicoon, my sister Janet and I drove back and forth from Manhattan each weekend to spend Friday night through Sunday afternoon at our little country house.

Many years ago, driving back to the city one evening, we were suddenly overcome with hunger. But we had just entered New Jersey and knew a diner would come into view sooner or later. "Keep an eye out," Janet said. Within minutes, the Tiffany Diner, a mammoth, gaudy vision in chrome, neon and mirrors came into view. It looked like it had been wrapped in aluminum foil.

We pulled into the parking lot and headed inside the supernaturally bright diner. Waitresses, all of a certain age, in shiny black-and-white polyester outfits, moved briskly around the room. Colorful faux Tiffany lamps hung suspended above each table.

We settled into a booth and were greeted by a quirky-looking woman whose laminated nametag said Alice. Her eyelids were painted with blue shadow and from her ears hung large gold-colored hoops. She was as cheerful as could be and we warmed to her immediately.

She handed us heavy, bound leatherette menus. "How ya doing, girls? Good to see ya," she said, her head bobbing as if on a springy coiled wire. Her long wispy hair, the dyeing of which she clearly handled herself, was multi-hued, nearly striped. Her coral-colored lipstick had been applied with a blind eye. "I'll let ya look these over," she said, patting the menu in my hand.

She turned to leave, then pivoted around. "Something to drink, girls?" she asked. "I'll have a cup of coffee," I said. "Decaf," Janet added.

Alice winked, "Ya got it," she promised. A couple of minutes later she brought my coffee. "Was it tea for you?" she asked Janet.

"No, actually decaf, but I do usually have tea," Janet said.

"That's what I thought," Alice said, "You like your tea."

When she walked away, Janet asked, "Have we ever been here before?"

"Nope," I responded.

"The usual?" I asked my sister, scanning the six-page menu for both turkey sandwiches and tuna melts.

"With French fries," she replied.

I spotted Alice standing next to a large coffee urn, arms crossed over her chest. She was happily muttering to herself. I caught her eye, and she crossed the room waving her ordering pad. "We're gonna split a couple of sandwiches," I said. She nodded her approval. "One tuna melt with cheddar cheese on whole wheat and a turkey on toasted rye with lettuce."

"Lots of mayo," Janet said.

"Extra mayo on the side?" Alice suggested.

"Yeah, and well-done French fries, please," I added.

Our food arrived and Alice waited to see our reactions. "Fries crispy enough?" she asked. We nodded. "Plenty of mayo," she commented, pushing a filled ramekin in between our plates. "I'll let you enjoy," she said, moving off. The sandwiches were more than decent, accompanied by the usual wedge of half-sour pickle and tiny pleated paper cups of mediocre coleslaw. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, knowing we were being watched over by the sweet and kooky Alice. When I waved her over to get the check, she tucked her pad into the black apron tied around her waist so she could easily carry over two pots of coffee to pour our final refills. "It was great seeing ya again," she said, as she slipped the check onto the tabletop.

"You too!" Janet and I chimed.



Tuna fish salad with character

RR photo by Jude Waterston

Tuna fish salad with character

Serves 2-4

This tuna fish salad is delicious as is, but makes a superior-tasting tuna melt if you're in the mood for melted cheese—and when are you not?

2 5-ounce cans Italian tuna in olive oil, preferably Genova brand, drained well

1/2 small red onion, minced

3 cornichon pickles (or 1/4 dill pickle), minced

Juice of half a lemon

1/4-1/2 teaspoon Dijon mustard

1/2 celery stalk, minced (optional)

1 teaspoon finely chopped fresh dill

Mayonnaise, preferably Hellmann's, to taste (I like it creamy)

Mix all ingredients together in a medium bowl. Serve as is, but this tuna is also great for open-face tuna melts.

For tuna melts for two:

Cut a brioche or challah roll in half. Toast until lightly golden. Pile on the tuna fish salad, then top with any grated cheese you like, such as gouda, fontina, Monterey Jack etc. Broil until cheese is bubbly and serve with good-quality potato chips and sliced dill pickles.

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■ KIM'S KITCHEN

BY KIM M. SIMONS

Make this chocolate sombrero piece

My friends Joyce Salimeno-Gitlin and her late husband Mel were buzzing down Lake Louise Marie Road in Rock Hill, NY one day in 2018 when they noticed activity at the site of the old Dodge Inn restaurant. Mel—who had owned and operated restaurants and bars himself for years—was intrigued.

“What do you think is going on over there?” he asked.

Always adventurous, Joyce and Mel decided to stop in and find out. And that’s when they met Luis Cerna.

As it turned out, Luis, his wife Annie Perez and son Brandon had been in the Rock Hill area for more than 20 years. As such, they’d driven past the boarded-up restaurant hundreds of times. And then Luis—who also owns Cerna’s Meat at the Hunt’s Point Meat Market in the Bronx—had a brainwave. Why not open a Tex-Mex restaurant in Rock Hill?

“I wanted to do Tex-Mex,” Luis explains, “because you can have delicious steaks on the menu.”

Excited and enthusiastic, the family purchased the building. Of course, having fallen into disuse for the better part of a decade, the structure needed work—a lot of work.

Rolling up their sleeves, they installed a kitchen made from stainless steel. They overhauled the dining rooms, adding a service bar and covering the walls in bright, beautiful murals. And they added some new stone and a waterfall to go along with the huge, iconic fireplace that remains from the Dodge Inn days.

They redid the main bar area as well. Adding stone to that back wall led to an important discovery.

“This new wall might be too heavy for the floor,” the mason told Luis one day. “You might want to go downstairs and check it out.”

Concerned, Luis went into the basement. While clearing debris, it became obvious to him that there had once been a fire down there. He’d have to add braces for sure, and might also have to redo much of the flooring.

And then—while digging more deeply into the rubble—he unearthed a tiny, doll-sized, straw sombrero, decorated with what looked like dried beans.

“How did this ever get down here?” Luis remembers thinking.

Later, he showed the artifact to Annie and Brandon. Everybody had a good laugh. They brought it home, Brandon tossed it into a drawer, and they all forgot about it.

Meanwhile, time marched on and work on the restaurant progressed. They began to start thinking about names.

“We got on the computer,” Luis explains, “and we compiled a list of 250 names. We narrowed that down to 200. Then, to 150. We did like that all the way to 25.”

And that’s when Brandon came into the room carrying the tiny sombrero.

“Dad, do you want this for anything?”

Right then and there, Luis knew that they had their name: El Sombrero.



RR photo by Kim M. Simons

The chocolate sombrero, an homage to El Sombrero Restaurant in Rock Hill, NY.

“It was just meant to be,” he says with a laugh.

It was shortly after that when Joyce and Mel made their surprise visit. While Luis picked Mel’s brain, they learned that Luis and Annie were close to opening up.

“You might like to go see what they’re doing there,” Joyce and Mel told my husband Fleck and me. “It looks beautiful, and it sounds like their food is going to be excellent.”

Of course, as it turns out, they were right.

The menu is based on recipes developed by Luis. They’re steeped in the Tex-Mex tradition. So, you’ll find unique tacos, enchiladas, fajitas, tostadas, guacamole and the like. You’ll also find New York strip steaks, grilled chicken, shrimp dishes, salmon, beef short ribs and the Sombrero Burger. There are a variety of salads, and the appetizers include calamari and chicken tenders. There are daily specials as well, which generally include an osso bucco that Fleck raves about. And, of course, there are the famous, best-selling Sombrero Samplers—for one, two or four—that feature spare ribs, short ribs, skirt steak, chicken, shrimp and spicy sausage—along with rice and beans, guacamole and pico de gallo.

And the drinks are excellent, too. You have a variety of wine and beer, plus there are daily drink specials. There is homemade sangria, margaritas, mojitos and my signature drink, the moquila—a mojito made with tequila.

The people are great. Luis, Annie and Brandon are usually on site, and guests are greeted at the door by Annie like they’re family. The décor is bright and tasteful—including a plastic cactus that sports the doll-sized sombrero—and the kitchen, bar, dining rooms and bathrooms are immaculate.

“The night doesn’t end until the kitchen is clean,” Luis explains. “I’m the inspector!”

Unlike some other places, El Sombrero came through the pandemic and managed to prosper. In addition to doing a brisk take-out business—which continues to this day—Annie and Luis made hundreds of “grab-and-go” meals for folks involved in health care.

And the pandemic, as bad as it was, showed Annie and Luis just how loyal their clientele is. Fleck and I remember picking up an order at the end of April 2020, and Luis marveling that he’d made his monthly expenses. Since reopening in June of that year, El Sombrero has prospered. Luis, Annie, and Brandon are certainly grateful for that.

“The best part of this business is the customers,” Luis says today. “We welcome everyone like it’s their first time. We pay attention to service, atmosphere, food and price. We cook like it’s for our own family.”

That’s why the project this month is the Chocolate Sombrero Piece. We’ve been more-than-regular customers since El Sombrero opened, and I’ve seen how far Luis, Annie and Brandon are willing to go to

Check it out

El Sombrero
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845/513-4219

make sure that the El Sombrero experience is always a quality one. With my food allergies—remember, I’m the cake artist who can’t eat cake—I’m always appreciative when dining establishments let me work the menu a little bit to ensure that I don’t get sick.

As always, have fun with your project. Experiment with different colors and different shapes. Make what you do your own. That’s the meaning of art.

And with Cinco de Mayo coming up soon, maybe take some time to journey out to El Sombrero. And ask for a moquila while you’re there!

For a step-by-step tutorial and a video, visit riverreporter.com/kims-kitchen.

Kim M. Simons is an artist, food artist and cake artist. A two-time Food Network champion, Kim also has 11.5 doves on the Sullivan Catskills Dove Trail, with two more in progress. Kim is available to teach classes, both individually and in groups. Visit Kim at www.cakesbykimsimons.com.

THE FOOD OUT HERE
BY HUNTER HILL

Maple lemonade

Spring has felt like a strange indecision between warm and cold weather this year. It started with an early maple-production window and quickly followed up with a bitter season after the abnormal warm temperatures failed to accommodate sweet snaps as the sap ran.

But those paying attention to the weather were able to make the best of the short and early year before the sap ran out. We get what we're given sometimes, be it a long growing season or a rainy year, or sometimes just a bag of extra lemons.

That's right. As the saying goes, when life gives you lemons, make lemonade. For my wife, this came as the result of having a few extra lemons for her tea. By a few, I of course mean she accidentally bought a bag when she already had one.

So what do you do with extra lemons? We really do make lemonade. Not only that, but she zests the lemons before juicing them and freezes the zest in small ice cubes for her tea and other recipes. The juice typically would be mixed with sugar and water for your run-of-the-mill lemonade recipe. Fortunately I have one of those wives who knows how to play with her food and comes up with great ideas for us to try.

Ultimately she wanted us to eat less sugar than we would have if

she made it according to societal norms. The alternative was a sugar direct from nature. We could use apple juice, but that would sort of change the juice. Honey is a great natural source of sugar as are berries, but neither caught her attention quite so much as the maple syrup we have burning a hole in the pantry shelf.

This is syrup from two seasons ago that we're still working our way through. If you didn't know, four gallons of syrup for a single family is plenty. Now we know. But it affords us the option to play with it a little bit and see what sort of new things we can make with it. Lemonade just so happened to be the star this week.

After she mixed it up in a large pitcher, we tried it and agreed it was a little heavy on the maple syrup and not quite sour enough to capture the lemon flavor. However, after letting it sit in the fridge overnight, it turned out it was a fantastic treat after all, and we only adjusted the portions on the ingredients slightly.

If you happen to try it yourself, feel free to add or subtract lemon juice and syrup according to what you prefer in sweetness and sourness. This just happens to be what we like and our kids like as well.

The way out here when life gives you maple trees, you use that stuff for all kinds of sugary concoctions and the lemons are just a bonus.

Maple lemonade

Recipe courtesy of
Chelsea Hill

- 1 1/2 cup lemon juice
- 1/4 cup maple syrup
- 8 cups water

Mix together all ingredients in a large pitcher.

Allow lemonade to set overnight in the refrigerator for best flavor.

Enjoy the sweet nectar of your labor.



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Currents

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ARTS,
LEISURE AND OUTDOORS



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A wild paw paw patch.

Paw paws, beer and butterflies

By IRENE SOLOWAY

When I look out my window in early fall, in the few feet between our house and a major traffic thoroughfare, I see a scrim of tropical forest. Foot-long bright-green leaves flop like basset hound ears from gently arching branches. If I look carefully I can find hanging clusters of fist-sized green fruits that bring to mind mangos or papayas. What is this exotic grove doing in Northeast Pennsylvania?

You might be as surprised as I was to learn that the quintessentially American fruit is one most people have never heard of. Not the apple, which came over from Kazakhstan in the 1600s; or the pear, which was brought from China in the 1700s. The paw paw tree, botanical name *Asimina triloba*, is the only large pre-colonial fruit native to North America.

It naturally resists insect pests and disease, is spurned by deer, is fire resistant, tolerant of heat and cold, and can grow in both sun and shade. It produces the largest native edible fruit on the continent.

This fruit, the size and shape of a good-sized potato, has the consistency of custard and tastes like a blend of mango, banana and pineapple with hints of vanilla. Some people love it, others find it disgusting.

For many reasons, including its short season, tricky fruiting and harvesting, brief shelf life and unusual taste, the paw paw will never replace the European and tropical fruits we love.

However paw paws, coined “America’s forgotten fruit,” are having their day, and boy do they deserve it!

The prehistoric paw paw

The story of the paw paw goes back 56 million years: in the Eocene period, after the massive asteroid that killed the dinosaurs

and when the earth was hot everywhere, the paw paw emerged. It survived the cooling during the Pleistocene, when the most recent ice ages began, when sabertooth tigers, mastodons and giant sloths roamed. Some of these giant mammals ate paw paw fruit and distributed the seed across North America in their wake.

Native Americans planted, cultivated and ate paw paw (called *ha’simikisifina*, or *nasitush*) up and down the riparian corridors of the East Coast for thousands of years.

European explorers and colonizers were fond of the fruit, which they confused with papaya and named “pawpaw” in the late 18th century.

Pawpaws kept Lewis and Clark from starving to death; George Washington ate it chilled for dessert and lauded its flavor; and it was cultivated by Thomas Jefferson at Monticello. Paw paws were grown by enslaved people outside their quarters for nourishment and medicine, and poor whites in rural areas foraged paw paws. The fruit was celebrated in the folk tune “Way down yonder in the paw paw patch, pickin’ up paw paws, put-’em in your pocket...”

Hillbilly mango

Over time paw paw, aka “poor man’s banana” or “hillbilly mango,” became a low-status fruit associated with race and poverty. Paw paws disappeared from the diets of Americans with the advent of industrialization and the global transport of produce. But these resilient natives have never left us, and continue to grow wild along riverbanks and hillsides over 26 states in the eastern and midwestern United States.

There has been a groundswell of enthusiasm for the paw paw in the past 20 years from farmers, ecologists, researchers and botanists. University breeding programs are developing new varieties that are more consistently tasty, less perishable and hold promise for commercial farming. Insecticidal and anticancer properties are

being explored.

The locavore, foraging, slow food and food sovereignty movements are touting the paw paw’s culinary merits and honoring its cultural significance. Paw paw festivals, which started in the late 1990s in Ohio with a few hundred people, are now drawing large international crowds in many states. Frozen paw paw pulp is sold by specialty mail-order houses for high prices. Paw paw panna cotta, anyone?

Apparently paw paw beer is a thing now. Hoosier Banana has turned into Hipster Banana. You could spend days on the internet reading about its many attributes and products (guilty!).

Paw paws and butterflies

Going down the internet rabbit hole, I learned that paw paws have a very special ecological attribute. The paw paw tree is the only host plant for the zebra swallowtail (*Protographium marcellus*). This beautiful butterfly with dramatic black-and-white stripes lays its eggs on the paw paw, and the caterpillar that emerges feeds on its leaves. The leaves contain compounds (acetogenins) which make the plant repellent to birds and insects and thus eating them confers protection to the butterfly from most predators.

When the stands of paw paws that lined the riverbanks in the 19th century were destroyed by the steel and coal industry, the butterflies disappeared from Pittsburgh. Gabrielle Marsden, a field archeologist and amateur naturalist, is fervently working to restore paw paws along Pittsburgh’s waterways to help create a more diverse ecosystem and bring about the return of the zebra swallowtail. She has searched miles of waterways in her canoe, building a database and mapping the surviving paw paw stands. She collects and plants seeds in nurseries and in the wild; grafts more productive scions onto wild plants to enhance

Paw paw cultivation

Paw paws are easy to grow in temperate climates.

They are deciduous understory trees that grow in shade but do need some sun for optimal fruiting. They thrive in moist fertile soil and can grow high as 30 feet or more.

Two or more plants within 15 feet of each other are needed for cross-pollination. The flowers emerge before the tree leafs out, and this occurs later in spring than most northern fruit trees. Flowers are small, maroon and inconspicuous. They look and smell like meat, and attract flies, which are their main pollinators.

The tree spreads from the roots to form colonies, and can spread quite far from a single root system. Suckers should be cut (the lawnmower will do fine for this) if you don’t want an expanding patch.

Grown from seed, paw paws can take 10 years to bear fruit. Seedlings can be purchased from some nurseries (see below) and grafted trees produce fruit in a few years.

Transplanting is tricky, as they have long fragile taproots, so care must be used in digging a hospitable hole.

Once planted, very little care is needed. The fruit needs to ripen on the branch, and when it is turning yellowish and is soft enough that you can press down and leave an impression with your finger, it’s time to pick—because the fruit will soon drop on the ground. The leaves will turn a bright gold in the fall and hang on for a while before carpeting the ground.

Paw paws should be enjoyed soon after picking, either by halving them, eating them right out of their skins and spitting out the seeds; or by processing the pulp for traditional puddin’ or the latest recipe in your inbox.

fruiting; and hosts paw-paw tasting parties to increase local knowledge and interest in the paw paw.

She firmly believes that creating corridors of restored paw paws can bring back the butterfly to Pittsburgh, and hopes it will be in her lifetime.

Paw paws deserve our nurturing and attention. If all we do is watch the news, we would believe that the world is going to hell, yet there is a lot that we can still do to beautify and restore the habitats in which we live. I think that one reason the paw paw is so captivating is that it has lived through tens of millions of years of extreme changes and is still around. If we pay attention and are patient, it can still provide nourishment, pleasure, protection—and help us imagine a future.

What makes a business the Best?

Four local owners explain

By JAMIE FALGIE

REGION — According to the Cambridge Dictionary, success is defined as “the achieving of the results wanted or hoped for.” I had the opportunity to speak with four local business owners and interview them regarding their business’ success.

Each one—Gravity Ice Cream Shop, Three Hammers Winery, Soon’s Orchard and Art’s for Him and Her Too—won in Best of 2023 for 2024, our readers’-choice competition.

Gravity Ice Cream Shop

Nestled in the heart of downtown Honesdale, PA is the readers’ choice best ice cream at Gravity Ice Cream Shop. Jenny Young, the owner of this shop, bought the building back in 2000 when it was merely an abandoned grocery store with a small ice cream store attached.

After lots of hard work and perseverance, Young launched Gravity in 2001, and it has been open for business ever since.

It is no secret that there are many ice cream places in the area, especially during the summer when tourism is at a peak, so I wanted to know what made Gravity stand out.

When I asked Young what made her shop different, she said, “I’ve been here a long time, so there’s a lot of tradition that goes on, you know? Like, ‘Hey, let’s go down to Gravity to get an ice cream after a National Honor Society meeting,’ or ‘Let’s go down for somebody’s birthday.’ I think the location is really good too.”

Young also credited the quality product and friendly service. “I’ve got a real good group of kids here,” she said. “Some of them have worked here since day one.”

Young gave tips on how to become a successful business as well, which included working hard, troubleshooting quickly, being timely, communicating efficiently—and most importantly, making sure you get feedback from every single customer.

Soons Orchard

Located in New Hampton, NY, this fourth-generation family farm was voted Best Farm (Pick Your Own). At Soons Orchard, customers can pick apples, pumpkins and peaches at various times throughout the growing season. The farm also includes a farmers’ market packed with fresh produce and homemade goodies, and a tap room located at the Orchard Hill Cider Mill.

There is no shortage of orchards in the



Harvesting peaches at Soons Orchard, which won Best Farm (Pick Your Own) in the **River Reporter’s** readers’-choice competition. Contributed photo

Northeast, so I asked owner Sharon Soons what made Soons Orchard special. “Four generations of family and tradition, and all of our fantastic customers who are super loyal,” she said.

Asked about the most enjoyable part of running a business, Soons cited the customers. “We have a small enough place where we start to learn people’s names, and we know a little about their lives... And we love meeting new customers.”

However, running a business also comes with its fair share of challenges. “The hardest part is trying to do everything. It’s usually like one person has to do the work of three or four, so you’re always on, you’re always working... At least I am,” she laughed.

Three Hammers Winery

Voted Best Winery/Vineyard, this gorgeous winery can be found just off Welcome Lake Road in Hawley, PA. Husband-and-wife proprietors Rob Kobrzynski and Christine Pucciarello own Three Hammers, which is named after the three brothers in the Hammer family who originally built the farmhouse in 1820.

When asked which factors led to the business’ success, Kobrzynski said, “Firstly, our focus on crafting bold, expressive wines using Rhone, Burgundy and Bordeaux-style grapes... we prioritize a welcoming and educational experience for our guests. Our knowledgeable staff, beau-

tiful grounds, comfortable seating areas and welcoming tasting room create a memorable atmosphere.”

He emphasized how the winery’s success is because of his dedicated team, which includes both skillful winemakers and passionate, friendly staff. “Everyone at Three Hammers plays a vital role,” he said.

Another crucial aspect of running a successful business is planning for its future. Having a clear vision is key. “Our main focus areas include expanding our production capacity to meet growing demand for our wines,” he said. “We’re also exploring new markets through partnerships with regional restaurants, breweries and participation in national wine competitions.”

He also pointed out the rise in e-commerce. “We understand the dynamic nature of the industry and are constantly evaluating new techniques and market opportunities.”

Art’s for Him and Her Too

Also located in downtown Honesdale, just a few blocks down from Gravity Ice Cream Shop, you will find the Best Local Dry Cleaner. In addition to dry cleaning, the store also provides a variety of other services, including tuxedo rentals and alterations.

Tom Fasshauer entered the business in 1980 and became the store’s full-time manager.

When I asked him what made Art’s so successful, his answer was simple. “Obviously, it is our customers,” he said. “And we are totally focused on making our customers happy. Whatever it takes.”

What did he think made his business stand out? “Well, I hope it’s our service!” he exclaimed. “When a person comes in, we kind of spring into action to satisfy their needs and take care of what they need as far as cleaning goes. We have a good company that we are working with that does the cleaning, and they are also very customer-oriented.”

Want to start a local business?

Finally, I asked each of the four what advice they would give to new business owners. Each owner had their own take, but the bottom line was simple. Be passionate, work hard, and surround yourself with good people.



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Community plant swap

DAMASCUS, PA — Maybe you're hoping for plants of your own. Maybe you have other seeds to share. On May 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Damascus Township Pavilion, you can join a seed swap.

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Penn State Extension and experienced gardeners are ready to lend an ear. All gardeners are welcome.

The pavilion is located at 60 Conklin Hill Rd.

For more information, contact the Penn State Extension at 570/253-5970 ext. 4110.

'Hollywood Euphoria' at Forest Hall

MILFORD, PA — Three artists—film set photographer Phillip Caruso, painter Jaime Palacios and sculptor Jonathan Shapiro—will exhibit at Forest Hall. An opening reception will take place from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 27 at the gallery.

The exhibition's main feature will be a collection of Caruso's most iconic and intimate works, a gallery spokesperson said. It provides a rare glimpse behind the scenes of some of the 20th century's most legendary films.

Caruso has photographed actors such as Robert De Niro and Al Pacino, on the sets of classics such as "Forrest Gump," "Casino" and "Megalopolis."

The second floor (Calvert Vaux Studio) is a survey of paintings titled "Origins" from Jaime Palacios. He was born in Chile and during the 1970s was raised partly in China; he is currently based in upstate New York.

His recurring figurative imagery reveals a baroque-meets-folk narrative and a magical interpretation of the human condition.

The third floor (Richard Morris Studio) of Forest Hall will feature "In My Tree" by sculptor Jonathan Shapiro. The artist works in wood and since childhood has been drawn to the process of taking things apart and putting them back together in ways that felt more useful, more meaningful or just more interesting.

Forest Hall is located at 214 Broad St.

For more information, visit foresthallmilford.com.



Photo contributed by the Delaware Company

Sullivan County Historian John Conway (foreground) leads a Highland History Hike at the Minisink Battleground in April of 2022.

Celebrate trails at the Minisink Battleground

BARRYVILLE, NY — The Delaware Company will mark Celebrate Trails Day a day late when it hosts another Highland History Hike at the Minisink Battleground Park on Sunday, April 28 at 2 p.m.

The hike will be led by Sullivan County Historian John Conway, who is also a founder and the president of The Delaware Company. Participants should meet at the Tusten Pavilion at the park at 2 p.m.

"If you have experienced one of our history hikes at the battleground before, you know there is a lot more discussed than the Revolutionary War battle, and it is different every time," said Debra Conway, executive director of The Delaware Company. "And if you haven't experienced one of our his-

tory hikes, you have no idea what you're missing."

In addition to a discussion of the Battle of Minisink, topics include the legacy of the Lenape tribe that inhabited the area prior to the arrival of the Europeans, the Cushetunk settlement and the bloody divisions among the settlers caused by the Revolutionary War, the timber rafting industry and its impact on the area, and stories of people like Joseph and Daniel Skinner, Robert and Phoebe Land, Joseph Brant and Benjamin Tusten.

The Minisink Battleground is located 58 County Road 168. For more information, email John Conway at jconway52@hotmail.com.



Contributed photo

Performances of "Fuenteovejuna/The Sheep Well" will take place at SUNY Sullivan from Friday, April 26 to Saturday, May 4.

'Fairview' and 'Fuenteovejuna/The Sheep Well' at SUNY Sullivan

LOCH SHELDRAKE, NY — Performances of "Fairview" and "Fuenteovejuna/The Sheep Well" will take place at SUNY Sullivan from Friday, April 26 to Saturday, May 4.

"Fairview" is a 2019 Pulitzer Prize-winning piece written by Jackie Sibblies Drury and directed by Nick López.

"Fuenteovejuna/The Sheep Well," by Lope de Vega, is a revolutionary classical Spanish play adapted and directed by Jessica López-Barkl.

The 2023-2024 theater season explores the theme of identity, with each play delving deep into the difficult choices characters make as they begin to determine who they truly are, a SUNY Sullivan spokesperson said. "Fairview" examines families, drama, family dramas and the insidiousness of white supremacy.

It will be performed in the Seelig Theater, on Friday, April 26 at 8 p.m.; Sunday, April 28 at 2 p.m.; and on Thursday, May 2 and

Saturday, May 4 at 8 p.m.

The Spanish author Lope de Vega (1562–1635) wrote "Fuenteovejuna/The Sheep Well" in 1612 after he was inspired by a historical incident: how farmers and peasants of the village of Fuente Ovejuna rose up against a military commander and his soldiers who routinely brutalized and oppressed them.

The play will be performed outdoors at the SUNY Sullivan Labyrinth on three days at 6 p.m.: Saturday, April 27; Wednesday, May 1; and Friday, May 3. On Sunday, May 5, the play will be performed at 2 p.m.

All performances will take place at the college, 112 College Rd. Tickets cost a suggested donation of \$10 to the SUNY Sullivan Theater Program/Performing Arts Club.

For more information, email Jessica López-Barkl at jbarkl@sunsullivan.edu.

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Proceeds Benefit Hawley Fire Department

Birding breakfast at Browning Beaver

EQUINUNK, PA — Bird lovers are invited to celebrate National Birding Day on Saturday, April 27 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at Browning Beaver Meadow Sanctuary. Registration ends Friday, April 26 at 6 a.m.

Join educators for a scenic hike around the sanctuary. Participants can look for bird species in the birds' natural habitat. Cap off the experience with a breakfast, along with a selection of tea and coffee.

The event starts promptly at 8 a.m.

The cost is \$5 per person. Registration is required.

The sanctuary is located on Hawley Road.

For more information and to register, visit www.lacawac.org/programs.html.

Earth Day symposia at Catskill Art Space

LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — The Catskill Art Space (CAS) will hold Earth Day Symposia with artists Hovey Brock, Daniella Dooling and Valerie Hegarty on Saturday, April 27 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. on the second floor of the River Gallery.

It's an Earth Day-inspired discussion of the artists' practices and how those relate to the climate crisis.

Each artist will make a presentation followed by a Q&A session with the audience. After the session, the audience is invited to join the artists in their respective galleries to answer questions about their practice and techniques.

CAS is located at 48 Main St.

For more information, visit catskillartspace.org.

Liberty students take home 11 awards at county art show

BETHEL, NY — Liberty Central School District students won several awards at the Sullivan County PK-12 Art Show, held at Bethel Woods.

Liberty students took four of the five possible Artist Choice awards in Photography. Leonel Malaga Ventura earned an award for black-and-white photography; and Jill Baumander, Kaitlyn Bodolosky and Maria Quintanilla Bonilla each won for color photography.

In Sculpture, studio art student Roz Schauerhamer took an Artist Choice award.

In Ceramics, Brittany Cardenas won two Artist Choice awards and Brook Bull received a Student Choice award.

In Painting, studio art student Madelynn

Stewart received an Artist Choice award.

In Mixed Media, Aulanie Garcia Velez won a Student Choice award.

In Drawing, Giovanni Flores Leon earned an Artist Choice award.

Student artwork from media categories of ceramics and Glass, Digital Art Design, Black and White Drawing, Color Drawing, Mixed Media, Painting, Black and White Photography, Color Photography, Film and Animation, and Sculpture were on display, with about 125 total pieces from Liberty students across the district.

For the full list of awards for kids around the county, visit riverreporter.com/stories/sullivan-county-kids-have-the-right-stuff,144354.



Photo by Cynthia Nash

The Damascus Citizens for Sustainability will hold Songs to Celebrate the Earth at its storefront at 25 Main St. in Narrowsburg, NY at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 27. The sing-along will be led by guitarist, songwriter and educator Lucas Maehara Rotman. He is pictured here at the Tiny Porch Concert.

Sustainable sing-along

NARROWSBURG, NY — The Damascus Citizens for Sustainability (DCS) will present Songs to Celebrate the Earth at the DCS storefront at 25 Main St. It takes place at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 27.

The sing-along will be led by guitarist, songwriter and educator Lucas Maehara Rotman.

There's no charge to join, but contributions are welcome. Children of all ages can attend with their parents or grandparents.

Rotman has had a home in the Upper Delaware River Valley for over 15 years. "Children have an innate sense of curiosity, empathy and connection to the world around them," Rotman said. "It is no wonder that many of our fiercest earth/climate activists are young people who are passionately

leading the way toward a more just and sustainable future. Songs and music that inspire a love and respect for the natural world resonate deeply with children and audiences of all ages by empowering us all to become more connected and rooted in the natural world and hopefully, more passionate stewards and earth warriors as well."

Register to attend by emailing jane_skates@yahoo.com.

The storefront always welcomes children and their families to participate in sustainable crafts and other projects dedicated to preserving an awareness of protecting planet Earth, a DCS spokesperson said.

To learn more, visit www.damascuscitizensforsustainability.org.

Celebrating creativity and artistry on International Sculpture Day

NARROWSBURG, NY — The Art Garden will recognize International Sculpture Day on Saturday, April 27 from 12 noon to 6 p.m. with the installation of Inez Andrucyk's work "Positivity Tower."

The mixed-media sculpture is made from furniture parts, wood, steel and acrylic paint.

Andrucyk will be present that day at the Art Garden to discuss her inspiration, creative process and the meaning behind the work.

Admission is free. Refreshments will be served.

For more information about the Art Garden and the International Sculpture Day celebration, visit sculpture.org/isday or [artgarden52](https://www.instagram.com/artgarden52) on Instagram.

Fix your stuff

NARROWSBURG, NY — The next Repair Café Tusten will be held on Saturday, April 27 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Tusten Town Hall, 210 Bridge St.

There's no charge, but donations are welcome. Only two items per person.

Should you need a particular part, bring it with the item.

Microwaves, gas-powered items and anything labeled "smart" cannot be repaired.

Bring a canned or boxed good as a donation for the Narrowsburg Food Pantry.

For more information, visit Repair Café Tusten on Facebook or email repaircafetusten@gmail.com.

'Turning Pages' at WCAA

HONESDALE, PA — The Wayne County Arts Alliance (WCAA) will present "Turning Pages," an exhibition of 2D and 3D work by John Kascht. It launches with an opening reception at 5 p.m. on Friday, April 26 at the WCAA gallery.

The works will be on display until June 15.

"Turning Pages" draws from four decades of illustration for The New York Times, The New Yorker, The Wall Street Journal, Time, Rolling Stone, GQ and many other publications.

Also featured is the first-ever showing of models created for "The Mysteries," the bestselling book written by Bill Watterson (of comic strip "Calvin and Hobbes" fame)

and illustrated by Kascht and Watterson.

Text panels throughout the gallery will offer a peek at the process behind the art.

The Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery owns two dozen of John's iconic caricatures and calls him "a keen and insightful observer of human nature who forces us to see our public figures with new eyes."

The gallery's hours are Thursdays through Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Wayne County Arts Alliance gallery is located at 959 Main St.

Learn more at waynecountyartsalliance.org.

'Outrage' at NACL

HIGHLAND LAKE, NY — At 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 26, the North Atlantic Cultural Laboratory (NACL) will debut "The Outrage: A Queer Writers' Residency," created by playwright and performer C. Julian Jiménez. He will be joined by eight other writers working on plays/prose centered around Queer narratives: Dave Ansuelo, Mashuq Mushtaq Deen, Darrel Alejandro Holnes, C.A. Johnson, Mona Mansour, Flower Estefana Rios, Phillip Christian Smith and Laura Thoma.

The writers will share their work, reading excerpts from pages crafted during their week-long residency at NACL.

Queer writers are often faced with the challenge of explaining Queerness before receiving tangible notes, an NACL spokes-


person said. They added that the residency and "The Outrage" are an environment for craft exploration, providing a safe space for risk-taking and imagination.

On Saturday, April 27 at 7:30 p.m. at NACL, all are invited to "Outrageous," an '80s-'90s performance and dance party to cap off the residency and welcome spring.

Aerialists Hilary Melcher Chapman and Corinna Grunn will perform dance interludes, and DJ Catsilk and a special guest will play music of the era.

Advance tickets cost \$20; the cost at the door is \$25. Admission includes one free drink.


For more information and tickets, visit nacl.org.



Surprise your Mother with a special greeting

featured in the River Reporter on May 9th

Each note is
2.375" w x 2.5" h
(150 characters of copy)
for \$25
It's a great way to say
Happy Mothers Day!
Deadline is May 2



Hey Mom,
Thanks for always being
there for me! You're
amazing! I love you!

Billy

Visit bit.ly/TRRmomday
and place yours today!



■ IN MY HUMBLE OPINION

BY JONATHAN CHARLES FOX

Running with scissors

“You don’t have to be a brill-yant,” as my mother would say, to figure out the meaning of “No running with scissors.” It’s right there in the expression itself. “Is it an expression or an idiom?” I wondered aloud, “and what’s the difference?” Uh oh.

A quick Google search on the ole computer had this to say: “‘Running with Scissors’ is a 2006 American comedy-drama film written and directed by Ryan Murphy, based on Augusten Burroughs’ 2002 memoir of the same name.”

“Oy,” I muttered to the dog, “I didn’t know that, but it’s not what I was looking for at all!”

My next tip-tap-click revealed this: “The exact origin of the idiom (OK, then) ‘Don’t run with scissors’ is unclear, but it likely stems from a time when children were frequently given sharp objects like scissors without proper supervision.” Well, duh.

These days it feels like a miracle if I can haul myself out of bed, much less run—but that is precisely what I did repeatedly over the last week. And as I slowly made my way from one stop to another, there were scissors being wielded all around the county. Giant scissors, to be precise, and you know what that means: Ribbon-cutting.

“Nobody is running,” Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce president/CEO Jaime Schmeiser assured me, “but we’re all thrilled to be here with the giant scissors for the official ribbon-cutting.” The “here” Schmeiser was referring to is the Bold Gold Media Group’s (BGMG) brand new studio, housed on the second floor of Main Street’s Liberty Theater.

Throng of well-wishers showed up to see the scissors in action and tour the state-of-the-art recording facility. Liberty residents in attendance included Sheriff Mike Schiff, county clerk Russell Reeves and District 6 legislator Luis Alvarez. Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association (SCVA) president/CEO Roberta Byron-Lockwood, county treasurer Nancy Buck and county manager Josh Potosek were also spotted congratulating Bold Gold guru Vince Benedetto and theater owner Bruce Davidson.

“It was Bruce who brought the idea of creating a studio upstairs to us” Bold Gold New York’s general manager Dawn Ciorciari told me before picking up the you-know-what. “Are we ready?” she asked the crowd. “Three, two... one!”

The place is cool, and now Davidson is readying the refurbished theater space on the lower level for a ribbon-cutting ceremony of its very own. I should probably take a nap before speaking with him about that.

As I steered toward Rock Hill and another celebration, I recalled last week’s front-page story about Platinum Leaf, the county’s first recreational-use cannabis dispensary (riverreporter.com/stories/sullivans-first-recreational-marijuana-store-opens,143808).

“I’m just here for the photo-op,” I assured Schmeiser, who had once again magically appeared in front of the place, with the giant scissors and ribbon in hand. “Uh huh,” she murmured, with a wink and a nod. I shrugged



RR photos by Jonathan Charles Fox

Platinum Leaf’s “bud-tenders” were friendly, knowledgeable and informative, so I learned a few things and may or may not have purchased something to “ease my ailments.”



Last Saturday marked the 30th anniversary of host Jesse Ballew’s wildly popular radio program “Jambalaya,” and he was surprised while on the air with a giant cake presented by WJFF general manager Tim Bruno.



Contributed photo

“It was Liberty Theater owner Bruce Davidson who brought the idea of creating a studio upstairs to us,” Bold Gold New York’s general manager Dawn Ciorciari told me before picking up the you-know-what. “Are we ready?” she asked the crowd. “Three, two... one!”

and turned to the SCVA’s Lourdesa Hunt for help. “Sorry,” Hunt’s amused smirk seemed to say. “You’re on your own.”

Dispensary proprietors Bernie and Chyna were excited to see so many turn up for the official grand opening, and admired the scissors before cutting the ribbon and saying a few words. “Today Platinum Leaf joins a select few of other licensed dispensaries that have opened up across New York,” Chyna said. “As Sullivan County residents, we are happy to provide a clean, presentable and safe space. Whether it’s to ease your ailments, or simply recreational, we at Platinum Leaf are here to fulfill your needs.”

I didn’t see Jaime or Lourdesa, so I showed my ID at the door, stepped inside and took a look around while everyone admired the dog. The staff of “bud-tenders” was friendly, knowledgeable and informative, so I learned a few things and may or may not have purchased something to “ease my ailments.” You go, Sullivan County. ‘Bout time.

Although the date was 4-20, (if you know you know) there were neither bud-tenders nor scissors in sight when I pulled into the lot at WJFF Radio Catskill last Saturday, but there was a party goin’ on nonetheless. Having just surpassed their spring fundraising goal, the staff and army of volunteers were celebrating in style with a Tiny Porch Concert featuring a fantastic lineup of live music presented by the likes of Bob Tellefsen, Greg Castro, Little Sparrow and Paul Kogut, to name but a few.

Additionally, the date coincided with the 30th anniversary of host Jesse Ballew’s wildly popular radio program “Jambalaya,” and he was surprised with a giant cake presented by WJFF general manager Tim Bruno and pals. “That’s the last time I tell [Little Sparrow’s] Aldo Troiani anything,” Ballew told his listeners, while I asked Jesse and Tim to pose for a photo. “He’s on the air, Jonathan,” Bruno reminded me, so I snapped a quick one, grabbed a piece of cake and left the studio.

Gidget and I hung around outside for a while and enjoyed the food, entertainment, convivial atmosphere and of course the music—presented on the aforementioned “tiny porch.”

Before titian-haired musician Kathy Geary took the stage to perform a short set, I asked her if she had giant scissors in her guitar case. She looked at me quizzically and asked if I was high. “Everyone knows you shouldn’t run with scissors, Jonathan. It’s an idiom.”

For more on how to donate to your favorite public radio station, visit www.wjffradio.org.

Fun Fact: According to www.grammarly.com, an idiom is “a phrase that, when taken as a whole, has a meaning you wouldn’t be able to deduce from the meanings of the individual words. It’s essentially the verbal equivalent of using the wrong math formula but still getting the correct answer.” I was never very good at math, either.

Where & When

Thursday, April 25

Caring for Trees Class 3 @ CCE

MOUNTAINDALE, NY — Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan presents Caring for Trees & Orchards Class 3, 6-7:30pm at 64 Ferndale-Loomis Road. Register at [sullivanccce.org/events](https://www.sullivanccce.org/events).

Employment through SCCS @ EBCPL

MONTICELLO, NY — Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library presents Employment through Sullivan County Civil Service, 10am, 479 Broadway. Register at [ebcpl.libcal.com/](https://www.ebcpl.libcal.com/) calendar.

Family Support Group @ NAMI

HAWLEY, PA — The National Alliance on Mental Illness family support group, 6-7:30pm, Grandma's Bakery, 110 Hemlock Farms. Register at info@naminepa.org.

'Historic Borscht Belt Hotels' @ LMFL

LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — Livingston Manor Free Library presents Historic Borscht Belt Hotels with John Conway, 6:30pm at 92 Main St. \$35/person. Sign up at www.livingstonmanorlibrary.org.

Senior Luncheon @ Grace Episcopal Church

HONESDALE, PA — The Cooperage Senior Gathering and Luncheon, 11am-1pm at Grace Episcopal Church, 827 Church St. Ages 60+, reservation required, call 570/253-2020. [thecooperageproject.org](https://www.thecooperageproject.org).

Teen Taste Test @ EBCPL

MONTICELLO, NY — Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library Teen Taste Test: Funky Fruits, 4:30pm, 479 Broadway. For ages 12-18. Register by April 24, [ebcpl.libcal.com](https://www.ebcpl.libcal.com).

Write Now! @ LPL

LIBERTY, NY — Liberty Public Library hosts Write Now!, a workshop for creative writers, 5-6:15pm at 189 North Main St. [libertypubliclibrary.libcal.com](https://www.libertypubliclibrary.libcal.com).

Friday, April 26

Blood Drive @ Sullivan Gov't Center

MONTICELLO, NY — Red Cross blood drive, 9:30am-2:30pm at the Sullivan County Government Center, 100 North St. Schedule at www.redcrossblood.org or call 800/733-2767.

Blood Drive @ QWL

FALLSBURG, NY — Red Cross blood drive, 10am-3pm at the Quality Work Life Building, 186 Riverside Dr. Schedule at www.redcrossblood.org or call 800/733-2767.

'Fairview' @ SCCC

LOCH SHELDRAKE, NY — The SUNY Sullivan Theater Program presents 'Fairview,' 8pm at 112 College Rd. \$10/suggested donation, www.facebook.com/SullyPerformingArts.

Life Skills Group @ ATI

MONTICELLO, NY — Action Toward Independence Life Skills group, 5-6pm, 309 East Broadway. Recreation night is every 4th Friday for age 13-31. info@atitoday.org.

Making Sense of Cents @ PJFL

ONLINE — Port Jervis Free Library hosts Making Sense of Cents: Learning Wants vs Needs, 4pm for age 5+, 138 Pike St. www.portjervislibrary.org.

Nature Tots @ MEEC

WURTSBORO, NY — Mamakating Environmental Education Center Nature Tots, 10-11am, at 762 South Rd. Register at 845/644-5014.

Opening Reception @ WCAA

HONESDALE, PA — Wayne County Arts Alliance opening reception for "Turning Pages," an exhibit by John Kascht, 5-8pm, at 959 Main St. [waynecountyartsalliance.org](https://www.waynecountyartsalliance.org).

Opening Reception @ WCAA

SCRANTON, PA — Wayne County Arts Alliance & Rep. Cartwright host an opening reception for the 2024 Congressional Art Competition, 5-7pm at the Everhart Museum, 1901 Mulberry St. email Jonas.Crass@mail.house.gov.

'Romeo & Juliet' @ SCDW

SOUTH FALLSBURG, NY — Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop presents "Romeo & Juliet," Fri. & Sat. 7pm, Sun. 2pm at 5243 State Route 42. \$18/person. www.scdw.net.

'The Zephyr' @ SHFL

ELDRED, NY — Sunshine Hall Free Library presents an unveiling of "The Zephyr," a poem by Jessie May Davis, inscribed on a plaque, 5pm, 14 Proctor Rd. www.sunshinehallfreelibrary.org.

'The Outrage' @ NACL

HIGHLAND LAKE, NY — North American Cultural Laboratory presents "The Outrage: A Queer Writers' Residency," 7:30pm at 110 Highland Lake Rd. \$25, register at www.nacl.org/calendar.

Saturday, April 27

4-H Saturdays @ CCE

LIBERTY, NY — Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan 4-H Saturdays, 10am-12:30pm through May 11, 64 Ferndale-Loomis Rd. For ages 5-18. Register at bjm292@cornell.edu.

Arbor Day Celebration @ Port Jervis

PORT JERVIS, NY — Arbor Day Celebration, 10am at the Dog Yard. www.portjervisny.gov, info@portjervisny.gov.

Bingo Fundraiser @ TBL

MONTICELLO, NY — The Black Library Bingo Fundraiser, 6:30pm, 418 Broadway. theblacklibraryny.com.

Birding Day Breakfast @ Lacawac Sanctuary

LAKE ARIEL, PA — Lacawac Sanctuary Field Station & Environmental Education Center National Birding Day Breakfast, 8am at 192 Sanctuary Rd. \$5/person, register at www.lacawac.org/programs.html.

'Broadway Cabaret' @ Foundry 42

PORT JERVIS, NY — The Actors Community Theatre Group & Foundry 42 present "Broadway Cabaret," 7pm at 42 Front St. \$10/person. www.facebook.com/Foundry42Home.

Care Cabin Food Distribution @ Lackawaxen

LACKAWAXEN, PA — Growing Lackawaxen Care Cabin Food Distribution, 8-11am at Lackawaxen Township Building, 169 Urban Rd. Info: growinglackawaxen.com/events, 570/685-2550.

Contra Dance @ The Cooperage

HONESDALE, PA — The Cooperage Contra Dance, 7:30-10pm at 1030 Main St. \$10/person, \$0/kids under 15. info@thecooperageproject.org, 570/253-2020.

Earth Day Festival @ PEEC

DINGMANS FERRY, PA — Pocono Environmental Education Center Earth Day Festival, 11am-4pm at 538 Emery Ed. \$5/car. peec@peec.org, 570/828-2319.

Earth Day Symposia @ CAS

LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — Catskill Art Space hosts Earth Day Symposia, 4-5pm, 48 Main St. www.catskillartspace.org.

Edible & Medicinal Plant Walk @ PEEC

DINGMANS FERRY, PA — Pocono Environmental Education Center presents Bridge the Gap: Edible & Medicinal Plant Walk, 1am-noon at 538 Emery Rd. Register at 570/828-2319.

Electronic Recycling Event @ YMCA

HONESDALE, PA — Wayne County YMCA presents an electronic takeback/recycling event, 9am-2pm at the Wayne County Fairgrounds, 270 Miller Dr. \$25/household. Businesses register at 570/503-6388. www.wycmca.com.

Fiesta Gala @ DVO

LAKE HUNTINGTON, NY — Delaware Valley Opera Season Opener Fiesta Gala, 6-10pm at 6692 St. Rte. 52. DJ courtesy of Organic World US. Tickets at myrivertickets.com.

Flea Market @ HFD

HAWLEY, PA — Hawley Fire Department flea market & bake sale, 9am-2pm at 17 Columbus Ave. \$20/table. Reserve table at 570/290-1488, 570/226-9820.

'Fuentoevejuna' @ SCCC

LOCH SHELDRAKE, NY — The SUNY Sullivan Theater Program presents 'Fuentoevejuna/The Sheep Well,' April 27, May 1, and May 3 at 6pm, and May 5 at 2pm, 112 College Rd. www.facebook.com/SullyPerformingArts.

Internet Security @ LMFL

LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — Livingston Manor Free Library presents Internet Security 10:30am at 92 Main St. Sign up at www.livingstonmanorlibrary.org.

Microgreens @ The Cooperage

HONESDALE, PA — The Cooperage Project Microgreens: Let's Grow, 10-11am, 1030 Main St. www.thecooperageproject.org.

One Bug Banquet @ FUDR

HANCOCK, NY — Friends of the Upper Delaware River One Bug Banquet, 8pm at River Run Restaurant, 150 Faulkner Rd. \$125/ticket. Purchase tickets at www.fudr.org/upcomingevents.

Opening Reception @ Milford

MILFORD, PA — Forest Hall Studios opening reception featuring work by Phillip Caruso, Jaime Palacios, & Jonathan Shapiro, 5-8pm at 214 Broad St. [foresthallmilford.com](https://www.foresthallmilford.com).

Outrageous @ NACL

HIGHLAND LAKE, NY — North American Cultural Laboratory Outrageous Dance Party. 7:30-11:30pm at 110 Highland Lake Rd. Register at www.nad.org/calendar.

Penny Social @ L.H. Presbyterian

LAKE HUNTINGTON, NY — Lake Huntington Presbyterian Church Penny Social. \$1 donation. Doors open 11:30am, calling starts 12:30pm at County Rte 116.

Poetry Unveiling @ ML

WURTSBORO, NY — Mamakating Library Poetry reading & plaque unveiling, 11am at 3rd & Sullivan Sts. www.mamakatinglibrary.org.

Pollinator Project @ PCPL-D

MILFORD, PA — The Dingman Branch of the Pike County Public Library & Pike Co. Conservation Project Pollinator Project, 10:30am, at 100 Bond Court. pikecountypubliclibrary.com.

Repair Café @ Narrowsburg

NARROWSBURG, NY — The Repair Café, 11am-3pm at the Tusten Town Hall, 210 Bridge St. Free repair of items. repaircafetusten@gmail.com.

Scavenger Hunt @ DHC

BEACH LAKE, PA — The Delaware Highlands Conservancy Earth Month scavenger hunt, 1-4pm at 571 Perkins Pond Rd. Register at delawarehighlands.org.

Spring Clean-Up @ Lacawac Sanctuary

LAKE ARIEL, PA — Lacawac Sanctuary Field Station & Environmental Education Center spring clean-up, 9am-noon at 192 Sanctuary Rd. www.lacawac.org.

Spring Fling @ Wurtsboro

WURTSBORO, NY — Wurtsboro Spring Fling, noon-3pm at Sullivan & 3rd St. Treasure hunt, flower plant sale, cookie decorating, food & much more. www.wurtsboro.org.

Wild Edibles @ Lacawac Sanctuary

LAKE ARIEL, PA — Lacawac Sanctuary Field Station & Environmental Education Center hosts Spring Wild Edibles with Nathaniel Whitmore, 6pm at 192 Sanctuary Rd., \$7/person, www.lacawac.org.

Sunday, April 28

Artists Who Fished the Catskills @ Time & the Valleys

GRAHAMSVILLE, NY — Time & the Valleys Museum presents Artists Who Fished the Catskills, 2-3pm at 332 Main St. www.timeandthevalleysmuseum.org.

'Fairview' @ SCCC

LOCH SHELDRAKE, NY — The SUNY Sullivan Theater Program presents 'Fairview,' 2pm at 112 College Rd. \$10/suggested donation, www.facebook.com/SullyPerformingArts.

History Hike @ Minisink Battleground

BARRYVILLE, NY — The Delaware Company presents a Highland History Hike with historian John Conway, 2pm at 58 County Rd. 168. www.facebook.com/TheDelCo.

Model Train Show @ HFD

HAWLEY, PA — Hawley Fire Department model train show & sale, 9am-2pm at 17 Columbus Ave. \$3/admission, \$20/table, free/children. www.hawleyfiredept.org.

Murder Mystery Dinner @ Liberty

LIBERTY, NY — Greater Liberty Chamber of Commerce Murder Mystery Dinner, 4-8:30pm at the Liberty Diner, 30 Sullivan Avenue. \$65/person, www.facebook.com/LibertyNYChamber.

Spring Ephemerals Walk @ Outside Institute

ROSCOE, NY — Outside Institute presents Spring Ephemerals guided woodland walk, 10am-noon, Crystal Lake, Roscoe, NY. \$35. www.theoutsideinstitute.org.

Monday, April 29

Afterschool Creative Arts @ Narrowsburg

NARROWSBURG, NY — Tusten Social Afterschool Creative Arts Program, 4:30pm, Mondays at the library, 210 Bridge St. For grades 7-12. Free but register at info@tustenyouth.org.

Caregiver Cafe @ CCE

LIBERTY, NY — Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County Caregiver Cafe: Alzheimer's & Dementia support group, 10-11am at 64 Ferndale-Loomis Rd. Register at tinyurl.com/3s4uhzc9.

Creative Writing for Tweens @ EBCPL

ONLINE — Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library Creative Writing for Tweens, 5:30-7pm on Zoom. For ages 9-14. Register at [ebcpl.libcal.com/calendar](https://www.ebcpl.libcal.com/calendar).

Paint Night @ Hector's Inn

BETHEL, NY — Hector's Inn presents Paint Night with Kim Simons, 6:30-9pm at 14 Dr. Duggan Rd. \$40/person. Kame4@hotmail.com or text 201/655-1158.

Tuesday, April 30

Blood Drive @ Port Jervis Elks Lodge

PORT JERVIS, NY—Red Cross blood drive, 1-6pm at the Port Jervis Elks Lodge 645, 35 Rte. 6. Schedule online or call 800/733-2767.

DIY Solar Installation @ SEEDS

HONESDALE, PA — Sustainable Energy Education & Development Support presents a DIY Solar Installation Workshop, Tues. & Wed. 6:30pm at the 648 Park Street complex. kathy@seedsgroup.net.

Teen Escape Room @ LPL

LIBERTY, NY — Liberty Public Library Teen Escape Room, 3:15pm. Register at libertypubliclibrary.libcal.com.

Wednesday, May 1

Farmland Leasing @ CCE

LIBERTY, NY — Farm Leasing Legal Considerations presented by Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan, 6-7:30pm at 64 Ferndale-Loomis Road. Register at [sullivanccce.org/events](https://www.sullivanccce.org/events).

Grief Workshop @ WMH

HONESDALE, PA — Wayne Memorial Hospital 6-week Grief Workshop, Wednesdays, 4:30-6pm through May 8. www.wmh.org, 570/253-8383.

Mental Health Support Group @ NAMI

HONESDALE, PA — The National Alliance on Mental Illness support group, noon-1pm, 910 Church St. Register at info@naminepa.org.

Open Studio @ Fiber on Main

HURLEYVILLE, NY — Fiber on Main presents open studio, 4-7pm, 227 Main St. 845/707-8769, fiberstudioonmain@gmail.com.

Qi Gong @ Lulu's Social Club

JEFFERSONVILLE, NY — Lulu's Social Club presents Qi Gong, every Wednesday, noon-1pm at 4906 St. Rte. 52. \$10 drop-in. www.facebook.com/jvillebakeshop, 845/482-6020.

Tusten Youth Club @ Narrowsburg

NARROWSBURG, NY — Tusten Youth Club meets Wednesdays at 3-6pm for ages 11-16 & 4:30-6pm for ages 7-16, at 198 Bridge St. Register at info@tustenyouth.org.

Thursday, May 2

'Fairview' @ SCCC

LOCH SHELDRAKE, NY — The SUNY Sullivan Theater Program presents 'Fairview,' 8pm Thursday & Saturday, 112 College Rd. \$10/suggested donation, www.facebook.com/SullyPerformingArts.

Farm Insurance @ CCE

ZOOM — Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan presents Farm Insurance 101, 6-7pm on Zoom. Register at [sullivanccce.org/events](https://www.sullivanccce.org/events).

Landscape Design @ WELC

HAWLEY, PA — The Country Gardeners hosts Landscape Design with Greg Gretz, 1pm at the Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center, 126 Lambertson Ln. 917/647-5179.

Mental Health Support Group @ NAMI

LAKEVILLE, PA — The National Alliance on Mental Illness support group, 7-9pm, 10 Daniels Rd. Register at info@naminepa.org.

Poetry Open Mic @ LMFL

LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — Livingston Manor Free Library Poetry Open Mic, 6-7pm, 92 Main St. [livingstonmanorlibrary.org](https://www.livingstonmanorlibrary.org).

Friday, May 3

Blood Drive @ Mongaup Valley

MONGAUP VALLEY, NY — Red Cross blood drive, 1-6pm at the Smallwood-Mongaup Valley Fire Department, 181 Ballard Rd. Schedule at www.redcrossblood.org or call 800/733-2767.

First Friday Networking @ SCCoC

LAKE HUNTINGTON, NY — Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce First Friday Networking Breakfast, 7:30am, Delaware Valley Opera Center, 6692 State Rte. 52. \$25-35. business. [catskills.com/events](https://www.catskills.com/events).

Life Skills Group @ ATI

MONTICELLO, NY — Action Toward Independence Life Skills group, 5-6pm, every Friday at 309 East Broadway. Recreation night is every 4th Friday for age 13-31. info@atitoday.org.

Open Mic @ WSPL-C

CALLICOON, NY — The Callicoon branch of Western Sullivan Public Library Open Mic, 6:15-8:30pm at 45 Lower Main St. Register at wsplonline.libcal.com.

Resolving Generational Conflict @ WPWA

HONESDALE, PA — The Wayne Pike Workforce Alliance presents Generational Conflict Workshop, 9am-noon, at 646 Park St. scrantonoutreach@psu.edu.

Saturday, May 4

BBQ @ A.B.A.T.E.

LACKAWAXEN, PA — Alliance of Bikers Aimed Toward Education (ABATE) 29th annual BBQ, 1-7pm at the Lackawaxen Firehouse, 774 Rte. 590. www.pikecountyabate.org.

Kite Festival @ SUNY Sullivan

LOCH SHELDRAKE, NY — SUNY Sullivan 31st annual Sullivan Kite Festival, 11am-4pm at 112 College Rd. www.sunysullivan.edu.

Artists Reception @ DVAA

NARROWSBURG, NY — The Delaware Valley Arts Alliance artists reception for "Beauty in Breakdown" by Catherine Chesters, and "Tendrils, Limbs, Bellies, and Blooms" by Hanna Washburn, 4-6pm at 37 Main St. delawarevalleyartsalliance.org.

City-Wide Yardsale @ Port Jervis

PORT JERVIS, NY — City-wide yardsale, 9am-4pm. www.portjervisny.gov.

Craft Fair/Yard Sale @ Liberty Elks Lodge

LIBERTY, NY — Liberty Elks Lodge #1545 craft fair & yard sale, 10am-3pm at 21 John St. Vendors, makers, prizes & food.

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ACROSS

- Long arm?
- Verdi classic
- Dud
- Best imaginable
- Potential atty.'s exam
- Carpet calculation
- 1970 Joni Mitchell song, with "The"
- Beatty and Kelly
- Virgil epic
- Expedition's cry at the top of a mountain
- Tone-_____
- Gush
- Modern navig. tool
- Wine glass part
- Seer
- Wife of Jacob
- Alternative to Israilr
- Got a good look
- Prefix with sphere
- Deep-_____ (threw away)
- The triple in a triple play
- Shaggy's dog, to Shaggy
- Home (in on)
- Hawaii's state bird
- Lather
- "What did I ever _____ you?"
- Spain's Costa del _____
- Neatnik's opposite
- Desires
- Eater's digest?
- _____ Tomb
- Hyatt alternative
- Gang boss ... or what 17-Across, 10-Down and 36-Down each have
- Serengeti sound
- "_____ stands ..."
- "On the Record" host Van Susteren
- "Cut it out!"
- French noodle?
- Lip cover

DOWN

- Costa _____
- Romeo's last words
- Nonflowering plant
- Ripped (into)
- Prestigious magazine awards
- High school math subj.
- "The First Time Ever _____ Your Face"
- Matriarchs
- At the original speed, on a score
- It's jumped on by followers
- Willie _____, the "Jackie Robinson of the NHL"
- Prefix with care
- Rope fiber
- Match.com meetings
- Prefix with nautical
- "_____ Navidad!"
- It may be stained
- San Diego's _____ Park
- Margaret Mead study site
- At the limit, with "out"
- This puzzle has 78 of them
- "_____ Man Write My Epitaph" (1960 Burl Ives movie)
- 1957 Detroit debut
- Dress for Scarlett O'Hara
- Painter Neiman
- "I'm all ears"
- Light source
- Not skilled in
- What a recipe for steak tartare usually calls for
- Capital city whose name means "wooded" in French
- Motorist's headache
- Extension _____
- 1847 Melville novel
- _____ empty stomach
- Heal
- Logical introduction?
- Takes home
- Sp. spouses
- Verizon forerunner

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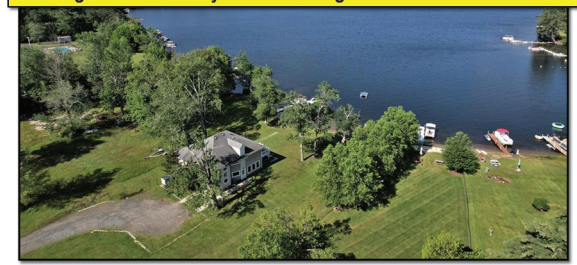
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845-887-5640
www.fredarealty.com
email: tom@fredarealty.com



MLS # PW-240792 Reminiscent of Greek Revival architecture, this stately building overlooks the majestic Delaware River and has extensive water views. Originally was a general store with living space that is now beautifully renovated. 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths. There is a separate guest quarters you can access from the front balcony. This is an exceptional property with many creative possibilities - \$399,000

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Answer to Last Week's Crossword Puzzle

S	L	O	P		A	Z	T		M	O	B	I	U	S		
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Legal Notice

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Mechanical Mindset LLC . Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/19/2023. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to N/a: PO box 243, Wurtsboro, NY, 12790. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Legal Notice

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

*C105 LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/04/24. Office: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 44 Lorimer Street, Brooklyn, NY 11206. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Legal Notice

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Notice of Formation of The Wine Shop at Basbousa LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/26/2024. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Samara Ferris: P.O. Box 6, Mountain Dale, NY 12763. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Legal Notice

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

C A C K L E T O W N VENTURES LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 3/14/24. Office in Sullivan Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 8144 New York State Route 52, Narrowsburg, NY 12764, which is also the principal business location. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Legal Notice

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Don Jacinto's LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/12/2024. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Mackenna Davis: 18 Cider press rd. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Legal Notice

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Notice of Formation of EMM Trading Solutions. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/11/2024. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Ellen Miele: 32 Mahogany Lane, Liberty, NY 12754. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

HIRING?



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COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

DAVOS ESTATES LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the S S N Y o n 03/12/24. Office: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o J. Joseph Morrissey, III, 231 Main Street, Suite 201, New Paltz, NY 12561.

Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Basbousa LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/26/2024. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Samara Ferris: P.O. Box 6, Mountain Dale, NY 12763. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Construction Compliance Service LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 3/25/2019. Cty: Sullivan. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to Mariusz Zapala, 11 Junco Trail, Wurtsboro, NY 12790. General Purpose

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

DAVOS RIVERVIEW LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the S S N Y o n 03/12/24. Office: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o J. Joseph Morrissey, III, 231 Main Street, Suite 201, New Paltz, NY 12561.

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Loch-Rowley, LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 3/20/2024. Cty: Sullivan. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 115 Pearson Ln, Rochester, NY 14612. General Purpose

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

FRAU FAMILY, LLC. Arts .Of Org. filed with SSNY on 03/14/2024. Office location: Sullivan. SSNY desig. as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY mail process to 195 BAER ROAD, FORESTBURGH, NY, 12777. Any lawful purpose.

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

DAVOS VALLEY LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/12/24. Office: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o J. Joseph Morrissey, III, 231 Main Street, Suite 201, New Paltz, NY 12561. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

I N S I G N I F I C A N T FORTUNE LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 3/11/24. Office in Sullivan Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 226 Oak St., Narrowsburg, NY 12764, which is also the principal business location. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Nordacre. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/23/2024. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to United States Corporation Agents, Inc.: 7014 13th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY, 11228. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Formation of POST GEN HOLDINGS, LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/13/2024. Office loc.: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to 28 Serenity Lane, Unit #1, Monticello, NY 12701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Formation of HIGH RIDGE MANAGEMENT LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/28/2024. Office loc.: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to 1608 Rte. 88, Ste. 200, Brick, NJ 08724. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Notice of Formation of DAU Legal, PLLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/07/2023. Office location: 46 Beattie Road, Roscoe, NY 12776. SSNY designated as agent of Professional Limited Liability Company (PLLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Rocket Corporate Services Inc.: 2804 Gateway Oaks Dr. #100, Sacramento, CA 95833. Purpose: For the practice of the profession of attorney and counselor-at-law.

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Douglas J. Muller, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/25/2024. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to The LLC: 97 Rapp Road, Monticello, NY 12701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Tennanah Lake Cottage LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 3/18/2024. Cty: Sullivan. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to Alice Treyz, 107 Bedford St, New York, NY 10014. General Purpose

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Maniac Construction & More LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/10/2024. Office location: NY. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Legal Zoom : Cochection, NY . Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposals for the following will be received by the Director of the Department of Purchasing and Central Services at the Sullivan County Government Center, 100 North Street, Monticello, New York 12701, (845) 807-0515, until 1:00 P.M. on Friday, May 17, 2024:
1. Compensation Analysis for Sullivan County, New York (R-24-17)
Specifications may be obtained from the Director at the above address.
Dated: April 26, 2024



YARD SALES AHEAD

Call today to place your ad!
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RIVER REPORTER

LEGAL NOTICE
LOCAL LAW

Notice is hereby given that an On-Premise Seasonal Summer Food & Beverage Business Liquor License Application ID NA-0341-24-108065 has been applied for by Legends Hospitality, LLC and The Bethel Performing Arts Center, LLC serving beer, wine, cider and liquor to be sold at retail for on premises consumption in a Summer Restaurant with an additional bar for the premises located at 560 W Shore Road Swan Lake, NY 12783.

Legal Notice**Legal Notice****Legal Notice****Legal Notice****Legal Notice****Legal Notice**

**SULLIVAN WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
LEGAL NOTICE**

NOTICE OF ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET, ANNUAL
MEETING, SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION AND VOTE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Board of Education of the Sullivan West Central School District, Sullivan County, New York that a Public Hearing on the Budget will be held at the Elementary School in said School District, Jeffersonville, New York, on Wednesday, May 7, 2024 at 5:30 PM, for the purpose of presenting the budget document for the 2024-2025 School Year.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required for School District purposes during the 2024-2025 school year (the Budget), exclusive of public monies, may be obtained by any resident of the District between the hours of 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM, commencing April 30, 2024 except Saturday, Sunday or holidays at each of the District's schoolhouses and at the Administrative Offices.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that in accordance with §495 of the N.Y. Real Property Tax Law, that the District shall prepare a Real Property Tax "Exemption Report" which will show how much of the assessed value on the final assessment roll (utilized for the school tax levy) is exempt from taxation by the School District. This exemption report will list every type of exemption granted and will show: (1) the cumulative impact of each type of exemption; (2) the cumulative amount expected to be received as payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTS), or other payments, from recipients of each type of exemption; (3) the cumulative impact of all exemptions granted. This Exemption Report will be posted on the District's website and on District bulletin boards utilized for posting public notices. The Exemption Report will be annexed to any preliminary District budget, and will become part of the final budget.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Annual Meeting, Election of Members of the Board of Education and Vote on the Budget, will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of 12:00 PM and 9:00 PM, prevailing time, at the polling places hereinafter listed, when the polls will be open for the purpose of voting:

1. To elect three members to the Board of Education for three-year terms, commencing July 1, 2024 and expiring on June 30, 2027, due to the expiration of the terms of Katrina Chellis, Brian Kitson and Kristy Sigelakis.
2. To vote upon the appropriation of the necessary funds to meet the estimated expenditures for School District purposes for the 2024-2025 School Year (the Budget).

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the polling places for the purposes of voting at the Annual School District Election and Vote on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, shall be as follows:

Election District #1 - Polling Place at the Delaware Youth Center - for those who reside within the boundaries of the former Delaware Valley Central School District;

Election District #2 - Polling Place at the Western Sullivan Public Library in Jeffersonville - for those who reside within the boundaries of the former Jeffersonville-Youngsville Central School District;

Election District #3 - Polling Place at the Tusten-Cochecton Library - for those who reside within the boundaries of the former Narrowsburg Central School District.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that petitions for nominating candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education must be filed with the Clerk of the District, by no later than 5:00 PM on the 30th day preceding the School District Election, Monday, April 22, 2024. Vacancies on the Board of Education are considered separate, specific offices and a separate petition is required to nominate a candidate to each separate office. The nominating petition must be signed by at least 25 qualified voters of the District; shall describe at least the length of the term of office and contain the name of the incumbent; must state the name and residence address of each signer; and must state the name and residence address of the candidate. Petition forms may be obtained at the Office of the School District Clerk on weekdays when school is in session, during regular business hours, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. When picking up petitions, you must indicate which position you are running for: Katrina Chellis, Brian Kitson or Kristy Sigelakis.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that personal registration of voters is required pursuant to §2014 of the Education Law. If a voter has heretofore registered to vote with the School District and has voted at an annual or special school district meeting within the last four calendar years, they are eligible to vote at this Election and Vote to be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024. If a voter is currently registered to vote with the Sullivan County Board of Elections, they are also eligible to vote in this election. All other persons who wish to vote must register with the District Clerk.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that continuous registration has been authorized in the Office of the District Clerk. The hours during which continuation registration is authorized is between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM. The latest date on which the District Clerk will register voters is May 16, 2024.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Register of Voters so prepared shall be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the District, Sullivan West Elementary, 33 Schoolhouse Road, Jeffersonville, NY, where the same shall be open for inspection by any qualified voter of the District on each of the five days prior to the day set for the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, except Saturday and Sunday, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM, prevailing time. Said Register will be open for inspection at the polling place on the date of the Election and Vote, on Tuesday, May 21, 2024.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN, that applications for absentee ballots for the School District Election and Vote may be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk. The application must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days prior to the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter or the day before the election, if the ballot will be delivered personally to the voter. A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available in the Office of the District Clerk between 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM until the day of the Election and Vote. Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk at the Sullivan West Elementary, 33 Schoolhouse Road, Jeffersonville, NY by no later than 5:00 PM, prevailing time, on the date of the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, Tuesday, May 21, 2024.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that applications for early mail ballots for the School District Election and Vote may be applied for in person at the Office of the District Clerk at least seven (7) days prior to the School District Election and Vote if the ballot is to be mailed, and no later than the day before the School District Election and Vote if the ballot is picked up personally by the voter. Early mail ballots must be received in the Office of the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day of the School District Election and Vote, May 21, 2024. A list of all persons whom early mail ballots shall have been issued will be available in the Office of the District Clerk, Jeffersonville, New York, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on each of the five days prior to the day of the School District Election and Vote, except Sundays, and such list will also be posted at the polling place or places at the election of the members of the board of education.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that military voters who are not currently registered may apply to register as a qualified voter of the school district. Military voters, as defined by Education Law 2018-d, may request an application to register as a qualified voter from the District Clerk. Military voter registration application forms must be received in the office of the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on the twenty-sixth (26th) day before the election. A military voter may designate a preference to receive a military voter registration, military ballot application or military ballot by mail, facsimile transmission or electronic mail in their request for such registration, ballot application, or ballot. Such designation shall remain in effect until revoked or changed by the military voter. Ballots for military voters shall be mailed, or otherwise distributed, no later than twenty-five (25) days prior to the election. The military ballot must be received in the Office of the District Clerk of the School District no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day of the election in order to be canvassed.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School District Clerk is hereby authorized to amend the Notice of the Public Hearing on the Budget and Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, from time to time, as in her discretion, such amendment may be required.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School District Clerk shall cause the Notice set forth above to be published once each week for four (4) weeks within the seven (7) weeks preceding the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, the first such notice to be published at least 45-days prior to the Election and Vote, in accordance with Section 2004 of the Education Law.

Date: March 21, 2024.
By Order of the Board of Education
Sullivan West Central School
Christina Kautz, District Clerk

GOT ^{too much} STUFF?

RIVER REPORTER

Call 845.252.7414

Legal Notice

**COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Meow Enterprises LLC, Arts of Org. f/k/a Meow Enterprises L.P., Certificate of Conversion filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 3/18/2024. Cty: Sullivan. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 13 Deforest Rd, Box 2000, South Fallsburg, NY 12779-2000. General Purpose

**COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of 555 Ashford LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/14/2024. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to SSNY: 2035 58th St, Brooklyn, NY 11204. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**GOT TOO MUCH
STUFF?**



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classifieds!**

RIVER REPORTER.

**COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of Prospect Lakewood NJ LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/22/2024. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Prospect Lakewood NJ LLC: 17 Derech Hatov Lane S Fallsburg NY 12733. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Legal Notice

Legal Notice

Legal Notice

Legal Notice

Legal Notice

**TOWN OF TUSTEN
LEGAL NOTICE**

NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF TENTATIVE ASSESSMENT ROLL

Notice is hereby given that the assessor of the Town of Tusten, County of Sullivan has completed the Tentative Assessment Roll for the current year and that a copy will be available on line Tusten.org. A copy will be left with Crystal Weston, Town Clerk, at 210 Bridge Street Narrowsburg, New York after May 1, 2024, where it may be seen and examined by any interested person until the fourth Tuesday in May.

The assessor will be in attendance with the tentative assessment roll by phone at 845 547 0224 or email assessor@tusten.org on the following dates and times:

- Thursday May 9, 2024 from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM
- Saturday May 11, 2024 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM
- Monday May 13, 2024 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM
- Thursday May 16, 2024 from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM

The Board of Assessment Review will meet on Tuesday May 28, 2024 between the hours of:

- 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM
- 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM

At the Tusten Town Office 210 Bridge Street Narrowsburg, NY 12764 to hear and examine all complaints in relation to assessments on the written application of any person believing themselves to be aggrieved. Please call for an appointment at 845 547 0224. Appeals are limited to 10 minutes each. Appeals may be mailed, emailed to assessor@tusten.org or dropped in the box to the left of the front door of the Tusten Town Hall prior to May 28, 2024.

Dated this 16th day of April 2024.

Margaret Harrison

Margaret Harrison,
Acting Assessor

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RIVER REPORTER.

**COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
LEGAL NOTICE
LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
COUNTY OF SULLIVAN**

County of Sullivan will hold a public hearing on **May 2, 2024 at 9:25AM** in the Legislative Hearing Room in the Government Center at 100 North Street, Monticello, New York for the purpose of hearing public comments on the County of Sullivan Round 8 Restore NY application, as well as document a Property Assessment List of proposed properties to be applied for. The Restore NY Communities Initiative is administered by Empire State Development and Round 8 applications are due on May 22, 2024.

The hearing will provide an overview of the proposed project, as well as share a property assessment list. This list was compiled by the County and sets forth for each property a description of each building that includes the location, size and residential or commercial nature of each building, and whether the building is proposed to be demolished, deconstructed, rehabilitated or reconstructed.

Address	Size	Use	Project Type
363 East Broadway Monticello, NY 12701	8,350 square feet	Commercial	Rehabilitation
481 Broadway Monticello, NY 12701	5,000 square feet	Mixed Use	Rehabilitation

The Legislative Hearing Room in the Government Center at 100 North Street, Monticello, New York is accessible to persons with disabilities. If special accommodations are needed for persons with disabilities, those with hearing impairments, or those in need of translation from English, those individuals should contact the Clerk of the Legislature at the Sullivan County Government Center, 100 North Street, Monticello, New York at least one week in advance of the hearing date to allow for necessary arrangements. Written comments may also be submitted to the Clerk of the Legislature at the Sullivan County Government Center, 100 North Street, Monticello, New York until **Friday, May 3, 2024 at 5:00PM.**

**ELDRRED CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID**

ELDRRED CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
600 Route 55, Eldred, NY 12732

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that sealed bids will be received for the following project:

Contract 1: Eldred Junior & Senior High School at 600 Route 55 Eldred, NY 12732 and George Ross MacKenzie Elementary School, 1045 Proctor Road, Glen Spey, NY 12737

The Scope of Work described in the documents consists of the following:

Eldred Junior & Senior High School and George Ross MacKenzie Elementary School
• Contract 1 GC: General Construction

The bids shall be in accordance with the Specifications, Drawings, and Terms of this Contract. Bids will be received by Eldred Central School District, until 3:00 p.m. prevailing time on Thursday, April 29, 2024 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The bid opening will take place at the Eldred Central School District's Office at 600 State Route 55, Eldred, NY 12732. The Eldred Central School District will make the bid opening available at the Eldred Junior & Senior High School, location in school to be determined.

OBTAINING DOCUMENTS

Complete sets of Bidding Documents, drawings and specifications, may be obtained from Fellenzer Engineering, LLP, 22 Mulberry Street, Suite 2A, Middletown, NY 10940 Tel: (845) 343-1481. A deposit check for six hundred dollars (\$600.00) will be required for each set of plans and specifications distributed, which amount will be refunded only to those submitting formal bids and if said plans and specifications are returned in good condition within two (2) weeks after their bids have been received. Checks or money orders shall be made payable to Fellenzer Engineering, LLP. Any bidder requiring documents to be shipped shall provide a separate check for one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for postage and shipping costs. Complete digital sets of Bidding Documents, drawings, and specifications can be viewed and downloaded upon request and receipt of deposit(s).

For further information about obtaining the documents, contact Maria Baptista at Savin Engineers. P.C.
3 Campus Drive
Pleasantville, NY 10570
203.273.7117 (mobile) or mbaptista@savinengineers.com

BID SUBMISSIONS

Each proposal must be accompanied by security in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the bid, in the form and subject to the conditions stipulated in the Information to Bidders. No Bidders shall withdraw his/her bid within sixty days (60) after the formal opening thereof.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities in any proposals, or to reject any or all proposals and to advertise for new proposals. The accepted low bidder(s) will be required to furnish a one-hundred percent (100%) Performance Bond, Labor and Material Payment Bond, and produce all insurance in amounts not less than specified under the General Conditions and Special Provisions.

Site Inspection: A pre-bid walkthrough with the bidders will not be required.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

All Pre-bid "Requests for Information" (RFI) or Clarification must be submitted NO LATER THAN Friday, April 19, 2024, @ 3:00 p.m.

The Eldred Central School District reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to make bid awards that are consistent with its purchasing policy/regulations and which are in the best interests of the School District.

too much
GOT ^ STUFF?
RIVER REPORTER. 845.252.7414

Legal Notice**Legal Notice****Legal Notice****Legal Notice****Legal Notice****Legal Notice****COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
LEGAL NOTICE**

Appendix 14-8: Notice to Bidders – Advertisement of Bid

Notice is hereby given that Sullivan County will accept sealed bids for: B-24-24

Sullivan County Bridge Maintenance 2024 – CR 32 / Proctor Rd over Mill Brook
 Town of Lumberland, Sullivan County, NY
 PIN 9754.74
 D040872
 Bid Number: B-24-24

The Owner is the Sullivan County DPW and the work site is located in the Town of Lumberland. The projects limits extend from: within 100' in either direction of the CR 32 over Mill Brook Bridge

The work includes providing all labor, materials, machinery, tools, equipment and other means of construction necessary and incidental to the completion of the work shown on the plans and described in these specifications including, but not necessarily limited to the following:

- Provide maintenance and protection of traffic
- Remove and replace existing bridge joints
- Install paint containment system
- Repaint the beam ends and bearings
- Alternate Bid Items include concrete repair to the deck fasciae

This is a Federal Aid Project and NYSDOT Standard Specifications, officially finalized and adopted on May 1, 2024 as posted on the New York State Department of Transportation's website must be followed by the successful bidder.

The DBE goal for this project is: 6%

There are no M/WBE goals for this project.

The EEO Employment goals for this project are: 17% Minority Employment Goal
 6.9% Women Employment Goal

The use of the NYSDOT approved civil rights reporting software, Equitable Business Opportunities (EBO), is required. Access authorization to EBO can be found at https://www.dot.ny.gov/main/business-center/civil-rights2/civil-rights-repository/Tab/EBO_Login_Application.pdf.

No residential or geographical restrictions will be in effect for this project. Applicable Federal requirements take precedence over State and local requirements unless state and local requirements are deemed to be more stringent.

Contract Documents, including Invitation to Bidders, Instructions to Bidders, Wage Rates, Bid Documents, Agreement, Special Notes, Specifications, Contract Drawings, and any Addenda, may be examined or obtained, at no expense, between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm Monday through Friday at the office of:

Sullivan County Office of Purchasing & Central Services
 Sullivan County Government Center
 100 North Street
 Monticello, NY 12701

Tel #: 845-807-0515 Or requested through Email @ purchasing@sullivanny.us

No questions or inquiries regarding this bid will be accepted within three (3) business days prior to the bid opening.

Contractors that obtain Contract Documents from a source other than the issuing office must notify the issuing office in order to be placed on the official Plan Holder List, to receive Addenda and any other Bid correspondence. Bids received from Contractors other than those on the official Plan Holders List will not be accepted.

Addenda will be emailed from Sullivan County Office of Purchasing & Central Services to Bidders listed on the official Plan Holders List. An emailed response from the Bidder, to the Addendum sent by Sullivan County Office of Purchasing & Central Services will act as proof that the Bidder received the Addendum. In addition to an emailed response, Bidders must acknowledge receipt of all Addenda by signing and dating each Addendum on page 19 of the Bid Form and the Acknowledgement of Receipt of Addenda, page 20. Failure of any Bidder to receive any such Addendum or interpretation shall not relieve such Bidder from any obligation under this Bid submittal. All Addenda so issued shall become part of the Contract Documents.

Questions regarding the Contract Documents should be directed to Allyson Lewis, Director, Sullivan County Purchasing and Central Services either through email at: purchasing@sullivanny.us or by telephone at 845-807-0515. Bidders shall promptly notify Allyson Lewis of any errors, omissions, conflicts or ambiguity within the Contract Documents within 3 days of bid opening.

All bids must include the completed Bid Form, Non-Collusive Bidding and Disbarment Certifications, and Lobbying Certifications. This is a unit price bid as described in the Instructions to Bidders. No bidder may withdraw his/her bid within forty-five (45) calendar days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Each bid must be accompanied by security in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the amount of the base bid in the form and subject to the conditions provided in the Instructions to Bidders.

Bids to be considered must be received in a sealed envelope at Sullivan County Office of Purchasing & Central Services, Sullivan County Government Center, 100 North Street, Monticello, NY 12701 by 1:00 PM, local time, on May 17, 2024 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud in the Sullivan County Office of Purchasing & Central Services. Bids received after the above noted time will not be accepted. All sealed envelopes should be clearly labeled "BID B-24-24: SULLIVAN COUNTY BRIDGE MAINTENANCE 2024".

The Bidder to whom the Contract is awarded will be required to furnish Performance and Payment Bonds guaranteeing performance of work and prompt payment from an acceptable Surety Company for an amount not less than 100% of the accepted bid. The successful Bidder and all subcontractors must have an approved CCA-2 on file with NYSDOT prior to being awarded a contract. If the successful Bidder does not currently have a CCA-2 on file with NYSDOT, the Bidder may find the CCA-2 forms and instruction for completion online at <https://www.osc.state.ny.us/state-vendors/vendrep/vendor-responsibility-forms?redirect=legacy#Construction>.

The successful Bidder will be required to comply with all provisions of the Federal Government Equal Employment Opportunity clauses issued by the Secretary of Labor on May 2, 1968 and published in the Federal Register (41 CFR Part 60-1, 33 F.2 7804). Successful bidders will be required to pay prevailing wage rates on this contract. Sullivan County reserves the right to consider the bids for forty-five (45) days after receipt before awarding any Contract, and to waive any minor informalities in, and to reject, any and all bids. All bids are subject to final review and approval by the Sullivan County Legislature before any award of contract may be made. Receipt of bids by Sullivan County shall not be construed as authority to bind Sullivan County.

The work will be substantially completed 106 calendar days from Notice to Proceed and completed and ready for final payment on October 1, 2024.

The New York State Department of Transportation, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C 2000d to 2000d-4 and Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the Department of Transportation and Title 23 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 200, Title VI Program and Related Statutes, as amended, issued pursuant to such Act, hereby notifies all who respond to the related solicitation, request for proposal or invitation to bid that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability/handicap and income status in consideration for an award.

Owners Contact
 Sullivan County Government Center
 100 North Street
 Monticello, New York

Technical Questions
 Allyson Lewis
 Director
 Office of Purchasing & Central Services 845-807-0515
 Sullivan County Government Center
 100 North Street
 Monticello, New York 12701
 845-807-0515 Or purchasing@sullivanny.us

Dated: April 26, 2024



TALKING SPORTS BY TED WADDELL

Fish foolers

LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — On Saturday, April 20 the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild (CFTG) hosted the 2024 Fly Tyers Rendezvous in the world-famous Wulff Gallery at the Catskill Fishing Center & Museum (CFFCM).

“There are two types of anglers,” said CFTG president Joseph Ceballos. “Ones that have to catch all the fish, and the others that approach the river with the enjoyment of the activity. The type of fly they want to tie, the casting and presenting the fly in a certain way that will entice the fish to take that fly.”

Ceballos noted that the event acts as a gathering place for the guild members to “celebrate the new trout fishing season” and the art and skill required to create realistic lures. “You intend to recreate something in nature close enough that when you present it to a fish, it will take it as substance or food, that’s the challenge... It’s me against the fish.”



A fly-tier uses a powerful magnifier to create a realistic trout fly.

RR photos by Ted Waddell



Fly-tier John Apgar, foreground.



Fly-tier Mike Stewart of North Granby, CT



Fly-tier Christina Muller



Fly-tier Brandon Kopoche

The president, along with most dedicated fly-fisherfolks, believes passionately in the principle of “catch and release,” in that they use barbless hooks when fashioning trout flies.

“A fish is too priceless to be caught only once,” explained Caballos, before adding a cautionary word of advice to the newly released trout, “OK, guys, the next angler who catches you, you might be on the dinner plate!”

Ed Walsh, secretary of the CFTG, was one of the 28 fly-tiers signed up for the annual rendezvous. When he’s not part of such gatherings, Walsh serves as a docent at the museum.

“At this stage of my life, fly fishing is everything; the people I have met in the sport, including Dave Catizone, the best of the best,” he said of the allure of fly fishing and fly tying.

To learn more about the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum, located at 1031 Old Rte. 17, call 845/439-4810 or visit cfcfm.com.

To contact the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild, visit catskillflytyersguild.org

For more photos, visit www.riverreporter.com/sports.

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RR photo by Hunter Hill

My strawberries are looking great after a mild winter.

I like plants that you can rely on. Garlic was one of my first true loves in gardening because of its regularity. You plant it in fall; it sprouts in spring; you top it in May or June and pull it and dry it two weeks after that.

I have been told about other plants with which other people feel equally comfortable—but have given me some degree of difficulty. Perhaps it's due to self-introduced complications.

Once you get a method for growing some-

thing and you know using that method will get the plant to continue to produce for you, there is a deep satisfaction in putting in the time up front to grow those plants.

This year, I'm going to be optimistic and hopefully add our strawberries to my short list of successes. Last spring we invested in a hundred or so strawberry plants of two varieties and got them started in our greenhouse.

Throughout the following weeks, they took rather well to the soil and became fairly

hearty, even producing a few quarts of berries for us in that first year. I learned about problems I never had before because I never got them to grow strawberries well previously, so I did my research during the winter. The plants wintered over wonderfully in the greenhouse with little to no help from us, and after a simple weeding and cleaning up around them this spring, they have bushed up twice as big as they ever got last year.

I was surprised as I opened the greenhouse door this past week to see flowers on most of them already, with large green bases that were to produce fruit even in mid-April. I was not surprised to see new plants establishing themselves in our walkways and exposed soil all around the tarped beds. This is not so much a problem as it is an opportunity, because although these new plants aren't where I want them, I can dig them up and fill in the rest of the bed rather than buying new plants. What's more, I'll be saving a handful for my grandfather's garden too. I'll likely suggest he plant them under his own greenhouse cover.

If the strawberries continue to grow as I suspect they will, we will soon be well stocked with fruit and my mornings will begin with a thoroughly sweet inspection

of the greenhouse before I begin the rest of my work. Not a bad way to start the day.

I'll have to keep an eye out for my youngins, as we're looking to move into our new house soon—it sits not far from the henhouse, but I'll raise you a five-year-old in the berry patch. That's OK though—better they like good food than the sugar and nonsense from the store.

My dad had a disciplined method of picking berries he once explained to me. One for the mouth, one for the bucket. You would alternate 50/50 until you were full. Oddly enough, he still ended up with nearly nothing in the bucket anyway. Strange how that happens.

The way out here we figure it out one plant at a time, and by the time we retire we have a handful of things we can teach to our grandchildren, getting them ahead of the learning curve. I might be able to instill in them something more important than an abundant berry patch by the time I'm old and tired—a natural understanding of how to grow a few things. But I'll bet they enjoy those berries just as much, if not more, than the know-how.

Be sure to get your tickets for:



Fiesta Gala
Delaware Valley Opera
Delaware Valley
Opera Center
April 27 6-10pm

Arts Nest
Elisa Mark & June Bender
Delaware Valley Opera
Delaware Valley Opera Center
May 4 7-9pm

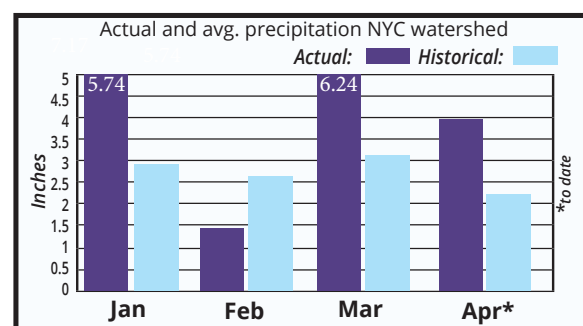


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Reservoir levels

April 19, 2024
Cannonsville: 102.8%
Pepacton: 100.5%
Neversink: 100.5%
Total: 100.9%
Normal Total: 100%
Total in 2023: 93.3%



RIVER TALK
BY SANDY LONG

Protecting pets *Be aware and prepare*

Picking up where I left off in my last column about keeping pets safe during outdoor adventures—an ounce of prevention (and preparation) is worth a pound of cure. Seize this forewarning and be forearmed with knowledge and know-how.

Parasites

Let's talk ticks. When faced with a creature whose characteristics I find offensive, I try to keep in mind that every living thing has earned its place on planet Earth. But ticks are tough. While blood-letting used to be a medically-approved practice for curing various ills, the withdrawal a tick takes at the trough of its victim's blood bank can deliver a deposit of illness-inducing diseases such as Lyme and Anaplasmosis.

Add in mosquitos (which can transmit heartworms and cause serious damage to a dog's heart and lungs), fleas, tapeworms and whipworms, all of which can cause problems requiring veterinary intervention.

Here's where an ounce of prevention truly IS worth a pound of cure.

There are a host of products, ranging from collars to powders to sprays and more, which can defend against many threats. Invest in a visit to your favorite veterinarian to determine what will work best. This alone can keep your pet from suffering serious illnesses and save you substantial expenses in treating something that might otherwise have been avoided.

And don't forget about stinging insects. I speak from experience, thanks to the curiosity of a canine pal of mine who unwittingly provoked the wrath of a yellow jacket nest by poking her nose into a benign-looking hole in the ground, triggering a swarm of angry insects determined to defend their home. After being rushed to the vet, she made a full recovery, but some knowledge and better awareness on my part could have enabled a better outdoor adventure overall.

Hydration and temperature extremes

Don't let your thirsty dog drink from puddles, ditches, sluggish streams or brackish waters, which can contain harmful agents like giardiasis and algal blooms, chemicals from roadway runoff or herbicides or insecticides applied by humans for weed or insect control.

Practice healthy hydration by packing fresh water for your dog and a collapsible bowl that can be folded into a pocket or backpack.

Be mindful of temperature extremes as well. Protect your pup with a sweater or coat on days when the temperature plunges or wintry conditions prevail. At both extremes, a dog's paws can be harmed by excessive heat (scorching pavement) and severe cold (icy or snowy conditions).

Pay attention to your dog's behavior and heed expressions of discomfort such as shivering and sudden lameness or heavy panting and excessive drooling (signs of heatstroke).

Play it safe

Keep your dog's vaccinations current to prevent life-threatening diseases such as rabies. Ensure that their license is up to date and have your dog microchipped. If they should go missing, your chances of getting them back will be better.

While it's not always possible to completely avoid coming to harm during what was intended to be a happy hike, no one wants to be left with nagging regrets of what could have been done. Prepare a Pet First Aid Kit and have a plan in place to help your pet if the need arises. See here: www.aspcapro.org/sites/default/files/resource/downloads/2020-2020-07/aspca-diy-first-aid-kit-list_0.pdf to see what's recommended by the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center.



RR photo by Sandy Long

Unlike my dogs, Kenzie is a skilled swimmer with a passion for paddling. Here she keeps a watchful eye on her owner and agility training partner, Nancy.