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Taking care of their own

2025 Sullivan County budget sparks debate

By RUBY RAYNER-HASELKORN

MONTICELLO, NY — Funding for employees in law enforcement and emergency services sparked debate among officials prior to an 8-1 vote by legislators approving the 2025 Sullivan County Budget. The opposing vote was cast by District 9 Legislator Terry Blosser-Bernardo.

Included in the budget is an additional district attorney's office investigator. At a previous budget public hearing, the addition of the position prompted Blosser-Bernardo to raise questions about the motives of the district attorney's office.

Sullivan County District Attorney Brian Conaty addressed those comments at the December 12 legislative meeting, saying, "The main reason I came here in such a rush was because some comments were made that I was

running my office in a political manner, and that is the furthest from the truth."

The DA defended the addition of the investigator to his office, comparing the resources of his office with that of Orange County's DA's office.

"Orange County does have 19 investigators currently. They actually have their own union in Orange County for the Orange County District Attorney's office. They have their own floor in the government center. They have their own forensic analysis unit for cell phones."

Asked why she voted no on adopting the budget, Blosser-Bernardo said, "I have nothing to say."

The \$303 million budget comes with a 2.5 percent tax levy increase to cover a rise in general costs.

The budget included a five-percent raise for most management/confidential employees.

Detective Jack Harb of the sheriffs office and president of the Police Benevolent Association in Sullivan County spoke on the behalf of the union, saying, "Everybody's being asked to do way more than ever before with even less, and our membership is getting fed up. That's why I'm here today. I'm trying to understand when this is going to end and when we're going to get some help."

Harb pointed out retention was an issue across the county in EMS, fire and corrections. "I originally came here to speak on behalf of our union, but it appears like this is more than just our union. This is a county problem. So Happy Holidays. And how about [in] 2025 we address every union in this county," [- Page 4](#)



OPINION

Generosity: a bright light, even on the darkest days

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COMMUNITY LIVING

Go see the luminaries



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CELEBRATIONS



'It's not about the lights, it's what they light up'

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A 'responsible' decision

Taxes rise 12 percent in Pike County

By LIAM MAYO

PIKE COUNTY, PA — None of the Pike County Commissioners were happy to propose a 12-percent increase in property taxes for 2025, which they said would raise an average property owner's bill by \$108. However, they agreed due in part to the long-term impacts of COVID-19 the increase was unavoidable.

"I think we have to do it to be responsible in leading a county," said commissioner Ronald Schmalzle.

Taxes will go from 24.99 mills to 27.99 mills, a three-mill increase. One mill equates to one dollar per \$1,000 of property value.

The average assessed property value in the county is \$36,000, and the owner of such an average property will have to pay an additional \$108 in taxes, according to Pike County Commissioners Chair Matthew Osterberg.

Commissioner Christa Caceres said that, as a wife and as a mother, the bottom line is important in her household, as it is in all households. However, taxes are communal, she said; "we all pay what we have to pay, and we're going to have the services that we come to rely on."

This will be the second tax increase for Pike County in two years, with taxes having risen approximately 10 percent from 2023 [- Page 4](#)

Christmas services

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Do you know a business who made the 'nice list'?

Vote for them before it's too late!



bit.ly/Best_2024



RR photo by Liam Mayo

Lights in the snow

ELDRED, NY — A display at the four corners in Eldred comes alive with festive lights and Christmas characters for the holiday season, as part of the Christmas Village in Eldred. The display, a gift from the Monteleone family, will be lit through New Year's Day. For more, see Susan Waligunda Wade's feature about the show on Page 10.

IN BRIEF**Local reps respond to drone sightings**

UPPER DELAWARE RIVER, NY & PA — Local representatives throughout the river valley pushed for government action as rumors swirled about a spate of mysterious drone sightings.

Rob Bresnahan, the incoming representative for Pennsylvania's Eighth Congressional District, said, "We have received many reports locally of unidentified drones flying dangerously close to the Class D airspace. We are going to have a travesty while the Biden Administration is asleep at the wheel. The people of Northeastern Pennsylvania deserve answers, not dismissals."

Pennsylvania State Senator for District 40, Rosemary Brown, introduced a resolution urging the federal government to grant state governments the authority to respond to these threats. Brown also sent a letter to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Administrator Michael Whitaker, calling on the FAA to prioritize addressing the issue and provide states with the authority to act when drones pose a threat.

"Current federal regulations tie the hands of state and local governments, preventing them from taking immediate action when drones threaten the safety and privacy of our communities," said Brown. "This resolution is a necessary step to empower states to respond swiftly and decisively to these threats."

NY statewide mental wellness campaign

SULLIVAN COUNTY, NY — The New York State Office of Mental Health announced the launch of "Be Well," a statewide public awareness campaign aimed at helping New Yorkers better understand the importance of mental wellness and the impacts of stress and trauma. The \$1.9 million state-funded campaign includes a new website, bewell.ny.gov/, aimed at improving mental well-being, and advertisements on public transportation, billboards, television, radio and other digital media.

"Managing stress and anxiety is every bit as important and transformative to mental health as eating right and exercising can be for our physical health," OMH commissioner Dr. Ann Sullivan said. "The Be Well campaign will help New Yorkers recognize the critical role that mental well-being plays in their lives, why it is important to reduce stress and address trauma, and the strategies they can employ to accomplish this goal."

The campaign will also provide information about the negative impact that stress and traumatic events can have on both physical and mental health.

Property tax-rent rebate deadline approaching

PENNSYLVANIA — Gov. Josh Shapiro encouraged eligible Pennsylvanians who have not yet applied for a rebate through the Property Tax/Rent Rebate (PTRR) program to do so prior to the filing deadline on Tuesday, December 31. Eligible applicants can submit a rebate application online through myPATH by visiting mypad.pa.gov.

The PTRR program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. Residents with income \$8,000 or less are eligible for a \$1,000 maximum standard rebate; those with income between \$8,001 and \$15,000, a \$770 maximum standard rebate; those with income between \$15,001 and \$18,000, a \$460 maximum standard rebate; and those with income between \$18,001 to \$45,000, a \$380 maximum standard rebate.

Submitting an application online through myPATH can be done in English or Spanish and does not require signing up for an account.

It's free to apply for a rebate and assistance is available at hundreds of locations across the state, including Department of Revenue district offices, local Area Agencies on Aging and state legislators' offices. Program participants must reapply for a rebate every year as they are based on annual income and property taxes or rent paid during the prior year.

Police respond to fight at Liberty High School

LIBERTY, NY — On Thursday, December 12 at around 3 p.m., the Village of Liberty Police Department responded to a report of a fight in progress near the Liberty High School on Buckley Street. School Resource Officers (SROs) at Liberty middle and high schools, in collaboration with Liberty school staff, located a 16-year-old stabbing victim who had entered school grounds seeking help after being attacked on Buckley Street. Responding officers immediately identified two suspects fleeing from the scene and after a short foot pursuit arrested two 15-year-old male juveniles. SROs provided immediate first aid to the victim, including applying a tourniquet to stop severe bleeding from multiple stab wounds. Care of the 16-year-old juvenile was transferred to Mobile Medic EMS and the juvenile was transported via helicopter to Westchester Medical Center. At the time of the writing of this release the juvenile was in stable but critical condition. The Village of Liberty Police Department locating and arresting a total of five individuals who were all charged with Assault in the 1st degree and Gang Assault in the 1st degree, felonies.

Fuel assistance available for Honesdale residents

HONESDALE, PA — The Reverend Doherty Fuel Fund is now accepting heating assistance applications, available to eligible low-income households in the borough of Honesdale.

The Reverend Doherty Committee members want to emphasize that funds are available to families that have not received funds two times or more within the past two calendar years. A household may qualify for assistance if the gross income for all household members does not exceed the limits in the program's guidelines; the guidelines start at an \$18,735 annual income limit for a household of one, and add \$6,630 for each additional person, up to \$65,145 for a household of eight, with all numbers being before taxes.

Applicants must provide: proof of gross income for all household members for the 30-day income period beginning with the date of application; and a complete and current copy of the gas, coal or oil bill or, if alternate fuels are being used, a statement from the fuel supplier(s). If additional information is needed, the household has 15 days or until the application deadline (whichever comes sooner) to provide the necessary documentation.

Prospective applicants can call Honesdale Borough at 570/253-0731, ext. 12 or email revdfund@gmail.com to obtain a full list of eligibility requirements, request an application, or ask further questions. Printed applications can also be picked up at borough hall or on the Honesdale Borough website. Upon completion the application can be emailed to revdfund@gmail.com, mailed to Borough of Honesdale, Reverend Doherty Fuel Fund, 958 Main Street Honesdale, PA 18431 or dropped off at borough hall.

Clarification

The story titled 'It's your turn' that originally ran in the December 12-18 edition stated the Camp FIMFO project proposes 'hundreds of RV park models'; a more accurate description is that the project proposes 148 RV park models and 64 permanent structures.

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Rabid raccoon killed in Bloomingburg

BLOOMINGBURG, NY — Sullivan County Department of Public Health has confirmed that a raccoon killed in the Bloomingburg area last week tested positive for the rabies virus.

"The raccoon was killed, and the property owners alerted Public Health, just as they should," said Acting Public Health Director Jill Hubert-Simon. "The head of the raccoon was sent to the state laboratory, where it tested positive for rabies."

Rabies occurs commonly throughout New York State, with the vast majority of cases occurring in wild animals, including raccoons, bats, foxes, skunks and woodchucks. Domestic animals account for less than 10% of the reported rabies cases, which most often include cats, cattle, and dogs. Wild animals may expose your pets if they are allowed to freely roam on your property in wooded areas.

If Someone Is Bitten: Encourage children to immediately tell an adult if they are bitten by any animal. Tell children not to touch any animal except their own.

Seek treatment for all animal bites and report contact with wild animals to Sullivan County Department of Public Health at 845/292-5910.

If you can safely do so, don't let an animal escape that has possibly exposed someone to rabies. Depending on the species, it can be observed or tested for rabies in order to avoid the need for rabies treatment for people, or to avoid euthanizing and testing exposed unvaccinated pets.

This also includes bats, as bats can be difficult to keep out of buildings because they can get through cracks as small as a pencil. Methods to keep bats out (bat proofing) of homes and summer camps should be done during the fall and winter. If bats are already inside (e.g. in an attic or other areas), consult with your local authorities about humane ways to remove them. Bats have small, sharp teeth and in certain circumstances people can be bitten and not know it.

For more information, please contact the Disease Surveillance and Investigation Department of Sullivan County Public Health at 845/292-5910.

Beach Lake residents pick up mail in person

By LIAM MAYO

BEACH LAKE, PA — A hitch in service at the Beach Lake post office led customers to complain on social media about having to come in person the first week of December.

Commenters on Wayne County PA-411 said they had not been delivered mail in some time and need to visit the post office to pick up their mail.

Stephanie Tasker, one Beach Lake resident who commented, said her family was told they needed to go to the post office to pick up their mail.

Paul Smith, a Philadelphia-based media contact with the United States Postal Service, denied that customers were told to pick up their mail. He told the **River Reporter** that "the office was short staffed the other day," but that other post offices were able to help fill-in and that "all operations are presently normal."

Barking for joy

Honesdale celebrates dog park dedication

By LIAM MAYO

HONESDALE, PA — Every dog must have their day, as the saying goes. Pooches and poodles in the Honesdale area had theirs on December 9, as the borough dedicated a newly created dog park.

The Apple Grove Dog Park and Trail, located on State Route 191 next to the Honesdale Area Pool, has been a priority for the borough council since at least 2022, according to a news release from Honesdale Borough.

The new construction features ADA-compliant parking access, fencing and gates and links the pool's parking area to the dog park.

Honesdale Mayor Derek Williams thanked the borough citizens for their work in making the park a reality at the dedication ceremony.

"Citizens who already come to this park and were dog-parking it up for years organized among themselves, felt comfortable talking to their elected officials, participated in planning commission meetings [and] got petitions going—all the hard leg work was kind of led by the citizens," he said.

The project was made possible by funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources as well as the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau.

"We are delighted to see this project come to fruition," said Kevin Kundratic, interim borough manager in a statement from the borough. "The Apple Grove Dog Park and Trail is a testament to the power of community involvement and strategic partnerships. It provides an accessible, safe area for our residents and their pets to enjoy and signifies our continued dedication to improving local infrastructure."



RR photo by Liam Mayo

A dog named Stella enjoys the Apple Grove Dog Park on the morning of its dedication.

A new educational frontier

Proposal for Wayne/Pike CTE gets PA state nod

By LIAM MAYO

WAYNE & PIKE COUNTIES, PA — The Pennsylvania Secretary of Education, Dr. Khalid N. Mumin, visited the Wallenpaupack Area School District to support Wayne and Pike County joining the rest of the commonwealth with the creation of a Career and Technology Center (CTC) that aims to meet the workforce needs of the community.

CTCs offer hands-on experience in crucial skills alongside standard classes, helping prepare students for the workforce. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (DoE), Wayne and Pike are the only two counties in the commonwealth not served by a regional CTC.

The Pennsylvania Secretary of Education, Dr. Khalid N. Mumin, visit to the Wallenpaupack Area School District on December 3, highlighted a proposal in the works for a Wayne/Pike Career and Technology Center (CTC), a proposal that would bring the local area in line with the educational opportunities offered everywhere else in the commonwealth.

Four local school districts—Wallenpaupack, Wayne

Highlands, Western Wayne and Delaware Valley—are planning to create a Wayne/Pike CTC. Khalid and other DoE officials visited the proposed site of the CTC, located on the Wallenpaupack Area School District's campus behind the North Primary School.

"Career and technical education is essential for providing students with the skills and opportunities to succeed in today's dynamic economy. As Pennsylvania continues to grow, it's vital that every student, regardless of where they live, has access to high-quality career training that leads to good-paying, in-demand jobs," said deputy secretary Dr. Carrie Rowe in a DoE press release.

"The creation of the Wayne/Pike Career and Technical Center is an exciting step toward closing the gap in educational access and ensuring that all students in these counties can explore, develop and excel in careers that will drive their futures forward," Rowe said.

Wallenpaupack Area School District Superintendent Keith Gunuskey told the **River Reporter**, "It is inspiring to know our message and story is making its way to Harrisburg.

I strongly believe that our students and community deserve the same opportunities as all other students in the commonwealth.

Gunuskey said the DoE's visit included a discussion of the current status of CTE programs at Wallenpaupack as well as the proposed plans to build the Wayne/Pike CTC, and a walkthrough in which student ambassadors introduced guests to the school's nine CTE programs and its one pathway program, aviation.

A feasibility study is in the works to determine the size and the scope of the Wayne/Pike CTC, according to the DoE.

This past September, the Wayne County Commissioners re-emphasized their previously established support for the CTC proposal by approving a letter of support.

The letter emphasized the importance of creating an environment in which students are able to learn career skills that can eventually be used to "meet the ongoing workforce needs of our communities, creating a ripple effect throughout all of Wayne and Pike counties."

Cash out for the Town of Highland

By RUBY RAYNER-HASELKORN

HIGHLAND, NY — The Town of Highland has received a \$75,000 grant from retiring NY-100 Assembly Member, Aileen Gunther, in addition to a local families donation of a new message board for the town worth approximately \$4,000.

This is the third grant the town has received from Gunther's office in recent months. The town was already awarded \$250,000 to restore the Barryville courthouse and \$50,000 to be used to upgrade the community kitchen for commercial use.

Announcing the grant award at the December town board meeting, supervisor John Pizzolato said the money will be used "for tech upgrades and a cosmetic redux of the town hall, including the kitchen."

"We're very excited and very grateful to Aileen Gunther, and I'm excited for our community at large that she's been so ded-

icated for all these years to our town and bringing money back home," said Pizzolato.

The town board voted to accept a new town announcement board, gifted by the Tigar family. The four by eight by two foot announcement board will have lockable sides for official town announcements as well as an illuminated header panel for the town name or new town seal that is currently being designed.

The town clerk said a bulletin board like this would normally cost the town \$4,000.

What makes a building historic?

In other business, the town board has stalled in choosing an architect for the courthouse renovation, a project funded by a \$250,000 grant from representative Aileen Gunther's office, due to questions about required expertise for the project's architect and the official historical status of the court house.

The town revealed the two bids, Preston Drafting services and Shadow Architects, who responded to a November request for proposal for a court house renovation architect.

Councilperson Kaitlyn Haas pointed out that Preston Drafting services does not have an architectural license, and any plans drafted might need to be stamped, raising the cost quoted in Preston Drafting's bid.

Pizzolato moved to table the decision until the board could determine if a draftsman was sufficient or a licensed architect was required.

Town resident and former board member Andrew Valenti said, "I was rather surprised to find out it is not, at that time, a historic building."

"And the reason I say this, is if you're going to do work to the building, you would not be restricted by state regulations,

because it's not a registered building. You may want to try to keep it as much as you can to the same look, but that would be voluntary," he said.

"I appreciate that input, because we do have to decipher what's going on with the architect and what's going to be the most cost effective and what's going to have the greatest long-standing benefit to the community," Pizzolato responded.

The confusion about the historical status comes from a plaque on the building. In the '70s or '80s there was a historical society that appointed several buildings with historical reference without any real authority, Pizzolato said.

"So the plaque that's in the foyer there, claiming that it's a historic building, should be taken with a grain of salt," Valenti said.

Strub steps down as Milford Mayor

MILFORD BOROUGH, PA — Sean Strub, who currently serves as the mayor of Milford Borough, has declared that he will step down from the role effective Sunday, December 22.

In a statement announcing his decision, Strub said it was primarily driven by the fact that he and his husband Javier Morales will be absent from Milford for most of the winter. [To read the full statement, visit bit.ly/TRR-2024-Strub-resigns.]

Strub was appointed to the position of mayor in May 2016 and was twice elected to four-year terms. His current term expires at the end of 2025.

Residents of Milford Borough were asked to submit letters of interest in serving as interim mayor by Monday, December 16, with letters to be sent to secretary@milfordpa.org. Residents were required to have lived in Milford Borough for one year or more.

Strub urged the borough council to appoint an interim replacement, saying that it "will provide borough voters—and the council—the chance to see how a newly appointed mayor handles the job prior to the election next fall."

Strub highlighted some of the accomplishments of his time in office in his statement, including:

- Working with police chief Matt

McCormack to improve the Milford Police Department;

- Helping advance ordinance changes including a ban on new drive-throughs and an ordinance to limit where new smoke shops can be placed;

- Forging relationships with government partners at the state and federal levels;

- Working with the Milford Enhancement Committee as its chairman on projects including sidewalk and streetscape improvements; and

- Building relationships with Lenape representatives, the Quick family and the Pike County Historical Society to revisit

and re-examine the legacy of Tom Quick, Jr.

Strub said that, while he is stepping down as mayor, he remains committed to Milford and hopes to see a number of civic projects to fruition.

He wished the next mayor "the very best of luck," and called it a "singular honor" to have served.

"The quality of our borough governance—and by extension, the quality of life for borough residents and the success of our commercial district—is highly dependent on the participation of competent, committed and collaborative individuals who will work together for the good of us all," he said.

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to 2024. Over the past two years, millage in the county has gone from 22.74 to 27.99.

Commissioners attributed the need for tax increases to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

When COVID-19 first hit in 2020, there was "a loss of a massive amount of money by counties," said Osterberg. Pike County didn't raise taxes at that time, even though "maybe we should have been raising them during those times," because "we also saw the economics going on in the county, that that was not a time to be increasing taxes at all."

Schmalzle agreed. When the county was working on its 2023 budget, it faced the need for a 20- to 25-percent increase in taxes in order to meet its obligations, he said. "We did our best to pare that down, but it is a result [of] the pandemic."

Commissioners emphasized that the county had done all it could to cut down on expenses.

"We spent months and months going through this budget—literally months, page by page, line by line," said Osterberg.

However, he added, "Costs have increased; inflation has increased; everything has increased in this county, as it has in the world."

The proposed 2025 budget sees expenses rise from \$55.4 million in 2024 to \$57.8 million in 2025. The proposed 2025 budget sees expenses rise from \$55.4 million in 2024 to

\$57.8 million in 2025. Expenses rose across the board, and no one item accounted for the totality of the increase; see 'Pike Budget changes' below right.

Child welfare increased by nearly \$2 million. These costs are largely outside the county's hands, because the county's care of children has to abide by state standards, said Osterberg.

Carceres mentioned that around a quarter of the county is aging, and that the elderly are the county's biggest customer in terms of services.

The county has taken steps to keep its costs down. Schmalzle said that this year, the county increased the contribution that employees will be paying for their health insurance coverage; those contributions had not kept up with trends in the private sector, he said.

However, "I think it's also important that we come up with a plan so that [the tax increase] isn't an every year occurrence, and it will not be an every year occurrence," said Schmalzle.

The 2025 Pike County proposed budget is available at bit.ly/TRR-2024-Pike-Budgets.

The county has taken steps to keep its costs down. Schmalzle said that this year, the county increased the contribution that employees will be paying for their health insurance coverage; those contributions had not kept up with trends in the private sector, he said.

The 2025 Pike County proposed budget is available at bit.ly/TRR-2024-Pike-Budgets.

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and even better yet, every employee in this county," he said.

Legislative chair Nadia Rajsz responded and said, "I'm going to make the same statement that I hope that we are as generous and fair in union negotiations as we were with the management salary increases. So I hear you, and I agree with you. We need to be fair and generous to retain our people and to hire more. Thank you. Thank you for what you do."

According to a press release highlights of the Adopted 2025 County Budget include:

- \$21.6 million for road and bridgework throughout the county, to be achieved without going into debt by bonding;
- \$494,000 to offer to eligible community nonprofits via a restored discretionary funding program;
- \$350,000 for legislators to use toward tourism event promotion;

- \$2 million for a Housing Trust Fund to address the housing crisis in the county, plus \$250,000 to supplement a state program that provides local renters with first/last months' rent and security deposits to ease the emergency housing crunch;

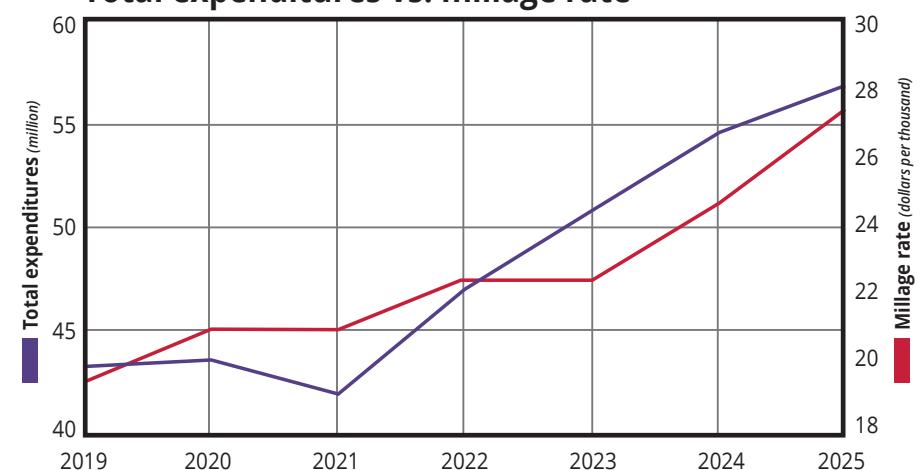
- \$2 million to provide for the design and renovation of county office spaces, including the Liberty campus and the county courthouse in Monticello;

- \$500,000 for the Sullivan Promise Scholarship Program, which provides up to two full years of tuition-free attendance at SUNY Sullivan for local high school graduates;

- \$494,000 to offer to eligible community nonprofits via a restored discretionary funding program;

- \$350,000 for legislators to use toward tourism event promotion;

Total expenditures vs. millage rate



This graph shows the rise in expenses since COVID-19 for Pike County as well as in the tax rates for the county.

Pike Budget changes

Child Welfare

Increased from \$6.3 million in 2024 to \$8.2 million in 2025.

Administration

Decreased from \$12.3 million to \$10.3 million

Judicial expenses

Increased from \$7.9 million to \$9.0 million

Corrections

Stayed roughly level, going from \$16.5 million to \$16.7 million.

Miscellaneous

Increased from \$12.2 million to \$13.3 million.



Sullivan County legislative members pictured District 5 Cat Scott, left; Chair Nadia Rajsz; District 2 Brian McPhillips; District 4 Nicholas Salomone Jr.; and District 3 Brian McPhillips. RR photo by Ruby Rayner-Haselkorn

- \$300,000 for the Sullivan County Youth Bureau to fund local organizations serving youth and their families;

- \$250,000 to develop a water resource map, to fully understand the county's water resources and where infrastructure should and should not be placed; and

- \$65,000 to continue the popular local

workforce development partnership with BOCES, whereby area residents can learn skills, like welding, car repair and construction trades, at no cost to residents.

Full details of the adopted budget will be made available at www.sullivanny.us (look for "Sullivan County 2025 Adopted Budget" tab in the lefthand margin).

Camp FIMFO prompts community calls for action

Stakeholders weigh economic growth against environmental protection

By RUBY RAYNER-HASELKORN

HIGHLAND, NY — A proposed \$40 plus million project known as Camp FIMFO, which plans to turn existing Kittatinny Campgrounds into a destination camping resort in the Town of Highland, has been met with support from county stakeholders in economic development, opposition from environmental advocates, and sustained resistance from residents concerned about the effects of change the project could bring.

The planning board has accepted a draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the project, and is now inviting public input as part of the official record. Comments can either be written and submitted to planningboardzba@town-ofhighlandny.com through January 10, 2025 or at the Public hearing set for December 18 at 6:00 pm at the Eldred Central School Gym. The planning board may exercise discretionary authority to extend the timeframe of the public comment period or schedule subsequent hearing/s beyond the one held on December 18.

All comments made for the official record will become a part of the final project application and be considered in totality by the planning board members in determining the completion status of the DEIS and the project application status.

How we got here

The project's application for site plan approval proposes the redevelopment of Kittatinny Campgrounds, a family owned tenting facility. It proposes the addition of 148 park model RVs to be permanently installed and hooked up to water and sewer, in addition to the 64 additional permanently placed structures.

Sun NG Kittatinny RV, LLC, the corporate entity behind the Camp FIMFO development, is a subsidiary of Sun Communities, a publicly traded real estate trust that invests in manufactured housing communities, recreational vehicle communities and marinas. Approval from the planning board stands between Camp FIMFO and proposed Kittatinny makeover becoming a reality.

Read more about application representatives and the constraints of the planning board at bit.ly/TRR-2024-planning-projects.

A long process

The application review for Camp FIMFO has been a long road, and has been before the planning board since March 2022.

With pressure from residents and community groups, the planning board triggered an enhanced State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) look for Camp FIMFO in September 2023, in a 3-2 vote. It gave that project a "positive declaration," which means the planning board determined it could have a significant adverse effect on the environment.

Northgate Resorts, a sub-subsidy of Sun Communities, was then obliged to prepare an EIS. Not all applications are subject to the additional EIS required by the SEQR process.

Delaware Riverkeeper Network

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network, a non-profit organization, has been advocating against the Camp FIMFO project application from the get-go.

The network's leader, Maya K. van Rossum, has attended multiple Highland planning and town board meetings and publicly urged against the application's progress, both on behalf of the organization and as a property owner in the Town of Highland.

Van Rossum stated at the November Highland Town



RR photo by Ruby Rayner-Haselkorn

President and CEO of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network Maya van Rossum addresses the Highland Town Board.

Board meeting that Camp FIMFO "is a massive project that's going to inflict irreparable harm and have dramatic changes for the Town of Highland and for the river corridor."

The non-profit has sent out various petitions and calls to action at various stages in the application process. Most recently, with the impending public comment period and hearing, the Delaware Riverkeeper held an "online public comment strategy session" on December 12, "to learn more about the FIMFO proposal, the legal landscape, and how to effectively advocate during the public comment period."

Previously, the network sent an email on November 15 with a call to action "to tell the Town of Highland to hold a fair public engagement process and protect the Delaware River!" The email asked people to request the extension of the public comment period and to add another two public hearings with a longer allotment for each public comment at the hearings.

The network's call to action also asks people to request that the town board "place a moratorium on development in the river corridor," while the town finishes writing its updated comprehensive plan. The moratorium would temporarily prevent the project from moving forward.

The organization states its vision is to achieve "clean water for the communities, both human and wild, that depend on the Delaware River and all its tributary streams."

KNOW FIMFO

KNOW FIMFO, "a group of concerned residents from the Upper Delaware River region who want to educate the public about the facts and risks involved in the Northgate Resorts 'Camp FIMFO' project," according to the website KNOWFIMFO.com, has been strongly opposed to the project at every step.

The Facebook page re-posts Delaware Riverkeeper Network's Camp FIMFO positions and actions and the website bullets reasons the project is a "risk" and poses "negative impacts" to the "river," "quality of life" and the "local ecosystem." The website's homepage states:

"Despite what Northgate [Resorts] would have you believe, Camp FIMFO promises to be a heavily crowded and high-priced RV resort and water theme park with a mountain coaster, chlorine pools, and water slides, planned in a known flood zone alongside the Upper Delaware River and the Scenic Byway Route 97. (The construction of a mountain coaster was removed from the project.)

At consequential planning board meetings, attendees have

worn KNOW FIMFO pins and displayed other signage.

County economic agencies weigh in

The Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce has become the newest county agency to voice its support for Camp FIMFO, framing the project as a potential "economic driver" in an email titled a "Call to action" sent on Friday, December 13. The email, addressed to "Members & Community," asked people to "bring a friend, family, or colleague who shares a passion for building a stronger Sullivan Catskills," to an upcoming public hearing, scheduled for December 18.

The email says the "project will bring much-needed upgrades to the property, enhancing its value as a key economic driver within the Town of Highland." Attending the hearing, the email says, is "an exciting opportunity to contribute to the growth and prosperity of the Sullivan Catskills." The email notes support for the project as an "invite that creates meaningful investment and jobs," and public support could make "the final approval of the project a reality." The email, signed by the chamber's president and CEO Ashley Leavitt, says, "Together, we can help shape a brighter economic future for our region."

Information on how to send a pre-drafted "letter of support" is also in the email. The letter of support says the "upgrades" and "modernizations" proposed by Camp FIMFO will build on the "rich tradition" of the existing Kittatinny campground and lays out key highlights of "the applicant's community engagements and environmental efforts over the past four years."

According to the chamber, "The Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. is here to assist, support, promote, and advocate on behalf of our member business community." The organization states its mission is to be the uniting force for business in Sullivan County "uniting a culture of commerce" in our diverse county.

Read the pre-drafted letter of support at <https://acrobate.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:956ab747-4580-4a3a-8769-3c2deb10039b>

For more information about the chamber, visit catskills.com/about-the-chamber

The chamber joins the Sullivan County Partnership for Economic Development and the Sullivan County Visitors Association, who have testified to their approval of the project through earlier public hearings.

Visit riverreporter.com for coverage of the December 18 public hearing.

■ MONTHLY CONVERSATION EXPERIMENT

An endearing gift

By LAURIE STUART

One of the most endearing gifts one can receive is the gift of companionship and mentoring. A wise voice. Wisdom shared. Help received.

I, and the **River Reporter**, have been blessed with such beings throughout the decades. None were more instrumental and influential than the three older women who joined the staff in the early 1980s: Gert Kuneman, Jean Kerrigan and Grace Johansen.

Gert, a retired college president's secretary, spent four days typing editorial copy each week. She and I would have lunch every Monday. She was encouraging and always reminded me that I needed to "Let go, and let God." Her words and her wisdom accompanied me through whatever trials I was experiencing in the moment. In my 40s, I adopted her as my Godmother, and she adopted me as her Goddaughter.

Jean, a retired publishing executive, was the epitome of a volunteer. A member of the Tusten Volunteer Ambulance, St. Francis Church Auxiliary and numerous other organizations, Jean paved the way for community members to accept the paper as part of the community. She made the paper legitimate in the eyes of longtime residents. Ever gracious, ever helpful. And always selling raffle tickets!

Grace Johansen was a force of nature, assuming the role of the paper's first advertising manager. Between her, Gert and Jean, with newspaper board president Beth Peck in the forefront, they launched the Tusten Cochecton Library.

Beyond that, they held me steady through their work and their love of community.

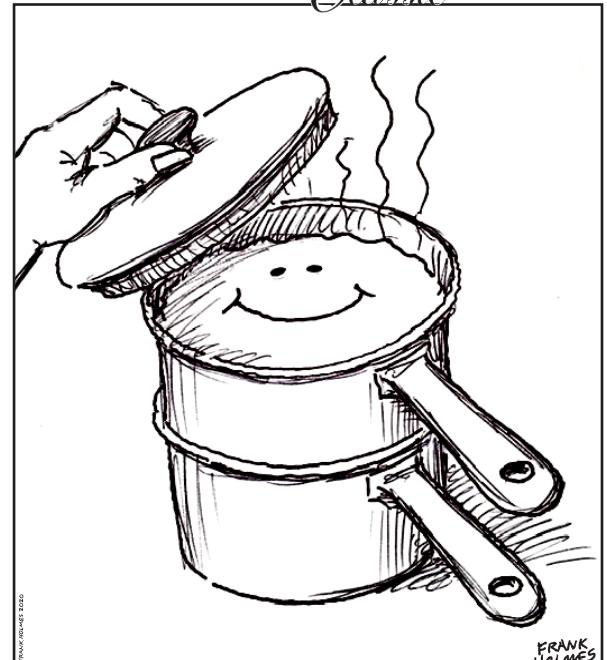
Join me in honoring those who have influenced you by participating in the Monthly Conversation Experiment by answering the prompt with a short reflection: Who has influenced you? Why was it meaningful? What is the most precious gift you have received from another?

Send your short reflections, poetry, and artwork to editor@riverreporter.com. The deadline for this prompt is December 31.

■ QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. I hope someday you'll join us. And the world will live as one." — John Lennon

DR. PUNNYBONE *Classic*



Happy Hollandaise!

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Advocate for packaging bill

While I fully support passage of the NY State Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act, I need to clarify a couple of points fellow advocate Doris Chorny of Wallkill made in her recent letter.

First, the state legislative session ended in June, and they are extremely unlikely to call a special session at this late date. So although the Senate approved the bill back in the spring, the Assembly never got the chance to vote on it. (Mini civics lesson here: All Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie could do is bring the bill to the floor. Then the governor would need to sign the bill into law.)

That means we have to start all over again in January. Luckily, there's a fun way to do just that. Beyond Plastics is hosting a rally and advocacy day to make it clear to legislators that people want them to pass the packaging reduction bill.

Join us in Albany on Tuesday, January 28 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Don't want to drive the whole way? Then register soon to reserve a place on the bus from Manhattan or Tarrytown, or use the carpooling app to share the driving with others. To sign up, go to bit.ly/1-28-2025.

Fully 40 percent of New York's waste stream consists of packaging. The Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act would reduce plastic at the source and makes the remaining packaging truly recyclable and far less toxic than it is today.

I hope to see you in Albany on January 28!

Rebekah Creshkoff

Beyond Plastics Sullivan County

Callicoon, NY

Finding resilience, divine connection in duct tape

Maurizio Cattelan's \$6.2 million duct-taped banana, titled "Comedian," became a global sensation. Intended as a provocation, it questioned the value we assign to art, poking fun at modern culture's obsession with the absurd.

While it sparked debates about meaning and worth, duct tape has been taken in a very different direction—with joy, hope and faith as the guiding lights.

This year, the "Duct Tape to Wall Dreidel" has been unveiled, a powerful symbol of Jewish resilience and the enduring spirit of Chanukah.

Where others might see duct tape as a tool of repair, I see it as a tool of strength. The dreidel isn't just a children's game—it's a timeless message. As the dreidel spins with the help of our hand, so, too, do our lives turn and flourish with the guiding hand of Hashem.

Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, celebrates the miracles of survival and renewal. The "Duct Tape to Wall Dreidel," firmly affixed to the wall, reminds us of the Jewish people's unbreakable connection to their faith and history. Each spin of the dreidel, whether landing on a letter for "great miracle" or "little gain," is a lesson in life's blessings. It is a vivid reminder that no matter how uncertain life feels, Hashem's presence guides our every turn.

This message is especially poignant this year as we all prepare for the Chanukah, a festival dedicated to transforming recent sorrows into joy and celebrating the miracles that continue to light our way.

The duct tape holding this dreidel is more than just adhesive—it's symbolic of how faith and community bind us together, giving us strength even in the most challenging times.

Unlike Cattelan's banana, which critiques the fleeting nature of value, the duct-tape dreidel inspires joy and gratitude.

This isn't just about art—it's about life. It's a reminder to embrace the light, to celebrate our faith, and to find resilience in every spin of life's wheel.

As the world debates art's role, the dreidel offers a timeless message: life's simplest symbols—when inspired by faith—carry the most profound truths.

Rabbi Anchelle Perl

Director, Chabad of Mineola

Mineola, NY

Areas of contention: polls and the Electoral College

It is pretty much certain that polls are completely useless because they are so frequently wrong.

All polls in the last election were consistently within several tenths of one percent. Yet, Trump won the election by a huge margin. [Ed. note: He finished with the seventh-highest margin for the party not in power since 1932 as of November 21, according to PBS, and it was bigger than Biden's share in 2020.]

It used to be worse. The exit poll data from the eastern states sometimes made the voting in the western states less important.

Why are the polls so wrong? There is a large pool of conservative voters as shown by the past results, who do not respond to pollsters but who do vote. I am such a voter.

In many instances, several percentage points can be added to polls in favor of a Republican candidate regardless of the actual poll results. The pollsters don't estimate this margin themselves using methods of mathematical statistics.

On the Electoral College: There are those who debate at length the Electoral College versus the majority of the popular vote; it happened several times in our history that the elected president and the Electoral College winner did not get the majority of the popular vote. Notably, this happened in 1876, 1888, 2000 and 2016.

In the 1824 elections, the House of Representatives winner lost the popular vote.

There are also those who campaign for abolishing the Electoral College in favor of the popular vote. That shows a severe misunderstanding of the reasons for having the Electoral College.

The Founding Fathers, writing in the "Federalist Papers," were leery of the direct democracy with the popular vote as the "tyranny of the majority."

For this reason, we have enshrined in our Constitution the representative democracy. Thus, we vote for our representatives in the two houses of the U.S. Congress, who then make the decisions for us.

The point is that even the smallest state of the Union has the same number of senators and therefore the same number of votes in the Senate as the largest state.

The Founding Fathers established the Electoral College in the Constitution, in part, as a compromise between the election of the President by a vote in Congress and the election of the President by a popular vote of qualified citizens.

The term Electoral College is mentioned nowhere in the Constitution. The Founding Fathers talk only about "electors." Similarly, the word "democracy" is not mentioned anywhere in the Constitution. From this some pundits, who will remain nameless, erroneously conclude that "we do not have democracy in the United States because we have a constitutional republic."

Democracy is not mutually exclusive with a constitutional republic. Similarly, democracy is not mutually exclusive with the constitutional monarchy in the United Kingdom, where democracy goes back to the Magna Carta of 1215.

Ivan Orisek
Forestburgh, NY

On animal abuse and bail reform

Thank you to Blaise Gomez and her heartbreaking but excellent report on another animal abuser (westchesternews12.com/man-accused-of-stabbing-beating-pit-bull-puppy-arrested-by-monticello-police-17-times-before).

The governor and every assembly member need to see this article. Thanks to Gov. Hochul and the NYS Assembly, there are countless perpetrators on the streets and countless victims, both human and animal.

If not for bail reform, would he have had 17 arrests in Monticello alone? And if the answer is no, then perhaps parole needs to be reformed too.

Contact Lt. Gov. Anthony Delgado at LGNY@exec.ny.gov (518/402-2292) and tell him to put an end to bail reform. Gov. Hochul has done nothing to rectify the situation; perhaps he will try. Enough is enough.

Nancy Levine
Swan Lake, NY

■ **MY VIEW**
BY RYANNE JENNINGS

Generosity: a bright light, even on the darkest days

Here at the Wayne County Community Foundation, we work with donors to help fulfill their philanthropic goals while they're living and/or once they've passed. Each fund that we hold is as unique as the donor that established it. It's one of the great joys of the work: to get to know the donors and the cause area that they're most passionate about. It also makes the work of a community foundation quite complex as there is not a one-size-fits-all mold to fit in.

One fund I'd like to share was established by Raymond Hamill, former judge and attorney in Honesdale. Ray was a former board member at the Foundation. He and his wife, Donna, established the Substance Abuse Awareness, Education, and Treatment Fund a few years ago to support people experiencing substance use disorders and addiction, and to provide funding for education on substance use in our community. Ray and Donna are the epitome of altruistic donors who look to give all four "T's" of philanthropic assets—time, talent, treasure and ties.

I've gotten to know Ray and his family quite well over the

years and quickly learned of his quiet generosity, which has been sustained over many decades. As a board member over the last few years, I could always count on Ray to offer a thoughtful listening ear and sage advice—incredibly valued qualities of nonprofit board members.

During his time as judge, he worked to establish the Wayne County Drug Court, which has had tremendous success at providing an opportunity for those battling substance use disorders to be held accountable through a rigorous program, counseling, and monitoring rather than jail time. Through the Substance Abuse Awareness, Education, and Treatment Fund, Ray and Donna's generosity will continue to have a positive impact on community members. This fund helps to remove barriers to recovery for those in treatment, ensuring that financial barriers are not impediments to their success. The intent continues to be to give our community members a hand up during a time of need—as we all, at one time or another, will be in need of support.

Even during these darkest days of the year, I hope you are

inspired by Ray's generous spirit, and I encourage you to consider what you can offer to our community in the form of your time, talent, treasure or ties. It could be a donation of some food to our local pantry system, a financial gift to a nonprofit you care about, offering support for a neighbor or friend, or even just sharing a cause you care about to others. Philanthropy looks different for everyone but the spirit of generosity is a bright light, even when things seem to be at their darkest. Our world depends on reciprocity and generosity.

To make a donation in Ray's memory, please visit waynefoundation.org and select Substance Abuse Awareness, Treatment and Education Fund from the drop-down, or you can send a check to the Wayne County Community Foundation at 918 Church St., Honesdale, PA 18431.

Ryanne Jennings is the president/CEO of the Wayne County Community Foundation.

Raymond Hamill passed away on December 8, 2024. For his obituary, see Page 8.

LETTERS → Page 6

Incinerate waste, bye bye tourism billions

A recent editorial in a local newspaper gushed euphorically about the possibility of a billion dollar plus income for Sullivan County "...thanks to the tourism industry." Tourism is by far the biggest source of Sullivan County's economic income. Tourists and second homeowners flock to Sullivan County for our pristine environment and natural beauty. But if some county legislators succeed in their current effort to set up a Waste to Energy (W to E) incinerator to handle the county's waste disposal problem, you can kiss that tourism and secondhome owner money goodbye. Bringing in a waste incinerator like W to E jeopardizes the county's environmental and economic well-being. Waste incineration pollutes air, water and land with horrific forever chemicals, toxic gasses, ash, and other by-products that require special hazardous waste disposal; and endanger areas far beyond the incinerator itself. We cannot let this happen.

Please contact your legislators and county officials and tell them not to mess up a good thing! Keep our county clean and pollution free. NO trash incinerators to dispose of waste! There are better and safer ways to do this.

Star D. Hesse
Narrowsburg, NY

Support cultivated meat and support animal welfare

Any state or federal politician who claims to care about animal welfare should support public funding for cultivated-meat research.

For those who don't know, cultivated meat is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter. There is nothing elected officials could do that has the potential to reduce more nonhuman suffering and premature death than accelerating development of this technology.

While the new protein has been approved for sale in the United States by the relevant authorities, it is currently too expensive to mass-produce. Achieving price parity with incumbent options will be crucial for the success of cultivated meat. Compassionate leaders can and should play an important role in pursuing this goal, by backing government money for cellular-agricultural development.

Jon Hochschartner
Granby, CT

■ **MY VIEW**
BY LLEWELLYN KING

My newspaper days (television, too)

On December 13, I received an award and gave a dinner talk at the National Press Club in Washington, recognizing my 68 years as a journalist and my 58 years as a club member.

This recognition is from a club subsection known as the Owls. Silver Owls have roosted at the club for 25 years or longer; Golden Owls, 50 years or more; and Platinum Owls, 60 years or longer.

The hot-type days in newspapers are long past, along with black-and-white television. They may be, but the denizens of that time live on—or some of us do.

We crowded the storied National Press Club ballroom to raise a glass to the time when headlines had to fit an exact letter count and when wire services moved the news over teleprinters at 64 words a minute. It could be the biggest story in the world, but it would be moved slower than the speed of reading.

The trick was to break the news into very short takes and move it on several printers. The principal teleprinter of the news services, UPI, AP and Reuters, was equipped with a "bulletin" bell that rang when the biggest news, like an assassination, broke.

In the composing room, where "metal" (you dared not call it lead, even though it was predominantly lead with some tin and antimony) was cast into type and into "furniture," the rules and the spacing bars that went between the lines of type, craftsmanship ruled.

At one side of that great hive were the Linotype machines, operated by skilled people who could change fonts and type sizes by levering up or down the brass boxes that contained the dies of the type. They were the kings and queens of that art, secure and unflappable. Each Linotype machine contained a thousand parts, according to the Museum of Printing in Haverhill, MA.

In a rush, the printers (note to laymen: printers set and handled the type; the people who ran the presses were pressmen) could assemble a whole page in minutes. If news had broken or, heaven forfend, a page had been "pied" (dropped, type all over the floor), then everything had to be reset and assembled.

Television—when I first worked in it in London, in the days of black-and-white—had its foibles and culture, and the love of a glass of something.

The equivalent of the printers were the film editors, craftsmen and craftswomen all. One of the most skilled, who had had a long career in movies, would entertain us at the in-house bar in the BBC news studios in North London by swinging a full pint mug of beer over his head without spilling any.

With the same dedication, he would slice and link the celluloid on deadline. He was the man who would save the day, especially if the film came in late. Tape was in its infancy.

In the newspapers' newsroom, tactically one floor above the

composing room, there were the journalists—that irregular army of misfits and egotists who made up a subculture unique to themselves. In Britain, they were referred to as "the shabby people who smell of drink." That was true of journalists all over the world in those days. I can attest, bear witness. I was there.

Among the journalists, writers, editors, cartoonists, columnists, photographers, designers, secretaries and librarians was a cast of characters who were almost always the same in every newsroom, print or television. There was the Beau Brummell, the lover, the agony aunt, the gossip, the budding author and the drunk (who wrote better than anyone else and was tolerated because of that). Then, sadly, the gambler.

The drinkers had camaraderie and laughter; the gamblers, just losses.

That began to change about 1970 when I was at The Washington Post. There were still drinkers who did the deed at the New York Lounge, a hole in the wall next to the more famous but less used by us, the Post Pub. The drinking was definitely down. Among the younger members of the staff, pot was the recreational drug. The older ones still favored a drink.

In London, the prominent newspapers and the BBC maintained bars in their offices. It made it easy to find people when they were needed.

At the venerable New York Herald Tribune, after the first edition closed at 7:30 p.m., the entire editorial staff, it seemed, went downstairs and around the block to the Artist and Writers, also called Bleaks. It wasn't known for the quality of its carbonated water unless that was mixed with something brown.

At the Baltimore News-American, there was a secret route through the mechanical departments, enabling thirsty scribblers to reach the nearest bar undetected.

At the Washington Daily News, which belonged to the Scripps Howard chain of newspapers, the editor favored the nearest bar, an Irish establishment called Matt Kane's.

At the National Press Club celebration, we will raise one to the days of wine and roses, great stories and wordsmithing, and the fabulous adventure of it—the bad food, terrible hours, poor pay, long stakeouts, days far from home, and always, as my late first wife and great journalist Doreen King said, "the inner core of panic" about getting things right. We do care, more than our readers and viewers know.

There is, for all of its tribulations, no greater, more exciting place to be than in a newsroom as big news is breaking.

You are there, inside history.

Llewellyn King is the executive producer and host of "White House Chronicle" on PBS. He wrote this for InsideSources.com.

■ OBITUARIES

RAYMOND L. HAMILL

Raymond L. Hamill passed peacefully with his family by his side December 8, 2024 at the age of 74. His impact on Wayne County and beyond will long outlive his decades of service to others through the judicial system and church community as well as for those he was blessed to call dear friends and family.



He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Donna Tyson Hamill, as well as children James (wife Melody Robinson) and Meredith, and grandchildren Cagney and Prudence, as well as his canine companion Frankie, brother Jim Hamill (companion Barb Kenney), mother-in-law Dorothy Tyson, and brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by parents James A. Hamill and Muriel Smith Hamill, and sister Josephine Hutcheson.

Ray was born in Philadelphia and raised in Glenside, PA, rooting for the Phillies and Eagles. He went on to obtain a degree from Dickinson College and made lifelong friends there, including fraternity brothers (SAE). Ray then received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh and began practicing law, working for Legal Services in Scranton. He would move to Honesdale in 1976 to run the Legal Services office until he joined partner Stephen Jennings, Esq. in 1978 in private practice. He would have two more partners over his career and many dedicated employees. In addition, Ray was trusted to be the solicitor for several school districts and municipalities over the years. He fondly considered helping his clients as his most rewarding work in the legal profession.

Raymond was elected Wayne County District Attorney in 1984, serving two terms. He then was elected Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Wayne County in 2007, serving as President Judge until 2017 when he assumed the position of Senior Judge serving Wayne, Pike, Susquehanna and Wyoming counties. He was instrumental in starting the county's first-ever drug court at the end of his elected term, aimed at helping those battling addiction.

After retiring from the bench, Ray represented the Susquehanna Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church as Chancellor. He retired from that service in 2021.

In his personal life, Ray acted in Center Stage, a local performance group, where

GARY McBRIDE SR.



Gary McBride Sr. of Cocheaton, NY passed away on Saturday, December 7, 2024, at home. He was 76.

He was the son of the late Sylvester and Helen McBride, and was born on January 25, 1948 in Port Jervis, NY.

He worked for 41 years for Sullivan County Gas, and later retired from Suburban Gas. He was a founding member of the Shady Brook Hunting Club and a past member of the NRA. He was a true outdoorsman in the whole sense of the word, enjoying hunting and fishing in his spare time. He loved his family dearly and enjoyed spending as much time with them as possible, especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

he met his wife, Donna. He played pickup basketball around the area, golfed (using a 1 iron off the tee), sang in the choir at Central United Methodist Church and taught Disciple Bible Study, coached softball and baseball teams, preached as a lay person at various churches, including serving as Conference Lay Leader, the Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee and served as one of the original members of the United Methodist Connectional Table, the organization which planned and oversaw the mission, ministry and finances of the international United Methodist Church. He has been a member of the Wayne County YMCA and served as President of that organization. He has served on the Wayne Memorial Health System and Hospital Board and served as President of those organizations, and was a member of the Lions Club and a board member of the Wayne County Community Foundation.

Ray was kind, compassionate, generous, affable, fun-loving and wise beyond his years. While he lived a full life, he battled several ailments over the years with conviction. He was determined to live out his days savoring the relationships and natural beauty all around him—and remained humble and loving until his last breath.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, December 28, 2024 at 11 a.m. in the Historic Courtroom of the Wayne County Courthouse, 925 Court St., Honesdale, PA 18431 with Rev. Gregory Myers and Rev. Robert Kazinski officiating. Everyone attending is asked to enter at the main entrance of the Courthouse. If any attendee requires elevator access, please enter at the Sheriff's Office at the Courthouse Annex on ground level.

In accordance with the Hamill family's wishes, kindly omit flowers. Contributions to causes in Ray's memory can be made to the Wayne County Community Foundation c/o the Substance Abuse, Education and Awareness Fund or to the Wayne Memorial Hospice Program. The Hamill family shares its appreciation to the hospice team, Edward Howell and his staff, as well as the countless ways the community has supported them throughout.

Arrangements are entrusted to the Howell Family Funeral Home, Inc., Edward R. Howell, Funeral Director, 269 Belmont Street, Waymart, PA 18472. [www.HowellFamilyFuneralHome.com](http://HowellFamilyFuneralHome.com).

He is survived by his loving wife Bonnie Smith at home, his son Gary McBride and wife Charlene, his grandchildren Eric McBride and Kaitlyn McBride, his great-grandchildren Layla and Lilian, and lifelong dear friend Billy Lagoda. He was predeceased by his son Bobby McBride; and his siblings Beverly Gilson, Butch and Anthony McBride.

Services were handled privately at the convenience of the family. A celebration of life will take place at a later date.

Arrangements were under the care of Colonial Ramsay Funeral Home. For further information, call 845/434-7363.

■ DEATH NOTICES

Catherine J. Bauer

Catherine J. Bauer, 81, of Tafton, PA, passed away December 2, 2024 at Wayne Memorial Hospital in Honesdale, PA. Catherine was born in July of 1943.

Josephine Dorothy Bruglia

Josephine Dorothy Bruglia, 94, of Honesdale, PA, passed away December 10, 2024 at Wayne Woodlands Manor in Waymart, PA. Josephine was born December 22, 1929 in Queens, NY. Funeral services were held December 12, 2024 at Hessling Murray Funeral Home in Honesdale. Interment to be in George Washington Memorial Park, Paramus, NJ.

Marjorie L. Dauchert

Marjorie "Margie" L. Dauchert, 89, of Honesdale, PA, passed away December 11, 2024 at Wayne Woodlands Manor in Waymart, PA. Marjorie was born September 1, 1935 in Englewood, NJ. Funeral services were held December 14, 2024 at Hessling Murray Funeral Home in Honesdale. Interment will be in the spring at Darling Cemetery in Cherry Ridge, PA.

Patricia Mae Eldred

Patricia Mae Eldred, 80, of Equinunk, PA, passed away December 9, 2024 at Geisinger Community Medical Center in Scranton, PA. Patricia was born March 17, 1944 in Peckville, PA. Funeral services were held December 14, 2024 at the Pine Mill United Methodist Church in Equinunk, PA. Interment was held in the Pine Mill Cemetery in Equinunk.

Leonard Allen Harlos Sr.

Leonard Allen Harlos Sr., 71, of Honesdale, PA, passed away December 7, 2024 at home. Leonard was born August 8, 1953 in Paterson, NJ. Memorial services will be held in the spring.

Phyllis M. Martin

Phyllis M. Martin, 92, of Bluffton, SC and formerly of Honesdale, PA, passed away December 1, 2024. Phyllis was born October 11, 1932. Graveside service will be held at Blue Ridge Cemetery, Altamont Ave in Thurmont, MD on Friday, January 24, 2025 at 11 a.m.

Steven McCune

Steven McCune, 69, of Hawley, PA, passed away December 6, 2024 at home. Steven was born January 19, 1955 in Queens, NY. A mass of Christian burial was held December 13, 2024 at BVM Queen of Peace Roman Catholic Church in Hawley. Interment will be in Indiantown Gap National Cemetery in Annville, PA.

Harriet Elizabeth Smith

Harriet Elizabeth Smith, 82, formerly of Cherry Ridge, passed away December 8, 2024 at Wayne Memorial Hospital in Honesdale, PA. Harriet was born June 21, 1942 in Lookout, PA. As per her request private services will be held at the convenience of the family.



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Lighting the way

By ANNEMARIE SCHUETZ

DAMASCUS, PA — The night of the luminaries was almost magical.

You turned your headlights off and drove carefully down Route 371. The flickering lights guided you along, dimly illuminating other cars, other people, all making the same pilgrimage.

The snow sparkled in the light. If you pulled over and stepped out of your car, the darkness wrapped around you and the evening was near-silent, just the purr of soft car motors murmuring in the stillness as the vehicles rolled by.

This was Christmas Eve in Damascus, lit by tea lights and candles, reminding all that the evening was about far more than last-minute shopping.

"For years, thousands of luminaries lined Route 371, side roads and driveways," said Melissa Rutledge, a member of the Damascus Manor United Methodist Church.

But it can be a big undertaking. Organizing volunteers, organizing the bags or milk jugs or other containers for the lights, arranging the luminaries. At the end of the evening, people pick them up and store them for next year.

"As those who began this project aged, moved away or passed away, the project stopped," she said.

But several years ago, Rutledge and other volunteers took on the job of bringing the beloved tradition back.

The luminaries aren't just about Christmas. They remind us of those lost, those we have loved, and people we want to honor, she said.

She'd been developing fundraisers at the Damascus Manor United Methodist Church, "and wanted to do something meaningful for the community that I grew up in," she said. "This seemed like the perfect way to do just that, as so many beloved members of our community were passing away."

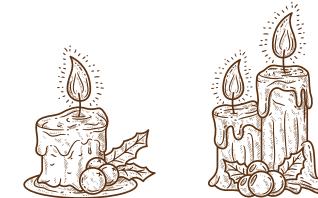
So she contacted some of the original organizers, "received some valuable knowledge, and the fundraiser was in motion."

And now the lights also symbolize the dedication of the volunteers who make the evening special. "I have a great group who help set them out and collect them on Christmas Eve. Each year we add more [luminaries]," Rutledge said. "Luckily, the Unity Grange in Galilee provides storage space for our growing collection."

Sponsorships not only help fund the luminaries, but they contribute to the church's work: mission, outreach, the pastor's discretionary fund and local organizations that need a boost to continue their community service, Rutledge said. "We are a church family who strives to be present in and for our community."

2024 Damascus Manor United Methodist Church Luminary List

Donor	In honor of
Dan and Jen Rutledge	Mary Fitzgerald and Nellie Nichols
Mike and Kim Modrovsky and Family	Judith S. Diehl, Lois McKaig, Mary Fitzgerald and Doris J. Swendsen
Judith Diehl	Lois McKaig
Metzger Family	Carolyn Grady
Julie Rutledge	Lois McKaig
Kendall and Bill Schwab and Family	Chick Smith
Kendall and Bill Schwab and Family	Margaret Smith
Bill Schwab, Jr.	Marjorie Schwab
Bill and Kendall Schwab and Family	Penny Jones
The Skinner Family	Doris Lewis
Kathryn Smith	William J. Smith, Joan M. Smith, Harold Myers, Thelma Roe, Kelly Myers, JR Rea, Tina Smith Augello and Frank Piercy
Carol Welton and Joyce Stokes	Percy Tyler, Ruth Tyler, Evelyn Jones, Richard Jones and David Tyler
Joe and Joyce Stokes	Harry Stokes, JoAnn Stokes and Roger DeGroat
Anita Orlow	David Z. Orlow, June Marzani, William J. Gager, Mavis Gager and J. William Gager
Shirley Brown	Donald C. Brown and Inez Gregg Nolan
Larry and Shirley Kerber	Kevin M. Kerber, Eddy Sykes, Elvan Monington, Elizabeth Monington, Bob Kerber and Dottie Kerber
Beverly Hillriegel	Lester Hillriegel, Shirley Spaulding, Vernon Whitmore, Orville Whitmore and Elva Whitmore
Margaret Timozek	Robert Timozek
John and Karen Burlein	Loved Ones
Dan and Jen Rutledge	Duane Gillette and Ernie Rutledge
Dorothy Swick	Catherine Fagan, Blanche Juszynski and Andrew Juszynski
Kathleen Wood	Rev. Donald Walter, Natalie Walter, Maude McShane, Robert Wood and Dora Henry
Mike and Kim Modrovsky and Family	John C. Diehl, Anthony Modrovsky, Anna Modrovsky, Andrew Modrovsky, Carol Novosel and Glenn "Jake" Jacobs
Doris Lewis	Harry Smith, Fred Smith and Rod Smith
Alice McDowell	John McDowell, Ric Schweighofer, Ralph Schweighofer, Margaret Schweighofer and Ruth Budd Schweighofer
Barbara Long	Steve Long and Joel Kurtz
Mark and Stephanie Tyler	Warren A. Brey and Robert G. Dailey
Alan and Carol Welton	Chester Crum, Jack Crum, Kenneth Welton, Nancy Welton, Dustin Crum and Donna Gohl
Gail and Charles Brunner	Inez Marshall, Gilbert Marshall and Charlie Brunner Sr.
Bonny Dubson	Ira Dubson, Don Diehl and Juanita Diehl
Metzger Family	Jim Metzger, Pete Metzger, Gladys Metzger, George Kellam, Bernie Kella, Charles Keesler, Dora Faye Henry, John Lytle and Barbara Walter
Julie Rutledge	Ernie Rutledge, Andee Kraft, Travis Canfield and Bill Adams
Judith Diehl	John C. Diehl, Ivan Swendsen, Ruth Swendsen, Marjorie Diehl, John S. Diehl and Alfred Swendsen
Lois McKaig	Alan McKaig, David Clark, Christine Clark, Kathleen Heslin and Vicki Young
Jack and Mary Fitzgerald	John S. Diehl, Marjorie Diehl, John Curtin, Helen Curtin, Florence Price and Beulah Fortham
Ron and Martha Canfield	Zachary Canfield and Travis Canfield
Vicki and Bob Wargo	Keith Swendsen, Shirley Swendsen, Walter Swendsen, Hazel Swendsen, Ivan Swendsen, Ruth Swendsen, Frank Swendsen and Gert Swendsen
William D. Cooper	Russell D. Cooper, Mildred A. Cooper, Russell C. Cooper, Elliott Nierman, and Dorothy J. Trueb
Nancy Heidel	Mary Lou Heidel and Charles Heidel
Richard Doll	Martha Doll and Sarah Doll
Bruce, Melissa, Brea and Channing Rutledge	William J. (Bill) Gager, Dora Faye Henry, Raymond Deighton, Shirley Deighton, J. William (Bill) Gager and Mavis Gager
Mee H. Hoe-Castleberry	William Lesse Castleberry
Kendall and Bill Schwab and Family	Sunny Smith-Schwab
Diana and Brad Swendsen	Peggy Harsh, Ed Harsh, Elvin Swendsen, Benjamin Turner, Mildred Turner, Hazel Swendsen, Walter Swendsen and Jake Hopkins
Mary and Hal Roeder	Rod Smith, Jake Hopkins, Gerald Allen, Ricky Baker, Leona Buddenhausen
Holly Hopkins	Jerry (Jake) Hopkins, Edward Harsch, Margaret Harsch and Betty Hopkins
Roy and Peggy Miller Family	Peggy Harsch, Edward Harsch, Tom Lindley, Margaret Lindley, Nelson Miller, Mary Miller and Jake Hopkins
The Skinner Family	Ronald J. Benson, Robert Skinner, Francis Skinner, Harry "Mac" Coburn, Barbara Brown, Sophia Guidetti and Ralph Skinner
The Wessman Family	Gloria Wessman, Makenzie Bergen, Leona Buddenhausen and Gerald Allen
Jess, Jordan and Dylan Patzuk	Peter Fay, Richard McCormick, William Hunt, Jim Bob Steelman and Yvonne Hunt



Didnt sponsor a luminary? There's always next year

The luminary campaign begins in early October and ends the second Sunday of December, Rutledge said. You can find the form on the church's Facebook page, DamascusUMChurches, email damascusluminaries@gmail.com or watch for information in the **River Reporter**, the media sponsor.



She asked that people drive with caution near the church on the afternoon of Christmas Eve, starting around 3 p.m. Volunteers will be setting out the luminaries.

Should inclement weather prevent the volunteers from setting the lights out on Christmas Eve, the date will be moved to New Year's Eve.

Given these inflationary times, as people

continue to be careful with their money, the generosity as people sponsored luminaries has been heartwarming, Rutledge said.

"What better way to light up Christmas Eve as you make your way to area churches?" she said.

The lights lead to the Damascus Manor United Methodist Church, where a Christmas Eve service will be held, beginning at 7 p.m.

Visitors can hear the Community Cantata Choir and enjoy the service, which blends the traditional and the contemporary. "I have good faith the church bells will be ringing."

The light of the luminaries helps us remember those lost. And more:

"Come join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior," Rutledge said. "After all, he is the reason for Christmas."

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Celebrations



It's looking a lot like Christmas

'It's not about the lights, it's what they light up'

By SUSAN WALIGUNDA WADE

ELDRED, NY — Driving through Eldred at Christmastime is an experience not to be missed.

The quiet, unassuming hamlet in the Town of Highland comes alive with festive lights, massive and numerous blow-up Christmas lawn characters, a pulsating music and light show and a manger scene, located near the traffic light in Eldred along Route 55 in front of the Corner Piazza and Corner Store.

This amazing and breathtaking display of good cheer is presented annually as a gift from the Montelone family. Not only is it funded by them, but each of the 51,000 pixel bulbs and more than 300 props are planned out and situated with precision.

The show has captured the hearts of the community, drawing visitors from near and far.

The display comes to life over the Thanksgiving weekend and includes live characters from the North, including Frosty the Snowman, the Gingerbread Man, Rudolph and many more. They all greet the crowd that comes to await a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus with dancing and singing.

The famous couple arrives right on schedule. Santa's magical thumb enables him to determine whether children have been good throughout the year. His thumb is amazingly accurate.

There are opportunities for visitors to drop off gifts to be shared with organizations that serve the areas of animal rescue, food insecurity and clothing needs.

Predating this festive light and music display was the Santa Express, which ran for two decades visiting area towns, spreading excitement and good cheer throughout the tri-state region.

The Santa Express, a flat-bed tractor-trailer sized rig decked out with a dazzling array



Graphic from Santa's Village of Giving, Eldred NY Facebook page

There's plenty for all to encounter at Santa's Village of Giving.

of blinking lights, a mini-village, pulsating holiday-themed music, live characters and of course the special couple used to be greeted by throngs of children and adults alike. It was truly a magical experience.

The Santa Express was sidelined by COVID and operational challenges.

The Christmas Village in Eldred then took on a life of its own, expanding each of the three years since.

Speaking for the family, Lou Montelone said, "The village and lights bring joy not only to children, but adults have stopped into the store to thank us for bringing light to their commute as they travel dark roads to work early in the morning or home again in the evening."

Not only is the crossroads of Eldred festooned at Christmastime, but every major holiday is recognized with decorations and lights appropriate to the season. Asked how they keep their spirits up during the tiring work, Montelone said that they remind themselves that "it's not about the lights, it's what they light up."

Indeed, even the most curmudgeonly among us can't help but to feel our faces light up in a smile.

The schedule for the live performances is weather dependent and updated regularly on Facebook. Visit Santa's Village of Giving for the most up-to-date information. The displays will be lit through New Years Day.

Join us this holiday season as we illuminate the town with thousands of dazzling lights and enchanting music!

Our Patio Kiosk will be open Friday & Saturday nights from 5-8 pm through January 5, with a special NYE show.

Hot drinks, 4 Grills hard cider, and delicious snacks.

Show merch, including festive hats and sweatshirts.

Stay cozy next to our pellet fireplace, and feel the warmth and charm of this holiday experience!

Find our show right downtown 582 State Route 55, Eldred NY

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Contributed photo

The annual holiday tree exhibit is on display now at the Sullivan County Cultural Center and Museum in Hurleyville, NY.

Take a gander at the trees

HURLEYVILLE, NY — The annual holiday tree exhibit is on display now at the Sullivan County Cultural Center and Museum.

The Sullivan County Historical Society hosts the event, in which holiday trees have been created by individuals and local organizations, and are now on view.

The trees are on display through New Year's Day, Tuesday through Saturday from

10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the museum, located at 265 Main St. There is no admission charge.

At the museum, you can purchase holiday gifts, such as history books and other gift shop items as well as photographs by Frederick Cook.

For more information, call 845/434-8044 or email SCParks@sullivanny.gov.

A service of light and shadow

MILFORD, PA — The Milford United Methodist Church, located at 206 E. Ann St., invites all to a Service of Light and Shadow on Saturday, December 21, beginning at 5 p.m.

The service is being held on the longest night of the year. Immediately following the service, the church will hold a candlelight vigil to support those who might be—or are

at risk of being—homeless or unhoused.

At 6 p.m., all are invited to share a simple meal of soup and sandwiches.

Donations for the Tri-State Warming Station are welcome. The items most needed are women's underwear, socks and gloves.

To learn more, email milfordmethodists@gmail.com.

'Change the Christmas Musical' at the Sherman Theater

STROUDSBURG, PA — This Christmas, "Change the Christmas Musical" will return to the Sherman Theater at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday, December 21, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, December 22.

Far from cities filled with tall buildings, well beyond pastures, fields and farms, sits the town of Stroudsville. The characters find themselves caught up in the busyness of the holidays. Claire, the neurotic owner of Starcups, prays that the townspeople will

discover the true meaning of Christmas. Her prayers are answered, but the wicked Von Villain plots to ruin Christmas forever.

The Sherman Theater is located at 524 Main St.

Tickets cost \$25 for general admission and \$20 for children under age 12, seniors and Veterans.

For tickets and more information, visit shermantheater.com or call the box office at 570/420-2808.

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Radio Catskill announces holiday programming

REGION — Radio Catskill, 90.5 FM, announced a special lineup of holiday programming this season. “From heartwarming stories to a diverse collection of holiday music, these programs will bring joy and holiday spirit to listeners throughout the yuletide season,” said general manager Tim Bruno.

You can tune in on-air, stream via the website or use the free mobile app or a smart speaker. You’ll find a mix of holiday favorites, timeless classics and seasonal offerings.

Tuesday, December 24

9 p.m.: “An Afro Blue Christmas”

Howard University vocal ensemble Afro Blue and special guest pianist Cyrus Chestnut perform new and classic holiday songs, including African-American spiritu-

als, jazz and pop tunes, and classical repertoire. From NPR, hosted by Michele Norris.

10 p.m.: “Christmas With Morehouse and Spelman Glee Clubs”

The choirs of Morehouse and Spelman Colleges—two of the most prestigious historically black institutions in the nation—present an annual holiday concert program of spirituals and carols.

This encore presentation features the best works of the last several years. From NPR, hosted by Korva Coleman.

11 p.m.: “Jazz Piano Christmas”

The annual concert of jazz-infused renditions of seasonal music. Featuring a distinctly Afro-Cuban vibe this year with pianist, vocalist and actress Melvis Santa and Cuban composer and jazz pianist Alfredo

Rodriguez. From The Kennedy Center and NPR, hosted by Felix Contreras.

Midnight: “A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols”

Recorded at King’s College Chapel, Cambridge, England, this service has been a Christmas Eve tradition for more than a century. It features biblical readings, a cappella and organ-accompanied anthems, hymns, carols and related seasonal music. From American Public Media, hosted by Michael Barone.

Wednesday, December 25

10 a.m.: “A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols Encore Presentation”

The Christmas morning rebroadcast of the traditional Christmas Eve service.

Noon: “Joy to the World—A Holiday in Pink”

The “little orchestra” Pink Martini performs festive holiday songs from across the globe. From timeless classics to rarely heard gems, it’s described as a multi-denominational, multi-cultural jubilee full of holiday spirit. From NPR, hosted by Ari Shapiro.

1 p.m.: “The Big Tiny Desk Concert Holiday Special”

Celebrate the season with holiday performances from The Tiny Desk Concert series, including Sharon Jones & The Dap-Kings, Steve Martin, Hanson, The Polyphonic Spree and more. Hosted by NPR Music’s Bob Boilen and Stephen Thompson.

2 p.m.: “A World Cafe Holiday”

World Cafe celebrated 30 years by revisiting special holiday performances from Sharon Jones and the Dap-Kings, Los Lobos, Andrew Bird, The Bird and The Bee, Pink Martini, Preservation Hall Jazz Band and more. From NPR and WXPN, hosted by Raina Douris.

Find Radio Catskill at 90.5 FM or at wjffradio.org/.

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Come Home for Christmas and New Year

Come to the Oldest Catholic Parish in Sullivan County St. Mary Church, Obernburg, NY

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Vigil

Vigil Of The Nativity Of The Lord

5:00 pm Caroling

5:15 pm Visit From Santa

5:30 pm Mass

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day

The Nativity Of The Lord

9:30 am Mass



Tuesday, December 31

New Year Eve

Vigil Mass Of The Solemnity Of Mary

The Mother Of God

5:30 pm Mass

Wednesday, January 1

New Year Day

Mass Of The Solemnity Of Mary,

The Mother Of God

9:30 am Mass

Saturday, January 4

Epiphany Of The Lord

4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, January 5

8:00 am & 9:30 am Mass

Saturday, January 11 • 4:00 pm Mass

The Baptism Of The Lord

Sunday, January 12 • 8:00 am & 9:30 am Mass

These activities of the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance are supported in part by a Fair Games Fund Grant, the Nancy Stevenson Memorial Fund, the Heartland Fund, and by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.



Christmas services 2024

New York services

Barryville

Barryville Community Church
973/901-2903, 3396 Rte. 97
Christmas Eve: 7 p.m. service
United Methodist Church
845/557-6216, 3405 Route 97
December 22: 9:30 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve: 5:30 p.m. service

Bloomingburg

Our Lady of the Assumption
845/733-1477, 8 High St.
Christmas Eve: 5:30 p.m. Mass and pageant
Christmas Day: 9:30 a.m. Christmas Mass

Callicoon

Grace Church
845/887-4684, 9284 Rte. 97
Christmas Eve: 7 p.m. candlelight service
Holy Cross Catholic Church
845/887-5450, 9719 Rte. 97
Christmas Eve: 5 p.m. Mass
Christmas Day: 11 a.m. Mass
St. James Episcopal Church
845/887-3145, 7 Mountain View Dr.
Christmas Eve: 1:30 p.m. service
Eldred
Eldred Congregational Church
845/858-6760, 8 Proctor Rd.
Christmas Eve: 5 p.m. service
Fosterdale
United Methodist Church
845/583-4561, 3088-3284 Rte. 17B
Christmas Eve: 6 p.m. Candlelight service

Jeffersonville

First Presbyterian Church
845/482-5549, 4907 Rte. 52
Christmas Eve: 8:30 p.m. service
St. George's Roman Catholic Church
845/482-4640, 97 Schoolhouse Hill Rd.
Christmas Eve: 4 p.m. family Mass
Christmas Day: 11 a.m. Christmas Mass
Lake Huntington
Our Lady of the Lake Roman Catholic Church
845/252-6681, Rte. 52
Christmas Eve: 4 p.m. Children's Mass

Liberty

Vine and Branch Church
845/292-5227, 2535 Rte. 52 West
Christmas Eve: 7 p.m. Candlelight service
Lighthouse Ministries
845/985-7026, 23 Triangle Rd.
December 22: Noon Christmas service

Long Eddy

St. Patrick Catholic Church
845/887-5450, 20 Church St.
Christmas Day: 8:30 a.m. Mass
Monticello
First Church of Monticello, Presbyterian
845/794-5783, 11 Jones St.
December 22: 11 a.m. service
Christmas Eve: 7 p.m. service
St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church
845/794-5577, 10 Liberty St.
Christmas Eve: 5:15 p.m., 7 p.m. (Spanish) and midnight Mass
Christmas Day: 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 1 p.m. (Spanish) Mass

Mongaup Valley

Chapel of St. Joseph, A mission church of St. Peter's
845/794-5577, 8 Gale Rd.
Christmas Eve: 5:15 p.m. Mass
Christmas Day: 9:30 a.m. Mass

Narrowsburg

United Methodist Church
845/557-8210, 1 Methodist Way
Christmas Eve: 5 p.m. Virtual service (email Norman.Bohs@gmail.com for link)
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
845/252-3919, 31 Erie Ave.
Christmas Eve: 4 p.m. Service of Holy Communion
Christmas Day: 10 a.m. Service of Holy Communion
St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church
845/252-6681, 151 Bridge St.
Christmas Eve: 8 p.m. Christmas Eve vigil Mass
Christmas Day: 11:15 a.m. Mass
Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
845/701-9127, Narrowsburg Union, Rm 102
December 22: 10:15 a.m.

Obernburg

St. Mary's Church
845/482-5541, 386 County Rd. 95
Christmas Eve: 5 p.m. caroling, 5:15 p.m. Santa, 5:30 p.m. Mass
Christmas Day: 9:30 a.m. Mass

Port Jervis

Greenville United Methodist Church
845/856-8855, 1686 Greenville Tpk.
Christmas Eve: 5 p.m. candlelight service
St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church
845/856-8212, 50 Ball St.
Christmas Eve: 4 p.m. Christmas vigil, 10 p.m. night Mass
Christmas Day: 10 a.m. Christmas Mass
St. Peter's Lutheran
845/856-1033, 31 W. Main St.
Christmas Eve: 7 p.m. service
First Presbyterian and Deerpark Reformed Unified Churches
60 Sussex St.
Christmas Eve: 7 p.m. Candlelight service

Youngsville

St. Francis of Assisi Church
845/482-4640, 4020 State Rte. 52
Christmas Eve: 7 p.m. Mass

Pennsylvania services

Beach Lake

St. Bernard Catholic Church
570/253-4561, 300 Catholic Church Rd.
Christmas Eve: 6 p.m. Mass
Free Methodist Church
570/729-7544, 107 Milanville Rd.
Christmas Eve: 6:30 p.m. Candlelight service

Greentown

St. Veronica's Church
570/226-3183, 122 Shiny Mountain Rd.
Christmas Eve: 4:30 p.m. Mass
Christmas Day: 9:45 a.m. Mass

Hawley

Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church
570/226-3183, 314 Chestnut Ave.
Christmas Eve: 5:30 p.m. Mass
Christmas Day: 8 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Mass

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

570/226-2411, 405 Church St.
Christmas Eve: 7 p.m. Candlelight service with Holy Communion

First Presbyterian Church

570/226-4835, 815 Church St.
Christmas Eve: 7 p.m. Candlelight service

Honesdale

Central United Methodist
570/253-3291, 205 11th St.
Christmas Eve: 7 p.m. Family service with Communion, 11 p.m. Candlelight service with Communion
St. John the Evangelist
570/253-4561, 150 Terrace St.
Christmas Eve: 4 p.m. Mass, 7:30 p.m. carols, 8 p.m. Mass
Christmas Day: 10:30 a.m. Mass

St. Mary Magdalen

570/253-4561, 415 Church St.
Christmas Day: 7:30 a.m. Mass
Grace Ridge Church
570/253-5451, 761 Terrace St.
Christmas Eve: 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. service
Grace Episcopal Church
570/253-2760, 827 Church St.
Christmas Eve: 4 p.m. Lessons, carols, Holy Eucharist

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran

570/253-1444, 107 7th St.
Christmas Eve: 5 p.m. Christmas service in the sanctuary

Lords Valley

St. John Neumann Church
570/775-6791, 705 Rte. 739
Christmas Eve: 4 p.m. Mass
Christmas Day: 10:30 a.m. Christmas Mass

Matamoras

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church
570/491-2618, 309 Avenue F
Christmas Eve: 4 p.m. Mass and children's pageant
Christmas Day: 8:30 a.m. Mass

Milford

Centerpoint Community Church
814/531-5511, 117 Milford Hill Ln.
Christmas Eve: 4 p.m. service (with child care up to 5 p.m.), 6 p.m. service (no child care)

Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Milford

570/296-4711, 300 Broad St.
Christmas Eve: 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Candlelight service

Milford Bible Church

570/296-6019, 110 Foxcroft Dr.
Christmas Eve: 6 p.m. Christmas Eve service

United Methodist Church

570/296-6124, 206 E. Ann St.
December 21: 5 p.m. Longest Night service—"Service of Shadow & Light"
Christmas Eve: 4 p.m. Family-friendly service, 7 p.m. Candlelight worship with choir and bells

St. Vincent de Paul Church

570/686-4545, 101 St. Vincent Dr.
Christmas Eve: 6 p.m. Mass

Christmas Day: 11 a.m. Christmas Mass

St. Patrick's Catholic Church

570/296-7451, 200 E. High St.
Christmas Eve: 6 p.m. Mass

Christmas Day: 11 a.m. Mass

Rileyville

Cold Spring/Rileyville Presbyterian Church
800/728-7228, 2497 Great Bend Tpk.
December 22: 7 p.m. candlelight service

St. Joseph's Church

570/253-4561, 2270 Hancock Hwy.
Christmas Day: 9 a.m. Mass

Shohola

St. Ann's Church
570/832-4275, 121 Richardson Ave.
Christmas Eve: 4 p.m. Mass, midnight Mass
Christmas Day: 9 a.m. Christmas Mass

Barryville United Methodist Church 2024 Holiday Schedule

Pastor - Rev. Dr. David C. Lehmkuhl

December 22nd

Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:30

December 24th

Christmas Eve Service 5:30



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Hanukkah/Chanukah services 2024

New York services

Livingston Manor

Congregation Agudas Achim

845/292-3600

December 22: 3:45 p.m. Parksville Rail Trail walk, 4:30 Menorah lighting

December 28: Chanukah songs and Havdalah via Zoom; call for link and information.

Rock Hill

Chabad of Rock Hill

242 Old Sackett Rd.

845/397-8000

December 19: 7 p.m. pre-Chanukah women's chocolate making at Chabad of Rock Hill

December 26: 5:30 p.m., public Menorah lighting at the Woodridge Municipal Building, 2 Dairyland Rd.

December 29: 4:30 p.m., public Menorah lighting in front of Dutch's, 206 Rock Hill Dr.

Pennsylvania services

Lords Valley

Jewish Fellowship of Hemlock Farms

540 Forest Dr.

December 25: 6 p.m. Chanukah candle lighting, followed by a three-course catered kosher Chinese dinner (www.jffh.org)

December 29: 2 p.m. Chanukah celebration, crafts for children, singing and Israeli dancing



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On Saturday, December 21, the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance (DVAA) will host Camellia and Odetta Hartman (pictured) at the Tusten Theatre at 5 p.m. in a performance for adults of retro holiday music featuring the Cozy Catskills Holiday Revue.

A cozy Catskills at the Tusten Theatre

NARROWSBURG, NY — On Saturday, December 21, the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance (DVAA) will host Camellia and Odetta Hartman at the Tusten Theatre at 5 p.m. in an adult-only performance of retro holiday music featuring the Cozy Catskills Holiday Revue.

This year's musical lineup includes a mix of classics and lesser-known festive gems, with a focus on themes of peace and unity.

The event features the Hartmans on vocals and strings, Evan Tyor on piano and vocals, Jamie Mohamdein on upright bass, Billy Aukstik on trumpet, Eric Burns on guitar and Nathan Repasz on drums.

Special guests include Flirty Riot with dancing elves on an aerial trapeze, Bret

Keyser with classic holiday storytelling and Kazzrie Jaxen performing improvisational piano and vocals.

That same day at 1 p.m., Cozy Catskills will showcase global holiday traditions, featuring special guests sharing their unique cultural festivities.

Tickets cost \$25 for adult non-members and \$20 for DVAA members.

Admission for kids aged 19 and under at the 1 p.m. performance is free, thanks to support from the Tusten Youth Commission.

The theatre is located at 210 Bridge St.

Purchase tickets or learn more by calling 845/252-7576 or online at delawarevalleyartsalliance.org.

'A Christmas Carol' holiday show and dinner

ELDRED, NY — The Eldred Preserve will host an evening of food, classic carols and entertainment with the return of "A Christmas Carol Holiday Dinner Show" at 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 22.

Presented by Murder Cafe, "A Christmas Carol Holiday Dinner Show" brings Charles Dickens' tale of Ebeneezer Scrooge to life, with appearances by the Cratchits, carolers, the Ghosts of Christmas and more.

"This show perfectly combines holiday

magic and culinary delight, creating a night replete with song, laughter and nostalgia," said Eldred Preserve COO Scott Samuelson.

Audience members can take part in a three-course meal, including dish options such as creamy celery root bisque, filet of beef medallions and more, in addition to the performance.

Tickets are on sale now at theeldredpreserve.com/christmas-carol-2024.

WISHING YOU A
SAFE AND WARM HOLIDAY.



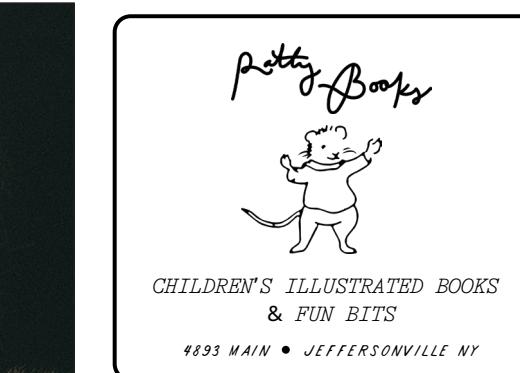
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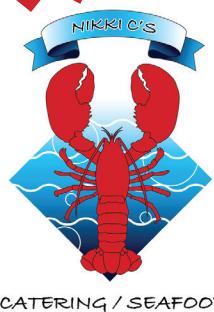
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■ IN MY HUMBLE OPINION

BY JONATHAN CHARLES FOX

A rose by any other name

Ever since moving to Sullivan County many years ago, I've been peripherally aware of Lucy Ann Lobdell. While it was my understanding that Lobdell lived in Sullivan County during the 19th century, it was her widespread reputation as "the female hunter of Long Eddy" and a private life made public that impelled author William Klaber to write his 2013 novel titled "The Rebellious Life of Miss Lucy Ann Lobdell."

Described as a fictionalized account of the real-life person, Klaber's book and Bambi Lobdell's treatise "A Strange Sort of Being: The transgender life of Lucy Ann/Joseph Israel Lobdell 1829-1912" are both based on Lucy/Joseph's own writings, and are associated with dozens of articles written on Lobdell, none of which I have read.

So it was with renewed interest when I did read that "A new Farm Arts Collective (FAC) performance based on the life of a 19th-century gender non-conforming pioneer Lucy Ann Joseph Israel Lobdell" was being presented last week in the brand new FAC indoor theatre space.

As written and directed by Mimi McGurl, "Lucy Joseph" combines "contributed story and texts from the FAC Ensemble, Mark Dunau, author William Klaber and historical texts by L.A. Lobdell and others."

Produced as a staged reading, the original musical performance is presently "in development" with Jess Beveridge, Tannis Kowalchuk, Doug Rogers, Pam Arnold, Annie Hat, Laura Moran and John Roth.

"In development" means just that, and often serves as a behind-the-scenes sneak-peak opportunity for theatre goers to get in on the ground floor and observe how a new play comes into being, before being fully fleshed out into a main stage show.

Prior to the actors taking their seats, I scanned the director's note in the program.

"The historical figure at the center of our play, Lucy Ann Joseph Israel Lobdell, is very close to my heart," McGurl shares, "and I know many people in our community feel the same way. I first heard about the Female Hunter of Long Eddy more than 20 years ago... I had the simple and pleasant feeling that someone not unlike me lived here on the Delaware River a very long time ago. Now, after years of research and reading, this feeling is not so simple."

As the actors brought Lobdell's fascinating story to life, I became more and more involved. While it's still unclear how many performers will take the stage once the show is in full production, the reading—complete with stage directions—employed the not-so-easy device of multiple characters being embodied by a small group of skilled actors, simply by utilizing a hat, a scarf, a lighting cue or a tilt of the head with which to convey the array of personalities in and around



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RR photo by Jonathan Charles Fox

Jess Beveridge and Mimi McGurl are literally at the center of the Farm Arts Collective ensemble production of the work-in-progress production "Lucy Joseph," slated for a June 2025 opening.

Lucy/Joseph's complicated life along the Delaware.

It was truly an ensemble piece, everyone contributed to the success of the production, but it must be acknowledged that Jess Beveridge shouldered the Herculean task of playing both the title character and his/her/their "wife" of many years with tremendous success. If I had my druthers, the fully staged production, slated for June 2025, would employ separate actors. Not because Beveridge isn't up to the task of playing multiple roles—because she is absolutely convincing as both husband and wife—but because I didn't want to have to keep up with the shape-shifting. Both roles (IMHO) deserve their own body.

Equally impressive was John Roth's wearing of multiple hats. This guy can act. In fact, they all can, which contributes heavily to the success of this show—which I believe shows great promise.

I would be remiss in not mentioning the music. As performed by actors Doug Rogers and Pam Arnold, the original soundtrack is a character of its own and lends great theatricality to the overall production, elevating it and seamlessly lending a hefty assist in setting time and place.

As they say in the business "this show has legs," and it is my belief that it could easily land Off-Broadway, (and beyond) in one of those productions where the program reads "Lucy Joseph" was originally created, produced and performed by the Farm Arts Collective, in residence

at Willow Wisp Organic farm in Damascus, PA." Mark my words. This show is going places.

In conclusion, McGurl has this to say about Lucy/Joseph, the denizens of their world, and a complicated life which sadly ended in an insane asylum in Binghamton, NY circa 1912.

"Now, nearly two centuries later, one would think we as a society might have progressed in our thinking about these issues, relegating the harms done to Lobdell to our past. Yet, there are still powerful and influential people who insist that our genetic markings at birth remain forever the essential truth of who we are. So much so, in fact, that the current Supreme Court will almost certainly allow states to make accessible medical treatment to young people differently based on the sex they were assigned at birth. I would argue," McGurl states, "that progress has been made in many realms during these centuries. Yet, Lobdell's life stands as a beacon of exactly how much more work still needs to be done in order for all of us to have the freedom to determine, for ourselves, our own identities and our personal truths."

For more, visit www.farmartscollective.org.

Fun Fact: "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet" is a quotation from William Shakespeare's play "Romeo and Juliet." This is the principle of things being what they are, no matter what name you give them.

Where & When

Thursday, December 19

Community Luncheon @ Milford

MILFORD, PA — Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, community luncheon, 11:30am-1pm, 110 West Catharine St. facebook.com/goodshepherdmilford

Food Manager Training @ WPWA

HONESDALE, PA — The Wayne Pike Workforce Alliance ServeSafe food manager training program, Jan. 13, 14, 15, 16, 646 Park St. Register by Dec. 22, 570/390-7613, ext. 709.

Holiday Mansion Tours @ Grey Towers

MILFORD, PA — Grey Towers holiday mansion tours, 11am & 1pm through Dec. 23, greytowers.org/event.

Indoor Walking Trail @ PJHS

PORT JERVIS, NY — The Port Jervis High School indoor walking trail, Tues. & Thurs. 4:15-5:45pm when school is in session, 10 Rte. 209. pjschools.org.

Junior Basketball League @ Monticello

MONTICELLO — Town of Thompson Parks & Rec. junior league basketball Sat. 9:00am & Thurs. 6:30pm through Dec. 26, 26 Patricia Pl. jferriero@townofthompson.com.

Mental Health Support Group @ Lakeville

LAKEVILLE, PA — The National Alliance on Mental Illness support group, 7:30pm, 10 Daniels Rd. Register info@naminepa.org.

Public Health & Wellness Event @ CVAC

LAKE HUNTINGTON, NY — The Cochecton Volunteer Ambulance Corps presents a Community Public Health & Wellness Event, 6-7pm at 70 Cty. Rte. 116. cvachealth70@gmail.com.

Sage Sessions @ DVAA

NARROWSBURG, NY — Tusten Social & Growing Old Together Sage Sessions, 1:30-3:30pm, 37 Main St. Ages 60+, tustensocial.org.

Vet 2 Vet Support Group @ ATI

MONTICELLO, NY — Action Toward Independence Vet 2 Vet support group, 309 Broadway. atitoday.org.

Winter Wonderland Pop-Up @ WCHS

HONESDALE, PA — Wayne County Historical Society Winter Wonderland pop-up shop, 9am-4pm through Dec. 22, 809 Main St. waynehistorypa.org.

Friday, December 20

Holiday concerts @ SCGC

MONTICELLO — Sullivan County Government Center holiday concerts featuring local schools. 100 North St. Check schedule facebook.com/sullivancountygov.

Holiday Show @ Don Marsh Hall

PORT JERVIS, NY — The Presby Players Holiday show Fri.-Sat. 7pm, Sun. 3pm, 60 Sussex St. facebook.com/presbyplayers.

Horse & Carriage Rides @ GAIT

MILFORD, PA — GAIT Therapeutic Riding Center horse & carriage rides, Fri-Sat 5-9pm, 403 Broad St. facebook.com/GAIT.TRC.

Life Skills Group @ ATI

MONTICELLO, NY — Action Toward Independence Life Skills group, 5-6pm, 309 East Broadway, for age 13-31. info@atitoday.org.

Teen Art Lounge @ The Cooperage

HONESDALE, PA — The Cooperage, teen art lounge, 6-8pm, Stoneworks Youth Center, jessica@thecooperageproject.org.

Saturday, December 21

'Blue Christmas' @ Milford

MILFORD, PA — Hotel Fauchere "Jesse Garon's Tribute to Elvis: A Blue Christmas!" 8pm, 114 E. Catherine St. hotelfauchere.com.

Christmas Dinner @ CSC

COLD SPRING, PA — Cold Spring Chapel Community Kitchen free Christmas dinner, 11:30am-1:30pm, Upper Woods Rd. & Great Bend Turnpike. 570/253-4033.

Christmas Party @ WLFD

BEACH LAKE, PA — The Welcome Lake Fire Dept. Christmas party, 99 Cosgrove Rd. Ellen 570/729-8232, Craig 570/729-7402.

'Cozy Catskills Holiday Revue' @ Tusten Theatre

NARROWSBURG, NY — The Delaware Valley Arts Alliance "Cozy Catskills Holiday Revue" two shows, 1pm family friendly, 5pm adults only, 210 Bridge St. delawarevalleyartsalliance.org.

Elementary Basketball League @ Monticello

MONTICELLO — Town of Thompson Parks & Rec. elementary basketball league, Saturdays 9-noon through Dec. 28, 26 Patricia Pl. jferriero@townofthompson.com.

Holiday Comedy Show @ HPAC

HURLEYVILLE, NY — Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre Holiday Horror stories comedy show, 6pm, 219 Main St. 18+, hpacny.org.

Holiday Market @ HPAC

HURLEYVILLE, NY — Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre, Sat. & Sun. 10am-3pm through Dec. 22, 219 Main St. hpacny.org.

Santa Claus @ Foundry 42

PORT JERVIS, NY — Foundry 42 Santa Claus, 11am-noon, 42 Front St. eventbrite.com/o/ foundry42-14584629729.

Winter Solstice @ WCHS

HAWLEY, PA — Wayne County Historical Society winter solstice celebration, 5pm, 179 Texas Palmyra Hwy. waynehistorypa.com.

Sunday, December 22

'Christmas Carol' Dinner Show @ Eldred

ELDRED, NY — Eldred Preserve "Christmas Carol" dinner show, 7pm, doors 6pm, 1040 Rte. 55. Reservations 845/557-8316.

Clothing Swap @ The Shops

NARROWSBURG, NY — Tusten Social & Velvet Maple cocktails & clothing swap, 3pm, 90 Main St. Drop off Dec. 21, noon-4pm, facebook.com/tustensocial.

'It's a Wonderful Life' @ Milford

MILFORD, PA — Hotel Fauchere "It's a Wonderful Life" 4:30pm, 114 E. Catherine St. hotelfauchere.com.

JourneyDance™ @ Chi Hive

NARROWSBURG, NY — The Chi Hive presents JourneyDance™ with Danielle, 3-4pm, 22 Main St. thechihive.com.

Trail Walk & Menorah Lighting @ Parksville

PARKSVILLE, NY — The Sullivan O&W Rail Trail trail walk & Menorah lighting, 3:45pm, 981 Parksville Rd., facebook.com/sullivanoandw.

Monday, December 23

Saluting Spouses @ ATI

MONTICELLO, NY — Action Toward Independence Vet 2 Vet Saluting Spouses support group, 6:30pm, 309 Broadway. Register, 845/794-4228.

Sullivan 180 Walk @ Bethel Woods

BETHEL, NY — Bethel Woods Sullivan 180 walk through to support Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless, 200 Hurd Rd. \$12/age 12+, bethelwoodscenter.org/events.

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Dinner @ Eldred Preserve

ELDRED, NY — The Homestead Restaurant Festive Christmas Eve dinner, 2pm, 1040 Rte. 55. Reserve 845/557-8316.

Thursday, December 26

Family Support Group @ NAMI

ONLINE/HAWLEY, PA — Family support group, 6-7:30pm, Grandma's Bakery & Zoom, 110 Hemlock Farms Rd. Register at info@naminepa.org.

Sage Singers @ DVAA

NARROWSBURG, NY — Tusten Social & Growing Old Together Sage Sessions, 3-5pm, 37 Main St. Ages 60+ tustensocial.org.

Friday, December 27

'Oh My Stars' @ HPAC

HURLEYVILLE, NY — Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre "Oh My Stars" a cabaret burlesque event, 8pm, 219 Main St. hpacny.org.

Saturday, December 28

Manor Camerata @ CAS

LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — Manor Camerata holiday concert performing Mendelssohn String Quartet Op. 44 No 1 in D Major, 5-7pm, livingstonmanor.org/Events.

Sunday, December 29

Menorah Lighting @ Rock Hill

ROCK HILL, NY — Rock Hill Business Assoc. annual Menorah lighting, 4:30pm, 206 Rock Hill Dr. facebook.com/rhbc12775.

Scottish Holiday Tea @ PCHS

MILFORD, PA — Pike County Historical Society Scottish tea & celebration, 3pm, 608 Broad St. pikehistorical.org/events.

MEETINGS

Thursday, December 19

Planning Board Meeting @ Cochecton

LAKE HUNTINGTON, NY — Town of Cochecton planning board meeting, 7pm work session & 7:30pm meeting, 74 Smalles Rd. 845/932-8360, ext. 11.

JEMS Meeting @ Jeffersonville

JEFFERSONVILLE, NY — Jeffersonville JEMS meeting 7-8pm, First Presbyterian Church. facebook.com/jeffersonvilleJEMS.

Saturday, December 21

WCHS Board of Trustees meeting

HONESDALE, PA — Monthly Board of Trustees meeting of the WCHS. 7-8:30pm, 810 Main St. waynehistorypa.org.

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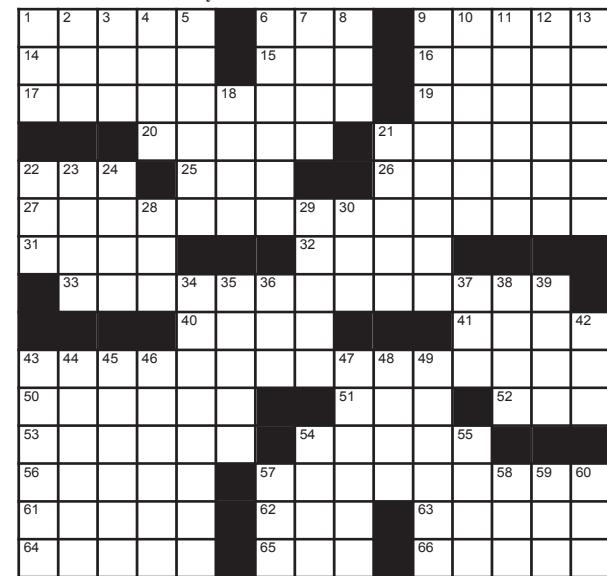
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ACROSS

- iMac alternative
- Hypotheticals
- Archibald and Thurmond of the NBA
- Xerox competitor
- Tip of a wingtip
- Start of a challenge
- Irritated an American League team?
- Like any of seven Nolan Ryan games
- Zilch
- Rigid
- "Cougars Town" network
- 18th U.S. pres.
- Like a yellow polka dot bikini in a 1960 #1 hit
- Military maneuver involving the use of bathroom appliances?
- House call?
- Like birthday cakes
- Result of a prank pulled by Stills and Nash?
- Reaction to a fireworks display
- Thomas Edison
- Doing a bad job of playing Robert Johnson and Muddy Waters songs?
- Present at birth
- Sch. with a Providence campus
- Medium power?
- It's held by London banks
- Jargon
- Peter the pepper picker
- Ecological disasters evidenced in 17-, 27-, 33- and 43-Across
- Light on one's feet
- Fruity quencher
- Slowpoke
- "If voting changed anything, _____ make it illegal!" Emma Goldman
- Newsman Koppel
- "The best is _____ come!"
- DOWN**
- Bargain basement abbr.

- Brief life?
- It merged with WorldCom in 1998
- They're seen on C-Span
- It might be cashed for pounds
- "We're on!"
- Big snowfall
- "____ sells"
- Company whose name is derived from a Japanese phrase meaning "leave it to heaven"
- Is mad for
- Falafel sandwich sauce
- 13th-century king of Denmark
- Furniture in a parlor
- Saw stuff?
- One in a herd
- Motocross four-wheeler, for short
- Numbskull
- Baseball's ____ Gaston
- Strung souvenir
- Bout
- Govt. media watchdog
- Hung around
- Actress Skye and others
- Holiday quaff
- "Do the Right Thing" role
- Smurf-colored
- Fashion's ____ Saint Laurent
- Saharan viper
- Refrain from taking further action
- In a position of authority
- Where to find baked blackbirds
- In a weak way
- Sent flying
- Physics 101 units
- Medical diagnostic test
- Right hand
- Prong
- Kind of flakes
- Long, partner
- Ignited
- ____-pitch softball

For daily crossword puzzles and sudoku visit riverreporter.com/puzzles

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

7 HEIGHT LLC. Filed 10/27/2023. Office: SULLIVAN Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 649 DAHILL RD., BROOKLYN, NY 11218. Purpose: General.

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

30 EDWARD AVE LLC. Filed 7/5/2022. Office: SULLIVAN Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 30 EDWARD AVE, MONTICELLO, NY 12701. Purpose: General.

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

50 FORESTBURGH LLC. Filed 10/25/2023. Office: SULLIVAN Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 649 DAHILL RD., BROOKLYN, NY 11218. Purpose: General.

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

1359 42 STREET LLC. Filed 10/27/2024. Office: SULLIVAN Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 649 DAHILL RD., BROOKLYN, NY 11218. Purpose: General.

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

13 RUPP AVE LLC. Filed 10/14/2024. Office: SULLIVAN Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 13 RUPP AVE, MONTICELLO, NY 12701. Purpose: General.

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

3 MADELINE LLC. Filed 10/26/2023. Office: Sullivan. Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 649 Dahill Rd, Brooklyn, NY 11218. Purpose: General.

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

Notice of Formation of 52 Montgomery Lake LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/05/2024. Office location: Sullivan. SSNY desig. as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to PO Box 153 Yulan NY 12792. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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

Notice of Formation of COOPERS HILLTOP LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 10/31/2024. Office location: Sullivan. SSNY desig. as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY mail process to 250 S MAPLEWOOD RD, MONTICELLO, NY 12701. Any lawful purpose.

Legal Notice**COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
HEARING**

**NOTICE IS
HEREBY GIVEN** that there has been duly presented and introduced at a meeting of the Legislature of the County of Sullivan, New York, held on December 5, 2024, a proposed Local Law entitled "A Local Law to Enter Into a Ten Year with Archtop Fiber, LLC".

**NOTICE IS
FURTHER GIVEN** that the Legislature of the County of Sullivan will conduct a public hearing on the aforesaid proposed Local Law at the Legislature's Meeting Room, County Government Center, Monticello, New York, 12701, on December 19, 2024, at 10:15 AM at which time all persons interested will be heard.

DATED: December 5, 2024
Monticello, New York

ANNMARIE MARTIN
Clerk of the Legislature
County of Sullivan,
New York

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**COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
LEGAL NOTICE**

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN

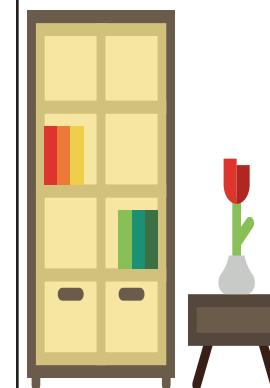
INDEX NO. E2024-267 Date Filed: 11/13/2024

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS

Plaintiff designates SULLIVAN County as the place of trial. The basis of venue is: The location of real property being foreclosed.

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., Plaintiff, against KENNETH VANDERPYLE A/K/A KENNETH R. VANDERPYLE, JR., AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF ALICE VANDERPYLE; TUNIS VANDERPYLE A/K/A TUNIS H. VANDERPYLE, AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF ALICE VANDERPYLE; DAWN VANDERPYLE A/K/A DAWN A. VANDERPYLE A/K/A DAWN BAKER, AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF ALICE VANDERPYLE; DEBBIE VANDERPYLE A/K/A DEBRA VANDERPYLE A/K/A DEBRA L. VANDERPYLE A/K/A DEBORAH VANDERPYLE A/K/A DEBBIE MCCOMBS A/K/A DEBRA MCCOMBS A/K/A DEBORAH MCCOMBS, AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF ALICE VANDERPYLE; UNKNOWN HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF ALICE VANDERPYLE, if they be living and if they be dead, the respective heirs-at-law, next-of-kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, devisees, legatees, assignees, lienors, creditors and successors in interest and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through said defendant(s) who may be deceased, by purchase, inheritance, lien or inheritance, any right, title or interest in or to the real property described in the Complaint; THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF JEFFERSONVILLE; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; and "JOHN DOE No. 1" through "JOHN DOE No. 100" inclusive, the name of the last 100 defendants being fictitious, the true names of said defendants being unknown to plaintiff, it being intended to designate fee owners, tenants or occupants of the liened premises and/or persons or parties having or claiming an interest in or a lien upon the liened premises, if the aforesaid individual defendants are living, and if any or all of said individual defendants be dead, their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, committees, devisees, legatees, and assignees, lienors, creditors and successors in interest of them and generally all persons having or claiming under, by, through, or against the said defendants named as a class, of any right, title, or interest in or lien upon the premises described in the complaint herein, Defendant(s). To the above named Defendants: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance on the plaintiff's attorney(s) within 20 days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint. NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this Summons and Complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of the Honorable Stephan G Schick, a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Sullivan County, granted on the 4th day of November, 2024, and filed with the Complaint and other papers in the office of the County Clerk of Sullivan County.

The object of this action is to foreclose a mortgage upon the premises described below, executed by KENNETH VANDERPYLE A/K/A KENNETH R. VANDERPYLE, SR. to WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., bearing date September 20, 2007 and recorded in Book Bk-REL 3409, VI-3409, Page 644, Instrument Number: 2007-00029481. Said premises being known as and by 155 FOSTER TRAIL, NARROWSBURG, NY 12764, bearing tax map designation Section 16, Block 7, Lot 1.9, which is more fully described in the Schedule "A" attached to the Complaint, along with a manufactured home, which upon information and belief is affixed to the land, which is known as a 1988 Fleetwood 44 x 24 (LxW) with Serial No. NCFLJ69A02201BH and NCFLJ69B02201BH a/k/a 1988 double wide Fleetwood Home - serial # NCFLJ69A02201BH/NCFLJ69B02201BH. Aldridge Pite, LLP, Attorneys for the Plaintiff, 40 Marcus Drive, Suite 200, Melville, NY 11747 File 1113-14637B

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STUFF?**

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classifieds!**

RIVER REPORTER.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF SULLIVAN

-----X
NICHOLAS SYWYK,

Plaintiff,

-against -

WURTSBORO HILLS COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION, INC. and CHARLES
H. TUXILL and HESTER Z. TUXILL

Defendants.

-----X
Index# E2022-1814

Purchased: 09/15/2022

Filed: 09/15/2022

The Plaintiff designates
Sullivan County as the
Venue for trial as this is
location of the property

To the Persons Named as Defendants above:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT YOU ARE SUMMONED to answer the complaint of the plaintiff herein and to serve a copy of your answer on the Plaintiff at the address indicated below within 20 days after the service of this Summons, or within 30 days after service is complete if the Summons is not delivered personally to you within the State of New York.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT should you fail to answer, a judgment will be entered against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint, with interest, and the costs and disbursements of this action.

Dated: July 26, 2022
Monticello, New York

John R. Kelly, Esq.
Attorney for Plaintiff
P.O. Box 384
Rock Hill, NY 12775

Notice of the Object of the Action:

This is a cause of action to remove a restrictive covenant requiring the subject property which by covenant is limited to usage as a playground. The action seeks to allow the Petitioner to use the property in any manner in accordance with zoning laws which have been established.

Legal Notice**Legal Notice****COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
NOTICE OF SUMMONS**

SULLIVAN - INDEX NO.:E2022-2234- SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS. Plaintiff designates SULLIVAN COUNTY as the place of trial based upon the location of the premises herein described having tax map Section 15., Block 5, Lot 8.1, NARROWSBURG, NY, County of SULLIVAN - WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, AS TRUSTEE OF WV 2017-1 GRANTOR TRUST, PLAINTIFF, - against- CHERYL CRICK A/K/A CHERYL BIGAUD, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS HEIR-AT-LAW OF THE ESTATE OF ARTHUR CRICK; CORDELLE BROWN, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS HEIR-AT-LAW OF THE ESTATE OF ARTHUR CRICK; MONROYDE JONES, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS HEIR-AT-LAW OF THE ESTATE OF ARTHUR CRICK; RICARDO CUMBERBATCH, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS HEIR-AT-LAW OF THE ESTATE ARTHUR CRICK; MARIKO GROSVENOR A/K/A MARIKO CRICK-GROSVENOR, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS HEIR-AT-LAW OF THE ESTATE OF ARTHUR CRICK; JALEEL GROSVENOR, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS HEIR-AT-LAW OF THE ESTATE ARTHUR CRICK; any and all persons unknown to Plaintiff, claiming, or who may claim to have an interest in, or generally or specific lien upon the real property described in this action; such unknown persons being herein generally described and intended to be included in the following designation, namely: the wife, widow, husband, widower, heirs-at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors, and assignees of ARTHUR CRICK, deceased, any and all persons deriving interest in or lien upon, or title to said real property by, through or under them and their respective wives, widows, husbands, widowers, heirs-at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors, and assignees, all of whom and whose names, except as stated, are unknown to Plaintiff, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE, "JOHN DOE #1" through "JOHN DOE #12," the last twelve names being fictitious and unknown to Plaintiff, the persons or parties intended being the tenants, occupants, persons or corporations, if any, having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the premises, described in the complaint, DEFENDANTS. YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance on the Plaintiff's Attorney within 20 days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

NOTICE**YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME**

If you do not respond to this Summons and Complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered against you and you can lose your home.

Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action.

YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.

Dated: Syosset, New York, November 20, 2024. Roach & Lin, P.C., attorney for Plaintiff, 6851 Jericho Turnpike, Suite 185, Syosset, NY 11791. Tel: 516-938-3100. To the above-named defendants: The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Hon. MEAGAN K. GALLIGAN, JSC, a Justice of the Supreme Court, State of New York, dated November 13, 2024 and filed with the SULLIVAN County Clerk together with the supporting papers thereon. This is an action to foreclose a mortgage held by Plaintiff on the premises known as Section 15., Block 5, Lot 8.1, NARROWSBURG, NY, County of SULLIVAN as described in the complaint on file and commonly known as 11 LUCKY LN LUXTON LKS F/K/A 575 SECOND AVENUE, NARROWSBURG, NY 12764.

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

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
INDEX NO. E2024-1490 Date Filed: 11/1/2024
SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS
Plaintiff designates SULLIVAN County as the place of trial. The basis of venue is: The location of real property being foreclosed.
BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., Plaintiff, against WILLIAM MAROZIN, AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF DOUGLAS MAROZIN A/K/A DOUGLAS B. MAROZIN; AMBER MAROZIN, AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF DOUGLAS MAROZIN A/K/A DOUGLAS B. MAROZIN and UNKNOWN HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF DOUGLAS MAROZIN A/K/A DOUGLAS B. MAROZIN, if they be living and if they be dead, the respective heirs-at-law, next-of-kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, devisees, legatees, assignees, lienors, creditors and successors in interest and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through said defendant(s) who may be deceased, by purchase, inheritance, lien or inheritance, any right, title or interest in or to the real property described in the Complaint; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE, and "JOHN DOE No. 1" through "JOHN DOE No. 100" inclusive, the name of the last 100 defendants being fictitious, the true names of said defendants being unknown to plaintiff, it being intended to designate fee owners, tenants or occupants of the liened premises and/or persons or parties having or claiming an interest in or a lien upon the liened premises, if the aforesaid individual defendants are living, and if any or all of said individual defendants be dead, their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, devisees, legatees, assignees, lienors, creditors and successors in interest of them and generally all persons having or claiming under, by, through, or against the said defendants named as a class, of any right, title, or interest in or lien upon the premises described in the complaint herein, Defendant(s). To the above named Defendants: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance on the plaintiff's attorney(s) within 20 days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint. NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this Summons and Complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of the Honorable Meagan K Galligan, a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Sullivan County, granted on the 31st day of October, 2024, and filed with the Complaint and other papers in the office of the County Clerk of Sullivan County. The object of this action is to foreclose a mortgage upon the premises described below, executed by DOUGLAS MAROZIN A/K/A DOUGLAS B. MAROZIN and SUE ANN MAROZIN to KEYBANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, bearing date November 7, 1997 and recorded in Book 1980, at Page 0521 in the County of Sullivan on November 13, 1997, which was assigned to COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS, INC. by instrument executed June 25, 1998 and recorded April 14, 1999, in Book 2098, at Page 561, which was further assigned to BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. by instrument executed November 22, 2022 and recorded November 29, 2022, in Instrument Number: 2022-11907. Said premises being known as and by 116 Highview T/O Mamakating, NY 12721 A/K/A 116 Highview Terrace Mamakating, NY 12721 A/K/A 60 Highview Terrace Bloomingburg, NY 12721, bearing tax map designation Section: 51.; Block: 2 & 4; Lot: 3 & 1, which is more fully described in the Schedule "A" attached to the Complaint. Aldridge Pite, LLP, Attorneys for the Plaintiff, 40 Marcus Drive, Suite 200, Melville, NY 11747 File 1092-12422B

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

Notice of Formation of ASTRO MAMMOTH STUDIO LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/27/2024. 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 Aaron Smith: 1097 County Route 31, Glen Spey, NY 12737. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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

Notice of Formation of THE BALI HOUSE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/05/2024. 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 Bali House LLC: 135 Black Forest Road, Glen Spey, NY 12737. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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

CG1121 LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 11/12/24. Office in Sullivan Co. SSNY design. Agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to The LLC 71 Joyland Rd Monticello NY 12701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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

Notice of Formation of BIRCH LANE DEVELOPMENT LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/06/2024. 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 BIRCH LANE DEVELOPMENT LLC: 135 Black Forest Road, Glen Spey, NY 12737. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Legal Notice**LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of Mobile Vet Diagnostics PLLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/29/2024. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of Professional Limited Liability Company (PLLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to PLLC: 230 Rock Hill Drive, Rock Hill, NY 12775. Purpose: veterinary medicine.

**LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of Sholmach Associates LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/19/2024. 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 Sholmach Associates LLC: PO Box 272, Kiamesha Lake, NY 12751. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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

ELSIE'S ANTIQUE EMPORIUM LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 11/4/24. Office in Sullivan Co. SSNY design. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 233 Swamp Pond Rd., Narrowsburg, NY 12764, which is also the principal business location. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**TOWN OF TUSTEN
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of Ever Collective LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/24/2024. 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: 581 Lake Shore Ln, Narrowsburg, NY, 12764. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.



TALKING SPORTS
BY TED WADDELL

Yellowjackets squeak past Lions

ELDRED, NY — The home team Eldred Yellowjackets bucketeers posted 15 points in the opening frame of the boys' varsity game of hoops on December 12. Their opponents scored four points.

In the second period, the Lions of Chapel Field narrowly edged Eldred 13-11, and in the next frame outgunned the 'Jackets 11-5. That put the home team on notice that the Lions weren't about to fold, because at the end of the third period, they had shaved Eldred's lead to a miserly three points (31-28).

In the final "inning," the home team re-focused by out-shooting their Class D rivals 16-9 to win the game by a tenner (47-37) at the buzzer.

Leading scorers for Eldred: James Deyermond (26 points); Trai Kaufman (16, including a three-pointer); and Mason McKerrell added a three-pointer.

Chapel Field: Luke Falkena (16), Drew Hollo (9) and Matt Kelly (8, including a three-pointer).

Last season, with a reported 9-7 record, going into the playoffs the Lions won 2 games before losing in the first round at the States.

This season, they are senior-heavy (Micah McDuffie, Drew Hollo, Matt Kelly, Jaden Mezettin, Michael Dingle and Tyler Conura). A couple of juniors round out the squad, which is captained by McDuffie, Hollo and Kelly.

For the Yellowjackets, Bill Furler is back at the helm in his fourth season as head coach, and last season the 'Jackets finished 2-14.

"It was a great game by my boys," he said of defeating the former sectional champs. "It was a little close for my liking, but we did what we had to do, played great man-to-man defense."

Furler credited his team with making "three easy buckets" in the last minute-and-a half of the contest. "We've come together ever since seventh or eighth grade."

"We have the size, and we work six or seven days a week, pounding it," said Furler.

This year's team (2-1) has Mason McKerrell as the lone senior on the roster, while the rest of the team is composed of juniors.

The captains are Trai Kaufman and James Deyermond.

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



RR photos by Ted Waddell

Possession is nine-tenths of the game. Eldred's James Deyermond posted a game leading 26 points. He is pictured with Chapel Field's Anthony Bonagura, who aced a three-pointer.



Test of wills on the hardwood. Chapel Field's Anthony Bonagura and Eldred's Elijah Gonzalez.



Defense stance. Eldred's Trai Kaufman scored 16 points, including a three-pointer, in the Yellowjackets' 47-37 win over Chapel Field.

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60th ANNIVERSARY

THE WAY OUT HERE

BY HUNTER HILL

It's not unheard of for a busy family to stuff a hastily hewn Christmas tree through the front door within a few days of Christmas.

On the other hand, it should be noted that there is no shame in last-minute decking of the halls, so to speak. If the tree is up by Christmas Eve, deadlines have been met and Christmas presents have a place to go once wrapped inside the closet at 2 a.m.

Not to brag, but somehow we actually got a tree in the house over a week in advance this year and it's got to be a good sign of the coming year. Are the lights up on the front of the house? No—but we're farmers, for goodness sake. We've got water to chop and chickens to feed; we don't have time for extraneous lighting!

That being said, I'm curious to try insulating winter crops with Christmas lights. I've heard of folks using them to give a little more light and a little warmth under row covers for winter-sown plants in a greenhouse.

I digress. Trees!

Yes, we valiantly achieved the impossible and got our tree on time this year. How did we have such impeccable timing, you ask? Well, on our way to town we passed a lot where the good folks were selling tag-cut spruces for \$20 a pop. Still in our church clothes, we pulled a U-ey and trudged through the yard to pick one out.

First one looked fine; second one was a bit small; and the third one was the charm. In a matter of minutes, we tossed it up on the roof and finagled the straps to make sure it wasn't going anywhere.

Content with our Christmas quarry, we finished our errands and proceeded home, where the first order of business was of course the installation of the most important festive feature.

This will be our very first Christmas in our new home. I should say, the last place to which my wife and I ever plan to bring our Christmas trees home. Maybe that's why getting the tree this year was such a lofty achievement. Finally being home, in our dream home, where we've been trying to be for years now, and the tree was like the topper on a cake. Or, to make a more apt

SOUNDINGS: TAKING THE PULSE OF THE UPPER DELAWARE WATERSHED

For river gage, height and temperature readings visit www.bit.ly/RRsoundings.

Reservoir levels

December 13, 2024

Cannonsville: 53.2%

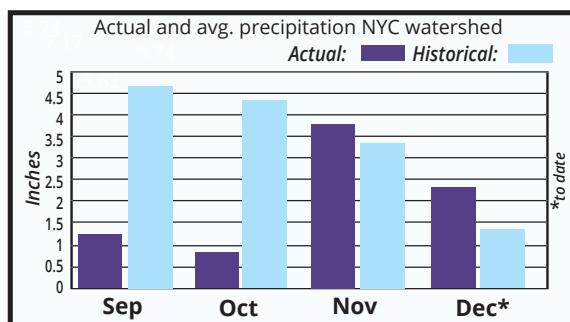
Pepacton: 70.1%

Neversink: 45.2%

Total: 66.1%

Normal Total: 82.6%

Total in 2023: 93.3%



RR photo by Hunter Hill

Our first imperfect tree in our perfect new house.

metaphor, like the star that now sits atop our tree, decorated and beautiful in the corner of our living room.

My eldest son helped his mother unravel the garland and the lights and slowly wrap them around the pokey tree. My youngest joined in when it was time to hang ornaments, hanging nearly half of the plastic balls on a single branch before receiving a mix of instructions from his brother, who was hardly any better, and his mother, who just wanted to make sure that the breakable ornaments were placed out of reach.

As for me, I aided in the positioning of the tree and the preparation of the base, which involved watering and wrapping the cover around the stand. I also assumed the stately

position of supervisor in order to best speculate the ensuing complications of toddlers working in tandem with their mother.

In the end, there was little to worry about other than the swinging of pillows by proud children near the completed tree. The dog also contributed, however, by letting us know that there were some ornaments that were placed too low. She did so by tenderly taking them in her mouth and bringing them to us on the couch, hoping for a game of fetch. I can't really blame her for noticing the shiny balls, but regardless we raised a few out of her immediate reach.

The way out here, the most important thing about Christmas trees is that there is one. We didn't have the time to go cut one this year, or spend a lot of money on one that might have been a little prettier or taller. But just like a lot of the work we do around the farm, it's better to get it done than stand around thinking up something perfect that might never happen. Now if only I can wrap a few of those gifts before the night before...

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RIVER TALK
 BY SANDY LONG

Friends and colleagues in the Upper Delaware River region's conservation community have something very special to celebrate this month—the 100th birthday of the woman many, like me, would name as their personal heroine and the inspiration for their own efforts on behalf of the beautiful and vital natural resources that are Barbara Yeaman's lifetime legacy.

Yeaman first experienced the Delaware River in the late '70s, and like many fateful encounters, the ensuing course of events would prove to be the stuff of which legends are made. Eventually, she would nest upon its Pennsylvania flank in an old Milanville farmhouse on property that would receive one of the earliest conservation easements for the Delaware Highlands Conservancy (DHC), the nonprofit she founded at the age of 70 in 1994.

It was there she realized that to protect the Delaware River would require protection of the lands on either side—an initiative that set the stage for the birth of the land trust whose legacy continues to evolve. The fledgling organization launched by Yeaman

and a small group of dedicated volunteers took flight over time and today protects more than 19,000 acres of farms and forests, clean waters, and wildlife habitat.

"She's the stealth bomber of conservation causes," asserted former DHC board president Greg Belcamino when Yeaman was presented with the prestigious Pennsylvania Land Trust Association's (PALTA) Lifetime Conservation Leadership Award. "That's how Barbara gets things done: quietly, never drawing attention to herself. She flies beneath the radar and always accomplishes her mission, although she seldom takes credit for it. Once she speaks, you have to listen and it's almost impossible to say no."

On receiving the award, Yeaman shared a fitting quote from "When Women Were Birds," by Terry Tempest Williams. "The world is already split open and it is in our destiny to heal it, each in our own way, each in our own time, with gifts that are ours."

Yeaman was also recognized with an Environmental Partnership Award by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and received the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat

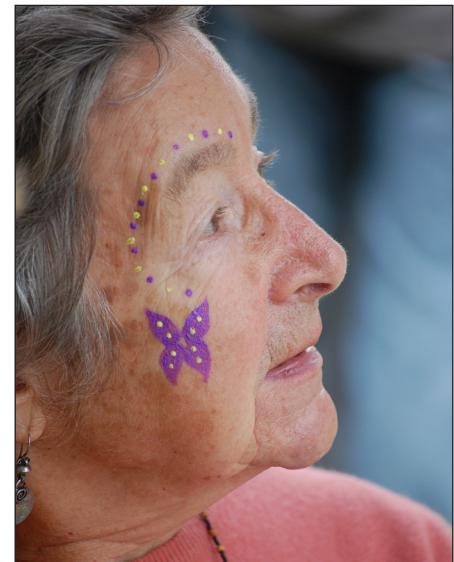
Commission's Ralph W. Abele Conservation Heritage Award.

Throughout her life, Yeaman has championed land, water and habitat conservation, as well as education. Born near Pittsburgh, PA, her career took her across the U.S. Yeaman served as a water conservation coordinator at the EPA in Washington, D.C., where she oversaw the production of films and educational materials. During World War II, she earned her pilot's license to qualify for the Women's Air Force Service Pilots.

She credits her partner, Ed Wesely, with introducing her to the river that would become the focus of her most important activist work ever. The pair established the Butterfly Barn at the property to teach families about the natural world through puppet shows and educational programming.

Over time, Yeaman saw the conservancy earn accreditation from the national Land Trust Alliance's Accreditation Commission, merge successfully with the renowned Eagle Institute and establish the Green Lodging Partnership Program, which promotes sustainable tourism in the region. (Visit delawarehighlands.org to learn more about the DHC and the 144-acre Van Scott Nature Reserve in Beach Lake, PA. That serves as the headquarters of the DHC and is home to a wide variety of programs and activities).

Yeaman, who celebrated her milestone birthday on December 16, leaves an inspiring legacy. "I don't think there's been anyone more self-effacing and effective," said Belcamino. "Those who know her work in land conservation have nothing but admiration for her commitment to the cause



RR photos by Sandy Long

"I was always fascinated by the beauty of nature even as a child, but it was in the '60s that I began to learn the true value of clean waters and the forested hillsides that surround them," said Barbara Yeaman, founder of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy.

and nothing but astonishment for the time and energy that she's put into it."

For Yeaman, it's a matter of action. "If you don't take a crack at something, it may never get done," she said. "This has taken off beyond my wildest dreams."

In honor of Barbara's 100th birthday and the decades she has dedicated to protecting regional lands and waters, the DHC is establishing the Barbara Yeaman Fund for Land Conservation. Visit delawarehighlands.org/conservancy-founder-celebrates-100th-birthday to contribute to the fund that will keep our inspiring heroine's vision alive and thriving.



Barbara Yeaman doing what she loved on the Delaware River, for which she launched the Delaware Highlands Conservancy at the age of 70. The nonprofit organization has protected more than 19,000 acres in the Upper Delaware River region to date.

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