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NEWS:

News from the Past in Memory of Harry A. Sturges

See page 3

THE RAVENA

Albany County's oldest continuously published weekly newspaper
News-Herald

Volume 149, NO. 07

www.ravenanews.com

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023

CAPITAL REGION INDEPENDENT MEDIA

\$1.50

Parks, truck traffic focus of state of town address

By Melanie Lekocevic
Capital Region
Independent Media

COEYMANS

Town Supervisor George McHugh cited park improvements, economic development and truck traffic, among other issues, in the state of the town address at the Feb. 9 meeting of the town council.

Addressing the board and community from the podium, McHugh thanked veterans, businesses, first responders, volunteers and others for their contributions to the town.

"The town of Coeymans is unique and special in that we have a hamlet, a village, a Hollow and an Alcove, all within our community," McHugh said. "But regardless of which location in our town you call home, we all call Coeymans our home and we pride ourselves on the great things that we as Coeymans residents have accomplished over the 350

years we have existed as a town."

McHugh spoke of economic development in the town, saying investments are being made that are improving the community.

"Many of the old, abandoned and condemned properties in the hamlet are being restored or razed, depending on their condition," he said. "And with the investment of over \$1.4 million into the Coeymans Landing Park, using monies received from our state and federal partners, and new permanent bathrooms going under construction at both town parks this year, our parks are becoming destination locations for people living around the area and even from neighboring states."

The offshore wind project at the Port of Coeymans will bring hundreds of clean energy jobs



Courtesy of Vimeo

Town Supervisor George McHugh delivered the state of the town address at the Feb. 9 meeting of the town council.

and invest millions of dollars into the town, he added.

"All of our local businesses win when more jobs, more businesses and more people come to Coeymans," McHugh said. "With its shovel-ready sites, a low tax rate, critical infrastructure in place and a workforce second to none, it is no wonder why Coeymans has been identified by many global industries, including General Electric, as the place to come and establish their facilities and invest hundreds of millions of dollars, bringing new tax revenue and jobs to our community."

The renovation of two town parks — Joralemon Park and Coeymans Landing Park — over the past year have brought improved quality of life to the community, McHugh said, much of it paid for through state funding.

Work at the two parks will continue this year with the addition of public bathrooms.

"In the spring, with the help of funding from the federal government, a contract will be awarded to construct a permanent bathroom facility at Joralemon Park," McHugh said. "And in August, construction of a permanent bathroom facility at the Coeymans Landing Park will commence, with substantial completion of construction slated for November. These capital improvements to our parks are an investment in the future of Coeymans, and our commitment to improving the quality of life for our residents."

Truck traffic generated from the industrial zones of the town has long been an issue raised by local residents. Alternative

See PARKS A2

GOOD NEWS!: Senior Projects packs the house for soup fundraiser

GOOD NEWS STORIES
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By Melanie Lekocevic
Capital Region
Independent Media

RAVENA

The Soups for Seniors contest and fundraiser was held for the first time in the village, and the event packed the house.

The Senior Projects of Ravena event was so popular, several contestants ran out of soup within the first hour.

Soups for Seniors was an inaugural event in the community designed to showcase the senior center and raise money for the facility.

The event was a collaboration between the village and Senior Proj-

ects. "This is a spin-off of a fundraiser I used to go to before COVID," said Village Trustee Caitlin Appleby, who came up with the idea. "I really liked the sense of community that it built, so I thought we could do it here on a smaller scale. It's win-win for everybody."

Seventeen contestants signed up to compete in the soup contest, with one of them, Tracy Douglas from Rail to River Brewery, entering two different soups. Guests paid \$5 for admission and were given samples of each of the 18 soups, ranging from seafood chowder to Zuppa soup to ham-and-potato soup.

Gabby Ambrose volunteered for the event and said it was busy from the moment the doors opened. "We have had well

over 100 people here and it's just halfway through," Ambrose said. "I think it's wonderful — we should have more events like this throughout the year, just small things that aren't expensive for the village but also aren't expensive for the community members that want to join in. It's just a good time."

Appleby co-organized Soups for Seniors with Lakken Kovacic, assistant director at Senior Projects. All funds raised Saturday will go towards the center's needs.

"The proceeds will go to the senior center, for whatever is needed," Kovacic said. "We need some new vehicles — we are working with a couple of different entities to get money for new Meals on Wheels vehicles. All the money we raise goes to the senior center."

The center's Meals on Wheels program — which delivers lunches and dinners to the community's homebound residents — reaches far beyond the boundaries of Ravena, and puts a lot of mileage on its delivery vans.

"We do a congregate meal program on Mondays and Thursdays for dinner, and Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays for lunch at Van Allen Apartments in Glenmont, and we also do two buildings in Albany, one of which, Parkview Apartments, had a catastrophe with flooding and electrical, and at least 25 people were displaced to the Comfort Inn. We deliver meals there, too."

Supporting the village's older residents is important, Appleby said, and shining a light on the senior center and its needs



Melanie Lekocevic/Capital Region Independent Media

Tracy Douglas, co-owner of Rail to River Brewing, with her take on Knoephla, a Russian-German soup with chicken and tiny dumplings.

will go a long way to doing that.

See SOUP A2

Thruway toll hike should be last resort, report says

By Melanie Lekocevic
Capital Region
Independent Media

ALBANY

Raising tolls on the New York State Thruway should be an option of last resort, according to a report released by State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli.

The Thruway Authority in December launched the process to raise tolls on the Thruway beginning in 2024. Under the proposal, the base E-ZPass rate would increase by 5% beginning Jan. 1, 2024. The toll would increase again by another 5% in January 2027.

The hike would be higher for drivers without

E-ZPass. Under the current rating structure, non-E-ZPass drivers who pay by mail are charged 15% higher toll rates compared to E-ZPass users, but if the new toll plan goes into effect those drivers would pay 75% higher rates.

DiNapoli issued a report claiming there are concerns with the proposal and urging the Thruway Authority to improve operations and maximize non-toll revenues before raising toll rates.

The report is based on an analysis of 10 years of the Thruway's finances and found there are "gaps in essential information



Liana Lekocevic/Capital Region Independent Media

According to a report from the state comptroller's office, the Thruway Authority should fix what is already in place before increasing toll rates.

necessary to evaluate the proposal," according to DiNapoli.

"The Thruway Authority's toll increase proposal comes at a time of extraordinary challenges for New Yorkers who are faced with rising costs for everything from food to shelter to gas," DiNapoli said. "The Thruway should be more transparent with the public and disclose critical information, and identify and put in place all possible cost savings and alternative revenue actions to minimize costs to drivers."

See THRUWAY A3

Sports



Wrestlers take third in sectionals

See page B1

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Melanie Lekocevic/Capital Region Independent Media

The Smokin' Pig Deli entered its cheddar ale soup in the first-ever Soups for Seniors event at Senior Projects of Ravenna on Saturday.



Melanie Lekocevic/Capital Region Independent Media

Jaime Hopkins, from Traskside Pizza and More, dishes out clam chowder at the Soups for Seniors fundraiser and contest.

SOUP from A1

“Our elder population is a very important population and I think they get overlooked a lot,” Appleby said. “I think this puts a focus and a light on a population that definitely needs help and support. And to me, this is community building.”

The senior center, which is available to rent for birthday parties, bridal showers and other events, was also showcased, she said.

Rebecca Flach, from Hopefull Life Center, made a ham-and-pota-

to soup that highlighted ingredients available at Helping Harvest, a food assistance program for people in need of a helping hand.

“I made the soup using ingredients from Helping Harvest to demonstrate the variety and quality of the food products that we have there,” Flach said.

Mayor Bill Misuraca, owner of the Halfway House Tavern, said it was gratifying to see so many residents attend the event.

“It’s a huge turnout,” said Misuraca, who also entered a seafood chowder into the contest. “We

are so glad to see the community rally up for the seniors — that is so important.”

Some of the soup entries were made by restaurateurs, but many were family favorites made by the community’s home chefs, like 15-year-old Hayden Hyslop, who made Zuppa soup.

Many entrants said they participated in the event to help out an important community resource.

“This is to help out the community and the seniors,” said Jaime Hopkins from Traskside Pizza

and More, who made a clam chowder.

Yvonne Shackleton made a coconut curry lentil soup from a vegan recipe she found online, and Deana Ferrusi cooked up an Italian escarole with white bean soup.

“It’s a twist on a family recipe,” Ferrusi said. “My grandfather’s favorite food was escarole and beans, and I just played with it a little bit.”

Tracy Douglas, co-owner of Rail to River Brewing, made Knoephla, a favorite in North Dakota that uses chicken and tiny dumplings.

“It came over with the Russian-Germans,”

Douglas said. “They settled in North Dakota and because North Dakota is so full of root vegetables, grains and chicken, in the middle of winter, when it’s so cold, this is a stick-to-your ribs meal for them. It is totally indigenous to North Dakota. Knoephla means ‘tiny buttons,’ and that is what the dumplings look like.”

Each guest was given five tickets they could hand out to their favorite soups, and when all was said and done, the winner of the 2023 Soups

for Seniors contest was Shelly Fitch, who made a corn chowder. Fitch was awarded the prize money of \$200 and donated it back to the senior center.

Saturday’s event raised \$1,000 for Senior Projects of Ravenna.

“I’m really proud of the turnout — it was amazing for the first time we have done something like this,” Appleby said. “The community really showed up. It was very heartwarming to see everyone smiling and laughing and enjoying each other’s company. And who doesn’t love soup?”

PARKS from A1

truck routes that would divert some of that truck traffic from the town are being considered.

“Currently, there is an engineered plan under review at the New York State Department of Environmental Conserva-

tion for an alternate truck route,” McHugh said. “Once approved, this alternate truck route will allow Holcim Cement to construct a new road off the east side of the Holcim quarry, so that trucks will have ingress and egress on County Route 101 into and out of the quarry. This will

remove the large trucks from our town roads like Jarvis Road North, Jarvis Road South and Mountain Road Extension. This is phase 1 of our plan.”

Phase 2 of the plan, which is still in the planning stage, would create a truck route through the property of Holcim Ce-

ment to the Port of Coeymans, which would divert much of the truck traffic from Route 9W, Main Street in the village and Main Street in the town.

The town supervisor also cited the purchase of \$25,000 worth of new audio/video equipment to broadcast town meetings,

the implementation of the CodeRED emergency alert system, and the addition of four miles of new broadband infrastructure to bring internet service to areas of the town among the town’s recent accomplishments.

“As we move forward as a community, with the

common goal of making sure Coeymans remains a great place to live, work and raise a family, I am confident that we will leave a wonderful community for our children and grandchildren to enjoy for generations to come,”

McHugh concluded.



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News from the Past in Memory of Harry A. Sturges



IN MEMORY OF Harry A. Sturges

News Herald - February 16, 1923 - F.E. Bleezarde, Publisher

Coeymans:
 • Most parents have declared themselves in favor of the Schick test and it will be given in the near future.
 • Mr. and Mrs. Sidney L. Robbins entertained a large number of friends

in their home on Westerlo Street on Friday evening of last week. A very enjoyable time was had by all.

• A party of 16 young people enjoyed a sleigh ride Thursday evening last. The driver evidently was in a hurry to get rid of his load, as we all went off sooner than expected. Nevertheless, everyone had a fine time, and are ready to go on another.

• The annual stewards' donation for the benefit of the M.E. church will be held in the chapel of the church on Thursday evening, Feb. 22. A sumptuous supper comprising the following appetizing menu will be served by the ladies of the church: roast beef, brown gravy,

mashed potatoes, cabbage salad, pickles, fruited jelly, pie, coffee and rolls. A cordial invitation is extended to all.

• The three-act drama "The Beantown Choir," which was presented in the M.E. church during December in connection with the fair given by the Ladies Aid Society, will be repeated in the high school this Friday evening for the benefit of the Health Club. It is hoped there will be a large attendance as the proceeds are to be used for a good cause. The same cast of characters will take part in the play. If you want a good laugh, don't miss this entertainment. Admission 35 cents.

Ravena:

• Harrison F. VanDerzee, for many years a resident of this village and well and favorably known among the men at the Ravena Engine House, where he had been a valued employee for many years, passed away at his home on Western Avenue on Sunday last after a lingering illness, at the age of 51 years.

• Next Tuesday the Republican and Democratic joint caucus will be held at the fire house for the selection of a village ticket to be voted on at the village election on the third Tuesday in March. The caucus is the cheapest place to nominate the candidates.

• The members of the seventh grade fixed up

a valentine's surprise on Wednesday evening and the youngsters surprised their teacher and had a merry time.

• A Washington's Birthday dance will be held in Masonic Hall on Thursday, Feb. 22. The famous Jack Keefe and his superb orchestra will furnish the music. This event will be looked forward to with pleasure by the young folks. Dancing will be enjoyed from 9 to 1.

• The Ladies Aid Society of the Christian church will serve a chicken supper in the chapel of the church on the evening of Feb. 28. The menu for the supper will be as follows: hot chicken biscuit with gravy, creamed onions, mashed potatoes, sal-

ad, pickles, cake, coffee. Tickets for the dinner will be 50c. After the supper is served, a social hour will be enjoyed with musical selections and listening to the ladies give their experiences of how they earned the dollars. Everybody invited. Supper served from 6 to 8.

Coeymans Herald - February 15, 1888 - S.H. & E.A.J. Sherman, Proprietors

• There is every evidence of a big boon in the brick business at this place this coming spring. The more, the better.

• Miller & Whitbeck and Briggs are not yet through harvesting but will complete in a day or so. They have housed a very superior stock of ice.



Liana Lekocevic/Capital Region Independent Media
 Under a proposed toll hike, tolls on the Thruway would increase by 5% in 2024 and another 5% in 2027, but State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli says higher toll rates should be a last resort.



Liana Lekocevic/Capital Region Independent Media
 State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli is pushing back against a Thruway Authority proposal to raise tolls on the statewide thoroughfare.

THRUWAY from A1

"Raising tolls should be the last option, and the Thruway has more work to do," DiNapoli continued.

The toll hikes were proposed by the Thruway Authority to increase toll revenue by an estimated \$1.9 billion, or 28.4%, through 2031.

The state comptroller's report found the Thruway's finances and operations were impacted by several factors,

including the implementation of cashless tolling and problems with the Tolls-By-Mail system, which is used for drivers who do not have E-ZPass. According to the report, cashless tolling had not yet produced cost savings, and the billing system for pay-by-mail drivers is not operating as it was designed. The cashless toll program is currently being audited by the state comptroller's office.

Finances for the Thruway system were also im-

acted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which saw sharp declines in traffic and toll revenues, DiNapoli said, with toll revenues declining by 16.8% in 2020, and then rebounding the following year. Inconsistent revenues, combined with cashless tolling problems, have made traffic and revenue projections unreliable — yet they form the basis for the proposed toll increases.

Another factor that impacted Thruway revenues

in recent years was the construction of the Gov. Mario Cuomo Bridge — formerly the Tappan Zee Bridge — which was partially financed by the state, but a portion of the costs were borne by the Thruway. Debt management practices and changing financial obligations have also made long-term planning difficult, DiNapoli said.

DiNapoli's report recommended that before toll increases are implemented, there are other steps the Thruway Authority should take, including resolving the cashless tolling and Toll-By-Mail issues.

"Before asking system users to pay more, the Thruway should address its implementation problems and ensure that it has a clear and accurate fore-

cast upon which to base its revenue estimates," according to a statement from DiNapoli's office. "The Thruway should also provide better documentation and disclosure of the assumptions used to develop the revenue and traffic projections that support its proposal."

The report also suggests the Thruway Authority should perform a comprehensive assessment of its operating needs and expenses to identify costs that may no longer be necessary, and maximize all possible non-toll revenue sources, such as federal funding.

DiNapoli also called for a comprehensive capital needs assessment to fill in some of the "significant gaps" in information and increase transparency of the system and its financ-

es. If toll increases are enacted on the Thruway, it would be the first hike since 2010, the last time tolls were raised, according to a statement released by the Thruway Authority in December, when the organization's board voted to begin the process of setting up public hearings and gathering public comment on the issue.

The proposed increase came after a five-year "Needs Assessment" report that was conducted in 2021 indicated an additional \$470 million in capital projects were needed that could not be supported by existing operations, the Authority said in December. Those projects include 85 bridges that will need to be replaced within the next decade and renovations that are needed on many of the roadway's 815 bridges, which are an average of 55 years old, with 75% of them older than 60 years.

"It's based on the fact that 85% of the Thruway's roadway base dates back to its original construction, highlighting the need for heavy maintenance, reconstruction and rehabilitation activities to keep the riding surface in a state of good repair," according to a December statement from the Thruway Authority.



TCI of NY helps kick-off the Capital Region BOCES

Career & Technical Education Month celebration



Featured Left to Right: Chris White, Deputy Commissioner Workforce Development, NYS Department of Labor, Brian Williams, Executive Director, Capital Region Workforce Development Board, Joseph P. Dragone, Senior Executive Officer, Capital Region BOCES, Amber Rangel, Vice President Workforce Development, Empire State Development, Bill May, Service Manager, Capitaland Motors Subaru/GMC, Tucker Cherry, Niskayuna High School, Doug Ford, Vice President, Curtis Lumber, Jeff Palmer, Director CTE, Capital Region BOCES, and Brian Hemlock, President TCI NY

February marks the month-long celebration of national Career & Technical Education (CTE). Brian Hemlock, President TCI of NY, joined other industry leaders to speak at the Capital Region BOCES celebration event held last week.

"Capital Region BOCES is a great partner of TCI, Career and Technical Education is the backbone of America, the work all the educators do here is very important and the students are learning every day putting that education to great use," said Mr. Hemlock.

Capital Region BOCES teaches more than 1,200 high school students and hundreds of adults the skills needed to find meaningful employment. As one of the largest workforce development centers in upstate New York they partner with more than 300 businesses.

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PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

All about Elle

Horses of Unbridled



SUSAN KAYNE

Elle Tempo is a 17-year-old Thoroughbred mare. She is coal black with a white crescent moon stretching sideways across her forehead. Her muzzle softens to a rich mahogany brown, and Pi-casso-like smatterings of white cuff her legs just atop her hooves.

Compared to a movie star, she would be Elizabeth Taylor. Splendid and gorgeous, she carries herself with the regality of the noble blood coursing through her veins.

Elle's earliest memories can be likened to those of Black Beauty from his utopian youth: "The first place that I can well remember was a large, pleasant meadow with a pond of clear water in it. Some shady trees leaned over it, and rushes and water lilies grew at the deep end. Over the hedge on one side we looked into a plowed field, and on the other we looked over a gate at our master's house ..."

On Feb. 3, 2006, Elle's dam (mother), Uhavethebeat, birthed her into this world atop a bed of golden straw at Charlotte Colket Weber's iconic Live Oak Stud. Imbued with beauty

and ele-gance, the newborn filly stepped into her life outside of the womb with confidence and grace.

Elle's sire (father) is Eltish, a successful racehorse and stallion bred and owned by the late Prince Khalid bin Abdullah of Saudia Arabia. Eltish won graded stakes races in Britain and the United States and retired with earnings of \$704,186. Elle's maternal grandsire is the great Unbridled. In 1990, he won both the Kentucky Derby and the Breeders' Cup. At the age of four he retired with earnings of \$4,489,475.

As a home-bred of Weber, Elle was born into one of the most elite racing dynasties in America. Weber is the granddaughter of condensed soup inventor and Campbell Soup founder John T. Dorrance. A devoted equestrian, Weber owns and manages Live Oak Stud, a 4,500-acre Thoroughbred farm and commercial cattle operation just west of Ocala, Florida.

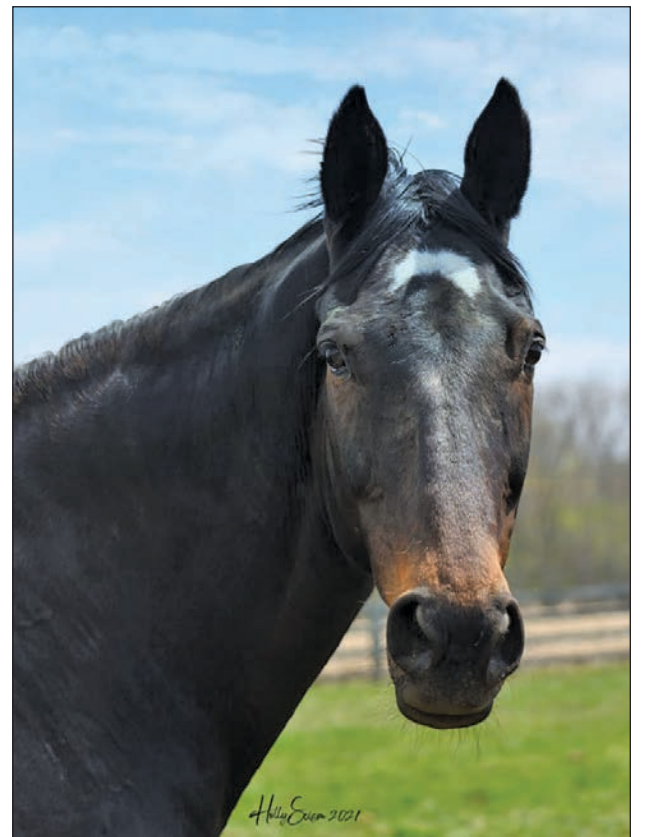
Since 1995, Weber has solely guided the fortunes of her Thoroughbred breeding and racing operation. In these past four decades, Live Oak Plantation's distinctive black, red and white silks have become a nationally recognized racing symbol.

In 1998, Weber purchased Uhavethebeat as a yearling for \$300,000 at the Keeneland Sales. The filly could not withstand the stress of training and did not race. At the age of three, she was bred to With Approval, the 1989 Canadian Horse of the



Contributed photo

Elle loves little girls. She is pictured with her friend, Hailey.



Courtesy of Holly Scism

Bred from a championship racing line couldn't save Elle from the slaughter lot — but Unbridled Thoroughbred Foundation stepped in and saved her.

Year and Champion. For the next eight years she was rebred and gave birth to beautiful foals for Weber. In 2009, pregnant for the last time, Weber sold Uhavethebeat through the same Keeneland Sales where their story had begun 11 years earlier.

Of Elle's eight siblings, her elder brother, CAN'T BEAT IT, garnered the most success on the racetrack. He won graded stakes races in the silks of Live Oak and earned over \$387,000.

Elle, like her mother, was sold as a yearling. She withstood training and went on to race 13 times in the colors of Denholtz Stable. Her lone victory

came on the turf at the age of three under trainer Hamilton Smith at Colonial Downs in Virginia.

At the age of four, Elle retired to Kimberly Godwin Clark at Leighton Sport Horses to be trained for a "second career." Tall, long-legged and balletic, Elle excelled in the discipline of dressage. Leighton showcased Elle's exceptional talent in videos on YouTube. According to Clark, Elle was sound, talented, and adopted for a fee of \$3,500.

Eight years post-adoption, on her 12th birthday, Elle was discovered in a slaughter-bound lot of horses in Pennsylvania. She was frightened, skin-

ny and unkempt. It is a mystery how she landed in such a predicament, and alongside an elderly gelding named Grand Fashion who also raced under Hamilton Smith.

When Unbridled began fundraising to save Elle from shipping to slaughter, our loving supporters rallied the funds to also rescue her friend Grand Fashion. With care, nourishment and time, both horses reclaimed their health and regained their dignity.

Grand Fashion was adopted as a non-ridden companion horse, and Elle was rehomed to ride with a family in Massachusetts. Under tack, un-

soundness plagued Elle. Whatever had happened to her, she could no longer tolerate a saddle.

In August 2019, Elle returned to the pastures of Unbridled. With her troubles over and travels far behind, she is enjoying the freedom and security of her life in sanctuary.

Elle Tempo is Spanish. It translates to SHE TIME in English -- something Elle will have in abundance for the rest of her days at Unbridled.

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

Telephones

WHITTLING AWAY



DICK BROOKS

Telephones are not my favorite thing.

Not being one to indulge in frivolous chit chat much, the telephone then becomes a way to get bad news or as a confirmer of appointments, most of which I'd rather not go to anyway.

This dislike may date all the way back to childhood when on several

occasions I tried unsuccessfully to make a communication link out of two tomato soup cans and a length of white string.

I do admit to having a fascination with Dick Tracy's Wrist Radio. I thought it would be great to be able to communicate with home base at will. Now that I have a cellphone, I'm not so sure that's such a good thing and I sometimes have trouble remembering just what the advantages I imagined were.

Back in simpler times, telephones were easier to avoid. Most were black and weighed in the neighborhood of 10 pounds, not very portable. They lived at home and most houses had but one.

They were a more pleasant appliance then.

One picked up the receiver and was greeted by a pleasant voice belonging to a real human who said, "Number please." You gave her the number, she connected you. No dialing or button pushing involved, and they think today's phones are labor-saving devices.

We lived in the country. Country folks had party lines. These were early mass communication systems. The phone rang, you waited to hear if it was one ring, two rings, three rings or a series of four rings. It really didn't matter how many rings there were, everybody picked up the phone but only the party whose ring it was talked — the rest put their hand over the mouthpiece and listened. News traveled quickly.

There were pay phones in phone booths, little houses that could be found usually on street corners or in places of business. These were used on the rare occasion when a phone call needed to be made outside of your home or when you were at work. They were never used much but every mother in town made sure that if you were going out for the evening, you had money to make a phone call in case of emergency. I remember mothers of my infrequent dates handing them bags of coins as they eyed me suspiciously.

With the telephones of today, you're never out of touch, even if you want to be. Phones e-mail, take pictures, send pictures, play music, text messages near and far, and make

thousands of annoying sounds when they ring.

I wish they would ring, a telephone should ring. They buzz, vibrate, play snippets of music I don't like. They call them ring tones, but they don't ring.

A state highway truck stopped in front of the house this morning and the driver got out and stood watching the beautiful red sunrise, pulled out his phone and took a picture of it. This was one of the best uses for a cellphone I've seen lately. I hope he shares it with a loved one.

I have a cellphone and I think I function well with it. I leave it turned off until the rare occasion comes up when I need to make a call.

The folks that really annoy me are the ones

who walk around the market with those Star Wars hearing aids and microphones sticking out of their ears. They look like they're talking to themselves and it makes me nervous.

Does anyone need to be that communicative? Have they never heard of a Post-It Note to write the grocery list on? Are they talking to a significant other who has their head in the fridge at home placing an order on their phone? I hope not.

Thought for the week — If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled?

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

Reach columnist Dick Brooks at whittlingaway@yahoo.com.

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Robert Smalls

Positively Speaking



Toby Moore

Robert Smalls was born into slavery in South Carolina in 1839.

From a young age, the plantation sent him away to work in Charleston, eventually finding work on the docks of Charleston Harbor. Despite the grueling work and long hours, Robert was determined to rise above his circumstances.

Years passed as Robert worked tirelessly to gain the respect and trust of those around him, but Robert's ambition went beyond just climbing the ranks on the docks. He

had a dream, a burning desire to be free.

In 1856, Robert fell in love and married. With his new wife by his side, his dream of finding freedom for himself and his family became an obsession.

When the Civil War broke out, the Union sent several warships to blockade the harbor; and Robert saw an opportunity. He secured work as a deckhand on a Confederate steamship that traveled between ports and laid mines in the heavily fortified harbor. Robert learned everything he could about the ship, gaining the trust of his officers and waiting for the perfect moment.

That moment arrived in 1862 when Robert devised a daring plan to seize control of the ship and escape. All this time, Robert had been playing the role of a dutiful slave, lulling the Confederate officers into a false sense

of security. One night, he convinced the officers that the ship was safe with him and that they could leave for the evening. They did, which gave Robert complete command.

Immediately he sent word to his and the crew's families to rendezvous at the ship before dawn.

As Robert's wife boarded the ship, his heart raced as he braced for her reaction. It was the first time she'd heard of his plan.

She stood in shock, overwhelmed by the danger of their situation.

A tense silence hung between them as Robert waited for her final decision. He could not imagine leaving without her, and he would not.

With a determined look, she finally spoke the words that would seal their fate: "I will go with you; wherever you will die, I will die."

With their families on board, Robert dressed as a captain so as not to arouse the suspicion of the Confederacy. Carefully, they made their way out of the harbor and encountered five different checkpoints, each potentially threatening their escape. Using his knowledge of the secret Confederate Codebook, Robert hand-signaled the first four checkpoints correctly, but the most dangerous moment of their escape was yet to come.

As they approached Fort Sumter, Robert's nerves were on edge. Sumter was the most heavily armed of the Confederate forts. One wrong move and Robert's ship would be blown to bits.

One of Robert's crew later recounted, "When we drew near the fort, every man but Robert Smalls felt his knees giving way, and the women began to cryin' and prayin'."

With his straw hat tipped to cover his face, he gave the correct hand signal to the fort, but when no response came, the crew braced for the worst. After an agonizing wait, they were given clearance. Robert set the ship at full speed, straight toward the Union blockade.

Raising a white bedsheet as a flag of surrender, Robert approached the blockade as quickly as possible. They had a problem; the white flag wasn't visible as the sun was not yet up. The union forces began preparations to destroy Robert's ship, but just as the cannon was being raised and the fuse almost lit, a Union sailor shouted, "I see something that looks like a white flag!"

When Robert's family and crew realized the blockade wouldn't destroy them, they began singing,

dancing and praising the heavens for their safe passage. What a sight it must have been!

Robert boldly declared to the commander: "Good morning, Sir! I brought you some of the old United States' guns!"

With those words, Robert Smalls pulled off one of the most daring escapes in American history.

Robert Smalls so inspired Abraham Lincoln that Lincoln allowed Black people to serve in the military for the first time. Robert went on to serve as a congressman and focused much on African-American civil rights issues.

What would have happened had Robert not followed his dream?

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



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- Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

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- Choir Thursday - 4:45 PM
- Bible Study Friday - 10:00 AM
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I wanted to thank everyone within the Ravena / Coeymans / Selkirk communities for their continued support over the last year. It has been difficult at times but we have managed to get through it and provide a helpful community service. We are back to regular business hours Mon - Fri 10am - 5pm / Sat 10am - 3pm / Closed on Sundays

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

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

Shane DeCrescenzo
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Soups for Seniors draws a crowd

RAVENA — The first-ever Soups for Seniors contest and fundraiser, a collaboration between the village and Senior Projects of Ravenna, drew a huge crowd Saturday and raised \$1,000 for the senior center (see page A1).

HERE ARE SCENES FROM SATURDAY'S FESTIVITIES:



HS Science Olympiad Team places in 11 events at regionals



Courtesy of RCS School District
The RCS High School Science Olympiad team took 6th place in the regional competition that drew 18 teams.

RAVENA-COEY-MANS-SELKIRK — On Saturday, Feb. 4, the High School Science Olympiad team competed in the regional competition at Ballston Spa High School. They competed against 18 teams from across the

Capital Region in 23 events focused on scientific knowledge and engineering tasks. The events consist of different subjects across the STEM field, including topics such as biology, coding, astronomy, geology and more. RCS finished in an 6th place. They were up against some much larger schools and medaled in almost half of the events. While they are not advancing to the state competition, the team was able to make improvements from last year. The team moved up two spots overall and medaled in four more events compared to their trip to regionals last year. "The students did an excellent job," said science teacher and Science Olympiad co-advisor Matt Miller. "I could not

be more proud of the effort and expertise they brought to the competition last weekend. Their teamwork skills and attention to detail served us well!" Congratulations to the whole team and to these specific event winners on all their hard work!
2nd place – Environmental Chemistry – Hane Coquillon and Chloe Canham
3rd place – Anatomy & Physiology – Sienna Rinella and Chloe Canham
4th place – Forestry – Carter Dixon and Jill Hallisey
4th place – Rocks & Minerals – Stephen Mathai and Ian Brisco
5th place – Bridge Building – Lucas Brisco and Max Deyoe
5th place – Green Generation – Max May and Jenna Grogan

5th place – Write It / Do It – Max Deyoe and Nick Cifone
6th place – Detector Building – Cooper Penzabene and Clarissa Ball
6th place – Fermi Questions – Nick Cifone and Max Deyoe
6th place – Forensics – Sienna Rinella and Jenna Grogan
6th place – Scrambler – Ian Brisco and Carter Dixon
The following students are on the team: Nana Anto-Asare, Clarissa Ball, Ian Brisco, Lucas Brisco, Chloe Canham, Nick Cifone, Carl-Hanee Coquillon, Max Deyoe, Carter Dixon, Jenna Grogan, Jillian Hallisey, Stephen Mathai, Max May, Ryan Morrow, Cooper Penzabene, Sienna Rinella, Roksolana Voronko and Sulamita Voronko.

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You may also submit a video presentation for your nomination. Please email a .mov or .mpg to wdewsjr@gmail.com. If you have any questions please contact Warren Dews Jr. at 413-212-0130.

Nominations will be accepted through Feb. 28, 2023. Winners will receive an award and an invitation to a dinner ceremony in their honor in March.

*We are looking for nominations among people who live, work or were raised in our services areas of southern Albany County, Columbia County and Greene County.

Communities where nominations can come from in Albany County include Ravenna, Coeymans, Coeymans Hollow, Selkirk, Medusa, Rensselaerville, Westerlo, Bethlehem, Delmar and Glenmont.

In Greene County, individuals and businesses can be nominated from Greenville, Cairo, Durham, New Baltimore, Coxsackie and Athens.


In Columbia County individuals and businesses can be nominated from all of Columbia County.

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Community Calendar

RAVENA Community Bulletin Board

February 2023

- 18 - Selkirk Fire Breakfast: Cancer Fundraiser, doors open at 7 a.m., 301 Glenmont Road, Glenmont. Eat in or take out. Menu is pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, home fries, toast, coffee, juice and milk. Cost is \$10. Proceeds to help two fire department members who are fighting cancer. There will also be a 50/50 raffle. Visit Facebook.com/selkirkfd2/events for more information.
- 20 - President's Day. RCS schools closed.
- 21 - Ravena Village Board meeting, 6 p.m., at Village Hall, 15 Mountain Road, Ravena.
- 21-24 - Winter recess. RCS schools closed.
- 23 - Coeymans Town Board meeting, 6 p.m., at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena.
- 27 - Coeymans Planning/Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, 7 p.m., at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena.
- 28 - Ravena Village Board workshop, 6 p.m., at Village Hall, 15 Mountain Road, Ravena.

March 2023

- 3 - A.W. Becker Elementary School PTA Book Fair, Route 9W, Selkirk.
- 7 - Ravena Village Board meeting, 6 p.m., at Village Hall, 15 Mountain Road, Ravena.
- 9 - Coeymans Town Board meeting, 6 p.m., at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena.
- 13 - Coeymans Planning/Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, 7 p.m., at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena.
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Cornell Cooperative Extension Announces Spring Gardening Days 2023 Acra

On March 25 and April 1, join the Master Gardener volunteers of Columbia and Greene counties for the annual Spring Gardening Days, hosted by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties.

This year there will be six presentations/workshops to learn the various aspects of tending to your garden. Individuals can sign up for one or more of the following courses.

On March 25, the following classes will be offered at the Extension Education Center, located at

479 Route 66 in Hudson:

- 9 a.m. — Gardening for Pollinators
- 10:30 a.m. — The Family Planting Playbook
- 12 p.m. — Creating a Cutting Garden

On April 1, the following classes will be offered at the Agroforestry Re-

source Center, located at 6055 Route 23 in Acra:

- 9 a.m. — Guarding the Garden From Deer and Other Wildlife
- 10:30 a.m. — Garden Design
- 12 p.m. — Build Your Own Worm Bin!

The Master Gardener volunteers will be on hand both days to answer your gardening questions, test soil samples, and show you around the campuses. There will be a book sale and refreshments.

Workshop details and registration information about Spring Garden-

ing Days are available at ccecolumbiagreene.org/sgd2023. Space is limited, so register now to secure your place.

For questions, contact Sandra Linnell at 518-828-3346 ext. 106.



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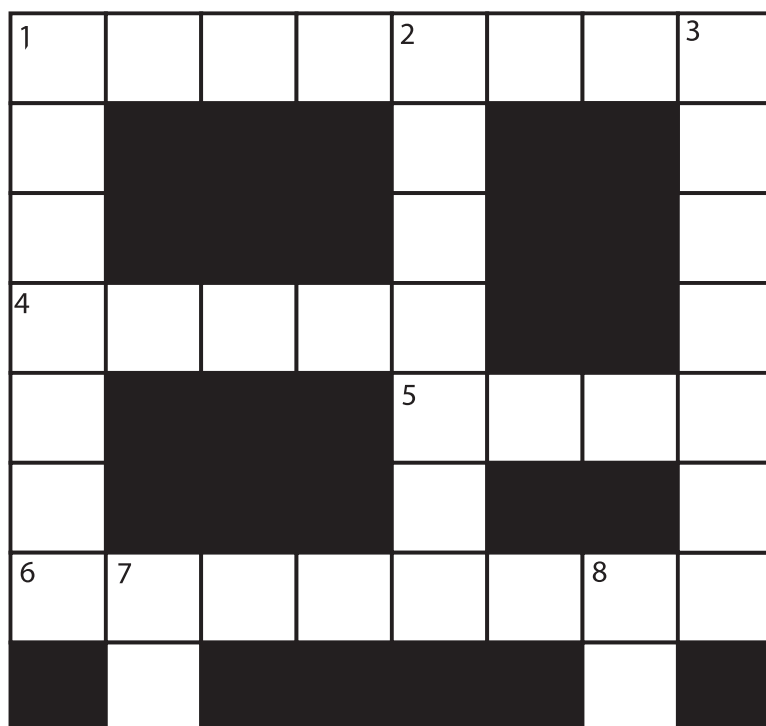
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A WORD ON CHARACTER:
It's better to get an F/fail/lose, than it is to cheat.
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Crossword Puzzle



THIS WEEK IN



HISTORY

- 1014: HENRY OF BAVARIA IS CROWNED KING OF GERMANY AND HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR.
- 1849: JAMES K. POLK BECOMES THE FIRST SERVING U.S. PRESIDENT TO HAVE HIS PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN.
- 1920: THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS IS FOUNDED IN CHICAGO.



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ANSWER: MENTOR

ACROSS

- 1. Decorative light
- 4. Twelve
- 5. Number on calendar
- 6. Feeling safe

DOWN

- 1. People in charge
- 2. To clean clothes
- 3. Ceramics
- 7. Emergency room (abbr.)
- 8. Towards

Answers: Across 1. Lava lamp 4. Dozen 5. Date 6. Security Down 1. Leaders 2. Launder 3. Pottery 7. ER 8. To

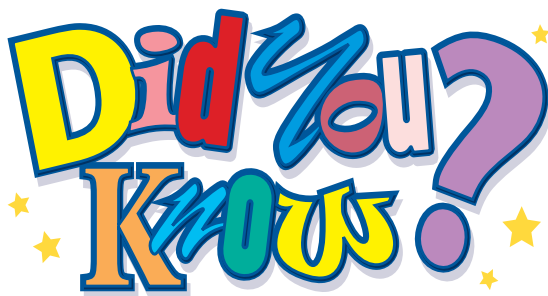


DIRECT

to supervise and control

How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Leader
- SPANISH:** Líder
- ITALIAN:** Leader
- FRENCH:** Chef
- GERMAN:** Anführer



TODAY'S YOUTH CAN BENEFIT FROM GETTING INVOLVED AND LEARNING THE QUALITIES OF EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: YOUNG WOMAN

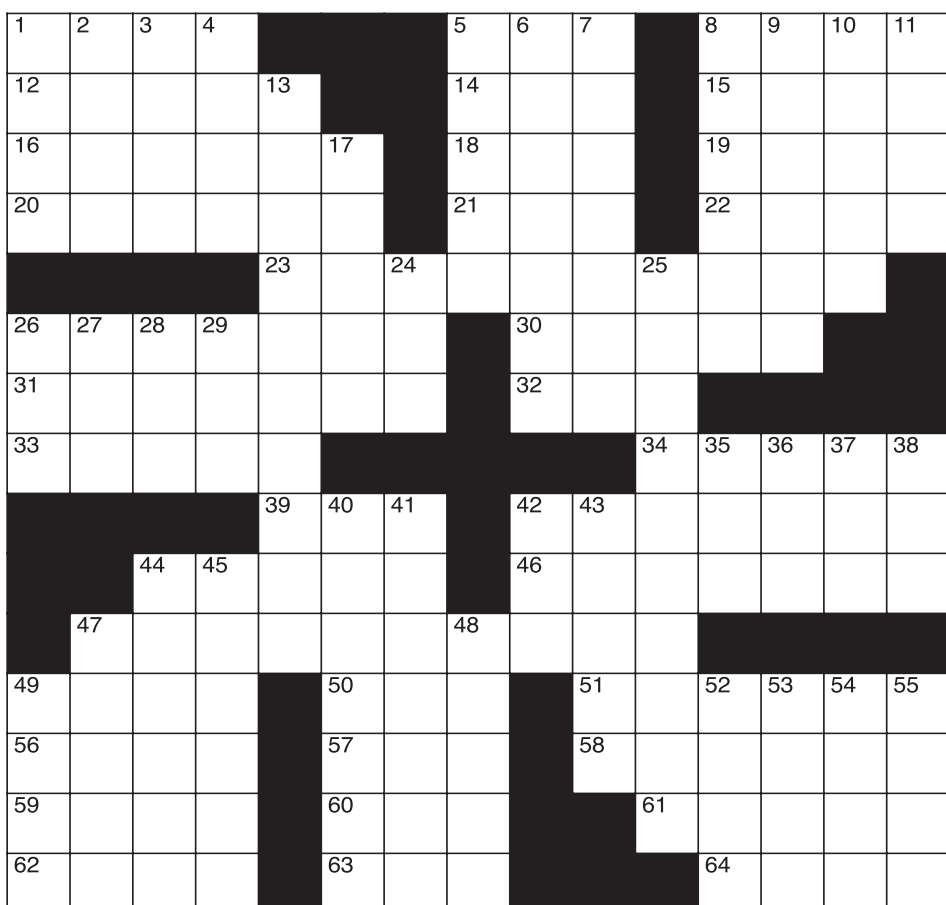


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CLUES ACROSS

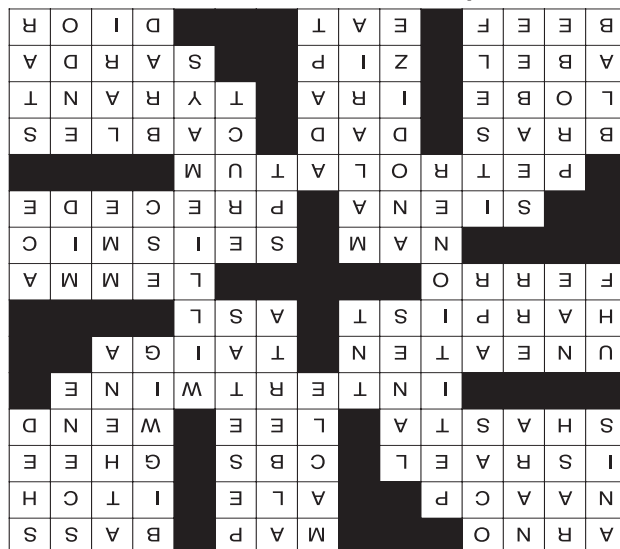
- 1. River in Tuscany
- 5. A way to represent
- 8. Rocker's guitar
- 12. Civil Rights group
- 14. Brew
- 15. Scratch
- 16. W. Asian country
- 18. The Eye Network
- 19. Clarified butter
- 20. Part of the Cascade Range
- 21. Downwind
- 22. A way to steer
- 23. Loop
- 26. Not ingested
- 30. Swampy coniferous forest
- 31. Musician
- 32. Signing

- 33. Containing iron
- 34. Part of a theorem or proof
- 39. Veterans battleground (slang)
- 42. Of enormous proportions
- 44. Italian city
- 46. Come before
- 47. Balm
- 49. Undergarments
- 50. Male parent
- 51. Ropes
- 56. Ear part
- 57. Investment vehicle
- 58. Dictator
- 59. Cain and ___
- 60. A type of code
- 61. Border river along India and Nepal
- 62. It's what's for dinner
- 63. Consume
- 64. Christian ___, designer

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Cuckoos
- 2. Skin issue
- 3. City in central Japan
- 4. Sorrels
- 5. Twinned diamond
- 6. Canadian province
- 7. Monetary units
- 8. Head honcho

- 9. Goddess of wisdom
- 10. Part of a play
- 11. Get rid of
- 13. Applicant
- 17. Bowling alleys have many
- 24. Explosive
- 25. "The Say Hey Kid"
- 26. Ultrahigh frequency
- 27. No (Scottish)
- 28. Make a mistake
- 29. Credit card term
- 35. Keyboard key
- 36. Woman (French)
- 37. In the middle of
- 38. Score perfectly
- 40. Coat a metal with an oxide coat
- 41. Deadly disease
- 42. A place to dock a boat (abbr.)
- 43. Belch
- 44. Member of U.S. Navy
- 45. "In ___": separate from others
- 47. Examine extensively
- 48. Adjust
- 49. Tattle
- 52. Actor Pitt
- 53. Gulls
- 54. Within
- 55. Exceptionally talented performer





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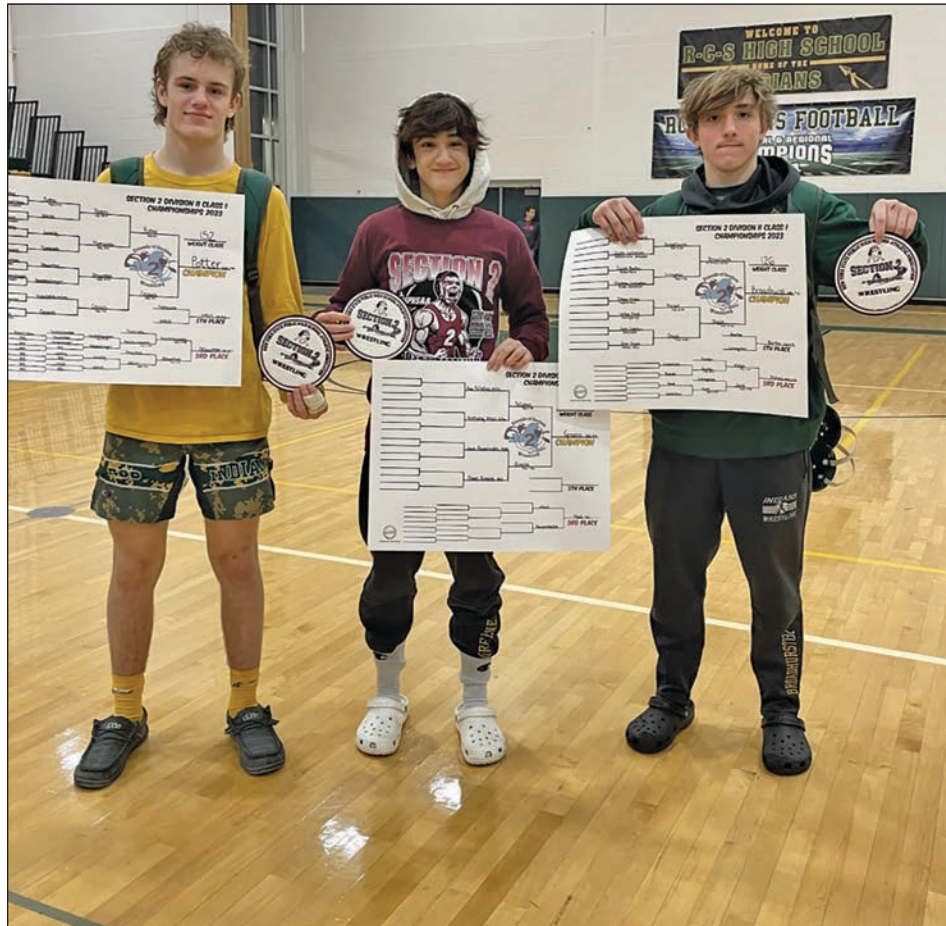


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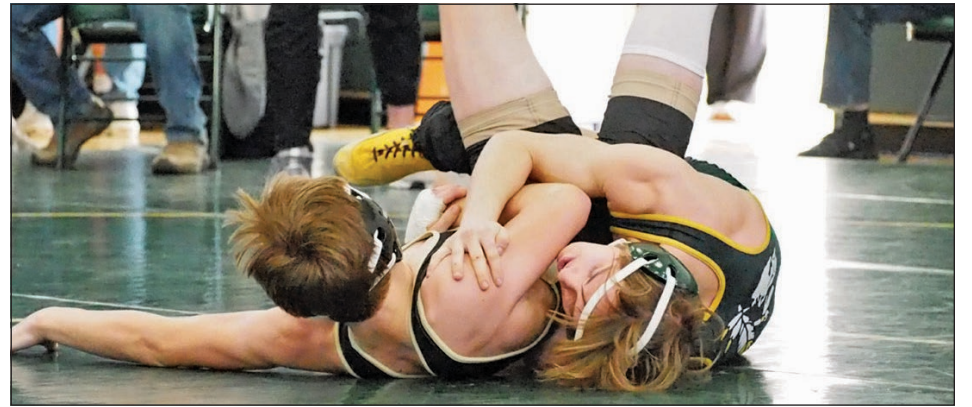
B

RAVENA NEWS-HERALD CAPITAL REGION INDEPENDENT MEDIA Thursday, February 16, 2023 **B1**

Wrestlers take third in sectionals



Gina Pelletier/For Capital Region Independent Media
First-place finishers, left to right, Kaden Potter at 152 pounds; Owen Greene at 102 pounds; and Franky Broadhurst at 126 pounds.



Gina Pelletier/For Capital Region Independent Media
Franky Broadhurst took first place in the 126-pound weight class.



Gina Pelletier/For Capital Region Independent Media
The Indians' Owen Greene took first place in the 102-pound weight class at the Section 2 Class CC Tournament.



Gina Pelletier/For Capital Region Independent Media
Kaden Potter took home a first-place victory in the 152-pound weight class.

By Melanie Lekocevic
Capital Region Independent Media
RAVENA-COEY-MANS-SELKIRK — The Indians took third place as a team in the Section 2 Class CC tournament, hosted at RCS on Saturday.
Hudson Falls took the top spot with 210.5 points, Glens Falls came in second with 194.5 and the Indians racked up the third highest number of points with 181.5, with 10 teams in the section.
Three Indians took

home first-place finishes in their weight class. Owen Greene defeated Kai Pellaton of Watervliet-Cohoes 7-3 in the 102-pound weight class. Franky Broadhurst won by decision over Hudson Falls' Dom Doyle 7-2 in the 126-pound division. Kaden Potter, competing in the 152-pound weight class, pinned Don Cesare of Watervliet-Cohoes in 4:46.
Other top finishers included second-place Jaymie Carkner at 285

pounds; Jayden Acomb in third place at 110 pounds; Aiden Forster finished fourth at 110 pounds; Jaequan Jones took fourth place at 132 pounds; Antonio Piscitelli finished in fourth at 160 pounds; and Ethan Green took fourth place in the 172-pound weight class.
Adam Hatz finished in fifth place in the 138 pound division; Jorge Betancourt came in fifth at 285 pounds; and Jayden Holl took sixth place at 189 pounds.

Middle school names P.E. Students of the Month for January



Courtesy of RCS School District
RCS Middle School teachers selected the Physical Education Students of the Month for January.

RAVENA-COEY-MANS-SELKIRK — Each month the Physical Education Department at RCS Middle School recognizes individual students for the hard work they demonstrated in class during the entire month.
Students were nominated by Physical Education teachers James Henry, Majiel Baker and Anna Davies.
A big congratulations to the Physical Education Students of the Month for January: Madelynn A. Babcock (Grade 6), Kiernan Moore (Grade 6), Maksim Moya (Grade 6),

Michael Simmons (Grade 6), Irelyn Rinella (Grade 7), Myla Castagna (Grade 7), Alex Pulver (Grade 7), Landon Greenwood (Grade 7), Maryn Glassbrenner (Grade 8), Isabella McSweeney (Grade 8), Braydyn Kehrer (Grade 8), and Muzamil Usmani (Grade 8)!
Here is a brief description of each student's contributions to their class, according to their teachers:
• **Madelynn A. Babcock:** Madelynn is a hard worker who follows directions, rules and class expectations. She always

tries her best, is kind and respectful to her classmates, and shows great sportsmanship in PE. Congratulations, and keep up the excellent work!
• **Kiernan Moore:** Kiernan is a hard worker who follows directions, rules, and class expectations. She always tries her best in PE and is kind and respectful to her classmates, always showing great sportsmanship. Congratulations, and keep being AWESOME!
• **Maksim Moya:** Maks does an excellent job in Physical Education class! He is a leader

through his sportsmanship and respect towards others. Maks works hard by putting forth a great effort in PE class. Congratulations, and keep up the amazing work!
• **Michael Simmons:** Michael is a conscientious student who follows class rules and expectations. He puts forth a great effort and is always kind to his classmates, showing sportsmanship and respect. Congratulations, and keep up the great work!
• **Irelyn Rinella:** Irelyn is a hard worker who follows directions, rules, and class expectations. She always tries her best, is kind and respectful to her classmates, and shows great sportsmanship in PE. She is always willing to lend a helping hand! Congratulations, and keep up the fantastic work!
• **Myla Castagna:** Myla does an excellent job in PE class by following directions and being respectful towards others. Her leadership is evident through high participation levels and sportsmanship skills during class. Congratulations, and keep up

the incredible work!
• **Alex Pulver:** Alex plays hard and puts 100% into everything he does. He follows directions, rules, and class expectations and always tries his best. He is kind and respectful to his classmates and shows great sportsmanship in PE. Congratulations, and keep being AWESOME!
• **Landon Greenwood:** Landon is a conscientious student who follows class rules and expectations. He puts forth a great effort and is always kind to his classmates, showing sportsmanship and respect. Congratulations, and keep up the excellent work!
• **Maryn Glassbrenner:** Maryn is a hard worker who follows directions, rules, and class expectations. She always tries her best, is kind and respectful to her classmates, and shows great sportsmanship in PE. She is always willing to lend a helping hand! Congratulations, and keep up the amazing work!
• **Isabella McSweeney:** Isabella is a class leader and a very hard worker

who follows directions, rules, and class expectations. She always tries her best, is kind and respectful to her classmates, and shows great sportsmanship in PE. She is always willing to lend a helping hand and often stays after class to help with equipment pickup. Congratulations, and keep up the incredible work!
• **Braydyn Kehrer:** Braydyn has done an excellent job in PE class! He always follows the rules, is respectful towards others, and has high levels of participation in Physical Education. Braydyn is always willing to help with equipment and displays sportsmanship. Congratulations, and keep up the fantastic work!
• **Muzamil Usmani:** Muz has done an excellent job in PE class! He always puts forth a great effort in class, is respectful to others, and follows directions. His sportsmanship and leadership skills are evident throughout class activities. Congratulations, and keep up the excellent work!

RCS defeats C-A 46-38

By Melanie Lekocevic
Capital Region Independent Media
RAVENA-COEY-MANS-SELKIRK — The

Indians boys' basketball team defeated the Cox-sackie-Athens Riverhawks in non-league play 46-38 last Wednesday.

Leading RCS in points was Nick Gibney with 14, followed by Eddie Reville with 12.
Robert Hughes led the

Riverhawks in scoring with 9.
Also scoring for the Indians were Wyatt Algozzine with 6, Jack Reif with 5, and Thomas Burns with 3.
The score was tied at 9 at the end of the first quarter, but the Indians started

to pull away in the second stanza of the game, heading into the locker room with a 24-19 lead.
After halftime, the team extended their lead to 10 points by the end of the third quarter with a 36-26 lead. The Riverhawks tried to stage a comeback

in the fourth quarter, outscoring the Indians 12-10, but the Indians held onto the lead for a final score of 46-38.
The win puts the Indians' overall record at 6-13 on the season, and the team is 4-9 in league play.

LIVING ON PURPOSE

Joy and peace are a state of mind

By Dr. William Holland
For Capital Region
Independent Media

Fear and stress are often blamed for ruining our contentment and happiness, but anxiety is not an uncontrollable monster that forces us to be afraid.

Actually, these negative responses originate from within our own beliefs. In this light, pessimism is a personal decision that will continue to influence our thinking until a new system of thought processing is installed.

The Bible says in the book of Romans 12:2: "Do not conform to the views of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Simply stated, this verse is generally talking

about interpreting our views through the lens of God's Word and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, rather than through the lens of our emotions, past experiences, or the opinions of others.

Recognizing our patterns and tendencies to be gloomy can explain why we react in certain ways and help us improve our pessimistic attitudes. Asking God to help us re-wire our minds is the key to learning how to trust Him as changing the way we think will change who we are as we demonstrate a life that honors Him.

The recent decline in our economy is now at the point where many are feeling stressed and worried. My wife and I have noticed our home and auto insurance are climbing along with a significant increase in our utility bills

and property taxes. With mortgage interest rates rising, we are seeing home sales slowing down and subsequently real estate prices are falling.

We have concerns about shortages, along with the rising cost of food and fuel, and it only makes sense that as the cost of operating a business increases, they must raise prices to maintain a profit. Some are indeed jumping on the price-gouging wagon, but nonetheless, our world is currently not heading in a good direction.

We can look back in history and see there are ups and downs in the stock markets and inflation, but whether enjoying prosperity or experiencing difficulties, it's wise to remember that God is our source and it's more secure to place our trust in Him than any earthly gov-

ernment.

We are not to ignore what is going on, but the way we live is not based on a political party, it's standing for truth and doing what is right in God's eyes.

It only makes things worse to blame others or to argue about the condition of our nation. We must realize that it is Satan who manipulates humans and his purpose is to steal, kill and destroy, which includes wreaking havoc on economies, creating division, and causing people to suffer.

However, the Lord promises in Joshua 1:9: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

People talk about go-

ing to their "happy place," a seemingly magical location where we can take shelter from whatever is threatening their security. But what is this about?

It can mean different things to different people, but for those who have a relationship with God, it's a place in the deepest part of our conscience where we can commune with God and embrace the safety and joy of His presence. It is said that trying times are not the times to stop trying and that we can either give up or get up.

Often when people face serious challenges in life, they lose hope rather than persevere in faith. We are reminded in Psalm 91:1: "They who dwell in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."

In first Samuel chap-

ter 3, it says David found strength in the Lord, which means he encouraged himself. He was facing one of the most difficult challenges of his life, and no one was around to encourage him. There will be times when no one is around to counsel or give us a pep talk, and it's during these seasons that we will need to embrace God's promises for ourselves.

Whether it be an emotional, psychological or spiritual issue, we can either be in control of our thoughts or our assumptions will control us. When we receive God's wisdom it allows us to see life from His positive perspective, which is never associated with fear, depression or hopelessness.

Learn more about the Christian life at billyholandministries.com.

Soil & Water District holding bare root sale

CAIRO — The Greene County Soil & Water Conservation District is holding its 2023 Bare Root Sale, with an order deadline of Friday, March 31.

Bare root plants are plants that do not have soil around their roots, so your bundles of plans will be delivered in bags instead of pots. Nurseries grow bare root plants in beds for a few years before they are removed from the beds during the dormant season. The plants are then stored in refrigeration units to ensure that they remain dormant until being shipped.

Bare root seedlings are grown in the original seed bed at the nursery for no more than three years, while a transplant is grown for two to three years in a seedbed and

then transplanted to grow in another bed for one to three years.

Seedlings have smaller, less developed root systems and branching. Transplants are generally larger and older than seedlings.

The Greene County Soil & Water Conservation District is accepting orders for its annual bare root sale through Friday, March 31.

Each spring, the organization offers a variety of bare root evergreen and deciduous seedlings and transplants for use in conservation planting. These native plants are available at a low cost for conservation purposes, but also add to the beauty of your property, according to the group.

The sale offers a variety of habitat enhance-

ment products. Choose from trees, shrubs, edible fruit plants and wildflower seed mixes. Organic compost and fertilizer tablets are also available.

The inventory is pre-ordered and orders are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. For the best selection, it is highly recommended that you order well in advance of the March 31 deadline. The order form will be updated regularly to reflect available inventory. Please make sure you have downloaded the most up-to-date order form from the sale webpage at <https://www.gcsxcd.com/bare-root-sale>.

Orders will be available for pick-up on Friday, April 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturday, April 22, from 9 a.m. to



Contributed photo

The Greene County Soil & Water Conservation District is holding its annual bare root sale through March 31.

12 p.m.

The pick-up location will be at 907 Greene

County Office Building in Cairo, at the intersection of Mountain Avenue and

County Road 80, adjacent to Angelo Canna Town Park.

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Should a working widow claim now or wait?

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS



RUSSELL GLOOR

Dear Rusty:

My husband died 13 years ago at age 50. I am now 64, never remarried, and work full-time making a healthy income. I have never claimed any of his benefits. What are my best options?

Signed: Working Widow

Dear Working Widow:

You have several options available as both a widow and a worker en-

titled to your own Social Security benefit.

1. You could collect a reduced survivor benefit (only) from your deceased husband and allow your own SS benefit to grow to a larger amount. At age 70, your own benefit will be about 29% more than it will be at your full retirement age, or FRA, which is 66 years and 4 months (your own benefit stops growing at age 70). If you take your survivor benefit now, since you are claiming it before you reach your FRA it will be reduced by about 11% from the amount your husband was eligible to receive at his death. But at your FRA your survivor benefit would reach the maximum of 100% of what your husband was eligible for at his death.

2. If your survivor benefit from your husband at your FRA will be more than your own benefit will be at age 70, you should

strive to maximize your survivor benefit by waiting until your FRA to claim it. You can find out what your survivor benefit will be by contacting Social Security. They can also tell you what your age 70 benefit will be, but you can get that too by creating your "My Social Security" account, which is easy to do at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.

3. If your own benefit at age 70 will be your highest benefit, you should strive to maximize your personal benefit by claiming your survivor benefit (only) first, as described in 1. above, and delaying the claim for your own benefits until age 70.

But here's a big red flag: since you still work full-time at a "healthy income," be aware that if you claim any SS benefit before you have reached your full retirement age, you'll be subject to Social

Security's "earnings test," which limits how much you can earn before they take away some of your benefits. The earnings limit for 2021 will be \$18,960 (changes annually) and if you are collecting early SS benefits of any type and exceed that limit, they will take back benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit (half of what you exceed the limit by). The earnings test is in effect until you reach your full retirement age, after which there is no longer a limit to how much you can earn while collecting benefits.

So, what is your best option, considering the above?

Well, if your earnings from work are substantially more than the annual earnings limit, you may find that you will not receive any benefits, even if you were to claim. That's because they will "take back" benefits by with-

holding your future Social Security payments until they recover what you owe.

For example, if your annual earnings are \$60,000, you would exceed the limit by about \$41,000, which would mean you would need to repay them \$20,500. If your monthly SS benefit was about \$1,500 (about average), they would withhold benefits for about 14 months to recover what you owe, meaning you wouldn't be getting any SS benefits while you were earning that much money. Thus, you may find your best option right now is to wait until your FRA to claim any Social Security benefits.

In the interest of full disclosure, there are some nuances related to the earnings limit. The limit is higher, and the penalty less punitive, in the year you reach your FRA (during the months before

you reach your FRA). And while you may gradually recover withheld SS retirement benefits starting at your FRA, survivor benefits withheld before your FRA may not be fully recovered, depending upon how long after your FRA you collect them.

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

Upcoming Bethlehem Grange events

SELKIRK — Are you looking for something to do? Check out all of activities coming up between now and summer at the Bethlehem Grange.

There is something for everyone. Bethlehem Grange 137 is getting ready for its 150th birthday in 2024. Help plan 150th birthday celebration.

Bethlehem Grange 137 will host the Mid-Winter Rummage Sales. Donations of new or gently used items are now being accepted. Call Jackie Schrom at 518-810-6031 OR Charles Ryan at 518-227-8954 to arrange your delivery of the items. They accept housewares, kitchen items, linens, toys, puzzles, small kitchen appliances, small wooden furniture, records, men's, ladies' and children's clothing and shoes, jewel-

ry, decorative items, holiday items, dishes, glassware, pictures, mirrors, outdoor furniture, hand tools, garden tools, power tools, books, collectibles, craft items, yarn, fabric, antiques, pet items, and more. You name it, you'll most likely find it here. If you don't see it, please ask. Please, no tires, TVs, or computers accepted. New items will be added daily. There will be lots of indoor tables of items. The Grange has handicap-accessible ramps and bathrooms. Cash or checks only accepted for payment. No credit or debit cards accepted.

The Grange is also looking for donations of plant cuttings for the May plant sale. Please do not leave any plants outside, especially with this cold weather. Organizers would appreciate the

plants soon, as they need time to root them and get them planted. Plant cuttings can be dropped off by calling Jackie at 518-810-6031 or Charles at 518-227-8954.

Bethlehem Grange 137 Mid-Winter Rummage Sale Dates are Friday and Saturday, Feb. 24 and 25, and March 24 and 25. All days are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Plant Sale/ Craft Fair/ Girl Scout Home-Baked Sale will be on Saturday, May 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Bethlehem Grange 137 is located at 24 Bridge St., Selkirk, NY 12158

Bethlehem Grange 137 also accepts recyclable bottles and cans in the donation box, behind the Grange Hall. Proceeds from the bottles and cans goes towards the maintenance of the historic Grange Hall, which is also

on the National Historic Register.

On Saturday, March 4, the Grange will host its annual corned beef dinner, with dessert included, take-out only. Please pre-order by Thursday, March 2, by calling Carol Carpenter at 518-421-1384.

Save April 1 for the annual chicken and biscuit take-out dinner, with dessert included. Please pre-order by Thursday, March 30, by calling Carol Carpenter at 518-421-1384.

On Thursday, May 4, the Bethlehem Grange will be hosting a take-out-only BBQ dinner at Bethlehem Grange. More details to come. Pre-order by Wednesday, May 3, by calling Carol Carpenter at 518-421-1384.

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Webinar on greenhouse energy efficiency

Energy efficiency in greenhouses and indoor farms saves growers money and contributes to the sustainability of the controlled environment agriculture industry.

Cornell Cooperative Extension's Capital Area Agriculture and Horticulture Program will provide an online Zoom webinar on Feb. 21, from 1-2 p.m., about improving energy efficiency in greenhouses and indoor farms.

The webinar is offered free of charge and will be provided by Zoom. Registration is required to obtain the Zoom link.

Register at <https://caahp.cceext.net/civ-icrm/event/info?reset=1&id=172>

If you need assistance with registration, please call 518-765-3518 or email cce-caahp@cornell.edu. For program ques-

tions, contact Jingjing Yin at jy578@cornell.edu or 518-429-8608.

Energy-efficiency lights, glazing, shading, HVAC system and more play an important role in achieving cost-savings in any operation, but how a grower uses these systems is even more important.

In this webinar, the speakers will discuss how growers can make the most of their equipment to improve efficiency in their operations, demon-

strate how to measure that efficiency, and explain how growers can benefit from benchmarking analysis to improve their efficiency through the New York State Greenhouse Database and Benchmarking Tool.

Speakers for the webinar will be Dr. Erico Mattos, CPO, Candidus, and Dr. Timothy Shelford, research associate, School of Integrative Plant Science, Horticulture Section, Cornell University.

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Coeymans Hollow Volunteer Fire Corporation News

COEYMANS HOLLOW —

• Congratulations extended:

The Coeymans Hollow Volunteer Fire Corporation would like to congratulate Rob Radley on being elected as vice president of the Corporation and Dan Haight, who was elected third assistant chief. John Williams was promoted to first captain and Rob Radley was elected to first lieutenant. Congratulations to these new officers. The Corporation would like to express their appreciation to outgoing officers Mike Beachler and Michelle Kapusta for their years of service.

• Recruitment and retention:

Please consider joining your local volunteer fire company. They all need

your help, and are in desperate need of firefighters and EMTs. They will provide all the training necessary for you to become a volunteer firefighter or an EMT at no cost to you. If you are 16 years old or older, and are interested in the volunteer fire service, please call the firehouse at 518-756-6310 or stop by on drill night (Tuesdays) to see what it is all about or to obtain an application. For junior firefighters, remember — volunteering for your community looks good on your college or work application.

• CHVFC nomination of officers for 2023-24 is now open:

The nominating committee of company officers for 2023-24 has announced that if you would like to nominate someone

for an office, please contact committee members Jack Dennis or Jack Stratta, or sign up on the nomination sheet in the downstairs kitchen. Company elections will be held on Tuesday, April 4, beginning at 7 p.m.

• Drill scheduled:

Coeymans Hollow Training Officer John Williams has announced that the drill scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 21 will be an EMS drill with Ravenna Rescue. The drill will begin promptly at 7 p.m. and all Coeymans Hollow firefighters and EMS personnel are encouraged to attend.

• Events scheduled by neighboring fire companies and community groups:

- New Baltimore Fire Company will hold a Piz-

za and Wing Night this Friday, Feb. 17, from 3:30-7 p.m. This is a take-out event only. To order, please call 756-8222 after 3 p.m.

- Selkirk Fire No. 2 on Glenmont Road will hold a cancer fundraiser breakfast to support two members who are currently fighting cancer this Saturday, Feb. 18, beginning at 7 a.m. The menu will include scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage/bacon, home fries/toast, coffee, juice and milk. A 50-50 raffle will also be available. The cost of the breakfast will be a \$10 donation.

- Albany County Winter Carnival will be held this Saturday, Feb. 18, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Lawson Lake in Feura Bush. There will be plen-

ty of winter fun, including snowmobile rides, ice fishing, crafts, a camp fire, ice skating (bring your own skates), hockey and snowshoeing. Refreshments will also be provided.

- The 5 Chiefs meeting will be held at the Coeymans Hollow firehouse on Wednesday, Feb. 22, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

- Selkirk No. 1 Ladies Auxiliary Annual Lenten Fish Fry will be held next Friday, Feb. 24, at the Selkirk No. 1 firehouse. Take-out only, from 4:30-7 p.m. Fish fry or chick-

en dinners will include homemade coleslaw, drink and dessert. Also available will be New England clam chowder and macaroni and cheese.

• Safety tip:
In the event of an emergency, don't panic and call 911 immediately.

• Fire and EMS report:

The Coeymans Hollow Volunteer Fire Corporation responded to two EMS calls in the past week.

Citizens launches Black History Month Challenge for HBCU students

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — In honor of Black History Month 2023, Citizens is generating awareness, education and celebration of Black culture while awarding eight scholarships to students who are currently enrolled at or committed to attending a Historically Black College or University (HBCU).

The Black History Month Challenge is a unique competition conducted throughout February to help students better understand Black culture, including stories of struggles and triumphs using EVERFI's African American History curricula. The deadline to apply

is Feb. 28. The challenge features four digital lessons and a capstone essay contest in which students will develop a plan for continuing a year-round conversation about Black history within their respective communities.

Eight winners will be selected from participating HBCUs, and each will receive a \$5,000 scholarship and a brand-new Apple MacBook Pro, courtesy of Citizens Pay.

"At Citizens, we aspire to be a trusted and active advocate for a diverse, equitable and inclusive society," said Michelle Hecht, EVP and Head of Corpo-

rate Affairs at Citizens. "We are thrilled to continue sponsoring the Black History Month Challenge and investing in the next generation of HBCU students while providing a unique platform for education, learning and shared understanding."

The Black History Month Challenge is designed to inspire students by sharing stories about the Black experience in America and empowering them by amplifying Black stories throughout history.

Students will explore both historical and current events as they learn about trailblazers within multiple disciplines who have

made significant contributions to Black culture within their respective sectors.

In addition to making Black history education available, Citizens collaborates with EVERFI to provide schools with the necessary resources concerning financial empowerment, financing higher education, saving and digital banking to ensure students have the proper knowledge to help them thrive and reach their full potential.

To learn more about this year's Black History Month Challenge, visit www.citizensbank.com/EVERFI.



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Legals

Section of Law - 206

Glenn's General Repair LLC. Filed 7/13/22. Office: Greene Co. SSNY desig. as agent for process & shall mail to: 8264 Main St, Hunter, NY 12442. Registered Agent: United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Ave Ste 202, Bklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: General.

Section of Law - 206

HUNTER CABIN LLC. Filed 11/29/22. Office: Greene Co. SSNY desig. as agent for process & shall mail to: Republic Registered Agent Llc, 600 Broadway Ste 200, Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: General.

Section of Law - 206

P&J HOME REPAIR LLC. Filed 9/28/22. Office: Greene Co. SSNY desig. as agent for process & shall mail to: Po Box 1117, Cairo, NY 12413. Registered Agent: United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Ave, Ste 202, Bklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: General.

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