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"The Best Journal Published by a Dam Site!"

VOL. 10 NO. 6 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 FEBRUARY 13, 2014 FIFTY CENTS

• Mysterious Book Report -John D. McKenna Pg 4 • The Olive Jar- Carol La Monda Pg 6

Tri-Valley Lions Gift Card/Gift Certificate Raffle Winner

- by Esta Jacob

The outrageous winter weather held out just long enough for The Tri-Valley Lions to have their February 4th dinner meeting at Nardis, and finally pick and announce the one winner of our very first gift card/gift certificate raffle. Our guest speaker, Martha Scoppa from The Office of Aging drew the winning ticket, which belonged to Gregson McKenna.

Congratulations to Gregson, and we hope he will enjoy all the wonderful gift certificates and gift cards. (Contd. Pg. 3)

Cornell Cooperative Extension SC Welcomes New Ag Leader

At the start of 2014, Melinda Meddaugh accepted the position of Sullivan County Agriculture & Natural Resources Leader, a shared position between Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County and the Sullivan County Government. Melinda is a long-time resident of Sullivan County, growing up in Monticello, NY and graduating from Monticello High School.



Melinda received her Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology and Sociology from SUNY Purchase and a Master's Degree in Environmental Law and Policy from Vermont Law School. She also has an Associate's Degree from Sullivan County Community College in Computer Graphics.

Since 2008, Melinda has worked as the Land Protection Coordinator for the Delaware Highlands Conservancy. In her capacity she worked with landowners on conservation options for their property, farmland protection plans, the Trailkeeper.org project, the Shop Local, Save Land initiative, forestry programming, the legal and outreach ends of conservation easements and land use projects, along with coordinating large-scale grant projects.

Melinda currently lives in Rock Hill, NY with her husband Josh Meddaugh. Both are tremendously involved in their community of Rock Hill. She serves as the Vice President for the Rock Hill Business and Community Association, she is in charge of the Sullivan Renaissance beautification projects and gardens in Rock Hill and helps to coordinate the many events sponsored by the Association. Melinda also serves as a member of the Town of Thompson Planning Board. Josh is an active member of the Rock Hill Fire Department and both are energetically involved in the new and exciting ball field and playground project being organized at the Rock Hill Fire Department.

After working with a group of community residents and farmers, Melinda helped bring Rock Hill its first Outdoor Farmers' Market, now in its 4th successful year.

"I work with my town because I believe that raising awareness, especially for my younger generation, regarding the importance of natural resource and local agriculture and forest economies to the overall economic picture of the region is vital to sustaining what we care about here in Sullivan County," said Melinda. "I'm looking forward to continuing to work with landowners, our partners and the County I'm from on providing outreach and educational resources and to exploring new ways to work towards supporting the working farms and forests in our region."

ERH Go Red for Women Day!



Many of the staff at Ellenville Regional Hospital joined together and wore red last week paying tribute to the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women Day!

Sullivan County Community Chorus to Resume Rehearsals



The Sullivan County Community Chorus, under the direction of Kevin J. Giroux, will resume rehearsals Thursday, February 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the First Church of Monticello-Presbyterian on Jones Street, Monticello. The Chorus is preparing for its 37th Annual Spring Concert, to be performed at Immaculate Conception Church in Woodbourne on June 15, 2014. (Contd. Pg. 3)

Young and Old Meet to Make Life Better in Fallsburg



Pam Garritt is a creative and inspiring teacher at Fallsburg High School. This fall she challenged the seven students in her Product Design an Innovation Class to develop a product that would make life easier for a segment of the community's population. After several discussions, including observations of their own families, they began to focus on grandparents suffering from crippling arthritis. Two or three of the children were moved to ease that pain, and their classmates eagerly joined the cause.

Ms. Garritt encouraged the class to take their firsthand observations and conduct research in the industry and use of technology to create products to support arthritis sufferers. After extensive study they decided to create devices that would aid in accomplishing everyday tasks such as writing and opening jars and cans. The students each selected a difficult task for those with arthritis to tackle with their designs.

Students used physical materials such as Sugru, an air-dried silicon product that could be molded like clay. The class took anthropometric measurements to incorporate ergonomics in their design. Soon they were handling prototypes of different designs. (Contd. Pg. 4)

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YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN

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DAYS OF 'YORE' - Barbara Slater

NEVERSINK NOTES - Hulda Vernoooy

OLIVE JAR - Carol La Monda

RESERVOIR MUSIC - Fred Perry

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1. **ALL submissions** should be typewritten or in Microsoft Word.
2. Letters should contain no more than 300 words and must be typewritten. They may be emailed as Microsoft Word documents.
3. Letters should offer worthwhile comments and avoid libel or bad taste.
4. Letters must be signed with the writer's own name. No letter will be published without a signature.
5. The writer must provide his/her full name, address and telephone number (for verification). This information will be kept on file in the YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN office.
6. Copies of letters or third-party letters will not be accepted.

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Rates are based on **Camera-ready copy**. A **Graphic Designer is available at \$35.00/hr.** Call or email us for more information. Guaranteed placement is available for a 25% surcharge on a first-come, first-serve basis on all pages except the front page, page 2 & page 3. **All advertising must be pre-paid** unless other arrangements have been made.

All inserts/flyers must be pre-paid. Please send the correct amount of money along with **1,500 copies** of your flyer. If the insert/flyer is printed only on one side, the rate is \$40.00 per week. If the insert/flyer is printed on both sides, the rate is \$60.00 per week. The customer must provide the correct number of pre-printed flyers. If you wish *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman* to print the flyers the charge for a one-sided flyer based on **1,500 copies (white paper)** \$95.00; (color paper) \$125.00. If both sides of the flyer are to be printed the charge based on **1,500 copies (white paper)** \$145.00; (color paper) \$175.00.

Deadline for all submissions is 3:00 p.m. Friday.

NO EXCEPTIONS

If you are submitting your advertising by email, our email address is: tvtownsman@yahoo.com If you do choose to send ad copy via the internet please send it in either PDF (Acrobat) files or JPG format. All press releases/articles should be sent as Microsoft Word Documents

Have a question- please call: Linda Comando (845) 985-0501.

As always, thank you for your support.

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ON THE FRONT BURNER: Praise the Lord! Happy are those who fear the Lord, who greatly delight in his commandments. Psalm 112:1

DAYS OF YORE....

Today's History

February 10, 1954 - Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Denman Jr. have bought the Sumner Krum house in Grahamsville and will make their home there. Mr. Denman, who is employed by the Sullivan County National Bank in Liberty, returned recently from service in the Marines. Mrs. Denman is the former Mardell Matzinger of Liberty.

When the calendar says winter,
and you wish that it was spring

Are your meals just ordinary,
do they lack a certain zing?

Try using Fairmount frozen food
s for dinner, lunch or snack

They'll put the oomph in winter food that
mealtimes used to lack!

KUM TO KRUM'S

February 5, 1964 - Miss Linda Ann Rose, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Rose of Grahamsville and Mr. Harold Buley Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Buley, also of Grahamsville, were united in marriage on Sunday afternoon at the Grahamsville Methodist Church. Mrs. Buley is employed at the Woodbourne Laundry. Mr. Buley is employed at the Victory Market, Ellenville. Both are Tri Valley School graduates.

Edward M. Condon has been notified of his acceptance at Fordham University and also at Niagara University. He plans to major in biology and will enroll in a pre-medical course.

Miss Merleen Currey has been notified of her acceptance at Albany State Teachers College. She plans to major in mathematics and will become a teacher.

Brian Mitteer has been awarded a \$300 annual scholarship at Delhi Institute where he will prepare for a career in animal husbandry.

February 13, 1974 - Grahamsville Scout Troop 197, sponsored by the Grahamsville Fire Company, will hold an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on Saturday, February 16th at the Tri-Valley Elementary School for Eagle Scout Thomas Arielly, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Arielly of Neversink.

Anniversary congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Warren Graham, 8 years on Valentine's Day; on the 16th three couples have anniversaries: Rev. and Mrs. Irving Marsland, Jr. 27 years, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Zanetti 26 years, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Walter 27 years.

On Monday, February 4th, the Tri-Valley Forum Team traveled to Minisink to compete against other forum teams. The team, consisting of juniors Andy Kremer and Kevin Kinne and seniors, Paula Bitter, Jim Gorman and Jim Denman, gave a magnificent performance, resulting in their winning against Ulster County B.O.C.E.S.

February 9, 1984 - On February 1, 1984, First Lieutenant Thomas M. Arielly was promoted to the rank of Captain during promotion ceremonies at Ft. Hood, Texas. Capt. Arielly graduated from Tri-Valley Central School, Class of 1976 and the United States Military Academy at West Point, Class of 1980.

(From the pen of Tom Higgins) I got a kick out of this sign hanging behind the counter at Grahams's Chestnut Woods Restaurant in Grahamsville - "All I want is less to do, more time to do it and more pay for not getting it done".

Army Pvt. Dale K. Houghtaling, son of Helen A. Lake and stepson of Everett L. Lake of Claryville, N.Y., has arrived for duty in Frankfurt-Hoescht, West Germany. Pvt. Houghtaling, a telecommunications specialist with the 17th Signal Battalion, was previously assigned at Ft. Gordon, Ga.

Applications on Line -Apply for a Beautification Grant from Sullivan Renaissance

[FERNDALE] - Sullivan Renaissance is accepting applications for its 2014 community beautification and maintenance support grant programs. Deadline for completed applications is Wednesday, March 19.

Applications are available in a portable document format (PDF) with fillable form fields by going to <http://www.sullivanrenaissance.org/grants/applications/>. They can be completed electronically and e-mailed to Sullivan Renaissance (along with required documentation) or printed and mailed by the deadline.

If requested, Sullivan Renaissance representatives will visit communities at their convenience to explain the program, review the garden design plans and assist with the application process.

Other Sullivan Renaissance programs - including environmental, technical assistance, community development, mini-grants, seasonal demonstration, Community Mitzvah Award, internships and scholarships - have their own application deadlines which vary based on the program

Stormwater Management Training

The Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District will be holding a training seminar for Stormwater Erosion & Sediment Control Management. This seminar is directed towards contractors and developers who will be disturbing soil of one acre or more. It will be held on March 6, 2014 from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Building at 64 Ferndale-Loomis Road in Liberty, New York. The cost of attending the training is \$50 per person and pre-registration is recommended as space is limited. Photo ID is required.

To register, please contact the District Office at (845) 292-6552, or go to the District's website at sullivancountyswcd.com.

Second Annual "Shorts & Sweets for Sweethearts" presented by Monticello UMC

For the second straight year, The United Methodist Church of Monticello is cooking up something special for a Valentine's fundraiser on Saturday, February 15, 2014.

"Shorts & Sweets for Sweethearts" is a dinner theatre experience, which will include short stories and songs about love and romance performed by Carol Montana and De Lois "Cookie" House of Big Sky Productions. A special Valentine's treat is in store for the audience in the form of songs by Patti Greco Sunshine (tentative), who wowed the audience with her performance at the recent Shorts & Sweets for the Holidays. And the entertainment will also feature the UMC's Jeremy Mills as accompanist.

There will be one seating only at 6:00 p.m. at the UMC of Monticello, located at 445 Broadway, Monticello, NY.

Guests will be served salad, meatloaf, mashed potatoes, ice tea, and coffee or hot tea. Following dinner, the entertainment will begin while guests are enjoying delectable homemade desserts.

Tickets for "Shorts & Sweets for Sweethearts" are \$15.00, which includes dinner and entertainment, and are available in advance or at the door. Everyone is welcome, including singles.

All proceeds will benefit the UMC's purchase of new media and sound system equipment for the church.

Plenty of parking will be available in the church parking lot, the driveway for which is accessible from N. Lakewood Avenue in Monticello. Just follow the signs.

For additional information or reservations, call 845-707-1417.

A Round About Tri-Valley

-Carol Furman

Charlie and Iris Breiner of Claryville had quite a cruise aboard Royal Caribbean's "Explorer of the Sea". They were two of several hundred passengers who were stricken with a virus while aboard the ship. The ship was forced to return to port earlier than anticipated. At least they will be reimbursed for the inconvenience. Thank goodness the virus only sickened them for 24 hours!

I heard that Keith and Jennifer Edwards and their family will be returning to our area again in the near future. Keith will be putting his computer and technology expertise to work in the Fallsburg Central School District. The Edwards Family was a real asset to our area and I, as well as others, are so happy they are returning! My phone rang just before the start of the Super Bowl Game. It was Margaret Dolan calling from her daughter's home in Tennessee. Margaret is doing well and misses seeing all of her friends in the Town of Neversink. She wants to thank all who sent her cards and notes. She really appreciates your thoughtfulness!

NYS Trooper, Van "Chip" Furman was promoted to the rank of Sergeant at a ceremony held in Albany in January. Congratulations, Chip! Approximately twenty-five boys involved in Scouting and their families joined with the congregation of the Grahamsville Reformed Church on Sunday morning, February 2nd to honor Boy Scouting. Several of the Scouts took part in the service. All of the boys were in uniform and all should be proud of themselves. A light lunch was held following the service.

I have been made aware of three additional Tri-Valley graduates who also made the Dean's List at their colleges: Hope Costa and Ariana Kaminski were honored at SUNY Oneonta and Jesse Brown was honored at King's College in Wilkes-Barre, PA. Kudos and keep up the good work!

Valentine's Day is almost here. Don't forget to let someone know that you care about them! Why not take someone special to the Claryville Firemen's Breakfast on Sunday, February 16th. The breakfast runs from 7:00 am - Noon.

There are lots of local birthdays in February. I don't usually mention birthdays unless they are a significant milestone, however, I want to wish Wayne Elberth of Neversink a happy 80th birthday "again"! Last year I wrote that Wayne was going to be 80 on February 16th, when actually he was only going to be 79. I goofed!! However, this year, he will really turn 80! Donald Erath of Grahamsville will be 94 on February 19th. I see Don in church most Sundays and certainly wish him a very happy birthday.

Condolences to the family and friends of Glen Whipple who passed away on February 1st at the age of 71.

Words of Wisdom:

We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope. (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

Tri-Valley Lions (From Pg. 1)

Once again, we would like to thank all whom purchased tickets for this new fundraising effort and let you know how much we appreciate your support. Donations are going right into the Tri-Valley Lions' Charity Account, which will enable us to do even more this year in terms of helping those in need. The very first use of some of these donations will assist a young Tri-Valley student to have an eye exam and enable him to purchase eyeglasses, so he will be able to read the blackboard at school. This is just one of the things we do, so if you know anyone in need and without their own insurance, please contact any Tri-Valley Lion to get the ball rolling.

Lastly, we would once again like to thank all the local businesses that donated the gift cards and gift certificates for this fundraiser -- Shoprite, Trading Post, Rite Aid, Agway Pet Center, Tractor Supply, Second to None Restaurant, The Medicine Shoppe, Golden Shears Salon, Dollar General, Advance Auto, Dunkin Donuts, McDonalds, Last Licks, Eureka Café, The Reformed Church in Grahamsville, Marcos Restaurant, Nardis (Frankie & Johnnies), Cannie D's, and the Citgo Gas Station in Woodbourne. We hope you will all stop and shop at these local vendors, as it is clear from their generous assistance that they care about this community and its people.

Again, thanks to one and all, and we hope you stay safe and warm.

P.S. The annual Tri-Valley Lions' Journey For

Sight Walk will be held on Saturday, May 3, 2014 in memory of Gene Ganz, Don Hill, Helen Kwasinowicz, and Horace Sheeley. This year we will walk a full 3 miles around the Fairgrounds. For sign-up sheets, please contact Esta Jacob at 845-985-2927 or ask any Lion you know. The Concert theme chosen by Conductor Giroux is "The Poetry of Music." The pieces performed will have exquisite text written by poets, some famous and some not so famous. The signature piece will be by Benjamin Britten, "Rejoice in the Lamb" with text by Christopher Smart.

SC Community Chorus (From Pg. 1)

Chorus conductor Kevin J. Giroux is in his 16th year as Choral Director at Tri-Valley Central School, Grahamsville, NY. Mr. Giroux's other music activities include solo adjudicator for NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association) and Zone 9 Representative (Green, Orange, Rockland, Sullivan and Ulster Counties), Past President and Treasurer of the Sullivan County Music Educators Association and part-time church organist. A native of Plattsburgh, New York, Mr. Giroux received a Bachelors of Music at SUNY Potsdam and a Masters in Music Education from Ithaca College.

The Chorus welcomes all interested singers to attend their rehearsals. An ability to match pitch is essential and it is helpful if singers are also able to read music. Prospective new members are encouraged to attend the first three rehearsals (Feb. 20, 26 and March 6) and have dues waived for those rehearsals with no obligation. Rehearsals are open to all voice parts, and chorus auditions are not a requirement. Singers wishing to perform in the concert must regularly attend rehearsals, joining the chorus no later than March 19. Performances of the Sullivan County Community Chorus are made possible in part with funds from the Sullivan County Decentralization Program, a re-grant program of the New York State Council on the Arts, administered by the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance.

Dues are \$20, a one-time \$10 deposit for new chorus music folders, and a one-time \$15 music deposit. Those wishing to sing in the Spring Concert are encouraged to arrive for the first rehearsal at 6:00 p.m. to sign in and receive folders with the concert music. For further information regarding rehearsal schedules, contact Diane Foster at 845-439-4458.

Stream & Watershed Professional Development Opportunity for Teachers

LIBERTY- Teachers from Tri-Valley, Fallsburg, and Liberty School Districts are invited to attend a free professional development opportunity on Thursday, March 13, 2014. Sullivan County school teachers in the NYC Watershed can receive a free training on stream and watershed education offered by Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Sullivan County. This event will be held from 5:00 to 8:00 pm at the Gerald J. Skoda Extension Education Center on 64 Ferndale-Loomis Road in Liberty.

Through a three-hour program and the opportunity for future in-class support, CCE educators aim to enhance in-school watershed education in Sullivan County. Grant funding has made it possible for CCE educators to provide trainings to teachers at no cost to them. Teachers completing the training will have a good understanding about watershed science and the impact of land use practices on water quality, stream processes (erosion and deposition), and the impact of infrastructure and management practices on flood risk.

The grant allows CCE to provide access and support to participating classes for two resources; the EnviroScape and the EmRiver Stream Model. Teachers can use these tools to reinforce classroom lessons. Additionally, professional education credits can be applied to teachers' requirements through this training.

Teachers from Tri-Valley, Fallsburg, and Liberty School Districts who are interested in this special educational opportunity must pre-register by Monday, March 3. Registration and more information can be obtained by calling 845-292-6180 or emailing Michelle Lipari at mml249@cornell.edu.

This program is made possible with funds from the Catskill Watershed Corporation in partnership with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection.

Nature Column - Linda Comando

A tribute to the memory of all of the Townsman ladies that we have lost and loved so much... Peggy DeWire, Avril Pappa, Joan Hall and Polly Hill.

Nature's Perfectly Balanced Anchor Ice

If natural laws are perfect, how is it that ice, which is lighter or less dense than water, can sometimes form on the bottom of creeks and streams and not at the surface? Isn't that violating natural law?



Isn't that violating natural law?

If you take a walk along one of the local streams while it is still cold out, you most likely will see some underwater patterns of 'ice scapes' known as anchor ice that appears to transgress the rules.

The past few years we have noticed very little anchor ice in the Rondout Creek.

This year however, the conditions were just right and there were many beautiful ice formations that formed from the stream bed up. When you first see the anchor ice you may ask, "How is that possible?"

The rocks in the streambed chilled below the freezing point setting the stage for its formation.



The swift flow of the stream prevents the surface water from freezing, however free-floating crystals called frazil begin to form in the super cooled water columns in the turbid stream

Whenever the frazil contact other objects, or other frazil, it will immediately adhere to it. Once an anchor point is established the ice will grow quickly forming a cloud-like appearance in the stream that is under the water surface.

Anchor ice is different than ice on a pond or lake, or even in a puddle. A sheet of ice will form across the surface of a pond when the water reaches the freezing point. But, in fast moving mountain streams, like those in the Catskills, the water molecules are below the freezing point and want to bond together, but are unable to do so in the turbulent water. Nevertheless, very near the bottom of the streambed, the water moves more slowly as it sort of drags along the rocks and sand. So it is here that the microscopic ice particles start to join together and form the beautiful anchor ice. Anchor ice grows very rapidly once it starts. It can change the flow and appearance of a winter stream overnight. Anchor ice usually disappears as quickly as it forms.

This winter's cycles of thaws that melted the insulating snow covering, followed by cold spells was the perfect environment for anchor ice to form and build up from the bottom of the streambeds.

Anchor ice is considered phenomena and also a reminder that Nature's laws are perfect, and Nature is in control of the rules. Nature will create conditions where rules distinctly differ from what we normally would think, but regardless, turn out perfect!

Household Hints

Make Your Dishwashing Detergent a Grease Fighter

Pour 3-4 tablespoons white vinegar into your favorite brand (especially bargain brands) of liquid dishwashing detergent and give it a few shakes. The added vinegar will not only increase the detergent's grease-fighting capabilities, but also provide you with more dishwashing liquid for the money, because you'll need less soap to clean your dishes.

Star of Istanbul

Mysterious Book Report No. 13 by John Dwaine McKenna



The Great War, or World War One, as it's now known, has long been an area of interest to me. My Grandfather on my Father's side of the family fought in it. The Great War was the first mechanized war and the effects were both brutal and horrific. The Ottoman Turk empire collapsed; the Brits killed an entire generation of their young men, bankrupted their country and saw their colonial empire begin to deconstruct itself; ditto for the French and Belgians; the Austrian Empire disappeared and Germany was vanquished in the war, stripped of her territories, saddled with war reparations too huge to pay and her monarchy was destroyed, all of which set the stage for Nazism and WWII; the Middle East was arbitrarily carved up by the Balfour Agreement, which created new countries and became the framework for much of today's unrest there, as well as the rise of the oil states . . . all as a result of the First World War . . . and let's not forget the Russian Revolution and the Irish breakaway from England after 800 years of trying, all as a result of the Great War. And, I almost forgot, the Mexican Civil War was also being waged at this time, and that's where we met and last saw a fictional character named Christopher Marlowe "Kitt" Cobb, newspaper reporter for *The Chicago Post-Express*, and spy for Uncle Sam and the United States of America.

In the *Star of Istanbul*, (Mysterious Press, \$25.00, 369 pages, ISBN 978-0-8021-2155-4) by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Robert Olen Butler, we find Kitt aboard the steam ship *Lusitania* and headed for Europe, where war is raging. He's tasked with following a man named Walter Brauer, an American citizen and a suspected agent for the German Secret Service, and who may have information vital to the United States. On board the doomed ship on her last voyage, Cobb gets involved with "the most beautiful woman in the world," a silent movie star named Selene Bourгани. As their relationship deepens, Cobb realizes she is working for the Germans, and keep information from him that could be critical to American interests, and possibly the survival of two other civilizations. The drama heats up with every page as Kitt Cobb follows her to Istanbul, where he's behind enemy lines, cut off from help and on his own as he tries to unravel the beautiful and dangerous mystery that is Selene Bourгани. *Star of Istanbul* is a complex, thinking readers novel and a rollicking good romp through history. It's crammed with factual information as well as all the thrills and chills we expect from a great adventure story. Robert Olen Butler won't disappoint your taste for adventure, entertainment or reading pleasure with this great new series!!

Like the column? The best compliment you can give is to share it with others on Facebook. [Facebook.com/JohnDwaineMcKenna](https://www.facebook.com/JohnDwaineMcKenna) --JDM

Statement of Commissioner Carter Strickland on Shooting at Department of Environmental Protection's Offices in Kingston

"We are shocked and saddened by the senseless act of violence that occurred early this morning at DEP's offices in Kingston, N.Y. The thoughts and prayers of all DEP employees are with the victim's family and loved ones. We will do all we can to support them in the days and months ahead. DEP is fully cooperating with local authorities in their ongoing investigation. Grief counselors were made available to help DEP employees who have been affected by this tragedy."

Young and Old Meet to Make Life Better in Fallsburg

(From Pg. 1) Then Ms. Garritt spoke with the Senior Citizens of Fallsburg, a group that meets weekly at the South Fallsburg Senior and Youth Center. She explained the class project and asked if her group could visit the Center and show their devices. The group enthusiastically invited the class.

Ms. Garritt could not have been more pleased with the meeting of the older adults and her students on January 14. The students prepared a survey of questions about the challenges facing the senior citizens with writing and completing everyday tasks around the house. In small groups of one or two students, the class revealed their prototype devices, explained how they saw them being used, and turned them over to the adults to use. Each person immediately gave the young people honest feedback about what was working well and suggestions on what would be helpful. "This was exactly what the students were looking for," exclaimed Ms. Garritt.

It was a beautiful experience for everyone at the Senior Center that cold January day. What an incredible learning opportunity for high school students to interact with eighty and ninety-year olds. Young and old were talking and listening to each other and making a connection that transcended the vast difference in ages. How heart-warming it was to have this cross-generational communication! Student Justin Cohen was excited to acknowledge that he was doing something greater and more important than just getting a grade on a project. Classmate David Kruger, whose grandmother has arthritis, enjoyed the research he performed, the learning about putting ideas into a designed product, and the sharing with his classmates. But most of all, with the day's event on January 14, he was realizing the goal of the project-he was "helping people feel less pain."

Additional Funding Released to LIHEAP

Federal Government has released additional Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding, increasing New York's total for the 2013-14 heating season to more than \$366 million. The additional funding will enable New York to continue operating the regular benefit component of the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) into February.

"The recent extreme cold weather has taken a toll on households statewide struggling to afford their heating bill to keep their families warm," Governor Cuomo said. "This addi-

tional funding will be essential in helping eligible New Yorkers this season, and I urge those in need of assistance to apply as soon as possible."

On Thursday, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released \$454 million in LIHEAP funding to states, providing an additional \$50.6 million for New York. That brings New York's total for the 2013-14 HEAP season to \$366.8 million.

HEAP is a federally-funded program administered through the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA).

"We are grateful that our partners at the federal level recognize the challenges many states are facing due to extreme winter conditions," said OTDA Commissioner Kristin M. Proud. "We know there are still many households in need of assistance, and the funding released yesterday will help address that need."

Eligible households in New York may receive one regular HEAP benefit per season and could also be eligible for an emergency benefit if they are in impending danger of running out of fuel or having their utility service shut off. More than 1.3 million households have already received HEAP assistance this winter.

Anyone living outside of New York City who is seeking a regular HEAP benefit can submit an application online at myBenefits.ny.gov. Those who need emergency assistance, or live in New York City, should contact their local department of social services. New York City residents can also go to www.nyc.gov/accessnyc to find out how to apply for benefits. New Yorkers can find contact information for their local social services department at:

<http://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/HEAP-contacts.pdf>.

For more information about HEAP, visit otda.ny.gov/programs/heap.

U.S. Senator Charles Schumer said, "With the wolf of winter-cold snapping at the door, this urgently needed home heating aid arrived not a moment too soon for countless New York seniors and struggling families. This massive release of \$50.6 million in federal funding to New York will provide critical relief to residents and senior citizens who were being forced to choose between heating their homes or putting food on the table. With record-breaking freezes occurring in New York and across the country, I'm thrilled that the feds have released this funding to New York for immediate use this winter."

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand said, "No New York family should ever be left in the cold. But with bitter cold temperatures and rising energy costs, families and seniors who are struggling in this tough economy can't afford to heat their homes. This funding is a lifeline for New Yorkers who rely on it so they can stay warm this winter."

Congresswoman Nita Lowey, the senior Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee, said, "This additional federal aid helps make it less likely that New Yorkers will be forced to choose between paying their heating bill or buying groceries. With our economy still recovering and so many of our neighbors facing steep heating costs this cold winter, this federal investment is welcome news for the thousands of New Yorkers - many of whom are elderly, disabled, or caring for a child - who rely on this assistance. This is why I fought to ensure that the recently passed omnibus appropriations bill included an additional \$454 million in LIHEAP funding, and I am pleased that New York State now has access to these critical funds."

Congressman Eliot Engel, Member of the

House Energy and Commerce Committee, said, "This has been a usually harsh winter that has left many families unable to keep up with their energy bills. It would be unconscionable to allow them to struggle when we have the resources to relieve the financial strain. The Low Income Heating Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is an essential program for financially strapped families and the release of these funds will ensure the program remains open as this harsh winter continues."

Congressman Peter King said, "For many New Yorkers still recovering from the impact of Superstorm Sandy, LIHEAP funding is a critical lifeline. Very simply, it's a matter of safety and health."

Congressman Paul Tonko said, "I am pleased HHS released this critical funding for New Yorkers to help offset what can be staggering costs of heating a home. This support will help ease the burden on hard-working families and seniors that have important expenses like rent, gas, groceries, and health care to prioritize. I join Governor Cuomo in urging those in need to apply for this funding, and I thank him for his work to maximize the benefit of this program. In Washington, I will continue to fight for LIHEAP funding in the budget to help those in need."

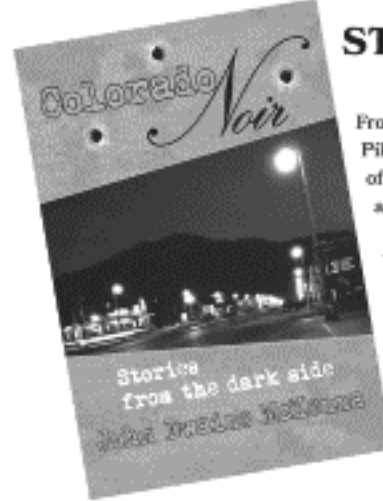
Gunther Introduces Legislation to Crack Down on Credit Card Hacking and Fraud - Smart Chip technology can protect consumers

Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther (D,C,I - Forestburgh) has introduced legislation requiring credit card service companies to issue cards in New York containing "Smart Chip" technology (A.8649) to protect against hacking and fraud.

"It seems like every day we hear about thousands of Americans whose privacy and banking information has been compromised by hackers," said Assemblywoman Gunther. "This is not only inconvenient, but extremely dangerous."

The current magnetic stripe found on most credit cards is technology that has been around since the 1960s and is vulnerable to security breaches. "Technology has advanced by leaps and bounds since the 1960s, but credit cards in the US are still generations behind," continued Assemblywoman Gunther. More than 80 other countries use "Smart Chip" technology, which requires "chip and pin" or "chip and signature" for purchases.

"There is no excuse to put consumers at unnecessary risk when technology is available to protect them," said Assemblywoman Gunther.



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The Olive Jar - By Carol LaMonda

No Words

My friends always ask, "How do you know what to write each week?" My answer is that the words just flow. Writing is, after all, the "inking of the thinking." That is the trouble this week. My thinking is so emotionally distraught that I am having trouble finding words to even begin to record what I am feeling.

There just doesn't seem to be the right thing to say when a young man, Aron Thomas, is shot at work. Things like that might happen on the five o'clock news in some city to someone, but not here...not to someone who grew up in Shokan, who sat in my English class, who rode his bike on Ridge and Mountain Roads, and who is the son of good friends Sherry and George Thomas.

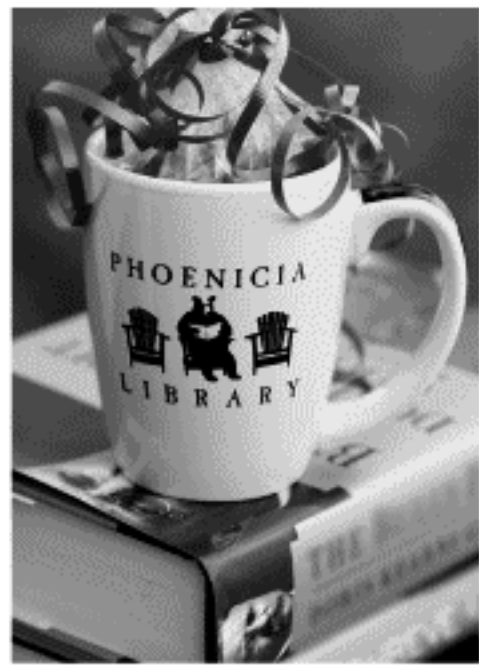
What do you say to the grandmother, Flo, who served coffee and eggs at the Pineview Bakery for so many years and shared her love for her grandchildren with us? What would comfort Kylene, his sister, whom I watched unfold from cute little kid to outstanding student, cheerleader, teacher and young mother. What phrase could console Uncle Dave who tried, unsuccessfully, to teach me to line dance at the church? And what do you say to Aron's loving wife Susan who is left with son Everett and infant Brooke without her best friend and husband?

I remember exactly where Aron sat in class. Fourth seat by the row by the window. I used to call it the "I want to be out there" seat because it had a view of High Mount and the courtyard at Onteora. Often eagles would be seen there over the Esopus Creek.

Aron always loved the outdoors and animals. He was a farmer, a hunter, and a fisherman. He was also a dancer complete with cowboy boots. When I think of him now I can't make words line up in any sensible order. The tragedy now shatters language and becomes a collage of images: horses, chickens, fish, good friends, loving family, and that Aron's beaming with pride for his own little homestead complete with wife and two sweet children.

Literally, there are no words worthy of enduring this tragedy.

Perfect for Valentine's Day!



Limited Edition Phoenicia Library bear logo mugs are on sale just in time for Valentine's Day. Proceeds go towards the current rebuilding of our library, which was destroyed by fire in 2011.

The cost is \$10 per mug, or \$12 with Gummy Bears. They are on Sale at the library front desk.

For library hours go to <http://phoenicialibrary.org>

Spellbound at Olive Free Library

Contributors to the recently published anthology titled *Spell Breaking: Remembered Ways of Being* will read and sign books at Olive Free Library on Sunday, February 23 at 3:00 p.m. The *Traveling Mural of Community Dreams* will be on display in the library's community room from February 13 through March 13 to accompany the reading.

West Shokan, NY -*Spell Breaking: Remembered Ways of Being* is a stirring collection of stories featuring the fresh voices of twenty members of an international Women's Mysteries community. The reader travels with these eclectic women through intimate spaces and territories ranging from the Upper West Side of Manhattan and the shores of Long Island to Egypt, South America, Canada, Italy and the heart of Native America.

The potency of Yoruba ritual, the grief of loss, the awakening of creativity and life purpose, the renewal of resolve and the transcendence of life-threatening illness are some of the many themes explored in the book. Feelings, dreams, and memories illuminate the often harrowing process of "Spell Breaking" that can lead to a special kind of satisfaction, the remembering of deep and essential "ways of being".

Edited by Ione and published by Deep Listening, this work has grown out of an international program of workshops that is called the Ministry of Maat. Contributors include: Ione; Ximena Alarcón; Lisa Barnard Kelley; Sangeeta Laura Biagi; Sadee Brathwaite; Monique Buzzarté; Carol Chappell; Liz Gessner; Heloise Gold; Andrea Goodman; Jaclyn Heyen; Andrea Israel; Rachel Koenig; Amshatar "Ololodi" Monroe; Pauline Oliveros; Shirley Parker-Benjamin; Mary Elizabeth Thunder; Julia White; Anne Hemenway; and Julie Winter.

The Dream Festival is an international celebration of dreams and dreamers curated by Ione. Going on its 16th year, this global community event includes artwork, performances and workshops by world-class artists, everyday dreamers and inspired beings. In 2013 the festival included a community art project to create a visual tapestry of dreams created by the local community of artists of all ages from amateur to professional.

The 2013 Dream Festival, held from October to

December 2013, included three free workshops at O+ Festival, R&F Paints, and Deep Listening Space in Kingston. Deep Listening Institute staff helped participating dreamers create a piece of dream art on a 5" square canvas panel (materials provided). They also invited professional artists to participate using their own mediums. The resulting mural is comprised of 64 panels created by dreamers throughout Ulster and Dutchess Counties, including students from Kingston High School and festival-goers to this year's O+ Festival.

For more information about the dream mural, the book, or any of Deep Listening's programs please contact: Lisa Barnard Kelley lisa.barnard@deeplisting.org.

For information about any Olive Free Library programs please contact: Katie Scott-Childress-845-657-2482 - director@olivefreelibrary.org

Basil Rathbone as Sherlock Holmes Returns to Shadowland Theatre

Sherlock Holmes once again returns to the scene of the crime as Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce open the Matinee at the Shadowland series just as they did when the series began in 2010. On Saturday, February 22nd, at 2:00pm the Shadowland will present Rathbone and Bruce in their tenth Sherlock Holmes mystery, "The House of Fear".

"The House of Fear" is loosely based on the Conan Doyle story "The Five Orange Pips" and deals with the reclusive members of a secluded club, each of whom are being brutally murdered one-by-one. Holmes and Watson travel to the village of Inverneill and make their way to Drearcliffe House, where the terrible murders have occurred. Each of the members is under suspicion and though closely guarded, the diabolical crimes continue. Most distressing is the ghastly manor in which the deaths take place, causing horrible mutilation of the corpses.

Co-starring in "The House of Fear" is Dennis Hoey, who appears in his recurring role of thick-headed Inspector Lestrade of Scotland Yard. Also in the cast are Aubrey Mather as Bruce Allistair and several members of the Sherlock Holmes stock company including Paul Cavanagh, Harry Cording, Holmes Herbert, David Clyde, Alec Craig, Sally Shepherd, Gavin Muir and Cyril Delevanti. One of the factors that made Universal's Sherlock Holmes films so endearing to audiences were the familiar faces that populated the stories of 221 Baker Street and the outlying areas.

The "Matinee at The Shadowland" series is sponsored by local Ellenville-Wawarsing businesses Aroma Thyme Bistro, Bullseye Appraisals, Chelsea Rialto Studios, Collier & Berger, Gaby's Cafe, Il Paradiso, Kalter, Kaplan & Zeiger, Matthews Pharmacy, Peters Market, The Publik House, and Thornton Inc.

Admission is only \$10 for adults, \$7 for children, and tickets are available at the Shadowland box office at 157 Canal Street, Ellenville, NY. Discount series tickets are also available - \$30 for adults and \$20 for children will buy tickets for all four events. For more information or to reserve seats, call 845-647-5511.

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Proper Clothing: What will the conditions be on the hill? Know them and dress for them. A water-proof coat made of a material such as Gore-tex is always a good bet. Gore-tex allows the sweat and heat inside of the coat to escape.

Stay dry and stay warm. Insulated pants or pants that are water resistant also work great because water resistant pants allow your skin to breathe. Insulated pants do give an extra lining for warmth, but don't allow for as much breathing. For extremely cold days, go with the insulated pants!

Dressing in layers and wearing breathable clothing with zippers all help with regulating heat. Do not forget your helmet, gloves or mittens, goggles and neckie.

Take a Break: Every hour or two, go inside and warm up. Hot cocoa, hot cider and even hot soup help warm the body and keep you fresh.

Make Shorter, Quick Turns:- You should always warm your muscles up with stretching before you take to the hill. Once your muscles are warmed up, keep them warm by making quick, small turns.

SUNY Ulster Hosts Science Olympiad for Area High Schools on Feb. 8 -

Event Exposes Students to Future Science Career Areas

High school students interested in all STEM fields will compete at SUNY Ulster at the regional competition of the nationwide Science Olympiad on Saturday, Feb. 8, at the Stone Ridge campus.

Open to the public, the competition will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. with most events taking place in the Senate Gymnasium. Coaches should meet at 7:30 a.m. at the College Lounge with participating students going directly to their team room or the college cafeteria. The award ceremony is scheduled to begin about 3:30 p.m., in Quimby Theater. The snow date is Feb. 9.

More than 25 high school teams will compete. Last year's first place winning team was from The Mount Academy; second place, Spackenkill High School and third place, John Jay High School.

Teams and individuals will compete in up to 23 events in the New York Mid-Hudson Regional Division C competition. Events, which are often interactive and hands-on, will be held in anatomy and physiology, astronomy, chemistry, geology, biology, forensics, aeronautics, physics, engineering and other sciences.

Students will compete for four slots at the state competition. Volunteers at SUNY Ulster help judge and coordinate logistics of the event.

The regional competition is part of the nationwide Science Olympiad, one of the premiere science competitions in the nation, providing rigorous, standards-based challenges to nearly 7,000 teams in 50 states. Science Olympiad's ever-changing lineup of events in all STEM disciplines exposes students to practicing scientists and career choices, and energizes classroom teachers with a dynamic content experience.

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The Family Memoir, PROSILIO...
... in Greek means "Toward the Sun," was written by Carol Olsen LaMonda. Carol writes the column "The Olive Jar" for *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman*. This local author has been busy guesting at book clubs who have chosen this local memoir as their book choice. As summer approaches, the story of a carefree vacation in the Catskills should be added to your summer "must-read" list. The memoir is available at Amazon or Barnes and Noble on-line as a soft or hard cover or as a downloadable e-book for Nook or Kindle. Go to amazon.com or barnesandnoble.com and type in *Prosilio* in the search to order your copy of *Prosilio*

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Projects to Add Resiliency and Efficiency to Electric Grid, Improve Power Delivery in NY, Assist State in Preparation for Severe Weather Events

\$4.3 million was awarded to researchers seeking to develop or research new techniques that add resiliency and efficiency to the state's electric grid as part of the State's efforts to reimagine New York's vital infrastructure for a new reality. These "Smart Grid" technologies will help re-engineer the State's electric grid by providing innovative methods to add clean energy to the grid, enhance grid performance, reduce environmental impacts and energy consumption, and lower costs of transporting power to customers.

"The major storms over the past few years taught us the importance of improving the performance of utilities and strengthening the resiliency of our electric grid for the future," Governor Cuomo said. "As part of our efforts to reimagine the State's vital infrastructure for a changing climate, we are investing in smart grid projects to advance new and emerging technologies that will help make New York's electric grid more resilient and efficient. These improvements move our state one step closer in our effort to provide more reliable and affordable services and further reimagine New York's electric grid for a new reality."

The projects were awarded funding from the New

York State Energy Research and Development Authority's (NYSERDA) Electric Power Transmission and Distribution Smart Grid Program.

In order to qualify for funding, recipients had to propose projects that improve the reliability, efficiency, quality, and overall performance of the electric power delivery system in New York State. Proposals were required to demonstrate significant statewide public benefit and quantify all energy, environmental and economic impacts.

"These technologically-advanced projects will further the state's effort to modernize the electric grid and reduce the cost of delivering power in New York State," said Richard Kauffman, Chairman of Energy and Finance for New York State and Chairman of NYSERDA. "By fostering innovative smart grid projects today, the state will help New Yorkers meet the energy and resiliency needs of tomorrow."

"New York is a hub for research and development, and these projects are all examples of how innovation can improve power transmission technology, as called for by Governor Cuomo," said John B. Rhodes, President and CEO, NYSERDA. "These projects will help make the grid stronger and more efficient while reducing the cost of energy."

Projects across the state include:
Mid-Hudson
NYP&A, working with Hydro-Quebec, will study the

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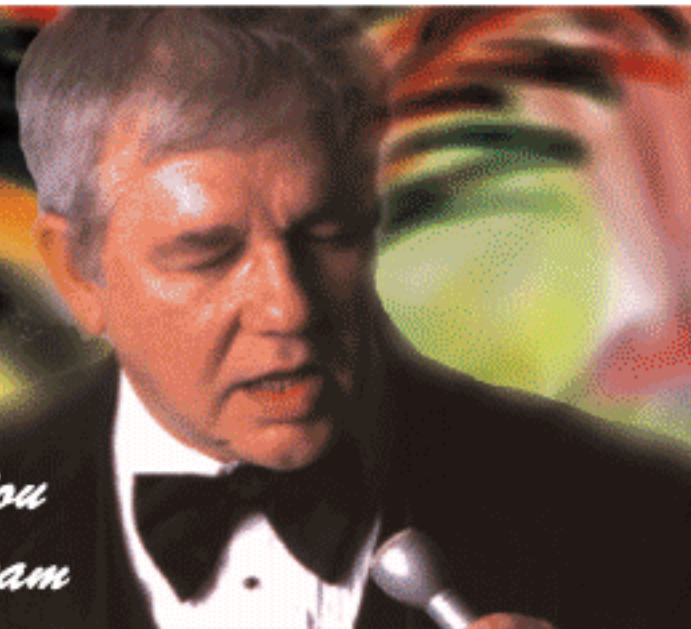
use of grid control devices based on phasor and other advanced measurement and control technologies to improve grid management and reliability. Funding: \$500,000

Southern Tier
Bigwood Systems Inc, working with New York State Electric and Gas, is developing a software tool to be used by utilities to reduce the time and cost of inter-connection studies necessary to connect new distributed energy resources, such as solar power, to the electrical grid. Funding: \$90,000

Statewide
Additional funding was provided to EPRI, Georgia Tech Research Corp. and EnerNex LLC for multiple projects around the state. EPRI will also work with NYPA, Con Edison, and Clarkson University to test a new class of power line coating to reduce ice- and storm-related damage. (Contd. Pg 14)

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Crystal McCrary is an author and a producer of documentaries and feature films. She has written the New York Times best-selling novels Homecourt Advantage (Harper Collins/Avon) and Gotham Diaries (Hyperion). McCrary created and executive produced the documentary series Leading Women and Leading Men for BET and directed and produced a feature-length documentary, Little Ballers, which chronicles the lives and challenges of young basketball players on their journey to the AAU National Championship. She also produced the independent film Dirty Laundry. McCrary began her career practicing entertainment law specializing in theatre production, publishing contracts, and director's agreements with the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton and Garrison. McCrary is a graduate of the University of Michigan and American University Washington College of Law.

Aby Rosen, Chair of the New York State Council on the Arts said, "I am honored to welcome these accomplished individuals to the New York State Council on the Arts. Each has demonstrated a commitment to the role of arts, culture and heritage in New York State. Their unique expertise and perspective will be an asset to the Council and the Governor. We are building a great team to push NYSCA to its fullest potential in serving the citizens of the state."

About the New York State Council on the Arts

The New York State Council on the Arts ("NYSCA") is dedicated to preserving and expanding the rich and diverse cultural resources that are and will become the heritage of New York's citizens. The Council believes in supporting artistic excellence and the creative freedom of artists without censure, the rights of all New Yorkers to access and experience the power of the arts and culture, and the vital contribution the arts make to the quality of life in New York communities. NYSCA strives to achieve its mission through its core grant-making activity and by convening field leaders, providing information and advisory support, and working with partners on special initiatives to achieve mutual goals.

Musical Chairs at SCCC

Musical Chairs, the romantic film from director Susan Seidelman (Desperately Seeking Susan), will be screened at 7pm at Sullivan County Community College on Saturday, February 22nd at the Seelig Theater in Loch Sheldrake, NY. The screening is completely free and will be followed by a Q&A with the film's producer, Janet Carrus. For more information, please visit: <http://bit.ly/1mbe7L7>. For airing times on HBO Latino & HBO Comedy, please visit:



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Nominations to the NYS Council on the Arts

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced the nominations of Gayle King, Eric Latzky, John Lyons, and Crystal McCrary to the New York State Council on the Arts. These nominations require Senate confirmation.

"Gayle, Eric, John and Crystal have devoted their lives to the arts and bring to the table a rich cultural background and decades of expertise," said Governor Cuomo. "With unparalleled experience from the television, film, literature, and music industries, they will use their collective nexus of artistic know-how to help shape and advance the future of arts in New York State."

Gayle King

Gayle King is co-host of "CBS This Morning" and Editor-at-Large of O, the Oprah Magazine. King previously hosted "The Gayle King Show," a live, week-day television interview program on OWN: The Oprah Winfrey Network and XM Satellite Radio. Before moving into print and radio, King worked for 18 years as a television news anchor for a CBS affiliate in Hartford, Connecticut, during which period she also hosted her own syndicated daytime program. King has won three Emmys for her work. King graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in psychology and resides in New York City.

Eric Latzky

Eric Latzky is CEO and founder of Culture | Communications, which crafts progressive marketing and public relations strategies. From 2000 to 2012, Latzky served as head of communications of the New York Philharmonic, overseeing media and public relations, image evolution, print and digital content publication, and diplomatic cultivation. Latzky played a major role in the creation and realization of the New York Philharmonic's historic concert in Pyongyang, North Korea, in 2008. Previously, Latzky held the positions of Director of Communications of The Kitchen Center for Video, Music, Dance, Performance, Film and Literature, and Executive Vice President of the Zeisler Group. In the 1990s, Latzky was the pro-bono public relations co-chair for the artists' organization Visual AIDS, where he conceived the launch campaigns for the Red Ribbon for AIDS Awareness. Latzky resides in New York City.

John Lyons

John Lyons is a producer on projects for film, television, and the theatre. He is also board chair and founder of Edible Schoolyard/NYC, the New York branch of Alice Waters' Edible Education project. From 2003 to 2011, Mr. Lyons was the President of Production at Focus Features, overseeing all aspects of production at the studio. During his tenure as president, Lyons shepherded the making of such modern classics as Gus Van Sant's Milk, Ang Lee's Brokeback Mountain, Jim Jarmusch's Broken Flowers, and Michel Gondry's Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind. Lyons previously served as Casting Director at the Sundance Institute's June Director's Lab, Lyons/Isaacson, and Playwrights Horizons. Lyons graduated from the University of Michigan and resides in New York City.

Crystal McCrary

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A unique blend of dance, drama, and romance, **MUSICAL CHAIRS** stars newcomers Leah Pipes and E.J. Bonilla as a pair of unlikely lovers in contemporary New York who must face a number of challenges, both separately and together, before finding one another--and themselves. Also starring Tony-winner Priscilla Lopez, Jaime Tirelli, Laverne Cox, Morgan Spector, Auti Angel, Jerome Preston Bates, Nelson R. Landrieu, and Angelic Zambrana, **MUSICAL CHAIRS** was produced by Janet Carrus and Joey Dedio.

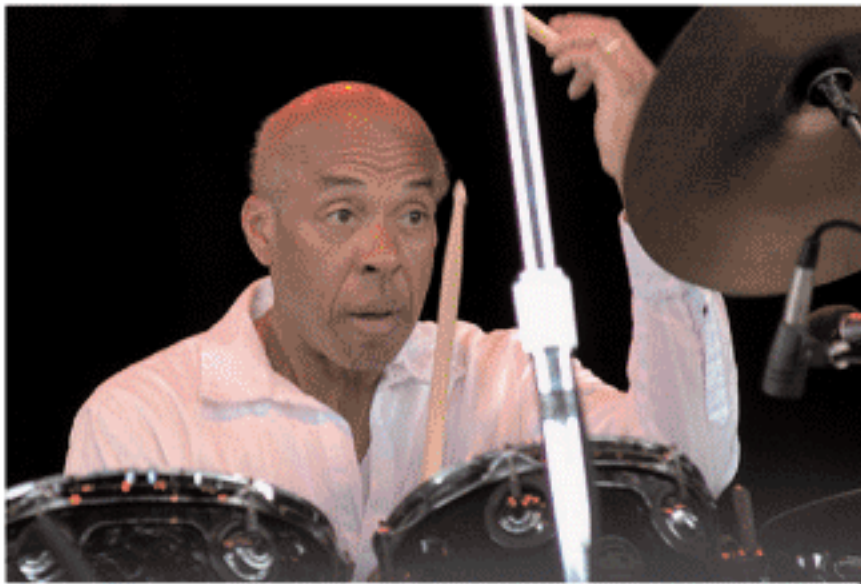
Set against the exciting backdrop of competitive ballroom dancing, **MUSICAL CHAIRS** is about Armando (Bonilla) a Bronx-bred Latino who aspires to be a dancer but whose only way in is as a handyman at a Manhattan dance studio, and Mia (Pipes), an Upper East Side princess who is the studio's star performer. Though worlds apart, their shared passion for dance promises to bring them together until a tragic accident changes Mia's life forever, and she finds herself wheelchair-bound at a rehab facility, with her dreams of a dance career shattered. Fortunately, Armando has enough dreams for both of them and, when he hears about a wheelchair ballroom dance competition that will soon be held in NY, he sees a way to return something to Mia that she thinks is lost forever. At first she is reluctant--wheelchair dancing, though highly popular overseas, is something she never even knew existed. But, with the help of several other residents at the rehab center, Armando organizes an intense training program that will bring them all center stage and in the spotlight. The prize is irrelevant; what they really stand to win back is their zest for life.

It was producer Carrus's, long active in charities benefitting the disabled, and herself an ardent ballroom dance enthusiast, who first had the idea of building a film around the phenomenon of wheelchair ballroom dancing, an activity long popular in Europe and Asia, but which is only now developing a wider following in the United States.

About the film, which features both disabled and able-bodied performers in its rousing dance scenes, Carrus says, "Susan has succeeded in conveying the struggles we all face, both able-bodied and disabled, making our way, whether through life or on the dance floor. She has a real talent for embracing people in all their diversity and making them real, believable, and acceptable."

For more on the film visit: Official: <http://www.musicalchairsthefilm.com/>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/MUSICALCHAIRSTHEMOVIE>

Jeffersonville Drummer Thurman Barker will perform at The Woodsongs Coffeehouse with his band TRINITY.



Thurman Barker an American Jazz drummer to perform at The Woodsongs Coffeehouse in Hurleyville.

Thurman Barker is an American Jazz drummer, and arguably one of the greatest jazz drummers alive. At age 16 he performed with Mighty Joe Young, and he later went on to perform with Bette Midler, Marvin Gaye, Billy Eckstine, Sam Rivers and Cecil Taylor, to name just a few.

Thurman is an Associate Professor of Music at Bard College and has recorded five CD's of original music,

and runs his own recording company, Uptee Productions. He is a master percussionist, known in jazz circles all over the world, who also on occasion can be seen playing drums with the Sullivan County Americana band "Little Sparrow"! How did that happen, you might be thinking? Well, it happened like all things do... by chance or whatever. Aldo Troiani, the mandolin player and guitarist for Little Sparrow met Thurman at the Villa Roma Gym, and invited him to sit in with the band. Thurman said yes.

Join us Saturday night, March 1st for a concert featuring Thurman's band "Trinity" with Sam Morrison on Saxophone and Flute, Lonnie Gasparini on Hammond B3 Organ, Thurman Barker on Drums and special guest Bard College of Music graduate Iris Larson on vocals.

The show will open with a performance by Little Sparrow, and in the tradition of the Woodsongs Coffeehouse, the evening will conclude with both bands performing a couple of songs together!

Admission is \$6 and the concert is made possible in part with funding from a Sullivan County Arts & Heritage Grant funded by the Sullivan County Legislature and administered by Delaware Valley Arts Alliance.

The Sullivan County Museum is located at 265 Main Street, Hurleyville, New York. For directions please call 845 434-8044, or visit the Sullivan County Historical Society website. <http://www.sullivancountyhistory.org/>

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RSVP required by February 10th. Please call 845 210-3043

DiNapoli, Stringer Lead Investors Calling on Olympic Sponsors to End Their Silence, Defend Russian LGBT Rights

State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli, as trustee of the \$160.7 billion New York State Common Retirement Fund, along with New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer and a coalition of 19 investors, today released letters written to four major corporate sponsors of the upcoming Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia that failed to respond to an earlier request they use their influence to ensure the protection of the human rights of Russian citizens, as well as athletes and visitors to the Olympics.

The letters follow an initial outreach to ten companies in December regarding Russia's recently enacted laws restricting the rights of its lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) citizens to free speech and freedom to assemble. Of the ten, six companies responded: McDonalds, Visa, General Electric, Dow Chemical, Coca-Cola and Omega (Swatch). Letters sent to Panasonic, Proctor & Gamble, Samsung and AtoS were not answered.

"Corporate sponsors of the 2014 Sochi games have already been targeted with high-profile protests and calls to boycott their products and services," DiNapoli said. "Because of the recently enacted discriminatory laws in Russia, Olympic sponsorship may end up tarnishing the sponsors' brands and reputations and negatively impacting company value. As shareholders we cannot sit idly by and let that happen. Corporate sponsors should stand up for human rights and the respect and equality symbolized in the Olympic movement."

"With the Olympics starting Thursday, the eyes of the world will be on Sochi and its corporate sponsors," said Stringer, investment advisor to the nearly \$150 billion New York City pension funds. "It is long past time these sponsors take a stand and condemn these discriminatory laws. We want our portfolio companies to protect their reputations and shareholder value. There's no excuse for being silent on these issues."

The letters cite the reputational risk to the Olympic sponsors if they fail to send a strong message that recently enacted laws that target the rights of LGBT people are not acceptable. The obligation for these companies to strive toward responsible and sustainable social policies and practices to protect shareholder value is at the heart of the recently promulgated United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

The U.N. principles state that companies have an obligation to respect human rights and remedy abuses where they affect their business operations.

The 21 investors, with a combined \$327 billion of assets under management, again urged the Olympic corporate sponsors to:

- o Ensure their nondiscrimination policies are strong, inclusive and enforced globally, especially in regard to employees stationed or on location in Russia;
- o Call on the leaders of the Russian Federation to rescind the laws that deprive members of Russia's LGBT community of freedom of speech and freedom of assembly, and declare their commitment to equality irrespective of sexual orientation or gender identity; and
- o Call on the International Olympic Committee to obtain firm and express commitments from the Russian government that ensure the

safety and human rights of all athletes and attendees of the Winter Games and visitors to the Games' venues.

Signatories to the letter include Clean Yield Asset Management, Zevin Asset Management, Arjuna Capital, Harrington Investments, Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin, Christopher Reynolds Foundation, Newground Social Investment, Pax World, First Affirmative Financial Network, Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, Unitarian Universalist Association, Domini Social Investments, Trillium Asset Management Corporation, As You Sow Foundation, The Tides Foundation, Nathan Cummings Foundation, The Sustainability Group at Loring, Wolcott & Coolidge, Northstar Asset Management and Calvert Group.

"Corporate sponsors have significant influence over the International Olympic Committee and host countries," said Shelley Alpern, director of Social Research and Shareholder Advocacy at Clean Yield Management. "There is simply no justification for silence and inaction on the part of Olympic corporate sponsors on this important issue." Copies of the new letters can be found at: http://www.osc.state.ny.us/press/releases/feb14/Sochi_Olympics_Letter.pdf

Senator Bonacic Urges Assembly to Pass the "Public Assistance Integrity Act"

Senator Bonacic joined members of the Senate Majority today to urge the New York State Assembly to pass the "Public Assistance Integrity Act" (S.966). This legislation, which he is a co-sponsor of, would close a loophole in state law which currently allows public assistance to be spent at liquor stores, casinos, strip clubs, or for beer and cigarettes.

The Senate passed the bill today, which has died in the Assembly for two consecutive years after passing the Senate. However, due to new federal requirements, if New York does not close this loophole, it is now at risk of losing up to \$122 million in federal temporary assistance aid.

Senator Bonacic stated that "This is a commonsense piece of legislation which prevents abuse of taxpayer funds. This assistance should be going to those who are truly in need. Instead, we get reports of assistance funds being used at strip clubs, casinos and liquor stores. The Assembly has repeatedly refused to act to address this issue, and has now put the state at risk of losing federal funds. It is disgraceful; they need to act, and they need to act now."

Locals to Lead on Renewable Energy

ALBANY -- Renewable energy in the form of solar and hydroelectric projects could soon be used by local governments to lower costs and reduce our reliance on foreign oil and natural gas.

The new initiatives are being offered to local governments in upstate New York through a statewide purchasing arrangement created by the Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance (MEGA) in partnership with Tompkins County and the New York State Association of Counties. Renewable energy suppliers SolarCity Corp. (Nasdaq: SCTY), with local operations in Albany, Elmsford and Hauppauge, New York, and Gravity Renewables, Inc., of Boulder, Colorado, with local operations in Saratoga Springs, Leeds and Stuyvesant, New York, were selected by MEGA through a competitive procurement process, and will soon be offering renewable hydro and solar

energy options to qualified municipal governments statewide.

The new program has been made possible by a net metering bill sponsored by Senators Elizabeth Little (R-45) and George D. Maziarz (R-62); and Assemblymembers Anthony J. Brindisi (D-119), Kevin A. Cahill, (D-103 Ulster/Dutchess), and Jose Rivera (D-78) and signed into law by Governor Cuomo in 2012. The program will also benefit from Governor Cuomo's NY-SUN Initiative, which provides \$100 million per year to fund solar projects.

"The recent state initiatives will allow our participants to meet their sustainability goals, while stabilizing and reducing energy costs, promoting green economic development, and creating jobs," said Ron Feldstein, Executive Director of MEGA. Feldstein praised the state government for this new program as "setting the stage for a new market in sustainable, affordable, renewable electricity across the state."

Municipal governments will have the opportunity to enter into agreements, up to 20 years, for the renewable energy. MEGA's preferred providers, Gravity Renewables and SolarCity, will make the necessary capital investments, and secure any Federal and state incentives that are needed and available. The energy generating units do not necessarily need to be co-located with the energy user; they can be anywhere in the same utility territory and electric market region, under the rules. So a small hydroelectric project in the North Country could conceivably serve a municipal building in Central New York; a solar farm in the Capital Region could serve a facility in any county in that area.

Tompkins County statements from Mike Lane and Carol Chock, Tompkins County Legislature

"Up to now, we have been able to support renewable electricity only by purchasing 'Renewable Energy Credits' or RECs which support generators hundreds of miles away," said Mike Lane, Chair of the Tompkins County Legislature. "Now we can be a more direct user of the energy produced from new renewable sources right in our local area."

"We are excited that Tomkins County can play a role in leading the way for municipalities across New York State to encourage and purchase renewable power," said Carol Chock, Chair of the Tompkins County Legislature's Planning and Environmental Quality Committee. "With MEGA's base of over 200 public sector and institutional customers, we hope to foster the generation of a significant amount of renewable power while saving money and creating new jobs."

Solar City statement from Lee Keshishian. "Solar is win-win-win for municipalities here in New York," said Leon Keshishian, SolarCity's Regional Vice President. "Local governments can save taxpayer money, lock in their energy costs and meet their sustainability goals with clean solar energy. New York, under the leadership of Governor Cuomo, has taken the right steps to build the clean energy economy and give consumers better energy choices--and this partnership is a direct result of that leadership."

Gravity Renewables statement from Ted Rose, CEO Gravity Renewables, Inc. "New York is fortunate to be home to a large number of small hydroelectric plants" said Ted Rose, CEO of Gravity Renewables. "Many of these plants have been around for decades but have fallen on hard times, suffering from chronic underinvestment. Thanks to New York State's remote net metering law, MEGA members can provide crucial support to revital-

ize these community assets, while receiving price stability and savings on their energy bills. Gravity is thrilled to work with MEGA members across the state to restore these historic assets."

NYSAC statement from Mark R. Alger, President. "MEGA's partnership with NYSAC has helped dozens of county governments and other municipalities to save on their energy costs. These two new options can help local governments lock in more savings for the taxpayers, and make New York a leader in the renewable energy arena. We are encouraging all of our members to consider these as ways to reduce costs and go green," said Mark R. Alger, President of the New York State Association of Counties. NYSAC has endorsed the MEGA program as its preferred energy procurement program for county governments.

MEGA

MEGA is a Local Development Corporation established more than 16 years ago to serve local governments by group purchasing of electricity, natural gas and other energy products and services. It presently serves 33 county governments and more than 250 municipalities.

NYSAC

The New York State Association of Counties is a bipartisan municipal association serving the counties of New York State including the City of New York. Organized in 1925, NYSAC's mission is to represent, educate and advocate for member counties and the thousands of elected and appointed county officials who serve the public.

SolarCity

SolarCity® (NASDAQ: SCTY) provides clean energy. The company has disrupted the century-old energy industry by providing renewable electricity directly to homeowners, businesses and government organizations for less than they spend on utility bills. SolarCity gives customers control of their energy costs to protect them from rising rates. The company offers solar power, energy efficiency and electric vehicle services, and makes clean energy easy by taking care of everything from design and permitting to monitoring and maintenance. SolarCity currently serves 14 states and signs a new customer every five minutes. Visit the company online at www.solarcity.com and follow the company on Facebook & Twitter.

Gravity Renewables

Gravity Renewables is an owner, operator and developer of small hydroelectric power plants in the United States. Gravity Renewables brings long-term, cost-effective clean energy to electricity consumers, helps conserve and restore historical sites, and promotes educational and recreational opportunities in the communities it serves. Gravity Renewables currently has 31 MW of hydroelectric projects operating and under development across the United States, including projects in New York. For more information please visit www.gravityrenewables.com or contact us at 303.440.3378

EnergyNext, Inc.

EnergyNext, Inc. is a buyer's agent consulting firm, and managed this procurement for MEGA. EnergyNext is based in Saratoga Springs, New York, and has managed group energy buying programs for business and government groups since the beginning of energy restructuring in the late 1990s. Principals are Gordon Boyd and Eugene Salerni. www.energynext.com. Or 518-580-9244.

Largest Cockfighting Bust in State History

NEW YORK – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman announced tonight that his Organized Crime Task Force (OCTF) executed the largest cockfighting takedown in New York State history. This weekend's multi-faceted takedown represents the largest known rescue of fighting roosters in New York's history, and among the largest in United States history. This is the first known investigation in which the crime of Prohibition of Animal Fighting was enforced in three separate New York counties simultaneously, in Queens, Kings and Ulster counties. While 70 people initially detained at a cockfighting event, nine felony arrests were made, and as many as 3,000 birds, as well as cockfighting-related contraband, were rescued in the three-county-wide bust.

"Cockfighting is a cruel, abusive and barbaric practice that tortures animals, endangers the health and safety of the public and is known to facilitate other crimes," Attorney General Schneiderman said. "My office, along with our partners in law enforcement and animal welfare, are committed to ending this vicious blood sport. This investigation – one of the largest in U.S. history – illustrates the prevalence of cockfighting in America, its brutal nature and the link to other illegal activities. My office will keep working to hold these individuals accountable, and put an end to illegal cockfighting."

The Attorney General's OCTF unit was assisted with the "Operation Angry Birds" investigation by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals® (ASPCA®), which offered its expertise in evidence collection as well as removal and sheltering of the seized animals, the Ulster County Sheriff's office, which provided physical surveillance, and the Department of Homeland Security (HSI), which provided local aerial surveillance. The New York State Police also assisted with the raids.

"No animal should be forced to fight to the death for human entertainment and profit, and we are proud to play a leading role in removing and caring for these victimized birds, as well as offering expert legal assistance in this case," said ASPCA President and CEO Matthew Bershadker. "This collaborative investigation, intervention and enforcement is a giant step toward our shared goal of wiping out cockfighting in America."

On Saturday night into Sunday morning, OCTF, with backup from the New York State Police and the Homeland Security Investigation branch of HSI, raided a cockfighting event at 74-26 Jamaica Avenue in Queens. The 70-person event, including bettors and spectators, was busted up. Six of those people, who had brought and fought birds, were charged with felony Prohibition of Animal Fighting. The others were released. The ASPCA took control of 65 fighting birds. The ring had been operating bimonthly events there since at least May, when OCTF first began monitoring cockfighting at this location.

At the same time, OCTF investigators executed a search warrant upon Pet NV, a pet shop owned by Jeremias Nieves, 74, and located at 71 Central Avenue in Brooklyn. Fifty fighting birds were rescued from a basement beneath the pet shop. Nieves was arrested and charged with Prohibition of Animal Fighting. The roosters, found in poor condition, had been kept inside individual metal cages and exhibited all the physical hallmarks of having been bred, trained, and altered for fighting. Cockfighting contraband and implements were found within the basement, including artificial spurs, candle wax, medical adhesive tape, syringes used to inject performance-enhancing drugs to strengthen the roosters' fighting ability and other cockfighting implements and paraphernalia.

Sunday morning, OCTF investigators, with the help of the Ulster County Sheriff's Office, State Police and other local law enforcement, raided a 90-acre farm at 230 Plattekill Ardonia Road, in Plattekill. The ASPCA® recovered as many as 3,000 birds there. The farm was previously registered as a commercial farm under the name CMC

Plattkil, Inc., but has been unregistered since 2010. The farm had operated for years under the guise of a live poultry farm, and its owners hid thousands of makeshift cages within the center of the property to avoid detection by neighbors and law enforcement. Farm manager Manuel Cruz, 60, and Jesus Cruz, 37, a farm hand, were arrested and arraigned, and are expected back in Plattekill Town Court tomorrow.

Roosters and chickens were found to be boarded in deplorable conditions. The owners charged rent to board, feed, and care for roosters that were bred and trained for fighting, with blood sport enthusiasts and rooster owners from NYC, Long Island, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Massachusetts boarding, training and sometimes fighting their roosters there. For years, roosters bred and trained at this farm were transported to the cockfighting event raided the night before in Queens County and to the Brooklyn pet shop that was raided as well.

These roosters were bred, trained, plied with performance-enhancing drugs, had razor-sharp gaffs attached in place of their natural spurs and were locked in a small pen to be wagered upon. The ASPCA®'s Field Investigations and Response team was on hand to help remove the animals, and identify and document forensic evidence. The ASPCA® established a temporary shelter at an undisclosed location to house and care for the animals.

At these events, spectators were charged an admission fee and an additional fee for a seat within the secret basement location that housed the all-night fights. Alcohol was sold without a permit, and drugs were used openly. This ring had security personnel who frisked attendees, counter-surveillance within the neighborhood, security cameras and a paid referee. Owners and spectators placed bets on the outcomes of the fights, with individual wagers reaching \$10,000. These fights, which began in the evening and lasted into the early morning hours, pitted dozens of roosters against one another to fight to the death.

Cockfighting is a crime in all 50 states. In New York, cockfighting and possession of a fighting bird at a cockfighting location are felonies, and each charge carries a maximum penalty of four years in jail and a fine of \$25,000. Paying to attend one of these events is a misdemeanor and carries a possible sentence of up to one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine. These fights can be dangerous for entire communities, as they are often linked to weapons, drugs, gambling and other crimes, and they encourage participants to engage in other acts of animal cruelty and to disregard animal suffering. Disturbingly, children are often present during cockfights. This promotes insensitivity toward animal suffering and enthusiasm for violence.

In May 2013, the Attorney General announced his Animal Protection Initiative, which included the goal of shutting down underground animal fighting rings across the state. New Yorkers seeking to give anonymous tips about potential animal fighting rings or report animal abuse should call 1-866-697-3444 and alert their local authorities. For more information on Attorney General Schneiderman's Animal Protection Initiative, visit www.ag.ny.gov/animals.

The Attorney General thanks the ASPCA®, the Ulster County Sheriff's Office, the New York State Police and HSI.

Gillibrand, Maloney Announce Federal Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act

FAMILY Act Would Establish National Paid Family and Medical Leave

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney today announced federal legislation that would create paid family and medical leave. The Family and Medical Insurance Leave (FAMILY) Act would establish a national paid family and medical leave insurance program, ensuring that American workers would no longer have to choose between a paycheck and caring for themselves or a family member.

"When a young parent needs time to care for a newborn child - it should never come down to an outdated policy that lets her boss

decide how long it will take - and decide the fate of her career and her future along with it. When any one of us - man or woman - needs time to care for a dying parent - we should not have to sacrifice our job and risk our future to do the right thing for our family. Choosing between your loved ones and your career and your future is a choice no one should have to make," said Senator Gillibrand.

"When my kids were babies, I was able to care for them. As my parents age, I want to be there for them. None of my neighbors in the Hudson Valley should have to struggle to put food on the table while caring for a newborn child or elderly parents. When President Clinton signed the Family and Medical Leave Act over twenty years ago, tens of millions of Americans no longer had to choose between their family or their paycheck, and this long overdue update will ensure all Americans can care for their loved ones," said Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, a former senior advisor to President Clinton.

"The Greater Hudson Valley Family Health Center values Senator Gillibrand's innovative and broad-based approach toward developing programs that nurture families," said Linda Muller, President and CEO, Greater Hudson Valley Health Center. "Her inspiring commitment toward building bipartisan consensus by considering the interests of all stakeholders while developing legislation that seeks to strengthen our communities, one family at a time, has repeatedly demonstrated her strength as a forceful and visionary advocate. In receiving the Senator at our health center, we embrace a leader who shares our core belief that health care is a right and not a privilege. I am proud to welcome her to Orange County's and Newburgh's Family Health Center."

"Paid Family Medical Leave will ease the burden of so many employees that struggle to keep up financially at times when life has already brought an abundance of stress," said Pamela Spieler, Vice President, Human Resources, Walden Savings Bank. "Whether it is working mothers who will be able to better respond to their family needs, or a worker that who requires time for their own significant health needs, The Family Act will create a better and more productive workforce... one that will make them feel safe and supported during a health related crisis."

"With working moms now in the majority of households, workplace policies that support our dual roles as caregivers and professionals are essential to economic stability," said Christine Sadowski, Executive Director, YWCA of Orange County and Chair of the NY State YWCAs. "Senator Gillibrand's leadership on issues such as paid family and medical leave illustrate how tirelessly she advocates for women and their families. YWCAs throughout New York State look forward to working with her to get these policies implemented."

Current Family and Medical Leave law provides unpaid, job-protected leave for serious health related events for only about half of the workforce. The other half don't qualify for this unpaid leave, and many more simply cannot afford to take it because it is unpaid. In fact, only 12 percent of workers in the U.S. have access to paid family leave through their employers, and less than 40 percent of workers have access to personal medical leave through employer-provided temporary disability insurance.

The FAMILY Act would create an independent trust fund within the Social Security Administration to collect fees and provide benefits. This trust would be funded by employee and employer contributions of 0.2 percent of wages each, creating a self-sufficient program that would not add to the federal budget. The expected cost to the average worker would be similar to the expense of a cup of coffee a week. Benefit levels, modeled on existing successful state programs in New Jersey and California, would equal 66 percent of an individual's typical monthly wages up to a capped monthly amount that would be indexed for inflation. The proposal makes leave available to every individual regardless of the size of their current employer and regardless of whether such individual is currently employed by an employer, self-employed or currently unemployed, as long as the person has sufficient earnings and work history.

Assemblymember Cahill's Presentation on Arthur Flemming to Air on Public Access

(Kingston, New York) Assemblymember Kevin A. Cahill's (D - Ulster, Dutchess) presentation on Arthur Flemming will be broadcast for seven days between Monday, February 10, 2014 and Sunday, February 16, 2014 at 10:00am and 7:00pm. On Monday, February 10, 2014 it will be broadcast at 10:00am and 7:30pm.

Cahill took part in the popular Kingston Buried Treasures series in November of last year. For folks who might not have gotten a chance to attend the event, Assemblymember Cahill has worked with Public Access to air the lecture for all to enjoy.

"As a proud Kingstonian, I was honored to participate and share the inspiring life of Arthur Flemming with the residents of our community," said Cahill. "I thank Public Access for agreeing to air this segment for all to enjoy and learn from."

"Kingston's Buried Treasures is a monthly lecture series aimed at rediscovering the exceptional character of our community through presentations featuring individuals and subjects of local historical significance. By recognizing and honoring the vast, though often forgotten, accomplishments of our forebears the series strives to highlight the rich historical tradition and invaluable contributions of our community to both New York State and the nation as a whole," said Paul O'Neill Chairman of the KBT.

POLITICAL SLANT

By Frank Comando

Albany, NY (February 5, 2014)

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced today that the New York State Police will use social media to catch wanted individuals across the state. State Police will launch "Warrant Wednesday" on the Division's Facebook page asking for the public's help to track down people who have warrants out for arrest.

Beginning on February 5, the New York State police has implemented the new, statewide initiative.

Each Wednesday, wanted posters will be added to the NYS Police Facebook page featuring posters of wanted persons with arrest or bench warrants from across New York State. Previous wanted postings on the State Police Facebook page, and the public's assistance, have led to the identification and arrest of several individuals.

"New York State is using new and creative tools to help make our streets and neighborhoods safer," said Governor Cuomo. "Social media's broad appeal can help the State Police track down those wanted in connection with crimes and bring them to justice."

"The State Police has already seen the benefits of broadening our use of social media," said State Police Superintendent Joseph D'Amico. "We are expanding on a pilot program that we launched late last year that proved successful in the identification and arrest of several individuals. Expanding this initiative statewide will allow us to take full advantage of social media's widespread reach to a large, diverse audience."

Each "Warrant Wednesday" posting will include a poster of a wanted individual contributed by State Police Troops across the state. Each poster will include a photo, information about the subject, what they are wanted for, and a contact number for the appropriate State Police station. This will appear as a "photo album" on the State Police Facebook page.

The State Police needs the public's assistance in this initiative and to help locate these wanted persons. The public is also encouraged to look at, share the postings each week.

It is important that anyone with information as to the whereabouts of the individuals not take any police action themselves and instead contact State Police.

To view the "Warrant Wednesday" postings, you do not need a Facebook account. You can see the postings by visiting the New York State Police Facebook page at www.facebook.com/nyspolice. If you already have an account, State Police invite you to "Like" the Division's page.

Postings will also be shared on the New York State Police Twitter page at www.twitter.com/@nyspolice.

This space is also for you:

To have your comments and/or questions published (space allowing) follow the Townsman guidelines in the masthead on page 2.

LEGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:**

The Town of Denning Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a meeting on Tuesday, February 25th, 2014 at the Denning Town Hall, 1567 Denning Road, Claryville, NY 12725 set to begin at 7pm. Said purpose of this meeting is the proposed Wind Turbine to be located on Eve Eden Road, as well as any other business before the Board.

BY THE ORDER OF THE TOWN OF DENNING ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Mark Boncek
Chairman

January 28, 2014
jam

2/6; 2/13

72% Increase in Taste NY Farm-Based Beverage Licenses Since 2011

The number of New York's farm-based beverage licenses for distilleries, wineries, breweries and cideries has risen 72% since 2011. Since Governor Cuomo took office, legislation has been enacted to help these businesses open new markets across the state, and additional agricultural businesses have been created as a result of new licenses signed into law by the Governor. Existing farm-based beverage businesses have also grown exponentially as a result of policies and initiatives put in place by the Administration at the request of industry leaders.

"The tremendous growth in the farm-based beverage industry over the past three years is a testament to how state government is creating new economic opportunities for local businesses to grow and thrive," Governor Cuomo said. "With our help, New York's beverage producers are creating jobs on farms and in communities all throughout the state, as well as providing a significant boost to the State's agricultural and tourism industries. The Taste NY initiative has been a vital part of this success, helping to raise the profile of our home-grown businesses and spreading the word that New York's beer, wine, cider and spirits are truly among the best in the world."

In October 2012, the Governor hosted the State's first ever Wine, Beer and Spirits Summit to identify ways that New York State could encourage growth in the industry. Summit participants asked for assistance from the State with their marketing efforts. As a result of these requests, Governor Cuomo launched Taste NY to further open markets for New York's food and beverage industries. Part of Governor Cuomo's efforts to promote agribusiness across the state, Taste NY is being marketed through a range of promotional efforts, including Taste NY tents at important events, Taste NY stores in transportation hubs and a dedicated website, www.taste.ny.gov.

Taste NY Distilleries:

Since 2011, the number of farm distilleries in New York State has increased 320%, from 10 in the first quarter of 2011 to 42 today. In addition, the number of Class A and B distilleries has risen 136%, from 14 in 2011 to 33 today.

In October 2012, Governor Cuomo signed legislation to allow licensed farm distilleries to sell their liquor at the New York State Fair, recognized county fairs, and not-for-profit farmers' markets. This new law is helping local farms to grow by providing dis-

tilleries with the same access to marketing opportunities currently allowed to licensed wineries, farm wineries, and farm breweries. Thanks to this legislation, the New York State Brew Pub and Distillery premiered at the Great New York State Fair this past summer.

In May 2013, 24 New York State distilleries participated in the Manhattan Cocktail Classic's Opening Night Gala, the first time the State's distilleries have participated together under the banner of New York State at the event.

Taste NY Wineries:

Since 2011, the number of farm wineries has risen by 40%, from 195 in 2011 to 273 today. In addition, farm winery branch offices have increased by 76%, from 29 in 2011 to 51 today. The number of wineries has risen from 55 in 2011 to 73 today, an increase of 33%.

In August 2013, the Governor launched a new television ad campaign to promote New York State's award-winning wines and further grow the Taste NY experience. In September 2013, Governor Cuomo signed legislation allowing roadside farmers' markets to sell New York State labeled wine manufactured and produced by up to two licensed farm wineries, special wineries or micro-wineries located within 20 miles of the roadside farmers' markets.

Also in September 2013, the Governor signed laws establishing the Adirondack Coast Wine Trail in the North Country and expanding the Shawangunk East Wine Trail in the Hudson Valley. In addition, the "Niagara Escarpment Wine Trail" will be renamed the "Niagara Wine Trail Ridge" and expand while the "Niagara Wine Trail" will be renamed the "Niagara Wine Trail Lake" and will also expand. Under additional legislation, the "Chautauqua Wine Trail" will be renamed the "Lake Erie Wine Country Trail." There are currently 16 wine trails designated by state law.

Jim Trezise, President, New York Wine & Grape Foundation, said, "The acceleration of wine industry growth did not happen by chance, but by design. Just as the ripening of grapes is accelerated by warm, sunny weather, the growth of our industry has been accelerated by a sunny business climate created by Governor Andrew Cuomo and his Administration. Changes in laws and regulations, coupled with business-friendly approaches at key agencies, have created new confidence and excitement in the wine industry, and the State Liquor Authority's expedited licensing has given us a great boost."

Taste NY Breweries:

There are currently 26 licensed farm breweries in New York, with more than a dozen applications currently in the pipeline. The number of microbreweries has risen 133% since 2011, from 40 in 2011 to 93 today. In addition, the number of restaurant brewers has increased from 10 in 2011 to 23 today, a 130% increase.

In July 2012, Governor Cuomo signed legislation to support and strengthen New York's craft breweries. Under the new law, beer must be made primarily from locally grown farm products in order to receive a New York State Farm Brewery license. The beer manufactured under these guidelines would be designated as "New York State labeled beer." The legislation was modeled after the 1976 "Farm Winery Act," which spurred the growth of wine production in this state, including the creation of hundreds of farm wineries and tripling the number of wineries.

Under the farm brewery license, brewers do not need an additional permit to serve beer by the glass, which has the highest return for brewers in terms of sales. Farm brewers can also make cider and serve that cider by the glass. They are allowed to have five branch offices, where they can sell their products and other New York State labeled beer, wine and liquor, in addition to having tasting rooms, retail shops and restaurants.

Paul Leone, Executive Director of New York State Brewers Association,

said, "Governor Cuomo's continued support of the craft brewing industry in New York State has allowed our industry to grow to levels not seen in well over 80 years. The Administration continues to help support our marketing efforts through initiatives like Taste NY, which helps bring awareness of our products to people inside and outside the state's borders. This is a unique state government both in terms of vision and policy, and we are proud to have them as partners in our success."

Taste NY Cideries:

The number of hard cider producers has risen 340% in New York since 2011, from five in 2011 to 22 today.

In October 2013, Governor Cuomo signed the Farm Cideries bill that established a new license for farm cideries. The bill authorizes the establishment and licensure of farm cideries for the manufacture and sale of cider made from crops grown in New York State and would exclude licensed farm cideries from the sales tax information return filing requirements. In order to obtain a farm cidery license, the hard cider must be made exclusively from apples grown in New York State and no more than 150,000 gallons may be produced annually. Farm cideries will be allowed to offer tastings of and sell not only cider, but also beer, wine, and spirits made from New York products.

In addition, because farm cideries may also sell products such as mustards, sauces, jams, jellies, souvenirs, artwork, crafts and other gift items, these businesses, much like farm wineries, will become destination locations that will promote tourism within their communities. Also, the need for apples in the manufacture of New York State labeled cider will create a sustained demand for products from New York's farmers.

Also in October 2013, Taste NY was a presenting sponsor of CiderWeek NY, which featured nine days of events throughout New York City and the Hudson Valley aimed at promoting New York's ciders.

A host of regulatory reforms were also implemented immediately following first Wine, Beer and Spirits Summit, including:

- o eliminating the prohibition on holding more than one manufacturer's license on the same premises;
- o expanding opportunities for New York's craft manufacturers to sell and provide samples of their products at special events;
- o allowing craft manufacturers to sell by the bottle when they conduct tastings;
- o reducing the supplier/marketing permit fees from \$750 for three years to \$125 per year;
- o elimination of a duplicative \$400 permit for Farm Distillers and Farm Brewers; and
- o allowing the issuance of one day special event permits to craft brewers and cider producers.

The Governor also created a "one stop shop" to provide New York's wine, beer, cider and spirits producers with a single point of government contact for assistance regarding regulations, licensing, state incentives and other questions. These, and other legislative and policy improvements have helped stimulate tremendous growth of New York's small, farm-based manufacturers.

In addition to legislative and regulatory improvements, the State Liquor Authority (SLA) has made tremendous progress over the past three years in processing licenses faster. At the end of 2010, the SLA had a backlog of 750 pending applications, with the average license application taking 102 days to review. Today, the backlog is down to 14, with licenses being reviewed in 61 days, a 40% and 41 day improvement from three years ago. This improvement has aided New York's rapidly growing alcohol manufacturing businesses, with the review of manufacturing licenses, including wineries, breweries and distilleries, taking an average of 52 days

today, down from 83 days in 2010, a 37% improvement.

"By opening new markets where these homegrown products can be sampled and sold, cutting red tape and fees, and creating new "Farm Brewery" and "Farm Cider" licenses, this administration has helped stimulate tremendous growth of New York's small, farm based manufacturers," said State Liquor Authority Chairman Dennis Rosen. "The continued partnership between industry and state policymakers is essential as we work to create opportunities for these businesses to continue generating jobs and environmentally friendly economic development in communities across the state."

Acting State Agriculture Commissioner Richard A. Ball said, "This Administration not only supports New York agriculture but understands the vital role that New York food and beverage producers play in the fabric of our state's economy. Governor Cuomo continues to listen to industry, continues to take action on its behalf and the results speak for themselves."

For more information about New York's growing beer, wine, spirits and cider industries, please visit www.taste.ny.gov.

Projects to Add Resiliency and Efficiency to Electric Grid

(From Pg. 7)

Georgia Tech will develop techniques for measuring grid resiliency during severe weather. EnerNex will work with the New York State Reliability Council and the New York State Independent System Operator to utilize newly installed phasor measurement units. Total funding: \$1 million.

To date, NYSERDA's Smart Grid program has provided \$24 million in awards for research, product development and demonstration projects, leveraging \$31 million in private sector funding and \$59 million in federal funding. For more information on NYSERDA's smart grid program, visit nyserdera.ny.gov/smartgrid.

The development of smart grid technologies is a goal of the Energy Highway initiative, which was designed to ensure that New York's energy grid is the most advanced in the nation and promotes increased business investment in the state. The Blueprint also provides for as much as 3,200 megawatts in new generation and transmission capacity through such strategies as additional renewable energy production, modernizing power plants, and investing in transmission upgrades. For more information on the Energy Highway Blueprint, visit www.nyenergyhighway.com

Cahill, Assembly Leaders Call on Regents to Address Common CORE Concerns

(Albany, New York) Assemblymember Kevin A. Cahill (D - Ulster, Dutchess) joined with the Speaker and Education Chair Catherine Nolan today in calling upon the State Board of Regents to address concerns raised by parents, educators and other individuals regarding Common Core and privacy issues. Today the Assemblyman advocated for a moratorium on the Common Core's use in teacher and student evaluations.

"It is my fundamental belief that the political leaders of our government should not interfere with the professional judgment of the education community except in extreme circumstances. In this instance there is a disconnect between the education bureaucracy and the good people we rely on to teach our children. Most educators I've spoken with support the Common Core while expressing grave concern over the roll out.

This moratorium will give the state education department the breathing room it needs to more appropriately transition to the new curriculum and evaluative tools.

