

The Country Courier

Your Hometown News for Over 49 Years



Vol. 49, No. 32 NEWSTAND PRICE \$1.00 Friday, March 8, 2024 SUBSCRIBE at www.TiersNews.com



Binghamton AOH Commemorates 56th Annual St.

Patrick's Day Parade A cherished tradition honoring Irish Americans in Broome.

By the Ancient Order of Hibernians

This past Saturday, March 2nd, individuals from various locations gathered for a long-standing annual tradition. The 56th St. Patrick's Day Parade, organized by the Hibernian Parade Committee of Broome County, honored the enduring contributions of Irish Americans to the United States. Scores of people adorned in green congregated at the intersection of Fayette and Court St. to revel in Irish heritage.

Mayor Jared Kraham of Binghamton emphasized the sense of community encapsulated by the pre-parade Mass, stating, "Today, in Binghamton, everyone becomes Irish as we commemorate the struggles and achievements of Irish Americans since their arrival on our shores."

Leading up to the main event, numerous activities unfolded on Friday, March 1st. Pipe bands traversed local taverns throughout Broome County, drumming up excitement for the parade. Irish associations joined forces to share elements of their culture, from melodious tunes on bagpipes to expressive dance performances.

Mayor Kraham underscored the significance of parade day as a pivotal communal celebration, expressing the city's eagerness to uphold this cherished tradition for years to come.

PICTURES PAGE 4 & 5

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

By Town of Binghamton

TOB is excited to announce that the 23rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, March 23, 2024. Jen Edwards and her crew have spent a lot of time creating a safe, family-friendly environment for your Easter egg-hunting pleasure!



HERE ARE THE FUN-FILLED DETAILS.

The cost is \$5 per child (adults are free). The hunt will be held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sat., 3/23/24, at the Edwards Petting Farm, located at 2948 Webb Rd, Binghamton NY. Please visit the Edwards Petting Farm on Facebook to follow their page and to sign up as "GOING" to the event. This will give them a much needed idea of how many children will participate. Jen strives to keep the egg hunt fun and fair for everyone. There are no age restrictions, and they do their best to accommodate any special needs. All participants will get to find eggs, see the animals, get a picture with the Easter Bunny, and dance with Johnny Only! They will also have a concession stand and raffle baskets.

Bring your cameras for other photo opportunities and be ready for some family fun. This will be run open-house style so come for as long or as little as you would like.

If you have questions, please call "Farmer Jen" at (607) 343-1184.

LAOH SUPPORTS

WREATHS
— across —
AMERICA

SABERS SOFTBALL
Conklin Community Center

Sunday March \$10.00
10th 8am-11am
Pancake Fundraiser

Local Calendars
Page 2

Conklin Cemetery
Cleanups
Page 3

Parade Day
Page 4 & 5

TOB
Board Minutes
Page 6

SV "Magic"
Page 7

SV Art Teachers
Page 7

VETERANS
CORNER
Page 8

Announcement

Join Conklin
Kiwanis
Wed. 7:30
Janes's
Diner





Calendar

Kirkwood

Town Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 5, 2024 -

Planning Board
March 11, 2024 7pm
Solar Farm Rt. 912 Rt. 11

Work Session
March 26, 2024 6pm

KIRKWOOD TOWN COURT HOURS
Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Town of Binghamton

March 5, 2024 – **Work Session** 4 P.M.
March 19, 2024 – **Board Meeting** 6 P.M.

Town of Conklin

Regular Town Board Meeting

Conklin Town Hall, 1271 Conklin Road,
Conklin, New York.

DMV AT CONKLIN TOWN HALL
WEDNESDAY – 9 A.M. until 1 P.M.

Conklin Town Court Hours
Monday, Wed, & Fri 8:00 am – 2:00 pm
1st Friday of the Month 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

BROOME COUNTY LEGISLATORS

Kelly F. Wildoner
District 3
(Town of Binghamton,
Conklin & Vestal)
kelly.wildoner@broome-
countyny.gov

Stephen J. Flagg
District 1 (City of Binghamton,
Towns of Colesville,
Fenton &
Kirkwood)
stephen.flagg@broome-
countyny.gov

Scott D. Baker
District 2 (Towns of Kirkwood,
Sanford & Windsor)
scott.baker@broomecountyny.gov

Chairman-Daniel J. Reynolds
(Dist 5)
daniel.j.reynolds@broomecountyny.gov

Maj. Leader-Matthew J. Pasquale
Dist 7 matthew.pasquale@broomecountyny.gov

Min.w Leader Robert Weslar
(Dist 13)
bob.weslar@broomecountyny.gov
Health & Human Services
Committee
(OVER VETERANS)

Jason Shaw
jason.shaw@broomecountyny.gov

Louis Augustini louie.
augostini@broomecountyny.gov

Matthew Hilderbrant
matt.hilderbrant@broomecountyny.gov

Kim Myers kim.myers@broomecountyny.gov

Mark Whalen mark.whelen@broomecountyny.gov

EDITORIAL NOTES

Dear Editor:

We have been receiving letters and reviews of the changes to the Country Courier, we will post them here without names listed. The absence of names has a long history in American Reporting, up until the early to mid 1970's.

WE APPRECIATE ALL STORY TIPS AS WELL

EMAIL TO: News@TiersNews.com

***FOURTH ESTATE
A PILLAR OF FREEDOM***

BEAR PICTURES ARE NOW BEING COLLECTED FOR THE TOWN CLERK'S "2024 BEAR WALL"

Town of Binghamton Clerk's office will once again be creating a "Bear Wall" in their office, showcasing all bear sightings in the Town of Binghamton we're officially collecting pictures.

If you're the first to send in a bear picture, the Town Clerk's office will present you with a

Free Vaccines for Dogs and Cats

The Broome County Humane Society is hosting free, monthly vaccine clinics for dogs and cats in need of updated Rabies and Distemper vaccines in our community on the following dates (*dates are subject to change):



Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Clinics will be held at The Broome County Humane Society located at 167 Conklin Ave in Binghamton from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. A \$5 donation is requested, but not required for each vaccination given. Pets need to be at least three months old and restrained. Bring previous rabies vaccination certificate (if applicable) First come, first served. A \$10 donation per pet is suggested but not required. For additional information, visit the Broome County Humane Society website.

Kirkwood Senior Group

Officers:

Blanche Birtch, President

Jeanie Ditch, Vice-Pres.

Linda Yonchuk, Secretary

Linda Buffle, Treasurer

Jeanie Ditch & June

Fedish, Trip Coordinator

Ellie Grubham, Sunshine Committee

Scheduled Meetings:

First Wednesday of each month, at Noon, at the Kirkwood Fire Station, Main Street, Kirkwood, unless otherwise noted.

Activities:

Meetings: Monthly @ Noon the First Wednesday of each month, at the Kirkwood Fire Station, Main Street, Kirkwood, unless otherwise noted. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish, coffee and tea are provided. The meeting takes place after lunch, with Bingo to follow if anyone cares to stay October and November meetings are catered and will be at Elks Club at 12 noon.

Bus Trips:

Trips are usually 3 per year. Members pay for expenses for show tickets and meals, bus



The Country Courier

NEWS/ADVERTISING DEADLINE

The Country Courier goes to press on Wednesdays. Deadline for news and advertising is the Friday before the desired week of publication.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Subscription rates to *The Country Courier* are \$35 a year in Broome County, \$100 outside Broome County and papers are mailed every Thursday from Conklin.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

The Country Courier welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be signed and include the phone number of the writer, to be used for verification of authenticity, not for publication. The editor reserves the right to refuse to publish letters which contain potentially libelous or erroneous statements. Also, letters endorsing political candidates are considered advertisements and should be prepaid as is all political advertising. No letters to the editor regarding political candidates will be accepted.

An Independent Weekly Newspaper
The Country Courier
(USPS 348-170)

Published weekly by Newspaper Publishers LLC
PERIODICAL Postage Paid
at Conklin, NY 13748

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
The Country Courier
PO Box 208

Conklin, NY 13748-0208
Publisher: Gretchen VanWalterop

Published Weekly on Wednesday
News@TiersNews.com
Ads@TiersNews.com
Legals@TiersNews.com
Obits@TiersNews.com

YOUR PHOTOS ARE WELCOME
Email to: editor2@TiersNews.com



Lap Swim

Open Swim at SV
 Just because it's getting colder doesn't mean you have to stop swimming! Come to our beautiful, heated pool at Susquehanna Valley for Lap Swim and Open Swim sessions every Monday! Lap Swim is 6:30-7:00 p.m., followed by Open Swim from 7:00-8:00 p.m. every Monday Night.

The Susquehanna Valley Spirit Shop is now open!
 Hey Sabers Fans - there's a great place to go to stock up on Sabers gear! It's the Susquehanna Valley Spirit Shop. Access at SVSABERS.org

TOB COMMUNITY CENTER ON COLEMAN ROAD IS CLOSED.
 The Community Center will be under repair soon and is now closed until further notice.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!
52 issues only \$35 per year Mailed Right to your home in Broome County

Current SV Job Openings

Visit <https://www.svsabers.org/EmploymentOpportunities.aspx> to see full descriptions of the positions and information on applying.

- Technology Teacher (Anticipated)
- Head Bus Driver
- Bus Driver - Mechanic
- Civil Service Clerical Position (Anticipated)
- Food Service Helper (High School)
- Food Service Helper (Anticipated)
- Substitute LPN Nurses
- School Bus Drivers & Attendants (Continuous Recruitment)
- Substitute School Nurses (Continuous Recruitment)
- Substitutes (Various, continuous recruitment)

KIWANIS FOOD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Once a month, couple hours to help free food distribution at the Community Center. Third Monday of month, volunteers NEEDED to help, or the Town is in danger of losing this program.

Contact Mr. Krasowsky, millertoncard@aol.



Is there a **FIRE** in you?

Become a volunteer firefighter today.



Find volunteer firefighter opportunities with fire departments in Broome County, New York. Just reach out, or stop into a local fire department and a recruitment team member will be in touch.

BECOME AN EVERYDAY HERO

RIT Names Deans List
 Dan Wager of Conklin
 Computer engineering

Lauren Kelly
 Binghamton
 Civil engineering

Dominic Beach
 Binghamton
 Mechanical engineering

Local Scholars

University at Buffalo's fall 2023 dean's list
 Ashley Katz of Binghamton
 Isabella Stento of Binghamton
 James Yuhnck of Binghamton
 Trey Johnson-Stayton of Conklin.
 Max Spencer of Kirkwood.
 To qualify for the dean's list, full-time undergraduate students must demonstrate academic excellence by earning a grade point average of at least 3.600 Students

**Conklin Cemetery
 Shawsville Cemetery
 SPRING CLEANUP**
 PLEASE REMOVE ALL WINTER WREATHS AND WINTER DECORATIONS FROM CEMETERY GRAVES
 BY APRIL 1, 2024

Hopler & Eschbach Funeral Home

483 Chenango Street, Binghamton • 607-722-4023
www.HEFUNERALHOME.com

PERSONAL SERVICE • PROFESSIONALISM • EXPERIENCE YOU CAN TRUST
Affordable Cremations and Funeral Services
Compare Our Prices and Save
 Kurt M. Eschbach, Funeral Director

Broome County Landfill's 2024 Electronics & Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Dates

Broome County Landfill accepts hazardous waste (household and auto batteries, propane tanks, fluorescent bulbs, driveway sealers, paints, solvents, stains, cleaners, pesticides, pool & photography chemicals) Old electronics (computers, printers, stereos, TVs, copiers, fax machines, mobile phones, etc.) You can drop these off,

FREE OF CHARGE, at the landfill on the following days from 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. March 16

Jane's Diner
 OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK



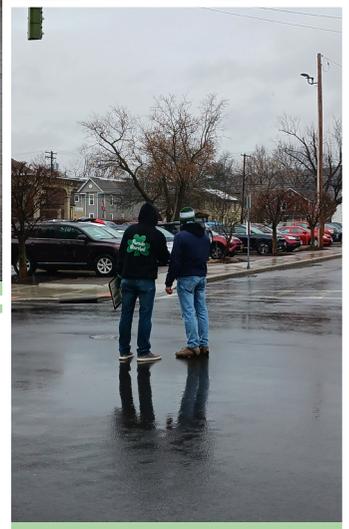
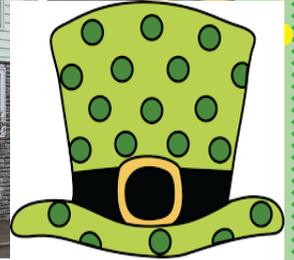
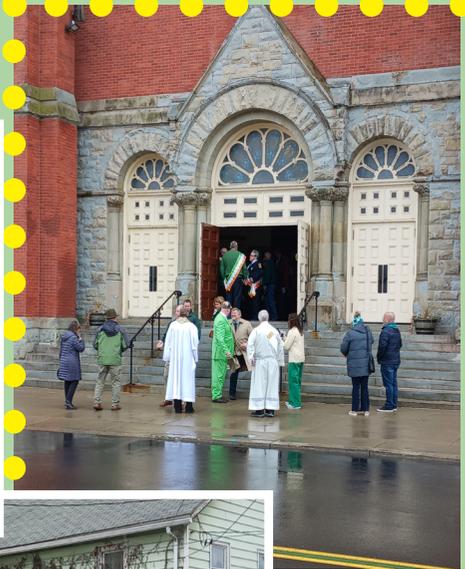
Home Cooking At An Affordable Price

We Appreciate Your Business
 Sunday, 7AM-3PM; Monday, 6AM - 3PM
 Tues., 6AM- 6:30PM; Wed. - Sat., 6AM-8PM
591 Conklin Road, Binghamton, NY 13903
607-722-3350

Take Out & Catering Available

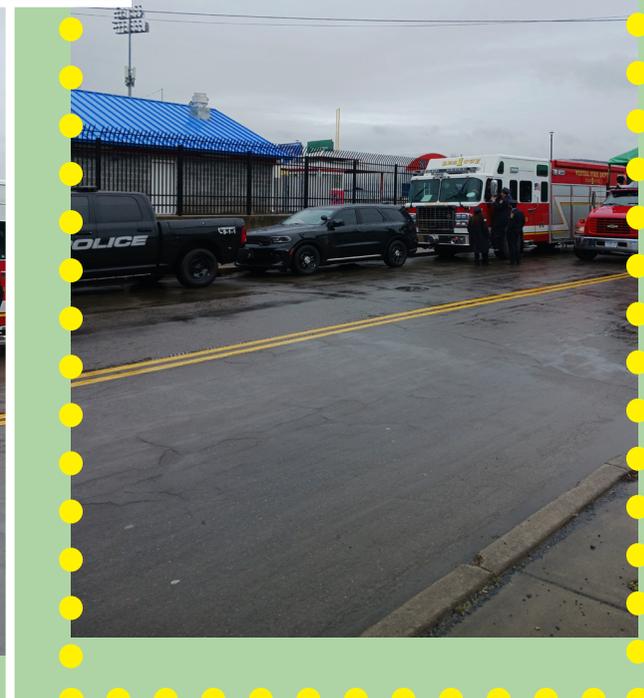
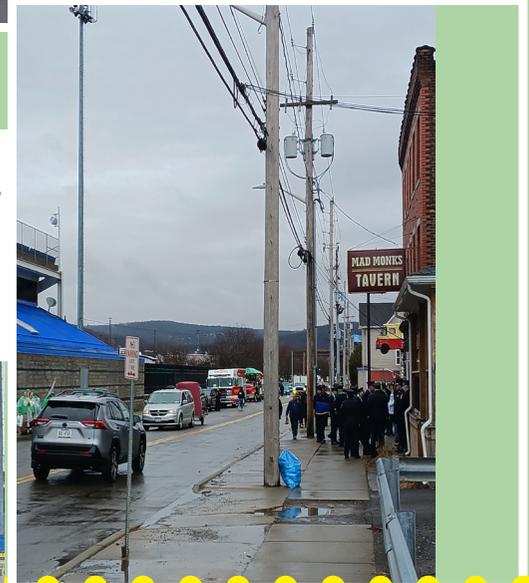
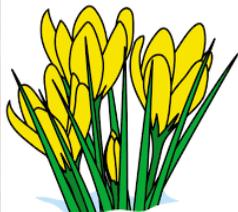
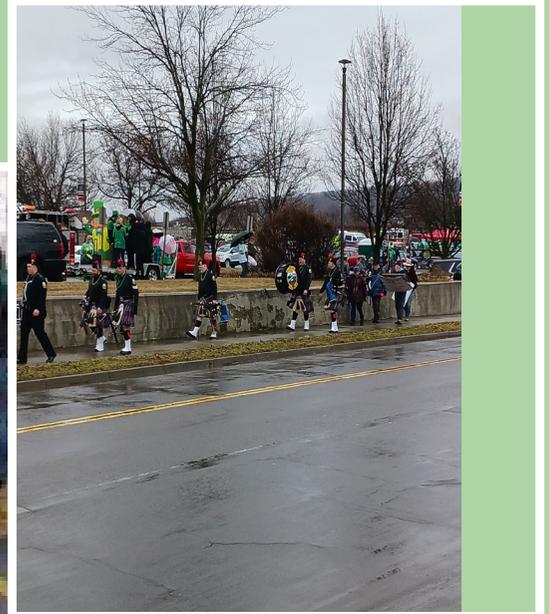
Binghamton Parade Day 2024!

(Part 1)



Binghamton Parade Day 2024!

(Part 2)



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN OF BINGHAMTON

TOWN BOARD HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024 TOWN OF

BINGHAMTON TOWN HALL, 279 PARK AVENUE, BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK.
APPROVAL OF AUDITED CLAIMS:

Councilperson Conklin made a motion to adopt a Resolution to approve the following claims as audited:

Lighting	Claim No.	95	\$	39.44
Sewer	Claim No.	-	\$	-
Water	Claim No.	96 - 101	\$	2424.41
Highway	Claim No.	102 - 113	\$	9032.25
General	Claim No.	114 - 140	\$	25,098.02

TOTAL \$ 31,456.85 Motion carried

OFFICIALS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Planning Board No Report. Next Meeting will be April 23rd @ 6:30p.m. Jeff Zembeck will be in attendance at this meeting to discuss his commercially zoned property on Park Avenue.

Zoning Board of Appeals No Report. Youth Commission No Report

Code Enforcement/Buildings and Grounds

The spray foam in the new garage extension at 279 Park Avenue is complete. Metal will be arriving for the walls. The heat source and electric will then be looked at.

There has been no contact with Mr. Smith regarding 330 Park Avenue. Bids for Demolition of 330 Park Avenue will be sent out and will be discussed in the next meeting. Highway Department

Snowstorm this past weekend. There is a lot of maintenance going on. Tree work is ongoing this week. Plans for ditching has started. (Winter without snow activities are ongoing)

Senior Commission

Lisa Young and Dennis and Sue See have volunteered to form this Commission. There will be a meeting on April 2, 2024, 1:30p.m. to discuss planning upcoming activities, possible pot luck lunches, etc. Hopefully, there will be more information in the next upcoming issue of Town Talk and there may be a blast email sent out from the Information desk regarding this new Commission. There was some discussion regarding a fee for members, of which would go back into the program to sponsor events.

TOB Volunteer Fire Co.

11 Calls: 2 House fire, 2 Mutual Aid, 3 Wires down, 2 Gas odor, 1 Service Call. 1 MVA. The TOB VFC would like to get the Town Board to approve their check prior to the arrival of County money. This money has already been approved. This matter will be looked into for the TOB VFD.

Supervisor No Report at this time

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Councilperson Donahue made a motion to pass a resolution to approve the final copy of the Employee Handbook. The motion was duly seconded by Councilperson Conklin. Motion Carried.

There was one bid for the Highway Trucks. This bid was not to specification. Highway Superintendent Leighton has procured the spreadsheet for the mini bid system for the NYS OGS (New York State Office of General Services) and has filled it out and emailed it in for a response. It has not been 'officially' sent in at this time for an official posting. This bid system goes out to every qualified dealer in the state. There is a section in this bid system where Superintendent Leighton can include certain specifications desired. The State will send out the bid notices and then will contact the Highway Superintendent regarding responses. The mini bid system is revamped and new this year. When bids come back in from the State, the Town Board will still need to approve the bids. Councilperson Donahue made a motion to make a resolution to reject the bid from the Ferraro Auto Team in Elmira, for the trucks, due to lack of specifications. Motion Carried

Councilperson Conklin made a resolution to authorize Highway Superintendent Leighton to go through the mini bid system and specify the purchase of two trucks. Councilperson Donahue duly seconded the motion. All those present voted in favor of the motion. Motion Carried

Councilperson Donahue made a motion for the approval of deeming telephone poles from Jackson Park as surplus. Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilperson Donahue made a motion for a resolution to approve the 2023 Budget Transfer. Councilperson Conklin duly seconded the motion. Motion Carried

Respectfully transcribed and submitted:

Tracy L. Tokos
Town Clerk

Paula J. Edwards
Deputy Town Clerk

40+ Years Experience

NY/PA



ATON SEPTIC & DRAINAGE

RESIDENTIAL / COMMERCIAL

Tanks Pumped: Holding Tanks Cleaned
 Tanks Replaced • Drain Fields Installed
 • Excavation • Repair Leaking Walls
 Certified Systems Installed NY/PA
 Environmentally Safe /Locally Owned
 Sump Pump • Flooded Basements
 Unclog Drain Lines • Locate Odor Smell
 Water and Sewer Lines

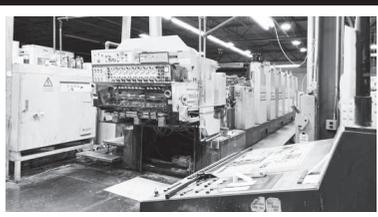
FREE ESTIMATES

Joe Aton Ron Aton
 607-343-6349 607-725-6028

Ron Aton Construction



Great Opportunity



Courier Printing

Is

Looking for Offset Press Operators

In need of TWO press operators with sheetfed offset experience

Willing to train anyone with printing company experience

Please Obtain an Application at:

24 Laurel Bank Avenue
 Deposit, New York 13754
 Email: cprintsales@tds.net or
 Call: 607-467-2191



Broome County Regional Farmers Market

Our Market takes place weekly, on Saturdays, from 9 am to 1 pm year-round



The Broome County Regional Farmers Market is a year-round market located in Binghamton, New York! Come buy fresh produce and goods from your local farmers!

Cornell University Cooperative Extension



SOUTHERN TIER WOMEN'S VETERAN GROUP

Clear Path for Veterans Southern Tier has formed a group for women veterans to connect with each other.

Regular meetings will be every third Monday of the month

Clear Path for Veterans Southern Tier Office
 114 Clayton Ave
 Vestal, NY 13850

For more information, contact:
 Clear Path for Veterans Southern Tier Outreach Manager
 Katina Sinclair
 315-687-3300
katina@clearpathforvets.com

The Magical Musical Month Of March

By SV School District

March is a magical musical month. Several of our students participated in the recent BCMEA Festival II. On Friday, March 1, the students traveled to Vestal Middle School where they rehearsed, and then spent all day Saturday at Binghamton University perfecting their music which ended in a beautiful concert. The groups performing were the 5/6 Chorus, 7-9 Band, and 10-12 Orchestra. All of our students had a great time!



Students Involved:

5/6 Chorus: Elli Ligeikis, Hailey Cullen, Lillian Reeve, Charley Desimone, Samantha Luce Ivy Burns, Jonah Day, Lillian Blain, Juliana Lowe, Norah Hughes, Elijah DePersiis, Sophia Simeone

7/9 Band: Elizabeth Igo, Luke Reid, Aiden Riley, James Root, Aiden Ruffo

10/12 Orchestra: John Bonsell, Rylan Everson, Annabelle Friedman, Carly Lewis
Also at this festival, retired SV chorus teacher Jim Apicella received the Distinguished Service Award. Congrats, Mr. Apicella!



SV Art Teachers Practice What They Teach

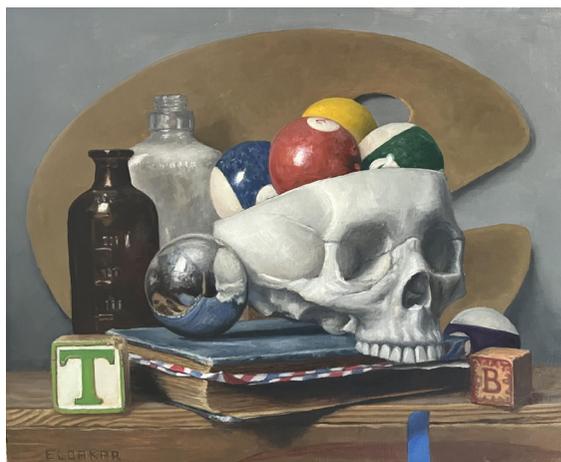
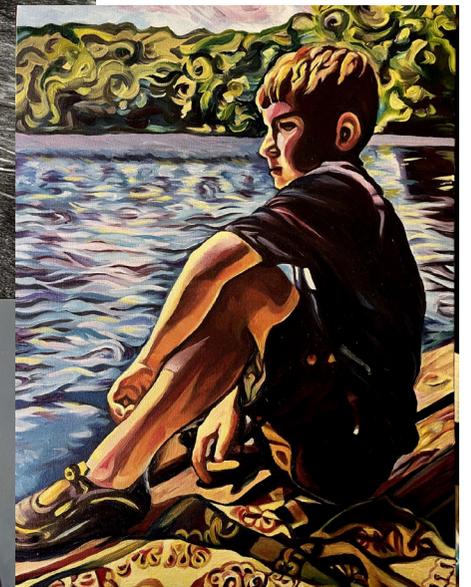
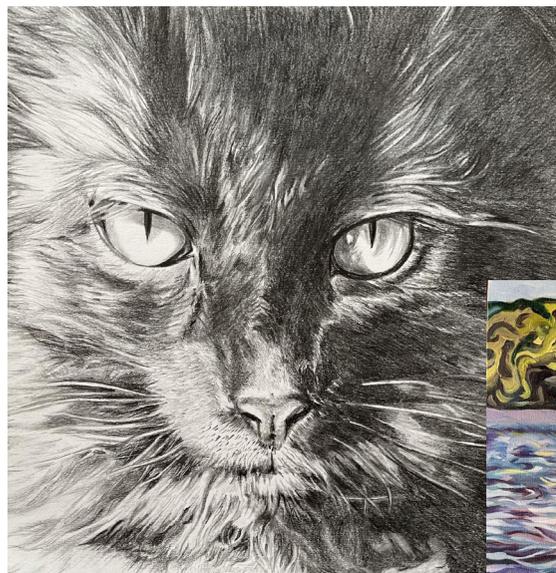
By SV School District

Susquehanna Valley Art Teachers recently practiced what they teach!

The Broome County Arts Council recently invited art educators from around the region - past and present - to submit their own works for an exhibit called “We Practice What We Teach”, which opened on March 1 at the First Friday Gallery Walk in Binghamton and will be on display through the month. Mrs. Russell and Mr. Eldakar submitted pieces that are among more than 40 works by art educators county-wide. This exhibit is a prequel to the “Emerging Artists Exhibition,” featuring student artwork later this year.

<https://broomearts.org/artisan-gallery/>
Link to website.

Mrs. Russell submitted Anthony, the painting of a boy, and her sketch of a cat; Mr. Eldakar submitted still life paintings.



New York will send National Guard to subways in wake of violent crimes

New York will send National Guard to subways in wake of violent crimes

By Anthony Izaguirre, The Associated Press

Members of the Armed Forces including the National Guard wait in the lobby of the New York City Mass Transit New York Gov. Kathy Hochul announced plans Wednesday to send the National Guard to the New York City subway system to help police search passengers' bags for weapons, following a series of high-profile crimes on city trains.

Hochul, a Democrat, said she will deploy 750 members of the National Guard to the subways to assist the New York Police Department with bag searches at entrances to busy train stations.

"For people who are thinking about bringing a gun or knife on the subway, at least this creates a deterrent effect. They might be thinking, 'You know what, it just may just not be

worth it because I listened to the mayor and



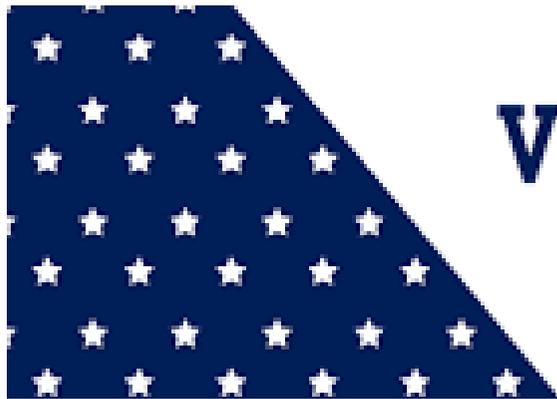
I listened to the governor and they have a lot more people who are going to be checking my bags," Hochul said at a news conference in New York City.

The move came as part of a larger effort from the governor's office to address crime in the subway, which included a legislative proposal to ban people from trains if they are convicted of assaulting a subway passenger and the installation of cameras in conductor cabins to protect transit workers.

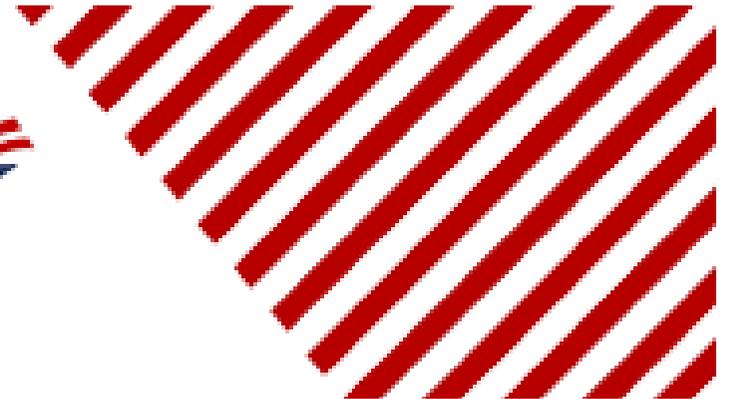
The deployment of the National Guard would bolster an enhanced presence of NYPD officers in the subway system. The governor said she will also send 250 state troopers and police officers for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, a state agency, to help with the bag searches. Overall, crime has dropped in New York City since a spike during the COVID-19 pandemic, and killings are down on the subway system.

But rare fatal shootings and showings on the subway can put residents on edge. Just last week, a passenger slashed a subway conductor in the neck, delaying trains.

Police in New York have long conducted random bag checks at subway entrances, though passengers are free to refuse and leave the station, raising questions of whether the searches are an effective policing tactic in a subway system that serves over 3 million riders per day.



VETERANS CORNER



Man charged for posing as doctor to steal vet suicide prevention funds

By Leo Shane III

A Massachusetts man was charged Tuesday for posing as a doctor to steal \$50,000 in suicide prevention funds from a Veterans Affairs grant program. (Stefani Reynolds/AFP via Getty Images)

A federal grand jury on Tuesday indicted a Massachusetts man for posing as a doctor to steal \$50,000 in suicide prevention funds from a Veterans Affairs grant program, following a Department of Justice investigation.

David Duren, 48, was charged with wire fraud and federal program fraud charges, according to a Justice Department release. He is scheduled to appear in federal court later this week.

According to charging documents released by federal officials, Duren, also known as Dawud Hakiem Duren, allegedly filed fake invoices and reported fraudulent suicide prevention services through the E3 Foundation, a firm purportedly led by Dr. Michael Rapp that focused



on treatment and training for at-risk vets. Investigators said Duren fabricated Rapp and posed as a trained physician on phone calls and emails to VA officials. The scheme worked, and E3 was granted at least \$50,000 through the Staff Sergeant Fox Suicide Prevention Grant.

"Duren and E3 Foundation also did not provide the services and products that he billed for," Justice officials said. "Instead, Duren misused program funds on personal purchases, including landscaping, a Royal Caribbean cruise, and payments to models on OnlyFans."

Duren faces a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison and fines of up to \$500,000 for the crimes. An attorney for Duren could not be reached for comment.

Congress has authorized \$174 million for the Staff Sergeant Fox Suicide Prevention Grant program to expand veteran suicide prevention efforts to more local organizations. Grants of up to \$750,000 can be given to community groups that provide new avenues for outreach and treatment to veterans. Officials said Duren's scheme was discovered when he tried to obtain \$25,000 more in funding, raising questions about what services his company had provided.