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CONKLIN POOL - SINK OR SWIM

By: Glenn Thomas

At the Conklin Town Board Meeting earlier this month the pool at Schnurbusch Park became a topic of discussion.

Mr. Dumian at the Town of Conklin Board Meeting stated that he is already receiving



inquiries about graduation parties this summer and the use of the Conklin Pool. He stated that the Board must make a decision whether or not to open the pool for the 2024 season. He stated that it will require the use of significant extra water and chemicals. The pool typically opens the second weekend in June until the last week of August and is open daily. Swimming lessons are offered through the YMCA during the summer as well. The YMCA will list the lesson dates on its' website. Three pavilions are located in the park as well and are often rented for family and social gatherings and provide a beautiful atmosphere next to the river. At the Town Board meeting Mr. Dumian stated that the Board might consider removing the pool after the 2024 season. He stated that it is estimated that it will cost \$250,000 for repairs to the trough and a new liner, plus the pool is operating on very old equipment. In this era of social media and video games a town pool can offer a classic distraction during hot summer months. A town pool is a unique environment and place where kids can learn to socialize with others face-to-face, learn to play games, learn to swim, an important thing in a river town.

Mr. Francisco stated that he has learned that Governor Hochul has allocated \$150 million for repairs to pools as an effort to prevent drownings. He stated that he is drafting a letter to Lea Webb, New York State Senator, asking for help. He thinks it can "limp along" for 2024 IF the Town can hire enough lifeguards and/or there are no major repairs required. Mr. Dumian went around the Board: Mr. Boyle - No, citing 15,000 gallons of water plus chemicals added daily); Mr. Farley - Yes; Mr. Francisco - Yes. Mr. Dumian stated that

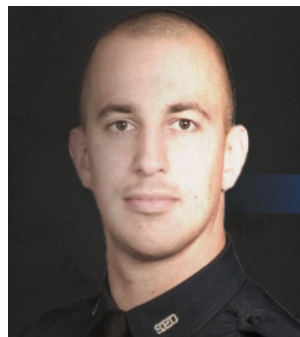
"if safety becomes an issue, we must make a decision to close." This is a topic of discussion that is important to voice ahead of time. Once a pool closes it can be very difficult to summon the political will to build a new one. Vestal is currently in the process of replacing their pool, at a significantly higher cost than the \$250,000 stated during the board meeting. A Community decision to be sure.



THOUSANDS ATTEND FUNERALS OF TWO POLICE OFFICERS



Lt. Michael Hoosock



Off. Michael Jensen

Lt. Michael Hoosock and Syracuse Police Officer Michael Jensen a last week, during a gun battle. Gunman Christopher R. Murphy, 33, was killed by police. Hoosock, 37, of Clay, has a wife and three children. Jensen joined the Syracuse Police force in 2022 and served there for a little over two years. He earned the Officer of the Month award in December 2023.

Jensen, 29, was a Rome area native, locals honored him Tuesday as his body was returned to his hometown.

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Announcement
Section
Obituaries

**New York State
Burn Ban
Between
March 15 - May 15**





Calendar

Kirkwood Town Board Meeting

April 30, 2024 - Work Session - 6 PM

May 28th - Work Session- 6 PM

May 7th Board Meeting 6 PM

Board of Assessment Review

Tuesday, 5/28/2024 2 PM – 4 PM 6 PM – 8 PM

KIRKWOOD TOWN COURT HOURS

Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Town of Binghamton

May 7, 2024 – Work Session 4:00 P.M.

May 21, 2024 – Town Board Meeting 6:00 P.M

TOB Coleman Rd.
Community Ctr. IS CLOSED.

Town of Conklin Regular Town Board Meeting

Planning Board
May 20th 7 pm

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

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(OVER VETERANS)

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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 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.

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**

Kickball for a Cause

That describes The Susquehanna Valley Central School District's Inaugural "Kick It for Cans" fundraiser, to be held Wednesday, May 15, at 10:00 a.m. at Francis P. Donnelly Elementary School, Conklin Road, Conklin.

The event will feature a kickball competition between 5th-grade students at Susquehanna Valley's two elementary schools: Francis P. Donnelly Elementary and Brookside Elementary. All proceeds will benefit the Sabers Food Center, housed at Donnelly. "Kick It for Cans" promises to be a fun-filled and friendly competition, showcasing Sabers Community spirit, and raising awareness and much-needed support for those experiencing food insecurity in our community.

"This event is not just about enjoying kickball competition; it's about kicking hunger out of our community," said Stacey Stiloe, F.P. Donnelly Social Worker and director of the Sabers Food Center. "It's heartwarming to witness such unity and generosity from our sponsors, whose support will undoubtedly make a significant impact."

The "Kick It for Cans" fundraiser is made possible by the generous contributions of our sponsors.



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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, \$105 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.



CAREGIVER RESPITE

St. Mary's Church in Kirkwood offers a monthly respite program for caregivers. It is open to anyone who is busy with the care of a family member or other individual and could use a little free time to recharge on a Saturday, while we spend some enjoyable time with your care recipient. Activities include music, crafts, lunch or just some pleasant conversation. We meet at the parish center the 3rd Saturday of the month from 11am to 2pm. Call the church office to register at 607 775-0086 Monday to Thursday 9-2, Friday 9-12. If you forget to call and would still like to participate in the program, you may do so with us on any given 3rd Saturday. The next get together is May 18.

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

Southern Tier Heart Walk

The American Heart Association signature event invites participants to sign up and step out for health

WHAT: 2024 Southern Tier Heart Walk
 WHEN: Sunday, April 28th
 Registration family activities begin: 8:00a.m.
 Opening Ceremony: 9:15a.m.
 Walk start: 9:30a.m.

WHERE: Binghamton University – East Gym Track 4400 Vestal Pkwy E Vestal NY 13902

WHY: Every walker who joins, every dollar donated, means more lives saved. More research. More people trained in CPR. More medical breakthroughs. And more lifesaving moments for hearts big and small. By participating and donating to the Southern Tier Heart Walk, participants are supporting the lifesaving mission of the American Heart Association and safeguarding that fewer people die from stroke and heart disease.

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the Southern Tier Heart Walk and the 100th birthday of the American Heart Association. Visit www.SouthernTierHeartWalk.org to learn more



ESTATE SALE
ONE DAY ONLY!
 Saturday, May 4, 2024
 8 am - 4pm
 No Early Birds please!

Farm Memorabilia, Garage items, Tools, Living Room furniture, Kitchen furniture, Household items, Bedroom sets, Clocks, Gas/Pellet Smoker, Outdoor Furniture including Swing, Picnic Table, Bench and Fire Pit; Chest Freezer, Treadmill and much more.
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Track Boys & Girls Windsor Vs. SV

Photos by Chandelle Loren



Baseball SV vs Waverly

Photos by Chandelle Loren



Real Smoke Flavor Elevates Classic Summer Grilling Dishes



Spring Cleaning: Don't Toss That 'Junk,' It May Be Valuable!

(StatePoint) From baseball cards and sports equipment to postcards and photographs, is that “junk” in your attic or basement dusty treasure or just dusty? We’ve all heard of families getting rich from the sale of rare memorabilia they found when spring cleaning.

A little time spent determining if items are valuable and where to sell them can pay off in the long run.

“The sale of older sports cards, postcards and photographs can yield thousands of dollars, even tens of thousands or more for the right ones,” says Al Crisafulli, Auction Director at Love of the Game Auctions, an internet sports auction house that helps families identify and sell valuable sports cards and memorabilia.

Crisafulli has assisted people in selling tens of millions of dollars of baseball card collections, autographs, sports equipment and more. Such sales can be life changing. In one instance, he researched a family’s old baseball bat and proved it was game used by Hall of Famer Lou Gehrig. His Love of the Game Auctions sold it for almost half a million dollars, a figure which would top a million dollars today.

Here are some of his tips to determine if your sports collectibles are valuable:

The Older, the Better with Cards. Vintage sports cards from the early periods of sports are collectible, especially Hall of Famers. Do you have stars from the 1960s, 1950s

(StatePoint) From patriotic holidays to park side barbecues to casual weeknight dinners, you can elevate your grilling game this summer with premium ingredients, and some culinary inspiration.

To help you get started, Bear Mountain BBQ, maker of 100% all-natural hardwood pellets for pellet grills and smokers, has asked two of their favorite chefs to share new takes on grilling classics.

First up are these loaded, smoky Elote Hot Dogs, brought to you by Bear Mountain ambassador, Meiko Temple:

Prep Time: 5 minutes

Cook Time: 20 minutes

Serves: 8 hot dogs

Ingredients

- 1/3 cup mayonnaise
- 3 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- 1 teaspoon tain seasoning
- 1 teaspoon Cholula hot sauce (optional)
- 4 ears corn, husks removed
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted • 1/3 cup chopped cilantro
- 1/3 cup grated Cotija cheese (option: grate additional for garnish)
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/4 teaspoon chili powder, garnish
- 8 jumbo hot dogs, butterflied
- 8 hot dog buns
- Bear Mountain BBQ’s Chef’s Choice Pellets, available exclusively at Walmart

Instructions

1. In a large bowl, whisk together mayonnaise, lime juice, tain seasoning and hot sauce. Refrigerate until ready for use.
2. Preheat grill or smoker to 375 degrees F with pellets. Clean and oil cooking grates.
3. Remove husk and silk from corn cobs. Brush with melted butter.
4. Place corn on the grill over direct heat. Open flame broiler plate and rotate regularly to char all sides.
5. Transfer corn to the side of indirect heat every 5 minutes for approximately 15 minutes.
6. Remove from grill. Let cool.
7. Use a sharp knife to slice off kernels.
8. With a sharp knife, make a lengthwise cut along the top of each hot dog. Don’t cut all the way through. You want the hot dog to remain in one piece, creating a butterfly-like shape.
9. Grill hot dogs over indirect heat for 2 to 3 minutes per side.
10. To the chili lime mayo bowl, add grilled corn, Cotija cheese, cilantro and garlic. Toss to make the elote. Place hot dogs into buns cut side up. Add elote into the center cut. Garnish with additional cheese and chili powder. Enjoy!



or earlier? Look for names like Mickey Mantle, Jackie Robinson, Babe Ruth, Honus Wagner or Ty Cobb. Even non-star cards can be valuable, especially in nice condition with sharp corners and no creases.

Really early cards from the 1880s through the 1930s are particularly desirable, such as those by tobacco, gum and candy brands, such as Old Judge, Piedmont, Sweet Caporal, American Caramel, Goudey or Diamond Stars. When determining where to sell cards and memorabilia, focus on a specialty auction house, such as Love of the Game, which employs trained experts in researching sports ephemera, and maintains bidder lists of sports collectors. More information is available at loveofthegameauctions.com.

Don't Overlook Memorabilia and Equipment

Cards aren't the only potentially valuable things. Look for older promotional and advertising ephemera spotlighting sports stars, especially items that promote sporting goods, food or tobacco brands. Ads from magazines aren't valuable, but store displays, signs and premiums can be pricey.

Old sporting goods and equipment, such as balls, bats, gloves and uniforms, can also be valuable, especially if you had a family member who played minor or major

The second dish is these Smoked Apple Pork Tacos by the talented Bear Mountain ambassador Merry Graham.

Prep time: 50-60 minutes

Cook time: 15-20 minute Serves: 4-6

Ingredient

- 2 pork tenderloins
- 2 tablespoons canola oil • 15 taco shells or lettuce boats
- Queso fresco
- Scallions
- Shredded lettuce
- Bear Mountain BBQ’s Butcher’s Blend pellets, available exclusively at Walmart
- 3 tablespoons pork rub
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground clove
- 2 green apples, diced 1/4-inch
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 jalapeños, minced
- 1/4 cup minced cilantro
- 1 tablespoon agave
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup salsa verde
- 1/4 cup minced green onion
- 1/4 cup minced cilantro
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice • Salt

Instructions

1. Trim silver skin from pork and drizzle with oil.
 2. Combine rub, brown sugar, cinnamon and ground clove. Rub on all sides of pork.
 3. Set grill or smoker to 250 degrees F. Fill it with Bear Mountain pellets.
 4. Place pork on the grill or smoker for 50-60 minutes until internal temperature is 145 degrees F. Remove and let it rest. Chop, and salt to taste.
 5. Toss diced apples, lemon juice, jalapeños, cilantro and agave.
 6. Combine sour cream, salsa verde, green onion, cilantro, lemon juice and salt in a separate bowl.
 7. Fill taco shells, or lettuce boats, with lettuce and sour cream, chopped pork and apple pico. Serve and enjoy!
- Because Bear Mountain BBQ knows you’re going to need a lot of fuel for all those backyard get togethers, their pellets are available at a discount this grilling season. Bear Mountain BBQ’s 20-pound bags of Chef’s Choice, Butcher’s Blend and Chophouse Blends will all be priced at only \$9.97 in-store and online at Walmart through July 22. To learn to pair pellets with different foods, cooking styles, times and levels of heat and smoke, and to get more recipes and grilling tips, visit www.bearmountainbbq.com. Grilling season is here. Make the most of it with friends, family and delicious foods prepared and enjoyed outdoors.

league sports. Note that items from before the 1960s are highly collected. Also look for equipment endorsed by star players. Condition matters, but game-used equipment from professionals can be valuable in almost any condition.

Save Postcards and Photographs

If you have old photographs, cabinet cards or postcards of sports stars or ballparks, they should be evaluated. Those from pre-1960 can be expensive. Look for early “real photo” postcards from the 1900s through the 1940s, which are photographs printed on postcard backs.

Popular stars are key, meaning original images like Babe Ruth or early ballparks can be valuable, as opposed to images of your family members playing sports or of popular vacation destinations. When examining photographs, look for markings on the back, such as photographer, publication and date stamps. Also set aside cabinet cards, which are photographs from the 1880s through the 1930s adhered to cardboard stock.

“A good rule of thumb is that the older a sports item is, the more valuable it might be, especially from before the 1950s going back to the 1880s,” says Crisafulli.

This spring cleaning season, don’t rush to haul “junk” to the curb. Examine it first.

Newspaper Edited MINUTES TOWN OF BINGHAMTON BOARD APRIL 16th

APPROVAL OF AUDITED CLAIMS:

Resolution to approve the following claims as audited:

Lighting	Claim No. 278	\$32.75
Sewer	Claim No. 279 -281	\$106,834.28
Water	Claim No. 281 -288	\$49,193.58
Highway	Claim No. 366 - 372	\$ 48,742.04
General	Claim No. 299 -324	\$ 20,364.30
TOTAL		\$ 184,881.06

Motion carried.

VOICE OF THE PUBLIC: Open 6:02 p.m. — Closed 6:02 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

See Supervisor's Report

OFFICIALS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Planning Board / Zoning Board of Appeals- Joint meeting to be held with the Planning Board on April 23,2024 @ 6:30p.m.

Youth Commission -No Report.

Code Enforcement/Buildings and Grounds - Working on signage for people to clean up after their dogs. The ground on the fields has been saturated from all the rain. Games are being held at the park.

The motor on the furnace on the new side of the building has failed. To replace the motor, the price would be \$2600.00. Kevin Fancher from Fancher Services was here to give some details on the motor/rooftop unit installation.

There are 3 quotes to replace the furnace as follows:

1.) Fancher Services - \$16,566.00 for Installation of one Lennox, 6-ton rooftop unit \$18,242.00 v. \$18,242.00 for Installation of one Lennox 6 Ton roof top unit with economizer

2.)P&J-\$15,100.00-Replacement of RTU on office building which would include disconnection and of gas, electric, removing old unit, provide and install new 6-ton gas fired RTU includes labor, and commission for operation.

Downstate Fabricating Heating Cooling Inc: - Labor and Material to provide and install 6-ton Carrier Roof top unit, 2 stg Cooling, direct drive 208/230/3 Phase including removal of existing unit and reconnection of new unit. 1 year warranty, no sales tax included. Prevailing wage Sheet Metal Worker, Certified Payroll, in addition Crane,

minimum 4 hours and prevailing wage - \$14, 465.00. v. labor and material to fix RTU:Replace blower motor, no sales tax included, Prevailing wage Sheet Metal Worker, Certified Payroll - \$2,595.00.

There was much discussion on the motor only v. the replacement of the rooftop furnace. Code Enforcement will now procure quotes for both the rooftop furnace AND the air conditioning units from the same company, to be installed at the same time.

There are two quotes for the Electrical and rewiring and installation of the scoreboard at Jackson Park as follows:

1. AC Spear Electric Inc. — Field 1) Rework underground wiring to restore power to Pavilion, dugout receptacles. Install inground junction boxes, conduits and wiring. \$14,860 plus additional \$200.00 if electrical inspection is needed. Field 2) Rework underground wiring to restore power to Announcer booth building, dugout and batting cage outlets. Install wiring for 2 new scoreboards supplied by the Town. All remote wireless controls supplied with new scoreboards. Wiring based on 120-volt circuit to each. Mount new scoreboard to existing support pipes. If additional support is needed, there will be additional costs. Excavation, backfill and grass restoration

will be done by the Town. Quote based on prevailing wage requirements. Tax exempt project. \$14,860. If electric inspection is required, \$200.00 will be added into cost.

2. Rogers Electric — Repair underground wiring to pavilion, batting cage, and dug-out outlets. Repair wiring to new scoreboards '120-volt power only, no control wiring included. Scoreboards to come with remotes. Scoreboards to be mounted to existing supports. Quote is based on prevailing wage. All digging, backfill and sod to be installed by the Town. No tax included \$17,330.00 plus tax.

A motion was made by Councilperson Conklin to accept the bid from AC Spear Electric Inc. for a total of \$14,860 plus additional \$200.00 if needed for electrical inspection, for a total of \$15,060 to have park project begin as soon as possible. Motion Carried.

Highway - Highway Superintendent Leighton has been in discussion with Tim Steed regarding the Felters Road pump project. There has been a review of non-technical

information. Supervisor Leighton will have more discussions with Mr. Steed regarding the project.

There is no information at this time regarding the sewer lining project. Superintendent Leighton has tried to contact the State DOT via email and voice messages regarding speed reduction on Peckham Road but has not heard back from them as of yet.

TOB Volunteer Fire Co. - 6 calls: 1 Motor vehicle accident, 2 EMS, 1 Gas odor, 1 Tree down, 1 Brush fire

Supervisor - Supervisor Rounds has spoken to John Watson of the Powers Road Solar project. Groundbreaking will be sometime in July or August. Powers Road Solar has purchased solar panels from Georgia. The 4 solar project agreements previously submitted to the Town will not go into effect until the project is completed. (Road Use, Host Community,Decommissioning, Payment in Lieu of Taxes)

Forthcoming, there will be changes to the agenda. All information (quotes, bid sheets etc.) to be put on Agenda by department heads MUST be turned into the Town Clerk's office by the Friday prior to the Tuesday meeting. Resolutions will now be listed on the agenda, and the website, 24 hours prior to the upcoming meeting. Unless it is an emergency, any information to be discussed at the meetings which has not been turned in to the Clerk's office by Friday, will be postponed for two weeks till the next meeting when it can be put on the meeting agenda.

The entire board will be attending the Towns and Villages meeting at Little Venice Restaurant on Thursday, April 18, 2024.

Supervisor Rounds spoke to the County regarding the Community Center to let them know that the Town is interested in leasing it. She will also contact the school district to see if they are interested in leasing it. There are many options regarding the Center at this time.

A motion has been made by Councilperson Conklin to approve the following items to be considered surplus auction items:

Jackson Park — One large bathroom trailer, wooden bleachers and old scoreboards. Community Center — Dishes, Coffee Pot

Town Hall — one 1997 Chevy truck with plow and salter, palette of old tools from basement, PTO finish mower, small towable bathroom trailer, and a red utility trailer. Motion Carried.

Senior Commission - Next meeting to be held on April 30, 2024, at 2:00p.m. to prepare for the Meet and Greet which is which will be held here at the Town Hall on May 15, 2024 from 2:00p.m. till 4:00p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: - All employees must have their employee handbook review form signed and turned in.

NEW BUSINESS: - Highway Superintendent Leighton discussed the possible purchase of a new wheeled excavator. He has reviewed 3 different machines from various sources, regarding prices, models and productivity. He has brought photos of the excavators that he reviewed to explain the differences to the Council. Superintendent Leighton explained how productivity is halted when the current excavators have to be moved out of the roads to let cars pass. Supervisor Rounds explained that there are no funds in the capital equipment fund category for the Highway Department at this time. Funds would need to be strictly out of the fund balance. Leighton discussed the current trade in/auction values for the equipment the Town now owns. Discussion was held regarding the current machines v. new machines and why Leighton feels that a new machine would be beneficial for the Highway Department.

VOICE OF THE PUBLIC: Open -7:13p.m. Close-7:14p.m.

Kurt Osgood, 1962 Hawleyton Road — Mr. Osgood inquired about Mr. Zembeck doing a

presentation on a Park Avenue property. Supervisor Rounds informed Mr. Osgood that this will be discussed at the Planning Board meeting and that the public is welcome.

ADJOURNMENT: Adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

The next meeting of the Town of Binghamton Town Board will be a Work Session to be held on Tuesday, May 7,2024 @ 4:00 p.m., at the Town of Binghamton Town Hall, 279 Park Avenue,Binghamton, NY.

The next regular Town Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 @6:00p.m.

Tracy Tokos, Town Clerk

Vets advocates push Supreme Court to dump laws punishing homelessness

By Leo Shane III

Activists demonstrated outside the Supreme Court on April 22, just before arguments concerning financial and criminal penalties for sleeping outdoors in public places.



Veterans advocates are warning that arguments presented to the Supreme Court on Monday regarding laws criminalizing homelessness could have a troubling impact on efforts to help former troops struggling to find stable housing.

The case — Johnson v. City of Grants Pass — centers on an Oregon town where officials approved regulations fining people \$295 for sleeping outside in public areas, part of an effort to manage homeless encampments in the city's parks. Offenders can face jail time for multiple violations.

Courts have generally ruled against the city laws, arguing that individuals cannot be punished simply for being homeless, particularly if adequate support services are not available. Supreme Court justices heard arguments from plaintiffs and defendants on Monday morning and are expected to deliver a final ruling later this summer. The legal showdown comes just a few months after the Department of Housing and Urban Development announced a nationwide increase in homelessness among veterans from 2022 to 2023, the most recent data available.

Retired Army Lt. Col. Elizabeth Kubala, executive director of Syracuse University's Veterans Legal Clinic (which also signed on to the amicus brief), said for many veterans, accessing support services is a challenge even under ideal circumstances.

"We've seen firsthand the inequities rendered in the lives of homeless veterans when complex legal battles and unjust rulings prevent them from receiving critical benefits," she said, adding that the case speaks to "the importance of ensuring that criminal enforcement actions do not further complicate access to housing, medical care and benefits."

The Associated Press reported that dozens of demonstrators protested outside the court on Monday, some holding signs which read "housing not handcuffs" and "housing solves homelessness." Veterans seeking help with homelessness or related financial problems can call 877-424-3838 for help.



The Department of Veterans Affairs Homeless Programs

Programs assist veterans and their families in obtaining permanent and sustainable housing with access to high-quality health care and supportive services.

The VA strives to end homelessness among all veterans and their families by using evidence-based, innovative practices and partnerships that provide access to permanent housing and deliver other critical services. These veteran-centered, equitable and inclusive offerings empower veterans and enable their independence.

How this benefit helps

The VA Homeless Programs help veterans and their families by assisting them in:

- Obtaining permanent and sustainable housing
- Receiving access to high-quality health care
- Accessing VA supportive services

Use the VA programs to combat homelessness in veterans

If you are or know a veteran who is homeless or is at imminent risk of becoming homeless, contact the VA for assistance.

How to access this benefit

Support for veterans who are experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness is available in local VA Medical Centers, where VA staff are ready to help. Veterans and their families can also contact the National

Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 1-877-4AID-VET to be connected to VA services.

Community Resource and Referral Centers provide veterans who are homeless and at risk of homelessness with one-stop access to community-based, multiagency services to promote permanent housing, health and mental health care, career development and access to VA and non-VA benefits.

No Veteran should be without a place to call home.

VA is committed to ending homelessness among Veterans. Our focus is threefold:

- Conducting coordinated outreach to proactively seek out Veterans in need of assistance.
- Connecting homeless and at-risk Veterans with housing solutions, health care, community employment services and other required supports.
- Collaborating with federal, state and local agencies; employers; housing providers, faith-based and community nonprofits; and others to expand employment and affordable housing options for Veterans exiting homelessness.

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