

ROB'S MARKET
1030 MOUNTAIN VIEW PLAZA, HALLSTEAD, PA



The Country Courier

Your Hometown News for Over 49 Years

Vol. 49, No. 33 NEWSTAND PRICE \$1.00 Friday, March 15, 2024 SUBSCRIBE at www.TiersNews.com

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

**Brookside Science FAIR
Page 4, 5 & 8**



**Conklin Community
Easter
Extravaganza**

NEW HOST: Conklin Kiwanis!
More fun than ever!!

FREE KIDS' HAIRCUTS Ages 3-12
BY LEXI & CAT

**Saturday, March 23rd
10AM-NOON**

Door Prizes
50/50 Raffle

Easter Egg Hunt
6 Craft & Fun Stations for the Kids
along with a Playdough table for the littles,
Free Hot Dogs, Pizza, Cookies,
Cotton Candy, Funnel Cake Sticks,
Beverages, Face Painting!
Free Haircuts! Just in time for Easter!!
Free Easter Fun Bag!

Easter Egg Hunt Times:
10:15 AM Children 3 & Under
10:30 AM 4-6 year-olds
11:00 AM 7-10 year-olds
Find the Golden Eggs

Hosted by
Kiwanis Club of Conklin
with
Conklin Vol. Fire Dept. Auxiliary
Conklin Fair Committee
Christian Community Church-Conklin
Conklin Presbyterian Church
Jane's Diner
The Little Oak Cafe, Bistro & Bakery
Town of Conklin

Bring Your Camera For Pictures with the

Conklin Looks to purchase New Plow Truck



Highway Superintendent Jeff Hayes stated that the Town needs a small to mid-size truck. Mr. Dumian stated that the only quote received to install a wing plow to the currently-owned Kenworth truck was over \$37,000. Mr. Hayes stated that it "would not be a good idea" to install a wing plow on that truck because the Kenworth is not a good snowplowing truck, but is designed for construction work. Mr. Dumian suggested that the Town sell the Kenworth, which he felt could have a minimum bid of \$10,500,

and put the proceeds toward the purchase of a new small-mid-size truck. A new RAM 5500 costs \$112,006.79. Mr. Hayes stated that the Town should scrap the oldest truck, then sell Truck 43, which he estimated is worth between \$8,000 and \$10,000. He stated that then, with buying the RAM 5500, the Town would have a utility truck plus a street truck, which is a win all around. Mr. Finch asked about putting a wing plow on the one-ton Parks truck but Mr. Dumian stated that the Parks truck is too small. He stated that the new truck would not require the operator to have a CDL. Mr. Boyle stated he believes the Town should purchase the RAM 5500 AND keep the Kenworth. Mr. Hayes stated that that would mean the Highway Department had four new big trucks and the Kenworth and Truck 43. He stated that his department will get more use out of the RAM 5500, adding that "the Kenworth is not a good hill truck." He stated that the Kenworth is "worth what someone will pay for it." Mr. Finch agreed that the Town should keep the Kenworth until summer and check the value then. Mr. Farley asked, "Will the Kenworth do anything that the other big trucks don't do?" Mr. Hayes replied, "No, les actually." Mr. Dumian stated that the delivery time will be 90 to 100 days for the RAM 5500. Mr. Farley stated he thinks the Town should keep the Kenworth and purchase the RAM 5500. Mr. Francisco stated that the construction season will begin soon and the demand for such a truck will increase, so he suggested selling the Kenworth soon, to offset the cost of the RAM 5500. Mr. Hayes will list the Kenworth on Auctions International to see if there is any interest.

Work begins on the Softball & Baseball field (pictured) behind RTS Middle School.



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VETERANS
CORNER
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Announcement
Section
Obituaries

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





Calendar

Kirkwood

Town Board Meeting

Scheduled Town Board Meetings:
First Tuesday of each Month at 6:00 PM
Scheduled Town Board Work Sessions:
Last Tuesday of each Month at 6:00 PM

Work Session

March 26, 2024 6pm

KIRKWOOD TOWN COURT HOURS

Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Town of Binghamton

March 19, 2024 – **Board Meeting** 6 P.M.

April 2, 2024 – **Work Session** 4:00 P.M.

April 16, 2024 – **Town Board Meeting** 6:00 P.M.

TOB Coleman Rd.

Community Ctr. IS CLOSED.

Town of Conklin

Regular Town Board Meeting

March 26, 2024 Conklin

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

<u>Kelly F. Wildoner</u> District 3 (Town of Binghamton, Conklin & Vestal) kelly.wildoner@broome- countyny.gov	<u>Maj. Leader-Matthew J. Pasquale</u> Dist 7 matthew.pasquale@ broomecountyny.gov
<u>Stephen J. Flagg</u> District 1 (City of Binghamton, Towns of Colesville, Fenton & Kirkwood) stephen.flagg@broome- countyny.gov	<u>Min.w Leader Robert Weslar</u> (Dist 13) bob.weslar@broomecountyny.gov Health & Human Services Committee (OVER VETERANS)
<u>Scott D. Baker</u> District 2 (Towns of Kirkwood, Sanford & Windsor) scott.baker@broomecountyny.gov	<u>Jason Shaw</u> jason.shaw@broomecountyny.gov
<u>Chairman-Daniel J. Reynolds</u> (Dist 5) daniel.j.reynolds@ broomecountyny.gov	<u>Louis Augustini</u> louie. augostini@broomecountyny.gov <u>Matthew Hilderbrant</u> matt.hilderbrant@broome- countyny.gov <u>Kim Myers</u> kim.myers@ broomecountyny.gov <u>Mark Whalen</u> mark.whalen@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**

TOB YOUTH BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

REGISTRATION ENDS. 3/15/24.

Town of Binghamton Youth Baseball/Softball program for the 2024 season! Baseball/Softball Registration forms (yellow flyers) have been distributed to the schools.

A pdf version of the registration form can be found by clicking here.

Online registration form can be found at the TOB Website

NO CASH PAYMENTS.

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



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YOUR PHOTOS ARE WELCOME

Email to: editor2@TiersNews.com

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.



TOB FIRE CO. PANCAKE BREAKFAST:

Sun., 3/17/2024 – 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
 The Town of Binghamton Vol. Fire Company Station #2, located at 2120 Pierce Creek Road, will be holding an “All You Can Eat” Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, March 17, 2024, from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m.
THIS IS THE LAST ONE FOR THE SEASON.

Cost: \$10 for adults (ages 12 & up) / \$8 for children (ages 5 to 11) / Children under 5 are free.

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 YOUTH LACROSSE REGISTRATION IS UNDERWAY.**
- **Registration ends 3/29/24.**
- **It's official ... the Town of Binghamton Youth Lacrosse program is gearing up for the 2024 season! The registration form (blue flyers) has been distributed to the schools.**
- **There is an online pdf version of the Youth Lacrosse Registration Form and online registration form**
- **NO CASH PAYMENTS.**
- **Registration ends 3/29/2024.**

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

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

Conklin Cemetery Shawsville Cemetery SPRING CLEANUP

PLEASE REMOVE ALL WINTER WREATHS AND WINTER DECORATIONS FROM CEMETERY GRAVES BY APRIL 1, 2024

We Rock the Southern Tier



11 Locations to Serve You

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CRUSHED STONE: NY- #1a, #1, #2, #3, Crusher Run, Screenings, Landscape Red Rock. PA- AASHTO #8, #57, #1, #3, #2A Modified. **RIP RAP / LANDSCAPE BOULDERS:** NY- Fine, Light, Med., Heavy Stone Fill, Stackable Laid Rock. PA- R-3, R-4, R-5, R-6, R-7, R-8. **SCREENED:** Topsoil, Sand, Mound Sand, Washed Crushed Gravel

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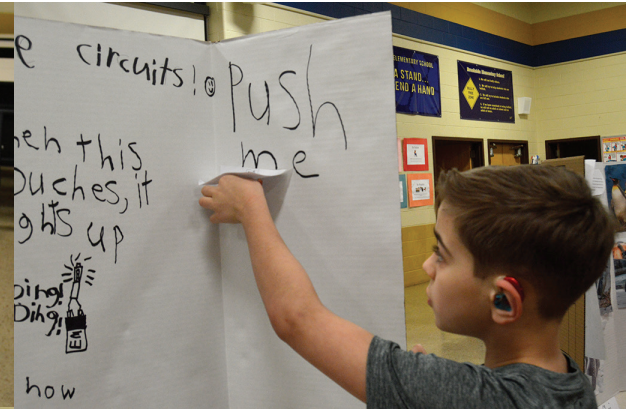
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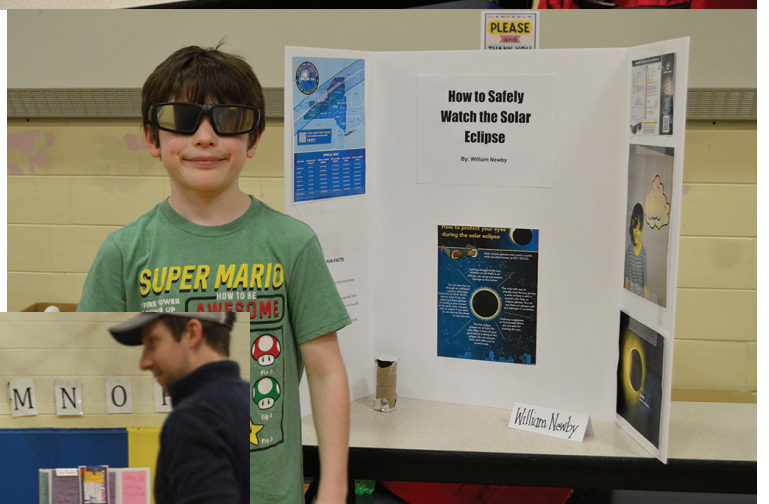
607-722-3350

Take Out & Catering Available

Brookside Science FAIR



SCIENCE IS UNDERSTANDING



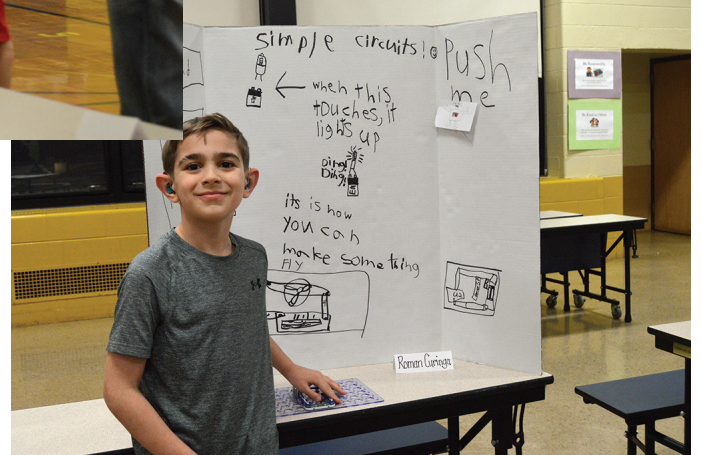
KNOWLEDGE IS POWER



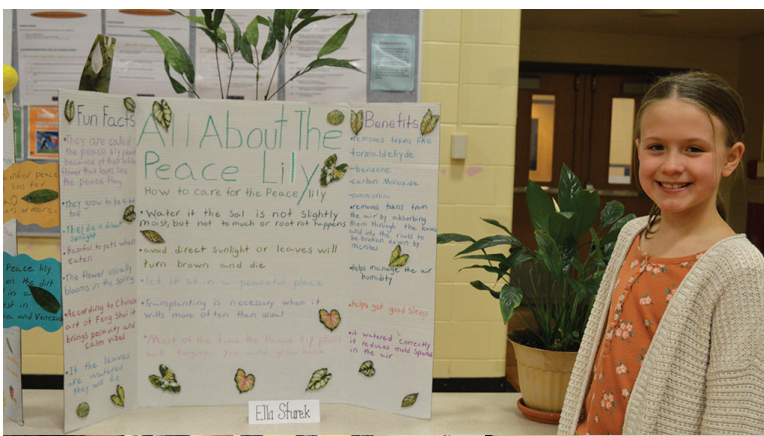
PRAISE & THANK A TEACHER



Photos by Kaitlyn Hession



The Neighborhood



Last week in Broome County each day brought a different weather pattern. The first sign of the sun coming out the golf clubs could be seen in the driveways. Lots of people pulled out their shorts. Of course, the winter coats were put back on all too soon. I actually saw a convertible pull out of the Reliable Market parking lot with the roof down.

Reenie Dedrick started celebrating her birthday a little early. Don't worry if you haven't had the chance to wish her happy birthday. She plans on celebrating for the en-



tire year. She started with the brunch at Mary Harris' house with her exercise friends seen below in photo.

CPC Exercise gals were guests at Reenie Dedrick's 90th

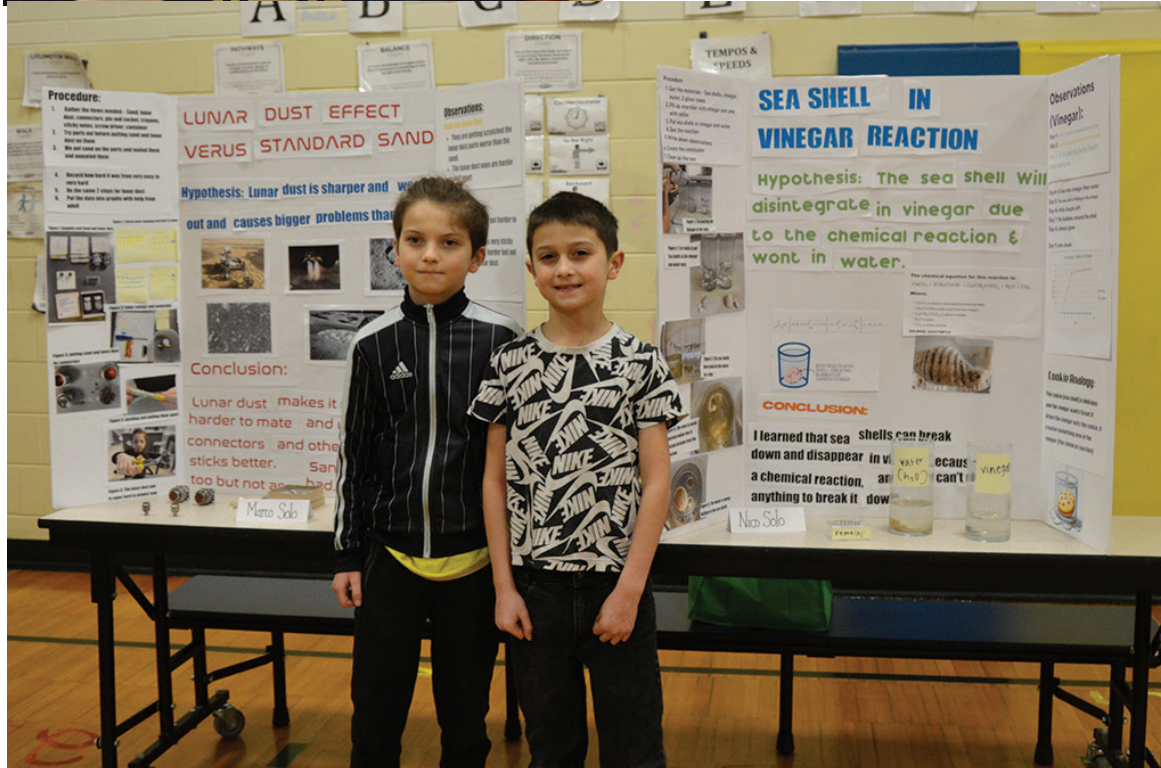
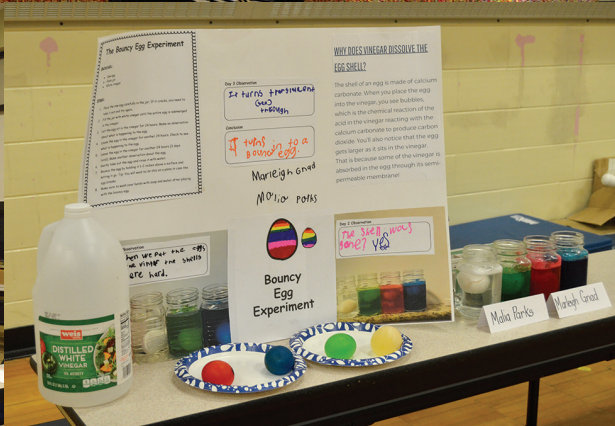
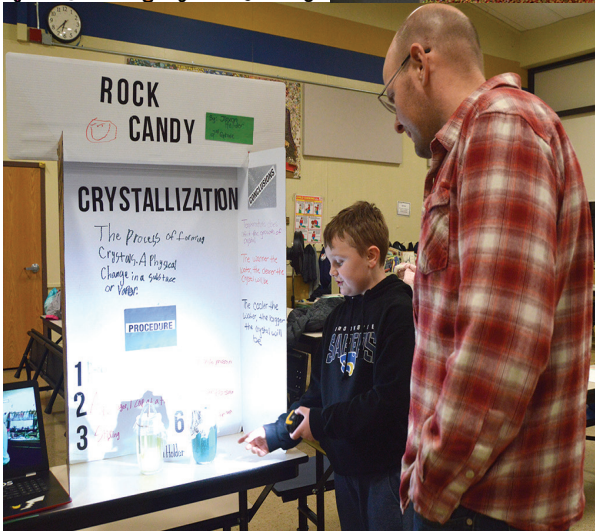


birthday brunch hosted by Mary Harris assisted by her daughter Valerie and Joan McGuigan, who leads the group. Then on Sunday, she got to enjoy a cake reception at the Conklin Presbyterian Church with the parishioners, her local family and many friends from Conklin. The cake was delicious and not a piece was left over.

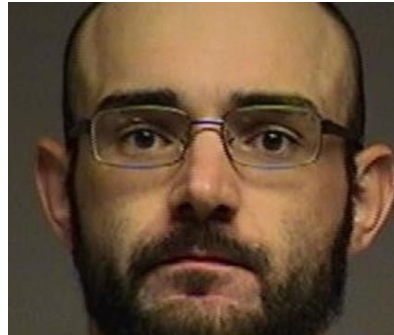
From the church, she enjoyed lunch with the Daverns (Noni & Jim), and Mary Harris at their favorite Binghamton restaurant. I'll keep you posted on all her celebrations. Turning ("90") deserves lots of fun gatherings.

Binghamton was the place to be this past weekend. It was the annual St. Patrick's Day celebration. It starts with a beautiful "Mass" at St. Mary's Assumption. The Bagpipers lead all the Hibernians, Priests from the different parishes, and the Knights of Columbus into the church. The music, sung by Stephen Nanni and St. Mary's Choir was so amazing. After church, the streets filled up with parade watch the annual parade. One might have thought attendance would be way down because of the rainy day, but the crowds were something to see. Nothing stops the hardy and faithful people from this area. After the parade, you have to take part in a Ham & Cabbage dinner. Caitlin (Cox) and Vince DiGuilio hosted the delicious meal. We were also treated to a parade with all the Cox and DiGuilio children. Grandpa Tom Cox was the leader of the parade with his bagpipes. A perfect way to end a great day. Happy St. Patrick's Day to everyone.

Birthday wishes go out to Mary Striss, Kari Hogan, Christopher Isle, Mary Harris, and Bea Snopek (who celebrated on the same day), and last but not least, Claire Jones. Claire celebrated her 9th birthday. I'm sure everyone had or will have a great day as they celebrate. Guess that is it for this week. Call with your news. Mic (607) 775-1894.



Colesville Man Sentenced to 12 Years to Life for Assaulting a New York State Trooper



Broome County District Attorney F. Paul Battisti announced that Dylan M. Shoemaker, of Colesville, was sentenced to 12 years to life for Assault in the Second Degree today in

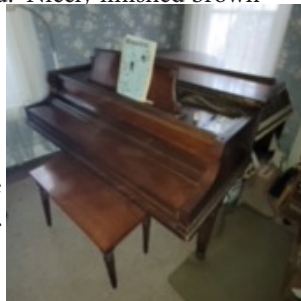
Broome County Court. On February 6, 2023, New York State Troopers responded to Shoemaker's residence in the Village of Nineveh to investigate a domestic incident. Shoemaker punched a Trooper while being placed into custody, resulting in injury of that Trooper. "Acts of violence against the men and women of law enforcement will not be tolerated. Our community relies on the dedication and bravery of law enforcement officers, and we are committed to ensuring their safety," said District Attorney Battisti. This case was investigated by the New York State Police. Deputy District Attorney Lucas Finley prosecuted the case for the District Attorney's Office.

Free Piano. You move.

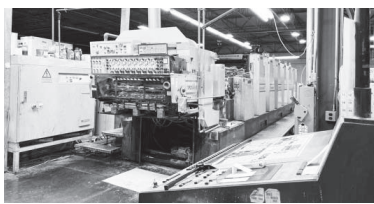
Baby Grand, Weser Bros., NYC and Rochester, NY. Approximately 70 years old. Nicely finished brown wood.

OK for anyone for practice; for fun. Not for hard use.

Phone: Betty B. 607-768-0265. Can leave a message with your phone or e-mail. Or my e-: bettylarue24@gmail.com



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Volunteer to help on Kirkwood Clean-Up Day

Come out and join the Kirkwood Beautification Committee as we host our 4th Annual Kirkwood Clean-up Day on SATURDAY, APRIL 20th. Now that the snow has melted, we all have noticed the trash and garbage along side the roads in our neighborhoods and community. We are asking the entire community to get involved and help clean up

Kirkwood. The Town of Kirkwood will supply the garbage bags and a dumpster, located at the Town Garage, can be used for disposal of the garbage picked up during the clean-up day. You can choose the street or streets you would like to clean. Gather the entire family for a community service project to help the community we live in. Garbage bags can be picked up on Friday, April 19th from 9am-3pm at the Town Garage or on Saturday, April 20th from 9:30am-10am at the Town Hall.

The mission of the Kirkwood Beautification Committee is to enhance the beauty of Kirkwood by employing the creative talent and energy of its citizens to identify and implement innovative means to improve our landscape, community plan and structures.

We are committed to enhancing Kirkwood's aesthetics, community attraction and to strengthening Kirkwood's reputation as a productive, caring and friendly community.

If you are interested in joining the Kirkwood Beautification Committee, please contact Pat Griffin, Committee Chairperson, at 607-775-8376.

SPRING TIME LAND CLEARING

Land clearing, the process of removing trees, shrubs, and other vegetation from an area of land, can offer several benefits depending on the context and purpose of the clearing. Some Benefits are:

Urban Development: Clearing land can make way for the construction of residential, commercial, or industrial buildings, as well as infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and utilities.

Wildfire Prevention: Strategic land clearing, such as creating firebreaks or removing excess vegetation in fire-prone areas, can help mitigate the risk of wildfires and protect communities and ecosystems.

Ecological Restoration: Clearing land can be part of ecological restoration efforts aimed at restoring degraded habitats, enhancing biodiversity, and promoting the regeneration of native vegetation.

Flood Control and Water Management: Clearing land in flood-prone areas can help improve water flow, reduce the risk of flooding, and enhance water management systems, benefiting both human communities and ecosystems.

Land Reclamation: Clearing land in degraded or aban-



TRASH BAGS CAN BE PICKED UP FRIDAY, APRIL 19 FROM 9-3 PM AT THE TOWN GARAGE AND SATURDAY, APRIL 20 FROM 9:30 -10 AM AT THE TOWN HALL. A DUMPSTER WILL BE PROVIDED AT TOWN GARAGE TO DISPOSE OF GARBAGE

done areas can enable land reclamation projects aimed at revitalizing the landscape, reclaiming unusable land for productive purposes, or creating recreational spaces. **Improved Access and Visibility:** Clearing land can improve access to natural resources, recreational areas, and scenic viewpoints, enhancing opportunities for outdoor activities and tourism.

Pest and Disease Management: Removing diseased or invasive vegetation through land clearing can help control the spread of pests and diseases, protecting both natural ecosystems and agricultural crops.

Carbon Sequestration and Climate Mitigation: In some cases, land clearing followed by reforestation or afforestation efforts can contribute to carbon sequestration and climate mitigation by increasing the capacity of forests to absorb and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. While land clearing can offer these benefits, it's essential to conduct thorough environmental assessments, consider potential impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and implement sustainable land management practices to minimize negative consequences and maximize the long-term benefits of land use changes. Additionally, local regulations and permits may be required for land clearing activities, particularly in ecologically sensitive areas.

Local Land Clearing by Robbins Sign Co., Inc allows you to reclaim your Pastures and Farmlands. Create Paths, Establish Right-of-Ways, Clear Homesites, Trails and Access Roads. Selectively Clear Lots and Land. Contact us today! Reclaim Pastures and Farmlands, Create Paths • Establish Right-of-Ways Clear Homesites, Trails & Access Roads Selectively Clear Lots and Land

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TOWN OF KIRKWOOD TOWN BOARD MEETING March 5, 2024

NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS EDITED SUMMARY

Tom French of Foley Road thanked John Finch for the road work his department has been doing in the area. As in a previous meeting, Tom French spoke to the Board again regarding a discrepancy on how the zoning of his property was reported to the court from the Town's code office and used as evidence against him. Mr. French questioned who in the Town has the authority to change the zoning records that go to the County. Supervisor Grubham reiterated that no one in the Town has changed any zoning at the County level. After a discussion on maps and zoning, Supervisor Grubham offered for Mr. French to meet and go over this again anytime this week. Mr. French explained he will be going in a different direction to get this resolved. Tom French also asked about a small piece of property that connects to his and inquired if he could buy it. John Finch explained the State owns it and holds the right of way on it, but the Town maintains the pipe that runs through that property. The Town will be fixing the pipe this Thursday or Friday, depending on the weather.

COMMUNICATIONS: None. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Skid Steer. John Finch reported the old skid steer was sold for \$17,800 on the auction site, which was more than expected.

OLD BUSINESS: Councilmember Diffendorf moved to adopt resolution amending Article XVI, Building Code and Miscellaneous Fee Schedules of the Town of Kirkwood Zoning Local Law, in accordance with the attached fee schedules. Editorial Note—"None were attached to the minutes for review." MOTION CARRIED. Councilmember Wasson moved to adopt resolution amending the Reimbursement Policy for Work Clothing for Department of Public Works Employees, in accordance with the attached policy. Editorial Note—"Policy was not attached to the minutes for review." MOTION CARRIED. Councilmember Legg moved to adopt resolution amending the Rules and Regulations Governing Attendance and Benefits for Town of Kirkwood Employees regarding Reimbursement Policy for Work Clothing for Department of Public Works Employees, in accordance with the attached Rules and Regulations. Editorial Note—"Rules & Regulations were not attached to the minutes for review." MOTION CARRIED. Councilmember Weingartner moved to adopt resolution to expend \$4,562 from the Personal Computer Reserve Fund of the Town of Kirkwood for the purchase of computer equipment from Blue Storm Technologies, in accordance with the attached quote. Editorial Note—"Quote was not attached to the minutes for review." MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Diffendorf moved to adopt resolution authorizing the Supervisor to sign the Municipal Cleanup Day Tip Fee Approval Letter regarding the April 22, 2024 and April 23, 2024 Municipal Cleanup Days with delivery to the Broome County Landfill on April 25, 2024. MOTION CARRIED. Councilmember Wasson moved to adopt resolution declaring a 2009 Ford F150 pickup, a 2014 20' deck-over trailer, and a 2017 21' Tilt Bed trailer as surplus property and authorizing their sale on Auctions International. MOTION CARRIED. Councilmember Legg moved to adopt resolution authorizing the purchase of a 2024 Felling FT-14 IT-I Drop Deck Trailer from Tracey Road Equipment, at a cost not to exceed \$15,252, in accordance with the attached quote. Editorial Note—"Quote was not attached to the minutes for review." Roll Call Vote: Weingartner - abstain Councilmember Weingartner noted the reason he abstained from the vote was due to the fact that he is employed by Tracey Road Equipment, he is a parts delivery driver and has no influence over the sale of the trailer in any way. MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion – Advertise for a part-time position in the Parks Department. John Finch reported that Tim Finch will be out of work for an extended period of time and has requested to hire a part-time person to fill in during his absence and would like to start advertising right away. Supervisor Grubham explained the importance of this because Susquehanna Valley will be using the baseball field this year for many of their programs while their field is under construction. After a brief discussion, it was decided to offer the position at \$16 per hour. Discussion – Purchase a sewer jetter for the sewer department. There is a sewer jetter on the auction site that John Finch would like to be approved to purchase, it is 22 years old with 500 hours on it. It is a tow behind trailer and will be used for sewer plugs anywhere in the Town. The original plan was to use money from the Capital Reserve Fund but with limited time to purchase it from the auction site, it was decided the money would come out of the Fund Balance, with \$7,500 being the maximum amount spent.

Discussion – Park benches. The park benches in the Town parks have been deteriorating over the years and need to be replaced. John Finch inquired about purchasing concrete block sets to build new park benches in each park and also have extra sets on hand when more benches are needed. Steps Plus Inc. in Syracuse is currently selling these blocks for \$210 per set, by the end of March the price will increase to \$325 per set. Most of the current benches have been purchased by residents or family members in memory of loved ones, and they will all have the opportunity to replace their bench. The materials purchased to build the new benches will be high quality and they will last much longer, the price to replace these benches will be \$300. The money to purchase the concrete blocks would come from general fund, parks or parks equipment, but it would be replaced as residents or family members purchased their new benches. Some of the benches may need to be priced a little differently, depending on how long the original purchased bench lasted. If a bench deteriorated after only two years then the Town needs to make that right in some way, this will need to be discussed and determined at a later date. Also noted, Marc Latini does the engraving for free when there is a plaque associated with the bench. The old benches will be scrapped. It was agreed that more benches were needed in all the parks. Councilmember Legg suggested bringing more awareness to the fact that benches can be sponsored. After the discussion, it was agreed that 25 sets of concrete blocks will be purchased for \$5,250 before the increase at the end of March.

Councilmember Diffendorf moved to adopt resolution authorizing the Commissioner of Public Works to advertise for the hiring of a PT position in the Parks department at a rate of \$16 per hour. MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Diffendorf moved to adopt resolution authorizing the Commissioner of Public Works to purchase a Sewer Jetter from Auction's International in an amount not to exceed \$7,500 including the buyer's premium. MOTION CARRIED. Councilmember Legg moved to adopt resolution to purchase 25 sets of concrete blocks from Steps Plus Inc. in the amount of \$5,250.

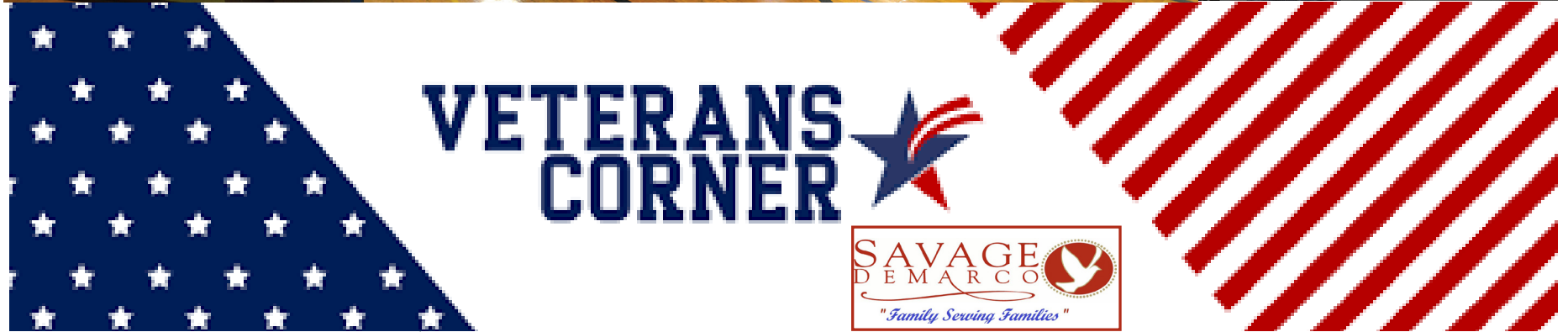
AUDIT AND PAYMENT OF CLAIMS: Councilmember Weingartner moved to adopt resolution authorizing the audit and payment of the following claims: General and Highway Funds, Special Districts (Fire, Light, Water and Sewer Districts), Professional Services, Capital Projects and Reserve Funds claims #24000181 through #24000282 in the total amount of \$698,388.87 which includes prepaid claims as authorized by resolution adopted January 2, 2024. MOTION CARRIED.

MEETING ADJOURNED



Binghamton Vet Center / 53 Chenango St, Binghamton, NY 13901
(607) 722-2393

Brookside Science FAIR



Pentagon SENDS Desperate Ukraine \$300 million in weapons

The Pentagon is sending \$300 million in weapons to Ukraine after finding some cost savings in its contracts, even though the military remains deeply overdrawn and needs at least \$10 billion to replenish all the weapons it has pulled from its stocks to help Kyiv in its desperate fight against Russia, White House announced Tuesday. It's the Pentagon's first announced security package for Ukraine since December, when it acknowledged it was out of replenishment funds. Officials publicly acknowledged they weren't just out of money to buy replacement weapons, they are \$10 billion overdrawn. Ukraine is running dangerously low on munitions and efforts to get fresh funds for weapons have stalled in the House because of Republican opposition. U.S. officials have insisted for months that the United States wouldn't be able to resume weapons deliveries until Congress provided the additional replenishment funds, which are part of the stalled supplemental spending bill. The replenishment funds have allowed the Pentagon to pull existing munitions, air defense systems and other weapons from its reserve inventories under presidential drawdown authority, or PDA, to send to Ukraine and then sign contracts to order replacements, which are needed to maintain U.S. military readiness. "When Russian troops advance and its guns fire, Ukraine does not have enough ammunition to fire back," said national security adviser Jake Sullivan.

The Pentagon and Senior defense officials who briefed reporters said the Pentagon was able to get cost savings in some of those longer-term contracts of roughly \$300 million and, given the battlefield situation, decided to use those savings to send more weapons. The officials said the cost savings basically offset the new package and keep the replenishment spending underwater at \$10 billion. One of the officials said the package represented a "one time shot" — unless Congress passes the supplemental spending bill, which includes roughly \$60 billion in military aid for Ukraine, or more cost savings are found. It is expected to include anti-aircraft missiles, artillery rounds and armor systems, the official said. "This is not a sustainable way to support Ukraine," said Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder. The aid announcement came as Polish leaders were in Washington to press the U.S. to break its impasse over funds for Ukraine at a critical moment in the war. House Speaker Mike Johnson has so far refused to bring the \$95 billion package, which includes aid for Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan, to the floor. Seeking to put pressure on the Republican speaker, House Democrats have launched a long-shot effort to force a vote through a discharge petition. The seldom-successful procedure would require support from a majority of lawmakers, to move the aid package to a vote. Ukraine's situation has become more dire, with units on the front line rationing munitions as they face a vastly better supplied Russian force.

**SOUTHERN TIER
WOMEN'S
VETERAN
GROUP**

**Clear Path
FOR VETERANS
Southern Tier**

*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