

FREE

The Villager

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Area Events

BASILICA OF ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS FREE TOUR
Throughout December
• Olean, NY

SANTA EXPRESS TRAIN RIDES
Throughout December
NYLE Train • Gowanda, NY

CHRISTMAS CENTERPIECE WORKSHOP W/ SWAN STREET FLORIST
Thursday, December 19
EBC, Ellicottville, NY

CHRISTMAS COOKIE WORKSHOP W/ CUPCAKED BAKERY
Friday, December 20 • EBC, Ellicottville, NY

SANTA AT CHAUTAUQUA MALL
Saturday, December 21
Lakewood, NY

SANTA AT CHAUTAUQUA MALL
Sunday, December 22
Lakewood, NY

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE LIVE RADIO PLAY
December 20-22
Jackson Ctr. Jamestown, NY

FESTIVUS PARTY AT BRAZIL
Monday, December 23
6:00-8:pm in Jamestown, NY

MAKE YOUR OWN PET DISHES
Friday, December 27 • 2:30pm
Jamestown NY

CHRISTMAS WITH THE CRITTERS AT AUDUBON
Friday, December 27 • 10am
Frewsburg NY

NEW GEAR'S EVE BIKE RIDE
Tuesday, December 31 • 6pm
A.S.P. Salamanca, NY

NEW YEARS CELEBRATION & TORCH LIGHT PARADE
December 31 - January 1
Ellicottville, NY

SNOWSHOE HIKES AT ASP
Saturday, January 8
4:30pm @ Allegany State Park

"A REAL PAIN"
Wednesday, January 8
Reg Lenna, Jamestown, NY

WINTER BLUES WEEKEND
Friday, January 17-19 • All day
Ellicottville, NY

To advertise your events
• log on to
www.thevillager.com & click
"General Submissions" tab
• call (716) 699-2058
• or email
info@thevillager.com

Merriment of Shopping Local

Creative Gifting is an Enjoyable Time



There are several locally owned stores in our boutique villages such as The Shabby Shrub located at 32 Chautauqua Avenue in Lakewood, NY or Daff Dry Goods on Washington Street in Ellicottville, NY that are the perfect places to find unique gifts all while enjoying your day doing so. Come take a tour with us!

BY CAROL FISHER-LINN

Since much of that sounds like bad news, here is the good news. Shopping local is the most fun you can have while buying Christmas surprises for loved ones and friends. Let's begin with Ellicottville ... a locale that will give any Hallmark Christmas

SEE "SHOP LOCAL" Pg. 6

Chautauqua Woods, Dunkirk NY

A Legacy of Craftsmanship and Innovation



Chautauqua Woods has completed work locally and around the United States, most commonly along the East Coast. They've replaced over 200 historical doors at Princeton University, as well as numerous Landmark projects for the New York Public Library. Locally, Chautauqua Woods recently completed doors for the historic White Inn in Fredonia. (Pictured custom doors by Chautauqua Doors at Goyard flagship store in NYC.)

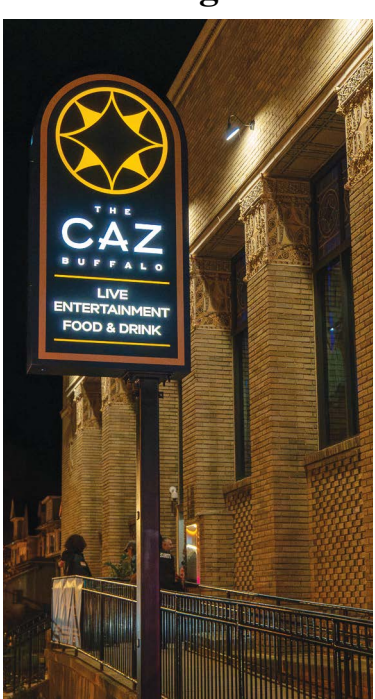
BY KATE BARTLETT

States. Based in Dunkirk, their manufacturing plant houses the entire hand-crafted process, ensuring exceptional quality and attention to detail. Their doors can be found in many

SEE "CHQ. WOODS" Pg. 7

Rediscovering Buffalo: The Caz

Redefining the Live Entertainment Scene



BY KATE BARTLETT

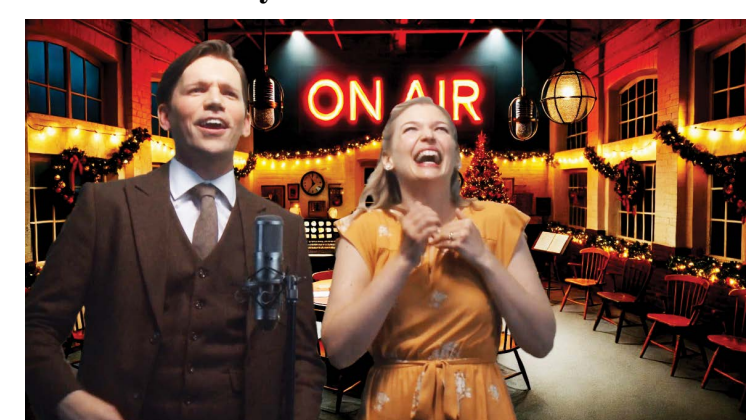
Located in the heart of South Buffalo, The Caz is quickly becoming the region's premier destination for live entertainment. Complete with delicious food from a full-service kitchen, themed cocktail and a selection of local craft beers and spirits, The Caz delivers an unparalleled live show experience. The mezzanine seating offers stunning views of the stage, setting the scene for a full schedule of performances featuring local favorites and internationally recognized talent.

Built in 1921, The Liberty Seneca building originally

SEE "THE CAZ" Pg. 6

It's a Wonderful Life

A Live Radio Play at Jackson Center in Jamestown



BY DARLENE BRACE

on December 20th-22nd at the Cappa Theatre in the Robert H. Jackson Center, located at 305 East Fourth Street in Jamestown. You can immerse yourself in this timeless story, told in the unique style of

SEE "LIVE RADIO" Pg. 7

Sneak Peek

Inside this Edition...

Railrider Jamboree at Holiday Valley

2025 Date Set for Saturday, May 31 ... Pg. 5

Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce ... pg 3

Announces New Executive Director, Barb Pump

Small Works Show

Tri-County Arts Council Presents

OLEAN- Every artist and crafter begins with a dream—to create something beautiful and meaningful. Each piece is made with love, hoping to find someone who treasures it just as much as they do. Every purchase you make helps bring that dream to life. Not only are you supporting local artists and crafters, but you're also supporting the Tri-County Arts Council and its mission to nurture creativity and culture in our community. Shop small, make a difference, and be part of something bigger.

The Tri-County Arts Council advocates for the creation and appreciation of arts and culture in the region. The TCAC presents 2024 "A Little Something..." Small Works Members Show from now to January 11, 2025! The show will feature over 80 artists and 140 pieces! Don't miss your chance to see the biggest little art show in the region! For more information about purchasing and shipping found at www.tricountyartscouncil.org/product-category/2024-small-works-show/

Call for Volunteers: EVL Food Pantry

United Church of EVL Served Over 20 Years

As much as \$55,000 in food is passed out at the church annually, and the four to six volunteers who man the food pantry do so with heart and soul, and without complaint.

BY JEFF MARTIN, THE VILLAGER

You don't have to tell Pastor Ralph Mueller about how much food is wasted throughout the United States in any given year. And you don't have to tell him about the importance of volunteerism, either.

Both issues are incentive enough at the United Church of Ellicottville, where for over 20 years volunteers have worked hard to help those who need the most help. As much as \$55,000 in food is passed out at the church annually, and the four to six volunteers who man the food pantry do so with heart and soul, and without complaint.

SEE "FOOD PANTRY" PAGE 11

Publisher's Word

"Christmas Time is Here and We have a Few Gifts for You!..."



interesting read for you. On these pages you will find some fun holiday writings and musings. You will learn about activities to explore and new businesses that are continuing to grow. The ski areas are open and the snow has arrived to deliver to you the white Christmas you have asked for. Whether you are inside or out, we hope you are warm, safe and happy!

If you know an artisan, business or event that would be a great feature, drop us a line, we'd love to share it with our readers; it's simple log on to www.thevillager.com and click on the "General Submissions" tab, or call our offices (716) 699-2058, or shoot me an email at info@thevillager.com.

Until next week, enjoy the read and your family – Jeanine Caprino Zimmer P.S. We once again have a very special gift for you that will be on the stands next week. Keep an eye out for The Villager's 2025 Ellicottville Phone Directory, located at all the distribution points you find your paper in Cattaraugus County.

Thank you for sharing some of your holiday with us. We have prepared an

Happy Birthday

Gary Kin... December 20th • Phil Zimmer... December 21st
 Anna DiMarco... December 21st • Brooke Scharf... December 25th
 Carmen Vacchiaro... December 26th • Jeanette Caprino ... December 27th
 •Linda Opferbeck-Huffman... December 29th
 Noelle Swanson... January 1st • Roslyn Johe... January 3rd
 Vivian Swan... January 5th • Joe Clark... January 5th

Email us your birthday greetings: info@thevillager.com

ERA Team VP Exceeds Campaign Goal

Spreading Holiday Cheer to Local Children through Toys for Tots

CHAUTAUQUA, NY - ERA Team VP Real Estate & Vacation Rentals proudly celebrates the success of their 2024 Toys for Tots Campaign, a heartwarming initiative aimed at brightening the holidays for children in need. With the help from our amazing agents and staff members, the campaign collected an impressive response from the community, ensuring joy for many local children this holiday season.



In conjunction with #GivingTuesday on December 3rd, ERA Team VP teamed up with Toys for Tots, a national non-profit organization, as part of a nationwide effort by the ERA® brand. This collaboration, holiday gifts were collected and distributed to children in the local community, reflecting a shared commitment to bringing smiles and hope to families during the holiday season.

of holiday goodwill for 76 years, distributing millions of toys annually to children across all 50 states. By aligning with this longstanding tradition, ERA Team VP contributed to the legacy of making a meaningful difference in the lives of children.

Bill Soffel, Broker/CEO, shared his gratitude, saying, "The effort our team of agents and staff put into our Toys for Tots campaign this year was truly remarkable. The campaign's success is a shining example of their generosity, and their commitment to making a difference for the children of our local communities. I couldn't be prouder of our team".

ERA Team VP's efforts were bolstered by participation from our ERA offices in locations such as Jamestown, Chautauqua, Ellicottville, Arcade, Olean, Fredonia, Wellsville, and Warren, the initiative demonstrated a deep commitment to community involvement.

This season, ERA Team VP Real Estate & Vacation Rentals continues its dedication to supporting the community and promoting a spirit of generosity, reflecting its core values and commitment to making a positive impact.

St. Bona's Raises for United Way

Holiday Shirt Sales Raise \$707 for Nonprofit

ST. BONAVENTURE, N.Y., Dec. 17, 2024 — The St. Bonaventure University community spread some holiday cheer to the United Way of Cattaraugus & Allegany Counties with a donation from the sale of seasonal shirts.

T-shirts and sweatshirts with the Bona Wolf mascot sporting a Santa hat were available for purchase in November with proceeds to benefit the United Way. Just over \$707 was raised through the sale of 333 shirts.

The shirt initiative was coordinated by employees planning this year's university employee holiday party, which annually supports a local nonprofit.

On Friday, Dec. 13, Susan McAuley, executive director of the United Way, joined in the celebration to receive a ceremonial giant check and thank the university for its support.

"We are incredibly grateful for St. Bonaventure University's ongoing commitment to making a difference in our



T-shirts and sweatshirts with the Bona Wolf mascot sporting a Santa hat were available for purchase in November with proceeds to benefit the United Way. Just over \$707 was raised through the sale of 333 shirts.

community," McAuley said. "The sale of these festive Bona Wolf shirts is a wonderful example of how the university brings people together to support vital programs that help our neighbors thrive. We deeply appreciate the generosity of the university's employees, retirees, and planning committee for choosing to make a positive impact through the United Way of Cattaraugus & Allegany Counties. We share our warmest thanks with everyone who made a purchase – Go, Bona's!"

B1579607 | 3 Creekside Village at HoliMont | 3 BR/2.5 BA | 1695 Sq Ft | \$569,000

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6174 FAIRVIEW LANE
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124 WILDFLOWER
 \$275,000 | MLS #B1580418

6010 ROUTE 242 E. LOTS 1, 2, 5, 6, 7
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Be a Part of the Art!

New Executive Director Barb Pump

Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce Announces Position Begins Jan. 1

By KATE BARTLETT



Barb Pump standing with long time Ellicottville Chamber Executive Director, Brian McFadden.

The Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce recently announced their new Executive Director to be Barb Pump. Starting January 1, long-time employee and current Executive Assistant Barb will take on this new position, upon the departure of Brian McFadden on January 31st, 2025.

Barb has been a key employee with the Ellicottville Chamber for 8 years, most recently as Executive Assistant to Brian. She comes with a strong foundation in project management, public relations, operations management, and has experience coordinating several events with the chamber. Barb's strong relationships in the community will also be an asset moving forward in this role.

Throughout her past 8 years with the Chamber, Barb has gained valuable skills that will help her serve in this role. "I'm so thankful to have learned so much from Brian," says Barb. "I wouldn't be where I am today, knowing what I know, without him. I have very big shoes to attempt to fill, but Brian has helped me prepare for this."

Barb is invested in Ellicottville. Her service with the Chamber has built strong relationships in the community and helped her deepen her appreciation for this great community. "I'm looking forward to continuing to attract visitors to Ellicottville year-round, while maintaining that small town charm. Ellicottville is such a great destination for tourists near and far, as a four-seasons resort town; but I'm also focused on helping keep it a tight-knit community."

Growing up in Arcade,

Barb still lives in that area with her husband, Erik and son, Grayde, who is 11 years old. "Ellicottville is like home to us. We love celebrating the seasons here and look forward to the community events. It's tradition for us."

Barb is thankful for the continued support and guidance from the Chamber Board as she moves into this role. Brian will stay on through January 31 in order to ease the transition. She's thankful for all she's learned from Brian. "He has played a major role in shaping Ellicottville into what it is today over his 28 years with the Chamber. I, along with everyone else at the Chamber and the community, am incredibly grateful for all he has done."

Looking towards the future, Barb is excited for this next chapter. She plans to continue the year-round events, and possibly add a few more in due time. "We have so many wonderful events throughout the seasons. Not only do they attract visitors to the area, but they also help bring our local businesses together. It's a win-win."

Barb speaks to the diversity of the small businesses in the area. "Ellicottville is a tight-knit community with a wide array of local businesses. They celebrate the diversity, rather than compete with one-another. We love to welcome new

businesses and help them succeed; it's a win for the whole community."

According to Barb, it's the people who make Ellicottville what it is. "It's hard to describe the feeling of Ellicottville. We have the beauty of the great outdoors on the slopes throughout the seasons. Our main streets shine with local shops and culinary diverse restaurants. It's a retreat from the everyday hustle and bustle, but it's the people that make Ellicottville feel like home. It truly is a special place, and I'm so honored to help serve in this role."

For more information visit ellicottvillenyc.com or barb@ellicottvillenyc.com



Growing up in Arcade, Barb still lives in that area with her husband, Erik and son, Grayde, who is 11 years old. "Ellicottville is like home to us. We love celebrating the seasons here and look forward to the community events. It's tradition for us."

"Shop with a Cop"

Bob McCarthy Foundation Supports a Fun Learning Experience



By ANNE NORTHRUP

Sponsored by The Bob McCarthy Foundation this past Tuesday, December 10th our own Police Officer and School Safety Agent, Amber Graham took children from the Ellicottville Central School's Special Education Department to Walmart to "Shop with a Cop."

This Annual Event spearheaded and organized by the Ellicottville Police Department is a wonderful way that the department gives back to our community.

The Children spent time leading up to this event planning their trip! They made lists of items they needed and exchanged lists with their classmates. They spent time learning to budget the monies they would have to spend so they could fill their Christmas lists efficiently.

After buying gifts for their classmates, they also bought wrapping paper, tape, and ribbons and learned how to wrap the presents for Christmas. They also had enough money to buy items for fun projects to do in their classrooms in the weeks ahead.

The day was filled with smiles and fun for kids. After their big shopping spree, they were treated to Pizza at Tim and Bonnie's Restaurant.

Officer Graham told me that this was an incredibly fun and rewarding event to watch the children learn so many skills involved in gift buying for others during this special time of year. They also were able to interact with Officer Graham and learn that their school safety agent was there to help them, and they should feel comfortable around the police as someone they can trust if they need help.

From the photos of the event, you can certainly see

the joy on their faces. Thank you to Officer Graham, the teacher aides, and the Bob McCarthy Foundation for their support to make this event a possibility.

It is through the generosity of our community that supports the BMF that the Board of the BMF can budget for and endorse events like this. For more information on the foundation, our history and our vision please visit www.bobmccarthyfoundation.com or visit our facebook page. We just wrapped up our annual fundraiser the Bob McCarthy Foundation Irish Christmas on December 6th where we were able to raise money so we can support events like this. Bob would love this as he was a Special Education teacher in the Buffalo School District before retiring to Ellicottville.

Please consider donation to us and send to PO Box 301, Ellicottville, NY 14731.

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HoliMont's Report on the Resort

The Season's Surprise Gift – Opening Day!



Instructors welcoming the new season. Kids welcoming the new season.

PHOTO & ARTICLE
By DAN BALKIN

For skiers and riders, there is an ever shifting and unpredictable early Christmas gift: Opening day at the mountain. As ski season ends in April, no one could regularly predict the precise day HoliMont's slopes would reopen the following December. In the intervening summer months, there are birdies on golf courses, mountain or road bike adventures, family hikes, cook outs, camping trips, splashes in pools, beautiful sunsets, all manner of watersports, glorious rides in convertibles or on motorcycles, and, thanks

to our farmers, delicious corn to nibble on. But when the first snowflakes fly, skiers and riders bid summer a fond farewell. The employees at our ski mountain have collectively put in thousands of hours of summer work to prepare for what superficially appears to be seamless opening day. Let us remember that the office staff processed piles of paperwork for us over the summer and fall, and that new, often unseen infrastructure such as snowmaking and drainage piping was installed. The lifts consistently whirl because skilled mechanics and other employees performed many hours of maintenance over the

summer, and as soon as it got frosty, snowmaking and grooming crews spread over various shifts were blanketing the hill with snow and grooming it to perfection. On opening day, the lift attendants, patrollers, instructors, coaches and safety patrol are present on the hill. Many other employees are busy in offices, behind counters, the rental shop, maintenance, snowplowing or food service. We can be grateful for many blessings during the Christmas season, but the true gift at any ski area are the employees that not only give us opening day, but a blessed ski season. In a word: Thanks!



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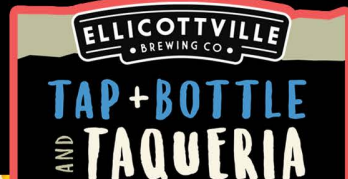


Opening chair at 8am.



I like to play in the snow so I make a lot of it.

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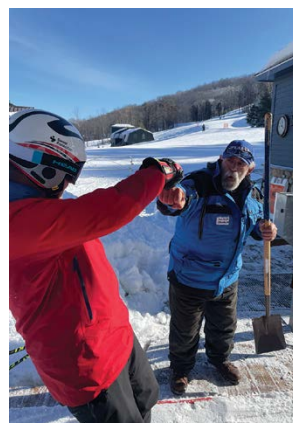
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LITTLE
VALLEY



Patrollers are our guardian angels. Family sunshine & snow. First fist bump of the season.



Where the skiers get their tickets. They knew the Bills would win. Ski chalet opening day.



Everyone loves opening day. Stayed as long as I could, heading home at 4:30.



Submit your favorite moments on the mountain and we will share them with you. Simply email them to info@thevillagerny.com, or go online to www.thevillagerny.com and click the "General Submissions" Tab. We look forward to seeing you!

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Railrider Jamboree 2025 at HV

Annual Event Scheduled for May 31



We are very excited to announce our new date, May 31st, 2025 at Holiday Valley! The jamboree will take place in the same location at the Base Camp Lot and be filled with vendors, food, brewskis, music and more! We are curating a weekend full of outdoor activities, celebrating the mountain lifestyle. Shake off the snow and kick off the summer fun with us and our new date... Line up and detail announce in February! For updated info keep checking in with railriderjam.com.

LET ONE OF OUR AGENTS FIND THE RIGHT HOME FOR YOU!



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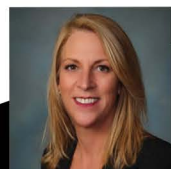
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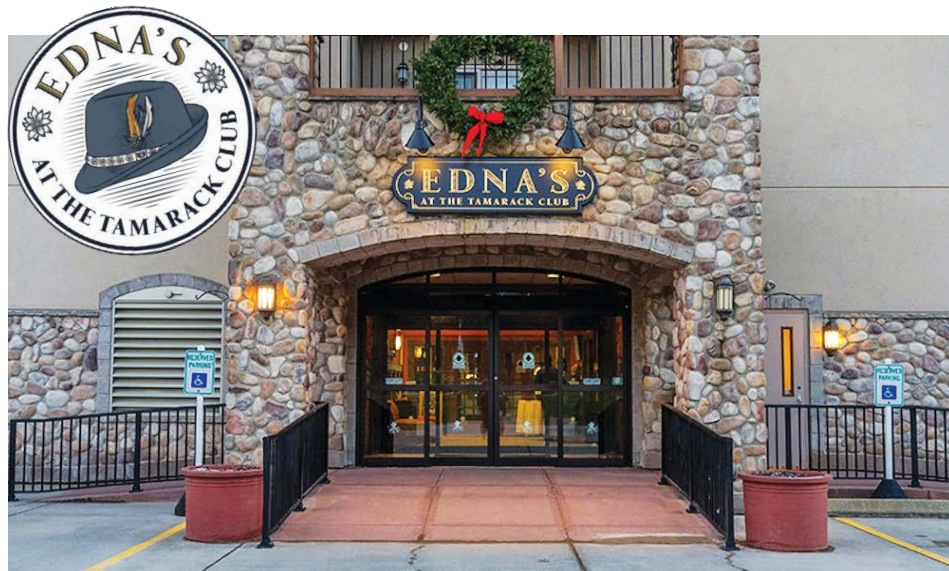
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Edna's at the Tamarack Club

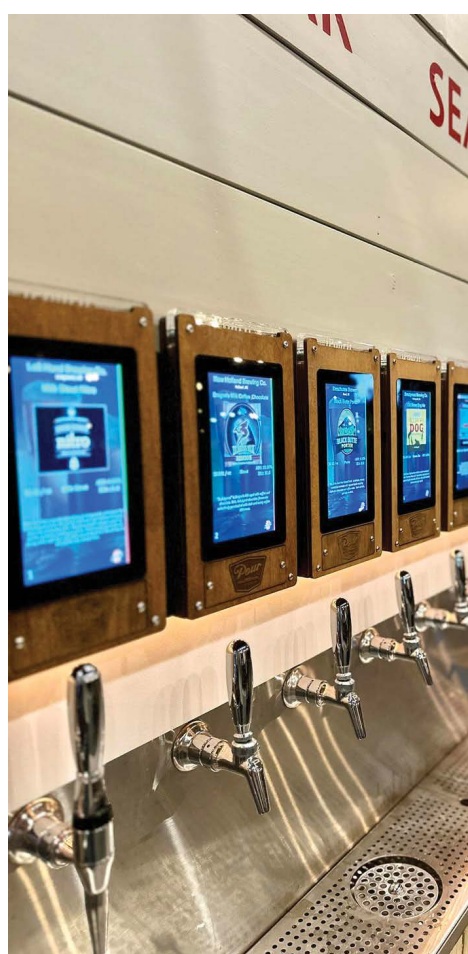
Launches New Seasonal Menu



Edna's at the Tamarack Club at Holiday Valley has just launched a new menu for the 2024-25 ski and snowboard season. It's a fantastic compilation of seasonal comfort food mixed with some American Classics. With the best dining views in Ellicottville, Edna's is the perfect place to refuel after a day out on the slopes. Please see the attached press release for more information about the menu. Read more about it in next week's edition of The Villager.

Pour Taproom Ellicottville Opens

Grand Opening Next Friday, December 27



Matt Prime and Joe DiCenzo, co-owners of Pour Taproom Buffalo, expanded their innovative self-serve taproom concept to the village of Ellicottville and they are opening to the public this weekend.

Pour Taproom Ellicottville is in the former Slopeside Restaurant at the Lincoln Boutique Hotel (formerly the Telemark Hotel), Pour Taproom Ellicottville will offer locals and visitors alike a one-of-a-kind experience in the heart of Western New York's ski country.

Pour Taproom Ellicottville boasts a spacious layout accommodating up to 150 people, according to Prime. Upon entering, patrons will start a tab at the counter and receive a VIP pass with a QR code linked to their tab. With 30 taps offering a selection of beverages from New York state and around the world, customers can pour their own drinks and pay by the ounce, allowing for greater flexibility and exploration. For those preferring a more traditional experience, a portion of the bar will remain staffed.

In addition to the self-serve concept, Pour Taproom Ellicottville will feature a full menu serving traditional pub fare, catering to both the thirsty and the hungry.

For a full update, check out next week's edition of The Villager.

Holiday Valley

LIFT & LODGING PACKAGE

Ski/Ride for \$50 per day when you visit between Jan. 1-March 13. Plus, midweek, up to 2 kids age 17 and younger ski free! Call 716-699-2345 for more details.

Must purchase length of stay ticket, valid arrival through departure date. These promos exclude Martin Luther King Day & Presidents' Day.

THINGS TO CHECK OUT

EDNA'S AT THE TAMARACK WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRIX FIXE MENU

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Silver Bells Holiday Show

Ray Evans Theater in Salamanca Presents this Weekend

"City sidewalks, busy sidewalks, dressed in holiday style... it's time for the Silver Bells Holiday Show!"

Head to the Ray Evans Theater at 10 Main Street in Salamanca, NY for the beloved annual Silver Bells Holiday Show, showcasing the area's top performers from the Cattaraugus County Living Arts Association (CCLAA). Feel the joy and magic of the season as holiday classics fill the air.

The shows are Saturday, December 21 at 7pm and Sunday, December 22 at 2pm. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

Experience the festive spirit as Silver Bells ring and the holiday atmosphere surrounds you. It's a heartwarming tradition not to be missed! Did you know that the song "Silver Bells" was written by Jay Livingston and Ray Evans who grew up in Salamanca, New York?

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Built in 1921, The Liberty Seneca building originally operated as a financial institution until 2006. Recognizing its charm and cultural potential, South Buffalo native and property developer Jake Schneider purchased the property. With its art deco jewel-box design, stained glass windows, terrazzo flooring, and intact bank vaults, The Caz seamlessly blends historic elegance with modern amenities.

The Caz

CONT. FROM COVER

operated as a financial institution until 2006. Recognizing its charm and cultural potential, South Buffalo native and property developer Jake Schneider purchased the property. "Jake's vision has always been about community," explains André Pilette, General Manager of The Caz. "Between this project and his work on Shea's Seneca, Jake and his team have played a huge role in revitalizing Seneca Street, and it starts with the arts."

With its art deco jewel-box design, stained glass windows, terrazzo flooring, and intact bank vaults, The Caz seamlessly blends historic elegance with modern amenities. "The first thing I hear when people walk in is, 'Wow!'" André says. "There's nothing else like it; it's a special moment before they even experience the music and hospitality."

Although The Caz officially opened on October 17th, the

venue celebrated its Grand Opening Weekend December 5-7 with performances by local favorites Pickle Mafia, Strictly Hip, and The Bells of Buffalo. "These bands were incredible," André shares. "It was more than a celebration of The Caz; it was a celebration of South Buffalo's community and local talent."

Since its opening, The Caz has welcomed artists such as Mary Ramsey, Root Shock, Cami Clune, Organ Fairchild, Fuzzy & the Rustbelts, Uncle Ben's Remedy, Leroy Townes, Grosh, and Johnny Hart & The Mess. "It's been an amazing start," André says. "We're thrilled with the momentum and can't wait to keep bringing great performances to our guests."

The Caz offers 3 distinct event formats: Dinner and a Show, General Admission and Cabaret, all of which are unique to Western New York. The Dinner and a Show experience offer an all-inclusive evening, featuring a specially catered two-course dinner and show tickets. Cabaret style offers another fully seated option, where guests enjoy ordering a la carte off the menu along

with a fantastic evening of live entertainment. All menu items are made in house, offering upscale casual dining in this unique environment. The third option, General Admission, a classic concert experience with limited main-floor seating. Guests can upgrade to the VIP mezzanine for premium views and guaranteed seating.

The Caz also offers efficient, cashless service. Guests can order food and drinks directly from their seats with no need to wait at the bar or for a server. "You don't have to miss a minute of the show," André says. "Just scan the QR code at your seat, place your order, and we'll deliver it—fast. One guest had to share with me that they got their drink in just 16 seconds!"

André and The Caz team aim to excel in customer service. "We always want our customers experience to be top-notch. From the moment they arrive in the door, we want them to feel warmly welcomed, and well taken care of for the entirety of their experience. Our team is well trained

"THE CAZ" Pg. 11



The City Garage on Monroe Street in Ellicottville (left) and Skillman's on Main Street in Bemus Point are two locally owned boutiques that offer creative gift ideas and a fun shopping experience.

Shop Local

CONT. FROM COVER

town competition. The shopping district is a wonderland, featuring gift ideas for anyone on your Christmas list. Caution – some smalltown shops close on Mondays. Be sure to pamper yourself with a delicious baked treat from Ellicottville Bake shop, then catch a photo at the Christmas Ski Tree before you launch. I suggest you take a quick tour and window shop at each store before you begin your shopping expedition to help you focus. At Daff Dry Goods you will find beloved brands such as Patagonia, Pendleton, Royal Robbins (and more). They also have a wonderful collection of home goods, shoes/boot, keepsakes, and jewelry. For authentic southwestern turquoise jewelry walk next door to Kazoo II. Can't cover all the stores, but from A to Z, Ellicottville's shops are filled with candles and books and unusual items. From Alexandra (gifts), Ava Grace (clothes and gift), and Anzivino's (ice cream and clothes/gifts) to ski items at The Boardroom and City

Garage specializing in unique clothing brands, functional footwear like Birkenstock, and 'glamping' equipment, you'll easily cross gifts off your list. Visit GadoGado (clothes/gifts), GI Threads (clothes/gifts), Mud Sweat and Gears (ski/snowboard), and Nature's Remedy which offers a natural market, natural healing products and access to a certified herbalist and/or wellness. Wild Roamer (hand printed apparel) will finish off our alphabet but remember that Alpacas of Ellicottville offers luxurious items for those you want to really pamper. Speaking of pampering, Ellicottville has a unique service called body sculpting and aesthetics at DiMarco Body Sculpting. Ellicottville has several massage therapists in the village and at Holiday Valley who would happily provide you with gift certificates. Speaking of spas, combine shopping with fun and spend some time at the Seneca Allegany Resort and Casino and pick up a gift for that special someone at The Spa at Seneca. A bottle of spirits is always appropriate and, of course, a sure delight is a gift certificate for a favorite brewpub/restaurant like

EBC (sells brew to go tee-shirts and, featuring for the holidays, Sugar Cookie Ale) or The Silver Fox Steakhouse, the only steakhouse in town serving the public for fifty years and has its very own parking lot out front. Life is full of holiday cheer in Ellicottville to fill your Christmas shopping list.

Chautauqua County offers ShopLocalCHQ Gift Cards between \$5 and \$500 which can be picked up at Jamestown Chamber office by Dec.20 for Christmas giving. Great idea! Shopping at Chautauqua Institution bookstore is always fun, but plan to get lunch elsewhere during the winter. In Bemus Point, another Hallmark Christmas village, you will find quirky, artsy shops like The Ugly Peacock, an artist run shop providing re-purposed & custom furniture pieces, unusual gifts, and decorating services for the home. Then there is Skillman's, in business since 1908. They are ready to assist you with your clothing, artisan jewelry, gift, home accents and gourmet needs. In nearby Lakewood, walk into Pea

"SHOP LOCAL" Pg. 10

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Locally, Chautauqua Woods recently completed doors for the historic White Inn in Fredonia (pictured). Chautauqua Woods replaced the main entrance doors as well as all interior wood doors on the first floor of this historic reconstruction project. Their work can also be seen on the Dunkirk Library, Chautauqua Institution, Niagara Falls Customs House and on many residential projects throughout WNY. Photo/Jeremy Lesch-Wragge www.jeremylw.com

CHQ Woods

CONT. FROM COVER

local projects, including The White Inn, as well as prestigious institutions further afield such as Princeton and Cornell Universities.

Founded in 1990, the Chautauqua Woods team is led by Bia Khan, the owner and President of the company. "Bia has long admired the tradition of woodworking in this area," says Kiran Khan, Bia's daughter, and creative director for the company.

Upon completing her degree in fine arts and photography, Kiran joined Chautauqua Woods in 2004. "I've been able to merge my passion for photography and business," says Kiran. "I've always had an interest in entrepreneurship, so it's been a great fit." In line with the company's focus on historical and landmark projects, Kiran continues to develop her expertise in all technical

aspects of historical design. A deep understanding of woodworking and construction methods have made her an integral contributor to the engineering and design team.

With a team of highly skilled woodworkers and craftsmen, each door features hand-crafted artisanship at their facility in Dunkirk. "Everything is made from the finest grade of lumber," explains Kiran. Each board is hand selected and every step in the process from machining to finishing is completed in-house. "We pay very close attention to detail," explains Kiran. "Our craftsmen have very high standards, and a keen eye for detail."

For exterior doors and entryways, Chautauqua Woods recommends using hardwoods like White Oak and Mahogany as they are most stable for the weather conditions in the Northeast. For interior doors, Cherry, Poplar, and Walnut are commonly used.

Styles range from traditional to contemporary to elaborate designs with carved components.

"Nearly every door we create is one-of-a-kind," says Kiran. "Our customers seek us out because they want something special and unique; Some want a design that can't be found in a catalog while others want a distressed finish that no one else can replicate."

All projects are by request, and details of the design fine-tuned in collaboration with the customer. "Whether you seek a classic aesthetic for your home, a contemporary design for your commercial space, or a precise replication for a historical building, each door is meticulously tailored to your exact specifications," says Kiran.

While Chautauqua Woods is well known for their doors and entryways, they have also been commissioned for specialty projects including custom furniture, conference room tables, and wall panels. Chautauqua Woods has completed work both locally and around the United States, most

"CHQ WOODS" Pg. 10



This rendition of this classic movie is being presented as a live performance play using the setting of a vintage 1940s live radio station. This radio broadcast style and the amazing, talented cast bring the story to life. The audience will see the setting that resembles a vintage 1940s radio station, with special lighting, props, and several microphones placed around the stage. Some of the cast will periodically move from microphone to microphone throughout the performance. The MC will encourage the audience to interact with the show. He will tell the audience how to react to different cues, such as props or signals for applause, making the audience's experience more interactive and engaging.

Live Radio

STORY FROM COVER

a 1940s radio show that will feature an interactive evening of entertainment filled with the holiday spirit.

This production of It's a Wonderful Life is being presented to you by actor/producer/director Mike Thornton. Mike has decades of experience and is a nationally known producer. Mike Thornton is not from this area originally, but after performing multiple times at Chautauqua Institution's Amphitheater, he became very familiar with this area. During the pandemic, he and his wife Cecilia were looking for a peaceful place to get away from big city life. They rediscovered Chautauqua, and they eventually bought a house in the area. Mike hopes to bring a variety of quality professional entertainment to Jamestown.

Mike Thornton's production of It's a

Wonderful Life is based on the 1946 movie starring Jimmy Stuart as the main character George, and his wife Mary was played by Donna Reed. As the story unfolds, George feels despondent about his life and feels that he is a failure. In his darkest time, he feels close to giving it all up, but an angel named Clarence helps him see the value and worth of his life. George then realizes he has so much to live for and feels a renewed optimism and happiness with life. This heartwarming movie has been entertaining audiences for over 70 years.

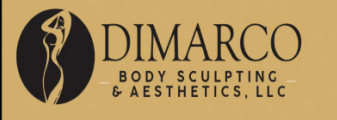
Mike's rendition of this classic movie is being presented as a live performance play using the setting of a vintage 1940s live radio station. This radio broadcast style and the amazing, talented cast bring the story to life. For those who may be unfamiliar with a 1940s radio station setting, here is what to expect. As the audience is seated, the MC, Mike Thornton, will

welcome and address the

audience. He will explain how the production works. The audience will see the setting that resembles a vintage 1940s radio station, with special lighting, props, and several microphones placed around the stage. Some of the cast will periodically move from microphone to microphone throughout the performance. The MC will encourage the audience to interact with the show. He will tell the audience how to react to different cues, such as props or signals for applause, making the audience's experience more interactive and engaging. As the actors tell the story, it will encourage the audience to use their imagination to visualize the story in their minds.

This production includes many characters performed by only seven cast members. The main character, George, will be played by David Wysocki, and

"LIVE RADIO", Pg. 10



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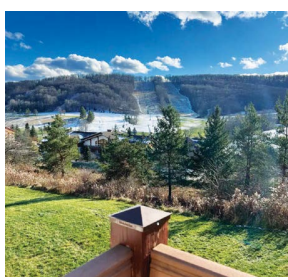




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Chautauqua County Weekly Calendar

Changing of Seasons is a Time for Reflection

Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree All through the Towns

By Darlene Brace

during the Christmas season. The show starts at 7pm, and you can get tickets at reglenna.com.

The River Bar at the Seneca Allegheny Casino in Salamanca welcomes back **Brother James** to the stage, who will be performing classic oldies from the 60s-80s. Then, on Saturday night, the River Bar will host **The Iron Eyes Experience**, and they play classic rock and blues. Both of this weekend's performances start at 7pm.

For some family holiday fun, this weekend will be the third and final weekend of **Christmas in the Village of Lakewood**. There will be carriage rides, caroling, and an outdoor showing of the movie Home Alone 2 as well as lots of shopping, games, and plenty of photo opportunities for you and your family. For a schedule of events, look on the Lakewood Community Development Corporation's Facebook page.

Saturday, December 21st - Big Inlet Brewing welcomes back **Adam McKillip** to the stage. Adam is a multi-instrumentalist and a talented singer who will be performing a fun mix of music starting at 5:30pm.

The Randolph Legion will be hosting **Smoking 45**, and the music starts at 8pm. This popular local band will get the place rocking with their energetic country and rock music that is sure to get you dancing the night away.

The Bemus Point Golf and Tap House will be having their **Ugly Sweater Party** from 6:30pm to 9:30pm. **Black Widow Duo** will be playing their acoustic versions of popular rock and pop

tunes. They always put on a great show, so come check them out.

Wicked Warrens Jamestown is excited to have **Uncle Ben's Remedy** perform there for the first time since it opened a few months ago. They play a blend of country and rock, singing a mix of originals and covers. Come have a delicious meal from the Wicked menu while enjoying this unique band, starting at 9pm.

The Peek n' Peak Resort in Clymer will have live music as **Erika and Jesse** return to the Bistro 201. Come listen to this talented duo perform a variety of tunes starting at 9:30pm.

Cuevas Bar and Grill will be having their **Ugly Sweater Party** from 7pm to 10pm. **Ion Sky Unplugged** will be there to entertain you with their acoustic versions of favorite rock and pop tunes, that are sure to get you moving to the beat.

Group Ther-Happy in Lakewood welcomes back the **Jay McDonnell Trio** at 8pm. Come listen to these talented musicians while you enjoy refreshments from Group's great menu.

In Bemus Point, 14 Main will be having its **Ugly Sweater Party**. They will have a DJ spinning the tunes from 8pm-12am. There will be door prizes, and it will be a lot of fun, so check it out.

Because of the Christmas holiday, the timing of when next week's issue comes out may be different. So, keep an out for it when you are looking to see what's happening in Chautauqua County.

By CAROL FISHER-LINN

December 21, 2024, 4:21a.m. EST shepherds in the first day of winter, the shortest day and the longest night of the year, and the celebration of Winter Solstice.

Our earliest ancestors kept track of the days by watching the sun move across the sky and cast shadows during the day and at different times of the year. When winter solstice arrived, it was the ancient time for festivals, some of the oldest of humankind. The ancients looked at this time as a death and rebirth of Mother Nature's powers, while renewing their own souls. In their way of looking at it, the old sun dies and the new one is born at dawn December 22. Winter solstice is a time for giving heed to the return of the light which may lead us to give thought to peace on earth in these tumultuous times, given the proximity to so many holy days of peace. The quest for peace on earth might lead us to finding our own. Maybe by slowing down? Becoming more aware of the beauty surrounding us? More reflective? Bringing nature into our own homes? Perhaps even finding it in our recreation?

Back in my skiing days, I used to love to get to The Valley after the kiddoes went off to school and be first up the lift after a generous snowfall. Skiing alone in the early morning through the fresh powder, the morning sun casting shadows of the snow-laden trees with not a soul in sight was the closest I could get to heaven and still have my feet on the ground. I heard the swish,




Years ago, when the bison were still up on Horn Hill Road in Ellicottville, on Winter Solstice night, I would grab a glass and bottle of wine and drive to the hill to find the bison. On that cold wintry hill, with the beasts as attendants, and the stars lighting the sky, I felt baptized. I sat a long time facing the beast until the calf nudged him, seeking attention or comfort, much as I did. I rolled up the window and slowly pulled away, filled with peace and a sense that all was right with the world. It was only a moment, but it gave me a deeper insight into how nature teaches us to honor the way we are impacted by the change of seasons.

swish of my skis and I was dazzled by the brilliance of the sun reflected on the snow. Slowly, my soul remembered what heaven was like; peace found me and I was filled with serenity. Nature has a way of helping us find our spiritual selves.

The solstice helps us to get in touch in much the same way if we create an environment to bring ourselves to the solstice table. Years ago, when the bison were still up on Horn Hill Road, on Winter Solstice night, I would grab a glass and bottle of wine and drive to the hill to find the bison. In those days, we were blessed to be able to enjoy them up close and personal with only a fence between them and the grassy strip between the fence and the road. Back then, there was nary an artificial light to be seen over the vastness. As I recall, the only light


came from the stars and for all the times I did this, I do not remember a moon in the sky. I parked on the grass, opened the window, and poured myself a glass of merlot. In the stark silence I could have heard a shooting star. The behemoths were curious and before long one slowly moved toward me, lowing in the quiet of night, saving its bellows for the morning. A young calf followed, bleating softly. It was then the magic happened. With only a fence between us in this dark mystical world, I made a low-pitched sound and the magnificent beast grunted back at me. Ever so slowly, I held up the glass of merlot and gave a toast and a prayer for this magnificent beast no further from me than the

SEE "SOLSTICE", PG. 9

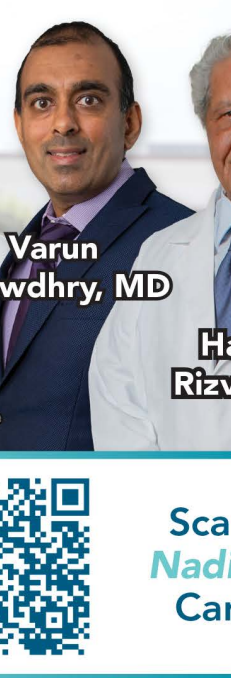


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Olean General Hospital
A Kaleida Health Facility

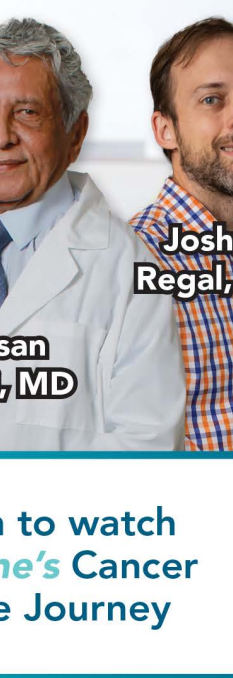
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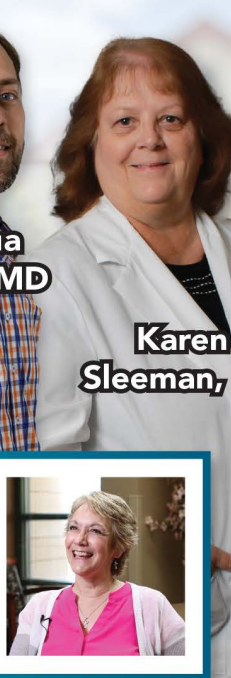
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By, MOUTH SAY TONGUE

thrown in. Check out the latest kitchen in town open till 9pm sun-tues and 10pm wed-sat. Open for breakfast 9-11:30am sat-sun.

Madigans joins the party with Dj Kage from 9-2am. He'll provide the juice so you can really cut loose in the window on Washington.

SATURDAY

The Gin Mill is the early bird with Davey "O" from 2-5pm. He plays a rock/folk/americana set of covers and originals. West takes the second shift from 8-12am. This band plays a rock/folk/pop/ country/blues set of covers.

We return to Balloons for the first Christmas Glizzy Throwdown with Revelation-13 from 7-11pm. There will be a hotdog eating contest, \$200 to the winner, Xmas costume contest, \$200 to the winner and non-perishable food drive for the Evl food pantry. Dj Andre the Giant Redhead will provide the thumpin for the bumpin on the two dance floors from 11-2am.

Madigans keeps the party going with Dj Delta from 9-2am. Check out the dart board and pool tables or just chill by the wood stove.

SUNDAY

The Gin Mill is back

with Kody and Herren from 1-4pm. They play a folk/country/rock/pop/new grass set of covers and originals. Sip some Bloody Mary's and get your game face on.

Because of the change in kickoff time Villaggio had to cancel their music but will host their AYCE Pasta and Prime Rib Special from 4:30 -9pm. Dine on magnificent food and watch the Bills win on the big screen.

MONDAY

Monday is Strings and Wings at Balloons from 4-10 pm. 50 cent wings with a nice selection of craft beers to wash em down with and Tina Williams as your musical host from 6-9pm. Tina plays a rock/pop/country/blues/ alt set of covers and originals.

The Gin Mill's Monday music residency is hosted by Michael David from 7-10pm. Michael plays a country/bluegrass/rock/ grunge set of covers. Don't forget those 37 beers on tap.

We hope you enjoyed your stay in Evl and that you and yours have a very merry Christmas but wherever you are PLEASE, ALWAYS SUPPORT LIVE MUSIC!!!!!!!

Beat on the Street:

"What Famous People Have You Met?"

BY CHAD NEAL

It's been said, "never meet your hero". For some reason a lot of times those heroes turn out to be real jerks in person. Meeting someone that is widely famous tough can be a real hoot. Being starstruck when seeing said famous person can make for an awkward encounter, but who really knows how to act the first time they meet someone they've seen on the screen so much. Having the cool approach is how we all want to act if we get to meet a movie actor or television star or a professional athlete. A lot of the times it's a set up situation, where waiting in line for an autograph for a twenty second encounter is how you get to meet them, but brushing up next to them by chance and being able to talk and interact with the prominent idol is more memorable. What famous people have you met?



Josh O.- Kevin Bacon, and I hung out with Three Days Grace on their tour bus.



Alan M.- I have been very fortunate. But, famous people connected to Ellicottville, Tom Wopat, aka Luke Duke -Dukes of Hazzard when his concert got rained out at the Cattaraugus County Fair. I took him to the Gin Mill 40+ years ago. In 1992 took Emmylou Harris and the Nash Ramblers from HV to the Bird Walk. Then Terri Clark, I took her to Balloons for Karaoke 1990 ish.



Liz S.- John Stamos, Mark Paul Goessler, and Fred Jackson (at Dave & Busters, playing games with his family)!



Stephanie K.- Everyone gonna hate on me...but DJT! and his sons when he ran for Governor of NY.



Brett M.- OJ Simpson, James Hatfield, Keiffer Sutherland, Kate Moss, Patra Lowes, etc.



John W.- My 31 years with Novartis Pharmaceuticals provided access to many famous people. Here goes: Joe Montana, Mickey Mantle, Evander Holyfield, George Forman, Larry Holmes, Roger Mosley (TC on Magnum, PI, we had drinks at the Royal Canadian Hotel in Banff, CA), Clint Eastwood in elevator at same event, Derek Jeter, Norm Macdonald, all the Bills from 2001 - 2004 (I was a Blue Coat), Booker Edgerson, Teddy Bruschi (same reason), Stephen Stills.

Solstice

CONT. FROM PG. 8

width of the car. I held perfectly still. If anyone were watching they would have observed a diorama much like the shadowy starlit scenes seen on a Hallmark Christmas card. In that magical moment, I understood why the

ancients believed that the solstice was a time of rebirth, of newness, of peace and renewal. On that cold wintery hill, with the beasts as attendants, and the stars lighting the sky, I felt baptized. I sat a long time facing the beast until the calf nudged him, seeking attention or comfort, much as I did. I rolled up the window and slowly pulled away, filled with peace and a sense that all

was right with the world. It was only a moment, but it gave me a deeper insight into how nature teaches us to honor the way we are impacted by the change of seasons.

Find the light of your own solstice moments. Enjoy the cold and snow much as you may have done as a child. Snow angels, anyone? You may find your mind clearing, your soul invigorated and your mind at peace.

THURSDAYS 6PM JANUARY 9-30th

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★ ★ Sudoku Challenge ★ ★

This Week's Difficulty Level:
★★★★☆

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, place a number into each box so that each row across, each column down, and each small 9 box square within the larger diagram (there are 9 of these) will contain every number from 1 through 9. In other words, no number will appear more than once in any row, column, or smaller 9 box square. Working with the numbers already given as a guide, complete each diagram with the missing numbers that will lead to the correct solution....**Good luck!**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| 4 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 9 |
| 7 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 5 |
| 8 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 2 |
| 6 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 3 |
| 5 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 4 |
| 1 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 6 |
| 9 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 2 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 1 |

Last Week's Puzzle:

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 4 |
| 2 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 1 |
| 6 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 3 |
| 1 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 8 |
| 3 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 2 |
| 4 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 7 |
| 7 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 5 |
| 8 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| 5 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 9 |

Shop Local

CONT. FROM PG. 6

Pod and Juniper (and plan to stay a while as your order flowers and browse through their extensive gift and home goods line – then hop over to Pea Pod and Juniper Too, featuring throw back toys, candy, games, puzzles, socks, candles, chocolates, Faire trade bags, and more! Haven't been yet but I must get to Shabby Shrub, an eclectic mix of vintage wares, new home accessories, & specialty paints. *Rustic Farmhouse,

Cottage, French Country, Industrial* Who wouldn't want a candle named drunken pear cider? For the kids, what better thing to do than to send them to an Audubon Camp at the end of the year? AudubonCNC.org.

Finally, wrap up your shopping in Bemus with a meal at 14 Main/ The SeeZurh House, or Bemus Point Golf Club and Tap House. Here's a toast to your local shopping success! *Merry Christmas!*

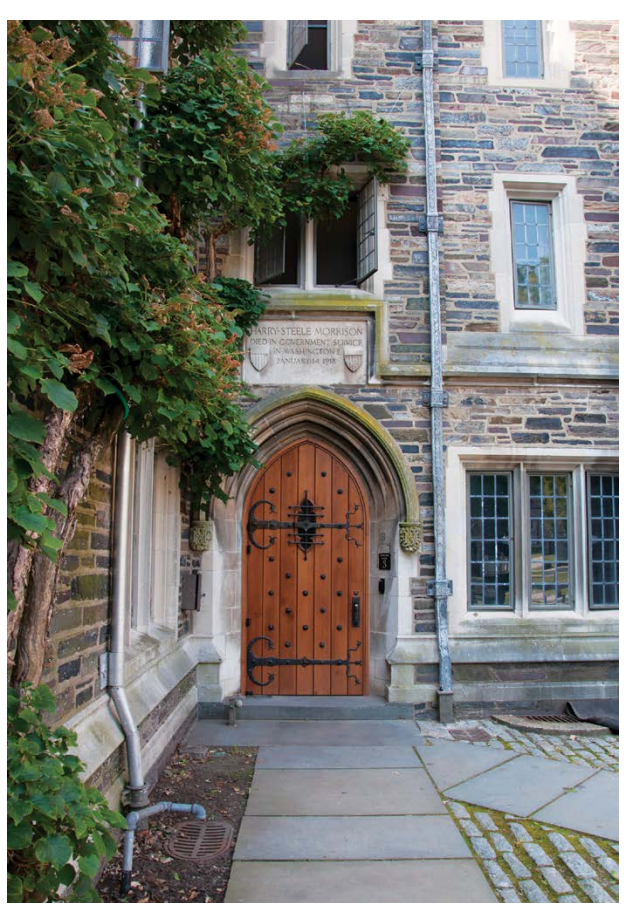


Pea Pod and Juniper has two unique stores under their brand on Chautauqua Avenue in Lakewood, NY; one with beautifully arranged fresh flowers and exquisite home décor and the other a fun nostalgic children's gift shop – you will have fun shopping both and find items you never even imagined!

CHQ Woods

CONT. FROM PG. 7

commonly along the East Coast. They've replaced over 200 historical doors at Princeton University, as well as numerous Landmark projects for the New York Public Library. Locally, Chautauqua Woods recently completed doors for the historic White Inn in Fredonia. "It was an honor to work on this renovation project in our community. It's so meaningful to us to complete work locally and for our community, to enjoy." Chautauqua Woods replaced the main entrance doors as well as all interior wood doors on the first floor of this historic reconstruction project. Their work can also be seen on the Dunkirk Library, Chautauqua Institution, Niagara Falls Customs House and on many residential projects throughout Western New York.



Foulke Hall door with clavos and metalwork at Princeton University crafted by Chautauqua Woods.

Chautauqua Woods also has a focus on sustainability and ethical sourcing. All the lumber is FSC Certified and carefully sourced from trusted suppliers with sustainable practices. "Our company participates in reforestation initiatives and use sustainable sourcing practices to minimize our

environmental impact." In recent years, Kiran has noticed a renewed interest in the craft of woodworking and is thrilled to be a part of this movement. "It's such a beautiful artform and our craftsmen take such pride in everything they create. We're always seeking new individuals to join our team. Anyone with a passion or interest in woodworking is encouraged to reach out." For more information visit www.cwdoors.us or email customerservice@cwdoors.us To schedule a tour of the facility at 134 Franklin Ave, Dunkirk, please contact Kiran Khan at kiran@cwdoors.us

Live Radio

CONT. FROM PG. 7

George's wife, Mary, will be played by Julia Niles. Clarence, the angel, will be performed by Stephen Stout. Along with being the producer and MC of the show, Mike Thornton portrays several characters. The rest of the talented cast members are Ron Orbach, Paige Cummings, and Christine Porter, who bring to life the remaining Bedford Falls characters. Along with Mike Thornton being the producer of this production, the assistant producer is Adam Owens, and Ed Tomasini is

the sound production/ designer. Together, with the incredible cast, you will experience an unforgettable show. If you plan on attending this show, there are four performances this weekend. On December 20th, the opening show will start at 7pm. On December 21st, there will be shows starting at 2pm and 7pm. The final performance will be on December 22nd at 2pm. Tickets are on sale for this unique performance at mtapresents.com. As a special treat, if you purchase VIP reception tickets for the opening performance night on December 20th, your ticket includes an invitation to the reception after the show. This will be a complimentary wine and cheese reception with the opportunity to meet the cast. Mike Thornton is excited about bringing It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play to Jamestown, and he is hoping that this production will be the first of many other entertainment experiences he can bring to the area. You don't want to miss the opportunity to experience this unique show during this holiday season, so bring your family and friends on the journey of It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play. You will be so glad that you did.

Walter's World

Photo Picks From "The Rittman Show"

Classified

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE VILLAGE OF ELLICOTTVILLE, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE VILLAGE OF ELLICOTTVILLE IS DESIGNATING THE FOLLOWING OFFICES TO BE FILLED:

Trustee – 4-year term • Trustee – 4-year term • Elections will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at the Village of Ellicottville, Ellicottville Town Center, 28 Parkside Drive, Ellicottville, NY 14731 - Amy Hayward, Village Clerk

FOR RENT

HOUSE FOR RENT IN THE VILLAGE OF ELLICOTTVILLE, SEASONAL OR MONTHLY. 3 bedroom, 2 bath on Jefferson Street, \$16k Christmas -April. Call 716-474-9206.

HOME FOR RENT ACROSS FROM HOLIDAY VALLEY: 407 Deer Crossing, Ellicottville, NY..... \$800/night. Accommodates up to 8 guests for the ski season. Living room and fireplace overlooking wonderful view of the slopes. 2 full bath, 3 bedrooms, laundry, full kitchen, parking, short walk to village. Contact meganbyers4903@outlook.com. (SEE AD, PAGE 7.)

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT: 520 square feet of Office space at 39 Mill Street available for rent starting in August. Rent is \$600 a month plus gas, electric, water and snowplowing. Must sign 3 year commercial lease. Please call for details 716-699-4516 or 716-397-9527

SEASONAL ELLICOTTVILLE VILLAGE RENTAL: Newly Renovated 3-BR's, 1-Bath, In-Unit Laundry, Parking. Located on a quiet village street. Available 12/13/24- 4/14/25 (Flexible). Call for Details: 716-998-1126.

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St. John's Holiday Services

Episcopal Church in EVL Offers Saturday Evening and Christmas Eve

St. John's Episcopal Church of Ellicottville is offering a tourist-friendly service where you can ski until 4:30, then join the church for a Saturday evening service at 5pm, and enjoy Saturday in Ellicottville with friends, then be ready to hit the slopes again Sunday morning!

Their special Christmas service will be held on Christmas Eve, December 24th at 6:30pm. All are welcome to join the service at the little white church on one of Ellicottville's historic four corners.

Come a few minutes early, and let your kids (and adult kids) ring one of the oldest working church bells in the country.



Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

United Church of Ellicottville Continues Tradition, Dec. 24, 9pm

The United Church of Ellicottville has a longtime tradition of a candlelight service on Christmas Eve to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This tradition is one of the oldest traditions in Ellicottville's history. The United Church of Ellicottville would like to welcome everyone to attend the candlelight service on Christmas Eve at 9pm located at 53 Elizabeth St. All are welcome and we look forward to celebrating with you!

Brilliant Annual Creche Display



Tradition at Holy Name of Mary Church in Ellicottville

More than 250 creches from all over the world were displayed in the meeting room of Holy Name of Mary Church on December 14th and 15th. This is a long-standing tradition. Great job to everyone involved. Spectacular!

Lions Club of EVL Project X-Mas

Local Organization Presented Gift Bags to those in Need

The snowy weather in Western NY didn't stop PDG James Jozwiak, President Jim Williams, Sec. Christine Jozwiak, and Director Faye Williams from spreading Holiday Cheer by putting together Christmas gift bags to the shut-ins of Ellicottville, Franklinville and West Valley. The Lions Club purchased, and Lion members donated useful items to fill over 100 gift bags that were delivered by the volunteers of the area Meals on Wheels program. This is the 30th year of their annual Christmas Service Project that is greatly appreciated by the residents of the three communities, who may be alone during the holiday season. They receive many letters and notes of thanks for their thoughtful remembering of the people they serve in the communities they represent.



The Caz team (pictured) aims to excel in customer service. The Caz offers 3 distinct event formats: Dinner and a Show, General Admission and Cabaret, all of which are unique to Western New York. The Dinner and a Show experience offer an all-inclusive evening, featuring a specially catered two-course dinner and show tickets.

The Caz

CONT. FROM PG. 6

and we are here to serve you, ensuring a fun, memorable experience that you'll want to return." Not only is The Caz exceptional from the guest's perspective, but it also offers an innovative, one-of-a-kind experience for their performers. The Caz is designed with performers in mind. A full production studio featuring 7 cameras and 24-channel multi-track audio recording allows artists to live-stream or record their shows, leaving with high-

quality raw footage for future promotions. "Our production capabilities are unmatched in this area," André explains. "We also provide a full backline and one of the best green rooms in the city—it's become a huge hit with artists."

Seneca Street was once a bustling commercial hub, and The Caz is proud to play a role in its revitalization. Jake is invested in the revitalization of the area. "Jake Schneider and his team believe the arts can be a catalyst for growth," André says. "The Caz is just the beginning—we're here to bring life back to the neighborhood

and hope to inspire other businesses to join us."

The Grand Opening marked the beginning of a packed holiday season at The Caz. "We're really excited about our December lineup," André says. "Highlights include 'Christmas at The Caz' with Alex McArthur, a Dinner and a Show event on December 20th and 21st, a 1940s USO Swing Dance on December 28th, and a 60s/70s R&B Dance Party for New Year's Eve!"

For the full schedule of upcoming shows, tickets, and event details, visit thecazbuffalo.com, follow The Caz on social media, or email info@thecazbuffalo.com.

Food Pantry

CONT. FROM COVER

"This pantry, and what it accomplishes, makes life so much easier for those who need it," Mueller said this week. "It's hard for people to know just how important it is."

In an average year, FeedMore Western New York supplies as much as 15 million pounds of food to pantries throughout the area. Of that \$55,000 worth of food at the United Church of Ellicottville, \$35,000 of that comes from FeedMore, according to Mueller. The rest comes from donations from the church congregation and the community.

"It's quite a cooperative venture," he said.

The pantry is open from 10am-noon on Saturday, 1-3pm on Monday and 4-6pm on Wednesday. It's located at 51 Elizabeth Street.

For Mueller, the act of volunteering is a precious act. While he himself has offered services and assistance free throughout his life and career, he admits that his efforts could be improved upon.

"I ask myself quite regularly if I'm involved enough," he said. "Am



The pantry is open from 10am-noon on Saturday, 1-3pm on Monday and 4-6pm on Wednesday. It's located at 51 Elizabeth Street. "We serve at least 100 people a month, on average," he said. "The numbers dipped during Covid, but then started going up again." Mueller said he would like to see more fruits and vegetables.

I helping the youth, the less unfortunate, my congregation as much as I can? Can I do better?"

Food banks are vital in filling in the cracks. Feeding America, the nationwide network of 200 food banks, reported that more than 53 million people turned to food banks, food pantries and meal programs for help in 2021, a significant increase from before the pandemic. Mueller himself saw firsthand how the numbers increased at the Ellicottville pantry.

"We serve at least 100 people a month, on average," he said. "The numbers dipped during Covid, but then started going up again."

Donations at the pantry are steady and many bring canned foods. Mueller said he would like to see more fruits and vegetables. He said those who bring food shouldn't worry that it will spoil; there is typically someone at the church or nearby who can accept the items.

With rising food costs not seen for more than 40 years, food banks like United Church need as much food as possible.

And, yes, volunteers. "We have a very dedicated group of people at the church, but we always welcome more," Mueller said, adding that those interested should call the church at 699-4003.

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Photos/Jon Elder & Friends

Ellicottville's Christmas Stroll 2024

Last Saturdays Event Extended Holiday Spirit



Photos/Jon Elder

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- 11:30 PM • \$5,000 CASH
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